

Memorial 56¹

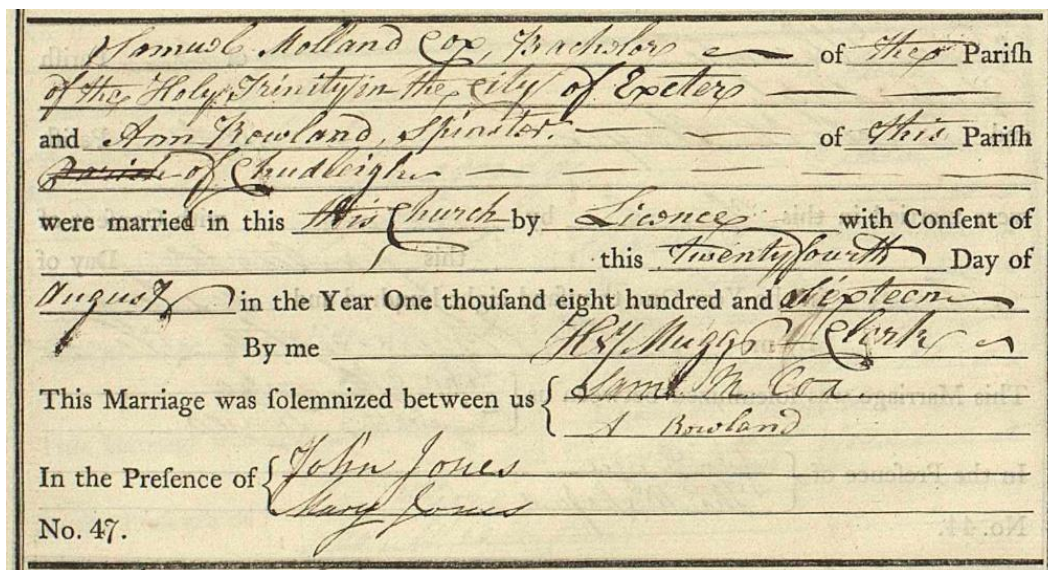
ANN THE WIFE OF MR S. M. COX OF THIS CITY ATTORNEY DIED 9TH APRIL 1829 AGED 40

In George's Meeting burial register Ann was interred on the 16th of April 1829 aged 42.² A newspaper report stated that she died, *'Thursday, aged 40, Anne the wife of Mr S. M. Cox, Solicitor, of this city.'*³ The same paper a few lines up reported that Ann had just given birth to a baby daughter, *'On Saturday last, the wife of Mr S. M. Cox, of a daughter'*. We must therefore assume that Ann died after complications giving birth.

Ten shillings was paid to open the family cave to inter Ann.⁴ Unfortunately Samuel and Ann's daughter also died just a few days later and was buried with her mother on the 27th of April.⁵ Another ten shillings was paid for opening the cave this second time.⁶

An obituary showed more of her character stating that *"her amiable and affectionate disposition, and the generous benevolence of her heart, procured her the warmest affections of her nearest and dearest relatives, and the esteem of all who had an opportunity of knowing and appreciating the superiority of her mind and the excellence of her character"*.⁷

Ann (née Rowland) and Samuel Molland Cox married on the 24th of August 1816 at Chudleigh.⁸ Samuel was described as a bachelor of Holy Trinity in the City of Exeter and Ann was from Chudleigh.



¹ See also Memorial 54.

² Georges Meeting (Presbyterian) 1824-1837) accessed via www.ancestry.co.uk

³ Woolmer's Exeter and Plymouth Gazette, Saturday April 11 1829 accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk

⁴ Report and Account book of Dissenters Burial Ground 1748-1832 www.swheritage.org.uk

⁵ As note 2.

⁶ As note 4.

⁷ The North Devon Journal and Advertiser, 16 April 1829 accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk

⁸ Chudleigh Parish Records accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk

Ann was one of six children born to the Reverend James and Mary (née Cornish) Rowland of Moretonhampstead. She was born on the 9th of September 1788 and baptised on the 30th of November the same year.⁹

All the Rowland children had double entries of their baptisms in both the Cross Meeting register in Moretonhampstead and Bow Meeting in Exeter; so where they were actually baptised is uncertain.¹⁰ Of the six only three lived to beyond their teens, Mary Anne (1785-1788?), Ann (1788-1829), James (1790-?), **John**¹¹ (1792-1810), Mary (1793-1798?) and Elizabeth (1795-1796).¹² We know that in 1802 James had only three children as they were mentioned in Sylvester Treleaven's diary; *'The Rev Mr Rowland, with his three children satt off in a Chaise for Tavistock'*.¹³

James was, according to Sylvester Treleaven, *'Pastor of the Presbyterians Meeting in this place 26½ years and kept a grammar school about 18 years, was a native of St. David's in Pembroke Shire, South Wales'*.¹⁴ Ann's mother died in July 1797 and was buried in the churchyard of St. Andrew's in Moretonhampstead on the 16th of July.¹⁵ James followed her in January 1803, about forty-seven years old according to Sylvester Treleaven. He was, *'interred in the Church-Yard, in a grave by the side of his late wife'*.¹⁶ He was buried on the 28th of January.¹⁷

A brief biography of him was written in 1835 by Sir Jerom Murch in his 'History of the Presbyterian and General Baptist Churches in the West of England with memoirs of some of their pastors'. *"Born at St David's in Pembrokeshire about the year 1756 Settled at Moreton when he was twentyone years of age and died of an apoplectic fit when he had lived there about twenty six years During the greater part of the time he kept a grammar school His death occurred at Lamerton where he was visiting a friend and by its suddenness made a great impression upon the congregation The Rev James Manning of Exeter preached a useful and affecting funeral sermon on the following Sunday from the words of our Saviour John xi 25 'I am the resurrection and the life'."*

James wrote his Will just ten days after he laid his wife to rest.¹⁸ Obviously concerned for his children should anything happen to him although he notes that he is in good health. He left his Trustees - the Reverend James Manning of Exeter and William Fabyan a Banker from Ashburton - instructions regarding the maintenance, care, and education of his children. When he eventually died Ann was 15, James 13 and John 11.

The Cross Street Chapel in Moretonhampstead now houses the studio of felt maker Yuli Somme who specialises in soft coffins and felt shrouds.¹⁹

⁹ Cross Meeting (Presbyterian) 1672-1836 and Bow Meeting (Presbyterian) 1687-1823 accessed via www.ancestry.co.uk

¹⁰ As note 9.

¹¹ Those names in bold are also buried in Exeter's Dissenters Graveyard.

¹² As note 9.

¹³ Sylvester Treleaven of Moretonhampstead kept a diary from 1799-1816 <http://www.moretonhampstead.org.uk/texts/sources/trelchron.shtml>

¹⁴ As note 13.

¹⁵ Moretonhampstead parish register accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk

¹⁶ As note 13.

¹⁷ As note 15.

¹⁸ James Rowland Will (PROB 11/1389/14) accessed via www.ancestry.co.uk

¹⁹ <https://bellacouche.com/>

After their father's death we know that Ann was living in Chudleigh at the time of her marriage, but married life saw them living in Holy Trinity Parish and worshipping at George's Meeting. Their first son Rowland was born on the 16th of May 1817 and baptised at George's Meeting on the 14th of September.²⁰

Another son, Frank Rowland, was born about 1820 followed by Emmeline Northmore (1823), a **son** who died an infant in 1825 and Matilda Jane (1827). No baptismal records for these children have been found and it was only through newspaper articles, wedding certificates and census searches that they have been discovered.

Ann's husband Samuel Molland Cox was the son of **James** and Anna (née Chappell) Cox born on the 7th of December 1790.²¹ He was the oldest son of fourteen children born to James and Anna; Mellony Molland (1789-1866), Samuel Molland (1790-1862), **George Molland (1793-1793)**, **Agnes Gould (1794-1795)**, Agnes Gould (1796-1875), George Ebenezar (1798-1829), Laura Maria (1800-1891), Sarah Decima (1802-1878), Edward Augustus (1803-1867), Horatio/Horace Henry (1806-1857), Frederick Charles (1808-1888) and **Matilda Jane (1809-1825)**. They were all baptised at George's Meeting. George Molland and Agnes Gould died in infancy and were buried in the same grave in the Dissenters Graveyard.²²

When Samuel Molland Cox was sixteen in 1806, he was articled as a Clerk to John Edye Manning, one of the sons of the Reverend James Manning who was one of the Trustees of James Rowland's Will.²³ Was it through his apprenticeship that Samuel and Ann met?

Samuel and Ann were both involved in George's Meeting in official capacities, as were Samuels' parents. In 1812 Anna Cox was listed as one of the people who had offered to become instructors in the Sunday school. It is unconfirmed whether it was James's wife or their fifteen-year-old daughter Anna, Samuel's sister.²⁴

In 1823 it was suggested that a committee of, *"the two ministers, fourteen ladies and eight gentlemen be appointed for the year ensuing; to take the management of the present charitable Funds of this Congregation, to inquire into the State of our poorer Members"* with the intention of increasing the funds.²⁵ They were both on this committee which reported their findings about a month later. It was evident that "the Ladies" of the committee had been the ones visiting the thirty-seven poor families in receipt of relief and it was the ladies who seem to have been the members making decisions regarding how much relief should be handed out. Six months later some of those receiving relief had been dropped because they were not members of the congregation. The committee continued with varying degrees of success throughout the years. In 1834 it was defined that *"All recipients shall be members of the congregation of good character and of clean habits"*.²⁶

In the same year Samuel was appointed as one of the committee members for 'Regulating the Singing'. They found, *"with regret that notwithstanding all their endeavours to improve the singing they have not*

²⁰ Exeter Bow Meeting (Presbyterian) 1687-1823, accessed via www.ancestry.co.uk

²¹ Holy trinity Parish Register accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk

²² As notes 4 and 20.

²³ UK articles of Clerkship, 1756-1824 accessed via www.ancestry.co.uk

²⁴ Minute books of meetings of Georges Meeting (1791-1834) www.swheritage.org.uk

²⁵ Nonconformity in Exeter 1650-1875, Allan Brockett 1962.

²⁶ As note 25.

been able to succeed to the satisfaction of the congregation or themselves. One principal cause of the defect is the want of sufficient voice power in the choir, without which the irregular and

uncontrolled voices of the schoolchildren become predominant, and the organist is induced to play very loud to drown the discord.”²⁷ This was resolved by asking the organist to play more softly, the boys of the choir to have more practice and to encourage some of the congregation to join in the choir. In 1825 he was also on the committee to “examine the state of the Congregational library”, the outcome of which was to set up a “trifling annual subscription” for the upkeep of the books and to print a catalogue which would hopefully renew the interest of the younger members of the congregation.²⁸

Samuel appeared frequently in the local press in his official capacity as a solicitor, as a secretary of the Devon County Club and lobbying parliament for reform.²⁹ In June 1833 he became bankrupt but by December he was granted his certificate.³⁰ Described as a Liberal, in 1838 he was elected Clerk to the Court of Requests in Exeter. In proposing him Mr Snell said, “*he was a gentleman too well known to require any eulogy on his character; he had the character of being a sound lawyer; and he believed he would discharge the duties of his situation to the satisfaction of the city.*” He was supported by many members on both sides of the Council, “*as all who have any acquaintance with the political character of Mr Cox will know that he never gained a friend by sacrificing a principle.*”³¹

After Ann died, Samuel was left to look after their four children who ranged from ages twelve to two. The 1841 census showed Samuel living by himself with one female servant in Deanery Square, Cathedral Close, Exeter. He was still working as an attorney.³² Listed in Pigot’s Directory of 1830 as an Attorney in Palace Street, then in Northernhay by 1844. In the 1850 Whites Directory and the 1851 census he was at 22 Lower Northernhay³³. By 1854 he was listed at 9 Silver Terrace.³⁴

In 1857 at the age of sixty-seven Samuel moved away from Exeter. He instructed Mr R W Best “*to sell by Auction on Tuesday March 17th the excellent furniture, Michrochordon pianoforte, Plated goods and effects of S M Cox Esq. who is leaving Exeter*”. His house at 9 Silver Terrace, St David’s was to be let.³⁵

By 1861 Samuel was staying and possibly living with his son Frank Rowland Cox and his wife Annie Jane (née Lockyer) and family at 18 The Crescent, Camden Villas, St. Pancras, London. Frank was a Professor of Music at the Royal Academy of Music.³⁶

Samuel died just one year later, on the 17th of May 1862 at his son’s house and was buried at All Souls, Kensal Green on the 22nd of May.³⁷ For such a prominent member of the Exeter political scene it is sad that no obituary has been found for him.

²⁷ As note 24.

²⁸ As note 24.

²⁹ He is not to be confused with S M Cox (Spencer Murch Cox), Coroner in Honiton who also appears in the papers at this time.

³⁰ <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/19106/page/2228> accessed 07/05/2021.

³¹ *The Western Times*; Exeter Saturday December 15 1838 accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk

³² 1841 census accessed via www.ancestry.co.uk

³³ 1851 census accessed via www.ancestry.co.uk

³⁴ *Exeter Journal and Almanac* 1855 accessed via www.ancestry.co.uk

³⁵ *Woolmer’s Exeter and Plymouth Gazette* Saturday March 14th 1857 accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk

³⁶ 1861 census accessed via www.ancestry.co.uk

³⁷ Kensal green burial register accessed via www.ancestry.co.uk

Of Samuel's other children, Rowland became a 'Brazil merchant', living and trading in Santa Theresa, Rio de Janeiro. He returned to England to marry Marian Jane Boardman in 1854 in Lancashire.³⁸ Their first child was born in 1856 in Rio de Janeiro but a few years before 1871 they return to live in England.³⁹ Rowland died in 1876 in Lewisham.⁴⁰

Emmeline Northmore married Arthur John Locke in 1841 at Starcross.⁴¹ Emmeline was just nineteen and unfortunately died the following year as a consequence of childbirth. She was buried at Chudleigh with her nine-week-old daughter.⁴²

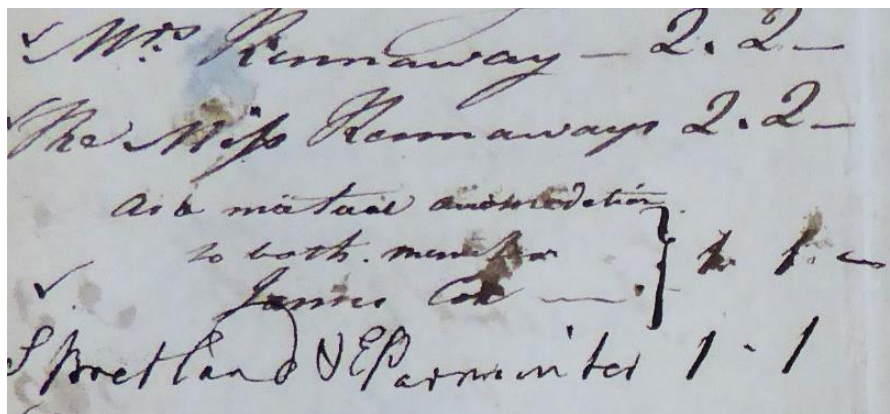
Matilda Jane married Richard Henry Foster a Merchant from Liverpool in Chudleigh parish church in 1857.⁴³

The Family Vault

In 1894 when William Henry Hamilton Rogers transcribed the inscriptions on gravestones and tombs in the graveyard he wrote "*James Cox of this City, Merchant 11 Nov 1820, aged 36, Ann wife of S M Cox of this City, Attorney, 9 Apr 1829 – 40, Melony Snelling of this city, widow 24 Aug 1822, aged 90. Matilda Jane daughter of Mr James Cox 26 Nov 1825 16 years.*" This was written as one inscription which tallies with records from the burial register, when in 1824 leave was given to "*Mr S M Cox to erect a tomb over the family vault*" for which he paid £2.2.0d on the 5th of February.⁴⁴ According to the records there were six interments in the family vault, **Ann Cox (1829)** and **her two children (1825 and 1829), James Cox (1820), Matilda Jane Cox (1825)** and **Mellony Snelling (1822)**⁴⁵. Over the years it is probable that the tomb has collapsed leaving three extant but separate memorial stone fragments (referenced 54, 56 and 57).

James Cox (1764-1820)

James Cox, Samuel Molland's father was a merchant when he died but when he married Anna Chappell on the 13th of October in 1788 at St. Mary Steps, he was listed as a Fuller, of Holy Trinity.⁴⁶ James was



also a member of George's Meeting congregation, signing his name to the invitation to the Reverend Joseph Bretland to 'supply the vacancy' of pastor after the death of the Reverend Abraham Tozer in 1794 and giving a subscription towards the additional vestry some years later.⁴⁷

³⁸ Cheshire Marriage Licence Bonds and Allegations 1606-1905 accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk

³⁹ 1871 census accessed via www.ancestry.co.uk

⁴⁰ England and Wales Civil Registration Death Index 1837-1915 accessed via www.ancestry.co.uk

⁴¹ Chapelry of Starcross register accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk

⁴² Marriage and burial records accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk

⁴³ Chudleigh parish register accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk

⁴⁴ As note 4.

⁴⁵ See separate biography for Stone 54, Mellony Snelling.

⁴⁶ Holy Trinity parish register accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk

⁴⁷ As note 24.

What merchandise James dealt in is unknown, however in 1816 Messrs. Cox and Co. of Holloway advertised, "*Just arrived from Lisbon a small cargo of very superior oranges*".⁴⁸ Four of James and Anna's sons followed him into business as merchants; John James a wine merchant trading in Oporto, Portugal and London, George Ebenezar also a wine merchant in Exeter, Horatio (Horace) Henry in Guayaquil, Ecuador, and Frederick Charles in Brazil.⁴⁹ It was therefore possible that at least one was working with their father and continuing in areas where he traded.

James died suddenly on Saturday the 11th of November 1820, "at his house in Holloway Street."⁵⁰ He was interred on the 14th of November in a 'new cave' for which £1.10.0d was paid on the day.⁵¹ Mr W. H. H. Rogers' transcription of his age as 36 is incorrect; the burial register stated he was 56.⁵²

The next mention of Anna in the records is the census of 1841 where she was living on Marine Parade in Dawlish.⁵³ She had quite a large household consisting of her three daughters, Mellony Molland Cox, Anna Chapple Cox and Sarah Decima Cox, her granddaughter Matilda Jane Cox (Samuel Molland Cox's daughter), her son Edward Cox, three young girls, one of which was a Rosa Hirtzel the two-year-old daughter of Frederick Dashwood Lake Hirtzel and two female servants.⁵⁴

By 1851 she had moved to Fore Street in Chudleigh, then living with only two of her daughters Anna Chapple Cox, Sarah Decima Cox, and a female servant.

Anna died in 1857. The newspaper reported that on, "*April 11, at Chudleigh, Anna Cox, relict of James Cox, Esq., formerly of this city, in her 88th year.*"⁵⁵

Mellony Snelling (c.1732-1822)

Anna Cox's mother and grandmother of Samuel Molland Cox was the second interment in the family vault.⁵⁶

Matilda Jane Cox (1809-1825)

Matilda Jane, the sister of Samuel Molland Cox is the fourth interment in the tomb. "*Saturday se' night, (26th November) at Dawlish, of Typhus fever, aged 16, Matilda, youngest daughter of the late James Cox, Esq. of this city.*"⁵⁷ Typhus fever is caused by bacterial infection from fleas, lice, mites or ticks.⁵⁸

Memorial 57 in the Dissenters graveyard might commemorate Matilda. In the 2014 survey all that remained of the inscription was 'MATI:L , daughter , died 20 , aged . '

A Amosford

May 2021

⁴⁸ *Exeter Flying Post* 11 April 1816 accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk

⁴⁹ 'Being a Historical record of the Port Wine Trade and a tribute to British Commercial Enterprise in the North of Portugal' by Charles Sellers, 1899 <https://archive.org/details/cu31924085185100/mode/2up>

⁵⁰ *Exeter Flying Post* 16 November 1820 accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk

⁵¹ As note 4.

⁵² As note 20.

⁵³ As note 32.

⁵⁴ Frederick Dashwood Lake Hirtzel, a wine merchant living in Exeter may be a relative through the name Lake.

⁵⁵ *Woolmer's Exeter and Plymouth Gazette*, May 23, 1857 accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk

⁵⁶ As note 1.

⁵⁷ *Exeter Flying Post* Thursday 8 December 1825 accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk

⁵⁸ URBAN FAMINE OR URBAN CRISIS? TYPHUS IN THE VICTORIAN CITY, Anne Hardy <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1139912/pdf/medhist00061-0051.pdf> accessed 14/05/2021.