

Memorial 60

John JERWOOD died December 1795 aged 70 **Mary JERWOOD died 20th July 1787 aged 70**

John married Mary Whitefield on 23rd July 1752 at Holy Trinity Church Exeter.¹ Records of their births cannot be traced for certain. There was a John Jerwood born in Uffculme, Devon, to Thomas and Sarah Jerwood who was baptised in 1740² who seems to have had a brother Thomas.

John Jerwood was apprenticed to John Tozer as a Mercer and he became a freeman of the city of Exeter on 15th April 1754.³

John was a mercer, woollen draper and dealer in Manchester goods. This was a term used for items such as sheets and towels and other items made of cotton.⁴ His business seems to have been in Fore Street, Exeter.⁵ He was in partnership with Benjamin Grant until 1770 when a notice appeared in *Trewman's Flying Post* of 16th February stating that, "the partnership was dissolved and that Benjamin would carry on on his own account at Mr Whitings next to St Petrocks Church 4 doors above the conduit on Fore Street."⁶ The conduit was at the meeting of North and South Street. A month later there was notice in the paper that John Jerwood would be continuing his trade of Mercer and Woollen Draper at his house just below the conduit on Fore Street. Some of the items on offer were: "Black silks, bombaseens and crapes for funerals at most reasonable rates".⁷

A Thomas Jerwood was a saddler who had a shop on Fore Street.⁸ He was described in a newspaper advert as having been "a foreman in one of the principle shops in London and had made saddles for most of the nobility and gentry." This business was later sold.⁹

In a will written by Thomas Jerwood in 1767¹⁰ before he was due to marry Mary Hodge he named his brother John as one of his executors. It could be deduced that these were the same Jerwood brothers. This will was added to later but gives little personal detail other than continuing to name John Jerwood as among the executors.

Thomas and Mary were married in 1767 in St Davids Church Exeter.¹¹ The assumption that Thomas and John were brothers is further supported by the fact that Thomas and Mary had at least eight children all of whom were baptised as Dissenters at the Bow Meeting House.

Mary in 1768¹²

Elizabeth in 1772¹²

Jane in 1773¹²

¹ England Select Marriages 1538-1973

² Devon, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials 1538-1812

³ Exeter Freeman 1266-1987

⁴ Dictionary definition

⁵ 1784 UK and US Directories 1680-1830e

⁶ Trewman's Flying Post 16.02.1770

⁷ Trewman's Flying Post 16.03.1770

⁸ Trewman's Flying Post 21.12.1764

⁹ Trewman's Flying Post 2.04.1773

¹⁰ England and Wales Prerogative Court of Canterbury Wills 1384-1858

¹¹ England Selected Marriages 1538-1973

¹² England and Wales Non-Conformist and Non-Parochial Registers 1567-1936

Ann in 1775¹²
 Thomas in 1776¹²
 John in 1779¹²
 Richard Hodge in 1780¹²
 Tryphena in 1786¹²

Thomas Jerwood died in 1787 and was buried in St David's Churchyard.^{13,14} The report in the newspaper said, '*Thomas Jerwood died almost suddenly*'.

In 1787 John Jerwood and the other executor Thomas Parker of Silverton sold a number of leases of fields on the outskirts of the city which had belonged to his late brother Thomas.¹⁵ It appears that Thomas held quite a lot of property around Exeter: 22 acres near Black Boy House, Heavitree, 11 acres in St David's Parish, 2 meadows behind the church in St Sidwells and a property called Close of Ground which he had occupied.

John Jerwood's wife Mary died on 20th July 1787 and was buried in the Dissenters Graveyard¹⁶ and a notice appeared in the *Exeter Flying Post* of 26th July.¹⁷ There is record in the Account book "Rec'd for cave made for Mrs Jerwood £1.5.0 paid 26th July 1787."

In 1795 John advertised for an assistant in the *Exeter Flying Post*¹⁸, "Wanted immediately, a young man who has been some years in the mercery and Drapery business. He must understand Accounts and be capable of assisting in carrying on a wholesale trade in the above line. An unexceptional character will be expected. Apply, letter post paid to Mr Jerwood, Fore Street, Exeter, March 10th 1795."

However, he died nine months after this. He was buried in the Graveyard¹⁹ on December 10th 1795 and the Account Book records the opening of his cave on December 9th at a cost of 10 shillings.

After his death an advert appeared in May 1797 selling his house and his stock in trade.²⁰ The house was described as "large, convenient, and most eligibly situated in the centre of the city, wherein for thirty years last past a very extensive business has been carried out in the Wholesale Mercery, Woollen-Drapery and Manchester Line. The stock is not very large, and consists of Goods lately laid in on the best Terms: the old part of the stock having been disposed of." Interested parties were invited to apply to Mr Marker, Attorney-at-Law, Craddock, near Cullompton. The lawyer's address may suggest that John originally came from outside Exeter.

There is no record of John and Mary having any children, nor is there evidence of a surviving will so what happened to his estate is yet to be determined.

Beryl Coe 2014

Revised by **Sally Dyer**, October 2023

¹³ Devon, England Church of England Births Marriages and deaths 1538-1812

¹⁴ Trewman's Flying Post 29.03.1787

¹⁵ Trewman's Flying Post 19th April 1787

¹⁶ England and Wales Non-Conformist and Non-Parochial Registers 1567-1936

¹⁷ Trewman's Flying Post 26th July 1787

¹⁸ Trewman's Flying Post 1795

¹⁹ England and Wales Non-Conformist and Non-Parochial Registers 1567-1936

²⁰ Trewman's Flying Post May 1797