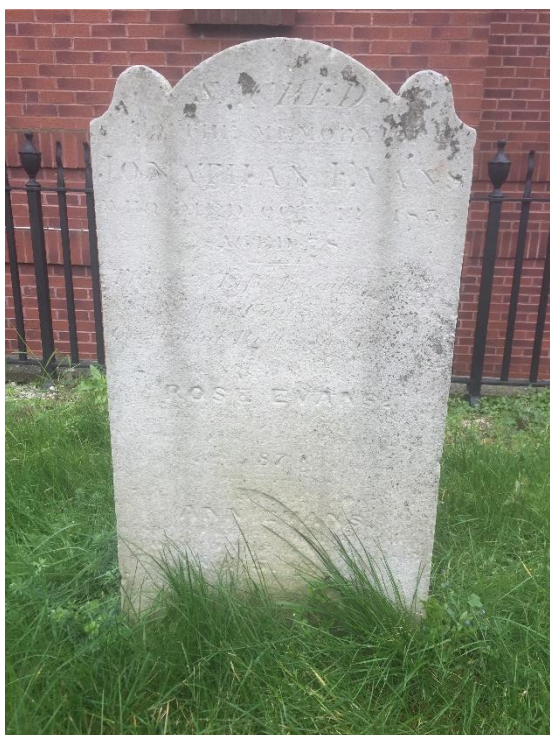


Memorial 66

Jonathan EVANS, died 12th October 1835 aged 78
Rose EVANS aged 87
Ann EVANS aged 51

Jonathan Evans grew up in a family of nonconformists. His parents John and Elizabeth (née Sainthill) had married in 1750¹ and all of their nine children were baptised at the Bow Meeting House in Exeter.² It is also possible that John Evans gave a contribution towards the “...Purchase and Charges of Building ye Walls of ye Plott ...” as three men with the name Evans are recorded in the Graveyard Accounts.³ In



spite of this the three people on Memorial 66 are the only ones with the surname Evans recorded in the burial registers and account book for the Dissenters Graveyard.

Jonathan's father married twice. John's first wife, Susanna Tucker, died in 1749 and was buried at St Mary Arches where they had married fourteen years earlier.⁴ John married his second wife Elizabeth Sainthill at Exeter Cathedral on 24 September 1750.⁵ At the time of Jonathan's marriage his father was still alive and Jonathan was working in the same profession as his father - as a salter. Salters not only dealt in salt but would also dry salt fish and meat as well as selling flax, hemp, logwood, cochineal, potashes and other chemical preparations. Advertisements in the Exeter Flying Post show that Jonathan Evans sold “...the best BOILING PEASE (the Quantity above Three Thousand Bushels)...” and “... the best TICK BEANS...” together with Cheshire cheese.⁶ His shop was on the corner of Milk Lane and Fore Street in Exeter.

Jonathan's father died in October 1788. His will was written a few months before his death and the bequests listed were equivalent to over one million pounds at current values. The will shows that John had already lent money to his sons. His eldest son, John Evans, had become a Wool Stapler but prior to his father's death had resigned his “...Business unto Mr John Evans who served an Apprenticeship to the Woollen Trade and who will do his utmost to please everyone ...”.⁷ By 1784 John Evans junior was in debt and an advertisement was placed inviting creditors to “...send in their

¹ Exeter/Cathedral/3 South West Heritage Trust accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 14.4.2017.

² RG4/965 Exeter, Bow Meeting (Presbyterian): Births, Baptisms & Burials accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 14.04.17.

³ DRO 3693D/O/B/I Report & Account Book of Dissenters Burial Ground 1832.

⁴ Devon Marriages Transcription, accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 08.05.18 and Devon Burials Transcription accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 08.05.18.

⁵ Devon Marriages Transcription, accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 08.05.18.

⁶ Exeter Flying Post, 27.02.1783, Col 3b; Devon Heritage Centre.

⁷ Exeter Flying Post, 05.05.1780, Col 3b; Devon Heritage Centre.

Accounts to the Exeter Bank, where an equal dividend will be paid...".⁸ John junior died before his father and so did not benefit from his father's will. John senior appointed his daughter Elizabeth Sainthill Evans as the sole Executrix of his will and left bequests to his two daughters, four sons and two grandchildren.⁹

Jonathan Evans married Rose Luke by License on 19 July 1786 at St David's Church in Exeter. He was 29 years old and was living in St Mary Arches while Rose lived in St David's Parish.¹⁰ The witnesses were William Luke, Rose's father or brother, and Benjamin Evans, Jonathan's younger brother. Rose was William and Ann Luke's third child. She was baptised on 3 March 1759 at St Mary Arches - the same church where members of the Evans family were married and buried.¹¹

William Luke was a grocer and tea dealer in Exeter. Before his death in 1801 William's shop was "...two doors above the Corn market ...".¹² Although it is clear that William was a successful businessman a copy of his will has not survived. The National Archives holds a copy of his Probate Inventory.¹³ Rose had four brothers and two sisters. Two members of the family, Thomas and Mary, died as children and the two eldest, William and Ann, moved away from Exeter. The three other children, Rose, James and Thomas, lived and worked in Exeter throughout their lives. Rose is the only member of the Luke family to be buried in the Dissenters graveyard. Her parents, William and Ann, were buried at St Mary Arches where all of the children had been baptised. Rose's elder brother William was buried at Bunhill Fields in London on 20 February 1821.¹⁴

A year before William Luke died his son-in-law, Jonathan Evans was declared bankrupt.¹⁵ Following this Jonathan's assets were advertised for sale including Topsham Bridge Inn, two new houses, a new Salt Refinery with a Quay and land which were all in Topsham. His dwelling house and shop in Fore Street, Exeter (adjoining Milk Lane) was also advertised for sale.¹⁶ By this time Jonathan and Rose had four children. All of the children had been baptised at the Mint in Exeter.¹⁷ Their fifth child, Henry Smith Evans, was baptised at the Presbyterian Chapel in Topsham on 14 February 1802.¹⁸ Later that year on the 29th November 1802 Elizabeth Evans was born in the parish of St Mary's Arches in Exeter suggesting that the family had moved back to the city.¹⁹

⁸ Exeter Flying Post, 12.08.1784, Col 2b, Devon Heritage Centre.

⁹ England and Wales, Prerogative Court of Canterbury Wills, Probate Date 29 Nov 1788, accessed on [ancestry.co.uk](https://www.ancestry.co.uk) on 09.05.18.

¹⁰ Devon Marriages, South West Heritage Trust, St David, Exeter. Accessed on [findmypast.co.uk](https://www.findmypast.co.uk) on 14.04.17.

¹¹ 332A/PR/1/2 Devon Baptisms South West Heritage Trust, Exeter, St Mary Arches. Accessed on [findmypast.co.uk](https://www.findmypast.co.uk) on 28.11.18.

¹² Exeter Flying Post, Thursday 1 October 1801. Accessed on [britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk) on 30 November 2018.

¹³ Exhibit 1802/805. William Luke of the city of Exeter, Devon. Probate Inventory, or declaration, of the estate of the same deceased. September 1802. PROB 31/947/805.

¹⁴ RG4/3995 Bunhill Fields Burial Ground, City Road, 1819 - 1822. Accessed on [ancestry.co.uk](https://www.ancestry.co.uk) on 28 March 2019.

¹⁵ Sherborne Mercury, Monday 9 June 1801, accessed on [britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk) on 06.06.2014.

¹⁶ Exeter Flying Post, Thursday 7 August 1800, accessed on [britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk) on 14.05.2014.

¹⁷ RG4/0336:Exeter, Mint (Presbyterian), 1719-1810; accessed on [ancestry.co.uk](https://www.ancestry.co.uk) on 28.03.2019.

¹⁸ RG4/1222 Topsham (Presbyterian) Births & Baptisms, accessed on [findmypast.co.uk](https://www.findmypast.co.uk) on 14.4.17.

¹⁹ RG4/4665-2 Dr Williams' Library Registry, Birth Certificates. Accessed on [ancestry.co.uk](https://www.ancestry.co.uk) on 28.03.19.

The memorial in the Dissenters' Graveyard records that Jonathan was an advocate for the cause of "...civil and religious..." liberty. One episode in the newspapers illustrates the ongoing debate about such matters. On 23 December 1809 a General Meeting of the Subscribers to the Devon and Exeter Bible Society was held at the Guildhall. Jonathan Evans was listed as a subscriber to the society.²⁰ The following week a letter was published in the same paper warning people about the object of this society which the writer, "A Friend to the Establishment" said was to "distribute translations of the Bible *without any comment*, that is to put into the hands of the common people, a book, ...leaving them to deduce their own opinions from it..." He believed that it would be dangerous to allow the "...lower orders to deduce from the sacred volume their own opinion, or to wrest separate passages to the support of any doctrine to which their inclination leads them..." He noted that two of the three Secretaries to the society were dissenters. "Far be it from me to throw obstacles in the advancement of learning and piety; but let the society distribute at the same time *Prayer Books*, let the common people be kept within the pale of the establishment..."²¹

Jonathan Evans died on 12 October 1835 at his home in Windsor Terrace, St Sidwells. He was buried a week later when the George's Meeting Register recorded that he was 78 years old and that although he had worked as a salterer he was retired from business.²²

Six years later at the time of the 1841 Census Rose and Ann Evans were living in St Sidwell. They were both shown to be of independent means.²³ Rose was still living at No 4 Windsor Terrace when she died at the age of 88 on 11 October 1846.²⁴ Her daughter, Ann, died only six months later aged 51 years.²⁵ Both Rose and Ann were buried with Jonathan. A month later the *Exeter and Plymouth Gazette* published an advertisement "No 4, Windsor Terrace, Summerland Street, Exeter. To be sold at Auction on Tuesday, May 18, 1847, on the Premises, - a variety of HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE; China, Glass and Effects ... Sale to commence at Half - past Eleven."²⁶

Although there is no other entry under the name Evans in the Dissenters' burial register one of Jonathan's siblings is also buried there. Jonathan's older sister, Elizabeth, married Henry Smith on 26 December 1789 at St Stephens Church in Exeter.²⁷ Elizabeth was thirty-three and her father had died the previous year. Elizabeth and Henry had two children. Their first child Anna Maria Smith was baptised at Bow Meeting on 29 June 1794. Anna's sister, Elizabeth Smith, was baptised at Bow on 8 October 1797.²⁸ Their father, Henry, died in 1808 and was buried on 9 January in St John Church in Exeter. In his will he left the majority of his estate to his wife and daughters. Anna Maria married a second cousin, George Hadley, on 22 December 1819 at Holy Trinity in Exeter.²⁹ She moved to

²⁰ Exeter Flying Post, Thursday 28 December 1809, accessed on britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk 15.04.17.

²¹ Exeter Flying Post, Thursday 04 January 1810, accessed on findmypast.co.uk 15.04.17.

²² RG4/1085, Exeter, Georges Meeting (Presbyterian): Births, Baptisms & Burial, accessed on findmypast.co.uk 15.04.17.

²³ 1841 England, Wales & Scotland Census, HO107/268/2/9/13 accessed on findmypast.co.uk 15.04.17.

²⁴ Exeter Flying Post, Thursday 15 October 1846, accessed on britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk 15.04.17.

²⁵ Western Times, Saturday 17 April 1847, accessed on britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk 15.04.17.

²⁶ Exeter and Plymouth Gazette, Saturday 15 May 1847, accessed on britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk on 15.04.17.

²⁷ South West Heritage Trust; Birth, Marriage, Death & Parish Records; accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 06.04.18.

²⁸ RG4/965 Exeter, Bow Meeting (Presbyterian): Births, Baptisms & Burials accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 31.03.19.

²⁹ South West Heritage Trust; Birth, Marriage, Death & Parish Records, accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 31.03.19.

Birmingham and died there less than three years later. She was buried in St Philips Cathedral in Birmingham on 12 February 1808.³⁰ Anna Maria's sister, Elizabeth, died in 1828 and was buried in the Dissenters Graveyard in Exeter on 20 March 1828.³¹ Four years later Elizabeth's mother, Elizabeth Sainthill Smith was also buried in the Dissenters Graveyard.³²

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December 2020

³⁰ National Burial Index for England & Wales; accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 31.03.19.

³¹ RG4/1085; Exeter, Georges Meeting (Presbyterian): Births, Baptisms & Burials accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 01.04.19.

³² RG4/1085; Exeter, Georges Meeting (Presbyterian): Births, Baptisms & Burials accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 01.04.19.