

No Memorial

William Dunn BRYANT
Harriet BRYANT

buried 18 December 1843
buried 12 September 1829

William Dunn Bryant was born circa 1766.¹ It is believed that his father was George Bryant, a builder of the parish of Holy Trinity. There is a Memorial in the graveyard dedicated to George Bryant who died on 5th June 1819, aged 87 years. (see biography on www.edgt.org.uk). It has not been possible, at this stage, to identify William Dunn Bryant's mother.

In 1782, William Dunn Bryant was apprenticed to Richard Parker, a Baker, in Exeter.²

On 29th December 1795, William Dunn Bryant married Harriet Burgess, a Spinster, in the parish of Holy Trinity and in the presence of George Bryant Junior. William's occupation is given as Builder – perhaps he didn't enjoy his apprenticeship with the Baker or he just decided to work with his father!!³ The records show that William and Harriet had three children all of whom were baptised at Holy Trinity, Exeter⁴

William George - baptized 15th July 1799

Harriot (*sic*) - baptized 18th November 1801

Mary Ann - baptized 14th January 1805

In 1828, William Dunn Bryant's address is given as Holloway Street but it is unclear whether this was where he and Harriet were living or whether this was simply the location of his business premises⁵. There is also evidence that he had premises in Holloway Street in a Transfer of Mortgage – Exeter (Heavitree, Holy Trinity) 1848 document. It is an Indenture, dated 13th July 1848, between William Cobley Selley, Plasterer, of the parish of Holy Trinity and Merlin Fryer, Gentleman, of the parish of St. Thomas. An extract reads, "*Thirdly all that Messuage and Dwelling House in Holloway Street in the parish of Holy Trinity in the City of Exeter with the privy behind the same and the courtlage belonging thereto now enjoyed therewith bounded on the north by premises late belonging to William Bryant on the East by the said street called Holloway Street*".⁶

Harriet was buried on 12th September 1829, aged 54 years⁷. By 1835, William's address was 57 High Street⁸ and by 1841, he had moved to live with his daughter, Harriet and her family at 4 Queen Street, parish of Allhallows Goldsmith Street, Exeter, living of independent means,¹ though in his Will of 1844 he is described as a Draper⁹. His son-in-law, Robert Nightingale, with whom he was living at the time, was a Haberdasher¹ so perhaps, when William retired from his job as a Builder, he helped Robert in his Drapery trade.

William was buried on 18th December 1843.⁷

Sources

1. 1841 Census (www.findmypast.co.uk)
2. Britain, Country Apprentices 1710-1808 (www.findmypast.co.uk) National Archives ref. IR1 Series 62f100
3. Devon Marriages (www.findmypast.co.uk)
4. Devon Bishop's Transcripts 1558-1887 (www.findmypast.co.uk)
5. Exeter Itinerary and General Directory 1828 by T & H Besley
6. Transfer of Mortgage 1848 (held at Devon Heritage Centre ref. PEARSE/Box/48/3/10)
7. Exeter Dissenters Burial Register (held at Devon Heritage Centre)
8. Besley's Exeter Directory 1835
9. Estate Duty Will (held at Devon Heritage Centre ref. 1078/IRW/B/1712m)

Additional Information concerning the children and grandchildren of William Dunn & Harriet Bryant

1. **William George Bryant** – can find no records to pursue this further.
2. On 25 June 1830, at St Sidwells, **Harriet Bryant** married Robert Nightingale, a Linen Draper of the parish of St Stephen, Exeter.¹ In 1840, they were living at 57 High Street, Exeter and their first child, Harriet Burgess Nightingale was baptized on 3rd June of that year.² In September 1840, Robert was declared bankrupt³ though he continued to work in the trade.

By the time the 1851 census was taken, they were living at 4 Well Lane, York Terrace, St Sidwells, Exeter with two daughters and a son – Harriet (aged 11), William Bryant (aged 9) and Marian (aged 7). This Census shows that Robert was born in Weeley, Essex.

Harriet died in 1867 in Exeter at the age of 67 years⁴ and Robert's death was registered in the 1st quarter of 1877 in Exeter. He was aged 77 years.⁴

Of their children, the eldest, **Harriet Nightingale**, never married. In 1861, the Census shows that she was visiting at Smithhayne, Cheriton Fitzpaine and was a Milliner by occupation.⁵ Ten years later, she had returned to live with her father, Robert, who was then widowed, at 2 York Cottages, Exeter⁶ and twenty years further, at the age of 51 years, she was still unmarried and living on own means at 23 Free Cottages, Exeter.⁷ The 1901 Census shows her living with her sister, Marion/Mary Ann, and brother-in-law, John Spooner, in Hadleigh, Suffolk. Her death is registered in the 1st quarter of 1904 in Rochford, Essex.⁴

According to the 1901 Census, **William Bryant Nightingale** was living at 19 Rose Hill Terrace, Swansea, South Wales with his wife, Jane, and their two daughters Florence and Hilda. He was an Iron Metal merchant. His death is registered in the 1st quarter of 1905 in Swansea. He was aged 62 years.⁸ The youngest of the three children, **Mary Ann Nightingale (also known as Marion)**, married John Spooner, on 03 November 1870. John was a Draper

who had been born in Hadleigh, Suffolk. The 1901 Census shows them living in High Street, Hadleigh along with Marion's sister, Harriet. The address given in the 1911 Census is 51, High Street, Hadleigh where they were living with their 23 year old son, John Nightingale Spooner.

It is not known when Mary Ann died. John's death is registered in the 4th quarter of 1919 in Suffolk. He was 70 years of age.⁸

3. **Mary Ann Bryant** married Matthew Barbet, a widowed Gentleman of the Island of Guernsey, on 15th April 1839.⁹

Sources

1. Marriage Certificate (held at Devon Heritage Centre ref. DEX/7/b/1/1830/287)
2. Devon Baptisms (www.findmypast.co.uk)
3. Bankrupt Directory 1820-1843 (www.findmypast.co.uk)
4. England & Wales Civil Registration Death Index 1837-1915 (www.ancestry.co.uk)
5. 1861 Census (www.findmypast.co.uk)
6. 1871 Census (www.findmypast.co.uk)
7. 1891 Census (www.findmypast.co.uk)
8. England & Wales Civil Registration Death Index 1837-2007 (www.findmypast.co.uk)
9. Marriage Certificate (held at Devon Heritage Centre ref. DEX/7/b/1/1839/159)

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18 November 2019