

**A revised history of the Huxham family using additional material supplied by Gillian Isles a direct descendent of William Huxham.**

## **William Huxham died 1839 Ironfounder**

## **Elizabeth Huxham died 1832 aged 54**

There is no stone for this family but burial records show:

Elizabeth Huxham died in 1773 wife of William Huxham

Mrs Huxham died 1781

Huxham an unnamed child died 1803

Huxham an unnamed infant died 25 March 1809

Ellen Huxham died 1818 aged 3 and a half daughter of William an Ironfounder.

Mr Huxham died Jan 1820 aged 84

Elizabeth Huxham died 14 July 1832 aged 54 wife of William Huxham

There is no record of the first Elizabeth Huxham elsewhere.

**William Huxham** was born in about 1774 the son of George Huxham and Mary Vavasour and baptised in Plymouth at the Batter Street Presbyterian Church.<sup>1</sup> His father George Huxham was a yeoman farmer on an ancient estate called Holland owned by the Hele family. He married Mary Vavasour in 1764 in Totnes and died in 1800 and is buried in Plympton St Mary Mary.<sup>2</sup> His wife, William's mother, died in 1781, and is buried in The Dissenters' Graveyard.

William married Elizabeth Spicer Drewe in 1795 at St Martins Exeter.<sup>3</sup>

They had at least 9 children:

William b: June 1795 and baptised in Plymouth.<sup>4</sup>

George b:1798<sup>5</sup>

John b:1800<sup>6</sup>

Henry b:1803<sup>7</sup>

Frederick 1805<sup>8</sup>

George, John, Henry, Frederick and Emily were all baptised at George's Meeting House in 1810<sup>9</sup>

Mary Vavasour 1811<sup>10</sup>

Ellen 1815 to 1818<sup>11</sup>

Charles 1818<sup>12</sup>

There are records of seven of the children surviving to adulthood.

There are records of unnamed child deaths/burials for 3 other children in 1803, 1809 and 1813.<sup>13</sup>

The eldest William, went to India in 1817.<sup>14</sup> He married there and had children who were sent back to England according to family letters.<sup>15</sup> By 1842 he was described by Baak as "The first

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<sup>1</sup> England and Wales Non Conformist and Non Parochial Registers 1567-1970

<sup>2</sup> Our Ancestors David and Gillian Isles Devon Family History Society

<sup>3</sup> England Selected Marriages 1538-1973

<sup>4</sup> England and Wales Non Conformist and Non Parochial Registers 1567-1970

<sup>5</sup> England and Wales Non Conformist and Non Parochial Registers 1567-1970

<sup>6</sup> England and Wales Non Conformist and Non Parochial Registers 1567-1970

<sup>7</sup> England and Wales Non Conformist and Non Parochial Registers 1567-1970

<sup>8</sup> England and Wales Non Conformist and Non Parochial Registers 1567-1970

<sup>9</sup> England and Wales Non Conformist and Non Parochial Registers 1567-1970

<sup>10</sup> England and Wales Non Conformist and Non Parochial Registers 1567-1970

<sup>11</sup> England and Wales Non Conformist and Non Parochial Registers 1567-1970

<sup>12</sup> England and Wales Non Conformist and Non Parochial Registers 1567-1970

<sup>13</sup> England and Wales Non Conformist and Non Parochial Registers 1567-1970

<sup>14</sup> Bond Reference. IOR 2/0/1/8

<sup>15</sup> Our Ancestors by David and Gillian Isles

known individual effort to grow coffee in Tranvacore was made by William Huxham, an English man, in the hills of Quilton.”<sup>16</sup>

George settled in South Wales and is described in the 1841 census as a wine and spirit merchant.<sup>17</sup> He married Susan Hort, who came from another nonconformist family from Bristol<sup>18</sup> and had four children: Edith, Vavasour, Hortensius and Dorcas.<sup>19</sup>

John married Susan in 1832 in Taunton<sup>20</sup> and moved to London. He is described in the 1851 Census as married with one son William and as an agent for Welsh Coals and in the 1861 Census as a machine agent.<sup>21</sup>

Emily Drewe Huxham married James Strick, son of John Strick a cornfactor, in 1839 in St Thomas.<sup>22</sup> He seems to have come from Wales and moved back to Wales with his family.<sup>23</sup> He is variously listed as an insurance agent and a coal merchant. They had four children Mary, James, Emily and Frank<sup>24</sup>.

There seems to have been a strong family link with South Wales, Welsh Coals and machinery.

Mary Vavasour Huxham married James Armitage Brown in 1842 who became a partner in the business<sup>25</sup>, buying his partnership from James Strick. They had five children: Ralph, Charles, Edward, Margaret and Mary<sup>26</sup>. Only Mary married.<sup>27</sup> Gillian Isles to whom I am indebted for information about this family is descended from Mary Vavasour Brown.

In the 1803 Militia List William is described as a confectioner, aged 28, living in St Martin's Parish with his wife and three children.<sup>28</sup>

By 1804 he had become an Iron Founder and a partnership between William Huxham and Samuel Kingdon was dissolved and the business was carried on by William Huxham.<sup>29</sup>

1815 A Commission of Bankruptcy was awarded against William Huxham for The Iron Foundry in Ewings Lane.<sup>30</sup> Despite this he seems to have continued in business.

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<sup>16</sup> Baak: Plantation, production and Political Power 1842

<sup>17</sup> Census 1841

<sup>18</sup> England and Wales Non Conformist and Non Parochial Registers 1567-1970

<sup>19</sup> Wales, Select Births and Baptisms 1541-1971. England and Wales Non Conformist and Non Parochial Registers 1567-1970

<sup>20</sup> England Selected Marriages 1538-1973

<sup>21</sup> Census: 1851, 1861

<sup>22</sup> England Selected Marriages 1538-1973

<sup>23</sup> 1841 Census

<sup>24</sup> England Selected Births and Christenings 1538-1975

<sup>25</sup> English Select Marriages 1538-1973

<sup>26</sup> England Select Births and Christenings 1538-1970

<sup>27</sup> England Select Marriages 1538-1973

<sup>28</sup> Exeter Militia List 1803

<sup>29</sup> London Gazette November 6th 1804

<sup>30</sup> London Gazette April 8th 1815

1819 William Huxham wrote a long letter to the Exeter Flying Post concerning the beating of his son by a master at school and action he took against this - *“On 5th May 1813 at nine in the morning my son returned from school and immediately informed me he had left it because he had missed a word and that he was about to be flogged for his defcalation”*.

William Huxham visited the school and spoke to the master and thought that they had agreed to let the matter rest. However when the boy returned to the school the next day *“Mr T came to him and called 3 or 4 boys from their seats and took the defenceless victim by legs and arms and laid him prostrate on the desk.....when he inflicted a punishment on him which would perhaps disgrace a Turk or Algerine.”*<sup>31</sup>

He continued to be horrified about the treatment of his son by this master. It is most likely, given the date, that the son was Frederick who was his oldest surviving son.

1821 Fire destroys iron foundry and smithy in Ewings Lane. Business was later resumed.<sup>32</sup>

1822 Patent: Improvements to roof construction.<sup>33</sup>

1827/1830/1831/1832/1833/1836/1837 William Huxham is listed as an Iron Founder in Shilhay<sup>34,35</sup>, one of four in that part of Exeter.

Elizabeth Huxham died July 14th 1832.<sup>36</sup>

William Huxham died August 27th 1839.<sup>37,38</sup>

**1840 Will of William Huxham.**<sup>39</sup>

His will originally made John Holland of Crediton and Jonathan Glyde of St Thomas executors, advisors and assigners for his will. It must have been written over time but was finalised in 1827.

Frederick and Charles possibly took over the business, however it soon becomes a partnership with James Armitage Brown who married their sister Mary.<sup>40</sup> Frederick, according to his niece Mary Vavasour Walker (née Brown), was an asthmatic who collected fossils and butterflies which were given to a museum when he died.<sup>41</sup>

1846: Huxham and Brown are listed as Iron Founders and Smiths on Commercial Road<sup>42</sup>.

There is no mention of the family in the 1841 Census.

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<sup>31</sup> Exeter Flying Post August 19th 1819

<sup>32</sup> Exeter Flying Post February 22nd 1821

<sup>33</sup> Hereford Journal July 24th 1822

<sup>34</sup> Pigots Directory 1830

<sup>35</sup> Exeter Pocket Journal 1827, 1831, 1833, 1834, 1836, 1837

<sup>36</sup> England and Wales non Conformist and non Parochial Registers 1567-1970

<sup>37</sup> England and Wales Civil Registration Death Index

<sup>38</sup> Western Morning News August 31st 1839

<sup>39</sup> Prerogative Court of Canterbury PROB11 Devon Wills Index 1163-1999

<sup>40</sup> Western Times October 19th 1839

<sup>41</sup> Letters referred to in Our Ancestors by David and Gillian Isles.

<sup>42</sup> Piggots Directory 1846

### **1851**

Family were living at 52 Alphington Road/Sydney House (which no longer exists but stood beside Sydney Place on Alphington Street). The residents were Frederick Huxham, Charles Huxham and James and Mary Brown and their 5 children. The business employed 41 men and boys.<sup>43</sup>

Frederick Huxham died on November 1st 1859.<sup>44,45</sup> He left very little money but this could have been because it was tied up in the business.<sup>46</sup>

There is no mention of the Huxhams in the 1861 Census although their brother in law James Brown, his wife Mary and five of their children are listed.<sup>47</sup>

### **1871**

Charles Huxham was living at Sydney House Alphington Road. James Brown, his wife Mary and three of their children also lived in the house. Charles Huxham was a partner in the business with James Brown employing 48 men and 8 boys.<sup>48</sup>

### **1881**

James Brown a manufacturing engineer was living at 2, Regents Park, Heavitree with his wife Mary Brown and three children. He employed 44 men and boys. There is no mention of Charles Huxham who does not appear elsewhere in the census, although he died at this address 8 years later.<sup>49</sup>

Charles Huxham died on March 14th 1889.<sup>50</sup>

### **1891**

James Brown a steam engineer manufacturer was living at 2, Regents Park with three of his adult children.<sup>51</sup>

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<sup>43</sup> 1851 Census

<sup>44</sup> England and Wales Civil Registration Death Index 1567-1790

<sup>45</sup> Western Times November 5th 1859

<sup>46</sup> England and Wales National Probate Calendar Index of Wills and Administration 1858-1966

<sup>47</sup> 1861 Census

<sup>48</sup> 1871 Census

<sup>49</sup> 1881 Census

<sup>50</sup> England and Wales Civil Registration Death Index

<sup>51</sup> 1891 Census