

No Memorial

Kingdon family

Nearly all members of the Kingdon family buried in the Graveyard can be traced back to Samuel Kingdon (1719-1792) of Thorverton near Exeter.

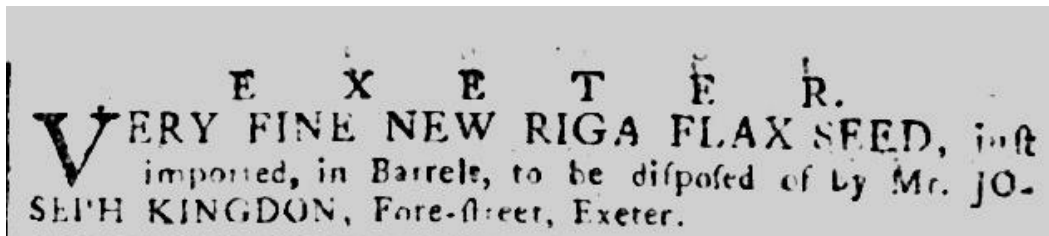
Samuel and Susanna, his wife, produced eight children: Mary (?-1810)¹, Thomas (?-1833), William (?-c.1819), John (1740-1819), **Samuel (1745-1797)**², Susannah (? -1834), **Joseph (1755-1797)** and Zacharias (1766- ?). Both Samuel and Joseph were buried in the Dissenters' graveyard as well as direct members of their families. John's two sons and three of his grandchildren were also buried there.³

Samuel Kingdon (1745-1797) and his family are remembered in the graveyard by an obelisk, see Memorial 82.⁴

Joseph Kingdon (1755-1797) Samuel's brother, married Catherine Hirtzel on 21st September 1778 at Holy Trinity Church, Exeter, witnessed by Clement Hirtzel and George Hirtzel, Catherine's brothers.⁵ Catherine was the oldest daughter of John James Hirtzel and Catherine Dashwood.⁶ Over the next eight years they produced five children: **Clement Hirtzel** (1779 -1794), William Page (1780 - 1852), James (1782-1868), Anne (1786 - 1860), and Catherine (1788 -1862). All were baptised at either George's (Clement Hirtzel, William Page and Catherine), Bow (James) and Mint Meeting (Anne).

At the age of about fifteen in 1770 Joseph was apprenticed to Samuel Cross a grocer in Exeter for seven years and it is here that he learnt his trade as a dealer in salt, a hop-factor, dealer (general?) and chapman.⁷ Joseph was described as a grocer at his wedding in 1778.⁸

From his premises in Fore Street, he advertised in 1783 the sale of flax seed.⁹



Riga flax seed was regarded as superior in quality.¹⁰

¹ Mary married Joseph Hunt who was buried in the Dissenters' graveyard see Memorial 58 www.edgt.org.uk

² Those names in **bold** were interred in the Dissenters' Graveyard

³ See later burials behind George's Meeting House.

⁴ EDGT biographies www.edgt.org.uk

⁵ Holy Trinity records accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk

⁶ See Hirtzel biography www.edgt.org.uk

⁷ UK Register of Duties Paid for Apprentices' Indentures, 1710-1811, accessed via www.ancestry.co.uk. The term chapman usually referred to a travelling salesman.

⁸ As note 5.

⁹ The Hampshire Chronicle 29 December 1783 accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk

¹⁰ <http://www.peacehavens.co.uk/BSFLAX.htm>

In 1789 Joseph became bankrupt. Whether this was as a result of actions outside his control, we may never know. Various notices alerted the public to his change in circumstances, *'Joseph Kingdon, of Exeter, dealer in Salt, hop factor, dealer and chapman; to surrender Feb 23, March 3, 28 at 3, at The Globe Tavern, Exeter, Attorney Mr Sandford, Exeter'*.¹¹ A new law passed in 1707, *'allowed for a second chance. A bankrupt deemed to have conformed to the rulings of the bankruptcy 'court' could receive an allowance up to £200 and a 'certificate of discharge' which would protect him or her from any future calls on prior debts.'*¹²

Certificates were allowed in Joseph's case as the Kentish Gazette of the 30th of June 1789 advertised, *'Joseph Kingdon of Exeter, dealer in salt, hop factor, dealer and chapman - Certificates to be allowed.'*

In a directory of 1791 an entry for *'Kingdon, Mrs & Co. Salters, Fore Street'* perhaps indicated that they had rebranded to continue business.¹³ Catherine Kingdon's mother Catherine Hirtzel called her daughter a salter in her Will.¹⁴ The Salters' Company states that, *'as well as dealing in salt, Salters were experts in the dry salting of fish and meat and also dealt with flax, hemp, logwood, cochineal, potashes and chemical preparations.'*¹⁵ It is not yet known whether Joseph and Catherine were involved with all those products.

In 1796 dividends were being issued to his creditors, *'Joseph Kingdon, of the city of Exeter, dealer in salt, hop factor, dealer and chapman, 16 March 1796 Guildhall, London'*.¹⁶ The rules around bankruptcy at this time are clearly examined by Aidan Collins in his PhD thesis *Bankruptcy in the Court of Chancery, 1674-1750*.¹⁷ Further useful explanation is also available.¹⁸

Joseph died on the 6th of June in 1797, *'Died - suddenly Mr Joseph Kingdon, comptroller of the customs of the Port of Exeter'*; he was only forty-two years of age.¹⁹ He was buried on 10th June. The burial register records *'Rec'd opening grave for Joseph Kingdon 4/- paid on 10th June'*.²⁰ The 'opening' implies there was already a grave in which he was interred; probably already occupied by a family member. There are other named Kingdon burials in graves that have not been identified yet so it is possible Joseph was interred within one of those. It appears he had been, *'for many years a comptroller of the Customs at Exeter'*.²¹ A Comptroller or Controller *'accounted for the money and was appointed to keep a check on the collector of customs.'*²²

¹¹ Kentish Gazette, 17 Feb 1789

¹² Conformity and the Certificate of Discharge: Bankruptcy in early eighteenth century England, Ann M. Carlos and Jennifer Lamping Department of Economics University of Colorado, 2010. <https://eh.net/eha/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Carlos.pdf> accessed 26/07/2021.

¹³ The Universal British Directory (Part 2), 1791 accessed via www.ancestry.co.uk

¹⁴ Catherine Hirtzels Will PROB11/1337/107

¹⁵ <https://www.salters.co.uk/the-salters-company/company-history/> accessed 26/07/2021.

¹⁶ Manchester Mercury 1 March 1796

¹⁷ https://etheses.whiterose.ac.uk/27741/1/Collins_201020602_Thesis.pdf accessed 27/07/2012.

¹⁸ Bankruptcy, Discharge, and the Emergence of Debtor Rights in Eighteenth Century England, Ann M Carlos, Edward Kosack and Luis Castro Penarrieta, <https://www.atlantafed.org/-/media/Documents/news/conferences/2015/0511-workshop-on-monetary-and-financial-history/presentations/carlos-kosack.pdf?la=en>

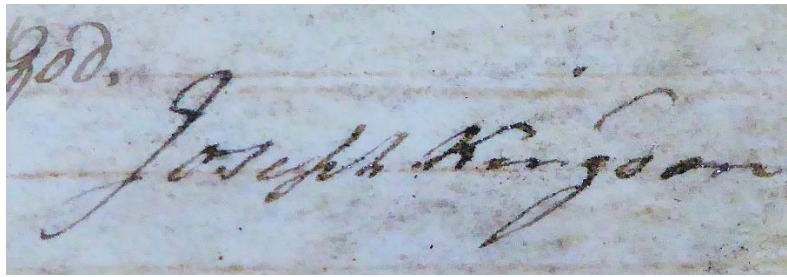
¹⁹ Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette 15 June 1797, accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk

²⁰ Report and Account Book of Dissenting Burial Ground 1748-1832 www.swheritage.org.uk

²¹ The Gentleman's Magazine and Historical Chronicle, For the year 1797, London

²² Explanation from display at the Customs House, Exeter Quay.

Joseph had been in this position since the 21st of November 1792 when he had taken an oath '*to be true and faithfull in the Execution*' of his employment as an Officer of the Revenue and Comptroller at the Port of Exeter.²³



Signature of Joseph Kingdon, 1792

Joseph's Will left administration to Catherine who renounced it in favour of Samuel, Joseph's brother.²⁴ Samuel was the principal creditor for Joseph's goods and also guardian of Joseph and Catherine's children. Samuel also died just a few months later.²⁵

After Joseph's death Catherine stayed on in Exeter, but it is not yet known whether she continued in the business. When their youngest daughter Catherine who had married Captain Powell relocated to Colyton, Catherine moved with them.



Colyton Cottage, postcard (undated) by Chapman and Son, Dawlish.

The family worshipped at George's Meeting in Colyton where Catherine became active within the congregation and the building. '*With her, religion was not a mantle to be worn on special occasions, but a deep-laid principle, giving peace to her retirement, and spirituality to her public devotions.*'²⁶ She died on the 9th of December 1845 and was buried at George's Meeting, Colyton eight days later.²⁷

²³ Port oath Exeter City Archives at www.swheritage.org.uk

²⁴ Abstract of Joseph Kingdon's Will available in OSWYN MURRAY COLLECTION OF WILLS, ABT. 1600-1800
www.swheritage.org.uk

²⁵ See note 4.

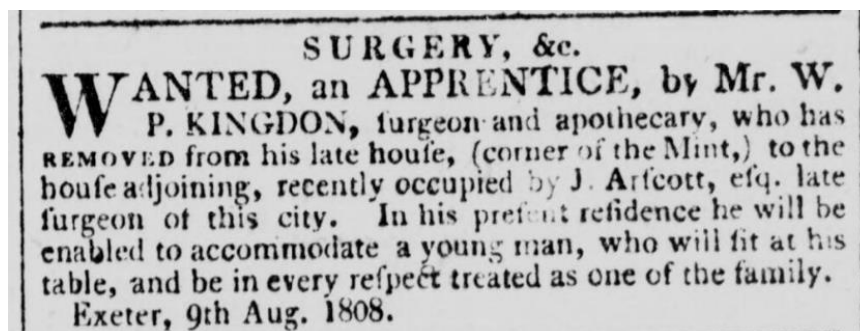
²⁶ 'Colytonia: A Chapter in the history of Devon' George Eyre Evans. Reprinted by Rare Books Club.com 2012

²⁷ As note 26.

Clement Hirtzel Kingdon, Joseph and Catherine's eldest son who was born on 13th July 1779 died when he was only fifteen.²⁸ He was possibly named after his uncle **Clement Hirtzel** (d. 1781) or his great grandfather Klemens Hirtzel (d. 1766). In a handwritten note the life of Clement was written down by a family member.²⁹ When he was about thirteen in 1792 he was sent to Jersey to Mr Ahier's Academy for his education. St. Mannelier's Free Grammar School taught handwriting and grammar, arithmetic, French, Latin, and Greek. Apparently, Philip Ahier the headmaster was a great 'whacker' which was probably the case in all schools at this time, but this didn't prevent pupils from England coming to study there.³⁰ According to George Eyre Evans, a great nephew of Clement's, who owned some of the young boy's watercolours, he had showed '*promise of brilliant artistic power*'.³¹ Clement Hirtzel Kingdon returned home on the 7th of March 1794, but died later the same year on the 22nd of September. The note also states that he was interred in the vault '*with his uncle Clement Hirtzel*.' The Reverend James Manning preached his funeral sermon on the '*Lord's Day following*'.³²

The burial ground's register records that they '*Rec'd opening Mr Hirtzel's cave for young Mr Kingdon 10/- paid 25th September 1794*'.³³ As seen above the Mr Hirtzel's cave mentioned is that of Clement Hirtzel's who himself was interred within it in 1781.³⁴

Clement Eyre Kingdon is the final person from Joseph's line buried in the graveyard. He was Joseph's grandson and the son of William Page Kingdon. William Page was born in 1780 and apprenticed in 1795 to Thomas Hathaway a surgeon in Colyton.³⁵ He married Mary Wreaks on the 28th of July 1808 at St. David's parish church.³⁶ Mary was a widow (née Eyre), the sister of Sarah Kingdon the wife of William's cousin Samuel 'Iron Sam' Kingdon. Just after their marriage William advertised for an apprentice.³⁷



William practised as a surgeon for the Exeter Dispensary until 1851 and from 153/4 Fore Street Exeter right up until his death on the 30th of June 1852. However, he is perhaps best remembered for his role as an Alderman, Exeter's Mayor in 1842/3 and as a member of the Exeter Commission for Improvement.

²⁸ England and Wales, Nonconformist and Parochial Registers, 1567- 1970 accessed via www.ancestry.co.uk

²⁹ Family correspondence and manuscripts collected by George Eyre Evans. 13563E, National Library of Wales.

³⁰ [https://www.theislandwiki.org/index.php/Education in Jersey 1770-1790](https://www.theislandwiki.org/index.php/Education_in_Jersey_1770-1790)

³¹ As note 29.

³² As note 29.

³³ Report and Account Book of Dissenting Burial Ground 1748-1832 www.swheritage.org.uk

³⁴ As note 6.

³⁵ As note 7.

³⁶ St David's parish records accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk

³⁷ Exeter Flying Post 11 August 1808 accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk

After William Page's death his son Charles, also a surgeon, continued to live at 154 Fore Street until 1863 when he sold the contents/property and moved to Southernhay.

Of their five children, fortunately only one died in infancy. **Clement Eyre Kingdon** was born on the 12th of July 1816. He was only a few months short of three years when he died on 2nd April 1819. His death might have been expected as he was baptised at Georges Meeting on the 28th of March just a week before his death.³⁸ Ten shillings was paid on the day of his interment to open the cave.³⁹

John Holman Kingdon (1780 – 1811) was the grandson of Samuel and Susanna and the son of John (1740-1819), a Thorverton sergemaker, and Mary (née Medland) Kingdon.

John Holman was a Linen Draper by trade. He had served his apprenticeship with Richard Chamberlain, a linen draper in Exeter High Street, from 1795 for seven years.⁴⁰ After his apprenticeship he set up in business in central Fore Street, but as soon as 1803 he advertised both his house and business premises to be let, stating that he was moving to the High Street. This was the house and business run by Clemow and Co. A couple of months later it appears he moved to the late Alderman Elliot's house. This may have been Number 73 High Street, otherwise known as Elyot's House and possibly passed down to the late Joseph Elliot, a glover, who died in 1803. In 1804 he moved to the house next door, number 74 on the corner of South Street and High Street at the sign of '*The three pheasants*'.⁴¹

John Holman had married his cousin Susannah Kingdon, daughter of Samuel and Jane (née Kent) on the 12th of December 1803 at St. Petrock's church in Exeter.⁴² They had three children, John (1804 - 1838), Samuel (1807-1808) and Ellen (1809-1812). He gained his freedom of the city on the 22nd of January 1810. John Holman Kingdon died only a year later, on the 14th of April 1811. Newspaper notices reported that he had been ill for a long time before his death, although he was only thirty-one years old. He was buried seven days later, on 20th April 1811.⁴³

Samuel, their second son, was born on the 27th of March 1807 and baptised at George's Meeting three months later, on the 25th of June 1807.⁴⁴ He died on the 12th of March less than a year later in 1808. Ten shillings was paid for his interment on the 17th of March.⁴⁵

Ellen their only daughter died in 1812. She was born on the 3rd of July 1809 and baptised at Bow Meeting exactly one month later on the 3rd of August. Her burial took place on the 8th of February in 1812. No mention was made of how much it cost.

John, their first son, reached adulthood but died at the age of thirty four in 1838 on the 17th of June at his mother's house. The burial register states that he was buried on the 23rd of June behind George's Meeting House.⁴⁶

Thomas Medland Kingdon (1783 – 1832) brother of John Holman Kingdon was born in about 1783.

³⁸ George's Meeting Register accessed via www.ancestry.co.uk

³⁹ As note 33.

⁴⁰ As note 7.

⁴¹ Exeter Flying Post 26 April 1804 accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk

⁴² St Petrock's parish records accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk

⁴³ As note 33.

⁴⁴ As note 38.

⁴⁵ As note 33.

⁴⁶ George's meeting burial register 1837-1882 held at www.swheritage.org.uk



He went into business with his Uncle Joseph Hunt.⁴⁷ Joseph was originally a master painter but the business he and Thomas Medland undertook was that of a Paper Hanging Manufactory at 180 Fore Street, Exeter. They were also selling carpets and floor coverings.⁴⁸

JOSEPH HUNT, takes this method of informing his friends and the public, that he has taken as a partner in his business, his nephew T. M. KINGDON, and that the said business will in future be carried on under the firm of HUNT and KINGDON.

On the 12th of April 1808, Hunt and Kingdon, paper stainers and colourists was dissolved by mutual consent. Thomas Medland continued with the business as a sole trader until 1831 when he decided to liquidate.⁴⁹ The advert stated that the business will be renewed under a different firm. However, it appears that the business was then continued by Jane his wife and Kent Kingdon his son.⁵⁰

Thomas had married Jane Kingdon his cousin on the 15th of September 1807 at St Petrock's church. Jane's brother 'Iron Sam' was one of the witnesses.⁵¹ They had ten children, Medland (1808 - ?), Kent (1810 – 1889), **Medland** (1812 – 1831), John Holman (1814 – 1837), Thomas (1816 - 1869), Jane (1818 – 1892), **Anna Susanna** (1820 – 1865), **Elizabeth Walker** (1822 – 1859), Paul (1824 - 1887) and George Canning (1827 – 1902).

⁴⁷ As note 1.

⁴⁸ Exeter Flying Post 17th of April 1806 accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk

⁴⁹ Exeter and Plymouth Gazette 6th August 1831 accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk

⁵⁰ <http://www.exetermemories.co.uk/em/people/kingdonkent.php>

⁵¹ St Petrock's parish records accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk

In 1823 Jane and Thomas Medland were both on the committee at George's Meeting House of, "*the two ministers, fourteen ladies and eight gentlemen 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 of the chapel.⁵²

Thomas died on the 21st of April 1832 aged forty-nine.⁵³ It is possible that he had been unwell since the year before when he decided to give up his business.

In his Will which he wrote in 1827 he wished his wife and two sons Kent and Medland to continue with the business as '*Jane Kingdon and Son*' when Kent reached twenty one years and '*Jane Kingdon and Sons*' when Medland reached the same age. He had long considered and '*finally approved with the fullest confidence on the mutual cooperation and united exertions of my dear sons Kent and Medland to afford their best assistance to their dear mother.*'⁵⁴

Medland, unfortunately, died in January 1831 aged only nineteen. A newspaper notice reported that '*On the fifteenth instant, at his father's house in this city, aged 19, second son of Mr Thomas Kingdon, paperstainer.*'⁵⁵

'Jane Kingdon and Son' (Kent) continued at 180 Fore Street, Exeter. In 1839 they were listed as '*Paperstainers, Cabinetmakers, & Upholsterers, carpet & feather warehouse, carvers, gilders & undertakers.*'⁵⁶ By 1851 they were employing sixteen men, twenty-five women and three boys but by 1861 Jane appears to have retired. She remained at 180 Fore Street right until her death.

Jane died on January the 24th 1863. '*Mrs Jane Kingdon, aged 77. The deceased was endowed with great intellectual power and judgement: and she was truly respected and esteemed by a very wide circle of friends.*'⁵⁷

She was interred behind George's Meeting House in South Street where she joined her youngest daughter Elizabeth Walker. They were joined a couple of years later by Anna Susanna Kingdon. These interments were noted by W H Hamilton Rogers.⁵⁸

'Beneath this stone are deposited the remains of Jane Kingdon relict of Thomas Medland Kingdon, Born 15 Jan^y 1786, died 21 Jan^y. 1863. Anna Susanna Kingdon their second daughter born 14 June 1820 died 13 Sept. 1865. Elizabeth Walker Kingdon youngest daughter of the late Thomas Medland Kingdon born 6 Oct 1822 died 15 Oct 1859.'

There is no mention of Thomas Medland on any of these memorials so whether he was also buried behind George's Meeting or across the road in the Dissenters' graveyard we may never know.

⁵² Nonconformity in Exeter 1650-1875, Allan Brockett 1962. See also Stone 56 Ann and Samuel Molland Cox biography www.edgt.org.uk

⁵³ George's Meeting (Presbyterian) 1824-1837 accessed via www.ancestry.co.uk

⁵⁴ Thomas Medland Kingdon Will (PROB 11/1804/178) accessed via www.ancestry.co.uk

⁵⁵ Exeter and Plymouth Gazette 22 January 1831. accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk

⁵⁶ 1839 Robson's Directory accessed via www.ancestry.co.uk

⁵⁷ Western Times 30 January 1863 accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk

⁵⁸ W H Hamilton Rogers transcriptions are available at the Devon Heritage Centre www.swheritage.org.uk

Burials behind Georges Meeting House

In 1894 when William Henry Hamilton Rogers recorded the inscriptions on the gravestones in the Dissenters' Burial Ground, he also recorded those behind George's Meeting House in South Street. Those relating to the Kingdon's pose many questions.

One of Rogers' transcriptions states that :

'Beneath this stone are deposited the remains of Jane Kingdon relict of Thomas Medland Kingdon, Born 15 Jan^y 1786, died 21 Jan^y. 1863. Anna Susanna Kingdon their second daughter born 14 June 1820 died 13 Sept. 1865. Elizabeth Walker Kingdon youngest daughter of the late Thomas Medland Kingdon born 6 Oct 1822 died 15 Oct 1859.'

The second that:

*'Underneath are interred the children of J. Kingdon and Susannah his wife **Samuel** died 11 March 1807, aged 11 months, **Stephen** (?) died 4 Feb 1812, 2 y^{rs}. & 6 mo. Beneath this monument are deposited the remains **Mr John Holman Kingdon** of this city, who died 14 April 1811 at the early age of 30 years after an illness of five years born with Christian resignation. **John Holman Kingdon** son of John Holman Kingdon ----- '59*

The Stephen mentioned above is more than likely Ellen.

An entry in the account book for George's burial ground says, 'April 20 1811, A new cave for Mr John Kingdon behind the meeting house, to be received by of the meeting house.'

The burial registers also show that **Susannah**, John Holman's wife was also interred on the 31st of January 1857 behind George's Meeting.⁶⁰

In 2005 an archaeological excavation of those interred behind George's Meeting was undertaken by Exeter Archaeology prior to the conversion of George's Meeting to the J.D. Wetherspoon's pub it is now.⁶¹

Two Kingdon tombs were excavated. One containing three burials which can be linked to **Jane Kingdon** and her two daughters **Elizabeth Walker** and **Anna Susanna**.

The other marked by an obelisk contained seven adults and two children. This is **John Holman Kingdon's** burial, **Susannah** his wife, **John** an adult son and the two children **Samuel** and **Stephen/Ellen**. Could **Medland Kingdon** his nephew also be one of the adult burials?

Was **Thomas Medland Kingdon** also buried there? And who else?

According to the report the remains were re-interred at Exwick Cemetery, but this has not been possible to confirm.

A. Amosford

October 2021

⁵⁹ As note 58.

⁶⁰ George's meeting burial register 1837-1882 www.swheritage.org.uk

⁶¹ Exeter Archaeology, Report No. 05.13, April 2005 accessed at Devon Heritage Centre.

Kingdon Tree (simplified)

