

No Memorial

William Markwell PALMER	died 1819
Deborah PALMER	died 1821
Anna Maria PALMER	died 1826
Markwell PALMER	died 1828
Ellen PALMER	died 1829
Mary PALMER	died 1829
Eliza PALMER	died 1831
Mary Ann PALMER	died 1832

The last name on the above list, Mary Ann PALMER, was the wife of Captain Peter PALMER, an Exeter Ship owner. All the other names are those of their infant/very young children (*see below*).

Peter PALMER was born in Dover, Kent in 1792 and was baptized in June of that year in the church of St Mary the Virgin, Dover, Kent.¹ His parents were Clemment PALMER (a mariner)² and Ann PALMER (née FLOYD) who had married on 14th May 1787 in Dover.³

It is not known when Peter came to Devon but on 8th March 1814, he married Mary Ann DREWE at St. Mary Arches, Exeter.⁴

Mary Ann DREWE was the daughter of Joseph and Ann DREWE⁵ both of whom are buried in this graveyard. Joseph's occupation was Brewer; he married Ann (née WILLIAMS) on 29th January 1784 in the Parish of St Martin, Exeter.⁶ Ann was buried on 25th November 1818, aged 64 years, and Joseph was buried on 15th January 1825, aged 73 years.⁷

It is not known where Peter and Mary Ann lived from 1814 to 1819 when we know they were living in West Street, Exeter.⁸

The children of Mary Ann and Peter PALMER are all buried in this graveyard. With the exception of the twins, Ellen and Mary, all were baptized in the Parish of St Mary Major⁹ not at a Dissenters' Meeting House yet all are buried in Exeter Dissenters' Graveyard.¹⁰ They were:-

<u>Name</u>	<u>Baptised</u>	<u>Buried</u>	<u>Aged</u>
William Markwell	14 April 1819	17 April 1819	Infant
Deborah	08 Feb ^y 1821	25 March 1821	Infant
Anna Maria	29 Sept 1824	31 Dec 1826	2 ^{1/2} years
Markwell	21 May 1827	19 April 1828	11 mnths
Ellen) twin	?	04 April 1829	?
Mary) "	?	04 April 1829	?
Eliza	03 March 1831	09 March 1831	6 days

Peter's wife, Mary Ann died in 1832 and was buried in this graveyard on 8th September of that year. At the time Peter and Mary Ann were still living in West Street in the parish of St Mary Major.¹¹ A major cholera outbreak was coming to an end in September 1832, and the west quarter of Exeter was badly affected, but it is not known whether Mary Ann was a victim of that disease.

On 28th February 1835, Peter married for the second time. His new bride was Grace WELLINGTON. They married in the parish of St Mary's Steps though Peter is shown as living in the parish of Holy Trinity.¹² In 1830, Grace's father, James WELLINGTON, owned the King's Arms tavern in West Street¹³ and so it is possible that Peter had known Grace for some time.



The King's Arms Tavern (behind the gas lamp) in the 1920s.

In the mid 1800s, Peter was the co-owner of several ships, all Schooners, named "Fleece", "Devon", "Thames", "Fame" and "Grocer" and all built in Topsham.¹⁴ He was a member of the first Committee of the Shipowners' Protection Association.¹⁵

Sadly, Grace died in 1845 and was buried in the parish of St Mary Steps on Christmas Day – "in the Church under No.4 Pew".¹⁶ Peter and Grace were living in West Street at the time of her death (possibly at the King's Arms tavern, see left).

The 1851 census shows that Peter was still a Shipowner but also the Innkeeper of the King's Arms in West

Street. The only other people living there were two servants.

Ten years later, on the 1861 census, the tavern is named as King's Head and Peter as a Victualler and Shipowner. Unfortunately, he is also shown as being blind!

Peter died on 10th November 1863¹⁷ and was buried in the parish of St Leonard on 14th November of that year. He is shown as being resident in St Leonard's¹⁸ and, according to the National Probate Calendar Index of Wills, was living in Weirfield Place which, it is believed, could be found at the bottom of Weirfield Road. His "effects" were less than £450.

Yvonne Hensman (August 2018)

Sources

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3. England Marriages 1538-1973 (www.findmypast.co.uk)
4. England, Select Marriages 1538-1973 (www.ancestry.co.uk)
5. England & Wales Non-Conformist Births and Baptisms (www.findmypast.co.uk)
6. England, Select Marriages 1538-1973 (www.ancestry.co.uk)
7. EDGT Burial Register
8. Devon Baptisms (William Markwell Palmer 1819) (www.findmypast.co.uk)
9. Devon Baptisms (www.findmypast.co.uk)
10. Non-Conformist & Non-Parochial Registers (www.findmypast.co.uk)
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14. A List of Ships entered in the Exeter Shipping Insurance Association (provided by Topsham Museum)
15. 150 Years of Mutuality and Strength (Article from "Shipowners" provided by Topsham Museum)
16. Devon Burials (www.findmypast.co.uk)
17. National Probate Calendar Index of Wills (www.ancestry.co.uk)
18. Devon Burials (www.findmypast.co.uk)