

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, Kent¹. His parents were Clemment PALMER (a mariner)² and Ann PALMER (nee FLOYD) who had married on 14 May 1787 in Dover³.

It is not known when Peter came to Devon but on 8th March 1814, he married Mary Ann DREWE at St. Mary Arches, Exeter⁴.

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 (nee WILLIAMS) on 29 January 1784 in the Parish of St Martin, Exeter⁶. Ann was buried on 25 November 1818, aged 64 years, and Joseph was buried on 15th January 1825, aged 73 years⁷.

It is not known where Peter and Mary Ann lived from 1814 to 1819 when we know they were living in West Street, Exeter⁸.

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' Graveyard¹⁰. 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 ^{ry} 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 that time Peter and Mary Ann were still living in West Street in the parish of St Mary Major¹¹.

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 Trinity¹². In 1830, Grace's husband, James WELLINGTON, owned the King's Arms tavern in West Street¹³ and so it is possible that Peter had known Grace for some time. James Wellington, a Victualler of St Mary Steps, had married Grace Aplin on 26th November 1817 at St. Sidwells. He died in November 1833, aged 33 years¹⁵.

In the mid 1800's, Peter was the co-owner of several ships, including "Fleece", "Devon", "Thames", "Fame" and "Grocer" and all built in Topsham¹⁴. He was a member of the first Committee of the Shipowners' Protection Association¹⁶.

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".¹⁷ Peter and Grace were living in West Street at the time of her death (possibly at the King's Arms tavern).

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 two people living there were 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 10 November 1863¹⁸ and was buried in the parish of St Leonard on 14th November of that year. He is shown as being resident in St Leonard's ¹⁹ 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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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)
11. Non-Conformist & Non Parochial Registers 1567-1970 Piece 1085 P. 20 of 52 (www.ancestry.co.uk)
12. Devon Marriages (www.findmypast.co.uk)

13. Exeter – Pigot pre 1830, Devon (www.genuki.org.uk)
14. A List of Ships entered in the Exeter Shipping Insurance Association (provided by Topsham Museum)
15. Devon Burials (www.findmypast.co.uk)
16. 150 Years of Mutuality and Strength (Article from “Shipowners” provided by Topsham Museum)
17. Devon Burials (www.findmypast.co.uk)
18. National Probate Calendar Index of Wills (www.ancestry.co.uk)
19. Devon Burials (www.findmypast.co.uk)