

## No Memorial

**Jane SAMS**                      **buried 22 October 1793**  
**Richard SAMS**                **buried 21 June 1816**  
**Ann SAMS**                      **buried 14 February 1831**

**Jane SAMS** died/was buried on 22 October 1793 aged 37 years.<sup>1</sup> The Graveyard Account Book states, "*Rec'd for breaking ground for Miss Sams 8/- paid 23 October 1793*".<sup>2</sup> It is likely that she was the older sister of Richard SAMS, also buried here, but no corroborative documents have been found to date.

**Richard SAMS** was baptised on 20 November 1763 at Bow Meeting. He was the son of Richard and Mary SAMS.<sup>3</sup> On family research sites, there are numerous children shown to have been born in Exeter within 10 years of Richard's birth, all of whom have parents named Richard and Mary SAMS. These are:-

*Richard (bap. 10 March 1754), Judith (bap. 16 May 1756), Sarah (bap. 19 February 1758), Ann (bap. 31 July 1768), Thomas Jones (bap. 22 July 1770). However, these names have not been further explored for the purpose of this biography.*

Richard was a Silversmith and Jeweller whose business had been on Fore Street Hill, Exeter (see under **Ann SAMS** below). He was a member of the Exeter Goldsmith's Company and succeeded his father (see below) as Assay Master (elected 23 December 1789) until his death in 1816.<sup>4, 7</sup>

Richard married Ann COOMBE, a Spinster of Trinity parish, on 25 May 1794 at St. John's Church, Exeter. At that time, he was resident at All Hallows on the Walls.<sup>5</sup>

His father, Richard SAMS Senior, was referred to as a Jeweller when he became a Freeman of the City of Exeter, by succession, on 10 August 1767.<sup>6</sup> He was Head Warden of the Exeter Goldsmith's Company on six occasions between 1759 and 1778, and succeeded William COFFIN as Assay Master from March 1788 to his death the following year.<sup>7</sup> There is a record of Lease and Release of Land at Chagford (1759) and a Final Concord (a fine) document the same year naming Richard SAMS as the Plaintiff and Thomas & Polly JONES as the Deforciant (those who keep out of possession the right owner of an Estate).<sup>8</sup> Though these documents have not been explored in detail, it would seem that they made their peace as Richard and Mary's son, born in 1770, is named Thomas Jones SAMS! This assumes that they were also the parents of Richard!

His grandfather, also named Richard SAMS, was a Tobacconist<sup>9</sup> who married Sarah SMALL on 7 April 1729. Both Sarah and Richard were resident in the parish of All Hallows on the Walls in Exeter when they married.<sup>10</sup>

In his last Will and Testament, signed on 30 September 1815, Richard Junior nominated Joseph SPARKES (Banker) and Enos WOLSFORD (Shopkeeper) as his Trustees.<sup>11</sup> He had property and land in the parish of Ide, near Exeter though none is named specifically. Much of his Will concentrates on providing for his wife, Ann SAMS, but the above property and land he leaves, in Trust, to his sister Mary, wife of Edward BUXTON, a Currier, and thence to her sons, Richard Young BUXTON and Edward Young BUXTON and monies to his several nieces. Richard also left a small amount of money, in Trust, to the "Trustees or treasurer of

the Charity School of George's Meeting" (£10) and "to the Trustees or treasurer of the Ministers Fund of the said Meeting (£5) for the use of the Sunday School".

Richard died on Saturday, 15 June 1816 and was buried on 21 June 1816.<sup>12</sup> The Graveyard Account Book states, "*Opening – Mr Sams 4/- paid 22 June 1816*". The newspaper report of his death reads, "*Saturday died, after a long and painful illness, Mr Richard Sams, of this city, silversmith*".<sup>13</sup>

**Ann SAMS** (née COOMBE) was born circa 1773. Shortly after the death of her husband, Richard, in 1816 she disposed of his business and stock in trade:

*"To be SOLD, by private Contract, the BUSINESS and STOCK IN TRADE etc. of The late Mr Richard Sams of Fore-street-hill, Silversmith and Jeweller. All persons having demands of the Estate of the said Mr Richard Sams are requested to send the same to Mrs Sams, his Executrix by whom they will be discharged."*<sup>14</sup>

Ann's last Will and Testament is dated 27 October 1828, when she bequeathed her household goods and monies to her sister, Sarah COOMBE. Her jewellery and personal effects she bequeathed to her sister Elizabeth ROSS and sister-in-law, Elizabeth COOMBE.<sup>15</sup>

Ann died on Wednesday, 9 February 1831 and was buried on 14 February 1831.<sup>16</sup> The Account Book shows, "*Opening grave Mrs Sams 8/-*".<sup>2</sup> The newspaper report of her death reads, "*On Wednesday morning, in Salem Place, Mrs Sams widow of the late Mr Sams, silversmith of this city.*"<sup>17</sup>

#### Sources

1. Non-Conformist & Non-Parochial Register, Piece 0965 Page 174 of 191 ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk))
2. Devon Heritage Centre ref: DRO 3693D-B-1
3. Christenings ([www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org))
4. Exeter Pocket Journals 1796 & 1816 (Devon Heritage Centre)
5. Devon Marriages ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk))
6. Roll of Exeter Freemen 1767
7. Harrison, M. Exeter and West Country Silver 1700-1900. Berforts Group, 308pp, 2014
8. Devon Heritage Centre ref: 2157M/T/17-20
9. Exeter City Oath Rolls, Midsummer 1723
10. Devon Marriages – [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)
11. [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)
12. Non-Conformist & Non-Parochial Register, Piece 0965 Page 182 of 191 ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk))
13. Exeter Flying Post 20 June 1816 ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk))
14. Exeter Flying Post 04 July 1816 ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk))
15. Estate Duty Wills, Devon Heritage Centre (ref. 1078/RW/S/88)
16. Non-Conformist & Non-Parochial Register, Piece 1085, Page 17 of 52 ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk))
17. Western Times 12 February 1831 ([www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk))

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