

William WILCOCKS buried 10 May 1828

No Memorial

William WILCOCKS was baptized on 25 July 1757 at Bow Meeting, Exeter. He was the second child of John and Elizabeth WILCOCKS.¹

His parents, John WILLCOCKS and Elizabeth nee CARELL were married on 12 August 1755 by Banns in the parish of St John, Exeter, witnessed by George DENHAM and John LAKE. These are the names on the marriage certificate. The transcription shows them as WILCOCKS and CARELL.² They lived in the parish of Allhallows on the Walls and had nine children all of whom were baptized by Mr Tozer at Bow Meeting, Exeter.³ They were:-

John	baptized 15 August 1756
William	baptized 25 July 1757
Elizabeth	baptized 13 November 1760
Mary	baptized 5 December 1762
James	baptized 27 January 1765
Samuel	baptized 8 March 1767
Ann	baptized 2 April 1769 (died 1772)
David	baptized 29 September 1771
Ann	baptized 27 September 1774

All the above, with the exception of Samuel, and Ann (who died in 1772), are mentioned in the last Will and Testament of their father, John WILCOCKS, prepared in January 1800 and proved on 13 August 1803.⁴ He died on Friday, 24 June 1803.⁵ The newspaper, Exeter Flying Post, has two entries in 1803 relating to John WILCOCKS⁵:-

29 June 1803 "Friday morning last, died in an advanced age, at his house at Alphington, Mr John Wilcocks, Gent, late of this city, linen draper."

28 July 1803 "To be sold by private contractParish of Allhallows
The Fee-simple and Inheritance of a DWELLING HOUSE and an
extensive Shop fronting, in Fore Street in the Possession of
Mr John Wilcocks, Woollen-draper, in the most desirable Situation for
Business."

William married Elizabeth CAMPION on 26 January 1780 in the church of St George, Exeter. He is shown as being of the parish of Allhallows on the Walls and Elizabeth is of the parish of St George. His occupation is shown as Linen Draper.⁶

Elizabeth was baptized on 21 May 1755 at St Mary Arches, Exeter. She was the daughter of George and Ann CAMPION.⁷ William and Elizabeth had four children who, like their father, were baptized at Bow Meeting by Mr Tozer³:-

Elizabeth	baptized 31 December 1780
Harriet	baptized 11 February 1784
Catherine	baptized 17 September 1786
William	baptized 19 December 1790

William carried out his business as Linen Draper in premises on Fore Street Hill, Exeter.⁷ Devon Heritage Centre hold 18 Exeter Pocket Journals dating, intermittently, from 1796 to

1866.⁸ Within these are a number of entries for Linen Drapers in Exeter named Wilcocks/Willcocks and some of the first names correspond with those above. Although it is not possible to confirm that they are the same family, it is likely. Therefore, I have shown, below, those in the first 10 journals for interest. These take us to nine years past the date of William's death in 1828.

1796	James	Linen Draper	Fore Street
	John jnr	Grocer & Linen Draper	Fore Street
	David	Linen Draper	Fore Street Hill
	William	Linen Draper	Fore Street Hill
1816	J & E	Linen Draper	Fore Street
	James	Linen Draper	Fore Street
	David	Linen Draper	Fore Street
1827	E & Co.	Linen Draper	Fore Street
	James	Linen Draper	Fore Street
1830	Wilcocks & Varty	Linen Drapers	228 High Street
	James C	Linen Draper	178 Fore Street
1831	James C	Linen Draper	178 Fore Street

The Journals dated 1832, 1833, 1834, 1836 and 1837 are the same as for 1831 above, i.e only James C Wilcocks is mentioned.

At the London Metropolitan Archives, there are Sun Fire Office insurance documents that refer to William WILCOCKS, linen draper of Exeter.⁹ The earliest I have found is dated 1789 showing William as occupying premises on Fore Street Hill, Exeter.

William's last Will and Testament, prepared on 23 July 1824, with a Codicil of the same date, shows that his daughter, Elizabeth, was married to George Duchemin (sic) He was George Kittow du Chemin, a Carver and Gilder of the City of London. William's daughter, Harriet, married Robert Miller of Exeter. There is no mention in the Will of his daughter, Catharine. The family's own research states that she died on 27 March 1806 and was buried in Paris Street Baptist Yard, Exeter.

The Will also shows that William owned the Bishop Blaze Public House on Commercial Road, Exeter, along with many dwelling houses in the parishes of St Mary Steps and St Olave. He also owned property, including a Malthouse and Cellars, in Rock Lane (*now Coombe Street*), Exeter.

William was buried on 10 May 1828 aged 70 years. The records show that he lived in the parish of Allhallows on the Walls and he is shown as GENTLEMAN.¹⁰ The Accounts Book entry reads "11 May 1828 Opening cave for W Wilcocks 8/-" but makes no reference as to who made this payment.¹¹

Elizabeth, William's wife, died on 09 September 1837.¹² She was buried on 16 September 1837 in "Magdalen Street Burial Ground" aged 80 years.¹³

Sources of information

1. Non-Conformist & Non-Parochial Register RG4, Piece 0965, Page 50 of 191 (www.ancestry.co.uk)
2. Devon Marriages (www.findmypast.co.uk)
3. Non-Conformist and Non-Parochial Register RG4, Piece 0965 (www.ancestry.co.uk)
4. England & Wales, Prerogative Court of Canterbury Wills 1384-1858 (www.ancestry.co.uk)
5. Exeter Flying Post (www.findmypast.co.uk)
6. Devon Marriages (www.findmypast.co.uk)
7. England, Select Births & Christenings 1538-1975 (www.ancestry.co.uk)
8. Exeter Pocket Journals. Ten dating from 1796 to 1837 (Devon Heritage Centre)
9. London Metropolitan Archives (www.discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk)
10. Exeter Dissenters' Graveyard Burial Ledger (Devon Heritage Centre)
11. Exeter Dissenters' Graveyard Accounts Book (Devon Heritage Centre)
12. England & Wales Deaths 1837-2007 (www.findmypast.co.uk)
13. DRO 3693D/R1 George's Meeting Burial Register 1837-1882

Grateful thanks to Paul Wilcocks (b.1936) for his guidance and information about his family. Also, thanks to Anthony Wilcocks whose Family Tree (David Wilcocks 1800-1871) can be found on www.ancestry.co.uk.

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March 2019