

No Memorial

Mrs DAVY - buried 1783
William DAVY/DAVEY – 1788-1789
Mrs DAVY – 1757-1797
Mary DAVY/DAVEY - 1747-1819
Ann DAVY - 1786-1825
William DAVY/DAVEY - 1742-1829

On 24th November 1783 Mr Davy paid 8 shillings for making a grave for his wife.¹ We do not know the Christian or maiden name of Mrs Davy. Was she the first of three wives of William (1742-1829)? All the burials for this group of people are possibly in the same grave, as subsequent burial fees are listed as 'opening 4/-' which implies there was an existing grave to open.² We may never know the relationship between all the Davy/Davey's.

What we do know is that William Davey a widowed farmer from Heavitree near Exeter married Mary Treadwin, a widow, at Kilminster on the outskirts of Axminster, Devon in September 1798.³ Mary's son by her first husband and his family are commemorated on **Memorial 52** in the Dissenters' graveyard.⁴

At present we know very little about William Davey. He had two children that we know of by his former wife Ann; William who lived less than a year and Ann who died aged 39, unmarried (see above). One marriage record that is a possibility for his first/second wife was that of 11th April 1785 when one William Davey of St Mary Major married one Ann Hooker of the Close in the Cathedral church of St Peters. In 1826 one William Hooker aged 38 died at Mr Davy's Heavitree Road, St Sidwell's Parish.⁵ He was a printer and friend of John Treadwin.⁶ Was he also related to William Davey? Or was it a case of William Davey renting out rooms as we know he did?⁷

Mary Davey (née Smith) was born in about 1747 in Membury, near the East Devon border to John and Sarah Smith. She was one of six; herself, Elizabeth, John, Alice, Joan and William. Mary married her first husband John Treadwin fairly late in life at the age of about thirty-seven in 1784 in Kilminster.⁸ Of their three children, only one, John Treadwin (1790–1827) survived to adulthood.⁹ After her husband died Mary married William Davey just two years later.

She and her son John, aged eight, then move to Heavitree with her new husband. John wrote to a friend

¹ Report and Account Book of Dissenting Burial Ground 1748-1832 www.swheritage.org.uk.

² As note 1 above.

³ www.findmypast.co.uk accessed 19/11/2019.

⁴ www.edgt.org.uk Social history.

⁵ William Hooker is also buried in the Dissenters Graveyard, Magdalen Road, Exeter.

⁶ 'Since your departure I have had my father in law Mr Davey as a visitor, he likes London very much. Poor Hooker was obliged at last to go down into the country when he arrived just in time to witness his father's death.' Letter from John Treadwin July 27 1813, 21 Fleet Street to Henry Ellis in Henry Ellis' Memoirs www.swheritage.org.uk.

⁷ Henry Ellis writes in his Memoirs that "In the Autumn of 1828 my father was ill, and had the advice of our surgeon, Mr Tucker..... Change of air being recommended, we took, a lodging for him at Mr Davey's (Treadwin's father-in-law) at Livery Dole. Here to the surprise of everyone my father rallied, and in a short time was as well as ever." www.swheritage.org.uk

⁸ As note 3 above.

⁹ As note 4 above.

in 1810 from 'Cottage green', Heavitree, somewhere near Livery Dole where he resided with his mother, stepfather and stepsister, Ann, then about twelve.¹⁰ We do not know whether William farmed at Heavitree but in a survey of Heavitree in 1816 it was noted that a field opposite Baring Place near Livery Dole was in the occupation of a Mr Davey.¹¹

Mary appears to have made some kind of settlement or agreement with William before their marriage. She wrote her will in 1802 (seventeen years before her death) mentioning this fact and leaving William £20 and appointing her brother John Smith, Officer of Excise in Chard, and one William Tucker Esquire of Coryton in Kilminster her executors and leaving the remainder 'towards the maintenance education support and bringing up **my son John Treadwin** until he shall have attained the age of 21 years'. By the time Mary died in 1819 her son was twenty-nine and her brother had died in 1818. When probate was granted on the 17th of March 1820 to William Tucker Esquire (the surviving executor) it was 'William Davey the lawful husband as such the sole person entitled to the undisposed residue having first consented'. As her husband, William would have been entitled to all her possessions. The burial register for Mary states 'Opening grave for Davey's wife 4/- paid Feb (?) 1820', thus indicating that she was possibly buried with other members of his family such as his first wife/wives and child.

Ann Davey (1786-1825) the daughter of William and Ann as mentioned above was possibly baptised on 26th March 1786 at Bow Meeting in Exeter.¹² As with the rest of the Davey family we know very little about her. We know she was a witness at her stepbrother's wedding in 1819.¹³ Other glimpses of her life have appeared in Henry Ellis' Memoirs. Henry's wife Mary wrote, "You do not say whether poor Mr Treadwin is in a situation or not; his sister Miss Davey has I think, chosen rather an uncomfortable time of the year for her return to town."¹⁴

Ann died on 21st July 1825 as reported in *The Exeter Flying Post* 'On Saturday last, near Heavitree, Miss A. Davey, aged 39 years.'

William died just four years after in 1829. He was buried on 8th August and 4/- was paid for opening the grave. All we know from this burial was that he was 87, a farmer and from St. Sidwell's Parish. Was William also related to the Davey's commemorated on **Memorial 86** in the graveyard? There are still many questions to answer and more research to do.

Anne Amosford
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¹⁰ The exact location has not been ascertained yet. An extant letter from John to Henry Ellis contains the address.

¹¹ 'A Survey of the Manors of Mount Radford and Heavitree in the Parishes of St Leonard and Heavitree. In the County of Devon the Property of Sir Thomas Baring Bart, surveyed in 1816 by John Coldridge, Exeter'.
www.swheritage.org.uk.

¹² England and Wales Non-conformist and Non-parochial Registers 1567-1970 www.ancestry.co.uk.

¹³ John Treadwin married Mary Tucker at St Mary Major on 25th March 1819 witnessed by her brother Nathaniel, sister Eliza and John's half-sister Ann Davey.

¹⁴ Assuming this is London.