

No Memorial

William Dunsford	buried 24 July 1802
Mrs. Dunsford	buried 24 January 1809
William Dunsford	buried 14 June 1790
Eliz Dunsford	buried 3 June 1790
Frances Dunsford	buried 12 January 1813

William Dunsford, who died in 1802, was born in 1747 to Thomas Dunsford and Rebecca Jackson and was the youngest of their ten children. Thomas and Rebecca were married in Exeter Cathedral (St Peter's) on 10th March 1724.¹ Thomas was a Cutler and who had lived in Tiverton before moving to Exeter. William's siblings were: Martin, Thomas, James, Samuel, Abraham, Clement, John, Jabez, and Elizabeth.²

William married Elizabeth Lathy on 20th October 1773 at St Stephen's, Exeter.³ She was the daughter of Richard Lathy and Amy Pike and was baptised on 31st March 1754 in Exeter.⁴ Richard was a druggist in Exeter.⁵

William's occupation was a Cutler, Surgeons' Instrument and Truss Maker. He carried out his work for the Devon and Exeter Hospital for more than thirty years, making it "*his study to render the most effectual Service to Persons of each Sex, afflicted with Ruptures.*"¹⁹

William and Elizabeth had ten children: two of whom died in within a few months of their births. They were Amy, who was born and died in 1775 and whose burial place is unknown, and **Elizabeth (recorded as Eliza)** who was born in 1789 and died in 1790 aged 14 months. She was buried in Exeter Dissenters' Graveyard on 3rd June 1790.⁶ A further child, **William**, who was born in 1774 also died in 1790, aged 16 years. He was buried in the Exeter Dissenters' Graveyard on 14th June 1790, only eleven days after the burial of his young sister.⁶

William died on 21st July 1802. The death notice in the newspaper read, "*Yesterday morning died, almost suddenly, Mr William Dunsford, a very ingenious cutler, of this city*".⁵

It is very likely that, William Dunsford's wife, Elizabeth, is the '**Mrs Dunsford**' who is shown in the Burial Register as being buried on 24th January 1809. According to the Abstract of Will of Elizabeth Dunsford, Widow, proved in Exeter in February 1809, her daughter, **Frances**, was named as the Executrix.⁴

The remaining children of William and Elizabeth, who all lived into adulthood, were Samuel, Richard, Jabez, Amy, Thomas, Frances, and George. A little more information about these children is given below:

Samuel was born in 1776. He became an Ensign in the British Army, and was promoted to Lieutenant on 9th April 1798 in the South Regiment of Devon Supplementary Militia⁷ and to Captain in the East Devon local militia, on 24th September 1808.⁸ On 16th December 1811 he married Ann Baker of Staplake Mount, Exeter at Axminster.⁹ When Samuel was 35 years old, and described as a Gentleman, he became a Freemason at the Corinthian Constitutional Lodge, Honiton.¹⁰ He died on 20th August 1838 at Honiton.¹¹

Richard was born in 1778. His occupation was Cutler. He married Mary Richards on 28th October 1800 at Clyst Honiton, Devon.¹ Sadly, Mary died on 21st January 1861.¹² In 1804, they were living in Castle

Street, Exeter and the following sales advertisement appeared in the *Exeter Flying Post* on 9th February that year - *"To be sold – Lot 7 All that genteel and commodious MESSUAGE, TENEMENT, or DWELLING-HOUSE, and Premises, thereto belonging, situate in Castle Street, in the said City, now in the occupation of Richard Dunsford, Cutler."*¹³

In 1822, his business premises were at 55, Fore Street, Exeter.²³ He died on 23rd March 1845 at the family home, in Albion Place, St Sidwell's, Exeter¹⁴ and was buried six days later in the parish of St James¹⁵.

There are family trees on www.ancestry.co.uk, suggesting that Richard had 11 children. This has not been confirmed, but whilst undertaking the current research the following came to light about Richard's son, also named Richard (junior):

Richard (junior) was a Cutler, following on from his father, and married Susannah Rebecca Hedgeland on 12th April 1832 in the parish of St. Martin, Exeter. Susannah died in 1834, aged 29 years.¹⁵ At that time, the family home was in South Street. On 10th November 1835, Richard married Mary Anna Maria Upjohn, daughter of Mr J Upjohn, watch maker in South Street, Exeter, at St Mary Major.¹⁶ Richard was appointed Cutler, Surgical Instrument and Truss Maker for the Devon & Exeter Hospital. At the time, his premises were at "55 High Street, opposite the Guildhall".¹⁷

Richard and his wife, and later family members, were buried *"in a vault in Bartholomew Yard, Exeter"*.¹⁸

Jabez was born in 1780. His occupation was also given as a cutler. On 30th October 1803 he married Phoebe Richards at Tiverton.³

In 1804, Jabez and his brother, Richard, placed an advertisement in the *Exeter Flying Post* entitled **"Trusses for Ruptures"**. They were reported as being Cutlers, Surgeons' Instrument and Truss Makers and were confirming that they would be carrying on the work following the death of their father, William. They would be continuing to make the Elastic Spring Trusses that their father had made and that they now made *"A neat assortment of home manufactured Cutlery and Surgeons' Instruments, Military and Navy Swords, Dirks, Sword Knots, Belts, Belt-Plates, and Gorgets."*¹⁹

Phoebe died on 12th August 1808 at Sowton, a hamlet just outside Exeter, and was buried there in St Michael and All Angels Churchyard.²⁰ The following year, on 6th August, Jabez married Elizabeth Dyer at Plympton, Devon.³ At some point, between 1809 and Elizabeth's death in 1827, Jabez and Elizabeth moved to live in Liverpool.

Jabez's third marriage was to Ann Proctor on 9th March 1828 in Liverpool.²¹ In 1841, they were living in Tarlton Street, Liverpool with one young servant.²² He died on 22nd April 1849 in Wirral, Cheshire.²³

Amy was born in 1781 in St Leonard's, Exeter. She married James Johnston on 7th March 1811 at St Bride, Fleet Street, London.¹ They had several children all of whom were born in a house (possibly No. 41) Ludgate Hill, St Brides, London.⁶ It would seem that they lived there at least until Amy died in 1831. She was buried on 7th September that year in Bunhill Fields Burial Ground, City Road, London. The burial register records that she had been *"brought from Ludgate Hill"*.⁶ James died in 1866 at the age of 84 years. He was buried on 29th March in Tower Hamlets Cemetery.²⁴

Thomas was born on 30th April 1783 at St Leonard's, Exeter. No further information has been found although it is possible that he died in 1784.²⁵

Frances (Fanny) was born in 1787. She died on 10th January 1813. The newspaper report read as follows: *"On Sunday died, after a lingering illness, Miss Frances Dunsford, daughter of the later Mr William Dunsford, of this city, cutler."*⁷ Frances was buried on 12th January 1813.⁶

George may have been born in 1787 but no reference has been found to confirm his birth. He joined the Royal Navy in 1809 and made this his life career.²⁶ On 17th September 1817, he married Harriet Lathy at Honiton, Devon. George was appointed to the Packet Service in 1829 and commanded a 10 gun brig "Revenue". As Lieutenant, he sailed to distant places. It is said that he was at the Battle of Trafalgar but he is not shown on the Trafalgar Roll. He died on 28th December 1838 *"at his residence, Saltram Place, Plymouth formerly commander of H.M packet Goldfinch. on this station [Falmouth], deeply regretted by a large circle of friends."*²⁷

In his Will, dated 15th January 1835, George referred to his four children: George Lathy Dunsford, Henry Thomas Dunsford, John Holman Dunsford, and Harriet Adelaide Dunsford. In a codicil he mentions his wife, Harriet Dunsford **and** his son, Charles! The Will was proven on 29th April 1839.²⁸

There is one person named Dunsford shown in the Burial Record book for whom as yet there is no identification. She is Elizabeth Dunsford, a Comber, who was buried on 13th April 1791 aged 71 years. It was noted that she was buried in new broken ground so not, for example, with the young child of William and Elizabeth who was buried the previous year. To date her association with the Dunsford family described above has not been proven. A family descendant has suggested that she might have been Elizabeth Joce, wife of Henry Dunsford and daughter of Thomas Joce and Jane Varley.

Yvonne Hensman

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