

James POPE and his family

There are 22 recorded burials under the name of Pope in the Dissenter's Graveyard between 1751 and 1850. Many of these are unnamed children mainly recorded as the children of James and John Pope.

It is possible to construct a family tree for some members of the Pope family using a range of records. There is no record for the births of James or John Pope but James was married to Sarah Vann on 28th September 1747 at Mary Arches Church.¹ Sarah may have been baptised as Sarah Venn in Woodbury on 22nd August 1722.² Between 1752 and 1754 they had two children, Samuel and Sarah, although there are no birth or baptismal records to be found.

Between 1751 and 1757 there are records of apprenticeships set up by James Pope, a fuller.³ He died on 25th June 1764: "Mr James Pope opening his grave".⁴ His will had been written on 10th March 1764. It may be that he was already ill by this point. It was proved on 31st July 1764. His children would have been young when he died and this is reflected in the will. He gave legacies to his father, James, his wife (unnamed), his son Samuel Pope and his daughter Sarah Pope. He wrote that he had a brother and sisters and that his brother had two sons, James and John. Robert Kennaway and John Holmes were named as trustees for his children.⁵

In 1765 Samuel Pope was apprenticed to Sarah Pope as a fuller, this was possibly James' son Samuel being apprenticed to his mother who was continuing the business.⁶

His daughter Sarah married Samuel Bowring at All Hallows in Goldsmith Street on 27th October 1772. She was a minor and married with the consent of her guardian Robert Kennaway, a trustee in her father's will. The couple moved to London.⁷ Members of Samuel Bowring's family are commemorated on monument 67 in the graveyard. Samuel and his brothers set up a business in London trading with North America. Sarah and Samuel had at least 7 children.⁸

Two years later her brother married into the Parr family of Moretonhampstead and there are documentary links with this and other non conformist families in the area.

6th September 1774 Bond and Oath for Marriage Licence is recorded.⁹ Samuel Pope of St Leonards in the county of Devon and Elizabeth Lane Parr of Moretonhampstead marriage licence and bond to confirm details are correct. Bond taken out by Samuel Pope and Roger Welsford serge maker of Crediton. Roger Welsford was married to Elizabeth's aunt Ursula.

¹ Devon Heritage Centre 2738A/Pr/1/3 accessed on Find my Past

² England Select Births and Christenings 1538-1975

³ County Apprenticeships 1710-1805

⁴ England and Wales Non Conformist and Parochial Registers 1567-1970

⁵ England and Wales Prerogative Court of Canterbury 1384-1856

⁶ County Apprenticeships 1710-1805

⁷ England Marriages 1538-1973

⁸ England Select Births and Christenings 1538-1975

⁹ Digital copies on familysearch.org

The marriage settlement document concerns some buildings and land on Fore Street in Moretonhampstead that Elizabeth was left in the will of Joseph Lane, which may explain her name (Elizabeth Lane Parr).¹⁰

The couple married on 13th September 1774 in Moretonhampstead.¹¹ They had at least 7 children: James Pope born on 13th April 1778 and baptised 18th September 1778 at Moreton Cross Meeting (Presbyterian).¹² Samuel Pope baptised at Moreton Cross Meeting (Presbyterian).¹² Elizabeth Parr Pope born on 30th July 1784 and baptised on 29th August 1784 at Bow Meeting.¹³ Bartholomew Parr Pope born on 9th October 1790 and baptised at Bow Meeting on 7th November 1790.¹³ William Parr Pope seems to have been born around this time but his birth and baptism cannot be found. Sarah Pope was baptised on 22nd July 1792 at Bow Meeting having been born on 14th July 1792.¹³ John Henry Pope was baptised on 28th July 1793 having been born on 25th June 1793.¹³

On 10th November 1785 John Pope was buried in the graveyard by Joseph Bretland. He lived in the parish of All Hallows on the Walls and the age on his coffin was 69. The register states that he was originally a tailor but had latterly been a seller of old books. He was the father of the Dissenting minister John Pope.¹⁴ Using information from various wills (James Pope, Mary Drewe and John Pope) this John Pope could have been the brother of James Pope and Mary (later Drewe) and the father of Grace, Rebecca, James and John.

Sarah Pope, the widow of James died in 1792 aged 70 and was buried on the 12th August.¹⁵

The will of Mary Drewe (proved in 1800) gives more information about the wider family. In it she is described as from the City of Exeter and originally wrote the will in 1796 and appears to have been a widow. She left money to her nephew James Pope of Exeter, Fuller and his daughter Mary Pope. Money was left to her niece Sarah wife of Samuel Bowring of London and to Sarah's daughters. Also she left money to Elizabeth and Sarah Pope daughters of Samuel Pope of Exeter, Haberdasher. Samuel was made her executor. A codicil leaves money to the children of Samuel Pope but these are not named.¹⁶ There is a Mrs Drewe buried in the Dissenters Graveyard in 1800: "opening for Mrs Drewe a wall grave 10/- paid June 28th 1800".¹⁵

On 28th October In 1802 The Rev John Pope died in his 58th year in Blackley, Lancashire. "On Thursday se'nnight the Rev. John Pope, Minister of the dissenting congregation at Blackley; a gentleman well known in the literary world".¹⁷

In his will he left money to his brother James a fuller and his two sisters Rebecca Fenwick and Grace Maltby.¹⁸ He was born circa 1745 and attended The Exeter Academy. He was minister at 1767-1789 and 1793-1802 at Blackley and Tutor New College Hackney.¹⁹

¹⁰ Marriage Settlement (4912M/T/16 Devon Heritage Centre

¹¹ Birth, Marriage, Death and Parish Records, South West Heritage Trust, accessed by the name Samuel Poope on findmypast.co.uk

¹² RG4/444 accessed on findmypast.co.uk

¹³ RG4/965 accessed on findmypast.co.uk

¹⁴ RG4 Exeter Mint accessed on findmypast.co.uk.

¹⁵ Dissenters' Graveyard Account Book

¹⁶ England and Wales Prerogative Court of Canterbury 1384-1856

¹⁷ Lancashire Gazette britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk

¹⁸ National Archives reference IR26/304/21

¹⁹ B Nightingale Gee in Lancashire Nonconformity 1893; Manchester, Volume 34

John Henry Pope, son of Samuel and Elizabeth was buried in the graveyard on 29th August 1811, aged 18. He was recorded in the register as Henry.²⁰

Elizabeth Lane Pope was buried on 11th August 1824 aged 72.²¹ Her death was reported on Thursday 12th August, *"On Saturday last, aged 72, Elizabeth wife of Samuel Pope of this city - she was a rare instance of patience during her lingering illness; and those female ornaments, meekness and a quiet spirit, created the sincerest love, and rendering the loss unusually afflicting and severe"*.²²

Samuel Pope, her husband was buried on 20th March 1830. The register noted that he was a retired haberdasher.²³ *The Western Times*, Saturday 20th March, *"On Monday last in his 78th year, after a long and painful illness, Samuel Pope, formerly a respectable Haberdasher of this city."*²⁴ The last member of this family to be buried in the graveyard was Sarah Pope the daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth in 1848.²⁵ *The Western Times* reported, *"Aug 30th at Western Super Mare, of a severe attack of bronchitis, Sarah the youngest daughter of Samuel Pope, of this city, aged 56"*.²⁶

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²⁰ RG4/ Exeter Bow Meeting Find my Past.

²¹ England and Wales non Conformist and Non Parochial Registers 1567-1970

²² britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk accessed 13.05.19

²³ RG4/1085 George's Meeting findmypast.co.uk

²⁴ britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk accessed on 14.05.19

²⁵ England and Wales Non Conformist and Parochial Registers 1567-1970

²⁶ britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk