

## No Memorial

**Mary TRUMP**  
**Robert TRUMP**

**buried 27 April 1820**  
**buried 06 June 1826**

Robert Trump married Mary Radford on Monday 25 September 1780 at St Paul's Church in Exeter. St Paul's Church was on the corner of St Paul's Street and Goldsmith's Lane; it was demolished in 1936. Robert was born around 1759 and may have been the son of Edward and Jane Trump who was baptised in Uffculme on 4 June 1759.<sup>1</sup> Mary Radford was baptised at St Paul's in Exeter on 12 March 1755 the daughter of Portman and Mary Radford.<sup>2</sup> Portman Radford had married Mary Matthews on 10 June 1752 at St David's Church in Exeter.<sup>3</sup>

Robert and Mary had six children baptised at St Paul's in Exeter.

Mary [II]	baptised 21 May 1782 <sup>4</sup>	
William Portman	baptised 26 February 1786 <sup>5</sup>	This person is later referred to as William Snr
Robert Trump Jnr	baptised 7 October 1788 <sup>5</sup>	
Thomas Trump	baptised 24 October 1791 <sup>5</sup>	
Jane Trump	baptised 20 July 1794 <sup>5</sup>	
Edward Trump	baptised 14 November 1797 <sup>5</sup>	

Robert Trump worked as a Cordwainer. He took on a number of apprentices including George Bone in 1782 and Philip Carter in 1791.<sup>6</sup> The 1803 Exeter Militia List shows Robert as a Cordwainer aged 45 and living in the St Paul's area of Exeter. He was willing to serve.<sup>7</sup> When he died in 1826 Robert was still living in the St Paul's area.

Robert's son William Portman Trump was 17 years old when the 1803 Militia List was compiled. He was working as a Cordwainer and living in the Saint Paul's area of Exeter. He married Mary Rawlins on 15<sup>th</sup> December 1806.<sup>3</sup> William Portman and Mary Trump had several children including Frances (born 1810/11), William Portman Jnr (born 1<sup>st</sup> May 1812), Francis Robert (born 1825) and at least three other boys.

In 1842 William Portman Trump Snr, William Portman Trump Jnr, Francis Trump (aged 17 years) and James Hooper (husband of Frances Trump) were accused of the attempted assassination of Mark Knight who lived on St David's Hill, Exeter. A pistol was fired close to Mark Knight's face as he arrived home around midnight on Saturday 25 June. The pistol slightly burned Mr Knight's chin and discoloured his neckerchief.<sup>8</sup> The following Monday William Jnr and James Hooper were brought before the magistrates.<sup>9</sup> After hearing the evidence the defendants were dismissed on the understanding that they should appear again if they were asked to do so.<sup>10</sup> The pair had come under

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<sup>1</sup> England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538 - 1975, accessed at [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk).

<sup>2</sup> England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538 - 1975, accessed at [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk).

<sup>3</sup> England, Select Marriages, 1538-1973, accessed at [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk).

<sup>4</sup> England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538 - 1975, accessed at [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk).

<sup>5</sup> England, Devon Bishop's Transcripts, 1558-1887 accessed at [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org).

<sup>6</sup> UK Register of Duties Paid for Apprentices' Indentures, 1710 - 1811 accessed at [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk).

<sup>7</sup> Hoskins, W G (1972) *Exeter Militia List 1803*. Phillimore & Co Ltd.

<sup>8</sup> *Morning Post*, Wednesday 29 June 1842, accessed at [www.britishnewspaper.archive.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaper.archive.co.uk).

<sup>9</sup> *Exeter Flying Post*, Thursday 30 June 1842, accessed at [www.britishnewspaper.archive.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaper.archive.co.uk).

<sup>10</sup> *Exeter and Plymouth Gazette*, Saturday 2 July 1842 accessed at [www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk).

suspicion because William Portman Trump's father, William Portman Trump senior, owed Mark Knight 15 shillings which Mr Knight had loaned him two years before. Knight had sought to get his money repaid through the Court of Requests and William Portman Senior had been taken to Exeter jail and was released the day before the shooting.<sup>11</sup> Two years after the assassination attempt one of Knight's relations, William Darke, was found guilty of having intent to do grievous bodily harm and was transported for 20 years.<sup>12</sup> William Portman Trump senior died in 1851 and was buried on 28 September at St John and St George. He was 66 years old.

William Portman Trump junior died just two years later. He was living on Exe Island in Exeter at the time and working as a shoemaker. He had suffered from mental health problems in the past and had

**DISTRESSING SUICIDE.**—On Monday evening an inquest was held at the Anchor Inn, in the Island, before J. Warren, Esq., coroner, on the body of William Portman Trump, a shoemaker, who had committed suicide that morning by cutting his throat with a knife. From the evidence of the witnesses it appeared that the deceased took his supper with his family, as usual, on Sunday night, and retired to bed about ten o'clock. Nothing took place during the night, but at a quarter-past seven on the following morning, one of his daughters went to his room, for a mattress, when, seeing blood on the floor, she ran down for her mother, they then both returned to the room, and found the deceased sitting on the floor with his throat cut. His wife endeavoured to stop the bleeding by placing a quantity of linen in the wound, but without success, and he gradually sank. There was no doubt that his mind had been affected; and on one occasion he evinced symptoms, which induced his friends to have him removed to the Asylum, in St. Thomas. The jury accordingly returned a verdict of "Temporary Insanity." [It will be seen by advertisement, that a subscription has been opened for the relief of the widow and family.]

spent some time in the Asylum at St Thomas. On Sunday 31 July 1853 William had eaten supper with his family and gone to bed around 10.00p.m. The following morning he was found by one of his daughters with his throat cut. An inquest was held that day at the Anchor Inn on Exe Island (see extract left) and the jury returned a verdict of "Temporary Insanity".<sup>13</sup> The same issue of the newspaper reported that a fund had opened for assistance for Mrs Trump who had been left with four children after the suicide of her husband.

**Case of Great Distress.**  
**A** SUBSCRIPTION has been opened on behalf of Mrs. TRUMP, who is left with Four Children in the greatest distress by the untimely death of her Husband, who committed suicide on Monday morning, August 1st, caused by insanity, under which dreadful malady he had been suffering for some time.  
 Subscriptions will be thankfully received by Mr. ROBERT STONE, Bookseller, and Mr. GEO. ODAM, Hair Dresser, New Bridge Street, who will give any information required, and see to the proper application of the Funds.  
*Subscriptions will also be received at the Western Times Office.*

Mary [II] Trump married John Smeath on 13 May 1804 at St Leonard in Exeter.<sup>14</sup> She died at 81 years old in 1867.<sup>15</sup> John had worked as a tailor and they lived towards the ends of their lives in Lant's Almshouses. Both of them died after the Dissenters' graveyard was closed.

**Yvonne Hensman**  
 March 2021

<sup>11</sup> *Exeter Flying Post*, Thursday 30 June 1842 accessed at [www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk).

<sup>12</sup> *Exeter and Plymouth Gazette* Saturday 30 March 1844 accessed at [www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk).

<sup>13</sup> *Western Times*, Saturday 6 August 1853 accessed at [www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk).

<sup>14</sup> England, Select Marriages, 1538 - 1973, accessed at [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk).

<sup>15</sup> England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837 - 1915 accessed at [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk).