

No Memorial

John WALROND Esquire (1718 – 1789)

Mary WALROND (1727 – 1793)

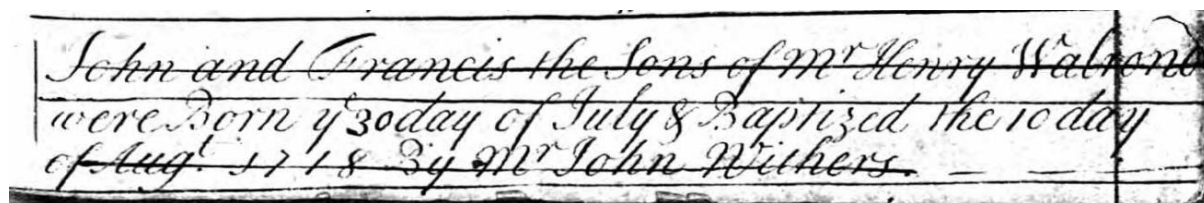
Elizabeth Fryer WALROND (d. 1796)

This branch of the Walrond family can be traced back to the thirteenth century Walrond's of the Manor of Bradfield near Uffculme, about twenty miles north of Exeter. Researching the family can be problematic as the name Walrond is often misspelt as Waldron.



Bradfield House, Uffculme. Photo: Lewis Clarke

John Walrond and his twin brother Francis were born on 30th July 1718, the sons of Henry and Elizabeth (née Weekes) Walrond of Exeter. They were baptised less than a couple of weeks later by Mr John Withers on the 10th August.¹ At the time of their birth the family may well have been living in Bedford House. Why their baptism entry is crossed out is unknown.



Henry (father) and Elizabeth had a total of five children; Henry (d. 1746), John (1718-1789), Francis (1718-1791), Mary (1719 – 1784), and Clement (1722- 1744).

A painting attributed to William Gandy (1655-1729) of two boys John and Francis Walrond was painted around 1720. Research has suggested that they may well be John and his brother Francis before their breeching ceremony. This was a celebration by family and friends of their first steps to manhood when they would be dressed in jacket and breeches.

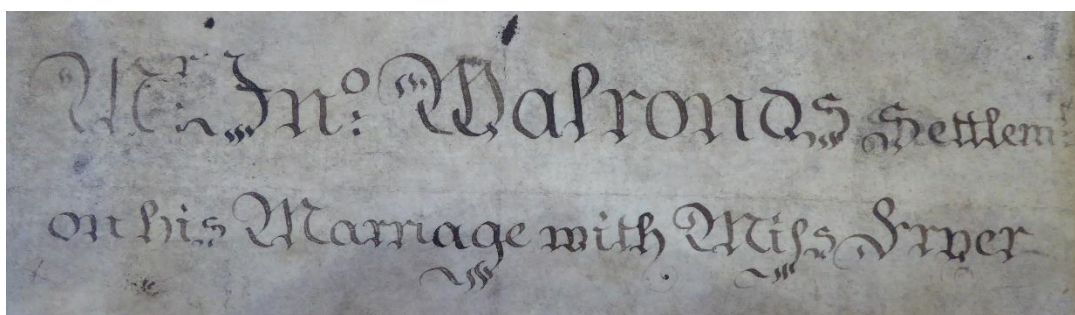
¹ Bow Meeting records accessed via www.ancestry.co.uk 19/05/2023.



John and Francis Walrond attributed to Gandy.

John lost first his mother Elizabeth when he was nine and his father, 'Councillor' Henry Walrond a year later. It seems likely that John and his siblings were brought up by their maternal grandmother Mary Weekes (née Munckley) with their father's brothers Francis Walrond of Ottery St. Mary and the Reverend John Walrond as trustees.²

John married Miss Mary Fryer at St. David's church on 4th September 1749.³ Their marriage settlement dated 24th August 1749 was a quadripartite agreement between '*John Walrond the younger of the City of Exon Gentleman of the first part Elizabeth Ffryer of the Parish of Saint Edmonds upon the Bridge in the County of the said City of Exon Widow of the second part Ffrancis Walrond of the said City of Exon gentleman Samuel Parminter of the same City Grocer William Ffryer of the Parish of Saint Edmonds upon the Bridge aforesaid Merchant and John Ffryer of the said City of Exon Grocer of the third part and Mary Ffryer of the Parish of Saint Edmonds on the Bridge aforesaid spinster daughter of the said Elizabeth Ffryer of the ffourth part.*'⁴



It is noted that John is mentioned as '*the younger*' and signs his name as '*Junior*', indicating there is an older John. This is somewhat confusing as his father was Henry, but it is probable the older John referred

² Henry Walrond Will (PROB 11/628/290) accessed via www.ancestry.co.uk 19/05/2023.

³ St. David's Parish Register accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk

⁴ Marriage settlement (96M/0/Box93/34B) Devon Heritage Centre (DHC).

to is in fact his uncle the Reverend John Walrond, the minister at Bow Meeting in Exeter and more than likely a father figure after his father died. Others mentioned are Elizabeth Fryer, Mary's mother, William and John Fryer her brothers. Francis is presumably John's brother and Samuel Parminter his brother-in-law.

As part of the settlement the Barton of Tudwell (Tidwell) in East Budleigh was gifted. This estate was leased from Humphrey Arscott to Henry Walrond, John's father before 1723.⁵ According to dates on the actual building at Tidwell he rebuilt the house in 1725. At his death it was passed on to his son Henry who likewise passed it to his brother John in 1746.⁶

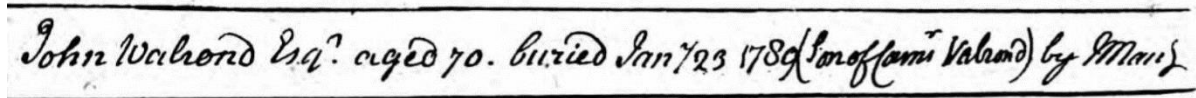
John and Mary had two daughters, Elizabeth Fryer, and Frances. No baptisms have been found for either of the siblings.

There is no evidence yet of John's 'trade' if he had one. We know his father Henry mentioned in his will, the ownership of fulling mills. *'Item all my Mills consisting of two wheeles and six stocks and the Mill house gardens rooms chambers and Linney over in the Parish of St Mary Steps in the County of the said City of Exon with their and every of their appurtenances and all my terme of ears Estate and Interest of and in the same I hereby give and bequeath unto my Mother and Brothers'*.⁷ By 'his mother' he means Mary Weekes his mother in law. It is more than likely John engaged in the wool or cloth trade, but this is only supposition.

It is known that he worshipped at James's Meeting in James Street, Exeter, and subscribed £20 in 1759 towards the new meeting house, George's to be built on nearby South Street.⁸ This was a considerable sum of money then but by no means the largest donation; John Duntze donated the most at £100 plus an extra £50.

As a committee member up until his death, he dealt with the everyday matters of the building and congregation such as ordering, *'that ye pulpit be brought forward to ye Clerks desk and be lowered by two steps,'* and allocating seats for worshippers.⁹

John died in January 1789 at the age of seventy. Notification of his death showed that he had been unwell for some time, *'Sunday last died, in an advanced age, and after a lingering illness, J. Walrond, Esq. of this city.'*¹⁰ He was buried on the 23rd of that month for which ten shillings was paid to open his cave the day after.¹¹



John Walrond Esq? aged 70. Buried Jan 23 1789 (Son of Jami Walrond) by M. M. J.

The entry in the burial register notes that he was the son of 'Commissioner/Councillor' Walrond. John must have paid for a cave to be built some years before as he generously allowed Mr John David Ziegel,

⁵ A Survey of the Mannor of Tudwell in East Budleigh Devon taken for Henry Walrond Esq. the 20th November 1723 (Z17/3/4) DHC.

⁶ Henry Walrond's Will 1746 (PROB11/752/241) accessed via www.ancestry.co.uk

⁷ As note 2.

⁸ James' Meeting Account Book 1700-1759 (3693D/0/A/1) DHC.

⁹ As note 8.

¹⁰ 1789 22nd January Exeter Flying Post DHC.

¹¹ Report and account book of Dissenters burial ground 1748-1832, (DRO3693D/0/B/1) DHC.

a cloth merchant in Exeter to be interred there in 1781.¹² 'Opening Mr Walrond's cave for Mr Ziegel' five shillings was paid on 26th November 1781.¹³

Mary died in January 1793. She was buried on 1st February. The day before her burial the accounts book noted, 'Rec'd for opening cave for Mrs Walrond 10 shilling '. The **Bath Chronicle** of 7th February 1793 reported in their death notices 'Mrs Walrond, relict of the late John Walrond, Esq'. Further details emerge from the **Exeter Flying Post** that, 'Monday last died, after a lingering and painful illness, Mrs. Walrond, relict of the late John Walrond Esq.'¹⁴

John and Mary's children

Elizabeth Fryer Walrond

Elizabeth Fryer their eldest daughter, born sometime after 1749 was according to a document written by a Fryer family relative, '*considered the most learned female in those parts. She was engaged to my eldest brother Fryer Hadfield; but he was too volatile, & the marriage did not take place.*'¹⁵ Fryer Hadfield was Elizabeth's cousin. Marriage to a cousin was still quite common in the eighteenth century. Before she died in 1796, she had moved to Ware near Lyme Regis in Dorset, possibly to be near her niece Frances Mary Elizabeth Walrond Oke.¹⁶

Her death notice in the **Exeter Flying Post** was a lengthy one for that time. '*Last Monday evening died, near Crediton, Miss Elizabeth Fryer Walrond, who, enjoying at an early period of life, a vigorous understanding, employed it on subjects of real importance. She remained, from conviction, what she had been educated a Protestant Dissenter. Religious truth in particular, being in her estimation, an object worthy of the pursuit of every reasonable being, she sought it for herself; and the result of her enquiries was the adoption of Unitarian principles, which she afterwards steadily retained through life. Her piety was rational and unaffected; her benevolence warm and active; and all her social conduct strictly concienious and upright. The happiness of all mankind, without distinction, was the subject of her most fervent wishes, and to contribute towards the support of useful institutions, and the alleviation of human sufferings, her delight. – While surviving friends lament her loss, may it be their endeavour to copy her virtues.*'¹⁷

In her will Elizabeth left donations to various charitable ventures in Exeter; twenty pounds to the Governors of the Devon and Exeter Hospital, thirty pounds to the Mint Meeting school.¹⁸ Fifty pounds was left to the Philanthropic Society of London, founded in 1788 to help children convicted of crimes and the sons and daughters of convicts by training them in useful trades. In 1792 an institution was set up in St George's Fields; in 1802, separate 'Reforms' for boys and girls were opened.

Frances Walrond

Frances their younger daughter, '*an accomplished & lively beauty*' married Walter Oke of Pinney House

¹² See separate biography of John David Ziegel (in progress 15/10/2023).

¹³ As note 11.

¹⁴ 1792 31 Jan Exeter Flying Post, DHC.

¹⁵ Notes on the Hadfield Family <http://www.gjh.me.uk/edale/edale.pdf> accessed 27/04/2023.

¹⁶ Elizabeth Fryer Walrond's will (PROB 11/1272/17) accessed via www.ancestry.co.uk

¹⁷ January 21st, 1796, Exeter Flying Post, DHC.

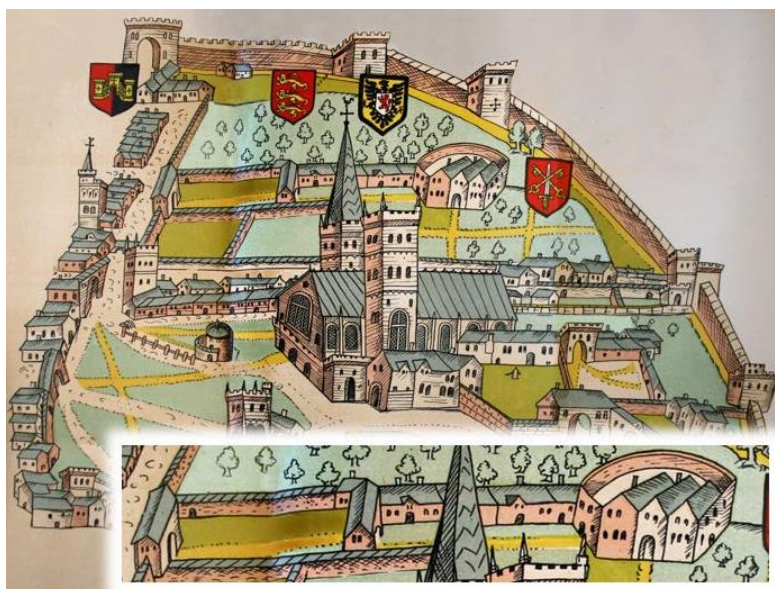
¹⁸ As note 16.

near Lyme Regis, on 25th May 1773 in Holy Trinity Church, Exeter.¹⁹ Frances married with the consent of her father as she was a minor, so was probably aged about sixteen.

Frances and Walter had one daughter Frances Mary Elizabeth Walrond Oke born in December 1775. She was baptised at Coombe Street Meeting in Lyme Regis on the 17th of December.²⁰ Unfortunately, Frances died on 6th December soon after giving birth presumably from complications of childbirth. She was buried on 10th December 1775 at Axmouth.²¹ Walter also died soon after, in 1779, leaving their four-year-old daughter to be brought up by her grandmother Frances Oke and her aunt Elizabeth Fryer Walrond.

John's parents and relatives

Henry and Elizabeth Walrond were both buried at Holy Trinity church almost a year to the day of each other. *'Eliz. wife of Henry Waldron Esq^e was buried August 18th' 1727* and *'Mr Henry Walldron of Bedford in Exon was buried Augst y^e 20th', 1728.*²² The Bedford where Henry lived is Bedford House as mentioned previously.²³ Demolished in about 1770 the house was located where 'Debenhams' was in the new Princesshay development. In 1717 Henry was elected one of the Committee of Thirteen of the three Dissenting congregations in Exeter and as mentioned before he was a city councillor.



Bedford House (bottom right insert) from Hooker's map of Exeter.

One of Henry's brothers John (1673-1755) - the Uncle John mentioned earlier - was the Minister at Bow Meeting in Exeter from 1729 until his death. He married Mary the daughter of Sir Walter Yonge of the Great House in Colyton and Escot House near Talaton in 1699.²⁴ According to Brockett, John was ten years younger than Mary. In the 1690s she began keeping a diary. Selections from 1699 to 1708 (as well as some from the 1730s), along with some spiritual meditations, were transcribed into a bound volume that

¹⁹ Holy Trinity marriage Register accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk

²⁰ Coombe Street Baptisms accessed via www.ancestry.co.uk

²¹ Axmouth Parish Register accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk

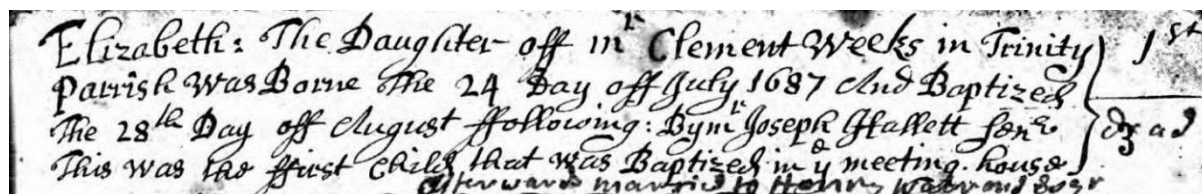
²² Holy Trinity Burial register accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk

²³ <http://demolition-exeter.blogspot.com/2010/09/bedford-house-and-dominican-friary.html> accessed 24/04/2023.

²⁴ Venn Ottery marriage register accessed via www.ancestry.co.uk

also contains the poetry and meditations of Hannah Towgood Wakeford.²⁵

Elizabeth, John's mother was the daughter of Clement and Mary Weekes. She was the first child baptised in the newly erected James's Meeting in 1687.²⁶



Clement (? – 1717) her father, a fuller by trade had married her mother, Mary Munckley (1661-1734) in 1682. Mary was the sister of Nicholas, Samuel, and John Munckley, all eminent cloth traders. Nicholas was at one time Master of the Guild of Weavers, Fullers and Shearmen based at Tuckers Hall on Fore Street in Exeter.

As mentioned above John's grandmother Mary Weekes featured heavily in his early years.

John's Siblings

Henry

No birth date or baptism has been found yet for Henry although we know he was John's eldest brother. He is mentioned in his father's will as being '*my eldest son Henry Walrond whilst at the Temple*', implying he was training to be a lawyer at one of the main legal districts in London. There is no evidence that he ever married. He worshipped at James's Meeting where he is noted in 1742, with his brother Henry as living in the 'East Quarter within the gate'. Like his father before he continued to live in Bedford House. When he died in 1746, he left '*all my study or library of books in the house called Bedford House in Exon aforesaid and all the pictures and heads of our Kings and Queens and Reformers in fframes and the pictures out of fframes and what other goods I shall have in my said study in the house at the time of my decease*' to his brother Francis.²⁷

Henry was a man of property. He inherited Tidwell Manor from his father which he bequeathed to his brother John when he died. He had also inherited Manstone Old House in Sidbury possibly handed down through the Duke family of Otterton. Frances Walrond their grandmother was the daughter of Robert Duke (d.1665) and Sarah (née Reynell). Henry was buried inside Holy Trinity church on 30th January 1746.

Clement

Even less is known about Clement, although like Henry and Francis he probably never married. He was born on 26th July 1722 and baptised a month later on 12th August at James Meeting. The entry in the baptism register also notes in a later hand the fact that he died on 23rd February 1744.²⁸ When he died, he was only twenty-two years old, so he perhaps hadn't achieved much.

²⁵ Housed in the Angus Library, Oxford.

²⁶ James Meeting baptismal register accessed via www.ancestry.co.uk

²⁷ Henry Walrond will (PROB 11/752/214) accessed via www.ancestry.co.uk

²⁸ Bow Meeting Register accessed via www.ancestry.co.uk 18/05/2023.

He was noted as living at Bedford House like his father and brother Henry. Was he still living in the family home?

He was buried on 28th February four days after his death at Holy Trinity Church.²⁹ The records do not show whether he was buried inside the church like his brother Henry. In his will he left money *'to be paid to certain persons in the said City commonly called the thirteen or to some of them to be placed at Interest or imployed and applyed for the use and benefit of the Ministers for the time being of the United Congregations normally meeting for religious worship and the service of God in James^s the Bow and Little Meeting house in the said City as the said thirteen for the time being or the Major part of them shall think meet'*.³⁰

Francis, John's twin.

Francis also worshipped at James' Meeting and subscribed to the new meeting house in 1759, although how much he paid is unknown. He also paid an annual subscription to George's from 1763 until 1772 when the record stops.³¹ In both James's and George's records he, like his brother Henry is living in the East Quarter. This may well correspond with the lease for part of Bedford House dated 1756.

He died in 1791. The **Bath Chronicle** noted that he died at Exeter.³² He was buried inside Holy Trinity church like his brother Henry. Francis died intestate. Administration of the *'goods chattels and credits of Francis Walrond late of the city of Exeter, a batchelor.... Was granted to Elizabeth Parminter spinster and Elizabeth Fryer Walrond spinster, the nieces and two of the next of kin'*.³³ His house on Southernhay had been leased from the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral Church of Saint Peter in Exeter for thirty-one years in 1785.³⁴ The two cousins advertised the house for sale in the **Exeter Flying Post** of 15th December after Francis' death. In 1795 they released the lease back to the Dean and Chapter.

Whether Francis left instructions regarding his goods we do not know but in the **Exeter Flying Post** dated 19th January 1792 a notice mentions that the Devon and Exeter Hospital had received a benefaction of twenty pounds from Francis's administrators.

Mary

John's sister Mary is the only sibling also buried in the Dissenters' Graveyard. Mary married Samuel Parminter a grocer and linen draper from Exeter. For more about Mary and Samuel Parminter please see the Parminter biographies www.edgt.org.uk.

Mary's parents and family³⁵

When Mary married, her mother Elizabeth Fryer was a widow running her own dye house on Exe Island.³⁶ Her maiden name is not known, but it is believed she was related to the Reverend John Howe (1630-1705), Oliver Cromwell's chaplain. A transcribed document gives some background to the Fryer family

²⁹ Holy Trinity parish registers accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk 18/05/2023.

³⁰ Clement Walrond's will (PROB 11/734/173) accessed via www.ancestry.co.uk

³¹ List of Annual Subscribers to Georges meeting (3693D/A3) Devon Heritage Centre.

³² Bath Chronicle 27th of October 1791 accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk 04/05/2023.

³³ Probate grant of Francis Walrond's goods etc (PROB 6/167) National Archives.

³⁴ Lease of newly built tenement in Sourthernhay, in Holy Trinity parish, Exeter, to Elizabeth Parminter and Elizabeth Fryer, for 31 years and rent of 4s 6d per year, 12th Aug 1795 (with Plan) 6010//35/33, Exeter Cathedral Library.

³⁵ See Fryer Family biography www.edgt.org.uk

³⁶ As note 35 www.edgt.org.uk

but there are a few discrepancies.³⁷ Mary's father according to this document was a Spanish merchant but no evidence has been found to corroborate this fact. When his children were baptised, he was listed as a dyer. It is believed his name was John but again there are discrepancies between birth and burial registers. He died intestate sometime in the 1730's.³⁸

After his death, her mother was left pregnant and supporting six children, Elizabeth (1724-1797), John (1725-1774), William (1726-1795), Mary (1727-1793), Thomas (1729- ?) and Thomasin (1734-1734). Thomasin was born after her father died and lived only a few days after her baptism.

For more on the Fryers see Fryer biographies www.edgt.org.uk

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October 2023

³⁷ As note 15.

³⁸ Elizabeth Fryer's Will 1767 (PROB 11/925/349) accessed via www.ancestry.co.uk