

WILLIAM MEADEN 1756-1796. BETTY DEAN DUGDALE 1766-

William was born, in the village of Winfrith Newburgh Dorset. The Parish Church of St Christopher in Winfrith Newburgh covered the needs of families over a fairly large area, and it was here that William was baptised on the 17th of August 1756.

Little is known of William's early life, but what is known is that he and his brother John, who was baptised at St Christopher on the 5th October 1748, were to become masters and owners of their own ships. John married Ann Dugdale who was Betty Dean Dugdale's older sister. John was living in West Cowes and Ann in Wareham at the time of their marriage on the 18th July 1780 at the Holy Trinity Church in Wareham.

Whilst living at West Cowes on the Isle of Wight, they had four children, Daniel Dugdale Meaden baptised 11th April 1782, Sarah Dugdale Meaden baptised 25th December 1783, Robert Dugdale Meaden baptised 11th May 1785 and William Dugdale Meaden baptised 29th December 1786. What John did between 1780 and 1789 is not known but is quite possible that he was earning a living from the sea. In 1789 John Meaden is registered with Lloyds of London, as being the Master of the "Diligence".

The register shows that it was a single deck sloop of 87 feet (26.7mtrs) long and weighing 63 tons, with a draught of 10 feet (3 mtrs). The ship was owned by the Captain and Crew and she had been built on the Isle of Wight.

It was at about this time that John and his family moved to Southampton, presumably to be near the ship which was registered as a Southampton vessel. In 1791 he had the "Diligence" lengthened to 91 feet, and his ports of call expanded from Waterford to Poole, to include Plymouth and Portsmouth. He must have sold the ship in 1795, because after this date Lloyds have no record of him or the ship. The next reference to him tells us that he is an Inn Keeper. We know this because in the "Hampshire Allegations" there is a reference to a wedding that reads:

Meaden, Robert, St Mary's Southampton, Block maker, a minor, with consent of his father John Meaden of the same, Innkeeper, and Mary-Ann Leaver, of same, 21, spinster. At St Mary's, 30th June 1805.

John and Ann had two more children, both born in Southampton, John who was baptised at St Mary's on the 3rd of September 1793, and Mary Dugdale Meaden, of whom the only Reference is of her burial on the 16th of March 1806. Their son Robert married Mary Ann Leaver (who was born in Alverstoke in 1780,) and had a daughter Mary Ann Dugdale Meaden, who was born on 13th October 1811 and Christened on 4th October 1812. The interesting thing here is that Robert married Mary on the 2nd July 1805, according to the marriage register as a minor, when he was 52 days short of his 21st birthday, and I thought he must have died some time in 1811, because Mary remarried on the 28th January 1812 to Commander RN Thomas Shapcote at St Mary's Lambeth Surrey. They returned to Millbrook Southampton for Marianne (the name on the register) to be christened on the 11th October 1812. However, at Mary Ann's wedding in Hackney Parish Church on the 15th July 1838 to George Stephenson Crotty, the first witness was Robert Meaden, her father, who's given occupation is now that of a

Commercial Clerk. Mary Ann's mother, Mary Ann Leaver (Shapcote) was not present as she had died 15 years earlier in Clapham London. Mary Ann Dugdale (Meaden) Crotty died aged 63 at Bethnal Green, June Qtr 1875.

The Leaver family were very much a naval family, with Mary's father and brothers being R N Lieutenants.

John's eldest son Daniel Dugdale Meaden fought in the peninsular war in Spain. He joined the 3rd Regiment of Foot (The Buffs) in Chatham on the 1st September 1803. On 16th May 1811, Daniel suffered a severe wound to the right side of his head caused by a Sabre at the Battle of Albuera. A contemporary report of the battle states " Latour-Maubourg sent Polish Uhlans and the French 10th Hussars Regiment against Lt -Col John Colborne's three Regiments, the 3rd Regiment of Foot, 2/48th Regiment of Foot and the 66th Regiment of Foot. The French Cavalry caught them end on and in a thunder storm, and unable to use their muskets, they were almost totally annihilated by a flurry of Lance thrusts and Sabre cuts". He was perhaps lucky to survive as only 85 of the 755 English foot soldiers left the battlefield alive.

At the end of the campaign, Sergeant Daniel Meaden, and the Regiment moved to France. It was from here that on the 25th of March 1817 he was recommended for a discharge with a pension because of his frequent giddiness and fits, which rendered him unfit for service. And so it was that on 29th July 1817 having served for 13 years and 333 days, 6 years as a Private, 6 years as a Corporal and nearly 2 years as a Sergeant, he was discharged in Brighton. At a later date he moved to London, and came under the umbrella of The Royal Chelsea Hospital. He enrolled on 12th May 1819, where as an out- pensioner he received a pension of 9 pence per day for the rest of his life. Here he met Elizabeth

Catherine Runshaw and they married at St Georges Church Bloomsbury in 1820. They had a son, also named Daniel Dugdale Meaden, who in turn married Maria Mills, who had been born in Headley Hants in 1825, and they had two children John Dugdale Meaden and Mary Ann Lucy Dugdale Meaden. Young Daniel and his family moved to Woolwich, where he worked as a Blacksmith in the local Dockyard. His son John started his working life as a part time Furniture Dealer and an undertaker's assistant, later becoming a full time Undertaker.

Elizabeth Catherine died and Daniel Dugdale Meaden Snr, at the age of 51, married Ann Carr on the 13th October 1833 at St Ann's Soho.

To this day you can find descendants of this side of the family living in the London area, but John and Mary Ann Lucy were the last to include Dugdale in their name.

John and Ann's last son, and the only one born in Southampton, John, is of interest because at the age of 20, he went to Jamaica. On the 12th of November 1813, he signed a 3-year contract to serve as a Carpenter on two sugar plantations. The first being "The Hermitage" owned by the Reverend Hugh Hill and his wife Ann Launee Hill, which by the way the contract is worded, looks as though it was run most of the time by Ann Launee Hill. The second sugar plantation was owned and run by Ann Newell and called "Thedhassel", both plantations being in the Parish of Portland. It is possible that he enjoyed the life so much that he never returned to England and was buried in the West Indies. On the other hand, a John Meaden died in Poole in 1877 aged 84, making the year of his birth 1793; if this is the same John then he may also be the person, nephew Henry Edward Meaden stayed with in Poole in 1875. Henry and Alice travelled from Brighton to Poole for the wedding and stayed for the birth of their daughter Nelly three months later.

William Meaden may well have been a mariner most of his short life, since I have not found any written evidence to the contrary. He is first mentioned in the 1792 edition of the "Universal British Directory", along with his brother John. Lloyds Register has him as Master of the single deck sloop "EGYPTIAN". It says of her that she was 90 feet long and weighed 43 tons, had a draught of 8 feet and was owned by James Garland, and that it carried cargo between Waterford and Poole. In 1795, the year John retired from the sea William became the owner and Captain of the ship "POLLY and NANCY". This vessel was a single deck Sloop of 64 tons and was built in Wales in 1784, for the then master and owner James Molton. The ship had a draught when laden of 8 feet and was considered a coastal sailing vessel, that plied its trade around the English and Irish ports. Lloyds Registry at this time had its route as between Waterford and Southampton. He was able to raise enough money to purchase the ship and he and the crew were registered as co owners.

Unfortunately he was to die in September of 1796, and whilst it is not known how or why he died it is interesting to note that we have a copy of the ships cargo signed by him as the vessels master, and dated 2nd September 1796 in Cork Ireland. He was buried on the 30th September 1796 at St Mary's Southampton.

William and Betty Dean Meaden had only one child, that being Robert Dugdale Meaden who was born in 1795, one year before Williams death.

In his WILL, which he made on 23rd of September 1796, only 7 days before he was buried, William leaves every thing to his wife and son, and should they die before brother John, then to him.

In the Administration Bond, issued by the probate office on the 5th October 1796 after the death of William the witnesses

and executors were Betty Dean Meaden (widow) and her brother Robert Dugdale (solicitor) of Wareham in Dorset. £200 was paid to the Bishop of Winchester, presumably some form of death duty, and not an inconsiderable sum in those days.

William had purchased/acquired a piece/parcel of land in the Houndwell Common field Southampton (some later maps show this as Hoglands) in or about the year 1790. Whether or not, he was married at the time of the acquisition is not known, but he would have been aware of the intention to build a canal from Houndwell to Northam and on to Andover and then eventually to the Thames. An act of Parliament was passed in 1795 to this affect, but alas it never came to fruition. (See the extracts from the "Universal British Directory)

After William's death, his widow Betty Dean Meaden remarried.

In his Will of 1848, Robert Dugdale, Betty's Brother, leaves part of his estate to "the heirs of my late sister Betty Dean Davidge, the widow Betty Dean Meaden" and there is a reference to Betsy, wife of Thomas Davidge at the baptism of their daughter Betsy, on the 10th of March 1801, at the Independent Church, Above Bar, Southampton, where she is referred to as being, previously the widow Meaden.

Young Betsy had been born on the 23rd of January 1801. A further child, Maria was born on the 8th of July 1809, and at that baptism, on the 19th of September of that year, she was mentioned as the late widow Meaden of All Saints.

It is possible that Betty's new husband preferred to call her Betsy rather than Betty.

Interestingly, in the Southampton Register for 1811, it has a

Thomas Davidge, a Carpenter living at St Georges Place, so Thomas probably moved into the house that was William and Betty's.

At this point I thought I should add this piece of information which was given to me by David, another of the Meaden clan interested in the Meaden history.

On what is now the N25 road between Cork and Waterford there is a village called Kilmeaden. Above the village stands the ruin's of Kilmeaden Castle which was built around 1185 in the rein of Henry 11. An Irish Tourist Board publication states that "Mount Congreve Gardens, Kilmeaden, is a large plantsman's garden within woodlands, containing every plant that could be possibly grown in Waterford. With a delightful walled garden containing an elegant Georgian Greenhouse." It is interesting to speculate, as to whether or not John and William transported fruit and vegetables back to England from this garden, since they regularly visited both Cork and Waterford.

The Last Will and Testament Of William Meaden

In the name of God Amen

I do hereby make and declare this to be my last will and testament hereby revoking all other and former wills here so fore by me made. That is as follows (I do hereby give and bequeath unto my beloved wife all such my Household goods, furniture and all monies due to me at my decease. And paying all debts and expenses attending my funeral).

I do likewise give and bequeath unto my beloved wife during her natural life all that my freehold house and premises situated in the Town and County of Southampton and after her decease to my son Robert Meaden and in case of his decease without Issue to my Brother John Meaden or his heirs.

I likewise give and bequeath to my beloved wife forming a share a quarter part of the Sloop "Polly & Nancy" to be disposed of for her use as witness my hand this twenty third day of September in the year of our Lord One Thousand Seven hundred and ninety six.

*Signed under by Pierse Hackett.MD WmMeaden
Personage Ino Keeler
Thomas Foster*

Foot note Thomas Foster was the master of the trading vessel "Herta"

Know all men by these presents that one Betty Dean Meaden of the town and county of Southampton widow and Robert Dugdale of Wareham in the county of Dorset Gentleman are held and firmly bound unto the honourable and right Reverend Father in God -----by divine provision Lord Bishop of Winchester in the sum of two hundred pounds of good and lawful Money of Great Britain to be paid unto the said Lord Bishop or to his certain attorney executors administrators or assigns to which payment well and truly to be made one obliges ourselves and each of us by herself and himself for the whole our and each and every of our heirs executors and administrators family by these presents sealed with our seals dated the fifth day of October in the thirty sixth year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third by the Grace of God of Great Britain ---- and Ireland King Defender of the Faith and so forth And in the year of our Lord One Thousand seven hundred and Ninety Six,

The Condition of this obligation is such that if the above bondswoman Betty Dean Meaden administrate of all and singular the goods and chattels and credits of William Meaden late of the town and county of Southampton Mariner deceased with his last will and testament -----make or cause to be made a true and perfect inventory of all and singular the goods chattels and credits of the said deceased which have or shall come to the hands possession or knowledge of her the said Betty Dean Meaden or into the hands and possession of any person or persons for her and the same so made do exhibit or cause to be exhibited into the registry of one said Lord Bishop of Winchester at or before the last day of January next ensuing and the same goods chattels and credits and all other the goods chattels and credits of the said deceased at the time of his death which at any time after shall come to the hands and possession of the said Betty Dean Meaden or into the hands or possession of any other person or persons for her do well and truly

administer according to the law And further do make or cause to be made a true and just attempt of her said administration at or before the last day of October 1797 and all the rest and residue of the said goods chattels and credits which shall be found remaining upon the said administrators attempt absolutely foresee pay to the person affect such justification in law-----according to the true intent and meaning of the said will of the said deceased. Know this obligation to be void or else to remain in full force and virtuous

Sealed and observed

In the presence of

B D Meaden

Gabl. Tahomsin jiu

Robt Dugdale.

Riding Officers.

George Thring, jun. Redbridge
 Edward Roe, Hythe
 Joseph Trattle, Leap
 Thomas Fabian, Hamble
Collector of Coal Duties, Slate, and Stone,
 William Smith, Esq.
Comptroller on Ditto, William Lintott,
 Esq.

Coal Meters.

William Whiteway
 George Burfey
 Robert Donkin
 Richard Martin
 Thomas Morris
 Thomas Hart
 Isaac Whitmarsh
 John Jarvis
Collector of Light Duties, William
 Smith, Esq.

Rose Cutter.

Commander, William Yates
Chief Mate, William Ferris
 Thirty Mariners.

LYMINGTON.

Customer, William Trattle, Esq.
Deputy Comptroller, William Hufe,
 Gent.
Deputy Searcher, Wm. Trattle, Esq.
Supervisor of Riding Officers, and Coast
Waster, John How

Riding Officers, Thomas Langford and
 Thomas Pinchard

Setter of the Boat, William Ritter

Four Boatmen

Collector of Coal Duties, William Trattle,
 Esq.

Comptroller of Ditto, Vacant

Collector of Duties on Slate, Stone, &c.
 William Trattle, Esq.

Comptroller of Ditto, Vacant

Coal Meters.

Richard Stote

Harry Drover

William Pitt

William Brown

Collector of Salt Duties, William Trattle,
 Esq.

Supervisor, Thomas Shepherd

Thirty-eight Officers, Boatmen, and
 Watermen.

CHRISTCHURCH.

Supervisor of Riding Officers, and Coast
Waster, Robert Reeks

Riding Officers.

Samuel Hookey Preston

John Jones

Abraham Pike

Henry Bacon

Setter of the Boat, John Williams

Six Boatmen

Coal Meter, Samuel Footner.

TRADING VESSELS in the PORT of SOUTHAMPTON.

Coasting Trade.

Active, Peter Warne, Master
Active, Lewis Jenkins
Bee, Warne Johnson
Benjamin, John Cavill
Bowley, John Johnson
Cadland, Thomas Reed
Chance, Francis Corrforth
Charlotte, Joseph Smith
Charming Nancy, Richard Penton
Delight, John Wild
Delight, James Bugden
Diana, William Waller
Dibden, Peter Paine
Diligence, John Meaden
Dove, Claudius Corke
Dove, Robert Perkins
Dove, Jonathan Coles
Egyptian, William Meaden
Elizabeth, James Parker
Elizabeth, George Parsons
Elizabeth, James Clarke
Elizabeth, Richard Masters
Elizabeth, Thomas Strugnell

Endeavour, John Street
Endeavour, Charles Remens
Endeavour, Hugh Sweetingham
Endeavour, John Wild
Endeavour, John Bevis
Enterprize, Richard Coombes
Fancy, Thomas Elmes
Fancy, William Parsons
Fanny, Richard Luke
Flora, William Burridge
Fly, Henry Could
Forrester, Benjamin Griffin
Friends Goodwill, John Oake
Friends Goodwill, Brett Gill
Friendship, James Smallman
Good Intent, John Sever
Good Intent, William Pritchard
Good Intent, Thomas Gruncell
Great Britain, Nicholas Boffom
Hanover, William Olding
Heart of Oak, James Fuller
Hope, Richard Long
Hope, Richard Sturges
Hope, Edward Hopkins

Horla,

SR

N^o. 1250

M. 60. 3. 5

SHIPPED by the grace of God, in good order and well conditioned by *James Wood*
in and upon the good Ship called the *Polly Nacey*, of *Southampton*
whereof is Master under God for this present Voyage, *Wm Meaden*
and now at Anchor in the Port of *Cork*
and by God's Grace bound for *Plymouth*
to say

Fifty Casks Butter

being marked and numbered as in the Margin, and are to be delivered in the like good order and well conditioned, at the aforefaid Port of *Plymouth* or to *his* Assigns, he or they paying Freight for the said Goods (the danger of the Sea only excepted)

Thirty Shillings per Ton, of twenty three hundred Weight

with Primage and Average accustomd. In Witness whereof the Master or Purser of the said Ship hath signed to three Bills of Lading, all of this Tenor and Date; the one of which three Bills being accomplished, the other two to stand void. And so God fend the good Ship to her desired Port in safety, AMEN. Dated in *Cork 2. 5. 1796*