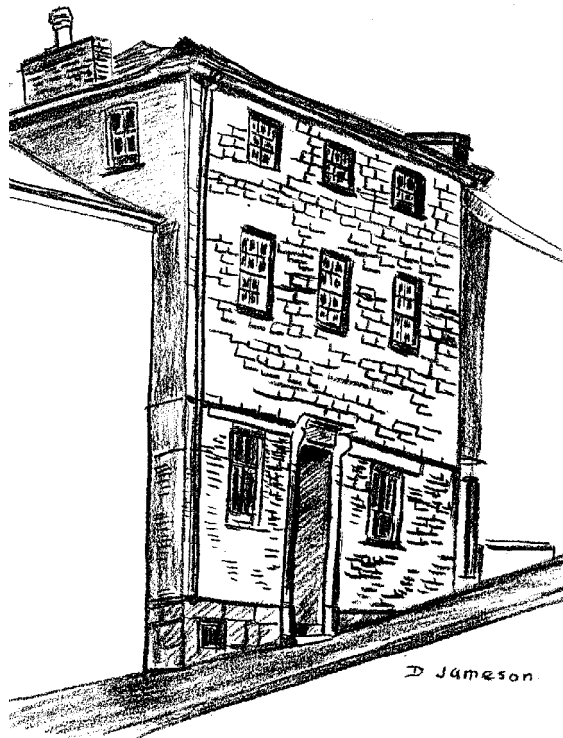


CHAPTER THREE

William Dunstan (1755-1817)

WILLIAM DUNSTAN was baptised at Falmouth on 11 July 1755, the eldest son of Thomas Dunstan and Jane Jewell. Little is known of his early life, except that in 1781 he was landlord of the White Hart Inn on Swanpool Street, Falmouth. He was married and had a daughter, Jane (1788-1811). There are stories that William became a smuggler, and also that he joined the Royal Navy.



THE OLD WHITE HART

SWANPOOL STREET

FALMOUTH

There follows a gap in my knowledge of William's life until 7 August 1791 when he married Elizabeth Farrand (daughter of James Farrand) at the Collegiate Church in Manchester. It is not certain how or when William came to live in Manchester, but there is evidence of a number of Dunstans leaving Cornwall for Lancashire and Cheshire in the eighteenth century. I am, however, satisfied that this is the same man, for the maiden names of his mother and stepmother in Cornwall (Jewell and Row) were later given to William's grandchildren in Chester.

William and Elizabeth had 11 children. Their first daughter, Elizabeth, was born in 1792, but died the following year.

Their first son, William, was born in 1793. He died at the age of 21.

In 1794 William began a family tradition when he succeeded Ensign Thomas Furnival as Keeper (Governor) of the New Bailey Prison, Salford; a post he held until his death.

Thomas J. L. was born in 1795. He succeeded his father as Governor on 5 March 1817 until his death in 1826 at the age of 31. He appears not to have married, and left an estate of under £800. He left £200 for the education and welfare of the children of a Sarah Tildie, £40 for his mother and the rest to his brothers Richard and Henry, and his sisters Catherine and Mary.

John Dunstan was born in 1797.

Another daughter Elizabeth was born in 1797, but she died when only six weeks old.

Elizabeth Catherine was born in 1799; she died at the age of sixteen.

Richard was born in 1801. He succeeded his elder brother as Governor in 1826, but was apparently ineffective (due, I believe, to excessive drinking). The prison committee made attempts to remove him, and he was eventually persuaded to resign in 1841. He died in 1862 at York Street, Lower Broughton.

George was born in 1802; he died in 1834.

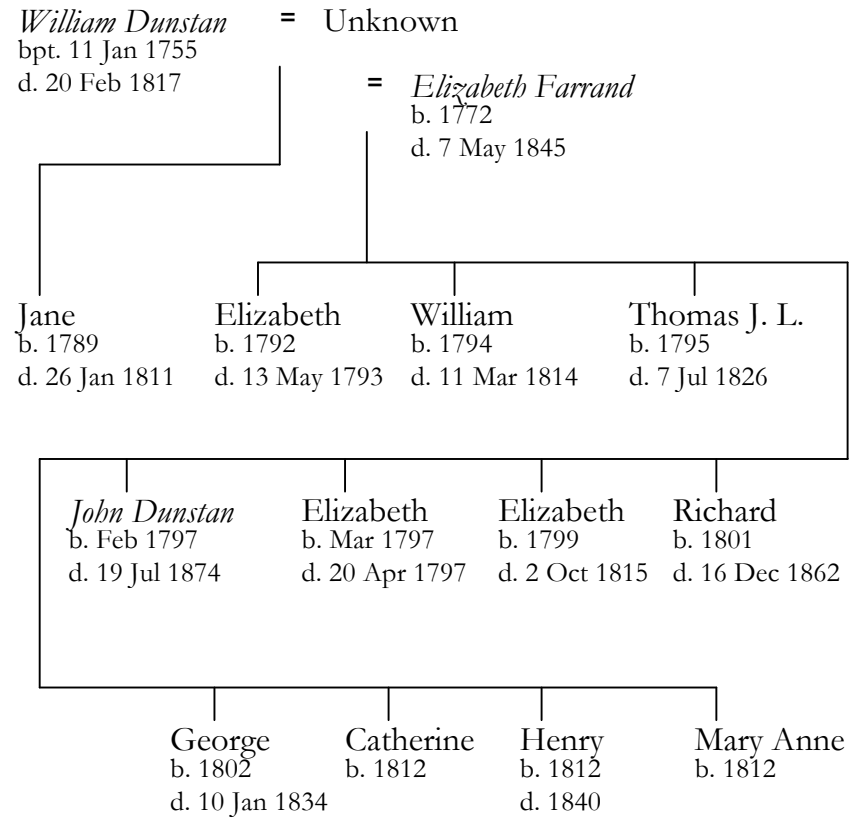
Catherine, Mary Anne and Henry were born in 1812. Henry died in 1840. Both Henry and his elder brother George were Deputy Governors of the prison.

William Dunstan died on 20 February 1817. His obituary in Cowdroy's Manchester Gazette & Weekly Advertiser read:

“On Thursday, after a long indisposition, Mr Wm Dunstan, Governor of the New Bailey, who fulfilled the duties of that office, for many years, in a manner which powerfully entitled him to the approbation & esteem of the community”.

After William's death, Elizabeth lived at Canal Side, Barton upon Irwell, where she died at the age of 72 on 7 May 1845. William, Elizabeth and eight of his children are buried at St John's Church, Manchester.

The New Bailey Prison, which had been opened in 1790, was sold to the Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway Company in 1872 (and presumably demolished) following the erection of the gaol in Strangeways.



William Dunstan

WILLIAM DUNSTAN AND HIS FAMILY