

CHAPTER FOUR

John Dunstan (1797-1874)

JOHN DUNSTAN was born in February 1797 at the Governor's House, New Bailey Prison, Salford, third son of William Dunstan and Elizabeth Farrand. In November 1812 he entered Manchester Grammar School (MGS). On leaving school, he worked in a cotton merchant's office. On 14 April 1816 John married Elizabeth Hillidge at the Collegiate Church (now Manchester Cathedral).

Their first child, Eliza Scholfield, was born at Manchester in 1817. Eliza married a Chester bookseller, William Holker Boulton, in 1838. Following the enforced resignation of Eliza's uncle Richard, and perhaps through John's influence, William Boulton became governor of the New Bailey prison at Salford from 1841 until his death in 1847.

In 1819 John was appointed the first Governor of the County House of Correction for Cheshire at Knutsford. His first son, William John Roe, was born there in the same year. William entered MGS in 1833. He later studied law, and set up practice in Northwich, Cheshire. In 1841 William was elected head coroner for Knutsford. In 1846, he married Jane Williams at Wellington, Shropshire. She was the daughter of Henry Williams, surveyor, inventor and ironmaster of Ketley Hall, near Wellington. They lived at Leftwich, and had four daughters and two sons. William died in 1878, Jane in 1883.

On 1 July 1822 John was elected by Cheshire magistrates to succeed John Edward Hudson as Governor of the County Prison at Chester. Associated with this position was the ancient title of Constable of Chester Castle, which was held under a patent from the crown. John held this post for 43 years, during which time he was responsible for many improvements in prison conditions. In 1835 John gave evidence to a Select Committee of the House of Lords as part of an enquiry into the state of prisons in England and Wales.

Sarah Anne was born at Chester Castle (as were all John's later children) in 1822. She died a spinster in 1853.



WILLIAM JOHN ROE DUNSTAN



RICHARD JEWELL DUNSTAN

John Alexander Gordon was born in 1823. He entered MGS at the age of 10. On leaving school, he started work as an office junior with the Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway Company. In 1846 he married Anne Emma Smith of Southport and shortly afterwards he was promoted to assistant secretary to the board. John died at the age of 32, and in recognition of his services, the Company gave £1500 to be invested for the benefit of his widow and children, who moved to London.

Emma Sophia was born in 1825. She died a spinster in 1884.

Frank Powell was born in 1826. He entered MGS in 1835, and on leaving school joined the East India Company's naval service. While serving as a Captain at Moulmein (a port in Burma) he fell ill and was sent on leave. He died on board the ship *Tornado*, shortly after leaving Calcutta, on Christmas Eve 1855.

Frederick George was born in 1828 and entered MGS in 1837. He worked in cotton shipping warehouses in Manchester. In 1863 he married Ursula Clark; they had two daughters. Frederick died in 1879.

Caroline Mary was born in 1829. She married George Gunton, a professor of music in 1852.

Richard Jewell was born in 1830. He entered MGS in 1840, and on leaving school was apprenticed to George Evans, a draper. In 1849, Richard married his employer's daughter Mary Williams in Conway, Caernarvon. Mary died shortly afterwards, and Richard was married again in 1856, to Eliza Anne Jane Jackson at Chester. With his wife and their son, Richard emigrated to Canada and settled in Ontario where a second son was born. Richard was keen on football and cricket, but did not appear to have any paid employment; he was probably supported by his father. He was mentioned in his father's will in 1874, but the place and circumstances of his death are unknown. Richard was the founder of an extensive branch of the Dunstan family in Canada.

Sophia was born in 1832. She married Robert Houghton Baxter, vicar of Seaham (County Durham) in 1850.

Two of John's children died in infancy. They were Edward (June 1833 to August 1834) and Lucy Barbara (September 1834 to December 1835).

Fanny was born in 1838.

Harry Dunstan was born in 1841.

After an illness lasting five years, John's wife Elizabeth died of exhaustion at Chester Castle in 1857. She was 60 years old, and had been the mother of 14 of John's children.

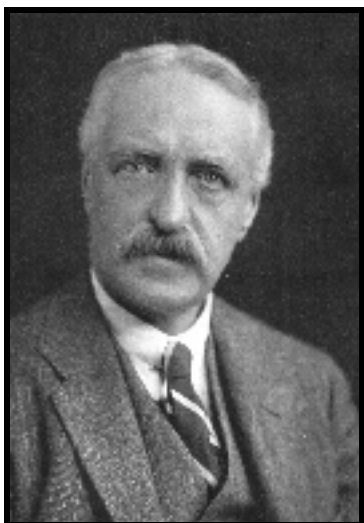
John remarried in Paddington on 3 February 1858 to Emily Catherine Potter, daughter of Cipriani Potter (Principal of the Royal Academy of Music). They had two sons.

Wyndham Roland was born in 1861. He was educated at Bedford Grammar School and abroad. In 1886 he married Emilie Maclean, and they had a son, Geoffrey and a daughter Rosalie; neither married. Emilie died in 1893, and Wyndham was married again, to Violet Hanbury - Tracy, in 1900. They had a daughter, Goda.

Wyndham had a long and distinguished career. He lectured in science and medicine at Oxford, Cambridge and the University of London. He was Professor of Chemistry at St. Thomas's Hospital from 1892 to 1900. He travelled the world and held the Chair or Presidency of many learned societies. He was Director of the Imperial Institute from 1903 to 1924, and in 1924 was knighted by King George V. Sir Wyndham erected a plaque in Chester Cathedral in memory of his father and mother. He died in 1949.

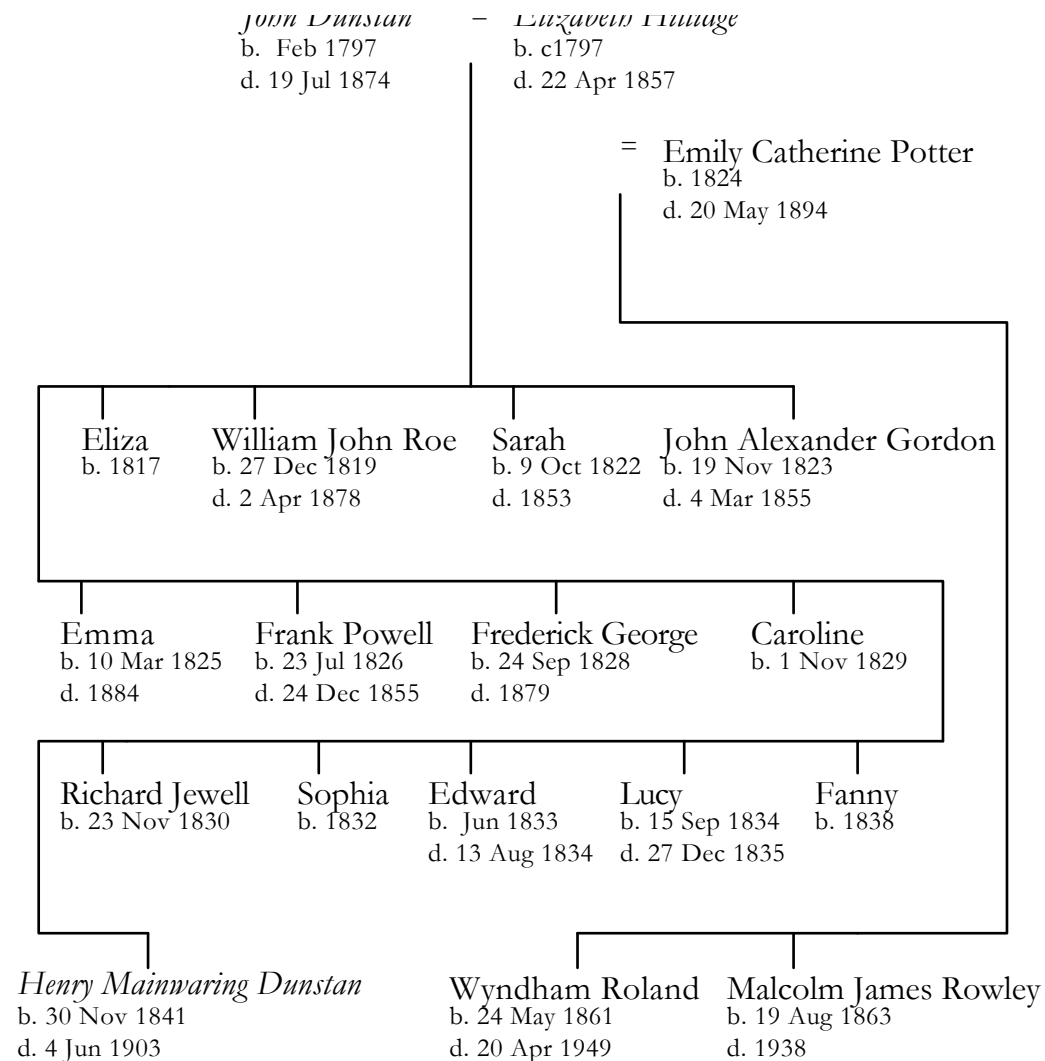
Malcolm James Rowley was born in 1863. He was educated at Bedford Grammar School, St. Paul's School and Merton College, Oxford.

In 1891 Malcolm married Edith Rose Turner (great great great granddaughter of the brother of Joseph Turner, the landscape painter). They had a son, Eric, and two daughters, Joan and Hester. Like his elder brother, Malcolm had a distinguished scientific career. He was Director of the Midland Agricultural and Dairy Institute from 1896 to 1902 and Principal of the Agricultural College at Wye from 1902 to 1922. He was awarded an O.B.E., and died in 1938.



MALCOLM JAMES ROWLEY
DUNSTAN

John Dunstan retired in 1865, with a pension of £400 per annum, and he and his family moved to Bedford. He died at home at the age of 77 on 19 July 1874.



JOHN DUNSTAN AND HIS FAMILY