

JANE DUNK

Jan. 1783 - 10 Ap. 1871

Jane was born and lived most of her life in Bath. She was the daughter of Charles Arnold Bullen and Jane Tribe of St. Michael's Parish where they married on 6 Ap. 1778. Charles was born in Jan. 1754, Jane in Dec. 1759. They had four children, all baptised at St Michael's.

William bap. 16 Aug. 1780

Jane .. 5 Jan. 1783

James .. 8 Sep. 1788

John Henry .. 9 Sep. 1792

Jane Bullen died four years later and was buried at St Michael's on 11 Ap. 1796 age 37. Her parents were Joel Tribe and another Jane. I have been unable to find any record of the birth of either of them, or of their marriage, but it is likely to be about 1750. I found the baptism records of five children, all daughters, all baptised at St. Michael's, Bath.

Elizabeth bap. 2 Ap. 1753

Martha .. 20 Aug. 1758

Jane .. 2 Dec. 1759

Ann .. 30 Aug. 1762

Mary .. 17 Jan. 1765

I found no record of Joel's death but it probably predates Jane's. She was described as a pauper when she was buried at St Michael's on 27 Nov. 1786.

Our Jane's paternal grandparents were John Bullen, birth date unknown, and Martha, about whom I have found nothing except the date of her burial. They lived in Keynsham and were probably married about 1743. They had six children all baptised at St. John's in Keynsham.

Jane bap. 23 Mar. 1746 bur. 3 Sep. 1749

John .. 16 Ap. 1748

James Dymuch .. 27 Oct. 1750

Charles Arnol .. 13 Jan. 1754

William .. 5 Jun. 1756 bur. 3 Ap. 1759

George .. 15 Jul. 1759

Martha was buried in Keynsham on 16 Jan. 1766, as was John on 16 May 1779.

Jane Bullen married John Loxton, a labourer, on 2 May 1803, at St Swithin's, Walcot, when she was 20 years old. John, the son of William and Sarah Loxton (spelled Lockstone on his baptism record), was 22 years old. The marriage was a short one as John died three years later, being buried on 23 May 1806. They had one child during the brief time they were together, a daughter, Matilda, baptised at St. Swithin's on 15 Ap. 1804.

What happened to Jane and her daughter in the following years one can only imagine. A constant struggle to support herself and Matilda seems the most likely.

The next time I found information about her was 20 years later when she married for the second time. John Dunk was a widower, aged 51 at the time of their marriage, which took place at St. Michael's, Bath on 16 Oct. 1826, Jane being 43. John was described as a labourer in a quarry. John was the son of Henry Dunk, baptised 28 Jul. 1745 in Walcot, and Mary, surname unknown, born about 1741. I found only two children from this marriage.

John bap. 17 Feb. 1775

Mary Ann .. 14 May 1780

John Dunk's first marriage was to Mary, surname and marriage date unknown, he was described as a mason. There were eight children born to them.

James	bap. 25 Ap. 1802	Widcombe St. Thomas a Becket
Henry Board	.. 1 Mar. 1807	Bath St. James
John	.. 11 Jun. 1809	.. ..
William Board	.. 10 May 1812	Widcombe St. Thomas a Becket
Joseph	.. 12 Jun. 1814 lived at Timbrells Ct.	.. .. ..
Eliza	.. 7 Ap. 1816	.. .. ..

I found two baptism entries for the next child.

Jonathan born 26 Jan. 1818 bap. 19 Ap. 1818 Lyncombe and Widcombe Wesleyan Methodist

Jonathan Board born 26 Jan. 1818 bap. 15 Oct, 1820 Widcombe St. Thomas a Becket

Apparently baptised twice, Jonathan died and was buried on 15 Ap. 1821 at the age of 3 Years 3 months at St. Thomas a Becket.

The last child was born four months later.

Jonathan born 11 Aug. 1821 bap. 22 May 1825 Wiccombe St. Thomas a Becket

Mary died and was buried on 11 Sept. 1825 at St. Thomas a Becket, aged 47, the family still living at Timbrells Court in Walcot. Her mother in law, Henry's wife Mary, also died there two months later, on 22 Nov. 1825 aged 84.

The rest of Jane's story is told by the Census returns over the rest of her life. Between her marriage and 1841, she doubtless brought up those of John's children who hadn't yet left home.

1841 CENSUS	Monckton Combe		4 Mount Pleasant	
John Dunk	65	Labourer in Quarry	born	Somerset
Jane ..	60		..	..
Jonathan ..	20	.. ..	..	..
Sarah Lansdown	3		..	..

1851 CENSUS	Monckton Combe		village of Combe Down		Cottage
John Dunk	head	marr.	77	pauper	born Widcombe Bath
Jane ..	wife	..	69	..	.. Walcot Bath

John died and was buried in the Mar. q. 1855. it is possibly at this time that Jane became an inmate of the Bath Union Workhouse where she was to stay for the rest of her life.

1861 CENSUS	Lyncombe and Widcombe		Bath Union Workhouse	
Jane Dunk	Pauper	Wid.	77	Laundress born Somerset Bath

In spite of her age she was working to earn her keep at the Workhouse.

1871 CENSUS	Lyncombe and Widcombe		Bath Union Workhouse	
Jane Dunk	Pauper	Wid.	90	Domestic Servant born Somerset Bath

Still working. Jane died and was buried in the Workhouse field on 10 Ap. 1871. It is difficult to believe that she could have survived for so long after the hard life she had. Always poor, she must have been fearful that, at any moment, the struggle to survive would become too much.

It was suggested to me that it would be interesting to find out more about Jane's daughter and stepchildren. I wondered why none of them had been able to help Jane and John when they needed it.

1. Jonathon was living with John and Jane at the time of the 1841 Census. In the 1851 Census he was a visitor with a family named Langworth at 10 Lower Chase Lane, St. Michaels, Bristol. He was described as a free stone worker, age 26. Ten years later he had married, still living in Bristol.

1861 CENSUS St. Augustines Bristol 8 Red Lodge Place

Jonathon	Dank	Head	Marr.	35	Lab Mason's	Som. Bath
Anne	..	Wife	..	33		Bristol
Jane Eliz.	..	Dau.		8	Scholar	..
Eliz. A.	..	..		5		..
James	..	Son		2		..

1871 CENSUS St. Augustines Bristol 7 Red Lodge Place

Jonathon	Dunk	Head	Marr.	46	Labourer	Som. Bath
Ann	..	Wife	..	37		Bristol
Jane	..	Dau.	un.	18	Machinist	"
James	..	Son		12	Scholar	"
William	..	..		5	..	..
Henry	..	..		3	..	..

I can find no information about Jonathon after this, neither in the death register nor the following Census.

2. Joseph Dunk who was born in Bath in 1814, next appears 36 years later.

1851 CENSUS St. Peter Newington Surrey 8 Manchester Buildings

Joseph	Dunks	Head	Marr.	36	Shoemaker	born Som. Bath
Mary Ann	..	Wife	..	38		.. London
Johnathan	..	Son		7	Scholar	.. Newington

Alfred J.	..	..	5	..	..	..
William M. Godfrey	Servt.	22	Shoemaker	..	Lambeth	
Charles Flinn	..	19	..	..	..
John T. Meredith	..	15	..	..	Newington	

Joseph has married, learned a trade and is doing well, employing three young men who appear to be living with his family.

Mary Ann died three years later in the March quarter of 1854. Five years later Joseph had moved to Southwark, London and married again to Susannah Blay in the June quarter of 1859 at St. George the Martyr, Southwark.

1861 CENSUS St. George the Martyr, Southwark 30 Warwick Street

Joseph Dunk	Head	Marr.	46	Shoemaker	employing son & son in law	born Som. Bath
Susannah	..	Wife	..	40		.. Berks. Holling
Joseph A.	..	Son	15	Shoemaker		.. Newington
Charles D. Bailey	Son in Law	14	..			.. Berks. Bray
Edward H. Dunk	Son	9	Scholar			.. Newington
Walter G.	..	..	7	..		.. ..
Joseph A. Carpenter	Visitor	Un.	19	Servant, out of place		.. St. Pancras

Joseph still seems to be doing well. The son in law whom he employs is probably Joseph's new wife's son by a previous marriage, his stepson.

1871 CENSUS St. George the Martyr Southwark 13 Warwick Street

Joseph Dunk	Head	Marr.	56	Bootmaker	born Som. Bath
Susannah	..	Wife	..	50	.. Berks. Bray
Joseph A.	..	Son	Un.	25	.. Newington
Walter G.	..	..	..	17	Asst. to Pawnbroker
Richard Snelgas	G.son	..	7	Scholar	.. Lambeth

Joseph died eight years later and was buried at St. Saviour, Southwark in January 1879 age 65. Susannah lived on at 13 Warwick Road. The only thing I could find was a Land Tax Record for

1885, saying she had paid 5s.8d to Colonel West for no. 13 Warwick Street. I found no entry for her in the death Register.

3. William Dunk married Mary Ann Gowing at St. James, Bath on 6 Oct. 1833. I found no children from this marriage.

1841 CENSUS Lyncombe and Widcombe 14 Waterloo Buildings

William Dunk 30 Mason born Somerset Yes

Mary .. 25 Laundress No

This is the only information I have found about William.

4. John Dunk was a problem. I found four possible bits of information about John Dunk born in Bath about 1809, but whether any of them are the right John Dunk I cannot be sure. The first was John Dunk who married Charlotte Williams on 8 Nov. 1829 at St. James, Bath. Our John would have been 20 years old. The couple had seven children, all baptised at St. Thomas a Becket, Widcombe.

Elizabeth bap. 4 Ap. 1830 living in Holloway Father a mason.

Henry .. 26 Aug. 1832 a labourer

Charlotte .. 4 May 1834

Matilda .. 11 Dec. 1836 bur. 5 Nov. 1837 (in poorhouse burial ground)

Joseph John .. 28 Mar. 1841 living in Garve (Grove?) St. .. a quarryman

Matilda .. 23 Jun. 1843 .. Waterloo Bldgs. Father a labourer

Amelia .. 9 Feb. 1845 .. Dolemead

Some of the names given to his children - Henry, Matilda, Joseph and Elizabeth are the names of his brothers and sisters, so perhaps he is the right John.

The second piece of information is from Criminal Records 1836.

John Dunk and Joseph Salmoni were accused of "breaking into the dwelling house of Elizabeth Taylor and stealing a silver cream jug." They were both found guilty and sentenced to 14 year's transportation on 28 March 1836. They were both sent to Prison Hulks to await transportation to Australia, Joseph to the York Hulk and John to the Leviathan. This was a decommissioned ship

that had fought at the Battle of Trafalgar, now used as a Prison Hulk, moored in Portsmouth Harbour. John Dunk's admission entry has the following information.

Admitted - 31st. March 1836. Name - John Dunk. Age - 25. Height 5/5. Build - sturdy. Complexion - fresh. Visage - long. Hair - brown. Eyes - hazel. Marks - middle finger on right hand. Where born - Bath. Trade - mason. Last abode - Bath. Married or single - mar. No. of children - 2. Read - R. Write - W. Remarks - 14 yrs. transportation. Crime - house breaking.

Joseph Salmoni was transported to Van Diemens Land (Tasmania) on 1 Aug. 1836, arriving there on 15 Nov. 1836 on the ship 'Henry Porcher'. He returned to Bath after his sentence expired and died there in Feb. 1858.

I found no similar information about John Dunk. The Prison Hulk Register Leviathon for 1836 shows - John Dunk, 25, Housebreaking. convicted Wells, 28 Mar. 1836. 14 years. The last column is headed "How Disposed Of". For most of the other prisoners this column said "Transportation". This was not so in John Dunk's case, his said, "Penit. 11 Nov.". What this means I don't know, an abbreviation of Penitentiary maybe? it is certainly true that not all the prisoners on Leviathon were transported. I found a list of men whose sentence had been transmuted because they had shown themselves to have a good attitude, being helpful to other prisoners and to the guards. Unfortunately John's name was not on that list, it was for the year before, but perhaps he was one of these men who were thought to be good enough to be given a second chance.

The third piece of information comes from the Bath Directory for 1846 which lists John Dunk as living at 4 Grove St.

The fourth piece of information is from the Death Register.

John Dunk, age 36, was buried 17 Jan. 1847 at St. Mary the Virgin, Bathwick. His abode given as Grove Street.

Could all four facts be about the same man? Can this be the same John Dunk who married Charlotte? It is certain that man had been poor, his daughter Matilda was buried in the poorhouse ground. It is quite possible that he was driven to crime to feed his family. It is also possible his sentence was commuted, which would explain the gap of five years before the birth of Joseph John. Perhaps I am just grasping at straws, hoping to find a happy ending for him.

5. James Dunk married Emma Millard at St. James, Bath on 5 Sep. 1825. Their first child was born the following year, baptised at St. Thomas a Becket, Widcombe.

Sarah bap. 19 Feb. 1826 living Lower Bristol Road bur. 1 Jul. 1826

The next sight of James is not good.

Ilchester Gaol Felons Register

Admission date 10 July 1826 (only 9 days after the burial of his daughter)

James Dunk age 22, fair complexion, 5' 6", dark brown hair, hazel eyes, born at Bath, labourer.

Stealing 11lbs. weight of bacon from Joseph Cromwell.

Guilty, sentenced to 9 mths. imprisonment at Shepton Gaol.

Wilton Gaol Register of Prisoners 1826

James Dunk, 22. 9 calendar months. Convicted of Grand Larceny.

A note said " let him be imprisoned and kept at hard labour" Release date Ap. 10 1827.

James was duly released and returned home. He seems to have learned that crime doesn't pay, there is nothing to suggest that he got into any more trouble. He and Emma had five more children.

John .. 22 Jun. 1828 living Lower Bristol Rd. bur. 15 Sept 1828 Quarryman

Mary Ann .. 6 Sep. 1829 .. Springfield Place Mason

Henry .. 9 Nov. 1834 .. Waterloo Blds. Labourer

John .. 11 Dec. 1836 Quarryman

Susanna .. 15 Mar. 1840 .. Chapel Row ..

The frequent change of job and address shows what a struggle James and Emma had to provide for their children.

1841CENSUS Lyncombe and Widcombe 3 Bolwell Buildings

James Dunk 40 Quarryman born Somerset

Emma .. 35 Yes

Mary Ann ..	12	..
Jesse ..	10	..
John ..	7	..
Susanna ..	1	..

Ten years later there is a surprising change.

1851 WALES CENSUS				St. Woollos	Newport	Granville Street
James Dunk	Head	Marr.	48	Labourer	Somerset	Bath
Emma ..	Wife	..	45	Wife	..	..
Henry ..	Son	Un.	16	Labourer	..	..
John ..	..	..	14	Errand Boy	..	..
Susan ..	Dau.	..	12		..	..
Emma ..	..	..	8		..	..
William ..	Son	..	5		Brecon	
James ..	..	..	2		Mon.	Newport
Zacardiah Patsh	Visitor	Wid.	42	Labourer	Somerset	Wrington
Ann Jenkins	lodger	Wid.	52		Mon.	Newport
Margarett ..	Dau.	Un.	15		..	..
Mary A. ..	..	..	11		Monmouth	

By 1846 the family have moved, first to Brecon and then to Newport, probably in pursuit of work as there isn't any previous connection with Wales.

1861 WALES CENSUS				ST. Woollas	Newport	5 East Market Street
James Dunk	Head	Marr.	58	Lab.	born Som.	Bath
Emma ..	Wife	..	55		..	..
John ..	Son	Un.	29	Letter Carrier	Som.	Bath
William ..	..	..	16	Labourer	..	Brecon
James ..	..	..	12	..	..	Mon. Newport

James and his family stayed on in Newport, where he died five years later in the Dec.q, age 66.

His wife Emma lived on for another twelve years, dying in the Sep.q. 1874, age 70.

6. Henry Dunk, born in 1807, married Ann Griffin, born in 1811, were married 11 Oct. 1829 at St. James, Bath. Henry signed his name and Ann made her mark X. They were living in Bath where their first four children were born, all baptised at St. Thomas a Becket, Widcombe.

Sarah	bap.	18 Jul. 1830	Angel terrace	Quarryman
Ann	..	13 Jan. 1833	Lower Bristol Road	..
Charlotte	..	5 Jul. 1840	Chapel Row	..
William	..	19 Jun. 1842	Waterloo Buildings	Labourer

1841 CENSUS	St. James	Bath		St. James Court
Henry Dunk	36	Labourer		Born Somerset
Ann	..	30		Yes
Sarah	..	11		..
Ann	..	8		..
Henry	..	3		..
Charlotte		1		..

At some time between William's birth and that of their next child, the family had moved to Bristol.

John was born there in the Jun. q. 1848

Eliza was born in the Jun. q. 1851.

I was unable to find Henry and his family in the 1851 Census.

1861 CENSUS	St. Augustine	Bristol		8 Red Lodge Place
Henry Dunk	Head	Wid.	52	Labourer on Quay Bath
John	..	Son	12	Bristol
Eliza	..	Dau.	10	Scholar ..

Henry's wife, Ann, has died at some time after the birth of Eliza, I was unable to find her name in the Death register. It is interesting to note that Henry and his two children were living at the same address as his brother Jonathon. Henry died in Bristol in the Mar. q. 1870 aged 68.

As for Jane's daughter, Matilda, and her stepdaughter, Eliza, I have been unable to find any trace of them at all beyond their birth registrations.

The story of this family is a sad reminder of how poverty can continue from one generation to the next, and how men, desperate to feed their families, can be pushed into a criminal act, and have to pay the price. I had wondered why none of the children had helped their parents when they needed it. The simple fact is they couldn't. They were either in the same desperate condition themselves or they were living too far away to have knowledge of what was happening back in Bath.

I realise that I may be making false assumptions about John Dunk's criminal act. It certainly happened, but possibly to a different John Dunk, it is a not uncommon name, I came across two or three, but none of the others were of the right age to fit the facts.

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