

William and Hannah (Butler) and Amelia Frederica (Furneaux) Freeman.

William was born in 1785. Some sources state that he was born in Harbour Grace but no evidence has been found; it appears more likely that he was born in St. John's and may well have had family connections with Harbour Grace or area. In 1807 he and Hannah Butler, born in Harbour Grace in 1798, were married. They had at least two sons, Edward and John. William was a member of the Methodist Committee of St. John's that was formed in 1813. When the Governor, Sir Richard Keats, would not give them a land-grant on which to build a chapel, William, a carpenter, rented to the church a piece of his land near what is now Victoria Street. The chapel was opened on Christmas in 1815, but it was totally burned in February, 1816. William provided another piece of property for the second chapel; it was on the site of the present Gower Street United Church. Hannah died in 1831. In 1834 William married Amelia Frederica Furneaux of Port de Grave, born in 1798. She died on January 13, 1862 and William died on May 6th of the same year. He left a will in which he mentioned his following children: Charlotte, John, Jemima, William T., Caleb, George, and Robert. William's headstone is in the General Protestant Cemetery. He mentions both of his wives on the headstone and adds "they are not dead but sleepth."