**Catherine Burdwood Hunt, 1797–1844**

Dartmouth Museum has 22 watercolours and an oil painting of the ‘Old Shambles’ Dartmouth by ‘Miss C.B. Hunt’, all with a received date of around 1839. Nothing is known of her other than that she reportedly had some tuition by an artist in Torquay and was said to be a pupil of Samuel Prout. Himself a Plymouth man, Prout was largely elsewhere after 1802 so this is unlikely, though his published work was influential.

It seems likely that this artist was Catherine Burdwood Hunt, daughter of Henry Hunt – a shipwright who probably worked in the Royal Dockyard at Devonport – and his wife Elizabeth. She was born on 3 May 1797 at Morice Square, Devonport, and baptised at the Morice Square Baptist chapel later that month.

A Catherine Hunt married Robert Eden Ford at East Stonehouse, Devonport, in September 1839 and died there in the first quarter of 1844. By elimination of other local Catherine Hunts this was probably the same woman, though no work is known signed with her married name of Ford. While she may have sold some locally, it appears from the oil painting and report of the drawings that she was probably a competent amateur rather than fully professional artist.

*Summarised from Art UK discussion on the Dartmouth Museum painting, May 2021*

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