

Richard BEARE died 11th January 1814
Elizabeth HATCH died 8th August 1832

Memorial 8

Memorial 8 is an unremarkable headstone, described in the 2014 archaeological report of the graveyard as a Portland limestone “Stone with rounded top and concave shoulders (H88 x W48 x 7cm). Stone is broken diagonally with top detached and base in situ.”¹ The inscriptions



commemorate Richard Beare (died 11 January 1814) and his daughter, Elizabeth Hatch (died 8 August 1832), but four members of the Beare family and thirteen Hatches are recorded in the burial ledgers in total.

Particular interest in Elizabeth Hatch was sparked by a memorial in the Unitarian graveyard at Cross Street, Moretonhampstead which reads:

Sacred to the memory of Thomas Hatch who died on the ... April 1861 in the ..4th year of his age. Also to the memory of his beloved wife Elizabeth Beare who was taken from him on the 8th of August 1832 in the awful time of the cholera morbus then raging in the city and her remains interred in the Saints Rest Memorial Ground, Magdalen Road, Exeter. These lines are added by her sorrowing second daughter Sophia Kingsland Jacobs of Newton Abbot.²

Elizabeth was born in Topsham and baptised on April 11th 1790 by Mr Samuel Blatchford³ the recently installed minister in the Presbyterian Old Meeting House⁴. She was the seventh of eight children³ born to Richard* and Sophia* Bear (it was some time later that the terminal ‘e’ was added to their surname). Richard Bear and Sophia Cheers were married on 16 January 1776 in Topsham⁵ and both of them are buried in the Exeter Dissenters’ graveyard (Richard buried 15 January 1814 aged 67⁶ and Sophia buried 10 May 1836 aged 81⁷).

According to the 1851 and 1861 Census entries, Thomas Hatch was born in Thorverton, Devon, but no records of his birth or baptism have come to light as yet. He married Elizabeth Beare by Licence on March 14 1822 at Holy Trinity in Exeter⁸ and gave his occupation as Ironmonger. Amongst the

¹ Dyer, M. (2014). Survey and archaeological recording of the Dissenters’ burying ground, Magdalen Street, Exeter, Devon; centred on SX92379228. Exeter Dissenters’ Graveyard Trust. 82pp.

² Moretonhampstead History Society website

www.moretonhampstead.org.uk/texts/official/churchmemorials/ugravesmemorials.ghtml U53.

³ England and Wales Non-Conformist and Non-Parochial Register RG4, Piece 1222 Topsham (Presbyterian) 1744-1837. Accessed via www.ancestry.co.uk

⁴ Murch, Jerom (1825). A history of the Presbyterian and general Baptist churches of the West of England with memoirs of some of their pastors. R. Hunter, London, p. 368.

⁵ England, Select Marriage, 1538-1973. Accessed via www.ancestry.co.uk.

⁶ England and Wales Non-Conformist and Non-Parochial Register, RG4, Piece 965. Exeter Bow Meeting (Presbyterian) 1687-1823 (Births/Baptisms and Burials). His death on 12th January 1814 was recorded in the Exeter Flying Post (13th January 1814), where his occupation was given as ‘Cooper’ and he is described as ‘formerly of Topsham’.

⁷ England and Wales Non-Conformist and Non-Parochial Register, RG4, Piece 1085. Georges Meeting (Presbyterian) 1824-1837 (Births/Baptisms and Burials).

⁸ Devon Marriages. Accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk. March 2017.

four witnesses at the wedding who signed the register were John Beare* (bap. February 22nd 1775), Elizabeth's eldest brother, and Mary Matterface. Elizabeth* and Thomas had three daughters, Elizabeth Ann (b. February 28th 1824), Sophia Kingsland (b. October 22nd 1826) and Sarah Frances (b. May 7th 1829)^{7,9}. The baptism register entries for all three daughters states Thomas's occupation as Shopman, and for the latter two added '*at Messrs Kingdons*'.

Thomas Hatch was listed as '*shop-keeper, sidwell-street*' in the Exeter Directory (1831)¹⁰ and in the Exeter Pocket Journal for the years 1830-1836¹¹. There is no evidence that Kingdon's had premises in Sidwell Street, even after their foundry and smithy in Waterbeer Street was destroyed by fire in 1826¹², so it seems likely that Thomas had set up his own business by 1830.

The outbreak of cholera in Exeter in 1832 is well documented¹³. By the end of August 1832, there had been 301 deaths since the commencement of the disease six weeks earlier, on 19th July¹⁴. Elizabeth Hatch was a victim of the disease; she died, aged 42, on the 8th August 1832 and was buried on the 9th August¹⁵. Reports of her death in the local newspapers stated husband Thomas to be an Ironmonger¹⁵ or Ironmonger and Haberdasher¹⁶.

Thomas remarried a year after Elizabeth's death. His second wife was Mary Matterface, one of the witnesses at his first marriage. The marriage register shows that Thomas had moved to Newton Abbot at some point before their wedding on August 26th 1833⁸. Census details for 1841 show Thomas and his three daughters living in Bridge Street, Wolborough parish, Newton Abbot, but Mary was recorded in Dawlish where she was living with Sarah Ferris, one of the witnesses at her marriage to Thomas¹⁷. Also living in Bridge Street according to the 1841 Census was Henry Jacobs, a fifteen-year old whose father, Henry, was a Stationer¹⁷. A decade later, Thomas, Mary, Elizabeth A. and Sarah F. are shown to be living at 63 Bridge Street¹⁸. Thomas was described as an *Ironmonger employing 2 men and 5 boys*¹⁸. Sophia Kingsland Hatch married Henry Jacobs Jnr., described as a Stationer, on November 6th 1851⁸.

In the 1861 Census, Thomas was described as a '*Retired Ironmonger*'¹⁹. He was living at Courtlands, 39 Torquay Street, Wolborough with Mary, his two unmarried daughters and a female servant. Thomas died on April 22nd 1861 in his 71st year '*much respected*'²⁰. Mary died in 1868, aged 79²¹.

Names marked with an asterisk (*) are known to be buried in the Exeter Dissenter's graveyard.

⁹ On 27th August 1786 a Robert Hatch* and Betty* Kingsland were married in Thorverton. It seems plausible that the naming of Thomas and Elizabeth's second daughter, Sophia Kingsland, was in honour of Thomas's mother.

¹⁰ Exeter Itinerary and General Directory. Devon Heritage Centre, Exeter. DRO 8/EXE 1831.

¹¹ Exeter Pocket Journal, issues for the years 1830, 1831, 1832, 1833, 1834 and 1836. Devon Heritage Centre, Exeter.

¹² www.exeterfoundry.org.uk. Garton and King Ltd., a history.

¹³ Shapter, Thomas (1849). The history of the cholera in Exeter in 1832. John Churchill, London. 348pp.

¹⁴ Woolmer's Exeter and Plymouth Gazette. Saturday September 8 1832.

¹⁵ Royal Devonport Telegraph, and Plymouth Chronicle. Saturday 18 August 1832. (British Newspaper Archive).

¹⁶ Exeter and Plymouth Gazette. Saturday 18 August 1832. (British Newspaper Archive).

¹⁷ 1841 England, Wales and Scotland Census. Accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk.

¹⁸ 1851 England, Wales and Scotland Census. Accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk.

¹⁹ 1861 England, Wales and Scotland Census. Accessed via www.findmypast.co.uk.

²⁰ Exeter Flying Post. Wednesday 1st May 1861. (British Newspaper Archive).

²¹ Devon Burials. Dawlish. Accessed via www.ancestry.co.uk. March 2017.