

**FRANCES OXENHAM** died 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1802

Memorial 47

**HUGH OXENHAM** died 24<sup>th</sup> January 1833

Hugh Oxenham always described himself as a Gentleman, and was listed as such in the Exeter Militia List of 1803, but he was in fact the proprietor of a paper making business. He had premises in Southgate Street, Exeter, described as a warehouse, from 1798 to 1809, when he was in partnership with John Pim. On 24<sup>th</sup> June 1810 the partnership was dissolved,<sup>1</sup> and from 1811 to 1816 his warehouse was in South Street. This was described in a lease of 1845 (after Hugh had died) as comprising a “messuage or dwellinghouse, paper warehouse, rag lofts, junk stores and courtlage”.<sup>2</sup>

It seems that Hugh Oxenham and John Pim made up their differences, because the partnership resumed on 29<sup>th</sup> September 1811, and continued until 26<sup>th</sup> July 1826, when John Pim died. The actual paper making was carried out at Wear Mills, Topsham.<sup>3</sup>

Hugh Oxenham married his first wife Frances Hubbard in Yarmouth, Norfolk on 17<sup>th</sup> February 1794. It is not known what the family connection with Norfolk was, but a Samuel Oxenham had married an Elizabeth Hubbard in Yarmouth in 1792, so perhaps they were related. Hugh and Frances had two daughters baptised at one of the non-conformist chapels in Exeter: Frances in 1796 and Charlotte in 1798. Sadly Charlotte died in February 1799 aged one, to be followed by her mother Frances in May 1799, aged 32. Charlotte is not mentioned on this memorial, but it is possible that she was on number 78, see below.

Hugh married again after Frances died. The Norfolk Chronicle dated 17<sup>th</sup> December 1803 recorded the event: “Last week was married Hugh Oxenham, Esq. of Exeter to Miss Anne Hubbard of Yarmouth.” The marriage had taken place on 7<sup>th</sup> December at the church of St Simon and St Jude in Norwich. It seems likely that Anne was related to Hugh’s first wife Frances because she had the same surname and came from Yarmouth.

From 1824 Hugh lived in a substantial house at Wear, Topsham, with a coach house, barn, walled garden, Five Elm Lane Field, and the Baptist Orchard, and let some of the fields in 1825, subject to grass for his horse! <sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Partnership dissolved 1810 (Devon Heritage Centre 3110M/B/1).

<sup>2</sup> Agreement for lease between Abraham Tozer (trustee) & James Wilcocks. 1845 (D H C 3110M/T/10-11). “Courtlage” is an alternative spelling of “curtilage”, and was the enclosed courtyard or piece of land forming part of a property.

<sup>3</sup> Maxted, Ian : Exeter Working Papers in Book History.

<sup>4</sup> Lease from Henry Seymour 1824 (D H C 3110M/T/15)

Hugh died, aged 65, on 24<sup>th</sup> January 1833, at Topsham, and was remembered on this memorial with his first wife.

His second wife was left in very comfortable circumstances. In 1851 the census showed that she was living at 29, Southernhay, aged 77, described as a Land Holder. Her daughter Ann D, aged 44 and unmarried, was living with her. They had no fewer than four servants.

In 1861 she was living in Cathedral Yard, aged 87, a Fund Holder, still with her daughter Ann. Now they had six servants!

At the time of this census a married daughter, Caroline, aged 53, was visiting, with her daughter Mary Louisa, aged 22 and son Edward, aged 12. Caroline was the wife of Charles Hume, the Rector of Meonstoke in Hampshire, with whom she had a large family.

This memorial does not look like a headstone, but the sort of memorial that would perhaps have been attached to a wall in a meeting house. There is no record of it being here in 1984, so it may have been brought from elsewhere since.

See also Memorial 78.