

THOMAS HILL died 3rd July 1779
JOHN HILL died 23rd May 1787
INDIANA HILL died 13th February 1812
THOMASIN HILL died 18th November 1817
JOHN HILL died 16th August 1830

Memorial Number 63

Although five members of the HILL family are recorded on this memorial there is evidence to suggest that two of them are not in fact buried here. The Exeter Flying Post published the news of Thomas Hill's death "This evening died, after a short illness, Mr Hill, sergemaker a dyer of this city."¹ There is no record of his burial at the Dissenters Graveyard in the burial register or the Report and Account Book but the burial record for St Thomas the Apostle in Exeter in 1779 shows "July 16 Thomas Hill".² Thomas had married Indiana Westcott on 12th January 1767 at St Thomas the Apostle in Exeter.³ Indiana's will requested that her funeral should take place in the churchyard of the Parish of St Thomas the Apostle and that "...my body be laid by the side of my deceased husband."⁴

Although the date of John Hill's death was no longer visible in 2014 the 1894 transcription suggests that he died on 23 May 1787 when he was 86. Once again there is no record of his burial in the Dissenters Burial Register or in the Report and Account Book but a burial of a John Hill is shown in the St Thomas Parish Register on 27 May 1787.⁵ A copy of his will still exists which confirms his relationship with the Hill family and states that it was proved on 16 June 1787.⁶ John Hill's will was proved in London by the Prerogative Court of Canterbury. John was Thomas' father and managed his affairs following his son's death. Thomas had left "...large sums of money..." and property⁶ suggesting that he had been a successful business man. Although there is evidence that Thomas left a will⁷ nearly all the wills proved in Devon were destroyed during an air-raid on Exeter in 1942 and no copy has been found.

Indiana died nearly forty years after her husband. She does not appear to have married again. Her father in law's will is very clear - she would cease to share in control of the trusts set up to manage her husband's estate if she remarried.⁸ Indiana's will requested that she should be buried next to her husband in the churchyard of St Thomas the Apostle⁴ but the burial register for the Dissenter's burial ground records that a Mrs Hill was buried

¹ Transcription of The Exeter Flying Post, Exeter, July 7 1779 at Devon Heritage Centre

² Burial Register Exeter St Thomas, 4781A/PR/1/3 from FindmyPast accessed 31.01.2017

³ Devon Marriages, Findmypast accessed 31.03.2017

⁴ Will of Indiana Hill PROB 11/1530/52-104 (1812) accessed on ancestry.co.uk 31.03.2017

⁵ 4781A/PR/1/3 accessed via ancestry.co.uk 31.03.2017

⁶ Will of John Hill PROB11/1154/254-300 (1785 - 1788) accessed on ancestry.co.uk 31.03.2017

⁷ Devon & Cornwall:- Wills and Administrations proved in the Bishop of Exeter, 1559 - 1799, Court of the Archdeaconry of Exeter, 1779.

⁸ Will of John Hill PROB11/1154/254-300 (1785 - 1788) accessed on ancestry.co.uk 31.03.2017

there on 16 February 1812.⁹ The Accounts Book shows that £1.10.0d was paid for a new cave suggesting that she was the first member of the family to be buried in the cave.¹⁰

The final two members of the Hill family commemorated on this memorial are two of Thomas and Indiana's children. Thomasin Hill was baptised by Mic. Towgood on 27th October 1772¹¹. She never married and was financially supported by her mother, Indiana, who comments in her will that she had "...handsomely provided for her in my lifetime..." Indiana also left £500 to be invested to provide an income for Thomazin.⁴

The final person on this memorial is John Hill, Thomas and Indiana's eldest son, who was buried on 23 August 1830 aged 61 years.¹² He became a Druggist and was working throughout the beginning of the nineteenth century from his shop in Exeter. Adverts appeared regularly in the Exeter Flying Post for a variety of products including "Calcined Magnesia"¹³ and "The Poor Man's Friend" prepared by Dr Roberts, Bridport.¹⁴ The 1822 - 1823 Pigot's Directory gave 196, Fore Street as the address for his shop.¹⁵ John Hill died in Bath "Monday in Bath, where he had been for six weeks past, for the benefit of his health, Mr John Hill, Chemist & Druggist of this city...".¹⁶ Following his death the business was taken over by his nephew, "John Hill ... has succeeded to the Business of his late Uncle (Mr John Hill)..."¹⁷

⁹ RG4/Piece 965 Exeter Bow Meeting 1687-1823 accessed on ancestry.co.uk 31.03.2017

¹⁰ DRO 3693D/O/B/1 Report 7 Account Book of Dissenters Burial Ground, Devon Heritage Centre

¹¹ RG4/965 Exeter Bow Meeting (Presbyterian), 1687 - 1823, accessed on ancestry.co.uk 1.4.17

¹² RG4/1085 George's Meting 1824 - 1837, accessed on ancestry.co.uk 1.4.17

¹³ Exeter Flying Post - Thursday 16 April 1801 accessed on britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk

¹⁴ Exeter Flying Post - Thursday 12 March 1818 accessed on britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk

¹⁵ Exeter section 1822 -1823 edition of Pigot's Directory accessed on Genuki

¹⁶ Exeter & Plymouth Gazette - Saturday 21 August 1830 accessed on britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk.

¹⁷ Western Times - Saturday 28 August 1830 accessed on britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk