

HARRIET HILL

Died 30th March 1787
Age 10 months

Memorial 87

The memorial for Harriet Hill was found under a spoil heap in the graveyard with the bottom of the stone missing. The inscription states that Harriet was interred in a vault beneath the stone. The Dissenters Graveyard Accounts Book records on 4th April 1787 (the day Harriet was buried) "Rec.^d of Mr Tho^s Hill for opening late Mr Geo. Sealys Cave now sold to him by late Sealy's Assignee (Mr Howell) 10/- ".¹ The accounts show that George Sealy paid 15/- "...for a cave for his son" on 6 March 1754.²

Harriet was the sixth child of Thomas and Rebecca Hill and was born on 12 May 1786.³ Thomas Hill, a Woolstapler, married Rebecca Haydon (a minor) with the consent of her mother, Ann Haydon, on 21st September 1776 at St Mary Major in Exeter.⁴ Both Thomas and Rebecca were residents of that parish. The witnesses were Prudence Grant and Mary Haydon. Rebecca's father, Benjamin Haydon, a Fuller, had died the previous year and was buried at St Mary Major, Exeter on 26 January 1775.⁵ In his will he left Rebecca £2000, to be paid, when she was 21.⁶ Thomas and Rebecca had ten children. The first three children were baptised at St Mary Major. The other children were baptised at Bow Street Meeting House and five, including Harriet, were buried in the Dissenters Graveyard. No memorial stones have been found commemorating other members of the family. Rebecca Hill was buried in the Dissenters Graveyard on 29 March 1792⁷. Following Rebecca's death Thomas remarried in Barnstaple. He was living in Sidmouth at the time. Thomas died on Thursday 12th May 1803 in Budleigh and was buried in the Dissenters Graveyard on 17 May 1803.⁸ It is not known whether the family were buried in the same cave.

Tessa M. Varndell
March 2019

¹ DRO 3693D/O/B/I Devon Heritage Centre. "Dissenters Burial Ground. Reports, Accounts etc of the above from 1782 to 1832"

² DRO 3693D/O/B/I Devon Heritage Centre. "Dissenters Burial Ground. Reports, Accounts etc of the above from 1782 to 1832"

³ RG/4/965 Exeter, Bow Meeting (Presbyterian): Births, Baptisms & Burials Accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 14.03.19

⁴ South West Heritage Trust, St Mary Major, Exeter, in Birth, Marriage, Death & Parish Records. Accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 14.03.19

⁵ 2945A/PR/1/15 Devon Burials, South West Heritage Trust Accessed on findmypast.co.uk on 14.03.19

⁶ England & Wales, Prerogative Court of Canterbury Wills, 1384 - 1858, accessed on ancestry.co.uk on 14.03.19

⁷ RG4/965 Exeter Bow Meeting (Presbyterian), 1687 -1823, accessed on ancestry.co.uk 14 March 2019

⁸ RG4/965 Exeter Bow Meeting (Presbyterian), 1687 -1823, accessed on ancestry.co.uk 14 March 2019