

JOHN HOGG, buried 1804
APPHIA HOGG, buried 1785
GEORGE BALLER HOGG, 1769-1775
MARY HOGG, 1785-1785

John Hogg was born around 1731 and was probably the son of George Hogg, a mariner, of Northam near Bideford.¹

He was described as a “*pupil of Dr Jennings*”,² so it is likely that he attended the dissenting academy at Wellclose Square in Wapping run by Dr David Jennings. Students there took a five year course in theology.³ John was ordained on 30th October 1759 and became Minister at the Old Meeting in Sidmouth shortly afterwards.⁴

On 6th November 1765 John married Hetty Clapp Follett at Sidmouth parish church. Hetty may have been the daughter of Samuel Follett, a mariner and merchant of Sidmouth, and his wife Hester (née Clapp). Hetty died less than a year after the wedding and was buried at Sidmouth parish church on 28th August 1766.⁵

On 28th December 1768 John married his second wife Apphia Baller.⁶ Apphia's father was Rev. Joseph Baller of Barnstaple, a dissenting minister who served at Great Torrington from 1763 to 1775. He was a nephew of the poet and dramatist John Gay and had been chief mourner at Gay's funeral in 1732. Apphia's mother was Mary Brough whose brother George was the Treasurer of Guy's Hospital.⁷



Poet John Gay (1685-1732) who was the great-uncle of Apphia Baller.

John and Apphia's first child, George Baller Hogg, was born on Wednesday 30th November 1769 “*at ½ past 12 in the morning*” and baptised privately on 3rd January 1770. A second son, Joseph, was born at

forty minutes past one in the afternoon of 26th August 1771 and baptised on 10th September. John recorded the births of these two sons in the registers of the Sidmouth Meeting but they were actually baptised by Micaiah Towgood at Mint Meeting in Exeter, as were all their later children. The registers of Mint Meeting show that John and Apphia were living in St Sidwells parish in Exeter at the time.⁸

In 1771 John took a short-lived post as a tutor at the Exeter Academy following the death of Samuel Merivale, however the Academy closed in 1772. Around the same time John left the Sidmouth Meeting and took over from Joseph Bretland as Minister at the Mint Meeting in Exeter.⁹

John and Apphia had a third son, John, who was born on 17th June 1773 at half past nine in the evening; he was baptised on 12th July.¹⁰

Two years later their eldest son George died at one in the morning on 6th June 1775, he was just five years old. He was the first of the family to be buried in the Dissenters' Graveyard and five shillings for his burial was paid on 10th June.¹¹

A daughter, named Apphia after her mother, was born on 29th September 1776 between 6 and 7 in the evening. Her baptism took place on 30th October. A second daughter, Frances, was born on 1st September 1778 and baptised on 17th September.¹²

During the 1780's John took on more work. While still serving as the minister at the Mint Meeting he also supplied Old Bowden Hill Meeting in Crediton; there are records of several baptisms conducted there by him in the years 1782-84.¹³ By 1783 he had also become a partner in The Devonshire Bank with John and Charles Baring and John Jeffrey Short.¹⁴

By 1785 the family had moved to a house on the Cathedral Close, where their youngest daughter Mary was born on 10th March. However little Mary died on 26th June aged just three months and was buried at the Dissenters' Graveyard, presumably in the same grave as her brother George. Four shillings was paid on 29th June for "opening a grave for Mr Hogg's infant child".¹⁵

Less than two months later John's wife Apphia also died. The *Bath Chronicle* of 11th August 1785 records the death: "At Crediton, Mrs Hogg, wife of the Rev. John Hogg, of Exeter."¹⁶ Apphia was buried in the Dissenters' Graveyard but not in the same grave as her children; £1. 5. 0d was paid on 6th August 1785 for "making a new cave for Mrs Hogg"¹⁷. A "cave" was a brick-lined vault and therefore much more expensive to construct than a simple grave.

John stopped working at Crediton in 1785 but continued at the Mint Meeting and at the Devonshire Bank for another four years. Then in 1789 John, who was now in his late 50s, retired from the Devonshire Bank and in the same year he stepped down from his role as Minister at the Mint Meeting. His successor was Joseph Bretland from whom John had taken over in 1772.¹⁸ His activities and whereabouts for the next few years are unknown though he probably stayed in Exeter and may have been involved with other banking firms. By March 1800 he had become a partner in the City Bank which had premises on the Cathedral Close.

On 23rd January 1800 *Exeter Flying Post* reported a daring robbery which had been carried out at the City Bank in Exeter over the previous weekend resulting in the loss of cash and notes valued at about £7000. Samuel Milford, one of the proprietors, died shortly afterwards (he was also buried in the Dissenters' Graveyard) and in March the newspaper reported that the City bank would resume trading from Lady Day (25th March); the new partners would be John Milford, William Nation and John Hogg.¹⁹

John Hogg continued his work at the City Bank until his death on 13th September 1804. He had been living in the Cathedral Close but died “at his son's house on the Friars”²⁰; this was presumably his son John who is known to have lived in St Leonards. The “Friars” refers to the area around Melbourne Street and Friar's Walk which had been the site of a Franciscan Friary in the 14th century. Prior to the construction of Colleton Crescent in about 1805 this area was largely rural.

He was buried in the Dissenters' Graveyard on 22nd September and 10 shillings was paid “for opening the cave to bury Mr Hog”; presumably in the same cave as his wife Apphia.²¹

On 6th June 1805 the *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* carried an advertisement for the sale of John Hogg's former residence. It was described as “All that neat, convenient, and well-finished Brick Dwelling-house, Courtlage, with a Pump and a walled garden, situate within the Rails...fronting the Palace. The House has two good parlours, a drawing-room, library, seven bed-rooms, closets, kitchen, brew-house, wine and beer cellars and other convenient offices.” It was to be sold by auction on 14th June at the Bear Inn. It seems that no immediate buyer was found for a similar notice appeared in the *Exeter Flying Post* on 15th August. Clearly John's heirs were keen to raise money from his estate; on 14th November 1805 the *Exeter Flying Post* advertised a catalogue for a sale of books “Including the capital library of the late John Hogg, esq. late of Exeter.”²²

John was survived by four of his children; Frances, Apphia, John and Joseph.

Frances did not marry. She was living in Appledore when she wrote her Will which was proved in February 1819. In it she left half of her assets in bank stocks to her sister Apphia and the other half to her brother John who was her executor.²³ Her date and place of burial are not known.

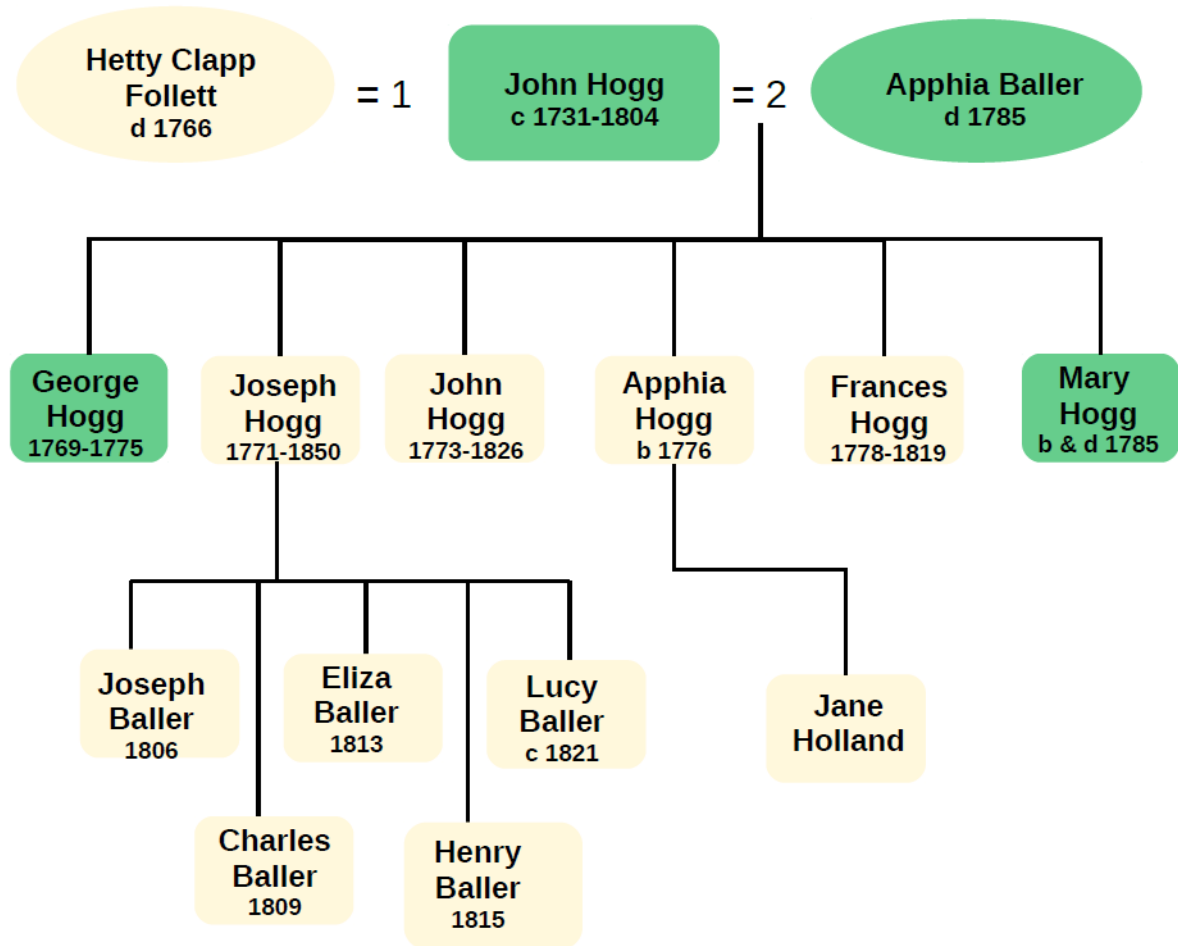
Apphia had married John Holland, a Lieutenant in the Londonderry Regiment of Foot, on 29th November 1795 at Exeter Cathedral and they had a daughter named Jane.²⁴ Both Apphia and her daughter were still living in 1818 when Apphia's sister Frances mentioned them in her Will but nothing more is known of them.

John had been apprenticed in October 1788 when he was 15 to Benjamin Mardon, a woollen draper of Exeter.²⁵ Mardon was a fellow non-conformist and was buried in the Dissenters' Graveyard in 1814. Having completed his apprenticeship John went into business for himself as a merchant and worsted spinner. He lived in St Leonard's and had a woollen mill at Newton Poppleford but was declared bankrupt in April 1806 and the lease of the mill was offered for sale.²⁶ Whether or not he recovered his fortunes is unclear. He was living in London in 1824 when he wrote his Will in which he left all his property to his niece Eliza, daughter of his brother Joseph, though he acknowledged that after paying his debts it might be very little.²⁷ He died in 1826 and was buried on 6th May at Bideford.²⁸

Joseph moved to London and married Elizabeth Boaden in 1811, by which time, for reasons unknown, he was calling himself Joseph Hogg Baller.²⁹ They had five children four of whom survived to adulthood and who all had the surname Baller. By 1814, if not earlier, Joseph was working as a surgeon and the family were living near Queen Square in Bloomsbury. A year later the family moved to Bideford, where their two youngest children were born. In 1841 Joseph was still practising as a surgeon and living in Willett Street, Bideford with his wife Elizabeth and their two daughters Eliza and Lucy; his sons Joseph and Henry were both living in London by this time and also working as surgeons.³⁰ Elizabeth died in 1845 and later that year Joseph married Harriet Hornbrook (née Hambley) who was the widow of a surgeon.³¹ Joseph died in 1850.³²

Family Tree of John Hogg

= buried in Dissenter's Graveyard



- ¹ Birth year calculated from the age on his coffin as written in the burial register of Mint Meeting. In 1779 John was released from executor's duties under the will of his father George Hogg. George Hogg's niece Elizabeth Hogg (the daughter of his brother Jeremiah) referred to Rev. John Hogg of Exeter as her cousin in her will of 1786. Wills accessed on www.ancestry.co.uk
- ² Bogue, D & Bennett, J. The History of the Dissenters from the revolution to the year 1808. 2nd Edition. Vol 2. Westley & Davis. London. 1833. <https://books.google.co.uk>
- ³ Dissenting Academies Online. <https://dissacad.english.qmul.ac.uk/>
- ⁴ The Surman Index. <https://surman.english.qmul.ac.uk/displaycards.php?id=13939>
- ⁵ Devon Marriages and Banns. Southwest Heritage Trust. Accessed on www.findmypast.co.uk and Devon Burials. South West Heritage Trust. Ref: 1855A/PR/1/3 accessed on www.findmypast.co.uk
- ⁶ England Marriages 1538-1973 accessed on www.findmypast.co.uk
- ⁷ Holton D. & Hammett E.J. A-Z of Barnstaple: Places People History. Amberley Publishing Ltd 2018

- ⁸ England & Wales Non-Conformist Births and Baptisms TNA/RG/4/336 (Mint) and TNA/RG/4/1219 (Sidmouth) accessed at www.findmypast.co.uk
- ⁹ Dissenting Academies Online. <https://dissacad.english.qmul.ac.uk/>
- ¹⁰ England & Wales Non-Conformist Births and Baptisms TNA/RG/4/336
- ¹¹ George's date and time of death were later added to the record of his baptism in the register for the Mint Meeting: TNA/RG/4/336. Payment for making his grave listed in Report and Account Book of Dissenter's Burial Ground 1748-1832 DRO3693D/0/B/1
- ¹² England & Wales Non-Conformist Births and Baptisms TNA/RG/4/336
- ¹³ The Surman Index. <https://surman.english.qmul.ac.uk/displaycards.php?id=13939>
England & Wales Non-Conformist Births and Baptisms TNA/RG/4/3558 accessed at www.findmypast.co.uk
- ¹⁴ <http://www.exetermemories.co.uk/em/banks.php#Devonshire>
- ¹⁵ England & Wales Non-Conformist Births and Baptisms TNA/RG/4/336. Report and Account Book of Dissenter's Burial Ground 1748-1832 DRO3693D/0/B/1
- ¹⁶ *Bath Chronicle* accessed on www.findmypast.co.uk
- ¹⁷ Report and Account Book of Dissenter's Burial Ground 1748-1832 DRO3693D/0/B/1
- ¹⁸ Release and Assignment – Devonshire Bank 1789 (re. Retirement of John Hogg) Devon Heritage Centre 1926B/B/7. The Surman Index. <https://surman.english.qmul.ac.uk>
- ¹⁹ *Exeter Flying Post* accessed on www.findmypast.co.uk
- ²⁰ England & Wales Non-conformist Burials TNA/RG/4/336
- ²¹ Report and Account Book of Dissenter's Burial Ground 1748-1832 DRO3693D/0/B/1
- ²² *Bath Chronicle* and *Exeter Flying Post* accessed on www.findmypast.co.uk
- ²³ England & Wales, Prerogative Court of Canterbury Wills, 1384-1858. Class:PROB 11; Piece: 1613
- ²⁴ Devon Marriages and Banns. South West Heritage Trust.
- ²⁵ Britain, Country Apprentices 1710-1808. National Archives IR 1 series: 64 f 214
- ²⁶ <https://www.ova.org.uk/article/newton-poppleford-silk-mill>
- ²⁷ England & Wales, Prerogative Court of Canterbury Wills, 1384-1858. Class: PROB 11; Piece: 1712
- ²⁸ Devon Burials. South West Heritage Trust
- ²⁹ London, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns 1754-1932. London Metropolitan Archives: p82/geo1/020
- ³⁰ 1841 England Census accessed on www.ancestry.co.uk
- ³¹ England & Wales Civil Registration Death Index 1837-1915. Devon Marriages and Banns. South West Heritage Trust: 799A/PR/1/15
- ³² England & Wales Civil Registration Death Index 1837-1915

S Taylor

September 2021