

HOOKER family

There are possibly 29 Hooker burials in the Exeter Dissenters' graveyard recorded. They may well have been related however while there are some definite family ties it is not possible to link them all.

The family of Seraphim Hooker.

In one branch of this family there is always a male named Seraphim (occasionally spelt Seraphin), this name can be traced through four generations.

It is an unusual name for a Dissenting Family as its origins are Jewish; meaning "burning ones" or "angels of heaven" and was later used in Medieval Theology which placed Seraphim "in the highest choir of the angelic hierarchy".

Burial records possibly related to this family.

Received of Seraphim Hooker for a child 5/- paid 15 August 1754

Received of Seraphim Hooker for opening a single grave paid 2/6 July 1760

Received of Seraphim Hooker for opening a grave 2/6 23 March 1763

Received of Seraphim Hooker his grave 2/6 paid November 1765

Elizabeth 23 May 1806 85 on coffin.

Seraphim 11/14 January aged 48

Margaret 23 February 1817 aged 9 born 16 June 1808

The first Seraphim Hooker mentioned in the graveyard burial records was the son of Joseph Hooker (1640-1747) who married Rebecca Weeks (1685-) in Crediton on 30th December 1719. He paid for three graves on 15th August 1754, in July 1760 and on 23rd March 1763. He died and was buried in November 1765.¹ He had a brother called Joseph (1730-1795) and it could be he who appears in the records buried 12th April 1795.²

Seraphim married Elizabeth Butler (1721-1806) in St Mary Major Church in 1752;³ she was buried in the graveyard on 23rd May 1806 with the age of 85 on her coffin.⁴

They had three children for whom there are records: Frances who was baptised on 1st May 1760 in George's Meeting House,⁵ Seraphim who was born in 1762⁶ and Eliza who was born in 1763.⁷

There may have been other children, since the first Seraphim paid for three graves in the time after his marriage to Elizabeth. However, he died in 1765⁸ at the relatively young age of 40 although his wife survived him for 41 years.⁹

¹ England and Wales Nonconformist and Non Parochial Registers 1567-1970

² England and Wales Nonconformist and Non Parochial Registers 1567-1970

³ England Select Marriages 1538-1973

⁴ England and Wales Nonconformist and Non Parochial Registers 1567-1970

⁵ England and Wales Nonconformist and Non Parochial Registers 1567-1970

⁶ England and Wales Nonconformist and Non Parochial Registers 1567-1970

⁷ England and Wales Nonconformist and Non Parochial Registers 1567-1970

⁸ England and Wales Nonconformist and Non Parochial Registers 1567-1970

⁹ England and Wales Nonconformist and Non Parochial Registers

The second Seraphim married Elizabeth Kennedy (1765-1841)^{10,11} on 24th February 1788 in Exeter Cathedral.¹² They had at least nine children, seven girls and two boys including the third Seraphim (1795-1875).¹³ In 1791 he is recorded as a brush maker and taking an apprentice William Prescott¹⁴ and in the same year *The Universal British Directory* also showed him as a brush maker, living on New Bridge Street.¹⁵ His youngest sister, Margaret was buried in the graveyard on 23rd February 1817 aged 9.¹⁶

The third Seraphim appears in the Mint baptismal records.¹⁷ He married Mary Fontaynaya Ellis in 1823¹⁸ and had at least six children, the fourth being another Seraphim born in 1837, the baptisms of these children are all recorded in the Mint Lists.¹⁹ When Mary died in 1842²⁰ he married Agnes Cragg at St Thomas church in 1843²¹ and had another son Daniel Cragg Hooker.²² Entries in trade directories show him as a druggist in Sidwell Street at various dates between 1850 and 1857²³ and as a grocer at 145 Sidwell Street in the 1851 census.²⁴ He died in 1875 and was then living with his unmarried daughters Mary and Susan near Newton Abbot.²⁵

The fourth Seraphim seems to have left Exeter and in census records moves to Herefordshire²⁶ and then Tewkesbury where he was listed as a grocer.²⁷ Although he married and had children there seems no further use of the name Seraphim.

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¹⁰ England and Wales Nonconformist and Non Parochial registers 1567-1970

¹¹ England and Wales Nonconformist and Non Parochial registers 1567-1970

¹² England Select Marriages 1538-1973

¹³ England and Wales Nonconformist and Non Parochial registers 1567-1970

¹⁴ Britain, County Apprentices 1710-1808

¹⁵ UK City and Counties Directories 1791

¹⁶ Nonconformist and Non Parochial Registers 1567-1970

¹⁷ England and Wales Nonconformist and Non Parochial registers 1567-1970

¹⁸ England Select Marriages 1538-1973

¹⁹ England and Wales Non Conformist and Non Parochial Registers 1567-1970

²⁰ England and Wales Civil Death Registration Index 1567-1790

²¹ England Select Marriages 1538-1973

²² England Selected Births and Christenings 1538-1970

²³ UK City and Counties Directories 1710-1808

²⁴ Census 1851

²⁵ England and Wales Civil Death Registration Index 1567-1790

²⁶ Census 1861

²⁷ Census 1871