

Descendants of John Crook

Information respecting the private life of John Crook (1617-1699), of Bedfordshire, is forthcoming from a manuscript lent by Judith Elizabeth Dillwyn Sims, of London, grand-daughter of William Dillwyn Sims, of Ipswich—"Memorials of the Dillwyn Family," compiled in 1809, by William Dillwyn.

This manuscript states that John Crook was born in the North of England; and on Tuesday, 27th April, 1647, he was married at Tottenham High Cross to Margaret Mounsell (1619-1685),¹ daughter of John Mounsell (born at Weymouth in 1586), and Mary Mercer, his wife. John Crook was a magistrate for Bedfordshire, and was, with Nathaniel Taylor, returned as a representative in Parliament for that county.

The children of John and Margaret Crook were :

John, born Cheapside, London, 1647/8.

Peter, born Cheapside, London, 1649.

Elizabeth, born Beckerings Park, Beds., 1651—married to Counsellor Raby.

Joseph, born Beckerings Park, Beds., 1653, died 1656.

Joseph, born Beckerings Park, Beds., 1657, died (?) 1688.²

Mary, born Beckerings Park, Beds., 1661, married to ——— Fairman, of Hertford.

Peter Crook married at Devonshire House, in 1674, Elizabeth Watts, spinster, daughter of Judith Watts, of Spitalfields, and had, with other issue, Judith Crook, born at Luton in 1682, who married John Nicholls, son of Thomas Nicholls, of Queenhithe, and had a daughter, Judith Nicholls (1715-1800), who married Lewis Weston, in 1742, *a quo* Dillwyn and Sims, including Judith Nicholls Dillwyn (1781-1868), eldest daughter of William and Sarah (Weston) Dillwyn, of Walthamstow, Essex, who added some further information to her father's "Memorials," and who married Paul Bevan (1783-1868), of Tottenham, in 1831.

¹ The death of Margaret Crook appears in the Burial Registers of Bedfordshire, implying that she was a Friend.

² The Registers give the death of a Joseph Crook at this date without description.

UMBRELLA (xi. 140, xii. 32, xiv. 85).—"It is noted in local chronology that 'in 1784 umbrellas were first seen in Kendal, made of oil-cloth. They had long sticks to walk withal.'" (Somervell, *Isaac and Rachel Wilson*, 1924, p. 142.)