

## The gravestone of Joseph Cox, who died 11 Jan 1759

The arms at the top centre of this stone are those of the Carpenters' Company of London. However membership of that company was for people who plied their craft within the City of London. Enquiries of the company's clerk produced no evidence that Joseph had ever been a member. He would never have been entitled to use the company's arms.

The arms, and the tools which are shown beside them, represent Joseph's occupation as a carpenter. It is supposed that their use was a conceit by some descendant : perhaps by a descendant of Joseph's eldest son, Samuel, whose family were ornamental stone carvers in Northamptonshire.

It is thought that the stone may have been replaced or re-cut at some date. There are differences between its record in the Gentlemens' Magazine of June 1799, and this photograph taken in 1968. The magazine makes no mention of the arms of the Carpenters' Company. There are also minor variations in the wording of the inscription, and its capitalization and layout:

Record in the Gentlemens' Magazine  
(dated June 1799)

In memory  
of JOSEPH COX, sen.  
who departed this life the  
11th January, 1759,  
aged 92 years.  
Also, ELIZABETH, his wife,  
died March 15, 1762,  
aged 101.  
Their descendants, at her death,  
were 10 children, 62 grand-children,  
and 102 great-grand-children;  
in all 174.

Inscription as seen in this photo  
(taken in 1968)

In Memory  
of JOSEPH COX, Sen.  
who exchanged this life  
the 11<sup>th</sup> of January 1759  
Aged 92 years  
Also Eliz<sup>th</sup> his Wife died  
March 15<sup>th</sup> 1762 Aged 101  
THEIR Descendants at her death  
were 10 Childr 62 Grand Children  
and 102 Great Grand children  
in all 174.

Unresolved matters :

- the inscription states that Elizabeth died on 15 March 1762 yet the parish register shows her date of burial as 14 March 1762
- the inscription states that the couple had at least 62 grand-children : 51 are currently shown, or otherwise indicated, on the family tree 11 have yet to be traced

