

Fragments and fictions:

The story of Thomas William Coventry (1800-82) reconstructed from the internet

In the last issue I told the story of a miniature and the research carried out to give us reasonable confidence that it is a portrait of Thomas William Coventry, grandson of George 6th Earl of Coventry by his second wife Barbara St John, painted around 1824 when he was a captain in the Bedfordshire Yeomanry Cavalry. In this second part, we explore what the unusually abundant on-line database records can tell us about the lives of Thomas William and his wife Anne (who were first cousins), and the light it sheds on the precariousness of life as a minor member of the aristocracy in the decades after Jane Austen so wonderfully wrote about how one's status in society all depended on the ability to secure a fortune.



Photo of miniature posted to Ancestry in 2014, identified as Thomas William Coventry but without provenance

Though the grandson of an Earl, Thomas William Coventry had an inauspicious start in life. His mother Catherine was heavily pregnant when she married his father^a (also Thomas William) at Holy Trinity, Clapham on 15 July 1800¹. The younger Thomas William was born just eight days later². When he was four years old, in an apparent bid to stave off creditors, the contents of the family home at North Cray Place were put up for sale³, and the house was subsequently let to a John Scott on a fifteen year lease⁴. It was all to no avail and in February 1806, the elder Thomas William was imprisoned for debt in the King's Bench Prison, Southwark^b, owing over £11,000 (a little over £1 million in 2020 values)⁵. He was imprisoned for five years⁶. Meanwhile, Catherine died in October 1806⁷, presumably from complications following the birth of her fifth child Mary who died at less than a month old⁸. Ten years later, while Thomas William was still at school at Harrow⁹, he and his four sisters were orphaned. A newspaper notice of the time says that the life of the elder Thomas William Coventry had been insured for £3,200¹⁰, although the notice reveals the policy had been mislaid and

^a Still only a minor, (ie under 21) she had to marry with the consent of her mother and guardian.

^b Prisoners at the King's Bench Prison were required to provide their own food, drink and bedding. They could also have access, on payment of a fee to an area outside the prison, and some are reported to have come and gone quite freely. See: british-history.ac.uk/survey-london/vol25/pp9-21.

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it is unclear if a pay-out was ever forthcoming. But in any event, during his minority, the younger Thomas William and his sisters were looked after by family trustees and they were not left destitute^c.

Having left school, like his father who had been an Ensign in the 3rd Foot Guards¹¹, Thomas William tried his hand at the army. A commission as Cornet was purchased in the 15th Light Dragoons^d on 17 July 1817, six days before his 17th birthday¹². This was a fashionable regiment, since although nominally a light dragoon regiment, it had converted to hussars in 1807 and adopted a much more dashing uniform^e. Initially, the regiment was conveniently based at Hounslow Barracks west of London. Thomas William's duties would have involved ceremonial at Windsor, but would at the same time have facilitated a social life in London. Initially, this probably seemed like rather attractive soldiering, but then the regiment was deployed to the Midlands and the North to "assist the Civil Power", suppressing political agitators and machine wreckers in this turbulent political period leading up to the Great Reform Act of 1832^f. The regiment was present at the so-called Peterloo Massacre in Manchester in 1819. But it seems that service of this kind was already of no appeal to Thomas William, and he sold his commission after less than nine months in April 1818¹³.



North Cray Place, c1910. Built for Thomas William in 1822-23, he lived there with his family only until 1826

^c Barbara was 17 when she died in 1820, and Laura 32 when she died in 1837. Both were unmarried. Julia and Augusta married the brothers Augustus and George Pocock. Augustus was commissioned into the Bedfordshire Yeomanry Cavalry in 1823, although whether this is how he met Thomas William, or they knew each other already and that is why Augustus joined the regiment, is difficult to say. On the death of his father, George became 2nd Baronet Pocock of Hart. George and Augusta were my great great grandparents.

^d The regulation price for a commission as Cornet, the lowest rank of cavalry officer, was £840, but commissions normally sold for more than this and fashionable regiments could attract a massive premium (Gwyn Harries Jenkins: *The Army in Victorian Society* (1977), p63, p88). Officers had to provide their own uniforms, and this involved several sets of kit. This commission could easily have required the outlay of the 2020 equivalent of £200,000. The regulation price was refundable if the commission was sold on, and the hope was that the purchaser would pay a premium too, in order to recoup the original outlay, although the cost of the uniform had to be written off.

^e This featured principally a frogged dolman (or jacket), a pelisse (a frogged outer coat edged with fur generally worn slung over the shoulder) and a fur headdress.

^f The novels of Allan Mallinson, formerly commander of the 13th/18th Royal Hussars, about the fictional Matthew Hervey of the 6th Light Dragoons are a realistic portrayal of cavalry life at this very time, including life at Hounslow.

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The interest in North Cray Place, a house dating from the 17th Century^g, had passed to the elder Thomas William from his godfather and cousin, another Thomas Coventry^h. Upon the death of the lessee John Scott in 1815, the lease and contents were put up for sale¹⁴, though it is not clear whether it was occupied for the next few years. The lease expired as the younger Thomas William reached his majority in 1821, and this seems to have occasioned the start of an extravagant scheme of improvement. The old house was demolished, and replaced with a building designed by Henry Walker in the “Adam” style, built of Portland stone and black marble. Much later in 1962, when this house too was being demolished, a beam was discovered with an inscription recording that the house ‘*was built in the year 1822-23 for Thomas William Coventry*’¹⁵. At the same time, he adopted the typical semi-military life of a country gentleman of this period, taking a commission as Lieutenant in the Bedfordshire Yeomanry Cavalry on 31 May 1821¹⁶. This may have appealed to the image he had of himself as a soldier and cavalryman, without the discipline that went with a commission in the regular army. In the absence of a police force at this time, the yeomanry were on call from the local magistrates if there were civil disturbances. This generally required the yeomanry to muster promptly. It is unclear how Thomas William fulfilled his military duties in Bedfordshire, even the less than onerous duties of the yeomanry, while continuing to live at North Cray in North Kent which was over 50 miles from the nearest part of Bedfordshire. The truth is probably that he did not do this very well, since we know for example that he did not attend the annual inspection and manoeuvres of Harrold Troopⁱ on 8 May 1824. The troop on that day was commanded by Lieutenant Higgins¹⁷, although Thomas William had been promoted Captain of the troop on 31 March¹⁸.



Photo of miniature posted to Ancestry in 2014, identified as Anne Coventry but without provenance

Marriage to his first cousin Anne, daughter of his father’s brother John Coventry, took place under special licence at Coventry House in Piccadilly on 17 July 1823, London home of his cousin the 7th Earl of Coventry¹⁹. Life at this point seems to have been comfortable and typical of the gentry of the day. A notice in the Morning Post records that Thomas William and Anne moved to North Cray Place in July 1824²⁰, indicating that work on the new house was essentially complete by this time. But the couple seem to have divided their time between North Cray and London. The previous month they had taken a house in Upper Grosvenor

^g The grounds were laid out for Thomas Coventry by Capability Brown, and are now the largest public open space in the London Borough of Bexley. Information from the report on North Cray Place, produced for the Kent Gardens Trust available at: kentgardenstrust.org.uk/research-projects/Capability%20Brown%20sites%20in%20Kent/North%20Cray%20Report.pdf

^h Son of Thomas Coventry, younger brother of the 5th Earl of Coventry.

ⁱ The oil painting by Alexander Fraser discussed in the last issue is described as portraying Thomas William as Captain of Harrold Troop of the Bedfordshire Yeomanry Cavalry.

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Street²¹. They were back in London for the birth of their first child, Anne Barbara Augusta in Great Cumberland Street on 22 February 1825²². In July, back at North Cray Place they were entertaining their cousin Augusta Cotton, daughter of the 7th Earl of Coventry and wife of Lieutenant-General Sir Willoughby Cotton²³. The following year, a son Thomas William Roger was born at North Cray on 11 March, and he and his elder sister were both baptised in the church there on 15 April²⁴. But even as this was happening, the house was being advertised for “*let for a term of years*”²⁵



Rokesley House, 122 Marine Parade, Brighton where the Coventrys were living in 1827-28

A year later in June 1827, a daughter Sophia Mary was born in Brighton²⁶, and we know that by the following year, the family was living at Rokesley House on Marine Parade^j. The Bedfordshire Yeomanry Cavalry was disbanded on 24 December 1827²⁷, removing any need for Thomas William to engage in further military duties, if indeed he was still serving. A notice in the Brighton Gazette in May 1828 reveals that the family had by this time departed for the Continent, leaving a cellar of 40 dozen bottles of madeira, champagne and claret to be auctioned²⁸. This departure began an extended stay abroad, most likely not so much a Grand Tour as an attempt at living more cheaply. Twistleton Fiennes Arthur and Alexander Murray, the next two children, were born in Florence on 9 December 1829²⁹ and 19 November 1830 respectively³⁰. By 1832, the family was in Livorno, on the coast of Tuscany, where Agnes Kathleen was baptised on 25 June³¹, and then the following year, 1833, they were in Paris, where Zelia Bathilda was baptised on 30 March³². In the light of subsequent events, one is tempted to suspect that these moves may have been precipitated by the need to keep ahead of creditors. Unlike for previous births including those of Twistleton and Alexander when the family was in Florence, there were no newspaper notices for either Agnes or Zelia, though there is nothing to prove that this was the result of consciously seeking to keep a low profile.

There is a letter dated 28 February 1834³³ in the Coventry family papers written to Thomas William by his cousin and trustee the 7th Earl of Coventry. This expresses his shock at hearing that Thomas had left Anne and the children, and it urges Thomas to provide for them. This indicates relationship difficulties, quite likely the result of lack of money, but the separation was temporary. Whether Thomas William thought his interests were best served by keeping the family on side (and maintaining a flow of income from the trust),

^j Rokesley House is a listed building, and according to the listing dates to c1845, although this newspaper notice indicates the house is earlier than this, possibly brand new when occupied by the Coventrys in 1827-28. See: historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1381739.

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or whether he really did resolve his difficulties with Anne, matters had already been put in hand to address the shortage of immediate cash, and by the end of 1834, it seems they were living together again.

While the family was absent, North Cray Place had been let to a City of London draper, Thomas Starling Benson³⁴. In July 1833, with 1,200 acres of park and farmland, it was put up for sale³⁵. It was sold in October 1834 to Nicholas Vansittart, 1st Baron Bexley, one of the longest serving Chancellors of the Exchequer^k, who owned the neighbouring estate of Fooks Cray Place. The following month, the extensive and elaborate house contents were auctioned³⁶. Almost certainly this sale created the financial means for the family to return to England. By 1835, they were in Southampton, where Thomas William and Anne's eighth child Olivia Emilie was baptised on 17 September. By mid-1836, they had moved some twenty miles west to Downton in Wiltshire, when a newspaper report records the theft of two ducks from Thomas William³⁷. The family was probably by this time living at Redlynch House^l. This was only six miles from Burgate House near Fordingbridge, the home of Thomas William's cousin John, who was Anne's brother.

The couple's ninth child Gilbert Walter was born on 4 April at Redlynch³⁸ and baptised at the parish church of St Laurence in the nearby village of Downton on 21 June 1837³⁹. By the time their tenth child Corbet John was born, a new chapel of St Mary had been built at Redlynch, and his was the twenty first baptism recorded in the register of baptisms there on 21 September 1838⁴⁰. The Tythe Survey shows that Thomas William's property in 1838 comprised a house and parkland of over 17 acres, and another 6 acres of arable land newly enclosed from Paccombe Common, which was let⁴¹. At the same time, he also owned over 4 acres of meadow in Dartford parish in Kent, which too was let, although the annual tythe was only 18 shillings indicating it did not generate much income.⁴²

The impression created is that by 1836, Thomas William and his family had resumed the life of country gentry that they had led ten years before, and now in addition were within easy visiting distance of close family. We do not know for sure what occasioned their wandering across Europe in the years between 1828 and 1835. Perhaps expenditure beyond Thomas William's means on the new house at North Cray may have had a lot to do with it. In the event the family hardly lived there, and it was sold before they returned to England, so the expenditure had been largely wasted so far as they were concerned.

One might have thought the difficulties of separation in 1834 were behind them. The new house and the birth of three more children suggests a return to the comfortable life of country gentry. But within a very short time, this seems all to have fallen apart. In March 1841, the furnished house was advertised for let⁴³, and the family was no longer in residence at the time of the census the following month. The house, together with contents that demonstrate spending on a lavish scale, were then auctioned in September 1842⁴⁴. The family does not feature in the census of 1841 at all, nor in 1851, so the most obvious conclusion is that they had moved abroad again. This is supported by a single piece of information from 1847, the death of Twistleton in Ostende on 1 August, aged just 17⁴⁵, although it is unclear if other family members were with him or how long he had been in Belgium. The extract from the Death Register indicates he was resident in London, and his body was repatriated to be buried at North Cray⁴⁶, although that gives no clue as to when he had last been in England. Three years later the couple's daughter Anne died in Jersey. She too was buried at North Cray. Anne was still single but whether she was with her family at this time is unknown. This is the last family burial recorded in the parish burial register at North Cray, suggesting that the family vault was now full.

^k From 1812 to 1823. He was responsible, following the peace of 1815 after the Battle of Waterloo for continuing the Income Tax, which was introduced as an emergency measure in 1798 to pay for the Napoleonic Wars.

^l Redlynch House, which was then within Downton Parish, was formerly the property of William, First Earl Nelson, the brother of Admiral Horatio Nelson. Old photographs of the house exist in the collection of the Redlynch and District Local History Society, but at the request of the current owner, they are not available for publication.

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Villa Road, St Leonards-on-Sea. Anne and family lived in Springhill Villa in 1861

In 1859, Thomas William and Anne separated. Later in the bankruptcy court, it was revealed that Anne had received from the family the substantial settlement of £82,872 (over £10 million in 2020 values), out of which an amount of £30,000 (around £3.5 million in 2020 values) was paid to Thomas William for his life interest, presumably to allow them to go their separate ways⁴⁷. At the time of the census in April 1861, Anne was living with Sophia, Zelia and Corbet and three servants in a house just off the sea front in St Leonards-on-Sea⁴⁸. She died in St Leonards on 30 January 1869 with assets of *'less than £600'*⁴⁹, which on the face of it might suggest she had spent lavishly. However, a different complexion is put on this by the valuation of her son Thomas's estate just two years later in 1871, since the value of that for probate was given as *'under £12,000'* (some £1.4 million in 2020 values)⁵⁰, a sum that he could hardly have acquired except through gift. This strongly suggests that Anne had in reality shared her settlement between the surviving children, taking a modest portion for herself upon which to live. By the end, she was apparently leading a life of quiet gentility, keeping up appearances, but in considerably reduced circumstances compared with the country house living of thirty years before.

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Chepstow Place, Bayswater, London, where Thomas William and Sarah Ann lived prior to their bankruptcy in 1866

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reports reveal that Thomas William was leading a somewhat different lifestyle. On 23 May 1850 at Middlesex Sheriff's Court, and on several occasions in the following months, he was the subject of a Proclamation of Outlawry⁵¹, a procedure that called for a debtor to surrender himself but also, if he did not, a necessary precursor before he could be arrested for debt. This suggests he was in England running up debts at least in the later 1840s, though he may have sought to keep a low profile in the 1850s, and may thus have gone abroad again for some of this period since we have no visibility of him. Later testimony shows that he also began using assumed names, which naturally makes him very difficult to track, especially if we don't know all the names he used. But by 1866, the law had caught up with him, and in August he was in jail in Norwich for debt, owing £4,941 (over £600,000 in 2020 values) according to the later newspaper report⁵². His assets were reported as a property on the Isle of Wight valued at £1,470⁵³. In September he was declared bankrupt⁵⁴. The bankruptcy notice reveals that he had been living in fashionable Chepstow Place, Bayswater a newly developed area north of Kensington Gardens in London's West End, and he had been using a variety of names including Bulkley William Coventry and W Coventry. He was living with one Sarah Ann Cooper from Norfolk, thirty eight years his junior, who was made bankrupt at the same time. She was living under the name Annie Coventry.

The aliases allow us to trace where the couple were at the time of the 1861 census, since the Honourable William Coventry, described as *'Colonel retired army'* was living with his *'daughter'* Annie in a house called Spring Vale on Oakhill Lane in the hamlet of Spring Vale, a small collection of houses two miles east of Ryde on the Isle of Wight⁵⁵. Later in the Edwardian period this became a fashionable resort, but it was quite isolated at this time, and it rather appears as if the couple had gone to ground. Retired senior army officer seems to be the persona under which Thomas William lived for the rest of his life. In the death notice for his daughter Agnes in 1858, he is described as *'late of the 15th Hussars'*⁵⁶, which at least was true, although he had hardly made a career of the army. On the marriage certificate of his daughter Sophia in 1862, his rank or profession is given as *'Colonel'*⁵⁷, which was not true as he never rose above the rank of Captain. From the report of the hearing to consider whether he should be discharged from bankruptcy, it is clear that Thomas

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William had used his social rank outrageously. In a status-conscious age, the title of '*Honourable*' and the rank of '*Colonel*' helped secure credit as he and Sarah Ann moved around. When challenged in court in 1867, he claimed to have expectations of assets to the value of £100,000 from the estate of the Earl of Coventry⁵⁸. He justified his expectations as reasonable by noting the family settlement made on his wife Anne out of which he had received £30,000 in return for his life interest. The court concluded, however that by 1867, this had all been spent and he had no further assets beyond those already seized against which his 101 creditors could claim, a remarkable rate of spending if this was true.

Newly discharged from bankruptcy, the couple married in 1869 in Clapham, a little more than three months after Anne Coventry died in St Leonards⁵⁹. In the marriage register, Sarah's father is dignified with the rank or profession of '*Gentleman*', though in the census returns, he is described as an '*agricultural labourer*'⁶⁰. This is one element in the weaving by Sarah Ann of a fictitious life story. In a later census return, she claims to have been born in Ketteringham in Norfolk, perhaps implying association with Ketteringham Hall a large country house of the late 16th Century⁶¹. Earlier records show that she was in fact born in the hamlet of Hethel, some three miles from Ketteringham⁶².

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North Street, Portslade, c1910. The Coventrys lived in Strasburg Villa, at this end of North Street



By 1871, the couple were living modestly in Melksham, Wiltshire, with a 14 year old local girl as the single servant⁶³. Thomas William was described as an '*officer retired*'. The census of 1881 reveals the final act of this long drawn-out tragedy of decline and fall. By this stage they were living at Strasburg Villa at the east end of North Street, Portslade, near Brighton⁶⁴. Sarah's widowed sister Jane was acting as housekeeper.

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North Street is a very run-down area now, mostly occupied by light industrial units. In the late 19th Century, it was a mix of small terraced houses and small shops, a far cry from the country living of North Cray Place and Redlynch House.

Thomas William died on 16 February 1882⁶⁵. As with other newspaper notices already mentioned, the death notice in the Morning Post identified him as '*late of the 15th Hussars*'⁶⁶, a statement that was true, as he had been a cornet in the regiment 64 years previously, even if only for nine months, but also totally misleading. This was thoroughly in character. Throughout his long and often insalubrious life, he had played a part, spending lavishly when he did have funds, and continuing to spend when he did not, clearly for much of the time plausible enough to secure extensive credit, and never loath to exploit the unwary when given the chance.

Research in the burial records of Brighton City Council has revealed that as in life, so in death Thomas William Coventry did not settle. He was buried in Portslade Cemetery five days after his death⁶⁷, but the plot was not purchased and consequently there was no right to erect a monument. But as there remained space in the grave, the plot is now also occupied by Percival and Alice Leanon, Percival being interred in 1939, and it is their stone that marks this grave^m. Thomas William Coventry remained slippery to the last, and just as at times he proclaimed where he was and what he was doing, and at others he merged into the shadows failing to appear in the census of 1841 and 1851 and living under an assumed name and identity in 1861, at the very end we find that he has slipped from view yet again and we still cannot quite pin him down.



Grave FF-15, Portslade Cemetery, Victoria Road, Portslade: the last resting place of Thomas William Coventry

^m At this time, it was normal for "unpurchased" graves to be dug very deep, up to 12 or even 15 feet. The practice was to bury one body in each grave and then come back some years later to bury again at a slightly lesser depth. However in this case, the plot seems to have remained undisturbed for over 50 years until sold to the Leanons. As there is no evidence of an exhumation, we can be reasonably confident that Thomas William is still in the grave, though whether the Leanons were ever aware of this is another matter.

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Epilogue

Thomas William and Anne's children had mixed fortunes, and although none died in infancy, half of them did not reach the age of thirty. As already noted, Twistleton died aged just 17, and Anne died unmarried at 25. Alexander was serving aboard HMS Wolverine when he died of fever at St Helena in 1851, aged 20. Agnes was only 26 and still living with her mother when she died in 1858⁶⁸. Olivia married an army officer in 1863⁶⁹, and they had a son in India the following year, but she died from TB while on board ship in 1865⁷⁰, two months short of her thirtieth birthday. Thomas was 44 when he died in Holloway, London in 1871. He was described as a 'Gentleman' in the census of 1861⁷¹. There is no indication that he married. Like many young men of his class in this period, Gilbert spent some time in the army⁷², and then emigrated to New Zealand, marrying twice, and having six children⁷³. His descendants, my fourth cousins, still live in New Zealand. He died in 1909 aged 71⁷⁴. Corbet was an officer in the army too, marrying Olivia's sister-in-law in 1870⁷⁵. They had three children and he died in Hastings in 1916 at the age of 77⁷⁶. Sophia married John Noble Beasley, son of the noted agriculturalist John Beasley⁷⁷. They had one son. She died as a widow in 1917 in Tonbridge, Kent, just a few months short of her ninetieth birthday⁷⁸. Last of the children to die was Zelia, in Croydon in 1918, aged 85⁷⁹. She never married.

Sarah Ann married a hotel chef and poultryman John Kain, just over a year after she was widowed⁸⁰. They lived together in Portslade initially, and then in Hove, until she died in 1914. She may have misled her new husband a little on marriage, since the first census return afterwards shaves 8 years off her age⁸¹, but she at least began to acknowledge her place of origin. In each successive census return⁸², for the first time in her life, she admitted to her place of birth being the hamlet of Hethel in Norfolk where the register shows she was indeed baptised on 2 December 1838.

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References

Most of the records identified below, though found in public archives, are accessible via ancestry.co.uk. In addition, databases have been consulted at newspapers.com, search.findmypast.co.uk/search/british-newspapers and thegazette.co.uk.

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- ² England, Births and Christenings, 1538-1975. Salt Lake City, Utah: FHL Film no 307716-9.
- ³ Morning Chronicle 9 August 1804, p4.
- ⁴ Sun (London) 16 August 1806, p1.
- ⁵ National Archives, Kew: PRIS 10, piece 145, p0019
- ⁶ London Gazette 30 July 1811, p1515.
- ⁷ Bexley Local Studies and Archive Centre, Bexleyheath, London: Bexley Parish Registers Ref PA102/1A/3.
- ⁸ England, Births and Christenings, 1538-1975. Salt Lake City, Utah: FHL Film no 1042461.
- ⁹ Morning Post 22 February 1816, p4.
- ¹⁰ London Courier and Evening Gazette 5 April 1816, p1.
- ¹¹ London Gazette 19 May 1798, p409 and 5 January 1799, p10.
- ¹² London Gazette 2 August 1817, p1682.
- ¹³ London Gazette 28 April 1818, p758.
- ¹⁴ Sun (London) 6 March 1815, p4; Public Ledger and Daily Advertiser 20 April 1815, p1; Morning Chronicle 5 June 1815, p4.
- ¹⁵ See footnote e for source.
- ¹⁶ London Gazette 26 June 1821, p1351.
- ¹⁷ Northampton Mercury 29 May 1824, p3.
- ¹⁸ London Gazette 17 April 1824, p621.
- ¹⁹ City of Westminster Archives Centre: Westminster Church of England Parish Registers Ref STC/PR/1/13.
- ²⁰ Morning Post 14 July 1824, p3.
- ²¹ Morning Post 7 June 1824, p3.
- ²² Morning Post 23 February 1825
- ²³ Sun (London) 2 July 1825, p3.
- ²⁴ Bexley Local Studies and Archive Centre, Bexleyheath: Bexley Parish Registers Ref PA102/1/B/1.
- ²⁵ Star (London) 18 March 1826, p1.
- ²⁶ Morning Post 28 June 1827, p4.
- ²⁷ Morning Post 26 December 1827, p3.
- ²⁸ Brighton Gazette 22 May 1828, p2.
- ²⁹ Morning Post 2 January 1830, p4.
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- ³¹ *Ancestry.com*. Italy, Select Births and Baptisms, 1806-1900 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA, FHL Film No 574492.
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- ³³ The Hive, University of Worcester: 705:73BA14450/292/16(1-4).
- ³⁴ Kentish Weekly Post or Canterbury Journal 25 October 1831, p4; London Metropolitan Archives: Electoral Registers 1835.
- ³⁵ Morning Advertiser 26 July 1833, p1.
- ³⁶ Kentish Mercury 25 October 1834, p1.
- ³⁷ Salisbury and Winchester Journal 20 June 1836, p4.
- ³⁸ Salisbury and Winchester Journal 17 April 1837, p4.
- ³⁹ Parish baptism register at the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre; Chippenham: Ref 914/14.
- ⁴⁰ Parish baptism register at the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre, Chippenham: Ref 2196/1.
- ⁴¹ Tythe apportionment of Downton Parish on 9 March 1838 in The National Archives, Kew, ref IR 29/38/102.
- ⁴² Tythe apportionment of Dartford Parish on 21 July 1840 in The National Archives, Kew, ref IR 29/17/105.
- ⁴³ Morning Post 31 March 1841, p1.
- ⁴⁴ Morning Post 5 September 1842, p1.
- ⁴⁵ National Archives, Kew: TNA ref RG35/Piece 3/Folio 177.
- ⁴⁶ Bexley Local Studies and Archive Centre: Bexley Parish Registers Ref PA102/1/E/2 for burial records of both Twistleton and Anne.
- ⁴⁷ Morning Post 31 January 1867 p7.

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- ⁴⁸ National Archives, Kew: Census Returns of England and Wales 1861: Class: RG 9; Piece: 561; Folio: 113; Page: 7; GSU roll: 542662
- ⁴⁹ Principal Probate Registry. Calendar of the Grants of Probate and Letters of Administration made in the Probate Registries of the High Court of Justice in England. London, England
- ⁵⁰ Principal Probate Registry. Calendar of the Grants of Probate and Letters of Administration made in the Probate Registries of the High Court of Justice in England.
- ⁵¹ Morning Advertiser 24 May 1850, p4.
- ⁵² See ref 47.
- ⁵³ London Evening Standard 13 December 1866, p7.
- ⁵⁴ London Gazette, 9 November 1866, p5939.
- ⁵⁵ National Archives, Kew: Census Returns of England and Wales 1861: Class: *RG 9*; Piece: 658; Folio: 142; Page: 1; GSU roll: 542679.
- ⁵⁶ Morning Post 12 October 1858, p8.
- ⁵⁷ City of Westminster Archives Centre, London: Westminster Church of England Parish Registers Ref *STG/PR/2/9*.
- ⁵⁸ See note 47.
- ⁵⁹ London Metropolitan Archives: p95/tri1/115.
- ⁶⁰ National Archives, Kew: Census Returns of England and Wales 1861: *RG 9*; Piece: 1223; Folio: 73; Page: 15; GSU roll: 542778.
- ⁶¹ National Archives, Kew: Census Returns of England and Wales, 1881: Class: *RG11*; Piece: 1103; Folio: 55; Page: 33; GSU roll: 1341260.
- ⁶² Norfolk, England, Bishop's Transcripts, 1579-1935. Salt Lake City, Utah.
- ⁶³ National Archives, Kew: Census Returns of England and Wales 1871: Class: *RG10*; Piece: 1917; Folio: 33; Page: 25; GSU roll: 830870.
- ⁶⁴ National Archives, Kew: Census Returns of England and Wales 1881: Class: *RG11*; Piece: 1103; Folio: 55; Page: 33; GSU roll: 1341260.
- ⁶⁵ General Register Office. England and Wales Civil Registration Indexes: Sussex, vol 2B, p226.
- ⁶⁶ Morning Post 22 February 1882, p1.
- ⁶⁷ Burial register, Brighton and Hove City Council: Portslade Cemetery, Victoria Road, Portslade grave FF-15.
- ⁶⁸ General Register Office. England and Wales Civil Registration Indexes: Sussex, vol 2B, p19.
- ⁶⁹ General Register Office. England and Wales Civil Registration Indexes: Sussex, vol 2B, p35.
- ⁷⁰ National Archives, Kew: Registers of Births, Deaths and Marriages; Class: *BT 158*; Piece: 2.
- ⁷¹ National Archives, Kew: Census Returns of England and Wales 1861: Class: *RG 9*; Piece: 151; Folio: 126; Page: 21; GSU roll: 542582.
- ⁷² The National Archives; Kew, Surrey, England; Class Number: *WO 25*; Class Title: *84 Foot*; Piece Number: 506; Piece Title: *84 Foot*.
- ⁷³ New Zealand Marriage Index, 1840–1950. The additional detail comes from the Ancestry family tree compiled by his great grandson Bruce Stevens.
- ⁷⁴ New Zealand Society of Genealogists Incorporated; Auckland, New Zealand; New Zealand Cemetery Records: Wakapuaka, Nelson, New Zealand.
- ⁷⁵ Surrey History Centre; Woking, Surrey: Surrey Church of England Parish Registers Ref 7191/1/8.
- ⁷⁶ General Register Office. England and Wales Civil Registration Indexes: Sussex vol 2B, p58.
- ⁷⁷ See note 59.
- ⁷⁸ Principal Probate Registry. Calendar of the Grants of Probate and Letters of Administration made in the Probate Registries of the High Court of Justice in England.
- ⁷⁹ Principal Probate Registry. Calendar of the Grants of Probate and Letters of Administration made in the Probate Registries of the High Court of Justice in England.
- ⁸⁰ General Register Office. England and Wales Civil Registration Indexes: Lambeth, vol 1d, p634.
- ⁸¹ The National Archives, Kew: Census Returns of England and Wales, 1891 Class: *RG12*; Piece: 823; Folio: 28; Page: 17; GSU roll: 6095933.
- ⁸² The National Archives, Kew: Census Returns of England and Wales, 1901 Class: *RG13*; Piece: 939; Folio: 84; Page: 12; 1911, Series *RG14*, ED 27, Piece 5201, Hove.