

GEORGIANS IN STONE



Memorial Inscriptions Research

Produced at BCHRC for the Georgians in Stone Project
Funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund



St John the
Baptist Church
Bishop's Castle



FUNERALS IN GEORGIAN ENGLAND

The Funeral Procession

Men usually carried the coffin, although if the deceased was a virgin or unmarried, it may well have been carried by her female friends. Only men followed the coffin to church (as shown in the engraving below); female relations and friends stood and watched the procession. It is a source of some consternation to the ladies of the town in Elizabeth Gaskell's novel *Cranford* (published in 1851), when Miss Jessie Brown insists on following her father's coffin to the church. Miss Jenkyns reluctantly agrees to accompany her to the funeral, saying, "It is not fit for you to go alone. It would be against both propriety and humanity were I to allow it."

To avoid carrying the coffin on the shoulders for long distances, it might have been taken to church on a bier. Some were fitted on top of a wheeled carriage to save carrying them.

At better-off funerals, the coffin would be covered by the pall which hung down over the bearers. The pall was black on one side, white on the other, i.e. reversible and could be turned over showing the white side if the deceased was a child or a virgin. Pall-bearers were covered by the pall and held the lower hems; they wore black or white gloves to match the pall.



A funeral procession, engraving by Thomas Bewick

What did they wear

The Mourners would have worn Hat bands, lengths of black crepe tied round the crown of the hat so that long ends hung down at the back; these can be seen clearly in Bewick's engraving above. Gloves of varying qualities would be worn depending on the wealth of the family: Kid or chamois gloves were usually worn by the principal mourners, even in poorer families. Favours were probably a combination of Rosemary fronds and silk ribbons secured with thread, a simple and natural deodorant.

[information from <http://www.thewarblers.org.uk/Funerals.htm>]

Memorial Inscriptions Research

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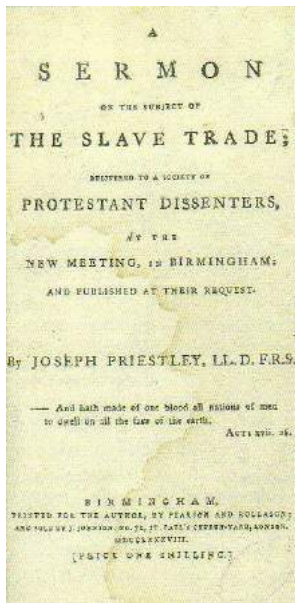
Jane Bradbury, Bernard Edwards, Joanna Heathorn, Judith Payne, Malcolm Redgrave, Patricia Theobald, Tony Theobald

THE AFRICAN'S GRAVE



*Here lieth the body of I.D.
A native of Africa
Who died in this town
Sept 9th 1801
"God hath created of one blood all nations of men"
Acts Ch 17 verse 26*

In the churchyard of St John the Baptist Church, Bishops Castle is a special grave. It is beautifully decorated and inscribed on its west side as above.



This biblical text was used by those campaigning for the abolition of slavery, and suggests that this stone was erected by someone with abolitionist sympathies. In 1788 Dr Joseph Priestley, Unitarian, scientist and abolitionist, gave a sermon based on this text at the Quaker New Meeting House in Birmingham. English Heritage has included the memorial in its list of "Sites of Memory", which commemorate the Bicentenary of the 1807 Act for the Abolition of the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

The Bishop's Castle Parish Register shows a John Davies was buried here on 12th September 1801. Was this "I.D."? John Davies is not an African name, but perhaps it was given as a baptismal name, as was common at that time. There is no record of this baptism in the register. The initials I D have been found on other documents concerning abolition and a cast iron collection box made at Ironbridge.



Who was I.D? Was he John Davies?

How did he come to die here in 1801?

And who was the Abolitionist who put up the headstone?

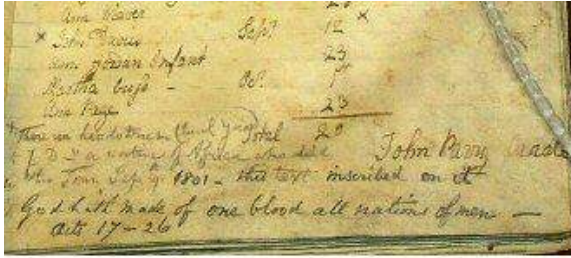
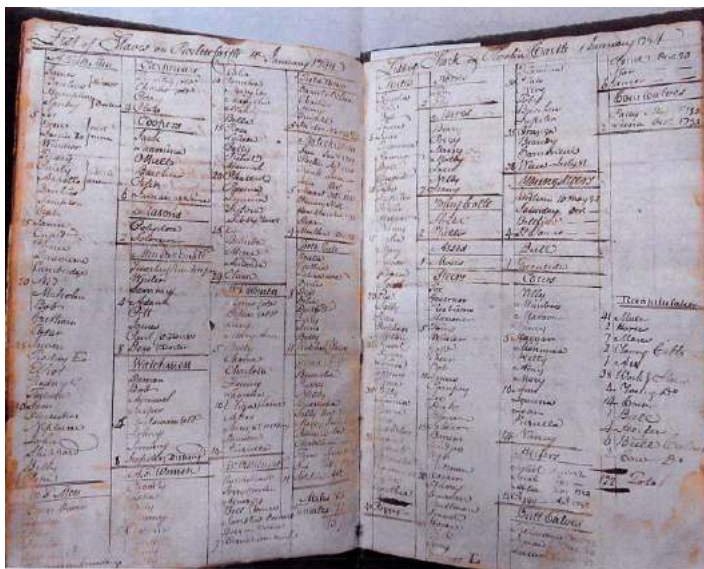


Image courtesy of Shropshire Archives

It is thought that up to 12 million Africans were captured, enslaved and transported across the Atlantic to the Americas, to labour in sugar and cotton plantations. In return, sugar, cotton, tobacco, and fine hardwoods were brought back to Europe. Manufactured goods, including guns and iron shackles made in Birmingham, were

shipped to West Africa to exchange for slaves. Much of the prosperity of the slave trafficking nations (England, France, the Netherlands, Spain and Portugal) depended on this "Triangular Trade". By the end of the 18th century the movement for the Abolition of Slavery was close to success. It is interesting to learn how enlightened Shropshire people were, judging by letters and leaders in the Shrewsbury Chronicle held at Shropshire Archives.

By 1801, most black people in this country were no longer in a condition of slavery, although they had been taken from Africa as slaves. Many were by now employed as domestic servants. Some had freed themselves, written about their experiences, and campaigned actively for emancipation.



Page from the Slave Register of the Rosslyn Castle Plantation in Jamaica, contemporary with Prospect Plantation. (International Museum of Slavery Liverpool)

One possible explanation for "I.D"'s presence in Bishops Castle is that he was travelling with his employer. There are no records of black people living in this locality then.

We have recently found a connection in 'The Plantation Journals of the Prospect Estate' (Simon D Smith, University of York, 2004) between the Oakeley family of Snakescroft, Bishop's Castle and Jamaica in this period. This plantation was owned by Stephen Attlay, husband of Parnell Oakeley. Her brother Thomas Oakeley, along

with her nephew, also Thomas, went to Jamaica to work as plantation managers in the early 1790s, the Attlays being absentee owners. After emancipation in 1834 the Oakeley Attlays received compensation of £6420 for the loss of their 'property' of 141 enslaved workers (approximately £45 per worker). The workers received nothing.

The link between Bishop's Castle and Jamaica was still active at the time of the death of 'I D' in 1801. It is possible that he or she accompanied one of the Thomas Oakeleys to

Shropshire, sadly met his or her end in the town and was commemorated by this beautiful stone with its message of equality and liberation.

A letter in the Wolverhampton Journal for 17 November 1830 concerning the abolition of slavery, signed by 'B' and written at Carnarvon on November 8th 1830 contains the paragraph:

I was much affected, a few years ago, as I passed through a small English Town [footnote: Bishop's Castle, Shropshire] on the borders of South Wales. Carelessly straying through the church-yard, I saw the grave of a poor African, who, it seems, had lived in the town, and by his kind, and obliging, and peaceful demeanour had so greatly conciliated the esteem of the inhabitants, that when he died they made a subscription, and raised a neat stone to mark his humble resting place, inscribing on it that beautiful and touching passage from the best of books:

"He hath made of one blood all nations of men to dwell on the face of the whole earth"

This may indicate that the headstone was put up by the townspeople of Bishop's Castle out of respect and affection for this person

JP 2020

GEORGIANS IN STONE PROJECT – SAMUEL DREW

NAME

Samuel DREW (1747-1824)

TOMB D55



Number – 1367187 Area D Number 55

Chest tomb with railed enclosure. Dated 1824. Sandstone ashlar. Greek Revival style. Horizontal fluting to rounded corners and centre; low hipped capping with corner acroteria. Cast iron railed enclosure on 3 sides with spearhead finials. To Samuel Drew

In memory of Samuel Drew Esq, of this town who died 12/4/1824 in the 28th year of his age. Harriet the eldest daughter of Samuel and Joanne Drew who died Aug 15th 1836, In memory of Joanne wife of Samuel Drew died 18/3/1820 age 60

BAPTISED

7th April 1747: Samuel was baptised at Bishop's Castle, the son of Thomas and Clare Drew. Thomas Drew was a barber in Bishop's Castle. Thomas and Clare ran the Owl Inn (24 Market Square).

MARRIED

20th August 1785: Samuel married Joanna Rogers at Wentnor by licence. Samuel was described as a surgeon living in Bishop's Castle. Joanna is described as a spinster from Wentnor. The witnesses were Edward Rogers, Thomas Rogers and M A Littlehailes
The service conducted by John Rogers, vicar of Shifnal. (*Wentnor Parish Registers*)

BURIED

The note about Samuel Drew's death: the age is quite wrong (28) and no Drew was born/baptised in 1796. The correct age, as recorded in the Bishop's Castle burial register, is 77 years but it is not clear if the transcript or tomb is wrong.

The correct burial detail is Samuel Drew, died on 12th April 1824 and buried at Bishop's Castle on 17th April 1824. In the burial register there is a handwritten note, added later by an unknown hand, which states that 'This was the Dr Drew father of the Miss Drews' – see later.

The entry about 'Joanne Drew who died 15th August 1836' is wrong: the name is Joanna (transcription or tomb ?). The entry in the burial register reads Joanna Drew, aged 65 years, who was buried 16th March 1820. This ties in with the wife Joanna, born Joanna Rogers

SIBLINGS

A 'lease document' dated 1800 for *The Owl* refers to daughters and sons Mary, Ann, Thomas and Samuel. (SA5981/B/2/250). It would appear that Thomas Drew married twice:

1. **10th September 1728:** Thomas and Catherine Drew were married at Bromfield by licence. They had 3 surviving children:

23rd July 1732: Thomas son of Thomas and Catherine Drew. Died 19th May 1733

8th September 1733: Mary daughter of Thomas and Catherine Drew

14th November 1734: Anne daughter of Thomas and Catherine Drew

31st August 1736: Samuel son of Thomas and Catherine Drew. Died 12th December 1736

5th April 1740: Thomas son of Thomas and Catherine Drew

14th January 1743: Catherine Drew buried.

2. **4th October 1744:** Thomas Drew married Clare Colefax at Lydbury North

7th April 1746: Samuel son of Thomas and Clare Drew was baptised

No other children have been located. (*Bishop's Castle Parish Registers and Lydbury North Parish Registers*)

CHILDREN

There were several children of the marriage between Samuel and Joanna Drew baptised at Bishop's Castle.

26.10.1787 at BC George

10.3.1789 at BC Harriet

15.9.1791 at BC Clara

20.9.1792 at BC Sarah

21.11.1793 at BC Mary Anne

26.10.1795 at BC Joanna

15.3.1797 at BC Frances

Both Thomas (father) and Samuel (son) are reported as surgeons but where they qualified is unknown because this would be at a time when they probably served apprenticeship with an apothecary.

Harriet Drew died 15th August 1836 and was buried at Bishop's Castle 20th August 1836, aged 46 yrs. (*Bishop's Castle Parish Registers*)

CAREER

Samuel Drew was a surgeon, practising in Bishop's Castle. He is recorded in Trade Directories and in the Register of 18th Century Medics. [*Wallis, P. J. and R.V., "Eighteenth Century Medics (subscriptions, licenses, apprenticeships) 2nd Edition" (Newcastle-upon-Tyne: Project for Historical Bibliography, 1988)*]. In the Register there are entries for a Samuel Drew, 1723 practising as Barber etc with an apprentice Thomas Wenlock for 7 years at a premium of £9. He is possibly a relative of our Samuel Drew. By 1783 our Samuel Drew is described as a Surgeon, Apothecary in that Register. In 1783 and in 1823 he is described as a surgeon in the Universal British Directory and Pigot's Directory of Shropshire. [*Universal British Directory, Bishop's Castle entries held at BCHRC, Pigot's Directory of Shropshire, Bishop's Castle entries held at BCHRC*]

OTHER INFORMATION

9th June 1770: the Will of Thomas Drew of Bishop's Castle (father of Samuel) leaves his estate to John Drew, Clare Drew and Samuel Drew. Thomas owned land in Herefordshire, Montgomeryshire and Bishop's Castle. (*SA5981/B/4/109/11/3*)

2nd April 1771: Thomas Drew was buried at Bishop's Castle as 'Mr Thomas Drew'. (*Bishop's Castle Parish Registers*)

16th October 1796: Mrs. Clare Drew (mother of Samuel) was buried. She had run a successful business at The Owl, leased from the Earl of Powis, after the death of her husband Samuel.

There are tablet memorials to the Drew family inside the Church.

Further information concerning the Drew family is held at Bishop's Castle Heritage Resource Centre

GEORGIANS IN STONE PROJECT: RICHARD GRIFFITHES

NAME

Richard GRIFFITHES

TOMB C 153, 154? possibly 141 or 142



Number – 1367188

Early- to mid-C19. Sandstone ashlar. Larger one to south: rounded corners, panelled pilasters and inscription panels, moulded plinth and hipped capping with rounded corners. To Anne Griffiths, died 1825. Also to Richard Griffiths, died 1837. Coffin slab to south, shaped as coffin with 'R G' in raised lettering.

153 – In memory of Annie Relict of the late Richard Griffithes, died 21/2/1849 aged 85

Richard Griffithes late of this town, died 5/1/1883 aged 65.

In memory of Anne Griffithes Daughter of Mr Richard and Annie Griffithes

BAPTISED

Probably 9th June 1769 at Llanymynech, a twin with Anne the son and daughter of John and Jane Griffithes

MARRIED

At Churchstoke on 5th July 1799 to Anne Dunne, baptised 29th February 1764 the daughter of William and Ann Dunne of Churchstoke.

BURIED

At Bishop's Castle on 10th January 1837 aged 66 years. His wife Anne died on 21st February 1849 and was buried at Bishop's Castle on 26th February 1849. That this woman is the relict of Richard is proved by hand written notes in the burial register: one states she is the 'widow of 886' – the number is the burial register number for Richard.

There is another hand written note which states she was 'brought from London'; there is no evidence as to why or with whom she was in London.

SIBLINGS

It is not possible to give a definitive list of siblings as at this time there were two families called John and Jane Griffithes resident in the Lanymynech area.

CHILDREN

Frances baptised at Bishop's Castle on 4th August 1803 the daughter of Richard & Anne Mary

Elizabeth baptised at Bishop's Castle on 5th March 1805 daughter of Richard and Anne

Thomas Jones Griffithes baptised at B C on 21st February 1802 son of Richard & Anne

CAREER

In later life Richard Griffithes describes himself as a gentleman but it is clear that he engaged in business while resident in Bishop's Castle. Two examples which identify him are first, in the Birmingham Gazette dated 17th January 1825 he is acting as the agent for the sale of Longnor Paper Mill and second, in the Salopian Journal date 18th February 1835, he is the agent for the sale of property in Bishop's Castle.

Richard Griffithes also acted as a Commissioner for various Inclosure Acts in Shropshire and was a Commissioner for the enclosure of Clunbury Hill; Cardington and Lydley and Wistanstow, Fellhampton and Stokesay among others. That this was a well remunerated activity is shown by part of the Inclosure Commissioners Act of 1851. This decreed that Commissioners could not act for more than two years and could not receive a salary of more than £1500 per annum.

OTHER INFORMATION

On his death in 1837, he left a substantial inheritance to his wife and children. To his wife, Anne, he left a life interest on £3000 and to his daughters, Frances and Mary £1000 each. His son, Thomas, was executor of the will and received the residue of the Estate, mainly in the form of money and property. Richard and his family lived in The Grange at Bishop's Castle. His son and grandson prospered well, the son Thomas Jones being a well-connected local land agent and Inclosure Commissioner and the grandson, Thomas Penson, being a London solicitor and investor and member of the Dyers Company in the City of London. When Thomas Penson died in 1926 he left an estate of £30,000. However, Thomas Penson Griffithes had no children and neither did his two maiden sisters.

GEORGIANS IN STONE PROJECT: ANN HOME

NAME

Ann HOME (later BODENHAM, later HUGHES), 1766-1833

TOMB A132A



No. A132A: Sacred to the Memory of / **ANN** wife of / WILLIAM HUGHES Esq / (of Welbatch) / and youngest daughter of / Mr John Home of Bps-Castle / A faithful and affectionate wife / A judicious and tender Mother / A sincere friend and devout Chrftian / She died after a long and painful illness / born with exemplary patience / and fortitude, Jan 7th 1833 / WILLIAM HUGHES of / Welbatch near Shrewsbury / died August 2nd 1847 / Aged 70

BAPTISED

12.6 1776. **Ann**, d. of Mr John and Mrs Mary Home, privately. Received into the Church 26 Aug (*Bishop's Castle Parish Register*).

MARRIED

Note: Some information in this section replicates information in the Family History record for William Hughes senior.

Ann was married twice:

- (1) 22.9.1803 - Thomas Bodenham, of the Parish of Milson (Shropshire) and **Ann Home** of the Parish of Ludlow, married in Ludlow by Licence. Witnesses: Thos. Home, E Churchman (*Shropshire Marriages Record and Record Transcription, findmypast*).

It is likely that the marriage took place at St. Lawrence's Church (the online record does not make this clear). With respect to one of the witnesses, Thomas Home, **Ann's** brother Thomas is believed to have died in childhood, so perhaps this Thomas Home was her paternal uncle or another family member.

- (2) 23.9.1806 – William Hughes, widower, to **Ann Bodenham**, widow, (both of this Parish) at St Martin (in the Bull Ring), Birmingham, Warwickshire, by Banns. Witnesses: Tho. Lowe and William Taylor (*St Martin's Parish Register, Ancestry*).

William Hughes's two marriages were to sisters. There is hard evidence of this. His signature is on the original parish records of his marriage to Mary in 1799 (*findmypast*) and to **Ann** in 1806 (*Ancestry*). The signature is the same in both cases.

Notes on First Marriage

Ann's two sisters, Mary and Susanah, were both married in Bishop's Castle. It is not known why **Ann** was living in Ludlow at the time of her first marriage. Perhaps she had left Bishop's Castle because by this time her father had died (in 1797) and both her sisters had already married (Susanah in 1798 and Mary in 1799).

There is another rather unusual record of **Ann** and Thomas's marriage. This is in the baptism record for their son in *Milson Parish Register for 1804*. The following is an exact transcription:

*Thomas Bodenham of the Church House was married at Ludlow to **Ann Home of Bishop's Castle**, Sept 1803 and died, in consequence of a Fall from his horse, on the 20th of July 1804.
Thos. Son of **Ann Bodenham** was baptised August 26th.*



Church House, Milson, Shropshire

So, tragically, **Ann's** husband Thomas senior died ten months after their marriage and when she was probably eight months pregnant with their only child, also Thomas. Church House, Milson, Thomas's home, still exists and is a very substantial property.

Notes on Second Marriage

Two years after Thomas's death, **Ann** married William Hughes, the widower of her late sister Mary who died in 1804. It was perhaps natural for William and **Ann** to marry. They were already part of the same family (being brother-in-law and sister-in-law to each other), they were both widowed in the same year and both were the parents of young children who were cousins.

This second marriage took place despite the fact that at the time it was forbidden for a man to marry his deceased wife's sister. This does, however, appear to have been something of a grey area. Such marriages were not absolutely void under ecclesiastical law and did take place, sometimes secretly. The 1835 Marriage Act hardened the law into an absolute prohibition whilst at the same time validating marriages which had already taken place. This law remained in force until The Deceased

Wife's Sister's Marriage Act, permitting these marriages, came into force in 1907 (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deceased_Wife%27s_Sister%27s_Marriage_Act_1907).

Given the above, it is interesting to speculate whether or not the place of William and **Ann's** marriage (Birmingham) was chosen as it was away from Shropshire. Perhaps they did marry secretly; the witnesses do not appear to be family members.

BURIED

11.1.1833, **Ann Hughes**, Welbach, 50 years, by William Richards (*Bishop's Castle Parish Register*).
Died 7.1.1833 (*tomb*).

Note: The age on the burial record transcription (*Shropshire Burials Record Transcription, findmypast*) is given as 50 and the birth year 1783, which is at odds with the baptism record where the birth year is 1776; this would give an age at death of 56.

Ann and her husband William, who died in 1847, share a tomb (No. A132A) in Bishop's Castle Churchyard.

RESIDENCE

Prior to marriage, **Ann** was presumably living in Bishop's Castle. The tomb of John Home, her father, says that he was from the town. **Ann** was living in Ludlow at the time of her first marriage. It is not known how long she lived there. There is no evidence of where **Ann** lived during her short marriage to Thomas Bodenham, but this may have been at Church House, Milson, Thomas's home. Their son was baptised in Milson Church. **Ann** and William Hughes were married in Birmingham but there is no evidence of whether or not they were permanent residents there, or had simply gone there to marry. At some point after her second marriage, **Ann** moved to Welbatch, near Shrewsbury, where she was living at the time of her death in 1833 (*Bishop's Castle Parish Register*).

SIBLINGS

There is hard evidence that the females listed below were **Ann's** sisters. It is likely that the males were also her brothers, but there is far less information on them so it is not possible to have the same degree of certainty as for the sisters.

Name	Baptised	Buried
Mary (later Hughes)	29.12.1770	21.11.1804
Susanah (later Bodenham)	27.9.1772	22.2.1811
Thomas	8.10.1774	?28.3.1777 or ?9.7.1788
John	8.10.1774	?31.3.1823
Samuel	21.1.1779	?23.10.1792

Sources: *Bishop's Castle Parish Registers and Shropshire Baptism and Burial Record Transcriptions, findmypast*

For further information on the children of John and Mary Home, particularly the sons, see the Family History Record for John Home.

CHILDREN

Thomas Bodenham, baptised Milson (Shropshire) 26.8.1804, died 13.12.1873 and buried at Church Pulverbatch (*Shropshire Baptism and Burial Record Transcriptions, findmypast*).

Although **Ann** was around 30 when she and William Hughes married, there is no apparent evidence of any children of that marriage.

Ann's step children, who were also her nephew and niece, were:

- William Hughes, b.1800 and Mary Hughes, b.1803, the children of her sister Mary who died when William was 4 and when Mary was 18 months old.

William and **Ann Hughes** may well also have brought up a nephew:

- John Home Bodenham, b.1810, the son of **Ann** and Mary's sister Susanah who was one year old when his mother died in 1811 and 7 when his father died in 1817. If John did not live with Ann and William Hughes during his childhood then he did so as an adult. In the 1841 census John, aged 31, a bachelor, is living at Welbatch with William Hughes senior, William Hughes junior and Catharine Hughes (William senior's sister). **Ann Hughes** has died by this time.

CAREER

-

OTHER INFORMATION [continue overleaf]

TOMBS OF THIS FAMILY:

There are three adjacent, almost identical, tombs in Bishop's Castle churchyard:

- (1) No. A134: Mr John Home, late of Bishop's Castle (northern tomb).
***Ann's** father.*
- (2) No A133: Mary, wife of William Hughes of Shrewsbury, and daughter of John Home of Bishop's Castle (middle tomb).
***Ann's** eldest sister.*
- (3) No. A132A: **Ann Hughes**, wife of William Hughes of Welbatch, near Shrewsbury, youngest daughter of Mr John Home of Bishop's Castle and also William Hughes (southern tomb).
***Ann** and her second husband.*

WILL OF JOHN HOME

Ann is a beneficiary in her father's will. See separate Family History record for John Home.

ANN'S FIRST HUSBAND, THOMAS BODENHAM

Ann's sister, Susanah, married a man named William Bodenham. At the time of this marriage William was living in Shrewsbury. It is possible these sisters were married to men related to each other. A search of Shropshire baptism records has not revealed common parents for a Thomas Bodenham and a William Bodenham. During the relevant period the only baptisms in Shropshire for children named Thomas Bodenham and William Bodenham were in Neen Savage where the children of two different families named Bodenham were being baptised. Neen Savage is five miles from Milson where Thomas Bodenham was living at the time of his marriage to **Ann Home**. So, perhaps William Bodenham and Thomas Bodenham senior were cousins.

OTHER INFORMATION ON THIS FAMILY

This information has been compiled for the Bishop's Castle Georgians in Stone Project. Research has been undertaken on seven other members of this family and will provide useful additional information to that contained in this record. Several of the family members lived at Welbatch, near Shrewsbury. Further information on Welbatch can be found in the record for William Hughes senior.

John Home

Mary Home (later Hughes)

Susanah Home (later Bodenham)

William Hughes senior

William Hughes junior

John Home Bodenham

Thomas Bodenham

GEORGIANS IN STONE PROJECT: JOHN HOME

NAME

John HOME, 1735/6-1797

TOMB A134



No. A134: To the memory / of / **MR JOHN HOME**
/ late of this town / He departed this life the 6th day
/ of July 1797 / aged 61.

BAPTISED/PARENTS

A possibility is:

- (1) 6.6.1736 at St. Chad's, Shrewsbury, parents John and Elizabeth (*Shropshire Baptisms Record Transcription, findmypast*).

Note: **John Home** has a connection with Shrewsbury in later life. His sons-in-law, William Hughes and William Bodenham lived in Shrewsbury. In addition, in his will **John** made a bequest to John Bishop of Shrewsbury.

More likely are the following:

- (2) 4.4.1735 at Ratlinghope, parents Samuel and Elizabeth Elizabeth (*Shropshire Baptisms Record Transcription, findmypast*). This is the only baptism of a John Home in a parish neighbouring Bishop's Castle. This could be this John Home's baptism as it ties in with the parents of, and a reference to, a Thomas Home (see the section on Siblings below).
- (3) It is possible that **John** could have been the son of John and Ann Home, though no records can be found of the baptism of a son **John** to parents with this name. Indeed there are no records of a marriage in Shropshire in the relevant period of a male with the surname Home to an Ann. However, adjacent to the three listed Home/Hughes family tombs in Bishop's Castle churchyard, is a grave (A.156) with the headstone inscribed as follows:

Lyeth inter (red?) / the Body of / MRS ANN HOME / She departed this Life / April the 2nd
1797 / in the 87th Year of her Age.

The following suggests that the above Ann could have been **John Home's** mother

- The proximity of their graves; just west of John Home's tomb is his mother's tomb.
- Their respective dates of birth: Ann circa 1710, **John** circa 1735/6.
- That both the grave inscription (above) and the burial record for Ann Home (*Shropshire Parish Registers, Bishop's Castle*) afford her the title 'Mrs'. This is an indication that she is from a family of gentry. **John Home** is clearly of the same social standing.

If we assume that **John Home's** mother was Ann Home, then there is a further piece of evidence which could perhaps provide the of names of **John's** father and a sibling. There is a record of a baptism for Susanna Home, 17.6.1734 at Hyssington, daughter of John and Ann(e) Home (*Shropshire Baptism Record Transcription, findmypast*) – see the Lease of Possession dated 3.6.1798 below which provides another link to a John Home of Hyssington. The date of birth for Susanna ties in with that of **John Home** (born 1735/6) suggesting they may be siblings. Incidentally, **John** goes on to have a daughter named Susanah.

Another document which provides a clue as to the possible identity of John's father is:

(4) 3.6.1798: Lease of Possession (*relating to property in Hyssington and Hurdley*): (1) Thos Home of Shrewsbury, Salop, mercer eldest son and heir at law of John Home late of Bishops Castle, mercer, deceased, eldest son and heir at law of John Home of Hyssington, gent., deceased); (2) William Coupland of Shrewsbury, gent
Shropshire Archives Ref. 2589/I/64.
<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/5335bc95-e20b-47a1-9cca-9ca426261fe5>

If this document does relate to this family then the John Home highlighted in yellow would be the person who is the subject of this Family History, the John Home highlighted in green would be his father and Thomas Home of Shrewsbury highlighted in red would be this same **John Home's** son. This word 'deceased' (in yellow) accords with this **John Home** not being alive in 1798 when the lease was drawn up (he died in 1797). It does not, however, accord with this **John Home** leaving the majority of his estate to his three daughters but no sons.

There is uncertainty about the date of death of this **John Home's** son Thomas. The only burial records that can be found are 28.3.1777 and 9.7.1788 although there is some further uncertainty around this – see the section on 'Children' below. If one of these death records is indeed for Thomas Home, son of this **John Home**, then the above Lease of Possession, dated 3.6.1798, cannot relate to this family as the Thomas Home in that Lease outlives his father.

MARRIED

The baptism records for **John Home's** children give their mother's name as Mary. A possible marriage is:

20.3.1768 at Lydham, John Homes of the Parish of Norbury married Mary Mellings of this parish. Witnesses: Charles Ellis and John Mellings (*Lydham Parish Register*).

The date of this marriage ties in with the birth of Mary and **John Home's** first child in 1770. However, the name on the original and the signature are definitely Homes rather than Home.

No record has been found of Mary's death/burial.

BURIED

Buried Bishop's Castle, 12.7.1797 (*Shropshire Burials Record Transcription, findmypast*).
Died 6 July 1797, aged 61 (*tomb*).

RESIDENCE

Bishop's Castle. The tomb records **John Home** as being 'of this town'.

SIBLINGS

The following are possibilities:

- (1) Thomas Home, 'The Banker of the Clives', and **John Home**, his brother (*Agent's Canvassing Notes, Town Council/Town Chest, old list, Bundle 30*) from a document entitled '*Some Elections in Bishop's Castle, Produced at BCHRC for the Bishop's Castle Town Hall Project*'. The notes are undated so it is not possible to say with certainty whether or not this is the same John Home.
- (2) There is no record of a Thomas Home born to John and Ann Home. There is, however, a Thomas Home born to Samuel and Elizabeth Home and baptised at Ratlinghope on 5.9.1740 (see the section headed 'Baptism' above).

Documents in *Shropshire Archives* relate to land and property interests held by Thomas Home of Bishop's Castle dated 1765, 1772, 1777, 1788, 1795 and 1798. This could be the same Thomas Home cited above.

- (3) Susanna Home, baptised Hyssington, 17.6.1734, daughter of John and Ann(e) Home Home (*Shropshire Baptisms Record Transcription, findmypast*).

CHILDREN

It is believed that all the following were **John** and Mary Home's children. There is clear evidence that the females listed below were their daughters. It is likely that the males were also their sons, but there is far less clear information on them so it is not possible to have the same degree of certainty as for the daughters.

Name	Baptised	Buried
Mary (later Hughes)	29.12.1770	21.11.1804
Susanah (later Bodenham)	27.9.1772	22.2.1811

Thomas (note 1)	8.10.1774	?28.3.1777 (or ?9.7.1788 note 2)
John (note 1)	8.10.1774	?31.3.1823 (note 3)
Ann (later Bodenham, later Hughes)	12.6.1776	11.1.1833
Samuel	21.1.1779	?23.10.1792

Sources: *Bishop's Castle Parish Registers and Shropshire Baptism and Burial Record Transcriptions*, *findmypast*

Note 1: Since they were baptised on the same day, it seems highly likely that Thomas and John were twins.

Note 2: Of the two possible burial dates of Thomas Home, that on 9.7.1788 is perhaps more likely to relate to a different Thomas Home:

7.6.1777: Will of Thomas Home, Mercer, Bishop's Castle. Date of Probate 28.11.1788.
Shropshire Archives Ref. 2589/T/24

Note 3: There are no records of a death for John Home junior between 1774 (John junior's year of birth) and 1797 (**John senior's** year of death). There is only one record of the burial of a John Home born in 1774 – in Bishop's Castle on 31.3.1823. If this burial is that of Mary and **John Home's** twin son, then he survived his father. This raises the question of why he was not included in **John senior's** will. For further information on **John senior** and John junior, see 'Career' below.

Note 4: In the 1770s and 1780s there were other baptisms of children to a couple named John and Mary Home. This is a different family. It is possible to deduce this because:

- (1) The baptism records of all the children listed above (including the males) are recorded as being to **Mr** John and **Mrs** Mary Home; in the other family the parents titles are omitted. The inclusion of their titles for the family being researched indicates the status of the family and also strengthens the case that the males were this **John Home's** sons.
- (2) The names of some of the children in both families are the same.
- (3) The dates of baptisms (and thus births) makes it impossible for some of the children to be from the same family.

Note 5: **John Home** died in 1797. His three daughters, but no sons, are in his will. This would suggest that his sons predeceased him.

CAREER

A *Bishop's Castle Trade Directory* of about 1780 and *The Universal British Directory of Trade, Commerce and Manufacture* 1791 list **John Home** Esq as Baliff and have two further entries bearing the name John Home; one is a Mercer and Grocer, the other a Maltster. It is possible that **John Home** could have been both Baliff and a trader.

Documents in Shropshire Archives dated 1777, 1780 and 1796 relating to land and property interests

held by a John Home of Bishop's Castle, describe him as a Mercer and Grocer. Given his status, It is likely that the **John Home** who is the subject of this Family History had such interests and was one of these people, although the preponderance of people in Bishop's Castle and the surrounding area with this name makes it difficult to be certain of this.

The following are references to **John's** contribution to civic life:

Bishop's Castle Minute Book:

10.4.1770 – Elected Capital Burgess in place of George Clive

9.10.1779 – Elected Baliff

Last reference the Capital Burgesses list is in 1796 when **John Home, senior**, was a Capital Burgess.

Note: The word '*senior*' above suggests that John Home junior was alive in 1796. **John Home senior** died in 1797 so it is highly likely that he died before John junior. This again raises the question of why John junior was not included in **John senior's** will.

Information from the Borough Court Book:

1781 - Capital Burgess, Recorder

1782 - Justice

1788 - Justice

1790 - Recorder

1792 - Justice

OTHER INFORMATION [continue overleaf]

TOMBS OF THIS FAMILY:

There are three adjacent, almost identical, tombs in Bishop's Castle churchyard:

- (1) No. A134: **Mr John Home**, late of Bishop's Castle (northern tomb).
- (2) No. A133: Mary, wife of William Hughes of Shrewsbury, and daughter of **John Home** of Bishop's Castle (middle tomb).
John's eldest daughter.
- (3) No. A132A: Ann Hughes, wife of William Hughes of Welbatch, near Shrewsbury, youngest daughter of **Mr John Home** of Bishop's Castle and also William Hughes (southern tomb)
John's youngest daughter and her second husband (John's son-in-law)

WILL OF JOHN HOME:

There is no evidence of the existence of **John's** complete will. There are, however, links to the *Abstract of Will of John Home, Gentleman of Bishop's Castle, Proved in the Court of Hereford March 31 1798* (The National Archives, reference IR 26/348/38:

<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/D7181319>) which records the following:

'£20 apiece to John Bishop of Shrewsbury Esq. and J Bayley Toldervey of Bishop's Castle, Gent. at the expiration of one year after Testor's decease. The residue to Testor's three daughters.'

NEWSPAPER ARTICLE CONCERNING JOHN HOME'S DEATH:

The following record of **John Home's** death appeared in the Hereford Journal of Wednesday 19 July 1797:

Carmarthen Circuit

*On Thursday fe'nnight died, sincerely regretted, **John Home, Esq** of Bifhop's Caftle, Shropfhire*

THE SURNAME 'HOME' IN BISHOP'S CASTLE:

Home was a common name in Bishop's Castle during the 18th and 19th centuries. John and Thomas were common forenames for the Homes. For example, in *The Universal British Directory of Trade, Commerce, and Manufacture, 1791*, referred to in the section headed 'Career' above, the name John Home appears three times (Baliff; Mercer and Grocer; Maltster) as does the name Thomas Home (Victualler [Red Lion]; Victualler [Bull Inn]; peruke maker).

In the London Gazette, Part 2, p.1183, there is a notice of the bankruptcy in 1807 (10 years after **John Home's** death) of *Thomas Home* of Bishop's Castle, Mercer, Grocer and Linen-Draper. His brother, *John Home*, is mentioned. This raises the question of whether these brothers, *Thomas and John Home*, were **John Home's** sons. If they were (a) the suggested burial dates for Thomas Home in the section 'Children' above, cannot be correct; (b) why were there no bequests in **John Home's** will to any sons.

In Shropshire Archives there are numerous records of land and property transactions and some wills, dating to the 18th and 19th centuries, involving individuals named John Home and Thomas Home. An abstract of these has been filed at Bishop's Castle Heritage Resource Centre.

Given the number of people with the surname 'Home', and also that John and Thomas were common forenames, it is very difficult to be sure which, if any, of these were **John's** male siblings and children.

OTHER INFORMATION ON THIS FAMILY

This information has been compiled for the Bishop's Castle Georgians in Stone Project. Research has been undertaken on seven other members of this family and will provide useful additional information to that contained in this record. Several of the family members lived at Welbatch, near Shrewsbury. Further information on Welbatch can be found in the record for William Hughes senior.

Mary Home (later Hughes)

Susanah Home (later Bodenham)

Ann Home (later Bodenham, later Hughes)

William Hughes senior

William Hughes junior

John Home Bodenham

Thomas Bodenham

GEORGIANS IN STONE PROJECT: MARY HOME

NAME

Mary HOME (later HUGHES), 1770-1804

TOMB A 133



No. A133: MARY the wife of / WILLIAM HUGHES / of Shrewsbury / Daughter of the late JOHN HOME of this town / died 22 Nov 1804 age 32

BAPTISED

29.12.1770, **Mary**, d. of John and Mary Homes, privately. Received into the church 8 February 1771 (*Bishop's Castle Parish Register*).

Note: In the records, HOME is often transcribed as HOMES.

MARRIED

6.1.1799 - William Hughes of the Parish of St. Julian (Shrewsbury) and **Mary Home**, by Licence. Witnesses: W. Davies, Eliz. Churchman (*Bishop's Castle Parish Register*).

Notes: **Mary's** husband, William, married her sister, Ann, after **Mary's** death. For further information on this marriage see the Family History records for Ann Home (later Bodenham, later Hughes) and William Hughes senior.

BURIED

Buried Bishop's Castle, 21.11.1804 (*Shropshire Burials Record Transcription, findmypast*). Died 22.11.1804 aged 32 (*tomb*).

Notes:

- (1) There is a discrepancy of one year in the age given on the tomb and the date of baptism.
- (2) The date of death on the tomb is given as one day prior to the recorded day of burial.
- (3) **Mary** died when her son was 4 years old and her daughter was 18 months old.

RESIDENCE

Prior to marriage, **Mary** was presumably living in Bishop's Castle. The tomb of John Home, her father, says that he was from the town.

After marriage, almost certainly Shrewsbury, possibly at the hamlet of Welbatch (see the note under the heading 'Other Information for this Family' below). **Mary** and William's children were baptised in Shrewsbury. In addition, William is recorded as being from Shrewsbury at the time of their marriage.

SIBLINGS

There is hard evidence that the females listed below were **Mary's** sisters. It is likely that the males were also her brothers, but there is far less information on them so it is not possible to have the same degree of certainty as for the sisters.

Name	Baptised	Buried
Susanah (later Bodenham)	27.9.1772	22.2.1811
Thomas	8.10.1774	?28.3.1777 or ?9.7.1788
John	8.10.1774	?31.3.1823
Ann (later Bodenham, later Hughes)	12.6.1776	11.1.1833
Samuel	21.1.1779	?23.10.1792

Sources: *Bishop's Castle Parish Registers and Shropshire Baptism and Burial Record Transcriptions, findmypast*

For further information on the children of John and Mary Home, particularly the sons, see the Family History Record for John Home.

CHILDREN

- (1) William Hughes, baptised 18.11.1800 in Shrewsbury (*Shropshire Baptisms Record Transcriptions, findmypast*).

In the 1841 Census, the above William Hughes junior, aged 41, a bachelor, is living at Welbatch with his father, William Hughes senior, his aunt, Catharine Hughes, his cousin, John Home Bodenham. William moved to London sometime between 1841 and 1851 and died in Camden Town on 2 June 1866.

<https://probatesearch.service.gov.uk/Calendar?surname=Hughes&yearOfDeath=1866&page=21#calendar>

(*Civil Deaths and Burials Record Transcription, England and Wales Deaths 1837-2007, findmypast*).

- (2) Mary Hughes, baptised 5.5.1803 in Shrewsbury (*Shropshire Baptisms Record Transcriptions, findmypast*). Buried in Bishop's Castle on 2.1.1817 of Mary Hughes, Shrewsbury, aged 13 years (so born in 1803) (*Bishop's Castle Parish Records*).

Note: At the time of Mary junior's death, she was almost certainly living in Shrewsbury with her

father, William, and step-mother, Ann, (who was also her aunt - see the section headed 'Marriage' above). It was clearly decided to bury Mary in same place as her mother (Bishop's Castle) and in the place where her father and step-mother would later be buried.

Mary senior's tomb (A.133) has evidence of engraving on the southern elevation but this is now so seriously degraded that the lettering cannot be deciphered. There is no record of a tomb for Mary junior elsewhere in the churchyard so it is possible that Mary junior is buried in this tomb along with her mother.

CAREER

-

OTHER INFORMATION [continue overleaf]

TOMBS OF THIS FAMILY:

There are three almost identical tombs in Bishop's Castle churchyard:

- (1) No. A134: Mr John Home, late of Bishop's Castle (northern tomb).
***Mary's** father.*
- (2) No A133: **Mary**, wife of William Hughes of Shrewsbury, and daughter of John Home of Bishop's Castle (middle tomb).
- (3) No. A132A: Ann Hughes, wife of William Hughes of Welbatch, near Shrewsbury, youngest daughter of Mr John Home of Bishop's Castle and also William Hughes (southern tomb)
***Mary's** youngest sister and also **Mary's** first husband, whose second marriage was to **Mary's** youngest sister, Ann.*

WILL OF JOHN HOME

Mary is a beneficiary in her father's will. See separate Family History record for John Home.

OTHER INFORMATION ON THIS FAMILY

This information has been compiled for the Bishop's Castle Georgians in Stone Project. Research has been undertaken on seven other members of this family and will provide useful additional information to that contained in this record. Several of the family members lived at Welbatch, near Shrewsbury. Further information on Welbatch can be found in the record for William Hughes senior.

John Home

Susanah Home (later Bodenham)

Ann Home (later Bodenham, later Hughes)

William Hughes senior

William Hughes junior

John Home Bodenham

Thomas Bodenham

GEORGIANS IN STONE PROJECT: WILLIAM HUGHES SNR

NAME

William HUGHES senior, 1777?-1847

TOMB A132A



No. A132A: Sacred to the Memory of / ANN wife of / **WILLIAM HUGHES** Esq / (of Welbatch) / and youngest daughter of / Mr John Home of Bps-Castle / A faithful and affectionate wife / A judicious and tender Mother / A sincere friend and devout Chriftian / She died after a long and painful illness / born with exemplary patience / and fortitude, Jan 7th 1833 / **WILLIAM HUGHES** of / Welbatch near Shrewsbury / died August 2nd 1847 / Aged 70

BAPTISED/PARENTS

William's father was John. This can be deduced from two pieces of information in which Welbatch, where **William** lived and worked , is mentioned:

- (1) In the section on 'Career' later in this Family History record, a document dated 21.4.1798 concerning coal works at Welbatch refers to '*Mr John Hughes, soap boiler and builder of Shrewsbury*'.
- (2) A newspaper death notice for Mary, aged 64, daughter of the late John Hughes, 7 January 1845 at Welbatch appears in *Eddowe's Journal and General Advertiser for Shropshire and the Principality of Wales*, Wed 22 January 1845. There is a baptism record in 1779 for Mary to parents named John and Ann.

William's year of birth is unclear. The tomb says he died in 1847 aged 70. The 1841 census gives his age as 60, so we can assume a birth year range between 1777 and 1881. The tomb is likely to be more accurate than the census as it is known that ages and dates of birth on census records tended to be inaccurate and often rounded up or down to the nearest five years.

The most likely baptism record for **William** is:

William Hughes, 14.8.1777, Shrewsbury, High Street (Presbyterian), parents John and Anna (*Shropshire Baptisms Record Transcription, findmypast*).

MARRIED

Note: Some information in this section replicates information in the Family History for Ann Hughes (formerly Home, formerly Bodenham)

William was married twice, to women who were sisters:

- (1) 6.1.1799 – **William Hughes** of the Parish of St. Julian (Shrewsbury) and Mary Home, by Licence. Witnesses: W Davies, Eliz Churchman (*Bishop's Castle Parish Register*).
- (2) 23.9.1806 – **William Hughes**, widower, to Ann Bodenham, widow, [both of this Parish] at St Martin [in the Bull Ring], Birmingham, Warwickshire, by Banns. Witnesses: Tho. Lowe and William Taylor (*St Martin's Parish Register, Ancestry*)

There is hard evidence that **William Hughes's** marriages were to sisters. His signature is on the original parish records of his marriage to Mary in 1799 (*findmypast*) and to Ann in 1806 (*Ancestry*). The signature is the same in both cases.

Notes on First Marriage

Mary Hughes's tomb (No. A133) in Bishop's Castle churchyard records her as being the wife of **William Hughes** of Shrewsbury. Information from the parish record is given above. Mary died on 22.11.1804 at the age of 32, five years after her marriage to **William**, leaving two young children.

Notes on Second Marriage

Two years after Mary's death, **William** married Mary's sister, Ann Bodenham. Ann was the youngest daughter of John Home of Bishop's Castle and widow of Thomas Bodenham, who died in 1804 - see separate Family History for Ann Home. It was perhaps natural for **William** and Ann to marry. They were already part of the same family (being brother-in-law and sister-in-law), they were both widowed in the same year and both were the parents of young children who were cousins.

This second marriage took place despite the fact that at the time it was forbidden for a man to marry his deceased wife's sister. This does, however, appear to have been something of a grey area. Such marriages were not absolutely void under ecclesiastical law and did take place, sometimes secretly. The 1835 Marriage Act hardened the law into an absolute prohibition whilst at the same time validating marriages which had already taken place. This law remained in force until The Deceased Wife's Sister's Marriage Act, permitting these marriages, came into force in 1907 (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deceased_Wife%27s_Sister%27s_Marriage_Act_1907).

Given the above, it is interesting to speculate whether or not the place of **William** and Ann's marriage (Birmingham) was chosen as it was away from Shropshire. The witnesses do not appear to be family members. Perhaps they did marry secretly.

Ann died on 7.1.1833. She and **William** share a tomb (No. A132A) in Bishop's Castle Churchyard.

BURIED

Buried Bishop's Castle, 5.8.1847 (*Shropshire Burials Record Transcription, findmypast*).
Died 2.8.1847, age 70 (*tomb*).

RESIDENCE

It is likely that **William** spent his childhood and possibly early adult life in Shrewsbury. **William's** father had interests in coal mining at Welbatch (see reference to a document in the section on 'Career'), so it is possible **William** lived there during all or part of his childhood. We know, from the information on his tomb and also in the section on 'Career' that as an adult **William** was living at Welbatch, near Shrewsbury. This is a substantial and handsome Georgian dwelling and farm on a minor road about half a mile south west of the village of Hook-a-Gate and between that village and Annscroft:



Welbatch Farm, Hook-a-Gate, Shrewsbury

According to the current owner of Welbatch, the house was built around 1820 and at the time the road was the principal route between Shrewsbury and Bishop's Castle.

The burial record for Ann Hughes, who died in 1833 (*Bishop's Castle Parish Register*) states that she was from Welbatch. If the reported date of construction is correct then **William** would have lived in the house that still stands there with his second wife Ann, but not with his first wife Mary. However, it is possible that Mary and **William** lived in another house at Welbatch as it is the name of both the house and a small settlement in which it stands. It is also possible that **William** lived at Welbatch (but not the current house with that name) during some or all of his childhood.

SIBLINGS

Mary Hughes, baptised 17.11.1779, Shrewsbury, St Chad's, parents John and Anna (*Shropshire Baptisms Record Transcription, findmypast*). Died 7.1.1845 at Welbatch, daughter of the late John Hughes (*Eddowes Journal and General Adviser for Shropshire and the Principality of Wales, Wed 22 January 1845*).

William had a sister named Catharine. The following is highly likely to be her baptism record:

Catha(e)rine Hughes, born 19.8.1784), Shrewsbury, St Julian's daughter of John and Ann Hughes (dissenter) of (*Shropshire Baptisms Record Transcription, findmypast*).

This can be compared with **William's** probable baptism record:

William Hughes, 14.8.1777, Shrewsbury, High Street (Presbyterian) son of John and Anna (*Shropshire Baptisms Record Transcription, findmypast*).

The record for Catha(e)rine at St. Julian's states 'born' rather than the usual term 'baptised' and against the names of her parents is the word 'Dissenters'. This might then tie in with the place of **William's** likely baptism in a Presbyterian church. It does not, however, explain why Mary who, we can be reasonably sure from the newspaper article concerning her death, was **William's** sister, was baptised at St Chad's.

The following also provide evidence that Catharine and **William** were siblings:

- (1) In the 1841 census for Welbatch, **William** is living with, among others, Catharine Hughes, a spinster, aged 55. The baptism for Catharine Hughes in 1784 above ties in with the age given in this census.
- (2) The will, dated February 1852, of John Home Bodenham (1810-1854) (*Ancestry Wills and Probates*). John is **William Hughes senior's** nephew through **William's** marriage to both Mary and Ann whose sister Susanah was John Home Bodenham's mother. The will states: '..... towards the benefit and welfare of my cousin William Hughes (this would have been William Hughes junior) late of Welbatch but now of London Gentleman. I give and bequeath the following legacies Namely to my friend Miss Catharine Hughes **aunt** of the said William (S?) Hughes'

There two other baptisms to parents with the names John and Ann(a) Hughes in Shrewsbury at the relevant time:

Sarah Hughes, 2.4.1778 (born 6.3.1778), Shrewsbury St Chad's to John and Ann*

Sarah Hughes, 29.10.1783 (born 8.8.1783), Shrewsbury St Chad's to John and Ann

*There is a record of Sarah Hughes, a child, buried Shrewsbury St Mary's 12.11.1780. The above two baptisms might be daughters of the same parents who named the daughter born in 1783 after their deceased daughter born in 1778.

If all the above assumptions are correct, the following might be children of **William's** parents.

William, 14.8.1777

Sarah, 2.4.1778

Mary, 17.11.1779

Sarah, 29.10.1783

Catharine, 19.8.1784

CHILDREN

William had two children with Mary:

- (1) William Hughes, baptised 18.11.1800 in Shrewsbury (*Shropshire Baptisms Record Transcriptions, findmypast*).

In the 1841 Census, the above William Hughes junior, aged 41, a bachelor, is living at Welbatch with his father, William Hughes senior, his aunt, Catharine Hughes, his cousin, John Home Bodenham. William moved to London sometime between 1841 and 1851 and died in Camden Town on 2 June 1866.

<https://probatesearch.service.gov.uk/Calendar?surname=Hughes&yearOfDeath=1866&page=21#calendar>

(*Civil Deaths and Burials Record Transcription, England and Wales Deaths 1837-2007, findmypast*).

- (2) Mary Hughes, baptised 5.5.1803 in Shrewsbury (*Shropshire Baptisms Record Transcriptions, findmypast*). Buried in Bishop's Castle on 2.1.1817 of Mary Hughes, Shrewsbury, aged 13 years (so born in 1803) (*Bishop's Castle Parish Records*).

Note: At the time of Mary junior's death, she was almost certainly living in Shrewsbury with her father and step-mother (who was also her aunt [see the section headed 'Marriage' above]). It was clearly decided to bury Mary in the same place as her mother and in the place where her father and step mother would later be buried. For further information on a possible tomb for Mary junior, see the Family History Record for Mary Home (later Hughes).

Although Ann was around 30 when she and **William** married, there is no apparent evidence of any children of that marriage.

William was also step-father to Ann's son, Thomas Bodenham who was baptised at Milson (Shropshire) 26.8.1804 and died on 13.12.1873. He was buried at Church Pulverbatch (*Shropshire Baptism and Burial Record Transcriptions, findmypast*).

William and Ann Hughes may well also have brought up a nephew:

- John Home Bodenham, b.1810, the son of Ann and Mary's sister Susanah who was one year old when his mother died in 1811 and 7 when his father died in 1817.*

*This is evidenced in the 1841 census when John, aged 31, a bachelor, is living at Welbatch with **William** Hughes senior, William Hughes junior and Catharine Hughes. Ann Hughes has died by this time.

CAREER

INTERESTS IN COAL MINING:

The following documents evidence **William's** interests:

21.4.1798: Lease: Lord Berwick to Mr John Hughes (presumably **William Hughes senior's** father), soap boiler and builder of Shrewsbury and Mr John Simpson of coal works in Welbatch (in St Chad's and Condover par.) and Lythwood: for 21 years w.e.f. 25 March 1796 for £450 a year.

Shropshire Archives Ref. 112/5/46/5

<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/5335bc95-e20b-47a1-9cca-9ca426261fe5>

2.6.1817: Draft lease of coalmines at Welbatch by the Rt Hon Lord Berwick to **Mr William Hughes**.

Shropshire Archives Ref. 49/475

<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/1d99b2e4-f287-4a81-a9ad-f8ef0699d19d>

*8.9.1827: Recital of (m)indenture of 5.4.1792 and 25.3.1809, Thomas Freme of Liverpool Esq, **William Hughes** of Welbatch, gentleman, James Freme of Liverpool Esq.

Shropshire Archives Ref. 1984/83

<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/c3d4db42-1bbe-4671-a1ca-da4fb734e9d4>

Note: Someone with the surname Freme was a witness at the marriage of Thomas Bodenham (William's step-son) to Eliza Dickie on 2.6.1835. Surely this must have been one of the above.

*19.6.1840: Letter from **W Hughes**, Welbatch to M Ashdown (Uppington) commenting on the condition/value of mines at Nobold.

Shropshire Archives Ref. 665/769

<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/c2566eb5-2496-4c06-933a-d9c23ec1b927>

22.6.1840: Letter from M Ashdown, Uppington to W H Slaney. This refers to **Mr Hughes** of Welbatch as being a '*respectable practical miner*' who has been at work upwards of 20 years.

Shropshire Archives Ref. 665/770

<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/1bf094a1-e33b-4d20-b48b-1827fc2f7ecc>

*For further information on these two documents, see the section 'Other Information, under the heading 'Discrepancy in Signature' at the end of this document.

FARMER AT WELBATCH

On the 1841 census **William** is recorded as being a farmer. The same census also records at least 19 people (the record may have gone on to another page) as either servants or agricultural labourers living at Welbatch. This demonstrates the farm was of a significant size and that **William** was a gentleman farmer. It is likely that **William** was running the farm alongside his coal mining operations.

No records have been found of **William** being a member of the Gentry in Shrewsbury, nor of him playing a part in civic life.

OTHER INFORMATION

TOMBS RELATED TO THIS FAMILY:

There are three adjacent, almost identical, tombs in Bishop's Castle churchyard:

- (1) No. A134: Mr John Home, late of Bishop's Castle (northern tomb).

William's father-in-law.

(2) No A133: Mary, wife of **William Hughes** of Shrewsbury, and daughter of John Home of Bishop's Castle (middle tomb).

William's first wife.

(3) No. A132A: Ann Hughes, wife of **William Hughes** of Welbatch, near Shrewsbury, youngest daughter of Mr John Home of Bishop's Castle and also **William Hughes** (southern tomb).

William and his second wife.

WILL

No will has been found for **William**.

DISCREPANCY IN SIGNATURE

The originals of two documents marked * in the section on 'Career' above were viewed at Shropshire Archives. It was noted that **William Hughes's** signature on the Indenture was the same as that on the records of his two marriages. However, the letter from **W Hughes** to M Ashdown was in different handwriting and bore a different signature to the Indenture and the marriage certificates. The signature of William Hughes on the letter, however, appears to be the same as the signature of one of the witnesses of the marriage of Thomas Bodenham (William's step-son) to Eliza Anne Dickie on 2.6.1835. A possible explanation for this is that whereas the indenture was written in 1827, the letter was written in 1840 when **William** would have been around 63 years of age. This was far in excess of the average life expectancy of someone born in Georgian period. Perhaps by that time **William's** health was deteriorating and the letter was written for him his son, William Hughes junior, who was living at Welbatch at that time.

NEWSPAPER ARTICLE MENTIONING WELBATCH

The following article appeared in the *Sherborne Mercury*, Monday 8 April 1838:

*'EARTHQUAKE AT SHREWSBURY – An earthquake strongly and alarmingly felt in this town and vicinity on SaturdayAt Welbatch coal works, three miles from this town, the phenomena have been most apparent; the walls of **Mr Hughes's** shook and wavered; a ruler rolled from the desk office; the men in the coal pits were alarmed, ascended as quickly as possible believing that an of "fire-damp" had occurred in some of the'*

OTHER INFORMATION ON THIS FAMILY

This information has been compiled for the Bishop's Castle Georgians in Stone Project. Research has been undertaken on seven other members of this family and will provide useful additional information to that contained in this record.

John Home

Mary Home (later Hughes)

Susanah Home (later Bodenham)

Ann Home (later Bodenham, later Hughes)

William Hughes junior

John Home Bodenham

Thomas Bodenham

GEORGIANS IN STONE PROJECT: JOHN PHILLIPS

NAME

John Phillips

TOMB C 142



142, "C", "Sacred to the memory of/ ELLEN MARIA PHILLIPS/ Who died March 29th MDCCCXLVII/ Aged II Years & X months/ ""Prepare to meet thy God""

Sacred to the memory of/ JOHN PHILLIPS/ Late of this town/ Who died at Purslow Hall/ January 18th 1865/ Aged 59 years/ ""Thanks be to God, who-----gaveth/ us the victory through our Lord/Jesus Christ"" / Corinthians C15 V51

BAPTISED

John Phillips born 28th October 1808 at Coptiviney Farm, Ellesmere, and baptised 2nd November 1808 at Ellesmere, the child of Robert, a farmer, and Anne Phillips.

MARRIED

Married by licence at Bishop's Castle on 11th July 1843 to Frances Powell, a spinster, the daughter of James and Mary Powell of Bishop's Castle.

BURIED

John Phillips buried 23rd January 1868 at Bishop's Castle

Ellen Maria Phillips buried 18th March 1847 at Bishop's Castle

RESIDENCE

The tombstone notes that he was resident at Purslow Hall. It is not clear whether he had been resident in the Hall or one of the properties in the Hall curtilage: however as the ironmongery business appeared to be prospering the former is most likely.



Purslow Hall

SIBLINGS

All siblings born at Coptiviney Farm (except Thomas at Stocks) and baptised at Ellesmere Church

Maria born 16th January 1799 and baptised 8th March 1799

Anne born 28th August 1800 and baptised 12th October 1800

Mary born 15th April 1802 and baptised 23rd May 1802

Samuel born 2nd February 1804 and baptised 24th February 1804

Elizabeth born 13th August 1810 and baptised 29th October 1810

Thomas baptised 28th August 1814

Patience baptised 5th June 1818

The parents of John and his siblings were married by licence at Ellesmere on 17th April 1798 as Robert Phillips and Anne White.

CHILDREN

Ellen Maria Phillips of John and Frances baptised 5th May 1844 and buried 18th March 1847.

William of John and Frances baptised at Bishop's Castle on 28th May 1848. William's early life appeared quite normal and he appears on the 1851 and 1861 census as living with his parents.

By the 1871 census he has qualified as a solicitor and is shown as a 'visitor' at the Little Brampton Farmhouse, Clunbury, with Martha Weyman a prosperous farming widow. Sadly however, by the 1881 census he is resident in the Hospital for Incurables at Leamington Priors, Warwickshire.

To date it has not been possible to find details of his affliction nor his date of death.

CAREER

John Phillips career is linked to that of James Powell, a long standing resident of Bishop's Castle who ran an ironmongery business at 12 Church Street, close to the Market Square. It is not known why or how John Phillips came to Bishop's Castle but a yet unknown family connection is suspected. In Tibnams Directory of 1828 the shop is shown as 'James Powell, iron monger and seedsman' and in the 1831 census of Bishop's Castle, James Powell is shown as an iron monger and this continues to Pigot's Directory of 1835 with 'James Powell, iron monger'.

By the 1841 census the business is being run by Mary Powell, aged 60 yrs and John Phillips. It seems to be prospering as there is an assistant ironmonger, Henry Ziegler 19 yrs and two servants. Control seems to be shifting as in Slater's Directory of 1844 the business is shown as 'Powell and Phillips, iron mongers'.

In the 1851 the shop is managed by John and Frances Phillips with two apprentices and three servants and in Bagshaw's Directory of 1851 appears as John Phillip & Co (no s on surname) and appears in the 1863 Post Office Directory as 'John Phillips & Co, iron mongers'. This is the last directory in which the Phillips appears.

OTHER INFORMATION

It is interesting to note another connection with Ellesmere. In the 1861 census, the apprentice iron monger is Edward Ziegler Hughes, 16 yrs and born at Ellesmere, probably a younger brother of the Henry Ziegler noted in the 1841 census. John Phillips left a will, not yet available. Two unusual aspects of this matter are (a) it has not been possible to find a confirmed death and burial place for both John and Mary Powell and (b) despite the apparent prosperity and status of the business neither James Powell nor John Phillips were burgesses of the town.

GEORGIANS IN STONE PROJECT: WILLIAM THOMAS

NAME

William THOMAS (1743-1792)

TOMB B 40



Number: 1174819

Pedestal tomb. Late-C18. Sandstone ashlar. Moulded plinth and cornice, and pyramidal capping to egg-shaped wreathed finial. Inscribed:

In Memory of William Thomas Esq late Town Clerk of **this** Borough. Who died January 17th 1792. Aged 49

BAPTISED

21 November 1743 William son of Mr. Richard and Alice Thomas of Woodbetch, Bishop's Castle.
Bishop's Castle Parish Registers

MARRIED

No record of marriage

BURIED

Died Jan 17 1792 aged 49, buried in Bishop's Castle churchyard *Bishops Castle Parish Registers*.

RESIDENCE

Not known in Bishop's Castle

SIBLINGS/EXTENDED FAMILY

No siblings appear to be recorded.

But from the will of **Richard Thomas senior** dated **2nd October 1697** we learn that Richard Thomas junior has a brother Easy Thomas, sisters-in-law Mary, Dorothy and Sara, a brother-in-law John (who has 5 children) a nephew Richard and possibly some nieces. This indicates that William Thomas might have enjoyed the companionship of several cousins.

5th August 1776: bond of Richard Thomas (letters of administration), who died intestate, between William Thomas, John Griffiths and Thomas Jones. This bond confirms that William Thomas "*is the natural and lawful son and only next of kin of the said deceased.*"

CHILDREN

None recorded.

CAREER

18th August 1764 *Bishop's Castle Court Book 1741-1772, fol 173v*: William Thomas only son of Richard Thomas of Bacheldre County of Montgomery gent and Capital Burgess of this Borough was elected a Burgess [age 21].

26th September 1767 *Bishop's Castle Minute Book 3 folio 149* : William Thomas elected Town Clerk in place of his Father Richard Thomas [at age 24]. His signature is usually the last to be written in the minute book - see example of his signature.

27th April 1776 *Bishop's Castle Minute Book 3 folio 171DA1/100*: William Thomas was elected Capital Burgess [age 33] in place of John Bright resigned.

In the *Bishop's Castle Court Book 1772-1808 BCB/A/3/1* William Thomas was recorded sitting on the bench frequently until 13th August 1791.

26th September 1791 is the last entry for William Thomas as Town Clerk. He was succeeded by Richard Sayce gent in 1792. Sayce was elected bailiff in 1793 and John Thomas appointed Town Clerk. In 1795 Thomas Home and John Home jnr are elected Capital Burgesses in the place of William Harris and William Thomas both deceased. It seems rather a long time between their deaths and election of replacements.

OTHER INFORMATION

24 November 1703: Ricardus Thomas senior (grandfather of William Thomas) was buried. (*Bishop's Castle Parish Registers*).

18th January 1703 (1704 new style): the will of Richard Thomas senior of Woodbatch was proved. The executor was Richard Thomas father of William. An inventory of goods was made on **7th January 1703**. In the preamble Richard Thomas senior was described as 'yeoman'.

28th September 1747 Richard Thomas father of William was elected Bailiff.

17th June 1776: Richard Thomas was buried 17th June 1776. He was recorded as esquire and alderman in Bishop's Castle Parish Registers. He died intestate.

5th August 1776: probate was granted on Richard's estate. William, his son and Alice, his widow, were executor and executrix. Alice hands all affairs over to William [type A at Hereford]

10th November 1787: Mrs. Alice Thomas, mother of William was buried (*Bishop's Castle Parish Registers*).

The Thomas family played a prominent part in the civic life of the borough from the 1600s as Capital Burgesses, Baillifs and Town Clerks. This indicates that they were well respected and probably affluent members of the community.

Baptism Entry, Bishop's Castle Register

C
Minu
te
Book
entry
for

49
Bapt John the son of Thomas & Mary Griffiths twelfth Day
Bapt William the son of Joⁿ & Eliz^a Felton twelfth Day
Bapt Martha Daughter of James & Charlotte Greenhouse 13th Day
Bapt William Son of M^r Rich^d & Alice Thomas of Woodbach 21 Day
Bapt William Son of John & Elizabeth Hammond twenty fourth
Bapt Humphrey Son of Humphrey & Grace Owens twenty seventh

admission
as Burgess

Borough. At a Court of Record of our Sovereign Lord the King holden at the Guildhall of the said
Bishop's Castle Borough on Saturday the eighteenth day of August 1764 before William Saye Esq^r
Justice Richard Thomas & Thomas Morris Gentlemen three Capital Burgesses
of the said Borough
Thomas Saye third Son of William Saye Esq^r the present Bayliff of this
Borough: William Thomas only Son of Richard Thomas of Bae the Dic^r
in the County of Montgomery Gent^l and of the Capital Burgesses of this Borough
and John Griffiths eldest Son of Richard Griffiths Esq^r Bayliff of
were admitted and sworn Burgesses of this Capital Borough
of August 1764.

El
ected
Capital

Burgess

At the Guildhall of the said Borough the Twelfth Day of
September in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred
and forty seven
His Order and Record by whose name is hereunto
subscribed being the Major Number of the Capital Burgesses
of the said Borough have assembled that Richard Thomas the younger
of Woodbach in the County of Salop Gent^l was
a sworn Burgess of this Corporation is duly elected nominated and
chosen a Capital Burgess of this Corporation in the Room and
place of Charles Bright Esq^r deceased and that this shall be
a sufficient Order and Authority for the present Bayliff to swear
the said Richard Thomas a Capital Burgess accordingly
Richard Griffiths Esq^r Bayliff
John Griffiths Justice
17th Sep

William
Thomas Signature

Mr Thomas Saye Esq^r

GEORGIANS IN STONE PROJECT : JANE TOLDERVEY

JANE TOLDERVEY or TOLDERVY (nee) Matthews

TOMB D70



Number – 1295606
Pedestal tomb. Late-C18. Sandstone ashlar. Rebated panels, moulded capping, and wreathed urn finial. Inscription illegible at time of resurvey (June 1984). To Jane Toldervey.

In memory of Jane the wife of J B Toldervey Gentleman of this town who died Septage 37

BAPTISED

Born c 1763. There are three possibilities: 1. Jane daughter of Matthew and Milborough MATTHEWS baptised 8 May 1763 at Staunton-on-Arrow 2. **Jane daughter of Thomas and Ann MATTHEWS baptised 25 February 1761 at Bucknell** 3. Jane daughter of John and Anne MATTHEWS Baptised 1 February 1761 at Clive. (*Find My Past Records*)

The second baptism listed above seems the most likely because of the relationship between Jane and her uncle James Matthews, attorney, with connections to Bucknell (see below)

MARRIED

20 Jan 1787: Jane Matthews, resident in Bishop's Castle, to James Bayley Toldervey of Leominster at Bishop's Castle. Witnesses: Mary Wollaston and John Home (*Bishop's Castle Parish Registers – see illustration*)

BURIED

21 Sept 1800: Jane Toldervey aged 37 at Bishop's Castle (*Bishop's Castle Parish Registers*)

RESIDENCE

Not known – possibly with her uncle James Matthews but see entry for James Bayley Toldervey below.

SIBLINGS

From the will of James Matthews it would appear that there were several other nieces and nephews benefiting from his will: Thomas Matthews of Hatton Garden, Mary Burton (nee Matthews) of Hatton Garden, Ann James (nee Matthews) with a daughter Ann and two sons Francis and Thomas. These could be either siblings or cousins.

CHILDREN

15 Mar 1797 bap. Jane daughter of James Bayley Toldervey and Jane at Bishop's Castle (*Bishop's Castle Parish Registers*)

31 May 1799 bap. Frances daughter of James Bayley Toldervey and Jane at Bishop's Castle (*Bishop's Castle Parish Registers*)

CAREER

There may be further information about the life of Jane Toldervey waiting to be discovered. Alternatively Jane may be an example of the veiled status of women in previous centuries.

Her uncle, James Matthews, an attorney practising in Bishop's Castle, gave her one thousand pounds on her marriage to James Bayley Toldervey (see below).

OTHER INFORMATION

JAMES BAYLEY TOLDERVEY – (Husband of Jane Toldervey)

BAPTISED 5 April 1763 at Leominster, child of James and Jane Toldervey. The Tolderveys were a large family group in North Herefordshire with family history which could be further investigated.

MARRIED

(1) 20 January 1787 as above to Jane Matthews. Witnessed: Mary Wollaston and John Home and

(2) 23 August 1802 at St. George's Hanover Square, Middlesex [Central London] to **Ann James [see below]**. By me Thomas Nicholas, curate, this marriage was solemnised in the presence of Thomas James, Maria Bird and Thomas Home [*Marriage Register p 592. no. 685*] By Banns.

BURIED 17 June 1817 at Leominster

SIBLINGS none recorded

CHILDREN

1ST marriage see above; 2nd marriage:

2nd June 1807 bap. James Bayley s. James Bayley and Ann Toldervey at Bishop's Castle

13 Mar 1809 bap. William Francis s. James Bayley Toldervey and Ann at Bishop's Castle

5 Jan 1812 bap. Thomas James s. James Bayley Toldervey Esq., and Ann at Bishop's Castle

4 Jan 1814 bap. Henry Spencer s. James Bayley Toldervey and Ann at Leominster

ANNE JAMES 2nd wife of J B Toldervey

born 15 December 1766, baptised 22 December 1766, in the parish of St George, Hanover Square, Middlesex, daughter of Thomas & Elizabeth James [*Find My Past Record*]

RESIDENCE

The residence of Mr. Toldervey, Jane's husband, was in Church Street, Bishop's Castle on a site now occupied by the HSBC Bank. See attached plan of property in 1814 (SA 552/8/633)

CAREER

James Bayley Toldervy was articled to James Matthews, an attorney practising in Bishop's Castle, and later he practised law in Bishop's Castle and was an attorney to the Borough Court of Record. He was also Captain of the Bishop's Castle Troop of the South Shropshire Yeomanry c 1804-1814. There is no record of him admitted as Burgess of the Corporation and he moved back to Leominster sometime after 1812 before the birth of his fourth child. In his will he left his property to the children of his second marriage and his widow. There is no mention of the children of his first marriage in the will.

The will of James Matthews, uncle of Jane Toldervy, appointed James Bayley Toldervy as one of the two executors to his will. James Matthews left his estate mainly to his nephew Thomas Matthews (of Hatton Garden London – a desirable residential district for wealthy men, city officials and country gentlefolk seeking London addresses) and among other bequests he left £500 to Jane (who had already received £1000 from him at her marriage).

Examples of James Bayley Tolderv[e]y's work [SA catalogue cites Toldervy, not Toldervy]

1779: Toldervy and Jones: bill to Church Wardens for work on agreement between Church Wardens and William Jones to maintain poor of the town (*Shropshire Archives P33/Fiche 141*)

1786 15 Nov: mortgage to James Matthews (uncle of Jane) by James Bayley Toldervy of Leominster (*Shropshire Archives 2589/D/151-152*).

1796 17 October to 5 November: Toldervy appointed steward to the Manor of Linley (*Shropshire Archives 1037/1/81-4*)

1796: Mrs. Toldervy: draft lease to James Turner (*Shropshire Archives 3651/D/31/134*)

1803: Toldervy and Jones: Letter to Baugh re turnpike prosecutions (*Shropshire Archives LB/18/44*)

1803 December: lease of possession and release to Toldervy of property in Bishop's Castle (*Shropshire Archives 5981/B/4/101/7*)

1805 30 March: letter from Toldervy of Bishop's Castle to Baugh re prosecution over destruction of stow----- bridgegate?

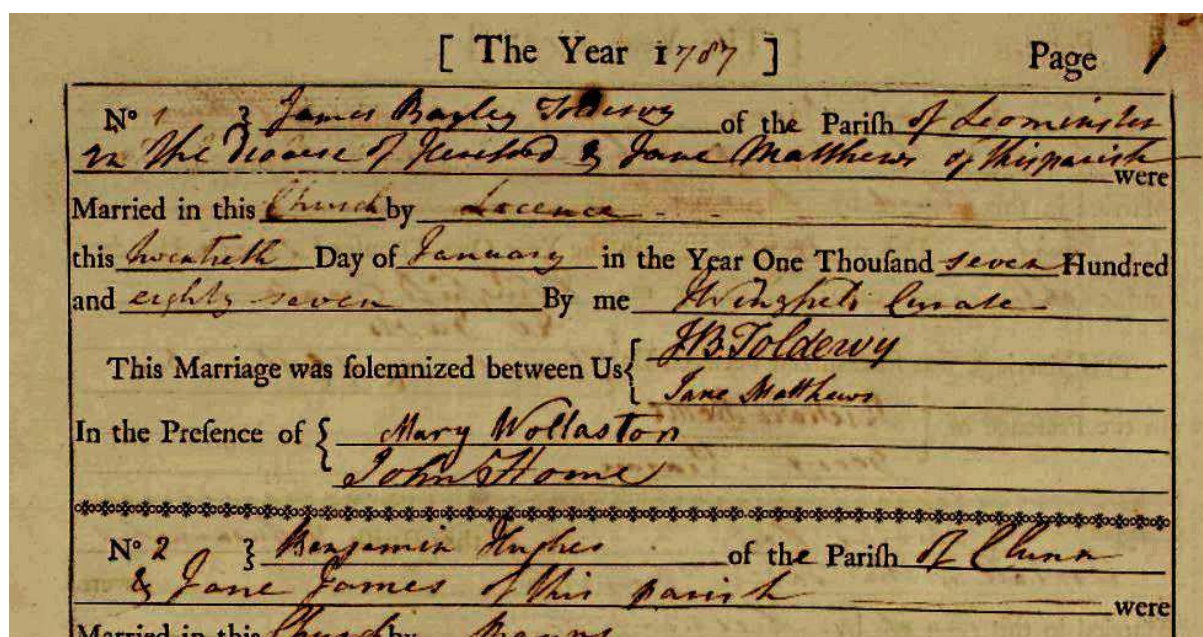
1808: Conveyance by lease: Thomas to Toldervy. Lease of possession and release. James Bayley Toldervy gent., surviving executor of the late James Matthews. Thomas Jones of Bishop's Castle gent is J B Toldervy trustee. (*Shropshire Archives 5981/B/4/38/4*)

1813: Lease of possession to JB Toldervy. Property in Bishop's Castle outbuildings and four cottages (*Shropshire Archives 5981/B/4/101/8*)

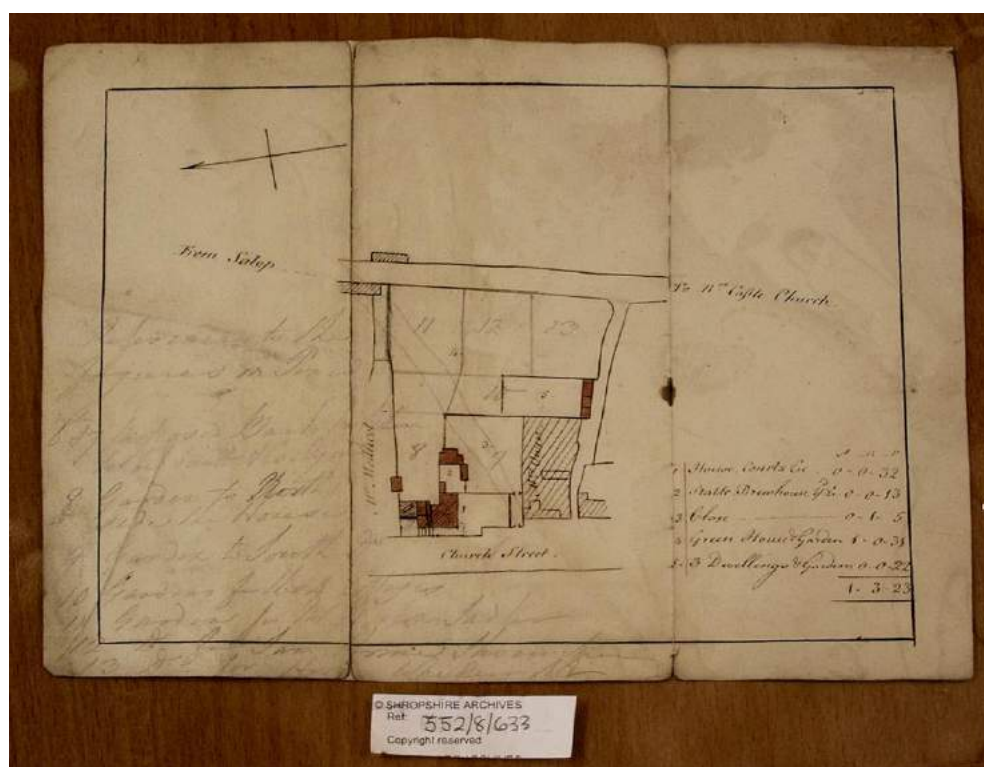
1813: Sale by Toldervy to [Viscount Clive] (*Shropshire Archives 5981/B/4/101/1-9*)

1813: Abstract of Title: messuage and other hereditaments in Bishop's Castle updated to serve as abstract of title for Edward Earl of Powis. (*Shropshire Archives 5981/B/4/101/9*)

n.d. **Thomas Churchman of Clunton:** conveys all but his clothes to trustees (including Toldervy) for sale and payment of debts.



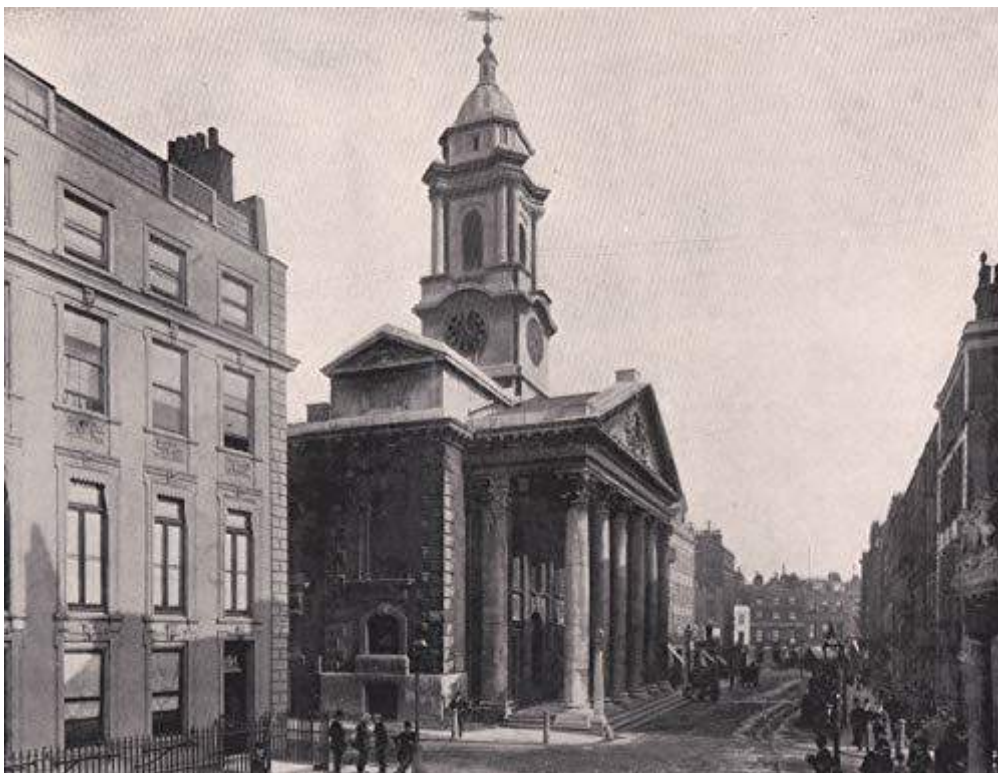
Marriage Register: Jane Matthews and James Bayly Toldervey



Plan of Toldervey property 1814



1830 Map showing Toldervey Property



St George's Church, Hanover Square

The Church, designed by John James circa 1672-1746, was built 1721-1724. “ *If all the best people are married at St Margaret's Westminster, all the next best people are married at St George's . . .*”
 [Leonard J, - *London's Parish Churches*, 1997, Breedon Books]

GEORGIANS IN STONE PROJECT: THOMAS WOLLASTON

NAME

Thomas WOLLASTON 1756 - 1835

TOMB A26



Monumental Inscription: To the Memory/Thomas Wollaston/son of RICHARD and/ MARY WOLLASTON/ on the 16th April/ Aged 79 years

Chest tomb circa 1800. Number 1054576 Sandstone ashlar. Shaped corner balusters, incised panels, pilasters, and chamfered corners to capping.

BAPTISED

Thomas WOLLASTON son of Richard and Mary baptised 22 July 1756 Bishops Castle

MARRIED

Thomas Wollaston married Henrietta Gulston of West Clandon, Surrey 29 October 1783 at St Martin in the Fields. (see folder *Henrietta at BCHRC: Crisps Marriage Licence, Pallots Marriage Index*) She was the daughter of Richard Gulston Esq. who lived in West Clandon and was clearly a gentleman of financial substance. I believe he and his wife originated from Yorkshire.

Richard Gulston was buried at Stoke next Guildford on 14 August 1795. In his will he left £1000 to each of his three daughters.

BURIED

The *Parish Register Transcript* records the burial of Thomas Wollaston, Warden of Clun Hospital [*The Holy and Undivided Trinity*] on 15 April 1835.

RESIDENCE

In 1808 his son Thomas II was admitted as a Burgess and described as eldest son of Thomas Wollaston of Moor Court County Hereford. This is a reference to the large estate in the parish of Pembridge. Thomas could well have been resident there by 1803 when his son was articled to a clerk in Leominster. In the 1820s Thomas was a frequent attendee of the Bishops Castle Court *Bishops Castle Court Book 1808-1835* and may have returned to live there. He died as warden of Clun Hospital [The Holy and Undivided Trinity].

SIBLINGS

It appears that only two brothers of Thomas I. survived to adulthood.

John Wollaston 1746 – 1830, followed his father into medicine. In early directories he is described as both surgeon and coroner. He was sworn a Burgess in 1764 and Capital Burgess in place of his uncle John, recently deceased, in 1780. His first of several spells as Bailiff was in 1782. John's son John II was also a surgeon, being apprenticed to his father. The Borough Court Book records on 25 September 1802 John Wollaston eldest son of John of BC, surgeon and current bailiff was sworn burgess. In 1814 John the younger was sworn Capital Burgess. In 1815 he succeeded his father to the post of Bailiff.

Charles Wollaston b. 1751 married Mary Wellings in Ludlow in 1780. He appears to have lived in Ludlow where his three daughters were born.

CHILDREN

Thomas and Henrietta Wollaston had six children all of whom were baptised in Bishops Castle :

Henrietta Elizabeth	30/03/1785
Thomas Acton	18/06/1786
Wilhelmina	12/09/1788
Caroline	02/09/1790
Richard Gulston	24/10/1791
Charles	23/10/1793

Henrietta Elizabeth married John Harrison at St George Hanover Square in Westminster London 14 August 1816. Her husband was Vicar of Dinton near Aylesbury in 1861. She died a widow in 1868.

Thomas Acton WOLLASTON 1785- 1862 (See folder *Thomas Acton at BCHRC*)

The UK Articles of Clerkship record that in 1803 Thomas Acton Wollaston of Pembridge swore articles of clerkship to John Morris of Leominster for five years. On the 17th June 1806 Thomas Acton married Mary Morris in Leominster. Their first son Thomas Morris was baptised in Leominster in 1809. *Freemason's Membership* records show Thomas Acton joining the Royal Edward Lodge, Leominster in November 1807. When his three sons, Thomas Morris, John Thomas and Richard Gulston, became burgesses of Bishop's Castle on the 10th July 1830 Thomas Acton was described as "*late of the City of Hereford Attorney*". There are no references to Thomas being involved in the

activities of Bishop's Castle Corporation. Thomas Acton Wollaston died in France in 1862. Thomas Acton and Mary had three sons. **Thomas Morris** and **John Thomas** MD, first and second sons, died in France on 16 February 1887 and 18 February 1887 respectively. The third son **Richard Gulston** became a surgeon and practised in Bishops Castle until c 1854 when he was declared bankrupt. He moved to Shrivenham, Berkshire. The 1861 Census shows that he was a physician in Shrivenham. By 1871 his son **Richard** had become a curate at St John's Kidderminster. Richard Gulston died in 1878 in Lyme Regis, Dorset. **Richard Gulston** was elected capital Burgess and Bailiff in 1841. In 1849 he was again elected Bailiff. At his death in 1878 **Richard Gulston** was still a capital Burgess, his eldest son **Rev. John Thomas Burton** being elected capital Burgess in his place. **Rev John Thomas** served as Bailiff in 1880 and 1882.

Wilhelmina bapt. 12 September 1788. Married Rees Jones, Surgeon in Pembridge in 1810. By the 1851 census she was widowed and living in Presteigne. I believe she died in Shrewsbury 1858

Caroline bapt. 2 September 1790 Married Samuel Evans in Duffield Derbys 13 December 1825. The 1851 census shows them living in St Alkmund, Derby where Samuel is banker, cotton spinner and paper maker. She died a widow and was buried 3 April 1875 at Darley Abbey, Derbyshire

Richard Gulston bapt. 24 October 1791. Member of 82nd Regiment and died in Salamanca 1812 (*Hereford Journal* 4/11/1812)

Charles bapt. 23 October 1793 Married Mary Price 21 January 1819 in Great Ness. Lived in Baschurch and worked as a farmer, presumably as owner rather than worker. By the 1851 census the family were living of independent means in Claremont Hill, Shrewsbury. Charles died in Shrewsbury in 1858. Of his five children three emigrated to Australia. Youngest, Thomas, became a doctor and worked in Toxteth, Liverpool. (see Medical Directory)

CAREER

Thomas WOLLASTON worked as an attorney in Hereford. From 1808 there are many references in the Hereford Journal to the solicitors Bird and Wollaston. They were dealing mainly with estates, wills and auctions. They also worked for the Rivers Wey and Lugg Navigation. By 1815 the firm became Bird, Wollaston and Cleave. These may be references to Thomas Jnr. whose apprenticeship would have ended in 1808.

Thomas became a burgess on 29 February 1778 when the Court Book records "*Thomas Wollaston son of Richard Wollaston of the Borough aforesaid Surgeon admitted and sworn a burgess of the Borough*" In 1795 he was a member of the Society for the Prosecution of Felons. *Bishops Castle Heritage Packs* On 27 September 1824 Thomas was elected a Capital Burgess and he served as Recorder in 1825, and Justice in 1826. From 1824 to 1827 he was a frequent attendee of Court Sessions. *Bishops Castle Court Book 1808-1835*

On his death he was living in Clun as Warden of the Clun Hospital of the Holy and Undivided Trinity. *Bishops Castle Parish Register Transcripts* On taking up this appointment Thomas would have been a widower. He was given lodgings within the Almshouses and a stipend of £120 every thirteen months. In return he administered the day to day running of the Almshouses and ensured that the residents obeyed the strict rules. The Almshouses were originally established in 1614 for nine poor men from the parish and environs of Clun and three from Bishops Castle. By 1845 there were 16 residents.

OTHER INFORMATION

FAMILY BACKGROUND

By the time Thomas I was born in 1756 the Wollaston family had been prominent members of the Bishops Castle governing body for almost 150 years.

As far as can be ascertained **Walter Wollaston (1583 -1646)** was the first of the family to reside in Bishops Castle. He was born at Trescott Grange, Penn, Staffs. on 10th August 1612 Walter married Elizabeth Williams in St Laurence, Ludlow. Elizabeth was the daughter of William Williams of Ludlow. This marriage is also recorded in the Bishops Castle parish Register, which suggests that Walter was already established in Bishops Castle society; In 1518 he was elected Bailiff.

The Wollaston family continued to serve on the Corporation until the late 19th century. The ancestors of Thomas - great-grandfather Richard and grandfather John each served as Bailiff. John was also a doctor practising in Bishop's Castle. This tradition was to be handed down through the generations.

Thomas's father Richard (1716 -1786) became a surgeon as did his younger brother John. (Thomas's uncle)

FURTHER INFORMATION

There is a wealth of information at BCHRC concerning the Wollastons who were an influential family for over two hundred years. Thomas played only a small role in the life of the community compared with his close relatives. It is strange that Thomas is the only Wollaston to have a tomb, although his nephew John has a stained glass window in his memory.