

Lucy Hutchinson

1620 — 1681

A seventeenth-century biographer and poet

Lucy Hutchinson, née Apsley, was born in 1620 in London. She received a far broader education than was normal for girls at the time. She composed songs and developed a significant literary talent. She was highly regarded for her translation of Lucretius' *De Rerum Natura* and credited with the anonymous biblical poem *Order and Disorder* (1679).

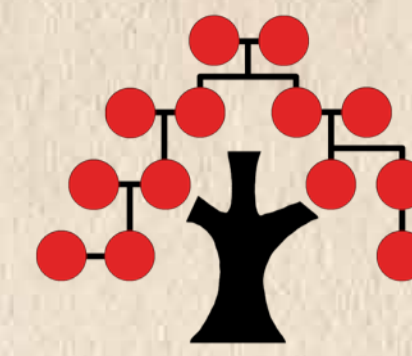


Engraving of Lucy Hutchinson by Samuel Freeman, c.1825-1850
© National Portrait Gallery, London

Lucy resisted early pressure to make an advantageous marriage to help resolve her family's financial problems, despite a number of offers from arranged suitors, until she met John Hutchinson (c.1615–1664) of Owthorpe in Nottinghamshire. Writing later of their courtship, she highlighted his admiration of her skills as a poet and writer and described how he encouraged her talent. Sadly most of her early poems and songs have not survived.

The couple married at Holborn in 1638. In 1642 Civil War broke out between the supporters of Charles I and those who wanted Parliament to have a greater role in running the country. The puritan John Hutchinson enlisted in the Parliamentarian army and was appointed governor of Nottingham. Later he signed the death warrant of Charles I. When the monarchy was restored in 1660, his involvement in the execution led to his imprisonment. After her husband's death in 1664 Lucy and their eight surviving children faced difficult circumstances.

Hutchinson's biography, *Memoirs of the Life of Colonel Hutchinson*, was written by his wife in c.1671. Originally intended only for her family, it was published in 1806 by a descendant, the Rev. Julius Hutchinson. Lucy gives a vivid account of her husband's character and their life together. She also provides a record of great value to historians of the Civil War and of Nottinghamshire. She died at Owthorpe in 1681.



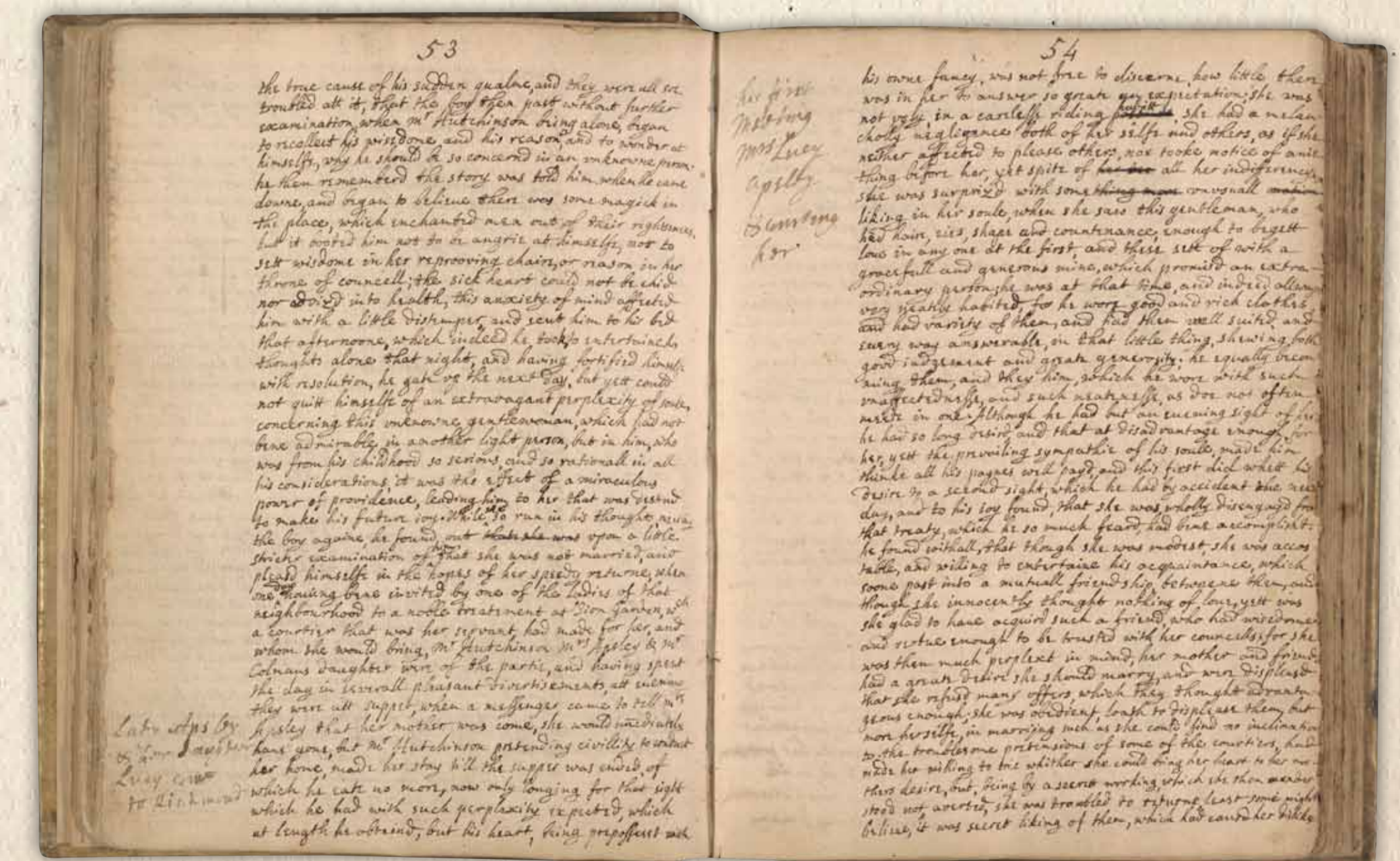
Nottinghamshire's People
Ancestral Stories from the Archives



Coat of arms of John Hutchinson and his Lucy Hutchinson's children, compiled 1712
Nottinghamshire Archives, M/5416



Deed of Sir Thomas and John Hutchinson, and Sir Edward Hungerford and Allen Apsley on the marriage of John Hutchinson and Lucy Apsley, 1638
Nottinghamshire Archives, M/691



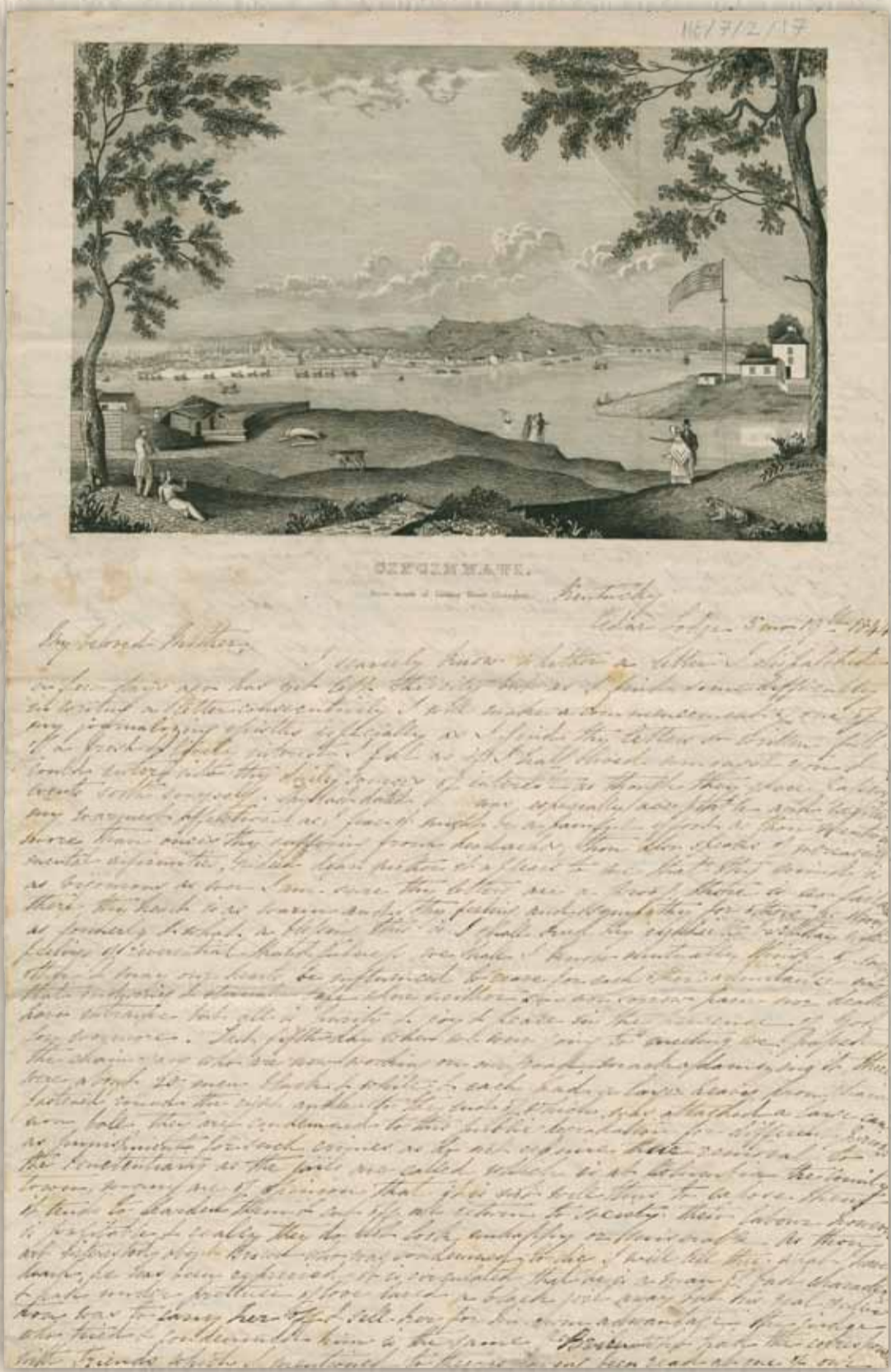
Memoirs of the Life of Colonel Hutchinson by his wife, Lucy Hutchinson, c.1671: extract relating to the courtship between John and Lucy in 1638
Nottinghamshire Archives, DD/HU/4

Mary Howitt

1799 — 1888

A writer and her family

The letters between Mary Howitt and her family illustrate the significance of female relationships in maintaining family memories. They provide a rare glimpse of nineteenth-century women's views of social, political, and domestic matters.



Letter sent by Emma Alderson from Cincinnati, Kentucky to her mother, Ann Botham, in Staffordshire, c. 1884
University of Nottingham Manuscripts and Special Collections, Ht/7/2/17

Largely forgotten today, Mary and her husband William (1792-1879) were prolific authors who lived in Nottingham from 1822 to 1836. Their collaborative work included popular literature for adults and children, and often revealed their concern for humanitarian issues. Mary's poem 'The Spider and the Fly' and their translations of the stories of Hans Christian Anderson are among their best known works.

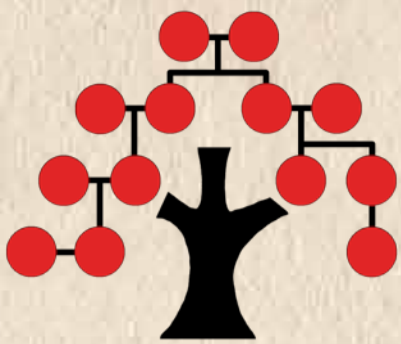
After their marriages, Mary, her sisters Emma Alderson and Anna Harrison, and their mother, Ann Botham, lived far apart, often in different countries. They maintained their relationship through articulate and frank letters. Many are challenging to read, as they are written in 'crossed' form, with the paper turned and reused to save postage.

Their affection and closeness, despite the difficulties of communication, is striking. The letters are intensely personal reflections of daily life and contemporary society, and provide an uncommon insight into women's perspectives of their lives as wives and mothers. A recurring theme is the anxiety of repeated pregnancies and childbirth.

Through illnesses, miscarriages and separation from loved ones, they took comfort from their religious beliefs. Raised a Quaker, Mary's struggles with religion are clear. She investigated Spiritualism before converting to Catholicism in 1883.

The letters express frustration with the limited role women were allowed to play in society and their opinions on issues such as slavery and the American Civil War.

The family was well-travelled: Emma and her husband emigrated to America; Mary's husband William and their two sons travelled to Australia; and their daughter studied in Germany. William and Mary eventually settled in Italy, where both are buried.



Nottinghamshire's People

Ancestral Stories from the Archives



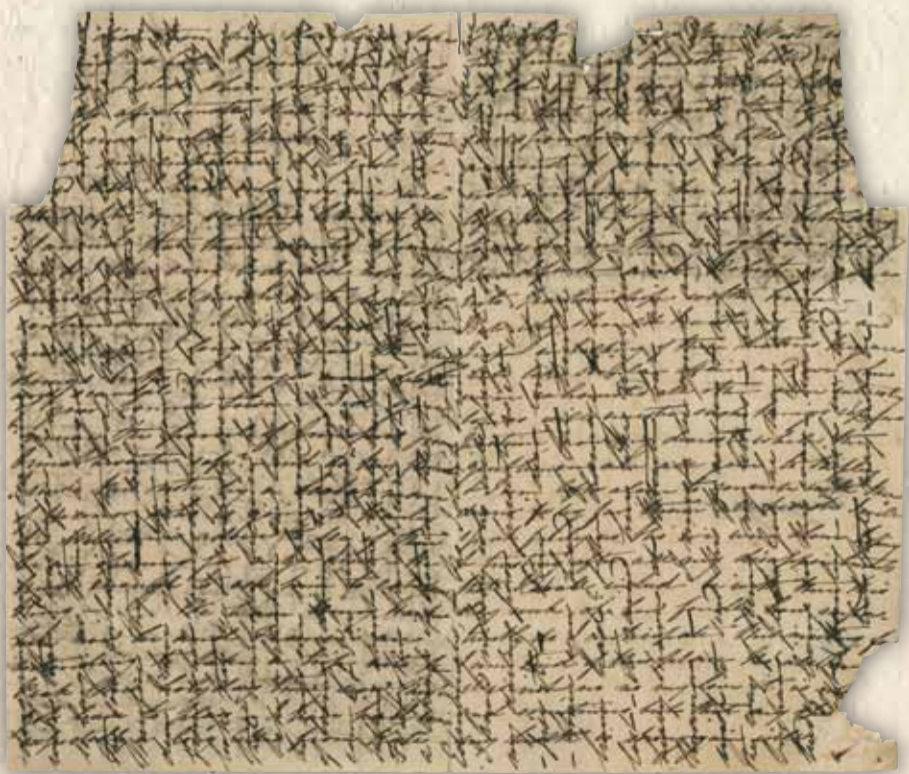
Letter sent by Emma Alderson from Cincinnati, Kentucky to her mother, Ann Botham, in Staffordshire, c. 1884
University of Nottingham Manuscripts and Special Collections, Ht/7/2/16



Bust of William and Mary Howitt at Nottingham Castle Museum by the sculptor George Frampton
University of Nottingham Manuscripts and Special Collections, MS 565/56



Frontispiece and title page of 'Stories of Stapleford' signed by the author Mary Howitt, c. 1864
University of Nottingham Manuscripts and Special Collections, EMSC Not 1.W8 HOW/MY



A crossed letter from Mary Howitt to her sister Anna declaring that the two were 'never made to be parted', c. 1822
University of Nottingham Manuscripts and Special Collections, Ht/1/1/5

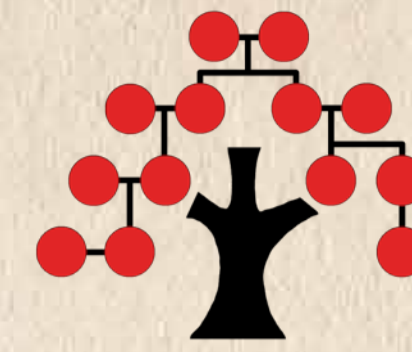


Illustration of 'Hunting Opossums at Midnight', from 'A Boy's Adventures in the Wilds of Australia: or, Herbert's note-book', William Howitt, 1858
University of Nottingham Manuscripts and Special Collections, Not 1.W8 HOW/W

George Africanus

1763 — 1834

Slave, freeman and Nottingham citizen



Nottinghamshire's People
Ancestral Stories from the Archives

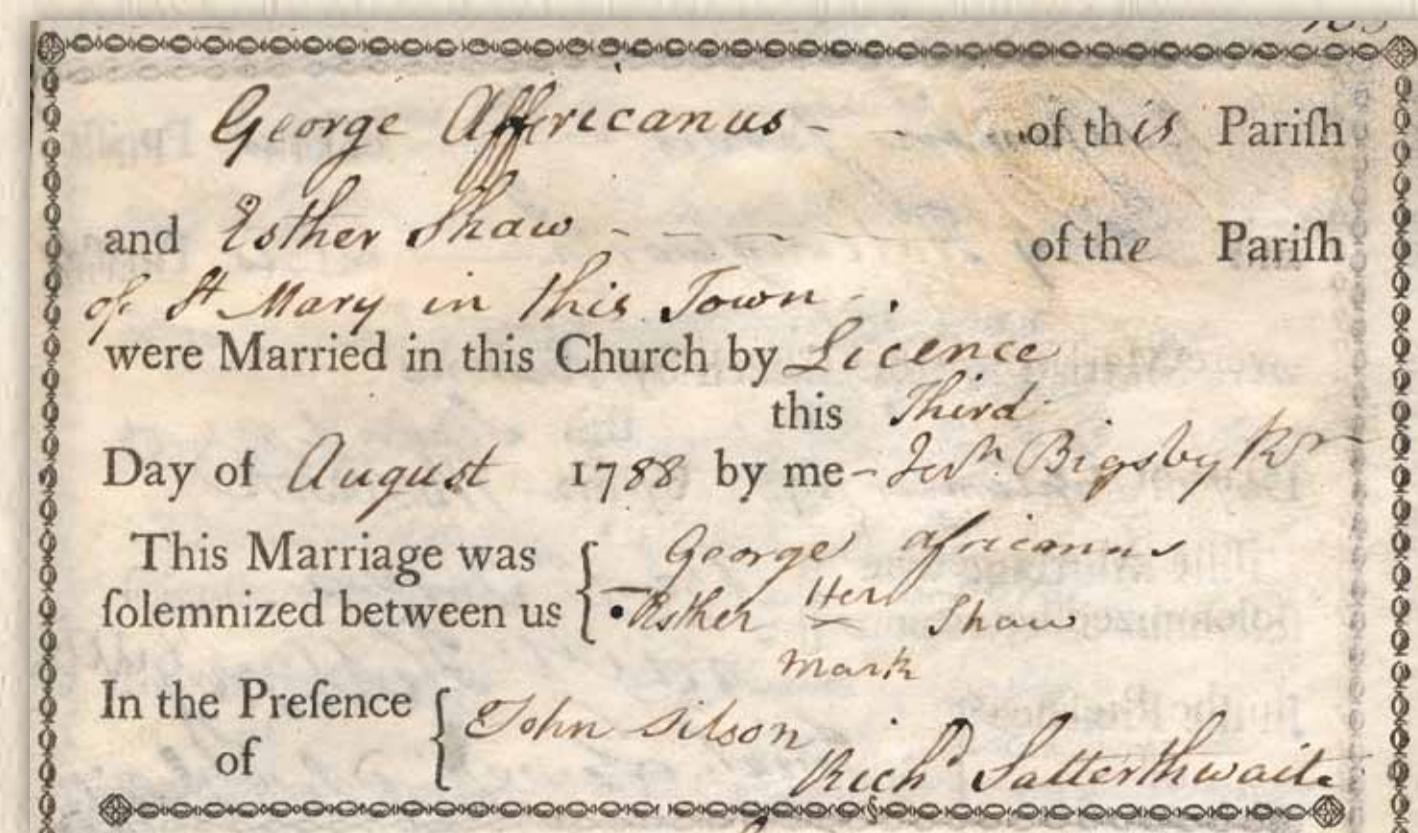
The story of George Africanus, a former slave from Sierra Leone who became a successful entrepreneur, illustrates the importance of civil and business records in tracing a person's history. His date and exact place of birth are unknown, but he was about three years of age when in 1766 he was brought to England, where he became a servant to the Molyneux family in Wolverhampton. We do not know when or how he came to Nottingham, where he was settled as a free man in the 1780s, although the Molyneux family did have links with the county.

On 3 August 1788 he married Esther Shaw, a local girl who had been baptised at St Mary's church in Nottingham in 1768. George was recorded on his marriage licence as a brass founder, but he did other work as well; by 1815 a local business directory lists him as running a servants' register office on Chandlers Lane in Nottingham.

City records show he also owned property in Nottingham. As a freeholder he had the right to vote in parliamentary elections. George played a part in community life; in 1816 he was included on a list of special constables who were responsible for 'watching and warding' the local streets to protect their property and others' during times of social unrest. In 1829 George bought substantial property in Chandlers Lane which included two other properties let out to tenants.

George died in 1834, aged 71 years, and was buried in St Mary's churchyard in Nottingham on 25 May. He was survived by his wife Esther, their daughter Hannah and grand-daughter Sarah.

A plaque was erected at St Mary's churchyard in 2003 in memory of Nottingham's 'first black entrepreneur'.



Marriage register entry for George Africanus and Esther Shaw
at St Peter's church, Nottingham, 3 August 1788
Nottinghamshire Archives, PR/2039

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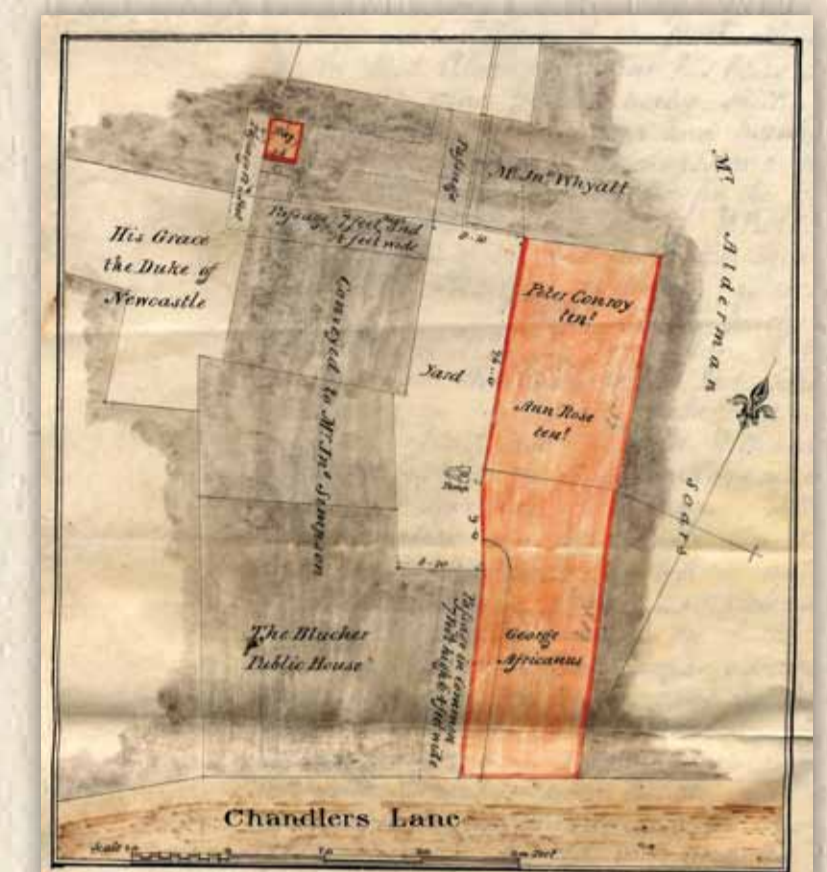
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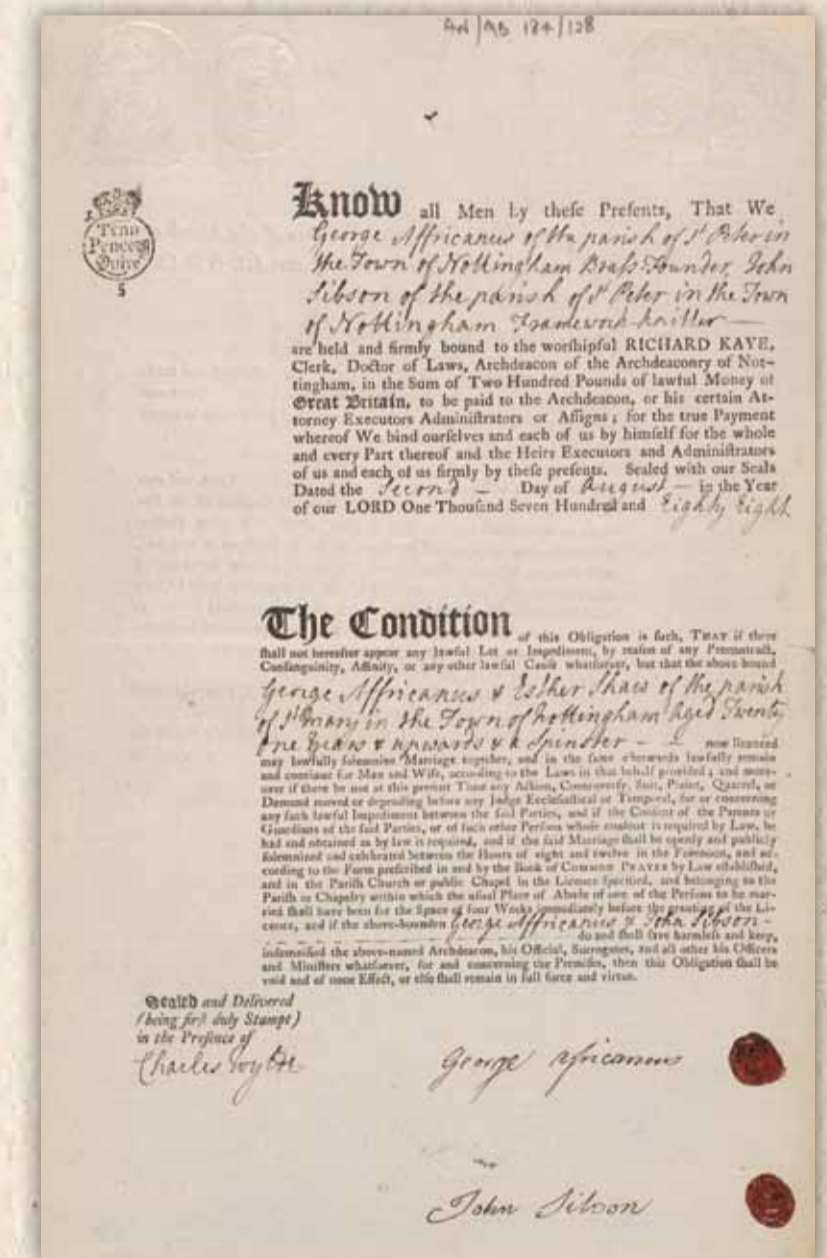
A plaque was erected at St Mary's churchyard in 2003 in memory of Nottingham's 'first black entrepreneur'.

NAME.	AGE.	BUSINESS.	RESIDENCE.	WEDDING GIVEN.
Bottle Lane Court				
Mr. Molding	40	Shoemaker	Bottle Lane	Box 23
Mr. Barnett	40	Tailor	Do	Do
Mr. Board	25	Shoe	Do	Do
Chandlers Lane				
Mr. Lirblue	45	Gent	Chandlers Lane	Do
Mr. Knight	41	Broker	Do	Do
Mr. Gravers	45	Carpenter	Do	Do
Mr. Allen	52	Cobbler	Do	Do
Thos. Brookman	56	Lab	Do	Do
Mr. Kille	55	Do	Do	Do
Thos. Kerst	55	Do	Do	Do
Henry Buckhal	48	Do	Do	Do
Geo. Africanus	55	Lab	Do	Do
John Bailey	65	Do	Do	Do
John Bright	30	Do	Do	Do
Carlton Street				
James Mayfield	40	Copper	Carlton Street	Do
Peter Britton	40	Painter	Do	Do
Mr. Bagnall	22	Artist	Do	Do
Mr. Gravers	40	Do	Do	Do
Mr. Homer	41	Waiter	Do	Do
Mr. Pratt	40	Victualer	Do	Do
Mr. Rawson	27	Plumber	Do	Do
Edw. Truett	30	Rabbit Merc	Do	Do
Mr. Senior	40	Hair Dresser	Do	Do
Henry Lee	40	Dealer in Capmes	Do	Do

Watch and Ward Register listing individuals enlisted to serve as special constables, 1816
Nottinghamshire Archives, CA/1490



Plan of property on Chandlers Lane, Nottingham,
purchased by George Africanus in 1829
Nottinghamshire Archives, M/11044



Marriage bond of George Africanus, 1788
University of Nottingham *Manuscripts and Special
Collections*, AN/MB/184/128

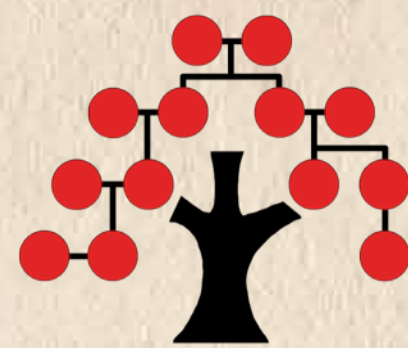


Plaque commemorating the burial place of George Africanus at St Mary's churchyard in Nottingham
Private collection

William Mompesson

1639 — 1709

A clerical life



Nottinghamshire's People

Ancestral Stories from the Archives

The church played a significant role in recording the lives of individuals and communities. Clergymen, who themselves often left their birthplace to establish careers and their families in other locations, had unique opportunities to oversee parish life and observe families in transition.

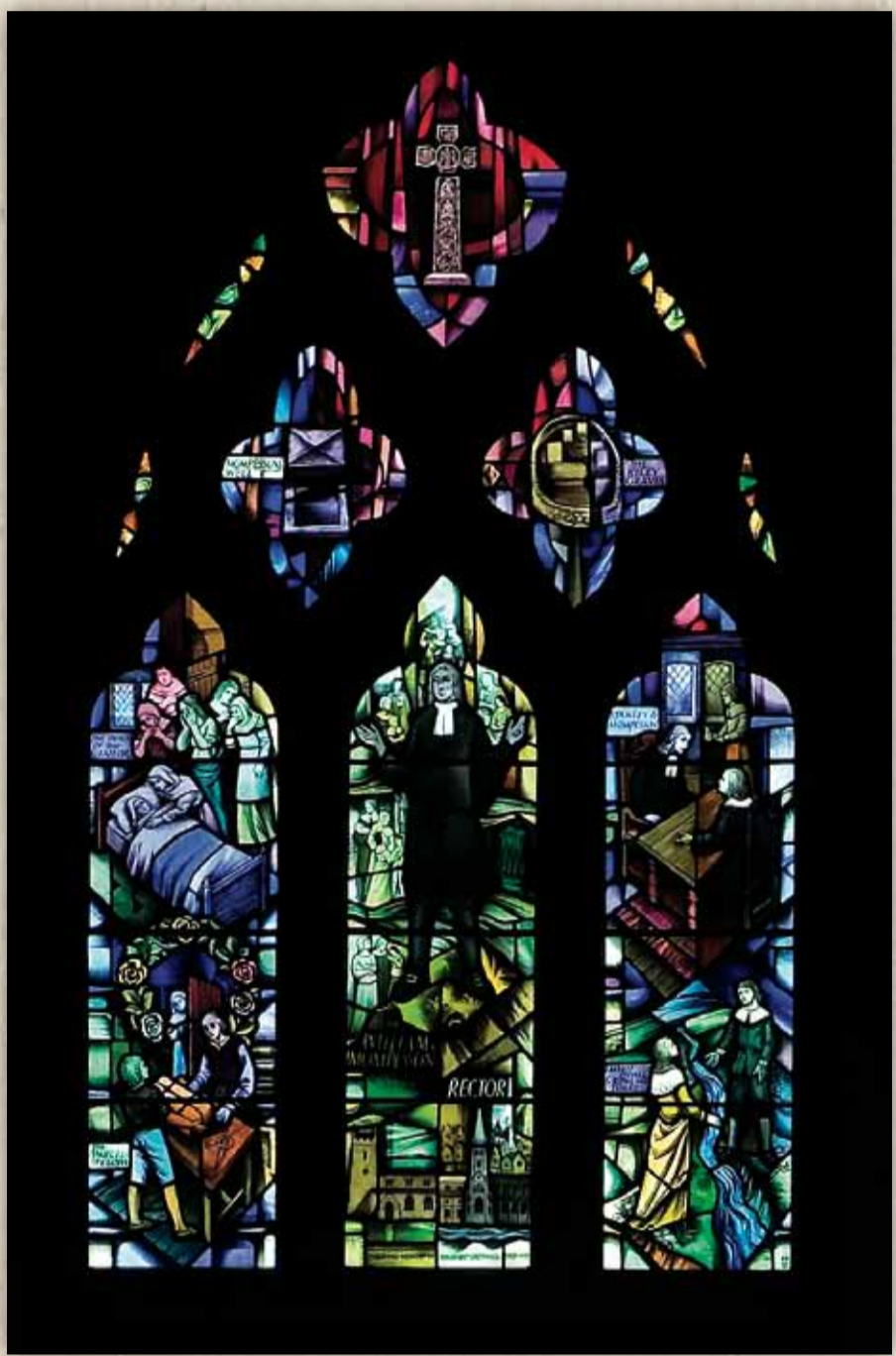
William Mompesson was born in Yorkshire and was appointed to the Derbyshire rectory of Eyam in 1664.

He is most commonly remembered for his actions during the bubonic plague epidemic of 1665-66. When plague reached Eyam in September 1665, William persuaded the community to confine itself to the parish, aiming to prevent the disease from spreading. Up to four in ten of the parishioners consequently died, including William's wife Catherine. Contrary to his own expectations, William survived and in 1669 became the rector of Eakring in Nottinghamshire.

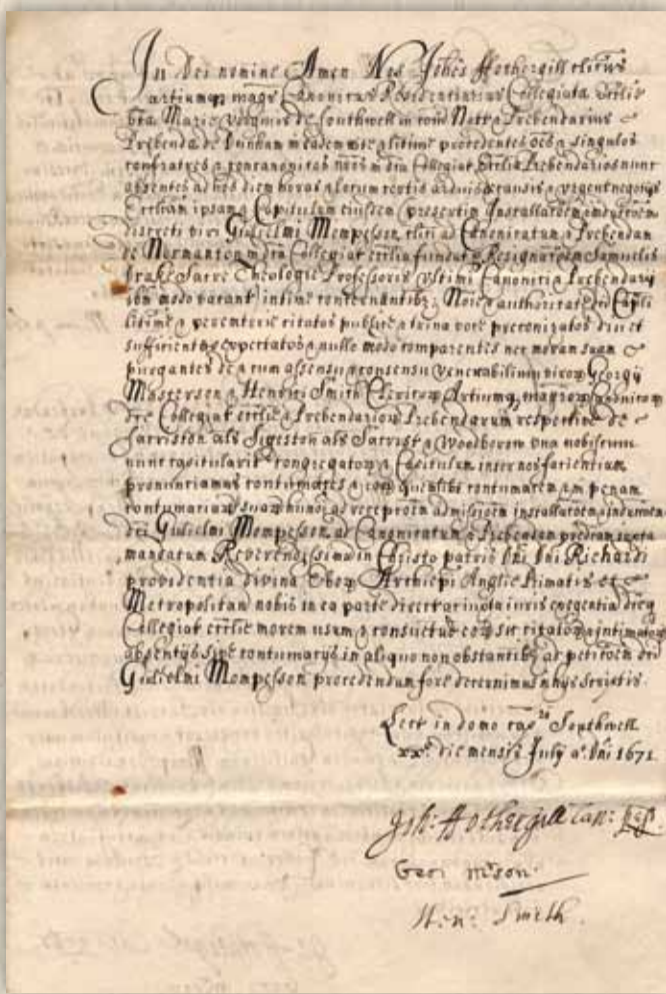
In 1671 he was installed as one of sixteen prebendary canons of Southwell Minster. A prebendary was a parish, the profits from which were used to support the Minster. In addition to their parish duties, the canons also shared responsibility for running the Minster and its estate. During his career at Southwell, William oversaw the building of a new residentiary house for the canons. His accounts dating to the 1690s show progress of the work.

The proceedings of ecclesiastical courts gave church officials further insight into the life of the community. Local people attended the Southwell Minster Chapter court to account for their spiritual and moral behaviour. Offences included sexual misconduct, disorderly behaviour, failure to attend church and non-payment of church dues including tithes. These court records are invaluable sources for local historians.

William Mompesson died at Eakring on 7 March 1709, having served as rector of that parish for nearly forty years. His parish register is a critical source for historians researching their ancestors in this community. His burial is recorded by a brass plaque.



Stained glass window at Eyam Church, showing William Mompesson © Mark Titterton Photography and Design



Proceedings for the installation of William Mompesson as Prebendary of Normanton, 20 July 1671 Nottinghamshire Archives, SC/4/1/363



William Mompesson's accounts for the building of the canons' residentiary house, 1690 Nottinghamshire Archives, SC/6/5/13



Citation for people to appear before the court of Southwell Chapter, October 1683 Nottinghamshire Archives, SC/8/2/196



Lantern Slide of Southwell Minster, by George Washington Wilson, 1898 University of Nottingham Manuscripts and Special Collections, Ev 34



Photograph of Southwell Minster choir, 19th century Nottinghamshire Archives, PR/25168

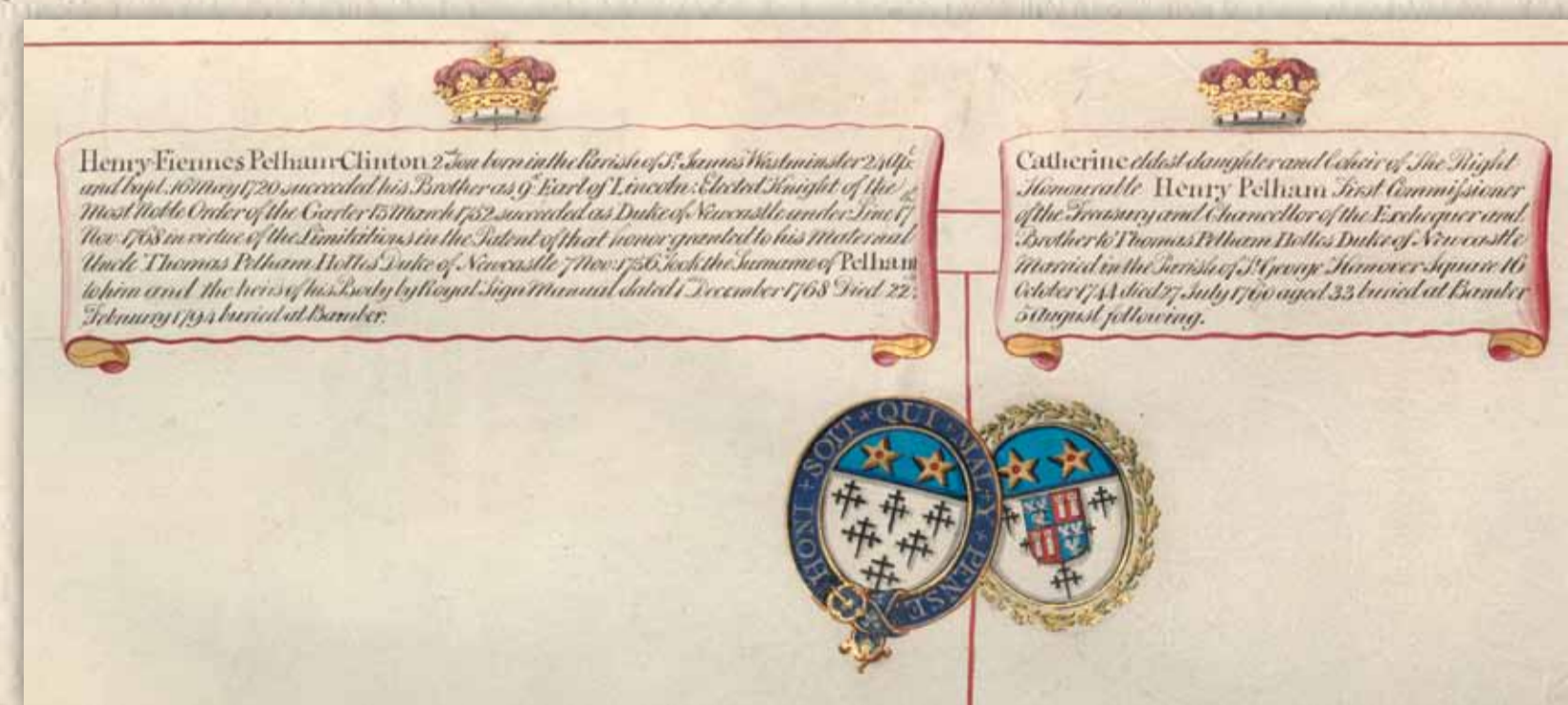
1639 — 1709

Arrangements for the inheritance of title or property could require detailed genealogical evidence, particularly when the constraints of male primogeniture were in question. The archives of the Dukes of Newcastle include many papers showing how rights were transferred when the male line ended.

The 4th Duke hoped to trace the Clinton family line back to a royal Anglo-Saxon origin and commissioned research by the antiquarian T.D. Fosbrooke and others. An earlier forged Old English text linked to Leominster, Herefordshire, was claimed to be accurate, leading the Duke to muse: “probably we have to boast of having the blood of the great and admirable Alfred running in our veins in a purer and more direct manner than we could otherwise have laid claim to”.

Other family members shared in the research. In August 1833 the Earl of Lincoln wrote to his father about its progress, and promised that as he travelled north from Leominster through Coleshill, Warwickshire, "I will stop and Clintonize there". His son, Lord Edward Pelham-Clinton, continued the work and the College of Arms provided a new family tree in the 1880s.

When the Newcastle ducal title expired in 1988 on the death of the 10th Duke, knowledge of the early Clintons enabled a distant Australian cousin, Edward Fiennes Clinton, to succeed to the family title of Earl of Lincoln.



till Monday. Colchill is
on our road, & I will stop
and Clintonize there - it is

16. Mr. Farabee has informed of a curious fact of which I have
 doubts to be entirely correct. Namely, that we are directly
 descended from Hammond Clifford commonly known as Fane
 Rosamond - King Hen. III. = Rosamond Clifford

Wm Longespee = Elia, d. & s. of Wm. D'Incease 2^d.
 Earl of Salisbury, you seems Earl of Salisbury

Elia = Wm. D'Incease

Elia = John Baron Winter - It appears that

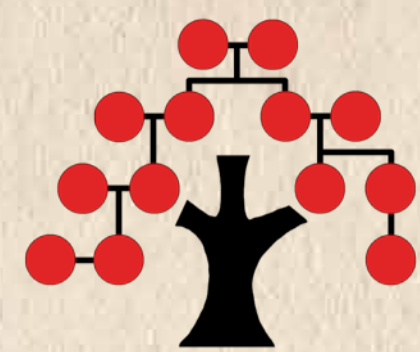
Elia = John Baron Winter - It appears that

Subsequently Elia became the heir of his father Wm Longespee,
 whose son was a ^{Wm.} ~~John~~ ^{William} who died 1290. & whose 2^d youngest
 son was John Earl of Lincoln, his 2^d & son John was 1st husband
 but had no issue, as that of course Elia remained the heir of
 Wm Longespee's son of Hen. 3^d & Fane Rosamond Clifford.

But from the connection at the British Institution it is excellent
 to gratify me exceedingly, to find such a distinguished display

held on Rensselaer was the father of Geoffrey and Robert de Clinton, from whom we are descended & that probably we have to boast of sharing the blood of the great & admirable Alfred running in our veins in ^a ~~more~~ pure state & more direct manner than we could otherwise have laid claim to - Frevins was descended from the Saxon of Edgar Atheling by the intermarriage

**LAKE
SIDE**



There is a wealth of information available for family historians to explore online. Many websites provide access to indices and to digitised documents. Online resources and indices, such as census data, can be invaluable starting points in tracing your ancestry.

Originally the indices were compiled and made available through the efforts of volunteers, but increasingly partnerships with private companies are making full transcriptions and digital images available.

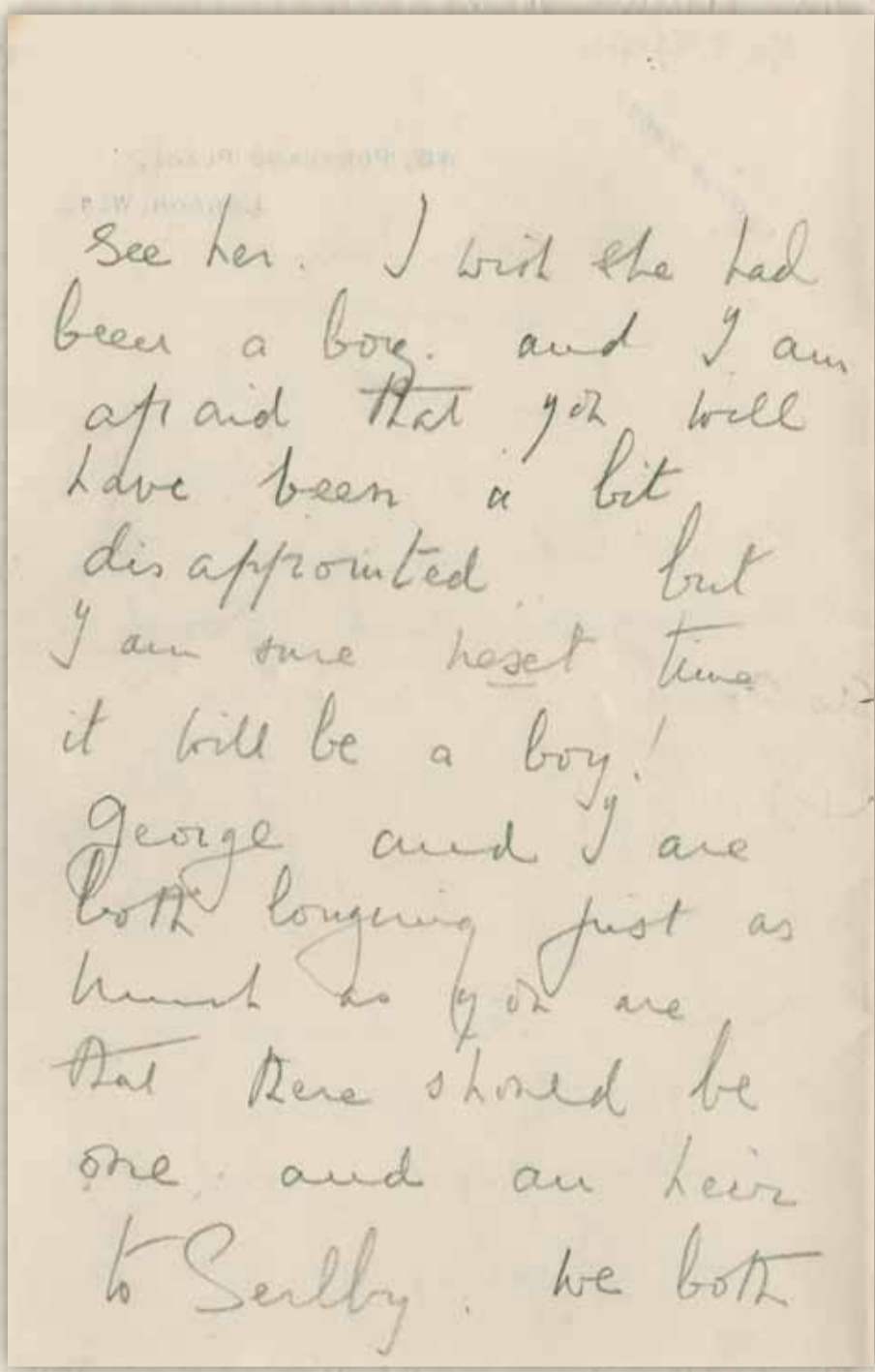
However, many documents are not yet available on the internet, and the keen researcher will want to go further. Some may wish to check that the online record is correct; others to explore different kinds of resources, to create a fuller picture of past times. Their searches will ultimately lead them to a record office or library.

Staff can guide visitors as they navigate from the obvious series of parish registers and wills to investigate more specialist sources. Individuals in hardship may be found, for example, in records of settlement and removal or in the evidence of civil courts and poor law administration. Church court records and maintenance orders can help disentangle relationships when divorce or illegitimacy creates a 'brick wall'. Any transaction that leaves a legal or financial record can provide valuable additional evidence.

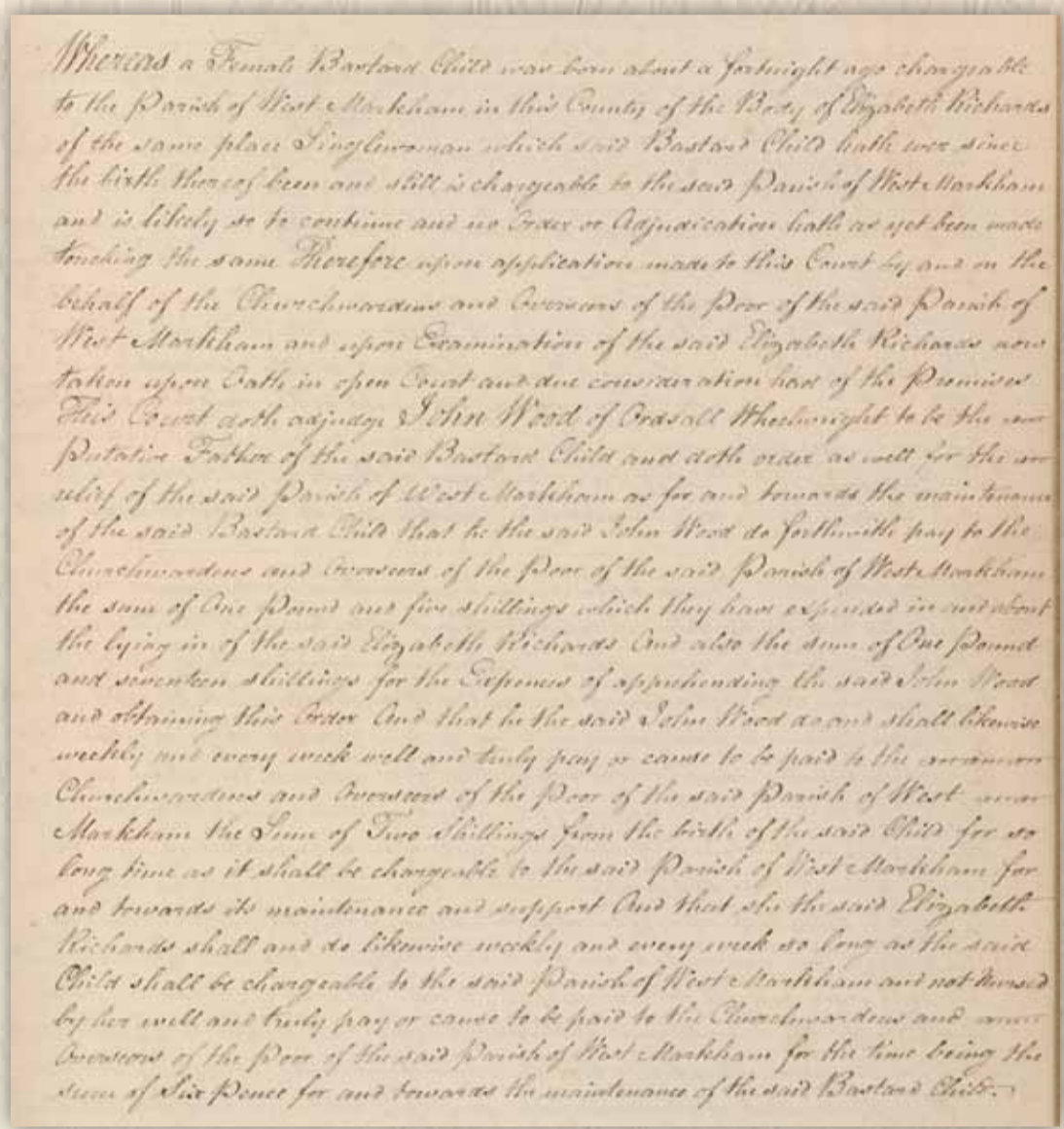
Archives of institutions such as hospitals or schools, or places of employment provide rich evidence about individuals, if you know where to look.

Private papers reveal the personal insights and emotions of a correspondent or diarist, or add the visual impact of a photograph.

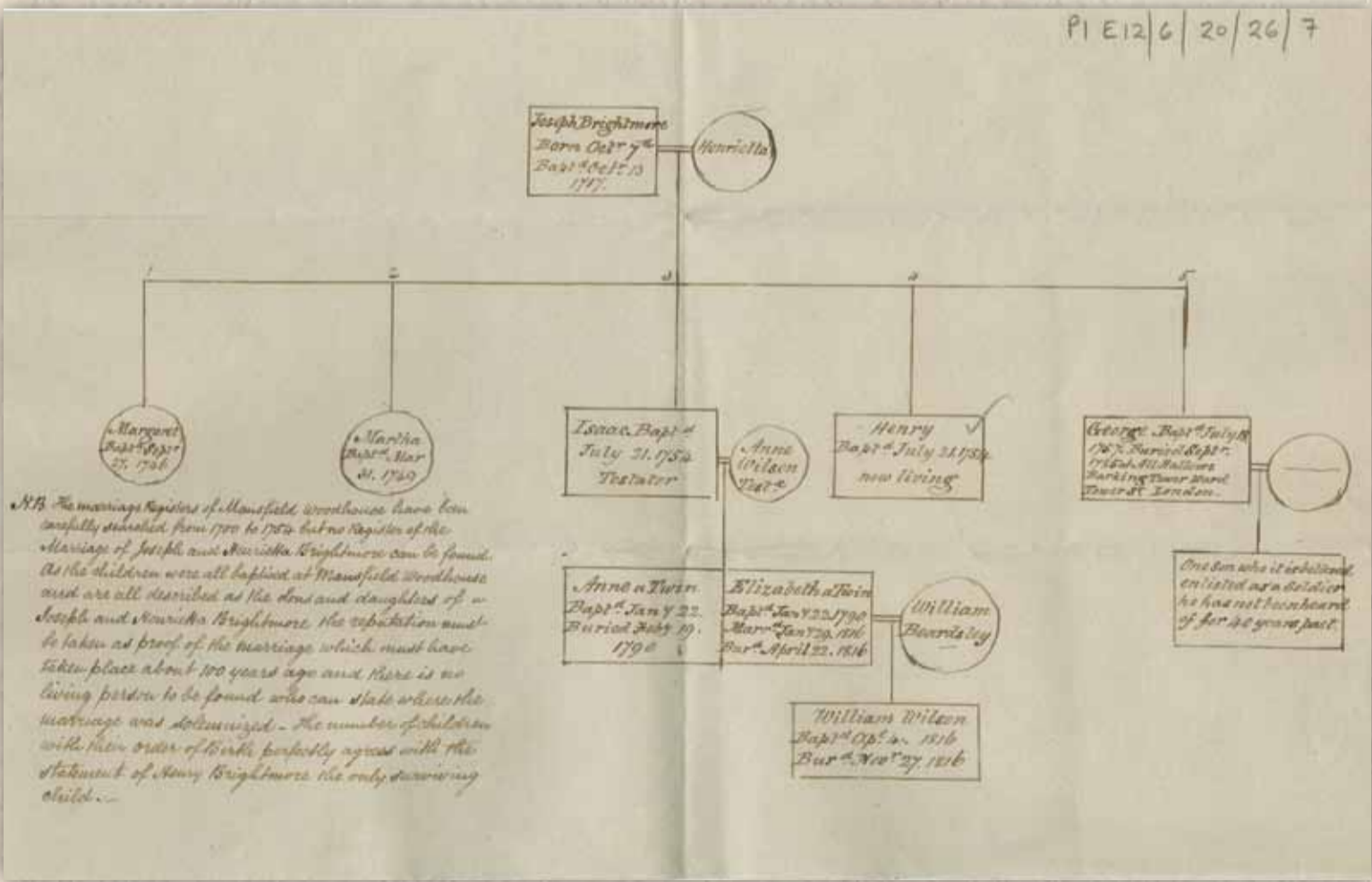
Whether your ancestors were agricultural labourers, parish officers or members of the peerage, these records will help to establish family links and bring the past to life. Visit Nottinghamshire Archives and The University of Nottingham's Manuscripts and Special Collections department to discover how their collections can help you.



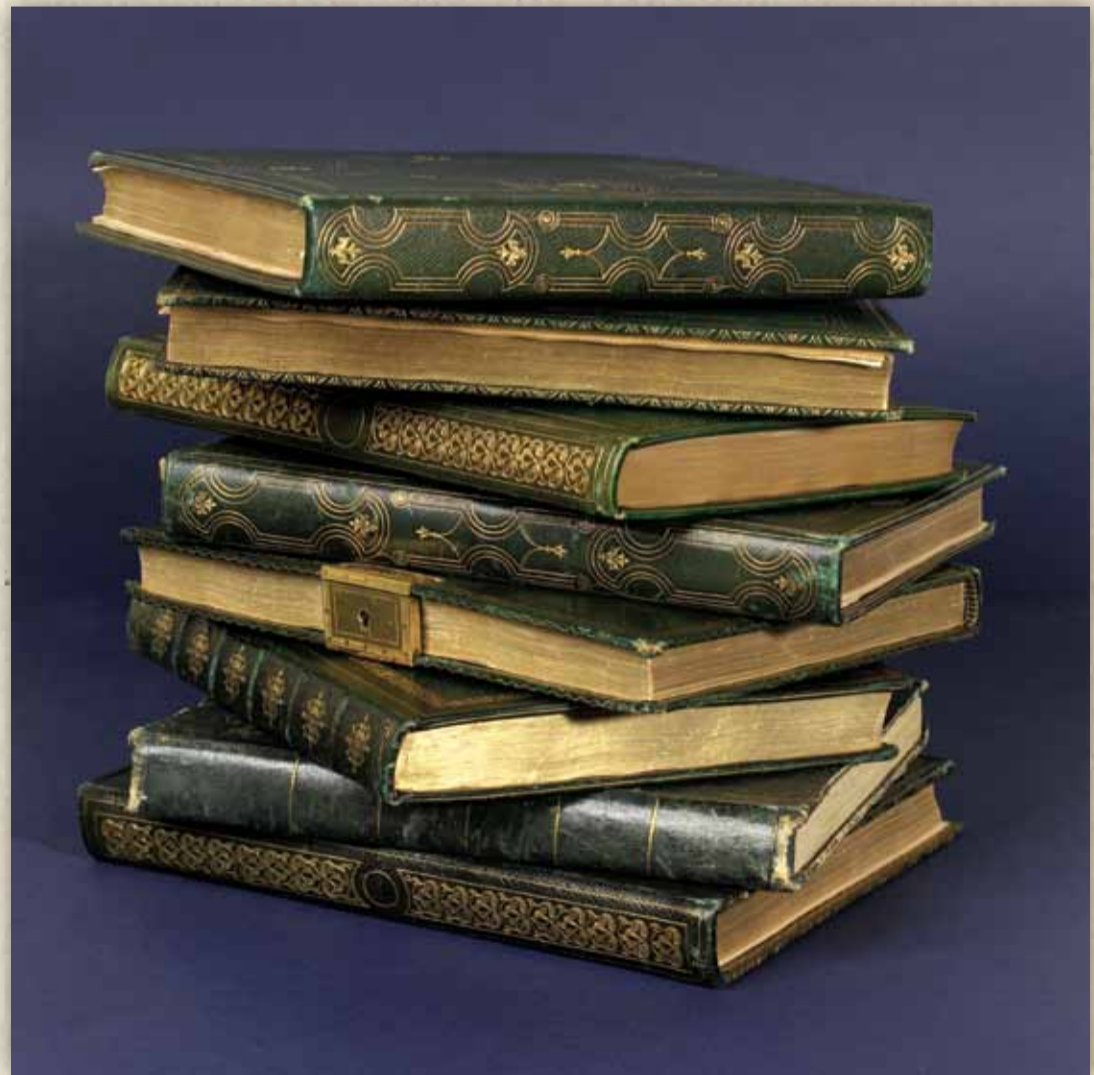
Letter from Lucia (wife of Viscount Galway's son and heir, George Monckton Arundell) to her father-in-law, announcing the birth of her first child and expressing hope that a girl isn't too disappointing, 1924
University of Nottingham Manuscripts and Special Collections, Ga C 9/144



Maintenance order adjudging John Wood, a wheelwright of Ordsall, as the putative father of the illegitimate child of Elizabeth Richards, of West Markham, compelling him to pay towards the upkeep of the child, 12 January 1816
Nottinghamshire Archives, C/QSM/1/37



Pedigree showing the problems tracing descendants of Joseph Brightmore of Mansfield Woodhouse, c. 1841
University of Nottingham Manuscripts and Special Collections, PI E12/6/20/26/7



Collection of personal diaries of the 4th Duke of Newcastle under Lyne, 1822-1850
University of Nottingham Manuscripts and Special Collections, Ne 2F 1-8