

Henry Kirke White

Henry Kirke White (1785-1806) was born in Exchange Alley in Nottingham City Centre, just off Market Square. The son of a butcher, Kirke White showed great promise in learning, demonstrated when he joined the Nottingham Philosophical Society as their youngest member aged just 13 and presenting a two-hour lecture to the Nottingham Literary Society when only 15. He was later apprenticed to local law firm Coldham and Enfield, Middle Pavement. Excelling in his studies, Kirke White was released from his apprenticeship to attend Cambridge University, where he died at the age of 21. During his short life he wrote

the highly-praised collection of poetry, *Clifton Grove* (1803), dedicated to Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire, who resided at Derbyshire's Chatsworth House. After his death, his writings were collected, edited and published by Robert Southey, the future poet laureate. Kirke White's death was mourned by Lord Byron in a tributary eulogy.



Portrait of Henry Kirke White (1785-1806). Frontispiece in *The beauties of Kirke White: consisting of selections from his poetry and prose* by Alfred Howard (c.1826)

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