

## Croome Collection Coventry Family History

### George William Coventry, Viscount Deerhurst and 8th Earl of Coventry

Born 16th October 1784, the first son of George William (7th Earl) and his second wife, 'Peggy'. He succeeded as Earl in 1831. He married his first wife Emma Susannah Lygon, 2nd daughter of Lord Beauchamp of Madresfield, Worcestershire, in 1808. Together they had one son, George William. Emma died only 2 years after their marriage and in 1811 the 8th Earl eloped to Scotland with Lady Mary Beauclerk (1791-1845), only daughter of Aubrey Beauclerk, 6th Duke of St Albans. They remarried on their return to England. George William and Mary together had a daughter, Mary Augusta, and a son, Henry Amelius Beauclerk. Not long after their marriage Mary had affairs with two of George William's younger brothers, amongst others. Newspaper reports on the various affairs of the 8th Earl's wife and the affairs he had in retaliation meant the reputation of the Coventry family had suffered greatly during this period. George William died 15th May 1843 at Coventry House, from an 'unsound mind'.

In September 1834 the 8th Earl's eldest son and heir was blinded in a shooting accident at Donnington, just a few miles from Sir Charles Cockerell's new Indian Palace at Seizincote, Gloucestershire. He spent time in Seizincote recovering, where he met Sir Charles's eldest daughter, Harriet Anne Cockerell (1812-42). They became inseparable and decided to marry. Together they had a daughter, Maria Emma Catherine, and a son, George William (later 9th Earl). George William, Viscount Deerhurst, died from consumption, 5th November 1838. When the 8th Earl died in 1843, the title went to his grandson, George William, then aged only 5 years old.