

Croome Collection Coventry Family History

Thomas Coventry, 5th Baron Coventry, Viscount Deerhurst and 1st Earl of Coventry

Born 1629, the second son of Thomas Coventry (2nd Baron) and his wife, Mary. He succeeded as Baron on the death of his nephew in 1685. He married his first wife Winifrida Edgcomb, daughter of Colonel Peirce Edgcomb, of Mount Edgcomb, Devon, in 1660. Together they had four sons: Thomas (later 6th Baron and 2nd Earl of Coventry), William, who died young, another who died young, and Gilbert (later 8th Baron and 4th Earl). After Winifrida's death he remarried to Elizabeth, one of his servants and the daughter of Richard Graham, Esquire. After the death of the 5th Baron, Elizabeth remarried to Thomas Savage of Elmley Castle, Worcestershire.

Thomas was seated in his estate at Snitterfield, which he purchased around 1660, as his chances of inheriting the Croome estate seemed remote at this time. As the 4th Baron had died intestate, most of the estate went to Lady Coventry and had to be bought back by Thomas in 1697 with a huge sum of £6000. He also purchased additional land in the parishes of Birlingham and Defford around this time. On 26th April 1697, he was created Viscount Deerhurst and Earl of Coventry by Patent, with limitations to William, Thomas and Henry Coventry, the grandsons of Walter, brother of the 1st Baron Coventry, and their issue male. Lavish expenditure took place in order to inherit this title and estate, including a gift of £8000 to William III. He was created Custos Rotulorum and Lord Lieutenant of Worcestershire. Thomas died 15th July 1699. He was buried at Croome.