

Croome Collection Coventry Family History

William Coventry, 5th Earl of Coventry

Born 1678, the grandson of Walter Coventry (brother of Sir Thomas, Lord Keeper Coventry, 1st Baron). He succeeded as 5th Earl in October 1719. He married Elizabeth Allen, daughter of John Allen, of Westminster in 1719. Together they had three sons: Thomas Henry, who died in 1744, aged only 23, George William (later 6th Earl) and John Bulkeley. Around 1710 William became MP for Bridport, Dorset. In April 1717 he became Joint Clerk Comptroller of the Board of the Green Cloth. He was appointed a Privy Councillor in 1719, then Custos Rotulorum and Lord Lieutenant of Worcestershire in 1720. In 1719 he ordered an inventory of Croome to be made, which deemed many areas 'unfit' and recognised the improvements needed. He proved himself to be a competent landlord, with annual incomes rising during his time. He spent much of his time dealing with the family's legal and financial affairs, with his wealth helping to cushion the estate from an impending disaster. Issues eased after the mid-1720's. William died 18th March 1751, leaving money to every member of his staff.