

## The GREATHEED's of GUYS CLIFFE

*William's* benefactor was Bertie Greatheed, who was born on 19 October 1759. His parents were Samuel Greatheed and Lady Mary, the daughter of Peregrine Bertie, 2nd Duke of Ancaster.

Samuel purchased Guys Cliffe in 1750, having rented it for the previous 7 years. He was Whig MP for Coventry from 1747-61.

Bertie was raised at Guy's Cliff, and it was there that he met the actress Sarah Kemble when she was employed by his mother in 1771-73, first as a maid and, later, as her companion. Sarah had been sent there by her father, Roger Kemble, because she wanted to marry William Siddons, an actor.

Sarah entertained the guests at Guy's Cliffe, and the staff, with play and poetry readings. Subsequently, with the help of Lady Mary, Sarah, now aged 18, did marry William Siddons at Holy Trinity Church, Coventry on 26 November 1773 and her father subsequently accepted the union.

Bertie tried his hand at play writing and, in April 1788, a tragedy written by him, *The Regent*, was performed at Drury Lane Theatre. Although it was supported by Mrs. Siddons and Roger Kemble, the play only ran for nine nights. Bertie later published the play with a dedication to Mrs. Sarah Siddons.

In 1739, Samuel, Bertie's father, inherited a sugar plantation in St Kitts from his father, John. However, he decided to stay in England because he had political ambitions and left the management of the plantation to his brother, Marmaduke.

In 1780, Bertie married Marmaduke's daughter Anne, who was his first cousin. They had a son, named Bertie, who was baptised on 6 Dec 1781 at St. Marys Church Warwick. Tragically, he died in Italy on 8 October 1804, aged 23. He had secretly married in Europe, and his only daughter, Anne Caroline, born c1804, was brought up by her Grandparents in Guys Cliffe.

Anne Caroline married Lord Charles Percy, son of Algernon Percy, 1st Earl of Beverley on 3 March 1822 and she inherited Guys Cliffe when her grandfather Bertie, died on 16 January 1826.

It was Anne Caroline Percy (nee Greatheed) who commissioned the stained glass window in St James Church in memory of a lifetime's service by William and Samuel Squires as Stewards to the estate..

Charles Percy died on 11 October 1870, aged 76, in Alnwick Castle, Northumberland, after a short illness.

Anne Caroline died on 4 March 1882 at Guys Cliffe

### Family Tree

