

The York Lefroys

Captain Anthony Lefroy, his life,
family and connections with the
author Jane Austen and her family.

Thomas Langlois Lefroy 1776-1869



Jane Austen 1775-1817



Grave of Anthony and Elizabeth Lefroy
Old St. Oswald's Graveyard.

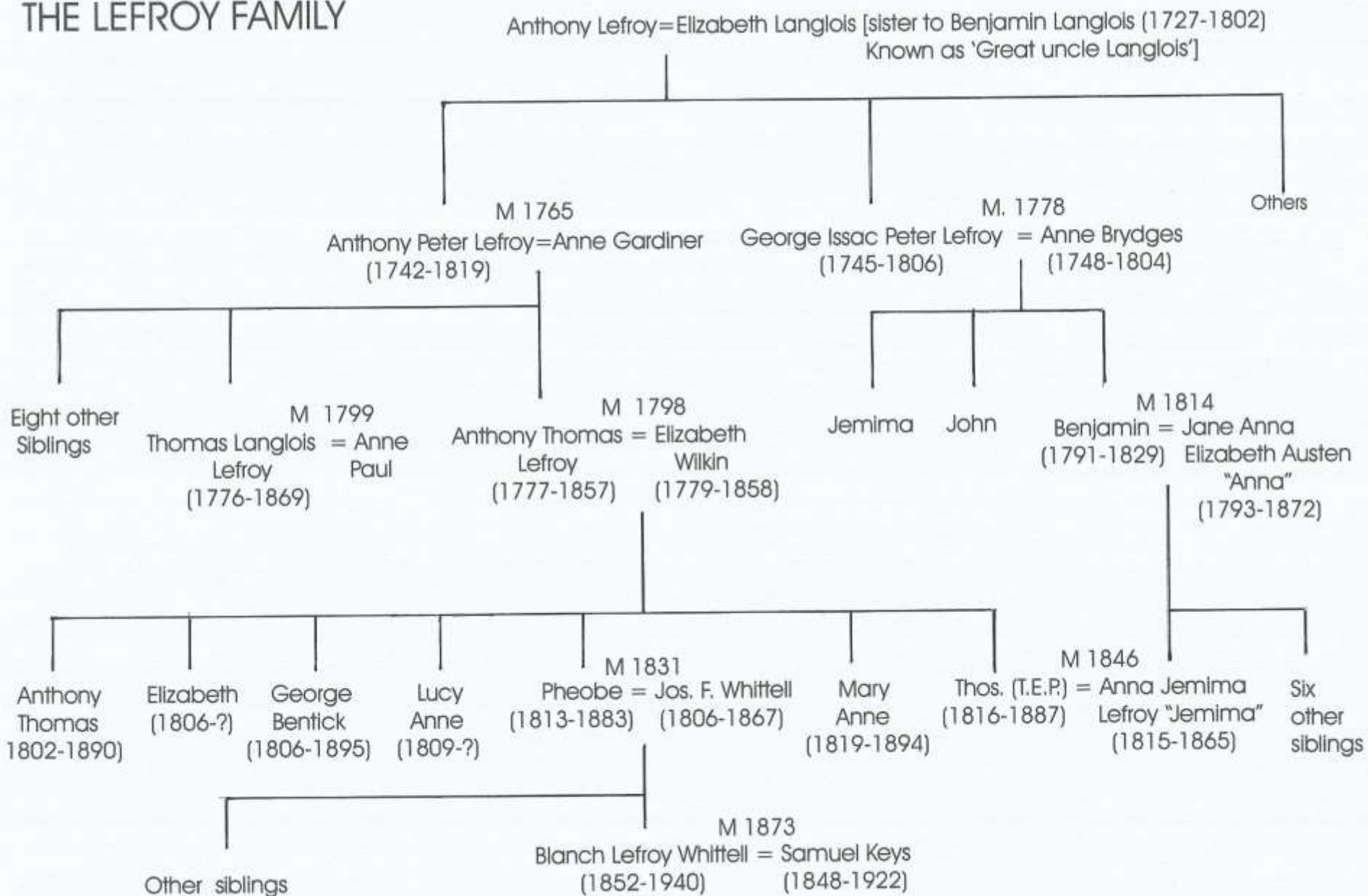


Inscription Lefroy Gravestone



In Humble Trust
on God's mercy through Christ
Here rest the bodies
of ANTHONY LEFROY Esquire
Late a Captain in the 65th Regiment
and second son of
ANTHONY LEFROY Esquire
of Limerick
Lieutenant Colonel of the 9th Dragoons
Born Octr 19th 1777,
Died Septr 7th 1857.
Also of
ELIZABETH his wife
Daughter of
WILLIAM WILKIN Esqre
of Appleby Westmoreland
Born Decr 13th 1779/Died Jany 23rd 1858.

THE LEFROY FAMILY



"I consider a country-dance as an emblem of marriage. Fidelity and complaisance are the principal duties of both; and those men who do not choose to dance or marry themselves, have no business with the partners or wives of their neighbours"

Jane Austen, *Northanger Abbey*.

An example of how commissions were bought and young men could become officers without military training

Arthur Wellesley - Duke of Wellington
1769 – 1852

Family : 3rd son, minor Anglo- Irish aristocracy

Age : 18

March 1787 : gazetted to an ensign 73rd Highland reg. of Foot. Avoided joining regiment in India because;

Nov. 1787: Became aide-de-camp to Lord lieutenant of Ireland (10s/day almost 2x ensign pay)

Dec. 1787: Promoted to lieutenant in new 76th Foot regiment raised for service in India.

Age: 19

1788: Exchanged to 41st Foot, conveniently based in Ireland, allows him to retain his additional staff pay.

Age:20

1789: 41st foot to 12th light Dragoons- also stationed in Ireland.

Age: 21

1791: Captain 58th foot.

Two steps in promotion in 4 years.

Also sitting as MP for the family seat of Trim.

Age: 24

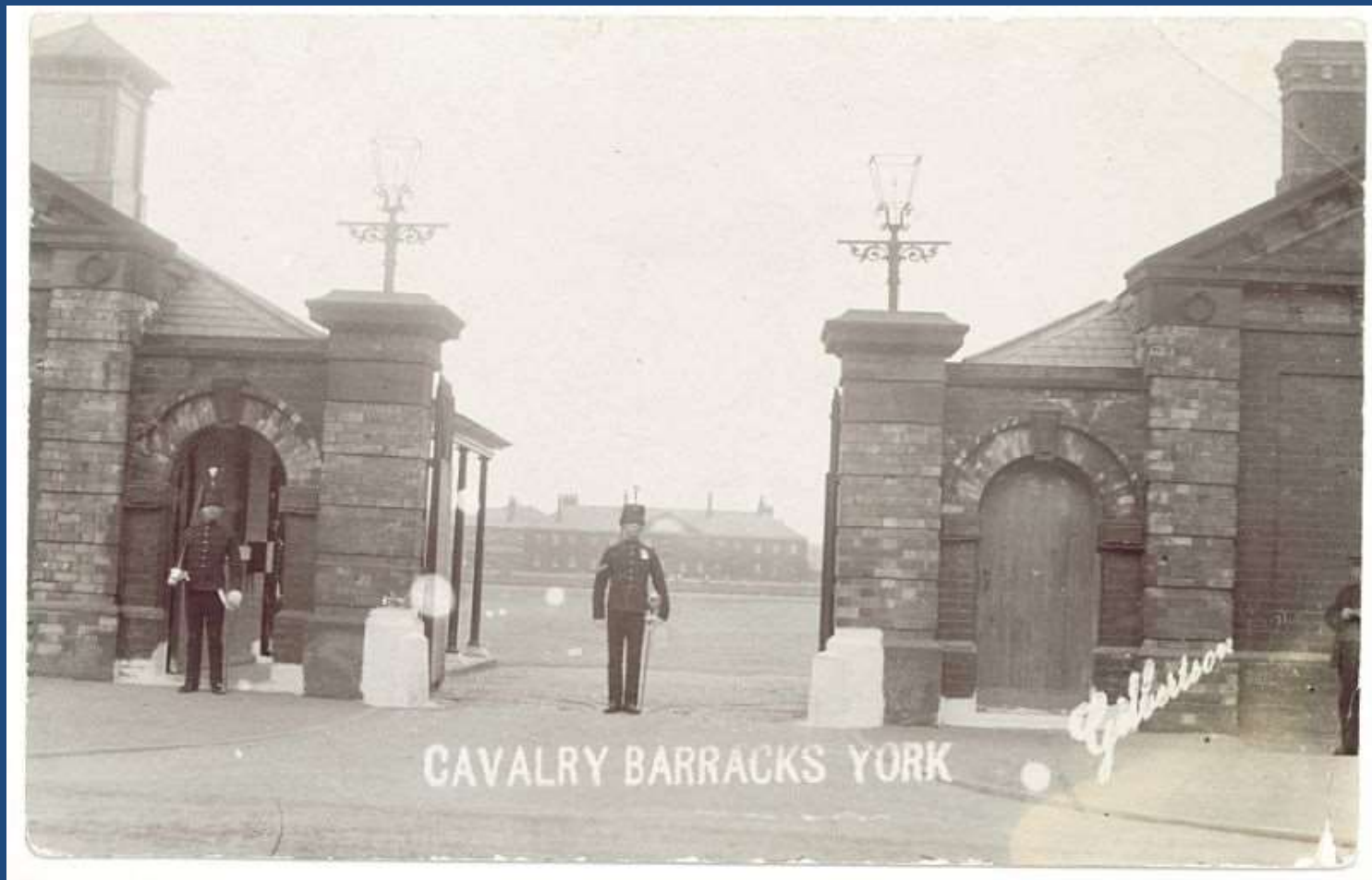
1793: Lieutenant colonel 33rd regiment of foot, commission bought by brother Richard.

About to enter action for the first time with no formal training.

“ Marriage is indeed a manoeuvring business ”

Jane Austen

York Cavalry Barracks late C19th.



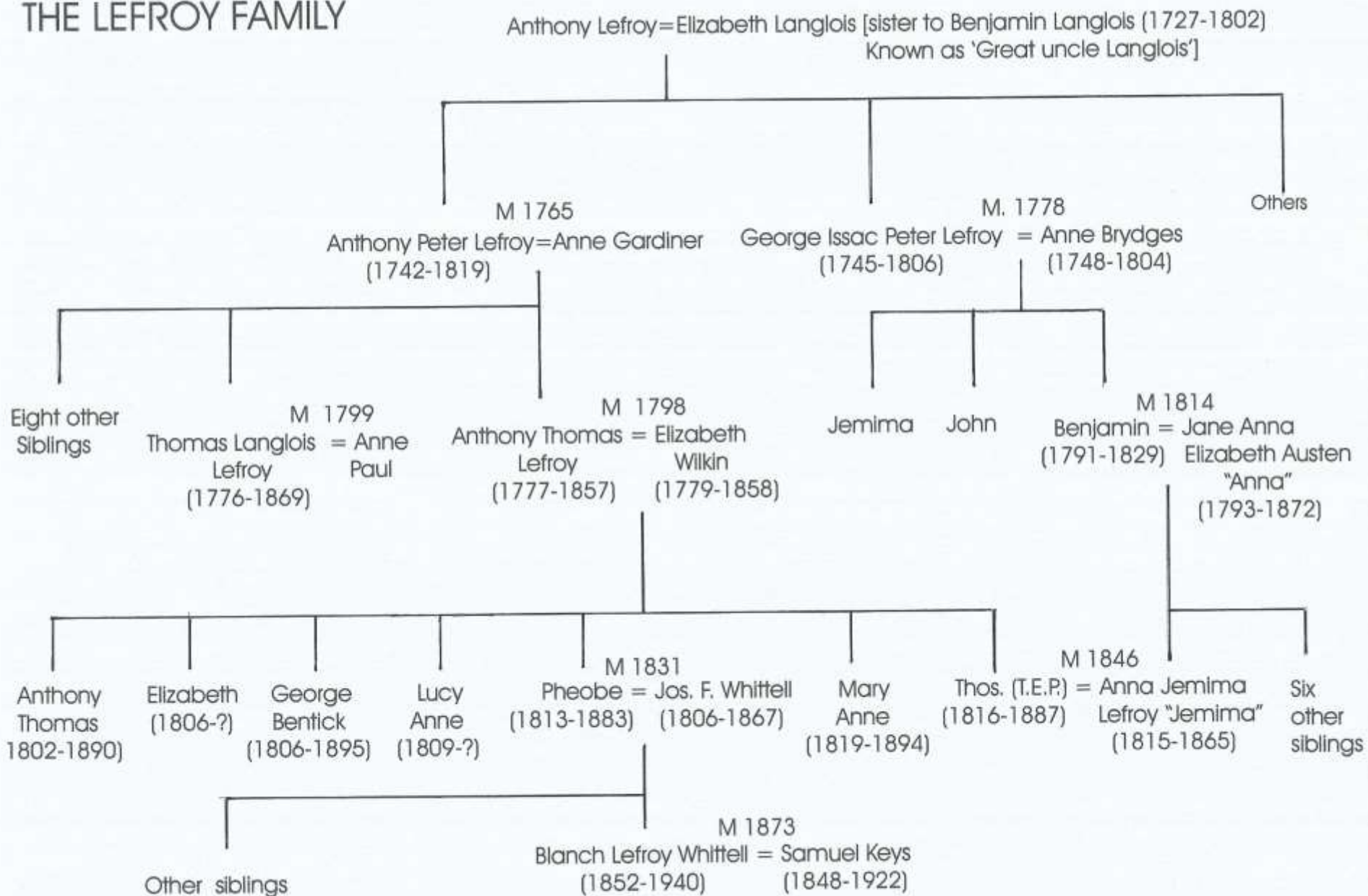
No 1 Heslington Lane
(recent photograph taken from the west side.)



North House (foreground, left).
Early C20th



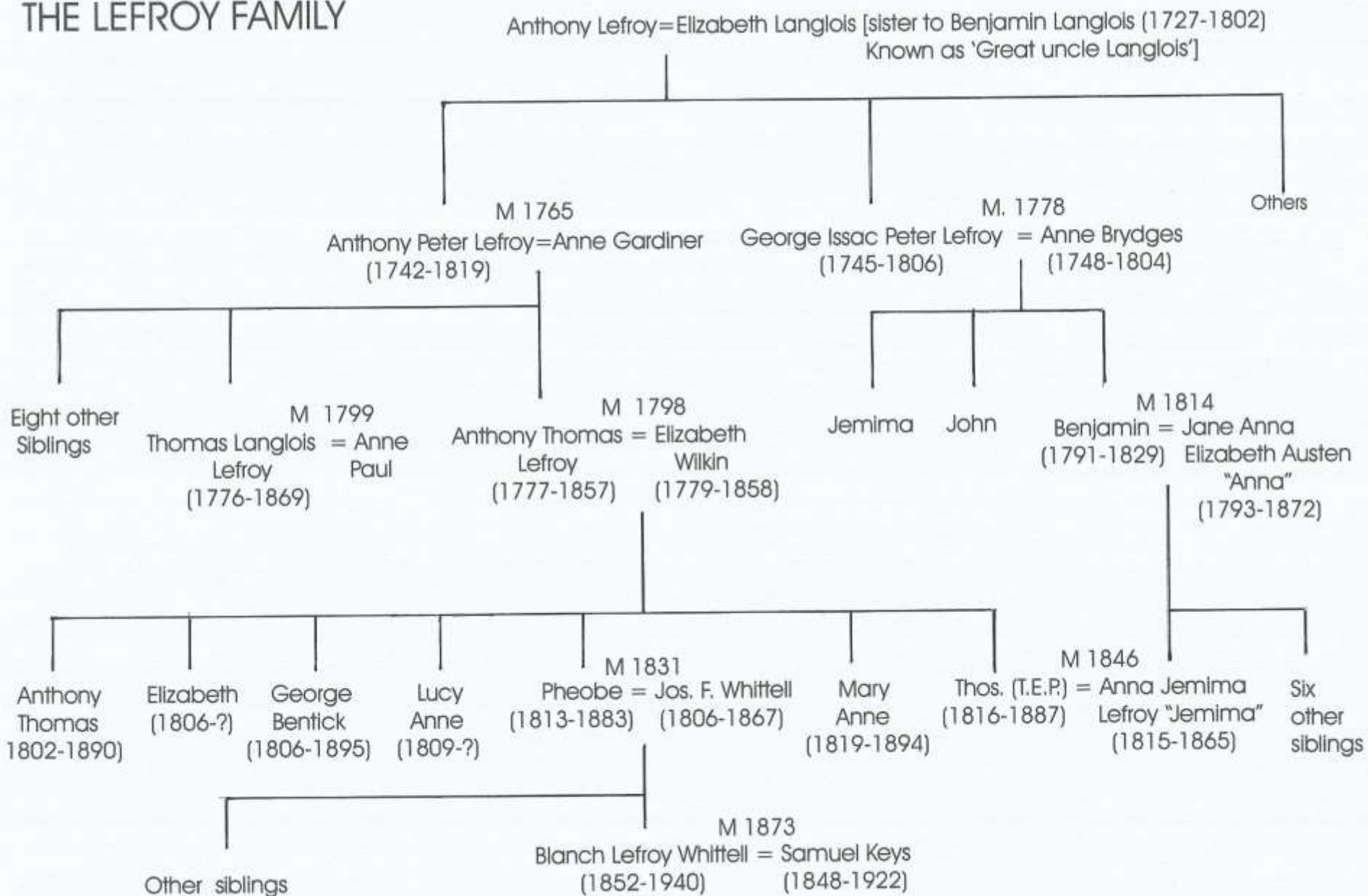
THE LEFROY FAMILY



Anthony Lefroy son of Captain Anthony Lefroy.
First Chief Constable of the Gloucestershire County Constabulary



THE LEFROY FAMILY

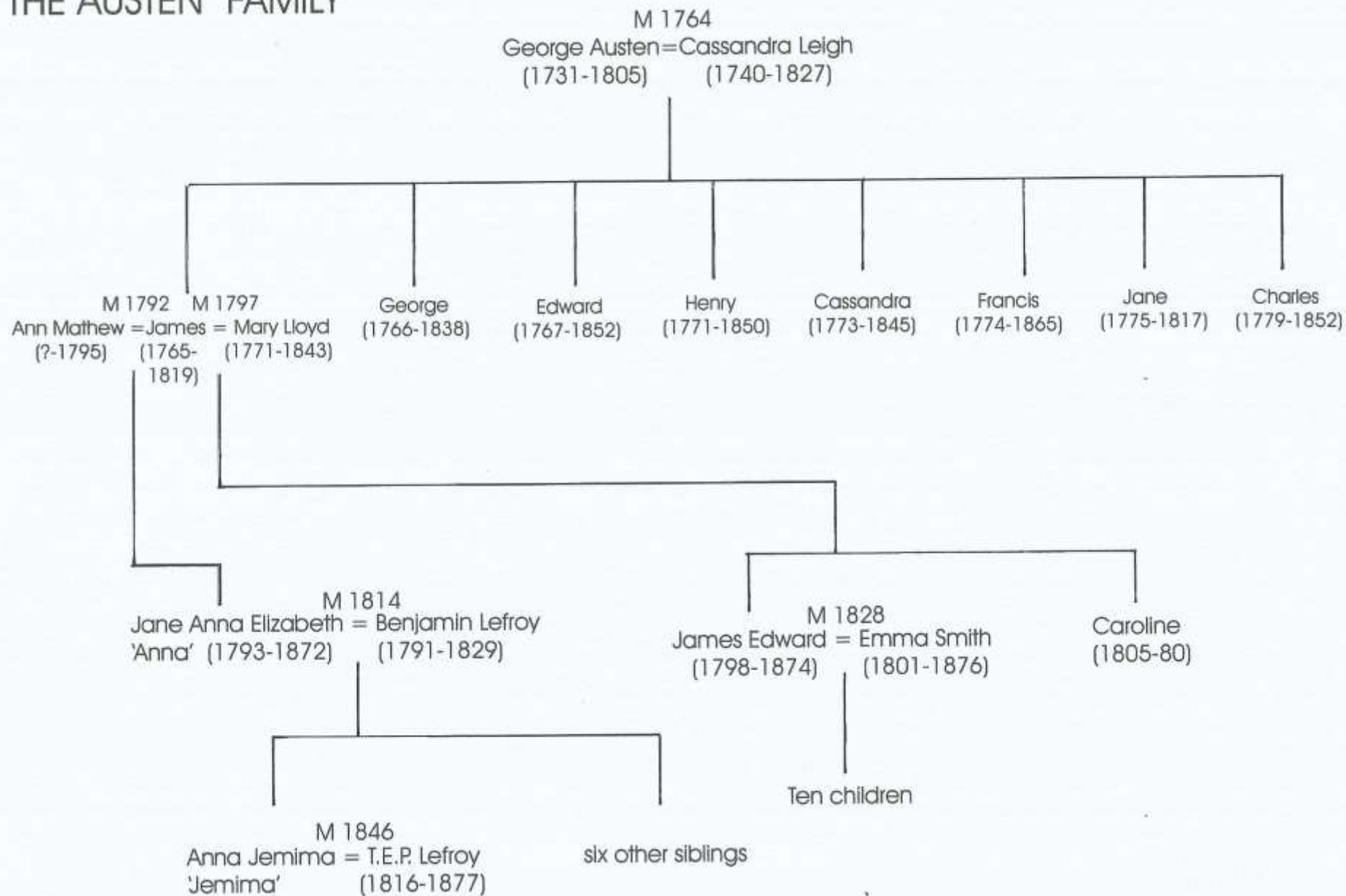


The Tom Lefroy – Jane Austen affair.

".....the York Lefroys got up a very strong version of it all, and spread their own notions in the Family – but they were for years very angry with their Kinsman (Thomas Langlois Lefroy) and very delighted in a proof, as they thought, of his early heartlessness."

Caroline Austen writing to her brother, James who was writing the first biography of Jane Austen, their aunt.

THE AUSTEN FAMILY



*Poor animal !, she will be worn out before
she is thirty - I am very sorry for her -
Mrs. Clemont too is in that way again. I
am quite tired of so many children - Mrs.
Benn has a 13th. "*

Jane Austen writing in March 1817 to her niece, Fanny Knight, on another birth of her niece, Anna Lefroy. She was to have seven children altogether.

In researching this talk, some information was readily available because of the Austen connections; however, there were big gaps and questions still to be answered:

What was Captain Lefroy doing from 1802-1817?

How did he avoid direct involvement in the Napoleonic Wars as a commissioned Captain?

How did the family survive on the HP of an army officer?

As an established barrister, with a wife and family, why was TEPL still recorded as living with his parents in Fulford in 1851?

Allan Francis. Jan 2019

Sources:

Roots web - Jane Austin's relatives - ancestry.com

The Jane Austen Society

Jane Austen - a life, Claire Tomalin

Napoleonic war and army lists.

The regimental records of the 56th Regiment

The Gentleman's Gazette archive

Parliamentary papers.

Financial accounts of Great Britain March 1821

The Gloucestershire police archive

Foster's 'The Men at the Bar'

Census records.

Ancestry archive web sites,

With additional local information by Barbara King and the
Fulford, Fishergate and Heslington history Society.