Christa Jungnickel and Russell McCormmach: Appendix I: Family Trees

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Appendix I: Family Trees

Cavendish and Grey Family Trees

A biography of Henry Cavendish necessarily takes into account his social position. Both of Cavendish’s paternal and maternal grandparents were dukes and duchesses. The family trees in this appendix begin with the grandparents and their siblings, follow with his parents’ generation and then his own, and end with the one after his. By definition he was related to them all, though in most cases the relationship was not close, and he probably met only a small fraction of them, but because in eighteenth-century England, “family pride was such that members were usually well aware of distinguished connections,” he would have known about them. Although he associated mainly with persons drawn from another society, one of his own choosing, that of scientific colleagues, he did not abandon the one he was born into, nor could he have. We recognize his aristocratic roots by his style of living, his property, and his will, which left his vast fortune to Cavendishes close to the center of the clan. The dukedom would eventually pass to descendants of his principal heir Lord George Augustus Henry Cavendish, who appears in the last column of the Cavendish family tree. Unless readers of this book are specialists in the history of the period, the names are unfamiliar to them, but they cannot miss the titles that go with them. Dukes, duchesses, and earls are commonplace, as is often great wealth. The family trees reflect the obligation of the head of the family to reproduce himself, taking the form of large families to insure a male heir. They also reflect the fragility of life at the time, even for the most privileged. Five children of the second duke of Devonshire died before their parents. Five children of the first duke, his father, not shown, died before their parents. All five sons of the Duke of Kent died before him, extinguishing the Kent line. Marriages normally, though not always, took place between persons of more or less the same social standing. Not shown on the family charts are illegitimate children, of which the first duke of Devonshire had several, born of unions with an actress and an aspiring actress. The family trees show that many members of the extended Cavendish family did not marry. As a wealthy, single aristocrat, Cavendish was not out of the ordinary. The two family trees in the following pages are nearly complete and, within the limits of their sources, accurate.155

Figure 18.1

Appendix I: Family Trees

Figure 18.2
Figure 18.3
Henry Campbell  
(1720-1726)

Jemima Campbell  
Marchioness Grey  
Baroness Lucas of Crudwell  
(1722-1797)  
m.1740

Philip Yorke  
Viscount Rosston, later 2nd  
Earl of Hardwicke  
(1720-1790)

Amabel Yorke  
Baroness Lucas of Crudwell  
Later Countess de Grey of Wrest  
(1751-1833)  
m.1772

Alexander Hume-Campbell, Lord Polwarth  
(1751-1781)

Mary Jemima Yorke  
(1757-1830)  
m.1780

Thomas Robinson  
2nd Baron Grantham  
(1738-1786)

John, 2nd Earl of Ashburnham  
(1724-1812)  
m.1756

Elizabeth Crawley  
(1727-1781)

George Ashburnham  
Viscount St. Asaph  
(1758-1758)

Henrietta Theodosia Ashburnham  
(1759-1847)

George Ashburnham  
3rd Earl of Ashburnham  
(1760-1830)  
m.1784

Sophia Thynne  
(dau of 1st Marquess of Bath)  
(1763-1791)  
m.2: Charlotte Percy  
(dau of Earl of Beverley)  
(1776-1862)

Jemima Elizabeth Ashburnham  
(1762-1786)  
m.1785

Sir James Graham, later 3rd Duke of Montrose  
(1755-1836)

Elizabeth Frances Ashburnham  
(1763-1854)

Theodosia Maria Ashburnham  
(1765-1822)  
m.1788

Robert Vyner, of Gautby  
(1765-1810)

Henry Cavendish  
(1731-1810)

Frederick Cavendish  
(1733-1812)

Jemima Gregory  
(b.abt 1743- )

David Gregory  
(b.abt 1748- )

Amelia Egerton  
(1751-1809)  
m.1771

Sir Abraham Hume  
(1749-1838)

John William Egerton  
7th Earl of Bridgewater  
(1753-1823)  
m.1783

Charlotte Catherine Anne Haynes  
(1763-1849)

Francis Henry Egerton  
8th Earl of Bridgewater  
(1756-1829)

Figure 18.4
Appendix II: Chronology and Publications

Henry Cavendish’s Chronology and Publications

- Born Sunday, 31 October 1731, in Nice, first child of Lord Charles Cavendish and Lady Anne (de Grey) Cavendish.
- Death of his mother, Lady Anne, on 20 September 1733, at Putteridge. Move of his father, Lord Charles, from Putteridge to Great Marlborough Street, Westminster, in 1738.
- Entered Hackney Academy in 1742.
- Entered St. Peter’s College, or Peterhouse, Cambridge University, as a fellow commoner, on 24 November 1749.
- Left Cambridge without taking a degree, having been in residence until 23 February 1753, nearly the full time required for a degree.
- Probably subscribed to Felice Giardini’s musical Academy in London in 1758 or 1759.
- Proposed 10 November 1757, and elected 31 July 1760, member of the Society of Royal Philosophers (Royal Society Dining Club).
- Proposed 9 January 1760, and elected 16 January 1760, member of the Society of Arts.
- Proposed 31 January 1760, and elected 1 May 1760, Fellow of the Royal Society of London.
- Elected 30 November 1765 member of the Council of the Royal Society, the first of many times.
- First published research under his own name, “Three Papers, Containing Experiments on Factitious Air,” *PT* 56 (1766): 141–184; read 29 May, 6 and 13 November 1766. For this work, he was awarded the Copley Medal of the Royal Society.
- Elected 8 December 1773 trustee of the British Museum.

• Acquired a country house 34 Church Row, Hampstead, appearing in the rate books from 3 January 1782 through 17 September 1785.


• Death of his father, Lord Charles, on 28 April 1783.

• “Observations on Mr. Hutchins’s Experiments for Determining the Degree of Cold at Which Quicksilver Freezes,” *PT* 73 (1783): 303–328; read 1 May 1783.


• “Answer to Mr. Kirwan’s Remarks upon the Experiments on Air,” *PT* 74 (1784): 170–177; read 4 March 1784.

• Bought a new townhouse 11 Bedford Square on 21 May 1784.

• “Experiments on Air,” *PT* 75 (1785): 372–384; read 2 June 1785.

• Bought a new country house on Clapham Common on 18 June 1785.


• “An Account of Experiments Made by Mr. John McNab, at Albany Fort, Hudson’s Bay, Relative to the Freezing of Nitrous and Vitriolic Acids,” *PT* 78 (1788): 166–181; read 28 February 1788.

• “On the Conversion of a Mixture of Dephlogisticated and Phlogisticated Air into Nitrous Acid, by the Electric Spark,” *PT* 78 (1788): 261–276; read 17 April 1788.


• “Experiments to Determine the Density of the Earth,” *PT* 88 (1798): 469–526; read 21 June 1798.

• Became a proprietor of the Royal Institution on 10 February 1800, elected manager on 1 May 1800.

• Elected Foreign Associate of the Institute of France in 1803.


• Died 24 February 1810 at Clapham Common.
List of Abbreviations

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<td>Cavendish Scientific Manuscripts, Devonshire Mss Collection, Chatsworth</td>
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<td>Devon. Coll.</td>
<td>Devonshire Mss Collection, Chatsworth</td>
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<tr>
<td>DNB</td>
<td>Dictionary of National Biography</td>
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<tr>
<td>DSB</td>
<td>Dictionary of Scientific Biography</td>
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<tr>
<td>DTC</td>
<td>Dawson Turner Collection</td>
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<tr>
<td>JB</td>
<td>Journal Book of the Royal Society</td>
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<td>BM(NH)</td>
<td>Natural History Museum, Botany Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>PT</td>
<td>Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London</td>
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Birmingham University Library
Bristol Record Office
British Library, Department of Manuscripts
Cambridge University Library
Camden Archive
Cumbrian County Record Office
Devonshire Mss Collection, Chatsworth
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Gloucester Record Office
Greater London Record Office
Historical Society of Pennsylvania
Holborn Public Library
Lambeth Archive
Lancashire Record Office
National Archives of Canada
Natural History Museum, Department of Botany
Public Record Office, Chancery Lane
Royal Astronomical Society
Royal Botanic Garden, Kew
Royal Greenwich Observatory
Royal Institution of Great Britain
Royal Society of Arts
Royal Society of London
Sheffield Central Library
Society of Antiquaries of London
University of Wales, Swansea Library
Wellcome Historical Medical Library
Westminster Archive
Whitby Literary and Philosophical Society
Yale University Library


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