

The client descends from a Thomas Hamilton AYLIFFE who emigrated to South Australia in 1838. The client knows that AYLIFFE was formerly ILIVE. The client has a booklet written by a relative in which several theories are put forward about Thomas' parentage. For the most part these theories rest on noble ancestry through the Dukes of Hamilton, the Earls of Egremont, or sundry wealthy knights called AYLIFFE.

The initial research by *Adelaide Proformat* showed a possible link to the Earls of Egremont though in that Thomas had a sister called Elizabeth and an Elizabeth ILIVE married the 3rd Earl of Egremont. We engaged our London based researcher and our report with documentation to the client follows...

The first task in tracing the AYLIFFE ancestry was to use the clue that Thomas had a sister married to an earl to determine their parentage. A search of the parish registers for Holborn St Andrew found the marriage of Thomas ILIVE and Hester JENKS in 1796.

Thomas Ilive of the parish of Saint Andrew Holborn in the County of Middlesex bachelor and Hester Jinks of the same Parish Spinster, were married in this Church by Licence.

This document notes that the marriage took place by Licence rather than Banns. Often parents are named in Licences but a search of the Bishop of London Marriage Licences at the Guildhall in London failed to find the entry.

Turning to the material held at the Sussex record Office at Chichester, my agent located the marriage entry for George O'BRIEN (WYNDHAM) and Elizabeth ILIVE at Petworth SSX in 1801.

No 146 George Obrien, Earl of Egremont of this Parish bachelor and Elizabeth Ilive of the same Parish, Spinster were married in this church by Licence this 16th Day of July in the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and one By me Tho Vernon, Curate.
This Marriage was solomnized between Us Obrien Egremont Elizabeth Ilive in the Presence of [?] and John Upton

Again this couple were married by Licence and again a search of the Bishop of Chichester Marriage Licences held at the Record Office failed to produce a result. A pity!

We then looked in *The Complete Peerage* and found interesting details under the EGREMONT family in that by the time Elizabeth married in 1801 she already had six illegitimate children by George! This makes her much older than I had expected. The entry also revealed Elizabeth's father was the Revd ILIFFE of the Westminster School that was also where George was educated in the 1760s suggesting that this is how they met. By the way the marriage was short-lived ending after two years.



Illustration of and from *George O'Brien Wyndham, 3rd Earl of Egremont* by William Ward, after John James Masquerier published 1825: On 18 Jul 1801 George O'Brien Wyndham (3rd Earl Egremont) married Elizabeth ILIVE at St Mary Petworth SSX.

Knowing that Elizabeth's father was a clergyman opened up a new avenue of research in that there are a number of avenues of research to pursue the clergy. Firstly the earliest Clergy List I could locate was 1822 and ILIFFE was not listed. My agent located the history of Westminster School that lists past pupils and masters but the elusive priest was not mentioned! To date the school has failed to respond to our contacts.

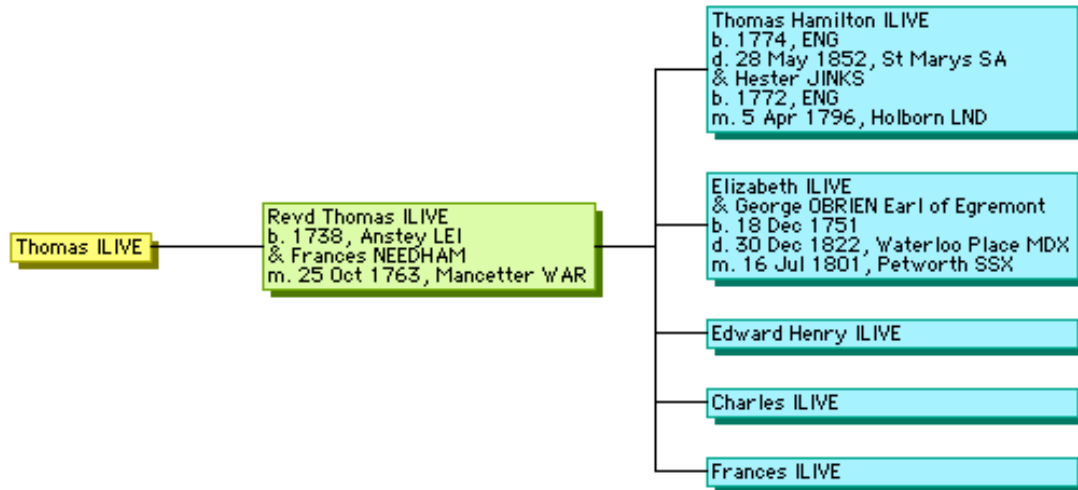
The clergy usually have assets that require a Will and sure enough this was quickly located in 1803 when the Will of the Revd Thomas ILIFFE of Deans Yard Westminster was proved. His mentions a wife, Frances, to whom he left land at Anstey LEI and his sons are named as Edward Henry, Thomas and Charles. Only one daughter is mentioned, Frances, but since Elizabeth was by then the wife of an earl, he may have seen no need to cater for her needs! It is also noted that he held land at Bloomsbury, which was left to a John MORGAN (son-in-law). Bloomsbury is part of Holborn and thus indicates a possible link with the Thomas ILIVE who married Hester JENKS.

Further searching of the IGI¹ revealed the baptism of Elizabeth ILIFF at Westminster St Clement Danes in Jul 1776 the daughter of Thomas and Frances. It also shows the marriage of Thomas ILIFF and Frances NEEDHAM on 25 Oct 1763 at Mancetter WAR, which just happens to be quite near Anstey!

We would expect a member of the clergy to have attended university and so the Cambridge and Oxford Alumni were searched and Thomas ILIFFE son of Thomas of Anstey LEI of Lincoln College matriculated 15 Dec 1756 aged 18 and gained his BA in 1760.

Thus this stage of the research reveals that the Revd Thomas ILIFFE and Frances had a daughter called Elizabeth and a son called Thomas. What I have not been able to prove conclusively is that his son, Thomas was the Thomas who married Hester JENKS, however, there is a very high probability that this is so.

¹ The IGI [International Genealogical Index] is produced on microfiche and CD-ROM by the Mormon Church. It is a database of many millions of entries gathered by filming parish registers throughout the world and collating births, baptisms and marriages. Individuals can also submit contributions but these need to be treated with caution.



Turning to the booklet by Ian Hamilton, it would suggest that of the eight scenarios he put forward as to the origins of Thomas Henry AYLIFFE, the evidence I have located suggests the second one is the most likely. As suggested in the previous paragraph, the one link that would put it beyond doubt is yet to be found.

The one criticism I would have of the Ian Hamilton book is the leaning towards identifying with the aristocracy and disregarding strong evidence to the contrary. Clearly Thomas Hamilton's marriage to Hester Jenks was not secret. Thomas was left out of the Earl's Will simply because he was probably the son of the Revd ILIVE. The one thing I can be certain about is that he was not the Earl's son!

As to why Thomas took on the Hamilton name is not clear, he certainly was not baptised or married as such. It may have been to his advantage in adult life to take on the name.

I await your response to this material. Please find my account enclosed.