

Marriage of Thomas Hefford and Mary Ann Edwards

Thomas Hefford married Mary Ann Edwards at St Clement's, Worcester on 14 October 1811. The only details given about the couple are that they were single, residents of the parish of St Clement, and married by banns.

In the nineteenth century Worcester was a major centre for glove-making and so many of the residents of the city had not been born there, but had been drawn there for work.¹ It is therefore not surprising that there is no trace of either bride or groom in the Parish register of St Clement.

Thomas Hefford's origin is, as yet, unknown. There were Heffords or Effords in northern Worcestershire on the Staffordshire border in the first years of the nineteenth century and it is likely Thomas is related to them. They were miners, originally from Leicestershire.

There are five baptisms for girls named Mary Ann Edwards within a twenty mile radius of Worcester in the period 1770 to 1795 and it is likely, although not certain, that one of them was Thomas Hefford's bride:

1. *Mary Ann, daughter of Mary Edwards*, baptised at Astley, Worcestershire, 7 June 1784
2. *Mary Ann, daughter of Thomas and Mary Edwards*, baptised at Saint Martin, Worcester, 16 May 1792. This child died as an infant as her sister of the same name was baptised in 1794 (see #5 below).
3. *Mary Ann, daughter of Edward and Rebecca Edwards*, baptised at Deerhurst, Gloucestershire, 19 May 1793
4. *Mary Ann, daughter of Mary Edwards*, baptised at Wolverley, Worcestershire, 17 September 1793
5. *Mary Ann, daughter of Thomas and Mary Edwards*, baptised at Saint Martin, Worcester, 16 March 1794. She married John Mason at Saint Martin, Worcester, 14 February 1825.

This leaves three candidates to be Thomas Hefford's wife, from Astley and Wolverley in Worcestershire, and Deerhurst in Gloucestershire.

A survey of the counties of Gloucester, Hereford, Warwick and Worcester, reveals only one couple named Thomas and Mary Ann Hefford in the period after 1811. They lived at Deerhurst, Gloucestershire, where a series of children were baptised between 1815 and 1825.

Therefore Mary Ann Edwards, married at St Clement, Worcester, in 1811 was baptised at Deerhurst, Gloucestershire, in 1793.

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¹ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Worcester#History>