

Andrew Pope and Sarah Short

Andrew Pope was born in 1687 at the parish of Fordingbridge, Hampshire, England, the parish where the Pope family had lived for quite some time. Fordingbridge is situated on the River Avon in the western part of Hampshire (Southampton). To the east of the river at this area is the ancient New Forest, named that when it was established by William the Conqueror, who had a passion for hunting. He obliterated several Saxon villages and enclosed a huge area for private sporting. The forest has few roads through its vast acres of quiet glades.

Upstream, north from Fordingbridge, is the county of Wiltshire, and one of the first villages a person enters here is Downton, with its long wide street which crosses the Avon and winds uphill around the mound of an ancient stronghold. Andrew moved to Downton, and was there married in July of 1713 to Elizabeth Graye. Their marriage license lists Andrew as a carpenter of Downton bachelor, and his bride as of Downton spinster.

Less than seventeen months later Elizabeth died, very probably from complications of childbirth, though the records give no cause. She was buried in December of 1714.

Andrew continued to reside at Downton and married a second wife, Sarah Short, in 1718. They became the parents of eight children. Both Andrew and Sarah lived to be old, he dying in 1776 and she in 1786.

Background information from:

E. W. Whelpton, *Know Britain*, 1966;

David Vereg, *Wiltshire, A Shell Guide*, 1956.