

# Granville EGERTON



Born: 2 October 1834

Died: 27 January 1851

*4<sup>th</sup> Son of the 1<sup>st</sup> Earl  
MIDSHIPMAN R.N.*



## Granville EGERTON



*To the memory of Granville Egerton fifth and youngest son of Francis Egerton Earl of Ellesmere, this tablet has been erected by his sorrowing parents. He was suddenly deprived of life by the accidental discharge of a musquet while on duty as a midshipman in a boat of HMS Maender at Guaymas on the coast of Mexico. During three years service he had given promise of future eminence in his profession and had gained the esteem and affection of all ranks on board.*

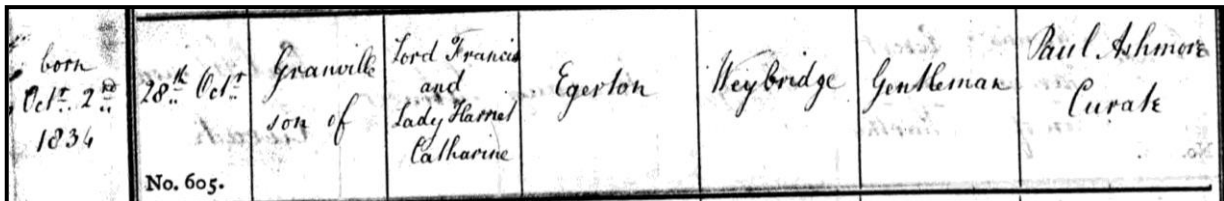
*Born 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1834 \* Died 27<sup>th</sup> January 1851*

*The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord.*





**Granville Egerton** was born on 2 October 1834 in Weybridge, Surrey. As the memorial plaque, states, he was the fifth and youngest son of **Francis Egerton** (né Leveson-Gower) and **Harriet Catherine Egerton** (née Greville). Granville was baptised at St. James, Weybridge, on 28 October.



The *Blackburn Standard* on Wednesday 7 May 1851 reported his death:

*Recently, in California, aged 17, the Hon. Granville Egerton, midshipman on board H.M.S. Meander, and youngest son of the Earl of Ellesmere. Mr. Egerton and a party of officers went on a shooting excursion, when his gun burst and killed him on the spot.*

The *Leamington Spa Courier* printed more detail about his death:

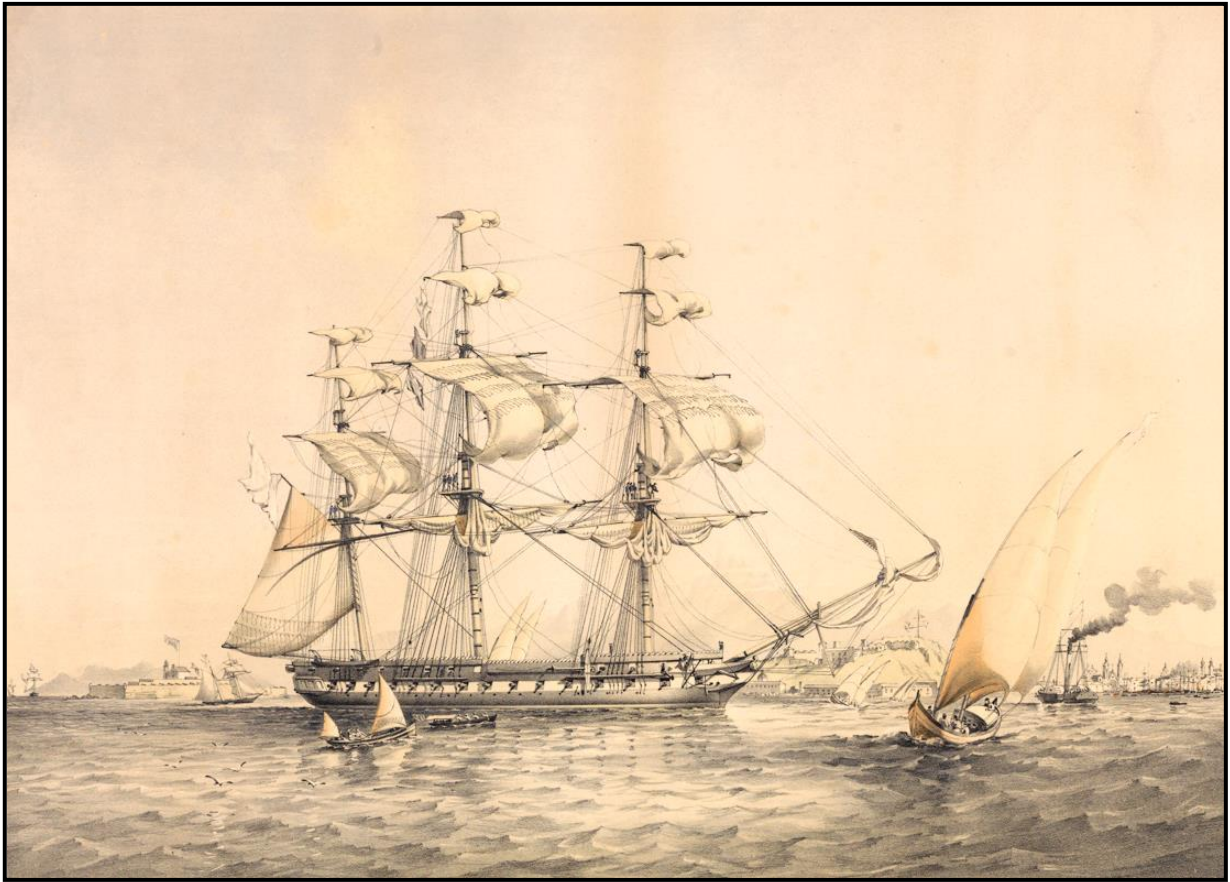
*Fatal accident to the Hon. Granville Egerton.*

*Accounts of the untimely death of this young officer have been received in town. Mr. Egerton was a midshipman on board her Majesty's ship Meander, 44, Captain the Hon. Henry Keppel. The frigate was at California, receiving treasure for conveyance to England. Mr. Egerton and a party of officers went on a shooting excursion, when Mr. Egerton's gun, burst and killed him on the spot. Intelligence of the afflicting occurrence has been forwarded to the Earl and Countess of Ellesmere, who at the last accounts had sailed from Malta for Sicily, his Lordship's yacht. Mr. Egerton was in his 17th year.*

Other details of the incident and the voyage were mentioned in other newspapers. The ship was serving on the East India station and the coast of Borneo. The frigate's term of service had nearly expired, and the frigate was calling at the different ports on the station to embark treasure for England. The Earl received the news upon arrival in Palermo from Malta. There is no record, to date, of where he was buried.

The 'Meander' (1840) was one of the modified 'Seringapatam' class of frigates and measured 159 feet in length by forty-one feet in the beam. It was originally ordered in 1824, launched 1840 and eventually after a fairly uneventful career, hulked in 1857.

This print (1 January 1852) depicts the HMS 'Meander', a 44-gun 5th rate frigate. She is shown anchoring in the port of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, shortening her sails in preparation – an actual scene on June 9th, 1851. A view of the port of Rio is shown in the general background, which includes buildings and the city skyline as well as other docked vessels.



*A shipping scene with a good view of the Rio de Janeiro harbour. The maritime painter Sir Oswald Walters Brierly (1817-1894) travelled with Sir Henry Keppel on the Maeander in 1850, and provided the illustrations for Keppel's record of the journey published in 1853. Born in Chester, Brierly studied naval architecture at Plymouth and studied briefly at Sass's art school, London. He first exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1839 and spent most of his life travelling the world by sea and illustrating his voyages.*

During the 19<sup>th</sup> century, changes in the training of naval officers in both the Royal Navy and the United States Navy led to the replacement of apprenticeship aboard ships with formal schooling in a naval college. *Midshipman* began to mean an officer cadet at a naval college. Trainees now spent around four years in a college and two years at sea prior to promotion to commissioned officer rank. Between the mid-19<sup>th</sup> and mid-20<sup>th</sup> centuries, time at sea declined to less than a year as the entry age was increased from 12 to 18.

