

*Trudy's Genealogy Pages*

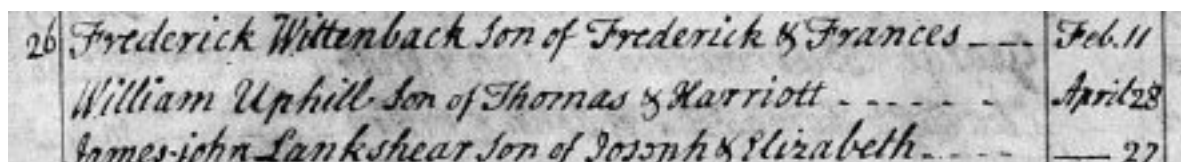
**William  
Uphill**  
*1782 - 1825*



# William Uphill

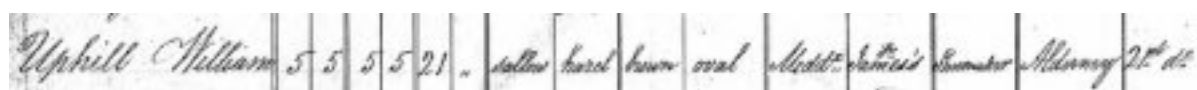
1782 - 1825

**William Uphill** was born on 28 April 1782, and baptised 26 May 1782 at [St James' \(Piccadilly\)](#), Westminster, Middlesex; the son of [Thomas Uphill](#) and [Harriot Wilkinson](#).



## Military Career

He enlisted as a private (Drummer) in the [3rd Regiment of Foot, 2nd Battalion](#), 21 Nov 1803, aged 21:



He was stationed at [Berry Head](#) ([Berry Head Napoleonic Fort](#)) at the time of his first son's birth, and Reading for the birth of his second son.

I have been unable to determine if William participated in any of the 1st Battalion's expeditions during early stages of the [Peninsular War \(1807 to 1814\)](#), although he was certainly an avid admirer of [Arthur Wellesley \(1st Duke of Wellington\)](#), naming two of his sons after the revered man.

It does, however, seem that he served with the 1st Battalion from the end of 1813 (probably joining a bit too late for the [Battle of Nivelles](#) 10 Nov 1813, but possible in time to participate in the [Battle of the Nive](#) 9-13 Dec 1813). Following two further battles in 1814 ([Battle of Orthez](#) 27 Feb 1814, and [Battle of Toulouse](#) 10 Apr 1814), the Battalion sailed from Bordeaux, France, to Lower Canada, reaching Quebec in August where it served on the frontier during the [War of 1812](#). The Battalion returned to England in the summer of 1815, and on to Paris via Portsmouth and Ostend.

His regiment was in Croix, France, 24 Jun 1817, when he was discharged from service suffering with asthma; and he was admitted, aged 35, to the Royal Hospital Chelsea 25th June 1817:



At the time of his third son's baptism in 1818, he is a shoemaker in Newington.

## Military Service

Referencing the information from ["British Regiments and the Men Who Led Them 1793-1815: 3rd Regiment of Foot, By Steve Brown"](#)

Stations and Combats – 1st/2nd Battalions

2nd Batt. 1803: 21 July – formed at Portsmouth

***Enlists 21 Nov 1803***

2nd Batt. 1804: May – Jersey; October – Horsham; Hilsea; November – Guernsey; December – Alderney

2nd Batt. 1805: Alderney

2nd Batt. 1806: January – Guernsey

2nd Batt. 1807: Guernsey; February – Portsmouth; Broomgrove; September – received draft of recruits from Tower Hamlets Militia; October - Plymouth

2nd Batt. 1808: Plymouth

***Marries Elizabeth COLE 10 Aug 1809, Stoke Damerel, Devon***

2nd Batt. 1809: Plymouth; September – Berryhead; October - sent draft to 1st Battalion

2nd Batt. 1810: Berryhead

***Son Henry William UPHILL baptised 3 Jun 1810, Brixham, Devon***

2nd Batt. 1811: Berryhead; May – received draft of recruits from Royal Monmouth Militia; July – sent draft of 300 men to 1st Battalion

2nd Batt. 1812: Recruited back up the strength; November - sent draft to 1st Battalion

2nd Batt. 1813: Reading; September – sent draft to 1st Battalion

***Son Arthur Wellington Mestayre UPHILL, baptised 3 Oct 1813, Reading, Berkshire***

1st Batt. (Estremadura; Salamanca; Hormaza; VITTORIA; Doña Maria; Bastan; NIVELLE; NIVE;)... November - received draft from 2nd Battalion

1st Batt. 1814: St. Palais; ORTHEZ; Aire; TOULOUSE; May – to Lower Canada; August – Quebec; Plattsburg

1st Batt. 1815: Quebec; June – to England; July – Portsmouth; Ostend; Paris; Army of Occupation.

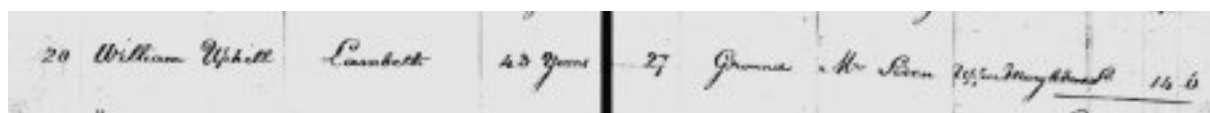
1st Batt. 1816-18: part of the Army of Occupation of France

***Discharged from service 24 Jun 1817, Croix, France***

## Death & Burial

He died aged 43, 20 May 1825, and was buried 27 May 1825 Kennington Lane, Upper, Vauxhall Chapel, London.

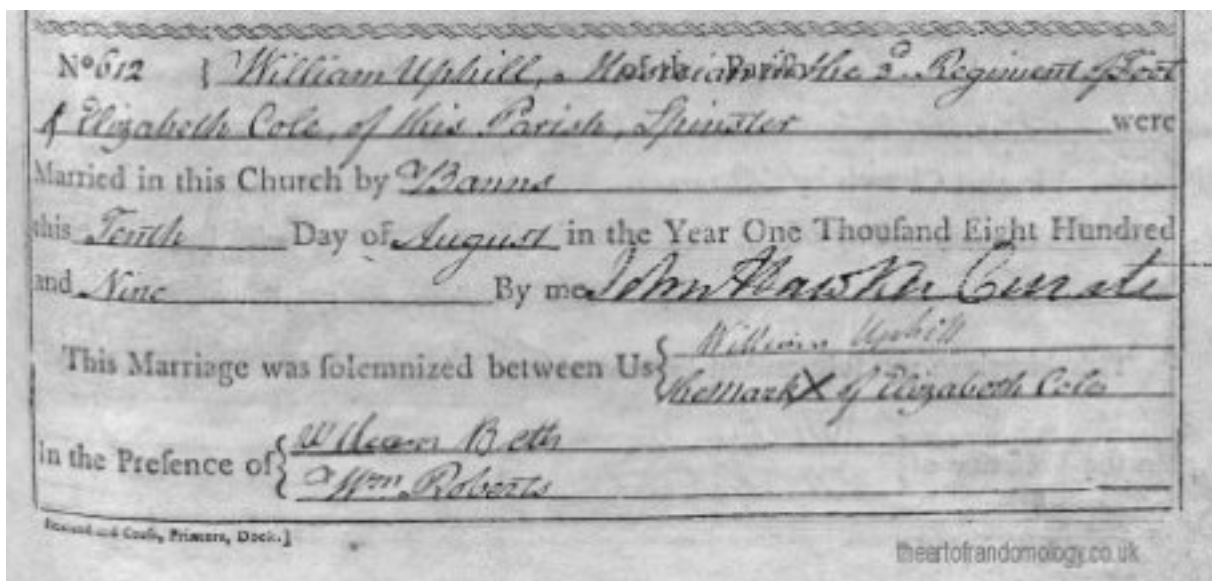
Denomination: Independent



## Marriage of William Uphill

William married [Elizabeth Cole](#) 10 Aug 1809, Stoke Damerel, Devon.

At the time of marriage, William is described as a "Musician in the 3rd Regiment of Foot". This may merely indicate being a drummer, but may also suggest he doubled up as a fifer.



## Children of William Uphill and Elizabeth

1. S: [Henry William UPHILL](#), baptised 3 Jun 1810 - Brixham, Devon
2. S: [Arthur Wellington Mestayre UPHILL](#), baptised 3 Oct 1813 - Reading, Berkshire
3. S: [William Arthur UPHILL](#), baptised 4 Oct 1818 - Newington, London
4. D: [Elizabeth Sophia Ann UPHILL](#), baptised 6 May 1821 - Newington, London
5. D: [Ann Cole UPHILL](#), baptised 18 May 1823 - Lambeth, London

## Historical Notes

### The Buffs

*“Historical Record Of The British Army Third Regiment Of Foot Or Buffs”* - Richard Cannon 1839, pp. 234-238

Digital copy available at [Archive.org](https://www.archive.org)

[1813]

The regiment encamped in the mountains in the Roncesvalles' pass for several months. In the early part of November the army prepared for a forward movement; but heavy rains near the coast, and snow in the mountains, delayed the operation until the 10th of November, when the whole, having entered France, advanced to dislodge the enemy from a line of works on the river *Nivelle*. The BUFFS, having issued from the mountains, formed part of the right division of the army under Lieut.-General Sir Rowland Hill, which attacked the heights of Ainhoe; and having forded the river, distinguished themselves by a gallant assault on the entrenchments and a redoubts on the enemy's left, which were carried after a sharp resistance. The French were driven from their position, and they lost fifty pieces of cannon, with ammunition, stores, and a number of men killed, wounded, and taken prisoners. In this action the BUFFS earned the honour of bearing the word "NIVELLE" on their colours; their loss was three men killed, and Captain Charles Cameron, one sergeant, and seven men wounded.



Outside Canterbury Cathedral

After this brilliant exploit the army went into cantonments between the Nivelle and the sea, and the BUFFS were quartered at Cambo, a town situate behind the river Nive. Further operations were retarded for a short time by the snow and rain; but the weather having improved, the army crossed the *Nive* on the 9th of December, and drove the French into an entrenched camp in front of Bayonne. The enemy, however, issued from this post on the three succeeding days, and attacked various parts of the position

occupied by the allies; on the last day the BUFFS particularly distinguished themselves, - having, together with the other regiments of the brigade, carried, in superior style, a hill on the French left which covered their manoeuvres, and captured two guns; and this height was successfully maintained against all the efforts of the enemy to retake it. The loss of the regiment was three men killed, with Captains Thorn, Cameron, and Hamilton, Lieutenants Wright, Fielding, Houghton, Gillman, Woods, Home, Twigg, Murphy, and Blake, and Ensign Everdern, four serjeants, and sixty-nine private men wounded; and the excellent conduct of the officers and men was rewarded with the royal permission to bear the word "Nive" on their colours.

[1814]

The regiment was afterwards stationed for some time at Vieux Mogure, between the rivers Nive and Ardour; and the further operations were suspended by severe weather. The army was, however, in motion in the middle of February, 1814, and the BUFFS were engaged in the operations, by which a body of French troops were driven from the vicinity of *St. Palais*; and on the 18th of the same month posts were established on the Gave d'Oleron, Soon afterwards Bayonne was blockaded. In the action on the 14th of February the regiment had one man killed, and Brevet-Major Cameron and one man wounded; and on the 15th of February it had one serjeant and three men killed, and two serjeants and fifteen men wounded.

Again advancing up the country on the 24th of February the BUFFS passed the Gave d'Oleron at Villeneuve, when the French retired to *Orthes*, where they were attacked by part of the allied army on the 27th of February; while the second division, of which the BUFFS formed a part, forced the passage of the Gave above the town, and menaced the enemy's left; and the French were driven from their post with great loss. The only loss sustained by the regiment on this occasion was two men wounded.

The regiment also formed part of the force under Lieut.General Sir Rowland Hill, which proceeded on the 2nd of March along the left bank of the Adour to *Aire*, and drove, with great bravery, the French troops from the vicinity of that town; on which occasion it had two men killed, and Lieutenant Woods,



one serjeant, and nine men wounded.

After a series of advances and manoeuvres, in which the BUFFS took part, the French army, under Marshal Soult, was assembled in position at *Toulouse*, where it was attacked and drive from its ground on the 10th of April. The BUFFS, though actively engaged in the operations connected with this victory, had no opportunity of signaling themselves in conflict; and soon afterwards hostilities were terminated by the abdication of Napoleon Bonaparte, and the restoration of the Bourbon dynasty to the throne of France.

[ ... ]

The first battalion of the BUFFS was soon afterwards ordered to a new scene of conflict.



Warrior Chapel, Canterbury Cathedral

During the progress of the war in which this battalion had taken so splendid a part, Bonaparte attempted to ruin the commerce of Great Britain by prohibiting the reception of British goods by neutral nations; this gave rise to an order in council, which was issued by the British government to counteract the decrees of Bonaparte; the United States of America were afterwards induced, by French interest, to resist this order in council, and ultimately to declare war against Great Britain; and, after hostilities had ceased on the continent of Europe, the BUFFS, with several other corps, were ordered to proceed to America. The regiment accordingly marched to the coast, and having embarked at Pouillac, near Bourdeaux, on the 31st of May, arrived, after a passage of two months, in the river St. Lawrence, and landed about a hundred miles above Quebec, in Lower Canada; being formed in brigade with the fifth, twenty-seventh, and fifty-eighth regiments, commanded by Major-General [Sir Manley Power](#).

