

Mrs. HANCOCK was Jane Austen's aunt, and her daughter Elizabeth (Eliza) was Jane's cousin and sister-in-law by her marriage to Henry, Jane's fourth brother. See Review of English Studies 44 (forthcoming), "Jane Austen and her Hancock Relatives", by D.G. Le Faye.

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Eliza was born in India and had Warren Hastings for a godfather, hence the name of her son.

Her first husband, the Comte de Feuillide, was guillotined; she married Henry Austen in 1797.

A letter of Jane's in 1813 suggests that she visited the Hampstead grave of her relations.

No local connection has been found for Mrs Hancock, but her 'painful malady' (breast cancer) may have brought her to Hampstead for the healthy air or treatment by one of the many local doctors.

(See Camden History Society Newsletter September 1979)