

Tom Winter aka Tom Spring 19thC Pugilist

Personal events this side of the page

Boxing events this side of the page

Born:

1795

February 22nd. Fownhope, Herefordshire

1810

Richard Winter, Tom's Uncle was publican at the Green man Fownhope for a couple of years at best. Records show him in a moving-out sale in 1810

1812

Defeated "John Hollands" Local fighter.

1814

Spring meets Heavyweight champion Tom Cribb.

Jun 12th Defeated "Jack Henley" Local fighter at Mordeford. (11 Rounds) After which he was known as "Tom Spring"

1817

September 9th. Defeated "Jack Springer" at Moulsey Hurst (29 rounds in 39 minutes)

1818 - 1st April

Defeated "Ned Painter" at Mickleham Downs, Surrey. (31 rounds in 89 minutes)

Spring claimed the "Championship of England.

1818 - 7th August

Lost to "Ned Painter" in a re-match (42 rounds in 64 minutes)

Spring challenged Painter to a re-match which was refused.

1818 - Sept 12

Was scheduled to fight Bill Neat at Greyhound Inn. Cancelled. Neat did not show.

1819 - 4th May

Defeated "Jack Carter" at Crawley Downs (71 rounds in 115 minutes)

1819

Sparring tour of West of England with Tom Cribb

1819 October

6th Scheduled to fight Bill Neat. Cancelled. Neat did not show.

1819 - 20th December

Defeated "Ben Burn" on Wimbledon Common (11 rounds - 18 minutes)

1820 - 16th May

Defeated "Young Bob Burns" - Bens brother (18 rounds - 30 minutes)

1820 June 27th

Defeated Joshua Hudson at Moulsey Hurst (5 rounds 30 minutes)

1821 - 20th February

Defeated "Tom Oliver" at Hayes, Middlesex. (25 rounds in 55 minutes)

1821 - 26th June

Married at St Peter's Hereford to Elizabeth Griffiths.

1821

Wife taken ill.

Noted by Henry Downes Miles, the author of Pugilistica and great friend of Tom Spring.

Note. Together with Spring's surviving son he was a primary mourner at Springs eventual funeral

1821

Took over the "Weymouth Arms Tavern" 37 Weymouth St, Portman Square London (Ref Winter is shown as the Victualer in the Sun Fire Office records held at London Archives.

1821 - 19th July.

Tom attended the Coronation of King George IV together with other famous pugilists. They acted as a bodyguard to the King.

1822 - May 18th

Cribb retired and put Tom Spring up as unofficial champion and open to all comers.

1822 - 15th September

Baptism of First son William Thomas Winter. Marylebone

1822 -November 26th

Scheduled fight with "Bill Neat". Cancelled as Spring's backer did not show up with the purse.

1822/23

Spring in court for his part (he was a second) in the death of a pugilist during a match.

1823 - May 20th

Defeated "Bill Neat" (8 rounds - 37 minutes). Neat received a broken arm.

Championship Of England**1823**

Given a presentation cup by the people of Herefordshire

1824 7th January

Defeated "John Langan", the Irish champion, at Worcester Racecourse. (77 rounds in 149 minutes) **Championship Of England**

1824 - 30th March

Baptism of second son Joseph Winter. Marylebone. Father shown as a "Gentleman"

1824 8th June

Defeated "John Langan" in the re-match at Birdham Bridge near Chichester (76 rounds in 109 minutes) **Championship Of England**

1824

Retired from the ring

1824

Took over Booth Hall - a tavern/hotel in Hereford.

1825 - 13th december

Baptism of Third son Thomas William Winter. St Peters Hereford.
Address shown on Baptism record is Booth Hall

1827 - 17th September

Baptism of 4th son, John Winter, at St Peter's in Hereford.
Film Number 1041602
Ref ID v 7 p 103

1828 - July

Took over the castle Tavern, Holborn from Belcher . Tom died there in 1851.

1829 - December

Booth Hall Hereford, was taken over by W.Probert, late of The Globe Inn, Broad St., Hereford
(Ref. Advert in the Hereford Journal 19th Dec 1829)

1839 - May

Spring was in court in Uxbridge, along with many other defendants, for Cock Fighting. The defendants had Lords and MPs among their number. Most defendants were found guilty and fined £5 plus £1.2s.6d in costs.
(ref Durham Chronicle Saturday 25th May 1839)

1840 - July 27th

Burial of First son William Thomas Winter. Norwood cemetery. Aged 17.
The FIRST person to be buried in the grave bought by Tom on 24 July 1840.
Grave for multiple persons for £3 3s
(Grave number 154 Square 61-72)

1841 -February 7th

Burial of Tom Spring's sister Maria Charles (nee Winter) aged 57
The SECOND person to be buried in the grave bought by Tom on 24 July 1840.
Grave for multiple persons for £3 3s
(Grave number 154 Square 61-72)
Address shown as "**Castle Tavern Holborn**"

1845 - February 6th

Burial of second son Joseph Winter. Aged 20. Norwood cemetery.
The THIRD person to be buried in the grave bought by Tom on 24 July 1840. Grave for multiple persons for £3 3s
(Grave number 154 Square 61-72)

1846 - May 30th

Subscription raised for him in the sum of over £500 and given a presentation cup.
Spring was presented with a testimonial including the cup at the Castle Tavern, Holborn

1846 - 1st of June

On his return from the Derby, Springs 1st cousin, Richard, was killed in a travel accident
(Re. The Evening Chronicle. Monday 1st of June 1846)

Died:

1851

August 20th. Castle Tavern, Holborn, London.

Buried:

1851

August 25th Norwood cemetery, Lambeth London
Grave number 154 (Square 61-73)

Note. The Hereford Telegraph of Aug 30th 1851

...talks about the burial of Tom saying...

“The attendance to the grave, wherein two sons of the deceased, and a sister, are already in-earthed... etc”

adding...

“He died at a quarter to six o’clock, in the presence of his only surviving son and child, (called after himself) etc

adding...

“Spring underwent many heavy domestic affliction, amongst others, the loss of his 2 eldest sons - splendid lads, just entering into manhood etc”

Note: *this contemporaneous article dispels the assertions Tom Spring had only 2 children. That fact is also born out by the record of entombment from West Norwood cemetery which confirms just who is in the grave and shows when they were buried.*

The copy of the record from Norwood Cemetery shows:

William Thomas Winter Buried 1840. *Tom and Elizabeth’s first son. The burial record shows WT Winter aged 17 and having an “Abode” of Castle Tavern Holborn.*

Maria Charles Buried 1841. *Known to be Tom’s sister. In the records from Norwood cemetery she is shown as being aged 57 and her ‘Abode’ is the Castle tavern, Holborn.*

Joseph Winter. Buried 1845. *This is Tom’s second son. The burial record shows him being aged 20 at death and with ‘Abode’ of Holborn.*

John Winter. Buried 1850. *This is Tom’s older brother. The burial record shows him aged 57. The 1841 census shows him as being a Publican in MillBank St*

Thomas Winter. Buried 1851. *This is Tom himself.*

*Thomas Hancock Winter. Buried 1855. This is the son of Thomas W Winter , and is Tom's grandson.
He was born and died in 1855.
n.b. Tom's son would have taken over the responsibility for the family grave after Tom's death*

Further information occurring after Tom's death in 1851

1854

Tom's son, Melchor, and his wife have a daughter called Ada Charlotte .

1855

Tom's son, Melchor have a son called Thomas Hancock. He died the same year. He is buried in the family grave at Norwood.

1856

Tom Spring's son, Thomas William Winter is shown in the 1856 PostOffice directory as being resident at the castle Tavern.

1860

Tom's son, Melchor and his wife have a daughter called Phoebe T.

1861

Melchor and his wife are in the census in London. He and his wife, Anne, a music professor, live in Marylebone Rd with their 2 daughters and a servant.
Thomas (aka Melchor) is registered in the census as Melchor Winter and he is a Vocal Artist.

1861 - 7th September

Many news papers carried a short note to the effect...
"The Widow of Tom Spring, the renowned pugilist, is now an inmate of a London Workhouse. She appeared before the Thames Police Magistrates on Thursday in the garb of a pauper".
(Ref. Coventry Standard Saturday 7th September 1861)

1862

Melchor went to Australia

1864

Melchor and his wife emigrated to New Zealand where they lived the remainder of their long lives.

1867 - December

The newspapers feature articles concerning the alleged fact that The King George IV, then Prince Regent, had driven Spring to a prize fight back in 1818. Much tittle tattle ensued.
(Ref Hereford Journal 14th December 1867)

1992

Inducted into the boxing Hall of Fame.

2010 - October

Booth Hall is severely damaged by fire.