

Thomas Beverley (1795-1834), mathematician and astronomer, of Brompton, near Scarborough, Yorkshire.

Thomas Beverley was the son of a tenant farmer, John Beverley, of Wilton, near Pickering, in East Yorkshire. In November 1814, aged nineteen, and having received no more than a rudimentary education, he apprenticed himself as a mariner on a whaling vessel. In the winter seasons, however, returning to his father's house, he managed to get some tuition in mathematics from R.B. Scholefield, the master in charge of Thornton Grammar School. Eventually he left the sea behind and set himself up as a teacher of navigation at Brompton, a village 12 km to the south-west of Scarborough. The institution, of which he was now the master, was described as the *Nautical and Mathematical Academy*.

He devoted his mathematical skills to attempts to improve the ease of navigational calculations and applied to the Board of Longitude for assistance in publishing tables aimed at simplifying methods of determining the longitude at sea, using lunar occultations of stars.

In the early-1830s, after the tragically early death of his wife and three children he began to suffer from a debilitating mental illness and moved to Cirencester, to be near to his nephew, John Bravender (1803-76).

On 26 Nov 1834 Thomas Beverley died, aged only 39, and was buried three days later in Cirencester.

His book, *The Mariner's Latitude & Longitude Ready-Computer, or a newly invented set of simple formulae for finding the Latitude...and the Longitude...etc*, was published posthumously in 1836. A brief biography, written by Bravender, was included as a preface to this book: *Short Sketch of the Author's Life*, op.cit., vii-viii. A bound volume of Beverley's papers is kept at University of Leeds Library Special Collections, GB 206 MS 1554 (*Mathematical & Astronomical Papers & Correspondence of Thomas Beverley*).