

A Curricle



A curricle is a two-wheeled carriage usually drawn by two horses.
(Latin *curriculum* running, chariot, from *currere*)

In *Northanger Abbey*, Henry Tilney drives a curricle; John Thorpe drives a gig. Could there be any significance to those gentlemen's respective vehicles? The equipages were quite similar: they were both sporty, two-wheeled vehicles that seat two, a driver and a passenger. They were generally driven by young, single or newly-married men, as a family would require a larger carriage with room for several passengers. They were both perfectly useful vehicles that would have well served their owners' purposes. However, if you compare the two young men, one can imagine that Jane Austen did not arbitrarily assign them a vehicle.