

The Diaries of Charlotte Grove / Diary Notes / People & Families

COOKE

COOKE - Captain John Cooke RN (1762-1805) commanded HMS *Bellerophon* at Trafalgar when he was killed in action. His widow, Louisa nee HARDY (1757-1853), continued to live at Donhead Lodge for some years and she, together with the couple's only child, Louisa Charlotte, are mentioned frequently in the early diaries. John Cooke was the son of Francis COOKE - a naval cashier - and Margaret BAKER (they married at Chatham in 1757). John's six other known siblings include Elizabeth (m. Revd. John MAULE), Christopher and Margaret (m. Revd. William LIPSCOMBE). Christopher Cooke (1759-1833) married twice; his second wife was Elizabeth AUSTEN, a second cousin of the writer Jane Austen.

A monumental tablet to John Cooke's memory was placed by his widow in the parish church of Donhead St Andrew. There is also a memorial in St Paul's Cathedral. John's portrait, presented by the widow of his brother, Christopher Cooke, is in the Painted Hall at Greenwich.

Louisa Charlotte Cooke went on to marry Abraham Newenham DEVONSHER of County Cork, although the couple later divorced. She lived in Cheltenham and died there in 1871. Of her three daughters, Augusta Sarah Devonsher married Edward ROLLES, who appears in the later diaries as a curate at Berwick St John.

Augusta Devonsher is described by Charlotte Grove as a "Pocket Venus" in her diary entry of 20th September, 1841.

Other names associated with this family include: MARKLAND, SCHUYLER, HELSHAM, GIBNEY, HAMILTON and GODBY