

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

FUTCHER

FUTCHER - Members of the Futcher family are mentioned briefly in the diaries, particularly in connection to LANE and SHERE. The children of Thomas Futcher (1706-1775) of the East Grimstead and West Dean area (east of Salisbury on the Wiltshire – Hampshire border) married into families from that area, from families further into Hampshire and others from the area along the Nadder Valley between Salisbury and Shaftesbury. Some of the grandchildren, like so many others during the nineteenth century, emigrated to Australia and Canada.

One of the sons of Thomas above, Robert Futcher (1744-1821), married Mary GOODFELLOW and farmed at Fovant. Of their ten known children, several of the boys became farmers. Of the girls who survived childhood, Elizabeth (b. 1786) married in 1810, Thomas SHERE, farm bailiff for the GROVE family at Ferne and later a farmer in his own right at Upton Farm, Berwick St John. Elizabeth, however, died childless in 1819, following several miscarriages or still-births. Entries in Charlotte's 1819 diary provide a harrowing account of Elizabeth's death and the effect it had on her husband Thomas. But in 1822 Thomas remarried, to Deborah ANDREWS nee ROWDEN. They had four children, one of whom, Dionisia (1825-1901) married James Futcher, grandson of Robert above (see below).

William Futcher, older brother to Elizabeth, married Mary BRACHER, at Baverstock, in 1812. William, was a Fovant farmer, maltster and corn merchant. Of his children:

1. Mary Ann (1813-1870) married Robert LEWIS, a farmer from Stourpaine.
2. Elizabeth (1814-1849) married William BOTLEY, a Salisbury grocer and tea dealer. Elizabeth died on the Isle of Wight, aged 35. The couple had no children.
3. Sarah (1816-1893) married Herbert SMITH, farmer of Baverstock.
4. William (1818-1866), according to a descendant, was regarded as something of a "black sheep" within the family. An Inn keeper, he married Maria Temple ELMES in 1842, at Fovant. They had two children. Following Maria's death, William married Mary Ann OBORN in 1852, at Islip in Oxfordshire. Of their four children, the two eldest, both boys, died of Typhus Fever in 1866 and 1867, as did their father, William.
5. Louisa (1820-1873) married Stafford Moore Lane, second son of John Lane of Lower Bridmore Farm, Berwick St John. They had five children.
6. Jane (1821-1847). Died age 26. Did not marry.
7. Robert (1823-1823).
8. Robert (1824-1826).
9. James (1826-1866) became a sheep farmer in Fovant. He married Dionisia Shere in 1851 (see above) and they had five children. Following bankruptcy around 1856, James went to Australia, where he died at Bendena sheep station in 1866. The circumstances surrounding his presence in Australia and death are not known, but his wife Dionisia and the children had remained in England.

10. Dionisia (b. 1828) married James, the youngest brother of Stafford Moore Lane above. Following their marriage at Melcombe Regis in 1851, James and Dionisia spent a period farming near Alfriston, Sussex. It was probably ill health that caused James to give up farming. The family moved to Hampstead and James took a job working for his older brother, John Lane, at the Wenlock Brewery in Islington. James later became a brewery manager in St Helier, Jersey, where he died aged only 37, in 1863. Cause of death: "Phthisis", or TB. The couple had five children.

Following James' early death, Dionisia and her young family returned to Salisbury, where she took a boarding house at Fisherton Anger with her similarly widowed sister, Louisa. Between them they had ten children to support.

Family lore suggests Dionisia had been a teacher. Also, that before her marriage to James Lane, she was engaged to an heir to the WD & HO WILLS tobacco empire. Unfortunately, there is no evidence to support either story.

Dionisia died at Longfleet, Poole, in 1908.

11. Henry (b. 1831). Henry did not marry and died at Baverstock in 1862.