

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

GRAVES

GRAVES - Robert Graves, born Bloomsbury in 1800, became a London barrister before coming down to Wiltshire where he lived at Charlton, near Donhead St Mary. He married, in 1837, Mary KNYFTON (1801-1859) of Uphill, Axebury, Somerset. The couple had five children, three girls and two boys. Of the former, Mary Louisa and Emma Maria died as infants and Anna died age 12. The eldest son, Robert Knyfton, also died young, age nine. The second son, Albert Reginald, born 1840, survived childhood and after studying at Holy Trinity College, Cambridge, married Mary Jane BENETT in 1871 in Marylebone. However, he too was to die relatively young, aged just 39, in 1880. The couple had two children, Reginald Benett (1873-1918) and Robert (1875-1878). Reginald became known as GRAVES-KNYFTON and married Edith Mary ALSTON in 1897. They had two known children, Edith (1898) and Joan. The latter married FRITH.

The elder Robert Graves (who also owned property near Bridport in Dorset - Delapre House, Bradpole) lived at Charlton Cottage from about 1823. He enlarged the house into what became known as Charlton House in 1850. Buying more land, he built Manor Farm, Charlton and developed it into a Model Farm, where he experimented with pioneering new agricultural ideas and methods of cultivation.

Throughout much of the nineteenth century, Robert Graves owned most of the land in Charlton. When the Charlton church was considered too small for its congregation in 1839, it was demolished. Although the new church of St John's ("the church with two towers") was built by public subscription, Robert Graves is said to have contributed greatly, both financially and in its building.

When his wife Mary died in 1859, Robert Graves remarried, to Emily Josephine TURNER, in 1864. He died in 1874 and is buried at Charlton.