

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

### GROVE

**GROVE** - a wealthy land-owning family living on the Wiltshire-Dorset borders near Shaftesbury, in the area of the Donheads and Berwick St John, but also with other estates in Wales, Norfolk and the Midlands. The initial rise in the family's fortunes may be attributed to their close associations with some other local families of influence. The earliest family seat, the fifteenth century abbey property, Berry Court (now Lower Berry Court), sits astride the boundary between Donhead St Andrew (Lower Donhead) and Donhead St Mary (Upper Donhead). It was held by the Groves until the nineteenth century. However, the property most associated with the Groves, the manor of Ferne, itself dates back to 1236 and came into Grove ownership during 1563. There have been a number of houses on the site throughout its history. In 1811, Charlotte recorded in her diary the period when the family finally moved back into a new, completely rebuilt house, the earlier structure having been discovered unsafe.

This house, the house Charlotte knew for most of her life, was later substantially altered by her great nephew, Sir Thomas Fraser Grove, when he inherited the estate in 1858. Upon his death in 1897 the house was put up for sale to repay mounting debts and was finally sold in 1902.

Sir Thomas' son and heir, Walter, with his wife from 1882, Agnes (d. of Lord Rivers, Augustus Henry LANE-FOX) never actually resided at Ferne. They lived their later lives at Sedgehill Manor and during the 1930's even this, the very last of the Grove properties, was sold off together with its contents (including the now missing portrait of Charlotte, by Thomas Musgrove JOY). Some remaining members of the family went to live in America - and to relative obscurity.

Other families closely associated with Grove during the period of Charlotte's diaries include, among others: CHAFIN GROVE, PILFOLD, LONG, WHITE, JACKSON, SHELLEY, HELYAR, WADDINGTON, FRASER, FARQUHARSON, HILL, RUDGE and EYRE.

