

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

HEPBURN

HEPBURN – A “Mrs HEPBURN” appears during the years 1839-1841. She is described as an aunt to the Miss WILSONS (Eliza and Margaret Ann), sisters and the respective governesses to Mary GROVE (only daughter of Thomas Grove and Elizabeth HILL) and to the children of Dr John Grove and Jean FRASER. On the 1841 census Mrs Hepburn is entered as Sarah Hepburn, living in New Street, Salisbury, age “55”. She was born “Wiltshire” and is of “Independent” means. She has one female servant, Elizabeth PEARCE, age 20. Note: the census transcription has her surname recorded as “HIPBURN”.

Sarah was baptised at Blandford Forum, Dorset, on 16th May, 1784, the daughter of John Hepburn (a soldier) and Elizabeth SYDENHAM. Although described in the diaries as “Mrs Hepburn”, she was the unmarried sister of the Wilson girls’ mother, Eliza Wilson, nee Hepburn. Another sister, Emily, had married Capt. Henry STEEL.

In 1841 Charlotte reports Mrs Hepburn will be leaving Salisbury. In 1845 she is found on the passenger-list of the ship “*Quebec*”, destination New York, together with her niece Margaret Ann and the latter’s new husband and first cousin, Henry Lyster Steel, the second son of Capt. Henry Steel. The couple were married in 1844, St Pancras. The ship’s documentation states that all three intend to become inhabitants of Canada.

Henry and Margaret, however, emigrated soon afterwards to Australia. It is not known if Sarah went with them or stayed - and presumably died - in Canada.

See also WILSON and GRISDALE