

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

JACKSON

JACKSON - Revd. Dr. Gilbert Jackson succeeded his uncle, Richard Jackson, as rector of Donhead St Mary until 1816, the year of his death.

He married in April 1790, Bathia, youngest daughter of Charles PILFOLD and Bathia WHITE, of Effingham, Surrey. Bathia Pilfold was sister to, among others, Elizabeth (married Timothy SHELLEY of Field Place, Horsham), Charlotte (married Thomas GROVE of Ferne), John (married Mary Ann Horner SOUTH and, as a Lieutenant, commanded *HMS Ajax* at the Battle of Trafalgar) and James (married Ann STANFORD).

Gilbert Jackson's sister, Frances Ann, married Revd. Thomas KNIGHTLEY in 1784 and they had ten children.

Gilbert and Bathia had probably eleven children, there being some confusion over names. All were baptised at Donhead St Mary.

The first child, Gilbert, was baptised on 8th November, 1792. A Gilbert Jackson was buried on 31st January, 1795, no age given.

On 8th September 1794 (with another entry in the register written-in on the 25th September) a second son was baptised, Richard Charles Gilbert Jackson. He became known as "Charles". In Charlotte's diary entry of 4th September 1811, she writes "*My brothers dined at Dr Jackson's, it being my cousin Charles' birthday*". The next day, "*I accompanied my mother to Ferne – Charles Jackson [age 17] called on us there*".

"Charles" Jackson married his first cousin, Arabella (Belle) Knightley in 1824, at Southampton. Charlotte writes at the time, "*I like my new cousin [Arabella] very much*". Charles became vicar of Twickenham and died in 1874. Arabella died at Bath, in 1879. The couple had no children.

The third child, Frances Jane, baptised at Donhead St Mary in 1796, was known by all as "Fanny". She appears frequently in Charlotte's diaries. She did not marry and died in 1854.

A fourth child, Charlotte was baptised in May 1797 and died later that year.

Fifth child, Arabella, was baptised in 1799. She married in 1821, Revd. Theobald WALSH, born Dublin, son of Henry Lomax Walsh and Anne WOLFE. Census records suggest Theobald was wealthy, employing a governess for his eleven children, together with several servants. Charlotte's diary entry of 6th July 1829 indicates Mr Walsh lost the use of one eye, if not both.

Sixth child John (bpt. Donhead St Mary, 1801) became a Colonel in the Indian Army. At some point he contracted smallpox. He did not marry and died in India, 1876.

The seventh child, William Henry, was baptised 30th March 1803. He married in 1836, Elizabeth MUNTON, daughter of Revd. William Munton. The diaries suggest the couple had only one child, a son (Ref: 7th April 1843), identity unknown. William, a Major in the British army, was killed at the Battle of Meeanee, Hyderabad, in 1843.

Thomas, the eighth child, also had an army career. He was baptised 30th April, 1805 and married Frances Elizabeth (Fanny) MACKYLLOP, daughter of Capt. John Mackyllop RN, in 1845, probably in India. Captain Thomas Jackson went to India in 1845 (from diary entries) and rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, before retiring. On the 1861 census he is at Harbledown in Kent, with wife Frances and Thomas' unmarried brother John.

Thomas and Frances had five known children, John 1847 and Mary 1848, both born "East Indies" (probably India), then Gilbert 1856, William 1858 and Emily 1859, all born Harbledown.

Ninth child Henry was baptised 18th January 1807. He was appointed a midshipman in the Royal Navy in 1823, but resigned in 1825. On the 1851 census he is a Captain in the army at Brompton Barracks, Chatham. In 1836 Henry married Georgina Sophia GOSS, daughter of J Goss of Dawlish, Devon. It is thought the couple had a son, probably Gilbert, born 1837 and two daughters. Charlotte was asked to act as godmother to the younger girl, in 1846.

Maria Jackson, tenth child of Gilbert and Bathia, was baptised on 13th September, 1809. Charlotte, in several diary entries, gives the impression Maria is "difficult". For example, on 23rd November, 1823 – "*Maria Jackson is a fine girl, if she would hold herself well*". Or 16th August, 1824 – "*Maria Jackson has not improved in any point*". And 29th January, 1825, aged 16 – "*Maria run [sic] away from me like a wild colt*".

Like her older sister Fanny, Maria did not marry. She died in 1864, aged 54.

Finally, Frederick, who was baptised 14th April, 1811. Like most of his older brothers, Frederick joined the army, first as a captain, and was later promoted to Major. He died in India in 1846, aged only 34. He did not marry. Frederick was a firm favourite of his cousin Charlotte. When at home in Wiltshire he often attended church on Sundays and was included in various social events.

Following her husband's death in 1816 and with a young family, Bathia would have been obliged to vacate her home when the Revd. Richard BLACKMORE became rector of the parish. As Bathia's children grew up, married or, in the case of several of the boys, joined the army, she is later found at Churchill Cottage, Donhead.

From the great number of diary entries which include the name Jackson, Charlotte was clearly very close to her "Aunt Jackson" and her cousins.