

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

LIPSCOMBE

LIPSCOMBE / LIPSCOMB - “Miss Lipscombe” appears often in the company of Miss Louisa COOKE, her first cousin. Other members of the Lipscombe family are mentioned briefly in the diaries.

Captain John Cooke’s older sister, Margaret (1760-1835), married Revd. William Lipscombe, rector of Welby, Yorkshire. They had a total of seventeen children. The eldest, Christopher (1781-1843) was curate of Putney and Fulham, also of Knoyle, Wiltshire, and vicar of Sutton Benger in the same county. He was bishop of Jamaica between 1824-1842.

A second son, William (1786-1857), became Deputy Surveyor of Delamere Forest, Cheshire. His brother, Edwin (1796-1883), a commander in the Royal Navy, was executor to his aunt Louisa Cooke’s will; another brother, Francis (1798-1885), received John Cooke’s telescope after the Battle of Trafalgar. Yet another brother, Charles (1788-1809), became a midshipman in the navy, but sadly died aged only twenty. In a poignant letter to his sister Frances, dated 1806, written aboard *HMS Hibernia*, lying at Falmouth and whist waiting to join *HMS Dragon*, Charles tells about life on board ship – the weather, his sea-sickness and also of a “*very grand ball in the cockpit.....the music consisted of a pair of bagpipes and two fiddles*”.. and....”*except the scarcity of the female sex the evening was very pleasant*”. Charles obviously told his fellow midshipmen about his several sisters.....”*all my shipmates wish me to tell all my sisters to keep up their shapes, all whose names they have at their finger’s ends. You may suppose I joke, but it is a fact*”.

The identity of “Miss Lipscombe” is almost certainly that of Frances, the eldest daughter of William Lipscombe and Margaret Cooke. She was born at Raby, near Durham, in 1783, did not marry and died Cheltenham, 1854.

Other names associated with the Lipscombe family include: EARLE, PAGE, POPE, CURTEIS, HERON, DANSEY, PEARSE, WOODGATE, MERCER and RATTRAY

