

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

SAINSBURY

SAINSBURY - Henry Sainsbury, rector of Beckington with Standerwick, Somerset, married in 1802 Harriet VINCE, daughter of Henry Chivers Vince of Clift Hall, Market Lavington and Ann BODMAN, of Newbury.

Harriet's older sister by about three years, Elizabeth (b. ca 1774), had married George SOUTH in 1798. George's sister, Mary Ann Horner South, married Capt. John PILFOLD RN, the latter being Charlotte GROVE's uncle. An older brother of Harriet and Elizabeth, John Bodman Vince, married Dionysia LONG in 1792/3, younger sister of Richard Godolphin Long, MP for Wiltshire between 1806 -1818 and founder of the Wiltshire Yeomanry.

George South (1777-1837), of Charlton Cottage, had worked as a land-steward for Thomas Grove snr. Of his children, George (b. 1802) is entered as blind in the censuses. His younger sisters, Elizabeth and Maria Ann, are referred to as "The Miss Souths" by Charlotte in her diaries.

The above provides just one example of the intricate relationship between many of the families of minor or county gentry within Charlotte's circle, including especially naval officers, army officers and the clergy.

Henry Sainsbury and his wife Harriet Vince had two daughters – "The Miss Sainsburys" - Harriet Sarah (1803-1871) and Arabella (1806 - 1825).

Harriet Sarah, at about 18 years of age in 1821, is described by Charlotte as "very pretty". In 1828 she married Charles PICKWICK, whose wider family owned Bathford Manor, near Bath.

Bathford Manor House had passed into the hands of one Eleazer Pickwick, landlord of the White Hart in Bath and operator of a profitable stage-coach service, notably to London. It is said that Charles DICKENS, whilst travelling to Bath in a coach bearing the proprietor's name, adopted the name for his immortal Mr. Pickwick.

Charles Pickwick (1803 – 1834) a clergyman, had been curate of Beckington with Standerwick. He died relatively young, at the age of 34, leaving three children:

1. Charles Henry Sainsbury Pickwick (1829-1885) became an army captain. He inherited Bathford Manor from his uncle and changed his surname to SAINSBURY. He married Eliza Frances SILLERY at Dover, in 1852. Eliza was born in Ceylon, 1829. The couple had three known children, William, Charles and Cecil. The elder two sons were both in the Militia, whilst Cecil became a mechanical engineer.

Eliza is found at Bathford Manor House with their three sons on the 1881 census. Her husband Charles died in Weymouth in 1885. In his will (probate 1889) he left an estate valued at just £5 10s. The single executor, his wife Eliza, of Talavera Villa, Weymouth, died in 1909.

2. Georgiana Harriet Pickwick was born in 1833 and baptized on 17th September, 1834 at Beckington, Somerset. She married in 1865, at Bradford West, Robert Seymour Croxton Sillery, who had been born in Ceylon, ca 1831 (probably the brother of Eliza, above). Robert was a captain in the Ceylon Rifle Regiment. On the 1881 census the couple are living in Honiton, with five children.

3. Arabella Caroline Pickwick was born in 1834 and baptized at Beckington with her older sister, Georgiana, on 17th September, 1834. She married John Wedgewood YEELES in 1859, at Bath.

Harriet Sarah Pickwick, widow of Charles who had died in 1834, is found on the 1871 census, living alone at Manor Farm, Bathford, with one servant. She died later that year. The executor to her will was eldest son, Charles Henry Sainsbury SAINSBURY.