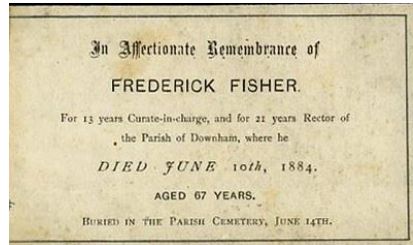


The Fisher family and the last Lord Downham

Frederick Fisher was born 1817 in Tong, Shropshire. He married Mary Hayes of Lewes and, in 1863, became Rector of the Parish of Downham. They had thirteen children, all born in Little Downham: Several of these children went on to make their mark on the world.



Edith Mary Fisher (Born 1851)

RENOUNCED WEALTH
TO SERVE POOR
—
Death of Former Little
Downham Woman.
—
"ARMY" BURIAL FOR
PEER'S SISTER.

Edith's life was described in the Ely Standard when she died in 1936.

"A wonderful life of self-sacrifice has been terminated by the death of Miss Edith Mary Fisher, a former resident of Little Downham who, renouncing her birthright of comfort and plenty in order that she

could spend her time among the poorest of the poor, doing good deeds, was given the simple funeral of a soldier of the Salvation Army when she was buried at Brighton yesterday week. Miss Fisher was 85 years of age.

As a girl, Miss Fisher cut herself adrift from the sheltered home of her father, the late Rev. Frederick Fisher, wealthy Rector of Little Downham, and went to work as a Salvation Army rescue worker.

When she went on her hands and knees to scrub the homes of the poor and nurse the sick, she turned her back for ever on luxury and forfeited inheritances. A trust fund provided her with a few pounds a week, but £2 weekly sufficed for her simple needs, and the rest she gave away.

When she was more than 80 years of age, enfeebled by illness and the years of self-sacrifice, tales of suffering in the distressed areas of Wales touched her heart. she packed her bag and went to work among the poor there, carrying coals to houses where there were no fires and sending parcels of groceries when there was no food.

Not until 18 months ago did she listen to the pleas of her friends that she should abandon this hard life and return to her three-roomed flat

in Vere Road, Brighton. There she had only one armchair, hard and upright, and with hands swollen with rheumatism, worked far into the night with her sewing machine, making clothes for the poor.

She must have cared for hundreds of babies during her life. Scores she took home and nursed; some she adopted, and for others she found foster parents, contributing towards their upbringing.

Few eyes were dry when poorly clad women attended her funeral in the Brighton Salvation Army Congress Hall. With mourners from the poorest homes in Brighton sat the dead woman's brother, Mr Reginald Fisher of Dover, and her nieces.

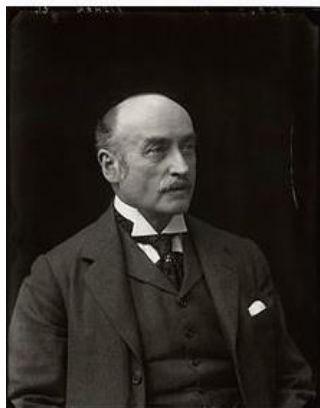
The poor had spent their coppers so that the coffin could be covered with bright spring flowers. With them lay a wreath from the Hon. Mrs Crighton, Lord Downham's only daughter.

With her passing ends the career of one of the noblest women this tiny corner of the globe has ever known, and her life of devotion to others leaves a fragrant memory with the few people of this district who knew her."

Augusta Fleming Fisher (Born 1852)

Augusta married Arthur Borrett of Hickling Hall farm, Norfolk in 1878. It appears that Arthur was forced to sell the farm in 1905. Augusta died in 1926 in Brighton

William Hayes Fisher (Born 1853)



William Hayes was born at Little Downham rectory in 1853 and educated at Haileybury and University College, Oxford and in 1879 became a barrister at the Inner Temple. He was elected as Unionist (Conservative) member of parliament for Fulham in 1885. He was a junior Lord of the Treasury and a ministerial whip from 1895 to 1902; and acted as Financial Secretary to the treasury from 1902 to 1903. He was president of the Local Government Board from 1917 to 1918 and then became Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. It was at this point that he was created a baron and took

the title Baron Downham of Fulham. He remained active politically and became a director of the Suez Canal..

He married his cousin, Florence Fisher in 1895 and had a daughter. He died 2nd July 1920 at Buckingham Palace Garden. As his baronetcy could not pass down the female line it lapsed and he was the last Lord Downham.

Constance Frederica Fisher (Born 1854)

Constance remained unmarried and died at Egremont Street, Ely in 1912

Robert Fisher (Born 1855)

A SUSSEX VICAR'S OBITUARY.

The Rev. Robert Fisher, Vicar of St. Thomas's, Groombridge, who was reported in some of the daily papers last week to have dropped dead at Preston, Lancashire, is still alive, and has had the unique experience of reading his own obituary notice. The deceased was another clergyman of the same name, and it seems that some zealous Pressman at Liverpool, hastily arriving at an erroneous conclusion, wired the news to Sussex. It was immediately known at Groombridge that the news must be false, as a postcard was received there on Thursday morning from Yorkshire to say that he proposed returning on Saturday. Mrs. Fisher received a number of sympathetic letters, and a resolution of condolence was passed by the East Grinstead Board of Guardians, of which her husband is a member. Mr. Fisher, who has been spending a well-earned holiday at Richmond, Yorkshire, returned on Saturday. At the time of the rumour of his death Mrs. Foster was at St. Leonard's.

Robert was appointed Vicar of Arundel 1887 and then vicar of Cuckfield from 1909 to 1915. Whilst at Cuckfield Robert married Mary Frances Maberly, and later became Canon of Chichester cathedral. He was mistakenly reported as having dropped dead in 1902 but it was a case of mistaken identity. He died in 1938.

Teresa Florence Fisher (Born 1856)

Teresa remained unmarried and died at St Leonards near Hastings in 1926

Frederic Fleming Fisher (Born 1857, died 1858 age 8 months)

Christopher Fisher (Born 1858, died 1859 age 4 months)

Cecil Urquhart Fisher (Born 1859)

Cecil became a solicitor and married Mary Lillian Megaw. He joined the volunteer force and was a member of Queen Victoria's Rifles. He sat as a Municipal Reform Party member of the London County Council representing Lambeth (Norwood) and was Vice Chairman of the London County council 1918-1919. He died in 1929.

Arthur Christopher (Born 1860, died 1860 age 11 weeks)

Georgina Fleming Fisher (Born 1862)

Georgina married Harry Campbell Bourne who became a minister. She died in 1903 at Hendon, Middlesex.

Reginald Fleming Fisher (Born 1865)

Reginald did not marry and is listed in the census as a political agent. He died suddenly whilst sat in his chair reading a paper on 11th October 1944, aged 80, in Brighton.

Harold Fleming Fisher (Born 1866)

Harold studied at Trinity College, Oxford and was ordained to the curacy of Sculcoates, Hull in 1890 and then later to Whitby. He probably died in 1947 at Northampton.

Robin Pearl