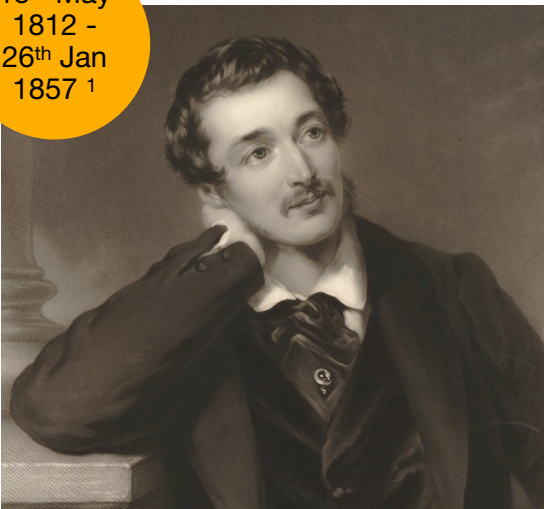


# Chapter 9

## 1832-1857 William Henry Dawnay

*In which we learn about a very large family living at the Grove; the birth of a baby girl at the house; and the building of the local school*

15<sup>th</sup> May  
1812 -  
26<sup>th</sup> Jan  
1857 <sup>1</sup>



William Henry Dawnay, 7<sup>th</sup> Viscount Downe <sup>4</sup>

William Henry was the son of Catharine's brother Rev. William Henry, the 6<sup>th</sup> Viscount <sup>2</sup>

William Henry (nephew) was only 9 years old at the time of his inheritance of Bookham Grove from his Aunt Catharine. It would be 1832 before he attained his majority (21 years) and could therefore take up the property as his own. In the meantime it was held in Trust by 2 appointed trustees: Thomas Byron and John Robinson Foulis <sup>3</sup>, and rented out between 1822-3 to Mr Champion Esq. and between 1823-32 to Mr Spencer Mackay (see Ch.8).

He had married Mary Isobel Bagot on the 25<sup>th</sup> July 1843. This was when she was 18 years old (and very beautiful) and he was 31 <sup>2, 5</sup>.

William paced between the library and the hall, sometimes half ascending the winding staircase before pausing and then retracing his steps. He could not settle to anything. Mary, his darling wife of 13 years, was giving birth yet again! This child would be their 10<sup>th</sup> so this was not an unusual event but he still could not help but be nervous. All of a sudden he heard the unmistakable sound of a new born baby crying. Running up the stairs onto the intersole and into their bedroom on the corner with the garden view terraces, he approached the bed and looked down on the latest addition to his family - a baby girl, born on 6<sup>th</sup> September 1856.

Mary Isobel Bagot  
(25.4.1825 -  
14.4.1900) ,  
daughter of Richard  
Bagot, the Bishop of  
Bath and Wells, and  
Lady Harriet Villiers <sup>5</sup>

They had already decided on a name - she was to be christened Edith Mary Downe <sup>6-8</sup>. Her 7 brothers and 1 sister could come and see her tomorrow; William thought of the sadness that he and Mary had endured just 3 years ago when Alan had died at the age of 5 years <sup>2</sup>, Edith would not bring him back but it was a joy to welcome her to his family. He kissed her gently on the forehead and then Mary in turn. Time for a celebratory drink!

He returned to the library and settled into his favourite chair with a glass in his hand. He was well used to this room, having lived here on and off since being able to claim his inheritance 24 years earlier. Not that he spent all of his time here - he liked London too, and Baldersby in Yorkshire.

William and Mary's 10 children <sup>2</sup>:

1. Hugh Richard (born on the 20<sup>th</sup> July 1844)
2. Lewis Payan (born on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 1846)
3. Alan Charles (born on the 15<sup>th</sup> June 1847 died 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1853)
4. Guy Cuthbert (born on the 26<sup>th</sup> July 1848)
5. Eustace Henry (born on the 15<sup>th</sup> April 1850)
6. William Frederick (born on the 14<sup>th</sup> October 1851)
7. Geoffrey Nicholas (born on the 13<sup>th</sup> December 1852)
8. Francis Herbert (born on the 11<sup>th</sup> December 1853)
9. Alice Isabel (born on the 20<sup>th</sup> July 1855)
10. Edith Mary (born on the 6<sup>th</sup> September 1856)

In 1822 the Land Tax records for Bookham show the Hon W Dawnay and the Late Hon Miss Dawnay (Catharine) to be the owners <sup>9</sup>. They are also listed as renting out the farm to John Brown.

In addition note that Marmaduke (Catharine's brother) is listed as an owner of property in Bookham, rented out to Robert Faulkner?

No.	Names of Proprietors.	Names of Occupiers.	Rc
	Mrs Hon <sup>le</sup> W Dawnay	Self	100
	Late Hon <sup>le</sup> Miss Dawnay	John Brown	20
	do do	do do	10
	do do	do do	12
	do do	do do	12
	Hon <sup>le</sup> M Dawnay	Robert Faulkner	1
	Mrs Sec <sup>le</sup> Miss Weston	Robert Faulkner	1

1822 Land Tax Records for Bookham <sup>9</sup>

PLACE	HOUSES Established or Building or Inhabited	NAMES of each Person who abode therein the preceding Night.	AGE and SEX		PROFESSION, TRADE, EMPLOYMENT, or of INDEPENDENT MEANS.	Where Born		
			Males	Females		Whether Born in same County	Whether Born in Scotland, Ireland, or Foreign Parts.	
Rabsden Lodge	1	Thomas Beekway	35		Ag Lab -	Y		
		Caroline Do		35			N	✓
		Charles Do		9			Y	
		Elizabeth Do		7			Y	
		James Do		3			Y	
		William Do		25		Ag Lab	Y	
Bookham Grove house	1	James Edgington	70		Gen Serv	N	✓	
		Elizabeth Beekway		70	F S	N	✓	
		Jane Dallen		39	F S	Y		
		Elizabeth Miller		35	F S	N	✓	
		Mary Shindrake		38	F S	Y		
		John Brown		61		Ag Lab	Y	✓
do		Robert Faulkner	32		Ag Lab	N	✓	

The 1841 census shows 4 female and 2 male servants living at Bookham Grove <sup>9</sup>:

- Elizabeth Beekway 70 years old
- Jane Dallen 39 years old from Surrey
- Elizabeth Miller 35 years old
- Mary Shindrake 38 years old from Surrey
- John Brown 61 years old from Scotland
- Luke Hyewood 32 years old

1841 Census for Bookham Grove House <sup>9</sup>

William was educated at Eton and Christ Church, Oxford, where he gained an MA in 1837 <sup>5</sup>.

Between 1841-6 he was the Conservative MP for Rutland <sup>1, 5</sup>.

He became the 7th Viscount in 1846, and at this point he returned to Yorkshire <sup>5</sup>.

He was an officer in the Yorkshire Hussars from 1834 - 54 <sup>10</sup>.

He wrote a letter in his role as MP for Rutland, on Dec 19th 1845 with his address given as Bookham Grove <sup>11</sup>.

To Robt. Smith, Esq., Burley on the Hill. — EXETER.

“ Sir, “ **Bookham Grove** Dec. 19, 1845.

“ I understand a meeting is to be held at Oakham on Monday next in support of the principles of Protection to British Industry. As I shall not be able to attend it, I shall be greatly obliged if you will state to those assembled my very sincere regret that I am so prevented, but that as long as I have the honour to bear my part in the representation of the county, my constituents may be assured that I shall, as I have hitherto done, be found in the ranks of those who are arrayed in defence of those principles; and that, however, any of those in whom I have placed confidence may desert us, my determination is consistently to adhere to the cause of protection,—not for any sordid wish to benefit one class at the expense of any other, but because I believe the welfare of all ranks and all the industrial profession are intimately connected with it; and we have the experience of the past to teach us how the country has flourished under the influence of such a system.

“ I remain, your’s, &c.,  
“ W. H. DAWNAY.”

To the EDITOR of the LINCOLNSHIRE CHRONICLE.

SIR,—As I see by your Paper, received this morning, that Mr. R. W. BAKER, in seconding the nomination of Mr. FINCH, thought fit to make a most ungenerous and unfair attack on me, I must request you to be good enough to insert my answer to his remarks in your next week’s Number.—I am well aware that I have rendered myself liable to unfriendly criticism by the course I have felt compelled to take; I also fear I may have disoblged several of those whose friendship and esteem I most value, but I do most earnestly protest against the accusation made by Mr. Baker, when he says—“The constituency has been “deceived, and Mr. Dawnay has betrayed his trust.” My constituents may certainly have been disappointed; but, that I have betrayed the trust reposed in me by those constituents, I utterly and positively deny. Had I retained my seat in Parliament and supported Sir R. Peel’s measures, contrary to the understanding entered into between my constituents and myself in 1841, there might have been some grounds for the imputation; but when I have voluntarily and unhesitatingly made so great a sacrifice—when, of my own accord, I have retired from that honourable position which it has been my pride and satisfaction to hold—when I have done this with every consideration for the Electors’ convenience, having been the very first who applied for the Chiltern Hundreds, in order that the views of my late constituents might be duly represented, and the vacancy filled up at the earliest possible period—I do assert that Mr. Baker’s allegation is most unjustifiable, and one which no man, however hostile his opposition to me, has a right to apply.

I do not wish to shrink from that fair censure which those who deem my views mistaken may think right to express, but I cannot, without protest, observe imputations cast so unfairly upon me, which I am sure every gentleman, and every honourable man, will at once see are not founded either in justice or in truth.

Neither was my *first* vote given in favour of the admission of Canadian Corn, as Mr. Baker chooses to assert, seeing that that enactment was only brought forward in 1843. However, the other charges are altogether of minor importance, and, therefore, I shall not trespass at greater length on your columns, further than to state that these observations originate in no ill-will on my part towards Mr. Baker, but solely in that jealousy of my own personal honour which will not allow me to let such an unjust misrepresentation go forth to the public uncontradicted.

I beg to remain, Sir, your obedient Servant,  
W. H. DAWNAY.

*Bookham Grove, Saturday, Feb. 21, 1846.*

And again on Saturday February 21st 1846, again from Bookham Grove <sup>12,13</sup>.

We can imagine him sitting in the library or drawing room at Bookham Grove drafting these letters up whilst gazing out of the window at the grounds.

He was noted as the owner of Bookham Grove by Brayley in 1850 and the estate is noted as consisting of about 85 acres at this time <sup>14</sup>.

He was resident at Bookham Grove in the 1851 census along with his wife and Hugh (6), Lewis (4), Alan (3), Guy (2) and Eustace (11 months), his sister, Lydia and his brother, Payan, along with 13 servants 9:

87	41100	W. H. Downe	Head	Man	38	Viscount (in Wales) M. P.	London
		Mary I. Downe	Wife	Woman	25	Widowship	Staffs. Blithfield
		Hugh R. Downe	Son		6	Widow	London
		Lewis P. Downe	Son		4	do	London
		Alan C. Downe	Son		3	do	London
		Guy C. Downe	Son		2	do	W. Hants. Basingstoke
		Eustace Downe	Son		11 Mo	do	London
		Lydia F. C. Downe	Sister	Woman	37	Land & Landholder	London
Total of Persons...					46		

Parish or Township of		Ecclesiastical District of		City or Borough of		Town of		Village of	
No. of House	Name of Street, Place, or Road, and Name or No. of House	Name and Surname of each Person who abode in the house, on the Night of the 30th March, 1851	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of		Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Years in this House
					Males	Females			
87	Continued	Payan Downe	Brother	M	35		Widow	London	
		Eliza James	Housekeeper	W	42		Housekeeper	Glouc. Down Ampney	
		Mary Buckland	Servant	W	32		Ladiesmaid	Warw. Coventry	
		Hannah Lane	do	W	46		Nurse	Warw. Weston	
		Lucy Palmer	Minster	W	29		Ladiesmaid	Warw. Lutterbourn	
		Harriet Asbury	do	W	30		Laundry do	Staffs. Nagley	
		Elizabeth Wyatt	do	W	26		House do	Warw. Bookham	
		Eliza Coust	do	W	18		Nursery do	do. Little Aston	
		Charlotte Baker	do	W	22		Kitchen do	Wilt. Smallfield	
		Caroline Ragge	do	W	21		Laundry do	Warw. Bookham	
		Harriet Wood	do	W	19		Housemaid do	do. Fobham	
		Maria Wood	do	W	17		Kitchen do	do. Bookham	
		George Loftus	do	W	27		Butler	Staffs. Blithfield	
		Arthur Beckett	do	W	20		Footman	Staffs. Blithfield	

Bookham Grove 1851 Census 9

Name	Age
W. H. Downe	38
Mary I. Downe	25
Hugh R. Downe	6
Lewis P. Downe	4
Alan C. Downe	3
Guy C. Downe	2
Eustace Downe	11 Mo
Lydia F. C. Downe	37
Payan Downe	35

<a href="#">Eliza James</a>	Housekeeper	42
<a href="#">Mary Buckland</a>	Ladies Maid	32
<a href="#">Hannah Lane</a>	Nurse	46
<a href="#">Lucy Palmer</a>	Ladies Maid	29
<a href="#">Harriet Asbury</a>	Laundry maid	30
<a href="#">Elizabeth Wyatt</a>	Housemaid	26
<a href="#">Eliza Coust</a>	Nursery maid	18
<a href="#">Charlotte Baker</a>	Kitchen maid	22
<a href="#">Caroline Ragge</a>	Laundry maid	21
<a href="#">Harriet Wood</a>	Housemaid	19
<a href="#">Maria Wood</a>	Kitchen maid	17
<a href="#">George Loftus</a>	Butler	27
<a href="#">Arthur Beckett</a>	Footman	20

He again is noted as living at Bookham Grove in 1853 and 1854, where he is recorded as one of the Vice Presidents of the Surrey Archaeological Society  
15 16, 17.

He also lived at Baldersby Park, North Yorkshire <sup>5</sup>.



Baldersby Park, 1829 <sup>18</sup>

Mary Isobel Bagot built a national school at Bookham in 1856, then known as St James Church School (this is now the library), and a residence for the Headmaster - at a cost of £2000 <sup>19</sup>. (Equivalent to between £222 300 and £1.5m at todays costs, depending on how it is calculated) <sup>10</sup>.



St James School c.1890 <sup>19</sup>

William died in Torquay on the 26th January 1857 aged 44 years <sup>2</sup> (Torquay was a favoured winter resort for the wealthy upper classes and attracted visitors in ill health on account of its fresh air and mild climate <sup>1, 5</sup>

## THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS

### OBITUARY OF EMINENT PERSONS.

#### VISCOUNT DOWNE.

THE Right. Hon. William Henry Dawnay, seventh Viscount Downe in the Peerage of Ireland, and a Baronet of England—who died on the 26th ult., at Torquay, where he had gone for the benefit of his health—was the eldest son of the Rev. William Henry, the sixth Viscount, by his wife Lydia, only daughter of the late John Heathcote, Esq., of Connington Castle, Huntingdonshire. He was born the 15th May, 1812, and married, the 25th July, 1843, Mary Isabel, fourth daughter of the late Hon. and Right Rev. Dr. Bagot, Bishop of Bath and Wells, by whom he leaves



issue a youthful family of seven sons and a daughter. Lord Downe was educated at Christ-church, Oxford, where he graduated as B.A. in 1833, and as M.A. in 1837. He was elected M.P. for Rutlandshire in 1841, and continued to retain his seat in the Commons up to January, 1846: he succeeded to the family honours on the demise of his father, in the May of that year. Lord Downe was a Deputy Lieutenant of Yorkshire, and was for some years an officer in the Yorkshire Hussars. He is succeeded by his eldest son, the Hon. Hugh Richard Dawnay, now the eighth Viscount, who is in his thirteenth year.

The very ancient family of Dawnay, Viscounts Downe, springs from Sir Payn D'Aunay, of Aunay Castle, in Normandy, who came to England with the Conqueror. Sir Payn's descendant, Sir William Dawnay, was made a General, at Acon, by Richard I. He had there displayed his prowess by slaying a Saracen, and by killing a lion, the paw of which he presented to the warrior monarch; who, to commemorate these valiant deeds, gave him a ring (to this day in the possession of the family), and ordered that he should bear for crest a demi-Saracen, with a lion's paw in one hand and a ring in the other. The first of the Dawnays who was made a Baronet was Christopher Dawnay, of Cowick, a staunch Cavalier. He received his patent from Charles I. in 1642. His son, Sir John Dawnay, also a warm adherent of the Stuarts, was the first Viscount, being so created the 19th Feb., 1680. He sat in King James's Irish Parliament in 1689.

William Henry Dawnay's Obituary, showing the Dawnay coat of arms <sup>1</sup>

In his will he left everything to his 32 year old wife and entrusted her to make the right decisions about the disposal of his whole estate <sup>20</sup>:

“And I give devise and bequeath to my said dear wife for her life all the estates whatsoever and wheresoever of which I have the disposal. And at her decease I give and devise the same as hereinafter mentioned but considering the age of my children and know my wife will be more better able to judge of their conduct and disposition and of what will be best for them when they grow up, than I am now able to do it is my will and I hereby empower my said dear wife by any deed or deeds, writing or writings, or by her last will and testament attested by two credible witnesses from time to time to revoke and make void all or any of the dispositions of my landed estates which I am about to make, and to amend? other estates and make other dispositions for the benefit of my children or their issue as she may think proper. It being my will that she shall have an absolute discretionary power of disposing of my estates in favour of my children to be exercised in case she may deem it expedient.”

He did have some wishes though for what was to happen after his wife's death; with regard to Bookham Grove his eldest son Hugh would have it until the age of 21 years, at which point Hugh would officially take on the responsibilities of the 8<sup>th</sup> Viscount, and was then to give Bookham Grove to his brother Guy Cuthbert:



Mary Isabel "Dowager Viscountess Downe" Bagot Lane <sup>21</sup>

“And subject to this proviso in my will is that the Langley estates, The farm at Huston? purchased of Mr Tate (and that purchase money of the said Langley estates or any part thereof if sold or the lands purchased herewith) shall at my dear wife's decease go to my oldest surviving son upon condition that he gives up when he comes of age the Bookham Grove Estate and the landed property which belongs to that estate to my third surviving son to whom I devise the cottage there which I inherited from ??? ???? Langley and any property I may have or acquire hereafter at Bookham Estate with my third son (by whom I mean Guy Cuthbert). Who is now my third surviving son, or whoever may in future be so.” <sup>20</sup>

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