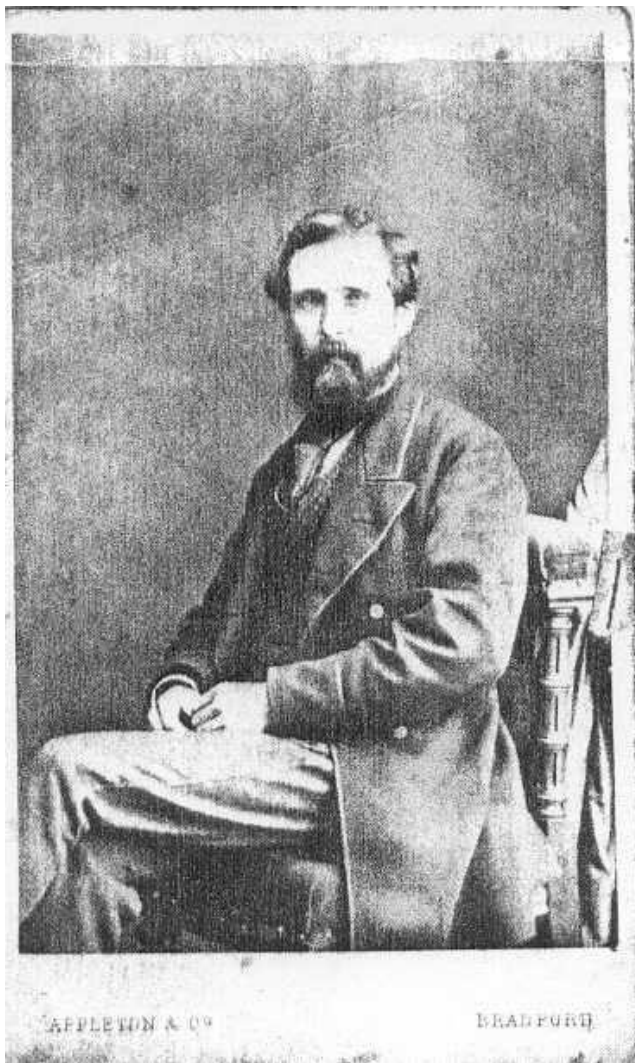


## The Charteris family

Samuel Lord Watkinson's wife Annie was the second daughter of Dr William Charteris (pictured below) and his wife Eliza Corrie. This is the Charteris family story.



### **Dr William Charteris**

was a General Practitioner and Medical Officer for the Hipperholme, Coley and Northowram parishes.

He also served with the Local Government Medical Service

William Charteris was born on 9<sup>th</sup> February 1839 at Corsway, Johnstone, Dumfriesshire, Scotland. He was at this address with his parents, James and Helen nee Bell and two brothers, on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1841. More siblings appear on the 1851 census when father James Charteris was a "Farmer" of 210 acres at the same address. By 1861 William was a Medical Student lodging at Montague St., St. Cuthbert's, Newington, Midlothian, Scotland.

In Q3 1865 William Charteris married Eliza Corrie, the marriage being registered in the Bradford district. Eliza was also born in 1839, the daughter of "Surgeon" Joseph and Martha Corrie. Joseph Corrie was another Dumfriesshire born Surgeon and General Practitioner who had married Martha Ayrton at St. Peter's Bradford on 26<sup>th</sup> May 1834. The Corrie parents resided in Thornton village, Bradford for the next four decades until his death in 1871 and her death in 1874. Some of these census returns indicate that Surgeon Joseph Corrie had assistants who lodged with the family. It is interesting to speculate as to whether William Charteris was one of them and thus how he met Eliza.

William and Eliza's first child George Bell Charteris was born in Thornton Q2 1867 but the next two children Helen Corrie Charteris and Annie Charteris were born, on 26<sup>th</sup> May 1867 and in 1871 respectively, in Hipperholme, probably at a house in The Crescent as this was the family's residence for the 1871 census. Another daughter Jessie Maclaurin Charteris was born Q1 1870 but she died 8 months later, on 16<sup>th</sup> October 1870. She was buried in plot R33, owned by her father, in St. Matthew's churchyard on 20<sup>th</sup> October 1870.



1871 census

Wm Charteris	Head	32	Surgeon
Eliza Charteris	Wife	31	
Geo B Charteris	Son	3	
Helen C Charteris	Dau	2	
Annie Charteris	Dau	1 Month	
Mary A Gee	Servant	23	Nurse
Louisa Suttcliffe	Servant	20	Dom. Servant

Address **3 The Crescent, Hipperholme**

**The Crescent, Hipperholme**

Apparently in 1873 a Dr Haining acting for Dr William Charteris attended the casualties at the foundation stone laying ceremony for St. Matthew's Church. The new church, which was to replace the building in the churchyard, was paid for by wealthy landowner Johnston Jonas Forster. His wife Mrs Hannah Jane Foster laid the foundation stone on 16<sup>th</sup> September 1873. But very unfortunately the crane lifting the foundation stone collapsed on some of the crowd seriously injuring a number of people.

Read more at: <https://www.brighthouseecho.co.uk/lifestyle/more-memories-of-st-matthew-s-1-6422397>

For the Charteris family two more sons William and Francis Robert were born on 13<sup>th</sup> April 1874 and in 1877 respectively and a daughter Ethel Weymss Charteris on 12<sup>th</sup> July 1879. About this time (1879) Dr William Charteris purchased land on Leeds & Whitehall Road, originally belonging to the Listers of Shidben Hall and had **Amisfield House** (pictured below) built. He was resident there for over thirty years.



For the 1881 census one-year old Ethel seems to have been missed off the listing of names of the Charteris family. Oldest brother George Bell Charteris was not at home as he was boarding at a school in Dumfries. But he died aged 17 in 1885, his death registered in the Halifax district. So the data for the next two censuses looked like this.

1881 census

William Charteris	Head	42	Surgeon
Eliza Charteris	Wife	41	
Helen C. Charteris	Dau	12	Scholar
Annie Charteris	Dau	10	Scholar
William Charteris	Son	7	Scholar
Francis Robert Charteris	Son	3	
Frederick G. Greenway	Boarder	22	
Undergraduate University of Edinburgh			
Serah Ellen Allott	Servant	22	Cook
Teresa Gee	Servant	20	
			Domestic Servant

Address **Hipperholme**

1891 census

William Charteris	Head	52	
			Medical Practitioner Registered
Eliza Charteris	Wife	51	
Helen Corrie Charteris	Dau	22	at Home
Annie Charteris	Dau	20	at Home
William Charteris	Son	16	Scholar
Francis R Charteris	Son	13	Scholar
Ethel W Charteris	Dau	11	Scholar
Richard Davidson	Boarder	30	
			Medical Practitioner Registered
Charlotte Cross	Servant	23	Cook
Mary E Denny	Servant	19	Housemaid

Address **Amisfield House, Leeds & Whithall Rd., Hipperholme**

Two years later, on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1893 the lodger Dr Richard Davidson, another Dumfriesshire born medic, the son of Coal Merchant David Davidson, married Helen Corrie Charteris at St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe. Three daughters, Dorothy Charteris, Allison Catherine and Beatrice Mary Davidson were born on 28<sup>th</sup> April 1895, 11<sup>th</sup> April 1899 and in 1890 and baptised on 5<sup>th</sup> June 1895, 13<sup>th</sup> April 1899 and 7<sup>th</sup> September 1900 respectively at St. Matthew's Church. On each occasion the Davidson's address was given as The Crescent and father Richard was a Doctor / Physician. The short time between Allison Catherine's birth and baptism dates might suggest a health concern. Indeed, six months later Allison Catherine Davidson died on 29<sup>th</sup> October 1899. She was buried in plot R33 of St. Matthew's churchyard owned by her maternal grandfather Dr William Charteris on 31<sup>st</sup> October 1899 nearly thirty years after he buried his own baby daughter, Jessie Maclaurin Charteris there.

On 31<sup>st</sup> March 1901 the Charteris and Davidson families looked like this: -

1901 census

William Charteris	Head	62	Surgeon
Eliza Charteris	Wife	61	
Annie Charteris	Dau	28	
Ethel Weymss Charteris	Dau	21	
Annie Arundel	Servant	25	Housemaid
Fanny Ford	Servant	33	Cook

Address **Amisfield House, Hipperholme**

1901 census

Richard Davidson	Head	40	
			Doctor of Medicine
Helen C Davidson	Wife	32	
Dorothy C Davidson	Dau	5	
Beatrice M Davidson	Dau	7/12	
Annie S Holdsworth	Servant	25	Dom Servant
Agnes M R Evatt	Servant	16	Nurse

Address **The Crescent, Hipperholme**

The brothers William and Francis Robert Charteris had 'flown the nest'. William went to the USA and Francis Robert to British Malaya.

The photograph below on the Ancestry website is captioned *Grace Eleanor with husband **William Charteris and children*** probably named Evelyn, Ilean, Frederick, John, Grace and Joan. Another daughter Florence appears in the 1910 census but after that no mention of her has been found.



There is a Find My Grave entry for William Charteris which explains that :-

William was born in 1874 in Halifax, England to Dr. William Charteris and his wife Eliza Corrie. He arrived in this country in 1897 for a "protracted sojourn" but never leaves. On March 28, 1903, his love, Grace Eleanor Wrightson, arrived in NYC and he married her the same day. They made their home in Hanover, NY. William worked as a machinist for locomotives.

Francis Robert Charteris went further afield to British Malaya as explained on a British Malaya website.

..... has two assistants, Messrs. F. R. Charteris and H. B. Mollett, and has under his charge a labour force of 350 Tamil coolies. There are on the property three bungalows, a rubber store, two copra drying sheds, and seven permanent sets of coolie lines. Mr. F. R. Charteris, the assistant manager of Klanang Estate, Jugra, Selangor, is a son of Dr. William Charteris, of Hipperholme, near Halifax, Yorkshire. He was born in June 1877. After attending the local Grammar School, he commenced the study of medicine, but gave it up, and in March 1901, he came out to Perak to join the Perak Sugar Cultivation Co., Ltd., with whom he remained for six years.

Mr. Charteris was a keen cyclist when at home. He is an all-round sportsman, a good billiard-player, and a popular clubman.

The daughter Annie Charteris married Samuel Lord Watkinson on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1909 at St. Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe. Their eldest son William Edward Charteris Watkinson – obviously named after his maternal grandfather – was born on 31<sup>st</sup> May 1910. Leaving the three households looking like this on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1911.

1911 census

William Charteris           Head 72 Surgeon  
 Eliza Charteris            Wife 71  
 Ethel W Charteris         Dau 31  
 Martha Tyler            Servant 25 Housemaid  
 Jenny Ogden Watson     Servant 24 Cook  
 Address **Amisfield, Hipperholme, Halifax**

1911 census

Richard Davidson         Head 50  
   Medical Practitioner  
 Hellen Corrie Davidson  Wife 42  
 Dorothy Charteris Davidson  Dau 15  
 Beatrice Mary Davidson  Dau 10  
 Patricia Glays Mackenna  Servant 25 Housemaid  
 Address The Gables, Hipperholme

1911 census

Samuel Lord Watkinson  Head 37  
   Private Means  
 Annie Watkinson         Wife 39  
 William Edward Charteris Watkinson  Son 10/12  
 Alatheia Florence Picksley  Servant 43 Housemaid  
 Winifred Parks             Servant 29 Cook  
 Francis Adelaide Payne  Servant 22 Nurse  
 Edith Cobb                 Servant 20 Waiting maid  
 Maria Benson Hartley  Servant 17 Kitchen maid  
 Address **The Grange, Lightcliffe**

**Samuel Lord Watkinson's story is also on this website**

The Charteris family suffered a number of bereavements in the next decade. Annie and Samuel Lord Watkinson lost their baby son, David Watkinson, within 7 hours of his birth on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1911. He was buried a day later, the last occupant of plot R33 in St. Matthew's churchyard owned by his maternal grandfather Dr William Charteris. A few weeks later grandmother Eliza Charteris nee Corrie passed away.

CHARTERIS Eliza of Arnsfield [Amisfield] Hipperholme near Halifax Yorkshire (wife of William Charteris) died 18 October 1911 probate London 29 November to Samuel Lord Watkinson gentleman. Effects £415 9s 7d

Annie Watkinson then lost her husband Samuel Lord Watkinson on 31<sup>st</sup> March 1915 just days before she gave birth to her daughter Violet Corrie Watkinson on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1915. Her widowed father Dr William Charteris passed away two years later.

CHARTERIS William of Annisfield [Amisfield] House Hipperholme Yorkshire died 26 September 1917 Probate London 19 October to Richard Davidson M.D. Annie Watkinson widow and Ethel Wemyss Charteris spinster. Effects £5453 16s 5d.

Was it after this that widow Annie Watkinson and her young children moved with her spinster sister Ethel Wemyss Charteris to Great Malvern? According to her probate record this was where she died although she was brought back to Lightcliffe to be buried with her husband in plot F10 on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1923.

WATKINSON Annie of St. Mary's Mount Great Malvern Worcestershire widow died 20 July 1923 probate London 13 October to the National Provincial and Union Bank of England limited and Ethel Wemyss Charteris spinster. Effects £13 351 8s 7d

The Davidsons seem to have moved to Birmingham which was where Dr Richard Davidson died in 1927.

DAVIDSON Richard of 154 Cole Valley-road Hall Green Birmingham died 8 August 1927 Probate Birmingham 7 November to Helen Corrie Davidson widow. Effects £3060 10s 9d

In 1935 Helen Corrie Davidson and her daughter Dorothy Charteris Davidson were on the Electoral list in Stroud Gloucestershire with address "Shirely Pirton Lane". When the 1939 register was taken they were at Ushdale, Oldville Avenue, Clevedon, Somerset. At this time Ethel Weymss Charteris was with her nephew "Dairy Farmer" William Edward Charteris Watkinson at St Mary's Mount, Great Malvern. Her niece Violet Corrie Turner nee Watkinson was in a Plowright household at Raenstor Close, Youlgrave, Nr Bakewell, Derbyshire, presumably with her husband Rodney Francis Turner who she had married in 1938.

William Charteris died in the USA in 1939 and was buried in Glenwood Cemetery, Silver Creek, Chautauqua County, New York, USA His surviving sisters, Helen Corrie Davidson nee Charteris, and Ethel Weymss Charteris died in 1952 and 1966 respectively. No further records have been found for their brother Francis Robert Charteris. Did he come back to the UK or stay in Malaya or .... ?

DAVIDSON Helen Corrie of 1 Beehive Cottages Carlincott Peasedown St. John Somersetshire widow died 8 June 1952 at Lansdown-grove Nursing Home Bath Probate Bristol 11 August to Lloyds Bank Limited. Effects £5804 13s 10d.

CHARTERIS Ethel Weymss of 1 Handbury Road Malvern Link Worcestershire died 7 May 1966 at Brightside Nursing Home Malvern Worcestershire Probate Gloucester 30 June to William Edward Charteris Watkinson farmer. Effects £4016

No further records have been found for Beatrice Mary Davidson. Her sister Dorothy Charteris Davidson passed away in 1972.

DAVIDSON Dorothy Charteris of Mellifont Abbey Wookey Somerset died 6 July 1972 Probate Bristol 16 August £7923

Their cousins Violet Corrie Turner nee Watkinson and her brother William Edward Charteris Watkinson died in 1954 and 1981 respectively.

TURNER Violet Corrie of Oddo House Winter Derbyshire (wife of Rodney Francis Turner) died on 7 January 1954 Administration Wakefield 21 May to the said Rodney Francis Turner company director and William Edward Charteris Watkinson farmer Effects £ 25 509 13s 10d.

WATKINSON William Edward Charteris of Tyre Hill House Hanley Swan Worcs died 29 October 1981 Probate Winchester 10 May [1982] £ 1 226 616

This concludes the Charteris story. Read more about the various members of **the Watkinson family**

D.M.Barker  
July 2018