

THE REVD COTTON-RISLEY'S FAMILY

Thanks to Buffy Heywood and the *Diaries*, we have become very familiar with the family of the Revd Cotton Risley. But what happened to Holford, Willie and Robert after their father's death in 1869? I've often wondered and was delighted to find references to all of them in the *Deanery Magazines*. On Holford's 18th birthday his father writes in his diary: 'May a kind providence watch over, guide and protect him for many succeeding years'.

The wish was granted. Holford became Squire of Deddington after his father's death. A great benefactor to the parish, he contributed to the support of the church, school and every charitable concern. Clifton in particular was greatly indebted to his generosity. He died in Oxford on October 4th 1903, aged 72. Some parishioners followed the cortege from Deddington to Adderbury Church where his body was laid to rest in the family vault with every mark of respect.

His younger brother Willie (the Revd William Cotton Risley MA) was Rector of Shalstone in Buckinghamshire for nearly 30 years. He returned to his family home in Deddington in September 1907, but died in March 1908 and was buried in Shalstone churchyard. Sadly Robert, the youngest (the Revd Robert Wells Risley MA) died at the early age of 47 in August 1884 at Moulsoe near Newport Pagnell where he was Rector of that parish.

The Rev Cotton Risley's grandson Martin, son of Willie, left Deddington six months after his father's death and died in London after a short illness on December 2nd 1908, aged 39. He was well known in Deddington, read the lessons in church and was the first to read from the new lectern. Betsy (Elizabeth Rebecca), we know from the *Diaries*, died in 1848 aged 13. She lies in the Cotton Risley vault in Adderbury churchyard. (I think Martin was the last of the family to live in what is now known as Deddington Manor.)

Ruth Johnson, 1999