

Hugh Charles Fairfax-Cholmeley (1864-14 April 1940)

Yorkshire Post and Leeds Mercury
(Tuesday, 16th April 1940).

OBITUARY

MR. H. C. FAIRFAX-CHOLMELEY

Yorkshire Landowner

The death occurred at his residence, Swathgill, Hovingham, on Sunday, of Mr. Hugh Charles Fairfax-Cholmeley, at the age of 76.

Mr. Fairfax-Cholmeley, who was one of the largest landowners in Yorkshire, was a representative of a family descended from John de Belward of Malpas, Cheshire, in the time of William Rufus, but which afterwards settled in Yorkshire.

He was the eldest son of the late Mr. Thomas Charles Cholmeley and his wife, Rosalie, only daughter of Sir Charles Strickland.

His uncle, Francis Cholmeley, married a daughter of Charles Gregory Fairfax, of Gilling Castle, and in 1886 Mr. Cholmeley assumed the additional surname of Fairfax by Royal licence.

He was educated at Eton and Oxford University. When he succeeded to the Brandisby estate he resided at Brandisby Hall, now the residence of Major Stanley Pearson, which, together with other parts of the estate, he sold subsequently.

At one time he owned practically the whole of the Brandisby countryside, but from time to time disposed of several portions of it, including Brandisby Lodge and Mill Hill House.

A Social Reformer

He was always interested in social reform. Early in the beginning of the present century he built the very fine village hall at Brandisby, and was the leading figure in the establishment of the Brandisby Agricultural Trading Society, for which he built a large depot at Brandisby for the collection and distribution of the agricultural produce of his tenants and other agriculturists in the neighbourhood.

This was one of the pioneer enterprises of co-operative trading in agriculture. In its early days many persons interested in the co-operative movement as applied to agriculture visited Brandisby to investigate the working of the society, which had another large depot at Malton, and which is still very successfully operated.

He was a member of the Central Landowners' Association, and took a very prominent part in all matters and discussions connected with agricultural estate management.

A man of very varied interests and much intellectual curiosity, Mr. Fairfax-Cholmeley expressed it in many semi-political and sociological directions. He combined a modified socialistic outlook with the standpoint of the old-fashioned Tory landowner. In religious matters he exercised a similarly wide tolerance.

Mr. Fairfax-Cholmeley was patron of the living of Brandisby.

Agriculture and Architecture

He displayed a keen interest in agriculture, which found expression in the breeding of pedigree stock and the encouragement of his many tenants to adopt scientific methods in the cultivation of their holdings.

Keenly interested in architecture, he was himself a very able amateur architect, devoting his talents in this direction to the conversion of several old-fashioned farm houses on his estate into delightful old-world residences.

Among the houses so treated were Mill Hill, the former residence of Mr. Oscar Rowntree, the White House, Brandisby, the residence of Mr. Paul Gibb, and the charming house at Swathgill, which he converted for his own use, and where he had resided for some eight years.

He was a J.P. and Deputy-Lieutenant for the North Riding. Apart from the usual sporting pursuits of the country gentleman, Mr. Fairfax-Cholmeley was a keen cricketer,

and formerly played regularly for the Yorkshire Gentlemen.

He married Miss Alice Moverley, by whom he is survived with two sons and three daughters.

FAIRFAX-

CHOLMELEY Hugh Charles of Swathgill Hovingham **Yorkshire** died 14 April 1940 Probate **York** 25 May to Alice Jane Fairfax-Cholmeley widow Francis William Alfred Fairfax-Cholmeley of no occupation and Cecil Henry Farrer Thompson D.S.O. O.B.E. retired lieutenant-colonel H.M. army. Effects £27726 19s. 6d.

(Above) entry in 1940 Probate Calendar

(Below) Brandisby Hall, former ancestral home of Fairfax-Cholmeley



(Below) entry in Alumni Oxonienses:

Cholmeley, Hugh Charles, rs. Thomas Charles, of Naples, arm. CHRIST CHURCH, matric. 10 Oct., 1884, aged 20.



BRANDISBY HALL, BRANDISBY

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