

CHARLOTTE ELIZA STAFFORD O'BRIEN  
Born 23rd September 1842: Died 13th May 1919.

Charlotte and her twin sister Caroline, were the first children born to Henry Sarell Ongley and his wife Lucy, who was also his cousin. They were born on 23rd September 1842. Their father was then the British Consul on the island of Crete, and grew up living at Chalepa, near Canea (Hania).

Just after her sixteenth birthday Charlotte's father was appointed as Consul for the Morea (part of present day Greece), and the family moved to Patras.

Both from Patras and from Crete, the family kept in contact with their grandmother, Euphrosyne Sarell and their various uncles and aunts in Constantinople and their step grandfather, Jonathan Hardy who was an influential figure within the Sarell family.

Charlotte did not marry until she was twenty-eight, which was considered very late for a woman in Victorian times, and when she did it was to Francis Stafford O'Brien, a Lieutenant with the Royal Navy, serving on H.M.S. Enterprise who was in fact younger than her by two years. The religious ceremony took place on board the ship on the 30th November and was then solemnized at the Consulate on the 12th December, with the religious ceremony performed by the Rev. H.A. Boys, and the civil ceremony by her father.

Francis continued with his naval career and rose to the rank of Commander in October 1873.

After his retirement, Francis and Charlotte lived at Tixover Hall in Rutland, and she continued to live on there after his death.

In 1889, her sister, Minna, who had married Frank's youngest brother, Lucius Stafford O'Brien's, came to stay, whilst she was pregnant, and her son Humphrey was born there on the 10th February.

Charlotte left Tixover in the 1890's. Her sister, Minna and her husband had settled at St John's, Upper Fahan in Donegal. It was here that she died in 1919 and was buried.

