

Willerby Hall



Margaret McGlashan, Willerby, 2019

The 1881 Census shows us that John and Elizabeth have two very young daughters, Ethel Gertrude and Constance Mabel, and there were 4 female servants in the Hall to see to everyone's needs.

1881 Census for John H Fisher

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the									
Page 4]	Civil Parish (or Township) of	Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Sanitary District of	Town or Village or Hamlet of	Urban Sanitary District of	Rural Sanitary District of	Local Board of Health of	Local Board of Health of
	Willerby				Willerby		Sculcoates		Willerby
No. of	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES (No. of Houses in the Street or Lane)	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON- DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	(1) Deaf-and-Dumb (2) Blind (3) Imbecile or Lame (4) Lunatic
16	Willerby Hall	1	John Henry Fisher	Head	M	34	Timber Merchant	Yorkshire Hull	
			Elizabeth Leaper	Wife	M	26		do Horwden	
			Charles Johnstone	Son	M	7		do Willerby	
			Constance Mabel	Daughter	F	9 mo		do do	
			Harriet Elizabeth	Servant	F	23	Book Binder's Servant	do Horwden	
			Mary Leonard	Servant	F	22	Domestic Servant	Lancashire Willerby	
			Ann Elizabeth	Servant	F	22	Domestic Servant	Yorkshire Hull	
			Elizabeth	Servant	F	22	Domestic Servant	do Hull	

The 1891 Census shows that John and Elizabeth now have five children. Ethel and Constance have been joined by Edith Leaper Fisher, John Leaper Fisher and Edward Tealby Fisher. Again there were domestic servants working in the Hall including a governess called Eleanor Whitaker, who will feature very prominently at a later date.

1891 Census for John H Fisher

16	Willerby Hall	1	John H. Fisher	Head	M	34	Timber Merchant	do Hull	
			Elizabeth	Wife	M	34		do Horwden	
			Ethel G.	Daughter	F	11		do Willerby	
			Constance M.	do	F	10		do do	
			Edith L.	do	F	9		do do	
			John L.	Son	M	8		do do	
			Edward T.	do	M	8		do do	
			Eleanor Whitaker	Governess	F	22	Governess	Lancashire Horwden	
			Harriet Bradshaw	Servant	F	23	Domestic Servant	Lincolnshire Horwden	
			Isabel Lawrence	do	F	20	do do	Worcestershire Birmingham	
			Emily Challers	do	F	20	do do	Yorkshire Hull	

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1901 Census for John Henry Fisher

[illegible]

1911 England Census for John Henry Fisher
Yorkshire-East Riding > Willerby and Haltemprice > 09

		Age		Sex		Married		Single		Occupation	
John Henry Fisher	Head	54	-	Married	16-8	5	5	-	-	Timber Merchant	
Ellena Jane Fisher	2 nd Wife	-	42	Married	8	1	1	-	-		
John Leaper Fisher	Son	28	-	Single	-	-	-	-	-	Timber Trade	
Edmond Scally Fisher	Son	26	-	Single	-	-	-	-	-	Timber Trade	
Claude Witty Fisher	Son	1	-	Single	-	-	-	-	-		
Norah Mowforth	Servant	-	24	Single	-	-	-	-	-	Cook Domestic	
Kellys Barnett	Servant	-	19	Single	-	-	-	-	-	Housemaid Domestic	
Lily Roberson	Servant	-	17	Single	-	-	-	-	-	Housemaid Domestic	
Fraze Sherwood	Servant	-	19	Single	-	-	-	-	-	Kitchen Maid Domestic	
Annie Elsie Newson	Servant	-	22	Single	-	-	-	-	-	Nurse Domestic	

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John Henry Fisher became one of Hull's foremost citizens. Glowing tributes were paid at his funeral of his 'consistently high sense of duty, a constant sincerity of purpose and characteristic energy. Tribute was paid to his integrity, his high sense of justice and his readiness at all times to place at the disposal of others his generous hand and the benefit of his wise counsel and mature experience'

His many activities included the high distinction of Sheriff of Hull, President of the Hull Chamber of Commerce and Shipping, on the board of directors for the Hull and Barnsley Railway Company, Justice of the Peace, a visiting magistrate to Hull Prison and was interested in the Prisoners' Aid Society.

By all accounts he was a very generous man often opening the Hall's grounds for the less well off. With his wife he had shared the joy annually of entertaining hundreds of poor children in the spacious grounds of Willerby Hall.

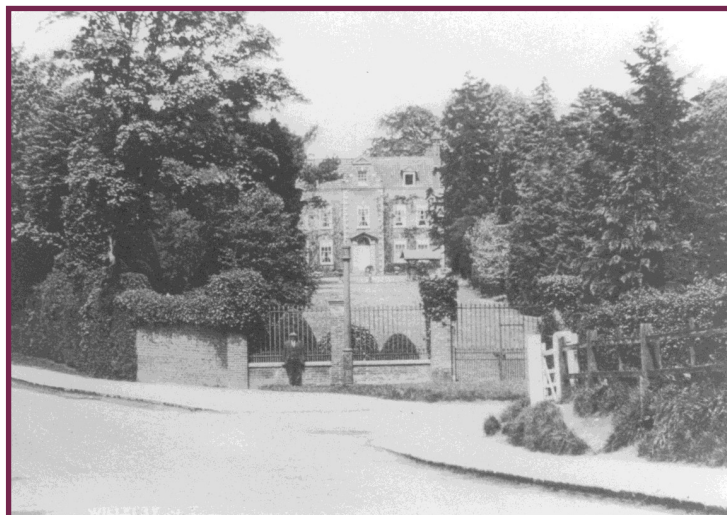
John Henry Fisher continued to live in Willerby Hall until his death in 1937. His five children and his second wife, Ellinor, all went on to lead their own independent lives.



This is a photograph of John Henry Fisher with his extended family.

Willerby Hall

The children of John Henry Fisher

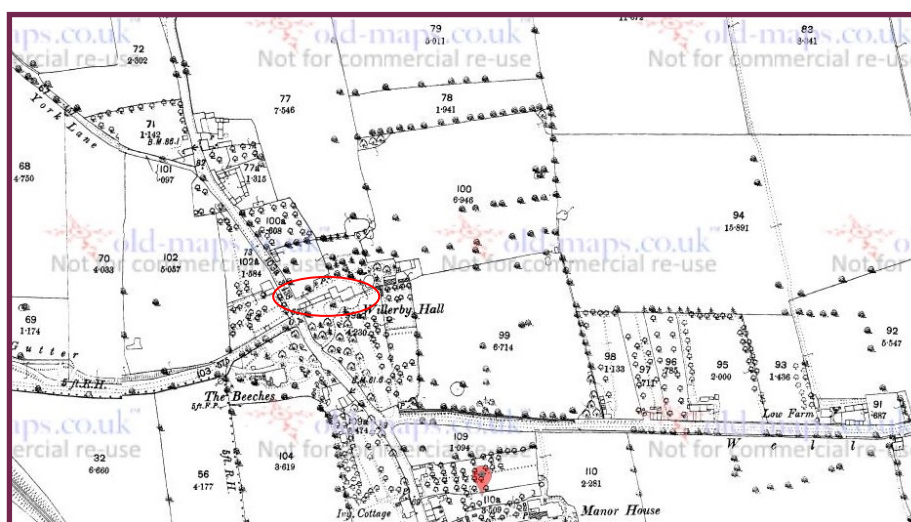


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John Henry Fisher had five children from his two marriages. With his 1st wife Elizabeth Leiper Booth:

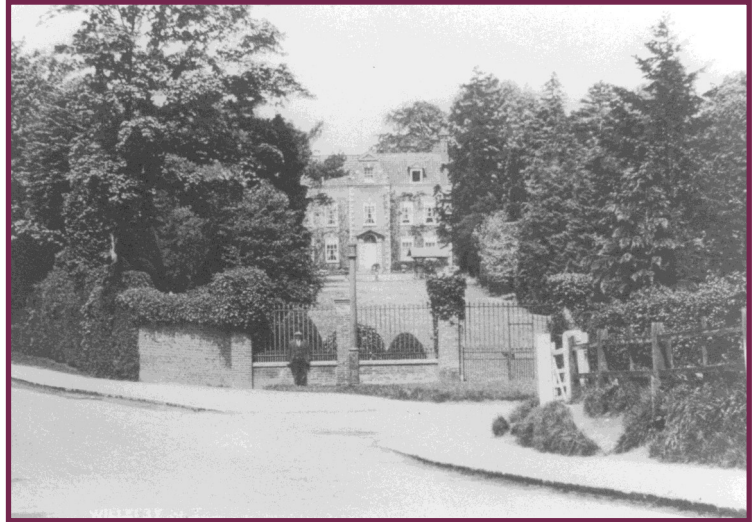
1. **Ethel Gertrude Fisher**, born in 1879, married Cyril Fred Wigelsworth Bilton in 1903. In 1911 they lived at 107 Princes Avenue with their first three children. Cyril was a sack contractor. By 1939 they had moved to Kingtree House in Cottingham. Cyril was now a manufacturer of mineral water. Ethel and Cyril had five children: Rowland Fisher, Lily Marion Fisher, Beryl Margaret Fisher, Betty Leaper Fisher and Diana Jean Fisher but only Beryl and Betty were at home in 1939. Cyril died in 1957 while living at Kingtree House Cottingham, Ethel died in 1970 in Holderness.
2. **Constance Mabel Fisher**, born in 1880 and married in 1907 to Harold Craven Bilton, the brother of her sister's husband, Cyril Craven. In 1911 they were living in Eastwood, Cottingham and had one daughter, Phyllis. Constance's husband was a travelling salesman in paints and colours. In 1919 they were living in Thwaite Villas, Hull Road, Cottingham. By 1939 they were living at 2 Well Lane, Willerby and Harold was an oil and seed broker. They also had a son, Robert. Constance died in 1960. The notice of her will gives her address as The Cottage, 2 Well Lane, Willerby.
3. **Edith Leaper Fisher** born in 1881 and married William Fenton in 1904. By 1911 they were living in Newland Park with three children and William was a shipbroker's clerk. By 1939 they were living at Oakdene, South Street, in Cottingham and William was a ship owner. Winifred Fenton, their son Geoffrey's wife, was with them. Edith died in 1958 in Lincoln.

Willerby Hall in 1880/90s, at a time when the Fisher children were born. How open the surrounding countryside is. The only dwellings at this end of Main Street apart from Grange Farm and Whitehouse Farm are the big houses of The Beeches, Willerby Manor and Willerby Hall itself.



Willerby Hall

The children of John Henry Fisher



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4. **John Leaper Fisher** was born in 1883 and by the age of 18 was at the School of Musketry in Kent. He fought in the Boer war and then emigrated to Australia to work on a sheep station. He was a British Isles rugby international. Although he had never played for England he was selected for the British Isles tour of Australia and New Zealand in 1904. He played in several matches but not in any of the Tests. When WW1 broke out, he joined the Australian Army. During the Gallipoli Campaign he suffered a gun shot wound to his knee and appears to have spent some of his convalescence at Willerby Hall. He eventually rose to the rank of Major by 1918. He had married during the war to Barbara and had a son. He stayed in England for a short time working for the British Colonial Trading Company after the war but then returned to Australia where he died in 1972.



5. **Edward Tealby Fisher** born in 1884 was living Willerby Hall in 1911. He was 26 years old, single and a timber clerk. During that same year he had married Peggy McCleod, the daughter of the superintendent of De La Pole Asylum which was situated at the north end of Willerby Main Street



The Lodge of the former De La Pole Asylum, one of the few remaining buildings of those times.

With 2nd wife Ellinor Whittaker:



Claude Witty Fisher born in November 1911. Witty was the maiden name of his grandmother Ann who had married John Fisher senior of Willerby Manor. In 1933 he attained his aviator certificate in Hull and the following year in 1934 he married Jean Henderson. Claude followed his father into the family's timber firm of Tealby and Co. He married a second time in 1948 to Carla Borm in Germany and they had a son, Charles F Fisher. Claude died in 1990 in Hornsea, East Yorkshire aged 80.