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**CONTENTS**

LOOKING FOR AN 'OLD INDIA HAND' .....	3
The DELHI DURBAH.....	6
THE DELHI DURBAH of 1911 .....	8
MEMBERS' INTERESTS .....	10
THE ANCESTRY IN INDIA OF GERALDINE LORNA CHARLES .....	13
LIST OF ORIGINAL SUBSCRIBERS OF THE EAST INDIA DOCK COMPANY .....	18
THE BLACK HOLE OF CALCUTTA Part 2.....	19
ANGLO-INDIAN RESEARCH CORRESPONDENCE .....	22

The editorial team is happy to consider unsolicited material, articles and information for inclusion in the Journal. Receipt of such material does not necessarily indicate that the material will be published. There are no set deadlines for the Journal but items for inclusion in the next edition should be with the Secretary by 1 April 2000.

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Where personal opinions are expressed, the opinion reflects that of the author and not of the trustees neither of FIBIS nor of the organisation.

***Welcome to the second edition of the Families in British India Society Journal.***

We have decided to produce a second edition of the Journal hot on the heels of the first for a number of reasons. The main reason being that we have a good deal of material which we feel might be of use to FIBIS members.

We are trying to find a balance between learning, information already gathered, requests for information and the results of people's research and we are therefore including a wider variety of information in this Journal.

Our feature article is Peter D Roger's excellent piece on how people should begin research on their ancestors or family members that lived in India. We have supplemented Peter's article with a list of LDS churches in the UK – sorry overseas members but we do not have lists for Australia or the USA – plus extracts from the OIOC leaflet on basic research techniques.

We continue with our publication of researchers' work in progress, have an article about an influential East India mariner, a more detailed series of readers' interests and our first family history/family tree. There is also a follow-up piece about the Black Hole of Calcutta. However, we are still looking for new material and whilst we can gather detail from the letters we receive, some articles would be of help – thank you Peter Rogers for being the first volunteer.

We are still offering you the full version of Peter Bailey's excellent research on the Roman Catholic Church of St Thomas in Madras, an abridged version of which appeared in *The Genealogist* of September 1999. We also have our book review section, books for sale and news about our prospective projects.

And, by the way, it is that time of the year that membership fees are due. A form is enclosed with the handouts for you to return your fees for next year to Peter Bailey, who is now responsible for our membership records.

We are always happy to hear from our members. However, as ever with family history societies, if you are expecting a reply, please include either a SSAE or an International Reply Coupon.

***The editorial team for this issue are Michael Gandy, Tony Fuller and Jenny Law.***

## **LOOKING FOR AN 'OLD INDIA HAND'**

### **A Simple Guide to Finding an 'Old India Hand'**

**Peter D Rogers**

You have decided to have a look for some long-lost relative in India – so where do you start?

There are no genealogical records as such from the British rule of India. The records usually used for genealogy in pre-independence India, Pakistan and their associated areas are housed in the Oriental and India Office Collection, formerly the India Office Library, which is now part of the British Library in London. Luckily for the researcher, the Mormon Church (the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints or LDS) have put all of the birth/baptism, marriage and death/burial records onto microfilm and the microfilms can be viewed at the Church's history centres. The LDS have also copied a good deal of other material from the collection which may help and you should consult their index to see if there are any additional areas that may assist your search. There are also extensive indexes and other records at the Society of Genealogists in London, including various indexes compiled by H Percy Smith and the recently released papers on naturalisation. Records exist in the miscellaneous births etc. sections in the Family Records Centre in London and there are diplomatic records containing BMDs at the Public Record Office in Kew. There are also a wide range of smaller collections at universities, county record centres and even at local study centres where local people have left their family papers.

India, together with its associated territories like Burma and the Persian Gulf was a VERY BIG COUNTRY. Although, in theory, the administration system worked, illness, the change of posting, flood and famine, postal failures (including thefts from and of post) and the presence of Mr Sod and Mr Murphy, who seemed to perfect their laws in India, all combine to make the job of today's researcher difficult.

The BMD/BMB records at the OIOC were compiled from the returns made quarterly by a minister of religion who acted as the 'returning officer' for an area or district. The records are divided by HEIC Presidency boundaries so if you are searching for – say – an 1845 death "in India" it would be necessary to trawl through all three Presidency indexes.

Official estimates are that the records are some eighty per cent complete but my guess is that they are about seventy-five percent complete. Some ecclesiastical authorities and local clergymen refused to co-operate with the authorities. Some religious groups were just not recognised by the authorities and, in return, the religious groups refused all co-operation with the administration. And, of course, there were all the people who, for a variety of reasons, did not have their child(ren) baptised near the time of their birth instead waiting for several, if not many, years later. Marriages being, in general, a legal requirement are more likely to be found either as a religious or register office ceremony. Death also had legal connotations and you should therefore find the majority of deaths recorded. When performing a search, I would suggest you examine records covering at least ten years either side of the supposed 'known' event.

The index of the BMDs were, until the later years of the Raj, hand-written and you should read them with care and make allowances for transcription and spelling errors

although these are relatively few. Investment in a good magnifying glass would be an asset.

Apart from religious reasons for late baptisms and parents being 'in post' or 'up country' at a place without an appropriate religious establishment, baptisms were often used to provide a nationality in order to secure a record of European descent, especially where such registration could provide access to 'protected' jobs. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, this became increasingly important when a person living in India was trying to prove their right to a British passport. Researchers should also be aware that frequently senior military officers and local political appointees conducted services so that clergymen's names may not always show up on registration documents.

Although some of the more important people from the local indigenous population may appear in the local trade directories and almanacs, there are relatively few references to them in the ecclesiastical records because the ecclesiastical records only deal with Christian faiths.

Before the 1857 Uprising and the subsequent closure of the HEIC, it was the practice of the respective authorities to send duplicate records to the UK, one copy being returned on the regular Monday boat with the second copy being forwarded just two weeks later. This helped to contribute to a huge heap of paper in London, with a reputed 300 tons of duplicate material being destroyed after Partition. This does mean that with a bit of good luck, and remembering that while India was a very big place, the number of Europeans, even of British Army personnel, was not large when compared to the Indian population, tracing a "body" is often made easy by the fact that the OIOC exists.

To start your quest, you will first have to identify the Presidency in which your quest lived or worked. You will have to search the indexes for each of the Presidencies to be certain that every source has been covered. But, as travel was more restricted before the coming of the railways, it will be most likely that a search in one Presidency will cover your needs. From experience, if a person was in Bengal pre-Uprising, then it is often possible that you may find a link to another area, but do not take that as gospel. Until 1923, Burma was usually reported in Bengal and, until 1948, the Persian Gulf with Madras. The records cover many other areas of the East, including Aden, Ceylon, Malaya and the offshore islands. A letter, e-mail or telephone call to the OIOC will tell you where to look.

The staff are most helpful but they do NOT do research for you. However, if for legal reasons, you should want a certified baptism, marriage or death certificate, they will provide one, but at a charge, which is currently £22.50 sterling. They will also undertake searches for a name on a five-year search basis but again their prices are relatively high. Details of the current costs can be obtained from the Library. Because the information in certified copies is taken from the microfilms of the ecclesiastical returns, no additional information is available – what you see is what you get.

The records include extensive details about members of the HEIC's three presidential armies and their successor, the Indian Army, plus a good deal of detail about the British units that served in India. It may just be my poor eyesight but I don't recollect many references in the BMDs of death in actual warfare but there are separate military papers recording those deaths. There exists a book giving all the casualties that

occurred during the Mutiny, that may prove useful for tracing soldiers and a few naval personnel as well. The military marine and commercial maritime services also have extensive records but be warned that the naval records for Bombay and Bengal are in the military records for the same presidencies.

You should find many of the records of soldiers and their families, their baptisms, marriages and deaths in the main run of the records. However, not all of the contents in the general collection are on microfilm. If you need access to these other records then it will be necessary to visit London or to engage a professional or friendly researcher.

Some of the things in the Library are quite magical. You can handle a log from a 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> century ship in which an ancestor sailed or open a file tied with official pink tape that has not been opened for seventy years and find letters from an uncle to the Viceroy requesting a King's India Scholarship for a now deceased cousin. Secondary sources include being able to find the links in a family's history down one hundred years with the Army Lists or Thacker's or any of the other directories. Neither Thacker's nor any of the other directories are on microfilm nor is the Gazette of India which traced military movements, promotions, etc. and medal awards.

There are extensive records of early memorial inscriptions at the OIOC but they cannot surpass the information on the Tombstone Inscription DataBase, which was compiled by a leading India researcher, and is now at the British Empire and Commonwealth Museum. Although the database is not definitive, it contains some 55,000 inscriptions. The Museum has a search fee of £10 per name. If you are a Friend of the Museum, you can get five searches – and only five, not multiples of five – carried out free. The database SHOULD be on line by the end of December 2000 and, at some stage, it is likely that the database will be issued on CD-rom. Searches are fitted in to other staff commitments and it may be some time before an enquirer receives the result of the search. The Museum's address appeared in the last edition of the Journal.

London is a marvellous place to visit. Many of the research archives are close to Underground stations which, provided it is running properly, you should be able to navigate.

Think how lucky you are to have an ancestor in India. If they are available, most of the records of their lives can be found in one building and in one major collection. These can be supplemented by the other sources of information, for example the Public Record Office, to which you can turn when you have exhausted all the avenues within the India Office Collection. The PRO is frequently the only way to trace members of the British armed forces who were only posted to India for a relatively short period of time.

Admission to the OIOL is by Reader's Ticket, which can be obtained by post or on your first visit. The Admissions Office can be contacted in person, by telephone on 0171 412 7677 or by e-mail on: [reader-admissions@bl.uk](mailto:reader-admissions@bl.uk).

If you think of it, remember to take two passport-size photographs with you to speed admission along and always ask for the five-year Reader's Ticket – you will almost certainly be bitten by the OIOC bug and will want to go back.

If you have access to the Internet, you should go onto the India-Rootsweb site, which will open up a whole new world of research and friendly contacts to you. Subscription is free.

Just type in INDIA-L-request@rootsweb.com and one word "subscribe" as the text. ADD NOTHING ELSE. In a very short time you will begin to receive messages from other researchers and can be as active or passive on-line as you want to be. The India-Rootsweb Co-ordinator is Cathy Day, the owner of the equally excellent [www.ozemail.com.au/~clday/misc.htm](http://www.ozemail.com.au/~clday/misc.htm).

Trying to undertake research into India without the Internet is like trying to climb a ladder with one hand – it can be done but it is much better (and quicker) with two hands and always assuming that the ladder is against the right wall to begin with!!!

Enjoy your work. It will be fun but it may take some time – it was exactly fifty years before I traced one "lost" part of my India family, all twenty-five of them, living in South Africa.

Good Hunting.

*Peter Denzil Rogers, Suffolk, UK.*

*e-mail: [newhurst@compuserve.com](mailto:newhurst@compuserve.com)*

*Looking for ROGERS, PEMBROKE, BRADBEER, BRADLEY AND HARRISON, in India, Ireland and wherever else they might have settled.*

## **The DELHI DURBAH**

**Tony Fuller**

If India was 'the jewel in the crown', three of the brightest facets of the jewel were the *durbah* that were held in Delhi in 1878, 1902 and 1911. The word *durbah* was adopted by the British from the public assemblies at the courts of the Moghul Indian princes at which they showed themselves to their subjects and at which their subjects swore loyalty and fealty to their ruler surrounded by appropriate pomp, ceremony and splendour.

Each of the Raj's *durbah* celebrated specific events relating to the British Royal Family. The first was probably the most far-reaching. It celebrated Queen Victoria's assumption of the title 'Empress of India' which, in itself, was a shrewd political move giving her equal status with the Emperors of Germany and of the Austro-Hungarian Empires. It is clear from her diaries that India fascinated Queen Victoria and that she took her responsibilities towards her Indian subjects seriously. In later life Queen Victoria learned to both read and write Hindi and Urdu and she had a clear understanding of Hindu/Muslim tensions. However, she also realised that despite the *durbah* being such an important event, her age and the length of the journey that would be involved, prevented her from going to India.

In 1875/76 the Prince of Wales, later Edward VII, undertook a tour of India ensuring that his visit was linked to the proclamation of his mother's new status. His decision to go to India only met with lukewarm support from his mother and the English Prime Minister, Disraeli, who was as usual, playing off the Queen against the Prince. Serious problems beset the planning of the visit, the foremost of which was a question of precedence, which appeared to have been more important in India than in Britain. The yearbooks and directories printed in India list over 130 orders of rank, ranging from the various officials from Britain and the Indian princes, down to the myriad grades of the civil servants who worked in India. The problem was created because in the order of precedence, the Viceroy, whose rank was just below that of the Queen, held higher status in India than its future ruler. The problem was solved by the Queen making it clear that the Prince was in India as the personal guest of the Viceroy and not as her representative.

The visit proved to be hugely popular, the Prince's rather bluff bonhomie endearing him to many of the British and Indian rulers that he met. He also caused something of a furore by complaining of the racist attitudes of many of the British civil servants towards the native population, even going as far as having one of the local dignitaries replaced because of his racist comments.

The visit culminated in the Prince of Wales effectively hosting the *Grand Durbah* in Delhi during December 1878, attended by over a hundred thousand people including over four hundred ruling princes, anxious to get a glimpse of their future ruler. Following the main events, the Prince of Wales took an active part in the military manoeuvres which followed the *durbah* before resuming his round of parties, *levees* and hunting expeditions. By the time he left India in January 1879 he had fixed the Royal Family in the minds of many of the local Indian rulers and his other subjects. He had shown a face of royalty that was accessible and was concerned for everybody in India, whatever their rank.

The *durbah* of 1902/1903 was an altogether different affair. The assembly was called to celebrate the accession of Edward VII as King-Emperor and it was organised by the Viceroy, Lord Curzon. Because none of the Royal Family attended, Curzon, who was to all intents and purposes the real ruler of India, assumed the royal mantle. It was Curzon who rode on the Imperial elephant, who took the military salute and, perhaps more importantly, who took the declarations of fealty from the 675 local princes, who at the time collectively ruled over 72.5 million people who in turn occupied almost half of the land mass of India. For an idea of the true panoply of this event, visitors to the British Empire and Commonwealth Museum in Bristol should ask to see the truly enormous painting of the event which covers one wall of the Museum's boardroom.

What made the *durbah* of 1911 so memorable was that King George V and Queen Mary both attended it, the first and only time a reigning monarch had ever visited the sub-continent, with their presence making sure that this event was to be the very brightest part of the jewel in the crown. The King felt that it was his duty to be seen in India, which he had previously visited before as the Prince of Wales. It was his most populous domain and it was arguably the bedrock of the British Empire. It also enabled him to assume what was described elsewhere as "his semi-divine status of King-Emperor." A massive tented town grew up around the *durbah* site, which comprised a number of smaller, though substantial, suburbs, each of which housed a different class, race or occupational group. For example, the officers of the Political

Service had their own area, as did the various castes and the British and Indian regiments.

The King entered Delhi on horseback and in doing so broke with the Moghul tradition of the Emperor entering Delhi in a gold *howdah* carried on the back of the Imperial Elephant, a part of the ceremony which the Indian population believed to be important. What the King later called his “lukewarm reception” was fuelled by the fact that he was also dressed in the uniform of a field marshal, which made him look similar to many of the people around him. The Indians expected their rulers to look different and to be aloof. Unfortunately, on this important occasion, the King-Emperor did not appear aloof enough.

Things changed when, on 11 December 1911, the King-Emperor and Queen Mary, dressed in robes of Imperial purple, entered the *durbah* arena and proceeded to the Imperial Throne. This was set on a dais in a sea of crimson finery and sheltered by a richly embroidered canopy. It was described in *The Times* as making the King “remote but beneficent, raised far above the multitude but visible to all.” The Raj, in all its splendour, then passed in review before its Emperor including some five hundred princes each of who paid their individual respects to their new King-Emperor. However, all did not go well.

The ceremony and scale of the *durbah* attracted the crowds which had been so clearly absent when the King had entered Delhi. The ceremonial of the *durbah* went on for several days and on the second day, in another echo of Moghul custom, the King-Emperor and his wife mounted the Delhi Gate and showed themselves to their people, before resuming a round of presentations and parties. They eventually embarked for England from Bombay on 12 February 1912.

Whether any of the *durbah* achieved anything concrete is still open to conjecture. What they did do was to show the world at large and Indians in particular, that the British monarchy was arguably the natural successor to their historical rulers, the Moghuls, despite the Moghuls having never ruled all of India as the British did.

*(An illustrated version of Tony Fuller’s article originally appeared in **Majesty**, March 1999. It has been reproduced here to complement the article on the Delhi Durbah Medal.)*

## THE DELHI DURBAH of 1911

**Peter Duckers**

The Coronation *Durbah* at Delhi in 1911 was the last and most impressive of the great Imperial Assemblies held in British India after 1860. The first was assembled in Delhi in 1877 to proclaim Victoria as Empress of India; the next, in 1903, celebrated the Coronation of King Edward VII as Emperor. But the Coronation *Durbah* of December 1911 was larger and more spectacular than the others because it was dignified by the presence of King George V and Queen Mary as Emperor and Empress. They were the first reigning monarchs to visit India.

The programme of official ceremonies, centring around the Great *Durbah* on December 12<sup>th</sup>, lasted only ten days, but the preliminary rehearsals, drills and organisation took months of preparation and involved tens of thousands of people, British and Indian, military and civil, from the highest of the Ruling Princes down to the lowest servant. A huge expenditure of time and effort went into the setting up of the facilities for the quarter of a million who were to witness or take part in the *Durbah*. This required the construction of several extensive tented camps, the building of temporary roads and railways, the establishment of post offices, telegraph offices and refreshment areas and detailed attention to drills and practices for months in advance of the ceremonies. It was the military and civilian personnel involved in the preparation and the actual ceremonial that the *Durbah* Medal was supposed to honour.

The Medal Roll states that “about 26,000 of the (silver) medals were distributed.” In theory, there was a set system of allocation of medals to military units present at the *Durbah*. For British cavalry units the medal would be awarded to the Commanding Officer, the Second-in-Command, the Adjutant, the RSM, the senior NCO and the longest serving Private. For British infantry regiments, the distribution would be much the same, except that the medal went to the senior Colour-Sergeant and senior Corporal. In other words, it was intended that about six medals per regiment would be granted. However, a glance at the Abstract of Medals Awarded by Unit will show that this was rarely the case. Not surprisingly, many more awards were granted to regiments, which were presented with new colours by the King on 11<sup>th</sup> December. Even so, it will be noted that far fewer men received the award than were actually present. In fact, only about one in four of the British troops present at the *Durbah* was chosen to receive the medal.

The nominal roll of recipients of the Delhi *Durbah* medal is available at the Public Record Office at Kew (*and on the open shelves at the OIOC, ed*). As medal rolls go, it is a model of clarity and legibility, though it should be noted that it is printed in fairly small type in which some of the regimental numbers are unclear. The section of the roll for naval recipients is annotated by hand “this does not contain the roll for HMS *Medina* and accompanying cruisers.” There is, however, another roll of Admiralty medal records (Adm.171.59). This claims to contain five lists of men drawn from the detached squadron, viz. HMS *Medina*, *Cochrane*, *Argyll*, *Defence* and *Natal*. But, to make matters more complicated, the roll itself only refers to *Medina* and actually seems to contain only officers and men of the Royal Marine Artillery. It is possible that that there were actually no other rolls to the navy or that they are missing.

*Eds. The original article first appeared in a booklet listing all the medal's recipients, publication by Squirrel Publishing, 6 & 7, Castle Gates, Shrewsbury, SY1 2AE. Enquiries, quoting ISBN 0 947604 049, to the publishers please. The current text has been edited, omitting some references to the original publication. The article appears by permission of the author.*

## MEMBERS' INTERESTS

**Ann Rodgers Dargie**, Membership No 154  
4 Dolphin Road, Glasgow G41 4LE

Ann Rodgers Dargie is researching her family who lived in St Thomas' Mount, Madras, Bangalore and Hubli.

Her grandfather, Edmund WYLDE, born 1866, was a Gas Inspector on the M and SM Railway in Hubli and Madras. He married twice, first to Evangeline Charlotte DENEISE and, between 1890 and 1901 had seven (7) sons including Clarence, Harold, Christie Walter and Joseph Edmund. She would like to know if anybody has information about the other three.

His second wife was Matilda RODGERS, Ann's grandmother. They had two daughters, Edith Faith and Hazel Rodgers WYLDE. Ann's father was Herbert Richard SWINGLER, born 1901, who served in the IMD, stationed at St Thomas' Mount.

Ann's family had connections to St Thomas' Garrison Church and some of her family members are buried in St Thomas' cemetery. Her father's family had connections with the church, as did her mother who was the church organist. Her mother and her mother's sister married there and Ann, her brother and two cousins were baptised there. Her family owned a large number of houses in the area.

In her covering letter Ann writes that she was at St Thomas' Mount in May of this year. She adds that she has fond memories of the mount and that the children used to walk up Mount Hill, ring the convent bell and then run away.

Ann is looking for information about Thomas SWINGLER, who is known to have had a son, Richard Milward SWINGLER, born in 1815, who married Charlotte HERBERT in 1842.

**Camilla Gemmingen von Massenbach**, Membership No 17  
17 Perryn Road, London W3 7LR

As mentioned in the previous edition of the Journal *Camilla von Massenbach* has a long list of ancestors who were involved in the history of India.

Edward FOWKE, born 21 August 1623 in Brewood, Staffordshire. Later of Cork, Ireland. He was educated and trained by his uncle, Walter FOWKE (born after 1590 died c.1670) who was also a doctor and Walter's son, Phyneas (1639 to 1710), also a doctor.

He married Sophia RANDALL, daughter of Joseph Randall. She died in 1673.

They had three children:

Randall FOWKE, born 1673, may be Belfast, Ireland. He was appointed to the HEIC and arrived in India 11 July 1701. He was subsequently Second in Council at Fort St

George, Madras to Martin PITT, Governor and President. Randall traded in his own right and was active in diamond dealing. He married at Fort St George, 13 December 1713, Anna ?MAY. She may be the daughter of Daniel MAY, a soldier buried at Fort St George 3 July 1691. She died 3 August 1734 and was buried the following day at Fort St George.

They had at least nine children.

Sophia, married twice:

- ❑ the first time to Captain Patrick DUNCAN, died c.1755
- ❑ the second time to Major John HOLLOND. In 1717 he held the rank of Ensign, by 1746 was a Lieutenant in Garrison, promoted to Captain in 1748 as Commander of Fort St George. The family also warrants an entry in Burke's Landed Gentry.

Another son was Joseph FOWKE, born 22 October 1716 at Fort St George and baptised the next day. He subsequently lived in Mayfair, London and Bexley, Kent. He was in the HEIC's service by 1736, was sometime Governor of Bengal and Fort St George, Madras. He is reputed to have survived the Black Hole of Calcutta (1756). He returned to England with a fortune of £18,000 but subsequently suffered trading and gambling losses. He returned to India in 1771 to "repair his fortunes."

He was an intimate friend of Dr Johnson, who was at sometime a tutor at the family's property at Brewood. He was also (at the instigation of his son) one of the antagonists of Warren Hastings.

He married twice and had what Camilla describes as "an informal liaison".

In 1750 he married Elizabeth or Eliza WALSH, daughter of Joseph WALSH of Hatton Garden, London. He was a Free Merchant in the Far East and also served the HEIC. He was Deputy Governor at Bencoolen and Sumatra from where he was dismissed for "maladministration and debts." He was Secretary to Governor PITT and was Keeper of the Keys at Fort St George. His wife was the daughter of Elizabeth MASKELYNE, who was aunt to NEVILLE, the Astronomer Royal between 1765 and 1811. She was also the aunt of Margaret MASKELYNE, who married Robert CLIVE. Despite his previous problems with debt, when he died, he left the substantial sum of £3,500 to each of his three children by Elizabeth.

His second wife was Kitty Lavinia TREACHER, whom he married 1 September 1770 in London. She died on St Helena in 1774.

He also had a liaison with Grace CROFTS and had children with all three of his partners.

One of his sons by Elizabeth was Francis FAWKE, born 28 October 1755 at Fort St George. He was educated at Cheam and later lived in Boughrood Castle, Radnorshire, in Wales. He was Resident in Benares on four separate occasions and he returned from India with a fortune of £70,000 made from a variety of trading and corrupt practices. He was one of the main antagonists of Warren Hastings and led the group, which brought impeachment proceedings against Hastings.

After having a number of children with the actress, Mary LOWE they eventually married.

A brother was Phillip FOWKE, who was baptised 8 September 1802 in London. He married Frances Ann BAKER in Tenby, Pembrokeshire, 20 June 1842.

One of their sons, Richardson William FOWKE, who was baptised 19 November 1847 in Carmarthen, Wales, subsequently became a tea-planter in Ceylon, before moving on to be a schoolteacher in the USA. He married Dorothea or Dora Frances Alan STEVENSON, the first cousin to the author, Robert Louis Stevenson.

One of their daughters, again Dorothea, was born 7 November 1883 on Java. She married Sir John Edward Power WALLIS, 1861 to 1946, Kt., created Privy Councillor 1926. After reading law and qualifying for the bar, he led a distinguished career in the law. Some of his achievements include:

- ❑ leading the prosecution in the 'Jameson Raid' trial in South Africa
- ❑ Advocate General, Madras
- ❑ Puisne Judge, Madras, 1907-1914
- ❑ Vice Chancellor, Madras University, 1908-1916
- ❑ Chief Justice, Madras, 1914-1921

One of their daughters, Margaret Clare WALLIS, 1906 to 1971, is Camilla's paternal grandmother.

Please reply directly to Ann and Camilla if you can help them in their research. If asking for a response from either of them, please include a SSAE.

## **The Ancestry in India of Geraldine Lorna CHARLES**

Born Bangalore, India 1954

Emigrated to the UK, 1956

### **Grandparents:**

#### **George CHARLES**

Born Sutna 1893. Died c.1945, buried Sewree Cemetery, Bombay. Trained as an Electrical Engineer at Roorkee Institute. He later helped to install the electrical works in Brindavan Gardens at Mysore. One sister, Elizabeth (Lena) **CHARLES**, who married twice (first Mayo, then Ayo). Went to Fiji then New Zealand. Two brothers, Ernest and Alfred **CHARLES**, both thought to have come to UK.

#### **Aileen Maude ELLIS**

Born Kirkee 1903. Died 1970, Lincoln, UK. Married in Bycullah, 1923. Three sisters: Doris Lavinia, Amelia Gladys (married Alan S H Johnson), and Ellen Violet; one brother John William (Jack); one half-brother, George.

#### **Herbert Edgar BRADBURY**

Born Bellary 1886, died Harrow, UK 1966. Superintendent of Post Office and Telegraph, Lucknow. Retired to Bangalore and in 1956 emigrated to the UK. One twin brother William; six brothers: Charles, Albert, Walter, Frank, Ernest, Oswald and William; two sisters Katherine (Katy) and Florence (Florrie).

#### **Daisy Beryl HARVEY**

Born Raipur 1903. Died in the UK 1970. Married H Bradbury in India 1924.

#### **?JOHNSON**

Taught Baldwins Girls' School Bangalore. Emigrated UK 1956. Five brothers: Robert Thomas H; Alan Sydney H, was Archdeacon of Bombay (married Amelia Ellis); Mervin Edgar H; Carlton H; (John) Roslyn H; two sisters: Sybil Coral H; Doris Vivien.

### **Great Grandparents**

#### **George CHARLES**

Born Camberwell, UK 1863. Died Buxar 1903. Private with East Surrey Regiment. Then worked as an engine driver on the East India Railway.

#### **Elizabeth Angelina LYONS**

Born Allahabad 1868. Date of death unknown but after 1903. Married G Charles, Allahabad 1890. Left four children orphaned. At least one brother, John.

#### **Sylvester William ELLIS**

Born Poona 1873. Died India 1924. Chargeman of the Ammunition Factory, Kirkee. One sister Hilda Lavinia; two stepbrothers Reginald and Oliver who changed surnames from Yates to Ellis.

Violet Maude **JONES**

Born India 1877. Died in childbirth, Bombay 1914. Married S Ellis, Sholapur 1899.

William Henry **BRADBURY**

Born India 1838. Died Bellary 1922. May have had two sisters. Cut off from family after his marriage. Prison Governor.

Anne Priscilla **HELLEIN**

Born Veprey 1847. Died Bellary 1898. Married W Bradbury at Bellary 1864. One sister, Esther; at least one brother, Caesar Augustus. Died before family grew up. Sister, Esther, took family over.

Robert William **JOHNSON**

Born Bolarum 1863. Died India 1923. Registrar, Civil Secretariat. Two half-sisters: Caroline (mother, Maria Bradshaw) who married Henry Thoy and Amelia (mother, Mary Tipping).

Susan **HARVEY**

Born India 1869. Died Bangalore 1941. Married R Johnson. Was a teacher with Zennanan Mission (Black Town ? Madras). One sister, Grace (married Caroline & Henry Thoy's son Charles); two brothers, John Charles and Alexander Edwin.

### **Great Great Grandparents**

#### **UK**

(Solomon) George **CHARLES**  
Hannah **LENNEY**

#### **India**

William **LYONS**

Born Chunar 1841. Died in India, date unknown. Sectioner SBR.

Rebecca **BROMLEY**

Born Chunar 1850. Died in India, date unknown. Married W Lyons, Allahabad 1867.

John **ELLIS**

Born Matongha. Died of cholera, Sholapur 1900. Gunner, Bombay Artillery, in 1860 ? joined Royal Artillery. Musician at time of marriage.

Lavinia **YATES** (nee **Southern**)

Born Mallijaum (?) 1833. Died of typhlitis 1878. Married J Ellis 1866 at Mhow. Previous marriage to Reginald Yates. One brother, Thomas.

John Robert **JONES**

No details, unemployed at time of daughter's birth, Lucy Ann.

James **BRADBURY**

Born Saddleworth, UK 1814. Died India 1865. Gunner A Troop Horse Artillery, later Bombardier.

Catharine **WILLIAMS**

Born Bangalore 1818. Died India. Married to J Bradbury, Bangalore.

William Augustus **HELLEIN (HELION)**

Born 1806 place unknown. Died India 1881. Married previously to Peternella Phillips, Apothecary, in 1839. All Helleins in India thought to be descended from him.

Elizabeth **DELANG**

No details

Thomas **JOHNSON**

Born 1821 probably in India. Died India. Bandmaster with 32<sup>nd</sup> Regiment Madras Infantry. Married previously, Maria Bradshaw then Mary Anne Tipping (both died).

Frances Jemima **AXELBY**

Born India 1842. Died India. Married T Johnson 1862.

William **HARVEY**

Born Veprey 1826. Died 1906. Buried St Matthias, Madras.  
In 1865 was a clerk with Chief Commissioner's Office at Rangoon.  
Two half-brothers, James William and Charles Strange.

Anne Edwina **OLIVER**

Born India. Died India 1892. Buried at St Matthias, Madras. Married W Harvey.

### **Great Great Great Grandparents**

#### **UK**

George **CHARLES**

Charlotte **PATRICK** - married G Charles

William **LENNEY (LENEY)**

Anourah **O' NEIL** - married W Lenney

William **BRADBURY**

Sarah **NOBLE** - married W Bradbury

#### **India**

Hugh **LYONS**

Drummer Veteran Company, Allahabad in 1841. Married Elizabeth - no further details known.

John **BROMLEY**

Born c.1820, place unknown. Gunner Royal Artillery, then Trumpeter Artillery Invalids.

Rebecca **WILLIAMS**

Born c. 1827, probably in India. Married J Bromley 1842.

William **SOUTHERN**

Place and date of birth unknown. Married Catherine Hartley 1823.  
Sub Conductor Ordnance, then Conductor.

Mary Anne **KELLY**

Probably born in India. Married W Southern (widower) 1828.

William **ELLIS**

Born c. 1804, place unknown. Died at Dessa 1837. Assistant Apothecary HC  
25<sup>th</sup> Reg. NI then with 2 troop HB.

Anne **EVERS**

Married W Ellis at Sattara 1827. Maiden name unknown.

Robert **JOHNSON**

Place and date of birth unknown, but family tradition has it that the Johnsons  
were from Scotland. It was assumed that he came to India and that his son  
was born there. Wife unknown. Sergeant.

William **AXELBY**

Thought to be born in India.

Anne **PERRY**

Thought to be born in India. Married W Axelby 1841.

James Samuel **HARVEY**

Born 1801 Madras. Died 1867, buried St Mary's, Madras.  
Draughtsman Government office. Three sisters: Patience, Mary and Constance.  
Two brothers: Francis and Robert. Second marriage to Caroline Strange 1828.

Elizabeth **DINGER**

Born India, date unknown. Died 1826, buried St Mary's, Madras.  
No age given.

Thomas **OLIVER**

No details

**Great Great Great Great Grandparents**

Solomon **CHARLES**

UK

Jane

UK Married S Charles

William **BRADBURY**

UK [Bradbury family traced back for two more  
generations]

Betty **PLATT**

UK Married W Bradbury

Samuel **BROMLEY**

No details

John **WILLIAMS**

No details

Robert **HARVEY**

Place and date of birth unknown. Died 1805, buried St Mary's, Madras. Sgt. of Supernumeraries, possibly where he died at Fort St George.

(Sarah) **MOOTAMAH**

Born India c. 1765. Died 1830, buried St Mary's, Madras. Married R Harvey 1788.

## LIST OF ORIGINAL SUBSCRIBERS OF THE EAST INDIA DOCK COMPANY

- \* indicates East Indiaman ship owner
- ^ indicates East Indiaman ship builder

NEAVE, Sir Richard	*
CURTIS, Sir William	*
AGAR, Moses	*
ATKINS, John	n/k
BONHAM, Henry	*
BORRODALE, William	*
CHAPMAN, Abel	*
GILLET, Gabriel	*
GREEN, George	^
HUDDART, Joseph	^
LARKINS, John Pascall	*
LEWIN, Richard (younger)	*
LOCK(E), John	*
MOFFATT, William	*
PERRY, John	^
PERRY, John (younger)	^
PERRY, Philip	^
PRINSEP, John	*
TAYLOR, Robert	^
WEDDERBURN, John	*
WELLS, John	n/k
WELLS, William (younger)	n/k
WIGRAM, Robert	*
WIGRAM, Robert (younger)	*
WOOLMORE, John	*

# THE BLACK HOLE OF CALCUTTA

## Part 2

Tony Fuller

I have had so many responses to my articles in the first edition about the Black Hole of Calcutta, I thought I would pull editorial rank and put in another piece.

For those interested in this period, the Black Hole, with all its connotations of the wicked native, remained a major landmark in British Imperial history. A number of people have asked for the source of the list in my previous article. It should have been included but was omitted – apologies for this oversight on my part. The source was:

The Orme MSS, India IV, pp 951-955, quoted in *The Black Hole of Calcutta*, Saiyid Amin Ahmed, New Delhi, India, 1935.

Theon Wilkinson, Secretary of BACSA kindly offered a photograph of the remaining Black Hole memorial which, until 1942, was in Dalhousie Square in Calcutta. Following the agitation of the Quit India movement and the political lobbying of the Congress Party and the Mayor of Calcutta, Subhas Chandra Bose, the memorial was moved to St John's Churchyard, where it remains today. The photograph will be reproduced in the next edition of the Journal.

In Geoffrey Moorehouse's seminal work, *Calcutta*, he describes how all that is left of the memorial is a plaque on the wall of the General Post Office, which is surrounded by street traders and is ignored by everybody.

The controversy over what really happened in the Black Hole has ebbed and flowed since the event was first reported.

The following is a list of 53 people who were reported to have left Fort William on the 18 and 19 June 1756, the days immediately before it fell. The source is John Zepheniah Holwell in his letter sent from Hughli to the Council at Fort Saint George, dated 3 August 1756, quoted in Ahmed, *op.cit.*, pp. 79–81. Orme's list, which appeared in Journal 1, has been used for clarity. Militia ranks are given where known as are the names of some of the Europeans in the Fort at that time.

### Company Servants:

Drake  
Manningham  
Frankland  
Machet (Macket) 2<sup>nd</sup> Captain, Militia  
William Sumner, Lieutenant, Militia  
William Billers  
William Ellis  
William Tooke  
William Rider  
William Lindsay, Militia  
Asanius Senior  
Francis (Vasmore) Vasmer

William Orr  
Robert (Leicester) Leycester  
Stephen Page  
Francis Charlton

**Military Officers:**

Commandant: Minchin  
Captains: Grant, Adjutant-General  
Ensign: Wedderburn, Militia  
Lieutenants: O'Hara, Lieutenant of the Train (Artillery)

**Militia:**

John Strousenberg  
John Helmstead  
Henry Summers  
William Elves  
Captain Nicholson and Officers

**Clergy:**

Mapletoft, Captain Lieutenant, Militia

**Company's Doctor:**

William Fullerton, Militia

**Lawyers:**

John Putham, Militia  
Edward Ridge, Militia

**Free Merchants:**

Anselm Beaumont, Militia  
Margas, Militia  
Thomas Holmes, Lieutenant, Militia  
Charles Douglas, Ensign, Militia  
John Wood, Militia  
Edward Holden Cruttenden, Militia  
William Nixon, Militia

**Inhabitants:**

Robert Halsey Baldrick, Ensign, Militia  
Pyefinch, Militia  
William Ling, Militia  
Daniel Whaley, Militia  
William Burton, Militia

**Foreigners:**

Carvalho, Militia  
Albert, Militia

**Sea Captains and Officers:**

Captain Rannie, Militia  
Captain Walmsley, Militia

William (Nixon) Nickeson, Militia  
 Captain Young, Militia (and others)  
 Captain Whatmore, Militia (and others)  
 Captain Lodwick Lord  
 Captain Campbell  
 Captain Austin (and others)  
 Captain Hugh Baillie, Militia  
 Captain Laing, Militia

The figures given below are from Governor Drake's Muster Roll which he kept in his possession after fleeing Fort William and which were later reported to an enquiry into the Black Hole incident set up by the Calcutta Historical Society in 1915 and 1916.

British/Company Defenders	180
Europeans	45
Black Portuguese/European Volunteers	50
European (mainly Dutch) Volunteers	60
Armenian and Portuguese Militia	150
European (mainly Dutch) Artillery	35
Sea Officers and Portuguese Helmsmen	40

Orme/Ahmed give other figures, which are consolidated from a range of sources. They just confuse matters further.

European Soldiers as per muster rolls	35
European Artillery as per muster rolls	25
Topazes:	190
Portuguese/Armenian Militia	50
Total number of Europeans	236
Total number of Portuguese and Armenians	240
Total number of armed men	476
Sick and invalid	18
Armed Europeans on shore defending Calcutta/Fort William	213
Armed Europeans on board ships	23
Company Servants	50
Company Servants	50
Military Officers	19
Free Merchants and others	102
Seafarers	50
Uncovenanted Servants	25
Volunteers	45
Killed or otherwise lost	71

# ANGLO-INDIAN RESEARCH CORRESPONDENCE

**Tony Fuller and Michael Gandy**

At the end of the 1940s, India was gripped with arguments about partition with the fate of members of both the British and the Anglo-Indian communities being part of that debate. There was what could be described as something of a scramble as people sought to prove that they were descended from British Citizens, thereby guaranteeing themselves and their family's rights to British Citizenship under the Nationality Act of 1948.

Almost inevitably, the Society of Genealogists became involved in the research for people who were living abroad at that time. The Society has recently released three boxes of correspondence and information, containing over 400 files, of their research into what they call Anglo-Indian research.

The lists of all the files, which contain varying amounts of material for the researcher, some being quite thick and others containing just one sheet of paper, are reproduced below, together with their box locations.

<b>SURNAME</b>	<b>Case Number</b>	<b>SURNAME</b>	<b>Case Number</b>
Achard	272	Andrews	123
Acton	295	Anthony	251
Adams	048	Apsey	430
	363		
Adamson	153	Arbuckle	176
Ainsley	087	Arbuthnott	300 (missing)
Ainslie	087	Arias	103
Airey	002	Armstrong	285
			366
Aitkins	064	Ascroft	101 (missing)
Alden	117	Ash	088
Alexander	024	Ashton	431
Alford	336	Atkinson	363
			367
Allen	117	Aubrey	123
	184		
Anderson	001	Augustus	061
Anding	445 (missing)	Avery	076
Ayliffe	189	Birch	466 (missing)
Babington-Peile	137	Blackford	239
Bacon	062	Blair	049
Bail	048	Bonjour	220
Baker	201 (missing)	Bonnaud	057
	261 (missing)		
	262		
Baldwin	297	Booth,	416 (missing)
		Skinner-	
Ball	002	Borthwick	100

			473 (missing)
Ballard	275, 341	Bourne	205
Balmforth	487	Bowden	108
Banerjea	005	Bowder	399
Barfoot	038	Bowen	007
			034 (missing)
Barker	404	Bowser	409
Barnett	084 (missing)	Boyton	460
Barrell	073	Brack	400 (missing)
Barrett	232	Bramston	003 (missing)
Barty	120	Brenchley	376
	140 (missing)		
Barwell	036	Brewer	242
			483 (missing)
Barwick	386	Brice	279
Bazin	242	Bristow	012, 266
Beards	375	Britain	062
			198 (missing)
Beaver	289	Brittain	461
Beeby	478 (missing)	Brittridge	011
Begbie	177 (missing)	Brookes	153
	223 (missing)		
Begenden	271	Brooks	013
Bellis	367	Brown	175
			414 (missing)
Bensley	294	Browne	253
Berdmore	015	Bruce	224 (missing)
Berrisford	415	Bryan	027
Beveridge	093	Bullock	132, 366,
			414 (missing)
Bickmore	220	Bunbury	283
Biddle	075 (missing)	Bunn	281 (missing)
		Burnham	056
Blake	010 (missing)	Butler	339 (missing)
	090 (missing)		
	286 (missing)		
Bland	205	Butterfield	165, 302
Blandford	024	Cabral	188
Boalth	062	Cadnam	100
Boddy	370	Callaow	028
Bogaars	424	Cameron	077
Bolton	319	Cammeron	097
Campbell	096 (missing)	Connolly	067
Carr	100, 170	Cooke	489
Carroll	441 (missing)	Coombes	007
Carter	056, 229, 372	Coombs	163 (missing)
			390 (missing)
Cartland	245	Cooze	043
Cartledge	481	Copley	399
Cartner	091 (missing)	Cornelius	270 (missing)
			315

Cary	366	Corrie	100
Chamley	448 (missing)	Corton	348 (missing)
Chapman	004	Cosserat	428
Chappell	215	Cotter	487
Charlesworth	389	Counsell	403
Chatterton	430	Cowen	008
Chaunce	480	Cowper	276
			277
Chill	114	Cox	009 (missing)
	437 (missing)		269
Chinal	036	Crawford	040, 354, 369
Chippendale	005	Croft	356
Chippendall	005	Cropp	099
Chisholm	067	Cruikshank	248, 461
Chislett	408	Crump	353 (missing)
Clarkson	006	Culpeper	402 (missing)
Claudius	421 (missing)	Cunliffe	388 (missing)
Clinton	171	Cunnington	131
Coatland	245	Curtis	009 (missing)
Cobbe	001	Cushier	157
Cockman	474	Cutts	264
Coelho	433	D'Lastic	289
Coles	057	Dancy	124
			401 (missing)
Collett	195 (missing)	Daniell	165
Collick	213	Daniels	231
Collins	048	Davenport	003 (missing)
	278 (missing)		107
			164 (missing)
			456 (missing)
Collis	384 (missing)	Davies	164 (missing)
Colvin	087	Davis	010 (missing)
			035, 218
Combes	007	Dawson	135
Compare	432	De Mellow	459
Comyn	011	De Mynn	131
Connelly	143 (missing)	De Rogario	193
		De Rozario	309
		De Silva	311
De Courcy	011	Donald	085 (missing)
			129
De Lang	151	Douglas	060 (missing)
De Lastic	264	Doveton,	254
		Holroyd-	
Debenham	311	Doyle	342 (missing)
Debnam	043	Du Cann	155 (missing)
Decaster	457	Dubois	186
Dent	255	Duggan	071
Devereux	144	Dun	010 (missing)
			160 (missing)
			239

Devery	062	Duncan	071
Dew	139	Dunn	071
Dickens	491 (missing)	Dunne	346 (missing)
			371
Dickinson	343	Durham	314
Dillon	012	Durnford	296
Dobney	013	Durning	325
Dodd	040	Dwyer	
Donaghue	398		

Box 1 contains files 1-159, Box 2 contains files 160-359 and Box 3 contains the remaining files.

	<b>Numbers</b>	<b>Missing</b>
1	001-020	003, 009, 010, 019
2	021-040	021, 023, 025, 029, 030, 031, 033, 034, 039, 040.
3	041-060	044, 050, 053, 055, 059, 060
4	061-080	063, 065, 066, 068, 069, 070, 075, 079, 081
5	081-100	084, 085, 086, 090, 091, 096
6	101-120	101, 106, 110, 111, 112, 115, 118, 119
7	121-140	121, 125, 126, 127, 138, 140
8	141-160	143, 145, 147, 149, 150, 155, 156, 159, 160
9	161-180	163, 164, 168, 173, 177, 179
10	181-200	183, 190, 191, 192, 194, 195, 198
11	201-220	201, 202, 204, 206, 208, 211, 219
12	221-240	222, 223, 224, 228
13	241-260	244, 247, 252, 257
14	261-280	261, 270, 273, 274, 278, 280
15	281-300	281, 286, 291, 293, 298, 300
16	301-320	301, 313, 317, 320
17	321-340	321, 323, 326, 329, 330, 333, 335, 337, 339, 340
18	341-360	342, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 353, 355
19	361-380	364, 379
20	381-400	382, 384, 388, 390, 391, 392, 394, 400
21	401-420	401, 402, 406, 407, 410, 411, 413, 414, 416, 419
22	421-440	421, 423, 426, 429, 435, 437
23	441-460	441, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456
24	461-480	462, 465, 466, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 476, 477, 478, 479
25	481-491	482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 488, 491