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Contributions:

The Editor is happy to consider material, articles, letters and information for inclusion in the Journal. Receipt of such material does not necessarily indicate that the material will be published.

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Editorial

Heirlooms and an interest in their history kick start many a genealogical quest, but perhaps none more so than that Susan Macklin embarked upon. From page one, Susan recounts her research into treasures left her by her Godmother. Knowing next to nothing about the original owners, Susan has traced the fascinating history of the objects and is now able to help preserve them for posterity.

I encourage any members with interesting objects relating to their family history to consider sharing with us the part these have played in their research. Of course, for the family historian such treasure takes many forms. Photographs, letters, medals and diaries are some of the obvious choices, but even seemingly everyday objects, such as the printed recipe book that belonged to Bill Hall's grandmother (page 35) are precious to those with an eye to the past and can throw light upon the lives of our forebears. Although not in his possession but that of the Institution of Civil Engineers, Mike Pearce's discovery of the engineering drawings made by his 2x great uncle (page 13) are yet another such item detailed in this Journal. For Mike they helped bring to life the work of the man some have called the father of railway carriage and wagon building in India.

Not all of us have ancestors with such a distinguished reputation and some seem to have left behind little more than a bad name. It is quite common to uncover crimes and courts martial, infidelities and imprisonments, bastardy and bankruptcy, and such transgressions are a flash of excitement for the family historian devotedly ploughing their way through generations of agricultural labourers (I speak for myself of course). Our fondness for those ancestors we've spent many an hour researching can foster in us quite a different view of them to that held by their peers or even sometimes the standard historical view itself. Perhaps that is not necessarily a bad thing, particularly when history seems to have written a man off altogether. Who more inclined to help rescue the reputation of a person than their descendants? Who more likely to keep on digging for the evidence that throws new light on a story?

Judith Vandenberg Green's reassessment of the reputation of her 3x great uncle by marriage, Adam Maxwell of Cawnpore (page 25), is an interesting case in point. Although not a direct descendant, having researched his story and read many contemporary reports, Judith came to the conclusion he had been treated harshly by history. In retelling his story she hopes others will also be inclined to re-examine Adam's allotted place in the story of Cawnpore and that perhaps even a professional historian may further pursue his case.

Sarah Bilton



Susan Macklin presenting the Lucknow telescope to Dr Peter Boyden of the National Army Museum.

The Tale of a Telescope from Lucknow

By Susan Macklin

A vision of palaces, mirrors, domes azure and golden, cupolas, colonnades, long façades of fair perspective in pillar and column, terraced roofs – all rising up amid a calm still ocean of the brightest verdure.¹

My story begins in 1857 at Lucknow in north India. In the course of bitter fighting there, during the year-long defence of the besieged British Residency, a leather-cased brass telescope changed hands and came into the possession of a young Englishman, Lieutenant PW Powlett, of the 58th Native Infantry of the Bengal Army.

I feel I should say at the outset that the story I am about to tell concerns not my own family, but a family to which my own relatives were close over very many years. It is the story of Percy William Powlett (1837-1910) and his eldest daughter Amy Grace Powlett (1872-1965), known as Grace. Percy spent most of his adult life in India, serving first in the Bengal Army and later in government service in Bengal. Grace was born in India, and quite clearly had a strong and abiding love of the country and its people. Because the Powletts were family friends, not relatives, my account is not embellished by either family memory and anecdote of the kind handed down within families, or any documentary evidence in the form of personal letters or diaries: rather it is a narrative spun around a small collection of unique and beautiful works of art, which I had the good fortune to inherit from Percy Powlett's granddaughter, Katharine Joan Strong (1901-1984), who was my much-loved godmother.²

It was 25 years ago, in an old trunk in the attic of an old and almost empty house in Northamptonshire that I found the antique telescope, which formed part of my legacy from my recently deceased godmother, whose house I was clearing prior to its sale. Sadly, all those who would have known the details of the telescope's history were dead long before I discovered it, but, from the evidence of a faded inscription on its leather case, and from scraps of knowledge gleaned from my family's long friendship with the Stronges and the Powletts, I am able to reconstruct a little of its story. In the trunk where I found the telescope, I also found two other beautiful and intriguing items of Indian workmanship, and a number of exquisite and very atmospheric watercolour paintings of Indian landscapes – all these testify to the Powlett family's long residence in, and love of, India and its people, and these too will feature in my story.

¹ AN Wilson, *The Victorians* (London: Hutchinson, 2007) p110

² Katharine Joan Strong was the only daughter of Brigadier General William Strong CB, CMG Royal Artillery (1870-1956) and his wife, Katharine Mary, née Powlett (1873-1940), who was Percy Powlett's second daughter, and also William Strong's first cousin - William was the son of Percy Powlett's sister, Katharine Anne Powlett (b.1839), who married Lt. Col. Charles Isham Strong (b.1838) of Thorpe Hall, Peterborough, in 1864.

I have never been to India, but both my parents, before they were married to each other, spent time there³ and I grew up on their stories of life in India in the 1920s and 1930s. My discovery of the Powlett family treasures has encouraged me to find out as much as possible of their histories, and in telling the stories of these remarkable objects, I have been given a partial glimpse of what the life of one small British family, living in India in the second half of the 19th century (a generation earlier than the time when my parents were there), may have been like.

The Lucknow telescope

The Siege of Lucknow was the prolonged defence of the British Residency in the city of Lucknow during the Indian Mutiny – now known in India as the First War of Independence. It began in April 1857, when thousands of Muslims marched in protest through the city, rioters went on the rampage, looting shops and setting fire to property, and the British inhabitants retreated into the Residency of Sir Henry Lawrence, where they were besieged for many months. Terrible atrocities were committed on both sides, and many lives were lost. It was not until early in 1858 that relief finally arrived, and the British survivors were evacuated from the Residency, which was then abandoned. The romantic and beautiful court-city of Lucknow, so lyrically described by the war correspondent whose words are quoted at the head of this article, was reduced largely to rubble. The brass telescope, however, which at some point during the action was given to the young Lieutenant Percy Powlett, survived unscathed, and remained in his possession to the end of his life.

Fully extended, the telescope is about 2ft 6in (76cm) long, and engraved at one end is the maker's name - '*S & B Solomons Improved 39 Albermarle St. Piccadilly London*'.⁴ What makes



³ My father served in the British Army in India for almost twenty years from 1919-1938, and my mother spent two years in India long before she met my father, from 1929-1931

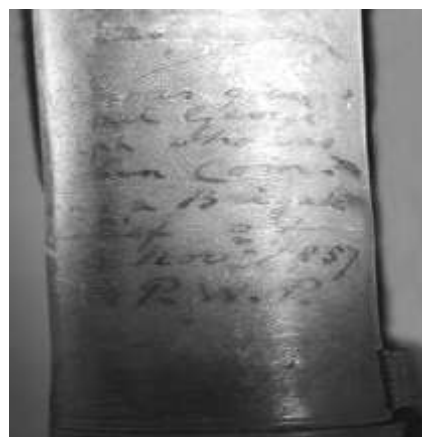
⁴ S & B Solomons, well-known Victorian opticians, advertised their wares in the pages of the *Illustrated London News*. See <http://www.londonancestor.com/iln/telescope> for an example.

this telescope unique is the handwritten inscription on the outside of its leather case; the ink is now very faded and the writing barely decipherable, but apart from a few completely illegible words, it reads as follows:

Siege of Lucknow March 1857 . . . Telescope was given me by Colonel George Biddulph who was killed when commanding a Brigade at the Relief of Lucknow Nov. 1857

P.W.P. (Percy William Powlett).

I have been able to discover a little about the telescope's original owner, Colonel George Biddulph (1811-1857): born in 1811, he was educated at Rugby School, and was an officer in the Bengal Army. During a distinguished career he had fought in the Sikh Wars and been involved in the major campaigns at Chillianwallah, Goojerat, Sadoolapore and the Passage of the Chenab River.⁵ As Colonel of the 45th Bengal Native Infantry and second-in-command to Brigadier Russell, Commander of the 5th Infantry Brigade at the first Relief of Lucknow, he was forced to take over from Russell when the latter was severely wounded. Shortly after this, and whilst planning an attack on the Mutineers who had chosen the Lucknow Hospital as a point of resistance, Biddulph himself was fatally shot. It was said a bullet passed through another officer's hat, entering Biddulph's brain and striking him dead.⁶ The Redcoat website records the date of death as 16 November 1857, that he was aged 46 and the son of Rev. John and Sophia Biddulph, of Frankton, Warwickshire.⁷



Part of the inscription on the telescope case. The last two lines read 'Nov 1857,' and the initials PWP.

This is the colonel who, at some point in the heat of battle at Lucknow, gave his telescope to a younger, junior officer, Lt Powlett. The question which has puzzled me since I first read the enigmatic inscription on the leather case is why Col. Biddulph made the gift. Perhaps the young lieutenant, having no telescope of his own and posted on look-out duties, had need of one for his own safety? While I am, of course, unable to answer this specific question, I am able, as the result of some research into the family history of both men, to reveal that they shared a very similar heritage.

George Biddulph and Percy Powlett both came from the small village of Frankton, near Rugby, in Warwickshire. George Biddulph's father, the Rev. John Biddulph had been Rector of the parish from 1805-1826, followed four years later in 1830 by his eldest son, also the Rev. John Biddulph, who was rector until his early death at the age of 34 in 1837. He was then succeeded in 1838 by Percy Powlett's father, the Rev. Percy William Powlett

⁵ VCP Hodson, *List of Officers of the Bengal Army 1754-1834*

⁶ HP Wright, *Guide to the Royal Garrison Church, Portsmouth* (1873), as quoted by <http://www.memorials.inportsmouth.co.uk> which includes a page dedicated to Old Rugbeians who had served in the Crimea and Indian Mutiny.

⁷ Stephen Lewis's *Redcoat* site <http://glosters.tripod.com>

MA (1802-1866), who, from 1823, was an Assistant Master at Rugby School; he married Isabella Penelope Wheler in 1833, and, from 1838 until his death in 1866 he was Rector of Frankton.⁸

Thus an association with Rugby School offers another link between the first two owners of the telescope; the young George Biddulph was educated there in the 1820s, and during this time Percy Powlett's father was an Assistant Master at the school. The school archivist has confirmed that Percy Powlett, junior, was not educated at Rugby, but he suggests that a strong connection between the two brother officers fighting at Lucknow could well have been that George Biddulph had been taught at Rugby by Percy Powlett's father.⁹

The Biddulphs were Lords of the Manor of Frankton, and had held the title since the late 17th century. The Powlett family traced their descent back to Charles Paulet (c.1625-1699), the 1st Duke of Bolton.¹⁰ My conjecture is, therefore, that George Biddulph and Percy Powlett, despite the 26 year difference in their ages, were friends whose families, both with clerical and some aristocratic connections, had known each other well for generations.

Thus, not only were they both well connected socially, but they also had shared the experience of growing up in the tranquillity of rural Warwickshire. The village of Frankton remains to this day a secluded and peaceful place, in spite of its proximity to the industrial towns and cities of the Midlands. The ancient, mostly 14th century, parish church of St Nicholas stands on the west side of a small churchyard, to the west of the village. Adjacent to the church stands Frankton Manor, once home of the Biddulphs; and the old Vicarage,

⁸ Both he and his wife are buried there and commemorated on a marble tablet in the church, inscribed with the words: *Sacred to the memory of Percy William Powlett, for 28 years Rector of this Parish; who died 22 September 1866, aged 64 years, and of Isabella Penelope, his wife, who died 1 July 1896, aged 96 years. 'Departed this life in Thy Faith and Fear.'*

⁹ It is perhaps also worth noting that some thirty years later, Rev. PW Powlett's first cousin, Frederick Temple (1821-1902) was headmaster of Rugby, from 1858 until 1869, when he was appointed Bishop of Exeter, and later he became Archbishop of Canterbury, from 1896 to his death. Percy Powlett's grandmother, Anne, née Temple, was the third of the eight children of William Johnston Temple (1739-1796); Anne's youngest brother was Octavius Temple (1784-1834), who had nine children, one of whom was Frederick Temple. Col. Powlett was thus a first-cousin-once-removed of Archbishop Temple.

¹⁰ The title of Duke of Bolton was held in the Powlett family for just over a century, from 1689, when Charles Paulet was created 1st Duke of Bolton, to 1794. The close connection between the Powlett and Temple families dates back to the marriage in 1796 of Rev. Charles Powlett (1764-1834) to Anne Temple (1772-1827) – the Rev. Charles Powlett was the son of Percy Powlett, RN, the second (illegitimate) son of Charles, third Duke of Bolton, and an actress, Lavinia Fenton (1708-1760). In 1680, Richard Temple, whose family had been Lords of the Manor of Frankton since the late 16th century, sold the property to Sir Theophilus Biddulph, bart., of Westcombe in Greenwich, and the Biddulphs retained it until the 20th century. *Information from 'The Gaskell Family History' website, page titled 'The Children of Rev William Johnston Temple and Ann Stow', and Wikipedia.*

where Percy Powlett would have spent much of his childhood, is situated up a tree-lined drive almost opposite the church and manor house.

Visiting the church one quickly discovers, both inside and in the surrounding graveyard, the many memorials to members of Frankton's most eminent families. Among the members of the Powlett family who lie buried in the graveyard are Charles John Powlett,¹¹ and Armand Temple Powlett, both sons of the Rev. PW Powlett and brothers of Col. PW Powlett. Of particular interest to my tale of the telescope, however, is the three-light memorial window at the east end of the chancel dedicated to local hero George Biddulph, the owner of the telescope who died at the relief of Lucknow. The brass memorial inscription under the window reads:

To the Honour of God and His Church and in memory of Colonel George Biddulph who after XXVI years active and distinguished services in the XLVth Native Infantry and with the iird Irregular Cavalry fell in the Indian Mutiny at Secundrabagh near Lucknow on xviiiith of November MDccclvii in the XLVIIth year of his age. *'He being Dead yet Speaketh' Heb.xi:iv*

Thus, while one can only speculate as to why George Biddulph gave his telescope to Percy Powlett, it would seem likely that their respective families' long links with Frankton and Rugby must surely have had something to do with it. Whatever the reason, it is certain that the young Lieutenant Powlett treasured the gift, preserved and used the telescope carefully during his lifetime, and at his death left it to his eldest daughter Grace. It is with Percy and Grace that the rest of my narrative is chiefly concerned.

The silver cylindrical case and scroll

Percy William Powlett, born in England in 1837, sailed to India at the age of 18, where he was commissioned into the Native Infantry of the Bengal Army in February 1855. He served with gallantry in the Army until 1863, when he entered government service in Bengal. The details of his military career are listed in *War Services of the Bengal Army 1863*, and demonstrate his courageous involvement in several engagements during the 1857-58 Indian Mutiny.¹²

Rank: Lieutenant	First names: PW	Surname: Powlett
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¹¹ Born in 1835, Percy's brother Charles served in India for many years in the Bengal Civil Service. He married Grace Blewitt in Bengal in 1863 (IOR N/1/105/87). The *Times of India* records her death in Kussowlie from cholera on 5 Sept 1872, aged only 27. Another Powlett brother also spent time in India. Norton Powlett (1844-1928) was an officer of the Royal Artillery who, in September 1867 at Trimulgherry, married Nancy Eliza the daughter of Surgeon Edward S Tribe of the Madras Army. She too would die tragically young, only a few months later on 2 Feb 1868 at Secunderabad (*Times of India*, N/2 records). Norton remarried on 15 June 1869 in Bangalore, to Inez Henrietta Bickersteth the daughter of Henry Bickersteth (N/2/50/32). Norton was still in India ten years later, when as a Captain he fought in the 2nd Afghan War. He would later rise to Lt Col.

¹² Captain TC Anderson, *War Services of the Bengal Army 1863* (1863) transcribed on the FIBIS database.

Regiment: late 58 th Native Infantry	Commissions: Ensign, 4 Feb '55; Lieut., 23 Nov '56
Service: Lieutenant Powlett served during the Mutinies under Lord Clyde, '57, '58. Present at the actions of Allyghur, Agra, Kanouje, and Bunnee Bridge; relief of Lucknow, battle of Cawnpore, action at Kala Nuddee Bridge, and the siege and capture of Lucknow. (Wounded severely). Medal and two clasps. Mentioned in the despatch of H.E. the Commander-in-Chief. Merits acknowledged by Government.	

For an outline of his later career in government service, I am indebted to FIBIS Research Coordinator Beverly Hallam, who copied for me the following 'Record of Service for Percy William Powlett' from the 1910 *India Office List* at the British Library:

Powlett, Percy William, C.B., C.S.I., Bt. Col., Indian Army, late Foreign Dept., Govt. of India
Ensign, 58th Native Infantry, Bengal, April, 1855; served during the Mutiny (medal and clasps); assistant Commissioner, Punjab, 1862; and Berar, 1865; Settlement Officer, Alwar, Jan., 1871; Political Agent, Kota, Jan., 1877; Political Agent for the Western Rajputana States, 1880; Resident, Western Rajputana, Dec., 1881; C.S.I., Jan., 1891; reverted to Military Dept., April, 1892; C.B., June, 1907; compiled the gazetteers of Bikanir, Alwar and Karoali

In 1867, at the age of 30, Percy Powlett married Wilhelmina Anne Rivaz (1841-1876). I know nothing of the circumstances in which they met, but, as her father was also in the Bengal Civil Service, I guess that it may have been in India.¹³ The marriage took place in England and the couple returned to India and made their home in Alwar, where Percy was Settlement Officer. They had three daughters,¹⁴ who were all born in India: Amy Grace, in 1872; Katharine Mary, in 1873, and Miriam Lillian, in 1876. Wilhelmina died tragically young, perhaps of complications following the birth of her youngest daughter, as entries in the *Times of India* of 1876, record, first, in the 'Births' column,

'Jan. 11th at Alwar, (to) the wife of Major Powlett, Settlement Officer, a daughter';
and just nine days later, in the 'Deaths' column,

'Jan 20th at Alwar, the wife of Major Percy W. Powlett, Settlement Officer'.

The 39 year old Major Powlett was thus left a widower with three very young daughters to bring up on his own.¹⁵ The England and Wales Census records show that all three girls spent some of their childhood in England, where they stayed at the home of their uncle,

¹³ Wilhelmina Anne Rivaz was born in 1841, in Allahabad, in India. Her father, John Theophilus Rivaz served in the Bengal Civil Service, as did one of her brothers, and the family home in England was at Watford Place, a Georgian house in the centre of Watford, not far from St Mary's Church, where Wilhelmina married Percy Powlett.

¹⁴ The birth of a son, Percy Lawrence Powlett, in 1874, is recorded in the *Times of India*, but, as I have discovered no subsequent references to this child, I am guessing that he died in infancy.

¹⁵ Percy apparently remained a widower for the rest of his life, as there is no record of any subsequent remarriage.

Armand Powlett;¹⁶ he was a naval officer who rose to the rank of Admiral, and the family lived in Rugby. The 1881 census shows Percy Powlett's three daughters, Grace, Katharine and Minnie, residing at Uncle Armand's home in Bilton Road, Rugby, and describes them as 'scholars'; it is, therefore, tempting to imagine them being taught there by a governess, perhaps alongside their first cousins. Ten years later, according to the 1891 census, Katharine and Minnie were still resident at their uncle's home in England, but the eldest sister Grace had returned to her father in Rajputana.

Having been appointed Resident of the Western Rajputana States in 1881, Percy Powlett gave valued service to the people of the princely state of Rajputana for the next ten years, until his retirement in 1892. After his retirement, he returned to England, to his home in Finchampstead in Berkshire. He died there, at the age of 73, in 1910, and is buried in St James' Church, where he is remembered as follows:

1910 Colonel Percy William Powlett CB, CSI of the Indian Army and also Indian Political Department, 2nd son of the Rev. W. Powlett, Rector of the Parish of Frankton, Warwickshire, died at Finchampstead 14 July 1910 age 73 years

All the evidence suggests that Colonel Powlett was a dedicated, loyal, and conscientious colonial administrator. The fact that he also 'compiled the gazetteers of Bikanir, Alwar and Karoali' suggests to me that he was a most industrious civil servant; I imagine that this was time-consuming work and additional to other duties, and would certainly have involved much travelling and exploration of unmapped territory – I like to imagine that the telescope, given in the heat of battle, came into more peaceful use on such journeys! The *Gazetteer of Ulwur* (Alwar) suggests that Powlett was a writer and administrator with a keen sense of history, an eye for detail, and, above all, a great respect for India, its people, and its languages. The following brief extract is taken from Part 1, Chapter 1, entitled 'Historical Sketch', and demonstrates Powlett's scholarly historical interest in this part of north-west India:

The city of Ulwur...is in Mewat, of which it is the largest and most important town. More than half the territory of the State, too, is in Mewat...The Mewat country possesses several hill ranges. Those under which lie the city of Ulwur and those which form the present boundary to the north-east are the most important. Tijara, lying near the latter, contended with Ulwur for the first place in Mewat. The mass of the population are Musalmans (sic), and claim to be of Rajput extraction. They must not, however, be confounded with the Mewatti chiefs of the Persian historians, who were, probably, the representatives of the ancient Lords of Mewat. These Mewattis were called Khanzadas, a race which...was and is socially far superior to the Meos, who have no love for them, but who in times past have united with them in the raids and

¹⁶ Armand Temple Powlett (1841-1925) was Percy Powlett's younger brother; he was born in Frankton, baptised in the parish church, and he and his wife Horatia are both buried in the churchyard there. They had four children, three sons and a daughter, all born between 1876 and 1884, and thus near contemporaries of their three visiting first cousins. Armand's eldest son, b.1873, was Vice Admiral Frederick Armand Powlett CBE - he married and had one son, also naval, who was Rear Admiral Philip Frederick Powlett (1906-1991) - quite a dynasty!

insurrections for which the Mewat was so famous, and which made it a thorn in the side of the Delhi emperors. ¹⁷

The high regard in which Percy William Powlett was held by those with whom he worked is clearly shown by the second *objet d'art* in my story. Having received the award, Companion of the Order of the Star of India (CSI) in 1891, on his retirement as Resident of the Western Rajputana States in 1892, he was presented, by the 'Jain Oswal Community of Murshidabad', with an engraved silver document case, cylindrical in shape, and containing a long scroll listing his many achievements as Resident, expressing the community's heartfelt appreciation of his services to their country, and wishing him and a happy and healthy retirement in England. The exterior of this beautiful silver object is embellished with an intricate pattern of leaves and flowers, animals and birds, and with an engraved inscription, which reads:

*PRESENTED TO
COLONEL PERCY WILLIAM POWLETT C.S.I.,
RESIDENT, WESTERN RAJPUTANA STATES,
BY THE JAIN OSWAL COMMUNITY
OF MURSHIDABAD
1892*

The document inside the case is a warmly appreciative tribute, six paragraphs long, with a



decorated border, and signed by at least twenty members of the 'Jain and Oswal Community' - each paragraph praising Colonel Powlett's 'indefatigable and arduous labours' on behalf of the community. The second paragraph, quoted below, is perhaps the most striking of the six for the way in which it suggests that among this outstanding Resident's many virtues was his concern for the 'wants and requirements of the people' – perhaps even his sympathy for the future independence of India?

¹⁷ *Gazetteer of Ulwur* by Major PW Powlett, Late Settlement Officer of Ulwur (London, Trubner and Co., Ludgate Hill, 1878), available online at www.ebooksread.com/gazetteer-of-ulwur

During the long period that you have held appointments in different parts of this country, apart from the high ability, great earnestness and strict devotion to the discharge of your duties which have characterised you, we cannot but note with satisfaction that your conduct has been invariably guided by the keenest insights into the wants and requirements of the people, accompanied by the truest sympathy for their legitimate hopes and aspirations and a sincere desire to fulfil them so far as practicable.

Folded inside the scroll is a handwritten letter, addressed to Colonel Powlett, and sent to him in England nearly two years after his retirement. Headed Jodhpore, and dated 2 January 1894, this letter further testifies to the respect and admiration in which he was so clearly held. It refers again to the many services for which Colonel Powlett will long be remembered, such as his efforts in the cause of social reform and the suppression of crime, and his achievement in bringing both railway and telegraph to the Western Rajputana States (nb. spellings as written):

Respected Sir

Many many thanks for your kind letter and the 'Photo' which you very kindly bestowed me by Post.

Seeing you this Photo I am so much pleased as I have seen your honour in person and it shows that you are in sound health for which I always pray God, who will bestow you a long life.

I have fitted this 'Photo' in the wall of my Drawing Room where the pictures and Photoes of many old Kings, Mahurajas, lords, and noblemen are fitted, with the intention that your remembrance in my house may remain for a long period after me.

In Marwar you have introduced the rules and regulation and the proper mode of working the Courts, stopped robbery and decoity, opened Railway and telegraph and introduced many other works which are beneficial to the Marwar Subjects, therefore this country will not forget your honour for ever.

I have composed a poem for this which is as follows . . .

The script (which is impossible to transcribe) and language of the poem have been identified for me as Rajasthani.¹⁸ Underneath the four line poem the writer gives a literal translation of the Rajasthani version in English, and this is followed, almost at the end of the letter, by a free English prose translation of his poem, as follows:



The Jain and Oswal Community scroll presented to Percy Powlett.

¹⁸ Identified by Mr Aiswarj Kumar, of the Cambridge University Centre for South Asian Studies.

The robbers and decoits of the country disappeared and by this all the subjects of the country become comfortable in an excessive degree. The brave lords and jagurdars leaving the conspervey (conspiracy) of enciting dispute become straight that is become obedient. O, Colonel Powlett all these are by your means

I will be very glad if I will be any service to you. Hoping you are enjoying sound health with your daughters.

Yours most obdtly, Kaviraj Murardon, Member Council Jodhpore Rajpu.

The silk-embroidered Indian cloth

The remaining items in this story belonged to (Amy) Grace (1872-1965), Percy Powlett's eldest daughter. As my godmother's aunt, and always known by her second name, she was 'Aunt Grace' to her niece, and by extension, to others, including myself. I met her several times when she was a very old lady, and knew her as a kindly elderly 'aunt', who regularly stayed for several weeks each summer at the home of her widower brother-in-law (and first cousin) General William Strong ('Uncle Bill') and Joan, his unmarried only daughter. The Strongs' home, Lady Anne's House in Stamford, had a large garden, where I remember 'Aunt Grace' picking and then drying the lavender which grew abundantly there, and making muslin 'lavender bags' for storing among the household linen. Later, after Uncle Bill and Aunt Grace were both dead, I often visited my godmother, 'Aunt Joan', at her last home in Oundle, Northamptonshire, and there I grew to love the many beautiful watercolour Indian landscapes, signed *A.G. Powlett*, or simply *A.G.P.*, which hung on her walls. Regrettably, I never enquired about the early life in India of the talented young artist who had painted them. The evidence of Grace's paintings themselves, however, and of a spectacular, colourful, and richly embroidered cloth, presented to her in 1891 when she was 19, have now given me some clues about her youth.

Made of green felt, this beautiful Indian cloth measures 1.1 metres square, and is embroidered in floss silk in rich shades of blue, purple, red and orange, with a surrounding, cotton fringe in the same colours. At its centre, within an inner, flowery circle, is embroidered the date '4/4/1891'; framing this circle, a square border of exotic flowers and birds, and the words: 'Presented with Compliments and Regards to Miss Powlett.' By far the most dramatic and eye-catching feature of this tapestry is, however, the superbly worked representation of four trains, one along each side of the main outer border. Each of the four has a stylised steam engine - looking rather like a wild animal - and each pulls three or four carriages, all of which are full of people; at each corner there is what I take to be a representation of a station, with perhaps the station-master and other passengers awaiting the train's arrival. The outer borders of the cloth represent the trains' wheels running along the track, and the outermost edge is a border of leaves and flowers.

Never having seen anything like it before, I showed the cloth to an expert¹⁹ in the applied arts, who identified it for me as a 'presentation cover', and a very traditional piece of Indian

¹⁹ Mrs Carol Humphrey, Honorary Keeper, Applied Arts Department, Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge.

craftsmanship, though of unique design. From a book about Indian embroidery²⁰ I learned more of India's uniquely rich textile tradition, and that northern India in particular was well known as a centre for fine silk embroidery on woollen cloth, usually with ornate floral designs in brightly coloured floss silk satin stitch. This therefore put the cloth firmly in its context of local craft, but left unanswered the two questions: what was the occasion for the presentation to Grace, and what was the significance of the date 4/4/1891? Given the prominent representation of the trains in the design, it was clear that it had to be something to do with the railway.

A little research²¹ revealed that an 'Agreement' signed by Percy W Powlett, Colonel, Resident, Western Rajputana States, and Jaswant Singh, GCSI, Maharaja of Jodhpur was '...entered into between the British Government and His Highness the Maharaja of Jodhpur for the construction of a Railway from Jodhpur to Bikaner' in July 1889. Two years later the Jodhpur to Bikaner railway was opened in three stages, with the first section, Jodhpur to Merta Road, opening on 8



Detail of the embroidered cloth showing train and '...To Miss Powlett'. Entire cloth shown in colour on the back cover.

April 1891. As this date so nearly coincides with the date on the cloth, it seems likely that the occasion of the presentation to Grace was the ceremonial opening of the railway with which her father was so closely associated. While at first glance all the figures embroidered on the cloth appear to be Indian, closer inspection reveals that in one of the four corners there is a tall European-looking man, of official bearing and wearing what might be a white linen suit. It is tempting to wonder whether this might be Grace's father, Col. Powlett himself!

My last find was the discovery, at the bottom of the trunk, of a portfolio of sketch books, and finished and unfinished watercolours of Indian landscapes [see cover image]; these are evocative, atmospheric compositions - rugged mountains, trees and flowers, rivers and streams, and temples and shrines sacred to Indian deities. Grace returned to India after the death of her father in 1910, possibly more than once as her paintings are dated 1912 and

²⁰ Rosemary Crill, *Indian Embroidery* (London: V & A Publications, 1999)

²¹ Indian Railways Fanclub www.irfca.org/faq/faq-history2.html and CU Aitchison, *A Collection of Treaties, Engagements and Sanads: relating to India and the States of Rajputana* (1909)

1913. I do not know the reason for these trips, but guess that she had many friends there, and loved the country; from the evidence of her paintings she loved, above all, its wild, remote and holy places. It is my impression also that she was an intrepid traveller, who enjoyed nothing better than setting off on a pony, with perhaps a group of friends, and probably Indian bearers to carry the luggage, to make camp in the high hills and sketch and paint the scenery she loved so deeply. Two of her paintings are entitled 'Cook's Tent' and 'Charcoal Burner's Hut', hinting at the preferred campsite spots, though in neither do any human figures appear. Most of her subjects are empty, unpeopled landscapes, redolent of the natural grandeur of the mountains and the stillness and sanctity of the sacred sites.

Grace never married, and lived for much of her adult life in Cookham in Berkshire, where she was a near contemporary of a more famous resident of the village, the early modernist painter Stanley Spencer (1891-1959), whose strange, surreal work was utterly different from her own tranquil landscapes – I wonder if they ever met?

I owe my inheritance of this wonderful 'Powlett collection' to my mother Joan's long friendship with Joan Strong, honorary aunt to all the family and godmother to myself and my half-brother John Sworder. The friendship of the two Joans began in the 1930s, when my mother returned from India, a young widow with two very small children, after the tragic death of her first husband in a riding accident in Nasirabad. My half-brother John has written of this tragedy in an earlier *FIBIS Journal*,²² and in conclusion to my 'Tale of a Telescope from Lucknow' I wish only to make this connection with John's article, and add that, after her nine-year widowhood, Joan Sworder's story had a happy ending: she met and fell in love with another Army officer, Major Paul Macklin, of the Royal West Kent Regiment; they were married in 1939, had a long and happy marriage, and five children, of whom I am the eldest. Joan Strong remained a much-loved friend to all the family until her death in 1984. She had asked me to be her 'personal executor' and so it was that, after her death, I found myself responsible for sorting what remained of her personal effects after her two executors had completed the distribution of the main bequests to the specified legatees. It was my job to clear the house completely before the new buyer moved in, and much of what I had to sort was long-accumulated rubbish: but there were 'treasures', too, and above all the trunk containing the telescope, and the other fascinating items which told something of the history of Percy and Grace Powletts' lives in India.

Purchased in London in the early years of Queen Victoria's reign, the widely-travelled telescope has now returned to find a permanent home there. I am very grateful for the help and advice of FIBIS Chairman, Peter Bailey, who has negotiated on my behalf with Dr Peter Boyden, the Assistant Director of the National Army Museum, who has accepted my donation of Colonel Powlett's treasured telescope. As part of the museum's collection, the telescope will henceforth make its own small but unique contribution to the history of the Indian Mutiny and the Siege of Lucknow.

²² John Sworder, 'Life in a British Cantonment in India: Nasirabad, 1929-1930' *FIBIS Journal*, No. 23, Spring 2010.

The Indian Railways and a dynasty of Pearce's (1855 to 1930)

By Michael Feilden Pearce

I live in France and enjoy the country life, but with the onset of winter and having just been connected to broadband, I was looking for a project to fill up the dark evenings. My middle name is Feilden from my father's mother, and I had collected over the years a number of pieces of information, together with a rough idea of the history of that side of my family. To put all that in order and into a family tree was a task that was challenging and interesting. It also opened up renewed channels of communication with my cousins in England and Zimbabwe, whom I had been sadly neglecting. With the help of the Internet database sites, and particularly Ancestry.com I was able to proceed to a satisfactory point on that side of the family. My maternal line Tinsley/Ward had been researched over the last 20 years by my uncle who gave me encouragement and advice.

However the Pearce side was an enigma. Neither my cousins nor I had ever had much knowledge about the early years of our three fathers. They were born in India in 1908, 1915 and 1918, and were sent to boarding school in England. Beyond this we knew very little, except that our Grandfather, Frederick Spencer Pearce had worked for the railways in India, and had married Ermin Alc   Feilden at her home village in Derbyshire in 1906, her father being the vicar of the parish. My curiosity was aroused, and I wanted to understand more about the Indian background.

A copy of the marriage certificate, obtained through Ancestry.com provided the first clues. Our Grandfather's age was given as 27 and his profession as 'of the East Indian Railways'. It also revealed that his father was 'Richard Pearce (deceased)' and to my surprise – also 'of the East Indian Railways'.

With this information the International Genealogy Index (IGI) at familysearch.org provided the birth and christening dates for Frederick Spencer Pearce in 1879 at Howrah, Bengal, India. This also confirmed his father's name as Richard, with mother Cecilia Emma. Searching the web I came across FIBIS and their extensive databases soon revealed an entry in the Bengal Marriage Index 1874 dataset of Richard Pearce to Cecilia E Ricketts.

FIBIS membership included the *Members Interest Supplement* in which was listed the surname Ricketts. An e-mail contact with this member soon confirmed the marriage linking the Ricketts to the Pearce's in 1874 and provided a wealth of useful background information on both families. It also revealed there had been an earlier exchange of information with a Pearce in Australia, a descendant from this marriage - could this be an unknown distant cousin? Sylvia Murphy, the FIBIS representative in Australia, was able to provide his telephone number and a phone call soon established that we were indeed second cousins. I was descended from the third son, he from the fifth son. His research provided a great deal of extra information and was gratefully received.

The FIBIS dataset of *The Times of India – Births as reported in Domestic Occurrences* gave a series of dated entries from 1874 through to 1882, all in Howrah, Bengal of five unnamed sons to the 'wife of Richard Pearce'. A search of the IGI confirmed the names for

each of the five sons with the birth and christening dates. So now I had established the names and exact birth dates in India of my grandfather's brothers.

The FIBIS Treasurer, Hugh Wilding, kindly introduced me to the FIBIS *Fact File No 4 – Research Sources for Indian Railways* with invaluable leads to various records. He also suggested a database search of the *Institution of the Mechanical Engineers* records, and this confirmed Richard Pearce's membership application in 1873. A copy of this was easily ordered through their archivist, showing his post with the East Indian Railway (EIR) as 'Deputy Carriage & Wagon Superintendent' and that his membership was proposed by a Robert Webb Pearce – could this be a relative?

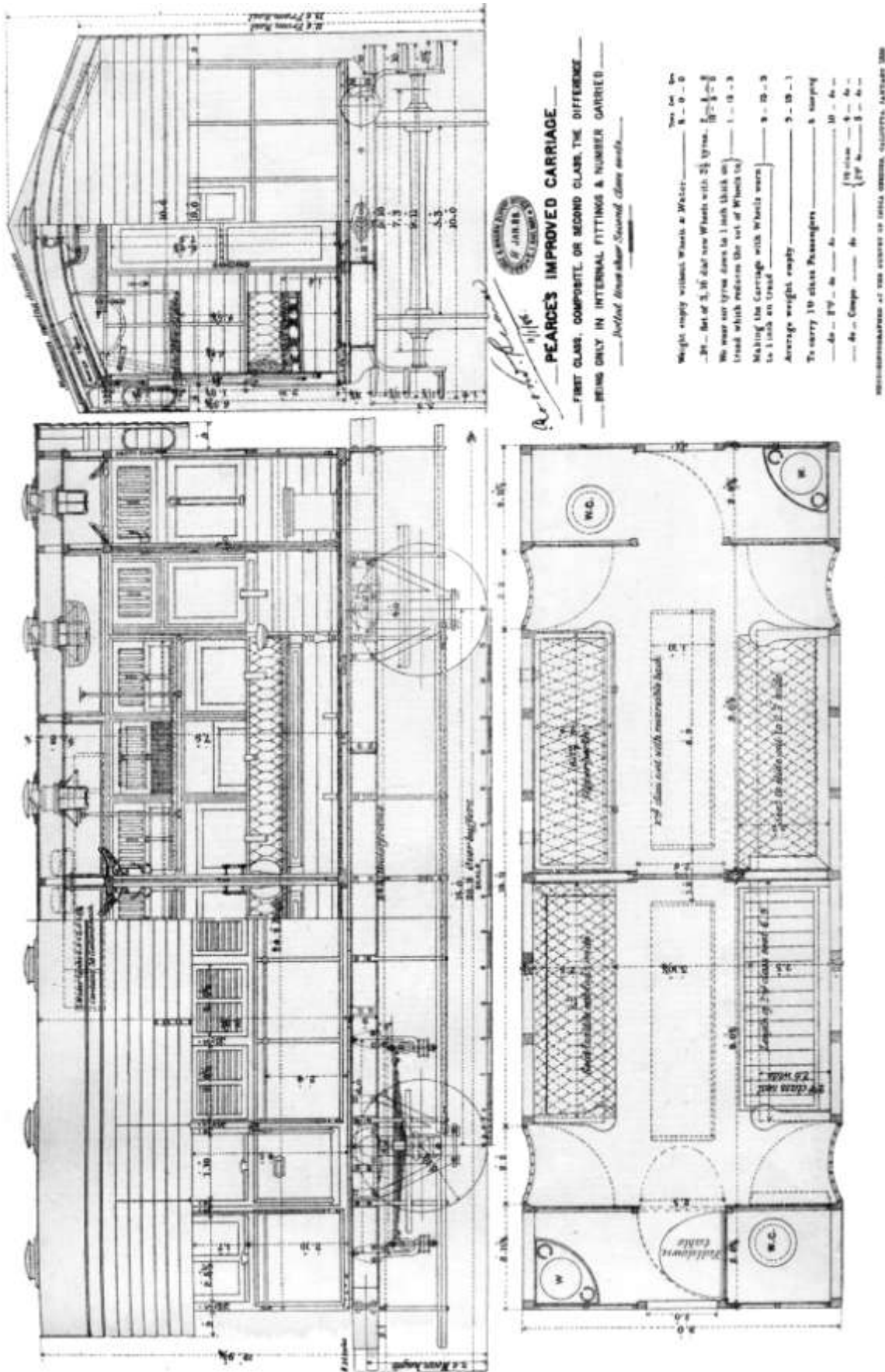
A Google search for Robert Webb Pearce led to the website steamindex.com. This gave his obituary published in the *Proceedings of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers* in 1890 which detailed his education and achievements up to his death in 1889. It also gave his birth in Cheshire in 1831 and appointment as 'Carriage & Wagon Superintendent' with the EIR in 1855. Further searches on the FIBIS dataset *Bengal Marriages* and the IGI revealed the marriage of Robert Webb Pearce to Euphemia Bremner in 1858 in Howrah and established the names/birth/christening details of their four children, all born in India.

The 1841 and 1851 England and Wales Censuses provided the names, ages and occupations of each of the Pearce family members and confirmed that Robert Webb Pearce and Richard were brothers. The census provided the birth year for their father Richard Pearce (b.1793 London) married to Anne Lomax. They moved around the English Midlands (Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Cheshire) and had three sons and one daughter. Richard Sr had several different occupations, finally as a Clerk in the Railway Carriage Workshops in Birmingham where his eldest son Robert was apprenticed.¹

An investigation into the early years of the EIR was then pursued. The book *History of the East Indian Railways* by George Huddleston, 1906 edition, was accessed on-line through Google books and then ordered through Amazon. It listed the position of 'Carriage & Wagon Superintendent' with RW Pearce 1862–1889 and Richard Pearce 1889–1898. This indicated that that the younger brother took the position on the death of his elder brother.

The India Office Records were the next source of information. Aided by the FIBIS *Fact File No 4* and *Baxter's Guide* the relevant records for the East Indian Railway were identified. An appeal to the FIBIS Research Co-ordinator, Beverly Hallam, for some assistance initiated a search in the India Office Records by a kind volunteer. Thanks to this help the information, so painstakingly extracted, provided a flying start on my brief visit to London and pointed me in the right direction. To actually hold the original Contract of Employment signed by my grandfather Frederick Spencer Pearce was a memorable moment. The helpful British Library staff easily arranged a copy. This confirmed his appointment with the EIR as a 'Traffic Assistant', age 19. A wealth of other information was also gleaned during that visit that filled in many gaps in the family history.

¹ 1841 and 1851 England and Wales Censuses – accessed on <http://www.ancestry.co.uk/>



'Pearce's Improved Carriage' by RW Pearce, by kind permission of the Institution of Civil Engineers.

FIBIS *Fact File No 4* led me to the Institution of Civil Engineers. The helpful Archivist located in the Library a book of drawings *Rolling Stock as designed and at the Howrah Workshops by Robert Webb Pearce – Carriage and Wagon Superintendent*. These drawings, two examples of which are included in this article, are all signed by Robert Webb Pearce and date stamped February and March 1888. The drawings include 'Viceregal Carriages' and a 'Post Office Carriage' plus different designs of passenger carriages (including a double-deck carrying 180 seated passengers) and goods wagons, a total of 24 detailed construction drawings. This book had been given to the Library in 1891 by Richard Pearce who had remarked 'I appreciate the compliment paid to my late brother by the Institution.'

This investigation has provided an insight into my family history. The Railways in India had employed at least seven Pearces over two generations covering the years from 1855 to 1930. Marriages had taken place and third-generation children born. The mystery of their lives and contributions had slowly been revealed and was no longer an enigma. The research is not completed and is leading to fresh investigations. What follows are the summary biographies found so far.

Robert Webb Pearce and Richard Pearce

Robert Webb Pearce (b.11 Nov 1831 Macclesfield, Cheshire²) was the eldest son of Richard Pearce Sr and Anne. Following his apprenticeship at Brown Marshall & Co, Birmingham, he became chief of the drawing office at their Britannia Carriage Works. In December 1855 he took up the post of 'Carriage & Wagon Superintendent' with the EIR. The large works at Howrah (across the Ganges river from Calcutta) was designed and built under his supervision, employing at the busiest time up to 4000 local workmen all trained under him. All of the East Indian Railway stock was built there, together with most of those used by the metre-gauge railways. His designs were copied throughout India, and the improvements he introduced into railway carriages and wagons were so numerous and so important that he has been called the father of carriage and wagon building in India.³

Robert was married in 1858 at Howrah, Bengal to Euphemia Bremner⁴ the daughter of an influential military family⁵ and they had four children. He became a Member of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers (M.I.Mech.E) in 1867.⁶

His long residence in the tropical climate of Bengal, his disinclination to take leave of absence during thirteen years with scarcely a day's holiday, and his constant application to work, eventually told on a fine constitution. He returned to England through ill health in

² Institution of Mechanical Engineers, *Proceedings*, vol 41, 1890, p292-3

³ *ibid*.

⁴ International Genealogical Index (IGI), India Marriage Records – <http://www.familysearch.org>

⁵ Family of James Bremner and Euphemia Clark – <http://www.brebner.com/>

⁶ Institution of Mechanical Engineers database – <http://62.173.95.116/dserve/Search1.htm>

1888⁷ and died at West Kensington London in 1889.⁸ His two sons Robert and Charles went on to be employed by the East Indian Railway.

Robert's brother Richard Pearce (b.12 Mar 1843, Walsall, Staffs.) was the youngest son of Richard Sr and Anne. On leaving school in Aston, Birmingham, at the age of 18 he went out to Calcutta to join his elder brother. He was engaged as a 'Clerk' at the EIR Howrah Carriage and Wagon works in 1861,⁹ appointed 'Assistant Carriage and Wagon Superintendent' in 1869¹⁰ and in 1873 was granted M.I.Mech.E.¹¹

In 1874 Richard married Cecilia Emma Ricketts, at St Thomas's Church, Howrah.¹² She was the daughter of a well-established military family with a long history in India.¹³ They had five sons, all born in India and sent to England for secondary education. Richard Pearce was appointed 'Superintendent' in 1889,¹⁴ taking over following the ill health of his elder brother Robert.

Richard died on leave in Glasgow, Scotland on 5th August 1898¹⁵ when visiting his three eldest sons, Walter, Arthur and Frederick, who were undertaking apprenticeships at the Dübs & Co Locomotive works. These three sons returned to India to work for the railways.

Robert Webb Pearce's sons

Robert McLardy Pearce (b.1 Dec 1860 Calcutta, India¹⁶) was the eldest son of Robert Webb Pearce and Euphemia (Bremner). Following secondary education in England he was apprenticed at the Nine Elms carriage works of the London & South Western Railway.¹⁷ He was then engaged by Sir AM Rendel of Westminster as 'Inspector of Railway Stock for Foreign Railways'¹⁸ based in London, before joining the EIR in April 1883 as 'Assistant District Locomotive Superintendent'.¹⁹ By 1888 he was based in Tundla.²⁰ In 1893 Robert became 'District Loco. Superintendent' at Jamalpur and was granted M.I.Mech.E.²¹ at this time he was in charge of a district extending over 400 miles. He died in London in March 1896.

⁷ *supra* note 2.

⁸ FIBIS Database – *The Times of India* – <http://www.fibis.org/>

⁹ L/AG/46/11/138 - Classified list of Europeans In Service with E.I.R.

¹⁰ *ibid.*

¹¹ George Huddleston, *History of The East Indian Railways*, 1906, Appendix A

¹² India Office Records (IOR) N/1/147/86 Bengal Marriages

¹³ Genealogy of Ricketts family – Private Source

¹⁴ L/AG/46/11/140 – Classified list of Europeans In Service with E.I.R.

¹⁵ Scotland Statutory Death Record – <http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>

¹⁶ IGI, India Births/Baptisms

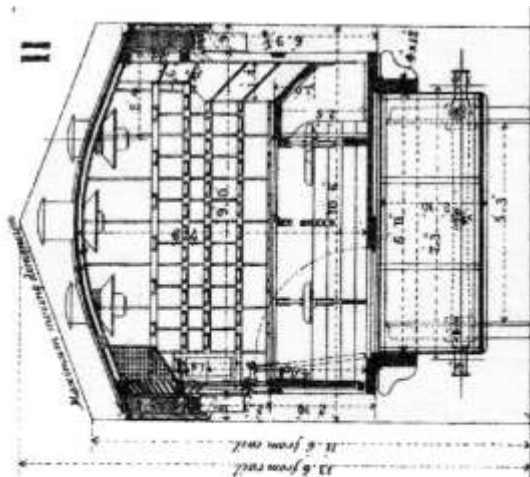
¹⁷ *supra* note 6.

¹⁸ *supra* note 6.

¹⁹ Huddleston, *op cit.*

²⁰ *Thacker's Indian Directory* 1888

²¹ *supra* note 6.

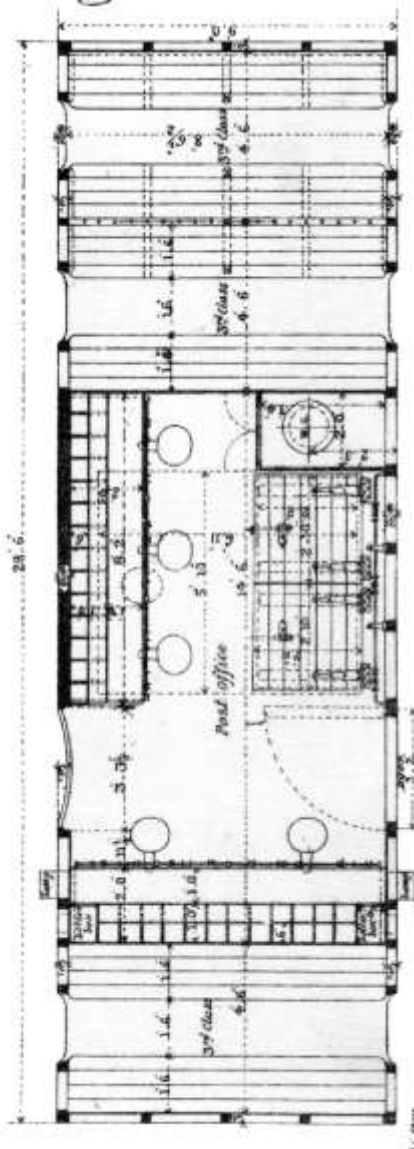
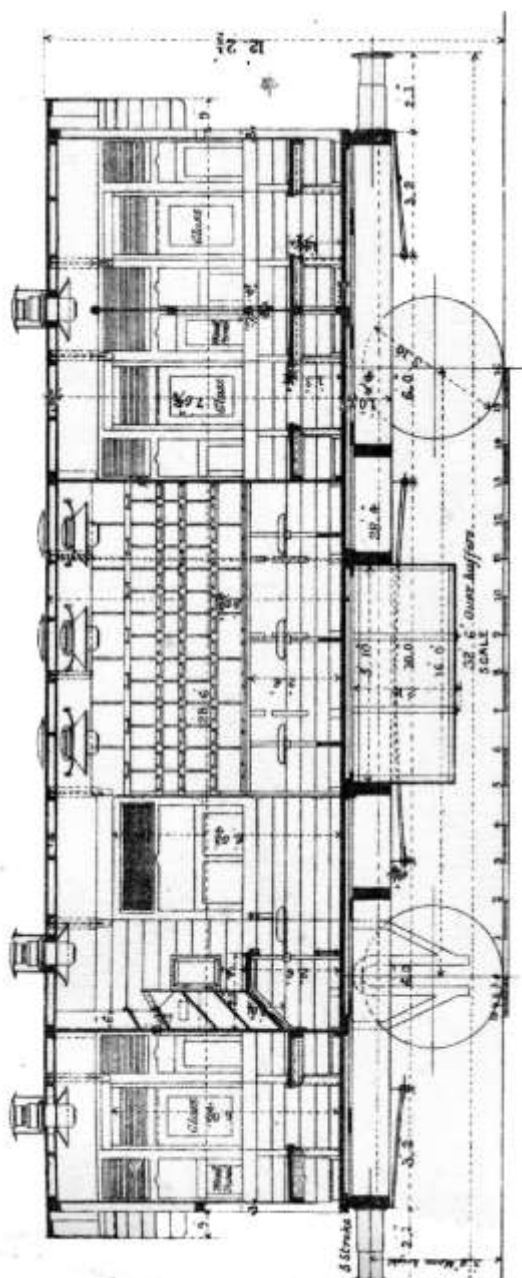


EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

— COMBINED POST OFFICE & 3rd CLASS CARRIAGE

	Time	Cost	Qty
Weight empty without Wheels	8	8	10
do. Set of 3.10 dia. new Wheels with 2 1/2 Tyres	2	5	0
Tyres 1 inch thick on tread reduces	10	13	0
the set of Wheels to	1	13	3
Making the Carriage with Wheels worn	10	1	3
to 1 inch on tread	10	7	3
Average weight empty	10	7	3
To carry	4	0	0

PHOTOGRAPHED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, CALCUTTA, MARCH 1888.



'Combined Post Office and 3rd Class Carriage' by RW Pearce, by kind permission of the Institution of Civil Engineers

Charles Marshall Pearce (b.11 Aug 1862, Calcutta, India²²) was the youngest son of Robert Webb Pearce and Euphemia. Appointed by the EIR in 1882²³ as a 'Probationary Assistant' in the Goods Department²⁴ he was by 1888 'Assistant District Traffic Superintendent' at Dinapore.²⁵ He married in Calcutta in 1899 Emily Holt²⁶ but they had no children. Charles was promoted in 1904 to 'District Superintendent' and confirmed in 1911 as 'General Traffic Manager'.²⁷ He was a member of the Indian Defence Force and awarded the Voluntary Decoration for eighteen years service. He was promoted to Lieut.-Colonel 7th East Indian Railway Battalion²⁸ on 1 Apr 1917 and awarded the CBE²⁹ for his contribution to the war effort in WWI. He died in Camberley, Surrey in 1925.

Richard Pearce's sons

Walter Richard Pearce (b.28 Nov 1874, Howrah, India³⁰) was Richard Pearce and Cecilia Emma (Ricketts') eldest son. His secondary education was in England (Dulwich College³¹ and Bedford Grammar³²) and he then went on to a Locomotive Engineering Apprenticeship with Dübs & Co in Glasgow and night school at Glasgow & West of Scotland Technical College.³³ The Secretary of State for India appointed him in August 1897 as 'Deputy Locomotive Superintendent - Indian State Railways'³⁴ (the only one of the family not to join the EIR). Promoted to 'District Locomotive & Carriage Superintendent' in 1904,³⁵ it appears he was deployed to the East Bengal Railway³⁶ and granted M.I.Mech.E. in 1911.³⁷

He served as Captain in the 12th East Bengal Rly. Battalion³⁸ during WWI and was awarded the Voluntary Decoration for eighteen years service.³⁹ Promoted to General Traffic Manager in Jan 1921⁴⁰ until his retirement, he returned to Teignmouth in Devon, where he died in 1965 at the age of 91.

²² IGI, India Births/Baptisms

²³ L/AG/46/11/140

²⁴ *Thacker's Indian Directory* 1884

²⁵ *Thacker's Indian Directory* 1888

²⁶ IGI India Marriage Records

²⁷ L/AG/46/11/140

²⁸ *The London Gazette* 16 March 1920 – <http://www.london-gazette.co.uk/>

²⁹ *Supplement to The London Gazette* 8 Jan 1919

³⁰ FIBIS Database – *The Times of India*, IGI India Births/Baptisms

³¹ Dulwich College Archivist, London and *The Alleynian Magazine* 1891

³² Bedford Grammar School – Old Bedfordians Club

³³ Glasgow & West Scotland Technical College – now Strathclyde University – Archivist

³⁴ *supra* note 6.

³⁵ *India Office List* 1933 – <http://www.findmypast.co.uk/migration.jsp>

³⁶ *supra* note 31.

³⁷ *supra* note 6.

³⁸ *supra* note 31.

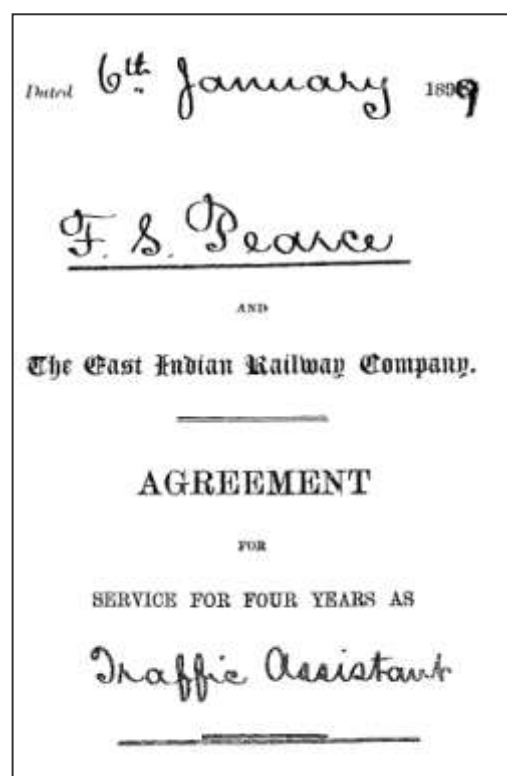
³⁹ *supra* note 35.

⁴⁰ *supra* note 35.

Richard and Cecilia's second son was Arthur George Ricketts Pearce (b.19 Mar 1878, Howrah, India⁴¹). His secondary education was in England (Clapham Manor and Bedford⁴²) and he followed his elder brother into a Locomotive Engineering Apprenticeship with Dübs & Co, and night school at Glasgow & West of Scotland Technical College.⁴³ He was engaged by the EIR in 1898 as 'Sub-Asst Carriage & Wagon Dept.'⁴⁴ and, so far, no further confirmed information about Arthur has been found.

Frederick Spencer Pearce (b.26 Jun 1879 Howrah, India⁴⁵) was the third son of Richard and Cecilia. Following primary education in Howrah, his secondary education was in England (Clapham Manor, Bedford Grammar⁴⁶ and St Paul's, Barnes⁴⁷). He then followed his two brothers into a Locomotive Engineering Apprenticeship with Dübs & Co. Glasgow and night school at Glasgow & West of Scotland Technical College.⁴⁸

He was recruited in London by the EIR on 6 January 1899⁴⁹ (following the death of his father, Richard, in August 1898) as 'Traffic Assistant' and promoted in 1902 to 'Asst.Traffic Superintendent'.⁵⁰ Frederick returned on leave to England in February 1906⁵¹ where he married Ermin Alcè Feilden at her Derbyshire village on 6 December 1906. On the 21 December 1906 he, with his new wife, sailed to Calcutta. They had 3 sons, all born in India (one of these being my father). Promoted to 'District Traffic Superintendent' in August 1908,⁵² he held this post until February 1925. The position was then re-graded as 'Superintendent Senior Scale'⁵³ when the EIR was taken into Indian State Railways. He retained this grade until his retirement in 1930. Frederick returned to England, near Teignmouth, Devon where he died in 1942.



The cover of the EIR contract signed by Frederick Spencer Pearce.

⁴¹ FIBIS Database – *The Times of India*, IGI India Births/Baptisms

⁴² *supra* note 32.

⁴³ *supra* note 33.

⁴⁴ IOR L/AG/46/11/136 (44) - Contract of Employment for EIR

⁴⁵ FIBIS Database – *The Times of India*, IGI, Births/Baptisms

⁴⁶ *supra* note 32.

⁴⁷ St Paul's School, Archivist, Barnes, London

⁴⁸ *supra* note 33.

⁴⁹ Contract of Employment for E.I.R. – L/AG/46/11/136(45)

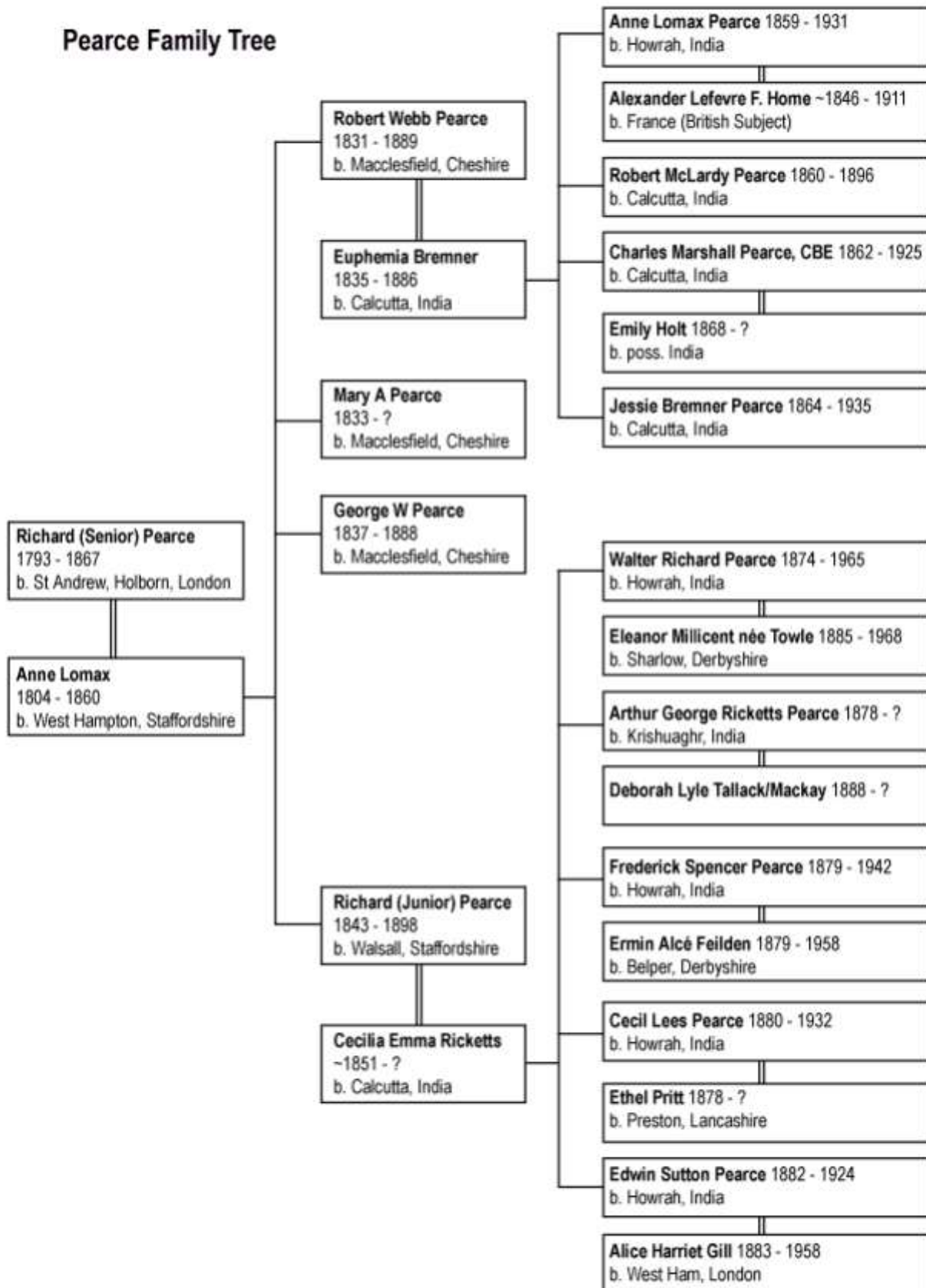
⁵⁰ L/AG/46/11/140

⁵¹ *ibid.*

⁵² *supra* note 35.

⁵³ *supra* note 35.

Pearce Family Tree



Tracing an Honorary Assistant Surgeon – George Edward Pool

By Lawrie Butler

In April 2001, one of my first pleasurable duties as the then Membership Secretary was to recruit 6 new members at the Annual Family History Fair in Westminster. Amongst these was Marion Parkinson who lives in Lancashire. Over the years I have answered several of her queries but a particularly interesting one related to an Apothecary/ Honorary Asst. Surgeon, George Edward Pool(e), Marion's 3xG Grandfather.

[Sadly, Marion passed away on the 30 October 2010 but her daughter Fiona has approved the publication of the article, saying her Mum would have been thrilled.]

The only known information was that George Edward Pool was shown on a list of medical staff in Bengal in 1862¹ as serving as Senior Apothecary in charge of the Simla Jail and Dispensary with his rank dating from 8 Oct 1838. He was shown with 37 years service and had been appointed to the Honorary rank of Assistant Surgeon,² the order reading: 'under the Authority of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India, the Honourable the President in Council is pleased to confer the Honorary Rank of Assistant Surgeon on Senior Apothecary, George Edward POOL, of the Subordinate Medical Dept., in Medical charge of the Simla Dispensary.'

I knew from experience that all information relating to George's promotions and whereabouts had to come from the different Bengal Directories and the quarterly issues of the Bengal Army List. Since his career was likely to extend over 40 years and more of quarterly issues, I had to be selective over the actual copies I requested to view at the British Library, being in mind that without special dispensation one is



'Apothecary, First Class, c1840' by the kind permission of Mrs Catherine McCabe.

¹ 'Lists of Surgeons, Apothecaries and Veterinary Surgeons serving in Bengal in 1862' *New Calcutta Directory (NCD)*, 1862, p.301 - full list on the FIBIS database as 'Bengal Army Medical List 1862'.

² L/MIL/17/2/366 General Orders of Gov. Gen./General Orders, Military Dept p.18, No 37 of 1861

only allowed to make up to ten requests per day. So it is always possible that information on some odd events may well be missing; for instance, although he was referred to at times as a Senior Apothecary, no formal promotion to that rank was located.

I first looked for Pool's death, assumed to be in Bengal, and found that he had died on 10 Jan 1876, aged 66 years and was shown to be 'Honorary Surgeon Major' on the Retired List. This is a senior rank and I suspect it was added by someone not familiar with the ranking system. The cause of death was hepatitis and he was buried at Umballa on 12 Jan 1876.³ The age indicated that Pool was born in 1810 and from his 1862 record (37 years service), one could deduce his date of entry to service was around 1825. Later I was to find out he had 33 years service in 1858,⁴ again pointing to an entry around 1825. A further reference⁵ showed that his actual date of appointment to service was 21 Oct 1824 when he would have been about 14 years old. With no Bengal baptism located around 1810, it is possible that he may have been baptised in England and then became an inmate of an orphan school, thence joining the Army at an early age. Readers will have seen the two articles by Maureen Evers of Sydney in the *FIBIS Journal* (No's 22 and 23) and Maureen has commented on George Edward Pool as follows:

I think it almost certain that George Edward Pool who was appointed in 1824 came from one of the Orphan Schools (although this didn't necessarily mean that he was an orphan as a majority of the children at the Lower Orphan School had a living father). When the Apothecary training scheme was introduced in Bengal in 1812, the boys came from the Upper Orphan School (officers' sons), Lower Orphan School (soldiers' sons) and the Free School (sons of non-military people) and I expect the same would apply in 1824. I found the soldier who appears to be my Apothecary's father in the muster records and it appears my Apothecary was in fact one of the orphans.

By 5 June 1829, George Pool had been promoted to Asst Apothecary and on the 1 Oct 1830 he was with HM 13th Regt of Foot.⁶ His 1831 marriage with Martha Kew is not shown on the FIBIS database since the major tranche of marriages on that listing only starts in 1837, but the usual search of the indexes show that they married at Dinapore on 26 Sept 1831⁷ where he is described as a Hospital Steward.

George continued with the 13th Foot to at least 1837.⁸ In the meantime, the marriage had produced two daughters, Martha Louise⁹ and Olivia Jemima,¹⁰ both born and baptised in Agra. During the period 1838 to 1839, he is attached to Army Headquarters, initially as Acting Apothecary¹¹ until he is promoted to Apothecary on 8 Oct 1838.¹² After a spell of

³ N/1/155/305

⁴ NCD 1858

⁵ NCD 1856

⁶ L/MIL17/2/38, p.148

⁷ N/1/30/179

⁸ *Bengal Directory & Annual Register (BD & AR)* 1837, p.246

⁹ N/1/35/2 (b.28 Sep 1832, bapt.12 Feb 1833)

¹⁰ N/1/38/242 (b.2 May 1834, bapt.18 Oct 1834)

¹¹ *BD & AR* 1838, p.246

duty with a detachment of recruits for HM service at Chinsurah,¹³ he returns to Army HQ until 1853.¹⁴ During 1854 and 1855 he is shown as being on sick furlough.¹⁵ With his leave ending on 4 Oct 1855, he is ordered to proceed and report himself to the Supervising Surgeon of the Sirhind Division prior to being placed in charge of the European Invalids proceeding from Umballa to Meerut; on arrival at Meerut, he is to be attached to the detachment of invalids, proceeding from that station to the Presidency.¹⁶

Thence follows a series of short postings. In 1856 Pool finds himself in medical charge of the 2nd Infantry Regt of the Nagpore Irregular Force;¹⁷ later in the year he is in medical charge of the 1st Regt of Infantry of the Gwalior Contingent.¹⁸ By Oct 1859, he is at Simla continuing there until 1862 when he is in charge of the Jail and Dispensary as Apothecary and as Honorary Asst Surgeon.¹⁹ By this time he has completed 37 years of service.

From George Pool's experience it appears that in the early part of his career he is with Army Units while from 1863 onwards he is based at civil stations, Hosheyarpore,²⁰ Googaon,²¹ where he was on a salary of 320R per month (pm) and Goojerat.²² Through 1868 – 1870, he is Civil Surgeon at Rhotuck where he is referred to as Dr GE Pool, salary 450R pm.²³

In July 1870 Pool is shown as unemployed at Umballa²⁴ while later in 1870 he is recorded as being on leave, presumably prior to retirement. In 1871, he is in *Thacker's* as Senior Apothecary and Asst Surgeon before being listed on the Pension Establishment as GE Poole, Apothecary as from 30 May 1871.²⁵ His honorary rank seems to have lapsed with his retirement after a long career of over 46 years. No Will was located in the Bengal Wills series.

¹² L/MIL/17/2/73

¹³ L/MIL/17/2/79

¹⁴ L/MIL/17/2/129

¹⁵ L/MIL/17/2/133, p.224

¹⁶ L/MIL/17/2/137, p.224

¹⁷ *NCD* 1856, p.374

¹⁸ L/MIL/17/2/141, 4 Oct 1856

¹⁹ *NCD* 1862, p.301

²⁰ *NCD* 1863, p.223

²¹ *Thacker* 1864

²² L/MIL/17/2/249

²³ *Thacker* 1869

²⁴ L/MIL/17/2/192, p.260

²⁵ L/MIL/17/2/201, p.275

Adam Maxwell of Cawnpore – Indigo and Intrigue

By Judith Vandenberg Green

Harriet Anne Vandenberg, sister of my great, great grandfather, married Adam Maxwell on 20 February 1827 at St. Mary, Islington, London. Harriet was born in Shoe Lane, Holborn, London on 13 April 1798, daughter of goldbeater John Vandenberg. In 1827 Harriet was living at 6 Owen's Row, St. John's Street, Clerkenwell with her brother John Simon Vandenberg who had a jewellery business.¹ The marriage, announced in the *Gentleman's Magazine* gave the bridegroom as Adam Maxwell Esq. of Mayerhouse, Banffshire. The *Naval and Military Magazine* also announced Harriet's marriage - to Adam Maxwell of Huntly, former Dragoon. However Adam Maxwell was an Anglo-Indian born in Calcutta on 30 October 1793, son of Scotsman John Maxwell and his common-law wife, an Indian *bibi*. When Harriet married Adam Maxwell she became a member of the illustrious Maxwell family of Cawnpore who pioneered the commercial cultivation and manufacture of indigo, sugar and cotton. Harriet lived for ten tumultuous years with Adam Maxwell in Cawnpore while he endured persecution and relentless legal prosecution but managed to preserve the Maxwell businesses for his brothers.

Adam's father, John Maxwell, was born in New Machar near Aberdeen and baptised on 25 November 1762. John was the son of New Machar's Minister, the Reverend John Maxwell who in 1760 had married Agnes Lumsden daughter of the Reverend John Lumsden (1694-1770), Professor of Divinity at King's College, Aberdeen, and a former Moderator of the Church of Scotland. The Maxwell and Lumsden families were high-born, educated and intellectual Scots. Most were university men and clergymen with a keen interest in oriental studies and a talent for languages. Adam's father attended Marischal College (which with King's College became the University of Aberdeen) and like so many of his family was destined for the church. However his father's early death left young John, the only son, with a widowed mother and seven sisters dependent on him. Many of his relatives had gone to India in the 18th century and by 'shaking the pagoda tree' had prospered. John Maxwell was very close to his four Lumsden cousins - John Lumsden (1760-1818), Director of the East India Company, James and David Lumsden, both Colonels in the East India Company Army and Matthew Lumsden (1777-1835), Professor of Arabic and Persian at the College of Fort William in Calcutta and author of books on Persian grammar.² John Maxwell's sister Barbara married Alexander Burnett who was a Persian interpreter and a Captain in the Company Army and another sister Eliza married Andrew Dun, rector of the Aberdeen Grammar School.

John Maxwell set sail for India in 1786 on the *William Pitt* and settled in Calcutta where he became editor of the English language newspaper *The India Gazette, or, Calcutta Public*

¹ Unless otherwise noted, facts have been derived from the Gale/Infotrac dataset of 19th Century Newspapers, online sources including Ancestry.com and those sources acknowledged at the end of the article.

² *The Asiatic Journal*, Nov, 1, 1820, p486.

Advertiser and proprietor of the Calcutta Library. In January 1790 John Maxwell entered into partnership with Alexander Davidson in his Europe Warehouse and, as announced in the *Calcutta Chronicle and General Advertiser* of 7 January 1790, they established the firm of Davidson and Maxwell - Importers of Fine European Goods. Alexander Davidson came from Midmar Castle in Aberdeenshire and his relative James Davidson had married Hope Burnett, a niece by marriage of John Maxwell. The firm of Davidson and Maxwell sold wines and European food delicacies, as well as all the latest apparel from England - dresses, shoes, round hats and plain military cocked hats. On the 1st and 15th of each month the firm despatched cargo ships up the Ganges to British outposts. John Maxwell loved the luxurious and exotic life of India and with his taste for all things oriental acquired a bibi, an unofficial Indian wife by whom he had two children – Agnes born in 1790 and Adam born in 1793.³ John Maxwell left Calcutta and moved up the Ganges and established indigo plantations at Taundah.

John Maxwell had another Anglo-Indian child, a daughter Frances, born on 19 April 1803 at Aleabad, and named after her aunt Frances Maxwell. Agnes, Adam and Frances had Indian mothers and while John Maxwell loved Indian life and never returned to Scotland he felt that his Anglo-Indian children should have a European education and upbringing. Little Agnes was sent to Scotland to be raised by her grandmother and aunts but sadly she died and never saw her father again. In 1798, at the age of four, Adam was sent to Aberdeen to the care of his grandmother, Agnes Maxwell and his Maxwell aunts, and for his education at Aberdeen Grammar School and Marischal College. His education completed, Adam a swarthy Scotsman, returned to India in 1811 at the age of eighteen to join his now wealthy father in the indigo, sugar and cotton businesses established in Cawnpore.

In 1806 John Maxwell had settled in Cawnpore where he accepted the post of Rum-agent supplying rum to the British troops. John Maxwell established sugarcane plantations on the banks of the Ganges, and built sugar refineries and rum distilleries. He expanded his vast interests in indigo and cotton and bought up villages and huge tracts of land which he placed in Adam's name as Europeans were not permitted to own Indian land. When Adam returned to India in 1811 he was accompanied by his Aunt Barbara's son, Alexander Burnett (1790-1827) and the two young men settled into the family business as Maxwell and Burnett, Indigo Growers and Merchants of Cawnpore. Later, another cousin, son of Adam's Aunt Eliza, Robert Maxwell Dun (1799-1838) joined the Maxwell enterprises. John Maxwell had built a magnificent house like a fortified palace in the military cantonment on the banks of the Ganges in Cawnpore, and had another four sons with a common law wife, Elizabeth Nann, daughter of silversmith Richard Nann. The boys were Peter (1808-1857), Hugh (1809-1883), David (1811-1887) and James (1813-1847). The three elder boys left Calcutta in December 1813 on the *General Stuart* for their Scottish education and upbringing. Young James went at a later date, and Frances Maxwell, John's only surviving

³ The birth dates and locations of John Maxwell's children Adam, Frances, Peter, Hugh, David and James are noted in their father's will (IOR L/AG/34/29/29).



'Bridge of boats across the Ganges at Cawnpore' watercolour by Sita Ram, 1814 © The British Library Board (Shelfmark: Add.Or.4747) Contrast the European-style bungalow on the left with the Indian architecture adjoining the ghats on the right.

daughter, lived in Cawnpore until she was twelve and then spent a couple of years with friends in London learning music, dancing and English refinements.

John Maxwell died in 1816 after contracting a fever and was buried in Kacheri cemetery under a granite and marble tombstone inscribed with the story of his life and achievements.⁴ He left a huge estate; I have obtained a copy of his will⁵ and the executors are listed as A. Martin of Lloyd's Coffee House London, Matthew Lumsden and John Angus of Calcutta and nephew Alexander Burnett of Cawnpore. These four executors were also requested to care for John Maxwell's six surviving children. John Maxwell had five indigo factories, cotton presses and cotton houses in four different places, two rum distilleries, houses and properties. Elizabeth Nann was to retain her house and Adam was given the option to buy the beautiful family home. Alexander Burnett was the only executor to swear the Executors' Oath, and he inherited the businesses which were established on land owned by Adam Maxwell. At first, all went well and in 1819 Thomas Lumsden, a cousin to Adam, stayed at the Maxwell home in Cawnpore while on his overland journey from India to Aberdeen, where he was to marry Alexander's cousin, Miss Hay Burnett. Thomas Lumsden described the delights of Cawnpore, the evening carriage rides and assembly

⁴ Zoe Yalland, *Kacheri Cemetery Kanpur*, (Bacsa, 1985) p27.

⁵ *supra* note 3.

rooms where he 'met all the beauty and fashion at the station'.⁶ Adam was in Calcutta at the time and Thomas, squired around by Alexander Burnett, participated in the festivities surrounding the arrival of the 11th Light Dragoons. Adam's sister Frances later married Captain John Tritton of this regiment. Thomas Lumsden became a colonel, a distinguished officer in the Bengal Horse Artillery and had six sons, including the Indian Army generals, Sir Peter Lumsden and Sir Harry Burnett Lumsden.

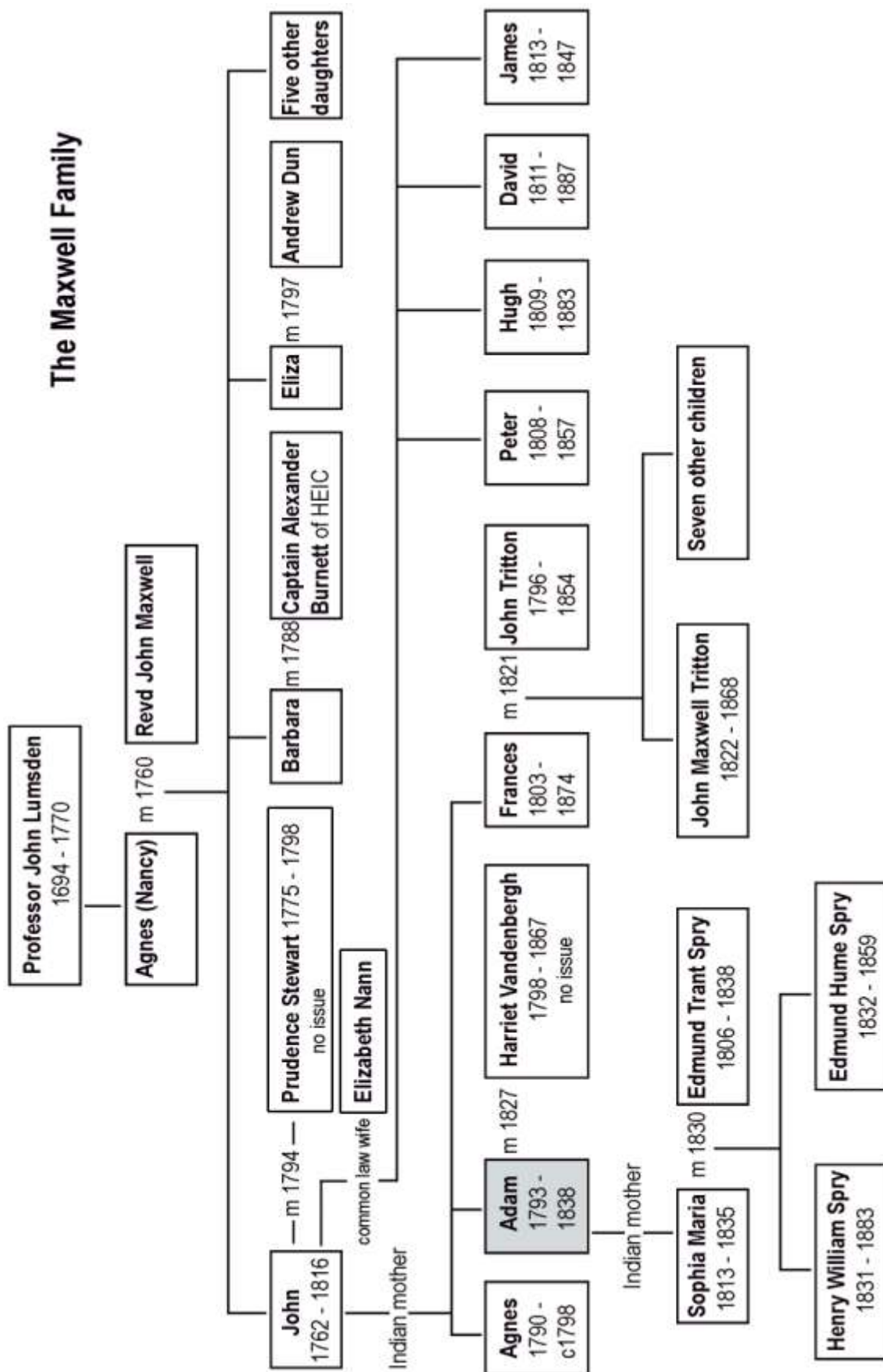
However, problems developed with the administration of John Maxwell's will which took five years to settle. Adam owned the land on which the Maxwell houses and factories were built but as an Indian he could not inherit from his English father. This created dreadful problems as Alexander Burnett, a legal heir, turned out to be profligate, a poor businessman and a gambler. Unlike native-born Adam he had no understanding of Indian life and customs. The rum contract was renegotiated in Alexander Burnett's name, the rift between the cousins widened and Adam Maxwell left the firm which was re-established as Burnett & Co in 1821. Alexander Burnett agreed to pay Adam 2000 pounds per annum so long as he resided in England. Robert Maxwell Dun and a schoolmaster from Aberdeen Grammar School, William Cleugh, joined Burnett & Co, but in 1827 the firm crashed and the indigo business was bankrupt.

Frances Maxwell married Captain John Tritton on 1 November 1821 in Cawnpore. Adam was witness to their marriage, but a year or two later left India, and returned to Scotland where his four younger brothers were at school in Aberdeen. Adam lived at Midmar Castle, Aberdeen, and for a short time had a comfortable life on his annuity of 2000 pounds per year. However, he had to move to London in an attempt to sort out problems with the indigo business and his marriage certificate to Harriet Vandenberg lists Adam as Bachelor and resident of Islington in 1827. Newly married, Adam heard the news that the firm of Burnett & Co. had crashed and the position was complicated because Adam was the owner of the lands on which the indigo and cotton plantations and factories were established. Alexander Burnett who had caused the disaster died in 1827, probably by his own hand. Robert Maxwell Dun was also to die by his own hand in 1838 and his death was reported in *The Asiatic Journal*⁷ – 'Lately, at one of the outposts, near Agra, Mr Dunn (sic) an officer in the Preventive Service, formerly a member of the late firm of Maxwell, Burnett and Co., Cawnpore. The unfortunate gentleman shot himself while suffering under a sudden and violent recurrence of illness, from which he had recently recovered.' Adam had to return to Cawnpore to salvage the family fortunes. His younger brothers David, Hugh and James were in Scotland, so with the help of nineteen year old Peter Maxwell, Adam attempted to rescue the family estates.

⁶ Lumsden, T, *A Journey from Merut (sic) in India to London....during the Years 1819-20* (Black & Allen, 1822) p7.

⁷ *The Asiatic Journal*, Nov.1, 1838, p208.

The Maxwell Family



In December 1827 Harriet paid the bond of 200 pounds and set sail for India in 1828. She disembarked at Calcutta and set off on another voyage up the Ganges, to live in the Maxwell house on the banks of the river. Miss Emma Roberts (c.1794-1840), poet and journalist, went to India with her sister Laura and brother-in-law Captain Robert McNaghten and arrived in Cawnpore at the same time as Harriet. Emma Roberts chronicled life in Cawnpore in a series of articles published in the *Asiatic Journal* - 'Scenes and Characteristics of Anglo Indian Society.' Roberts wrote of the wondrous sights of Cawnpore and described its beautiful gardens, peach orchards and vineyards making the city an oasis reclaimed from the desert. Henry Harpur Spry in his book *Modern India*, published 1837, wrote of the wonders of Cawnpore especially in Mohammedan customs where he described pigeon flying.

However, for Harriet, life in Cawnpore was not quite a fairytale. She found that Adam already had a daughter, Sophia Maria, probably born about 1813 and baptised 1 January 1816. Sophia Maria was later to marry, on 2 July 1830 in Cawnpore, Edmund Trant Spry (1806-1838) interpreter in the Bengal Army. Edmund Trant Spry came from a family of noted clergymen and doctors who like the Maxwells had an interest in religious and oriental studies. Sophia and Edmund had two little boys but sadly Sophia died on 1 February 1835, her death announced in *The Friend of India* on 19 February 1835: 'At Barrackpore, Sophia, the beloved wife of Lieut. Spry, 24th Regt. N.I. deeply and sincerely lamented.' In March 1835 Sophia's two little boys Henry William and Edmund Hume left Calcutta for England on the *Larkins* and the 1841 England and Wales Census lists the boys at school in Peckham, London, cared for by their father's family.

When Adam arrived back in Cawnpore in 1828, he found himself in a hornets' nest. The indigo business was bankrupt and the land taxes had never been paid. The Indian workers who lived in the villages which had been bought by John Maxwell in Adam's name rebelled and cut off the head of the villager who had sold their land.⁸ In March 1837 the Assignees of Fergusson and Co. appealed a case they had lost to Adam Maxwell. The case was reported in *The Calcutta Monthly Journal*:⁹

The facts of the case are shortly these: - In October 1822, a Mr. Adam Maxwell, an East Indian, and who could therefore hold lands in this country, being possessed of four indigo factories, assigned them over to Messrs. Burnett and Co. by deed, the conditions of which were amongst other things, that Burnett and Co. should pay Maxwell [x amount of] rupees a year, so long as he remained in India, and two thousand pounds sterling per annum, so long as he should reside in England, whither he, at the time of entering into the agreement, contemplated proceeding. In 1827 Burnett and Company failed, and were unable to pay; and according to the terms of the agreement, it was contended by the advocate general that Maxwell ought to have resumed possession of the villages. But on the failure of Burnett and Co., Fergusson and Co. to whom they were largely indebted, took possession of the factories, and villages and paid on account of Government *jumma* [land revenue assessment] 30,000Rs. Maxwell on his return

⁸ *The Asiatic Journal*, Oct. 1, 1831, p158.

⁹ *The Calcutta Monthly Journal and General Register*, Volume 3, 1837, p218.

from England brought his action in the Zillah Court...and by decree of the Court he was declared entitled to...a sum of 94,000 Rs. Against this decree the appeal is made.

Maxwell was represented by his Cawnpore friends and relatives by marriage, Mr Clarke, Mr Leith and Mr Grant but his case was lost and the Supreme Court reversed the decree.¹⁰

The Maxwell wealth and influence had evaporated, all of John Maxwell's friends had died or left India and the East India Company seemed determined to ruin the Anglo-Indian - Adam Maxwell. A zealous East India Company man, EA Reade, had been sent to investigate him and began to hound Adam for tax evasion. Adam was fined and compelled to pay the outstanding taxes. Desperately short of money, Adam accepted the position of *Mokhtar* (counsellor) and *Vakeel* (pleader) in the court of Bajee Rao.

Bajee Rao of Poona (1775-1851) was the last Peshwa of the Maratha Confederacy and after he surrendered to the British in 1818, accepted a pension and the title of Maharaja on condition he gave up his claim to his heritage. To keep a watch on Bajee Rao the British exiled him to the small village of Bithur near Cawnpore. There Bajee Rao held court and lived in lavish style with a huge pension, an army of retainers and three sets of dancing girls. Every month he made a grand procession into Cawnpore with elephants and soldiers. However his pension and favours were not hereditary and would end with his death. Encouraged by his adopted son Nana Sahib, Bajee Rao began to petition for his restoration to his former rank, wealth and powers and a perpetual pension for his heirs. With the consent of Brigadier Henry Charles Churchill, Commander at Cawnpore, Adam Maxwell as Bajee Rao's *Mokhtar* was to discuss the petition with Governor General Charles Metcalfe. Later Bajee Rao accused Adam of swindling him of 11,500 rupees and the British authorities abandoned Adam leaving him to face this charge:

...that Mr Maxwell did, with a fraudulent intention, about the end of December 1835, or beginning of January 1836, commence an intrigue with his highness, under the false pretence of being enabled, through the influence of Brigadier Churchill with the Governor-General to effect his (Bajee Rao's) return to Poona...¹¹

Adam Maxwell was found guilty and sentenced to six months imprisonment and a fine. Adam was also ordered to repay the 11,500 rupees and had to sell his house for 30,000 rupees to Nawab Rooshun ud Dowlah to raise the money. Adam's problems were compounded because the monsoons failed and 1837 was a year of drought and famine. *The Friend of India* gave this report:¹²

The accounts respecting the famine from Cawnpore and Meerut, increase in horror. At Cawnpore the cantonments are in many places like a charnel house, and the river is become disgusting from the flocks of vultures tearing the starved carcasses to pieces. A cart horse which was shot at that station, was torn in pieces and devoured raw in a few moments.

¹⁰ This was the last instance of a British subject appealing a civil case ruling made in a Mofussil court (e.g. Zillah) to the Supreme Court in Calcutta. This previously held right was removed by Thomas Babington Macaulay's so called 'Black Act' in 1836 to mixed response.

¹¹ *The Asiatic Journal*, Sept. 1, 1837, p46.

¹² *Friend of India*, Issue 170, March 29, 1838, p134.

Cawnpore prison was a fearsome place and Adam died on 30 November 1838, either in prison or as a result of his incarceration and was buried in the same grave as his father. His death announcement in *The Times* noted he was 'deeply and sincerely lamented by all who knew him'. The tombstone marking his father's grave in Kacheri cemetery was lifted so that Adam's coffin could be placed beside his Scots father, John Maxwell. Harriet stayed on in Cawnpore settling Adam's affairs and later married Quartermaster Thomas Adams of 3rd Light Dragoons at Allahabad in April 1841. John Tritton, the husband of Harriet's sister-in-law Frances Maxwell, was at this time a Captain in the 3rd Light Dragoons. Thomas Adams died in Meerut in August 1842 and Harriet, widowed for the second time, left Calcutta in January 1843 on the *Southampton* under Captain Bowen. Harriet was living at 33 Gerrard Street, River Terrace, Islington, Middlesex, when administration of Thomas Adam's will was granted to her in June 1844.¹³ The estate was valued at 1500 pounds.

By the terms of John Maxwell's will, the villages owned by Adam went to his brothers Hugh, James, David and Peter and they became indigo planters and merchants and steadily moved into cotton growing and production. The indigo business diminished with the invention of aniline dyes. The Maxwell rum distillery was moved to Rosa at Shahjahanpur and was taken over by Peter Barron. After Peter Barron's death in 1847 the distillery passed to Robert Russel Carew who made a fortune with his Rosa Rum or Carew's Booze. It was here at Rosa that Carew encountered a wolf boy, inspiration for Kipling's Mowgli.¹⁴

The Maxwell-Bajee Rao intrigue had dreadful consequences. Nana Sahib, Bajee Rao's adopted son, seethed with rage and resentment because the British continued to reject his claims for possession of Bajee Rao's status and property. When the Indian Mutiny erupted Nana Sahib was chief perpetrator of the Cawnpore massacre of June 1857 when most of the English residents were slaughtered. Adam's brother Peter Maxwell was one of the victims and Hugh Maxwell survived only because he was in Calcutta at the time. David Maxwell was in England in 1857, and James Maxwell had died in 1847. After the Mutiny, Hugh Maxwell returned to Cawnpore and found it a place of ruin and desolation but following the Maxwell motto and precept 'I am ready' set about to re-establish his cotton industry. He was assisted by the son of his sister Frances, John Maxwell Tritton (1822-1868), and they introduced British spinning and weaving machinery, founding the Elgin Mills that made Cawnpore a thriving industrial centre - the 'Manchester of the East'. The cotton mills were managed by Hugh's son Ralph (Adam Maxwell's nephew) until 1912 when Ralph left India ending 106 years of the Maxwell family's association with Cawnpore.

Harriet lived modestly in London until her death on 2 July 1867; but she had kept her interest in India and as noted in *The Times* of 28 June 1861, gave one guinea to Indian famine relief. Harriet is buried in Abney Park cemetery, Stamford Hill, London and the inscription on her tombstone gives one of the brief clues to her extraordinary marriage and life in India.

¹³ TNA Ref PROB 6/220, IR 26/259

¹⁴ *The Field*, Jan 11, 1896, 2246, pp36-37.

SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF
HARRIET ANNE ADAMS
RELICT OF QUARTERMASTER THOMAS ADAMS
3rd LIGHT DRAGOONS
AND FORMERLY WIDOW OF
ADAM MAXWELL ESQRE
OF CAWNPORE, EAST INDIES.

Harriet's second husband Thomas Adams lies in his lonely grave in Meerut and Adam Maxwell, her Indian-born, Scots-educated husband lies beside his father in Kacheri cemetery, Cawnpore (now Kanpur).

History has not been kind to Adam Maxwell. He became the scapegoat for the family misfortunes and was unjustly persecuted by the East India Company who found him 'troublesome'.¹⁵ The other players in this saga had varied fortunes. Zoe Yalland in her excellent books *Traders and Nabobs* and *Boxwallahs* tells of the lives of the patriarch John Maxwell and the younger Maxwell brothers and the creation of the Maxwell commercial empire based on family ties. Adam's sister Frances died a wealthy woman in London and her husband Captain John Tritton was a hero of the Afghan wars, promoted to Major in 1846 and Colonel in 1852. He died on 8 February 1854 and his full dress uniform is on display in the National Army Museum in England.

Edward Anderdon Reade (1807-1886) who had so zealously persecuted Adam and caused his downfall, became Lieutenant-Governor of the North-West Provinces of Bengal and was celebrated for his role in defending the fort at Agra during the Indian Mutiny. Reade later pleaded for clemency for the loyal native Indians and his last official act at Agra was to read the proclamation transferring the government of India from the East India Company to Queen Victoria. Reade returned to England to live on his family estate at Ipsden, Oxfordshire and was made a Companion of the Bath. To show his gratitude to EA Reade, the Maharajah of Benares endowed a charity to him which resulted in a free and public well¹⁶ built in 1864 in Stoke Row in the Chiltern Hills, England – the Maharajah's Well.

Adam and Harriet Maxwell had no children but through his daughter Sophia, Adam had one grandson who lived to marry. He was Dr Henry William Spry born on 25 August 1831 in Benares, India and who worked as a surgeon in India until his death in Ferozepore on 3 November 1883 and whose descendants are now settled throughout the world.

Author's note:

I wish to acknowledge first of all the late Zoe Yalland (author of *Traders and Nabobs: The British in Cawnpore 1765-1857* and *Boxwallahs: The British in Cawnpore 1857-1901*) and then the assistance I received from FIBIS members, Peter Hume-Spry, Beverly Hallam and Sylvia Murphy.

¹⁵ CJ Hawes, *Poor Relations - The making of the Eurasian Community* (1996) p38.

¹⁶ *Dictionary of National Biography, 1885-1900*, Vol. 47. [Reade, Edward Anderdon].

Advice for Young House-keepers in India

By William Hall

FIBIS member Bill Hall was in India as a child and during the Second World War served in the Indian Army. His family's association with India was longstanding, with six great grandparents living there and his parents and three grandparents born in India.

I have an old recipe book published in Bombay in 1887 that belonged to my grandmother in Poona. Entitled *Indian Cookery, 'Local', for Young House-Keepers*, the introductory pages to the recipes are, to my mind, quite entertaining and I present a few extracts below.

My grandmother was Annie Jane Reed and she was born in Poona in 1860. Her father, Henry Reed, then aged 40, had been a sergeant in the Sappers and Miners and had transferred to the Public Works Department. Annie spent all her childhood and early years in Poona and in 1883 married my grandfather, William Hall, who was her first cousin. He too had been born and brought up in Poona. William became a railway bridge builder and he later joined the Rajputana and Malwa Railway. My grandmother's first sight of England was when my grandfather retired in 1908.

Alice F Jackson, who later became a well known author of children's books, spent part of her childhood in Poona and lived next door to the Halls. She wrote a book called *In the days of our Childhood* in which she refers to the Halls as the Falls. It gives a fascinating account of the day-to-day life of a family in Poona at that time.

Readers will note that the title of the cook book includes the specification 'Local'. I have wondered whom the book was aimed at. Not the officer's memsahib I imagine, nor a purely Indian family. So it presumably was aimed at the railway families, who were largely Anglo Indian, and those of the lower echelons of the PWD (of whom Henry Reed was one) and perhaps families of the non-executive members of the Indian Civil Service.

Edited extracts from the Introduction to *Indian Cookery* by Naveoji Feamji (1887)

Domestic Economy

Housewifery is woman's home-management. Every housewife may not be able to procure the finest and most expensive kinds of food, but she has it greatly in her power to make the most of that which she does procure. Very humble fare by skill and attention may be dressed in such a manner, as to rival the most expensive dishes in both taste and nutritiousness. Note for instance, the homely fare of our native country women. Dishes of pulse and vegetables prepared artistically, and mixed with a due proportion of seasoning, form a tempting repast, agreeable both to the organs of scent and taste, resulting in health, satisfaction and vigour. While our far more costly food, if carelessly prepared, is disagreeable both to sight and palate.

Servants are necessary to comfort everywhere, but in India they are a necessity,—a cook especially. The heat of the climate, and the position of the kitchen, make it impossible for a

housewife to visit it often.¹ But it requires to be visited at short intervals, just to see that the place is swept and clean, the table and cooking utensils well scoured, and the water chatties and their contents clean and wholesome.

About the bazar, it is necessary to prevent disappointment as well as to ensure punctuality, that the orders for all that is required for the day's consumption be given over-night, as often after 8 A.M., nothing but the refuse of meat is procurable. It would be well for the mistress to visit the market occasionally, just to see what can be had. A servant has orders to bring a certain kind of fruit, vegetable or fish, which does not happen to be in season, and in consequence he has to pay an exorbitant price, surprisingly high to the Madam, as that article was very plentiful a few days before. Hence her disappointment. A visit to Crawford's² sometimes would prevent both mistakes and wrong orders.

Bombay is regarded as a most expensive place to live in, and in many respects it is so indeed. But in the matter of provisions, no town in the Presidency can be better off. There is so much variety in the market, and so much to be had that is really good and cheap for the money, and there is not that knocking about for each thing you require, as in other places.

At the present day here in Bombay, work and labour are looked upon as commendable and desirable, and eagerly sought for by many young women. A young girl can learn many useful lessons I hope from these pages, which she will not regret acquiring, as the knowledge of domestic routine is a necessity to good housewifery.

Kitchen Requisites

Our kitchens, we must allow, lack comfort as well as convenience. Possibly if they were oftener within the reach of the mistress, matters would improve. Things lie all about, and articles that should be far apart are seen to be close neighbours. Our kitchens have not sufficient accommodation, and the fact is, that there is no place for everything, and hence nothing is in its place.

The first arrangement of these matters lies perhaps more in the hands of the master than the mistress, but when once the necessary fixtures are made, the latter must see that things are clean and kept in their places. The kitchen floors are mostly dirty and damp, through being built low,—the fact is quite lost sight of, that the kitchen is the dwelling place by day, and the sleeping place at night, of the servants of the household, and not only a place where kitchen fires are lighted. To avoid the dampness and dirt of the floors, the servants are forced to throw themselves down to sleep at night on boxes of different heights or on the kitchen table, while others manage to make a bed of a single mat, thrown on the bare floor.

Our kitchen spoons are made by Nature's own hand, and no art could make them better adapted for their work. The shell of the cocoanut cut in the centre, gives at once two cups requiring nothing more than a wooden handle, fixed into natural holes which are found at the bottom of the cup. They are sold in the market for a trifle, and if taken care of, they last quite a while and are easily cleaned.

¹ The kitchen was usually separated from the house at the far side of the compound.

² It was customary for the cook to be given an amount of money each day to take to the market to buy fresh meat and vegetables. Crawford Market in Bombay was the main venue in Bombay for fresh supplies arriving daily.

A Smooth Black Stone 16 or 18 inches long and about 12 broad with a Round Stone Roller, is needed for the daily grinding of the curry paste; and every Indian kitchen has one of these. It needs to be "tankeed" or chipped at seasons, and stone masons call at the kitchen doors for that purpose.

The Roasting of Coffee and Mussala is done on an Iron plate called "Thoa"; the thicker the metal, the better it is for many reasons; when done with, it is merely washed or wiped dry, and as some have a ring attached, it can be hung up on a nail.

Hints to Prevent Waste

The most striking article wasted in local Kitchens is good dripping, which is seldom thought of, and seldom used; (at least by the mistress). Ghee is considered so much better, and a certain amount is given to the cook daily, forming an expensive article in the monthly accounts. Dripping will answer quite as well for the frying of meat,—and for meat curries use half and half (i.e. ghee and dripping mix the two.)

Let the young housekeeper bear in mind that Thrift does not mean Stint, but rather that the latter is the offspring of Waste.



'Carnac Road, Bombay, 1881' photograph by Deen Dayal. ©The British Library Board (Shelfmark Photo 752/1(32)). Crawford Market, with its clock tower, can be seen on the left of the picture.

Civil Service Records in the India Office Reading Room at the British Library

A Study of the L/F/10/ series

By Lawrie Butler with a contribution from David Blake

When I turn over the leaves of a document in the British Library I often wonder when my next 'eureka moment' will arrive! Will it be the one I am expecting or will it be something totally unexpected, though equally welcome?

Recently there has been an increasing interest amongst FIBIS Members in the L/F/10/ series of files, initially compiled by the authorities in India to maintain records of Covenanted and Uncovenanted Servants and copied to the Company and later the India Office for information. Members of the first grouping were largely recruited in England and bound to the Company by the signing of a covenant, rising within the Company to occupy the senior positions. The second grouping were recruited in India and occupied the lower positions in the Indian Public Services.

An introductory study of the first 50 files of a series extending to 252 has indicated that it would be just too facile to accept this twofold division. The 50 files on Bengal Civil Servants 1706 -1917 already seen confirm that there is indeed the Covenanted Service and listings of these are in each of the 50 files. But it does appear that the Covenanted personnel available were insufficient both in numbers and abilities, particularly technical and the Company found it necessary to recruit extensively as its commitments grew. Consequently, as from 1826 a secondary list appears in the files separate from the Covenanted Service (who are clearly shown as writers, factors, junior & senior merchants, all grades within the original company hierarchy). This second list provided not only personnel who could perform alongside the Company members, but also those who could take on jobs for which company writers and factors were not trained. Military personnel were recruited to take over as, say, Senior Commissioner in Ava, Political Agent at Jeypore, Resident at Malacca, Assay Master at Saugor, Civil Architect at Mhow, etc, etc. Then the Company realised that it could not cope with the Medical and Religious needs of the Europeans living in India – hence large numbers of Ecclesiastical Staff and Medical Staff were added to this second list. Both lists were funded from Bengal, yet it appears that the first list – The Covenanted List - was sacrosanct in that one could only be on that list if one had been on the Company Establishment.

So we had the *Covenanted List* and the *Not-Covenanted List* both occupying top positions in the 'Civil Dept' of Bengal. But the second paragraph above also refers to the *Uncovenanted List*; for these, opportunities were limited, yet some Uncovenanted personnel were able to reach the exalted ranks of Postmaster General or even become Secretary in the Foreign Department. For the majority however these opportunities did not arise. Within the L/F/10/ series there are sections which deal exclusively with Uncovenanted personnel. These records may be pay lists showing individual, post,

payment and length of service in India. Another type of record shows the service record of an individual from entry to perhaps exit. All these records are of interest to FIBIS members.

In the first paragraph above I mentioned 'eureka moments'. I am sure that with 252 files to inspect within L/F/10/ there will be many such moments. Within L/F/10/45, there are a substantial number of 'misfiled' lists of Uncovenanted Officers in the Forestry Dept. sandwiched between Covenanted Lists of 1884 and 1885. Elsewhere there are complete files that duplicate others. This preliminary study of the L/F/10/ files has created enough interest to induce the FIBIS Committee to suggest that I produce a Fact File on this series, now scheduled for mid-2011. The Fact File will also include a revised version of the L/F/10/ index.

As a 'taster' regarding the value of these Uncovenanted Servants records, please see three examples below indicating how useful these records can be:

William Howard by Lawrie Butler (and Ian Howard)

After reaching the rank of Quarter Master Sergeant in the Bengal Artillery,¹ Ian Howard's grandfather, William, elected for transfer to the Royal Artillery² in 1861. By this time he was already married to Margaret Rossiter and reference to the known details of their children indicated that they were born at Agra and Jeypore. The same documents indicated that William's occupation was now Head Clerk to the Political Agent in Jeypore. How then had William found himself in Jeypore as a civilian? The L/F/10 series helped to provide an answer.

Ian assumed that since his grandfather had joined the Bengal Artillery in 1857, the conclusion of his twelve year contract would have been in 1869, the date of his third child's birth. Lawrie, having already found the details of another former soldier in the Uncovenanted Servants files decided to look in L/F/10/96 (1867-74) where he found a return dated the 1 April 1872³ showing that William was a Head Clerk on a monthly salary of 150R, but more importantly showed that his period of residence in India *while in the service of Government* was 8 years. Hence it was likely that William had left the Army in 1864 probably by purchasing his own discharge after finding a suitable position locally.

James Flatman by Lawrie Butler (and Maureen Evers)

Maureen Evers of Sydney had made enquiries about a James Flatman, said to have been born in St Helena in 1799 and to have died in Umballa in 1881. Several issues of Bengal *Directories* followed his progress as Head Assistant in the Deputy Commissary General's Office from 1843 to 1854.

Maureen was interested in his earlier life.

¹ L/MIL/10/185 Muster Roll of Bengal Artillery

² L/MIL/10/325, Bengal Artillery- List of Volunteers for General Service, 1861

³ L/F/10/96/C2 India Uncovenanted Servants 1867-1874; IOR NEG 57117/812

The index to L/F/10/ indicated that some volumes showed UCSs (uncovenanted servants) attached to military establishments so checks of these were the priority. Like so many service records, one looks at the most recent, hoping to see the complete record. The first of use was L/F/10/71 1854, including Military Establishments, and it provided a detailed summary of James Flatman's career progression, as shown below:

Annual Return exhibiting the Names, Ages, dates and descriptions of Appointment and of previous appointments, length of Service and amount of allowances of the uncovenanted servants European and East Indian in the Commissariat Department specifying also the number of years of residence in India of the European Servants drawn up in conformity with the orders of Government of India in the Financial Department under date the 3rd January 1845 and the requisition of the Hon'ble the Court of Directors dated 6 November, No 31 of 1844.	
Deputy Commissary Gen'l's Office	
James Flatman; age 55years; date of present appointment 5 May 1832; description Head Asst.	
Service:	
Barrack Dept. On detached duty to Kheerpy Radanagore, supervising preparation of Lime in 1819	about 2 mths
Commissariat Dept., Overseer in the Dockyard at Fittyghur for Govt experimental boats in 1819 & 20	1 year
Telegraph Dept - Overseer	8years
Quarter Master Gen'l's Dept - Head Asst, Saugor & Nurbudda Road Office Accounts	1 year
Commissioner's Office, Barrelly(sic), Extra Writer in 1831/32	1year
Commissariat Dept, Depy Com.Gen'l's Office; Hd Asst from 5 May 1832 up to 20 Nov 1852	20yrs 6mths 17days
On detached duty with Commissary General to 3 Feb 1853	2mths 12 days
Hd Asst Commy Gen'l's Office from 4 Feb to 30 Sep 1853	7mths 27 days
Deputy Commy Gen'l's Office, Head Asst from 1 Oct 53 to 30 Apr1854	7mths
Total Years Residence in India	41 yrs 9mths 19 days
Length of Service	33 yrs 1mth 26 days
Total amount of Allowances per month	300R
Shown as Married [Maureen already had details of this]	

Frederick Williams by David Blake

I was asked earlier this year by a lady doing transcription work for BACSA if I could find anything on her great-grandfather Frederick Williams. From family tradition or previous research she knew or believed he had been born in Wales in 1840, had joined the army as a 'gunner' and had later become a 'Police Sergeant Central Police Province'. He died in Bilaspur on the 15 November 1902. I have failed to find how he reached India. He does not seem to be in the Recruitment or the Depot registers 1856-1861, or in the artillery muster rolls for the early 1860s. He does make an appearance as a police constable in Thacker's Directory (of this more later), but the only source in which he appears consistently is the L/F/10s.

The catalogue of that series on the shelves of the BL Reading Room mentions three small subsets of potential relevance:

- L/F/10/92-103: India Uncovenanted Servants 1856-1900 – Central and Provincial Governments.

On inspecting a sample volume I could find few if any Provincial Civil Servants. Possibly the cataloguer had in mind the lists of staff in the Indian States Agencies which are there and could be very useful in identifying an ancestor in one of those outposts of the Indian Foreign and Political Department.

- L/F/10/182-185: Central Provinces Civil Establishments 1870-1877 – Covenanted and uncovenanted servants of the Imperial and Provincial Services.⁴
- L/F/10/186-188: Central Provinces Uncovenanted Servants 1867-1900.

Why the uncovenanted servants should appear in the latter two largely parallel lists is unclear. The 182/185 lists are much fuller than the 186/188s, showing Indian staff as well as Europeans and 'East Indians' (i.e. Anglo-Indians). Both subsets give name, post, salary and length of service (the latter in slightly differing ways), and the 182/185s also give age. They were compiled in duplicate or even triplicate in the Central Provinces Secretariat from information supplied by departmental and district offices. What was the purpose of these returns? Probably it was to keep a budgetary check on staff numbers and salary costs, and perhaps also to track pension entitlements. Such information would have been needed by the Central Provinces Government which was responsible for paying its staff. The India Office's requirement is less clear. Possibly it was simply a matter of bureaucratic habit to despatch copies to London, or it may be that the India Office wished to keep an eye on expenditure in India. Possibly the Government of India also received copies. At some stage the returns were bound up into the heavy volumes we now see, which I suspect was done after receipt in London rather than in India.

⁴ The distinction between Imperial and Provincial Services is unclear but does not correspond to covenanted/uncovenanted. The latter appear in both lists, the former I think only in the first. The distinction perhaps reflects the type of service, the Imperial presumably being the more prestigious. Police are in the second list.

Returning to Frederick Williams, he turns up in both the last two subsets, appearing in 1867 and disappearing in 1898. It would of course be possible to find his name in every year between those dates, apart from an occasional missing return, but as the files are unindexed I have been too lazy to do more than pick him up every so often.⁵ To summarise the results, the returns show that he was born in 1840 or 41 and appointed a European Constable, Wardha District Police, on 15 Nov 1866 at a salary of Rs.60.⁶ On 1 Sep 1868 he moved to the Wardha Railway Police on a salary of Rs.90. By 1883 he has moved to Hoshangabad and the 1886 return states he is in the 'Office of the GIPR Police, Hoshangabad'. In 1890 and 1891 he is serving in the Bhopal State Railway Police, still on Rs.90, but in 1892 he has returned to the GIPR police in Nimar District, Central Provinces and, inexplicably, though he is now termed a European Sergeant, his pay has reverted to Rs.60.⁷ His final appearance is in 1898 as 'Sergeant, Nimar District and Railway Police'.

In sum, these L/F/10s do offer an outline of a man's career and indicate movements from place to place which may also be of interest. In the case of Frederick Williams I have at least been able to put some flesh on the family tradition that he was a police sergeant in the Central Provinces. But what of the belief that he was a 'gunner'? Obviously this may mean that he was in the artillery, and perhaps the Royal Artillery rather than East India Company's which would explain his absence from the India Office recruitment records. Lawrie Butler, however, has suggested another intriguing possibility. Lawrie tells me that some Indian railways carried 'gunners' to keep off bandits (*cf.* John Wayne riding 'shotgun' on a stagecoach). Perhaps Frederick Williams was a 'gunner' in this sense.

I mentioned at the outset that he does appear in Thacker where he eventually turns up in 1883 in the List of European Residents as a Police Constable, Hoshangabad, disappears in 1888, reappears in 1892 as Constable and in 1896 as Sergeant, Khandwa, finally disappearing in 1897 (a year before he drops out of the L/F/10s). I have to confess I missed these references when I began my search (evidently I did not work back far enough from his date of death) but even had I found them they would have given me an incomplete picture of his career telling me nothing of the years before 1883, nor of his move to Bhopal, quite apart from the additional details of salary, length of service and age available in the L/F/10s.⁸ It does therefore seem that even if you find your man in Thacker, there may be rather more to be found in the L/F/10s. Moreover, Thacker always lists him as 'F Williams' – never as Frederick – and in 1869 and for a few years thereafter it lists an F Williams,

⁵ If you are trawling these volumes 'on spec' just in the hope of finding someone, the process can be pretty tedious. I only found FW at the moment I was about to give up hope. Once found, however, my experience is that the returns are filed in roughly the same order each year, so having found your man once, it is not too difficult to find him again.

⁶ Rupees per month. A rupee was worth about 2 shillings (i.e. 10p).

⁷ The possibility that there were two Frederick Williams can be ruled out because the length of service in all the entries agrees.

⁸ Thacker does score on giving his location. From the *Imperial Gazetteer* I learn that Khandwa is a GIPR railway junction in Nimar district. From the L/F/10s one would assume he was based in Nimar itself.

engine driver, at a time when F Williams, constable is missing. The L/F/10s therefore offer a more secure identification, for without them there would be a temptation to conflate these two men on the mistaken assumption that he progressed from the footplate to the beat.

Finally, it is worth pointing out that he is absent from the printed Histories of Service (IOR: V/23) and the Civil Lists (IOR: V/13) despite the fact that the V13s list numerous police officers of quite junior status. I cannot explain this anomaly, but the lesson must surely be that, while it may be sensible to look first in the easier-to-use V/12s and V/13s (if they are available for your period), if you can't find your man there, it's worth checking the L/F/10s.

**Announcements from successive issues (April & May 1928)
of the *East Indian Railway Supplement*:**

RYPER-GOODMAN. –On the 4th February at St. Stephen's Church, Bareilly, by the Rev. Father Patfield, Freda Marjorie, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Goodman, East Indian Railway, Bareilly, and granddaughter of the late F. T. Slother Esq., Chief Engineer, Royal Indian Marine, to John C. Ryper, East Indian Railway, Moghalserai. (1:2, p22)

We regret that a couple of mistakes crept into our last issue in the "DOMESTIC OCCURRENCES" on page 22 relative to "Ryper--Goodman" wedding. It should have read—"the Rev. G. Padfield" and not "Rev. Father Patfield" as stated therein, and "F. T. Slater," and not "F. T. Slother." (1:3 p22)

Sometimes it is not the transcribers who are responsible for mis-keying!

HW

Editorial, first issue (February 1928), Eastern Bengal Railway Supplement

The *North-Western Railway Magazine* is the only other [Indian State] Railway magazine extant which contains a vernacular section. The Urdu section of this [North-Western Railway] magazine struck us, however, as being only a small adjunct, whereas we propose to divide the space at our disposal equally between the English and Bengali sections. (1:1, p12)

Would any brave reader who has Bengali and access to the British Library care to comment on the fullness of the vernacular section?

A similar exercise for the North-Western Railway Magazine must, perforce, await the discovery of the first issues of that publication!

HW

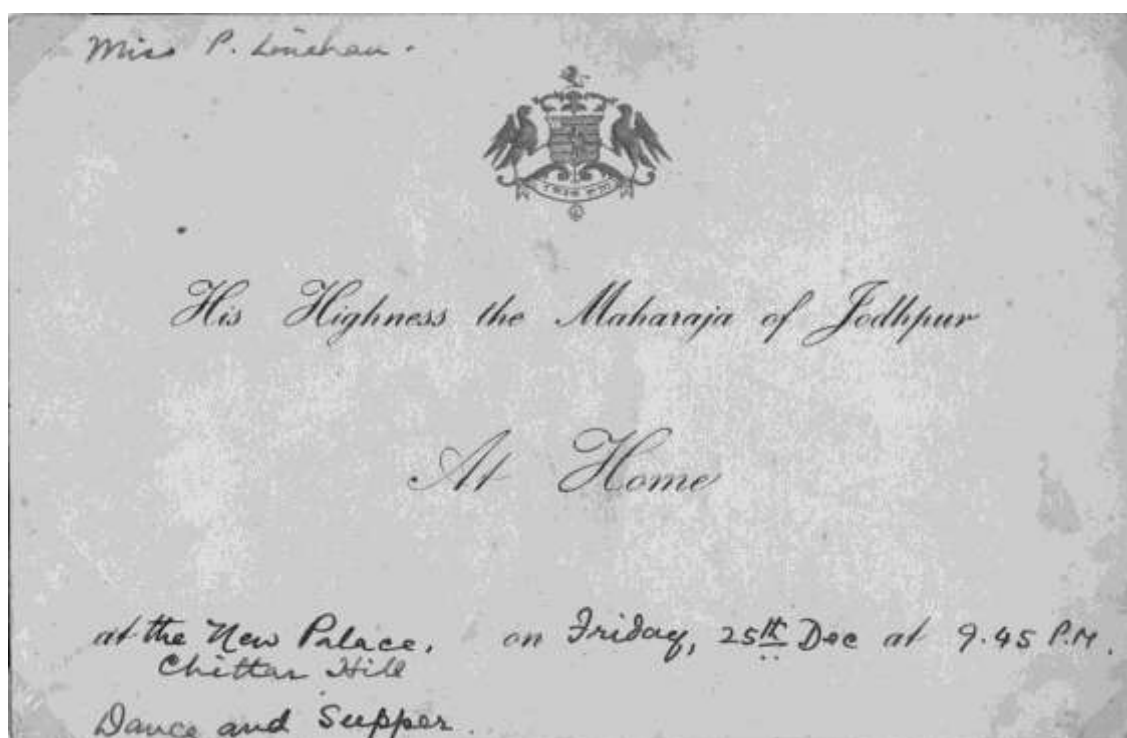
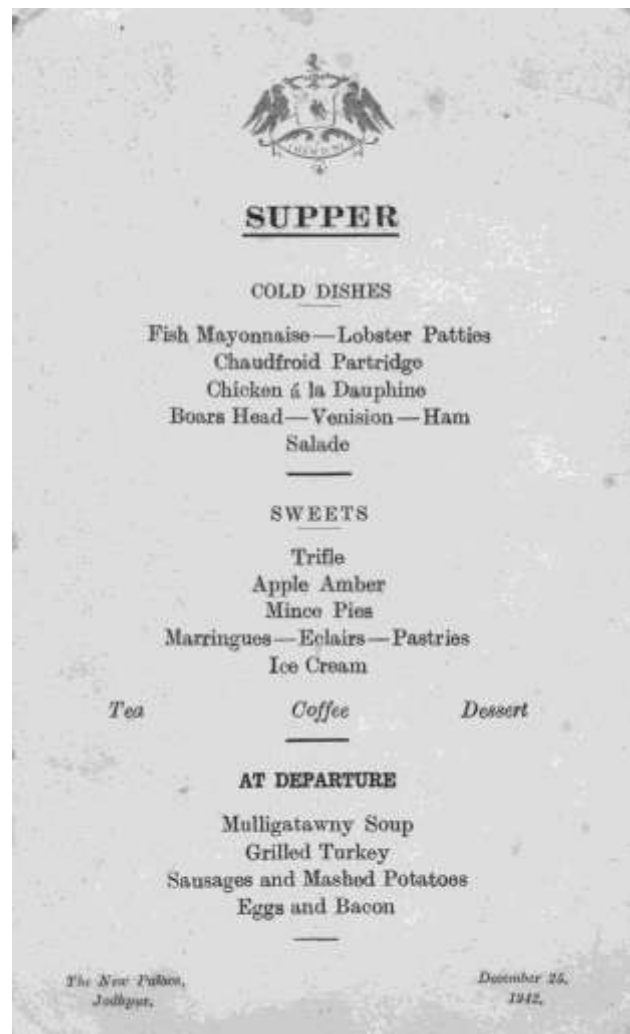
A Christmas Dance and Supper in Jodhpur, 1942

The Maharaja of Jodhpur in 1942 was Sir Umaid Singh. Over thirteen years in the making, his New Palace on Chittar Hill (now called Umaid Bhawan Palace) was due for completion in 1943 and the Maharaja was awaiting the delivery of lavish art deco furnishing from Maples and Co of London. However, the cargo ship was sunk en route to Bombay by a German U-Boat and the entire contents was lost, forming part of the 6 million tons of allied shipping destroyed by U-Boat in 1942.

The Maharaja and Maharani hosted annual parties for, amongst others, the forces stationed in their city. Enlisting local craftsmen, the Maharaja managed to have his palace decorated and furnished in time for the 1942 Christmas festivities.

This particular invitation belonged to the niece of an Anglo-Indian railwayman who maintained the Maharaja's private train.

Below: Invitation to a Dance and Supper at the Maharaja of Jodhpur's New Palace, 9.45pm, 25th December 1942. Right: the Supper menu.



Using Google Books for Family History Research

By Ed Storey

Genealogy is ever changing, with the tools available to researchers getting steadily better. Google Books¹ is emerging as an effective means to access printed documents that might otherwise be difficult to obtain. Still, it is not without its quirks. Here is a brief look at how it might be used. We will take a relatively obscure event in British India history and attempt to gain insight, using only Google Books (and a website called WorldCat). Along the way we will go over some techniques to assist in the task, while avoiding pitfalls.

Google Inc. has grown into an online information powerhouse. People are probably most familiar with the search engine, which is, indeed, useful to genealogists for looking up information on history, military encounters, and many other areas. Beyond the basic search engine, however, is a whole array of specialized searches: patents, maps, and books are examples. In the area of books, what is most useful to genealogists is Google's effort to digitize books, mostly older, out of copyright editions and provide these scanned copies online.² For those of us researching the past, we will often find that older texts uncommon in libraries are available on Google Books.

In surveying how to use Google Books, first we will pick a minor insurrection in Madras in 1809. It began and ended without bloodshed. The causes were complicated and outside of the scope of this article. Our task will be to see how much useful information we can find, using little more than Google Books. We need not even go through the information here. On a personal note, I have an ancestor, Major Joseph Storey, who was a significant participant in this mutiny.³ I am using him, in part, because our family name can be a source of confusion in search engines. Our goal is to find documents, written around the time of the mutiny, that can give us a good understanding of the events.

On the other side of the coin is what might be loosely called secondary sources. These documents, published some years later, seem to have taken the information from the contemporary sources and summarized them. While they might provide an overview of internal strife or mutinies in India, they probably do not contain as much detail on individuals. As a result they might not be as helpful to genealogists. Note that Major Storey was reinstated, a few years after his being found guilty at the court martial. This would be an important consideration in understanding the circumstances that led up to the insurrection, as they show some recognition that there was a serious, unaddressed problem within the army. I have not found this as part of most of the secondary sources I reviewed.

¹ The web address of Google Books is <http://books.google.com>

² Wikipedia has a good explanation of Google Books, including history and a mention of other online book sources. Merely enter 'Google Books' into the search box at en.wikipedia.org

³ In *FIBIS Journal* volume 10 (Autumn 2003) there is more information about Major Storey, made possible largely through the research skills of Lawrie Butler. Major Storey is my 4th great grandfather. Members can download this from the FIBIS database.

Briefly, Google Books accepts keywords and sorts results by how well they match the keywords. It is possible to use 6 or more words, but the searching algorithm will return results with only some of the words. Too many keywords can, therefore, be counter-productive. Google tries to provide results that contain the keywords. When a lot of keywords are given, there will be many more returns. Invariably, some keywords will have multiple meanings and the more used, the greater chance Google will stray from the intended topic. I generally use 3 words, trying searches with other combinations to get all of the possible returns.

When I search using the words 'mutiny, madras, storey', I get a return using 'story' as a noun or adjective, not as a name. Google has an *advanced search* mode that enables 'story' to be ignored. Colonel Bell, another participant in the events, has a similar name and such factors should be borne in mind when choosing keywords and reviewing results. Even when using 'storey but not story', some returns will refer to building heights. Note also that it is not necessary to capitalize any words.

Figure #1 shows the first twenty results in order, for the 'mutiny, madras, storey' search. It is always necessary to separate the wheat from the chaff. There are duplicate results, as well as uses of Storey other than as a last name. Such returns are typical of search engines. There is no easy way to eliminate duplications. On occasion, they might show results on different pages of the same text. In the interest of space, in the table I shortened some names, but you can duplicate my Google results, with the same keywords.

Another consideration concerns the search results. The text in the book database that Google searches is generated using text recognition programs. Since the publications scanned are old and the ink may be faded, there are likely mistakes in the words returned. Look at the actual publication directly, as humans are often better than computer programs at discerning the correct text. Note also that the letter 's' used to be printed looking like an 'f' and this may remain in the digitized text.

While I have found a great many old and obscure books online, I am sure there are many more not digitized. Not all libraries are willing to let their collection be digitized, perhaps because of the stress copying can place on fragile documents. Google has led us to believe their digitizing efforts are not complete, so the future may be promising for texts not yet accessible. It is interesting that a 68 page book about Major Storey's court martial is not included in the 40 books returned by Google. This is where *WorldCat.org* comes in. WorldCat is an online library catalogue. It will not provide any text, rather library locations. When the search terms 'madras mutiny storey' are used with WorldCat, transcripts of the courts martial of Majors Doveton, Bell, and Storey are returned. While the transcripts are limited to trial testimony, they provide names of contemporary soldiers, some description of accommodations and the ability to read what each officer presented in his defence. This document can currently only be consulted in a library. It is, for example, in the rare book section of the Library of Congress in Washington, DC.

Figure #1 - Results of 'madras mutiny storey' but not 'story'

ORDER of RETURN	TITLE	AUTHOR /YEAR	USEFULNESS	TYPE OF DOCUMENT
1	Reports from Commissioners	unknown	Good	Contemporary Account
2 thru 4	<i>The Asiatic Annual Register</i> Vol 11	Lawrence Dundas Campbell 1811	Good	Contemporary Account
5	<i>Observations on the Disturbance...</i>	Sir John Malcolm 1809	Good	Copy of letter detailing events
6	<i>Reports from Committees</i>	unknown	Poor	Uses Storey to denote building height
7, 8	History of the Madras Army	Wm Wilson 1883	Fair	Brief
9	<i>Madras Land Revenue Reports</i>	1861	Poor	Uses Storey to denote building height
10 thru 12	<i>Edinburgh Annual Register</i> Vol 3	unknown	Fair	Analysis
13, 14, 16	Various	unknown	Poor	Uses Storey to denote building height
15, 17	<i>Asiatic Journal & Monthly...</i>	Unknown 1818	Good	List of passengers
18 and beyond	Various		Poor	No relevant information

Figure #2 - Results of 'madras 1809 storey' but not 'story'

ORDER of RETURN	TITLE	RANKING IN FIGURE #1
1	Observations on the Disturbance...	5
2	<i>Reports from Commissioners</i>	1
3, 4	<i>Asiatic Journal</i> vol. 11	15
5	<i>History of Madras</i> p. 285	7
6, 7	Catalog of library	no
8	<i>Hist of madras army</i> p. 293	7
9	Not related	no
10, 11	<i>Asiatic annual register</i> pg 369	no
12 thru 14	Not related	no
15	The Scots magazine	no
16, 17	Not related	no

It is wise to consult both Google Books and WorldCat. I start with Google to determine the most effective keywords. I then apply the same keywords to WorldCat. Conversely, a response in WorldCat that has not shown up in Google can be searched for directly in Google, using keywords taken from the title. WorldCat lists known books in libraries, worldwide; while Google lists only those books in their database. The full text of some books is available for our review, while others only have snippets.

Figure #2 shows a Google Books search, using a different set of keywords, as determined using a WorldCat search ('madras 1809 storey not story'). There was no mention of mutiny in these keywords and one result, #10, uncovers a different altercation, giving additional information about Major Storey's home location. There are some overlaps, some non-relevant returns, and some common returns with the first search. As mentioned, the text recognition program might mis-identify some words. If they are important words, a document might not show up. That is another reason for multiple searches, using different keywords. Google also allows a second level of searching. For example, if a search does not use an ancestor's name, it is still possible to search for the name within a specific text, after it has been retrieved. The keyword search within the text is a powerful timesaver as it provides a means to quickly scan a document to check for relevant information.

I will not pretend to understand how Google orders results, based on keywords. The key is to test a variety of words, reviewing the response. My experience is that anything not in the first 30 or so results is not likely to be useful. It is better to try several searches than to go too deep in any one that has a lot of results. I believe the number of searches, as well as additional information that may come online, can impact the results, so you might not get exactly the same results as I did. Google is continually adding and occasionally removing books.

If the keywords 'madras mutiny 1809' are used with Google Books, there are many results, but few as good as when the name of a participant is included. Conversely, using the same keywords with WorldCat returns 15 citations that are more directly related. Some experimentation with keywords is required. For best results, look for keywords that are specific to the event and not easily applied to other returns. In my example case, unrest was rife in Madras at the time and mutinies were not rare, so using keywords with specific place or personal names helps focus results. If there is more than one person involved, first try the proper name that is least common and not a synonym.

It is likely that a genealogical researcher would be interested in as many facts about Major Storey as are available, not just the court martial. The *Asiatic Journal* return providing his living address is one such example. Further, the *Asiatic Journal* of 1818 lists European passengers discharged at Madras, including Mrs Storey and child. Since it is easy to display and review any full text document, it is important to review each response for details.

The Asiatic Journal and Monthly Register for British India contains a lot of genealogical information, from travels to births and marriages. There are several copies on Google,

under name variations. These can be further searched individually for names online. It might be worthwhile to go through each one, entering the surnames of interest.⁴

Computers, online information and search engines are all evolving. Researchers need to keep up. Searches can be done at your leisure, with no danger of a mistake and often from home. It is good to keep a log book of what has been attempted, to minimize excessive duplication, but only to speed up the process. It is hoped this review will encourage those who might not have fully utilized Google Books to give it a try.

Reviews

***Mehtars and Marigolds: a story of four generations in British India (1874-1948)* by Barbara Dinner (Perkerren, 2009), pp363, paperback, illustrated, notes & bibliography. Available from Amazon.co.uk, £14.97, ISBN 9780956154316**

By and large, when researching family history in India we tend to discover ancestors intent on leading normal lives against a backdrop of extraordinary places and events. Barbara Dinner's very personal and enjoyable record of her family is such a story. Beginning in 1874 with the journey from Wiltshire to Simla made by her newly married maternal Great-Grandparents John and Susannah Perren, there follows a carefully researched account of the lives of three generations born in India and at times those left behind in England. Barbara's grandfather William embarks on a career in the Indian Civil Service, becoming briefly a clerk to Lord Roberts in the Commander-in-Chief's office and then in 1902 working under the military secretary responsible to Kitchener. Family recollections of the 1911 Delhi Durbar are recorded, likewise their witness to the assassination attempt on Lord Hardinge.

Barbara's father Hector Perks is born in England and arrives in India with the 4th Dragoon Guards. She writes with great insight on their regimental history but always with an eye to the personal element of the story being told. Before enlisting in 1920, Hector cleans 50 pairs of boots a day as a servant boy, but on his arrival in Trimulgherry he finds that all his personal needs are now attended to by a band of 309 'public followers' licensed by the Quartermaster. Before long he transfers to the Indian Army Ordnance Corps, so securing a more permanent way of employment and allowing him to marry Barbara's mother Clare. A large and happy brood of children follows. Life in Simla, Agra, Shillong and Avida is observed with affectionate scrutiny and always with a respectful reminder of the difficulties that faced those being ruled and even sometimes those doing the ruling. The effects of the Second World War on the family are well covered by the author, with a significant section

⁴ The FIBIwiki contain links to every *Asiatic Journal* on Google Books from 1816 to 1845. Visit wiki.fibis.org and enter Asiatic Journal in the search box to access the list. Many other periodicals and directories are linked from the FIBIwiki via the wiki article Online books. Other useful digitized book repositories are indicated in the article, although none as vast or user friendly as Google Books.

devoted to Clare's brother Bill who is taken prisoner and put to work on the notorious Thailand-Burma Death Railway.

What though may be of particular interest to budding writers of their own family history is how deftly Barbara merges her personal story with past and unfolding geopolitical drama on the world stage. Thus the heyday of the Raj, the progress of Indian nationalism, two World Wars and the path to Independence are all appreciably covered in an unfaltering chronological ordering. Interweaving her own story amongst these events is always achieved skilfully and the reader never loses pace with what is being described in either the private or public arena.

Barbara is seven when her family eventually leave India in 1947 and the practicalities of such an upheaval are covered in compelling detail. She emotionally concludes her story in present day Wiltshire where a discovery is made of a memorial to her great-grandfather on the family gravestone, even though his death and burial took place on distant shores. As with this moment, many readers are likely to recognise their own family history journeys and may even be encouraged to glimpse those of the future by this enjoyable book.

R Reardon

***The Travelling Scotsman the Life and Times of Paterson Saunders, Senior* by Mary Anne Gourley, 2010, paperback, 63 pp, illustrated, detailed end notes, bibliography, index, ISBN: 9780987046109,**

also includes:

***Two Years in Victoria* by Paterson Saunders (originally published Calcutta, 1863), now in facsimile edition 2010. Paperback, 144 pp, index, ISBN 9780987046116.**

Copies available from: Bookpod: <http://www.bookstore.bookpod.com.au/>

I must first declare a personal interest, so that readers will understand why the following review may not be as impartial as it could be. Mary Anne Gourley, the publisher and biographer of Paterson Saunders, is a personal friend who has shared some of her ongoing research with me.

Mary Anne's discovery of her Scottish ancestor's writings about his time in Victoria, in between periods in India, was the catalyst for this publication of two books under one cover. *Two Years in Victoria* by Paterson Saunders was sourced to the Mitchell Library, and may well be the only extant copy of the original publication. Once found, it was Mary Anne's aim to re-publish this to ensure that her ancestor would be known to a modern readership. Friends persuaded her that *Two Years in Victoria* would be of even more interest if accompanied by a biography of the author.

The end-notes and bibliography to Mary Anne's biography of Paterson Saunders - *The Travelling Scotsman* - show evidence of detailed and careful research demonstrating that Paterson Saunders at one time travelled in four continents of the globe. His descendants are now scattered far and wide. The biography makes fascinating reading, and any gaps

are filled by consulting the family tree of the Saunders Family of Dundee (pp66-67) and the several Appendixes which show the relevance of Scottish naming patterns, an explanation of Indian place names mentioned in the text and a glossary of unfamiliar words. Numerous quality glossy colour and black and white illustrations and reproductions of old documents accompany the text, and these are as much a credit to the printer as to the author. The fold-out plan of Melbourne (Thomas Bibb, 1854) and Andrew Robertson's view of the city from Flagstaff Hill are of value to anyone with ancestors in Melbourne in the early 1850s, the time described by Paterson Saunders in *Two Years in Victoria*.

This commentary on life in Victoria during the gold rush period of the early 1850s naturally reflects Paterson's bias born of personal disappointments and as such needs to be read with a critical eye. Nevertheless it contains a very great deal of factual information about prices, the way of business, the city and rural districts, in short, every aspect of life in Victoria at the time. Many of his descriptions of geography and climate resonate with today's reader. It is a new and valuable source of information to historians and genealogists alike who seek more information about conditions in that time and place. First published as a series of articles in Paterson Saunders' Calcutta newspaper *The Englishman*, the descriptions were of value to the members of the Anglo-Indian community contemplating trade with or migration to the great south land in the 1850s. *Two Years in Victoria* has been made more accessible to researchers by the inclusion of an index generously prepared by Dr Dianne Reilly, AM, who also wrote the Foreword to *A Travelling Scotsman*.

Whether your interest is in Victoria, India, Scottish traders, or travellers of the early Victorian period, you are sure to find something of interest here and I commend this publication to you.

(This book has been self-published, but printed by BookPod and may be purchased from them, <http://www.bookstore.bookpod.com.au/p/1202424/the-travelling-scotsman.html> for AUS\$47.99, or write to PO Box 6015, Vermont South, VIC 3433, Australia, tel: +61 (0)3 9803 4481)

Sylvia Murphy

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