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Thomas Robson and the Bombay Missionaries

Trevor Hearl

Among the tools which researchers studying British India, especially family historians, would surely welcome is a biographical dictionary of chaplains and authorised missionaries. They were, after all, the performers of countless official and personal ceremonies, baptisms, weddings and funerals being not the least important. Other professions have their Rolls and Registers, including the Medical Services of Company and Crown, the Company's Maritime Services, the students of Addiscombe and Haileybury and even the Royal Army Veterinary Corps. Chaplains have yet to follow their example. The Rev. Gordon Taylor's account of *The Sea Chaplains* (Oxford 1978) lists naval chaplains from 1626 and the Rt Rev. Edward Cannan's 'The History of the Churches of the South Atlantic Islands 1502-1991' (Oswestry 1992) covers all island clergy, Company and colonial, for the last 300 years. But when I needed to identify Thomas Robson of the Ahmednuggur Mission Station, 200 miles east of Bombay in 1826, I was stumped. Perhaps a relevant issue of the *East India Register & Directory* might have given a lead, but such sources are beyond my reach. Moreover, I needed to dig deeper to find Robson's publishers, the Bombay Mission Press. Let me briefly put this example into the ecclesiastical context of the day.

Until 1813 'John Company' banned Christian missions in its territories to avoid offending local custom and belief. Pressure from the Evangelical Movement in Britain, demanding a 'moral' foreign policy, had this lifted under the India Act, allowing not only trade, but the Bible to follow the flag. One outcome was the creation of the vast Diocese of Calcutta and the appointment in 1823 of its first bishop, Reginald Heber, author of the mission hymn "From Greenland's icy mountains / From India's coral strand". In 1825, on his first visit to the Bombay Presidency, he reminded chaplains and clergy of their awesome responsibility in ministering to service families as examples of the Christian faith. 'How can the poor heathens, among whom they are living, be brought to Christ unless all bear witness to the Faith in their lives?' Hence the need for missions to the troops, needing more chaplains, churches, schools, books - and colonial Christian role-models.

At the time of the Bishop's visit Robson had been sent the script of a "remarkable revival of religion" on the Company's South Atlantic outpost of St Helena, instigated by its zealous chaplains, the Revs. Richard Boys (1811-1830) and Bowater Vernon

(1816-1834), protégés of the evangelical divine Charles Simeon of Cambridge. Robson's correspondent was Lieutenant George Horsley Wood, then apparently in Bombay with the 1st Battalion of the 67th Regiment, but in 1821 with the 20th Regiment guarding Napoleon at Longwood. He told a story there of 'holy dying' as the consumptive Midshipman Robert Grant of HMS Vigo rejoiced that his 'heavenly Father ... bids me welcome to his glorious mansions of endless joy and love', and of prayer-meetings among the troops, including a nightly vigil by young officers praying for the salvation of Napoleon's soul as he lay dying. 'O, if it pleased God to convert him and make him a Christian, what a triumphant moment of grace would he be!' To Robson it made dramatic reading and 'in the present momentous signs of the times' it seemed to be 'a call in Providence'. Quoting Wood's testimony at length, he compiled a narrative, heightened by his own powerful religious rhetoric, showing the need to bring the Christian faith more effectively to young servicemen whose time 'for amendment of life' was so uncertain, to give meaning and direction to their own lives and become beacons of light to others afraid of the darkness of 'Indian extravagance, dissipation, debauchery and profaneness'

Published in 1826, under the title *St Helena Memoirs* by the Bombay Mission Press, it was a well-produced 160-page 12mo volume clearly destined for sale to libraries, schools and churches, as well as to individuals. My copy had been a present from one memsahib to another at Mhow Camp, one of the largest cantonments in Central India, the recipient being a Mrs. Garraway - presumably the wife of Charles Garraway of the 9th Bombay Native Infantry - who must have treasured it, as she had it finely bound in half calf with a gilt title. But viewed from this historical distance it has some puzzling features. Why did Lieut. Wood - later a Manx poet and author of metaphysical works - entrust his story to Thomas Robson? The text gives no hint of this, though it may be assumed that, having already published one tract, 'The Memoirs of Rebecca Lancaster' (who was she?), and made 'several short visits' to St Helena, Wood thought him an appropriate choice. Yet the two men do not appear ever to have met, either at St Helena or Bombay. Moreover Robson masks his status as author, so that readers do not know whether he is a chaplain, or a missionary, or even in Holy Orders at all. Clearly, however, he had ready access to the Mission Press. But this raises another poser. While he undoubtedly lived and moved in British circles - the second edition was published by James Nisbet in London in 1827 - profits from the first edition went 'to the support of' NATIVE FREE SCHOOLS in the care of the American Missionaries in Bombay and its vicinity'. Perhaps the Press was an American venture; it may be significant that the only other known copy of the Bombay edition is in the Library of Congress in Washington. But it is strange that Robson should not have been more open with his readers. Fortunately the stories themselves, their characters concealed behind initials, are genuine enough, being verified from other sources.

In the imperial context the publication of Robson's *St Helena Memoirs* was a significant event, however. Whatever its particular merits, it came with the dawn of the drive to create the 'Christian Soldier' that set the tone for the coming generation. 'Speaking a Word in His cause ... is the only thing I much care for', wrote Lieut. Frederick Eardley Wilmot from the Cape in 1844 - he became the reformer of the Royal Military Academy in the 1850s - echoing the deeper thoughts of many another soldier of the Queen and the Company whose names may now be sadly fading such as Hedley Vicars, Henry Havelock, 'Chinese' Gordon - Tennyson's 'Warrior of God' - and scores of other 'heroes' of Victorian imperial history. But that is another story.

The Madras Military Female Asylum

Peter Bailey

Figuratively, there are vast numbers of oysters which can be opened at the OIOC and all of them contain highly interesting grains of sand. Just occasionally, one comes across a beautiful pearl! The following includes the details of one such pearl.

I had thought that my gt.-gt.-grandmother, Catherine Evers - who married at the tender age of 14 - may have been placed in the Madras Military Female Asylum by her widowed father, Peter Evers, a Bombardier in the Madras Artillery. I suspected that, as happened in the 1830s, her mother had died early and her father had had to leave his daughter in the Asylum (Orphanage). It became important to learn more about the Asylums, who was entitled to be placed in them, what life was like for the inmates, etc.

In eighteenth century India, wives and children of soldiers followed their husbands from garrison to garrison and from battle to battle. If the husband died, the wife, of course, took care of the children. Her former husband's colleagues 'chipped in' modest amounts to help support her, at least until she married again. This was generally quite soon since Christian women (generally European and Anglo-Indian) were in short supply in India. Despite this, inevitably and sadly, some soldiers' children were abandoned, particularly those who had lost both parents.

In 1786, Sir Archibald Campbell, Governor of Madras, was concerned 'by the wretched condition of the many orphan children of the soldiers who perished during the late war on the coast'. He determined upon the establishment of an Institution of both a Male and a Female Military Orphan Asylum. Funds were to be provided by 'public subscription' and the Nabob of the Carnatic was prevailed upon to assist by the provision of a house and garden for the purpose. Campbell recommended the Asylums to the protection of the Court of Directors of the East India Company who claimed that they had previously proposed the establishment of some such charity but who were content that no great financial burden would result!

Governors were appointed with the Revd Mr. Guericke as Superintendent and Secretary. Lady Campbell was elected as Patron and the inaugural meeting was held on 9th April 1787. The institution was initially to be called 'The Asylum for the Relief of Female Orphans, the Children of British Subjects'. However, this clumsy title was soon altered to 'The Madras Military Female Asylum'. It opened on 1st June of 1787 for the accommodation of 50 children, although the process had proceeded so quickly that only 21 children had been approved for admission at the date of opening.

It was not long before the resources of the Asylum were stretched in two directions: the demand for places increased and sufficient 'public subscription' did not materialize. By February of 1788, the number of children had reached 62 and Lady Campbell claimed that there were as many as 500 deserving cases along the Carnatic coast. Representations were made to the Court of Directors who, with some reluctance in 1789, agreed to contribute five Rupees per month per child for up to 100 children. The following year, the Court, with annoyance as well as reluctance, agreed as a temporary measure to increase their contribution from the 500 Rupees per month to 750.

The Asylum appears to have continued satisfactorily for another ten years after which they again found themselves in financial difficulties. An appeal to the Government for further funds in 1799 resulted in their being awarded a series of 'ex gratia' payments from the profits of the lottery. Contributions from this source continued until 1831. As it happened, a James Wooley had left a legacy in his will of 1789 for the benefit of 'Children of Distressed Europeans'. He entrusted the funds to the 'Governor & Council of the City of Madras' who were parsimonious in the extreme, only parting with funds under great pressure.

The location of the original Asylum has not been identified. However, in 1819, the number of girls had increased to the point that new facilities had become necessary and the Asylum was moved to attractive new premises by the toll-gate in the Poonamallee Road in Kilpauk, some three and a half miles west of Fort St George. It was to remain there until early in the following century.

By 1825, when the number of girls had risen to over 150, the Government awarded them 500 Rupees per month from the profits of the Military Male Asylum. It may be known that the Male Asylum had established a renowned and highly successful printing business. The 'Madras Male Asylum Press' printed the great majority of works for the Government and others and is well-known to most researchers today as the publisher of the Madras 'Asylum Press Almanac' at Egmore.

As early as 1818, the Government permitted the establishment of a second Female Asylum at Poonamallee, a garrison town some 13 miles west of Fort St George. This Institution was devoted to the asylum of female children abandoned by, or orphans of, soldiers of the King's Army. This was funded by contributions from the various regiments of the King's Army, together with the occasional proceeds of the bequest of James Wooley. Initially, the system appears to have worked well. However, the situation must have deteriorated in some way until, in 1826, a decision was made to combine the two institutions and to move the 'Poonamallee Girls' to 'Poonamallee Road'. It is understood that 165 girls were transferred from Poonamallee, bringing the total at Kilpauk to well over 300. The Government provided a grant of five Rupees per month for each of the Poonamallee Girls - although it was claimed that it cost over nine Rupees per month to provide for each child!

In 1831, the grant of funds from the lottery ceased for some reason and, failing to obtain further funding from the Government, the Asylum authorities were forced to 'reduce the diet' of their charges. Although no details are given, this must have been drastic since 'three hundred girls were sent to hospital and twenty-seven of them died'! We are unsure of the period of time over which this happened but it naturally caused significant concern provoking the Government to provide further funds from the Wooley bequest, plus the confirmation of the 500 Rupees per month from the profits of the Male Asylum. The diet was then increased to that of the Male Asylum and the girls' health seemingly immediately restored!

By 1836, the profits of the Male Asylum Press had dropped considerably and their 500 Rupees per month contribution to the Female Asylum lapsed. By 1838 the finances were again called into question. The roof of the building was in great need of repair, the cost of which had been estimated at 15,000 Rupees. The total number of girls had risen to 372 and the Governors, through the Secretary, Lieutenant Edward Snow, became involved in a lengthy correspondence with the Government. This is partially preserved in the Madras Public Proceedings (F/4/1855) at the OIOC. A full breakdown

of income and expenses was provided by Snow, concluding that the income would only permit the support of 352 girls. Table 4 gives details of his Income and Expenditure Account for 1837.

The statistics indicated that girls left the Asylum, for various reasons, at the rate of 48 per annum and at the time of the analysis, there were 22 on the waiting list for admission but further girls were being added to this list all the time. The Governors threatened to embarrass the Government by refusing admission to further girls unless the Government would increase its grant by at least five to ten Rupees per month per girl for 150 girls.

The Government remained generally unbending and the correspondence ends before the outcome is clear. However they made one concession and several suggestions that they considered helpful, viz. The Government:

- a. eventually sanctioned the Rs. 15,000 for the roof 'from the interest from Mr Wooley's Legacy'
- b. offered to pay the salaries of the Surgeon (2,100 Rupees per annum) and of the Chaplain (2,400 Rupees per annum) which were traditionally part of the Asylum's expenses. The Governors rejected this, however, since they felt it inappropriate for the Government to exercise this degree of control over the running of the Asylum. The correspondence ends without indication of a resolution to the problem except that the Asylum authorities appear to have retained responsibility for paying for the Surgeon & Chaplain.
- c. urged the Asylum to redouble their efforts to divest themselves of some of their charges at an earlier age. Tough action was evidently necessary and probably this is reflected in the number of girls dropping from those shown in Table 1 to only 220 in the years to come. Suggestions were made by the Government that some of the older girls may have a better chance of marriage or of finding employment as servants with families of non-commissioned officers in the more relaxed environment in Bangalore! Furthermore, the Secretary to the Government undertook to write to the Governor of New South Wales to enquire as to whether he would be prepared to accept orphans for marriage or as servants in that colony! Regrettably, no response to this suggestion has been found in the files.

Girls left the Asylum either by being taken back by parents, going into service, marriage or, unfortunately, by death. The Poonamallee Girls had always been obliged to leave by the age of 16. The others had traditionally stayed until their future had been reasonably assured and this was very frequently before the age of 16. It will be known that even European and Anglo-Indian girls frequently married at 16, 15 and even at 14 years of age in those days. One is left with a picture of a soldier, perhaps widowed with young children and therefore, in need of a wife, visiting the Asylum to select a young girl with whom to spend the rest of his life! Every girl, however, 'has the option of rejecting either a proposal of marriage or of quitting the Asylum as a servant'.

Also it was stated in the exchange of letters that 'the Governors have a lively satisfaction in finding their enquiries as to the career of the Asylum girls after they had left the Institution that their conduct has been generally very respectable, whenever they have had fair treatment and that during the fifteen years there have been only two cases of expulsion from the Asylum on account of mis-behaviour'.

From the beginning, Lady Campbell was credited with establishing the rules of the Asylum and daily routine of the girls. No full report of these has been found, although human interest is given in the list of clothes given to each girl upon her admission (Table 2). However, in true Victorian fashion, the rules became formalized and a summary of those rules relating to admission is as follows:

1. Girls of the following classes are eligible according to the following priorities:-
 - a) Orphans of European Non-Commissioned Officers and Soldiers
 - b) Orphans of Commissioned Officers and Warrant Officers if left destitute.
 - c)..Orphans of Pensioners of the above classes.
 - d)..Orphans of East Indian Warrant & Non-Commissioned Officers and others borne on the returns of the Army, both parents being of European fathers.
 - e) Children of living fathers of the above classes, as Boarders - or, in special cases of destitution, without payment
2. Legitimate children shall have preference of illegitimate and seniority of age shall be at the discretion of the Directresses.
3. No child shall be admitted under four years of age or over ten, except urgently.
4. A Form giving details of the child is to filled in.
5. If the Asylum is full a waiting list shall be established
6. A Ladies Committee is to be established to examine requests for withdrawal by friends, marriage or employment.
7. The number of girls in the Asylum shall be fixed from time to time.
8. Exceptions to rule 7. Shall be at the discretion of the Governors.
9. Boarders are accepted from age four to ten and are to be clothed, fed, taught and employed in the same manner as the other girls.
10. Rates of payments (for the Boarders) are to be fixed by the Governors from time to time.
11. Such applications as are made for admission shall be signed by the Commanding Officer of the father's Regiment.

An indication of the occupation of the girls is given by the following account:

‘The girls receive a plain, useful education. They are taught every description of household work, washing and needlework and the care of the sick; and the most promising are trained as teachers to supply the classes in the Institution, and to provide for the wants of the army and other schools. The girls are expected to take such situations as are selected for them.’

The renowned Orphan Asylums established by R.M. Lawrence - the Lawrence Asylums - were established in the mid-nineteenth century. One was built at Lovedale, near Ootacamund, in the Neilgherry Hills to accommodate both girls and boys. Its location in the hills, far from the oppressive heat of Madras, made it a far more attractive amenity than either Egmore or Kilpauk. In 1871 it was decided to combine the old Military orphanages with those of Lawrence and the boys started to transfer to Lovedale. A number were left in Madras, if only to continue the activities of the ‘Asylum Press’, which then became the ‘Lawrence Asylum Press’. The Girls remained in their premises at Kilpauk until as late as 1904, when, after over 100 years in Madras, those remaining were finally transferred to Lovedale.

It may be mentioned that the Military Asylums were not the only institutions schooling orphans or poor children in Madras by the mid-nineteenth century. The Almanacs indicate the existence of Civil Orphan Asylums (both Male & Female) established, it is believed, by the Freemasons in 1807, the London Missionary Society Free School instituted in 1815 for both boys and girls, the Vepery Free Schools established in 1816 for boys and 1837 for girls and the Madras Armenian Orphan Fund as early as 1783.

Reference has even been found to the existence of a 'Roman Orphan House' operating in 1745. Maybe the Catholic Church records would give further details of this establishment. However, by decree of the Court of Directors in 1748, no Roman Catholic was to be employed in the Company's service. It is, therefore likely that this institution was not for the benefit of European orphans but for the local Indians and Topaz.

But, what about the 'pearl in the oyster' referred to at the beginning? Possibly as part of its delaying tactics, but for no obvious benefit to the argument of either side with regard to finance, the Government requested both a list of girls who had left the Asylum between 1828 and 1837 and a list of its current incumbents. These are real pearls!

It is not convenient to reproduce in this journal the complete list of girls included in the records. However, a page is included in Table 3 in order to exemplify the type of information provided. A complete list is available on Cathy's web-site at: <http://www.ozemail.com.au/~clday/>

Table 1 - Number of Girls in the School (1828 - 1837)

Year	No. of Girls	Cost per Girl p.a R-A-P
1828	336	158-9-2
1829	354	144-12-3
1830	357	146-0-4
1831	358	150-8-11
1832	355	146-3-10
1833	397	139-8-4
1834	402	135-15-1
1835	394	139-1-9
1836	392	124-13-5
1837	371	142-8-8

Table 2 – Allocation of 'Cloathing for the Children' (1787)

6 Striped Gingham Gowns	2 White Bonnets with White Band around
2 White Gowns	2 Tippets (A type of cape)
6 Shifts	6 Pocket Handkerchiefs
6 Petticoats	6 Pairs of Shoes

Table 3 – Madras Military Female Orphan Asylum

Partial List of Girls who left the Asylum between 1829 - 1838					
Sequ.	Girl's Name		Status of Parents		By whom taken or
No.	Christian	Surname	Father	Mother	for what purpose
5	M.	Agnew	Dead	Unknown	Died
118	Mary	Alderdice	Dead	Unknown	Married
143	Sarah	Alderdice	Dead	Unknown	Brother-in-Law
144	Margaret	Alderdice	Dead	Unknown	Brother-in-Law
84	Anne	Ambrose	Dead	Unknown	Mrs. Fickers
168	Mary	Anshon	Europe	Unknown	Stepfather
174	Charlotte	Atkinson	Dead	Unknown	Mr. Hall
183	Sarah	Aushon	Europe	Alive	Mother
27	Charlotte	Banks	Dead	Unknown	Died
70	Caroline	Banks	Dead	Unknown	Stepfather
71	Alice	Banks	Dead	Unknown	Stepfather
209	Sarah	Banyan	Dead	Alive	Sgt. Stewart
210	Charlotte	Banyan	Dead	Alive	Sgt. Stewart
32	Charlotte	Bartholomew	Unknown	Unknown	Stepfather
83	Margaret	Baylis	Europe	Unknown	Friends
120	Emelia	Bennett	Europe	Alive	Mother
141	Maria	Bibly	Dead	Alive	Died
54	Mary-Ann	Birch	Dead	Alive	Mother
59	Sarah	Birch	Dead	Alive	Mother
45	Eliza	Bishop	Europe	Alive	Married
188	Elizabeth	Bourning	Dead	Unknown	Married
60	Elizabeth	Braily	Dead	Dead	Brother
191	Mary	Braily	Dead	Dead	Died

**Table 4 –Receipts & Disbursements for the Year
1st January to 31st December 1837**

Disbursements

Cash

Monthly Salaries	11,543-15-7
Paid for Victualling	19,193-2-2
Paid for Servants' Wages	2,927-6-8
Paid for sundry expenses including books, stationery, dishes, bowls, matts, Funeral Charges, Hospital Charges, Cooly Hire, Whitewashing, Binding Hedges, Repairing Brass cocks etc.	2,678-13-7
Clothings	2,828-10-0
Miss Spiers, Ass't Governess	
Being donation granted	300-0-0
Friends-in-Need Society and Tailors for making up the Clothes of the children.	
	350-2-0
Repairs & Buildings	1,348-13-0
Board for Children at Nurse Under age	1,000-7-3
Total Rupees (Sic)	42,191-6-3

Receipts

Cash rec'd on account of Boarders	298-10-0
Tambour Work	1,001-1-3
Interest	16,194-5-11
Hon. Company's Donation	9,000-0-0
Hon. Company's Allowance for Poonamallee Girls	10,148-5-11
Sale of 160 silver spoons of the F. A._	<u>436-12-4</u>
	37,079-3-5
Deficit	5,112-2-10
Total Rupees	42,191-6-3

Who was William Hopper?

Sylvia Murphy

William Hopper first came to my notice when I received a request from Marilyn Hopper Nelligan in Perth, an Australian of Canadian descent. She gave me a curious story of a letter which had been in the possession of a now deceased elderly aunt (Aunt B). The letter was dated December 7, 1832 Dum Dum, Artillery HQ and was from William Hopper, Col. Com. 7 Brigade Artillery to Lieut George Hopper, 1K & CM Grenville Camp 7 1/8, Cornwall, Lower Canada. William signed himself ambiguously " my dear cousin George, your affectionate brother"

Family members were sceptical about its authenticity and relationship, if any, to the writer, addressee and those mentioned to themselves. This scepticism was increased as Aunt B closely guarded the original, only issuing transcribed copies of the letter. However, when I quickly provided the information that William had attained the rank of Major General before he died in 1843, it appeared adequate evidence of the letter's veracity, as his eventual military status was a fact known by Aunt B and only communicated verbally.

Research was continuing in Canada by Russell Morton into Marilyn's direct forebears and I was asked to undertake further investigation of William and his family in the hope and expectation that a meeting point would be found.

From the letter, William was known to be an officer in the Bengal Artillery, so following his career by reference to the published annual East India Register & Directory was straightforward. He also had an extensive entry in Hodson's "List of Officers of the Bengal Army 1758 - 1834". His sons, sons-in-law and other relatives also served in the Bengal Army and had entries in this work; many had documented service of distinction. Reference to BACSA's "South Park Street Cemetery - Register of graves and standing tombs from 1767" provided evidence of burial records at SP 559 for William Hopper, his wife Margaret (nee Quin) 1774-1848, their daughter Margaret 1802-1830 and her second husband J. T. B. Templeton 1793-1866. A photographic copy of their substantial and impressive tomb was kindly supplied by BACSA.

We learn from William's letter that he was born 21st August 1765 and from Hodson that he enlisted as a cadet in 1783, was an Infantry Ensign 6 April 1785 and that he transferred to the Bengal Artillery in 1790. However, frustratingly the earliest rolls located only document his career from 1790. The 1792 Annual Roll of the Bengal Artillery indicates that he arrived in India on the Foulis, was from Ireland, was aged 25, his station was LFW (Lieutenant Fire Worker) in the Bengal Artillery and that he enlisted in Dublin in 1790. Clearly there are some inconsistencies here. From examination of later rolls, one learns that the 'Age' column actually refers to age at enlistment, or age at joining the regiment - this latter would appear to be the correct interpretation in this case and the enlistment year of 1790 is clearly when he moved from the Infantry to Artillery. Presumably then, he originally enlisted in Dublin in 1783 - but records have yet to be located of this.

Regarding his arrival in India, embarkation lists for the period to 1790 have been examined but his name does not appear. However, these lists are solely musters of the

rank and file with no officers' names included. The Foulis herself only made three sailings to India between 1783 & 1790 and was lost on the last voyage after leaving Madras for Bencoolen on 8 March 1791. The first voyage was only scheduled for Madras and China, whereas the second, which left the Downs on 20 February 1786 included both Bombay and Bengal on the sailing schedule. I therefore consider it most likely that William Hopper was on board at this time as an Infantry Ensign, if indeed he did travel via the Foulis. However, Tony Fuller has also kindly checked the original logs of the first two voyages and has been unable to locate William's name amongst those on board.

As Irish records are sparse (Non-existent ?) for the 18th century, there seemed little possibility of locating his family origins through this route. Maybe they could be traced through contemporary relatives and descendants.

Hodson made reference to a will, so a copy of this was obtained. It proved to be a very lengthy document which ran to 10 pages including codicils and depositions by the executors. Undoubtedly it is the sort of document every family historian hopes to find, as there are over 25 persons named within it and relationships to the testator included. It also became clear that William Hopper had been a most successful member of the Bengal Artillery. He survived the rigours of climate and travel, outliving most of his children to attain the age of 77 years and 11 months, and accumulated considerable assets along the way. During his career he had not only returned to England at least once, as he refers in the letter to being in London in 1812 having his eyes "couched". He also clearly spent much time at the Cape of Good Hope. The latter is where his will was made and deposited on 4th October 1841 and where he owned "Grove House" in Roeland Street, Cape Town as well as shares in the 'new' Protestant St George's Church. He also owned property in Bengal - "an upper storey house Moggy pore in the south-east corner of the military cantonment at Dum Dum", another single storey house, Apposition Hall, also within the confines of the Cantonment and another, "Fairy Hall" outside its boundaries.

He not only provided well for his beloved wife of 50 years and his surviving sons - Arthur Quin Hopper and Harmon Baillie Hopper, but left legacies to a host of relatives and friends.

Other relationships are identified by reference to the entries in Hodson, the most notable possibly being that of William's nephew, Edward Keene Hopper (1809-1843), son of Edward Jervoise and Margaret Hopper of County Cork. Still other relatives are mentioned by William in the 1832 letter to his "brother" George in Lower Canada. There appears to be a very wide age gap between these two and curiously they never met, certainly not before 1832 and there is no reason to think that they met in the last 10 years of William's life:

"I think George, as we have never seen each other" and "As you are so many years younger than what I am" It is likely that George was the child of their father's second marriage; certainly there are other mentions of half-brothers and "cousin-german". However, exact relationships are still unclear. What is clear is that George pre-deceased William, as provision was made in the will for "the widow of my brother George etc...." - but this widow is the only beneficiary who is not identified in the will by a Christian name.

The table which follows lists the names and relationships of siblings and others identified as being related to William Hopper from the sources discussed. Sources are identified by a code where: l = the letter written by William to George in 1832; h = Hodson's List of Officers of the Bengal Army etc. and w = William's will.

Research by Russell Morton in Canada has identified more than one George Hopper in Ontario in the early 19th century, but it appears that the wife of Lieut. (later Colonel) George Hopper of HM 89th regiment was Jane Hopper nee McLean. When Jane died 16 October 1880, she too left a lengthy will naming many beneficiaries, but none appeared to be the relative of her late husband except for their mutual descendants. Unfortunately neither did the beneficiaries appear to be related to Marilyn's Hopper ancestors. At this time it is not known when or where Colonel George Hopper died or if he left a will; this was outside the scope of the project.

As a result of the research that has been undertaken around the world, it is now very doubtful that Marilyn Hopper Nelligan is in any way related to William and the 'military' George Hopper, as indications are that her ancestors hail from Yorkshire. No evidence has yet been uncovered of the parentage of William, born 21 August 1765, but in this case all roads lead to Ireland and an origin in either Dublin or County Cork is most likely.

However, the biggest mystery is still - How did Aunt B obtain possession of the letter?

Acknowledgements:

Thanks to Marilyn Hopper Nelligan for initiating the research and encouraging publication of some of the outcomes, to Russell Morton for the Canadian based research and to Tony Fuller, Donald Jaques in England and 'Brinds' in New Zealand for information on the Foulis.

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5. Embarkation Lists 1769 - 1789. Viewed on LDS microfilm no. 1835457
6. East India Register and Directory (various years)
7. British Association for Cemeteries in South Asia (BACSA): "South Park Street Cemetery, Calcutta: Register of graves and standing tombs from 1767", BACSA 1992
8. BACSA: Letter from T Wilkinson, Hon. Secretary, providing details of tomb inscriptions.
9. Correspondence Russell Morton to Marilyn Nelligan and Marilyn Nelligan to myself from May - September 2000
10. HOPPER, Jane (nee McLean): Last Will and Testament made Sep 5, 1872 and filed Dec 17, 1880
11. Cork Post Office Directory for 1842.

**NAMES MENTIONED IN DOCUMENTS PERTAINING TO MAJ. GEN.
WILLIAM HOPPER, BENGAL ARTILLERY**

NO	SURNAME	OTHER NAMES	DATE S	SOURCE	RELATIONSHIP	RANK/OCC
1	ALDER (?)	Thomas		w	faithful servant	gardener
2	BURTON	Clarke		w	nil	Master Supreme Court, Cape Good Hope
3	CADOGAN	Thomas Charles		w	nil	with Messrs Bagshaw & Co, Calcutta
4	CAMPBELL	A J		w	witness	Gent. Cape Town
5	CHIENE	Patrick John	1807 - 1898	h	m. Eliza Cunningham, sister-in-law of Arthur Quin Hopper	Mjr 34th BNI
6	CRAIGIE	Patrick		w	friend & executor	Mjr BNI
7	EAGAR	Edward		w	witness	Merchant Cape Town
8	FORDYCE	Arthur Thomas Dingwall		l	father of Thomas Dingwall, b.1791	Advocate in Aberdeen
9	FORDYCE	Arthur Thomas Dingwall	1820 - ?	w	grandson	at St Johns Oxford
10	FORDYCE	Thomas Dingwall	1791 - 1820	h, l	1st husband of Margt Hopper, m.1819	Lt.Artilletry & Adj to W.H.
11	HOPPER	Amelia		w	Niece	with sister, Mrs Warren, Cork
12	HOPPER	Arthur		l	late brother	
13	HOPPER	Arthur		w	Nephew	in Montreal, Canada, ? S/- George & Jane
14	HOPPER	Arthur Quin	1811 - 1857	h, l, w	Son & Executor	Mjr 24th BNI
15	HOPPER	Edward Keene	1809 - 1843	h	son of Edward J Hopper, nephew	Bt Cpt. 73rd BNI
16	HOPPER	Emma		l	probably step sister	
17	HOPPER	George	?	l, w	(half) brother	Col.HM 89 Rgt
18	HOPPER	George	c 1785- <1841	l	brother or half brother	Lt. In Cornwall, Lower Canada
19	HOPPER	Harmon Baillie	1818 - ?	w	Youngest Son	
20	HOPPER	Jane	c1797-1880	w	Sister-in-law	wife of George, m. 1814
21	HOPPER	Lydia	?	l, w	Niece	with her father,

		(Liddy)				Thomas, Dublin
22	HOPPER	Margaret	1774 - 1848	w	Wife & Executor	
23	HOPPER	Mary		l	sister	
24	HOPPER	Rose Amelia	1812 - 1840	h, w	daughter in law	widow of Andrew Liddell, wife Wm McDowell Hopper
25	HOPPER	Thomas	?	l, w	Half brother	father of Lydia, in Dublin
26	HOPPER	WILLIAM	1765 - 1843	h, l, w	self	Mjr Gen Artillery
27	HOPPER	William McDowell	1803 - 1841	h, l	eldest son	Cpt 57th BNI
28	HUGHES	Eleanor (Ellen)	1815 - ?	h, l, w	Daughter	wife of Mjr Henry P Hughes
29	HUGHES	Henry Philip	1795 - 1871	h	son-in-law	Mjr Artillery
30	HULL	Edward		w	witness	Gent. Cape Town
31	HUTCHENSON	Alex		w	witness	Notary Public, Cape Town
32	LIDDLE HOPPER	Rose Eliza		w	"orphan"	child of Rose Hopper's 1st marriage
33	LIDDLE HOPPER	William Joseph		w	"orphan"	child of Rose Hopper's 1st marriage
34	LIVINGBURN	Mrs		l	? Niece	daughter of late bro. Arthur (see 43)
35	MACKENZIE	William Gordon		w	friend & executor	Col. BNI
36	MONTAGUE	John		w	nil	Sec. to Govt. Cape of Good Hope
37	MORRISON	Col & Mrs	dec bef. 1832	l	known to Wm & George	
38	NEWLAND	Emma		w	Half sister	Widow, lives Dublin
39	NISBET	J W B		w	witness	Gent. Cape Town
40	QUIN	Margaret	1774 - 1848	h, l, w	wife, m. 1792	
41	SUTTON	N/K		l	nil	Captain of ship "Eliza" 1830
42	SWINBURNE	Christopher		w	Great Nephew	only son of Eleanor S
43	SWINBURNE	Eleanor		w	Niece	poss same as 34

		(Mrs)				
44	SWINBURNE	Ellen		w	Great Niece	5th dau. of Eleanor
45	SWINBURNE	Emma		w	Great Niece	6th dau. of Eleanor
46	SWINBURNE	Margaret		w	Great Niece	7th dau of Eleanor
47	TEMPLETON	Margaret	1802 - 1830	h, l	daughter	died in childbirth, mo of Arthur T D Fordyce
48	VENN	Thomas Bowman		w	friend	of Cape Town, firm of Dickson, Burnies & Co
49	WARREN	Mrs		h, Cork PO Dir 1842	niece	wife of Robert Warren
50	WYMER	Christopher		w	friend	Captain BNI
51	WYMER	Maryann Sophia		w	"my little friend"	Dau. of Chris. Wymer

First Visits to the OIOC by a “Newbie”

Elaine MacGregor

I met up with Lawrie Butler on my second visit to the British Library (he had remembered me from when I joined FIBIS at the Family History Fair held in London at the beginning of May) and he asked me if I would jot down a “few notes about my first visits to the OIOC before my memories were clouded over with what I have done since”.

I thought I would start at the beginning by describing how I was first introduced to the OIOC (Oriental and India Office Collections) Reading Room at the British Library by a member of the Crawley Computer Group which I attend once a month on a Wednesday evening ... Helen Wilson and I were talking at one of the evening meetings a few months ago and when she found out that I had 6 generations of ancestors in India she very kindly offered to take me with her next time she went up to London... and as you can imagine, I accepted the offer with heartfelt thanks. Actually there is nothing to be worried about, as the staff at the British Library are all very helpful. On my first visit at the end of March, on a Saturday morning, we all met at Crawley (Near Gatwick in East Sussex) - and Helen drove four of us up to London. We let the other two researchers off at the London Records Office and arranged to meet them at 5.00 p.m. at the British Library. We then managed to park in an adjacent road to the Library and once in the building Helen conducted a quick guided tour of the locker rooms where you can leave your belongings for the day – a £1.00 coin is all you need, which you get back when you retrieve your bag, coat, etc). You put all the items you want to take with you to the reading room in a clear plastic carrier bag which is provided by the Library – as no food, drinks, pens, highlighters, etc. are allowed. Ladies are permitted a small handbag and of course you can take a laptop if you wish as there are power points at most desks.

The lifts are right beside the locker rooms and Helen took me up to the 3rd floor where I viewed the OIOC reading rooms from the doorway. Back down we went to the ground floor where I obtained my Reader’s ticket. Although the British Library is open to the public, you have to demonstrate some good reasons for doing research there - I had been warned to make sure that I had identification and to ask for a five-year ticket. You used to have to take a passport photo with you, but now they take a digital one while you wait.

As I sat downstairs waiting to be called and clutching my file of ancestors who had lived in India and my driver’s licence, I asked myself did I really know what I was letting myself in for? But, my curiosity was aroused as to why so many of my ancestors on my paternal side had ended up in India. Having searched on the web, it seemed that my relatives had been caught up in the Indian Mutiny of 1857, at the Siege of Lucknow and I wanted to find out why, what it had been like. I have a copy of a letter my uncle had written to my father in 1948 when he had gone back to India to find his family after the war. It was like reading a novel. Surely the events he mentioned hadn’t happened to our family?

I was roused out of my reminiscences by my number being called ... I was asked why I wanted to visit the OIOC, I explained and was offered a day or a month’s ticket – but when I mentioned 6 generations, the clerk realised that I would be visiting for a lot longer than a month (even if I had the opportunity to go every day for that month there

was no way I would be able to find all the information I needed)... so I got my five year ticket. All in a matter of moments, my application had been processed, I had been photographed and then presented with my plastic 5 year reader's card and I think I will definitely be needing all five years worth!

Back up to the 3rd floor, where the steward on duty, realising that I was a "newbie" quickly explained the layout (although Helen had briefed me previously)... but what he couldn't tell me was where to start my research ... I really didn't know and there were so many books on so many shelves. I looked at the Biographical Index and, although there were several Lynches, they did not look too promising.

That first day I was pointed in the direction of the Births, Burials and Marriages indexes for the three Presidencies - Bombay, Madras and Bengal. I knew that my family had been in Calcutta and I knew enough geography to know that Calcutta comes under the Bengal Presidency, so started with the Bengal Burial Index. These are board backed black books which had originally been handwritten (the ones on the shelves are copies of the originals) and as I wasn't really sure where to commence, I started with the LYNCHes. My G-G-G-G-father had been a Sgt in the 2nd EBF (which I learnt meant 2nd Battalion of the European Bengal Fusiliers) since this appeared on his daughter's Baptismal certificate in 1846.

The Burial Indexes go from 1713 to 1948 and as I wasn't sure of any dates, I thought I would start at the beginning and work through – I found 276 Lynch Burials in Bengal that first day. I realise now, that starting with the Burials was probably the wrong decision. Marriages or Births would probably have been more helpful, but once started I thought I would persevere and while I was at it, collect all the Lynches along the way, as some may be relations of the David Lynch I was searching for.

Having transcribed all the years, names, volume and page numbers, I then sifted through them to locate all the David Lynches. After that it was finding the appropriate microfilm, learning how to attach the roll of film to the viewer (making sure not to get it upside down which I did to start with) and then deciding how to get to the appropriate volume and page number of the correct film to appear on the screen of the microfilm reader. Not that easy when you have never used one beforethen it was a matter of trying to focus the machine so that I could actually read the script. The films are negatives - black and the writing shows up white on the screen – some are very poorly written and hard to decipher, but the Library does have a very good microfilm copier and this will print out the appropriate page on A3 or A4 but as black writing on a white background. (One chap I was talking to, said all he does is print out all the records he thinks might be relevant without actually looking at them and then does his actual research when he gets home. He reckoned although it might cost a bit more and he may end up with a lot of photocopies he doesn't need, it is a lot easier than having to scan each film on a microfilm reader, rewind it and then take it to the microfilm copier and do it all again.)

I started looking at the various Davids I had listed, but soon realised that I needed more information about the man before I could find his Death Certificate, as any one of them could have been the David I needed. At that stage it was about 4.00 p.m. and I only had another hour before closing time, so I gave up on the Lynches for the day and thought I would look for my great-grandmother, Marian Frances Daisy FARRELL - as I knew a bit more about her. My grandmother had been orphaned at about 10 years of age, which gave me a bracket to search in. Eureka – I found it! There was the

recording of her death ...10th March 1905 – but with yet another Christian name tacked on... She had a propensity for changing her first name

Her baptismal certificate shows Marian Frances
Her marriage certificate - Marian Daisy
Her daughter's baptismal certificate – Mary Anne
Her daughter's birth certificate – Marian
Her daughter's marriage certificate – Marianna
Her Death Certificate – Mary Ann Frances Agnes

I left the Library that day walking on air with my success – limited though it was ... hooked on genealogy.... and desperate to get back to look for more but it would be a few more weeks before I got the chance. When I left Helen that evening to drive home she lent me some books and pamphlets about the various records held at the Library and these have made my task a lot easier, as the next time I went I knew more about what to look for and was starting to understand the way the record system works. For example L/MIL is for all the Military records ... and that was where I was going to look next.

My second visit to the OIOC was on Saturday 12th May. This time to get there I caught the train from Brighton at 8.00 a.m. which deposited me at Kings Cross Underground at 9.15 and it is only a few moments walk along the Euston Road, past King's Cross and St. Pancras Stations to the new British Library and as the Library opens at 9.30 it was good timing.

I had been to the Society of Genealogists' Open Day the weekend before, and came across the FIBIS stand – Families in British India Society – and on talking to the chairman, Peter Bailey, came to realise how lucky I was already to have to hand so much information – (most of it gleaned from my Uncle). Peter gave me some pointers as to where in the military records to look and to first of all try the Muster books.

I went to the reading room with a list of items commencing around 1840 that I wanted to look at and I would recommend that you go prepared, as it can save so much time on the day. The British Library publication - “A Brief Guide to Biographical Sources” by Ian A Baxter is worth getting hold of, as it gives you a breakdown of all the different types of records that are held at the India Office.

I started looking at what I thought were the appropriate shelves.... But I couldn't find any of the records listed Across to the main library desk .. to be told “Oh these aren't on the shelves, you need to order them and they come up from the vaults, takes about 45 minutes”. How to order them.... Ah ... computerised indexes ... so a quick lesson by one of the staff on how to order the selected volumes ... you are allowed 15 volumes per day, but only allowed three in use at any one time, so the trick is, after your initial first order, as you finish one volume you order the next! You would be very hard pressed to get through 15 volumes in one day- I managed 2 on my first visit and about 5 on my second and then the last two were just skimmed as I ran out of time! The day just seems to disappear, and there is no time to stop and eat ... although there is a café and a restaurant if you wish to make time.

While I was waiting for the Muster books, I started on another tack ... look for the FARRELLs. I already had Marian FARRELL's Baptismal Certificate showing she was born on 6 February 1879 in Meean Meer and her Marriage Certificate for 18th

September 1893 in Jubbulpore, so knew her age and the fact that she was only 14½ when she married. So I needed to find her parent's Marriage Certificate – I already had a photocopy of an old copy but couldn't read the date as it was where the certificate had been folded for so long, ... it was back to the Bengal Marriage Indexes. And there it was:

Bengal Marriages - ref. N/1/152/207

5th June 1875:

Henry Farrell - Age 22 Bachelor, Medical Student,

Father's Name - James Farrell

Mary Lynch - Age 29, Spinster,

Father's name - David Lynch

By License

Witnesses: H. Hartigan and Wm. Lynch

I thought I would look to see if Marian had any siblings, so delved into the Births Index, starting in 1840 and found – ref. N/1/156/148

Eileen Mary born 30th May 1876

Parents' Names – Henry and Mary Farrell

Abode – Meean-Meer

Quality Trade or Profession Passed Hospital Apprentice

By this time an hour had gone past and the Muster books were arriving up from the Vault. I collected three huge journals, each one probably about 2' long, by 18" wide by 3" deep. I was handling Muster Books over 150 years old! All beautifully handwritten in copperplate – rather dusty, but still very much intact. A couple were in boxes to protect them, as the bindings were rather fragile. The first one I started on was the L/MIL/10/161 which was a Muster Roll. In it I found 9 Lynches, all from Ireland – information listed for each man was the following

Surname

Christian names

Rank

No.

Troop or Company

Brigade or Battalion

Present age

Height

Hair Colour

Complexion

Occupation at time of joining up

Country (all from Ireland)

Town,

County

Where and when they first entered

Terms of contractual service – most joined for Life (or Unlimited)

On what ship arrived from Europe and from what service entertained

I didn't find a David in this book, so went onto the next – it was L/MIL/10/123 – Bengal Register of European Soldiers in HIC (Honourable India Company) Service 1788 to 1839 – L-Z

Here I found another 7 new Lynches, plus some of the ones from the previous muster book. This register gave additional information, for example: Remarks. – these showed in brief detail what had happened to the soldier, some were invalided out, some died, some retired

For David I found the following

Name:	LYNCH, David
Rank or Situation:	Private, 2 nd European Regt.
Occupation:	Laborer (sic)
Country:	Ireland
Town:	Killarney
County:	Kerry
Date joined:	18 th May 1839 in Limerick
Terms of service:	Unlimited
Ship:	Duke of Lancaster, 1839
Remarks:	Appointed DM (Drill Master) Sergt to the Regt of Sepoys, 1 August 1846. Remanded at his own request to his own Regt 1855. Sergt to TM (Town Major's List) 1 st March 1858 GOCC (General Orders Commander-in-Chief). Discharged to India 29 June 1860 Died 3 Sept 1861. Pen CR (Casualty Roll) 58/61

I didn't know what DM, TM, GOCC or CR stood for and when I asked at the desk, they told me they didn't know, but would see if they could find out for me. I got a call first thing on Monday morning to tell me what they were. I was most impressed (information in brackets above).

When I got home I typed the information into columns on a spreadsheet showing all the data I had found.

Time was marching on and already it was 2.00 p.m. and I had to leave by 3.00 p.m. as I had another meeting to go to, so there was no time to look at the third book I had ordered and reluctantly I handed it back in. Instead I had a quick look for David and Mary's Marriage certificate – it had to be some time between 1839 when he got to India and 1846 when Mary Sarah was born – and sure enough I found it in the 1842 Index.

There is not a lot of information on these early Registrations, and the quality of the one I was searching is pretty poor, but you can just make out the following – ref. N/1/RC1/83:

Date of Marriage:	30 June 1842
Man's name and whether Bachelor or Widower, European, Indo British or Native Christian:	David Lynch, Bachelor, European
Rank or Profession:	Soldier
Woman's Name and whether Spinster, or Widow, European, Indo British or Native Christian:	Mary Ann Lynch, Widow, European

Garrison or Station:
Ceremony performed by:
Witnesses:

Cawnpore
The Very Revd Fr ? Adesdatus
Corpl. Thos Hautenville and
Eliza Maddex

I was really pleased with all I had found on my second visit and now look forward to my third, when I hope to find a lot more information in the Military Records for David Lynch. I still can't believe that they let you handle 150 year old original record books!

A Mystery Man

Donald Jaques

Most families have a mystery somewhere in their past. My wife's ancestors spent over a hundred years in India, indeed it is why I have an interest in the place. In all but one case researching them was quite straightforward: no Roman Catholics, no orphaned children, no flits from one Presidency to another and only one career ruined by the demon drink. Cawdery, my wife's great grandfather, is the exception.

The story handed down is that he had been in the Cavalry, then the Police and aged 26 had married Catherine (Kate) Honeywell in 1875 at Ootacamund, had a daughter and then had left for England promising to send for Kate. He had written to her but her father, Samuel, had intercepted his letters. Presumably he gave up and much later Kate went to England but failed to find any trace of him. She died in 1923.

Given his age, I searched the GRO birth indexes in all possible variants of his name, but with no luck. What was clear was that the name was virtually confined to the south of England around 1850. Turning to the Cavalry, there was a Trooper John Cawdery who joined the 16th Lancers in Hyderabad from England in April 1870. Unfortunately the Depot records for 1869/70 have not survived. In April 1872, when they were in Bangalore, he went on leave and was still on leave when he purchased his discharge in July 1873, implying that he was absent for so long with the agreement of the Army.

Turning to the Madras Police, he appears on the establishment (in L/F files) in the Annual Return for April 1873 as a 4th Class Inspector, Caudery F, paid R75 with a R25 horse allowance, in the Coimbatore District, having been appointed in 1872. It is said that his period of residence in India was 9 years 5 months. But his army record implies that he had only been there for 3 years. Could he have been the son of a soldier who between 1849 and say 1869 had spent 6 years in India? There is no evidence of a birth in India. Alas, a very large number of British Regiments had been in India in the 20 years. No EIC army candidate has been found. To be made Inspector at such an early age suggests he had a command of Tamil.

When he married Kate in 1875 he was a widower. In 1873 Frank Leslie and Sophia had had a daughter Beatrice Mary. Sophia died, aged 19, in August 1874. If they married in India, I have found no record. Frank Leslie, father S. L. Cawdery, engineer (perhaps an exaggeration), married Kate in February 1875 and a daughter, Grace Leslie was born in December and baptized the following March. Cawdery does not appear as an Inspector in April.

Why did he leave? Had he committed some offence? Or had he concluded that his job and his new family had committed him to a life which he could not face? Either way his father-in-law must have thought he was a 'wrongun'. What is strange is that with his local connections he could not have circumvented the ban on access to his wife had he wanted to do so.

The scene shifts to England and the invaluable 1881 census index. In Mile End Old Town there was a Frank Cawdery, 32, a widower (!) and a coal meter - one who measured coal off ships in London Docks, a trade which originated with the Coal Tax levied to help rebuild London after the Great Fire. He said he was born in Scotland, but enquiry could not find him or his father there.

In 1882, at Old St. Pancras Church, John Frank Cawdery, widower and coal meter, father deceased, married Emily Elizabeth Harrison, the daughter of a fishmonger. The marriage produced no children. A search for his death found a tragedy. He died in January 1885 aged 36. A coroner's inquest held in Deptford found that he died of peritonitis after being crushed by a coal crane. Apparently he had stepped out of his 'box' and the crane had swung round and crushed him against the box. If he was the right man, no wonder Kate could not find him.

There is a strange sequel to all this. Some twelve years ago my wife discovered that a local dress shop was run by a Mrs Cawdery. Naturally she was all agog (though I only later discovered that it had been a local name). Questioned, Mrs Cawdery mentioned that she had had a phone call some time before from an American lady enquiring about Cawderys who had talked about the letters. But Mrs Cawdery had not taken a note of her name and address since she could not help. So somewhere in the US is or was someone who, I suspect, must have been descended from Beatrice Mary (whose later life is not known) or much less likely Grace Leslie (van Ingen), my wife's grandmother. I suppose the consolation is that the American knows far less about Frank's history than I think I have been able to discover.

Looking for Baptism, Marriage & Death Records for Roman Catholic Soldiers in India from Original Church Records

Peter Bailey

In an article in the last Journal, I explained that the Genealogical Society of Utah (GSU) have been filming RC Parish Registers in India. For periods prior to 1835 these records will be the only ones reasonably available to the researcher outside India. After 1835, it is likely that the GSU records will eventually be more complete than those currently available at the Oriental and India Office Collection at the British Library in London. The hugely important advantage of the latter is that they have been painstakingly indexed and this greatly facilitates research by family historians. Indeed, without such indexes, researchers would generally be required to spend a lifetime searching for a particular needle in the haystack of records.

The 'new' GSU records will have no indexes. Accordingly, it will be particularly helpful, prior to embarking on a particular search, to know date and place of an event with as great an accuracy as possible. Most European Roman Catholics serving in India in the early years would have been soldiers and their families – and almost all of them

Irishmen. The purpose of this article is, therefore, to try to show how to identify the location of a particular Battalion or Company of a given regiment at a given time in order to facilitate the decision as to which record to search.

The Annual Muster Lists and various Presidency Almanacs make it reasonably simple to determine the regiment or battalion of an individual soldier at the beginning of each year. However, despite the wealth of records available at the OIOC, it is extremely difficult to determine at which location a particular company or troop was serving at a particular time. It may be noted that the Company's Armies' European soldiers were distributed among the following:

(Note numbers of men are approximate only and that these figures apply after the expansion of 1845. Earlier than this, the number of companies or troops may have been somewhat less in total and the problems of identifying their location somewhat greater. Note also that individuals may have served as Veterans, Sappers & Miners and Pensioners, which may have to be separately investigated.)

<u>Infantry</u>	Bengal	Two Regiments, each with two wings of 500 men each.
	Bombay	Two Regiments, one with one wing and one of two wings of 500 men each.
	Madras	Two Regiments, each with two wings of 500 men each.
<u>Horse Artillery</u>	Bengal	3 Brigades, each with 3 Troops of 500 men each.
	Bombay	An HQ plus 1 Brigade of 4 Troops of 500 men each.
	Madras	An HQ plus 1 Brigade of 5 Troops of 500 men each.
<u>Foot Artillery</u>	Bengal	6 Battalions, each with an HQ plus 4 Companies of 100 men each.
	Bombay	2 Battalions, each with an HQ plus 4 Companies of 100 men each.
	Madras	4 Battalions, each with an HQ plus 4 Companies of 100 men each.

Each Wing, Troop or Company was liable to serve in a large number of different locations in its own Presidency and occasionally in another. Indeed, as the Company's responsibilities expanded throughout the early to mid-nineteenth century, a Company of Madras Artillery could be assigned to one of as many as fifty locations. Specific mention is made here of Burma and the Straits Settlements (Penang, Malacca & Singapore) which, although strictly part of the Bengal Presidency, were commonly garrisoned by soldiers from Madras.

Accordingly, it is first necessary to determine in which corps your man served – at the time in question, since this may have changed during his career. This may be extremely difficult. However, ways in which this may be done are:

- Find the date on which he left his corps by death, by retirement or by promotion either to the Effective Supernumeraries (Madras) or to the Town Major's List (Bengal & Bombay). Look then in the Standing Orders for the Commander-in-Chief of the Presidency concerned for the relevant date and see if there is any minute recording the corps from which he was removed.

- Identify any of his companions who may have travelled to India with him and were appointed to the same corps as he. Follow their careers, if possible, particularly if they were Anglicans. The location of the companions' Marriage or Death may give an indication that your man was serving there at the same time.
- Look to see if your man – or one of his companions was court martialled. Almost invariably, the man's unit is given in the records, together with the place and date of the alleged crime, of course.
- Examine the Prize Rolls, Medal Rolls, etc. for any campaign in which he and his colleagues may have been involved. These generally give details of his unit.

It is appreciated that even extensive effort such as this may not yield the information sought. However, even if one is successful, it may not lead to a knowledge of the location of the man's unit. To assist in this, I give (Table 1) the location of the individual companies of the Madras Artillery. From 1845 onward this data was published in the 'Army List' for the Presidency. Prior to that date, such sketchy data as have been included were found from:

- Courts Martial details
- Protestant BMD Records
- Battle records
- Sundry records in General Orders

No doubt many researchers will remain unlucky despite trying the suggestions above. If, in doing so, they can add to the matrix of Unit-Date-Location given in Table 1, this information, together with its reference, will be gratefully received and included for the benefit of others.

The full list of the GSU films for India, other than those available at OIOC are on Cathy Day's FIBIS website at: <http://users.rootsweb.com/~indwggw/FIBIS/>

Locations of Battalions & Companies of Madras European Foot Artillery												
	First Battalion				Second Battalion				Third Battalion			
Yr	HQ Secunderabad from 1830				HQ St. Thomas Mount from 1830				HQ Kamptee from 1836			
18 **	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D
24									Sa			
25								Ka				
26				By	Mt		Mt	Sc				
27		Ka	Qu							Pg	Mt	Mt
28									Mt	Pg	Mt	Mt
29					By				Mt	Pg	Mt	Mt
30	Ba		It		Ba	Mt	Tr			Pg	Mt	Mt
31		Ka			Ba	Mt	Tr	Mt	Ms	Pg		
32								Mt		Pg		Mo
33		St	Sc Ka			Mt	Tr		Ms	Pg	Mt	Mo
34				Ka			Tr					
35	By	Sc		Ka	Ba				Mt	Mo		Mo
36	By	Sc		Mt		Mt		Tr Pa		Mo		Mo
37		Sc		Mt	Ba	Mt				Mo		Mt
38	By Ka	Sc	Ka		Ba Me	Mt	Mt	Mt	Ka	Mo	Mt	
39	Bg	Sc	Ka	Mt Pg	By	Mt	Mt	Tr Pa	Ka	Mo	Mt	Ba Me
40	Bg Sh	Sc	Ka	Mt Pg	By Ku	Mt Mo	Mt Ch	Tr Pa	Ka	Mo Ta	Mt	Ba Me
41	Bg	Sc	Ka	Mt Pg	By Ku	Mo Ta	Mt Ch	Tr Pa	Ka	Mo Ta	Mt	Ba Me

Key to Garrisons in Table above							
Ba	Bangalore	Ka	Kamptee	Mt	St Thomas Mt	Sc	Secunderabad
Bg	Belgaum	Ku	Kurnool	Pa	Palamcottah	Sh	Sholapur
By	Bellary	Mo	Moulmein	Pg	Penang	St	Straits
Ch	China	Me	Mercara	Qu	Quilon	Ta	Tavoy
It	Itakecherry	Ms	Masulipatam	Sa	Saugor	Tr	Trichinopoly

Gladys' Story – Leap Year's Day 1880

David Gore

Rupert is still a great traveller. He doesn't drive, but does he fly! Now just into his nineties, with a pacemaker and not as spry as he once was, he will think nothing of jetting off to see his son in South Africa or friends in America, India or New Zealand. A man of few qualms, he nevertheless has one superstition about travelling: he will never venture forth on leap day - the 29th February.

The reason, he told me, goes back more than a century to the history of his family and their long association with India. Rupert's aunt Gladys, the eldest of his grandfather's children, used to tell of the time that she and her baby brother (Rupert's father) were shipwrecked in the Arabian Sea. This is her story.

"It was the shouting that woke me, that and the thud of feet on the deck above our heads. It had been a wonderful February day. I had stood on the S. S. Vingorla with my mother among all the Indian deck passengers and crew, waving goodbye to the Bombay dock workers as we set sail on a calm sea with a warm light breeze. I watched the sails billow and the ship heel over slightly and felt the reassuring vibration of the engines beneath my feet."

"All the previous day we had been on the train from Neemuch, our home in Central India, 400 miles away. We slept that night at the Army base at Colaba and then went down to Bombay to catch the British India Steamship Vingorla (578 tons) for Karachi where my father was waiting for us. His regiment, the 3rd Bombay Light Cavalry, were fighting in Afghanistan and we were to join him for his local leave. Despite the excitement of my first sea voyage, I was asleep almost as soon as we went below to the cabin which I shared with my baby brother Charles, just seven months old."

"It was dark when I was woken by the commotion on deck and soon my mother was there in her night dress. She looked worried, spoke to some other passengers and then we were all told to come up on deck at once. There wasn't even time to get dressed and we all were in our night clothes just wrapped in blankets throughout the momentous events that followed."

"The deck was damp and cold under my feet and bathed in eerie moonlight casting long shadows as the men worked. Some were raising the mail boat into its davits, others with lights were around the main cargo hold and I saw that the deck passengers had all been moved to the stern of the ship. We stood around in a group, the saloon passengers among whom I recognised Mrs Stuart, the Master's wife with her small baby, Major Greig, Lieut. Colborne, Mr Cloete and the second officer Mr Battersby Wood who was in charge of launching the mail boat. Vingorla's sails had been taken in and we seemed to be at anchor with engines stopped. The sea remained calm and nothing appeared to be amiss with our ship but I saw men dumping what looked like cargo over the side. Eventually I was lifted into the mail boat, in which there were about twenty people including my mother with Charles and we were lowered jerkily down to the sea."

"It was only much later that I discovered what had happened. The ship had left Bombay at noon; by 9.30 p.m. she was about 70 miles out with her sails set and doing 8 knots in light winds on a smooth sea when she began to steer abnormally with the

head down. It was found that water was leaking into the main cargo hold and from there the disaster developed. Efforts were made to save the ship by dumping cargo overboard but the water gained steadily over the next four hours and at 1.30 in the morning Vingorla sank by the head in 20 fathoms. Our mail boat had been launched soon after 10.30 p.m. and two of the three remaining life boats got off shortly before the ship went down. The third was rushed by deck passengers, for whom no boats were provided, and broke in two in the davits, dumping them all in the sea."

"Our small boat continued circling the ship at a distance, but we could see little of what was happening on Vingorla until the awful moment when she sank with a dreadful hiss and we heard the cries of people in the water. The three life boats continued searching for survivors until about 4 a.m. at which time, overloaded with a total of 95 survivors aboard, the boats set course for Bombay. All that day, Sunday 29th February 1880 (leap day), we sat crowded into that mail boat with the sun beating down on us. Fortunately the sea remained calm and at 3 p.m. when we were apparently still 45 miles from Bombay, we were spotted by the S.S. Malda (1945 tons) and our ordeal was over. We had been in that little open boat for more than 16 hours. Malda then went directly to the scene of the sinking but after a two hour search found no more survivors. That eventful leap day ended early the following morning at 3.50 when we were landed back at Bombay and my mother was able to reassure my father at Karachi that we were well. He had known only that the Vingorla had sunk with heavy loss of life!"

"We learnt subsequently that four more survivors clinging to wreckage had been picked up by other ships late on the 29th, including Conroy, the Chief Officer. This meant that 75 people, nearly half the ship's complement, had drowned. Among those lost were the Master, Captain J. W. Stuart, the ship's clerk, Mr Mowbray, and all three engineer officers, with most of the rest being deck passengers. The Court of Inquiry failed to discover the cause of the leak in Vingorla's hull. She had a good reputation as a well maintained and seaworthy vessel, was not overloaded and no impact or shock had been felt, either on leaving Bombay or afterwards. They found that the loss of life was due to the lack of provision of boats for deck passengers, although under Bombay legislation at that time this was not a requirement and the ship had her full complement of life boats."

Some seventy years later Rupert verified all the facts about his father's shipwreck which figure in aunt Gladys' story. His interest in the tale had suddenly been reawakened by a flight he took in 1948, the year after Independence, when on route from Karachi to Bombay one of the two engines stopped. It was a close call but the Indian pilot just succeeded in making an emergency landing at Ahmedabad and Rupert and the other passengers walked off the plane, shaken but unharmed. It was another 29th February - leap day!

**The National Maritime Museum India CollectionsRoyal Indian Navy Association
- Percy Smith Collection**

Contributed by Geraldine Charles

MS 88/006

E = Exercise Book; F=Folders; M= Manuscript notes; N=Notebooks;
P= Pamphlet; I = Typescripts

The Collection comprises 29 items:

Box 1(1-17) - Box 2 (18-22) - Box 3 (23-27) 2 separate groups of material (28 & 29)

Note that some of the information relates to entries in the East India Register. The National Maritime Museum only holds copies of the EIR for the following years:

1813, 1815, 1817, 1820, 1828, 1830, 1832, 1834, 1836, 1838. 1851-54

For missing volumes consult other repositories e.g. Oriental and India Office Collections.

East India Company (All Three Presidencies)

- 2 List of Managing Owners with addresses and ships (N)
- 2 List of Packets employed by HEIC 1760-1819 with Commanders (N) and destinations (N)
- 2 Ships burnt, lost, taken or otherwise destroyed 1700-1819 (N)
- 2 List of Managing Owners with addresses and ships (N)
- 3 Ships and their Commanders 1760-1833 (E)
- 4 Officers shown as Pensioned November 1862 (E)
- 4 East India Register 1842-63, by year, gives names of persons and East India Register number (E)
- 12 Maritime Service 1760-1833 A-Jones (E)
- 13 Maritime Service 1760-1833 Jones-Wright (E)
- 14 Maritime Service 1760-1833 Wigzell-Z (E)
- 15 HEIC's Maritime Medical Service, Surgeons 1760-1833 (E)
- 19 Lists of Marine Records of the Late East India Company preserved in the India Office, London 1896 (P)
- 21 Miscellaneous Lists and Notes on officers and men (F)

- 22 Lists of Captains and ships of the East India Company 1631- 1822. Includes names of men receiving pensions from Poplar Fund and then following info. for HEIC ships Commander, 1st-4th officers, Surgeon and Purser (F)
- 24 List of officers and volunteers in the HEIC 's Marine 1801(T)
- 26 EIC Pensioners (T)
- 27 EIC's Maritime Service, Ships Husbands & EIC Maritime Service List (M)
- 28 List of ships and their officers 1673-1833 (M)

Bengal Presidency

- 7 Bengal Marine Board members 1803-48 (E)
- 11 Bengal Marine Pilot Establishment, casualties 1837-1874 (E)
- 16 Bengal Marine A-Z (E)
- 18 Bengal Marine "Particulars of certificates granted up to December 1902 to Masters, Mates and Engineers in Mercantile Marine" (P)
- 20 Lists of Bengal Marine from the India Office Records 1752-1862 (F)
- 26 Bengal Marine List of Branch Pilots 1771-1821(T)
- 29 Index Cards: Bengal Medical (1740-1914); Bengal Orphans (1780-1840); Bengal Marine (1700-1914); Bengal Pilots - Bengal Marine.

Madras Presidency

- 8 Master Attendant's Dept & Marine Board Members 1803-47 (E)

Bombay Presidency

- 1 List of Bombay Marine Seamen 18th and 19th Centuries (N)
2 Bombay Marine - Removal from Active List still serving in December 1937 List (N)
9 Bombay Marine Board Members 1803-47 (E)
10 Bombay Marine 1803-1831 casualties (E)
17 Bombay Marine 1750-1830 & 1830-60 A-Z (E)
23 Officers of Bombay Marine (& Indian Army) 1767-1837 (1)
26 Officers of the Bombay Marine 1768-1830 (1)
26 Bombay Wills 1723-1900(1)
29 Index - Bombay 1760-1880 (wills indexed from 1607); Bombay Medical (1740-1914)

Indian Navy

- 4 Disbandment of Indian Navy 1863 (E)
4 Indian Navy men omitted from EI Register 1863-65 (E)
5 Indian Navy casualties in EI Register 1864-1929 (E)
6 Indian Navy Entries 1830-1862 (not including pilots) (E)
10 Indian Navy casualties 1831-1847 (E)
17 Indian Navy 1830-1860, A-Z (E)
20 Lists of Indian Navy seamen from the India Office Records 1752-1862 (F)

Free Mariners

- 25 List of Free Mariners (I)
- 29 **Index Cards** (See also under Bengal & Bombay above)
- Bengal and Bombay Medical (1740-1914) Bombay Pilot Service (1840-1933)
 - Maritime Medical (1700-1710)
 - Mariners, Merchants and Passengers (1600-1833)
 - Bengal Orphans (1780-1840)
 - Bengal Marine (1700-1914)
 - Mercantile and Maritime Services (1685-1900)

Also Bengal Pilots; Mercantile; Maritime Service; Ship's Officers; Bengal Marine, Medical.
Free Merchants, Bombay 1760-1880 (wills indexed from 1607)

Other

- 21 Misc. lists and notes on officers and men (F)
23 Lists of officers of Indian Army 1767-1837 (1)
26 Officers of the name Powell connected with India (I)

The Royal Indian Naval Association Archives

This collection has the class mark RIN and includes news cuttings, personal papers, photographs, reminiscences and printed material.

The collection also contains the original drafts of material published by the British Association for Cemeteries in South Asia (BACSA) in "Bombay Buccaneers".

Monthly Military Musters

Peter Bailey

All of us who are researching ancestors who served in the 'rank & file' in the three Presidency Armies will be familiar with the Annual Muster Lists. These lists, taken on 1st January every year, form some of the most useful sources of information about soldiers, leading to other sources giving details of height, colour of eyes, birthplace etc.

Did you know, however, that Muster Lists were, in fact, taken every month by the Commanding Officer of each company of Infantry, Artillery, etc? Regrettably, these monthly musters must have been amongst the tons of records that – as the OIOC Staff will tell you with tears in their eyes – were destroyed as not worth keeping many years ago! The General Order issued by the C-in-C of the Madras Army in Fort St George, dated 12 June 1841, (L/MIL/17/3/377) confirms instructions as to how these musters are to be recorded. As an example of how this should be done, the order gives a copy of the muster taken for 'A' or Captain J. Cramer's Company, Madras European Infantry which was stationed at Bangalore on 1st January 1841.

Each soldier is listed with his:

General No. – Rank & Name – Rate of Pay (with details of 'Good Conduct' supplements for 7, 14 or 28 years service) and 'Remarks'

Under 'Remarks' is given any event during the preceding month or so, relative to the man concerned. Examples of this are:

'On Command to Madras' 17th Dec'r'

'Received from 'C' Company'

'Promoted from Corporal after 7 yrs Service GC of this Co. 15th Dec. 1840'

'In hospital from 9th to 15th Dec. 1840'

'Absent without leave'

'Transferred to the Artillery 21st Dec. 1840'

All this, of course, is most informative and gives useful background to the soldiers' careers. Details of the 100, or so, soldiers listed are not feasible to reproduce here. The soldiers are to be found in the familiar Annual Muster anyway. However, much more useful is the addition of details of wives and children attached to and mustered with the Company! In view of their current apparent uniqueness, I record here these musters of Women and Children of 'A' Company Madras European Regiment for January 1st 1841.

		WOMEN	
		European	
No.	Names	Husband's Rank & Name	Remarks
1	Ann Cassidy	Serjt. Major P. Cassidy	School Mistress
2	Michael Reeves	Serjt. J. Reeves	Rec'd from 'C' Co. on leave to England 17 th Nov. 1840 PND
3	Jane Jones	Private J. Jones	Rejoined from leave 29 Dec. 1840 PD for Nov & Dec

4	Sophia Long	Private J. Long	
5	Catherine Primrose	Private R. Primrose	On leave 23 rd Nov 1840 PND
6	Jessy Reardon	Private W. Reardon	In hospl. From 1 st to 31 st Dec. 1840
7	Mary Davison	Private R. Davison	Widow from 16 th Dec. 1840
8	Agnes Brown	Private N. Brown	In private service PND
9	Charlotte Harrisons	Private A. Harrisons	Allowance suspended from 1 st to 31 st Dec. 1840 PND
10	Betsy Tippings	Private G. Tippings	Returned from Europe & joined her husband 23 rd Dec. 1840
		East Indian	
No.	Names	Husband's Rank & Name	Remarks
1	Susan Johnstone	Serjt. W. Johnstone	
2	Janet Clynes	Corpl. J. Clynes	Removed E Co. PND
3	Hannah Baxter	Private G. Baxter	Died 12 th Nov. 1840
4	Rosa Hilton	Private W. Hilton	Struck off the strength of the Regt. 31 Dec. 1840
5	Kitty Hannan	Private D. Hannan	Absent without leave 17 Dec. 1840 PND
6	Sarah Farrells	Private T. Farrells	Married 1 Jan 1841. Certificates attached
7	Martha Relsons	Private J. Relsons	Husband deserted 2d Dec. Allowances drawn up to that date.
8	Elizabeth Daly	Private J. Daly	
9	Eliza Mullin	Private H. Mullin	On leave 27 th Dec. 1840 Pay drawn on separate abstract

		CHILDREN		
No.	Names	Date of Birth	Father's Rank & Name	Remarks
1	William Cassidy	15 Jan 1827	Sjt. Major P. Cassidy	Appointed a Medical Candidate 9 Dec. 1840
2	John Clynes	7 Oct 1839	Corpl. J. Clynes	Removed to G. Co. PND
3	Susan Reardon	4 Jul 1839	Private W. Reardon	Died 25 Dec. 1840
4	Charles Primrose	9 Jun 1838	Private R. Primrose	
5	Timothy Davison	1 Oct 1835	Private R. Davison	Father died 16 Dec 1840 to which date allowance drawn
6	Susan Davison	11 Dec 1837	Private R. Davison	Father died 16 Dec 1840 to which date allowance drawn
7	Robert Grantby	21 Feb 1834	Private G. Grantby, Wid'r	

8	Jane Relsons	15 Mar 1836	Private J. Relsons	Father deserted and allowance drawn to 2 Dec 1840
9	Sophia Long	17 Nov 1826	Private J. Long	Completed 14 years 16 Dec 1840
10	Alisia Brown	7 Mar 1827	Private A. Brown	Married 25 Dec 1840