

WALCH FAMILY JOTTINGS.

compiled by

JANE SHART MAN.

GEORGE TURNER WALCH.

FORBEARS.  
(Paternal).

Authentic information as regards our forbears is not available further back than 150 years, but tradition has it that when in 1688 William of Orange came from Holland to be King William the Third of Great Britain he brought with him a Walloon Regiment in which was our paternal Grandfather's Grandfather who, after he had taken part in the Battle of the Boyne, in July 1690, was rewarded by a grant of land in the North of Ireland.

So far mere tradition, but then we come to ascertained facts.

OUR GREAT  
GRANDFATHER.

Our Great Grandfather died when our Grandfather was still quite a boy. His Mother married again and his stepfather treating him badly, he ran away from his home and enlisted in a regiment going for service to America.

There he fought at the battle of Bunkers' Hill, (17th June 1775).

Some time after that he was given a Commission. When he became an ensign, we do not know, but an old Army List shows that in 1795 he was a captain in the 80th Regiment.

He married, exactly when has not been ascertained, but in 1788 when his regiment was stationed at Birmingham, his only son our Father was born there on the 16th October of that year, and was christened "James William Henry".

Soon after this our Grandfather went to India with his regiment taking his wife and little son with him, and in India and Ceylon he remained for the rest of his service till he died in 1844.

In India there were born to him two daughters,

Catherine (in 1791) who married Captain Peter Bruels Man of the 54th Regiment, and was generally known in our family circle as "Aunt Peter", and another daughter who married an officer of the name of Slade; she died not long after her marriage.

### FATHER.

When our Father was only 8 years and 7 months old he was given a commission in the army through the influence of General Auchmuty who was a great friend of his Father's.

That our Father should have been a full blown Ensign drawing the pay of that rank at so early an age seems now-a-days almost incredible but it is nevertheless a fact - see statement of service given later on.

Of course he had to go at once to England for education. In an account of his early life written by our Mother she says " it was arranged that he was to go to Mrs Harness the wife of the Colonel of the 80th Regiment who lived at Dronfield in Yorkshire to be educated with her son. The Captain who had charge of him was well known and liked at Madras, and he had full directions what to do with his charge written out and carefully placed in a desk which was given to the boy as a parting gift from his Mother.

The voyage was a fair one until they reached the Bay of Biscay when they were overtaken by a hurricane and were nearly foundering when a sail was seen and all the passengers left what they thought was the sinking ship and went on board the other vessel which was also bound for England. They much wished to take the boy with them but the Captain objected, saying he must sink or swim with him. A few hours afterwards the ship was taken as a prize by a French frigate and towed into Brest harbour and sunk.

It being a time of war between England and France, The Captain, crew and little boy(our Father) were put into prison.

He used to say he was not badly treated, indeed some English families in Brest used to get permission for him to visit them occasionally.

He was made to work in the prison as errand boy and cook's boy for many months.

The Captain managed to write to Ids wife, and

through the efforts of friends, when there was an exchange of prisoners he obtained his release, but no amount of persuasion would induce the authorities to let him take the boy with him, and this mainly because he had boasted of being an officer.

I must here mention that the vessel into which the passengers were transferred was never heard of again, and was supposed to have gone down in the same storm.

When the Captain reached England he used every effort to get our Father released, but he could not do so until after the war, nearly three years from the time of his imprisonment.

Then the difficulty arose where was he to go ? For his desk went down with the ship. Both the Captain and the boy remembered the name of the lady but nothing further, so after putting him into decent clothing the Captain said there was nothing for it but to take him to his own family in Scotland, bring him up with his own children till he could hear from his friends in India.

Of course both they and Mrs Harness had long ago given him up as drowned.

Well they were travelling from London to Scotland in the old stage coach days, and when at dinner at an inn on the road the Captain was telling the story to a gentleman sitting by him, and the waiter, hearing what he said told him there was a family of the name of Harness living about 5 miles distant.

Of course the Captain thought it right to enquire if this were the same family as he was seeking, so he ordered a post chaise and drove to Dronfield. Mrs. Harness was indeed astonished, having given him up long ago.

Of course he was at once sent to school, but was scarcely four years there, when, not quite 15 years of age, he was in September 1803, ordered to join at Jersey, the first battalion of the 80th Regiment and with it he shortly went to India.

In 1809 he was made "First Adjutant of Seringapatam" (captured in 1799) but at the end of the year he had to accompany his regiment and in various staff appointments chiefly in Trichinopoly and Cannanore till in 1820 his regiment having completed its tour of Indian service was sent on garrison duty for a

short time to Malta and Gibraltar and thence to England arriving there at the end of 1822 or early in 1823.

On the 5th June of the latter year he married at Rainham in Kent, our Mother, Eliza, daughter of Charles Nash a farmer of Mackland, she was        years of age.

In July of the same year, wishing to serve again in India, he exchanged into the 54th Regiment just going there, and in that Regiment he remained for the rest of his military career.

In 1824-25 he served in the "Campaign of Ava" (now called Burma) - see statement of services given further on.

Whilst on this active service our Mother had to stay in Madras (Fort St. George) though she was very anxious to join him.

In answer to a letter from her entreating to be allowed to do so he wrote "For your sake it cannot be - this is no place for a young wife."

After the campaign was over he held various regimental and staff appointments at the chief military stations of the Madras Presidency. Those were the days of the Army purchase system (abolished in 1871 by Lord Cardwell when Secretary of State for War) and our Father, not being well enough off to take advantage of that system and therefore having to depend solely on death steps for promotion it was very slow and it was not till 1837 after 39 years and 9 months on full pay, that he became a Major by brevet.

He then went of half pay and returned to England with his family of 3 sons, Arthur, James and Charles and 2 daughters, Eliza Litchfield and Jane Smart and settled down for a time in Exeter.

It soon became apparent that his half pay was not enough to enable him to live with comfort in England, and, chiefly for the sake of his boys, he turned his thoughts to emigration. They were directed towards "Van Diemens Land" (now Tasmania) by the advice of a distant relative of our Mother, Mr. Henry Hopkins, who had some years before gone out there and done well and by that of friends named Graycroft who were relative of Sir John Franklin the great arctic explorer, then Governor of that Colony.

The Home Government was at that time in its anxiety to get desirable settlers for Australia giving the old military and naval officers grants of land there and one of half a square mile (320 acres) was given to our Father in the northern part of "Van Diemens Land" and to that, then far away land, the family went off, leaving England in July 1842 in the ship "Royal Saxon" carrying over 400 emigrants.

On arriving in the Colony before settling on his land our Father wisely sought the advice of friends and old residents, who were unanimous in deciding that as a long military career had by no means provided a promising training for an agricultural venture, and as the prospects of farming were then very depressed in the colony it would be most unwise for him to sink his small capital in the land.

The advice was accepted and the land was sold, though doubtless with regret, and so vanished the attractive visions of a settlers life and it then became necessary to get other occupations for the boys.

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LONEL.

Promise of a commission in the army was obtained (and granted in February 1844) for our eldest surviving brother, Arthur, and the second son, James, was sent to a tradesman in Launceston to learn business. Charles was too young to make it necessary to at once place him but less than two years later, when not quite 15 years of age, he went to sea, at his own wish as an apprentice on a sailing ship trading to England.

George was then little more than an infant.

For our Father himself fairly suitable occupation was provided by Sir John Franklin who was just about to return to England and then go (in May 1845) on his last arctic expedition from which he never returned. He offered our Father the post of Commandant of the temporary convict station of Broadmarsh, expressing in his letter doing so his regret at not being able to offer Major Walch "something worthier of his abilities and rank".

But Major Walch was glad to accept the offer and took up the appointment in September 1843 and held it till the Broadmarsh station was done away with.

He then (in 1846) chiefly with the object of providing for James bought the Hobart Town Bookselling branch business of the London publishers, Thomas Tegg & Co. Six years after this on 25th March 1852 our Father died in Hobart Town honoured and respected not only by his own family but by great numbers of friends.

STATEMENT OF SERVICE OF JAMES WILLIAM HENRY WALCH of H.M.'s 54th  
REGT. of FOOT WITH A RECORD OF OTHER PARTICULARS.

<u>RANK.</u>	<u>REGT.</u>	<u>DATES.</u>	<u>HOW OBTAINED.</u>	<u>LIST OF DATES OF ANY BATTLES, SIEGES, CAMPAIGNS.</u>
Ensign	80th	10.5.1797.	Without purchase	Campaign in Travancore 1809. Acting Adjutant to Lieut-Col. J. Cuppage.
Lieut.	80th	27.9.1803.	do	
Captain.	80th	1.7.1815.	do	
Captain	54th	31.7.1823.	do	Campaign in Ava 1824-25.
Major	In the Army	10.1.1837.	By Brevet.	Acting Major of Brigade 2nd Bengal Brigade Brigadier.
Major	"Unattached"	17.2.1837.	Without purchase	General W. Morrison C.B. 4th Regt. 17.

BORN AT BIRMINGHAM 16th OCTOBER 1788. AGE AT ENTRANCE INTO THE ARMY, EIGHT YEARS AND SEVEN MONTHS.

INSTANCES IN WHICH THE OFFICER HAS DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF BY VALIANT OR SKILFUL CONDUCT. WHEN, WHERE AND ON WHAT OCCASION.

SERVICES ABROAD.

	<u>PERIOD.</u>		<u>STATION.</u>
	<u>From</u>	<u>To.</u>	
<p>" On the morning 29th March 1825, the Division assembled &amp; moved forward at daylight. About 8 of the advance under Brig-General Macbean C.B. had arrived within the range of the enemy's artillery from the entrenched position and advanced works of Arakan. Two six pounders having been so far advanced in a gorge leading to the enemy's works as to be considerably exposed to the fire from them, they were protected during the day and gallantly brought off by Captain Walch with his company and others towards the close of evening."</p>	May. 1804	Aug. 1817.	India, Madras Presidency.
	Dec. 1820	Sep. 1822.	Gibraltar & Malta.
	Sep. 1823	Dec. 1829.	India, Burma Madras Presdy.
	Jan. 1830.	May. 1837.	India Madras Presidency.

On full pay 39 years and 9 months. Landed in England from India May, 10th, 1837.





- 4) James Henry Brett. Born 22nd October 1828 at Cannanore. Married 1st Eliza Watchorn in They had two children James William Henry (Harry) and Lizzie Emmely. 2nd Jane Crosby in 1859. They had 8 sons and 3 daughters. He died in Hobart 5th November 1897.
- 5) Charles Edward. Born at Cannanore 8th May 1830. He was taken to England with his family when his father retired in 1837, and in July 1842 they all went to Van Diemen's Land. When not quite 15 years old he went to sea. See page 18 of "the Story of the Life of Charles Edward Walch". He stayed at sea till 1852 and in October of that year decided to try his luck at the Victoria Gold Diggings. He had many adventures but little luck and after about six months returned to Hobart Town intending to resume his life at sea. However, by the advice of his brother James he remained ashore and turned his thoughts to business and eventually entered into partnership with him on July 1st 1853. The following year (1854) he was sent to England as buyer. He remained there till 1858 when, the Hobart business having so greatly prospered, his help was needed. In 1860 he again went to England on important business and during that visit married Emma Elizabeth Man of Halstead, Kent. She did not accompany him when he returned to Van Diemen's Land in 1861. She died in 1863, and was buried at Halstead. Their only child Caroline Eliza, was born in 1862 and only lived two years. He was married for the second time in Hobart Town on to Fanny Birch by whom he had 4 sons and 6 daughters. He died in Hobart on 25th March 1915. For other particulars of his life see "the Story of the Life of Charles Edward Walch."
- (6) Garnet. Born 27th August 1831 at Kotagiri (Nilgiri Hills) died when only 10 months old and was buried in an old burial ground a mile or so out of the station where in May 1881, I (G.E.W) found the tomb in good order.
- (7) Eliza Mary. Born in at Trichinopoly. Died in infancy.

- 8) Henry Boyce. Born in at Trichinopoly. Died in infancy.
- 9) Eliza Litchfield. Born 28th March 1834 at Trichinopoly, married in to Henry Bastow. They had 3 sons and 3 daughters, all born in Melbourne, where Mr. Bastow was for many years architect in the service of the Government of Victoria. When he retired he bought land at Harcourt, Victoria, built a house which he called "Gnarwyn" and became a successful fruit grower. He died suddenly on September 29th 1920. Mrs Bastow (Aunt Lizzie) died after a very long illness on March 25th 1915.
- 10) Jane Smart. Born 2nd June 1836 at Kotagiri (Nilgiris) Married May 1st 1861 in Bombay Cathedral to Horrice King Man of Halstead, Kent. He served in the Crimea as Captain of the Turkish Contingent and then obtained a post in India in the Telegraph Department. He died in Hobart on July 15th 1864 aged 38. They had two daughters, Lizzie Caroline (Carrie) married at Ootacamund (Nilgiris) to William Martin Whitmore Clarke, and Emma Catherine married John Haitland Marshall.
- 11) George Turnor. Born 21st April 1838 at Heavitree, Exeter. In 1842 went with the family to Van Diemen's Land. In 1848 Aunt Peter brought him to England to be educated. He was sent to school at Exeter and frequently spent his holidays at Halstead Hall, Kent, the home of the Man family. Aunt Peter took him back to Van Diemen's Land in 1851. He joined the Survey Department. He went to India at the end of 1861. Joined the Public Works Department of the Madras Presidency in 1866. Married 11th January 1877 to Emily, widow of Frederick East. In 1868 became chief Engineer for Irrigation and secretary to Government. In 1893 had to retire under the 55 years rule of the service. Then was for a short time Chief Engineer of the Travancore State. Afterwards settled in Ootacamund at a house called "Eokford", where, with one visit to England, he remained till shortly after his wife's

death (23rd October 1901) when he returned to England.

- 12) Catherine Mary. Born 1st August 1840 at Heavitree, Exeter.  
 Married in Hobart to Charles Crosby.  
 They had 5 sons, Charles, Harry, John and twins who died in infancy, and 2 daughters, Margaret, who married Harold Garrett and Nellie, who died young. Died in Melbourne 4th June 1883.
- 13) Garnet. Born 1st October 1843 in Tasmania, went to England in with "Aunt Peter" for education there and in Germany.  
 Returned with his Mother and sisters to Tasmania in . Devoted himself chiefly to literary work and was for some time secretary to the Melbourne Atheneum and on the staff of "The Argus". Married in to Ada Hullen (died 1st July 1921).  
 She had 2 sons and 3 daughters. Died 1912.
- Aunt Peter. Catherine younger sister of our Father.  
 Born in 1791 in India. Married when very young to Captain Peter Bruels Man of H.M.'s 54th Regt. who died in 1811.  
 A few years after his death she became engaged to an officer, but the vessel in which he was on his way from India to England was lost with all on board. "Aunt Peter" made two or three voyages between England and India, on one of which in 1830 the vessel ( The Lady Holland) in which she was a passenger was wrecked on the desolate Dassen Island on the West Coast of Africa not very far from Table Bay, her interesting account of the shipwreck is still extant.  
 On the same voyage, before the wreck, a younger sister of our Mother, named Sarah, whom Aunt Peter was taking out to our parents in India, died at sea. When in 1842 our family went to Van Diemon's Land Aunt Peter accompanied it, and remaining there till the beginning of 1845 when she took George to England for education and in 1851 she took him out again. Shortly afterwards she returned with Garnet to England which she did not leave again.  
 She then lived chiefly at Halstead, Kent, and Croydon, till she died in May 1873 and was buried in Croydon Cemetery.  
 She was a clever woman of great personality, beloved by all our family and a large circle of friends. She had two sons one of whom died young, but the other Henry Garnet outlived her.  
 He was born in 1804 in India. He received a commission
- usin Garnet

in the Army in 1825 and joined the 54th Regiment and served chiefly in the Madras Presidency. He married Eliza Garrard "Cousin Eliza" (She died September 3rd 1890 aged 81). They had no children. Cousin Garnet went on half pay on the unattached list in 1844 and that year became Professor of Fortification at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, which appointment he held till 1853 . He retired from the Army as Lieut-Colonel in September 1860. He died in November 1873.

MOON LIGHT.

Across the trackless sea  
I saw the vessel glide  
The pale moon's tranquil beam  
Was playing on the side.

But the way she went was dark  
Ere she reached the partial gleam  
And dark her way again  
When past the silvery stream.

And is it then so brief  
Thy pleasure's golden day;  
While all thy path beside  
Is a dark and dreary way

Not so - tho' dark and drear  
May seem thy course to be  
As if it loved thy path  
That bright beam follows thee.

And thou art gliding on  
Unmindful of the gloom  
It all is fair to thee  
For thou art going home.

And be my path like thine  
In this world's midnight way  
When nought but love divine  
Can light it into day;

Tho' seen in shadows oft  
And dimmed with many a tear  
My path will still be bright  
If love and peace be near.

Though doomed thro' many a night  
Of anxious care to roam  
It all is fair to me  
For I am going home.

C.H.

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(Catherine Man. Aunt Peter).

MOTHER.

Eliza, daughter of Charles Nash of Hackland Kent, Born in                      Married our Father on 5th June 1823 in the parish church of Rainham, Kent. After his death she went in 1854 to England from Tasmania with her daughters, Eliza, Jane, and Catherine and remained there and in Germany till 1859 when they together with Garnet who had been at school in England and Germany returned to Tasmania for the rest of her life.

She lived there and in Melbourne, chiefly with Catherine (Aunt Kittie) who had married Charles Crosby.

She died 4th November 1883.

Our Mother had three brothers, George, James and Charles who in the prosperous days of the West Indies went to Jamaica and there remained.

She had 4 sisters (1) Sarah, who died on the way to India in 1830 unmarried. (2) Ellen, who married Mr. Grace Calvert - she died 23rd April 1893.

She had two sons Charles and George and one daughter Clairellen Charlotte (Cousin Claire) who became Mrs Guesdon and died 5th September 1891. (3) Mary who married Captain Turner of the 54th Regiment, had one son and two daughters all of whom died young = she died.

(4) Kate, who in 1853 married                      Hillard and died in 1871. She had two sons Walter and Frederick and one daughter Catherine, who married Harry, eldest son of our brother James.

OUR BROTHERS  
AND SISTERS.

1) Catherine  
Ellen Mauritia

Born at Port Louis, Mauritius. Died in infancy.

2) Alfred.

Born in Madras. Died in infancy.

3) Arthur  
rueber.

Born 11th March 1827 at Cannanore.  
Got a commission in the army in February 1844  
Joined H.M.'s 22nd Regiment (Napier's). Died of fever at Poona 1st June 1849.

Buried in the military cemetery there, where there is a monument erected to his memory "by his brother officers". He had artistic gifts and some of his oil paintings are with members of our family in Hobart.