



THE HERONS

a Heron Family History

India Re-visited

KEN WHITEHOUSE

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Second edition - August 2015

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INTRODUCTION

This document reports on the results of a detailed, on-going, genealogical study of a branch of the Heron family. It focuses particularly on a family line that, so far, has been found to have originated in India in 1768. Strenuous efforts will continue to take the origins to even earlier times. We need not feel alone in this quest because there are many other Heron researchers scattered all around the world who are also family history buffs and they are each following up their own family lines. Through the wonders of the world wide web they soon become aware of each other and share information to broaden the knowledge of the family name.

The natural tendency when beginning a new line of Genealogical research into a particular family is to concentrate wholly upon that one, direct, family line. While this approach is perfectly suited if the intention is to look back for just a few generations, if there is a desire to go back to the very earliest beginnings that you can find the best approach by far is to build a database which includes EVERYONE you find with

study'. This is the approach that will be used for this project to facilitate ongoing and in-depth research. As the database grows, sometimes to many thousands of records, this approach is considered to have two distinct advantages:

- First - the background mechanics of a well designed genealogical database program will automatically link, or suggest a link, to individuals who at first appear not to be of interest. This may eventually save countless hours of duplicated research and usually results in finding a much wider range of totally unexpected relatives, even if they are quite distant.
- Second - it will inevitably lead to contact with many others from around the world who are also researching the same name and this in turn will lead to extremely useful exchanges of information.

THE DATABASE

Initially the database will be compiled and maintained on the software of [Family Historian](#), one of the leading genealogical management programs. This is capable of dynamically holding, processing and matching an infinite number of individual records in the universally used GEDCOM format and provides a means to present them in a wide variety of ways including, charts, reports, websites, dvds, extracts, etc. It also makes it very easy to exchange data with other users from around the world.

Ideally the minimum entry for each individual should include their dates and places of birth, marriage(s), divorce(s), where appropriate, and death. To build up a worthwhile picture of each person, information on their employment, their careers and achievements together with any pen picture notes and photographs which may be considered to be of interest about them should also be included.

Readers are urged to submit any information which adds to that contained here, or to submit any corrections that they consider to be necessary, as well as any photographs which could be included. Collaboration on continuing research will also be welcomed. The aim is to produce an account of this particular family line that is not only as broad, complete and interesting as possible but that is accurate also.

THE ORIGINS

WHERE AND HOW IT ALL STARTED FOR THE CAMBRIDGE HERONS

To anyone who is not really familiar with India it is astonishing to find, when first looking into detail about the country from any aspect, just how many English people made roots there centuries ago. Nothing brings this home more than genealogical research. Fortunately the records which are maintained by the India Records Office are well catalogued and are to a limited extent made freely available through a service provided for genealogists by the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints (go [here](#) for details). This organisation holds what is probably one of the largest, if not THE largest, free genealogical database in the world and offers open access to it, without regard to religion, both on-line and, for more in depth research, at their local centres around the world, particularly in the UK and USA. It is widely regarded as a very good starting point for any new line of family investigation although, because of the vast numbers of people it has listed, much time and patience is required when searching because inevitably one can very easily follow many fruitless lines for quite some time before eventually, but not always, finding success. In the case of India, particularly in the Bengal area, it is staggering to find the volume of English, Irish and Scottish people – many with the same surnames – who were to be found there from 1700 onwards. In the case of this particular study, there are dozens, if not hundreds, of Herons and a considerable number of Barratts – the surnames that we are primarily interested in here – to be found.

Huge numbers of people were leaving Ireland in particular in the 1700s following the events of the Cromwellian plunderings there and because of the severe oppression which they continued to face until well into the 1800s.

So just why were people choosing India? This in- surge of people from the British Isles arose from the opportunities which came with the development of the British East India Company which had first arrived in India during the 1600s. This came as part of a venture which was originally formed to try to establish trading pathways with the various countries of the East Indies but which ended up doing business mainly with the Indian subcontinent. As a company it was interested mainly in cotton, silk, indigo dye, salt, saltpetre, tea and opium. Its shares were owned by wealthy merchants and aristocrats. The government owned no shares and exercised only indirect control. The Company eventually ruled large areas of India with its own

private army which became huge and which was made up of recruited British troops and native soldiers. It exercised very powerful military and administrative functions, including its own judiciary and courts. Its rule in India effectively began in 1757 and lasted until 1858 when the British Crown assumed direct control of India in the new British Raj following the 1857 Indian Mutiny, the Sepoy Mutiny, which was a significant turning point in the history of Britain in India. A traditional story is that Indian troops, called Sepoys, mutinied against their British commanders because newly issued rifle cartridges were being greased with pig and cow fat, thus making them unacceptable for both Hindu and Muslim soldiers. There certainly was some substance in that story but there were a number of other underlying causes for the rebellion. Resentment toward the British had been building for some time and new policies which allowed the British to annex some areas of India had greatly increased tensions so, by early 1857, things had reached breaking point.

The Mutiny erupted in May 1857, when Sepoys rose up against the British in Meerut and then massacred all the British they could find in Delhi. The uprisings spread throughout British India and it was estimated that less than 8,000 of nearly 140,000 Sepoys remained loyal to the British. The conflicts of 1857 and 1858 were brutal and bloody, and there were lurid reports of massacres and atrocities causing the British Government to dispatch troops to India. They eventually succeeded in putting down the mutiny after resorting to merciless tactics to restore order. The largest city, Delhi, was left in ruins and many Sepoys who had surrendered were executed by British troops. The East India Company was finally dissolved in 1874 and its functions were fully absorbed into official government machinery and its private army was nationalised by the British Crown. The Indian nationalist movement continued to develop over decades and the country finally achieved its independence in 1947.

In the 1860s a further flood of Englishmen arrived in India to plant coffee and tea, to build railways and cotton mills and they brought with them attitudes that had been influenced by the wave of anti-Indian feelings that had passed over Britain at the time of the Mutiny. So, quite apart from the huge numbers of earlier immigrants in the military there were now also significantly high numbers of traders, administrators and workers in every sphere of daily commercial life. It is from this diverse array that we find the Herons and the Barratts who form the paternal and maternal lines of the branch of the Herons being studied here. Apparently our Herons came from the very early influx whereas it seems that our earliest known Barratt was from much later arrivals.

There were quite strong social and class divisions prevailing during those times but in genealogical research it can be seen where these were gradually being broken down or, conversely and less likely, were being strengthened mainly as a result of marriages but also through education opportunities, or sometimes because of the lack of them. Very strong features of life amongst the British in India, as evidenced through a wide look at the aforementioned India Office Records, are the large number of instances of girls as young as 15, 16 and 17 who were being married to young men in their 20s, the large number of early deaths from cholera and other local diseases resulting in children dying very young, or brides (or grooms) dying very soon after marriage resulting in some individuals marrying three or four times and having very large families with different spouses. In one such case in the database of this study alone one chap had twenty-three children, all before he was 46 years of age, with three different wives. There are also many instances, including some in this study, where several individuals from one family were marrying into one other family. All of these examples are found to be considerably more prevalent amongst the British and the Irish in India than was found to be the case in an earlier in-depth study of another family in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries in Ireland.

Following the Mutiny, the British in India began to display an overwhelming sense of racial solidarity, of belonging to a caste which they considered to be the highest one of all. Throughout the rest of the nineteenth Century, this was an attitude that was to increase in strength and was to produce the blatant prejudices that prevailed in the business community right up to the end of the British rule there. It also created the continual need for them to escape from inefficient Indian servants and the depressing perpetual heat of the country with the inevitable result that a small and very introverted, and sometimes amoral, social scene evolved in their local areas. Over generations, the almost imperceptible effect of this on Indian society was to slowly erode respect for the British and their way of life.

The Mecca of Anglo-Indian society during those years was the administrative capital, Calcutta where, in spite of the discomforts of the Indian climate and the presence of deadly diseases the British residents in Calcutta generally enjoyed a far better standard of living than they could have done in Britain. A busy social round, the cement that binds a small expatriate community together, developed and formal dinners and balls, where class divisions were strong, were held frequently. During the very hot season, the Viceroy, the high government departments and the most important of the business and trading community made their way to the hill station of Simla, see picture next page, which was regarded as the summer capital. Other

commercial or professional Englishmen preferred the company of their own class at other hill stations, when they were able to leave the plains.

Of course sport played a great part in a social life which often lacked variety. Polo was very popular, especially in the Army, but it was ruinously expensive to undertake. Pig-sticking was another favourite activity which demanded high levels of horsemanship. Also every station had its racecourse, even if it was only a simple ring of beaten earth. Ladies joined the men for tennis and for everyone there was the Hunt which, in small stations was often a made up of a makeshift and motley pack of different breeds of dogs.

Cricket was regularly played. This was a sport which the British had first brought to India in the early 1700s with the first ever formal cricket match being held in India in 1721. In 1848 the Oriental Cricket Club in Mumbai became the first cricket club to be established by Indians. In 1877 the English eventually invited them to play a match that is said to have been the first ever first-class match played in India and, by 1912, they were regularly playing in tournaments in Bombay, which had become, and still is, the cradle of Indian cricket, a sport which is now immensely popular throughout the country so much so that it can now almost be considered to be their national sport. This then sets the scene and attempts to give a broad brush impression of what life was like for the earliest of the Heron and Barratt lines which are the subject of this booklet. In the brief pen-picture notes which attach to some of the individuals listed one can begin to get a flavour of what life was like for them in those distant days.



A photograph taken in 1910 showing The Mall, Simla. The Church of St George where several Herons were baptized and/or married is also clearly shown



..... so hey, lets go Heron hunting

The Paternal Line



Bengal, Madras, Assam

So far, in these fledgling days of the project, we have only been able to get back as far as six generations, back in fact to 1768. In that year Elijah Heron was born, but precisely where we know not. We have conclusively found continuous links backwards to him from Christopher and Michael Heron through the facilities of the India Office Records, as freely provided by the Church of the Latter Day Saints. However, to date, the extensive efforts of RudkinGenes and also of two of its collaborators, one in Ireland the other in America, have been unable to establish Elijah's beginnings. Dorian Leveque of the British Library has also very kindly provided practical assistance in our search and also gave us further advice which we will be pursuing. To get us off to a good start though we were grateful to the late Agnes Heron for information on the three most recent generations of the Herons and on her own family line, as obtained from her personal family records, photographs, press cuttings, brochures etc.

Pictured above - Captain Reginald E Heron MC and the family home at Naharkatia

The Indian Record Office's own records are less complete when looking backwards from about 1784. Forwards of then they hold a very wide range of information covering births, baptisms, marriages and deaths. They also hold the archives of the East India Company which cover from around 1600 to 1858. These however are not so readily accessible and would require time consuming and expensive research which may well be worth undertaking when all other avenues have been explored.

A BROADER LOOK

The most likely reason for us not having so far found Elijah's roots is that he himself appears to have been a great grandson of an individual who had arrived in India in the first major influx of people way back in the mid 1600s. The search for a registration entry of his birth in Indian, English and Irish records continues, as do searches of old military records, ships passenger lists etc. However, for the present we can be satisfied that Elijah is the root man – the 'Peer Generation' – of the Heron paternal listings which follow. These include everyone who is so far known to have descended from him with details of their spouses, and their parents and siblings, and their offsprings where these are known.

Extensive efforts will continue to establish Elijah's beginnings so that we may get back to earlier ancestors. In an effort to avoid this account becoming nothing more than a boring list of names and dates, research into the backgrounds of the listed

individuals, information about the places they lived in, their occupations, their environments and the events of their time will also be undertaken to breathe some life into these long dead individuals. Having followed this approach in several other family history research projects it is really quite surprising just what detail can be found.

So here we go. We begin with a quick look at Fort St George in Madras (*pictured next page*).

Fort St George was the first British fortress to be established in India. It was founded in 1644 on what was virtually waste land, very close to the sea and to several small fishing villages. The land had been purchased by the British East India Company who had first arrived in the country around the year 1600. They proceeded to construct a harbour and a port and the fortress was built to protect their rapidly expanding interests. As the Company's success grew so did the importance of the harbour and the port facilities. The Fort was expanded and practically became a town in its own right and the present day city of Madras, or Chennai as it is now known, was gradually developed around it.

Having also formed its own extremely large militia, the East India Company established and staffed a huge garrison within the Fort and it is from amongst the men who were recruited for it, great numbers of them from the British Isles, that we find Elijah Heron.

The Fort had its own church, St Mary's, (see pictures next page) which was the first Anglican Church to be established in India when it was built between 1678 and 1689. Some of the people in the following listings were married there.



THE CAMBRIDGE HERON'S PATERNAL ANCESTRY

The Peer Generation

The origins of **Elijah HERON** have so far not been determined but it appears highly likely that he either came directly from Ireland or was a descendant of earlier migrants who had come from there. A record of his marriage to a lady named Ann BILCLIFFE on 4 April 1789 in Valperiy, Madras is held by the Indian Record Office. It shows that he was born in 1768. His occupation is given as a 'Conductor'. This was a Military Rank, which still exists today in certain Regiments, equating to the rank of Warrant Officer. A later record shows that he died on 13 December 1828 in Madras and that he is buried at St Thomas Mount which is a celebrated Church of some renown which hosted the Pope's visit to India in recent years. It is just a few miles from the Fort. It appears possible that he was married twice, the second time to a Sarah, but we are still looking into this.

Ann and Elijah had the following children, there may have been others:

+1 George HERON (1799-)

Thomas HERON (1808-1823) born on 11 April 1808 in Tanjore, Madras, died on 22 July 182 in Madras.

Second Generation

1. **George HERON**, son of Elijah HERON and his wife Ann, was born in 1799. He married Charlotte LENNON on 2 June 1845 in Benares, Bengal. Charlotte, who had been married previously, was born in 1821. Her maiden name was Thomas. With George she had the following children:

Robert Alfred Charles HERON (1847-) born on 16 June 1847 in Barrackpore, Bengal.

Samuel Freed Thomas HERON (1849-) born on 2 December 1849 in Wuzeerabad, Bengal.

+2 George Edward Richard HERON (1851-1904)

Charlotte Mary Ann HERON (1854-) born on 1 November 1854 in Monghyes, Bengal.

Third Generation

2. **George Edward Richard HERON**, son of George HERON and his wife Charlotte, was born on 30 June 1851 in Allahabad, Bengal. His first marriage was to Janet

Macdonald CRIPPS on 31 March 1876 in Howrah, Bengal. Janet was a daughter of John Alexander CRIPPS and his wife Eliza MASTER. They had the following children:

- +3 *Lotte Edith May HERON (1877-)*
- +4 *Maud (Janet) HERON (1879-)*
Daisy Marion HERON (1881-) married
Edward DUNCAN in 1904 in Agra
- +5 *George Alexander HERON (1885-)*
- +6 *Sybil Elizabeth HERON (1886-)*
Ralf Arnold Cripps HERON (1889-) born 29 April 1889 in Bhaulpore, Bengal

George's second marriage was to Emma LAWRENCE on 5 August 1891 in Simla, India. She was born in 1861 and was a daughter of a Thomas LAWRENCE about whom nothing has so far been found. It seems quite probable however that he was related to the first husband of Agnes HERON nee Barratt (*items 14 below*). George and Emma had the following children

- +7 *Daphne Muriel HERON (1891-)*
- +8 *George Henry HERON***
- +9 *Mary Hilda Marjorie Lawrence HERON (1894-)*
- +10 *Phyllis Lawrence HERON (1895-1974+11\$)*
Doris Mary Lawrence HERON (1898-)

George died on 21 January 1904 in Monghyr, Bengal and on the entry of his death his occupation was given as 'Superintendent, Foreign Office'.



Back row (left to right) Phyllis, Daisy, George Edward, Marjory, May, Maude, George Henry - Front row Sybil, Emma, baby Doris, Daphne and (sitting) Ralf

Fourth Generation

3. Lotte Edith May HERON, daughter of George Edward Richard HERON and his wife Janet, was born on 2 May 1877 in Bhagalpur, Bengal. She married Rowland Alfred Hirkman HILL on 25 March 1909 in Simla, India. Rowland, who was a son of Richard Filgate HILL (-1910) and his wife Helen KELLY (1855-), was born on 26 March 1884 in Kidderpore, Bengal. His sister Dorothy married his wife's brother George (*item 5 below*). Following Lotte's death, Rowland later married her half-sister Daphne Muriel HERON on 10 April 1919 in Simla (*item 7 below*).

4. Maud, also apparently known as Janet, HERON, daughter of George Edward Richard HERON and his wife Janet, was born on 4 April 1879 in Bhagalpur. Nothing more is known about her.

5. George Alexander HERON, son of George Edward Richard HERON and his wife Janet, was born on 4 April 1885 in Bhagalpur. He married Dorothy Phyllis Amy HILL, sister of Rowland, *item 3 above*, on 4 April 1913 in Simla. She and George had the following child, there may have been others:

George William Graham HERON (1914-1916)

6. Sybil Elizabeth HERON, daughter of George Edward Richard HERON and his wife Janet, was born on 30 July 1886. She married William Henry Buckner SYMONDS on 9 November 1905 in Bengal. William, who was a son of William Henry SYMONDS and his wife Agnes Augusta BUCKNER, was born on 20 March 1876 in Umballa, Bengal. He and Sybil had the following children:

George William Cripps SYMONDS (1907-) born on 16 March 1907 in Meerat, Bengal
+12 Lorna Sybil SYMONDS (-1942)
+13 Robert SYMONDS

7. Daphne Muriel HERON, daughter of George Edward Richard HERON and his wife Emma, was born in 1891. She married Rowland Alfred Hirkman HILL on 10 April 1919 in Simla. Rowland, who was a son of Richard Filgate HILL and his wife Helen. Rowland had previously been married to Daphne's half sister, Lotte (*item 3 above*).

8. **George Henry HERON**, son of George Edward Richard HERON and his wife Emma (*pictured next page*), was born in Simla. He was married but his wife's details are not held. They had the following children:

+14 Reginald Edward HERON (1921-2009)

George HERON

Ruth HERON believed to have married, husband named Ralph, his surname not known, thought to have moved to Nottingham area



9. Mary Hilda Marjorie Lawrence HERON, daughter of George Edward Richard HERON and his wife Emma, was born on 3 March 1894 in Calcutta. She married Arnold Edward KELLET on 8 February 1915 in Simla. Arnold, who was a son of Sydney Sandford KELLET and his wife Ellen Charlotte (*maiden name not known*) was born on 25 September 1891 in Calcutta. He died on 27 July 1961 in Nedland, Western Australia. He and his wife Mary had the following child, there may have been others:

Patrick Douglas KELLET (1921-1921) born on 15 April 1921 in Simla where died on 16 April 1921 in Simla.

10. Phyllis Lawrence HERON, daughter of George Edward Richard HERON and his wife Emma, was born on 11 August 1895. She married Cyril Preston CRONAN on 23 August 1916 in Simla. Cyril, who was a son of Thomas Edward CRONAN and his wife Flora PRESTON, was born on 20 August 1885 in Madras, India. The family subsequently moved to New Zealand where Cyril worked as a Civil Servant. They

lived in Onewa Road, Birkenhead, Auckland. Cyril and Phyllis had the following child, there may have been others:

+15 *John Richard CRONAN (1919-1940)*

Both Cyril and Phyllis died in Auckland, New Zealand, he in 1968, she in 1974.

11. Doris Mary Lawrence HERON, daughter of George Edward Richard HERON and his wife Emma, was born in 1898. She married Arthur William BECKETT on 22 April 1930 in Calcutta. Arthur, a son of William Marrow BECKETT, was born in 1902.

Fifth Generation

12. Lorna Sybil SYMONDS, daughter of William Henry Buckner SYMONDS and his wife Sybil, died on 14 February 1942 in Malaya. A memorial to her is in the Roll of Honour Memorial Book at Singapore Military hospital. It indicates that she was Sister in the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service at the General Hospital, Singapore during WWII. There is also an entry for her in the Singapore Memorial Cemetery Roll of Honour which indicates that she had been mentioned in dispatches ([go here](#)). The entry also described her as being a niece of a Lt Col H Bertram Foster, formerly of the Indian Medical Service, of Dry Hill Park, Tonbridge, Kent about whom nothing more is so far known.

13. Nothing is known about Robert SYMONDS, son of William Henry Buckner SYMONDS and his wife Sybil, or his wife but family photographs of them are below



14. **Captain Reginald Edward HERON MC**, son of George Henry HERON and his wife, was born on 23 February 1921 in Delhi. India. He married Agnes Henrietta LAWRENCE, nee BARRATT, in 1951. He died on 7 February 2009 in Cambridge.

Reginald attended The Rashtriya Indian Military College, the RIMC, (*pictured below*) which is a prestigious public School for boys on a campus of 138 acres situated in the beautiful Doon Valley, at Dehradun in India. The original name of the School was The Prince of Wales Royal Indian Military College but it was re-named after 1947. It enjoys a great tradition as a feeder institution for the National Defence Academy and subsequently for the Indian Armed Forces. Rimcollians, the name by which alumni of the RIMC are usually denoted, have gone on to hold the highest ranks in the Army, Navy and the Air Force of India. It was established in 1922 by the British Empire for training native Indian cadets for entry into the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst where students trained to become officers of the British Indian Army. It's current website can be seen [here](#).

Only twenty five Cadets were admitted every six-months, they had to be not be less than eleven and a half years of age and must not have attained the age of thirteen years on the January or July of the term they join and they must be studying in a recognised School at the time of joining. The purpose of the institution is to provide Indian boys with suitable education and training to ensure a high pass-rate for the Indians being sent to Sandhurst.



Reginald, while serving in Italy during World War II in 1944 as a Lieutenant in the 4th Mahratta Anti-Tank Regiment of the Indian Artillery was granted an immediate award of the Military Cross by the Commander in Chief of the Allied Central Mediterranean Force, Field Marshal Alexander for gallant and distinguished service during actions which are vividly described in the various links given in the Annex at page 35. The award was promulgated in The London Gazette on 26 October 1944 and was subsequently presented to Reginald by King George VI at Buckingham Palace.

The citation was all the more remarkable because it was for an immediate award, it reads ...

'During the night of 11/12 May 44 and throughout 12 May 44 W/S/Lt R E Heron was commanding a rafting party at the crossing of the GARI river. Under continuous and intense fire from enemy artillery, mortars and MGs he successfully completed his task of transporting Inf A Tk guns, jeeps and carriers to the further bank. Although himself wounded in the head by a mortar bomb which burst on and penetrated his steel helmet he not only continued at his post to lead his party but in addition deployed the Inf A Tk guns on the far bank, organized and led a party to silence an enemy MG which was interfering with the crossing. He further organized an improvised stretcher service for evacuating casualties. W/S/Lt R E Heron displayed initiative, courage and leadership of the highest order in conditions of extreme danger and his example of personal sacrifice and care for others was an inspiration to his men and all who passed through his hands and contributed greatly to the success of the operation.'



Following his military career Reginald became the manager of the [Teen Ali tea estate](#) which was near to Naharkatia, Dibrugah in northern Assam. This is where the family home was and it was where his children were born. Photographs of him and of the house left are at the head of this book.

Reginald's wife Agnes was the daughter of Edward BARRATT (1879-) and his wife May Dorothy BAMFORD (1893-1969). She was born on 2 January 1918 in Madras, India. Edward had been a maritime engineer with the merchant navy before taking a



position as an engineer at a mill in Madras. This was Agnes's second marriage for she had first wed a Keith LAWRENCE in 1942. It is probable that Keith was a relative of Emma Lawrence (*at item 2 above*) although this has not so far been established. What is so far known about the Barratt lineage is dealt with in the Maternal Line (*page 22*). Nothing is known about Keith except that in their marriage, which ended in divorce, they had one child

Elizabeth Ann Lawrence (1944-) (pictured)

The children of Reginald and Agnes were;

+16 Christopher Reginald Edward Alexander HERON (1954-)

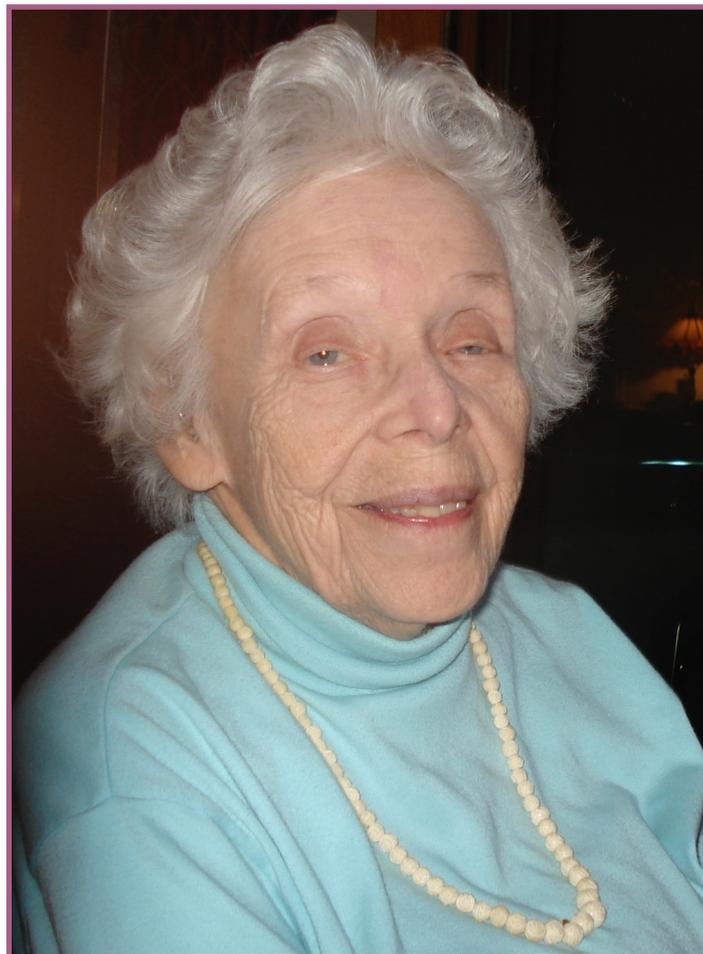
+17 Michael Richard Ian HERON (1957-)

Reginald and Agnes (*below*) left the Teen Ali estate and returned to England with their young family sometime in the late 1950s. The plantation had been acquired by the Grob Tea Company in 1958 and there was also significant and increasing Chinese military aggression in the Naharkatia area of upper Assam.



Agnes died in Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge on 30 August 2011 after a short illness. Born in Madras, India, in 1918, she showed prodigious musical talent as a child, becoming a concert pianist at the age of thirteen. In 1931 she graduated from the Trinity College of Music in London as a music teacher and was believed to have been the youngest person ever to do so.

For the next 80 years, between concerts and performances, she taught music and, after arriving in Cambridge, became Head of Music at St Mary's School there. She also had many private students several of whom won prestigious awards locally and nationally of Music at St Mary's School there. She also had many private students several of whom won awards locally and nationally. More pictures of her below.





*A selection of pictures from Agnes' personal collection
top from left aged 16, aged 17, aged 18
centre left aged 18 on board SS Jalayaotim, right in 1942 just before her first marriage
bottom - undated*

15. John Richard CRONAN, son of Cyril Preston CRONAN and his wife Phyllis, was born in 1919 in Simla, India but had moved with his parents to Birkenhead, Auckland, New Zealand. When WWII broke out he joined the Royal Air Force. While serving with 235 Squadron as a Pilot Officer he was killed on a mission over Holland on 27 Jun 1940. In this action he was the pilot of one of five aircraft of 235 (Fighter) Squadron tasked to obtain information on the build up of German troops in Holland in the Zuider Zee/Amsterdam area. He was flying a Blenheim Fighter with his observer Sgt Aubrey Lancaster and Phil Lloyd his wireless operator/air gunner. At 15.00 hours when crossing the Dutch Coast the five aircraft were attacked and only one made it back to English shores. John Cronan's aircraft was the last one to be shot down. His aircraft was crippled and he jumped out to make way for Aubrey through the top hatch as the escape hatch has been glued together in the heat of battle. John jumped but hit his head on the tailplane, his parachute opened 500 feet or less from the ground. When the Dutch reach him he was dead. The sole survivor was Aubrey Lancaster who became a prisoner of war. The full story of John Cronan's Air Force career can be found in 'Coastal Dawn'. a book published in September 2012. John is buried in the Military Cemetery at Bergen-Op-Zoom, Holland

Sixth Generation

16. **Christopher Reginald Edward Alexander HERON** (pictured next page) son of Reginald Edward HERON MC and his wife Agnes, was born in 1954. His first marriage was to Eugene MEAD in 1978 who was a daughter of Jack MEAD and his wife Mary both of whom were from Ireland. Eugene and Christopher had the following child:

Charlotte HERON (1980-) (second left below)



His second marriage was to Judy BEYTELL (left) who was a daughter of (forename not known) BEYTELL and his wife Anne SMITH (pictured next page with the author). She was a nurse and was formally of Northumberland.

Judy was born in Zimbabwe. She and Christopher had the following children:

Keeley Ann BEYTELL HERON (1989-) (third from left below)
Josie Agnes BEYTELL HERON (1995-) (right, below)



l to r Chris Heron, Charlotte, Keeley and Josie

Chris's third marriage was to Julia Ann POCKETT, nee WHITEHOUSE, (pictured below) daughter of the author. They married on 20 June 2015 in St Medard, Clermont-Dessous, France.



17. **Michael Richard Ian HERON**, son of Reginald Edward HERON MC and his wife Agnes, was born in 1957. His first marriage was to Alison CRAIG and they had two children:

Daniel HERON (1986-)
Carly HERON (1989-) (both pictured)



Michael's second marriage was to Catherine WRIGHT on 16 October 1999 and they had two children

Katty Alice HERON
Georgie Francesca HERON

MATERNAL ANCESTRY

FROM BANGALORE AND BOMBAY



*Agnes and Reginald with Elizabeth, Christopher and Michael
pictured at Teen Ali, Naharkatia*

THE BARRATT LINE

The Peer Generation of the Barratt's

The origins of the peer man of this maternal Heron line, **Henry John BARRATT**, are so far not known but he was born in 1798 and he died on 18 July 1870 in Bangalore, Madras. He was married and his wife's forename was known to be Isobela but her maiden name is not known. He apparently was first to break away from his family at age 15 and spent much time at sea as a maritime engineer in the areas of Spain and

Portugal. He remained away for about ten years before returning to marry and have several children. Only one of them so far is known to the project.

+1 *Matthew BARRATT (about 1822-)*

Second Generation

1. **Matthew BARRATT**, son of Henry John BARRATT and his wife Isobela, was born about 1822. He was married and his wife's forename was Elizabeth but her maiden name is not known. They had the following children:

+2 *Thomas BARRATT (1845-)*

+3 *John BARRATT*

+4 *Florence Marie BARRATT*

+5 *Henry BARRATT (1852-1925)*

Third Generation

2. Thomas BARRATT, eldest son of Matthew BARRATT and his wife Elizabeth, was born in 1845. He married Georgianna Jane MOORE on 13 September 1869 in Bombay.

Although he was only 24 at the time of his marriage to Georgianna (*who was only 15*) the Indian Record Office entry of the marriage describes his status as a 'widower' but details of an earlier marriage have not so far been found. Georgianna was born in 1854 and she and Thomas had the following children, there may have been others:

John Matthew Nelson BARRATT (1871-) born on 19 February 1871 in Mazagon, Bombay. He was a maritime engineer.

Arthur James Matthew BARRATT (1872-1876) born on 24 November 1872 in Bombay. Died on 18 September 1876 in Gago, Bombay.

+ 6 *Charles Edgar Matthew BARRATT (1874-)*

William Alexander Matthew BARRATT (1876-) born on 17 February 1876 in Byculla, Bombay.

3. John BARRATT, son of Matthew BARRATT and his wife Elizabeth was married but details of his wife are not held. They had the following children:

Estha (sic) BARRATT

John BARRATT

Josh BARRATT

+7 *Evie BARRATT*

4. Florence Marie BARRATT, daughter of Matthew BARRATT and his wife Elizabeth, married a Thomas SIBBALD about whom nothing is known. They had the following children:

+8 *Florence Isobela Gertrude SIBBALD (1904-)*

Thomas SIBBALD

Frederick SIBBALD

5. **Henry BARRATT**, son of Matthew BARRATT and his wife Elizabeth, was born on 5 August 1852 in Deesa, Bombay. He married Agnes BENNETT on 25 March 1874 in Byculla. He died in 1925. Agnes was a daughter of Robert BENNETT and his wife Ann Jemima EBERHARDY, she was born on 1 September 1856 in Trichinopoly, Madras. She died on 23 October 1922 in Sawri, Bombay. She and Henry had the following children:

+9 *Henrietta Agnes Florence BARRATT (1875-1896)*

+10 *Charles Henry BARRATT (1876-1894)*

+11 **Edward BARRATT (1879-)**

Thomas BARRATT died aged 18 months

Fourth Generation

6. Charles Edgar Matthew BARRATT, son of Thomas BARRATT and his wife Georgianna, was born on 29 July 1874 in Bombay. He was an Engineer at coffee plantation. He married Beatrice F 'Toots' CORBETT on 7 July 1915 in Coimbatore, Madras. Beatrice who was born in 1888, was a daughter of Thomas John CORBETT and his wife Emma BENNETT. Emma may have been related to Agnes who was mentioned in the previous item.

7. Evie BARRATT was a daughter of John BARRATT and his wife, whose details are not held. She is known at some point to have been adopted, either formally or informally, by her uncle Henry and his wife Agnes. She went on to marry a man whose surname was FIELD, his forenames have not so far been discovered. They had the following children:

Barbara FIELD
Daphne FIELD
Iris FIELD
James FIELD
+12 *Kate FIELD*

8. Florence Isobela Gertrude SIBBALD, daughter of Thomas SIBBALD and his wife Florence, was born on 20 March 1904 in Bombay. She is thought not to have married.

9. Henrietta Agnes Florence BARRATT, daughter of Henry BARRATT and his wife Agnes, was born on 25 January 1875 in Bombay. She died unmarried aged 21 on 16 May 1896 from TB.

10. Charles Henry BARRATT, son of Henry BARRATT and his wife Agnes, was born on 21 June 1876 in Byculla, Bombay. He died aged 18 in 1894 from Cholera.

11. **Edward BARRATT**, son of Henry BARRATT and his wife Agnes, was born on 8 February 1879 in Byculla. He married May Dorothy BAMFORD on 19 October 1916 in Colaba, Bombay. Edward had worked in the merchant navy as a maritime engineer before taking a position as an engineer at a mill in Madras. May, who was a daughter of Francis BAMFORD (1869-1928) and his wife Sarah Maria DILLON (1872-1920), was born in 1893. She died in 1969. She and Edward had only one child:

+13 *Agnes Henrietta BARRATT (1918-2011)*

Fifth Generation

12. Kate FIELD, daughter of (forename not known) FIELD and his wife Evie, married a Charles BOND and they had the following children:

Meg BOND
Dorothy Isobela BOND

13. **Agnes Henrietta BARRATT**, daughter of Edward BARRATT and his wife May, was born on 2 January 1918 in Madras, India. Her first marriage was to a Keith LAWRENCE in 1942. Nothing is known about Keith but the thought that he may

have been related to the Lawrence of Arabia line can be positively discounted as investigations show that this is not so.

The child from this marriage, which ended in divorce, was

Elizabeth Ann LAWRENCE (1944-)

Agnes next married Reginald Edward HERON MC in 1951 and she died on 30 August 2011 in Cambridge. Reginald was a son of George Henry HERON. He was born on 23 February 1921 in Delhi, India. He died on 7 February 2009 in Cambridge. He and Agnes had the following children:

Christopher Reginald Edward Alexander HERON (1954-) - page 25, item 16

Michael Richard Ian HERON (1957-) - page 27, item 17

THE BAMFORD LINE

Peer Generation

Thomas BAMFORD has no details recorded about him other than his name being entered on the marriage entry for his son.

+1 Charles BAMFORD (1835-)

Second Generation

1. **Charles BAMFORD**, son of Thomas BAMFORD, was born in 1835. He married Mary Ann QUIGLEY on 20 Nov 1862 in Bareilly, Bengal. She was a daughter of Patrick QUIGLEY and was born in 1846. She and Charles had the following children:

Charles William BAMFORD (1864-) born on 17 Jul 1864 in Lucknow, Bengal.

+2 Francis BAMFORD (1869-1928)

Third Generation

2. **Francis BAMFORD**, son of Charles BAMFORD and his wife Mary Ann, was born in 1869 in Woolwich. He died on 2 Jan 1928. He married Sarah Maria DILLON. He was

the youngest of 7 sons, the details of his brothers are not known but it is believed that they died in the Boer War; Francis himself served in WW1.

Sarah Maria DILLON, daughter of Michael DILLON and Mary Ann McDONMOLT, was born in 1872. She died on 20 Jun 1920 in Sewree, Bombay. She was reputed to have been an excellent pianist and singer who gave lessons to the Begum Aga Khan and her children in Poona. Sarah and Francis had the following children:

+3 *Margery BAMFORD (1891-)*

+4 *May Dorothy BAMFORD (1893-1969)*

+5 *Winifred Mary BAMFORD*

Doreen BAMFORD died young

Margaret Ellen BAMFORD (1897-1897) born in 1897 in Poona, Bombay where she died within her first year

+6 *Daisy Sarah Frances BAMFORD (1899-)*

Fourth Generation

3. *Margery BAMFORD*, daughter of Francis BAMFORD and his wife Sarah Maria, was born on 20 Sep 1891 in Poona, Bombay where she married Evan Ludwig GRANT on 19 Jul 1916. They had the following child, there may have been others:

Phyllis GRANT

4. May Dorothy BAMFORD, daughter of Francis BAMFORD and his wife Sarah Maria, was born in 1893. She married Edward BARRATT on 19 Oct 1916 in Colaba, Bombay. She died in 1969. Her husband was a son of Henry BARRATT (1852-1925) and Agnes BENNETT (1856-1922) and was born on 8 Feb 1879 in Byculla, Bombay. They had the following child, there may have been others:

+7 *Agnes Henrietta BARRATT (1918-2011)*

5. Winifred Mary BAMFORD, daughter of Francis BAMFORD and his wife Sarah Maria, married Lindsay Sherwood McDONMOLT on 14 May 1918 in Bombay. He was a son of William Arthur McDONMOLT. He and Winifred had the following child, there may have been others:

Sheila McDONMOLT

6. Daisy Sarah Frances BAMFORD, daughter of Francis BAMFORD and his wife Sarah Maria DILLON, was born on 20 Jul 1899 in Poona. Her first husband was John Kirk STOTHERT who she married on 6 Nov 1917 in Bombay. She next married William John JAMES on 12 Dec 1922 in Lahore, Bengal. Her first two husbands died leaving her widowed by the age of 20 and she married for a third time (forename not known) BURNS. With her first husband she had the following child:

Daphne STOTHERT

Her second husband, William John JAMES was born in 1895 and with him she had one child, name and gender not known.

ANNEX

LINKS TO A FEW SITES RELEVANT TO THE BATTLE FOR MONTE CASINO

(Note that in some reports the Gavi River is referred to by it's alternative name, the Rapido)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Monte_Cassino

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/8th_Infantry_Division_\(India\)#Cassino](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/8th_Infantry_Division_(India)#Cassino)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kamal_Ram

See the VC award citation in the link above - this would have been the same operation that Reginald Heron was involved in

<http://www.piquenewsmagazine.com/whistler/wwii-veteran-honoured-for-andaposkingsmill-bridgeandapos/Content?oid=2158940>

Another Military Cross won in the same action

<http://ww2days.com/monte-cassino-abbey-ordered-destroyed-2.html>

Watch the video clip at the end of this link to get a real feel of the battle

<http://www.shiney7.co.uk/ItalyRevisited.html>

<http://www.junobeach.org/canada-in-wwii/articles/the-italian-campaign/>

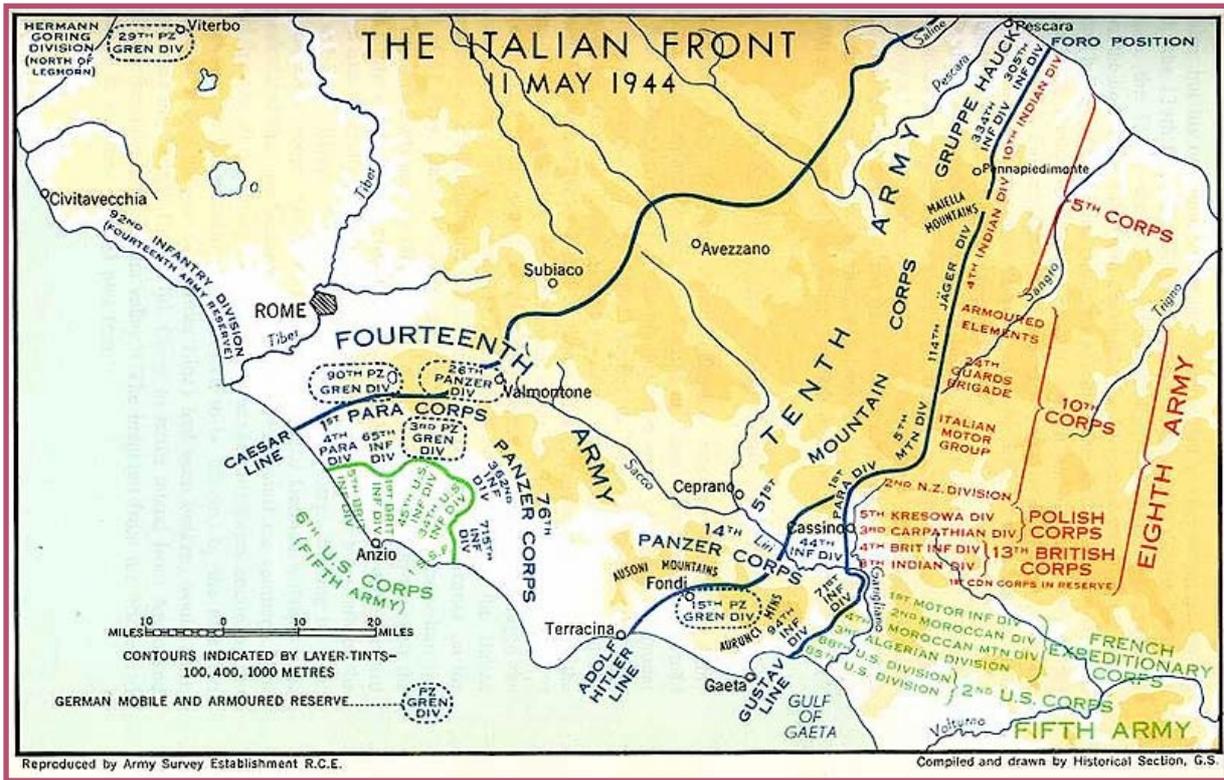
<http://www.italy2love.com/battle-monte-cassino-70th-anniversary/>

<http://montecassinotours.com/index.php/more/id/15/cassino-battlefield-tour-the-forgotten-heroes.html?sku=1>

<http://www.starchamber.com/2009/05/my-uncle-in-italy-during-wwii.html>

<http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-WH2-26Ba-c14.html>

See the next page for a general map of the battle area and also a view of most likely site of Reginald Heron's action



*Most likely area of Reginald Heron's action
 approx 2.25 miles from Abbey of Monte Cassino (at upper marker)
 is at the bottom marker
[click here](#)*

If you would like to collaborate with the project please do let us know
through our website contact page,

Enquiries concerning the availability of the Project's GEDCOM file will also be considered

www.heronshistory.com

we will be very pleased to hear from you.

*Work on our studies of the Rudkin family, the Lee/McKemmish family and on
the Wilmot and Eardley-Wilmot families is also on-going*



In genealogy a step backwards is progress