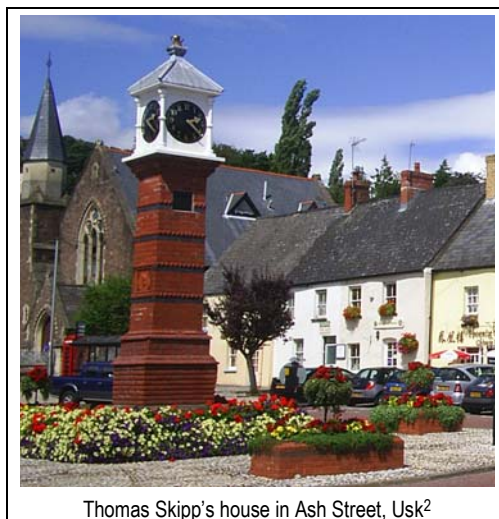


Generation 3

Henri Pierre Ortger

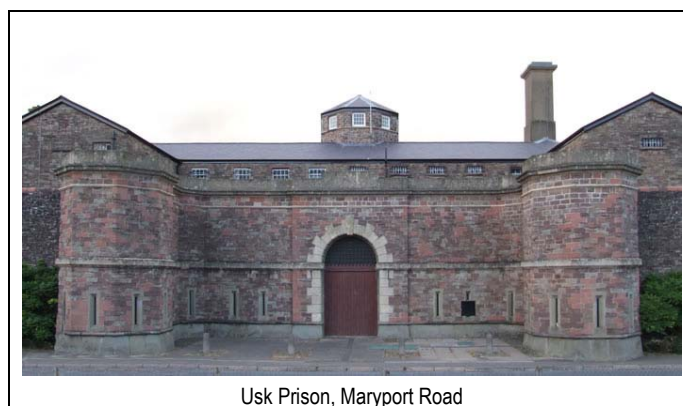
Henri Pierre, or Henry (Harry) Peter as he was also known, was the eldest son of Joseph and Elizabeth Ortger (née Doherty). He was born about on 20th December 1865, probably in India where he spent most of his life. Henry would have just turned 21 when he married Emma Constance Skipp on 7th January 1886 at Buxar, Bengal. Emma Skipp had been born on 28th February 1867 and baptised at Buxar, Shahabad, in the diocese of Calcutta on 24th April 1870, and she was the oldest child of Thomas and Aurora Josephine Skipp.¹

Thomas Skipp was born about in 1834 at Llanarth, Monmouth, and was baptised there on 9th November of that year. His parents, Thomas Skipp 'of Dymock in the County of Gloucester, Bachelor' and Emma Jenkins 'of this parish, Spinster', were married by licence on 28th May 1821, at St Nicholas, Gloucester. Young Thomas was at home with his parents and two of his siblings, Dinah and Mary Ann, at Llanvapley, Abergavenny, for the 1841 census, at which time the elder Thomas Skipp was recorded as a farmer. Another son, George, was added to the family later in 1842.



Thomas Skipp's house in Ash Street, Usk²

Neither Thomas Skipp was at home for the 1851 census. By this time Emma Skipp and the other three children were living at Ash Street, Usk. Emma was described as a prison officer's wife, and indeed, we find her husband, who had now given up farming, for the census night on duty as a turnkey at the Usk House of Correction.³



Usk Prison, Maryport Road

Thomas and Emma lived the rest of their married life in Usk. Emma's death was registered for the Oct-Dec quarter of 1865 and she was buried at Usk on 15th November. The 1881 census finds Thomas, now aged 83 and still living at Usk, listed as a retired prison warder. His death, at the grand age of 92, with his daughter Dinah Davies present, was registered at Pontypool for the Oct-Dec quarter of 1889. Recorded as living at Maryport Street, he was also buried at Usk on 23rd November. A local Usk newspaper noted Thomas Skipp's passing by a delightful, and fortunately for us, an informative obituary.⁴

Death of Mr Thomas Skipp

We regret to have to record the death at the very advanced age of 92, of Mr. Thomas Skipp, at his residence in Maryport-street, Usk early on Wednesday morning. The deceased gentleman was one of Usk's celebrities on account of his age. He was born at Ledbury, Herefordshire on the 29th August 1797, and consequently was one of the few who have lived to see two Royal Jubilees – those of King George III and Queen Victoria. He was a direct descendent of the Right Rev. John Skipp, Bishop of Hereford, of whom we find the following in an old guide book of the City of Hereford:- "John Skipp, D.D., Master of Gonville and Gaius College, Cambridge, and Archdeacon of Dorset, succeeded to the Sea in 1539, and died in London, while attending Parliament, in 1553. He was one of the thirteen compilers of the Book of Common Prayer in 1549, and was reckoned one of the pillars of the Reformation. His descendants have successively resided to this time (1827) in the town of Ledbury."

The deceased nonagenarian came to Usk to reside in 1845,

and for several years was an official in the House of Correction at Usk, at length, after long and faithful service being superannuated. He was of very regular habits and of a most industrious disposition, since his retirement from his duties at the prison rising early and working hard in his gardens which, to within a week or two of his demise, he himself cultivated. In consequence of senile decay he took to his bed about a week before his death, and passed quietly away, as stated, early on Wednesday morning. His genial manner and smiling face, together with the dignity with which his aged inspired him, demanded and received at once the great respect and high esteem of all; and his familiar form will be greatly missed in the town. Notwithstanding his great age, he was in full possession of all his faculties to within a few days of his decease; and although he wore glasses while reading he could see without their aid.

The funeral takes place at 3 p.m. today (Saturday). The mortal remains will be interred in Usk Churchyard.

When the 1851 census was conducted young Thomas Skipp was in the employ of, and living with, William Jones and his family at Rose Villa, North Road, Cardiff.⁵

William Jones	Head	M	64	Retired Draper and High Constable Of the Hundred of Kibbon	Merthyr, Glamorganshire
Mary Jones	Wife	M	51		Llanelly, Brecknockshire
Elizabeth Jones	Daur	U	16		Merthyr, Glamorganshire
Mary Harris	Serv	U	25	Housemaid)	Rumney, Monmouthshire
Mary Bevan	Serv	U	20	Cook	Neath, Glamorganshire
Thomas Skipp	Serv	U	16	Groom	Llanarth, Monmouthshire

Thomas Skipp left England for India in 1858. An 1858 Madras Directory shows that Thomas Skipp was a resident in Madras, with his address being Door No 23, Wootoo Cautan, in the New Town district. Following his career we find him appointed as an Engine Driver with the East India Railway (EIR) on 4th November 1860 on a pay of Rs195/5/9, at which time he was living in Howrah, Bengal. The EIR records showed him to be European and 'Covenanted'. Covenanted employees were usually employed by contract from Britain but there is no record of him in the list of covenanted employees held at the Oriental and Indian Office collections (OIOC) at the British Library. However, I have obtained a copy of a To whom it may Concern letter written in 1947 by Charles Woodward, late Clerk of Works in the EIR, in which he refers to Thomas Skipp as "...my father-in-law...who was an Englishman covenanted out as a Pioneer Employee on the East Indian Railway".⁶

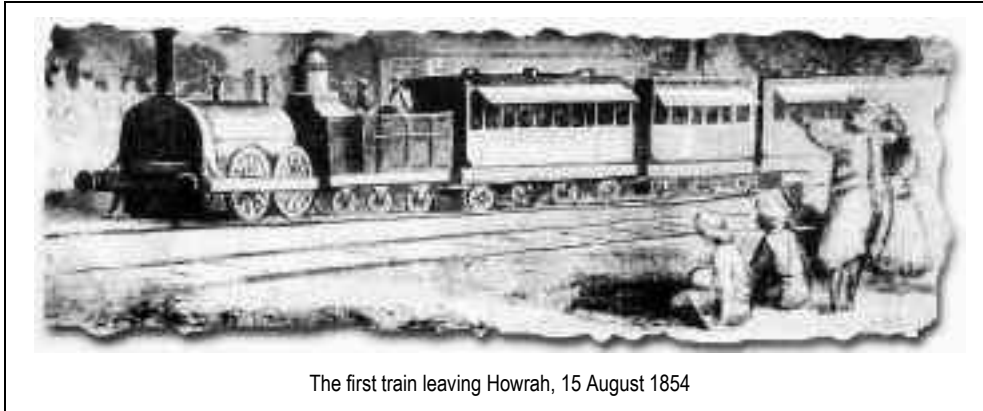


The "Locket Lady"

One of Thomas Skipp's possessions when he went to India was a locket which held a miniature painting. Who the subject was is not known for sure but it may well have been a painting of Thomas Skipp's mother.⁷

Formed in 1845, the East Indian Railway was a British company, registered in London and privately owned and financed, operating under licence and guarantee from the British Board of Control in India and the East India Company. The EIR was not contracted by the EIC to begin railway construction until 1849 and it was not until 1854 that the EIR opened its first section from Howrah to Hooghly.⁸

At the time that Thomas Skipp was at Howrah it was just a small town on the west shore of the Hooghly River. The Howrah station consisted of a temporary tin shed with a small booking office and a single line flanked by narrow platforms, soon to be replaced by a rather more grandiose building. The construction of the Howrah Railway Terminus in 1854 ushered in a period of considerable economic development, evidenced for example by the establishment of flour and jute mills, and today it is a major industrial centre, a twin city with Kolkata (Calcutta) and separated from it by the magnificent Howrah Bridge. Howrah was opened to passenger traffic on 15th August 1854. Three thousand people applied for tickets on the first train out of Howrah to Hoogly, but only a small number could be accommodated. So momentous was the occasion that thousands of men and women lined the whole stretch of the track. The journey covered a distance of 24 miles in 91 minutes.



The first train leaving Howrah, 15 August 1854

During the first 16 weeks of operation, no less than 109,634 passengers departed from Howrah station. These were made up of First Class – 5,511, Second Class – 21,005 and Third Class – 83,118.⁹

The reason for dwelling on the start up of the EIR is that with Thomas Skipp we have the first family member in what was to be a very strong family link with the railways of India through at least two generations.

After having spent time based at Howrah, Thomas was, by 1st July 1864, based at Dinapore, Bengal, employed as an Engine Driver, Loco Department and his pay was now Rs218/2/10. Two years later, on 1st July 1866, finds him posted to Buxar, Shahabad.

Having given an account of Thomas Skipp prior to and for his early years in India, I will now try and account for Aurora Josephine, the woman who was to become his wife. She had been born about 1831 at Buxar, Shahabad, but due to the lack of any corroborating evidence, establishing her parentage presents something of a problem. There are no records of birth or baptism in the Bengal records. When she married Thomas Skipp she cited one Charles Metcalfe as her father on the marriage certificate. There is a reference (unchecked at this stage) of the death in 1833 at Buxar of a Charles Metcalf, a Gunner in the Artillery Invalids, who may have been Aurora's father.¹⁰

What we do know is that Aurora was a widow when she married Thomas. Again, there is no record to substantiate the claim, but her first husband was believed to be John Manuel Rodrigues, and by him Aurora had at least two children, daughters Evelina Marian and Mary Jane whom she brought to the marriage with Thomas. But there is another intriguing record of a marriage at Howrah on 7th June 1851 between one James Brown and a lady by the name of Aurora Josephina Rodrigues. This record has the parents of the groom and bride as, respectively Charles Brown and N. Rodrigues. Unless 'Aurora Josephina/e' was a popular combination of names, is it possible that our Aurora was actually married twice before she walked up the aisle with Thomas Skipp?¹¹

The marriage, by licence, between Thomas Skipp and Aurora Josephine Rodrigues took place on 14th October 1869 at the Old Church, Fort William, Calcutta. Both were stated to be 'of age' and Thomas was employed by the EIR as an engine driver. At the time Thomas was a resident of Buxar, and the bride's home town was Calcutta. Their respective fathers were given as Thomas Skipp and Charles Metcalfe (deceased). MDC Walters conducted the service, which was witnessed by an Alfred F Eidds(?) and a William Lawn(?). The fact that Thomas and Aurora were already parents to two children, and Aurora was pregnant with their third, when they married raises a few questions. Had they just not got around for formalising their relationship? Did Aurora leave her first [second?]

husband for Thomas, and/or did they have to wait for him to die before marrying? Was there any other impediment to them marrying earlier?¹²



Apart from Emma Constance Skipp who, as noted above was born in February 1867 (and within less than a year of Thomas's arrival at Buxar), another daughter, Teresa Florence Lavinia Skipp had been born at Buxar on 15th September 1868. Next in line was Thomas Charles William Skipp who was born on 26th February 1870 at Buxar. Teresa had been baptised on 27th December 1868 at Buxar, but it was not until 24th April 1870 that Emma and Thomas were baptised, as recorded in the Buxar Church Baptism Register. One thing that puzzles me is why Emma Constance Skipp was not baptised at the same time as her sister Teresa. Was she actually living with Thomas and Aurora in September 1868? ¹⁴

Named for his presumed paternal grandfather, the next child born to Thomas and Aurora was George Metcalfe Skipp. He was born on 26th October 1871, and was another Skipp baptised at Buxar, three weeks later on 19th November. There was a gap of nearly three years before the next child arrived and this was Joseph Ernest Skipp. He was born on 6th August 1874 and baptised at Buxar on 23rd November of that year. The last known child of Thomas and Aurora was another daughter whom they named Aurora Beatrice. She was born at Buxar on 19th January 1876 and baptised nearly a month later on 17th February.¹⁵

Because there are no existing EIR registers after 1880 until about 1920 we only have two more records plotting Thomas Skipp's railway career. As known from the births of his children, he was still at Buxar on 1st January 1868, by which time his pay had increased to Rs260, and he was there for at least five years after the birth of the youngest child, as the records have him still employed as an engine driver at Buxar on 31st December 1880.

Buxar (or Baksar as it is called today) is a subdivision of the district of Shahabad, located on the south bank of the Ganges. It is a station of the EIR, 411 miles from Calcutta. Buxar was made a municipality in 1869 and is, today, a considerable centre of trade. The town is also of historic significance, being famous as the scene of the defeat by Sir Hector Munro of Mir Kasim in 1764, the battle which won the Lower Provinces of Bengal for the British.

In December 1880 Thomas Skipp would have been about 46, too young to be pensioned off, unless on medical grounds. So we can assume that he continued in the employ of the EIR for some time whether at Buxar or elsewhere, for example Bangalore where, as we will see, he was living in September 1895. At some stage he relocated to Madras, because it was there, at Marshalls Road, Egmore, that Thomas Skipp died on 21st May 1905, aged about 71 of Bright's Disease. He was buried the next day at St Matthias graveyard. He left a will which had been drawn up nearly ten years earlier at Bangalore.¹⁶

This is the last Will and Testament of me Thomas Skipp at present of Bangalore, India :

Firstly I direct that all my just debts funeral and testamentary expenses be paid by my executors hereinafter named as soon as convenient after my decease also that the sum of Rupees three thousand be paid and equally divided between my two sisters and brother namely Dinah Davis, Mary Ann Owen and George Skipp and should either of them predecease me the share the deceased would have taken shall be equally divided among his or her children if any living and should there be no children the portion or share of the deceased shall be equally divided among the surviving brother or sisters or their children and secondly after payment of the above I give devise and bequeath all the property both moveable and immoveable that I possess at the time of my decease unto my wife Aurora Josephine Skipp for her own use and benefit so long as she remains my widow and after the death or remarriage of my said wife I direct that if the value of my estate at that time be Rupees fifty thousand or more, my two step-daughters namely Eveline Lathwood and Mary Jane Woodward be paid Rupees three thousand each as their share and if the value be thirty-five and less than fifty thousand they shall get Rupees two thousand each and if the value be between twenty-five and thirty-five thousand they shall get Rupees one thousand each but if the value be at that time less than Rupees twenty-five thousand the above named step-daughters will get no share. The remainder of the property both real and personal shall be equally divided among my children namely Emma Constance Ortiger, Teresa Florence Skipp, Thomas Charles William Skipp, George Metcalf Skipp and Joseph Ernest Skipp, and I declare that if any of my said children or step-children shall have died in my life time or after my death and before attaining a vested interest leaving more than one child who shall be living at the period of distribution hereinbefore appointed such children shall take by substitution in equal shares as tenants in common the share which their parent would have taken had he or she lived to attain a vested interest. But should there be only one child living at the period of distribution such child shall take one half only of the share which the parent would have taken and the other half of such share shall be paid and divided as if the parent of such child had died without issue. And I declare that if my said wife shall die in my life time the whole of the residue of my moveable and immoveable property shall be equally divided among my said children Emma Constance Ortiger, Teresa Florence Skipp, Thomas Charles William Skipp, George Metcalf Skipp and Joseph Ernest Skipp. After payment of my debts funeral and testamentary expenses and the sums hereinbefore mentioned shall be paid and divided between my two sisters and brothers their children and my two step-daughters and I declare that any female taking any interest under this my Will shall take and hold the same free from the debts, control and engagement of any husband she may marry and her receipt alone notwithstanding coverture shall be a good and valid discharge for the same and I hereby appoint my said wife Aurora Josephine Skipp, my son Thomas Charles William Skipp and Mr Charles Woodward (or any two of them should either one predecease me) to be the executors of this my Will.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this 13th day of September one thousand eight hundred and ninety five.

Signed and acknowledged by the Testator)	<i>Thomas Skipp</i>
Thomas Skipp in the presence of us)	<i>Geo A Pereira</i>
who in his presence at his request and)	<i>Bangalore</i>
in the presence of each other all being)	
present at the same time have hereunto)	<i>D S Maiden</i>
subscribed our names as Witnesses)	<i>Bangalore</i>

The Will was probated in the District Court, Civil & Military Station of Bangalore, with the value of the estate being Rupees 20,131. The payment of his debts and funeral expenses, and the bequests to his sisters and brother would have seriously eroded the value of the residue of his estate.¹⁷

From the Will we learn that the youngest child, Aurora had died sometime before Thomas drew up the document. We also learn that his oldest daughter had married, as had both of his step-daughters. One of the executors was his son-in-law Charles Woodward.

On 10th October 1914, at the age of about 73, Aurora Josephine Skipp died and she was buried on the 11th at the General Episcopal Cemetery, Lower Circular Road, Calcutta. We may assume (but I have nothing to confirm or refute this) that she was living in Bangalore with Thomas when he died and that she moved sometime after to Howrah, which is where she was living when she died. However, according to the great-granddaughter of Thomas Charles William Skipp, Thomas died at the house of his son, George Metcalfe Skipp.¹⁸

Aurora too left a Will (to which that of her late husband was appended) and a reading of this document provides some further family information.

I Aurora Josephine Skipp at present residing at 7a Church Road, Howrah, in the suburbs of Calcutta, widow of the late Thomas Skipp, formerly Loco Foreman in the employ of the East Indian Railway Company, hereby revoke all former wills and testamentary dispositions made by me and declare this to be my last Will. I appoint my son-in-law Charles Woodward in the employ of the East India Railway and my son Joseph Ernest Skipp hereinafter called my Trustees to be the Executors and Trustees of this my last Will. Whereas apart from the life interest in my late husband's estate which I enjoy under his Will I am possessed in my own right of Rupees Twenty-two thousand in Calcutta Municipal Debentures and of certain sums in fixed deposit in the Allahabad Bank both in Calcutta and in Allahabad and certain other monies, now I hereby give and bequeath all my property of every description and wheresoever situate including the above securities unto my Trustees in trust save as to certain articles of jewellery the disposal of which I have directed by a letter of request to sell and convert the same at their discretion into money or so much thereof as does not consist of money and thereout to pay my funeral testamentary expenses and debts and to hold the residue hereinafter called my residuary trust funds in trust in the first instance to pay thereout two sums of Rupees Three thousand each to my daughters Evelyn Marian Addyman and Mary Jane Woodward wife of the said Charles Woodward respectively and thereafter to hold the remainder of my residuary trust funds in trust to pay and make over the same to my three sons Thomas Charles William Skipp, George Metcalfe Skipp and Joseph Ernest Skipp in equal shares absolutely and I further direct that in the event of the death of either of my said two daughters during my lifetime that the child or children of either of my said daughters or the child or children of any of my said three sons shall be entitled to the share which their deceased parent would have taken if he or she had survived me. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fifth day of August one thousand nine hundred and fourteen.

A J Skipp

Signed by the said Aurora Josephine Skipp as and)
for her last will and testament in the presence of us who)
in her presence and in the presence of each other)
have hereunto set their hand as attesting witnesses.)

*H J Bensley, Solicitor,
Calcutta
A E Mitchell, Solicitor,
Calcutta*

In the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal
Testamentary and Intestate Jurisdiction

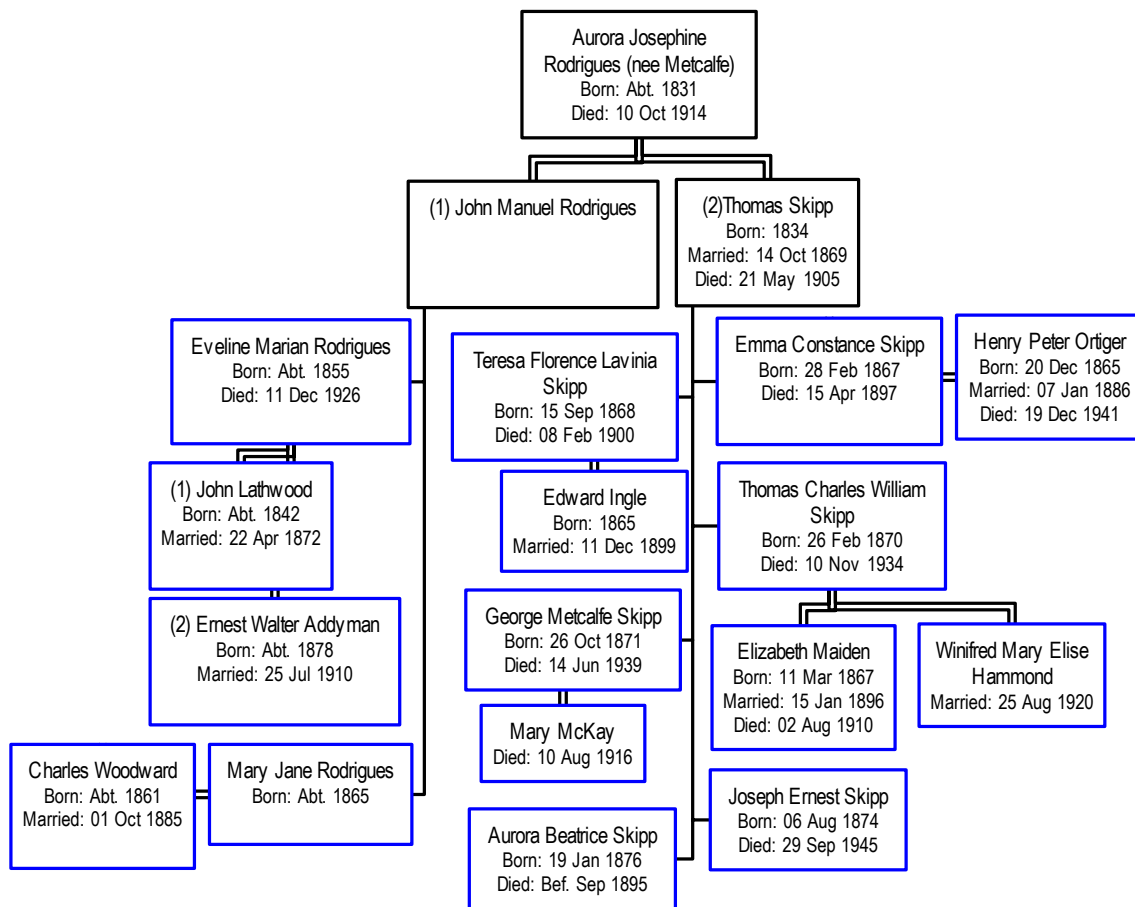
In the goods of Aurora Josephine Skipp deceased
Will
Filed and Probate granted to Charles Woodward
And Joseph Ernest Skipp the executors
On 3rd and issued on 14th
December 1914
J H Heeble
Registrar

At the same time, the appended Will of Thomas Skipp was dealt with :

In the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal
Testamentary and Intestate Jurisdiction

In the goods of Thomas Skipp deceased
Will
Filed and Probate granted to Charles
Woodward one of the executors on 3rd
And issued on 18th December 1914
J H Heeble
Registrar

Aurora suggested in her Will that Thomas Skipp may have been promoted from engine driver to engine foreman some time after 1880 and before his retirement. One of her daughters, Evelyn Lathwood, had remarried to a man called Addyman. Aurora makes no reference to the daughters Emma Constance and Teresa Florence, who had predeceased her, nor to any offspring of these two women. We know that there were two surviving grandchildren, daughters of Emma Constance Ortiger (née Skipp) and it is most unlikely, but has not been established, whether Teresa had any children. Based on the following and pending finding any further information, the following family tree represents current knowledge of the 'rites of passage' for Thomas and Aurora Josephine Skipp (formerly Rodrigues, née Metcalfe) and their offspring.

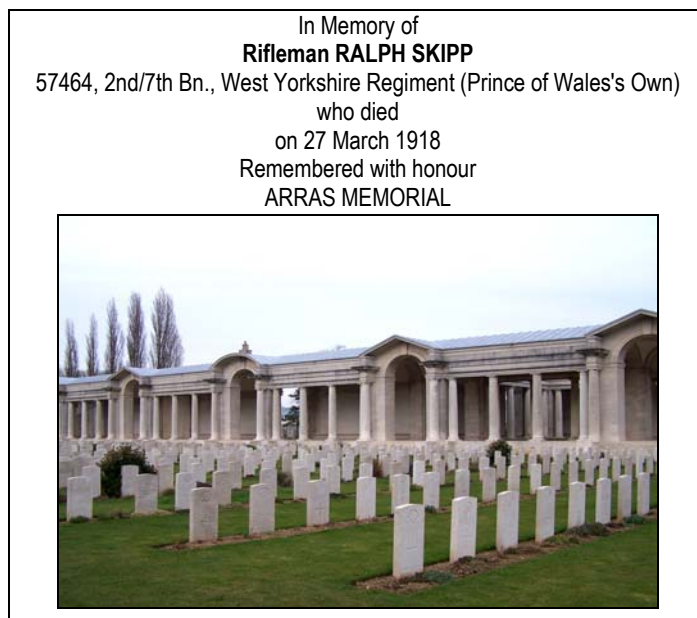


We will return to Emma Constance Skipp shortly, but first I will account for her siblings and step-siblings.¹⁹

We know that her youngest sister Aurora Beatrice died sometime before September 1895. Teresa Florence Lavinia Skipp married one Edward Ingle on 11th December 1899, at Bombay. Edward may have been the child whose baptism is included in the Madras baptism records for 1865. Within a few months of their marriage Teresa Ingle died. The Family Search record incorrectly has her birth year as 1872, and her age as 28 rather than 1868 and 31, but it shows that she died at Bombay on 8th February 1900 and was buried there the next day. I have nothing substantiated for her widower, but there is a record of an Edward Ingle, aged 45 and a preventative officer who died and was buried on 18th June 1912 at Mazagon, Bombay.²⁰

Thomas Charles William Skipp married shortly after his father's death, at St Mark's Church Bangalore on 15th January, 1896. His bride was Elizabeth Maiden, born on 11th March 1867, a daughter of John William and Indiana Maiden (née French), and who was, as were her numerous siblings, born at Masulipatam, Madras. It was probably her brother Donald Stuart Maiden who witnessed Thomas Skipp's will. At the time of the marriage Thomas was the manager of a coal prospecting company and was living at Jalarpett. Elizabeth died at Bangalore on 2nd August 1910. Her funeral was held two days later.²¹

Thomas and Elizabeth had four children. The eldest was Ralph who was born in September 1896 at Coonoor. He went to England at some stage and it was there at Leeds, at the age of 20 that he enlisted in the West Yorkshire Regiment on 12th June 1917. His address was 12 Ash Grove, Headingley, and he was a student. He gave as his next-of-kin his father – Thomas Charles Skipp of Cunningham Road, Bangalore. Private Skipp spent a few months on home service at during which he blotted his copy book with a few offences for which he was duly docked pay and was confined to barracks – wilfully damaging one pair of boots and overstaying his leave, the second occasion being overdue from his final leave. He left for France on the 12th December 1917 and nearly four months later was killed in action. The Arras Memorial commemorates almost 35,000 servicemen from the United Kingdom, South Africa and New Zealand who died in the Arras sector between the spring of 1916 and 7 August 1918, the eve of the Advance to Victory, and who have no known grave. The most conspicuous events of this period were the Arras offensive of April-May 1917, and the German attack in the spring of 1918.²²



Despite having given his next-of-kin when enlisting, a memorandum was sent from the Medal Branch of the War Office to the OIC Infantry Record Office, York, directing that any medals held in York, for soldiers who had died intestate or had no traceable next-of-kin were to be returned to the Medal Branch. The attached list of such soldiers included 57464 Private R Skipp, who had been posthumously awarded the Victory Medal and the British War Medal. Subsequently, Thomas Skipp, of 3 Cunningham Crescent, Bangalore, entered into correspondence over a period of five years with Records Office seeking to obtain the plaque and scroll in commemoration of Ralph's service and his medals and personal effects. To obtain the plaque and scroll Thomas was required to complete Army Form W 5080, which furnished names and addresses of all the relatives of the deceased soldier. The completed form was dated 30th October 1919, and confirmed that Ralph had no wife or children, his mother had died at Bangalore, and he had 3 full-blood siblings – brother Cyril Skipp, then 18, and sisters Alice, 21, and Evelyn 15. It was sometime before Thomas obtained (hopefully) the medals and effects, as there is on record a letter from the Infantry Record Office, dated 6th May 1924, requiring Thomas to submit a formal application for their disposal.²³

Alice May Skipp, born on 5th May and baptised on 13th May 1898 at Bangalore travelled to England on board the Cap Polonia embarking at Bombay and arriving at Southampton on 9th July 1920. She died in Zimbabwe in 1980.²⁴

Next in line was Cyril Esmond William Skipp, born on 30th October 1901, and baptised four weeks later on 27th November at Bangalore. He was educated, along with his brother and cousins at St Joseph's School, Bangalore. The shipping records show that he spent some time in England, but that his home was in South Africa. For a September 1927 voyage from London to South Africa Cyril was listed as a Sales Representative, and for a later voyage in November 1936 the manifest records him as an engineer. He married Louise Esther Pretorius, presumably in South Africa, and they had three children – a son and two daughters. Cyril died in 1968.²⁵

The last of the children of Thomas and Elizabeth Skipp was Evelyn Elizabeth, born at Bangalore on 5th June and baptised there on 1st August 1905. She may have been the 23 year old Miss E Skipp who was travelling with a 29 year old Miss A Skipp (sister Alice?) from Liverpool to Colombo on board the City of Venice in October 1929. The manifest records the Miss E and a company secretary and the Miss A as home duties. More certainly, we have Evelyn E Skipp travelling to England from Calcutta on 3rd June 1936, for which journey she describes herself as independent, perhaps reflecting that she had inherited sufficient to live on. Evelyn married twice – first to Claude Holland Smith and then to Cyril Hunt. She died in Zimbabwe in 2004.²⁶

Thomas Skipp married for a second time almost exactly ten years after his first wife Elizabeth died. He and Winifred Mary Elise Hammond were married at Bombay on 25th August 1920. The bride was a daughter of Frederick William Hammond. I know nothing more about Winifred, and she does not feature on the Skipp family

tree.²⁷

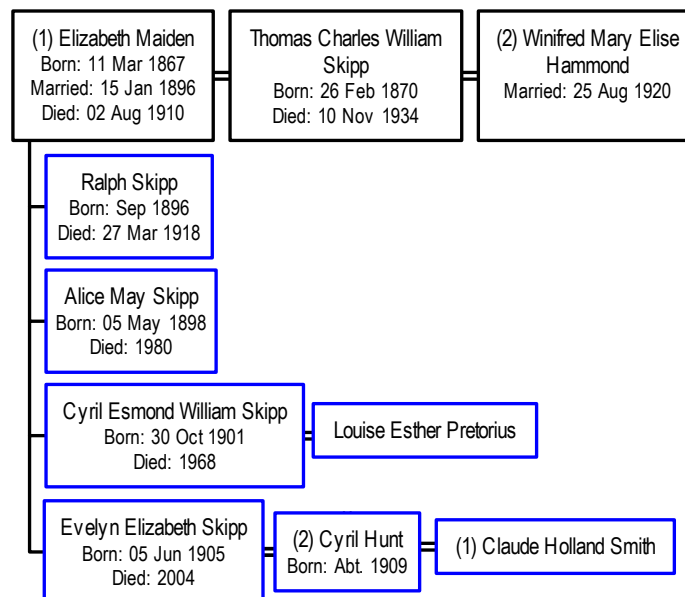
Thomas Charles William Skipp died on 10th November 1934 at Bangalore, of myocarditis (heart failure), and was buried in the All Saints, Oosoor Road Cemetery. In his lifetime he made quite a name for himself, as recorded twice in the Bangalore section of a directory for Southern India.²⁸

T.C.W. Skipp

Engineering contractors in India have a fine field for the exercise of their capabilities, as the vast size of the country, its mighty rivers, its formidable ranges of mountains and the continued demand for the construction of, or additions to, gorgeous palaces and mammoth factories or houses of merchandise, call for the display of that skill in building operations, in the laying of railways, in putting up bridges, and in other works which can only be exhibited by those who have a thoroughly practical as well as theoretical knowledge of the multitudinous details of important contracts. One of those whose names will for many generations be associated – not by inscriptions on foundation-stones – with feats of engineering prowess is Mr. T.C.W. Skipp, of No 1 Cunningham Road, in the city of Bangalore. When a comparatively young man he obtained valuable experience in the undertaking which gave Bombay an unlimited supply of pure water. The “Tansa” Waterworks, as they are called, were constructed by Messrs. Thomas Glover & Co. and Messrs. Walsh, Lovett, Mitchell & Co., jointly at a cost of 200 lakhs of rupees. When Mr. Skipp commenced business on his own account he took up the construction of railways and buildings in the Presidency of Bombay and subsequently in the Nilgiris in the Presidency of Madras. He was afterwards employed by the Mysore Government in constructing the dams, head works, channels, and extensions to forebays, and in building a power-house in connection with the project for obtaining electric energy from the falls on the River Cauvery. Shortly after this time Mr. Skipp completed 25 miles of work on the Barsi Light Railway. This railway is the pioneer exemplar of the gradually developed system of narrow gauge light railways with heavy traffic capacity and the attempt to achieve a much greater capacity than had been obtained previously on the 2 ft. 6 in. gauge involved many novelties and departures from usual practice...

A gigantic undertaking was entrusted to Mr. Skipp a few years ago when a contract was signed [1908] for the construction of the Indian Institute of Science at Bangalore...A portion of the Institute was opened in due time and the first students were admitted to the department of General Chemistry, Applied Chemistry, and Electro-Technics on July 24, 1911, and the department of Organic Chemistry threw open its doors in September of the same year. The Institute is the largest of its kind in India, and the total cost will reach about 20 lakhs of rupees... the whole of the work has been done under the personal supervision of Mr. Skipp.

Mr. Skipp has received a very large number of testimonials as to the character of his work, the principal of these being from architects, civil engineers, and others who have been directly interested in his contracts.



George Metcalf Skipp had been born at Buxar on 26th October 1971, with his baptism taking place just over three weeks later on 19th November and according to Skipp family lore he was involved in some way with the railway, and is rumoured to have made a considerable amount of money by gaining a contract to install gas into the South India Railway – but this is to be regarded as hearsay. He married Mary Catherine McKay, an Irish girl from

County Cork, and they had six children over the period 1900-1912. Four years later Mary died, on 10th August 1910, leaving George with the responsibility of raising their offspring, whose ages on the loss of their mother ranged from 10 down to 4. Again referring to family lore, he was found somewhat lacking in the parental role, and squandered his money and his time in gambling and drinking clubs. He was certainly not a wealthy man when he died on 14th June 1939 at Madras and was buried one day later in the same cemetery as his mother, St Matthias.²⁹

Muriel, the first child, was born in 1900 and became a nun and a nurse, apparently influenced in her choice by a sister of her mother who as a Mother Superior.

Dudley George Metcalfe Skipp was born in Bangalore on 25th April 1901. He was another Skipp boy to attend St Joseph's School in Bangalore, where he did very well, becoming Head Boy and Victor Laudorum. He also excelled in sport and was in most of the school teams. As the oldest son he apparently particularly felt the brunt of the loss of his mother, having to take on the role of surrogate parent when his father was not around (which seems to have been frequently). It is suggested that this responsibility and his father's shortcomings as a parent were the root cause of a rift between father and son, which carried through to the next generation. After leaving school Dudley joined the army where he furthered his sporting ambitions, representing the army at boxing, tennis, cricket, badminton and hockey, and saw active service in the 3rd Afghan war of 1919-1920 and served on the North West Frontier. He was with the S & T (Service and Transport) which later became the Royal Indian Army Service Corps (RIASC). According to the Skipp family tree Dudley married at Lucknow on 14th January 1929 to a young 21 year old woman, Lily Irene Green. This conflicts with a Family Search record which records the bride as Lily Irene Oldham, daughter of Robert William Oldham. Lily Irene had been born at Derby on 22nd March 1922. They had one son, Dudley Robert Metcalfe Skipp, born on 19th November 1929 at Muttra. Two daughters followed – Lily Patricia Ann (known as Rosemarie) born on 1st October 1932 in the Red Fort, Delhi, and Christina Jennifer, who was born at Peshawar, on Christmas Eve 1939. At the outbreak of WW2 Dudley was commissioned and saw service in North Africa, Italy and Burma. He ended his time in India in 1947 as Major Skipp. On returning to England Dudley maintained his military links, after having had a number of civilian jobs, going back into the Army, the Home Guard, and when he retired from that became a civilian adjutant. Dudley George Metcalfe Skipp died suddenly while on holiday at Benidorm, Spain on 2nd April 1979. His widow Lily survived him by just over 12 years, and she died at Bognor Regis on 17th October 1991.³⁰

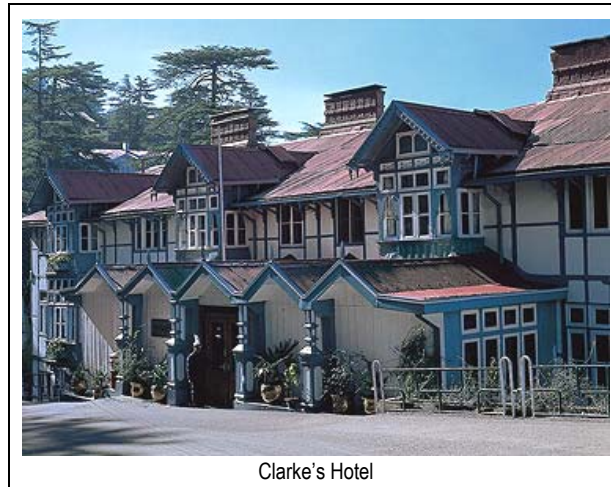
Not much is known about the third child of George and Mary Skipp. Eric Joseph McKay Skipp was born on 2nd May 1903 and baptised on 24th May of that year, both events occurring at Madras. He was just 27 when, at Bangalore on 7th June 1930, he married Alice Kathleen Maddox, who have been born in on 2nd February 1907, daughter of George Reginald Thompson and Olive Florence Katie Maddox (née Geils). Eric and Alice had one adopted daughter, Judy. The death of Alice Kathleen Skipp was registered in 1983 at Basingstoke and that of her husband, Eric at the age of 81, at Alton in January 1985.³¹

Fourth child, Ronald William Michael Skipp was born in Madras on 29th September 1905. His wife, Violet Gwendoline Wetton was born in Lahore on 8th February 1914, but they married on 8th April 1934 at Portsmouth, England. Violet had sailed from Bombay on board the City of Poona and arrived at Portsmouth on 23rd June 1933. She travelled with John Lewis Wetton, aged 62 and an army officer (and presumably her father). Their intended address in England was Carshalton Avenue, Corsham, Portsmouth. Ronald and Violet Skipp had two children, Trevor and Gillian. Ronald was taken prisoner during WW2 and worked on the "Death" railway in Burma, and he suffered with the physical effects of this horrendous experience thereafter. He died at the relatively young age of 63 on Boxing Day, at Eltham, London, in 1968. Violet survived her late husband by over three decades, and she died at the age of 87 at Gloucester on 18th August 2001.³²

The second of the two daughters of George and Mary Metcalf was Aileen Margaret Mary Skipp, and she was born on 23rd August 1907 at Bangalore. At the time of her marriage to Percy Theo Pierce, on 16th October 1941, Aileen was a typist working for GHQ in Simla. Percy was a divisional manager in Clarke's Hotel at Simla. They had two children born in Simla, Christopher and Anthony. Clarke's Hotel had a reputation as a perfect "getaway" for trysts – illicit or otherwise. Originally known as the Carlton Hotel, then name was changed around 1920 when it passed into the hands of Ernest Clarke. The neo-Tudor style hotel is still operated today, now described as a heritage hotel since 1898.³³

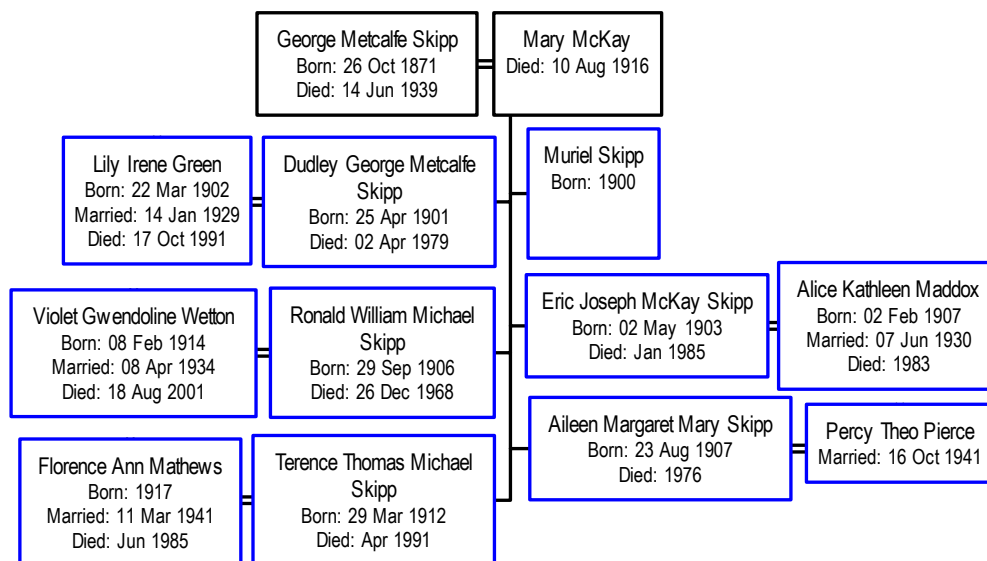
“...embodying the elegance and charm of yesteryear, with modern conveniences of today. Located on Shimla’s main promenade – the Mall, you are immediately welcomed into a warm and graceful environment”.

I am not sure what happened to Percy, but Aileen died in 1978 at Portsmouth.³⁴



Clarke's Hotel

Terence Thomas Michael was the last child born to George Metcalfe Skipp and his wife Mary (née McKay). Born on 29th March 1912 and baptised on 14th April at Bangalore he was another Skipp who found employment with the railways. A quiet and unassuming man, and therefore possibly with the assistance of his father, who held some sway with the South Indian Railways, Terence became an auditor with the M & SM (Madras & South Mahratta) Railway, a position he held for many years. It was as an auditor that Terence married Florence Ann Mathews (known as Biddy), about five years his junior and the daughter of Albert Roger Mathews at Ootacamund on 11th March 1941. Florence’s parents may be the subjects of a marriage record for 20th April 1907 at Kidderpore, Bengal, in which case her father had been born about 1878 and her mother, Linda Newman, about 1881. After the war they made at least one trip to England, aboard the Ministry of Transport ship Asturias which arrived at Southampton on 17th June 1948. They gave as their England address 36 Highfield Drive, Ewell, Epsom in Surrey. Terence was described as an accountant, and Florence as a housewife. I am not sure if they returned to India. They had no children and ended their lives in a small flat in London. Their deaths were registered at Hounslow, that for Florence Ann B Skipp in June 1985 (with her birth date given as 27th October 1911), and that for Terence Thomas Skipp nearly six years later in April 1991.³⁵



Joseph Ernest Skipp, the fifth child and third son of Thomas Skipp and his wife Aurora, was born on 6th August 1874 at Buxar and baptised there some four months later on 23rd November. Very little is known about him. He followed his father into the railways and finished his working life as railway mechanic. It does not seem that he

married and he died at the age of 71 on 29th September 1945 at Calcutta where he was buried on 2nd October.³⁶

Based on the recorded date of Eveline Marian Rodrigues' first marriage, at the age 17, she was the elder of the two daughters of Aurora's first (?) marriage, and she was born about 1855. On 22nd April 1872, at Buxar, she married John Lathwood, whose year of birth was listed as 1842, and whose father was Peter Lathwood. According to the records I have located Eveline and John presented Thomas and Aurora with a bevy of grandchildren.³⁷

Eliza Aurora Lathwood was born on 5th October 1873 and baptised on 23rd November at Patna. Their first son was born at Nawadi on 7th September 1876. He was baptised John William Lathwood on 24th October. Next in line was a son named for John's father, Peter Alfred born on 8th January also at Nawadi and baptised on 5th February 1878. He was followed by another boy, named for his grandfather. Thomas Samuel Lathwood was born at Asansol on 20th June 1880 and baptised on 18th August of that year. The second daughter was also born and baptised at Asansol – Maria Theresa on 28th March 1881 and 26th January 1882 respectively. There was a gap between the record of Maria's birth and that of her younger sister Eveline Constance. By this time the family was at Tundla where Eveline was born on 21st July and baptised a few weeks later on 12th August 1887. Another gap in the birth records is followed by the birth of Ethel Clemence Lathwood at Calcutta on 16th April 1891, with her baptism taking place on 7th June. Records show that at least three of the Lathwood children married, and Thomas Skipp would have been alive for two of the weddings. The first to marry was Eliza Aurora Lathwood. At the age of 18, on 14th October 1891 at Calcutta, she married 24 year old Frank Herbert Paul, son of John Francis Paul. Thomas Samuel Lathwood and Mary Dorothy Garbett were married on 25th May 1903 at Calcutta. The groom was 23 years old and his bride, who was born about 1884, was the 19 year old daughter of Henry Garbett. Almost six years later Ethel Clemence Lathwood married at the age of 18. The wedding took place on 20th April 1909 at Calcutta and the groom was 28 year old Tom Hope, son of John Hope. Although I have not found any birth/baptismal evidence for a Maud Aileen Lathwood being a daughter of Eveline and John, I have included her in the list of the children. Her marriage to David Archbald Clubb was recorded as taking place at Calcutta on 26th June 1906, with the father of the bride being listed as John Lathwood. The marriage record has David Clubb as being born about 1883, but an IGI record has his birth date as 4 March 1880 at Burdwan, West Bengal.³⁸

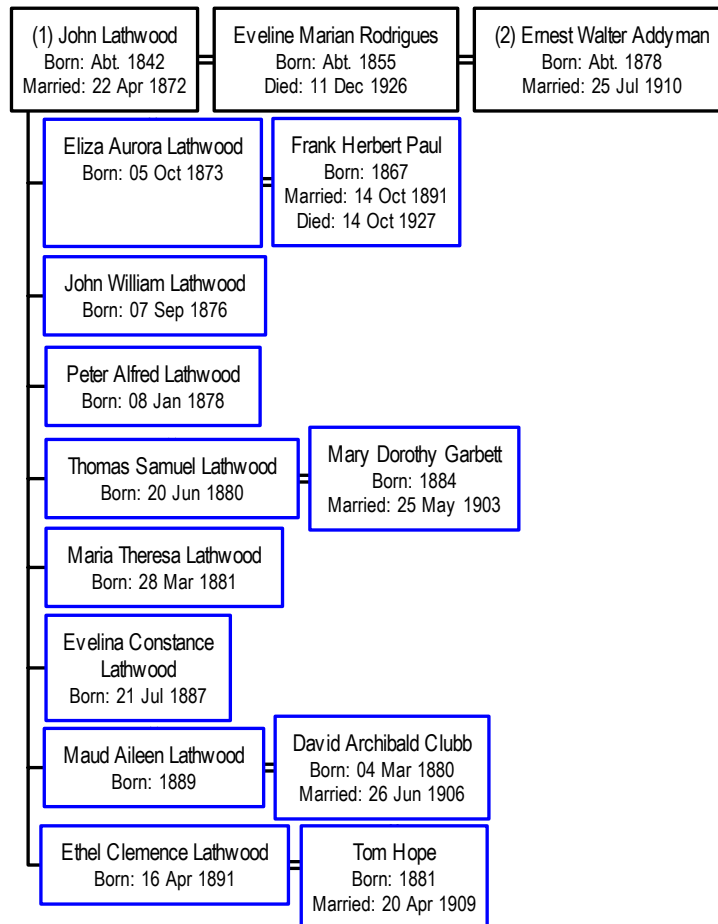
John Lathwood senior died at Calcutta on 6th March 1839. According to this death record he was 70 years old, with his birth date recorded as 1839. As noted above, we know that Eveline married again and that the surname of her second husband was Addyman. I have found a marriage record between an Ernest Walter Addyman and widowed Eva Maria Lathwood as occurring on 25th July 1910 at Calcutta. According to this record the groom had been born in 1878 and was 32 and the bride had been born in 1862 and was 48. The bride's father was given as Samuel Rodrigues [which at a stretch could be a mistranscription of John Manuel]. If this is the correct couple, the bride's age was considerably understated, recalling that her first marriage was recorded as occurring in 1862 when she was 17 – and her father's name is a problem. And if this is a record of the correct couple the age disparity between husband and wife is somewhat unusual and calls into question what exactly was their mutual attraction.³⁹

But just in case we have the correct record, I did some delving on Ernest Walter Addyman. I have found no birth record for a baby of that name to match the year 1878. However, I have found some military records the subject of which is Ernest Walter Addyman, born apparently in Hunslet, Leeds, around 1878, which make for interesting reading.

On 1st May 1894, just short of his 25th birthday, he enlisted at Sandown, Isle of Wight, for a short service warrant with the Royal Artillery and was posted to Woolwich. He was a British subject and a fitter (general smith) by trade and he cited as his next of kin his mother, Annie Kelso, who was living in Ontario, Canada. However there was a short interruption to Private Addyman's service with the 2nd Battery because he was required to go to court. His trial (for what misdemeanor we do not know) was held on 1st July and he was sentenced and imprisoned on 4th July for a period of 42 days and returned to duty on 15th August. After a short time on home duties, he was posted to India and during that time sought to extend his service to complete 12 years and was discharged on 16th May 1906 at Kamptee, located about 17 km north-east of Nagpur, and founded in 1821 by the British as a military cantonment. The next we hear of Walter's military career is when, having returned to England, he signs up for a one-year service with the Army Reserve – Special Reservists. He filled out the attestation form at Portsmouth on 19th August 1914. Again he gave his place of birth as Leeds and his age as now as 36 years and 146 days. His

trade was engine fitter and the form recorded his previous service with the 25th Battery RFA. Interestingly for the questions as to whether he was married, and whether he had ever been imprisoned he answered 'No'. He was assigned the army number 14852. His service extended over the year and during his time as a reservist he was promoted twice. He was discharged with the rank of sergeant on 17th February 1916 having served one year and 183 days, his services being deemed no longer required. Seven months later he fronted up to the recruitment centre in Sandwich, Kent, to enlist for a short service (for the duration of the war) with the Royal Engineers, seemingly with the Inland Water Transport section. On the attestation form that he signed on 20th September 1916 he gave his address as 63 Waverley Road, Harrow. He now gave his trade as a fitter and declared that he was not married. This might have been the case when he completed the form but on his Military History sheet we find under particulars as to Marriage that he had, in fact, married on 19th October 1914 (bigamously?) at the Chard Parish Church, Somerset, and that the bride's name was listed as Winifred Ada Petuella. A check on the marriage records confirms the Chard registration for the Oct-Dec quarter of 1914 between Petuella W T Tarrant and Ernest W Addyman. However, the name and address of Walter's next of kin [which was subsequently crossed out] was Miss N Barrett of 4 Lennox Mansion, Southsea, Hants. And, apart from his medal card, which shows that he was award the British Medal and the Victory Medal, that is the end of the military record for Ernest Walter Addyman, and the end of the trail. As a postscript, again under the name Petuella W T Tarrant married again in 1919 at Bristol to a man names Jones.⁴⁰

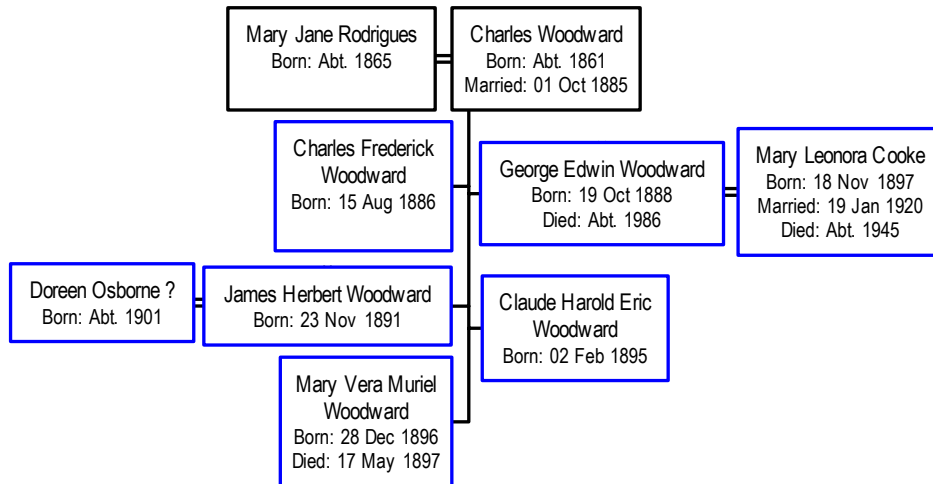
Just to confuse matters further, and evidence that the records have to be treated with due caution, I have found a birth record for a Florence Anthonette Mary Addyman. This girl was born at Bangalore on 7th November 1907 to Ernest Walter Addyman and Winfred. However, for the record of this girl's death, at Bangalore on 15th May 1908 her father is listed as Albert Edward Addyman. And to finish with the Addymans, with what may be Evaline's final entry in the record books. There is a death record for 11th December 1926 at Calcutta of a widowed Evelyn Addyman. But the spouse's name is Jack Addyman.⁴¹



According to the marriage record between Mary Jane Rodrigues and Charles Woodward on 1st October 1885 at Buxar, Mary Jane was born about 1865 and was a daughter of John Manuel Rodrigues. The groom had been

born about 1861 and his father was one George Charles Woodward. As far as I have ascertained, Charles and Mary Jane had five children, 4 sons and 1 daughter. The boys were Charles Frederick, born 15th August 1886 at Cawnpore, George Edwin, born 19 October 1888 at Buxar, James Herbert, born 23rd November 1891 at Calcutta and Claude Harold Eric, born 2nd February 1895 at Ambala. Their only daughter, Mary Vera Muriel was also born at Ambala on 28th December 1896 but died in infancy on 17th May 1897 at Ambala. We know that Charles Woodward was alive in 1947 reference he wrote in that year and for which he signed himself as formerly Clerk of Works, EIR, Madhupur SP, but I have nothing further for him or his wife Mary Jane.⁴²

It is believed that the eldest son, Charles went to live and work in Brazil, but whether or not he married is unknown. His brother George Edwin married Mary Lenora Cooke on 19th January 1920 at Tundla. They had at least four children, Kenneth, Reginald, Patrick and Maud, who apparently had a half-sister, Doreen. Leonora Woodward died in Calcutta towards the end of WW2, and George Edwin died around 1986/87 at the Tollygunge Old Age Home, Calcutta. James was another of the Woodward sons who went to South America. We have a shipping record of him departing from Liverpool on 29 January 1915 at the age of 23 on board the Avon bound for Brazil. He was an accountant by profession and at some stage was employed by Imperial Tobacco, which later became the British and American Tobacco Company. He made at least one trip back to England, sailing into Southampton on 28th April 1923 on board the Arlanza, and this time he was accompanied by a wife – Daisy Osborne Woodhead, about ten years his junior. They were accompanied by their young 6 year old son, Charles, for their voyage on board the Highland Patriot departing from London on 20th May 1938. Ten years later the three of them they made the same journey as passengers on the Argentine Star. They gave as their address in England, c/- British and American Tobacco Company, Rusham House, Egham, Surrey, and by now James was a director of the company. The youngest of the Woodward sons, Claude Harold Eric apparently never married and has been described as a bit of a lad and a ne'er do well.⁴³



I would love to know what life was like for the Skipp family. I imagine that they would have been allocated a house, or some form of accommodation by the EIR. Perhaps also the EIR arranged for the children's education at one of the Railway Schools. Or did they attend schools run by religious orders? What age did they leave school and how and where did the boys, at least, acquire the skills and qualifications to equip them to earn their own living? How often, and for how long, was Thomas absent from home driving trains, and what routes did he travel? What was the social life like in mid-1800s Buxar? Were the Skipp family comfortably off, or was life a bit of a struggle? We will probably never know the answers to these questions.

Now back to Henry Ortger and Emma Constance Skipp. We know that Henry was a railway employee and it is most likely that he would have met the Skipp family in the course of his work, and 'fell' for the oldest Skipp daughter. They were married on 7th January 1886, possibly at Buxar, just before Emma's 19th birthday.⁴⁴

There are conflicting accounts of the number of children born to Henry and Emma. The Ortger family tree suggests that they had five children – Nora Adeline Teresa, Valerie, Arnold Henry, Gladys Clementine Aurora and Magdalene Marie. However I believe that only four children were born to this couple, and that the oldest was Nora Adeline Teresa Valerie, who was in fact my maternal grandmother, and known as Valerie Teresa.⁴⁵

According to an IGI record, and confirmed by a birth notice in The Times of India of 14th August 1890, Nora Adeline Theresa Ortiger was born at Dinapore on 8th August 1890. She was christened nearly five years later at St Joseph's Catholic Cathedral, Allahabad, on 27th July 1895. I have a rather battered copy of the baptism certificate. Her date of birth was incorrectly recorded as 8th September 1890. She was baptised as Valerie Theresa, and both parents are listed, with Henry Pierre's occupation given as driver for the EIR.⁴⁶

I have found no official record for the birth of Arnold Henry Ortiger, but the Ortiger family tree has his date of birth as 29th October 1891. The tree records the birth of the next in line, Gladys Clementine Aurora Ortiger, as 18th November 1893. An IGI record confirms this and also shows that she was baptised at Allahabad on 26th January 1894. She was given the name Aurora for her maternal grandmother Aurora Josephine Skipp, and the name Clementine was chosen for later Ortiger girls. Again the Ortiger family tree and the IGI are in accord, for the last of the four children was Magdalene Mary Ortiger, born on 26th January 1896 and baptised on 28th March of that year in Allahabad.⁴⁷

One of the greatest threats to life in India was cholera and this Ortiger family was not spared. Two of the children, Arnold Henry, aged 4, and Gladys Clementine Aurora, aged 3, died of cholera within a day of each other on 14th and 15th April 1897, at Asansol, near Calcutta. The family's loss was even more devastating with the death of Emma Constance Ortiger, at the age of just 30, also on 15th April. At the time husband and father, Henry Pierre Ortiger, was absent from home working on the railways.

Henry Ortiger was now left with the care of two daughters, aged 7 and just over 1. I am not sure how he managed to look after them, given that he was a locomotive driver. Were they sent away somewhere? I also do not know whether or not they lived with him when he remarried.

His second wife was Florence Mary Harrison, who had been born on 2nd January 1877 at Satna, Central Provinces, India. They were married on 22nd November 1899 at Jamalpore, Bengal. From their marriage registration, and also from family notes, we know that Florence's father was named John and that he had been born in Whitehaven, Cumberland, on 28th February 1840. I think I may have located his baptismal record and traced him through the English census returns for 1841-1871, but the following has not been verified.⁴⁸

The birth of one John Harrison was registered at Whitehaven for the Jan-Mar quarter of 1840. This baby boy was baptised on 12th April at St Bees, Whitehaven, Carlisle, and the record gives his parents as John Harrison and Catherine Whitefield, who had been married, also at St Bees, on 20th July 1833. The Harrison family was living in the civil parish of St Bees for the 1841 census. Their address was Blackbeck, in the village of Nether Wasdale, situated in the Wasdale valley and the west Lakes district. The head of the household, John Harrison, was a joiner by trade and his age was given as 30. His wife Catherine's age was listed as 35 and they in all they had three children at home – 7 year old Joseph, 4 year old Elisabeth and John, aged 1. Ten years later the Harrisons were living at 8 Coburg Street, Toxteth Park, Liverpool.⁴⁹

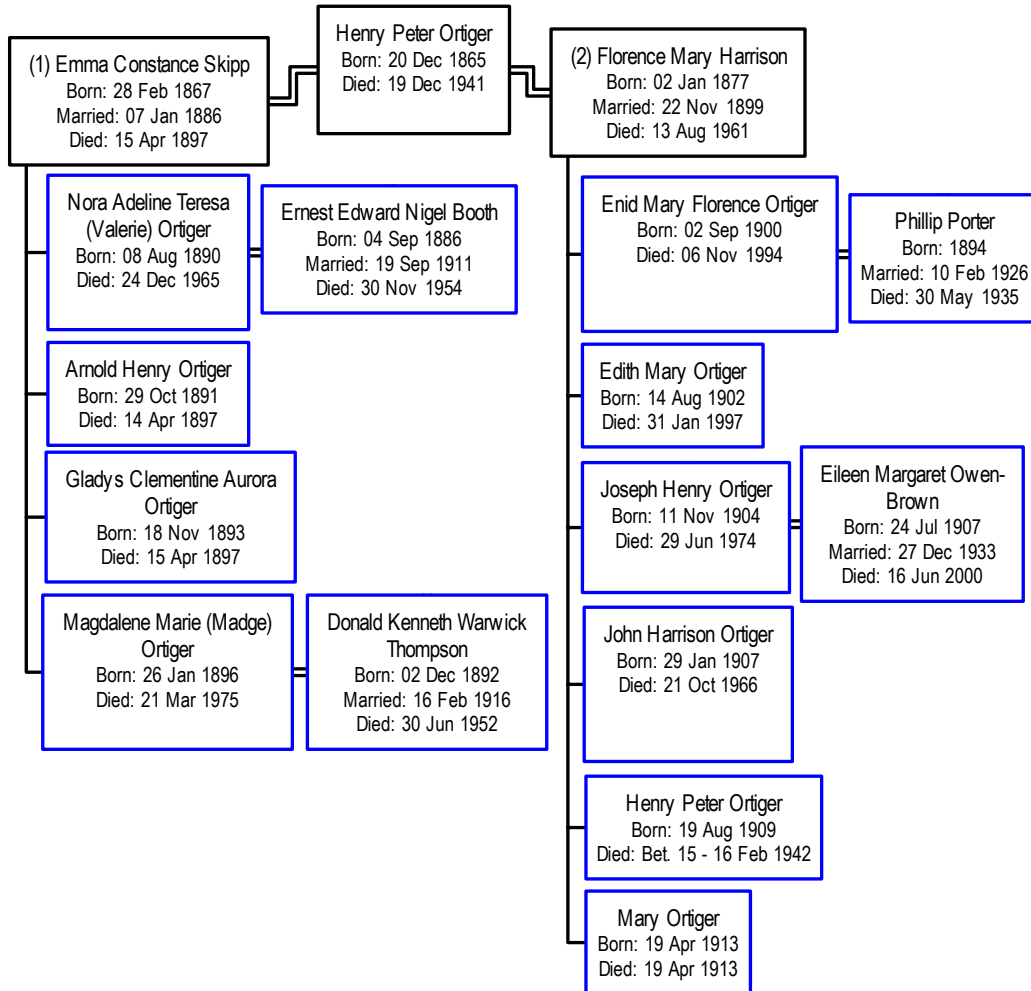
John Harrison	Head	M	40	Joiner	Whitehaven, Cumberland
Catherine Harrison	Wife	M	48		Whitehaven, Cumberland
Joseph Harrison	Son	U	16	Apprentice to Joiner	Whitehaven, Cumberland
Elizabeth Harrison	Daur	U	14	Scholar	Whitehaven, Cumberland
John Harrison	Son	U	11	Scholar	Whitehaven, Cumberland
Margaret Ann Harrison	Daur	U	6	Scholar	Whitehaven, Cumberland

They must have made the move sometime after the birth of Margaret Ann, and it seems that they also took with them a nephew, John Gates as this young man, aged 20 and also hailing from Whitehaven, Cumberland, and a joiner, was included in the Harrison household.

For the 1861 census, conducted on 7th April, the only children at home with their parents John and Catherine, now at 89 Warwick Street, Toxteth Park, were John and Margaret. Margaret, 16, was listed as an assistant housekeeper, no doubt helping out at home, and her elder brother John was by now a 21 year old apprentice shipwright. Their father had done rather well for himself, and was now recorded as a master house joiner, employing one boy. Incidentally, John's elder brother now married and with a family and living at Sheppey in Kent, was also a shipwright. However, the only other census record I have found for a John Harrison, born in 1840 at Whitehaven, is for the 1871 census, which finds a man of that name lodging at 7 Farnworth Street, West Derby, and employed as a printer/compositor.⁵⁰

Whoever was the John Harrison, father of Florence, he had made his way to India possibly after either 7th April 1861 or after 2nd April 1871. Either prior to, or when he arrived in India, he met and married the woman who was to become Florence's mother who apparently was born at Limerick, Ireland. Further speculating, and not having checked the record, there is a death registration for a John Harrison, at Sutna, for the 25th March 1878. The subject of this record was born in 1840, and his occupation was listed as driver.⁵¹

Henry was blessed with another six children by his second marriage, the last of whom, Mary, only lived for two hours. Apparently he was a caring father and particularly doted on his three sons.⁵²



As a young boy during the Christmas school holidays – December to March – his grandson Noel Booth recalls that when Henry and Florence Ortger lived at Canning Road, Allahabad, he walked every day with Florence Ortger, a very devout Catholic, to morning Mass at St Joseph Catholic Cathedral. Another memory of that time is that Grandfather Ortger, having been taught how to ride a bike by his sons, would visit the Booths every morning for his daily coffee. Later, Henry and Florence spent the summer months living with their daughter Enid at Quetta, and when it became too cold there, they used to move to Delhi for the winter months.⁵³

We know that Henry made at least two visits to England. He was listed as a passenger on the TSS Assyria which sailed from Bombay to Liverpool, arriving on 3rd December 1928. Henry gave as his contact address C/- Messrs Worthington Simpson, Newark on Trent, Nottingham. He was described as being 63 years old and retired. I have him leaving England bound for India, embarking on the SS California on 22nd October 1929. This time he is listed as a Railway Official, as are the heads of the group of families he is listed with on the ship's manifest. His address while he had been in England was Millgate, Newark on Trent. The reason for his journey to England was to settle in his eldest son Joseph at Newark, where he was to undertake engineering training with Worthington and Simpson.

Henry must have fitted in another trip 'home' in late 1931/early 1932, no doubt to see how Joseph was

progressing and perhaps making arrangements for his youngest son Henry to spend some time with Worthington Simpson, and when there had been staying at 6 Spring Gardens, Newark on Trent, as he is included in the passenger manifest of the Britannia, which sailed on 5th January 1932 from Liverpool. He made a return journey to England three months later, this time aboard the Tuscania, arriving at Liverpool on 3rd May 1932. He was able to be contacted at 47 Portland Street, Newark. He would have been about 67, although his age was recorded as 65, and he was again listed as being retired. His wife Florence, his brother Denis and sister-in-law Alice, and his daughter and son-in law Enid and Philip Porter had arrived in England shortly before him, also on the Tuscania, which had berthed at Liverpool on 15th March.

The final shipping record I have located is the journey Henry made back to India, with his wife Florence and his son and daughter-in-law Joseph and Eileen Ortiger, departing from London on 18th February 1936 on board the SS Strathmore. Just prior to leaving England the Ortigers had been staying at 7 Clyde Street, Kensington.⁵⁴

Henry died at Quetta on 19th December 1941 having been suffering from angina was buried on 20th December in the Church of the Most Holy Rosary, Quetta.

I had no record of Florence Ortiger returning to England after the death of Henry, but I have now found out that she returned in 1944, and would have returned earlier if sea travel had not been so inadvisable due to the danger of mines. In return for the cost of her fare, she agreed to take care of a group of children who were making the voyage back to England. She had by now lost her youngest son, Henry, killed in action in Singapore. She now also had to deal with her war-damaged second son John Harrison Ortiger, whose mental condition had been the reason for her anxiety to return to England.⁵⁵

By 1948, and for much of the time living with her eldest daughter Enid Porter, she was at 6 Osborne Road, Farnborough, and that was her address to at least 1955. By 1957 she had moved to Flat 1, Heatherbank, Church Hill, in Farnborough, a large Victorian building that had been divided into flats (and which is now operated as a short and long term B&B) and this was her residential address cited on her death certificate.

On 13th August 1961, at the age of 84, Florence Mary Ortiger (née Harrison), widow of Henri Pierre Ortiger, railway engineer, died at 14 Hale Road, Farnham from a combination of causes, including basal pneumonia, gangrene of a toe, and hemiplegia (paralysis) of her left side, probably from a stroke. The informant was her son Joseph H Ortiger, then living at 28 Bryanston Court, Solihull.⁵⁶



Florence Ortiger 1953



Heatherbank, Farnborough



Notes

¹ I acknowledge the assistance given by Sylvia Murphy who had undertaken considerable research into the Skipp family, and who generously provided me with a copy of her comprehensive notes. I have relied very heavily on these for my account of the Emma Constance Skipp and her forebears; thanks is also due to Adrian Skipp, great grandson of George Metcalfe Skipp, and to Billie Jean Bertolli (née Skipp), great granddaughter of Thomas Charles William Skipp; FIBIS Transcription of Bengal Marriage Indexes 1874-1896 N1/1886/195/157; Family Search India Marriages 1792-1948; IGI Individual Record Batch No C750219 1870; extract from the Baptism Registry for Buxar for the quarter ending 30 June 1870.

² Photograph provided by Adrian Skipp. The Skipp house is the whitewashed one next to the pub. Unfortunately the house has been knocked down.

³ IGI Individual Record Batch No C025792 1813-1875; IGI Individual Record Batch No M036111 1810-1849; extract from Marriages Register, St Nicholas Church, Gloucester for 1831; HO1077743/18/3/p8; FreeBMD Birth Index 1837-1915; HO107/2450/147/pp22-23; HO107/2450/171/p71.

⁴ RG9/4012/13/p28; FreeBMD Death Index 1837-1915; RG10/5338/18/p32; RG11/5257/19/p32; certified copy of Death Certificate WDXZ 045594; www.newportpast.com.

⁵ HO107/2455/250/p13.

⁶ Copy of letter received from Wendy Firth on file; extract from Madras Directory provided by Adrian Skipp and on file; according to Adrian Skipp some research on Thomas Skipp was undertaken Adrian's grandfather's time which resulted in a small booklet which has been handed down through the Skipp family. It is possible that the original covenant may be in the possession of his Thomas Skipp's American descendants.

⁷ Image provided by Billie Jean Bertolli; it has also been suggested that the lady in the painting might have been Thomas's paternal grandmother, Mary, daughter of Palmer, who had been very close to Thomas in his upbringing, but this is unlikely to be the case as Mary died in 1936 when Thomas would have been no more than 2 years old – reference to Skipp family tree, prepared by Adrian Skipp.

⁸ FIBIS – FIBIwiki – East Indian Railway.

⁹ Wikipedia; www.irfca.org; today Howrah Station, an architectural icon, is claimed to be the largest station in India.

¹⁰ A check on the Bengal Artillery Musters and casualty rolls might provide some family information for this Charles Metcalf, which would assist in determining whether or not he was Aurora's father and perhaps also provide a name for her mother.

¹¹ And as we will see, both Eveline and Mary Jane cited Rodrigues as their father when they married; Family Search India Marriages 1792-1948.

¹² Extract from Marriage Register of the Old Church, Fort William for 1869; Family Search India Marriages 1792-1948.

¹³ Photographs of Thomas (purported) Skipp and Aurora Skipp sourced from Billie Jean Bertolli.

¹⁴ IGI Individual Record Batch No C750215 1868; extract from the Buxar Baptism Register for the quarter ending 30 June 1870; Family Search India Births and Baptisms 1786-1947.

¹⁵ IGI Individual Record Batch No C750226 1871, C750239 1874, C750307 1876.

¹⁶ Copy of Thomas Skipp's Will on file.

¹⁷ In 1898, 15 rupees = £1; 1920, 10 rupees = £1.

¹⁸ Email from Billie-Jean Bertolli dated 10/1/2010 on file.

¹⁹ Much of the information on Emma Skipp's siblings is sourced from Adrian Skipp's family tree.

²⁰ FIBIS Registry Office Marriage Index 1852-1911 N/11/9/1089; Index of Ecclesiastical Returns 1899/663/00, Transcription of Madras Baptism Indexes 1860-1871 1865/46/24, however Adrian Skipp puts Edward's birth year as 1866; Family Search India Deaths and Burials 1719-1948.

²¹ FIBIS Transcription from Madras Baptism Indexes 1860-1871 1867/48/81; Family Search India Births and Baptisms 1786-1947, India Marriages 1792-1948, Deaths and Burials 1719-1948.

²² British Army WWI Service Records 1914-1920; CWGC website.

²³ British Army WWI Service Records 1914-1920.

²⁴ Skipp family tree; Family Search India Births and Baptisms 1786-1947; UK Incoming Passenger Lists 1878-1960; I have located a Southampton marriage registration for the Jul-Sep quarter of 1923 between an Alice M Skipp and a John W Dodd – I have not followed this up to see if this is 'our' Alice and she has no husband ascribed to her in the Skipp family tree; see also reference to voyage with Miss E Skipp under the section on Evelyn Skipp.

²⁵ Skipp family tree; Family Search India Births and Baptisms 1786-1947; FMP Passenger lists leaving UK 1890-1927; UK Incoming Passenger Lists 1878-1960.

²⁶ Skipp family tree; Family Search India Births and Baptisms 1786-1947; UK Incoming Passenger Lists 1878-1960; FMP Passenger lists leaving UK 1890-1927

²⁷ Family Search India Marriages 1792-1948; in trying to find out some about Winifred I came across a FMP passenger list for a Winifred M E Hammond, born about 1900, and departing from London bound for Kobe on 28 February 1920. Winifred listed as a nurse, and the ship did go via Colombo – but drawing any conclusions from this is highly speculative.

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- ²⁸ Somerset Playne, J.W. Bond, Arnold Wright, A Southern India: its history, people, commerce, and industrial resources, first published in London 1914-1915, reprint Asian Educational Services, New Delhi, 2004, pp 206 and 215; Family Search India Deaths and Burials 1719-1948 – against 'marital status' was recorded 'unknown'.
- ²⁹ Notes from Adrian Skipp; Family Search India Deaths and Burials 1719-1948.
- ³⁰ Skipp family tree; Adrian Skipp notes; Family Search India Marriages 1792-1948; Dudley first joined the British Army which allowed transfer to the Indian Army with the rank of Sergeant – Dudley lied about his age on enlistment to enable his brother to also lie about his age to enlist early.
- ³¹ Family Search India Births and Baptisms 1786-1947, India Marriages 1792-1948; Skipp family tree; England & Wales Death Index 1916-2005.
- ³² Skipp family tree; Family Search India Births and Baptisms 1786-1974; UK Incoming Passenger Lists 1878-1960; England and Wales Birth Index 1916-2005; England & Wales Death Index 1916-2005.
- ³³ Heritage of Shimla, Town and Country Planning Department, Shimla 171009 HP, Revised Heritage Report (4).
- ³⁴ Skipp Family Tree; Family Search Birth and Baptisms 1786-1947; www.clarkesshimla.com.
- ³⁵ Skipp Family Tree; Family Search India Marriages 1792-1948; UK Incoming Passenger Lists 1878-1960; England & Wales Death Index 1916-2005.
- ³⁶ Skipp Family Tree; Family Search India Deaths and Burials 1719-1948.
- ³⁷ Family Search India Marriages 1792-1948.
- ³⁸ Family Search India Births and Baptisms 1786-1947; it is possible that two more children were born to John and Eveline Lathwood – I have located two Family Search marriage records, both citing a John Lathwood as the father of the bride. Emma Beatrice Lathwood married James Walter Holder at Calcutta on 18th January 1898. The bride's age was given as 18 and her birth date as 1880 – but if the dates are correct, it is difficult to see how she could have 'fitted in' between Thomas and Maria Lathwood; the second marriage record is between Maud Aileen Lathwood and David Archbald Clubb, at Calcutta on 26th Jun 1906. Maud's birth date was given as 1889, and she could be 'slotted in' between Evelina Constance and Ethel Clemence – and the Clubb name was one of those cited in Mary Finnegan's rootsweb listing referred to earlier; IGI Individual Record Batch No C750285 1881.
- ³⁹ Family Search India Deaths and Burials 1719-1948, India Marriages 1792-1948.
- ⁴⁰ British Army WWI Pension Records 1914-1920; BMD Marriage 1837-1915; British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index; England & Wales Marriage Index.
- ⁴¹ Family Search India Births and Baptisms 1786-1947, India Deaths and Burials 1719-1948.
- ⁴² FIBIS Transcription of Marriage Indexes 1865-1873 N1/1872/140/79; 1885/N1/194/175; Family Search India Marriages 1792-1848, India Births and Baptisms 1786-1947, India Deaths and Burials 1719-1948.
- ⁴³ UK Incoming Passenger Lists 1878-1960; FMP Passenger lists leaving UK 1890-1960; Rootsweb Archiver India 2002-07, posting by Mary Finnigan, granddaughter of George Edwin Woodward.
- ⁴⁴ FIBIS Ecclesiastical Records – Bengal Marriage Indexes; Ortiger Family Tree.
- ⁴⁵ In support of this thesis, refer to the Booth Connections, and note in particular that her future husband cited in a military record that his next kin included his wife, Mrs. Valerie Adelina Norah Theresa Booth.
- ⁴⁶ IGI Individual Record Batch No C750357 1890; FIBIS The Times of India Entry from Births 1890; copy of baptism certificate on file.
- ⁴⁷ IGI Individual Record Bath No C393577 1894, C393604 1896.
- ⁴⁸ Family Search India Marriages 1792-1948.
- ⁴⁹ FreeBMD Birth Index 1837-1915; IGI Individual Record Film No 457669; HO107/158/9/6/p6; HO107/2186/608/p31.
- ⁵⁰ RG9/2701/32/p11; RG9/531/55/p21; RG10/3844/89/p39.
- ⁵¹ Family notes suggest that Mrs John Harrison was Irish, from Limerick; Family Search India Deaths and Burials 1719-1948.
- ⁵² Ortiger Family Tree; family notes.
- ⁵³ Noel Ortiger Booth notes.
- ⁵⁴ Ancestry UK Incoming Passenger Lists 1878-1960; FMP Passenger lists leaving UK 1890-1960.
- ⁵⁵ India Office Family History Search N/1/611 f. 257.
- ⁵⁶ British Phone Books 1880-1984; certified copy of Death Certificate DYC342173.