

Geraldine Rochfort

Marcus Rochfort was the headmaster at the Hooghly College, Calcutta, when his daughter Geraldine was born on 26th August 1844. She was baptised early in the New Year on 5th January 1845 at St James', Calcutta. Geraldine was one of the Rochfort clan which was staying at the Isle on Man in 1861. She, with her mother and younger sister Marie Catherine, and her aunt Delia and cousins Janet and Mary Ann Smith, were all living in Coburg Street in the parish of Lezayre. Shortly after the sojourn in England Geraldine returned to India where, just before her twentieth birthday she became Geraldine Russell as announced in the Times of India issue of 6th July 1864.¹

Jun 9 at Calcutta by the Rev F O Mayne, C M Russell Esq, MD, to Geraldine daughter of the late M G Rochfort Esq
 – no cards.

Charles Martin Russell had been born on 2nd March 1835 at Jessore, Bengal, the youngest of at least five children of Henry Patrick Russell and Louisa Sherwood who had been married on 1st September 1821 at St John's Church, Calcutta. Charles's four identified siblings were all brothers²

William Carmichael Russell	baptised 3 rd January 1825	Calcutta
George Cheap Russell	born 31 st December 1825	Calcutta
Alexander Sherwood Russell	born 12 th August 1827	Monghyr
Lindsay Russell	born 16 th November 1829	Bancara

Henry Patrick Russell, a son of Claude and Leonora Russell, had been baptised on 2nd September 1800 at Binfield, Berkshire. He had attended Haileybury College between 1817 and 1819, during which time he was engaged as a writer, the lowest grade of clerk. Henry died at Spence's Hotel, Calcutta on the 25th September 1848, having worked his way up the scale to his final appointment as Judge at Murshidabad. For the record, his widow Louisa went to England after Henry's death and was living in lodgings at Marylebone (1861 census) and Penge (1871 census) and she died on Brighton on 9th September, 1878, leaving her estate of under £800 to be administered by her eldest son, William Carmichael Russell, then living in Bayswater.³

I believe George Cheap Russell died in infancy, but Charles's other brothers were all in England by 1841, living in the parish of Little Woolston, Buckinghamshire in the care of, and presumably under the tutelage of William Henry Bond, a minister, and his wife Elizabeth Amy Bond. They may well have returned to India by the time their father died, by which time their youngest brother Charles Russell was thirteen. I have not found a record to show when Charles left India but, unlike his elder brothers, he did not opt for a military career but chose instead to be a doctor. The 1861 census of Scotland finds Charles Russell, aged 26, as a Graduate of the Royal College of Surgeons, and one of the boarders at 75 East King Street, Edinburgh. I have found four entries for him in the Medical Registers. They record the following qualifications

Lic. R Coll. Phys. Edin. 1861, Lic. R. col. Surg. Edin 1861, M.D. Univ. Edin 1862, Lic. Soc. Apoth. London 1862.

and also give the date of Charles Russell's registration as a medical practitioner as 29th September 1862. For the 1863, 1867, and 1871 editions, his residential address is given as 6 Hyde Park Street, London, and the 1891 edition notes that he is a Civil Surgeon at Sarun, Bengal, India. Unless he was regularly commuting back and forth, to and from India, in between fathering his children, I think the property at Hyde Park address may have been 'in the family' and therefore an address of convenience or perhaps the editors of the Medical Registers were not kept up to date on Charles's movements.⁴

There are records for six children born to Charles and Geraldine had, in order, they were

Mary Violet Russell	1865	Gya
Daughter (name unknown) Russell	1866	Gya
Henry Lindsay Russell	1869	Patna
Charles Frederick Russell	1871	Hazareebagh
Maud Catherine Russell	1872	Dinapore
William Francis Russell	1874	Arrah

Clearly, from the birth places of their children, Charles and Geraldine moved around at regular intervals. And they moved further afield sometime after the birth of the last child because on 1st April 1881 they were in England and counted in the census return of that year. They were living at 12 Kilburn Park Road, Paddington.⁵

Charles M Russell Head M 46 Civil Surgeon and General Practitioner Mysore, Bengal, E I, British Subject

Geraldine Russell	Wife	M	36	Wife	Mysore, Bengal, E I, British Subject
Maud C Russell	Daur	U	8	Scholar	Mysore, Bengal, E I, British Subject
Annie Sobob	Lodger	U	41	Independent	Falmouth, Cornwall

There is no sign of Charles or Geraldine Russell in the April 1891 census records, so they may have returned to India some time after the 1881 census and when their furlough was up. However they were back in England by 1897 because the death of Charles Martin Russell was registered at Westhampnett, Sussex, for the Oct-Dec quarter of 1897. He was 62 when he died. Probate on his estate was granted to his widow.⁶

RUSSELL Charles Martin of 5 Alexandra-Terrace Bognor Sussex D.D. died 7 November 1897 Probate London 5 February to Geraldine Russell widow. Effects £288 14s 3d.

His passing was marked with a very terse notice in The Times.⁷

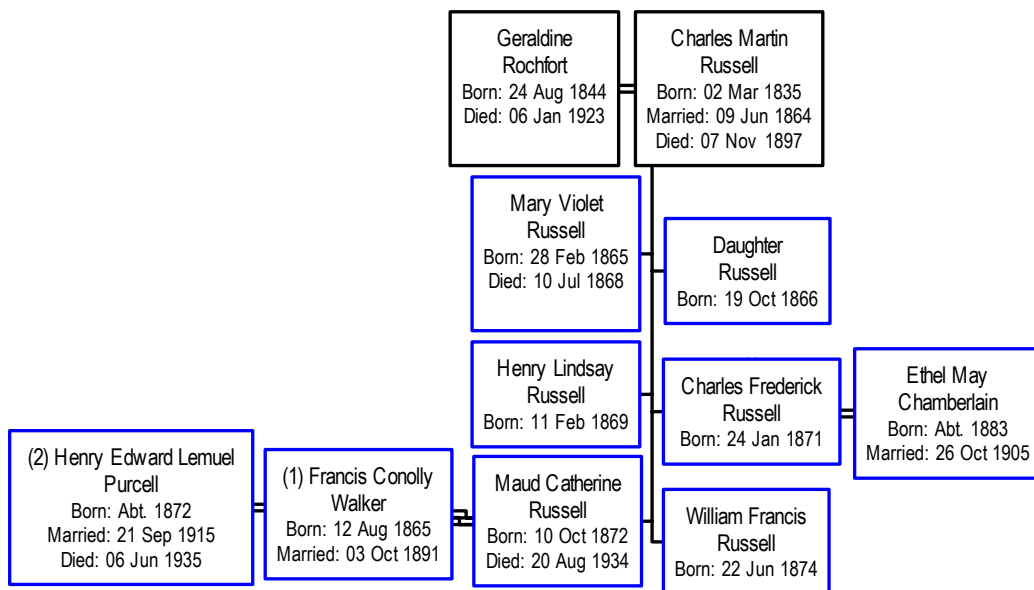
RUSSELL – On the 7th Nov., at Bognor, CHARLES MARTIN RUSSELL, M.D., late of Chuprah, Bengal, aged 62.

Geraldine Russell was in lodgings for the 1901 and the 1911 census nights. For the former she was boarding with Mr and Mrs John Hobson at 63 Milward Road, St Mary in the Castle in Sussex. Ten years later she had moved to London and had found accommodation at 47 Scarsdale Villas, Kensington. She was 78 when she died at Paddington in January 1923. Probate was granted to her daughter.⁸

RUSSELL Geraldine of 24 Clarendon Court Maida Vale Paddington Middlesex widow died 6 January 1923 Probate London 26 January to Maud Catherine Purcell (wife of Henry Edward Lemuel Purcell). Effects £230 6s 2d.

The notice in the Times was almost fulsome compared with that for her husband.⁹

RUSSELL – On Saturday, the 6th Jan., at 24, Clarendon-court, Maida Vale, London, W.9. GERALDINE, widow of CHARLES MARTIN RUSSELL, M.D., of Chupra, Bengal. Funeral to-morrow (Wednesday), All Souls' Church, Loudoun-road, South Hampstead. Requiem 8 a.m., Special Service 3 p.m. Cremation Golders Green 3.45 p.m. Indian papers, please copy.



Mary Violet Russell

The first child of Geraldine and Charles was their daughter Mary Violet, born on 28th February 1865 and baptised at Gya, Bengal seven months later on 24th September. They lost this little girl three years later in 1868.¹⁰

Jul 10th at Ghay [sic], Violet Mary eldest child of C M Russell Esq MD aged 3 years 4 months and 9 days.



Daughter Russell

I have found a record of a birth of a second daughter born in 1866 but have nothing further about this child.¹¹

October 19th at Gya the wife of C M Russell Esq MD of a daughter.



Henry Lindsay Russell

The first of three sons of Charles and Geraldine, Henry Lindsay Russell, was born at Patna, Bengal, on 11th February 1869 and baptised on 12th March of that year, but very little else is known about Henry. He went to England in his early years and for the 1881 census was, with his younger brother Charles Frederick, enrolled as a scholar at a school being run by two widowed sisters, Harriot Bingley and Louisa Le Lievre, at 18 Abercorn Place, Marylebone.¹²

Harriot Bingley	Head	W	70	Schoolmistress	Ludlow, Shropshire
Louisa C Le Lievre	Sister	W	68		Ludlow, Shropshire
C Margaret Le Lievre	Niece	U	26		Westminster
Sarah B Challen	Gov	U	43	Governess	Marlborough, Wiltshire
Helen Russell	Vis	U	70		Ludlow, Shropshire
Henry L Russell	Pupil		12	Scholar	Gya, India, British Subject
Frederick C Russell	Pupil		10	Scholar	Calcutta, India, British Subject
Annesley C Denham	Pupil		9	Scholar	Calcutta, India, British Subject
Harold A Denham	Pupil		9	Scholar	Calcutta, India, British Subject
Abingdon R Bayly	Pupil		11	Scholar	Madras, India, British Subject
Charles S Neil	Pupil		8	Scholar	Jerusalem, Arabia, British Subject

The balance of the household was made up of domestic servants.

Parents living abroad frequently relied on word-of-mouth recommendations when deciding where to send their children to school in England, or where to enrol them while their fathers were on 'home' furlough. Based on the birthplaces of the pupils under the care of Harriot Bingley it would seem that she was on the list of 'appropriate' establishments. But there may have been a further reason for Charles and Geraldine to send their two sons to Mrs Bingley. One of the women in the household was Helen Russell, listed as a visitor, but she and Harriot and Louisa were 'of an age' and all born in Ludlow. Both Harriot and Louisa had been married and a check on the records shows that they shared the same maiden name – Russell - and, in fact, Helen Russell was more than a visitor. Harriot, Louisa and Helen were three of the numerous children born to Richard and Margaret Russell. So, were they related in some way to Charles Martin Russell or was it a coincidence that he chose Mrs Bingley's establishment for his two sons?¹³

I really have no idea what Henry did after 1881 and if he married I do not know to whom. Clutching at straws, I have a record of a Mr H L Russell, a married man leaving from Liverpool on 21 January 1907 bound for Bombay, but the manifest has just the scant information that this man was English.¹⁴



Charles Frederick Russell

For Charles Frederick Russell, the fourth child of Charles and Geraldine Russell, we do have a bit more information. He was born on 24th January 1871 and baptised on 16th April, both events occurring at Hazareebagh, Bengal. He, and his elder brother Henry, had been sent to England for their education and in April 1881 they were both enrolled at a private school at a school being run by two widowed sisters, Harriot Bingley and Louisa Le Lievre, at 18 Abercorn Place, Marylebone.¹⁵

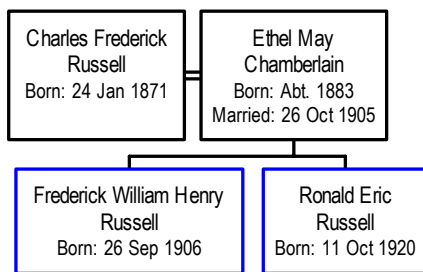
He was in his mid-30s when he married Ethel May Chamberlain in Bombay on 26th October 1905. The age of the bride, a daughter of George Chamberlain, was recorded as 22. A year later a son, Frederick William Henry, was born on 26th September at Sitapur and baptised at Mussoorie on 15th October 1906.¹⁶

We know from shipping records that Charles and Ethel journeyed back and forth between India and England. Together with their son, listed as Master Russell, they were 2nd Class passengers on board the City of Athens which arrived in London on 14th January 1909. From the manifest we find out that Charles was employed in the

Opium Department. Travelling solo, Charles departed from Liverpool on 28th May 1914 heading for Bombay on board the City of Paris. A further record has both Charles and Ethel departing from Liverpool on 1st January 1920 on board the City of Marseilles. Their destination was Calcutta and they, and all the other people on the same page of the ship's manifest, were listed as 'Government Passengers'. Did Ethel stay in England during WWI? And was their son Frederick left in England in 1919 for the sake of his education? A Mrs E M Russell, aged 39, was on board the Malda which sailed from Bombay and arrived at Plymouth on 2nd December 1922. She had with her a young son, two year old Ronald Eric Russell. Her destination address was given as Barnicott, Newton Ferrers, near Plymouth. The last shipping record I have located is for Charles F Russell, who arrived at London from Bombay on 18th August 1823. His intended destination was Bishops Tawton, Barnstaple.¹⁷

A brief entry in the India Office List of 1933 sums up Charles career. Charles and Ethel probably returned to England after his retirement but I have not pursued them, or their sons (or any other children they may have had), any further.¹⁸

RUSSELL, Charles Frederick, late Opium Dept., United Prvs. – Joined the service, 6th April 1891; dist. Opium officer, March 1924; ret'd., Jan 1927.



Maud Catherine Russell

The arrival of the fifth child of Charles Martin and Geraldine Russell was announced in the Times of India.

October 10th at Chuprah Sarun the wife of C M Russell MD of a daughter.

The Family Search record confirms the birth date and adds that Maud Catherine Russell was baptised at Dinapore on 15th March 1872. Maud had accompanied her parents to England and was found with them at 12 Kilburn Park Road, Paddington for the April 1881 census, and she returned to India with them after her father's 'home' leave. Just before her 20th birthday, in 1891, Maud married Francis Conolly Walker, a son of Alexander and Phoebe Anne Walker, who had been born in Calcutta on 12th August 1865. Alexander Walker was a merchant with interests in Canton and India.¹⁹

Oct 3rd at Chapra by the Rev H A Sealy, Chaplain of Arrah, F C Walker to Maude Catherine, youngest daughter of Dr C M Russell.

Both Alexander Walker and Phoebe Ann Scott Elliot were born in Scotland, and they married there at Canobie, Dumfries, in June 1854 as recorded in the parish register. The entry was appended to a page headed up 1842-3 – surely there were other marriages in the previous nine years!²⁰

Walker – Alexander Walker Esq, Madras and Phoebe Anne Scott Elliot in this Parish were married 22 day of June 1854.

Francis Conolly was one of their three children born in India, and the youngest. Preceding him was a sister, Anne Marjory (1856), and brother Alexander Lamond (1858 and (1864). Another brother, George William (1858) and a sister, Marion Eliza (1863) were born in Scotland in 1863. The boys were educated in Scotland, with George enrolled at a school in Edinburgh for the 1871 census and his brothers Alexander and Francis attending Trinity College Perth for the following census. By this time children had lost their mother. Phoebe Walker died on 19th May 1868 and her death was registered at Kingston, Surrey, for the Apr-June quarter.²¹

Alexander Walker married again the following year to Harriet Maria Anderson and by her had three more children, James Scott Elliot Walker (1870), Henry Walker (1871) and Katharine Walker (1874). By 1881 Alexander was again a widower, and listed for the census of that year as a visitor at Trinity College, Cambridge. Two years later he, too, died at Wimbledon on 24th April 1883.²²

So by the time Francis Conolly Walker married both his parents and his step-mother had died. Francis, like his father, elder brother George and two step-brothers James and Henry, was a merchant, and more specifically, Francis and James were indigo merchants at Champaran in 1910. Nothing further is known about Francis Conolly Walker apart from the fact that sometime between 1910 and 1915 he had died, because in 1915 we find Maud marrying for a second time. On 21st September 1915, when both bride and groom were 42 years old, Maud Catherine Walker, widow, and Henry Edward Lemuel Purcell, bachelor, were married by banns at the parish church of St Matthew, Bayswater, as witnessed by A Tytler and Louis Bathe Rawling.²³

The following notice was placed in the Marriages column of The Times of 25th September.²⁴

PURCELL : WALKER – on the 21st inst., at St. Matthew's Church, Bayswater, W., HENRY EDWARD LEMUEL PURCELL, Quartermaster and Hon. Major, R.A.M.C. (T.F.), 1st London (City of London) General Hospital, son of the late E. J. Purcell, of the Bank of Ireland, to MAUD CATHERINE, daughter of the late C. M. RUSSELL, M.D., of Chupra, Bengal, and widow of Frank C. Walker, of Chumparun, Bengal. (India papers, please copy).

Henry Purcell was a man of many parts. According to the marriage record he was a grain merchant by profession, so his role with the R.A.M.C. was a wartime occupation. He had been born in Ireland but for the 1891 census was living with his mother at 11 Viewfield Villa, in Southgate, Middlesex. At the time he was 28 years old and a student of medicine. Ten years later he was a boarder, aged 28, and of private means, in the household of Alice Emma Montrion at 3 Holy Innocents Road, Hornsey. Alice Emma, as recorded earlier, was the widow of Francis Austin Montrion, and daughter of Eliza Everina Elton (née Rochfort) and therefore the aunt of the Russell children. Perhaps it was through these family ties that Maud Walker (née Russell) came to meet and subsequently marry Henry Purcell? An entry in the Crockford's Clerical Directory reveals that he embarked on a new career in his mid-40s. By 1919 he had become a clerk in holy orders and from 1930-1931 had served at St. Mary le Tower, Ipswich.²⁵

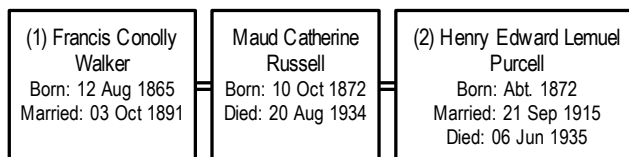
The 1932 Crockford's directory also provided the address of Henry and Maud Purcell – 18 Upper Westbourne-terrace, Paddington. This was still their home two years later when Maud died at the age of 61. A touching notice was placed in The Times. Probate on her estate, valued at £2276 10s 1d was granted to her husband.²⁶

PURCELL - On Aug 20, 1934, after an operation, the physical body of MAUD CATHERINE, tenderly loved wife of the REV. HENRY PURCELL, of 18 Upper Westbourne Terrace, W.2. Funeral at Golders Green Crematorium on Saturday at 12 noon.

Within a year Edward Purcell also died. On 14th May 1935 he had boarded the Scharnhorst at Southampton. His destination was Tientsin, China. However he never reached his destination, as he died during the voyage as recorded in the death notice in The Times.²⁷

PURCELL - On June 6, 1935, HENRY EDWARD LEMUEL PURCELL, T.D. Priest, of 18, Upper Westbourne Terrace, W.2., son of the late E. J. D. Purcell, of the Bank of Ireland, New Ross, Co. Wexford, and of the late Harriet Charlotte Purcell, aged 62. Buried at sea. Memorial service at Holy Trinity Church, Bishop's Road, Paddington.

He left an estate of £1714 3s 8d probate on which was granted to one Amy Millicent Singer, single woman.²⁸



I do not know if any children resulted from Maud Catherine Russell's two marriages.



William Francis Russell

The youngest of the children of Charles and Geraldine Russell was William Francis who was born at Arrah on 22nd June 1874 and baptised there on 11th October 1874. He was not with his parents for the 1881 census when the family was in England. As I have found nothing further for this son, I think he may have died in infancy/childhood.



Notes

¹ India Office Family History Search N/1/67 f.42; Family Search India Births and Baptisms 1786-1947; RG9/4422/83/p15; FIBIS The Times of India Marriages 1864 6 Jul 1864, Marriage Indexes Transcription of Bengal Marriages Indexes 1857-1864; Family Search India Marriages 1792-1948.

² Family Search India Births and Baptisms 1786-1947; incidentally, Lindsay Russell married into the Ommanney family - refer also to the Hoyle family account section for Henry Cutforthay Hoyle – by marrying in 1863 Henrietta Mary Ommanney, daughter of Edward Lacon Ommanney, who had retired in the same year at the rank of Major General RE Bengal, and Elizabeth Ommanney (née Martin) – which possibly suggests a familial link with the Russell family given the middle name of Charles Martin Russell?

³ India Office Family History Search; FIBIS Memorials of Old Haileybury College; for men seeking a career in the East India Company and thereafter the Indian Civil Service, the first part of their training as a writer was undertaken at Haileybury College (www.wikifibis.org); FIBIS Bombay Times and Journal of Commerce Deaths 1848; RG9/83/11/p13; RG10/850/11/915; England & Wales National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administration) 1861-1941; William Carmichael Russell had retired that same year with the honorary rank of Major General and by the 1881 census he was Sir Major General William Russell, of 33 Belgrave Road, St George Hanover Square (The London Gazette March 12 `1878, RG11/102/11/p53).

⁴ HO107/39/19/3/p2; 1861 Scotland Census Parish:Edinburgh St Stephen ED57 p14; the Medical Register.

⁵ RG11/8/96/p18.

⁶ FreeBMD Death Index 1837-1915; England & Wales National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administration) 1861-1941.

⁷ The Times Thursday Nov 11 1897.

⁸ RG13/866/59/p23; RG14PN136 RG78PN4 RD2 SD1 ED49 SN13; England & Wales Index 1916-2005; England & Wales National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administration) 1861-1941.

⁹ The Times Tuesday Jan 09 1923.

¹⁰ Family Search India Births and Baptisms 1786-1947; FIBIS The Times of India Deaths 1868 27 Jul 1868.

¹¹ FIBIS The Times of India Births 1866 6 Nov 1866.

¹² Family Search India Births and Baptisms 1786-1947; RG11/165/55/p25.

¹³ London England Marriages and Banns 1754-1921; IGI/British Isles.

¹⁴ FMP Passenger lists leaving UK 1890-1960.

¹⁵ Family Search India Births and Baptisms 1786-1947; RG11/165/55/p25.

¹⁶ Family Search India Births and Baptisms 1786-1947; FIBIS Index of Ecclesiastical Returns, Transcriptions of Marriage Indexes 1894-1909; Family Search India Marriages 1792-1948.

¹⁷ UK Incoming Passenger Lists 1878-1960; FMP Passenger lists leaving UK 1890-1960.

¹⁸ India Office List 1933.

¹⁹ FIBIS The Times of India Births 1872 Issue 25 Oct 1872; Family Search India Births and Baptisms 1786-1947; FIBIS The Times of India Marriages 1891 12 Oct 1891, Marriage Indexes Transcription of Bengal Marriage Indexes 1874-1896; Family Search India Marriages 1792-1948; for the information on the Walker family I have relied heavily on the website www.apac16.dsl.pipex.com/tree/fam/Walker.html

²⁰ Family Search Scotland Marriages 1561-1910; OPR Marriages 814/00 0030 0377 Canonbie.

²¹ 1871 Scotland Census Parish:Edinburgh St Cuthberts ED103 p25, 1881 Scotland Census Parish:Monzie ED3 p6; FreeBMD Death Index 1837-1915.

²² RG11/1669/112/p51.

²³ London England Marriages and Banns 1754-1921; The Tytler family was very well known in colonial India; Louis Bathe Rawling was a much respected neurosurgeon at St Barts Hospital.

²⁴ The Times Saturday Sep 25 1915.

²⁵ RG13/1269/53/p22; RG14PN7215 RG78PN353 RD132 SE1 ED23 SN241; Crockford's Clerical Directory 1932 p1065.

²⁶ The Times Wednesday Aug 22 1934; England & Wales National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administration) 1861-1941.

²⁷ FMP Passenger lists leaving UK 1890-1960; The Times Tuesday Jun 11 1935.

²⁸ England & Wales National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administration) 1861-1941.