

CHRISTIAN TRIPP DOWN



(1823 – 1898)

“I remember my Grandmama Down had fascinating little Indian bits and pieces about her home, and she always had this lavender smell about her...”

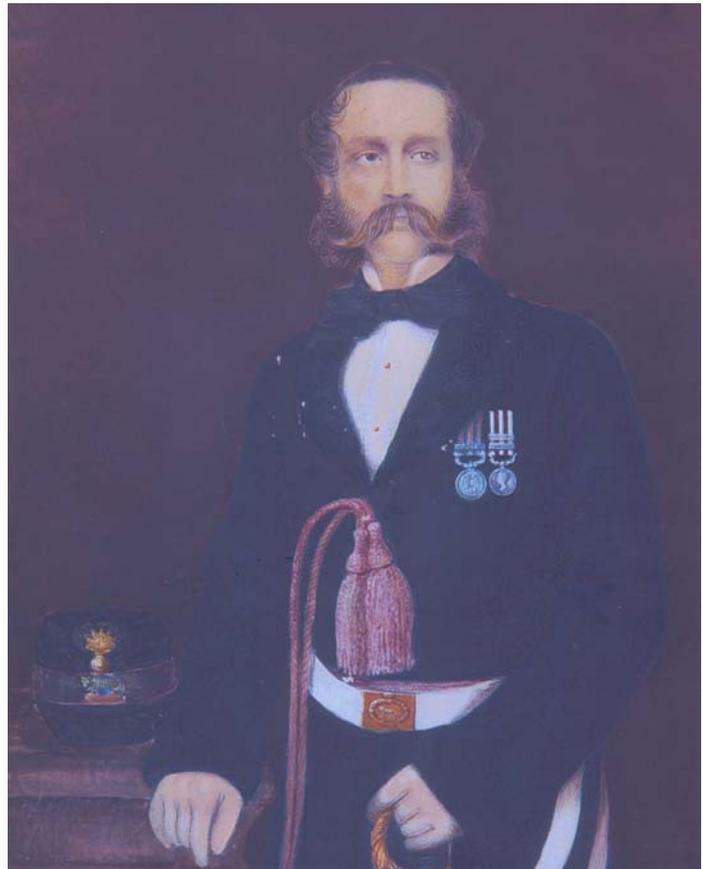
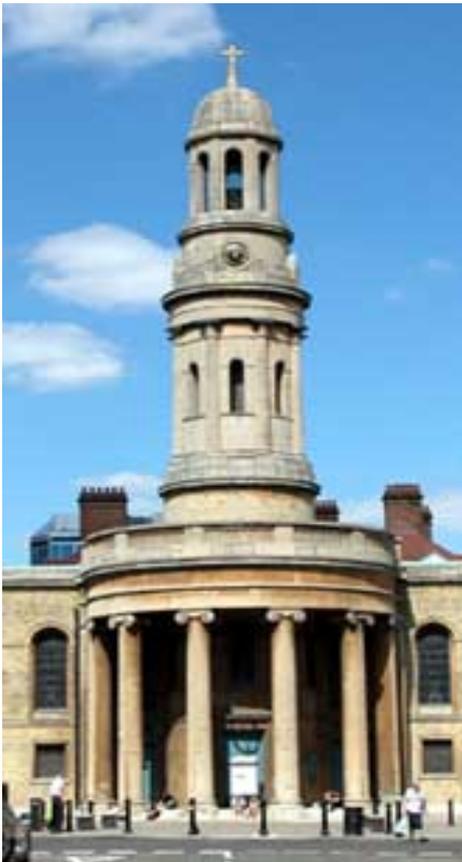
Christian’s grand-daughter Flora Hanslip to her daughter-in-law Rosina Yeates

*Compiled by Christian’s great great great grandson, David Bartlett, with thanks to all family contributors 2007
Please notify me of any mistakes!! david.bartlett@virgin.net*



Born to Capt. Henry Hutchinson (1790 – 1850) and Christian Wilkinson Hutchinson, nee Tripp (1789 – 1828), Christian was baptised in the ancient church of St. Nicholas, Brighton on the day she was born. Unfortunately, her 38 year-old mother died when Christian was only five, and was buried at the same church on 19th May 1828.

On 1st September 1847, Christian married the son of London stockbroker Henry Down (1789 – 1858), and grandson of famous philanthropist and banker Richard Down (1734 – 1814), Lieutenant William Down of the Honourable East India Company (born Devonshire 9th January 1822). They were married in St Mary's Church, Marylebone, London. (The church, below, is still one of the most celebrated buildings in the capital.)



Almost as soon as they were married, William and Christian Down went back to India where he was serving at the time....



On 25th March 1849, Christian and William had twin daughters, Christian and Rose, who were born in Bellary (above and below) in the Karnataka state of India.



Under British Empire rule at this time, colonial settlement led to the building of Bellary Central Jail, St.Philomena's School Complex, St.John's School Complex, St.Joseph's School Complex, The Government Wellesly TB & Chest Diseases Hospital, The District Court, The Residence of Superintendent of Police and both Railway Stations (left). The enormous Bellary Fort (below left) overlooking the city is its most striking feature to this day.

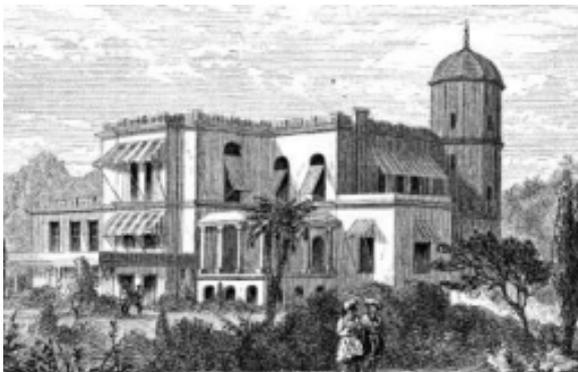


William and Christian returned to England on account of his worsening health in 1850, and later that year unfortunately, 27-year-old Christian's father Captain Henry Hutchinson drowned while on a trip in the South China Seas. William stayed in England until 1853 when he was directed to rejoin his regiment in Rangoon on 5th January 1853. From 20th February to 21st June he served in Burma, taking the command, leading to his promotion to Captain on 8th December 1856. In 1857, Captain Down played a part in the infamous Relief of Lucknow (pictured below) when the British Residency was besieged by 30,000 sepoys, or Indian mutineers.



Lucknow, the capital of the former state of Oudh (now spelt Awadh, and a region in the state of Uttar Pradesh), in India, was the scene of a prolonged defence by the British during the Indian rebellion of 1857 against British rule (also referred to as the Sepoy Mutiny, Indian Mutiny or the First War of Indian Independence). The Siege of Lucknow proved to be one of the key episodes in the unsuccessful rebellion. Following his part in the battle in

November 1857, William was invalided out, and on 12th February 1858 was sent home to England, where we understand Christian and the family awaited his return.



The Residency at Lucknow before...



... and after the siege.

In the same year, Captain Down's father Henry died in Lambeth in London, aged 69, and was buried in the family tomb in Great St. James, Friern Barnet. In 1861, William and Christian's family was living in Leafield, Oxfordshire, at Loughborough Ridings, with a nurse and groom – Annie and Charles. And on 17th March 1862, the ailing Captain Down officially retired from the Army, as his old private company regiment became subsumed into the British Army as the 1st Madras Hussars, the 102nd regiment. Simultaneously, William was promoted to Major in retirement.



By 1868, the family were living in Bartholomew Road, Kentish Town, London...

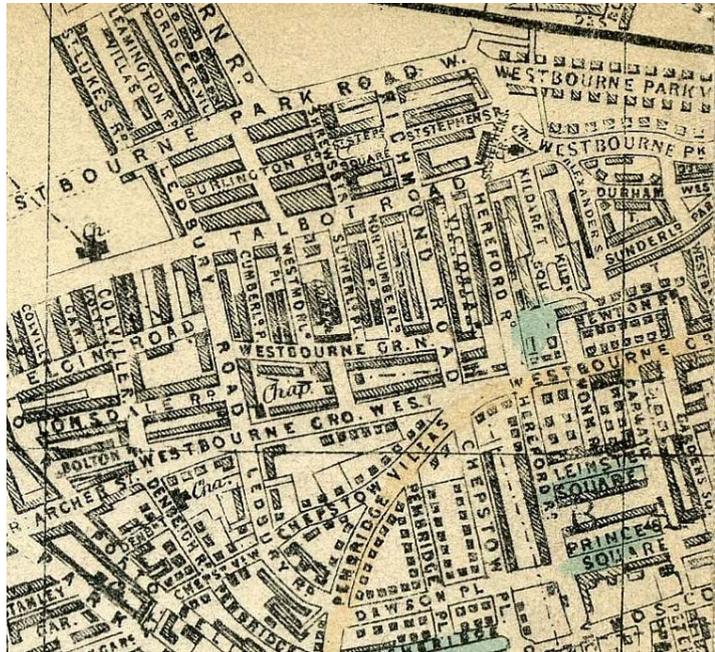


Bussell.
 On the 20th inst., at St. Jude's, Southsea, by the Rev. T. R. Brownrigg,
 assisted by the Rev. W. P. Drury, WILLIAM S. BROWN, Captain Royal
 Navy, eldest son of General Tatton Brown, to FLORA, widow of the
 late Commander JOHN OLDENSHAW BATHURST, R.N.
 On the 20th inst., at the Church of St. John the Baptist, Kentish-
 town, by the Rev. W. Calvert, CHARLES W. HANSLIP, eldest son of
 Charles Hanslip, Esq., Sydenham, to CHRISTIAN, eldest daughter of
 Major W. Down, late of H.M.'s 1st Royal Madras Fusiliers. No
 cards.
 On the 21st inst., at St. Michael's, Coventry, by the Rev. J.
 Sheepshanks, incumbent of Bilton, Yorkshire, assisted by the Rev. H.
 H. Baynes, vicar, the Rev. THOS. PARTINGTON, only son of Edwd.
 Partington, of Gloucester-place, Hyde-park, to JESSIE, daughter

...where on 20th January, young Christian married 2nd Mate Charles William Hanslip (1845 – 1905), son of a prominent London lawyer Charles Hanslip (1814 – 1892).

But tragedy was around the corner. Dogged by illness since 1850, Major Down died on 20th April 1868, aged 46, leaving his wife with Rose (22) Georgiana (19) and actor Charles Victor Cleghorn Down (17) to support. *[As yet, we have not ascertained where William Down died, or where he is laid to rest – any help most gratefully appreciated!]*

On 31st March 1871, William's mother Meliora Down (1798 – 1871) died at her home in West Dulwich, and was buried in West Norwood Cemetery on 5th April, arranged by William's brother Edward. At this time her late son William's family was living in 22 Sutherland Place in the St. George Hanover Square parish of London. This area is now considered to be part of Notting Hill. The little family shared the rather grand, five-storey building (below) with nine others, including a general domestic servant.



In 1882, grand-daughter Flora Edith Ellen was born to Christian and Captain Hanslip, now living in relative luxury in Southampton, and 57 year-old Christian was living in 8 Fairthorne Terrace, in the countryside parish of Wreclesham, Farnham in Surrey - then famous for its pottery. Her household companion at this time was son Edward Otho Hotspur Coote Down, then a "gentleman student"...



St. Peter's Church, Wrecclesham

1	John F. Wilson	19 years	Man	78			
2	Charlotte "	45	do	65			
3	Christian F. Downes	Mother	Widow	57	Lady in occupation	Fussell Brighton	
4	Edward F.H.C "	Son		18	Gentleman Student	Lynn Peckham	
5	Thomas P. Pitkin	Head	Widow	39	None	Spout Kingley	

Note description of Christian in the 1881 census!

Wrecclesham pottery and bottle kiln, built 1872, photographed c.1890



By 1891, Edward had gone, and Christian was living with her grandson in Twickenham, just a few miles South of London, near Richmond, and on the Thames.



Described in the census now as an “Independent Lady”, Christian was living in 8 Lion Road with 15 year-old grandson Hustier Down, then at school.



(Though depicting a terrace almost two miles from where Christian actually lived, the image above does show rather eerily exactly what her world at this time looked like...)



The story ends seven years later, just before the end of the century in the depths of the countryside a few miles South and West of Twickenham, in a village called East Bedfont, Middlesex – between Hounslow and Staines. Famous for its large and unwieldy gunpowder mills, and a favourite haunt for highwaymen a hundred years earlier.

Christian Tripp Down died on 11th November 1898 in 2 Fagg's Corner, a cottage on the estate of Baron Pollock of Hanworth, off Hatton Road. She died of a strangulated umbilical hernia, aged 75. Like her husband, deceased 30 years before, we still have not found where Christian was laid to rest... *[If anyone can help, please let me know.]*



The probate on Christian's will was granted London 26th January 1899, leaving £20 19s 7d to Edward Otho Hotspur Coote Down.



Fagg's Corner as it is today... Only yards from Heathrow Airport, on the other side of the A30, adjacent to this corner of Fagg's Road and Hatton Road, Bedfont.



Christian Tripp Down (1823 – 1898)