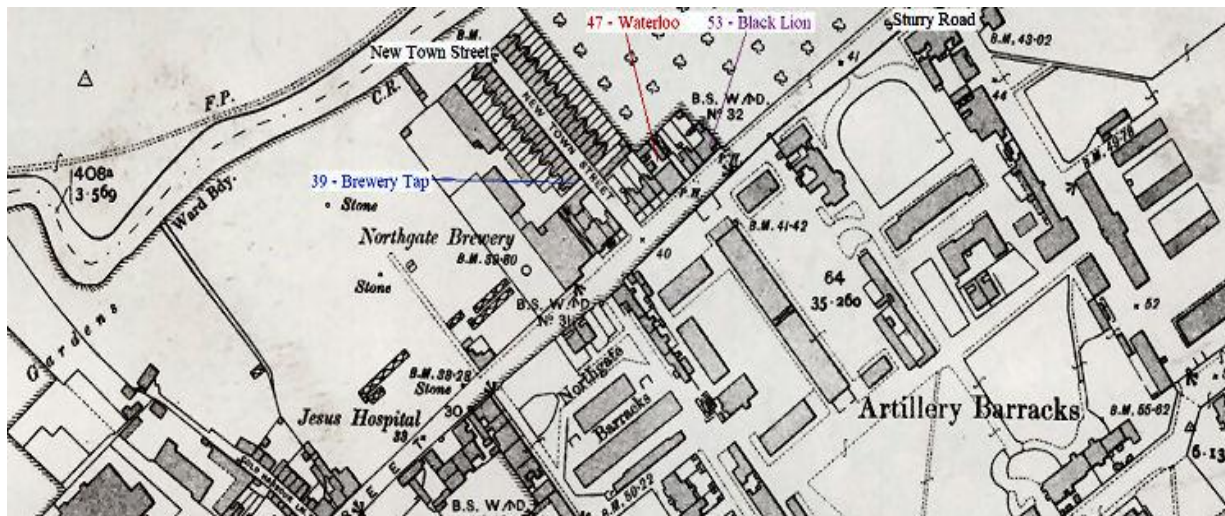


SGT. CHARLES WARREN CLARKE FAUX (1814 – 1879)
and MARY ANN WILLIAMS (1827 – 1873)

Early Life of Charles Warren Clarke Faux:

Charles Warren Clarke Faux was born in Canterbury, Kent County, England. In all probability he was born in the “Northgate Barracks” of the 9th Norfolk Regiment of Foot (his father’s regiment), seen in the lower middle section of the drawing below from 1905:



Charles was baptized 23 January 1814 at St. Mary Northgate Church in Canterbury, Kent County (CAA, Canterbury, St. Mary Northgate, PR), the son of Sgt. Robert and Mary (Clarke) Faux.



St. Mary Northgate, 1879

Having two, let alone three prenames was rare prior to 1830. Generally, it was indicative of gentry status, or that the family had clear social aspirations (McLaughlin, 1986). Neither explanation

accords with known facts in relation to the Faux family. It is more likely that this naming practice reflects the desire of Mary (Clarke) Faux to preserve and memorialize her maternal (Warren) and paternal (Clarke) family surnames since she was the only child born to this couple (NRO, Rockland All Saints, PR). There is, however, no evidence as to why the name Charles was chosen.

The first few months of Charles' life was spent at Canterbury and at Chatham, then, in November of 1814, his father was discharged from the army and the family moved back to Norfolk (PRO, WD12/2727). Their first destination seems to have been the Clarke home in Rockland All Saints Parish (NRO, Rockland All Saints, PR), then, in 1815, to Robert's home of Stow Bedon - the parish immediately to the west (NRO, Stow Bedon, PR). It appears that Charles attended school at some point during his childhood, or perhaps was home schooled (PRO, WO97 / 1552). His father Robert was recorded as a "Schoolmaster" on the marriage certificate of brother William's marriage certificate in 1843. Both brothers had clear steady signatures, however the life path taken by each could not have been more dissimilar (as we shall see later). Charles had at least two older siblings, a sister Rebecca Faux (b.1810) and a brother William Faux (b.1812) who died as a young child. There may have also been others who were born while Robert was in service, but there is no record. Charles also had 6 younger siblings, William Warren Clarke Faux (b.1815), Priscilla Faux (b.1818), Ebenezer Faux (b.1820), Emmanuel Faux (b.1823), Lionel George Faux (b.1824), and Caroline Faux (b.1826), most of whom were born in or near Stow Bedon.

Enlistment in the Army:

As a young man Charles worked as an agricultural labourer (PRO, WO97 / 1552) and doubtless followed his parents from Stow Bedon to Shropham, then to the vicinity of Norwich sometime around 1830. In all probability Charles worked as a labourer (his "trade" given on his Army enlistment papers) while living with his parents just north of the city walls of Norwich, in the hamlet of Hellesdon. Perhaps the stories told to him by his parents about the exciting lands overseas, and his father's recounting of exploits in the army induced Charles to "take the King's shilling" when a recruiter came to town. It is possible that Charles' father did his utmost to warn his son against the army, providing lurid tales of how the cat - o - nine tails was used for even minor infractions. This is precisely what happened when one John Ryder spoke to his father about joining in 1844 (McGuffie, 1964). Perhaps the more Robert spoke against a career in the army, the more convinced Charles became that it was what he wanted (reactance effect). It is also equally likely that his actions can be explained by being pinched with numbing poverty, and seeing no negative alternatives. Other than unemployment, other reasons for enlisting included those who, *"enlisted because they were idle and considered a soldier's life and easy one; then there were bad characters and criminals, the discontented and restless, and those perverse sons who seek to grieve their parents"* (Farwell, 1981, p. 84). The usual recruitment procedure at the time involved putting posters, which extolled the virtues of army life, in various convenient places. A recruiting sergeant resplendent in a fancy red uniform would then frequent pubs and other gathering places and, often with alcohol to smooth the way, he would get the potential recruit drunk then place a shilling in his hand. In this way many a young man was signed on for life service - the only length of service offered at this time (Farwell, 1981). At any rate, Charles enlisted on 18 April 1835 in Norwich with the 62nd Foot (Wiltshire) Infantry Regiment (PRO, WO97 / 1552).

Robert's response to the news of his son's enlistment is not a matter of record. John Ryder's diary, however, shows that in a somewhat similar situation, his (John's) father initially made a fuss but soon resolved himself to the situation to the extent that his parting words were to, "*be a good soldier, and never desert my colours*" (McGuffie, 1964, p.28).

Charles probably met up with the recruiting sergeant of the 62nd Foot at a local pub early in May. There, with others that had been recruited in the interval, he would have begun the march south (McGuffie, 1964). Charles joined the regiment 21 May 1835, and was in hospital at the Chatham Depot two days later (PRO, WO 12 / 7191), likely for his inspection by the regimental doctor and for suiting up in his uniform (McGuffie, 1964). Here he would have been examined by a medical officer and pronounced fit for service, then taken before a magistrate for attestation. Here he would have sworn that he enlisted voluntarily, and would have answered questions about his age, trade, etc. When Charles answered as to his willingness to join, the magistrate would then have read him the articles of war concerning desertion, etc., then administered the oath of allegiance. Soon thereafter Charles would have received a bounty of £ 3, with 10 s. in cash, and the rest applied to the purchase of clothes etc. (Marshall, 1840). Presumably the next month would have been spent in training, where Charles would have learned the drills and maneuvers expected of a British soldier. The routine here has been described by one MacMullin, where a new soldier would arise at 5 a.m., make his "toilet", then begin drill at 6 a.m. At 7:45 a.m. the men were dismissed for breakfast; 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. more drill; dinner at 1 p.m. ("wretched" potatoes and meat); 2 to 4 more drill; then free time until tattoo (if not on guard duty). Reading, walking, and drinking beer (not necessarily in that order) were common amusements (McGuffie, 1964).

On Board Ship – The East Indies:

Charles embarked with his regiment for Madras India on 3 July 1835 (PRO, WD12/7191). These voyages aboard troop ships were generally characterized by indescribable wretchedness. The trip took 124 days to India, with one stop at or near Cape Town South Africa (before the Suez Canal was built). However, fear of desertion meant that the enlisted men were not allowed to disembark. The food and water were usually spoiled and unwholesome. The conditions in the hold were crowded (sleeping was on hammocks) and filthy, and fever and scurvy were ever present dangers. Of course, sea sickness would aggravate the picture. Perhaps during the first storm at sea Charles had thoughts similar to those recorded by John Ship. John focused wistfully on the white cliffs of England and the very real possibility that he would never see the shores of his native land again (McGuffie, 1964). One of the ways used to pass the time onboard ship was to play a game of "Crown and Anchor" with the sailors (who typically found the soldiers easy marks) (Farwell, 1881).

Private Charles Faux remained at Madras until March 1836 when he was transported to Moulmein Burma - remaining there to protect the town from the forces of the Old King of Burma until 31 August 1840. One wonders how Charles would have passed his time during these years. Typically, soldiers amused themselves in rather standard ways. Often a monthly visit to one of the army supervised brothels (called "rags" in India) was part of the routine. Similarly gambling (e.g., "House" which was a variety of bingo), and drinking were common diversions. Perpetual drunkenness was characteristic of this era. Not only did the soldiers have their daily rum ration, but they would spend considerable time swilling beer in the canteens. In the caste system that was the army, the gentlemen officers drank together in their clubs, the rankers drank in their own

canteens, and the Sergeants had their own mess – they didn't drink with the Privates. Other diversions included tattooing, boxing, wrestling, and sometimes stage entertainments produced by the rankers. Meals were mundane at best. At 7:30 a. m. and 12:30 p.m. the two main meals were served. This would consist of 3/4 pounds of meat, a pound of bread, and a pound of potatoes. For this fine fare 6 pence per day was deducted from each soldier's pay. Tea was then, as now, at 4:00 p.m.; and in the evening a visit to the canteen relieved the hum drum of the barracks (Farwell, 1981).

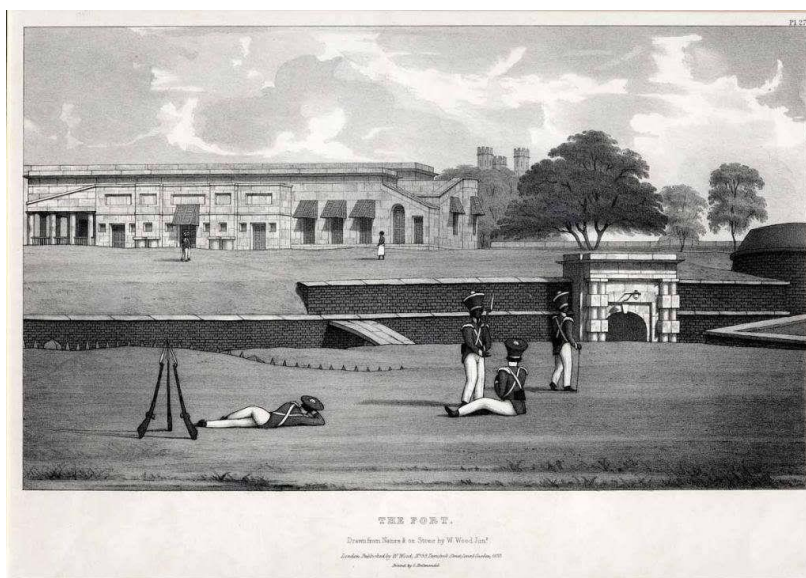
Charles sailed in September 1840 for Calcutta, arriving at Fort William in that city by October (PRO, W012/7192-6). The remainder of his stint in India involves a series of moves across India and Pakistan as presented below.

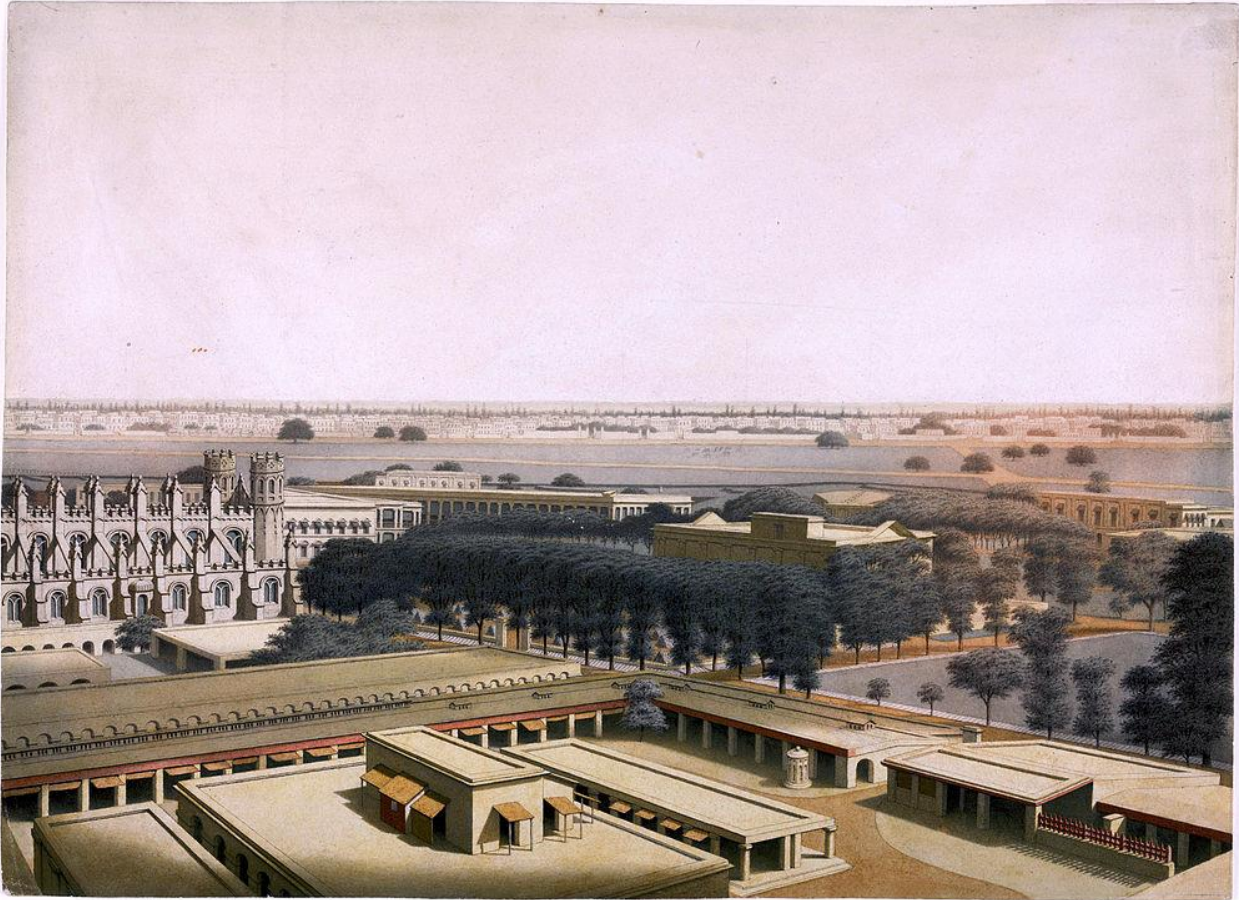
India with the 62nd Foot:

The 62nd began a month - long march to Hazaribagh in the Hills of Bihar on 5 November 1840, returning to Calcutta in July of 1841 – first at Camp Soorigpoora then from November 1841 to July of 1842 at Ft. William (PRO, W012/7196-8). During this latter interval two important events occurred. First, on 7 January 1842 Charles was promoted to the rank of Corporal and was given a good conduct badge (PRO, WD97/1552) - setting the stage for the next event.

On 15 March 1842 the 28 – year - old Charles married Mary Ann Williams, a 14 – year - old girl who was born 18 May 1827 in Cape Town South Africa, the orphan daughter of William Williams Sergeant in the 55th Foot Regiment, and Mary (surname unknown) (IOLR, Marriages Solemnized at Ft. William). More information will be provided on the background of Mary Ann later in this manuscript.

Charles would have required the permission of his commanding officer in order to marry. The latter's decision was usually based on rank (e.g., Charles was a Corporal so was more eligible than a Private), and whether the candidate had a good conduct badge (as Charles did) and some savings (Farwell, 1981).





Fort William, Calcutta with St. Peter's Church (center left) 1828

On 11 August 1842 the 62nd left Calcutta and proceeded by boat up the Ganges toward Dinapore. Enroute, on 6 September, a violent storm hit the convoy capsizing boats and drowning many soldiers. From 1 October 1842 to November 1844 they remained at Dinapore where, in that year, the first child of Charles and Mary Ann, named Mary, was born. In December they began their march to Ambala along the Grand Trunk Road, reaching Delhi in February 1845. Since the Sikhs were giving every indication of mounting a major offensive, the troops were sent to Ludhiana, then to Ferozepore near the Sutlej River at the frontier of Sikh territory, where they arrived at the end of March. By May barracks had been built for the soldiers, on a sand plain without any grass or trees, a mile from town - they would have remained in tents until that time. The married couples and their children lived in the barracks with the single men. Their only privacy was to be located in a corner with sheets or blankets slung over ropes to screen them off from the teeming mass of people and pets (e.g., mongoose, chickens, and rabbits being popular). Here they, and their children, would have been exposed to the, "*habitual use of blasphemous and obscene language*" (p.124). The soldier's hard swearing was often in English and also Hindustani. Indian words other than of the "foul" variety were introduced into the language of those who served there. For example, "wallah" was a term for anyone in charge of something. In the barracks one also would

have heard unusual expressions such as “muckers” when a soldier referred to his pals or buddies (Farwell, 1981).

In the month of June hot weather arrived, and there was an outbreak of cholera (PRO, WO12/7198-7200; Kenrick, 1963). This is likely what caused the death of Charles and Mary Ann's first known child, Mary who was buried at Meerut 10 June 1845 (IOLR, Burials at Meerut, 1845). Later in 1845, 21 to 22 December, the Battle of Ferozeshah took place against the Sikh Army – the Khalsa (Kenrick, 1963) with Corporal Charles Faux as a participant (TPL, The Sutlej Medal Roll).



Contemporary 62nd Foot Shoulder Badge

Battle of Ferozeshah:

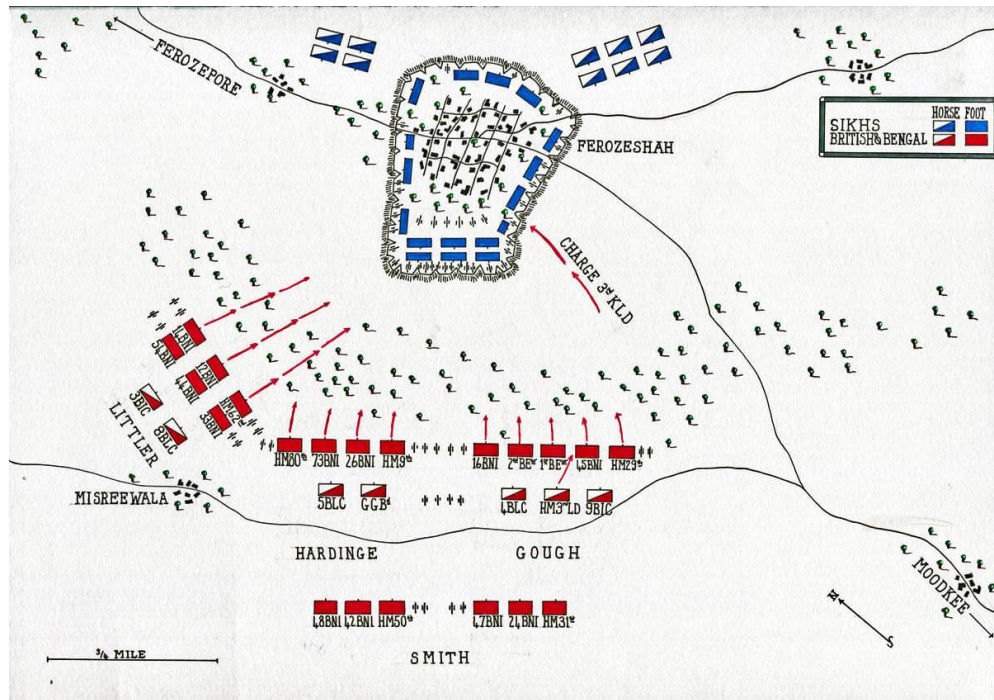
Immediately prior to the battle, the 62nd was stationed at Ferozepore with seven Regiments of Native Infantry, plus assorted units of artillery and cavalry; and to add to the exotic tapestry of the place, there were camels and elephants used for transportation purposes constantly milling about. After the Battle of Moodkee on 18 December, the Sikh army retired to the village of Ferozeshah, between Moodkee and Ferozepore on the route to Lahore.

At 8 a.m. of 21 December 600 men of the 62nd under Sir John Littler of the Bengal Army marched south and east from Ferozepore. They were able to link up with other units by 12:30 p.m. at Shukroor, five miles southwest of Ferozeshah. The British had about 18,000 troops (mostly sepoy or native infantry). They were about to face about 30,000 seasoned Sikh troops with supporting artillery. The Sikhs were entrenched in a horseshoe formation (facing the British) along a high embankment around the village of Ferozeshah. There was about 300 yards of open ground between the Sikh lines and the jungle scrub which extended about 1000 yards to the British lines. At about 4 p.m. the British artillery opened fire against their much superior Sikh counterparts.

Then the division including the 62nd, who were on the British left flank south and west of the Sikhs, were ordered to attack – but prematurely. Thus the 62nd (who had removed the white covers of their shakos) on the right, and the 12th Native Infantry on the left, were completely exposed on both flanks. The 12th Native unit and one other immediately behind, fell back leaving the 62nd virtually alone against the full weight of the Sikh army. All during their advance through the jungle the 62nd was peppered with constant bombardment of round shot and shell. Still, they went forward, emerging into the open ground without any support. They were soon met with a hail of grape and canister shot and had the Sikh cavalry nipping at their left flank. For 20 minutes they continued to fight toward the Sikh lines even though by then half of the regiment were casualties. Most of the regiment then halted and began firing, with only some of their number able to reach the Sikh fortifications and the sword wielding Sikh soldiers. The men were exhausted from the arduous advance and from a lack of water. For 5 or 6 minutes what was left of the regiment continued firing. When their commander, Reed, ordered the charge most were physically unable to comply (many were wounded, many were recovering from cholera, they had marched 9 hours in the sun without food or water). The men agreed to hold their ground but couldn't charge. Therefore, Reed ordered them to retire, which they did in good order.

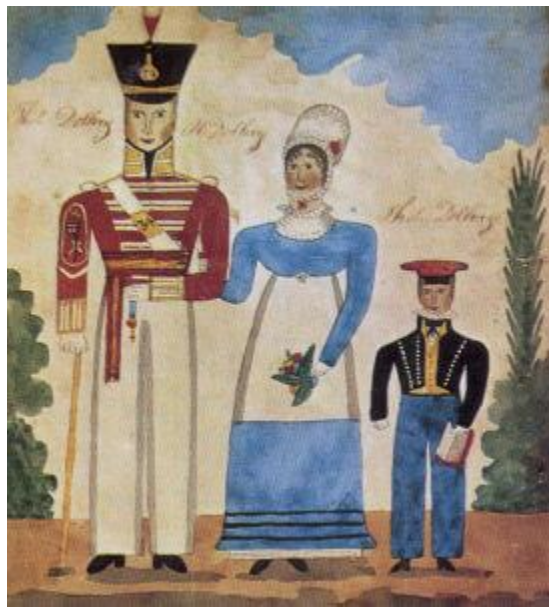


Military procession with a regiment of British Light Dragoons and British and Indian infantry: Battle of Ferozeshah on 22nd December 1845 during the First Sikh War



Map of Battle of Ferozeshah by John Fawkes

The 62nd are shown in the above map with the Littler group, the front unit on the far right. The regiment suffered 281 rank and file out of 580 as casualties (97 killed, 184 wounded). Clearly Corporal Charles Faux was lucky to come away from this battle intact. That evening the 62nd used their hands and bayonets to dig trenches in the sandy soil near the bodies of their fallen comrades, who were scattered all about.



British soldier and his family: Battle of Ferozeshah on 22nd December 1845 during the First Sikh War



Battle of Ferozeshah by Henry Marten showing the 62nd Foot engaged in combat

They spent a night which was probably mixed with feelings of relief at being alive, and horror at the cacophony around them (e.g., moans of the wounded; Sikh guns). The next morning the bulk of the British army succeeded in breaching the Sikh entrenchments and capturing the artillery - their enemies retreating toward the Sutlej River. The 62nd then moved forward along their previous line of march, reaching Ferozeshah to find the Sikh cavalry and supporting artillery appearing on the horizon. One of the 62nd's duties at this time was to escort the commanders to a small mud fort immediately north of Ferozeshah. The Sikh artillery withdrew about an hour later, followed by their cavalry. The 62nd then followed the retreating cavalry, meeting the main body of Sikhs (including fresh reinforcements) whereupon the rest of the British Army came forward setting the stage for another engagement. The casualties were light this time as the Sikhs were very ineffective in their use of muskets, and in the afternoon a British cavalry charge dispersed their enemy who fled across the Sutlej River.

The 62nd went back to their camp of the previous night – some of them being assigned to “clear the village” of wounded Sikhs. On the 23rd the regiment buried their dead in a mass grave, and were able to “enjoy” their first rations since they had left their barracks in Ferozepore. Their only sustenance until then had apparently been contaminated water, plus limes and black sugar which were scavenged from the Sikh camp. On 24 December, the remnants of the 62nd returned to their barracks in Ferozepore (Cook, 1975; Kenrick, 1963; TPL, Sutlej Medal Roll).



Night Bivouac after the First Day of the Battle of Ferozeshah

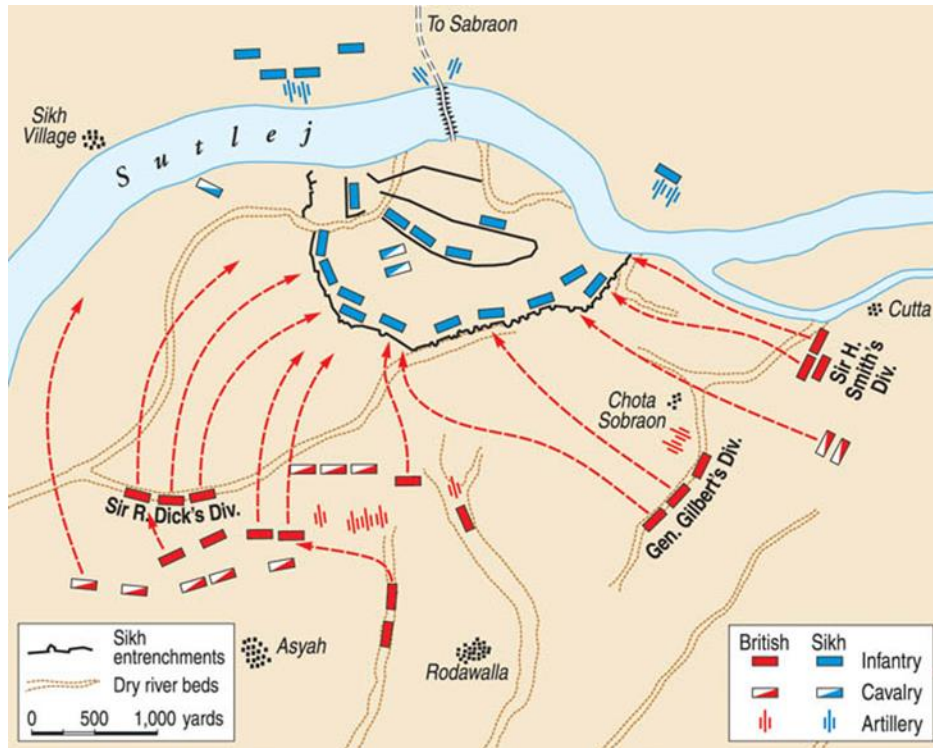
HM 62nd Foot suffered 7 officers killed and 11 wounded in the battle, leaving the regiment effectively without officers. It became a regimental custom, on the anniversary of the battle, to hand the colours to the care of the non-commissioned officers for 24 hours in commemoration (see [here](#)).

A few days after the Battle of Ferozeshah, on 30 December, Charles Faux was promoted to Sergeant (PRO, W012/1552). After moves to a variety of camps (e.g., Rodawolo, Nihalkee) the 62nd joined other contingents of the British Army to again face the Sikhs at the Battle of Sobraon on 10 February 1846 (Kenrick, 1963). Again, Charles Faux was there, eventually receiving a medal for his part in the Sutlej Campaign against the Sikhs (TPL, The Sutlej Medal Roll).

Battle of Sobraon:

Sobraon is about 15 miles up the east side of the Sutlej River from Ferozepore. Here the Sikhs had 35,000 men and 67 artillery pieces in a well – fortified position. Among the 16,000 British troops were the 62nd, who were positioned in the third of four brigades of three regiments each. The brigades were composed of mixed Native and British infantry, to the left (from the British vantagepoint) of the Sikh entrenchments. The battle began in the middle of the night on 10 February 1846 (at 1 a.m. breakfast and the rum rations were given) with the 62nd advancing to capture a ridge 2500 yards in front of the Sikh defenses on which was sited the hamlet of Rhodawala and containing Sikh outposts. They then occupied a nearby nullah (dry river bed) and awaited the signal to advance. At about 6:30 a.m. the mist lifted and the British artillery began pounding the Sikh positions in their camp, and their bridge of boats on the river. The Sikhs were

unaware that the 62nd were hidden nearby and had captured their outpost sites, so were taken by surprise by the artillery fire (i.e., they had no advanced warning). They soon regrouped and some of their shots managed to inadvertently reach the 62nd's nullah (doing no damage). At 9 o'clock the 62nd was ordered to charge. They encountered heavy fire from the Sikh batteries, but were quickly able to penetrate the outer defensive ring. Soon the 62nd were compressed with masses of other British units, all with bayonets striking at the Sikh defenders with their fearsome "tulwar" curved swords. The sappers succeeded in breaching the interior defenses allowing the cavalry units to enter the fray and carve an opening for the infantry, who in turn performed their grim task - slowly pushing the Sikhs to the Sutlej River at the point of the bayonet. By 11 a.m. 10,000 Sikhs were casualties, and were thoroughly defeated. The 62nd remained within the former Sikh position until dark, being served their "grog" ration there. In terms of casualties, the 62nd suffered one officer and 3 other ranks dead, and one officer and 43 rankers wounded (Cook, 1975; Gibson, 1969; Kenrick, 1963). Again, Sergeant Faux was fortunate to avoid being killed or injured (TPL, Sutlej Medal Roll).



Map of Battle of Sobraon



Sikh illustration of the Battle of Sobraon on 10 February 1846



Battle of Sobraon 10 February 1846 by J. Harris (Brown University Library)

The single best source for information on the various campaigns in the Sutlej, with narrative, maps, pictures, and a very detailed description of the medals and clasps awarded for participation in these events, please see the You Tube video [here](#).

Concerning the uniform that Charles Faux would have worn during service in the Sikh Wars, he would have sported an “Albert” shako hat with a white covering and the tuft removed. For parade and inspection purposes, Charles would have worn a red coatee and grey cloth trousers. While marching and during battle he would have been found in more comfortable cotton trousers (perhaps blue in colour), a short shell jacket (white in hot season), and black lace boots. His weapon would likely have been a smoothbore pattern Minie percussion cap musket (when a Sergeant) (Barthorp, 1987). As a Sergeant, Charles Faux also would have (after 1845) worn a solid red sash (Carman, 1957) (see pictures of battles above), and of Sgt. Bernard McCabe of the 31st Foot at Sobraon below:



In February Charles was with his unit at Lahore for the signing of a treaty between the British and Sikhs. On 23 March 1846 the 62nd left Lahore, crossed the river at Nuggar, and marched down to Ferozepore where they camped under canvas until they were sent in October to reinforce Lahore.

John Ryder has described the conditions of marching across the sandy deserts and plains in the Punjab during the Sikh Wars. The winds would often drive clouds of sand into the faces of the soldiers making it impossible to see anything in the darkened air. Men would succumb to the ill effects of these circumstances combined with a lack of water and many had to be buried in unmarked graves alongside the line of march. Only the periodic sounding of “The Close” by the bugler kept the regiment from drifting off in all directions. These storms were sometimes followed by violent thunderstorms, which added contrast to conditions of indescribable horror (McGuffie, 1963).

Regimental Transfer:

On 30 November, at Camp Jelor, Sgt. Charles Faux volunteered to serve with the 53rd Foot Regiment instead of returning to England with the 62nd (PRO, WO12/7200-2); (Kenrick, 1963). The reason for not returning to England at this time is not a matter of record. While the bounty money may have been an inducement, as a Sergeant this decision cost him his stripes as he was required to start again at the rank of Private. While publications relating to the regiment have been inspected, as yet the muster lists have not been searched.

India with the 53rd Foot:

During 1847 the 53rd Regiment was at Ferozepore (Rogerson, 1890), and on 25 June 1847 daughter Ellen was born here and baptized on 18 July (IOLR, Baptisms at Ferozepore). Ellen likely died soon thereafter, but no record of her burial has come to light. On 3 January 1848 Charles Faux was again promoted to Corporal (PRO, W097/1552). The next month the regiment went to Lahore and occupied the barracks in the Hazareebagh part of the city - providing sentry duty. On 17 September they occupied the palace and provided a guard for the Kohinoor diamond (Later to be among the Crown Jewels of the Queen). In February 1849 the regiment went to Ramnugger to join the Army of the Punjab (Rogerson, 1890). Charles would later receive a medal to commemorate his role in the Punjab Campaign - specifically for the support at Goojerat (TPL, Punjab Medal Role). As with the Sutlej Campaigns, the best single source for the Campaigns of the Punjab, and the specifics of the medal and clasps awarded to those who were participants, can be found in a You Tube video, seen [here](#).

In March the bulk of the regiment arrived at Rawal Pindee, to be joined by the rest in June (Rogerson, 1890). On 11 August 1849 Charles received his promotion to the rank of Sergeant (PRO, W097/1552). It is likely that the women were left at Lahore at this time as Charles' son Charles Warren Faux was baptized there on 3 September (IOLR, Baptisms at Lahore). By 15 October 1850 the families of the soldiers had joined the regiment at Rawal Pindee where son Charles Warren was buried on this date (IOLR, Burials at Rawal Pindee). One year later, on 23 November 1851, daughter Caroline was baptized at the same place (IOLR, Baptisms at Rawal Pindee). Seven days later disturbances among the Moslem tribes at the Khyber Pass resulted in the 53rd marching the 91 miles to Peshawur – in 8 days (Rogerson, 1890). While stationed here daughter Caroline was buried 19 August 1852 (IDLR, Burials at Peshawur) - apparently the last Faux to leave their bones In India.

Almost a year later, on 10 July 1853, a happy even occurred – son Francis Warren Faux was baptized at Peshawur near the famous Khyber Pass (IOLR, Baptisms at Peshawur). He was the first of the children of Charles and Mary Ann to survive infancy, and to bear descendants who survive to the present day.

In 1854 the regiment moved to Dugshai (Rogerson, 1890), and on 13 October 1855 Sgt. Charles had his pension hearing where it was noted that “*his character has been good. In possession of two good conduct badges when promoted Sergeant*”. The medical officer also noted that Charles was suffering from “failing strength & activity”, and was “*unfit for further military duty, owing to debility resulting from a long service of over twenty years chiefly in a tropical climate. His disability is not been caused in any degree by intemperance, or other vices*”. We are also given a description of the man at this time: 5 feet 8 ½ inches tall with dark brown hair and grey eyes and a fair complexion (PRO, WO97 / 1552). He was also recommended for the “Long Service and Good Conduct Medal” (with a gratuity of £ 10) for his 21 years of service (PRO, WO102 / 14). This item was known to the soldiers by the disparaging nickname of “rooti gong” (round loaf in Hindi), called that because “*it came with the bread ration, and was a reward for eighteen years of undetected crime*” (Farwell, 1981). Charles was issued this medal on 8 March 1856 (PRO, WO102 / 14). By this point Charles would have possessed a Sutlej Campaign Medal engraved with “Ferozeshah”, and with a “Sobraon” clasp for the ribbon, as well as a Punjab Campaign Medal (Carter and Long, 1893), and the above medal for Long Service and Good Conduct. The author is in possession of these three decorations won by Sgt. Charles Faux (see later).



Contemporary button of the 53rd Regiment of Foot

Toward the end of the year 1855 the regiment moved to Dum-Dum just northeast of Calcutta, then in early 1856 occupied Fort William (Rogerson, 1890). Soon thereafter Sgt. Faux and family must have sailed for England.

Perhaps his arrival home was similar to that of one MacMullen. The latter and the remnants of his regiment anchored at Gravesend whereupon a “cornopian player” on board a river steamer regaled them with “Home, Sweet Home” and “Auld Lang Syne” resulting in loud cheers from the returning soldiers (McGuffie, 1964). On disembarking the next day some of the soldiers knelt and kissed the ground. They then marched “*silently through the gateway of Chatham barracks*” (McGuffie, 1964, p.401).

Charles was discharged as Chelsea Pensioner at Chatham on 5 August 1856, with his stated destination given as Norwich (PRO, WO97 / 1552).

Return to Norwich:

It is interesting to speculate on the reunion Charles had with his father and siblings after a continuous absence of 21 years. It is probable that Charles and family took the train back to Norwich and would have debarked at either Victoria Station on the western limits of Norwich, or Thorpe Station just east of Norwich – both linked to London (Edwards, 1984). Perhaps his experiences were similar to those of John Ryder who returned home to Twyford, Leicestershire via train after the Sikh Wars. He first bought a suit of clothes then went to a pub near his parent’s home – not wanting to disturb them since they were not expecting his return. Although some of his friends were there, not one recognized him even though they were chatting with him for some time. When his father arrived at the pub the same situation prevailed. Ryder even had two drinks with his father without the latter showing any awareness of who his companion was. Ryder then said, “*Well then, father, so you do not know me*” (p.403). Everyone was quite overcome with the emotion of the situation and the whole village was abuzz. The main reason given for the lack of recognition was Ryder’s dark complexion due to the many years in India (McGuffie, 1964). Similarly, Charles had left his friends and family when a young man, and returned 21 years later a middle - aged man. It is therefore likely that this veteran would have borne little resemblance to the rosy cheeked youth they all remembered.

Charles may have lodged with relatives for a time, his residence in 1857 at the birth of his son Robert Faux was given as Philadelphia (Lane) in St. Clement Without Parish. His brother Ebenezer Faux was living on the same street at this time (Census of Norwich, 1851). However, with his pension of 1 s, 10 d per day (PRO, WO97 / 1552), and army savings, Charles may soon have been able to get a fair start toward finding his own residence.

From the birth of his son Charles Williams Faux in 1859 until about 1863, Charles Faux and family were residing at 102 Pottergate in St. Gregory Parish. While the 1861 Census of Norwich simply shows that his house was east of 109 Pottergate, White’s Directory of Norwich in 1864 provides the exact house address. This house is still standing and is shown via the street view of Google Maps below:



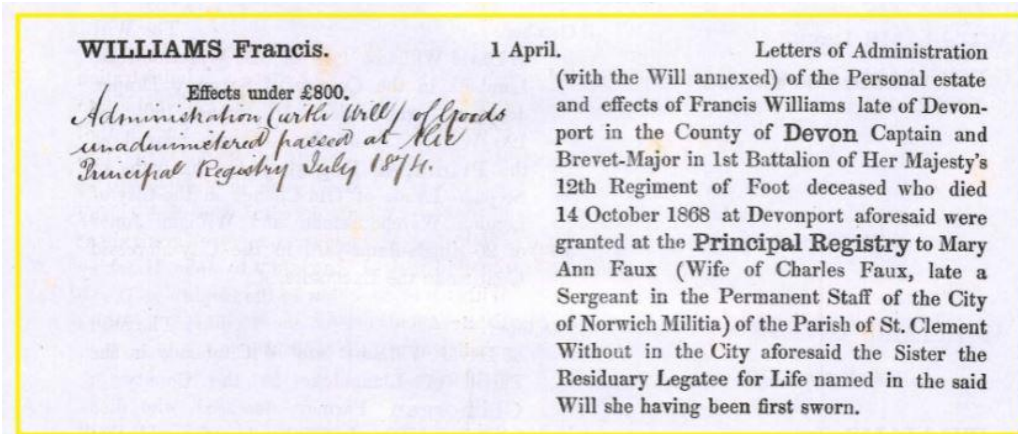
102 Pottergate, Nowich

It was at the above location where Sgt. Charles Faux was living at the time he, his wife Mary Ann, and his second son Robert Faux agreed to be sitters for a very famous painting – but more on this later.

Focus on Mary Ann (Williams) Faux: Unfortunately, there is often relatively little data relating to females in the Victorian era that would allow an author to “tell their story” in any detail. It is, however, interesting to speculate as to Mary Ann (Williams) Faux’s reaction to England, a place entirely foreign to her. She was born on 18 May 1827 in Cape Town, South Africa and raised in India, spending all of her married years to that point in India and Pakistan. It must have been both a culture and climate shock to experience England (e.g., the weather). She had experienced the death of her first four children (Mary, Ellen, Charles Warren, and Caroline) while on the Indian Subcontinent, with only one surviving child (Francis Warren Faux 1853-1928). Her mother Mary died in Cape Town when Mary Ann was 2 years old, and her father Sgt. William Williams of the 55th Regiment of Foot passed away at Secunderabad, India when she was 10 years old. She was “raised by the Regiment” until, at age 14, she married Charles Faux. Her unmarried sister Eleanor Williams died in Ferozepore at age 24 – suggesting that rather than remaining with her father’s Regiment which was headed for China and the Crimea, Eleanor accompanied her younger sister and brother – in – law in their perambulations across India. One can only guess that having a sister with her during the trying times in the Punjab would have been a comfort to both women. Their elder brother Francis Williams started as a Private in his father’s Regiment and made the military his career with promotions to Sergeant, and ultimately field promotions (at a time when commissions were generally purchased) to Ensign, Lieutenant, Captain, and ultimately Brevet – Major. He was in New Zealand when Mary Ann came to England, but it is unknown if she ever saw him again at any point after her marriage.

Soon after their return to Norwich, Mary Ann and Charles welcomed another son, Robert Faux (1857-1931), named after his grandfather Sgt. Robert Faux. Then arrived Charles Williams Faux (1859-1933), Alfred Faux (1862-1863), and Amy Williams Faux (1864-1951). So once again Mary Ann experienced having a child who died in infancy, doubtless contributing to the sense of loss that characterized her life.

Mary Ann's brother made her the administrator of his estate as he lay dying, at age 46, in a military hospital at Raglan Barracks, Devonport, England.



However, Mary Ann would die before being able to discharge these duties, and the estate ultimately went to her eldest son Francis Warren Faux. Among the items noted by Brevet – Major Williams in the will were his “decorations”, including the four medals with four miniatures he earned overseas. These are now in the possession of a collector residing in Norwich, the same individual who ensured that the current author became the custodian of the three Faux medals shown below.

The author is guessing that his great - great grandmother had an almost unimaginably difficult life. We unfortunately have no record of her sentiments on this matter.

Sergeant in the West Norfolk Militia:

Almost immediately upon returning to Norwich, Charles enrolled in the local (West Norfolk, City of Norwich) militia. Perhaps the military was “in his blood”, and / or this role provided some much - needed cash to supplement his Chelsea Pension. In terms of his specific involvement with the West Norfolk Militia, Charles Faux is first listed on 10 November 1857 at Norwich and Chester when he was noted as being a “Volunteer Serjeant”. The regiment was embodied at this time because there were increasing fears of a military conflict with France. Between January and March of 1858 he was again at Chester, and was at Chester and Norwich in the muster return for April 1858. Charles Faux is next recorded in July 1859 at Norwich when he was listed as a “Permanent Sjt.” The Pay Lists for the now disembodied militia unit note that in 1862 and 1867 he was an “Acting Hospital Sgt.”, and in the lists to 31 March 1867 he was described as a “Hospital Sergeant” (PRO, WO13 / 1582-3). The later records have not yet been searched.

The role of Sgt. Faux in the Militia brought about unforeseen consequences that would leave a lasting image of himself, his wife Mary Ann, and his son Robert for posterity, being on prominent display in the Norwich Castle Museum.

The Painting “Autumn” by Frederick Sandys:

When the author visited Norwich for the first time in May of 1987, he resolved to search for a photo of Sgt. Charles Faux in uniform. This seemed a remote possibility considering that Charles died in 1879 and photography was no where near as “universal” as it was to become later. On the last day of the trip my friend Colin and I were touring the Norwich Castle Museum when Colin announced that he wanted to see the advertised cat figurines. I bowed out and said we would meet up a half hour later and then we would depart. In that short period of time, I wandered about and entered an art gallery where my eyes immediately glommed on to a colourful painting on a wall straight ahead.

I was so awestruck because the man in the painting looked exactly like my own grandfather – and the man was in a military uniform. Here was the image of an old soldier reclining on the banks of the Wensum River with Bishop’s Bridge in the background. He was in full military “undress” (casual not ceremonial) uniform with three stripes on his right arm, and three ribbons cut from military medals and sewn on the left chest area of the red jacket (a common practice among Militia members who served overseas). Later research showed that this was the uniform of the West Norfolk Militia, and that these ribbons were awarded for the Sutlej Campaign, the Punjab Campaign, and Long Service and Good Conduct – precisely the three medals known to have been awarded to Sgt. Charles Faux. With him in this picnic scene was a much younger woman, and a child of about 3 years of age.



“Autumn” by Frederick Sandys, 1860 – Norwich Castle Museum

The author wrote an extensive study of the sitters seen in the painting entitled “Autumn”, providing evidence which supported the contention that the sitters were Charles, Mary Ann, and Robert, and submitted this work (in 1988 and a revised version in 2022) to the Norwich Castle Museum and the Birmingham Art Gallery (which has a smaller version of “Autumn”). The painting is dated 1860, at a time when Sgt. Charles Faux was with the West Norfolk Militia. The painter, Frederick Sandys, was born in Norwich, and although residing much of the time in London, he painted extensively in Norfolk. In 1860 Charles Faux was living at 102 Pottergate close to the home of Sandys father with whom he stayed when in Norwich. One can assume that he saw the old soldier in uniform with family and thought they would be perfect sitters for his allegory painting which would portray the waning days of life (autumn). As noted, the author has submitted a detailed study of the evidence supporting the hypothesis that the three sitters (models) in this painting were Sgt. Charles Faux, wife Mary Ann (Williams) Faux, and 3 - year - old son Robert Faux, to the curators of the galleries in Norwich and Birmingham – see [here](#), Genealogy, Page 3. On the same page is found an article on how the finding of “Autumn” in 1987 ultimately led to the author’s appearance in a 1995 episode of the American TV show, “*Unsolved Mysteries with Robert Stack*” shown on NBC.

Thanks to the efforts of a collector in Norwich, the author came into possession of the three medals, and the ribbons from which those seen in the painting were clipped. These items are seen in the two pictures below:



Sutlej Medal, Punjab Medal, Long Service and Good Conduct Medals – Obverse



Sutlej, Punjab and Long Service Good Conduct Medals – Reverse

All have the name of Charles Faux, his rank, and his Regiment engraved on the edge of the medal.

Last Days:

Two more children were born to Charles and Mary Ann, apparently at the Pottergate home. These were Albert Faux born 1862 and buried in the Norwich City Cemetery in 1863 (NRO, Norwich City Cemetery Burial Records). Daughter Amy Williams Faux was born in 1865 and lived a long life in Norwich. Using the Voters Lists for Norwich (Ancestry dot com) it appears that Charles and family remained at 102 Pottergate Street until about 1868 then returned to Philadelphia Lane where they first resided upon returning from overseas. Unfortunately, there is no record (Census, Birth, Marriage and Death registrations, Voters Lists) of the number on Philadelphia Lane. All records simply state “Philadelphia” and the Parish of St. Clements Without. The Lane is rather short, and south of the Boston Street intersection there are no 19th Century buildings due to a WWII era clearance.

In 1879, the year of his marriage to Emma Jane Sexton, and the death of his father Charles, the second living son of the latter, Robert Faux, occupied 4 Rose Terrace which was a short distance down Boston Street and for census purposes considered to be part of Philadelphia Lane – and may have been the earlier home of his parents. Unfortunately, that building was demolished and its history clouded.



Philadelphia Lane Street Sign at the corner with Angel Road



Philadelphia Lane looking south from Angel Road to “The Forge” pub in the distance



Philadelphia Lane looking north from Boston Steet past “The Forge” (white face in distance) on Rackham Road



The above map is from, "*Catton Grove Memories: Growing up in Catton Grove 1935 to 1965*", Catton Grove Community Centre, 2015. It shows Philadelphia Lane **in 1938** before the entire area south of Rackham Road was demolished to make way for high density buildings. The street that parallels Rackham Road is Boston Street, with Rose Terrace facing the backyards of Rackham Road. In the process of demolition, the lower (southern) part of the Lane became what is today "Penn Grove". In other words, the area would be virtually unrecognizable to those living there in the 19th Century, and it is impossible to know exactly where in that vicinity members of the Faux family resided.

It was at Philadelphia Lane where, on 21 August 1873, Mary Ann (Williams) Faux died at age 46 of heart disease (GRO, Death Certificate, Norwich, Coslany). Neither of her parents, or either of her two siblings, lived beyond the age of 46. She was buried in an unmarked grave in Norwich City Cemetery, Section 12, No. 239:



Unmarked grave of Mary Ann (Williams) Faux marked by the white paper in the foreground

At age 60 the widower Charles Faux married again on 20 October 1874, just over a year after the death of Mary Ann. He married Hannah Maria (Futter) Tann, a widow, at St. Clements Parish Church (NRO, Norwich, St. Clements Parish, PR).

The Voters Lists (Ancestry dot com) show that Charles was residing at Philadelphia Lane between 1869 and 1877.

On 27 October 1879, in the presence of his wife, Charles Faux died at age 65 of “General Decay” at Old Palace Road in Heigham (just outside Norwich) (GRO, Death Certificate, Norwich, West Wymer), and was buried 7 days later. It is likely that he passed away in a hospital or other such facility on Old Palace Road, but was still residing at Philadelphia Lane. He was buried in an unmarked grave in Norwich City Cemetery (NRO, Norwich City Burial Records) in Section 31, No. 140 behind the marker 131 in the picture below:



Unmarked grave of Charles Faux in Norwich City Cemetery

To someone from Ontario, Canada the practice of burying husband and wife in separate sections of a cemetery, and not having some sort of marker, is seen as unusual. Perhaps, however, this practice can at least in part be explained by poverty. Their son Robert Faux died in 1931 and was buried in a similar manner in Norwich City Cemetery. However, in his case, there was a rift in the family and his wife Emma Jane (Sexton) Faux, who died 14 years before her husband, in 1917, was buried in Rosary Cemetery with her parents under an imposing obelisk that dominates the Cemetery. Her father was the owner of “Sexton and Sons Boot and Shoe Manufacturing” who employed about 1000 people in Norwich.

Sgt. Charles Warren Clarke Faux and his wife Mary Ann (Williams) Faux lived unconventional lives in relation to what was common at the time. Both died in Norwich, England but spent a large segment of their lives residing overseas in Africa and South Asia. Meanwhile the younger brother of Charles, born in 1815, William Warren Clarke Faux, lived his whole adult life in Norwich working as an agricultural labourer. Why Charles and William (born only a year apart) made their respective decisions can only be a matter of speculation.

The second wife of Charles Faux, Hannah Maria, married two more times after his death and died near Norwich in 1910. She led a very troubled life, characterized by extreme domestic violence at the hands of her first husband.

The children and grandchildren of Charles and Mary Ann have fanned out across the world. Descendants of Francis Warren Faux currently reside in England (although none with the Faux

surname live in Norwich); those of son Robert Faux are in Ontario, Canada and the United States; those of son Charles Williams Faux reside in Camden, New Jersey and other locations in the United States; while the progeny of Amy Williams (Faux) Buttle live in England, and Australia.

Dr. David K. Faux

Caledonia, Ontario, Canada and Los Alamitos, California, U.S.A.

First version of this manuscript written in 1987. Revised 20 March 2022, 13 April 2023.