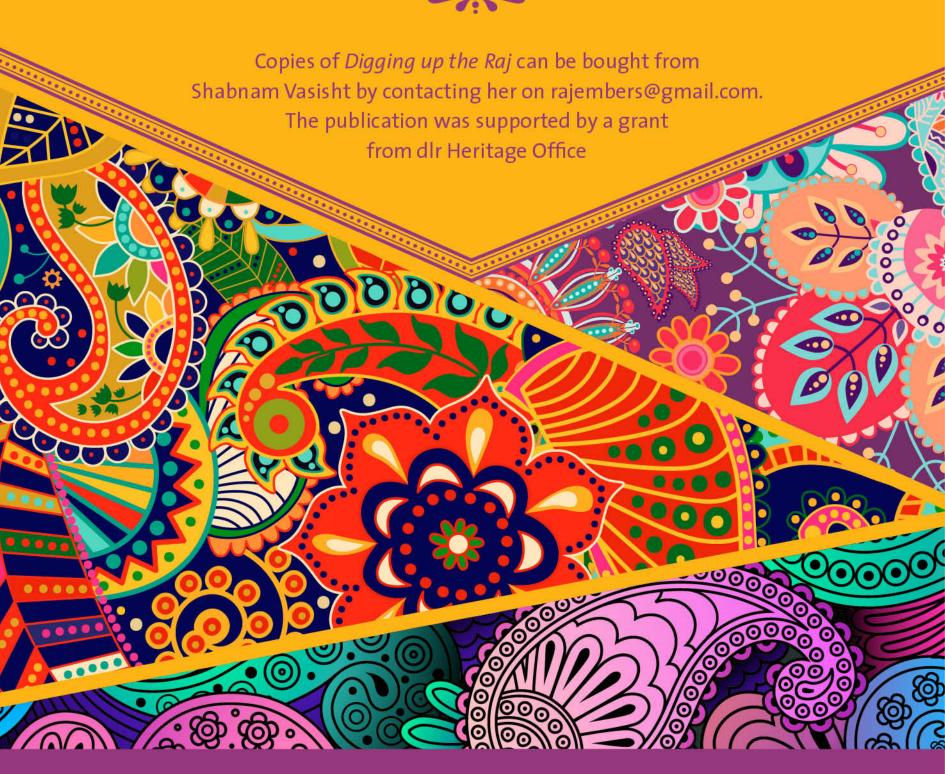


UNEARTHING THE LINKS WITH DEANSGRANGE

Exhibition curated by Shabnam Vasisht based on her publication Digging up the Raj. Following extensive research at Deansgrange Cemetery, Shabnam has discovered the remarkable achievements of a wide range of Irish people who lived and worked in India during British rule.

26 February - 31 March 2020

dlr Lexicon, Level 3, Haigh Terrace, Moran Park, Dún Laoghaire









वींद्रह्रोल्ड पि रितर ह्वों

Following extensive research at Deansgrange Cemetery, local historian Shabnam Vasisht has discovered the remarkable achievements of a wide range of Irish people who lived and worked in India during British rule. There were servicemen who fought in the Indian Mutiny; hard-working civil servants and eminent judges; and missionaries who aimed to convert sunworshipping heathens to 'muscular Christianity'. Shabnam's quest was to bring these extraordinary people to our attention.

Shabnam first considered this fascinating topic following a walk through Deansgrange Cemetery with her sister who was taking photographs of elaborate tombstones. They came across a particularly ostentatious one for a Captain James Vaughan who had fought in the Indian Mutiny. Further exploration yielded inscriptions such as 'Madras Army', 'Indian Staff Corps', 'Died in Red Sea on way home from India' etc. With the help of John McCann, supervisor of Deansgrange Cemetery, she found 72 graves. She began to research the lives of the soldiers, including information on regiments and campaigns and family members who warranted attention. Under the aptly chosen title, Digging up the Raj, Shabnam has been posting her biographies via a blog on the website of The Military Heritage Trust of Ireland's website for three years.

Shabnam's father was an Indian army officer and her mother a historian, so she always had a keen interest in military history. Her parents were married soon after Indian Independence, their wedding plans delayed by Mahatma Gandhi's assassination. Their postings took them to stations all over India as well as the Indian Military Mission in Nepal. Apart from army quarters in cantonments, Shabnam lived in tents, palaces and houseboats, so was familiar with many of the stations mentioned in her biographies.

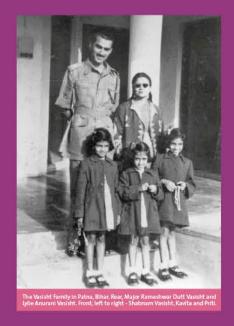
We are pleased to showcase a selection of entries from Shabnam's new book based on her blog. The publication is supported with a grant from dlr Heritage Office. Plot numbers are listed in the book and exhibition entries for the graves in Deansgrange so that people can conduct their own tour of this fascinating topic at their leisure.

Digging up the Raj can be bought from Shabnam Vasisht by contacting her on rajembers@gmail.com.













HELENA HAUGHTON CAMPBELL BOTHA

1865-1947 PLOT: ST. PATRICK/B/54

Alexander Haughton Campbell Gardiner (1785-1877) was a fortune-hunter who wandered Central Asia, offering his services to various warlords and ending up in the army of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, the Lion of Punjab. Nicknamed Gordana Khan, he styled himself in an all-tartan uniform and turban decorated with an egret's plume as a mark of high rank. He is believed to have acquired many villages while the Lion reigned. The death of the Maharaja in 1839 led to the collapse of the Punjab Empire so Alexander transferred his allegiance to the Kashmir court, enjoying the beauty of Kashmir and its women.

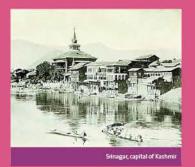
He was eighty and his Indian mistress in her thirties, when his daughter Helena was born in 1865 and she was sent to school in England. Alexander died in 1877 and Helena inherited an annuity of £100 a year but always believed that a more substantial treasure chest awaited her in India. In 1886 she married Lieutenant Max Josef Gerl in London and they had two children. The family subsequently moved to South Africa where the couple later divorced.

Excited by Helena's firm conviction that further riches awaited her, a Johannesburg attorney, Christiaan Lourens Botha, accompanied her to India. Considering that Maharaja Ranjit Singh's coffers had groaned with precious gems including the Koh-i-Noor diamond, her father's trove was expected to be substantial. However, their investigations led to nought. The disappointed group returned to South Africa where Helena married Botha and they had a daughter.

Many years later, Helena moved to Dublin with her fragile youngest daughter, Margareta. Her father had spent several years in Ireland and Helena may have hoped that she would have some success locating his legacy. Sadly, the elusive riches remained buried at the end of the rainbow. Mother and daughter stayed in the Mayfair Hotel on Lower Baggot Street.

Helena died in 1947 and was buried in Deansgrange cemetery seven years after the death of her daughter Margareta.











LT. COLONEL SIR W.J.T. BUCHANAN, K.C.I.E.

1861-1924 PLOT: SOUTH/A1/12

'Buchanan' i.e. Walter James Thompson was the son of the coroner of Fintona, Tyrone. He was born in 1861 and educated in Foyle College before studying medicine in Trinity College Dublin. After a further qualification in Vienna, he became Resident Surgeon in Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital and in the National Eye and Ear Hospital, Dublin.

In 1887, he entered the Indian Medical Service. Almost immediately, he was hurled into three successive expeditions: to Hazara in Central Afghanistan in 1888, to avenge the killing of two British officers by Afghan tribesmen on the North West Frontier; Chin-Lushai on the Burmese border in 1889, where the army's punitive campaign against the tribal locals punished entire villages; and Manipur, which was in Assam at the time, in 1891 to avenge the killing of the Chief Commissioner.

Leaving the military life, Walter served as Superintendent of two jails in Calcutta. In 1891, he married Edith Lilian Byrne, daughter of the Deputy Auditor General in Calcutta.

As Inspector General of Jails, Walter improved sanitation with a resultant drop in mortality rates. He wrote several books including a travel guide *Tours in Darjeeling and Sikkim* and he edited *The Indian Medical Gazette*.

In 1913, Walter was appointed Companion of the Indian Empire and was later promoted to Knight Grand Commander of the Order of the Indian Empire. With the Indian Prisons Commission, he travelled to a range of countries to study their penitentiary systems. He recommended the abolition of the Andaman Islands' penal settlement by 1921. This did not happen until ten years later.

Walter retired to Ireland where he became a member of the Central Council of the British Medical Association on its Naval and Military Committees. He established the Walter Buchanan Scholarship at Epsom College, Surrey, to enable those less well-off to enter the medical profession. It was established with a particular bias towards the sons of Indian Medical Service officers.

Sir Walter James Buchanan died of pneumonia in 1924 in Leeson Park.













COLONEL MONTAGUE MAXWELL CARPENDALE

The Rev Maxwell Carpendale was a rector of Tamlaght, County Armagh, when his son, Montague Maxwell was born in 1835. Like many Carpendales before him, Montague joined the Indian army. Attached to Scinde Horse of the Bombay Cavalry, he held several posts within the regiment. During the second Afghan war, he fought in the mountainous terrain of Afghanistan, ending with the relief of Kandahar in 1880 under Lord Frederick Roberts. Lord Roberts, christened 'Roberts of Kandahar' was the son of General Sir Abraham Roberts, a native of County Waterford.

In 1882, forty-seven-year-old Montague married twenty-six-year-old Ellen Harriet Eccles in Dublin. Ellen's father was the Rector of St. Peter's Church, Drogheda. With Montague's retirement, the family settled in Bray, Wicklow, but later moved to Shankill. Colonel Montague Maxwell Carpendale died in 1913. His widow returned to Bray where she died in 1927 at the age of seventy.

Their three sons all became cavalry officers. The eldest, Maxwell Montague, born in Mussoorie in 1883, joined his father's regiment and fought in Afghanistan, France, Palestine and Syria. He married Catherine Carleton Fry of London in India. Maxwell died of malaria in October 1918 in Damascus and was buried in Syria.

Maxwell's younger brother, Trevor Maxwell, also born in Mussoorie in 1885, served in two Indian cavalry regiments, and the Machine Gun Corps. He saw action in France, Mesopotamia and Egypt and was mentioned in despatches. Trevor retired in 1934 and died in New Zealand in 1968, leaving a widow, Christina Sybil, and three children.

The third Carpendale son, Frederick Maxwell, was born and christened in Bombay in 1887. His career spanned at least three Indian cavalry regiments. In 1916 he was promoted to Brevit Major for distinguished service in Mesopotamia and was mentioned in despatches on two further occasions. In 1919, Frederick was appointed Companion of the Indian Empire (CIE). He married Ivy Grace Lily, daughter of an Army Medical Corps officer. After retirement, Frederick donned his uniform again for WWII. He died in Sussex in 1958.









SURGEON JOHN GEORGE COLLIS

1845-1877 **PLOT:** SOUTH/E/62

John George Collis was born in Mountford Lodge, Fermoy, County Cork in April 1845 and was twenty-nine years old when he joined the Indian Medical Service. Although essentially a military organisation, its surgeons also served in civilian hospitals.

Collis was appointed surgeon to the Madras Native Infantry in 1873 and he moved to the Port Blair penal colony in the Andaman Islands soon after. This colony struck terror in the hearts of unfortunate Indian convicts 'transported beyond the seas with irons and labour' and exposed to disease and brutality. The area was known as *Kala Pani* (Black Water). The jail's 693 tiny cells were designed for solitary confinement at its cruellest. A smaller building beside the fortified entrance served as the prison hospital. Here Collis treated prisoners for some of the many diseases that were rife at the time due to the swampy and densely vegetated environment – malaria, measles, the dreaded Andaman Fever and, of course, punishment wounds.

Unfortunately, Surgeon Collis fell victim to one these diseases himself and he died in Port Blair in 1877. He was only thirty-two and is remembered on his mother's gravestone in Deansgrange Cemetery. His mother, Elizabeth Mitchell lived in Stillorgan Park until her death in 1884.

As for the Andaman Islands, they were briefly captured in WWII by the Japanese, who promptly released the inmates of the jail before quickly filling it up again. They shipped British POWs to Singapore and then began freely swinging their *tachis* at the indigenous tribes (now reduced to double figures). Later, during the struggle for independence, the dreaded cellular jail became a repository for many Indian freedom fighters. After India achieved independence in 1947, the penal settlement was abolished and the Andamans, along with the Nicobar Islands, became a Union Territory of India. The jail reincarnated as a museum and the islands as a paradise for honeymooners and surfers.





Map of Andaman and Nicobar Islands









THE DEANE BROTHERS Abraham Addison Hargrave Deane 1856-1939

Henry Hargrave Deane 1859-1928 ** PLOT: SOUTH/A1/12

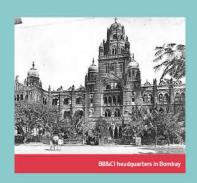
The Deane family of architects from Cork designed some of the most handsome buildings in Ireland and England, but this branch of the family spread overseas to India.

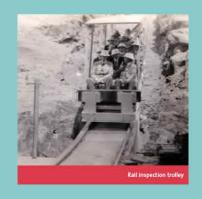
Abraham Addison Hargrave Deane was born in 1856 and went to Ennis College before graduating in medicine from Trinity College Dublin. He set sail for India in 1890 as Medical Officer with the railways. The Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway (BB&CI) was set up in 1855 to construct a railway line from Bombay to Baroda in Gujarat. Abraham rose to Chief Medical Officer and doubled up as Consultant Surgeon for the P&O steam navigation company. When he retired, he settled in Dublin.

His younger brother, Henry Hargrave Deane, also went to Trinity College, qualifying as a civil engineer. He studied mining in the Royal College of Science (now Government Buildings). Then it was off to India as Assistant Engineer in the BB&CI, rising to Executive Engineer. All went well until the Prince of Wales visited Bombay in 1905. The city was lit up for 'public festivities and rejoicings' when the imposing headquarters of the BB&CI caught fire. Before he could be accused of failing to take adequate safety measures, Henry quickly moved his office to Gujarat. In 1909, Henry became Acting Chief Engineer of Rajputana Malwa Railway, taking over as Chief Engineer two years later. He also enlisted in the BB&CI Railway Regiment (for protection of the railways) and rose to Lieutenant Colonel.

In 1912 Henry married a distant relative, Josephine Turnor Middleton Maxwell, in Calcutta. Three years later, they retired to Shankill, County Dublin. After Josephine's death in 1917, he lived with his brother, Abraham Addison, in Ailesbury Road until his death in 1928. Abraham, died, unmarried, in 1939 at the age of eighty-four and is buried in the same grave at Deansgrange Cemetery.













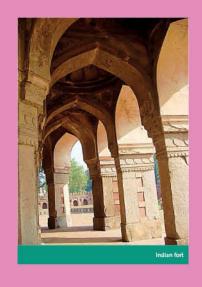
SURGEON MAJOR WILLIAM EDDOWES 1827-1880 PLOT: SOUTH/A/43

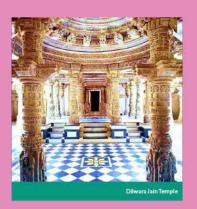
William Eddowes was born in Shrewsbury in 1827, the son of a bookseller. He studied medicine in Dublin and after he qualified, served in Malta and Crimea, before sailing to India. He joined the Bengal Medical Service in 1856 attached to a native army, the 43rd Erinpoorah Irregular Force in Rajasthan. During the Indian Mutiny of 1857, he tended wounded soldiers in Delhi before returning to the EIF. In 1859, he was posted to the Convalescent Depot in Allahabad in Uttar Pradesh.

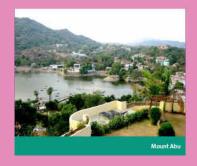
Back in Rajasthan, Eddowes was also treating civilian cases around the Erinpoorah military base and petitioned for a new hospital as daily admissions were on average over fifty-five while the building could only accommodate a mere seventeen patients. Famine made matters worse but his appeal was ignored. He was posted next to Deoli where he was also responsible for the healthcare of the Political Agency. He married Grace Agnes Annette Dawson, sister of the District Superintendent in the Bengal Police and the couple moved to Dehradun at the foothills of the Himalayas, where William took medical charge of the regiment in 1876.

An active member of the Asiatic Society, he photographed Jain temples for the government's archives on Indian architecture. Jainism is an ancient Indian religion that emerged around the same time as Buddhism – 5th Century BC – along the Indo-Nepalese border. Its most fundamental principle, *Ahimsa* (non-violence), was adopted by Mahatma Gandhi for the Freedom Movement. William's folio included the spectacular Dilwara Jain Temples, a complex of five intricately carved temples dating back to 1031.

Surgeon Major William Eddowes retired to Dublin and lived in Park Avenue, Sandymount. He died in January 1880, leaving a young widow and two-year-old son. In a bittersweet post script to the Eddowes' story, eight months later, Grace gave birth to their second son.











LIEUTENANT GENERAL HENRY HALL, C.B.

1789-1875 PLOT: SOUTH/F/18

Henry Hall was born in 1789, the youngest son of the Venerable Francis Hall, Archdeacon of Kilmacduagh. He joined the Bengal Native Infantry and spent a great deal of time capturing forts in the Bengal Presidency, an area equivalent to the size of continental Europe.

Hall went on to serve in the Guide and Intelligence Departments. He was entrusted by Governor General Hastings with the curbing of the Mhairs – a fearless tribe who inhabited the deeply-gorged hills of Rajasthan. They had lost some of their land to the government but when Henry reported on the mismanagement of the Mhair districts, it went down like a dead dragoon with Hastings.

During the next fourteen years, Henry raised a corps of Mhairs and taught them to cultivate the desert by designing a basic system of irrigation. On his enlightened watch, the statistics for female infanticide and *sati* (the custom of cremating widows with their husbands) dropped dramatically.

In 1827, he married Indian-born Sarah Fagan, daughter of a General in the Bengal Army. Due to ill health, Hall was forced to retire in 1836. He settled in *Merville*, Foster's Avenue, Dublin (now Nova UCD) and was Magistrate for Dublin and Galway. His house in Galway was named *Mairwarra*, later renamed *Knockbrack Lodge*. He died in August 1875 leaving a widow and four children.

The Five Lamps fountain at the junction of five Dublin streets – Portland Row, North Strand Road, Seville Place, Amiens Street and Killarney Street – was erected in 1880 as a monument to General Henry Hall, C.B.





Map of Rajputana, Rajasthan









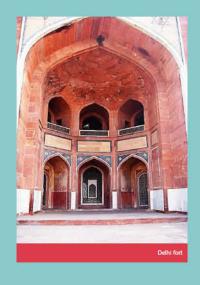
WILLIAM JENNINGS-BRAMLY ESQ. 1823-1921 ** PLOT: SOUTH WEST/I/69

William Jennings-Bramly was born in 1823 to the Rev. Thomas Jennings-Bramly of Tunbridge Wells, Kent. At the age of sixteen, he entered Haileybury College to train as an administrator (or 'writer') for the East India Company. The two-year course prepared him for the Indian Civil Service – a very lucrative service as far as pay and pensions were concerned. Ambitious mothers encouraged their daughters to marry an ICS officer as he was worth 'a thousand pounds, dead or alive'.

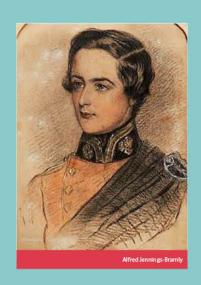
When he arrived in humid Calcutta, William enrolled in a language college and soon his facility in three 'native' languages, earned him the post of Judge. By 1864, he was bringing his gavel down all over the north, including Taj Mahal country. He even found time to translate English books into Indian languages and to chair the Scientific Society. In 1873, he married Mia Geraldine Tyrrell in Dublin. Her brother was Robert Yelverton Tyrrell (1844-1914), the celebrated author and Professor of Greek at Trinity College Dublin.

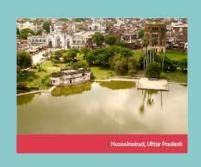
William Jennings-Bramly retired to Ireland and lived in *Strathmore*, one of the grandest houses in Killiney, later to become the Canadian Ambassador's residence. He amassed a large property portfolio of two other houses and several cottages in Killiney. He died in 1921 and his epitaph claims he 'served in the Indian Mutiny, was wounded in action and received the Medal'.

medal roll and that is William's younger brother Alfred, a Black Watch officer, who was shot by rebels near Lucknow. Two young privates ran to his aid: one was killed but the other was awarded a Victoria Cross for carrying Alfred and his dead comrade back to the lines.













COLONEL SIDNEY O'DONEL, M.C 1892-1945 PLOT: SOUTH WEST/M/68

Sidney O'Donel attended Portora Royal School in Enniskillen, Fermanagh, and graduated from Dublin in Veterinary Science in July 1914. He joined the Army Veterinary Corps and was posted to France and Belgium before stints in Gallipoli and Egypt. Overworked army vets struggled to return 80% of injured animals back to duty – an astonishing feat considering that the number of animals on the battlefields was approximately 2.5 million. Sidney was mentioned in despatches and awarded the Military Cross for gallantry.

In 1919 O'Donel left for India where he entered the battle against Afghanistan. Mules and camels were in particular demand in the mountainous terrain of the North West Frontier. Animals were of more value to the Afghans than humans and they would sooner steal horses and camels than kill them.

Constantly on the move, O'Donel was appointed Deputy Assistant Director of Veterinary Services in Ambala in Punjab, then Saugar in central India in the Equitation School until 1932. During this period, he married Olwen Diana Gwyn Williams.

After commanding the Army Veterinary School in Ambala, Sidney faced his biggest challenge with the Burma Campaign of the Second World War. The special penetration units, including the Chindits operated in some of the most virulent areas in the jungle there, dependent largely on mules. Diseases such as Surra, transmitted by deadly flies, were a formidable problem in the jungles of Burma. Anthrax was also of epidemic proportions until eventually defeated by the bi-annual inoculations of all army animals destined for Burma. This was especially important for livestock sent to the fighting area since tinned meat was unacceptable to many Indian soldiers for religious reasons.

Sidney's unrelenting work schedule led to a stroke caused by high blood pressure and he died on Christmas Day in 1945. He was buried in Rangoon War Cemetery. The Burma Star was added to his collection of medals and he is honoured on his old school's Great War Roll. He is commemorated on the family headstone in Deansgrange.

digging up the raj







THE REVEREND HUGH ROBERT SCOTT

1859-1929 PLOT: SOUTH/N1/8

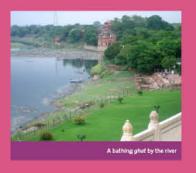
Mahatma Gandhi was not pleased. Christian missionaries he recollected had preached anti-Hindu sermons near his school gate in Rajkot in Gujarat. The Rev. Hugh Robert Scott was not pleased either. Gandhi's allegations filled him 'with painful wonder'. He was the only missionary in Rajkot from 1883-1887 and had never preached near the High School. He was a respected upholder of the Irish Presbyterian Church who had gone to India to 'save the souls of a people who lived in darkness'. As a result of the ensuing correspondence, the two men got to know each other and Gandhi eventually grew to admire the Rev. Hugh Scott.

Hugh's missionary work took him all over Gujarat and he married Jeannie Hill Moore in 1888 in Borsad. The couple had three children. He also served on a council on behalf of the Europeans in the Bombay Presidency. In 1922 he was awarded the *Kaiser-i-Hind* (Emperor of India) medal for 'useful service in the advancement of the public interest in India'. Ironically, Mahatma Gandhi had been a recipient of the award seven years earlier (for ambulance services in South Africa) but had later returned the medal in protest at the Jallianwallah Bagh massacre of 1919.

Hugh's involvement in Gujarati theological writing resulted in the final translation of the bible, based on the English version of 1884. He was assisted by two scholars, one a Brahmin pundit. It was the only Gujarati Reference Bible in 1908. Hugh was a keen numismatist and a prolific writer. His wife Jeannie also assisted with his work and published her own titles.

When the couple returned to Ireland, they settled in Glenageary, Dublin. Hugh died in 1929 and Jeannie, in 1945. Back in India, the Scott Memorial Literature Fund was instituted to honour the Rev. Scott's contribution to literature.













CAPTAIN JAMES W. VAUGHAN, C.B. 1829-1873 ** PLOT: NORTH/B/36

This elaborate tombstone was the inspiration behind the Curator's search for Raj graves in Deansgrange Cemetery.

At the age of thirteen, James William Vaughan enlisted in the Royal Navy. He served in Crimea where he was wounded. In 1857, he joined the *HMS Shannon*, under Captain William Peel, son of the British Prime Minister. The ship was destined for the Opium Wars in China when she was diverted to India, arriving in Calcutta in the storm of a mutiny.

Peel formed a naval brigade, towed it up the Ganges and marched to Cawnpore with a column of seamen and landlubbers. The Shannon's 24-pounder guns and cannons were laboriously towed by oxen or dragged by the naval bluecoats using ropes while elephants pushed the guns with their heads. The march was described as '... a menagerie of men and beasts... soldiers and sailors... camels and elephants... Sikhs and Highlanders'.

Vaughan was mentioned in despatches and promoted to Commander for single-handedly dismounting the enemy's gun and destroying its carriage. He and Peel then proceeded to Lucknow to storm Dilkusha Palace and to support La Martinière College where the schoolboys fought on the side of the British.

Lucknow was recaptured, British families were brought to safety, and Peel died of small pox. The *Shannon's* guns were handed over to the army and the naval brigade sailed home from Calcutta.

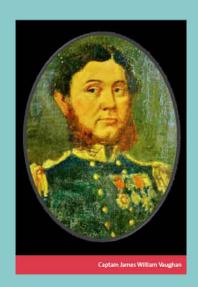
Vaughan was made a Companion of the Bath in 1858 and promoted to Captain. In 1862, he was appointed Aide-de-camp to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland – the only naval officer to hold this post.

together for ten years until Captain James William Vaughan died in April 1873 and Margaret, three years later. Their home, *Stradbrook Hall* (later home to the Presentation Sisters at Rockford Manor) is within walking distance of their final resting place.













GENERAL FREDERICK YOUNG 1786-1874 PLOT: SOUTH/J/7

In 2015, Deansgrange Cemetery celebrated the bicentenary of a battalion of the Gurkha Regiment, around the grave of General Frederick Young who raised the battalion.

Frederick was born in 1786 in Donegal, to the Rev Gardiner Young, Rector of Moville. He was only fourteen when he went to India with the East India Company's Army and fought in the Maratha War of 1803. Soon after, the army turned its attention to the little kingdom of Nepal where the Gurkhas were causing unrest. Frederick, as Aidede-camp to Major-General Sir Rollo Gillespie, set off to tackle the Gurkhas in 1814 but Sir Rollo was killed. Later, Frederick's column was ambushed by the Gurkhas in the Sirmoor Hills. Impressed by their fearlessness, the East India Company formed a corps of Gurkha prisoners and deserters.

In 1816, Frederick was sent to Sirmoor to raise a full battalion. He returned with three thousand men, who became known as the Sirmoor Rifles. He was Commandant of the Sirmoor Rifles, doubling up as civil administrator. Frederick built a fine house in Dehradun and later a hunting lodge higher up in the Himalayas. The settlement that grew around it became the hill station of Mussoorie. It is believed that Frederick introduced tea and the potato to Mussoorie, where plantations for both flourished.

In 1825, Frederick married Jeanette Jasmina Bird who was second-generation Indian and the daughter of a Colonel in the Bengal Army. Jeanette bore eight children over twelve years. Frederick was commanding a brigade in Bihar when Jeanette died in 1852. Two years later, he retired to Ireland. He lived in *Fairy Hill*, near Bray Head until an Indian bank collapsed, taking his savings with it. He downsized to a smaller house, *Albany* in Ballybrack, where he died in 1874.

General Young is still remembered in India and there remains a Young Road in Dehradun.







