

WAX 2229

Note on
John Braddock
Jnt.

WASC 2229

Derek,

The Braddocks

The following is some additional information on the Braddocks.
John Braddock Jnr. is not in the present draft WAPP.

John Braddock Snr.

Suggest adding something to the effect - His son, also John, wrote the influential treatise
A Memoir on Gunpowder (WASC0677)

John Braddock Jnr.

He wrote *A Memoir on Gunpowder* on the theory and practice of the manufacture and proof of gunpowder"originally published in Madras for the East India Company and reprinted in London in 1832.

The following are taken from
Small Arms of the East India Company 1600-1856 D.F.Harding 1999
Volume 111 Ammunition and Performance

P.38

' He was trained as a powder maker at the British Government's Waltham Abbey Mills (where his father John Braddock Snr. was later Master Refiner of Saltpetre) and while there he spent extra time among the workmen to master every part of the process and to pick up opinions. He was recruited by the East India Company and sent out to India in 1813 as one of Captain Thomas Fraser's team of specialists in the various branches of powder making. '

P.80

' Braddock wrote it at the suggestion of the Adjutant General, Colonel T.H.S. Conway CB. Some 300 copies were printed at Madras. of which 12 were sent to the Court of Directors for their interest and for transmission to the Board of Ordnance. The book was reprinted for the author in London in 1832 by his father John Braddock Senior, who was currently Master Refiner of Saltpetre at the Royal Powder Mills, Waltham Abbey. The work filled a gap on the subject of gunpowder in English scholarship, and in the 1840s it is often quoted in the Company's records as the best authority on the subject of gunpowder - no doubt because of its unusually objective approach, with no axes to grind or pet theories to publicise . It received high praise from the gunmaker and author Hemy Wilkinson, is frequently quoted by later authors on gunpowder, and was even summarised in French.'

Regards
Les Tucker

Derek

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Regards

Les

Ian MacFarlane

From: The Archivist [archives@royalgunpowdermills.com]
Sent: 23 November 2011 11:07
To: 'John Croll'
Subject: RE: Braddock family

Attachments: John Braddock Jnr.pdf



John Braddock
Jnr.pdf (1 MB)

Hello John,

I have attached all the information that we have, including John Braddock Snr.
Do you have the book A Memoir on Gunpowder?
You can download a pdf copy from Google books here - http://books.google.co.uk/books?id=6ifVymz576gC&output=acs_help

We currently don't have any search fees.

Thank you,
Ian MacFarlane
IT Coordinator
www.royalgunpowdermills.com
01992707370
Royal Gunpowder Mills
Beaulieu Drive
Waltham Abbey, Essex, EN9 1JY

England & Wales Registered Charity No. 1062968 Registered Office Bank House
66 High Street
Dawley, Telford, Shropshire, TF4 2HD

-----Original Message-----

From: John Croll [mailto:jcroll@iprimus.com.au]
Sent: 22 November 2011 02:09
To: archives@royalgunpowdermills.com
Subject: Braddock family

Would you have any information on John Braddock jnr who was a master refiner who left England in 1813 for India at the request of Capt Frazer he wrote a book Memoirs on Gunpowder madras India 1830 he learnt his trade with his Father John Braddock snr who died in 1840 and buried south wall of Waltham Abbey , If you have any information i would greatly appreciate

If there is any search fees please let me know

Regards John Croll (G/G/Grandson of John Braddock jnr)

Ian MacFarlane

From: The Archivist [archives@royalgunpowdermills.com]
Sent: 25 November 2011 13:43
To: 'John Croll'
Subject: RE: Emailing: JOHN BRADDOCK

Hi John,

Thanks for the article on John Braddock jnr.

We are working on a book - THE WORKFORCE OF THE ROYAL GUNPOWDER MILLS WALTHAM ABBEY 1787 - 1841 - which will include entries for John Braddock Snr and Jnr. The extra information will help.

We would be pleased to receive your written notes on the Braddock family.

The "amusement park" atmosphere is indeed not welcome by all, but we need to somehow increase revenue to keep the site open.

Regards

Thank you,
Ian MacFarlane
IT Coordinator
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Royal Gunpowder Mills
Beaulieu Drive
Waltham Abbey, Essex, EN9 1JY

England & Wales Registered Charity No. 1062968 Registered Office Bank House
66 High Street
Dawley, Telford, Shropshire, TF4 2HD

-----Original Message-----

From: John Croll [mailto:jcroll@iprimus.com.au]
Sent: 24 November 2011 09:13
To: archives@royalgunpowdermills.com
Subject: Emailing: JOHN BRADDOCK

Hi Ian

Thank you for the information on the Braddock Family i am sending a attachment of John Braddock jnr of his achivementes in Madras India , this document will be published in the Families In British India Society Journal in march April 2012 a friend and myself have done the research over the last 2 years i thought you might like to add to the Braddock family history i have been a member of FIBIS for 6 years doing the Braddock family in India my Grandmother was a Braddock

When i was in the UK in June this year i visit the Walham Abbey on a wet and windy sunday talking to the minister and left with him some written notes on the Braddock family for any body who could find any information they where written by Henry Braddock in 1888 if you are interested i could e-mail you a copy I also visited the gun powder mills but it looks like they are making a amusement park out of it there was some interesting exhits

Regards John

The message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:
JOHN BRADDOCK

Note: To protect against computer viruses, e-mail programs may prevent sending or receiving certain types of file attachments. Check your e-mail security settings to determine how attachments are handled.

JOHN BRADDOCK – POWDER MASTER

by

Sylvia C M Murphy

John Braddock 1794 to 1840 was one in a long line of men of the same name. I first came to know of him when John Croll, a descendent, showed me some beautifully written notes with a brief (but incomplete) pedigree which had passed down through the family. Much of the content was copied from the Parish Registers of Waltham Abbey in Essex and the Harleian Society manuscripts in the British Library.

John Croll sought my assistance in verifying and filling out the biographical details of the John Braddock who was sent out to Madras in 1813 as a gunpowder expert to work in the Powder Mills there. Despite finding references in Google Books to John Braddock's published writings from the 1830s on gunpowder manufacture and other matters, early research efforts failed to turn up any employment or career details. Time and persistence were rewarded, as some less usual sources came available. This article will show how some of the details of John Braddock's life in India were filled in.

John Braddock was born in 1794 to John Braddock, Master Refiner of Saltpetre at the Royal Powder Mills, Waltham, and his wife Sarah who he married in 1793. Young John was baptised at the Parish of St Martin in the Fields on 30 April 1794. His mother Sarah Braddock died on 5 November 1834 aged 70¹, and her husband John died in 1840 and was buried close to the south wall outside Waltham Abbey.²

The historical notes inform that young John Braddock:

... was sent out from Waltham Abbey in 1813 by the Hon. East India Co under Captain Fraser of the Engineers. and Altho' in the Civil Service he was made a Lieut to enable him to rank with the Officers of Madras Corps.³

In looking for evidence on-line to corroborate the hand-written notes, we found digitised in Google books a Memoir on Gunpowder which had been authored by John Braddock, Deputy Commissary of Ordnance and published in 1832.⁴ It is in John Braddock's letter to the Secretary of the Military Board, Fort St George, dated 1 July 1829, which is printed at the front of the memoir that we find a summary of some of his time in India. Through this, John impresses as a man of great modesty and humility, no doubt caused in part by his mixed fortunes in India, of which more later. He is also clearly skilled and knowledgeable in his field of endeavour. He presents the memoir to the Military Board "not to be made public, but for purposes of private convenience". He then goes on to remind the Board that he was sent out by the Honourable Court of Directors in 1813 in the gunpowder department, under the late Captain Fraser of the Engineers. He notes his prior experience and education at HM works at Waltham Abbey, and observes that

the plans which Captain Fraser submitted to the Military Board in 1813-1814 were either copies of the sketches I then took, or original designs of my own;...

¹ Waltham Holy Cross Parish Registers, digitised by www.familyrelatives.com (actually a collection of deaths gathered from newspapers etc).

² Recorded in family historical notes, p.1

³ Ibid, p. 5

⁴ *Memoir on Gunpowder in which are detailed the Principles both of its Manufacture and Proof.* By John Braddock Esq, Deputy Commissary of Ordnance. Printed at madras at the expense of the Indian Government for use of the Artillery.; reprinted London 1832.

Indeed the Military Board was so impressed with the contents of the Memoir, that the Deputy Secretary, H Moberly, writes under the orders of the Military Board that:

Viewing the work as one of great merit, and likely to prove of considerable utility to the Corps of Artillery, the Board recommended to Government that 300 copies of the Memoir should be printed at public expense and under your superintendence.

From the above, you would probably expect that John Braddock had spent all of the last 16 years in Madras using and gaining further expertise in the field of gunpowder manufacture. This was not the case.

Mr John Braddock arrived at Madras on August 9, 1813 on the HC Ship Hugh Inglis, occupation shown as Gunpowder Manufactory.⁵ Strangely, he is not listed in the editions of the East India Register and Directory for many years following. Neither do personal records relating to his marriage or baptism of his children show him working with gunpowder.

Marriage: N/2/7, p.?? (LDS Film 521880)
19 February 1819, St Mary's Church, Madras
John Braddock to Elizabeth Stephenson

Baptism: N/2/8, p.?? (LDS film: 521837)
13 June 1822, Black Town
Elizabeth the daughter of John Braddock, **Examiner in the Accountant Generals Office** and Elizabeth his wife, born 9th April 1822, baptised by Wm Roy, Chaplain

Baptism: N/2/9, p. (LDS Film 521838)
3rd August 1824, Black Town
Mary Jane daughter of John Braddock **Examiner in the Accountant General's Office** and Elizabeth his wife born 5th August 1824, baptised by Thomas Lewis, Chaplain

Baptism: N/2/10; p.89 (LDS Film 521838)
2nd October 1826, Black Town
John son of John Braddock and Elizabeth his wife born 9th July 1826 was this day baptised by me; A Denton, Chaplain

Baptism: N/2/13 p.118
21 April 1830, Vepery Church
Henry Stephenson son of John & Elizabeth Braddock, **D[eputy] Ass[istan]t Com[issar]y of Ordnance** born 11 Jany 1830 was baptized by me. Wm Roy, Senr Chaplain

Finally, we see a hint that John Braddock may have been doing work in connection with his area of expertise!

Finding a formal record of John Braddock's employment using resources available in Sydney proved impossible. We then discovered a copy of H A Young's book *The East India Company's Arsenals & Manufactories*, republished approx 2004 in soft cover.⁶ From here we learned that six men had been engaged from Waltham Abbey and the charcoal works at Petworth on five year contracts in Madras at 10 shillings per day, and they would be ranked as Conductors of Ordnance. These were:

J Braddock, R Todd and W Taylor, all expert at making Gunpowder

J Hattersley, J Tims and M Tims were expert at charcoal burning.

The Court of Directors had also paid £40 for expenses for each man at the Boatswain's Mess. Apparently things didn't work out too well for any of the men. One died on the way out, three were

⁵ FIBIS database: "Arrivals from Madras Almanac 1810-1820"; Note: JB is recorded as John Bruddock

⁶ H A Young (Brigadier-General) *The East India Company's Arsenals & Manufactories*, pub The Naval & Military Press Ltd in assoc with The Royal Artillery Museum, Woolwich. (originally published 1937)

sent to Bengal and two – Hattersley and Braddock remained in Madras. John Braddock senior wrote to the Court in early 1817 complaining that his son was “left in a state of inactivity”.⁷ This was despite the fact that his covenant stated “that he was to practise and teach the art of making gunpowder.” Indeed he was certainly inactive in this respect.

Early in 2011, sponsored by FIBIS, a set of LDS Microfilms was obtained on indefinite loan for the local family history centre⁸. These were the lists of early non-official European Residents in India, IOR series O/5/24-31, contained on films 2104564 – 2104568. Most of the lists from Madras during the period 1801-1820 contain very detailed information. From these we were able to start building a picture of John Braddock’s career in India. It is doubtful that he ever practised and taught the art of making gunpowder during the period he was contracted to do so, though whether or not he was paid any compensation is not known. As early as the end of 1814 he is shown doing other work:

A list of unlicenced Europeans who have arrived at Madras since the 10th April 1814 or who have been permitted to reside there by the Government subsequently to that period subject to the approval of the Honorable the Court of Directors

<i>Name:</i>	<i>Braddock, J</i>
<i>Country or Place of Birth</i>	<i>London</i>
<i>Whence Arrived & Date of Arrival</i>	<i>9th August 1813</i>
<i>By What Ship:</i>	<i>The Hugh Inglis</i>
<i>Former Occupation</i>	<i>H C Service</i>
<i>Present Occupation</i>	<i>Auctioneer</i>
<i>Remarks:</i>	<i>He was sent out by the Honorable the Court of Directors to be employed in the H C Powder Mills & the term he was engaged for expires on 9 August 1818</i>

Similar entries continue in the following years. On the list completed 25 March 1819 his present occupation was described as “Commission Warehouse Keeper and Auctioneer employed by Messrs Griffiths & Co.” However in 1820 he is shown as “Examiner in the Accountant General’s Office.” This appointment is the start of his rehabilitation in the service of the East India Company and a steady rise in deserved status and respect.

The collection of inhabitants lists also includes for 1818, 1819 and 1820 lists of uncovenanted civil servants employed in Madras. In the *List of Uncovenanted Europeans Employed in the Honble Company’s Service under the Presidency of Fort St George with a statement of allowances drawn by them as it stood on the 30 April 1820* the name John Braddock appears as an Examiner in the Accountant General’s Office, having been employed in April 1820 on a salary of Rs175.⁹ John seems to have continued in that role at least for the next two or three years.

However, when the officer in command of the Carnatic Ordnance Artificer Corps died near the end of 1824, John Braddock was appointed Superintendent of the Corps.¹⁰ From 1825 he starts to be listed in the Directories as a Deputy Assistant Commissary and Superintendent of the Corps of Carnatic Ordnance Artificers with an appointment date of 19 November 1824¹¹. On 20th August 1831 he was granted the rank and allowances of a Deputy Commissary of Ordnance.¹² In 1833 he was transferred to the Arsenal at Fort St George

⁷ Op cit pp.93 & 94

⁸ LDS Family History Centre; 169 Pennant Street, North Parramatta, NSW 2151, Australia

⁹ IOR: O/5/30 part 3, LDS film: 2104567

¹⁰ Young, op cit, p.95

¹¹ East India Register & Directory for 1825, 2nd edition corrected to 16 Aug 1825, p.265 (per Google books)

¹² Asiatic Journal & Monthly Miscellany, Vol.8, May-Aug 1832, p.43 (per Google books)

According to Young he was appointed Lieutenant in the 1st Native Veteran Battalion in 1833, but also was acting in-charge of the Gunpowder Manufactory for a short time during 1832.

The 1830s were definitely John Braddock's decade, a time when he held both civil and military appointments and was extensively published and quoted.

1 August 1834: Lieut J Braddock, non-effective establishment to be secretary to the Mint Committee.¹³

Although not found in the Asiatic Journals, Brigadier Young writes that in November 1835 John Braddock was posted to the Powder works to assist in the renovation and improvement of the machinery

7 July 1837: Lieut Braddock, of non-effective establishment, to act as actuary and accountant at Government Bank and actuary at Savings Bank, during absence of Mr Skill on sick certificate, or until further orders¹⁴.

Presumably John Braddock had developed significant financial skills during his time spent as an Examiner in the Accountant General's Office during the early 1820s to equip him for this post.

On 19 July 1837, W Bannister esq, assay master, took charge of the mint, and mint machinery, from Lieut Braddock, for the purpose of conducting the copper coinage.¹⁵

15 March 1839, Capt Cordlandt Taylor, artillery to be superintendent of gunpowder manufactory, but to continue to perform duties of deputy principal commissary of ordnance until relieved; and; Lieut J Braddock to act as superintendent of gunpowder manufactory, during employment of Capt Taylor on other duty or until further orders.¹⁶

John Braddock's curious career with the Madras Government is only a part of his story. However, once he was properly on the ladder of progress, he must have grown in the esteem of his peers and seniors. He must have been something of a man with a shed, someone who loved tinkering and inventing, but a person who went the next step, by writing and publishing details of his inventions and findings for the benefit of those who followed him.

Best known is his authoritative Memoir on Gunpowder referred to earlier, which was both reprinted and referred to over many years. He investigated and wrote on diverse topics, which submissions can be found most often in the Madras Journal of Literature and Science. These are some of the matters he commented or wrote about:

Mr Previté's mode of preserving bread for ships etc. This invention was to drive off inherent moisture in bread by moderate heat; then hermetically sealed in tin boxes. When needed the bread is exposed to steam and rebaked lightly and rapidly on the surface. In response to this, Lieut Braddock advised that the same principle had long been practised in Madras where native cooks sprinkle dry hard bread with water, place between two hot earthen pans over a fire, which allows steam to penetrate and soften the mass.¹⁷

A description of a set of Balances made for the purpose of delicate weighing; illustrated by drawings, was the subject of a 7 page letter by Lieut J Braddock¹⁸

¹³ Asiatic Journal, 1 Aug 1834, p.305, issue 56

¹⁴ Asiatic Journal, 1 Dec 1837

¹⁵ Asiatic Journal, 1 Jan 1838

¹⁶ Asiatic Journal, 1 June 1839

¹⁷ J.Asiaic Society, Calcutta, 1 Apr 1834, p.206, issue 28

¹⁸ Madras Journal of Literature & Science, 1 Jan 1835, p.86-93, issue 6

And how about this letter on a very different subject:

*Description and drawings of a self-performing barrel organ.*¹⁹

John Braddock admits to constructing this about 3 years ago (1832) for his own amusement, all the parts were locally sourced and internal workings made by him to his own design, though he admits the outward casing – a handsome piece of furniture - was made by a cabinet maker.

On Assaying Silver – shows the chemist at work again; he has clearly studied the old literature and methods before developing improvements.²⁰

And lastly:

On the Rule of a Clock with a Wooden Pendulum; and on the longitudinal Expansion and Contraction of Wood

This letter of 10 pages begins: *Being in the practice of amusing myself during leisure hours in experimental and philosophical pursuits, I took a fancy about a year ago to make an astronomical clock, intending it to be a correct time-keeper.*

John Braddock also engaged in some explorations of the *Seven Pagodas*, sculptures, excavations and diverse findings at Mamallaipur. His descriptive pamphlet was subsequently much quoted and republished in 1869 in *The Seven Pagodas on the Coromandel Coast*, edited by Captain Carr.

Lieutenant John Braddock and his wife are known to have fathered five children of whom one, Elizabeth, died aged 2 in 1824. The eldest, Sarah Charlotte Braddock (no baptism found) said to be born 10 December 1819, married John Macdougall in Vepery 8 November 1837 and died in 1906 in Edinburgh, Scotland; John Braddock jr (the ancestor of John Croll) married 28 June 1853 in Singapore to Catherine Moore. He died of snake bite near Pulicat on 19 November 1864. Neither Mary Jane Braddock (b.1824, d. Melbourne, Victoria 1901), nor Henry Stephenson Braddock (b. 1830 – d. 1850) married

Lieutenant John Braddock, gunpowder expert, auctioneer, chemist, inventor, accountant, actuary auditor, and seemingly a generally good all round fellow, died at Madras on 9th September 1840.

Sylvia C M Murphy
20 November 2011

¹⁹ Madras Journal of Literature & Science, 1 Oct 1835, p.343-356, issue 9

²⁰ Madras Journal of Literature & Science, 1 April 1836, p.72-86, issue 11

Braddock, Lieut. J. "IV.—A description of a set of Balances made for the purpose of delicate weighing; illustrated by drawings." *Madras Journal of Literature and Science* [Madras, India] [1 Jan. 1835]: n.p. *19th Century UK Periodicals*. Web. 19 Nov. 2011.

BRADDOCK, J. "IV.—Description and drawings of a self-performing barrel organ." *Madras Journal of Literature and Science* [Madras, India] [1 Oct. 1835]: n.p. *19th Century UK Periodicals*. Web. 19 Nov. 2011.

BRADDOCK, Lieutenant. "I.—On Assaying Silver." *Madras Journal of Literature and Science* [Madras, India] [1 Apr. 1836]: n.p. *19th Century UK Periodicals*. Web. 19 Nov. 2011.

B., J. "III.—On the Solidifying, or induration of Chuam.—Communicated through Lieutenant BRADDOCK." *Madras Journal of Literature and Science* [Madras, India] [1 Apr. 1836]: n.p. *19th Century UK Periodicals*. Web. 19 Nov. 2011.

"CIVIL APPOINTMENTS, &C." *Asiatic Journal* [London, England] [1 Dec. 1837]: n.p. *19th Century UK Periodicals*. Web. 19 Nov. 2011.

"Multiple Essay Items." *Asiatic Journal* [London, England] [1 Jan. 1838]: n.p. *19th Century UK Periodicals*. Web. 19 Nov. 2011.

BRADDOCK, Lieutenant. "VI.—On the Rule of a Clock with a Wooden Pendulum; and on the longitudinal Expansion and Contraction of Wood." *Madras Journal of Literature and Science* [Madras, India] [1 Jan. 1838]: n.p. *19th Century UK Periodicals*. Web. 19 Nov. 2011.

BRADDOCK, Lieutenant. "III.—On Chemical Tests." *Madras Journal of Literature and Science* [Madras, India] [1 Oct. 1839]: n.p. *19th Century UK Periodicals*. Web. 19 Nov. 2011. (Letter to editor – 89 pages!)