

Farquhar, John (1751 - 1826), Scottish millionaire dealer in gunpowder, was born in Aberdeen in 1751.

He went to India as a cadet in the Bombay establishment of the East India Company army. He had a serious wound in his hip, which forced him to leave military service. He remained in India as a free trader in Bengal and interested himself in chemical experiments; as a result he was asked by the governor, Lord Cornwallis, to examine how the gunpowder produced at Pultah could be improved. He became superintendent of the Pultah factory and sole purveyor of gunpowder to the British army. This made him extremely rich. He was a favourite of Warren Hastings, the de facto first Governor-General of India.



John Farquhar, engraving, 1826

He returned to England with a fortune of about £500,000 which he invested in Hoare's bank. Despite his wealth he insisted on living as poorly as possible. He lodged in a dirty house in Upper Baker Street, looked after by an elderly woman servant. He became a partner in the house of Basset, Farquhar and Co., then bought a share in the Whitbread brewery business. He was also an arms dealer.

In 1822 Farquhar purchased Thomas Beckford's estate at Fonthill Park at auction. He lived in the building occasionally until the enormous tower collapsed. He converted the remaining buildings to a woollen factory.

He was an admirer of the Hindu moral system and was a founding member of RAS in 1823, paying subscriptions for 1823 through to 1826.

He was very eccentric with numerous interests; he was an accomplished classical scholar and excelled in maths and engineering. He never married.

He died on 5 July 1826 on New Road opposite Regent's Park; his fortune came to one and a half million pounds.

Address: (1823, 1824, 1825) New Road

Farquhar, Sir Robert Townsend, Bart. (1776 - 1830), British merchant, politician and colonial governor, was born on 14 October 1776. He was the son of Sir Walter Farquhar, Bart., a popular London apothecary and physician to George III.

Farquhar joined the East India Company in Madras as a writer in 1795. Promoted by his father, he enjoyed the support of various powerful figures, including Lord Wellesley, Lord Cavendish Bentinck (members of the RAS) and the Duke of Portland. In spite of this he had difficulty in getting government appointments and often found himself with no salary.



Robert Townsend Farquhar, Mauritius Turf Club

He eventually rose in the EIC service, becoming Assistant Resident in Amboyna 1797 and Deputy Resident in 1798. From 1798 to 1802 he was Commercial Resident. From 1804 to 1805 he was Governor, Prince of Wales Island (modern Penang), and moved to Mauritius as Governor from 1811 to 1823. While there, he supported the slave trade, saying that it was part of the local customs; this earned him a reprimand from Lord Liverpool, (also a member of the RAS and then Foreign Secretary), who instructed him to suppress the trade. In fact, the slave trade, although officially abolished, continued under Farquhar's governorship for some time.

He was elected to RAS membership in 1824 and paid his admission fee and annual subscription in 1826 with an additional paid subscription for 1827. In April 1826, Col Farquhar donated a copy of *Morrison's Lectures on Mental Disease* to the RAS. In November 1827 he donated twelve volumes of Malayan MSS. He was also a member of the Founding Committee of the Oriental Club in 1824.

He was MP for Newtown 1825-1826, then for Hythe 1826 to 1830 and a director of the East India Company from 1826 to 1828.

He died on 16 March 1830 at Richmond Terrace, Whitehall.

Address: (1824, 1825) 13 Bruton Street

The RAS library has numerous other MSS belonging to Farquhar; it is presumed that these belonged to William Farquhar, Governor of Singapore, and not a member of the RAS in 1823, 24 or 25. His main collection of drawings of fauna and flora was given to the RAS library in 1826; many of these were sold at auction in the 1980s.

Hikayat Raja Iskandar Dhulkarnain. / Written by Enci Yahya bin 'Abdulwahid anak Melaka (cf. Farquhar MS 5) on the order of Farquhar. (A.H. 1232 {C.E. 1816}.)

Farrer, James William (1785 - 1863), British lawyer, was born in June 1785 in Holborn, London. He was a member of an old legal family which included barristers based in Bedford Square, and solicitors, acting for the Royal family, Coutts Bank, and other prominent clients, based in Lincoln's Inn Fields.

In 1811 he married Henrietta Elisabeth White-Ridley, widow of John Scott, son of the 1st Lord Eldon, Lord Chancellor.

He was a Governor of Coram's Foundling Hospital in 1819. There is a memorial tablet to him in the hospital's chapel.

He was elected to RAS membership in 1825 and was also a member of the Athenaeum in 1824.

He was appointed Master in the Court of Chancery in 1824 and in 1828 was involved in legal proceedings as executor of James Farrer. The case was concerning lands entrusted in 1817 by the Duke of York and Albany to Sir Edmund Antrobus (member of the RAS) and James Farrer against debts owed by the Duke.

In September 1829 as Master in Chancery he gave free pardons to several convicted criminals (details are in the National Archives). He stood for election to Parliament for Weymouth in the election of 1826 but came last out of five candidates. Thomas Fowell Buxton, also a member of the RAS, was elected. During the election he was condemned in the press as being "the son of a solicitor, and the creature of his relation by marriage, the Lord Chancellor, Lord Eldon, who had appointed him master in chancery in 1824."

He died on 10 October 1863.

Address: (1825) 33 Bedford Square (in *Boyle's Court Guide* 1821); in 1834 he lived at 11 Hill Street, Berkeley Square



James William Farrer, mezzotint, 1840, National Portrait Gallery

Fitzclarence, Lieutenant Colonel George FRS (1794 - 1842), English peer and soldier was born on 28 January 1794. He was the eldest illegitimate son of William IV.

He served in the army during the Peninsular War and then in India. During his service in the Peninsular War he was involved in the court-martial of his commanding officer, Colonel Quentin. The court-martial was conducted by the Duke of York, his uncle (and Vice-Patron of the RAS from 1823 to 1827), who reprimanded Quentin, but also criticised the officers under him. Fitzclarence and several others were sent back to their regiments. He quarrelled with his father William IV over his allowance and the king's disapproval of his drinking and gambling. He was present at a supper and ball given by Mrs Jessy Bebb (her husband was a member of the RAS) in 1821.



Major-General George Augustus Frederick Fitzclarence, 1st Earl of Munster, by James Atkinson, RAS collection

He was a founding member of the RAS in 1823 and paid subscriptions from 1823 to 1827. He became the society's President in 1841. Given that he was the only member of the Royal Family to be a member of the society in its early years, he may have been instrumental in persuading his uncle, George IV, to accept the role of Patron, enabling the addition of the title 'Royal' to the society's original name in June 1823; though this does not figure in the minutes of Council or the General Meetings. He donated his book *Memoir on the Duty of a Picquet* to the RAS in February 1827, and two of his books (*Account of a Hussar's Life* and *Account of the British Campaign of 1809*) in 1829. He was a founding member of the committee of the Oriental Translation Fund and its vice-president for a time. He was also a member of the Athenaeum in 1824.

He was Aide-de-Camp to Queen Victoria from 1831, the same year in which he was created Earl of Munster. He held several important-sounding official positions, such as Governor of Windsor Castle and Lieutenant of the Tower of London and was made a Privy Counsellor in 1833.

He became progressively more unstable mentally and was kept away from his father as meetings between them invariably ended in rows. He committed suicide in 1842 at the age of forty-eight, using a pistol given to him by his uncle, George IV. It has been suggested that he suffered from porphyria, the disease which affected his grandfather George III.

Address: (1823, 1824) Egremonts, Grosvenor Place; (1825) St James's Palace

The RAS Library has:

Journal of a route across India, through Egypt, to England in the latter end of the year 1817, and the beginning of 1818 / by Lieutenant-Colonel Fitzclarence (1819).

The RAS library also has his portrait by James Atkinson:

Major-General George Augustus Fitzclarence, 1st Earl of Munster (1794-1842)-1842) / James Atkinson (c. 1831).

Fitzgerald, Captain Charles (1784 - 1859), soldier, was born November 1784 in Dublin. He was the seventh son of Colonel Edward Fitzgerald of Carrygoran, and younger brother of General Sir Augustin Fitzgerald.

He joined the Bengal Infantry as an ensign in 1801 and transferred to the cavalry in 1802. He served in various wars in India until 1812 when he returned to England on furlough. Back in India in 1815, he was promoted Captain in 1816 and moved to Nagpore with the 6th Cavalry Regiment. On 26 November 1817, Captain Charles Fitzgerald led his 6th Bengal Native Cavalry in a desperate charge against Mahratta Arab forces at Sitabuldi, a position near Nagpore, in which he scattered the enemy cavalry and ensured victory for the embattled British troops under Sir Richard Jenkins. He was the hero of the battle and was awarded the 3rd Mahratta War Medal (which was sold at auction July 2015).

He was a founding member of RAS in 1823.

He was awarded CB in 1831 in the Coronation Honours list of William IV, that same year he was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel in the Indian Army.

He died on 18 April 1859 in London; his memorial is with memorials to other members of the Fitzgerald family in Kilnasoolagh church in Ireland.

Address: (1823) Union Club; (1824, 1825) nil

Fleming, John MP FRS (1747 - 1829), surgeon in the Indian Medical Service, politician and naturalist, was born in 1747.

An orphan, he was brought up by an uncle who encouraged him to study medicine. He entered the Indian Medical Service in 1768 and by the age of 40 was on the Medical Board in Calcutta. He was President of the Board in 1800 and was also in charge of the Royal Botanical Garden at Calcutta. While in India he organised a scheme for making drawings of Indian plants from the Punjab by local artists. The 13 volumes of drawings were bought by the University of London in 1887. During this time he wrote *A catalogue of Indian medicinal plants and drugs, with their names in the Hindustani and Sanscrit languages* which was published in 1810.

On his return to England he became MP for Gatton (1818-20) and then for Saltash (1820-26).

He was a founding member of RAS in 1823 when he donated specimens of wool from oriental sheep and goats. In December 1826 he donated his *Oriental Miscellany* to the society.

He died on 17 May 1829 in Gloucester Place, London.

Address: (1823, 1824, 1825) 104 Gloucester Place, Portman Square (in *Boyle's Court Guide* 1821)



Portrait of Richard Wellesley (brother of the Duke of Wellington) by Robert Home, commissioned in India by John Fleming in 1805 (details from the sitter book of Robert Home)

Fletcher, Edward (DOB unknown - 1847), was a London banker. He set up the firm of Fletcher, Alexander and Co. on 31 December 1815 together with James Alexander and Henry Porcher, both of whom were members of RAS. This replaced a previous partnership of 1805 between him, Alexander and Josias Du Pré Porcher, father of Henry Porcher and RAS member. Fletcher, Alexander & Co. traded until at least 1860.

He was a founding member of RAS in 1823 and made a donation of £20 to the society that same year.

The ninth report (1828) of the commission looking into the affairs of the estate of the Rajah of Tanjore, found that he, Alexander and Porcher were all owed money from the estate following agreements made in 1824. In that same year Fletcher purchased the freehold of 44 Lincoln's Inn Fields for £4515.

In 1831, he and Joseph Fletcher dissolved the partnership they had had with John Myrie Holl, as Irish factors and merchants, and stated that they are carrying on the same business under the same name as Fletcher, Son & Co.

Address: (1823, 1824, 1825) 9 Devonshire Square, Bishopsgate Street, Putney; in 1834 was at Park Street, Grosvenor Square

Forbes, Major-General Benjamin (later Forbes-Gordon) (1768 - 1840), soldier, was born in 1768 in Scotland.

Starting as Lieutenant of the 73rd Regiment in 1789, he rose steadily through the ranks until he was appointed Major-General in 1813 and Lieutenant-General in May 1825. He was ADC to Lord Cornwallis in 1792. He served in India between 1788 and 1811, taking part in the second attack on Seringapatam in 1799; later in his service in India he commanded companies of the 77th Regiment. He ended his army service in Ireland.

He took the additional surname of 'Gordon' when he inherited the estates of Balbithan from his great-uncle.

He was a founding member of RAS in 1823 and paid his subscriptions from 1823 to 1827.

He was obviously interested in antiquities as is evinced by a letter to Forbes from Sir Grenville Temple, in which a Phoenician tombstone is described at length: "I feel inclined to imagine that Maghrawah occupies the situation of one of those Libyo-Phoenician towns or villages which were never colonised by the Romans: for though we find several fragments of coarsely executed bas-reliefs representing men and animals, evidently of a date anterior to the epoch when sculpture attained any degree of perfection, yet I saw not a single vestige of the workmanship either of the later Carthaginians or of their conquerors. Not the smallest fragment of either capital frieze or cornice is discernible." Sir Grenville Temple donated the tombstone to RAS in 1833, this letter is from December of that year.

Forbes died on 18 August 1840 in Paris.

Address: (1823, 1824, 1825) Nil (later his address was Union Place, New Road); in 1834 he lived at Malta.

Forbes, Sir Charles, Bart. MP (1773 - 1849), Scottish politician, was born on 3 April 1773. A member of the Bellabeg branch of the Forbes clan, he was the son of George Forbes, minister of Leochel Parish, Scotland.

He was born in Scotland, educated at Aberdeen and went to India in 1789 to join the family firm of Forbes & Co of Bombay, founded by his uncle, John Forbes. Forbes & Co. were traders in many commodities including cotton and opium; they were also bankers, eventually being the bankers of the Bombay Government.

He was a senior member of the court of directors of the East India Company. He returned to England in 1811 and became MP for Beverley in the following year. He moved to become MP for Malmesbury from 1818 to 1832. When his uncle, John Forbes the elder, died in 1821, he inherited the estate of Newe. George IV made him a baronet in 1823.

He was a founding member of RAS in 1823 and paid his subscriptions from 1823 to 1827. He was a member of the Literary Society of Bombay in 1823 and a member of the Founding Committee of the Oriental Club in 1824.

He spoke frequently in the Commons on Indian matters: he condemned the conduct of missionaries, spoke against Lord Amherst's treatment of mutineers, and frequently criticized the affairs of the British rulers of India in general. He supported women's rights to vote and was a very generous supporter of Indian charities. In 1840 a statue was erected in his honour by the inhabitants of Bombay.

He died on 20 November 1849 at Fitzroy Square.

Address: (1823, 1824, 1825) 3 & 9 Fitzroy Square (in Boyle's Court Guide 1821)



Ivory bust of Sir Charles Forbes by Chantrey, Art Gallery of Ontario

Forbes, Francis (1784 - 1841), a Chief Justice of Newfoundland and first Chief Justice of New South Wales, was born in 1784 in Bermuda.

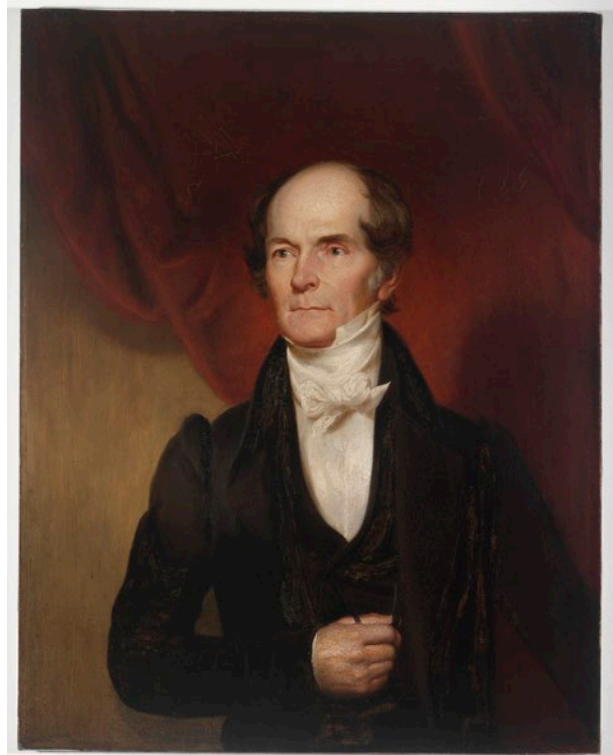
His family moved to Bermuda from Scotland following the battle of Culloden. He came to London in 1803 to study at Lincoln's Inn. He returned to Bermuda as Crown Law Officer.

He became Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Newfoundland in 1816, though this proved to be a difficult position as there was no real rule of law in the territory which was in effect ruled by the governor, Admiral Hamilton.

He returned to England in 1822. He was a founding member of RAS in 1823 and paid subscriptions for 1823, 1824 and 1825.

Although he had been asked to return to Newfoundland, he accepted the post of Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of New South Wales. He arrived with his family in Australia in 1824 and initially lodged with the governor, Sir Thomas Brisbane, with whom they became very friendly. He fell out quite quickly with a leading local family, the MacArthurs, who were very antagonist towards Governor Brisbane, so much so that he left his post in 1825. The new governor, Sir Ralph Darling arrived and for a time worked harmoniously with Forbes. Soon there were problems caused by differences of opinion over the role of the Governor and that of the Chief Justice. In the end in 1834, he was forced to retire for reasons of health. He was allowed a pension and retired to Sydney. He died on 8 November 1841 in Sydney.

Address: (1823) America (indistinctly handwritten); (1824, 1825) Nil



Sir Francis William Forbes, artist unknown, State Library of New South Wales

Forbes, General Gordon (1738 - 1828), British soldier, was born in 1738 in Aberdeenshire, Scotland. He was the son of Nathaniel Forbes, Laird of Auchernach.

He joined the army in 1756 as an ensign in the 33rd Regiment of Foot, then became Captain in 1762. He served in America, at Havannah, in Louisiana, and then as part of Burgoyne's invasion from Canada. He became Lieutenant-Colonel of the 102nd Regiment of Foot in 1781 and left for India, where he was promoted Colonel. He commanded the forces at Santo Domingo from 1798 to 1800. He became a full General in 1812.

He had five sons and five daughters; four of his sons were killed in India or the West Indies.

He was a founding member of RAS in 1823 and paid subscriptions for 1823 and 1824.

He died on 17 January 1828 at Ham Common House.

His will, dated 4 February 1828, is in the National Archives.

Address: (1823, 1824, 1825) Ham Common, Surrey

Forbes, John (1801 - 1840), businessman and politician, was born on 15 February 1801.

He was a member of the Bellabeg branch of the Forbes clan. John Forbes Junior was the eldest son of Sir Charles Forbes and grand-nephew of John Forbes senior (nicknamed "Bombay Jock") who had founded the family firm in Bombay in 1767. The company is still trading, being part of the Tata organisation, and is counted one of the oldest companies in the world still trading under its original name. His London office, Forbes & Co., was one of the main East India traders in London.

John Forbes Junior apparently shared the house in Fitzroy Square with his father.

He was a founding member of RAS in 1823 and paid his subscriptions for 1823 and 1824.

Forbes lost £476.8.9 in the failure of the bank Marsh, Sibbald & Co. in 1824. The executors of John Forbes, Junior, with Sir Charles Forbes as chief executor, lost £844.6.5 in the same bank.

He was MP for Malmesbury for six years (1826-1832), alongside his father.

He was never in very good health, and died at the age of 39 of tuberculosis on 20 December 1840. In his will he left his library to his father.

His son, Charles, inherited the baronetcy on his grandfather's death in 1849.

Address: (1823, 1824) 3 & 9 Fitzroy Square (in *Boyle's Court Guide* 1821); in 1834 he lived at 15 Harley Street

Forbes, Michie (1779 - 1839), civil servant in the East India Company, was born on 16 May 1779 in Crimond, Aberdeenshire.

He was a member of the Bellabeg branch of the Forbes clan; he was son of George Forbes, minister of Leochel Parish, Scotland, and brother of Sir Charles Forbes. He went to India to serve under the supervision of his brother Charles, and learnt Indian languages and business customs there. He was appointed to the Madras Civil Service. While in India he became Chairman of the family firm, Forbes & Co., in 1816.

He married Mary Ashburner, the step-daughter of his brother Charles, in London in 1816. Mary was well-known in the family as she had been kidnapped in 1809 (aged 12) by a Mrs Morgan and taken to the USA. Her mother went after her and brought her back.

As well as being a founding member of RAS in 1823, he was a member of the Highland Society of London and a subscriber to the London Vaccine Institution.

He died on 21 August 1839 at Silwood Park, Sunning Hill Berkshire.

His will, dated 2 October 1839, is in the National Archives.

Address: (1823, 1824, 1825) 7 Fitzroy Square

Fortescue, Thomas (1784 - 1872), Anglo-Indian civil servant, was born on 12 November 1780. He was the son of Gerald Fortescue and Elisabeth Tew.

He worked in the Indian Civil Service from 1798 to 1821 in various places, including Benares, Dacca, Moorshedabad, Delhi and Patna. He was the cousin of Henry, Marquess Wellesley, later Governor-General, and served as his secretary when Wellesley was Lieutenant-Governor of Oudh from 1801 to 1803. Previously Fortescue served as Commissioner at Delhi in 1797. Then he was appointed Secretary, Financial and Revenue to the Indian Government in 1815.

He founded the H. H. (Hog Hunting) Club of Bengal in 1807. In 1812 when he was judge and Magistrate at Allahabad, he built a large bungalow for himself there, a picture of which is in the British Museum collections.

Due to ill health he visited the Cape of Good Hope in 1816.

In 1820 John Forbes wrote to Fortescue urging him to leave India; he returned to Europe in 1821 and retired from the EIC service in 1825.

He was a founding member of RAS in 1823 and paid subscriptions for 1823 and 1824.

From 1830 to 1834 he gave evidence to the Select Committee appointed to inquire into the affairs of the East India Company and into instances of extortion; he said that in general he did not think it was advantageous to promote natives to positions of responsibility in government.

In 1831 he won a silver cup at the Brussels Races, but had to pay duty on it, and wrote to complain; his letter is in the Gloucestershire Archives, which hold material about him.

As an old man, on 19 March 1859, he married Louisa Margaret Russell, daughter of Thomas Russell.

He died on 7 September 1872 at Eaton Square, London.

He wrote:

Report on the Revenue System of the Delhi Territories 1820)

Address: (1823) Brussels; (1824) 31 Portland Place; (1825) Nil



**Thomas Fortescue, 1st Baron Clermont,
Albumen Print by Camille Silvy, 1861, National
Portrait Gallery**

Francklin, Lt Col William (1763 - 1839) soldier and oriental scholar, was born in 1763. He was the son of Thomas Francklin, Professor of Greek at Cambridge.

Francklin studied at Westminster School and Trinity College, Cambridge. Instead of following his father into an academia he decided to pursue a military career, joining the East India Company army in India as a cadet in the Bengal Native Infantry in 1782. He moved up the military hierarchy becoming lieutenant in 1789, captain in 1796, major in 1810 and lieutenant-colonel in 1825.

He retired from the army in 1825 and returned for a time to England, where he became librarian of the Royal Asiatic Society in 1838, having been on the Society's council in 1836. He contributed many articles to the society's journal and gave several lectures on oriental subjects. He was also a member of the committee of the Oriental Translation Fund in 1835.

He was predominantly known as an oriental scholar, particularly of Persia where he spent a year studying the language with a Persian family. He published extensively on a range of oriental topics, his first book, *Observations made on a Tour from Bengal to Persia in 1786–7; with a short account of the remains of the Palace of Persepolis*, was published in Calcutta in 1788.

The British Museum has a basalt frieze from Gaur, with an inscription in Arabic, which was discovered by Francklin in 1817.

He died on 12 April 1839 in India.

His works include:

Remarks and Observations on the Plain of Troy, made during an Excursion in June 1799, London, 1800.

Tracts, Political, Geographical, and Commercial; on the dominions of Ava, and the North-Western parts of Hindostan, London, 1811.

Inquiry concerning the Site of ancient Palibothra, &c. London, 1815–22

Researches on the Tenets and Doctrines of the Jeynes and Boodhists; conjectured to be the Brachmanes of ancient India. In which is introduced a discussion on the worship of the serpent in various countries of the world, London, 1827. A review of this work can be found in "The Classical Journal" Vol 36, 1827

NOTE: in the RAS Journal 1827 spelled Franklin:

A Lieutenant-Colonel William Franklin was a Member of RAS in 1827 having donated four books, one engraving, eleven manuscripts and 25 drawings the year before. He also donated his book on *Researches into the Doctrines of the Jeynes and Buddhists* to the RAS.

Franklin, Captain James FRS (1783 -1834), British soldier and naturalist, was born in 1783 in Lincolnshire.

He was one of twelve children; one of his younger brothers was the Arctic explorer Sir John Franklin and his niece Sarah married Alfred Lord Tennyson. Following his schooling at Edward VI Grammar School in Louth, he joined the East India Company as a cadet in 1805. He served in the 1st Bengal Cavalry and as an expert on geology he undertook many surveys over parts of India, carrying out a survey of the whole of Bundelkund between 1815 and 1821. During these expeditions he collected samples of birds, made paintings of them, and sent the specimens to the Zoological Society in London.

Birds which are named after him are: Golden-throated Barbet or Franklin's Barbet, *Megalaima franklinii*; the Grey-breasted Prinia is also referred to as Franklin's Prinia; the SW race of the Plain Prinia is called *Prinia inornata franklinii* ("Birds of India, Kolkata Birds")

He published many articles in the *Transactions of the Asiatic Society of Bengal*, *The Edinburgh Journal of Science*, *The Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, amongst others.

He was a member of RAS in 1824 and paid a composition subscription as elected non-resident member.

He died on 31 August 1834.

Address: (1824, 1825) Nil (elected as a non-resident member)

Fraser, George (DOB unknown - 1837), an East India Company merchant, lived in Camden Hill, but had his offices in New City Chambers in the City. Between 1807 and 1814, he owned the *Baring*, a 3-decker East Indiaman which made three voyages to Madras and Bengal for the EIC under his ownership; these were in 1807, 1809 and 1811.

He acted as administrator of the estate of William Macfarlane, second mate of the East Indiaman, *Earl Cornwallis*. Earlier, in 1810, he was executor of the estate of Captain Charles Hutton, captain of the East Indiaman *Lord Nelson*.

He was a founding member of RAS in 1823 and paid his subscriptions from 1823 to 1827.

In 1834 he was a mortgagee for an estate in Antigua called Mill Hill. In 1837 he held stock in the East India Company.

He died in 1837, his will, dated 28 November 1837, showed his estate to be around £120,000.

Address: (1823, 1824, 1825) Camden Hill, Kensington

Fraser, James Baillie (1783 - 1856) traveller and artist, was born on 11 June 1783 in Edinburgh.

He spent his childhood in the family castle of Moniack, but went to school in Edinburgh. At the age of 16 he was sent to Guyana to try to rescue his family's sugar plantations but failed and returned to Scotland in 1811. In 1813 he sailed for India to join his four brothers, all of whom were employed by the East India Company (one of whom, William Fraser, was also a member of the RAS). From Calcutta he went to the Himalayas, sketching and writing about the geology and plants of the region.



James Baillie Fraser, by William Brockedon, 1833

In 1820 he left Calcutta for Bombay, where he met up with John McNeill (also a member of the RAS). Together they travelled to Persia disguised as Persian merchants.

He returned to London in 1823. He was elected to RAS membership in 1824 and paid his subscriptions from 1824 to 1827. He donated seven items to the society in 1824, including oriental guns and swords, and in November 1825 donated a copy of his *Journal of a Tour through Part of the Himalaya Mountains*. He was also a member of the Athenaeum 1824.

In 1833 the government sent him to Persia to investigate the increasing Russian influence there. He stayed there until 1835, and then was kept busy by the Foreign Office writing reports on the Persian situation. He took charge of three Qajar princes who came to London to plead their case against the Persian authorities.

His father died in 1835 and he became Laird of Reelig; he occupied most of the rest of his life with Scottish affairs and wrote several historical novels as well as his travel books.

He died on 23 January 1856 in Moniack, Inverness.

Address: (1824, 1825) Moniack, Inverness

He published many travel books illustrated with his aquatints, including:

Journal of a Tour through Part of the Himalaya Mountains and to the Sources of the Jumna and the Ganges 1820

A Narrative of a Journey into Khorasan in the Years 1823 and 1822, including some Account of the Countries to the North-East of Persia 1825

Travels and Adventures in the Persian Provinces on the Southern Banks of the Caspian Sea 1826

The RAS library has:

Journal of a tour through part of the snowy range of the Himalaya mountains, and to the sources of the rivers Jumna and Ganges / by James Baillie Fraser, esq. (1820.)

A winter's journey (Tâtar), from Constantinople to Tehran: with travels through various parts of Persia, &c. / by James Baillie Fraser. (1838)

An historical and descriptive account of Persia: from the earliest ages to the present time, with a detailed view of its resources, government, population, natural history, and the character of its inhabitants, particularly of the wandering tribes, including a description of Afghanistan and Beloochistan / by James B. Fraser ; illustrated by a map and thirteen engravings by Jackson. (MDCCCXXXIV [1834])

Travels in Koordistan, Mesopotami : including an account of parts of those countries hitherto unvisited by Europeans with sketches of the characters and manner of the Koordish and Arab tribes / by J. Baillie Fraser. (1840)

Also many of his paintings, including

The gateway of Akbar's tomb at Sikandra. / Fraser, James Baillie (c. 1815)

Akbar's tomb at Sikandra. / Fraser, James Baillie (c. 1815)

Fraser, William (1784 - 1835), British civil servant, was born on 6 September 1784. He was the son of Edward Satchwell Fraser of Reelig, Scotland, and the brother of James Bailie Fraser.



William Fraser, by Robert Home, ca. 1806

He was sent to India to try to repair the family's finances which had been ruined by speculative purchase of plantations in the West Indies. He was agent to the Governor-General in Delhi during the reign of the last Mughal Emperor. He became what William Dalrymple calls a "White Mughal", because he had an Indian wife and children, and adopted Mughal customs. He was fascinated by Mughal traditions and art; he commissioned Mughal artists to make him a book showing Mughal life at the time. The work was called the *Fraser Album*.

He was a member of RAS in 1824. He was also a member of the Royal Society of Arts in 1823 and the RSA in 1825.

He was murdered on 22 March 1835 by an assassin hired by the young Nawab of Ferozpur whom he had angered during a legal battle over the Nawab's inheritance. He was buried at St James' Church, Delhi. The Nawab was later hanged for his part in the crime.

Address: (1824) 47 Doughty Street; (1825) 30 Tavistock Square; in 1834 he lived at 22 Wilton Crescent (in *Boyle's Court Guide* 1821 Alex Fraser lived at 47 Doughty Street)

The RAS Library has:

India revealed: the art and adventures of James and William Fraser 1801-35 / Mildred Archer and Toby Falk (1989)

Frederick, Major Edward KCB (1784 - 1866), soldier in the East India Company army, was born on 23 June 1784. He was the son of Colonel Charles Frederick, and nephew of Sir John Frederick, 4th Baronet. His son, Charles, inherited the title as 7th Baronet and his grandson Sir Edward Frederick was 9th Baronet.

Like his father, he served in the East India Company army in India, becoming Commissary-General of the Bombay army.

He was a member of the Literary Society of Bombay in 1823 and a member of RAS in 1824, paying his

subscriptions from 1824 to 1826. In 1834 he contributed 10 guineas to the society's Oriental Translation Fund.

Frederick was made KCB in the coronation honours list of 1838. In 1860, the then Lieutenant-General, Sir Edward Frederick, was promoted to General. Details of his army service are held in the British Library, Asian and African Studies Department.

He died on 5 December 1866 in Winchester.

Address: (1824, 1825) Nil; in 1834 his address was Commissary General, Bombay



General Edward Frederick, calotype photograph, 1850-60, National Portrait Gallery

Frost, John (1803 - 1840), physician and botanist, founder of the Medico-Botanical Society of Great Britain, was born in 1803 near Charing Cross, London.

As a youth he started to study medicine at the Bethlehem Hospital, but quarrelled with his tutor, Dr Wright, and left. He then studied botany. In 1821, at the age of 18, he had the idea of founding the Medico-Botanical Society of Great Britain, with the object of studying the medicinal properties of plants, and the *materia medica* of other countries. His persistence got him an introduction to George IV, who approved the project and agreed to be its patron in 1828. Frost was appointed botanical tutor to two of the King's sons. This royal connection was exploited by Frost who expanded the society by bringing it to the notice of foreign princes and statesmen. He even solicited the support of the Duke of Wellington (Frost dressed himself as a Lieutenant-General for the occasion, but Wellington does not seem to have noticed the imposture).

With no academic qualifications whatsoever, Frost became a member of the Society of Antiquaries, the Royal Society of Edinburgh, the Linnaean Society and gave lectures at the Royal Institution and St Thomas's Hospital.

In December 1825 he donated a copy of his *Orations delivered before the Medico-Botanical Society of London* to RAS. He became a member of RAS in 1826 and paid subscriptions for 1826 and 1827. In June 1827, he donated copies of three of his works to the RAS: these were *Account of the Science of Botany*; *Remarks on the Mustard Tree*; and *Observations on Croton Tiglium*.

When, however, he tried to get himself elected to the Royal Society, he was blackballed. His arrogance annoyed many people, and when he came to the Annual General Meeting of the Medico-Botanical Society wearing his many foreign orders and decorations, he was met with hostility. At a meeting of society's council on 17 December 1829, it was decided that his functions as director should be suspended and that he should give back to the society its documents, including the Signature Book of members, which he insisted belonged to him. At a further meeting on 8 January 1830 convened by Earl Stanhope, the President, he was stripped of his office and expelled from the Society. The whole proceedings are described in great detail in the *Asiatic Journal and Monthly Miscellany* for 1830 (pp 162 to 168).

Following these event, Frost went to live abroad and worked for some time, under the name "Sir John Frost", as a doctor in Berlin, where he attracted a good clientele.

He died on 17 March 1840.

Address: (1824, 1825) Nil (in *Boyle's Court Guide* 1821 he lived at 30 Howland Street)

Fulcher, Robert Page (1801 - 1884), British soldier, was born in 1801.

He studied at the East India Company's college at Addiscombe, where he received a commendation in 1816. He presumably went to India immediately afterwards. He served as a Lieutenant in the 67th Native Infantry.

As Lieutenant Fulcher, at the Cape of Good Hope in 1823, he married Petronella, widow of Colonel Colin Mackenzie (the surveyor and illustrator of Indian antiquities), whom he had met on the boat returning to England. She died in Brighton 1841.

He was a member of RAS in 1824 and paid his subscriptions for 1825, 1826 and 1827. In April 1824 he donated five drawings and one roll of miniature paintings to the Society.

He failed to return to India because of ill-health and resigned from the service in 1831. Correspondence about his service and resignation is in the British Library Asian and African Studies Department.

In 1838, he was living in England as a retired Captain. In 1841, his address was Gloucester Place, Portman Square.

He died in 1884.

Address: (1824) 55 Brook Street; (1825) Agents: Messrs Paxton & Co., Austin Friars

The RAS has two paintings by him:

Interior of the temple of Govind Deva at Brindaban / Anonymous & Fulcher, Robert Page (1815)

Qutb Minar / Smith, J, Mackenzie, Colin & Fulcher, Robert Page (c. 1815)

Fullarton, John (1780 - 1849), Scottish surgeon, banker and pamphleteer, was born in 1780 in Scotland.

He went to India as a doctor with the East India Company and became a surgeon in the Bengal Presidency medical service in 1802. He resigned in 1813 to join Alexander and Co. bank in Calcutta and built up his fortune. At this time he was also part owner of a Calcutta newspaper. He returned to England in the 1820s and in 1823 purchased his house in Stanhope Street from Lord Essex. In the same year he was a founding member of RAS.

He toured extensively in Britain and Europe in a specially designed coach which contained his library, and wrote articles for the "Quarterly Review" in support of the Tory party.

He is believed to have been one of the founders of the Carlton Club.

He returned to India in 1833, and was sent on a mission to China. His wife died in Egypt whilst he was on a return voyage to Europe. He lost a large part of the fortune with the collapse of Alexander and Co. and moved house to Hyde Park Street.

In 1844 he published *On the Regulation of Currencies*.

He died on 24 October 1849 in London.

Address: (1823, 1824, 1825) 1 Great Stanhope Street