

Ochterlony, Major-General Sir David, Bart.

GCB (1758 - 1825), general of the East India Company in British India, was born on 12 February 1758.

He was born and educated in Boston Massachusetts. His father, Captain David Ochterlony, was Scottish and his mother was American. His father died insolvent in 1765, and his mother took her son back to England and remarried; her new husband was Sir Isaac Heard, Garter King of Arms, who became a father figure to the young David. Sir Isaac managed to get David a posting as cadet with the EIC in 1777 and he was sent to India to join the Company Army. He served under Lord Lake in the battles to remove Maratha influence from the Shah Alam and in 1803 was appointed first British Resident in Delhi. A Major-General in 1804, he defended Delhi against attacks by the Maratha leader, Holkar. In the 1814-15 war with Nepal he commanded one of the four British forces and was made a baronet for his services in 1816. Subsequently he negotiated treaties with Nepal for which he was made GCB in 1816.



Sir David Ochterlony by Robert Home, British Library

He was in command of Rajputana troops in various combats during the 1817-1818 Pindari war, following which he was appointed Resident in Rajputana, as well as being Resident in Delhi. He had a personal feud with James Tod (the Political Agent in Rajputana, and also a member of the RAS) over Tod's working methods which involved encouragement of the Princely Rajput houses in an attempt to stabilise the country in the face of possible Russian aggression.

As resident in Delhi, Ochterlony did as many British officers did, he went native: he wore Mughal dress, and had thirteen concubines who rode round the red Fort in Delhi every evening on elephants. Most notable among his concubines was Nissa Begum, the Moslem dancing girl who came to dominate Indian politics for many years. According to contemporary accounts, she dominated Ochterlony, and "his mistress is the mistress now of everyone within the walls of Delhi". Bishop Heber of Calcutta (member of the RAS) commented after a visit to Ochterlony that "he maintains an almost kingly state. He has been absent from his home country about 54 years; he has there neither friends nor relations, and he has been for many years habituated to Eastern habits and parade". (quoted by William Dalrymple in *The Last Mughal*).

He was elected to RAS membership in 1825 and paid subscriptions for 1824 and 1825.

In 1825 he acted unofficially in supporting the infant Rajah of Bharatpur, but his action was reversed by the Governor-General Lord Amherst (also a member of RAS) causing Ochterlony to resign in disgust.

He had several children by his mistresses, including two daughters by Nissa Begum. His only son, Roderick, died before his father, and the baronetcy descended to his grandson, Sir Charles Ochterlony (1817-1891). He died on 15 July 1825 in Meerut.

The RAS library has:

Selections from Ochterlony papers, 1818-1825, in the National Archives of India / edited by Narendra Krishna Sinha and Arun Kumar Dasgupta (1964)

Address: (1825) Malwa

Ogg, Major-General Samuel William (DOB unknown - 1828), was a career soldier in the East India Company Madras Army.

As Major Ogg, on the evening of 4 May 1799, during the Siege of Seringapatam, he was one of the first British Officers to enter the Royal Palace, where he discovered the manuscript memoirs of Tipu Sultan himself; the manuscript was passed to Colonel William Kirkpatrick who was Persian interpreter and secretary to the Governor-General, Richard Wellesley, then Lord Mornington.

In November 1805, Lieutenant-Colonel Samuel Ogg was sent to command the garrison of Bangalore.

At some point Ogg seems to have been involved in a precursor to the “mutiny” of some officers in the Madras Army in 1809. A letter, dated 18 April 1805, from the Court of Directors to the governor in council states: “we have permitted Lieutenant-Colonel Samuel Ogg to return to his duty on your establishment, and in consideration of the long and meritorious services of the officer, and the peculiar circumstances which occurred to retard his promotion on the augmentation made to your Army, we recommend him to the particular notice and attention of your government” (Asiatic Annual Register, 1805).

In August 1813, he was promoted to Colonel and then to Major-General on 12 August 1819. His wife, Anna, died in Cape Town 1820.

He was a member of RAS in 1823 and paid subscriptions for 1824 and 1825. In February 1825 he donated a mineral specimen, which he called a variety of emerald, to the RAS collection. He was also a Member of the Royal Horticultural Society.

In 1825 he attended a demonstration of firefighters’ equipment at the London Mechanics’ Institution, the precursor of Birkbeck College (H.H. Flexner, doctoral thesis, University College, London 2014).

He died on 28 February 1828 at 2 Hanover Terrace in London. His will, dated 22 March 1828, and listed under the name Samuel Williams Ogg, is in the National Archives.

Address: (1824, 1825) Grove House, Acton, Middlesex; in 1827, his address was 2 Hanover Terrace, Regent’s Park

Ouseley, The Right Honourable Sir Gore, Bart., FRS FAS (1770 - 1844), British entrepreneur, linguist and diplomat, was born in Limerick, Ireland, on 24 June 1770. He was the younger brother of William Ouseley (also a member of RAS).

He joined the East India Company and was posted to Lucknow, where he became friendly with Nawab Saadat Ali Khan, for whom he constructed a palace. On the recommendation of Lord Wellesley he was made a baronet in 1808.

After returning to England he became Ambassador to Persia in 1810; during this time he negotiated treaties with both Persia and Russia. He was joined in Persia by his elder brother William. He possibly visited Persepolis and there collected the reliefs which he subsequently donated to the British Museum. Later he went to Russia in 1814 before returning in 1815.

He studied several languages, among them Sanskrit, Persian and Arabic.

He was a founding member of RAS in 1823 and made a donation of a copy of his brother's book *Travels in various countries of the Middle East* and a large Persian painting of *Two Ladies in Harem Dress* in 1828. He was also a member of the Athenaeum in 1824.

He retired to Hall Barns, near Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, where he spent his time developing his gardens.

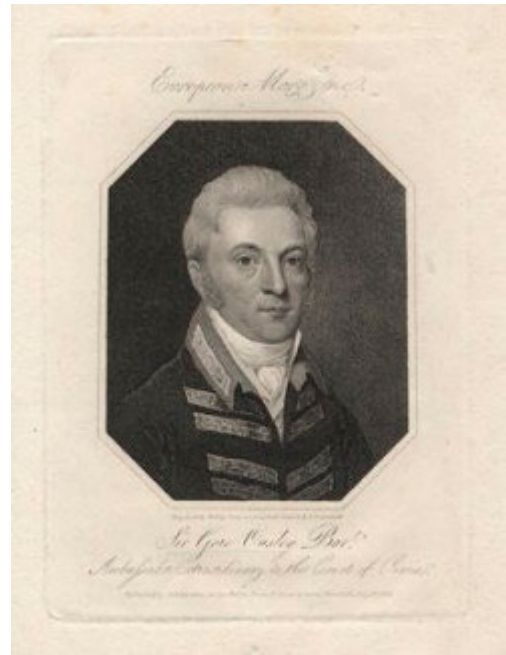
He wrote *Biographical Notices of Persian Poets*, which was posthumously published in 1846.

He died on 18 November 1844.

The RAS library has:

A second journey through Persia, Armenia, and Asia Minor to Constantinople between the years 1810 and 1816: with a journal of the voyage by the Brazils and Bombay to the Persian Gulf: together with an account of the proceedings of His Majesty's Embassy under Sir Gore Ouseley, Bart. K.L.S. / by James Morier, esq., late His Majesty's Secretary of Embassy and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Court of Persia ; with two maps, and engravings from the design of the author. (1818)

Address: (1823, 1824, 1825) 12 Bruton Street (in *Boyle's Court Guide* 1821); Woolmers, Hertford; in *Boyle's Court Guide* 1829 and later in 1834 his address was 49 Upper Grosvenor Street



Engraving by William Ridley, published 1810, National Portrait Gallery

Ouseley, Sir William LL.D. (1767 - 1842), British orientalist, was born in 1767. He was the elder brother of RAS member Gore Ouseley.

In 1787 he was sent to Paris to learn French; it was whilst there that he began to interest himself in Persian. He continued his Persian studies at Leiden in 1794. He was knighted in 1800 on the recommendation of Lord Cornwallis, then Governor-General of India. In 1810, he went to Persia with his brother who had been appointed ambassador.

He was a founding member of RAS in 1823 and in

June 1824 he donated a book *Observations on Pahlavi Medals* and two objects to the Society.

He died in September 1842.



Sir William Ouseley

He wrote:

Persian Miscellanies 1797-1799.

Epitome of the Ancient History of Persia 1800.

Travels in various countries of the Middle East 1810-1812.

The RAS library has:

Travels in various countries of the East; more particularly Persia: a work wherein the author has described, as far as his own observations extended, the state of those countries in 1810, 1811, and 1812 : and has endeavoured to illustrate many subjects of antiquarian research, history, geography, philology and miscellaneous literature, with extracts from rare and valuable oriental manuscripts / by Sir William Ouseley, knight, LL.D. ... (1819. [-1821.])

Oriental collections: consisting of original essays and dissertations, translations and miscellaneous papers; illustrating the history and antiquities, the arts, sciences, and literature, of Asia. / Ouseley, William Ouseley ([1797-99])

The oriental geography of Ebn Haukal, an Arabian traveller of the tenth century / translated from a manuscript in his own possession, collated with one preserved in the library of Eton College, by Sir William Ouseley. (1800)

The oriental collections / William Ouseley (2013)

The Bakhtyār Nāma : a Persian romance / translated from a manuscript text, by Sir William Ouseley; edited, with introduction and notes, by W. A. Clouston. (1883)

Address: (1823, 1824, 1825) Abergavenny, Monmouthshire; 23 Foley Place in *Boyle's Court Guide* 1829; in 1834 his address was Boulogne