

My great Grandfather, John Nettelton, was born on the 8th January 1798 in the Parish of Killead, County Antrim, Ireland and came out to South Africa as Sgt Major with the Royal Dragoon Guards in 1845. He later retired in South Africa and I have a snuff box presented to him on his retirement. This, together with a Gold Watch presented to my Grandfather Nettelton by the Masons in 1895, I have passed on to my nephew, Spencer Nettelton, my late brother's second son, who is next in line. He retired from the Basutoland Service after that country obtained self government and is now with his wife and three daughters in Australia.

To carry on with the family: my great Grandfather married Caroline Stocks at Brede, Sussex, on the 11th September 1830. They had eight children but the only ones I can bring to mind as having had anything to do with them - I will attach a separate list of the other members - are George, a trader at Keiskama Hoek where he lived for many years and with whom I spent a number of holidays and he with us in the Bech, Protectorate. More of him later. Thomas Stocks Nettelton, the youngest, was Captain of No 1 Company of the Buffalo Rifles in 1876. This regiment was the parent corps of the 1st Yeomanry and the present Border Regiment of the Kaffrarian Rifles. He fought with the Buffalo Rifles in the Gaika Galeka war of 1877 and in 1879 with the 1st Yeomanry in both the Morosis Mountain and Basuto War of 1880/1 under the command of General E Y Brabant or, as he then was, first Captain and later Colonel. The eldest was my Grandfather, John, 1832-1897 who was killed in an accident and buried at Keiskama Hoek. I never knew him, but did my grandmother who lived with us for a while in Gaberones, Bechuana-land about 1903, and later went to live with her eldest son, my uncle Jack Nettelton in Mafeteng, Basutoland, where he was trading. There were two girls that I knew, Caroline, the wife of Fred Dyer of the well known firms of Dyer and Dyer of East London and Kingwilliamstown and the youngest daughter, Mary, who everyone knew as Aunt Mary. I knew her very well and often saw her in King and Keiskama. She had a most illegible handwriting, just up and down strokes which I had great difficulty in reading. I had a letter from her when a prisoner of war in Germany and the Germans said they could not allow any more of her letters to come through. They were very amused when I told them that I had great difficulty in reading them myself.

Aunt Mary had the usufruct of money left to her by her sister, Mrs Fred Dyer, which, on her death, was to be divided among her nieces and nephews and their issue. Well, by the time she died at the age of 96, there must have been dozens of heirs and the poor Executor must have had a tough time sorting them all out. Some I believe got as little as £5 but I was more fortunate and received a cheque for £120 with which we bought a Bendix washing machine which we christened Aunt Caroline, Mrs Fred Dyer, and it did excellent service for years.

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