

BLENNERHASSETT - DE COURCY

NOTE: There are other Blennerhassett de Courcy families on p.K 01 and p.K 16

Robert Stuart de Courcy >>>>> Frederika Blanche >>>>>>> >>>> Frederick de Courcy Lambert
 b.c1804 d.1857; of India; De Courcy b.22.8.1864 Bengal Presidency, India
 Clerk in the Civil Service | b.15.12.1847 Lahore, India;
 d.20.12.1857 (suicide) | bapt.27.6.1863 Presbyterian
 at Hoshiarpore, India | Church, Lahore
 /
 m. Sarah <??> | m.6.7.1863 Anarkullie, Lahore;
 | George Edwin Lambert;
 | b.11.5.1823 Bilston, Staffordshire,
 | England; School Master

NOTE: >---->
 India Office Records
 contain claims against
 William Blennerhassett
 de Courcy by
 King William's College,
 Isle of Man, for the
 education of his son,
 in 1888, 1894 & 1895

>>> **William Blennerhassett de Courcy** >>>> Mary de Courcy b.c1866
 b.c1850 India; | m.28.7.1886 Cawnpore, India;
 of Palumpore, Dhurmsala, | John Rodgers b.c1851; agent
 Punjab, India 1869
 /
 Clerk of the Small Cause | >>> **William Blennerhassett de Courcy**; b.22.6.1870 India;
 Court at Lahore 1869; | edu. King William's College (known as King Bill's), Isle of Man
 District Judge 1891; | (claims were made by the school against his father,
 Punjab Commission 1895; | for costs of his education, 1888, 1894, 1895)
 Deputy Commissioner
 of Gujranwala Province,
 India 1898; | >>> Francis Henry (not H.F.) Dougl; >>>> **William Blennerhassett**
 Deputy Commissioner | de Courcy; b.6.8.1872 Sealhole; | **de Courcy** (twin)
 for Punjab 1899 | bapt. 18.6.1876 | /

m.1st 8.9.1869 | Church of Scotland Mission, | m.c1940 Constance Turton
 Palumpore, Dhurmsala, | Dalhousie, West Bengal; | dau. of A.E. Turton, British
 Punjab; | of Madras Presidency, India | Vice-Consul at Bordighera;
 Catherine Frances Conlan | m. U. <??> | engagement announced in
 b.18.7.1850 Lahore, India; | | **[TIMES 1.4.1940 p.11]**
 of Palumpore 1869 | | >>> <??> de Courcy (twin)

d.bef.1891; | >>> Robert Stuart de Courcy
 (d. of John Conlan b.1821 | b.28.11.1874; bapt. 18.6.1876
 & Elizabeth Henrietta | Church of Scotland Mission, Dalhousie
 Dwyer) | d.6.10.1900 Dharmsala, Punjab, India; bur.7.10.1900

/ | >>> Katheline Violet de Courcy b.3.3.1876
 / | bapt. 18.6.1876 Church of Scotland Mission, Dalhousie
 / |
 / | >>> Annie de Courcy
 / |
 / | m.9.2.1885 Cawnpore;
 / | James Reid; assistant surgeon

m.2nd 2.3.1891 |
 Mudhopur, Lahore
 Emma Mary Prussia >>>>> >>>> Frederica Stuart de Courcy >>>>> >>>> Esme May de Courcy Beaty
 b.4.1.1862 Agra, India; | b.4.3.1892 Simla, India; | b.24.8.1917 Simla;
 bapt.23.2.1862 Agra | d.2.1.1975 Scotland | d.14.4.1981 Edinburgh,
 / | | Scotland
 her 2nd marriage | m.6.10.1915 (Charles) | /
 she m.1st Harry Shields | Percival "Percy" Dudley Beaty | m.17.12.1942
 (he d.bef.1891) | (*perhaps Beaty?*); | Christ Church, Rawlpindi, India;
 | b.23.11.1885 Lahore | Harry Gordon "Scotty" Shields
 | Inspector of Police, Punjab | b.c1917 Scotland;
 d.8.4.1940 Lahore | | Army Officer 1942

>>> Rosemary de Courcy Beaty;
 b.8.7.1926 Sialkole;
 d.22.2.2003
 Dalgety Bay, Fife, Scotland;
 bur.27.2.2003 Aberdour Cem., Fife

BLANNERHASSETT - LEECH

Major Arthur Blennerhassett Leech, b.c1815/16; "a member of an old Kerry family" [IT 27.6.1894];

solicitor & rifleman; of Dublin, India and London

Served a legal apprenticeship in the office of well known Dublin solicitor John Blennerhassett (d.1855), alias "The Evergreen" (K 08); see paper "John Blennerhassett" by "Sigma" in ["**The Kerry Archaeological Magazine**" No.19 October 1917, pp.191-195]; following his legal training he left Ireland for India, working as a lawyer at Bombay for ten years; returning to Ireland he became agent for the estates of Col. Cooper of Markree Castle, Co.Sligo and "...in this capacity he endeared himself to the tenantry by his kindly consideration..."; he was appointed JP (magistrate) for Co.Sligo; he purchased property in Co.Roscommon, resigned his agency and moved to London, where he was one of the earliest members of the Junior Carlton Club; also member of several other clubs in Ireland and England

THE LONDON IRISH VOLUNTEERS:

"...The Volunteer movement in England brought him to the front..." when "...his thoroughly Irish sentiment suggested the establishment of the London Irish Volunteers..."; in October 1866 he established the Dublin University Rifle Club at Trinity College Dublin (TCD) and in 1867 he transformed the Dublin Shooting Club, then consisting of a few members, into the Irish Rifle Association, with which were affiliated clubs in different parts of the country

Arthur Blennerhassett Leech was a Captain in the "London Irish Volunteer Corps"; ["**The Cork Examiner**" 30.11.1863] reported...

"...A gratifying mark of their esteem is about to be conveyed by the members of the London Irish Volunteer Corps to one of their officers, Captain A. Blennerhassett Leech, who has been untiring in his exertions to promote the efficiency of that regiment since its formation.

Having been placed in command of what, at that time, was a skeleton company, he succeeded by great tact and perseverance, in increasing and maintaining its numbers till it became one of the largest and most regularly attended. Not satisfied with merely swelling the ranks, he also set his men the best example by making himself a first-class shot..."

RIFLE SHOOTING:

On one occasion, at Wimbledon, he succeeded in making a score entitling him to be numbered among the 40 Queen's prizemen, and was only debarred by accident from shooting in the final stages of the contest. At matches and local meetings in different parts of the country, his scores have been quite in keeping with his performance at the butts of the National Rifle Association. Not very long ago, Captain Leech himself appeared in the character of donor, and the corps of recipient accepted at his hands the gift of two silver bugles, which were presented with great pomp at Somerset House. It is now his turn to be complimented, and the occasion will, no doubt, afford the utmost satisfaction to his circle of friends. In public recollection, Captain Leech's name is probably most familiar in connection with the valuable album of original Irish music, all by national composers of undoubted ability, which owed its existence in a collected form to his exertions and personal influence

THE IRISH RIFLE ASSOCIATION and THE LEECH CUP

Maj. Arthur Blennerhassett Leech was head of the "Irish Rifle Association" c1864-74 & captain of the Irish rifle team who competed on 26.9.1874 at Creedmoor, Long Island, New York against the newly formed National Rifle Association (NRA) of the USA;

This was the first organized NRA competition, the Americans winning by 934 points to 931;

to commemorate this visit A.B.L., as captain of the Irish team, presented to Americans what was to become known as "The Leech Cup"; this is a heavily embossed silver tankard that has been described as a masterpiece of Irish silversmith's art, "...A beautiful silver cup which Captain Leech had brought over to present for competition to the riflemen of America is illustrated; it is a very graceful and artistic piece of workmanship, tastefully embossed, and surmounted by a representation of an ancient castle in ruin"; the inscription reads:

"PRESENTED FOR COMPETITION TO THE RIFLEMEN OF AMERICA BY ARTHUR BLANNERHASSETT LEECH, CAPTAIN OF THE IRISH INTERNATIONAL TEAM OF RIFLEMEN, ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR VISIT TO NEW YORK, 1874"

under the leadership of Maj. Leech a return match was organized at Dollymount in 1875, this witnessed by more than 100,000 people; this was again won by the American team, by a margin of nine points;

The Leech Cup is the oldest trophy offered today for competitive shooting in the United States; presented to the NRA in 1901 by the Amateur Rifle Club of New York, it was lost after the National Matches of 1913 but recovered in 1927; its loss resulted in the NRA Board of Directors requiring that all NRA trophies be kept by NRA Headquarters

Arthur Blennerhassett Leech presented Col. G.W. Wingate, captain of the American team, with the badge of the Irish Rifle Association ["**Harper's Weekly**" **New York 10.10.1874**]; the Rigby rifle Maj. Leech used during the competition he personally gave to Gen. George Armstrong Custer (1839-1876), who is best remembered for "Custer's Last Stand"; an autographed eight page letter from Gen. Custer to William Conant Church (1836-1917) was recently offered for sale, this letter commencing "...My Dear Col. I have had the pleasure of making the acquaintance of Major Leech & some of the other members of the Irish Team who have been paying a brief visit to the West. Major Leech was kind enough to present to me the Rigby rifle used by him in the International Match at Creedmore..."

NOTE: Rigby rifles were made by John & William Rigby & Co. of Dublin, John Rigby being a graduate of TCD and a member of the Irish Creedmore team of 1874

A.B.L. is author of "Irish Riflemen in America", published in London 1875, reprinted c2008; he is mentioned in ["**Allibone's Critical Dictionary of English Literature: A supplement. British and American authors. 2 vols. by John Foster Kirk; pub. J.B. Lippincott, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA 1891**]

the greatest international match to take place under the captaincy of A.B.L. was in the USA in 1876, the U.S. Centennial year, against teams from the United States, Canada, Australia and Scotland; the USA was placed first, Ireland second
he retired from the Irish Rifle Association in 1885 and d.26.6.1894 St Leonard's-on-Sea, near Hastings, Hastings, Sussex, England