

Curragh History Archives



Family Photograph Curragh Camp 1873

**Major Edward Robert Bigsby Barnes,
35th (Royal Sussex) Regiment of Foot,
and Family taken at Curragh Camp, Kildare, Ireland in 1873.**



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This beautiful family photograph was taken at Curragh Camp, Kildare in 1873 and the family members are left to right: "Arty" Arthur (son, born 1867); Edward R.B.B. of the 35th Foot (see cap); "Nuttie" Harriet Mary Barnes (daughter of James W.), (born ca 1858); Georgiana, his wife; and "Eddy" Edward Alexander.

The dress of the women and children is typical of the style of civilian clothing of the 1870's.

Major Barnes is wearing an infantry patrol jacket. The jacket is probably an 1868 pattern. The ribbon bar for his South African medal is visible on his left chest. The forage cap clearly shows the number "35" of the 35th (Royal Sussex) Regiment of Foot.

Harriet Mary Barnes, visiting with her uncle Edward, and his family in the photograph, was affectionately known as "Nuttie" by her young cousins (her father, **Major General James Whittaker Barnes**, , was the eldest brother of her uncle Edward). "Nuttie" was born about 1858-59 and never married. She lived in Lausanne, Switzerland, in her later years and died there in 1933. She requested that she be cremated and buried with her parents in Highland Road cemetery, Southsea, Portsmouth. This, and other photographs, suggests that these families made every effort to keep in touch with each other in spite of the frequent moves to far-flung places demanded by Army life.

Georgiana Eliza Hunter Carnegie Barnes lived in India more than half her life. The daughter of an Indian Army officer, she was born in Huuper, baptized in Meerut, and married in Fyzabad. After her marriage to Captain Barnes in 1863, two children were born in Dhurmsala in the Punjab, and in Kashmir. After some 35 years in India, Georgiana and family went back to England in 1868 where the family lived at various stations before her husband was sent to Jamaica, then to South Africa where he died unexpectedly at the age of 46.

At this point in her life, Georgiana seemed most intent on the futures of her two sons; the youngest, **Arthur**, entered Fettes College in Edinburgh which was set up for the schooling of children whose parents could not pay for a decent education. He later was enrolled at RMC, Sandhurst, and, following family tradition, made the Army his career. He served in the Duke of Edinburgh's Wiltshire Regiment, the Chinese Regiment at Weihaiwei, and as Commandant of the Shanghai Volunteers. **Edward**, the elder son was eventually sent to London to apprentice at an early telephone company and at the age of 20 went to the U.S. and eventually made a successful career as an electrical engineer. He became the general superintendant of the Fort Wayne, Indiana Electrical Works (later part of General Electric Co.) Georgiana visited this son many times and died while at his home in Indiana. Her life, from India to Indiana, could not have been an easy one. She has shown the great courage, determination, and commitment to family that was often required from women who were married to British soldiers in the 19th century.