

MAJOR PATRICK GRANT MATHESON

(Father of the 12th Chief)

He was the 2nd son of Colin Matheson of Bennetsfield, tenth chief, and his wife Grace, 4th daughter of Patrick Grant of Glenmoriston.

A short biography of him appears on pages 47 and 48 of the clan history by Mackenzie and Macbain (2nd edition), but it is not detailed and there would appear to be an inaccuracy concerning his wife's family and of the date of his death. To quote "He married in India, Hannah Mills Butler, daughter of James Major Orde, an officer of the Commissariat Department ..." And again "... at Delhi, where he died in 1835. His death is referred to in the obituary of the Bengal 'Englishman' of January the 17th, in that year; and in the Delhi 'Gazette' as follows:- on Wednesday 15th, inst.. Captain P.G.M., Commissary of Ordnance ..."

Recently, I came across a book "List of Officers of the Honourable East India Company's Bengal Army, 1758-1834", by Mr. V. Hodson (published in London, 1927). In it there is considerable detail of P.G.M.'s service and of his marriage, which I give below in an edited form.

"P.G.M. (1789-1834) was baptised at Knockbain, Co. Ross, on 8th August, 1789, and was the 2nd son of Colin Matheson of Bennetsfield, a Lieutenant in the Gordon Fencibles, and Grace his wife, 4th daughter of Patrick Grant of Glenmoriston. P.G.M. married, in Dinapore, India, on 10th July, 1813, Hannah Mills Butler, daughter of Alexander Aird, a Conductor of Ordnance and sister of Robert Abercrombie Aird (to whom there is a reference in the Appendices of the book. There is no reference to children, though his eldest son J. B. Y. Matheson has an entry in his own right as a distinguished officer in H.E.I.C. service).

P.G.M.'s promotions and services, together with the references, are summarised as follows:

Born: 28th July, 1789.

Cadet: 1808.

Fireworker: 24th September, 1808 (an artillery officer, who has to do with explosives in War.)

Arrived in India: 16th November, 1808.

Lieutenant: 23rd October, 1811.

Captain: 12th December, 1821.

Died at Delhi: 15th October. 1834.

Nepal War, 1814-1815: Pursa; Lieutenant 6th Company, 2nd Battalion Foot Artillery with the 4th Division.

Third Maheratta War. 1817-1818: Lieutenant, 2nd Troop Horse Artillery. At Jawad (blew open the gate).

Appointed to charge of Ordnance Commissariat at P.W.I., 27th February, 1819.

Commissary of Ordnance: 25th September, 1819.

Returned to India: February, 1821.

Appointed to charge of Delhi Magazine: 2nd March, 1821 and to Allahabad: 5th November. 1823.

Returned to Delhi Magazine. 1833.

References: History of the Mathesons, Alex Mackenzie, p. 30. (Note: this must be the 1st Edition.)

Burkes Landed Gentry: s.n. Grant of Glenmoriston.

Stubbs ii, 27-8. A.J.N.S.. XVL 272.

Will dated 9th May, 1816; proved 10th January. 1835.

In conclusion it would appear that Mackenzie and Macbain made a mistake over P.G.M.'s wife's maiden name, and that P.G.M. did in fact die on 15th October, 1834 and not 15th January, 1835. Neither the month nor year of the Delhi Gazette is mentioned only 15th inst.. which is a figure agreed within the H.E.I.C. officers' book. Coupling the Delhi Gazette date with the Bengal

"Englishman" of 17th January. 1835, was unfortunate. Finally, wills are not normally proved before death.

To complete the story for those not fortunate enough to have a copy of the clan history, P.G.M. predeceased his elder brother John who was the eleventh chief and who was married to Ann, daughter of the Rev. Robert Arthur, minister of Resolis in the Black Isle. John died without issue in May, 1843.

P.G.M. had 3 sons and 3 daughters.

1. James Brooks Young, already referred to and who succeeded as chief on the death of his Uncle John in 1843.
2. Thomas Theophilus Metcalf, a Lieutenant in H.M.'s 39th Regt., who died in India in 1839.
3. Ian Grant, a Colonel in H.E.I.C. Service. His story is somewhat of a mystery at the moment, and I hope to unravel it.
4. Susan Eleanor, died in infancy.
5. Isabella Maria Grant, who married Major James Charles Claud Hamilton of H.E.I.C.'s Bengal European Light Infantry.
6. Hannah Grace, who married Lieutenant Colonel H. King, of H.E.I.C.'s 13th Bengal Native Infantry.

TORQUILL MATHESON.