

Mac Marquis Family of India

My family ancestors are MacMarquis and were living in India from 1800s. My dad was born in India and his grandmother's maiden name was MacMarquis, there were also several MacMarquis cousins who moved from India to the UK. No one in our family knew where the family came from or how it ended up in India, even after multiple research attempts years ago.

The oldest ancestor they knew about was John Charles MacMarquis (1855-1941), my father's great grandfather on his mother's side. Finally, and with help from some clues from your website I unlocked the clues and found the whole family history of the MacMarquises in India.

It started with a William McMarquis 1784-1838. He was born in Auchinleck, Ayrshire, Scotland and travelled to India in the military in 1807. He then had a son John Charles McMarquis, who had a son also John Charles MacMarquis (who used Mac instead of the Mc that the older generations had used). He had a daughter Effie, my great-grandmother. I've attached a rough family tree that somebody else made, it has mistakes and incorrect spellings, and I am working on a more accurate version. This was a huge shock to my family, mainly because my grandmother had been adamant that the family originated in Ireland.

Thank you [Steve Marquis] for the details about Charles Arthur, I didn't have his military service number so that will be very useful. I've attached the key document we found on William McMarquis. It shows his military enlistment for India and states his place of birth as Auchinleck, Ayrshire, Scotland. Before finding this we had no idea the family originated there and most of the family claimed the MacMarquises hailed from Ireland.

Also interestingly, I found a record of a burial of a Mr. McMarquis in Bombay in 1803, so it seems this was the first McMarquis to travel to India before William. I also found a Jeane McMarquis baptism record from 1695 in Kirkoswald, Ayr. I thought this was interesting because it's quite close to locations you have written about and possibly some of those

MacMarquises crossed the Firth of Clyde and settled there and that those were William's ancestors.

Luke Smith.

It's very exciting all this, as my family really never had any interest in finding anything out . My grandfather died when I was 2 years old. He was in the British Army out in India his name was Charles Arthur Macmarquis and when he left the Army he was a maths teacher in a school in India. The family had a farm in Indore that the Indian Government took away from them and they moved to Calcutta, West Bengal. My father then joined the railways as a young man. He would tell us that his father was from Greenock. That's all we knew while growing up.

I met my ex-English husband in India and moved here in 1972. Strangely we went to live in Largs and that's where we married in 1974. I did manage to get my aunt on the phone, who is now 80 but amazing for her age. My Grandad (Charles Arthur Macmarquis) passed away when I was about 10 months old in October 1952. His birthday was 17th August, but she does not remember the year. He was in his 50's when he died, early or late 50's she is very vague ? Rather sad, as we siblings have grown up not knowing a thing about where we really came from. His father was called John Charles, but no more information than that. I am yet to find out though from another source (cousin).

Barbara was my Grandad Charles Arthur's wife, and my dad said his mum was Swedish and very young when she married. She then went on to leave her husband and my dad said this was a very sad thing at the time as she took off to Pakistan to live with a man there and they never saw her ever again !

Yes, I have had a fascinating life and feel very privileged to have all the fascinating experiences along the way. I did start to write about the typical life of the Anglo Indian Family at the time of my growing up but had 'block' and stopped. I still, however, have the draft stored away.

Starting from my birth when my mum gave birth to me in a back bedroom on the outskirts of Calcutta with the help of a local midwife and servant maid. I did not write in the 'first name' as I put in all the experiences of various families etc. When I was a young girl, I witnessed all sorts of things which I will not bore you with at this stage. Anglo Indian girls had a tough time. Beautiful as they were, the Indians did not want to employ them as secretaries etc but were willing to pay them to bed them! This was a great temptation at the time to get instant money and many succumbed to this to keep their families going. Many girls also went on to become cabaret artists, singing, dancing in night clubs etc. My mother told us some tales! My Father had a good regular job on the railways, and this provided us with a lovely cosy home supplied by the railway colony we lived in. Later on we got into a boarding school with grants as we passed the entrance exams with flying colours.

The connection to William Macmarquis sounds very exciting. I have not managed to get in touch with Luke as yet and saw him last when he was about 7 years old. This is what happens when one loses touch with family. His dad Danny is the son of my Aunt Eileen, whose mother was a Macmarquis and a Sister of my Grandad Charles Arthur. My Aunt Eileen was very close to us but passed away some 10/12 years ago and I lost touch with Danny, after moving down to Devon. Will catch up with him soon no doubt and will invite him and his wife Joan to come and visit me.

Charles Arthur Macmarquis

Born 1895 Died 1952.

Great-grandfather - William McMarquis 1784 - 1838.

Married Barbara Whilmina Theodora Nilson (age 16), 13 February 1929, Mhow, Bengal.

Bride's father Anthon Theodora Nilson.

Military Record

Royal West Kent Regiment; Rank – Acting Sergeant; Service Number – G/25691, 1914-1920

Medals Awarded –

In 25 November 1920, Victory Medal and/or British War Medal.

In 1933, Efficiency Medal, 22 December 1933. Charles Arthur is now listed as a private in the 2nd Bombay, Baroda & Central India Railway Regiment A.F.I.

Also came across his brother, Frederick S. Macmarquis, 1894-1940.

Judy Priestley.