

## Two Indian Kipling mysteries

23<sup>rd</sup> Robert, Son of William Howard, Crier of  
the supreme Court of Judicature, & Elizabeth  
his Wife, born 20<sup>th</sup> April last.

Robert Howard was born at Fort William, Bengal, in August 1789, the son of William Howard, a court official. In 1810, he married Maria Wroughton.

Mr Robert Howard, bachelor and Maria Wroughton Spinster both of  
Calcutta Fort William in Bengal were married at Calcutta aforesaid  
this Twelfth day of November A. D. 1808. by me  
D. Brown  
Sew Chaplain  
between Mr. Howard  
Mr. Wroughton  
In the Presence of  
William Myers;  
Joseph Hodges; John D'Crux;

In 1815, Robert, an attorney, named one of his daughter Maria Eliot Kipling Howard.

Baptisms at Calcutta Fort William in Bengal A. D. 1815.

Date of Baptism	Name and Age of the Baptized	Name and Situation of Parents	By whom Baptized
November 1 <sup>st</sup>	Maria Eliot Kipling, born 20 <sup>th</sup> August 1815.	Robert Howard Esq. Attorney at Law and Maria his Wife. She the 2 <sup>nd</sup> D. S. Ward.	

Robert Howard,  
aged 41 Years, 8 Mos. Attorney & Law.  
died 9 days.

Robert died at Calcutta in January 1831. In his will he named an Elizabeth Kipling of Calcutta as co-executrix with his wife. No relationship was stated. Daughter Maria was mentioned as a beneficiary.

and when I arrived into my beloved wife Maria  
Howard and Elizabeth Kipling all of Calcutta  
in Bengal aforesaid and to the said Maria

Elizabeth Kipling may have been the India-born daughter of that name of Captain Ambrose Kipling. She was recorded returning to India from England in 1809 (see [Captain Ambrose Kipling.pdf](#)). It is possible that she was either a close friend or favoured employee of the

Howard. I have found no further records of Elizabeth after 1831. Nor have I found any possible alternative Kipling connection.

Robert's widow, Maria, died at Krishnaghur in 1845.

1845. 31. Mar.	Maria.	Howards.	55 years.	widow of the late attorney at law in Calcutta	Krishnaghur.
22/20		The above is a true copy from the Record kept at the Station Krishnaghur. 6. 7. 21.			

Robert Howard's son, Robert Charles Howard (b 1811), an indigo planter, who had married in 1838, named a daughter of his Maria Kipling Howard in 1849.

*Marriages at Calcutta Fort William in Bengal A.D. 1838.*

Year.	Month.	Day	Signatures with the Professions and Residences of the Parties.	Age.	Signatures of Parents or next Friends and Residence.	Signatures of Parties present.	Walter by Name or Name.	Where solemnized.	Signatures by whom solemnized.	
27 <sup>th</sup>	1838.	January.	6 <sup>th</sup>	Robert Charles Howard Indigo Planter Calcutta Bachelor of age. Margaret Emily Sandales Calcutta Spinster.	29	J. D. Dow. Calcutta. M. Sandales.	James Augustus Sandales. P. S. Allen.	licens.	Cathedral.	Henry Fisher Secy. Resident Chaplain.

**BAPTISMS** solemnized at *Calcutta on Sunday during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of 1849.*

When baptized.	Said to be born.	Child's Christian Name.	Sex.	Parents' Names.		Abode.	Quality, Trade or Profession.	Signature by whom baptized.
				Christian.	Surname.			
5 <sup>th</sup>	29 <sup>th</sup> August 1849	Maria Kipling	Female	Robert Charles	Howard	Calcutta	George Yule	James P. Birdman & Co. Secy. Minister of St. Andrew's Church

Robert Charles Howard died in 1856. Maria Kipling Howard later travelled to England, where she married George Yule in 1879.

**MARRIAGES.**

**On the 22nd Feb., at St. Stephen's Church, South Kensington, by the Rev. G. F. Popham Blyth, assisted by the Rev. W. M. Banks, George Udny, son of the late Lieut. Colonel R. Abercromby Yule, 9th Lancers, to Maria Kipling, daughter of the late Robert C. Howard, of Challah, Bengal, and niece of John Dacosta, of Manson-place, Queen's-gate, S.W.**

**The Chelsea News and Kensington Post, March 1, 1879.**

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1879. Marriage solemnized at <i>St. Stephen Church</i> in the <i>Parish of Kensington</i> in the County of <i>Middlesex</i>								
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
217	February 22 <sup>nd</sup> 1879	George Udny Yule Maria Kipling Howard	30 29	Bachelor Spinster	Merchant -	Queen's Gate Gardens 16 Manson Place	Robert Abercromby Yule Robert Charles Howard	Colonel Indigo Planter
Married in the <i>Parish Church</i> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by _____ or after <i>None</i> by me,								
This Marriage was solemnized between us,		<i>George Udny Yule</i> <i>Maria Kipling Howard</i>		in the Presence of us,		<i>J. B. Buckwell</i> <i>Louise Dacosta</i> <i>Maria Howard</i> <i>57 Popham Place</i> <i>Sgt. Joseph H. H. Indian Service</i>		

By 1911, she was widowed and was visiting Lingfield in Surrey

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Jessie Anne Inglis	Head	62	Widow	10	8	2	Private means	370	Missorie India
Maria Kipling Yule	Visitor	61	Widow	32	5	4	Private means		Cuttack India
James Capricorn	Daughter	34	Widow	11	none		Private means		Edinburgh G.B.
Annie Keene	Servant	61	Widow	23	1	1	Servant	070	Atton. Heate
Annie Stokes	Servant	41	Married	16			1000		Shepherd Bushenden
George Stokes	Servant	41	Married	16			George Stokes		Wimpitt Bedford
Lillian Thompson	Servant	30	Single				H.P. Ma		Willesdore London

There is a memorial to Maria in Gullane Churchyard, East Lothian, which records her death in Ealing in 1919, and that her daughter Margaret Louise died in India.



Maria's will was proven in India, and shows that. Further research may reveal more of Maria's life, whether in India, Scotland or South-east England.

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Even more mysteriously, at Dacca in 1831, George Wise, an indigo planter like Robert Charles Howard, named his daughter Maria Kipling Wise.

year	Month	Day	names of Parties Baptized	when and where Born	Sex, names of Parents their residence and professions	where Baptized	Signature by whom Baptized
1831	September	25	Maria Kipling	August 12 1831 at Dacca	George Wise (Indigo Planter near Dacca) and Caroline Wise his wife (late Williams)	Houara Church	Sign'd G. W. Withers Bishop of Bishop's College officiating Minister.

She died in Calcutta, age 55

WHEN DIED.			Christian.	Surname.	Age.	Quality, Trade, or Profession, &c., &c.	WHEN BURIED.			Cause of Death.
Year.	Month.	Day.					Year.	Month.	Day.	
1887	August	12 <sup>th</sup>	Maria Kipling	Wise	55 years	Unknown	1887	August	12 <sup>th</sup>	Remittent Fever

I have so far been unable to establish any connection with Kiplings.