

The Military Connections of Brevet Colonel Anthony William Durnford, R.E.

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The majority of what follows is based upon an article and genealogical table prepared for and presented to The Royal Engineers' Museum in Brompton Barracks, Chatham, Kent in 1996. Chatham has long been the spiritual home of the Royal Engineers and the Durnfords' involvement with that Corps is one of long standing. Over recent years a number of works have appeared with incorrect details of the career and family background of Brevet Colonel A. W. Durnford. As interest in the Zulu war has grown it seems an appropriate time to refurbish the original article and publish the genealogical table for general consumption rather than retain it in the Museum's archive for more rarefied viewing.

In the sixteenth century the Durnford family hailed from North Cadbury in Somerset. The origin of the surname can be traced to one Roger de Derneford' living in Wiltshire in 1190 and to the Wiltshire villages of Great and Little Durnford. There are two other examples of such place names in Suffolk and Cambridgeshire but these seem to have given rise to the surnames Danford and Danforth as opposed to Durnford. The Durnford of Isandhlwana fame will probably have stemmed from the Wiltshire connection particularly since North Cadbury lies just thirty miles away from Great Durnford over the Somerset-Wiltshire border.

The sixteenth-century Durnfords were yeoman farmers and churchwardens. In the late seventeenth century the family moved first to Andover and then to Ringwood both in Hampshire.

It is with **(1) ELIAS DURNFORD (1720-74)** that the Durnford Family commences its military connection. Elias was born 11.3.1720 (Old Style 1719) in Ringwood, Hampshire, the elder son of Thomas Durnford (1682 Old Style/1683 New Style-1737) and Mary Durnford (née Lane). Elias married Martha Gannaway on 15.4.1738 in Rockbourne, Hampshire.

Between 1744 and 1748 he was the Deputy Treasurer of His Majesty's Ordnance in the Tower of London. The Ordnance was one of the oldest institutions in England, having been formed when the Royal Arsenal was established in the Tower in the late fifteenth century. Although it was organized on military lines, it was a civilian body financed by a separate vote from Parliament and dealt with military supplies including the Royal Artillery and fledgling Royal Engineers. The Ordnance's powers were defined as "Custodian of the Lands, Depots and Forts required for the Defence of the Realm, and the supplier of Munitions and Equipment to the Army and Navy".

He and his wife had three sons born in Hampshire [(2) Elias b. 13.5.1739; (3) Thomas b. 26.1.1742 (Old Style 1741); and (4) Andrew b. 24.4.1744] and a fourth in London [Clark b. 24.7.1748].

Elias Durnford was buried at Streatham, Surrey 22.5.1774.

He was Brevet Colonel Anthony Durnford's great-great-grandfather.

(2) ELIAS DURNFORD (1739-94), eldest son of (1) Elias Durnford, was born 13.5.1739 in Ringwood, Hampshire. He married Rebecca Walker on 25.8.1769 in London.

He joined the Royal Engineers with the rank of Practitioner Engineer and Ensign on 17.3.1759 (Old Style 1758) and became a Sub-Engineer and Lieutenant 28.1.1762. On active service during the Seven Years' War he was present at the siege and capture of Belle Isle off the south coast of Brittany in 1762 and in 1763 took part in an expedition led by the Earl of Albemarle to capture Havana, Cuba from the Spanish. The force landed at Havana and attacked the fort of El Moro. The fort was defended by a huge ditch and scarp. The Engineers were required to dig two mines to overcome this obstacle. A breach was made and after a forty-two day siege the fort surrendered, as did the whole island shortly afterwards. After this he was A.D.C. to Lord Albemarle. He became Commanding Engineer and Surveyor-General of British West Florida in 1764 with a commission, literally, to plan a new city, a commission he took up with gusto. He set about this by creating a new town design based upon a classic pattern. There was a square about which government buildings would be constructed. Other squares were earmarked for public buildings and for military drill. Streets were set at right angles and named after royalty or government figures. Equally interesting was the creation of garden allotments. With each building plot was assigned a companion piece of ground along the town's northern border. These were cleared and each family grew its own food. The thoroughfare, which developed along this row of 'gardens', was, and still is, called Garden Street. His success brought him the Lieutenant-Governorship of British West Florida from 1769-79 and a brief period as Acting Governor after the previous incumbent (Elliott) hanged himself. His promotions continued apace: Engineer Extraordinary and Captain-Lieutenant on 4.12.1770 and Engineer in Ordinary and Captain on 26.3.1779. As soldier, engineer and surveyor, and administrator Durnford was the only principal British official to have constant residence in Florida from the beginning to the end of authority by Britain. During

the American Revolution the Spanish took the rebels' side hoping to further their colonial interests in the West Indies at Britain's expense. The Spanish army under General Galvez besieged Fort Charlotte in Mobile in British West Florida, which was commanded by Captain Elias Durnford. Durnford's promised relief force became bogged down in swampland and on 13th March 1780 he was obliged to surrender. Following a brief spell as a prisoner of war he was allowed to return to England provided that he never again served in Florida or Louisiana. From 1781-84 he was Commanding Engineer at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Northumberland and was subsequently Chief Royal Engineer at Plymouth, Devon 1785-89 and (as a Colonel) Chief Royal Engineer in the West Indies 1790-94. During the French Revolutionary Wars in 1794 an expedition under General Sir Charles Gray was sent to attack the French colonies in the West Indies. Colonel Elias Durnford commanded the Royal Engineers, which accompanied the force. His son, (5) Elias Walker Durnford, see below, served directly under him. The islands of Martinique, St. Lucia, and Guadeloupe (subsequently recaptured) were captured from the French but both father and son were taken prisoner (6.10.1794 at Camp Berville, Guadeloupe) by the French shortly after the English capture of the latter island.

He and his wife had four sons and four daughters [(5) Elias Walker b. 28.7.1774 in Lowestoft, Suffolk; (6) Philip b. 31.3.1780 in Pensacola, West Florida; Charlotte b. 4.9.1782 in Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Thomas William b. 8.12.1784 in Tynemouth, Northumberland; Caroline b. 24.7.1787 in Lowestoft; (7) George b. 1788; Maria b. 2.12.1790; and Harriet b. 2.3.1794].

Colonel Elias Durnford died of yellow fever on 21.6.1794 in Tobago in the West Indies.

He was Brevet Colonel Anthony Durnford's great-great-uncle.

(3) THOMAS DURNFORD (1742-1769), second son of (1) Elias Durnford and brother of (2) Elias Durnford was born in Ringwood, Hampshire 26.1.1742 (Old Style 1741). He was unmarried.

He went out to the East Indies as a Volunteer. He became a Lieutenant in the East India Company's Artillery, and acted as Assistant Engineer. During the Mahratta Wars he was wounded at the siege of Trichinopoly (now Tiruchirappalli) and was killed leading the attack in the siege of the Fort of Onor on the coast of Bombay in 1769. Lieutenant Thomas Durnford was severely wounded and was being carried off by some Lascars when he was hit by a cannon shot, killing him and several Lascars immediately.

He was Brevet Colonel Anthony Durnford's great-great-uncle.

(4) ANDREW DURNFORD (1744-1798), third son of (1) Elias Durnford and brother of (3) Thomas Durnford, was born at 'Hundred-windowed House', Fordingbridge, Hampshire on 24.4.1744. He married Jemima Margaret Isaacson on 8.7.1772 in London. He met Elizabeth Lucas in Bermuda in 1789 and by her had several illegitimate children who all took the surname of Durnford.

He was commissioned in the Royal Engineers on 28.7.1769. He had been employed for some years at the Tower of London under Colonel E. Desmarctz (whose daughter married a Durnford) and his talents as a draughtsman and engineer were well known. Thus it was that he came to be appointed (under Desmarctz) in 1770 Assistant Commissary to superintend the demolition of the fortifications and canal at Dunkerque (by the terms of the Treaty of 1763 which concluded the Seven Years' War). From 1774-1776 he was employed on the defence works for Plymouth, Devon and in 1776 he was sent to America where he served throughout the American Revolution as the Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General in Georgia and West Florida from 26.5.1780 to 4.6.1783. On his return to England in 1783 he returned by way of Bermuda where he made a rapid survey and report. From 1784 to 1787 he was Chief Engineer at Chatham, Kent, with the rank of Captain-Lieutenant. The report he made on Bermuda had not gone unnoticed and on 18.7.1788 he was sent to Bermuda (the first Engineer so sent) to fortify it. He was promoted to Captain and later to Major. In 1789 he met Elizabeth Lucas and began an affair with her, which lasted until his death. He was involved in some scandalous activities in 1798, which his demise prevented their ever coming to light.

He and his wife had two boys born in London [(8) Andrew Montague Isaacson b. 24.6.1773 and (9) Anthony William b. 24.1.1775]. By Elizabeth Lucas he had one daughter and four sons all born in St. George, Bermuda [Elizabeth b. 10.2.1790; John b. 25.4.1791; Thomas b. 19.8.1792; Henry William b. 1793; and James Andrew b. 1794].

Major Andrew Durnford died of yellow fever in St. George, Bermuda, on 10.9.1798.

He was Brevet Colonel Anthony Durnford's great-grandfather.

(5) ELIAS WALKER DURNFORD (1774-1850), eldest son of (2) Elias Durnford and nephew of (4) Andrew Durnford, was born in Lowestoft, Suffolk on 28.7.1774. He married Jane Sophia Mann on 30.10.1798.

He was commissioned in the Royal Engineers on 17.10.1793. He embarked in 1794 under his father (see above) with Sir Charles Gray's expedition to attack French colonies in the West Indies during the

French Revolutionary Wars. He was engaged in operations in the capture of Martinique, St. Lucia, and Guadeloupe (till the latter's recapture by the French when he was taken prisoner with 66 other English officers including his father] at the surrender of Camp Berville 6.10.1794 and exchanged 17 months later. From 1796-98 he was stationed at Gravesend, Kent and from 1799-1800 at Portsmouth, Hampshire. From 1801-08 he worked on barrack construction in Dungannon Fort, Co. Tyrone, Ireland.

From 1809-16 he was Chief Engineer, Newfoundland, based in St. John's and was responsible for a huge building plan which extended over twenty-two years, including the still standing Queen's Battery and Blockhouse at Signal Hill just outside St. John's. His next appointment took him to Quebec where, from 1816-31, he was Commanding Royal Engineer, Canada. He supervised the building of the Citadel in Quebec (which took eleven years to complete), Quebec's fortifications, the Rideau Canal on the Richelieu River, the Grenville-Carillon Canal on the Ottawa River, as well as surveying many of the garrisons of Upper and Lower Canada including York (now Toronto) and providing plans of military structures.

From 1831-36 he was appointed Commanding Engineer, Portsmouth where in 1836 he was promoted Major General. Subsequently in 1840 he became Lieutenant General, and from 1846-50 Honorary Colonel Commandant, R.E.

He and his wife had twelve children [(10) Elias b. 1799; Mary b. 1800; Jane b. 2.11.1802 in Dublin, Ireland; (11) Philip b. 3.2.1804 in Dungannon Fort, Co. Tyrone, Ireland; Elizabeth b. 10.6.1805 in Quebec; (12) George b. 4.6.1807 in Clonmel, Co. Tipperary, Ireland; (13) John b. 4.3.1809 in Gosport, Hampshire; Charles b. 1811, (14) Vinney b. 16.2.1813, and Charlotte b. 27.2.1815 all in Newfoundland; Caroline Burch b. 10.12.1817 and Sarah b. 9.1.1820 both in Quebec].

Lieutenant-General Elias Durnford died at Tunbridge Wells, Kent on 8.10.1849. His daughter, Mary, wrote a book in 1863 about her father, *Family Recollections of Lieutenant-General Elias Walker Durnford*, (published in Montreal, 1863, printed by J. Lovell).

He was Brevet Colonel Anthony Durnford's first cousin twice removed.

(6) PHILIP DURNFORD (1780-1829), second son of (2) Elias Durnford and brother of (5) Elias Walker Durnford, was born at Pensacola, West Florida on 31.3.1780. He was unmarried.

He was engaged in military duties in South America from which he returned with his brother (7) George in 1808. He rose to become a Lieutenant Colonel in the Royal Artillery and died in Jamaica 9.12.1829.

He was Brevet Colonel Anthony Durnford's first cousin twice removed.

(7) GEORGE DURNFORD (1788-1871), fourth son of (2) Elias Durnford and brother of (6) Philip Durnford, was born at Stonehouse, Devon on 31.3.1780. He married Eliza Hamilton Earle (a descendant of Peregrine White, the first child born in America of emigrants from the ship 'May-Flower' 1620).

He was engaged in military duties in South America from which he returned with his brother (6) Philip in 1808. He rose to become a Lieutenant General in the Royal Artillery and died at Cheshunt, Hertfordshire in 1871.

He and his wife had two children [Charlotte b. 1830 and Frederick b. 1834].

He was Brevet Colonel Anthony Durnford's first cousin twice removed.

(8) ANDREW MONTAGUE ISAACSON DURNFORD (1773-1858), eldest son of (4) Andrew Durnford and cousin to (7) George Durnford, was born in London on 24.6.1773. He married Barbara Anne Shea Blake 17.2.1796. She was the daughter of Sir Patrick Blake but related to (8) Andrew Durnford's parents by adoption.

He met Harriett____(?) circa 1805 and by her had several illegitimate children who all took the surname of Durnford. He met Mary Hadley circa 1825 and by her had several illegitimate children who all took the surname of Durnford (her death certificate in 1839 describes her as "Mary Durnford, wife of Andrew Montague Isaacson Durnford"). Mary Hadley died in childbirth.

His army career appears to have oscillated wildly in its fortunes. In February 1796 at the time of his marriage he held the rank of Major and on 24.2.1803 was a Lieutenant-Colonel of the 3rd Foot Guards; yet he retired as a Lieutenant. In his Last Will and Testament dated 11.9.1854 he describes himself as an Ensign on the Retired List of the Second Royal Veteran Battalion and a Captain in the 3rd Regiment of Foot Guards.

He and his wife had five children born in London [Jemima Margaret b. 1796; (15) Andrew Montague Isaacson b. 20.3.1797 in Exeter, Devon; Arabella b. 30.12.1800; Eliza b. 30.12.1800; and (16) Edward Phillip b. 15.2.1803]. By Harriett____(?) he had five children [William George b. 1807; Harriet b. 1811; (17) Frederick Andrew b. 1816; Alfred b. 1.7.1818 in Lambeth, Surrey; Carolina Susanna Montague b. circa 1820]. By Mary Hadley he had five children [Charlotte Louisa Westwood b. 1826; Amelia Maria Isaacson b. 1828; Montague John Fenton b. 1832; Henry William b. 1834; and Valentine John Hadley b. ?.9.1839].

Captain Andrew Montague Isaacson Durnford died on 16.7.1858 at Greensick, Kent.
He was Brevet Colonel Anthony Durnford's great-uncle.

(9) ANTHONY WILLIAM DURNFORD (1775-1849), second son of (4) Andrew Durnford (1744-1798) and brother of (8) Andrew Montague Isaacson Durnford, was born in 24.1.1775 in London. He married Barbara Brabazon, daughter of the Hon. William Brabazon (the second son of the Earl of Meath).

He became an Ensign in the 1st Foot Guards in 1794 and was promoted Lieutenant and Captain in 23.9.1796. He became Adjutant of the 1st battalion on 1.1.1797 and Brigade-Major in August 1805. During the Napoleonic War he served with General Wynyard's Brigade of Guards in Sicily from June 1806 until October 1807 when the Brigade embarked as part of Sir John Moore's expedition intended for Lisbon (it ended up proceeding to England). On 26.11.1807 he was promoted to Captain and Lieutenant Colonel. In 1811 he embarked with the 3rd battalion for Cadiz but it was prevented from landing by a French blockade. On his return to England he sold out of the army later the same year. He joined the Barrack Department (under the Treasury) in 1814 as Barrack Master of a dépôt for French prisoners at Norman Cross, Huntingdonshire. He was moved to Hounslow 1815-20 and to Chatham in 1820-37 after which he retired.

He and his wife had five children [(17) Edward William b. 22.10.1803 in London; (18) George Anthony b. 18.9.1804 in Canterbury, Kent; Catherine Jemima b. 3.2.1806 in Rochester, Kent; Arthur Gifford b. 14.1.1809 in Brockhill, Berkshire; and Harriet Barbara b. 9.5.1810 in London].

Captain and Lieutenant-Colonel Anthony William Durnford died on 26.10.1849.

He was Brevet Colonel Anthony Durnford's grandfather.

(10) ELIAS DURNFORD (1799-1835), eldest son of (5) Elias Walker Durnford and first cousin once removed of (9) Anthony William Durnford, was born in 1799. He was unmarried.

He was commissioned into the Royal Engineers in 1822 and died 5.2.1835 at sea on the passage to Ceylon.

He was Brevet Colonel Anthony Durnford's second cousin once removed.

(11) PHILIP DURNFORD (1804-1881), second son of (5) Elias Walker Durnford and brother of (10) Elias Durnford, was born on 3.2.1804 in Dungannon Fort, Co. Tyrone, Ireland. He married Augusta Sewell, daughter of Stephen Sewell Q.C. of Montreal, Quebec on 3.8.1833 at Portsmouth.

Whilst his father was Commanding Royal Engineer in Canada Philip accompanied him on a five-month trip to New Orleans and Florida to try to regain his grandfather (2) Elias's property in the southern United States. In 1825 he received his commission as an Ensign in the 68th (Durham) Regiment of Foot and took part the following year in a Royal Engineers' survey on the South Muskoka River. From 1827-1829 his regiment was engaged in the Lake Simcoe-Ottawa road and canal work. 1830-31 saw him stationed in Shannon Harbour, King's Co., Ireland, 1831-34 in Portsmouth, and 1834 in Edinburgh, Midlothian, Scotland. He resigned from the army with the rank of Major that same year and emigrated to Toronto, Ontario where his wife's family (who were United Empire Loyalists) had settled. He was a Militia Captain during the 1837-38 Rebellion period. He lived in Kingston, Ontario 1840-44, and Montreal 1844-81 (in a house he had built himself called Greenhythe on Dorchester St.). He became a Montreal Revenue Inspector in 1850 and in 1867 a Federal Collector of Inland Revenue (a position he held until his death). From 1871-81 he acquired 'Wolfe' Lots in the Laurentian Mountains and in 1871 he bought land in Valdurn, Quebec, becoming one of the founding fathers of that town. Eventually the Durnfords owned over 2,000 acres in Valdurn (the original log home was on a hillock overlooking Lac Cornu near the outlet of Lac Augusta).

He and his wife had eleven children [Elias De Quincy b. 26.5.1834 in Edinburgh; Philip b. 17.4.1836; Stephen Charles b. 24.6.1837, George b. 1.8.1838, and Jane b. 6.11.1839 all in Toronto; Augusta b. 9.5.1842 and Edward Comyns b. 14.4.1844 both in Kingston; Philip Walker b. 24.9.1845, Sophia Mann b. 3.6.1847, and Augustus Decimus b. 12.1.1849 all in Montreal; and Maria Georgiana b. 14.12.1849].

Major Philip Durnford died 15.10.1881 at home in Greenhythe, Montreal.

He was Brevet Colonel Anthony Durnford's second cousin once removed.

(12) GEORGE DURNFORD (1807-1879), third son of (5) Elias Walker Durnford and brother of (11) Philip Durnford, was born on 4.6.1807 in Clonmel, Co. Tipperary, Ireland. He married Henrietta De Courcy.

George Durnford retired on full pay as a Major in the 70th Foot and Colonel. He died on 21.1.1879 at Havilit House, Guernsey, without issue.

He was Brevet Colonel Anthony Durnford's second cousin once removed.

(13) JOHN DURNFORD (1809-1891), fourth son of (5) Elias Walker Durnford and brother of (12)

George Durnford, was born on 4.3.1809 in Gosport, Hampshire. He married Charlotte Sewell, daughter of Stephen Sewell Q.C. of Montreal and sister of (11) Philip's wife.

He retired as the Assistant Superintendent of Stores, Ordnance Store Department.

He and his wife had two children [John Elias b. 1840 and Charles Day b. 1845].

He died on 8.4.1891 on Guernsey.

He was Brevet Colonel Anthony Durnford's second cousin once removed.

(14) VINNEY DURNFORD (1813-1836), sixth son of (5) Elias Walker Durnford and brother of (13) John Durnford, was born on 16.2.1813 in Newfoundland. He was unmarried.

He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Royal Engineers in 1830 and died at Portsmouth, Hampshire on 5.11.1836.

He was Brevet Colonel Anthony Durnford's second cousin once removed.

(15) ANDREW MONTAGUE ISAACSON DURNFORD (1797-1880), eldest son of (8) Andrew Montague Isaacson Durnford and second cousin of (14) Vinney Durnford, was born on 20.3.1797 in Exeter, Devon. He married, Susan Knott circa 1826 (died 1872). Mary Ann White seems to have been a maid who accompanied the Durnfords to Canada 1833/34. Andrew Durnford 'married' her bigamously in September 1850 (died 1927) and by her had several illegitimate children both before and after the 'marriage' who all took the surname of Durnford.

He was commissioned in 1813 into the 60th Royal American Regiment and in the 31st Regiment. He saw service in South Africa in 1818 and was given responsibility for road construction and repair on the Wynberg-Cape Town road. Afterwards he was stationed in Chatham, Kent at the Royal Engineers barracks. He married and sold out in 1833 as a lieutenant and emigrated to Canada 1833-34, becoming a settler in the Toronto area. He was the Government Agent in Arthur, Ontario from 1840-46 and supervised the construction of the Garafraxa Road (a commemorative marker refers to its southern section being the responsibility of "*Capt. A. M. I. Durnford*". He retired as a lieutenant.

He and his wife had eight children [George Montague Isaacson b. 1827 in Coldwater, Ontario; Isabella b. 1834; Edward Montague Isaacson b. 12.5.1837 in Coldwater; Arthur Montague Isaacson b. 26.3.1840; Rose Montague Isaacson b. 1842 in Coldwater; William Hudson Montague b. 1842; Emma Montague Isaacson b. 15.1.1848 in Coldwater; Harriet Montague Isaacson b. 1853]. By Mary Ann White he had eight children [Louisa b. 10.4.1847; Sophia b. 16.4.1849; Julia b. 30.8.1851, Barbara Ann Elizabeth b. 22.2.1854, Jemima Margaret b. 15.11.1856, Andrew Montague Isaacson b. 20.3.1859, Villiers Montague Isaacson b. 4.9.1866, and Minnie Maude b. 16.4.1871 all in Collingwood, Ontario].

Andrew Montague Isaacson Durnford died in Collingwood, Ontario on 16.12.1880.

He was Brevet Colonel Anthony Durnford's first cousin once removed.

(16) EDWARD PHILLIP DURNFORD (1803-1824), Edward Philip in some records, second son of (8) Andrew Montague Isaacson Durnford and brother of (15) Andrew Montague Isaacson Durnford, was born on 15.2.1803. He was unmarried.

He was a midshipman in the Royal Navy. In 1822 he was Principal Hydrographer on a surveying expedition under Captain William Fitzwilliam Owen, H.M.S. *Leven*, off the coast of South Africa between Cape Town and Delagoa Bay. He surveyed Point Durnford, which was named after him. Off Natal, bad weather forced the surveying ships out to sea. Malaria became rife and there were several deaths.

Midshipman Edward Phillip Durnford died at sea off Madagascar on 13.8.1824 and was buried at sea the following day.

He was Brevet Colonel Anthony Durnford's first cousin once removed.

(17) FREDERICK ANDREW DURNFORD (1816-1902), fourth son of (8) Andrew Montague Isaacson Durnford and half-brother of (16) Edward Phillip Durnford, was born in 1816 in Market Harborough, Leicestershire. He married Isbiana Massey on 29.8.1836.

He was a painter of note, dealing mainly with seascapes, who exhibited in several London galleries including the Royal Academy between 1835 and 1886. His most famous works include '*A Fresh Breeze off the Coast of Norfolk*' (1840) and '*View of Dordrecht*' (1848). In *Kelly's Handbook 1893* he is listed as Lieutenant-Colonel Frederick Andrew Durnford, J.P. Surrey.

He and his wife had three children [Frederick Andrew b. 1837 in Lewisham, Kent; Agnes Isbiana b. 1838 in Westminster, Middlesex; and Henry Montague b. 1840 in Newton Toney, Wiltshire].

He died 28.2.1902 in Walton-on-Thames, Surrey.

He was Brevet Colonel Anthony Durnford's first cousin once removed.

(18) EDWARD WILLIAM DURNFORD (1803-1889), eldest son of (9) Anthony William Durnford and cousin of (17) Frederick Andrew Durnford, was born in 22.10.1803 in London. He married Elizabeth

Rebecca Langley on 3.6.1829 in Cardiff, Glamorganshire, Wales.

In 1825 he was nominated a Candidate for the Corps of Royal Engineers, and joined the Ordnance Survey in Cardiff, Wales. He was posted to Chatham, Kent in August 1826 and was gazetted Second Lieutenant in September 1826. He served with the Ordnance Survey of Ireland from 1827-1842 in which time he was promoted to Second-Captain (1841). In 1842 he transferred to the Ordnance Survey of England in which he remained until 1844.

In 1830 he served as a lieutenant in the Royal Engineers with the Ordnance Survey. He served in China from 1845 seeing action in 1847 during the Second China War. Captain Durnford became the Executive Engineer in a naval and land expedition under the command of Admiral Inglefield and General D'Aguilar on the Canton River. He made accurate assessments of the enemy's fortifications such that eight forts were captured with relative ease, which led up to the capture of Canton, the surrender of the Chinese, and the end of the war. From 1849-1855 he was stationed in Scotland and was promoted Brevet Major (July 1854) and Lieutenant-Colonel (December 1854). From 1855-1856 he was in Malta and in command of the Royal Engineers there in the latter year [with his son, (22) Lieutenant Anthony William Durnford, R.E., as his Adjutant]; and from 1856-1857 in Ireland as Assistant Adjutant-General to the Royal Engineers. He was promoted Colonel in 1860 and then appointed Commanding Royal Engineer, Ireland until 1866. From 1860-1868 he was Commanding Royal Engineer and Colonel on the Staff, Malta. On 6.3.1868 he became a Major General and subsequently (1874) a Lieutenant General and gazetted (later in 1874) Colonel Commandant Royal Engineers. His last promotion to General was on 1.10.1877.

He and his wife had six children [(22) Anthony William b. 24.5.1830 in Manor Hamilton, Co. Leitrim, Ireland; (23) Edward Congreve Langley b. 8.5.1832; Annabella Barbara b. 193.1834; Catherine Jemima b. 16.3.1836; Arthur George b. 9.8.1838 in Westport, Co. Mayo, Ireland; Harriet Maria Boteler b. 1.3.1840]. General Edward William Durnford died 30.1.1889 in Southsea, Hampshire. He was Brevet Colonel Anthony Durnford's father.

(19) GEORGE ANTHONY DURNFORD (1804-1856), second son of (9) Anthony William Durnford and brother of (18) Edward William Durnford, was born on 18.9.1804 in Canterbury, Kent. He was unmarried.

In June 1842 he was the Captain of the grenadier company of the 27th Regiment stationed in Grahamstown, Natal at the time of the 34-day siege of Durban. Packing his men into a schooner, the 'Conch', whose captain had volunteered its service, he sailed away to Durban with the intention of rescuing Captain Thomas Smith and his men of the 27th Regiment from the Boers under Pretorius. At the same time the frigate 'Southampton', with five companies of the 25th Regiment of Foot, was despatched from Cape Town. The sandbank at the entrance to Port Natal harbour prevented the 'Southampton' from entering so the smaller 'Conch' with George Durnford's men aboard towed boats containing the men of 25th toward the shore while the 'Southampton' gave covering fire. Despite heavy fire from the Boer guns, Durnford led his men ashore. As soon as they were fairly ashore, the soldiers rushed into the bush after the Boers with Durnford at their head. Pretorius led his Boers off inland; the siege was raised and Smith's garrison relieved.

George Durnford was later promoted to Major and Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel.

Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel George Anthony Durnford died in 1856 in Simla, India.

He was Brevet Colonel Anthony Durnford's uncle.

(20) JOHN ELIAS DURNFORD (1840-1867), elder son of (13) John Durnford and second cousin once removed of (19) George Anthony Durnford, was born in 1840. He was unmarried.

John Elias Durnford was a lieutenant in the 3rd Regiment of Foot.

He died in Belfast, Co. Antrim, Ireland in 1867.

He was Brevet Colonel Anthony Durnford's third cousin.

(21) CHARLES DAY DURNFORD (1845-18--?), second son of (13) John Durnford and brother of (20) John Elias Durnford, was born in 1845. He married Emily Roberts on 15.1.1874.

Charles Day Durnford served in the 63rd Regiment of Foot and in the Ordnance Store Department.

He and his wife died without issue.

Charles Day Durnford died before March 1901, the exact date has yet to be ascertained.

He was Brevet Colonel Anthony Durnford's third cousin.

(22) ANTHONY WILLIAM DURNFORD (1830-1879), eldest son of (18) Edward William Durnford and third cousin of (21) Charles Day Durnford, was born in 24.5.1830 at Manor Hamilton, Co. Leitrim, Ireland. He married Frances Catherine Tranchell, daughter of Colonel Tranchell, Ceylon Rifles, on 15.9.1854 at St. Stephen's Church, Trincomalee, Ceylon.

He was educated in Düsseldorf, Germany from 1842. In July 1846 he entered the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich as a gentleman-cadet. On 27.6.1848 he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Royal Engineers and was posted to Chatham. 1849 saw a posting to Scotland (Edinburgh and Fort George). In October 1851 he was sent to Trincomalee, Ceylon, attached to the command of Admiral Sir Fleetwood Pellew, where he was mainly engaged in harbour defence works. He was promoted to Lieutenant on 17.2.1854. In 1855 he became Assistant Commissioner of Roads and Civil Engineer to Ceylon. He acquired a reputation as a gambler and as a heavy loser and this may have begun to have a deleterious effect on his marriage. He volunteered for service in the Crimean War which was granted in November 1855. He was however detained by a bout of fever. He was eventually sent to Malta, arriving there in March 1856, with the intention of proceeding to the Crimea. The war with Russia was coming to an end so, instead, Durnford was kept in Malta. March 1856 saw his appointment as Adjutant to the Lieutenant-Colonel Commanding Royal Engineers (his father), Malta.

He returned to England in early 1858 and in from February of that year he became an itinerant instructor of field works in various military academies and on 18.3.1858 he was promoted to Second Captain. By September 1859 he was an instructor in field works in Chatham, where he befriended Captain (later General) Charles Gordon (of Khartoum fame). In December 1860 he was sent to Gibraltar as the Lieutenant in command of 27th (Field) Company, R.E. He was promoted to First Captain on 5.1.1864 and in August of that year returned to England. He became estranged from his wife in 1864 and October saw him despatched to China with the intention of joining his old friend, (then) Colonel Charles Gordon, and his 'Ever-Victorious' Army there. However, he disembarked in Ceylon suffering from heat exhaustion and a nervous breakdown. He was obliged to stay in hospital for three months during which time he was nursed back to health by Gordon himself (whilst en route back to England). In January 1865 he was invalided home and stationed at Devonport.

In 1870 he was sent to Dublin and in 1871 to Cape Town arriving 23.1.1872. From there he re-embarked on the *Syria* for Port Elizabeth. He then proceeded overland to King William's Town and thence to Natal. On 5.7.1872 he was promoted to Major. He was ordered to return to Cape Town in January 1873 where he was stationed at the Cape Castle. In May he was posted back to Pietermaritzburg, Natal, where Durnford befriended the controversial John William Colenso, Bishop of Natal, and his daughter Frances, with whom he later, allegedly, began a romantic affair. He found he shared the same views as Colenso toward the native population and promoted and supported their interests whenever he could. His sympathies would inspire fierce loyalty among the African troops he was to command.

In August 1873 he was attached to the staff of Natal's Secretary for Native Affairs, Theophilus Shepstone, on his coronation mission into Zululand and was the senior British officer at King Cetshwayo's coronation on 1.9.1873. In October of that year he was appointed Chief of Staff by Lieutenant-Colonel Milles in an expedition against a rumoured native uprising of the amaHlubi led by its chief Langalibalele. As part of the expedition, Durnford was expected to hold Bushman's River Pass and prevent the chief's escape. On 4.11.1873 Durnford and his men were caught in an ambush there in which he suffered an assegai wound and lost the use of his left arm. Durnford was given the post (with effect from 1.11.1873) of Acting Colonial Engineer; on 11.12.1873 he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. 1874 saw Durnford active in blocking passes in the Drakensberg range in an attempt to contain the amaHlubi and to prevent any Basuto incursion in sympathy. He also began to speak against the injustice done to the amaPutini tribe who had been unjustly accused of conspiring with the amaHlubi and had had their lands confiscated. On 13.7.1874 Durnford became a Justice of the Peace. On 10.10.1875 he was replaced by a subordinate as Acting Colonial Engineer largely because of his outspoken views on native affairs and confederation. In May 1876 he was replaced as Commanding Royal Engineer, Natal by another subordinate. On 27th May he embarked for England to obtain specialist medical advice on his injured and useless arm, to take a rest cure in Germany, and to take up a posting in July in Queenstown, Ireland, doing maintenance work on the three forts there. Overwork, physical pain, and perhaps the cloud he felt himself under on leaving South Africa led to a collapse through exhaustion and his departure from Ireland. His old friend, Charles Gordon, came to his rescue and put a word in for him. On 8th February 1877 Durnford found himself aboard the *Danube* leaving Southampton bound for Natal re-appointed as Colonial Engineer.

He arrived in Pietermaritzburg on the 23rd March. Shepstone was about to annex the Transvaal and Durnford was sent up to Newcastle on 10th April. On the 11th on his own initiative he moved on to Pretoria in the Transvaal only to find on his arrival on the 15th that the annexation had taken place on the 12th. He was then asked to ensure that the British forces at Newcastle were brought up to Pretoria. After this he returned to Pietermaritzburg on the 26th. Between February and June 1878 he sat on the Zulu Boundary Commission which found in favour of the Zulu. In July he was asked to put forward plans for bridging the Tugela River – clearly viewed by his superiors as having import in the event of any future military action in Zululand. In addition he recommended the formation of a Natal Native Pioneer Corps – two companies were raised by October despite the opposition of the Lieutenant-Governor of Natal who saw arming natives

as a dangerous exercise. Ultimately three regiments of a Natal Native Contingent were also raised for skirmishing and scouting purposes (Durnford was given command of the 1st Regiment N.N.C.) besides six troops of Natal Native Horse. On 11.12.1878 he was promoted Brevet Colonel though he may not have been aware of this promotion at the time of his death. In the 1879 Zulu War he was the commander of No. 2 Column invading Zululand.

He and his wife had three children [Edward William (in one record Edward Charles) b. 19.6.1855 in Ceylon, d. 16.7.1856 in Malta; Frances Elizabeth Mary b. 5.1.1857 in Malta, married N. McIvor Rapp 1883, lived in Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex, d. 1919 without issue; Julia Brabazon b. 1859 in England, d. 1860 in England].

On 22.1.1879 Brevet Colonel Anthony William Durnford was killed in action at the battle of Isandhlwana. He was reburied at Pietermaritzburg on 12.10.1879.

(23) EDWARD CONGREVE LANGLEY DURNFORD (1832-1926), second son of (18) Edward William Durnford and brother of (22) Anthony William Durnford, was born in 8.5.1832 in Ireland. He married Julia Penrice on 3.3.1859

He entered the Royal Marines in 1851 and was appointed to the Royal Marine Artillery the following year. He served on H.M.S. James Wall during the Crimean War and took part in successfully besieging and bombarding Bomarsund 13th-16th August 1854 after which he served for a short time with the 2nd Company of the Royal Sappers and Miners. Later on he was appointed to command mortar-boats and took part in the bombardment of Sveaborg on 9th August 1855 for which he was mentioned in despatches. From this time until 1856 and the end of the war he served on board H.M.S. Forth. In 1862 he was promoted to Captain and from September 1867 to May 1870 he was Staff Captain, Royal Marine Artillery and appointed to Superintendent of Artificers being in charge of all public works in progress at Eastney Barracks and Fort Cumberland. He was promoted to Brevet Major in 1872 and to Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel upon his retirement on 8.5.1877. He was the author of two books on the Zulu War in which he defended his dead brother's reputation [*A Soldier's Life and Work in South Africa 1872 to 1879, A Memoir of the Late Colonel A. W. Durnford, R.E.*, (London 1882) and co-authored with Frances Ellen Colenso, *The History of the Zulu War and Its Origin*, (London, 1880)].

He and his wife had four children [Edward b. 1866 in Hastings, Sussex and a daughter (an elder son and younger daughter both died in infancy)].

Lieutenant-Colonel Edward Congreve Langley Durnford died in 1926 in Harpenden, Hertfordshire.

He was Brevet Colonel Anthony Durnford's younger brother.

(24) ARTHUR GEORGE DURNFORD (1838-1912), third son of (18) Edward William Durnford and brother of (23) Edward Congreve Langley Durnford, was born on 9.8.1838 in Westport, Co. Mayo, Ireland. He married Victoria Harriet Louisa Devon on 21.8.1866 in Addington, Kent.

He received his commission in the Royal Engineers on 21.6.1856 and was stationed at Chatham, Kent 1856-57; Ireland 1857-59; Gibraltar 1859-64 (Adjutant from 1860); Chatham again with 40th Depot Company 1864-65; Shorncliffe, Kent with the 10th Company 1865-66; and then to Malta with the 33rd Company where he served under his father (18) Colonel Edward William Durnford, R.E. He was promoted to Captain in 1866. His postings from May 1870 to July 1872 were to Aldershot, Hampshire (in command of B Troop); Dover, Kent (in command of C Troop); and to Chatham, as Instructor at the School of Military Engineering.

In 1873 he was promoted to Major, in 1881 to Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel, and in 1882 to Lieutenant Colonel. He was appointed Commanding Royal Engineer, Shorncliffe in July 1882 and Assistant Director of Works at the War Office in 1883. He accompanied the Bechuanaland Expedition in November 1884. On 1.7.1885 he was promoted Colonel. 1889 saw his appointment as Colonel on the Staff and Commanding Royal Engineer of the North-Western District (England). He transferred to the same position for the Southern District (England) in which capacity he remained until 31.8.1894 when he retired from the service.

He and his wife had two sons and two daughters [Ethel Mary Victoria b. 24.5.1867 in Malta; Gwendolen Alice Mary b. 11.8.1869 in Malta; (29) Arthur Cecil Somerset b. 26.1.1875 in New Brompton, Kent; and (30) Guy Edward Jervoise b. 29.5.1876 in Aldershot, Hampshire].

Colonel Arthur George Durnford died in 1912.

He was Brevet Colonel Anthony Durnford's youngest brother.

(25) PHILIP ELIAS DURNFORD (1896-1967), eldest son of Augustus Decimus Durnford (1849-1912), grandson of (11) Philip Durnford, and third cousin once removed of (24) Arthur George Durnford, was born on 13.11.1896 in Montreal, Quebec. He married Julia Mary MacInnes.

He served 1916-18 as a Captain in the Royal Horse Artillery and was wounded during World War One.

His civilian occupation was as a stockbroker. From 1948 he became the President of the Quebec Red Cross. He and his wife had three children [John William; Donald Philip; and Margaret Oneida]. He died on 8.11.1967 in Montreal. He was Brevet Colonel Anthony Durnford's third cousin once removed.

(26) ALEXANDER TILLOCH GALT DURNFORD (1898-1973), second son of Augustus Decimus Durnford (1849-1912), grandson of (11) Philip Durnford, and brother of (25) Philip Elias Durnford, was born on 25.7.1898 in Beaconsfield, Quebec. He married Marjorie Chaworth-Musters Currie on 15.6.1932 in Montreal, Quebec.

He obtained a Bachelor of Architecture from McGill University in 1922 and became a renowned architect practising in Montreal from 1924. He was a member of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada and the Royal Institute of British Architects. He served as a Lieutenant-Commander (S.B.) in the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve in World War Two and lived in Ottawa in that period. He became the Dean of the College of Fellows, Royal Architectural Institute of Canada from 1955-57.

He and his wife had two children [Lucy Chaworth-Musters and Arthur William Currie].

He died 22.8.1973 in Montreal.

He was Brevet Colonel Anthony Durnford's third cousin once removed.

(27) ELLIOTT AUGUSTUS DURNFORD (1902-1974), third son of Augustus Decimus Durnford (1849-1912), grandson of (11) Philip Durnford, and brother of (26) Alexander Tilloch Galt Durnford, was born on 8.3.1902 in Montreal, Quebec. He married Amy Maxwell Mackenzie on 8.10.1927 in Montreal.

He saw military service during World War Two as a Lieutenant Colonel, A.D.O.S. Canadian Army Troop 1940-45 and was awarded the Order of the British Empire for his services. He was for a time the Curator of the Royal Canadian Ordnance Corps Museum.

He and his wife had two children [Amy Jancis and Hugh Mackenzie Elliott].

He died 16.11.1974 in Montreal.

He was Brevet Colonel Anthony Durnford's third cousin once removed.

Not circled on the genealogical table are two brothers who both probably served in World War One about whom it has so far proved impossible to find any details of their military careers. These are the second and third sons of the Rev. Andrew Montague Isaacson (1859-1947) and Minnie Elizabeth Rowed and the grandsons of (15) Andrew Montague Isaacson Durnford (1797-1880) by his bigamous marriage to Mary Ann White:

Andrew Montague Isaacson Durnford (1887-1968) attested as a Sapper (no. 853780) in the Canadian 177th Overseas Battalion on 24.2.1917. He was born on 24.11.1887 in Penentanguishene, Ontario and was married to Norma Emily Latimer on 14.2.1910. His civilian profession was a freight railway agent where he lived in Collingwood, Ontario. He and his wife had one daughter [Freda Louise b. 20.7.1910, d. 27.7.1917]. He died 23.4.1968 in Collingwood.

Villiers Henry Durnford (1890-1975) was purportedly in the Canadian Forces during World War One. He was born on 25.5.1890 in Penentanguishene, Ontario and was married to Ada Estelle Morgan on 29.3.1919. After his alleged return from World War One he ran a general store and post office in Scarborough, Ontario where there is a road is named after him. He and his wife had two sons [Villiers Andrew Morgan b. 10.6.1921 and Arthur Montague Edward b. circa 1922]. He died 10.1.1978 in Scarborough.

(28) WILLIAM JACKSON DURNFORD (1896-1966), fourth son of George Alfred Durnford (1846-1902), grandson of Alfred Durnford (1818-98), great-grandson of (8) Andrew Montague Isaacson Durnford, and fourth cousin of (27) Elliott Augustus Durnford, was born on 12.11.1896 in Richland, Wisconsin. He married Leona Grace Hillesheim on 4.4.1920 in Richland on 8.10.1927 in Montreal.

He served as Chief Carpenter in the United States Naval Reserve in both World War One and World War Two.

He and his wife had three daughters [Betty Jean; Beba Beth; and Veva O'Dota].

He died 9.11.1966 in Crawford, Wisconsin.

He was Brevet Colonel Anthony Durnford's second cousin once removed.

(29) ARTHUR CECIL SOMERSET DURNFORD (1875-1897), elder son of (24) Arthur George Durnford and third cousin of (28) William Jackson Durnford, was born on 26.1.1875 in New Brompton, Kent. He was unmarried.

He was taught at public schools (Hill House, Guildford; Sandroyd House, Cobham; and Uppingham) and tutored privately. He attended the Royal Military College, Sandhurst and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, the West India Regiment on 25.3.1896. He was attached to the 17th Leicestershire Regiment at Aldershot 25.4.1896 to 12.9.1896 and embarked for Sierra Leone on 17.10.1896. He disembarked at Freetown and set off with two companies of the West India Regiment for Cape Coast Castle to which he was appointed Adjutant and Quartermaster on 5.5.1897. He arrived at Cape Coast Castle on 11.5.1897. He died of malaria on 25.3.1897 at Cape Coast Castle, Sierra Leone. He was Brevet Colonel Anthony Durnford's nephew.

(30) GUY EDWARD JERVOISE DURNFORD (1876-1951), younger son of (24) Arthur George Durnford and brother of (29) Arthur Cecil Somerset Durnford, was born on 29.5.1876 in Aldershot, Hampshire. He married Bessie Muriel Ford on 7.2.1901.

He received a commission into the Royal Engineers in 1895. 1910-14 he was Assistant Instructor of Submarine Mining and Instructor (Workshops) at the School of Military Engineering. During World War One he was Staff Officer to the Chief Engineer of the First Army in France 1914-16; Commanding Royal Engineer of the 61st Division 1916-19; and was subsequently awarded the Distinguished Service Order. In turn, he became Commanding Royal Engineer of the Athlone, Ulster and Chatham Districts and retired from the service as a Colonel in 1926.

He and his wife had two children [Elizabeth Barbara b. 26.9.1908 and (32) Anthony Guy Devon b. 28.11.1918].

He died on 28.6.1951.

He was Brevet Colonel Anthony Durnford's nephew.

(31) DEWEY FOSTER DURNFORD (1923-1999), only son of Dewey Foster Durnford (1897-1981), grandson of Frederick Henry Durnford (1862-1930), great-grandson of Alfred Durnford (1818-1898), great-great-grandson of (8) Andrew Montague Isaacson Durnford, and third cousin once removed of (30) Guy Edward Jervoise Durnford, was born in 1923 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The name of his first wife is not known; his second marriage was to Liesa Bernstein.

He was brought up in Columbus, Ohio, graduated from the University of Maryland in 1958, and served in the United States Marine Corps for 29 years as a pilot reaching the rank of Colonel and serving in World War Two, the Korean War and the Vietnam War before his retirement to Rockledge, Florida. He was a fighter ace with seven victories and held the Legion of Merit with Combat V, the Distinguished Flying Cross (4 awards), the Air Medal (10 awards) and many unit and campaign medals.

By his first marriage he had three children [Vicki; Kathilyn; and Thomas Dewey].

Colonel Dewey Foster Durnford died on 22.4.1999 in Rockledge.

He was Brevet Colonel Anthony Durnford's second cousin twice removed.

(32) ANTHONY GUY DEVON DURNFORD (1918-), only son of (30) Guy Edward Jervoise Durnford and fourth cousin of (31) Dewey Foster Durnford, was born on 28.11.1918.

Anthony Guy Devon Durnford was a Major in the Royal Artillery and is now retired.

He has one son [Matthew Guy b. 16.5.1953].

He is Brevet Colonel Anthony Durnford's great-nephew.

Author's Notes.

1. Parts of this article are contained within a doctoral thesis currently being undertaken at Birkbeck College, University of London, and, as such, copyright, for thesis purposes, resides with the author.
2. I am grateful to F.W.D. Jackson for his assistance and helpful comments and to Beverley Williams of the Royal Engineers' Museum, Chatham.

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