

Lieutenant Charles Jameson 1/3 NNC, brother of Dr *Sir* Leander Starr Jameson

One day, when researching for my essay on '*Colonial Officers in the Anglo-Zulu War, 1879*' I was visiting the Cape Archives Repository in Cape Town and following up potential leads for further biographical details of Cape Colonials who served in the Natal Native Contingents. One such lead was confirming the correct spelling of Lieutenant C. Jameson's name as it sometimes appears as Jamieson, a common inherited mistake through various sources. As an outside chance and having read much of Dr *Sir* Leander Starr Jameson's exploits in the '*Jameson Raid*', I had also noticed in Dr Jameson's family-tree that a Charles Jameson had died in 1879; was it the same man?

Inevitably, two files were presented and they confirmed that in 1881 a Mr John Julius Pringle Jameson, residing in the Eastern Cape, had requested a South Africa Medal application form in order to claim his brother Lieutenant Charles Jameson's medal '*who was killed at Isandhlwana (sic) serving with Lonsdale*'. The second document was a probate record that confirmed that his horse was sold in Natal for £20 which leads one to believe that his horse was recovered at iSandlwana or was being used by another officer at the time, a common occurrence as the fittest horses were usually sent out into the field. The record confirmed conclusively that Lieutenant Charles Jameson who had served with No9 Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Regiment, Natal Native Contingent was the son of Robert William Jameson and Christiana Jameson (Neé Pringle). Another of the Jameson brothers, Samuel Watson Jameson was residing in King William's Town at the time and requested a meeting of the next-of-kin and creditors in order to appoint an executor and settle his estate.

Born in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1844, not much is known about Charles's life in South Africa as the South African Archives and the many regional newspapers of the time are yet to shed some light on his activities apart from his brief Anglo-Zulu War service having been commissioned a Lieutenant in the 1st Battalion, 3rd Regiment, Natal Native Contingent on 3 December 1878 and within 51 days he was killed. In fact, had he not served in the Anglo-Zulu War there would hardly be any evidence of him ever being in South Africa at all.

One of ten brothers, he was the son of Robert William Jameson (1805 - 1868) a former Writer to the Signet of Edinburgh, a Playwright and Editor whilst his mothers father was Major-General John Pringle. Of the brothers, it was the youngest Dr Leander Starr Jameson who was celebrated as a hero after the Ndebele War of 1893 and later imprisoned for leading British South Africa Company forces into the Transvaal in 1895/96 in a bungled attempt to topple the Kruger government. He was later to serve as the tenth Prime Minister of the Cape.

The Jameson brothers were, in order of birth:

1. **JAMESON, John Pringle** (1836 –); Merchant Navy.
2. **JAMESON, Thomas MD RN** (1837 - 1897);
3. **JAMESON, Ross** (1838 – 1851).
4. **JAMESON, Robert William** (1840 - 1896): Sailor, Botanist, Explorer and Pioneer of Mashonaland.

5. **JAMESON, Charles** (1844-1879); Resided in King William's Town; Lieutenant, No9 Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Regiment, Natal Native Contingent 6.12.78; Anglo-Zulu War 1879; Killed in action at iSandhlwana 22.1.1879.
6. **JAMESON John Julius Pringle** (1846 – 1889); Died in the Eastern Cape, South Africa.
7. **JAMESON, Samuel Watson** (1848 - 1915); He was residing in Johannesburg at the time of the Jameson Raid; Died in England.
8. **JAMESON, Edward** (1850 – 1861).
9. **JAMESON, Middleton Alexander** (1851 - 1919); Artist.
10. **JAMESON, Leander Starr Sir KCMG CB PC** (1853 - 1917); Surgeon; Pioneer of Mashonaland and Matabeleland; Leader of the Jameson Raiders to the Transvaal 1895/96; Prime Minister of the Cape Colony 1904-08.

References:

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THE OTHER DRURY-LOWE

Whilst Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel Drury Curzon Drury-Lowe of the 17th (*Duke of Cambridge's Own*) Lancers is a well-known figure of the Anglo-Zulu War his younger brother Captain Richard Curzon Sherwin Drury-Lowe of Lonsdale's Horse is lesser known and whilst his participation in the war was brief, his military career remains interesting, albeit not unique for the time.

Born at Spondon, Derbyshire, England on 21 July 1849 as 'Richard Curzon Sherwin Holden' he was the youngest son of William Holden at which point during that year his name was changed to 'Richard Curzon Sherwin Lowe'. He was commissioned an Ensign by purchase into the 52nd (*Oxfordshire*) Regiment on 10 November 1869 being promoted Lieutenant on 1 November 1871 to a '*non salable commission*' and subsequently saw foreign service in Malta. On 3 September 1878, General Sir Alfred Horsford wrote a testimony for Drury-Lowe that read: '*I have referred to the reports made upon you while in the 52nd Foot during the time that the Reg't formed part of the Garrison under my Command at Malta, and I am happy to say that your conduct was highly satisfactory*'.

On 29 October 1873 having served four years with the 52nd, he transferred as a Lieutenant to the 10th (*The Prince of Wales' Own*) Hussars and saw more foreign service in Bengal, India. He retired, receiving the value of his commission, on 12 May 1875 and was by 1878 recorded to have been a Gentleman Farmer of *Hill House*, Sapperton in Gloucester. He was declared bankrupt in 1879 and with many former officers making their way to volunteer for service in the Anglo-Zulu War he too sailed for South Africa. Probably using his brother's influence he obtained a commission as a Captain in Lonsdale's Horse and served with them until the end of the war before returning to England in September 1879.

With broken finances, on 2 March 1880 he wrote from his brother Colonel D.C. Drury-Lowe's house at Aspley Guise, Woburn, Buckinghamshire to the

Colonial Secretary in Cape Town requesting a commission in the Cape Mounted Rifles (CMR) which were being reformed and revitalized with some new blood. This new blood was in the form of such men as Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel Frederick Carrington CMG, Captains A.E.B. Blaine, H.C.D. D'Arcy VC and others fresh from the Anglo-Zulu and Second Anglo-Bapedi Wars.

Unsuccessful in his application for a commission, he was not the first former officer to serve in the ranks of the CMR so he attested on 27 July 1880 as a First Class-Private in No 3 Troop, 'Left' Wing (Regimental number 855 as 'Richard Drury Lowe') under Captain John Palmer Cochrane and a veritable plethora of names of men that would make their mark in South Africa. He served in the Basotho Gun War of 1880-81 and was promoted to Third class-Sergeant on 1 February 1881 and in January 1883 he received his South Africa medal for his service as a Captain in Lonsdale's Horse and in the Zulu War. He was subsequently promoted to Second Class Sergeant on 1 May 1881 and to First Class-Sergeant of No1 Troop, 'Right' Wing, on 28 November 1883. During a reorganization of the CMR he was forced to revert to the rank of Second Class-Sergeant on 1 September 1884 and in the same year, he formally changed his name to 'Richard Curzon Sherwin Drury-Lowe'.

With no entries in the regimental defaulters' book and possibly being discontented with limited prospects of a commission, he purchased his discharge from the CMR for £3 on 12 February 1885. Returning to England at some point, he was married in London in 1900 and was recorded as residing in Portsmouth in 1901. He died at 'Lonsdale', Craneswater, Southsea, Hampshire on 28 September 1906 leaving an estate worth £5,000.

References:

Cape Archives Repository., AD1-45 and AD1-55; Basotho Gun War pay records.
Cape Archives Repository., DD 7/46; Muster Book 'Right' Wing, CMR c1884.
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Lieutenant George Hamilton 'Maori' Browne, Cape Town Volunteer Engineers, Basotho Gun War 1880-81

At a first glance the heading of this article may prove to be puzzling to the ardent Anglo-Zulu War buff. However, two factors concerning George Hamilton 'Maori' Browne's service during the Basotho Gun War 1880-81 have been difficult to verify from official records; the first is that a former Rhodesian comrade, Trooper John 'Jack' Caruthers then serving with 'D' Troop, 3rd Cape Mounted Yeomanry, claimed that Major Hamilton Browne commanded a squadron of the Diamond Fields Horse in the Basotho Gun War whilst the second point is that although 'Maori' was a prolific writer he only wrote a few lines in relation to the Basotho War: *'Well the Basuto (sic) War broke out, and although I took a hand in it, and it was in Tembuland that I lost my faithful friend and servant Quin'*.

In following up the suggestion that Browne served in the Diamond Fields Horse in the Basotho War, an examination of the unit's records revealed that he was

only commissioned into the Diamond Fields Horse (Permanent establishment) as a Lieutenant on 13 July 1887 and was appointed Captain and Adjutant from 1 January 1890 and resigned on 1 July 1891 prior to moving to Mashonaland. This does not fit the Basotho War theory and a further review of the Basotho War Pay sheets and Colonial Force Orders reveals that the Kimberley men were then serving as the Kimberley Horse and deployed in two contingents known simply as the 'Left' and 'Right' Wings, Kimberley Horse. Browne does not feature on any document. Even by his own account, he states that he was in Cape Town between the Zulu and Basotho Wars.

Eventually, a Lieutenant G.H. Brown (without the 'e') was identified as receiving his Cattle Prize money in 1883 for service with the Cape Town Volunteer Engineers (CTVE) in the Transkei in 1881. The Colonial Force Orders (CFO) for the Cape Town Volunteer Engineers cited that 'Sapper George Hamilton Brown' was commissioned a Lieutenant in the 'Service Detachment' on 15 November 80 (CFO 196) and Adjutant from 26 November 1880 until 4 January 1881. As his commission was received on active service, the pay sheets reveal that Sapper G.H. Brown was on strength in the field from 2 November until 14 November 1880 the day prior to his appointment. It can only surmised that serving with the CTVE was not going to make a gripping read in his biography *Lost Legionnaire in Africa* and that he bypassed it completely. It further appears that he joined in any capacity to get a berth, as he does not appear on the peacetime establishment of the CTVE at the end of 1879. His rapid promotion in the field, bypassing NCO, rank is testimony to his leadership ability and possibly his reputation from the Ninth Eastern Cape Frontier War 1877-78 and the Anglo-Zulu War 1879.

After the Basotho Gun War, he was next commissioned a Captain of 'C' Squadron, 3rd Mounted Rifles on 1 January 1885 and served in Warren's Bechuanaland Expedition of 1885; 'C' Squadron were all Kimberley men. Later he served in the Ndebele (Matabele) War 1893 and in the Ndebele Rebellion 1896 and the Shona (Mashonland) Rebellion of 1897 being mentioned-in-despatches (LG 18.2.98) *'To Major Hamilton-Browne, who commanded the Umtali Rifles, the credit is due for the suppression of the rebellion in Soswe's country and the neighborhood of Marandellas, also for the capture of Soswe as well as several other important chiefs after several engagements.*

Two sons later served with the Cape Mounted Police (CMP); Arthur Charles Hamilton Browne and Frederick Saville Hamilton Browne. Arthur was born in Kimberley in 1882 and served with the CMP (No377) from June 1902 at which point he cited his father's address as being Cumber Claudy, Londonderry, Ireland. Frederick was also born in Kimberley in 1886 and served with the Cape Mounted Police from 1907.

Hamilton-Browne, George., *Lost Legionnaire in Africa.*

Rhodesiana Reprint Library – Silver Series., *The '96 Rebellions.* 1975

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Cape Archives Repository., AD 1-50, Pay Sheets Transkei.

Cape Archives Repository., DD 1-4, Cape Town Volunteer Engineer Corps 1879.

Cape Archives Repository., CMP 5, Attestation Sheets, Cape Mounted Police.