

## Frank's Forage No. 42

### Charlotte Wellesley

One of the miniatures in the Ebony Bedroom is of Charlotte Wellesley and we learn that she is a great great-grandmother of the present baronet. I wanted to know more about her and her relationship to the family. The result of my foraging follows.



Let us begin with Charlotte's grandparents. Garret Wesley (1735-81), 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Mornington was an Anglo-Irish politician and composer born at the family home of Dangan near Summerhill, Co. Meath. He was educated at Trinity College, Dublin and elected its 1<sup>st</sup> Professor of Music in 1764. In recognition of his musical and philanthropic achievements he was created Viscount Wellesley in 1760.

Garret Wesley married the Hon. Anne Hill-Trevor in 1759, eldest daughter of Arthur Hill-Taylor, 1<sup>st</sup> Viscount Dungannon. They had six children: -

**Richard**, Viscount Wellesley (1760-1842), later 1<sup>st</sup> Marquess Wellesley, 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Mornington. In 1797 he became Governor-General of India and was involved in the capture of Seringapatam and the demise of Tipu Sahib.

The Hon. **William** Wellesley (1763-1845), later William Wellesley-Pole, 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Mornington, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Maryborough.

The Hon. **Arthur** Wellesley (1769-1852), 1<sup>st</sup> Duke of Wellington (Waterloo fame).

The Revd. and Hon. **Gerald Valerian** Wellesley (1770-1848), father of Admiral George Wellesley

The Hon. **Henry** Wellesley (1773-1847), later 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Cowley and father of Charlotte. He was in India as secretary to his brother Richard.

Lady **Anne** Wellesley (1775-1844), married (1) the Hon Henry FitzRoy, son of Charles FitzRoy, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Southampton. Four streets in Camden town, part of Henry's estate were named Mornington Place, Street, Place and Crescent which is better known as a tube station.

Henry Wellesley and his brother Gerald married two sisters, Charlotte and Emily Cadogan but the marriages faltered and both sisters had affairs leading to divorce. Henry and Charlotte had four children, of which their daughter (also Charlotte) is the subject of this forage. Henry disclaimed being the father of the youngest boy, Gerald, who took holy orders and became Dean of Windsor. Charlotte's lover was Henry Paget, created Marquis of Anglesey for his gallantry at Waterloo. She was said to be vivacious and Paget was more dashing than her husband.

The young Charlotte Wellesley was two years old when her parents separated and she was left in her father's care. However, Henry was appointed ambassador to Spain for thirteen years during which time Charlotte was in the care of governesses in England and Ireland. In her teens she was said to be good looking and began to attract attention at Hunt balls and other events. She developed an individual personality, self-assured and resistant to the advances of likely suitors. Henry's next assignment was as ambassador to Austria and in 1828, aged 21 Charlotte joined him in Vienna. Although not making friends easily, she was seen out riding with Napoleon's son, Duc de Reichstadt. Wellington's niece in the company of Napoleon's son! Nothing came of that liaison but marriage was not far off.

In 1829, Robert Grosvenor visited Sir Henry and Charlotte in Vienna. He was 28 and he and Charlotte began a friendship that eventually led to marriage. The Grosvenors were one of the wealthiest families in England; Robert became Whig MP for Shaftsbury in 1821 and then Chester in 1826. He was styled Lord Robert Grosvenor in 1831 and raised to the peerage as Baron Ebury in 1857. The pair married in May 1831 at St. George's, Hanover Square, the bride given away by her uncle, the Duke of Wellington.

They lived in London until 1845 when Robert bought Moor Park, a Georgian stately home in Hertfordshire. Robert died in 1893 aged 92 and Charlotte in 1891 aged 84. They had four sons and two daughters.

The second son, Norman (1845-98) is of interest here as he is Sir Edmund's great grandfather. In 1860 he was returned unopposed as MP for Chester. In 1881 he married Caroline Stuart-Wortley an author and artist from another well-known family. Norman was a competent musician, not quite making it as a concert pianist but composing quite a lot of unpublished music. Norman and Caroline had two daughters, Susan and Margaret. Susan married the author John Buchan in July 1907; they had four children, three boys and a girl, Alice, who married Sir Brian Fairfax-Lucy.

Most of the information for this forage has been gleaned from *A Scrap Screen* by Alice Buchan, published by Hamish Hamilton Ltd. in 1979. There are copies available on Amazon.

Alice mentions the miniature in her book as being in possession of it and it being somewhat faded.

I have been wondering whether the miniature of Tipu Sahib came back from India via Henry Wellesley when he was there as secretary to his brother Richard. Does anybody know?

*Frank Storr*