

Biography of David Wemyss

1796 – 1840

Timeline

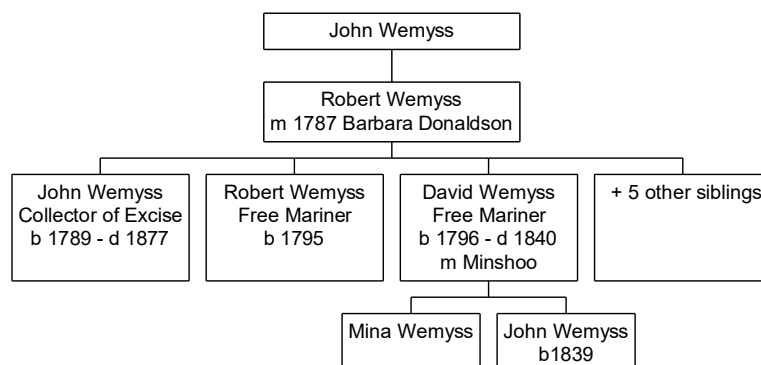
Year	Place	Event	Notes
1796	Scotland	Born	Parents were Robert Wemyss and Barbara Donaldson
1816	Calcutta	Arrival	Arrived in Calcutta aboard the City of London
1838	Calcutta	Resident	Occupation was a free mariner/ship's captain
?	Calcutta	Marriage	Marriage to Munshoo
?	Calcutta	Birth	Birth of daughter Mina
1839	Calcutta	Birth	Birth of son John
1840	Howrah	Death	David death 25th of Jan 1840

David's Life pre-India

David is thought to have been born in Scotland in 1796 to Robert Wemyss and Barbara Donaldson who were married in Abbotshall on the 29th of Dec 1786.



He had a brother John (b 1789) who later became a Collector of Excise residing in Edinburgh Scotland and Robert (b 1795) who was also a mariner in Calcutta. (He also had 5 other siblings Christian, Cicilia, Grissel, Barbara, Christian(2) and Jean(?).)



David's Life in India

The first recording of him in India was in 1816 when he arrived in Calcutta as a passenger on the ship the City of London. He was mentioned as being a Free Mariner.

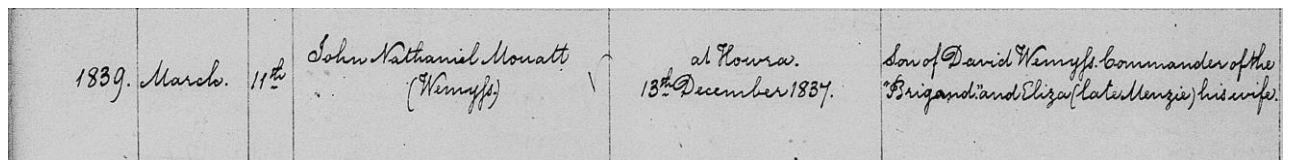
As a Free Mariner he sailed in and out of Calcutta on various ships between 1830 and 1839.

NB A free mariner was a sailor who was not employed by the East India Company

Departure Date	Ship	Captain	Port	Destination	Return Date
23/06/1830	Earl of Kellie	Wemyss	Calcutta	Bombay	28/08/1830
9/12/1835	Sir Hubert Taylor	D Wemyss	Calcutta	Mauritius	29/03/1836
11/05/1836	Sir Hubert Taylor	D Wemyss	Calcutta	Singapore, Penang and China	15/10/1836
8/09/1837	Brigand	D Wemyss	Calcutta	Penang	
23/01/1838	Brigand	D Wemyss	Calcutta	Penang and Singapore	14/04/1838
28/07/1838	Brigand	D Wemyss	Calcutta/ Kedgerie	Madras, Masulipatam and Vizagepatam	10/10/1838
8/12/1838	Brigand	D Wemyss	Saugur/ Kedgerie	Madras, Masulipatam and Vizagepatam	5/02/1839

David eventually settled in Calcutta and had a daughter named Mina, but her birth or the name of her mother is not known. What is known is that he also had a son John Nathaniel Mouatt Wemyss on the 13th Dec 1837 with his then wife Eliza Menzie.

NB Mouatt is another Scottish surname but I cannot find any other family link between the two names.



I have yet to trace a marriage record for John and Eliza, either in India or Scotland.

At some point prior to David's death in 1840, something happened to Eliza as she is not mentioned in his will. Did she die? There is also no trace of a burial record for her. However, in his will there is mention of another woman named Munshoo (or Minshoo) who was stated to be John's mother, was she his stepmother?

Death

David died on the 26th of Jan 1840 at the age of 55 according to the newspaper entry, however if the baptism record found for him is correct, then his age would have been 44.

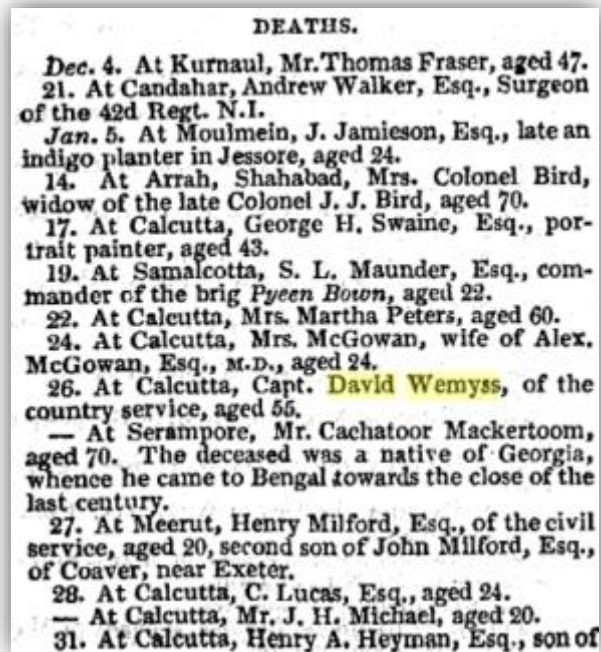


Figure 9 The Asiatic Journal and Monthly Register for British India -1840

He left an estate of 4,783 rupees to John (2/3rd) and Mina (1/3rd), nothing to Munshoo although he put John into her care as he was only age 3 at the time. Does this indicate he wasn't legally married to Munshoo? There is also no mention of Mina, did she also go with Munshoo?

The estate of David was managed by a firm of solicitors and Munshoo received a monthly allowance of 12 rupees for her and John board. Again, no mention of Mina.

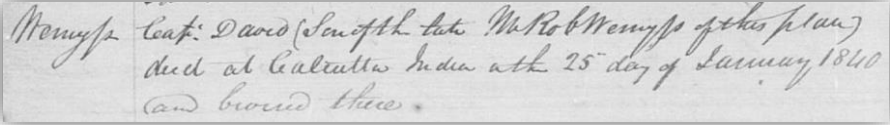
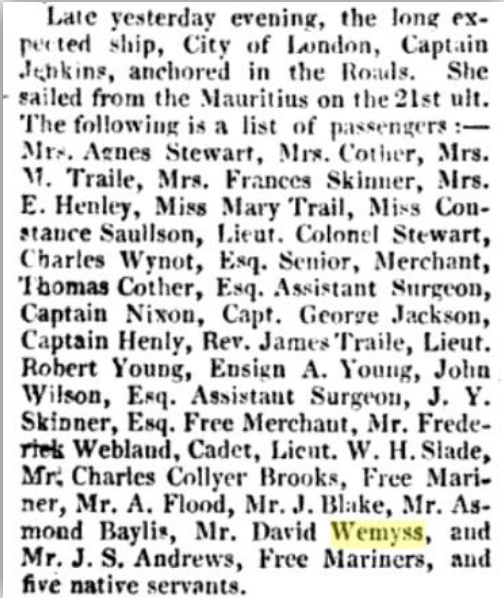
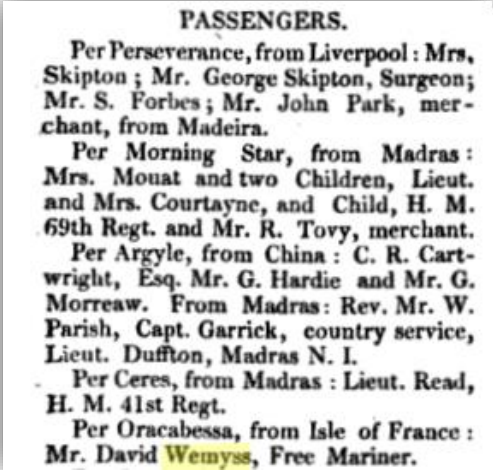
Another noticeable withdrawal was on the 28th dec 1840 – Rhanshama for 1.4.00 rupees

All the money was gone by March 1860. (John would have been age 23)

What is Rhanshama?

In Parsi (Zoroastrian) tradition, **Rashnu Shama**, sometimes referred to colloquially as **Rhanshama**, is a ceremony conducted in memory of the deceased. "Rashnu" is the Zoroastrian deity of truth and justice, and this ritual is a form of prayer to seek blessings and peace for the departed soul. It typically involves lighting a lamp or candle (the **shama**) and reciting prayers from the **Avesta** (Zoroastrian scripture). The focus is on honouring the deceased, maintaining their spiritual connection, and offering prayers for their soul's journey to the afterlife.

Sources

Father was Robert Wemyss	<div></div> <p>Captn. David (Sone of the late Mr Rob Wemyss of this place) died at Calcutta India on the 25th day of January 1840. (this place being Buntisland, Fife)</p>
In 1816 he arrived in Calcutta as a passenger on the ship the City of London.	<div></div> <p>Figure 1 The Asiatic Journal 1816</p>
On 31 March 1823 he arrived as a passenger on board the ship Oracabessa from Isle de France in Mauritius.	<div></div> <p>Figure 2 The Oriental Magazine 1823</p>

On the 27 May 1823 the ship Oracabessa foundered during a hurricane in the Bay of Bengal while on route back to Mauritius. Captain John Carmichael and the 35-7 men of the crew were saved.

Although David arrived in this ship it is not known whether he was aboard this ship on route back to Mauritius.

[The Asiatic journal and monthly register for British and foreign India, China and Australasia - \(Volume 16 1823\)](#)

[Oracabessa \(1810 ship\) - Wikipedia](#)

SHIPPING

Loss of the Oracabessa, Helen, Liverpool and Cuttack in the Bay of Bengal

We deeply regret communicating the following melancholy intelligence of the dreadful hurricane at Bengal in May last which lasted three days and it is feared had done considerable damage.

The Oracabessa, Carmichael, bound for the Mauritius was lost on the Long Sand on the 27th May, 36 of the crew saved.

The Liverpool, Green, of Liverpool was a total wreck on the same day only four of the crew saved.

Helen brig, bound for South America, was totally wrecked on Long Island.

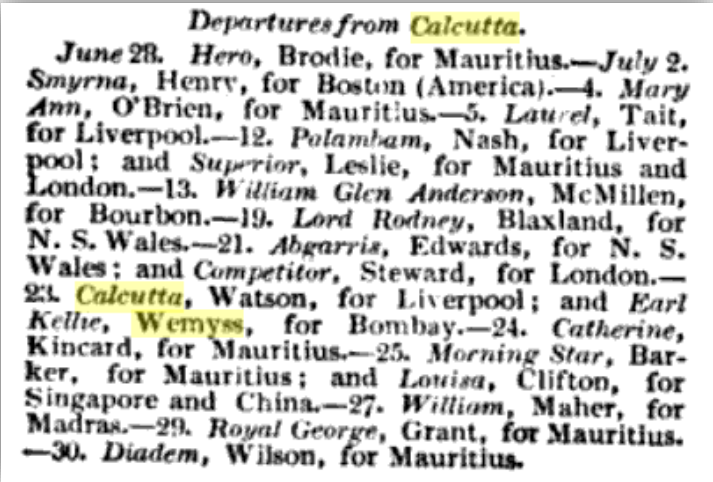

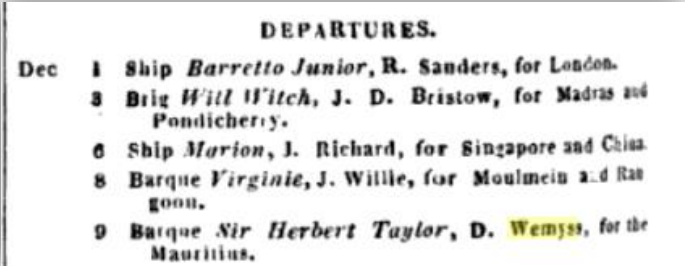
The Cuttack brig, bound for Cuttack was totally lost, crew saved.

A Sloop going to the Hon Company's ship General Kyd for troops at the New Anchorage, was also lost.

Kedgerie May 28

The Oracabessa, Helen and Liverpool are all wrecked. We (the Oracabessa) drove on shore last evening about nine o'clock. The rudder, main and mizen masts gone. I left this morning with part of the crew. The captain and pilot are still on board. She is still standing on the Long Sand. It blows very hard. The Helen, after striking, ran for this place, where she struck and went to pieces immediately; we drove with three anchors a head.

Oracabessa and Liverpool were both lying in Saugor Roads when the gale came up. Even though she had three anchors out, the gale drove Oracabessa onto Long Sand. Her crew cutaway her masts and rigging, as the seas broke over her. She survived the night and next morning the chief mate, leadsman, and all but seven of the crew took to her longboat. They rigged a storm sail, and made for Khejuri. They got through the breakers, though they frequently had to bail out the longboat, and after about an hour and a half after leaving Oracabessa they reached Khejuri. In the afternoon Captain Carmichael, the second mate, the pilot, and the remaining crew members fashioned a raft with which they safely reached shore.

<p>On June 23rd, 1830 'Wemyss' captained the ship <i>Earl Kellie</i> on route to Bombay.</p>	 <p><i>Departures from Calcutta.</i> <i>June 28. Hero, Brodie, for Mauritius.—July 2. Smyrna, Henry, for Boston (America).—4. Mary Ann, O'Brien, for Mauritius.—5. Laurel, Tait, for Liverpool.—12. Palambam, Nash, for Liverpool; and Superior, Leslie, for Mauritius and London.—13. William Glen Anderson, McMillen, for Bourbon.—19. Lord Rodney, Blaxland, for N. S. Wales.—21. Abgarria, Edwards, for N. S. Wales; and Competitor, Steward, for London.—23. Calcutta, Watson, for Liverpool; and Earl Kellie, Wemyss, for Bombay.—24. Catherine, Kincard, for Mauritius.—25. Morning Star, Barker, for Mauritius; and Louisa, Clifton, for Singapore and China.—27. William, Maher, for Madras.—29. Royal George, Grant, for Mauritius.—30. Diadem, Wilson, for Mauritius.</i></p>
<p>On Sept 28th, 1830 'Wemyss' arrived in Bombay.</p> <p>NB It typically took 3-5 months to sail between Calcutta and Bombay.</p>	 <p>SHIPPING. <i>Arrivals.</i> <i>Sept. 20. Linnæus, Winder, from Liverpool.—26. Capricorn, Smith, from London and Isle of France.—27. Childe Harold, West, from Mauritius.—Oct. 3. Charlotte, Crockett, from China.—23. Gipsy, Quirk, from Liverpool.—24. John Adams, Butler, from Calcutta.—27. Sir Francis Burton, Reid, from Greenock.—28. Lady Raffles, Tucker, from London and Madelra.—31. Elizabeth, Greig, from Muscat; and Earl of Kellie, Wemyss, from Calcutta.—Nov. 1. Enterprize (H.C. steamer), Denton, from Trincomalee.</i></p>
<p>On Dec 9th, 1835 'D Wemyss' sailed from Calcutta as captain of the ship the <i>Sir Hubert Taylor</i> for Mauritius.</p>	 <p>DEPARTURES. <i>Dec 1 Ship Barretto Junior, R. Sanders, for London. 3 Brig Will Witch, J. D. Bristow, for Madras and Pondicherry. 6 Ship Marion, J. Richard, for Singapore and China. 8 Barque Virginie, J. Willie, for Moulmein and Rangoon. 9 Barque Sir Herbert Taylor, D. Wemyss, for the Mauritius.</i></p>

On March 29th, 1836 'Wemyss' arrived in Calcutta as captain of the ship the *Sir Hubert Taylor* from Port Louis Mauritius.

SHIPPING.	
Arrivals in the River.	
MARCH 6.	<i>Jupiter</i> , Galbreath, from Greenock ; <i>Arcthusa</i> , Canning, from Bombay ; <i>Isadora</i> , Hod-son, from Madras.—7. H.M.S. <i>Andromache</i> , Chads, from Madras ; <i>Catherine</i> , Rose, from London ; <i>Concord</i> , Thomson, from Boston.—13. <i>Eclipse</i> , Perry, from Salem.—14. <i>John Hepburne</i> , Lam-bert, from Penang and Rangoon.—17. <i>Edmond Castle</i> , Fleming, from Mauritius and Madras.—18. <i>Castor</i> , Michel, from Bourbon and Mauritius.—19. <i>Comala</i> , McNeil, from Liverpool ; <i>Hindos-tan</i> , Redman, from London, Madras, and Vizaga-patam.—20. <i>Edward Barnett</i> , Hindmarsh, from Moulmein.—28. <i>Golt</i> , Barthez, from Bordeaux and Bourbon ; <i>Sir John Rae Reid</i> , Woodin, from Mauritius.—29. <i>Red Rover</i> , Wright, from China ; <i>Sir Herbert Taylor</i> , Wemyss , from Mauritius ; <i>Mona</i> , Gill, from Liverpool.—30. <i>Edmonstone</i> , M'Dougall, from Bombay and Cannanore ; <i>Charles Wharton</i> , Dolby, from Philadelphia and Madras.—31. <i>Monarch</i> , Brown, from Singapore ; H.M.S. <i>Rose</i> , Barrow, from Penang.

Figure 6 Asiatic Journal and Monthly Register for British and Foreign India 1836

ARRIVALS.	
March 1	Dutch brig <i>Norfolk</i> , J. B. Perry, from Padang, (no date)
—	His M.'s ship <i>Hyacinth</i> , Captain Blackwood, (particulars not mentioned.)
2	His M.'s ship <i>Jupiter</i> , Honorable Captain Gray, from Spitzhead 3d and Madeira 13th October, Rio de Janeiro 16th November, and Cape of Good Hope 14th December.
—	Brig <i>Sterling</i> , W. J. Scally, from Liverpool 8th October
—	Barque <i>Dona Carmelita</i> , C. Edwards, from Bombay 20th December and Point de Galle 18th January.
—	French barque <i>Consolation</i> , Demoly, from Nantz 9th October and Bourbon 18th January
8	Ship <i>Hibernia</i> , R. Gillies, from Falmouth 3d and Madeira 23d October, Cape 27th December, and Madras 21th February.
—	Barque <i>Discovery</i> , W. Hawes, from Bombay 18th January.
4	Ship <i>Argyle</i> , A. McDonald, from London 12th October, Portsmouth 1st November and Madras 25th February.
—	Ship <i>Tapley</i> , Tapley, from Liverpool (no date.)
—	Mauritius 15th January, and Madras 23d February.
—	Schooner <i>Attaran</i> , G. R. Smith, from Moulmein
18	Schooner <i>John Hepburne</i> , A. Lambert, from Penang 20th January, Nicobar 15th February, and Rangoon 1st March
—	Brig <i>Elizabeth</i> , George Baker, from Rangoon 26th February.
15	Ship <i>Fatlay Salam</i> , J. L. Gillett, from Bombay 22d January and Alibee 13th February.
16	Brig <i>Edmond Castle</i> , Wm. Fleming, from Mauritius 20th January and Madras 9th March.
18	French brig <i>Castor</i> , B. Michel, from Bourbon, (no date), and Mauritius 1st February.
19	Barque <i>Comala</i> , D. McNeil, from Liverpool 6th November.
—	Ship <i>Hindustan</i> , G. J. Redman, from London 31st October, Madras 9th and Vizagapatam 15th March
20	Barque <i>Edward Barnett</i> , J. Hindmarsh, from Moulmein 20th February.
28	French barque <i>Golt</i> , Barthez, from Bordeaux 16th October and Bourbon 2d February
—	Ship <i>Sir John Rae Reid</i> , E. Woodin, from Mauritius 20th January.
29	Ship <i>Mona</i> , P. Gill, from Liverpool 23d November.
—	Barque <i>Cowajee Family</i> , R. Wallace, from China 3d, and Singapore 10th March
—	Barque <i>Red Rover</i> , H. Wright, from China (no date)
—	Barque <i>Sir Herbert Taylor</i> , D. Wemyss , from Port Louis 12th February.

Figure 7 Calcutta Monthly Journal and General Register 1836

On May 11th, 1836 'D Wemyss' sailed from Calcutta as captain of the ship the *Sir Hubert Taylor*.

DEPARTURES.	
May	2 Ship <i>Mona</i> , P. Gill, for Liverpool.
	4 Barque <i>Dalla Merchant</i> , H. M. Potter, for Singapore.
	8 Bri: <i>Corsair</i> , J. Stephens, for Singapore.
	9 Brig <i>Highland Chief</i> , J. Paddo, for Penang.
	11 Barque <i>Sir Herbert Taylor</i> , D. Wemyss , for Singapore and China.
	14 Barque <i>Water Witch</i> , A. Henderson, for Singapore

Figure 8 Calcutta Monthly Journal and General Register 1836

On May 14th, 1836
'Wemyss' sailed from
Saugor as captain of
the ship the *Sir Hubert
Taylor*.

NB Saugor is now
Sagar Island which is in
the mouth of the
Hooghly River.

Sailed from Saugor.
MAY 3. *Monarch*, Brown, for Liverpool; *Con-*
solation, Demoly, for Bordeaux.—6. *Gol*, Barthez,
for Bourbon.—10. H.M.S. *Andromache*, Chada, for
the Straits.—14. *Sir Herbert Taylor*, **Wemyss**, for
Singapore and China; *Dalla Merchant*, and *Cou-*
sair, Stephens, both for Singapore; *Highland*
Chief, Paddon, for Penang.—16. *Sir Archibald*
Campbell, Robertson, for Penang and Singapore.
—21. *Phaenix*, Bane, for Mauritius.—22. *Mangles*,
Carr, for London; *Concord*, Thomson, for Bos-
ton.—23. *Lloyds*, Garrett, for London.—24. *Sir*
John Beresford, Mitchell, for London.—25. *Lady*
Grant, Jeffery, for Bombay.—26. *Ruby*, Warden,
for Singapore and China.

Figure 9 Asiatic Journal and Monthly Register for British and Foreign India 1836

On October 15th, 1836
'D Wemyss' arrived in
Calcutta from China,
Singapore and Penang
as captain of the ship
the *Sir Hubert Taylor*.

Oct. 11 Arab Ship *Francis Warden*, Nacoda, from Bom-
bay 12th September.
13 Bark *Agnes*, D. Broadfoot, from Liverpool 8th
May.
— Bark *Ganges*, A. Broadhurst, from Cowes 9th
April, Cape 3d July, Mauritius 7th August, Ma-
dras 10th and Port Novo 11th Sept
— Bark *Sylph*, Thomas Viall, from China 15th August
and Singapore 20th September
14 Turkish Ship *Kasrorie*, Hadge Mahomed, from
Muscat 2d September
15 Bark *Secostris*, A Yates, from London 10th May,
Madeira 16th June, Cape 7th August, and Ma-
dras 26th September
— Barque *Sir Herbert Taylor*, D. **Wemyss**, from
China 10th August, and Singapore and Penang
(no date)

Figure 10 Calcutta Monthly Journal and General Register 1836

In August 1837 'D
Wemyss' sailed from
Calcutta as captain of
the ship the *Brigand*
for Penang.

831 SHIPPING DEPARTURES.
By *Adelaid*, R. D. Guthrie, for London:—lieutenants Fulcher, Windsor, and
Downey, doctors Crighton and Twiddle, and — Morgan, esq. colonel Watson,
55th N. I.
By *Brigand*, D. **Wemyss**, commander, for Penang: mr. Joseph Tosh.

Figure 11 The Bengal directory and annual register 1838

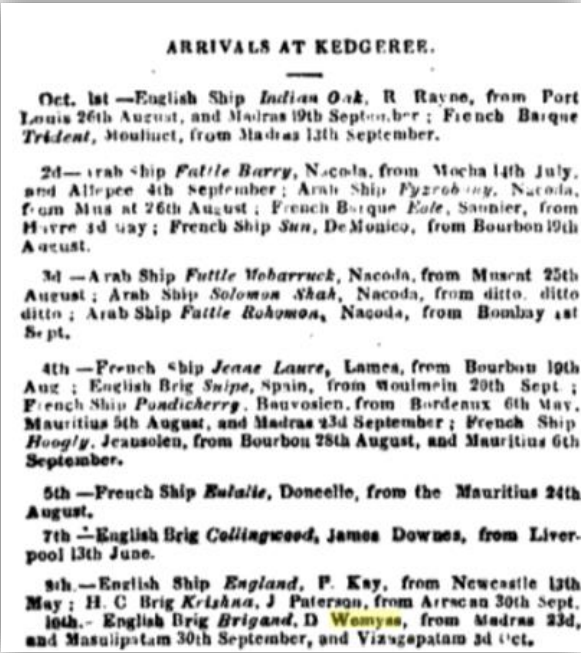
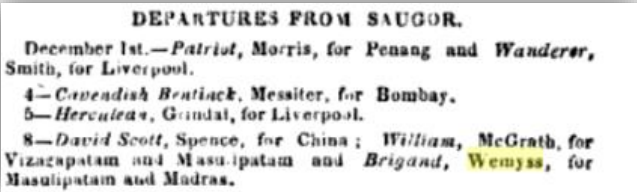
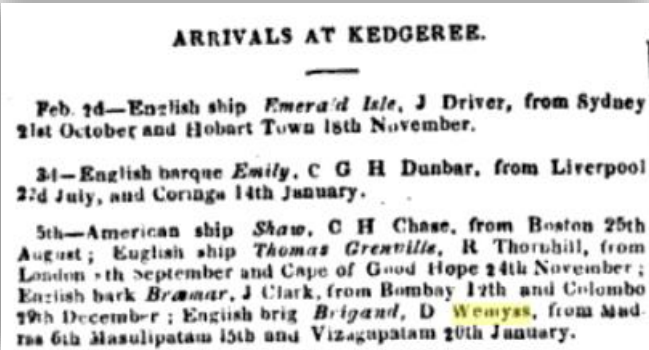
On January 23rd,
1838, he sailed from
Calcutta as captain of
the ship the *Brigand* to
Penang and Singapore.

Departures from Calcutta.
JAN. 12. *Christopher Rawson*, Edwards, for
Mauritius.—13. *Rob Roy*, M'Kinnon, for China.—
15. *Carnatic*, Richards, for Mauritius.—17. *Fati-*
ma, Feathers, for St. Helena and Liverpool.—18.
Shah Allum, Evans, for Bombay; *Donna Carme-*
lita, Foss, for Mauritius.—23. *Brigand*, **Wemyss**,
for Penang and Singapore; *Elizabeth*, Glass, for
Ceylon.—26. *Marinus*, Patterson, for Singapore.—
FEB. 6. *Robert Le Diable*, La Porte, for Bourbon.
—13. *Snelthead*, Fergusson, for Holland; *Hydross*,
Nacoda, for Red Sea, &c.; *Elizabeth*, Manook,
for Moulmein and Rangoon; *Pero*, Gray, for
Sydney and V. D. Land; *Diana*, Ireland, for
Havre.—15. *St. George*, Williams, for Bristol;
Emily Jane, Shelstone, for Singapore.

SHIPPING.
Arrivals in the River.
APRIL 14. *Laurence*, Gill, from Liverpool;
Washington, Thurben, from Philadelphia.—15.
Gasper, Pool, from Boston; H.C. steamer *Ganges*,
Dicey, from Rangoon.—16. *Rob Roy*, M'Kinnon,
from China; *Elizabeth*, Thaldens, from Rangoon.
—17. *Eugene*, Glass, from Boston.—18. *Hindoo*,
M'Gill, from Liverpool.—19. *Victory*, Blakeley,
from Liverpool.—20. *Bussorah Merchant*, Mon-
crieff, from Hobart Town.—21. *Attaran*, Smith,
from Moulmein; *Thalia*, Graham, from Liver-
pool; *Frederick Huth*, Toby, from Mauritius.—22.
Cherebon Packet, Kenrish, from Batavia and Pa-
dang; H.M.S. *Victor*, Crozier, from Madras.—24.
Brigand, **Wemyss**, from Penang.—26. *Recovery*,
Johnson, from Hobart Town.—28. *Samdany*, Na-
coda, from Bombay and Cannanore; *Burong*, Gor-
don, from Bombay, &c.; *Onage*, Heining, from
Philadelphia and Madras.—30. *David Scott*, Spence,

Figure 12 The Bengal directory and annual register 1838

	<div><p>DEPARTURES FROM CALCUTTA.</p><p>Jan. 1 <i>British Monarch</i>, W Purvis, and <i>Calcutta</i>, J H Bentley, for Moulmein; <i>Ruby</i>, J Randall, for Singapore and China; <i>Fattie Barry</i>, Nacoda for Juddah.</p><p>7 <i>Antelope</i>, Nacoda, for Juddah; <i>Duke of Bedford</i>, W A Bowen, for London.</p><p>8 <i>John Hepburne</i>, B Robertson, for Rangoon.</p><p>12 <i>Christopher Rawson</i>, C Edwards, for Mauritius; <i>Lord Hungerford</i>, Farquharson, for London; <i>Windsor</i>, Henning, for London; <i>Hoogly</i>, Jeanso lin, for Bourbon.</p><p>18 <i>Rob Roy</i>, J McKinnon, for China; <i>Theodosia</i>, E Underwood, for Liverpool.</p><p>15 <i>Carnatic</i>, Jas. Richard, for the Mauritius.</p><p>17 <i>Fatima</i>, G Pethers, for Liverpool via St. Helena.</p><p>18 <i>Shaw Allum</i>, E Evans, for Bombay.</p><p>— <i>Dona Carmelita</i>, Thos. Foss, for the Mauritius.</p><p>19 <i>Alalceie</i>, A R Clarke, for Bombay; <i>Fatima</i>, G Pethers, for Liverpool; <i>Hannoushaw</i> and <i>Futtay</i> Moharruck, Nacoda, for Muscat.</p><p>21 <i>Brigand</i>, D Wemyss, for Penang and Singapore; <i>Elizabeth</i>, J Glass, for Ceylon; <i>Cadyas</i>, Nacoda, for Mocha; <i>Abassey</i>, Nacoda, for Muscat; <i>Lucon</i>, Arnaud, for Bourbon.</p></div>
<p>On April 24th, 1838, he arrived at Kedgerree from Penang as captain of the ship the <i>Brigand</i>.</p> <p>NB Kedgerree now known as Khejuri</p>	<div><p>SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.</p><p>ARRIVALS AT KEDGEREE.</p><p>March 31st.—English barque <i>Betsy</i>, Sullfeld, from Bombay 21st January, and Madras 26th March.</p><p>April 1st.—English barque <i>Selma</i>, D. Luckie, from Liverpool 7th November.</p><p>2d.—American ship <i>William Gray</i>, W. Bartoll, from Boston 18th October.</p><p>3d.—English ship <i>Pearl</i>, P. Stark, from the Mauritius 12th February.</p><p>4th.—French barque <i>Lancier</i>, H. Aubin, from the Mauritius 9th February.</p><p>5th.—American ship <i>Edward</i>, J. H. Cheyney, from Philadelphia 19th October and Madras 6th December; English ship <i>Emma</i>, S. D. Hudson, from the Mauritius 25th Feb. and Madras 30th March.</p><p>6th.—English barque <i>Alfred</i>, Thos. Jamieson, from the Mauritius 22d February; English barque <i>Water Witch</i>, H. Reynolds, from China 8th and Singapore 18th March.</p><p>April 7th.—English Schooner <i>Flora MacDonald</i>, Rt. Major, from Rangoon 16th March.</p><p>8th.—English barque <i>New Grove</i>, W. Johnston, from Madras, 1st April.</p><p>9th.—English schooner, <i>Margaret</i>, D. Tapley, from Rangoon 14th March.</p><p>14th.—English barque <i>Lawrence</i>, H. Gill, from Liverpool 2d December; American ship <i>Washington</i>, L. T. Thurber, from Philadelphia 21st December.</p><p>15th.—American barque <i>Gasper</i>, N. Pool, from Boston 14th December; H. C. Steamer <i>Ganges</i>, J. M. Dicey, from Rangoon 10th April.</p><p>16th.—English barque <i>Rob Roy</i>, McKinnon, from China 14th March; English Brig <i>Elizabeth</i>, M. Thaddens, from Rangoon 29th March.</p><p>17th.—American barque <i>Eugene</i>, D. R. Glass, from Boston 19th December.</p><p>18th.—English barque <i>Hindoo</i>, J. M. Gill, from Liverpool 2d December.</p><p>19th.—English ship <i>Victory</i>, W. Blackley, from Liverpool 2d December.</p><p>20th.—English ship <i>Bucorah Merchant</i>, L. W. Moncrief, from Hobart Town 14th February.</p><p>21st.—English schooner <i>Attaras</i>, C. R. Smith, from Moulmein 5th April; English ship <i>Thalia</i>, W. Graham, from Liverpool 27th December, and English brig <i>Frederick Huth</i>, J. Toby, from the Mauritius 7th March.</p><p>23d.—Netherland barque <i>Cherebas Packet</i>, C. Kenrich, from Batavia 26th January, and Padang 18th March; H. M. Ship <i>Victor</i>, Capt. R. Crozier, from Madras 12th April.</p><p>24th.—English brig <i>Brigand</i>, D. Wemyss, from Penang 14th March.</p><p>26th.—English Ship <i>Recovery</i>, T. Johnson, from the Downs 1st June and Hobart Town 5th August.</p><p>ARRIVALS OF PASSENGERS.</p><p><i>Per Lancier</i>.—C. Hills, Mariner, and Mad. V. Aubineau.</p><p><i>Per Edward</i>.—Revd. H. R. Wilson and Lady, Revd. J. H. Harrison and Lady, Revd. James Craig, Lady and Child, Revd. Reem Morris, Lady and 2 Children, Missionaries.</p><p><i>Per Water Witch</i>, from New South Wales via Singapore.—T. H. Bluce, Esq., B. C. S. and Captain Johnston, B. N. I.</p></div>
<p>On July 28th, 1838 ‘D Wemyss’ sailed from Calcutta as captain of the ship the <i>Brigand</i> for Madras.</p>	<div><p>DEPARTURES FROM CALCUTTA.</p><p>July 28th.—<i>Brigand</i>, D. Wemyss, for Madras.</p><p>30th.—<i>Irt</i>, H. Ludlow, for Liverpool; <i>Esamont</i>, N. Burtisall, for Bombay.</p></div>

On October 10 th , 1838 'D Wemyss' arrived in Kedgerree from Madras, Masulipatam and Vizagepatam as captain of the ship the <i>Brigand</i> .	 <p>ARRIVALS AT KEDGEREE.</p> <p>Oct. 1st.—English Ship <i>Indian Oak</i>, R. Rayne, from Port Louis 26th August, and Madras 19th September; French Barque <i>Trident</i>, Mouluet, from Madras 13th September.</p> <p>2d.—Arab Ship <i>Fattle Barry</i>, Nacoda, from Mocha 14th July, and Allepee 4th September; Arab Ship <i>Pyzrobony</i>, Nacoda, from Mus at 26th August; French Barque <i>Eole</i>, Sannier, from Mayre 3d day; French Ship <i>Sun</i>, De Monico, from Bourbon 19th August.</p> <p>3d.—Arab Ship <i>Fattle Moharruck</i>, Nacoda, from Muscat 25th August; Arab Ship <i>Solomon Shah</i>, Nacoda, from ditto ditto; Arab Ship <i>Fattle Rohomon</i>, Nacoda, from Bombay 1st Sept.</p> <p>4th.—French Ship <i>Jenae Laure</i>, Lamea, from Bourbon 19th Aug; English Brig <i>Snipe</i>, Spain, from Moulmein 29th Sept; French Ship <i>Pondicherry</i>, Beauvost, from Bordeaux 6th May, Mauritius 5th August, and Madras 23d September; French Ship <i>Hoogly</i>, Jeausolen, from Bourbon 28th August, and Mauritius 6th September.</p> <p>5th.—French Ship <i>Eulalie</i>, Doneelle, from the Mauritius 24th August.</p> <p>7th.—English Brig <i>Collingwood</i>, James Downes, from Liverpool 13th June.</p> <p>8th.—English Ship <i>England</i>, F. Kay, from Newcastle 13th May; H. C. Brig <i>Krishna</i>, J. Paterson, from Ayracan 30th Sept.</p> <p>10th.—English Brig <i>Brigand</i>, D Wemyss, from Madras 23d, and Masulipatam 30th September, and Vizagepatam 3d Oct.</p>	Figure 16 Calcutta Monthly Journal and General Register 1838
On December 8th, 1838 'Wemyss' sailed from Saugur as captain of the ship the <i>Brigand</i> for Masulipatam and Madras.	 <p>DEPARTURES FROM SAUGOR.</p> <p>December 1st.—<i>Patriot</i>, Morris, for Penang and <i>Wanderer</i>, Smith, for Liverpool.</p> <p>4.—<i>Cavendish Bentuck</i>, Messiter, for Bombay.</p> <p>5.—<i>Hercules</i>, Grindal, for Liverpool.</p> <p>8.—<i>David Scott</i>, Spence, for China; <i>William</i>, McGrath, for Vizagepatam and Masulipatam and <i>Brigand</i>, Wemyss, for Masulipatam and Madras.</p>	Figure 17 Calcutta Monthly Journal and General Register 1838
On February 5 th , 1839 'D Wemyss' arrived in Kedgerree from Madras, Masulipatam and Vizagepatam as captain of the ship the <i>Brigand</i> .	 <p>ARRIVALS AT KEDGEREE.</p> <p>Feb. 1d.—English ship <i>Emerald Isle</i>, J Driver, from Sydney 21st October and Hobart Town 18th November.</p> <p>3d.—English barque <i>Emily</i>, C G H Dunbar, from Liverpool 22d July, and Coringa 14th January.</p> <p>5th.—American ship <i>Shaw</i>, C H Chase, from Boston 25th August; English ship <i>Thomas Grenville</i>, R Thorhill, from London 1st September and Cape of Good Hope 24th November; English bark <i>Bramar</i>, J Clark, from Bombay 12th and Colombo 19th December; English brig <i>Brigand</i>, D Wemyss, from Madras 6th Masulipatam 15th and Vizagepatam 20th January.</p>	Figure 18 Calcutta Monthly Journal and General Register 1840

Inhabitants of Calcutta
1838

Question: Who was
Robert Wemyss, his
brother?

Inhabitants of Calcutta 1838
PART VIII.] LIST OF BRITISH INHABITANTS, &c. 44

Webb, W. Cawnpore
Webb, — Firm of Baness and Webb Delhi
Webster, John. Firm of Jessop and Co.
Weekes, John, T. Cuttack
Welch, Frederick, Mariner
Welch, George. mariner
Welsh, J. Williams, Mariner
Welsh, Joseph, Register Opium Board
Wemyss, Robert, Free-mariner, Brig *Brigand*
Wemyss, David, Mariner. *Barque Sir Herbert Taylor*
West, Thomas. Indigo-planter.
West, Chas. Hen. Free-mariner. H. C. S. vessel *Enterprize*
West, W. W. Asst. to Gibson, McKellar and Co.

Figure 19 The Asiatic Journal 1838 May – Aug

Will of David Wemyss

Key points from will:

- *David died on the 25th of Jan 1840 in Calcutta*
- *He was a British Subject*
- *Commander of the ship Brigand*
- *He had a son John Wemyss (living in Howrah)*
- *Minshoo (or Munshoo) was the mother of John (married?)*
- *He had a daughter Mina(?)*
- *He had a brother John who lived in Edinburgh and was a Collector of Excise*

In the goods of David Wemyss deceased

Will

Filled and probate granted to John Lawrie one of the executors reserving Power this

4th February 1840

John Lawrie of the town of Calcutta a member of the firm Messieurs Ahmuty and Company of the same place Provisioners and Hugh Spiers at present of the said town of Calcutta Merchant severally make oath and say and first this the deponent John Lawrie for himself saith that the abovenamed David Wemyss who was a British subject and of late an inhabitant of Calcutta and lately Commander of the ship or vessel called the Brigand departed this life at Calcutta aforesaid on the twenty fifth day of January now last past having first duly made and published his will and testament which is hereunto annexed and marked with the letter A and which this deponent verily believes to be the last will and testament of the said deceased and this deponent further saith that he is one of the executors named in the annexed will of the said deceased and that the said deceased died having property and effects within the jurisdiction of the honourable court to be administered unto and this other deponent Hugh Spiers for himself saith that he was present on the twenty second day of January last past and did see the said David Wemyss sign seal and publish said annexed paper marked A and for his last will and testament and that the named signature "D^d Wemyss" to the said annexed will and subscribed is of the proper hand writing of the said David Wemyss deceased and that the name and the signatures "W D Messiter" A P Currie" and Hu Spiers" thereto set and subscribed as witnesses thereto are of the respective proper hands writing him this deponent and William Dyne Messiter and Adam P Currie the subscribing witnesses thereto and this deponent further saith that the said annexed will was signed by the said David Wemyss and the signature of the said David Wemyss thereunto was made by him in the presence of this deponent and of the said Willian Dyne Messiter and Adam P Currie the subscribing witnesses thereto as aforesaid who were respectly present at the time the said David Wemyss so sign the said will and that he this deponent and the said Willian Dyne Messiter and Adam P Currie subscribed the said will in the presence of the said David Wemyss and this deponent Hugh Spiers further saith he this deponent by the instructions of the said deceased wrote and filled in in the said annexed will the parts thereof which appears in writing except the signatures thereto and that he this deponent after he had so written the same carefully and truly read over the whole of the said annexed paper marked A to the said David Wemyss in the presence of the other subscribing witnesses thereto and previous to the said David Wemyss signing the same as aforesaid and that he the said David Wemyss fully understood and approved of the same as he informed this deponent and as the deponent verily believes and this deponent saith that although the said David Wemyss at the time of his giving such instructions for his will as aforesaid and at the time the same was so read over too and expected by him in manner also aforesaid was in a weak state of body yet he was of a sound mind memory and understanding.

John Lawrie

Hu Spiers

Sworn this 4th day of February 1840 before me

H.W. Seton

Exhibit A referred to in the annexed affidavit of John Lawrie and Hugh Speirs sworn this 4th day of February 1840 before me.

H.W.S

In the name of God, Amen, I David Wemyss mariner at present residing in Calcutta being of sound and disposing mind, memory and understanding, but knowing that it is appoint for all men once to die, do this twenty second day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty make and publish this my last will and testament in manners and form following that is to say I desire to be dead interred at the discretion of my executors herein named. And as to such worldly goods wherewith hath pleased God to bless me, whatsoever and wheresoever, whether real or personal, or of what nature kind or quality soever the same may be after paying of my just debts, funeral expenses, and the expenses of proving this my will. I do hereby give, bequeath, and devise the same in the manners following. That is to say, I do hereby give, bequeath, and devise unto my son John Wemyss now residing at Howrah and to my daughter Mina(?) Wemyss the wholly of my property real and personal of what nature, kind or quality so ever the same may be in the manners following, Viz two thirds to my son John Wemyss and the remaining one third to my daughter Mina(?) Wemyss, the expends of which if not exceeding 10,000 rupees, ten thousand rupees, to be at the discretion of the executors for the maintenance and education of my son and daughter above named and further I should wish that my son John Wemyss as being yet a child should remain under the protection of his mother Munshoo(?) And I do hereby constitute and appoint my brother Mr John Wemyss residing in Edinburgh, collector of excise and Mr John Lawrie merchant residing in Cossitollah Calcutta of this my last will and testament, hereby revoking all former wills and testaments by me at any time heretofore made.

In witness, whereof I have to this my last will and testament set my hand and seal the day and year first above written.

David Wemyss

PART III.] <i>Administrations to Estates.</i>		469	DEATHS—JANUARY.
ESTATES.	EXECUTORS, &c. AGENTS.		
Sreemutty Rammony Raur	Collypersaud Doss.		1 Miss Mary Anne Baxter, aged 22 years
Sreemutty Samasoundery Dabee	Registrar Supreme Court.		1 Mrs Nancy Edward, aged 84 years
Stewart, Robert	Thos. Lewis Thornton, Esq.		1 Mr Jerome Biale, aged 23 years
Stuart, Michael <i>Qr. Mr. Sergt.</i>	Registrar Supreme Court.		2 Mr assistant surgeon George Temple, aged 42 years
Taberd, the Rt. Revd. J. L.	Theodore Dickens, Esq.		2 Dacca, Ellen Jane, the infant daughter of Mr W H Jones, aged 10 months
Taylor, Thomas	Henry Meredith Parker.		3 Mrs Elizabeth De-onza, aged 80 years
Terraneau, J. C. De.....	Registrar Supreme Court.		3 The infant son of Mr E F Barker, aged 3 months
Thomas, John, <i>Capt. Engineers.</i>	Major G. Thomson.		4 Mr Peter Conway, aged 27 years
Thomson, John, <i>Captain.</i>	George Thomson.		4 Miss Diana Rochford D'Oyly, aged 18 years
Thompson, E.....	Theodore Dickens, Esq.		5 Charlotte Leicester Gordon, the beloved child of G G Macpherson, Esq
Thompson, W.....	Mrs. Mary Ann Timins.		aged 1 year, 3 months and 25 days
Timins, D. T.....	Registrar Supreme Court.		11 Mrs Margaret Ann Travers, aged 56th years
Timings, Henry, <i>Capt. Horse Arty.</i> ..	Registrar Supreme Court.		11 Lucknow, Mr George Duhan, son of the late Mr James Duhan, of Cawn-
Tripp, C. U., <i>Lieut. 36th N. I.</i>	Registrar Supreme Court.		11 At Chinsurah, Emily Cecelia, infant daughter of J E Codd, esquire, H M
Tippin, William	Edward Tomlin.		3d Lt D
Tomlin, John	Mr. Isabel Carolina Verplough of		14 Arrah, & hahabad, Mrs colonel Bird, relict of the late col J J Bird, aged 70
Vanthart, John N. Calcutta... ..	Calcutta.		years
Ward, George Revd.....	Mrs. C. B. I. Ward.		15 Mrs Barbara Eede, aged 55 years
Wallace, David.....	Registrar Supreme Court.		16 Ellenora Georgiana, daughter of John Page, esq. aged 5 months
Wemyss, David.....	Mr. John Lowrie of Calcutta.		16 Neemuch, lieutenant G J Brietzcke, 49th N I
Whiffin, Charles, Mariner.....	Mrs. Mary Whiffin,		17 Mr George H Swaine, portrait painter, aged 45 years
White, A. Merchant.....	Registrar Supreme Court.		18 Berhampore, the infant daughter of A Kvan, esq, M D
Wilkinson, H. R.....	Theodore Dickens, Esq.		18 Allahabad, Mrs Elizabeth Hayward, aged 53 years
Williams, J. F.....	George Dawson, Esq.		20 Howrah, son of captain T W Tingate, aged 3 years
Williams, Mary.....	Registrar Supreme Court.		22 Mrs. Martha Peters, aged 60 years
Williams, Rheece.....	J. N. Smith.		23 Mrs. Catherine DaCosta, aged 64 years
Woodridge, R.....	Registrar Supreme Court.		24 The wife of Alexander McGowan, esq, M D aged 24 years
Wylly, E. M. <i>Ensign 49th N. I.</i> ..	Registrar Supreme Court.		25 Dum-Dum, Hospital Apprentice William Johnson, aged 24 years
Young, H. <i>Ensign 63d N. I.</i>	Registrar Supreme Court.		26 captain David Wemyss, country service, aged 55 years
			26 Serampore, Mr. Cachatoor Mackertoom, aged 70 years.
			26 Burrisaul, William Henry, son of Mr. R Ince, aged 6 years
			27 Mr B Savyell, aged 67 years
			27 Gwalior, Mrs Caroline Hyde, aged 32 years
			27 Meerut, Henry Milford, esq C S aged 20 years
			28 C Lucas, esq aged 24 years
			28 Mr J H Michael, aged 20 years

Figure 20 The Bengal & Agra Annual Journal 1840

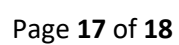
Published Source from Margaret Laurence

Margaret Laurence, a descendent of David Wemyss is a noted author in Canada and in her memoirs, she mentions the Wemyss family and in particular David and his brother John.

The earliest Wemyss document in the possession of Peggy's family concerns the relationship of Robert and Barbara (née Donaldson) Wemyss of Fifeshire; they had two sons of record—and it is striking to follow the focus on pairs of sons in the Wemyss genealogy—John and David. John, a collector of excise taxes in Scotland, married Margaret Morrison in 1817 and became Peggy's great-great-grandfather. Brother David, a mariner in the Royal Navy, had a rather more exotic career that took him to India, where he was wedded—like Joseph Conrad's Lord Jim to his Jewel—to an Eastern bride named Minshoo (a name Peggy clearly remembered). Margaret Laurence tells his story:

He had two children [with Minshoo], a daughter, Mina, and a son, John. The boy was born in 1839, a year before Captain David died in 1840. . . . Soon after Captain David died, Minshoo went off with another man. . . . The infant John was taken away with his mother. . . . Several years after his death, his brother John is still trying to discover what has happened to the young son and to David's personal effects. . . . the child and Minshoo now cannot be traced. . . .³

Figure 21 Extract from the book 'Alien Heart - The Life and Works of Margaret Laurence'



Ship types

Barque

A barque is a type of sailing vessel with three or more masts and mainmasts rigged square and only the mizzen (the aftmost mast) rigged fore and aft. Sometimes, the mizzen is only partly fore-and-aft rigged, bearing a square-rigged sail above.



English Brig

A brig is a type of sailing vessel defined by its rig: two masts which are both square-rigged. Brigs originated in the second half of the 18th century and were a common type of smaller merchant vessel or warship from then until the latter part of the 19th century. In commercial use, they were gradually replaced by fore-and-aft rigged vessels such as schooners, as owners sought to reduce crew costs by having rigs that could be handled by fewer men.

