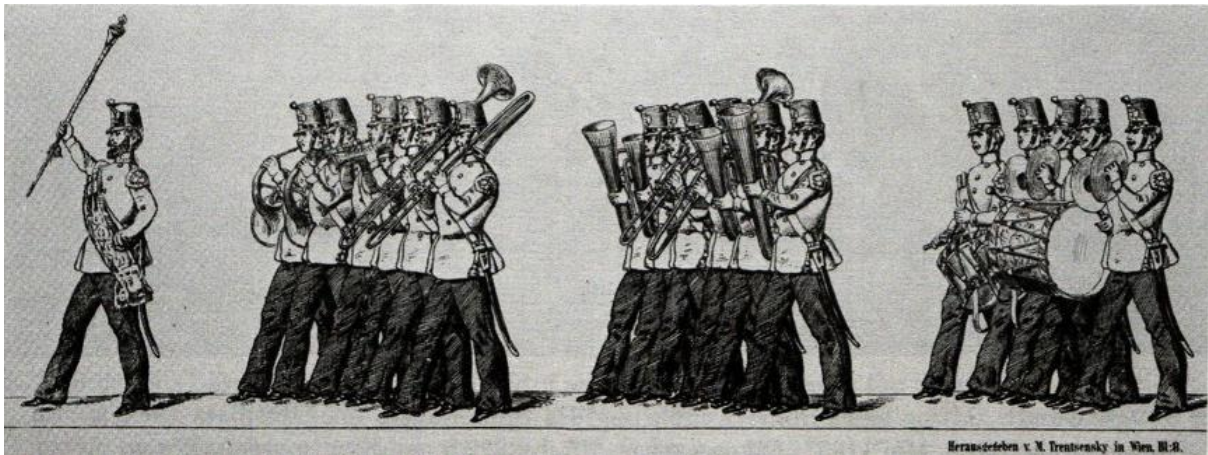




The Life and Times of Lucy Flack, formerly Moran, nee Turner

A life of barracks, music and sorrow

by Edmund “Ted” Flack, PhD



Who was Lucy Flack and what was her life like?

In researching our Flack family history, the focus has tended to be on William “Billy” Flack, his military career and his successful efforts to provide for his family and the education of his children despite adversity.

Perhaps this lack of attention has been because his wife, Lucy, died relatively young at just 59 years of age in 1878, there were few memories of her for her grandchildren, my grandfather Harry Flack and my great aunts Mabel and Lucy, to share with us as we grew up.

In this paper I hope to draw attention to our great great grandmother Lucy Flack, formerly Moran, nee Turner (1819-1878) and to set out what is known about her remarkable life and the life with her Flack, Moran and Turner families.

We know that Colour Sergeant William Flack (1810-1892) married Lucy Moran, widow aged 24, at Bellary, India, on 17 January 1844 in the presence of P A Turner and I Stewart.

When Married	Names of Parties		Age	Condition	Rank or Profession	Residence at the time of Marriage	Father's Name and Residence	By Name or License	Names of Witnesses Present	By whom Married
	Christian	Surname								
17 January 1844	William	Flack	30	Bachelor	Colour Sergeant 63 rd Regt.	Bellary, Coor	W ^m Flack John Turner	John Turner	P A Turner I Stewart	The Taylor Chaplain

But who was widow Lucy Moran and how did she come to be in Bellary marrying Billy Flack in 1844?

On the marriage certificate was recorded that the bride's father's name was John Turner and that one of the witnesses at the wedding was PA Turner. These two entries strongly suggested that at least one other member of the Turner family was resident with members of the 63rd Regiment in Bellary.

Extensive searches of the available military and civil registers for India for the period 1834-1844 (Lucy would have been 15yo in 1834 and she was recorded as 24yo and a “widow” in 1844 when she married) failed to find a likely candidate for the deceased husband of Lucy Moran.

Several findings were found to be relevant to understanding how the widow Lucy Moran came to be in Bellary with the 63rd Regiment.

Although there was no record of the death of a Francis Henry Moran in Bellary, several tomb stone inscriptions in the Bellary Cemetery were found that record what appear to be relevant memorials as follows:

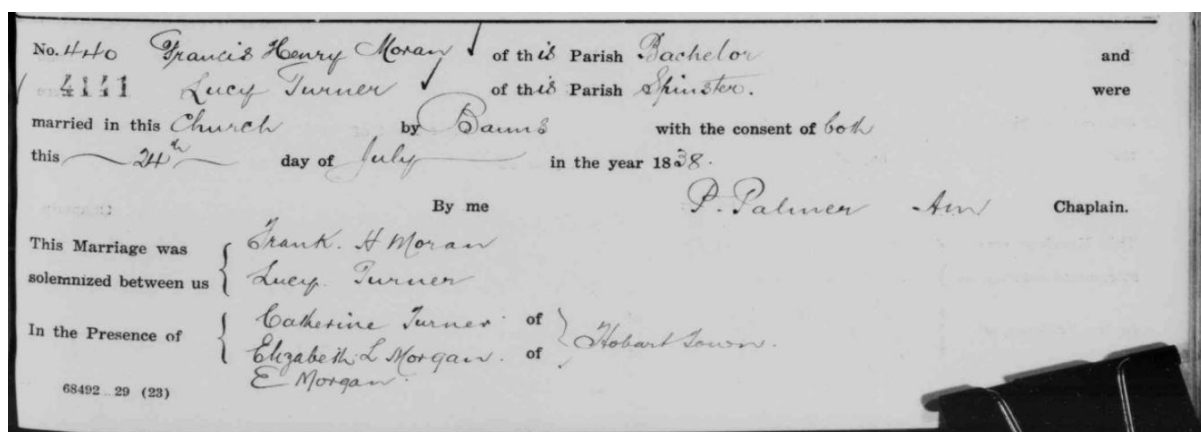
Peter Augustus Turner, late leader of the Band of 63rd buried 3 September 1844, aged 29 and 5 months at Bellary (List of European Tombs in the Church of England section of the Bellary District (Cotton, 1894)¹

Catherine, aged 56 years, died 27th May 1845 at Bellary India, wife of John Turner, formerly Drum Major, H.M. 63rd Regt, who died at Thomar, Portugal on 23rd July 1827, leaving 4 sons and 2 daughters (List of European Tombs in Roman Catholic Cemetery of the Bellary District (Cotton, 1894)

The record of the death of a Peter Augustus Turner on 3rd September 1844 in Bellary provides a link to Billy Flack and Lucy Moran's wedding as it is highly likely that this was the PA Turner who had been one of the witnesses at their wedding earlier that same year.

From these records it seems clear that Lucy Moran, nee Turner was a member of the Turner family who were long-time members of the 63rd Regiment's Band.

World-wide searches for the marriage of Lucy Turner to a Moran located a record of the Lucy's marriage to a Private Francis Henry Moran of the 21st Regiment of Foot at Holy Trinity Church, Hobart Town on 24th July 1838 as follows:



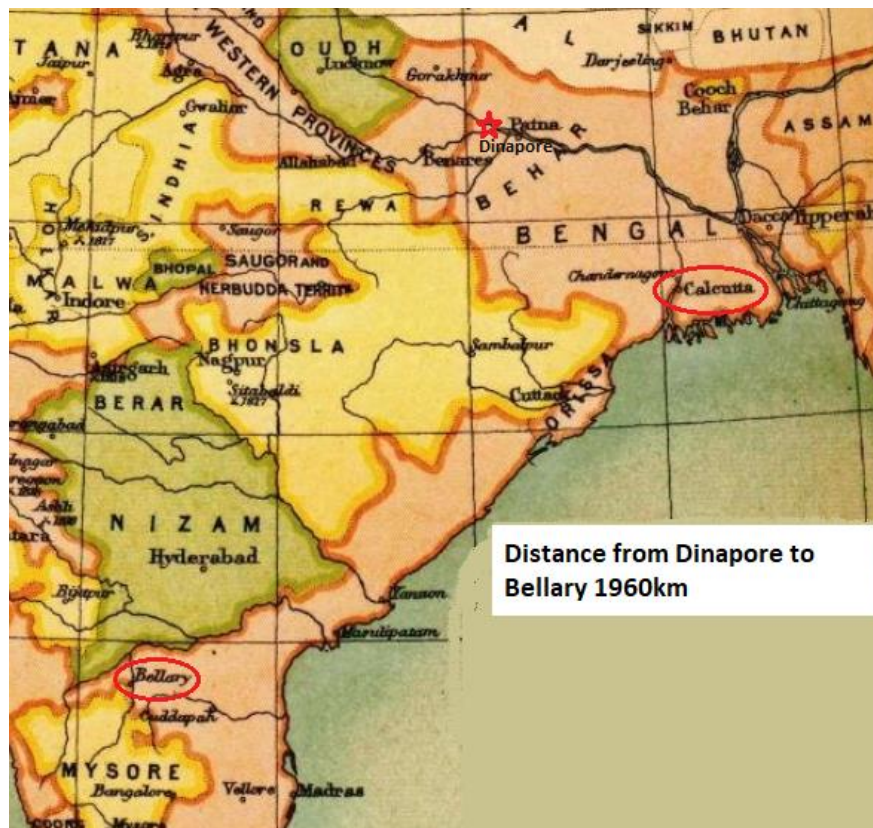
Since Private Billy Flack and his 63rd Regiment had left Hobart in January 1834, it is clear that Lucy Turner did not travel with the families of the 63rd Regiment when the regiment deployed to India but rather travelled to India as the wife of Private Francis Henry Moran when the 21st Regiment followed the 63rd to India in February 1839 arriving in Calcutta in May 1840 and then proceeded by river boats on the Ganges River to Dinapore. The regiment remained in Dinapore until November 1842 during which the regiment suffered severely from cholera².

¹ List of European tombs in the Bellary district with inscriptions thereon / compiled by J.J. Cotton ; edited by Eileen Hewson. - Version details—Trove. (n.d.). Retrieved 10 June 2020, from <https://trove.nla.gov.au/work/35052289?q&versionId=43526991>

² Clark, J. (1885). Historical record and regimental memoir of the Royal Scots fusiliers, formerly known as the 21st Royal North British fusiliers. Containing an account of the formation of the regiment in 1678 and its



Holy Trinity Church of England, Hobart



Sadly, Francis and Lucy's first child, Lucy Catherine Moran, who had been born on 21 October 1840 and Christened at Dinapore on 19 November 1840, died in July 1841 at Dinapore aged just 8 months . On the baptism record the father, Francis Henry Moran is recorded as a Sergeant in "HM 21st Fusiliers".

subsequent services until June 1885. Edinburg, Banks & Co.
<http://archive.org/details/historicalrecord00clarrich>

Lucy and Francis had a second child in Dinapore. Francis Henry MORAN was baptised on 10th October 1842 having been born in Dinapore on 27th September 1842.

The only other reference to Francis Moran while serving in India with the 21st Regiment is an entry in the 21st Regiment Paymaster's Roll recording that "917 Private Francis H? Moran" was listed on the 21st Regt's Paymaster's payroll of 18 May 1842 at Dinapore, India. (It is unusual for this type of record to be transcribed and recorded without some explanation).

Is it possible something has happened between November 1840 when his son was baptised and May 1842, when the paymaster records him as a Private to cause Francis Henry Moran to be demoted from Sergeant to Private? Is that "something" the reason that Lucy describes herself as a widow? Was Lucy already a widow when their second child, Francis Henry Moran was born and baptised in September-October 1842?

Just what circumstances lead to Lucy's widowhood while her husband Private Francis Henry Moran of the 21st Regiment in Dinapore are not known, nor are the circumstances of Lucy's travel to Bellary. From the available evidence it seems highly likely that Francis Henry Moran and his daughter Francis Catherine Moran died victims of the Cholera epidemic which caused many deaths in the 21st Regiment while posted to Dinapore in the summer of 1841. It also seems highly likely that Lucy would have wanted to re-join other members of her Turner family then serving with the 63rd Regiment in Bellary some 1,800 km away in southern India.



Contemporary painting of a British Army Regiment on the march in the 1830s

From the available records, it is possible to put together this outline of Lucy's Turner family.

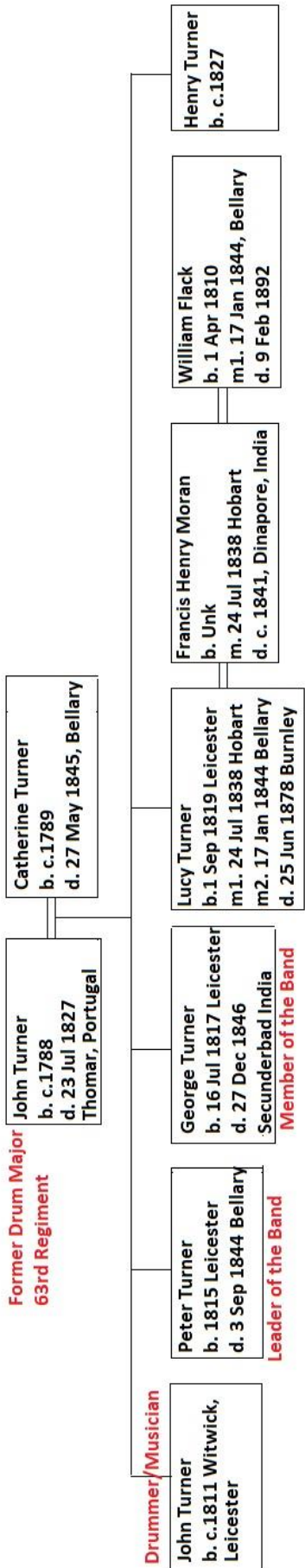
Lucy Turner was born on 1 September and baptised on 15 September 1819 at St Margaret's Church of England, Leicester, England, daughter of John and Katherine Turner.

Page 93.

BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of <i>St Margaret</i> in the County of <i>Leicester</i> in the Year 18 <i>19</i>						
When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
<i>15. 9. 1819</i>	<i>Lucy</i>	<i>John</i>	<i>Turner</i>	<i>Margfield</i>	<i>W. K.</i>	<i>Do.</i>

No. 740.

Name:	Lucy Turner
Gender:	Female
Baptism Date:	15 Sep 1819
Baptism Place:	St. Margaret's, Leicester, Leicester, England
Father:	John Turner
Mother:	Katherine
FHL Film Number:	592557
Reference ID:	p 93 # 740





Uniform of a Drummer

Uniform of a Sergeant



The following few paragraphs are included in order to get some understanding of the life that Lucy Flack would have experienced, first as a teenager and later as the wife of soldier in the 63rd and 21st Regiments.

Soldiers were permitted to marry, but wives were expected to submit to army rules and discipline, as well contribute to regimental affairs by performing washing, cooking and other duties³. The standard practice was that six women per company were officially "on the strength" and could accompany their husbands on active service with their children, receiving rations and places on troop transports.⁴ If there was competition for these places, selections would be made by ballot. Given that most Regiments comprised 10 Companies, allowances were made for up to 60 wives and up to 40 children.⁵

In some cases, the military authorities would allow more than the standard allocation of places where there was expected to be suitable environments for these families. Where the regiment was to be deployed as a garrison during peace time, the Army tended to be more generous. Accommodation for married soldiers was primitive with all couples sleeping in the shared soldiers' barracks sleeping quarters separated from others only by a canvas curtain. Children would share the space with their parents.

Boys of 12 years would be encouraged to join the Regiment as Drummers and, on reaching 18, be signed-up in the Regiment if there were vacancies.⁶

Many soldiers also found wives or companions from amongst the local populations⁷. Their presence in the army train was generally tolerated, despite being beyond the quota. Those

³ Soldiering wives | National Army Museum. (n.d.). Retrieved 3 June 2020.

⁴ Starmans, B. J. (2015, May 31). Women and the Victorian Regiment. *The Social Historian*.

⁵ Nagy, S.-F. (2012). Brompton: The Smith Legacy. Trafford Publishing.

⁶ Nagy, S.-F. (2012). Brompton: The Smith Legacy. Trafford Publishing.

⁷ Dennison, J. (2018). *The Experiences and Contributions of Women Following the British Army During the Seven Years' War*. 64.

not formally recognised would not be able accompany the Regiment to its next posting unless they married.⁸



The following description of the conditions under which wives and families lived with their husbands in the Regiments during the period, is copied from "Women and the Victorian Regiment"⁹

Those who married with permission were said to be on the strength of the army. The wife became part of the regiment and was recognised at the rank of her husband. Families on the strength looked to the military for their support, however they were also subject to army discipline. The wife was expected to maintain their quarters to army specifications and in some regiments, quarters were inspected daily. Wives were required to be respectable and clean and families were expected to attend church every Sunday. Men were obliged to stay home in the evenings when not on duty and passes were needed by any who needed to stay out past 'last post'. Failure to comply with these standards in any way could result in the wives being 'struck off the strength,' and being asked to move out of the barracks.

Soldiers married on the strength of the regiment lived with their wives and children in an area of the barracks set aside for families. Quarters were sometimes only a portion of a large room

⁸ Trufram, M. (1984). *Women of the Regiment: Marriage and the Victorian Army*. Cambridge University Press.

⁹ Starmans, B. J. (2015, May 31). *Women and the Victorian Regiment*. The Social Historian.
<https://www.thesocialhistorian.com/women-and-the-victorian-regiment/>

screened off with blankets, perhaps a hut of about forty feet by twenty feet that might be shared by up to six families. Where separate married quarters existed, these often consisted of only one room, which served the dual purpose of living and sleeping. The army might provide some meager furnishings and household goods such as a table, a stool, a bed and bedding, fire irons and two or three brooms and brushes but the couple would be expected to purchase pots and pans, crockery and other household goods themselves. The married soldier would continue to receive his daily ration of bread and meat, but his wife and children would not be allotted any food, although their rations would be available to purchase at reduced costs through the regimental stores. Wives were expected to do washing and mending for the single men of the regiment, and this was considered a privilege because the few shillings that they earned allowed them to supplement their husband's wages. Washing facilities were often miserable and there was no allowance for soap, bluing, soda or coal and women were expected to find and purchase these necessary laundry supplies on their own. Those wives with the necessary skills would also clean, sew, nurse and teach. Any woman who wanted to find work outside the military, however, had to receive leave to do so from the commanding officer.

When the regiment moved, the wives, boys under fourteen and girls under sixteen were given travel expenses to accompany the soldiers. If the regiment was sent outside of England, however, only a small percentage of the soldiers were permitted to bring their families and there was much competition to be allowed on the troop ship. In some cases, women would stow away to follow their husbands, and in other cases, women who held tickets to board the ship would trade or sell their ticket to another, less fortunate woman. In few cases, those left behind were allowed to remain in barracks where space allowed, but more often, the families left behind had to seek alternative housing at their own expense and many had to resort to the workhouse.

Schools were provided for the army children at nominal cost, and all children were expected to attend. In some regiments, the regiment itself provided schooling for the children but in garrison towns, garrison schools were often established. Schools were divided into 'infants' and 'grown children's' schools. The younger children were under the charge of the schoolmistress and learned spelling, reading and singing while their mothers worked in the laundry. Older children were taught reading, writing, grammar, history, geography, arithmetic and algebra by the schoolmaster, and in the afternoons, the older girls would join the infants and learn domestic skills like needlework from the schoolmistress.

Because of the restrictions on marriage, many soldiers were forced to marry secretly and without consent. Their wives and children were said to be 'off the strength' and were considered to be of a lower class than the families who were sanctioned. They were not allowed to live in the barracks and if the soldier was transferred to a new station, they had to find their own transportation. When soldiers were sent abroad on foreign service, and indeed about two thirds of their time was spent outside of England, the families who were not "on strength" were forced to remain at home and were dependent on the parish or the poor union for their very survival.

Whether on or off the strength, the women of the Victorian regiment soon found that they served two masters. The first, their husband, whose first loyalty was to his commanding officer and the second, the military establishment whose reluctant patronage controlled their very existence.

The arrangements for the families of the members of the Band were less regulated and therefore not as well documented. However, it is likely that Lucy Turner, aged 10, would have travelled to Van Diemen's Land in 1829 with her mother Catherine Turner (the

widow of John Turner, Leader of the Band), her brothers John, aged 18, Peter, aged 14, and George, aged 12.

It is likely that Drum-Major, Samuel Bowyer and 11 members of the Band listed as Drummers and Fifers in the Muster Rolls in 1829, travelled with Regimental Headquarters to Hobart in July 1829, but were joined by the other members of the band but not formally listed as Drummers and Fifers, in August that year. The conditions on the convict transport ships that brought the Regiment to Australia were very poor and the record of deaths and sickness aboard during these three-month-long voyages are well documented.

Since her father, John Turner, former Leader of the 63rd's Band, had died in Portugal in 1827, it is likely that Catherine and the family were permitted to travel with the Regiment to Van Diemen's Land and to India "off-the-books" to support the Band which already included Lucy's older brothers John and Peter.

Lucy's brother, John Turner had enlisted on 23 February 1824 in the 63rd as a "Boy" aged 13 at Birr, Kings County Ireland, his father, John Turner, Drum Major of the Band of the 63rd, witnessing his enlistment oath. The enlistment papers record that John was a "musician" born at Witwick, Leicester aged 13 years. It seems clear that his father and mother had been members of the regimental family for some years prior to the Regiment's postings to Australia and India.

It appears that Peter who is recorded upon his death from Cholera in Bellary in 1844 as "Leader of the Band, may have been a civilian member of the Band.

Several of the fifers and drummers and those others in the regiment, whose duties included the band, were likely to be able to play several instruments. The standard core ensemble of the band would have been an octet of 2 clarinets, 2 oboes, 2 french horns and 2 bassoons and able to substitute on flutes, trumpets, trombones and keyed bugles.⁶⁶

Dr Graeme Skinner's¹⁰ notes:

"The drummers (and fifers) were, technically, a group quite distinct from the band. The band was a discreet ensemble of more or less professional trained musicians, and which in earlier decades, around 1800, was often also referred to simply as "the musick".

Boys who joined up young (including those who would be trained to be future bandsmen) were usually enlisted as drummers, under the drum major, who was often, though not always, also a trained (more or less professional) musician.

The band as such was an entirely separate body, largely "off the books" financially as far as muster rolls go (which were returns for government) and was instead managed and funded separately by compulsory subvention of the officers' mess. Sure, the bandsmen's basic salary was paid for by government, but all other operating costs - instruments, music, &c, extra payments to the bandsmen - were picked up by the officers.

There might sometimes also be some (extra) percussion players with the band . . . drums of various kinds, cymbals, Turkish jingles . . . sometimes played by uniformed "men of colour" who were not

¹⁰ Dr Graeme Skinner. (n.d.). The University of Sydney. Retrieved 31 May 2020, from <https://www.sydney.edu.au/music/about/our-people/academic-staff/graeme-skinner.html>

necessarily enlisted, but might be employed as regimental servants - all "off the books", financially, and so details are largely irrecoverable.

By the early 1830s bands began to get larger, and more brass instruments were added . . . cornopeans, ophicleides, and later cornets, &c &c. I've never gone through the 63rd muster rolls systematically, but for one in the first year they were in Tasmania, there were 8 bandsmen listed.

So it was almost certainly made up as I've outlined it above.

When they were playing for non-military indoor events, for instance balls and suppers, 3 or 4 of them almost certainly also doubled on string instruments (violins, cello), playing waltzes and quadrilles, and some of the bandsmen would also sing when called upon . . . this would sometimes be called the "chamber band".

For Lucy, the death of her husband in Dinapore in 1842 meant that she and her surviving son, Francis Henry Moran, were now dependent on her friends among the 21st Regiment's families. No doubt she would have remained in touch with her mother Catherine and her brothers in Bellary by mail and she would have now been keen to re-join them and the people she knew in the 63rd Regiment.

The tragic death of their son, Francis Henry Moran (born in Dinapore on 10 October 1842), yet another victim of cholera in , so soon after the death of her husband, would have made even more urgent her desire to be with her family again.

How Lucy and her young son, Francis Henry Moran, managed to travel from Dinapore to Bellary remains unclear, however it seems likely that she would have been financially supported by her friends in the Regiment to purchase her travel for the 2000km journey with the help of family and friends.

In Bellary, she is likely to have been supported by her mother and brothers. Perhaps she was employed by the Regiment in return for accommodation and rations and as a part of those duties, she met and subsequently married Colour Sergeant William "Billy" Flack in January 1844.



Modern picture of the Barracks at Bellary

An Entry in the Army Register
Book of Births, Deaths and Marriages

CERTIFIED COPY OF

AN ENTRY OF MARRIAGE SA 076451

Application Number 1801714/1

Registration of Births, Deaths and

Marriages (Special Provisions) Act 1957

MARRIAGES solemnized at Bellary in the Diocese and the Archdeaconry of Madras in the year of Our Lord 1844

When Married	Names of Parties Christian Surname	Age	Condition	Rank or Profession	Residence at the time of Marriage	Father's Name & Surname	By Banns or License
On this Seventeenth day of January one thousand eight hundred and forty four	William Flack Lucy Moran	30 24	Bachelor Widow	Color Serjeant H.M. 63 rd Regiment	Bellary	William Flack John Turner	By Licence
This marriage was solemnized between us				William Flack Lucy Moran			
Names of Witnesses Present:				By Whom Married			
In presence of us P.A. Turner I. Stewart S. Stewart				Signed Henry Taylor Chaplain			

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of the *certified copy of* an entry made in a Service Departments Register.
Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 26th day of November 2009

*If the certificate is given from the original Register the words "the certified copy of" are struck out.

Section 3(2) of the above mentioned Act provides that "The enactments relating to the registration of births and deaths and marriages in England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland (which contain provisions authorising the admission in evidence of, and of extracts from, certified copies of registers and duplicate registers) shall have effect as if the Service Departments Registers were certified copies or duplicate registers transmitted to the Registrar General in accordance with those enactments."

CAUTION: THERE ARE OFFENCES RELATING TO FALSIFYING OR ALTERING A CERTIFICATE AND USING OR POSSESSING A FALSE CERTIFICATE.

WARNING: A CERTIFICATE IS NOT EVIDENCE OF IDENTITY.

©CROWN COPYRIGHT

GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE
ENGLAND

But her happy marriage was followed by more tragedies. In September 1844, her brother, Peter Augustus Turner, the witness at Lucy's wedding in Hobart and who had recently taken on the responsibilities of Leader of the Band, died a victim of a further outbreak of cholera.

"Church of England Cemetery

1844 - 3 September. - Peter Augustus Turner, late Leader of the Band, HM's 63rd Regt., aged 29 years and 5 months."

and then the death of her son

"1845 - 23 May. - Francis Henry Moran, aged 2 years and 9 months. Nephew of P.A. Turner, Band, 52nd Regt."

The epidemic would go on for several months and take the lives of 60 men, women and children of the Regiment and in May 1845, the further terrible loss of her mother

"Roman Catholic Cemetery

1845 - 27th May. - Catherine, aged 56 years, wife of John Turner, formerly Drum Major, H.M 63rd Regt., who died at Thomar in Portugal on 23 July 1827, leaving 4 sons and 2 daughters."

Tragedy struck again in June 1845 when Billy and Lucy Flack's 1 month old daughter, Elizabeth Catherine Flack also died:

"Church of England Cemetery

1845 - 19 June. - Elizabeth Catherine Flack, aged 1 month and 12 days. Niece of P.A. Turner."

When Buried	Christian	Sex and Age	Quality, Trade or Profession, &c. &c. &c.	Where Buried	By whom Buried
19 June 1845	Elizabeth Catherine Flack	Female aged 1 month & 12 days	Daughter of William Flack H.M. 63rd Regt. & his wife	D.	W. P. Russell Chaplain

In the space of just 3^{1/2} years, Lucy had lost her husband, three children, her mother and two brothers.

Finally, the Regiment received its orders to proceed home to England and so Lucy and her husband must have left Bellary for the long march to Fort St George, Madras for embarkation, with great sadness, leaving behind so many loved ones.

And so on the 20 April 1847, after 13 and a half years in India, the now Sergeant Major Flack and his pregnant wife Lucy Flack, formerly Moran, nee Turner and 577 other ranks, 23 women and 35 children of the 63rd Regiment, boarded the transport ships "Larkins", "London" and "Wellington" at Madras bound for Chatham and home arriving in August 1847.

Francis Elizabeth Flack was born in Chatham on 4th November 1847.

After a short stay in Chatham and London, the Regiment proceeded to Manchester and then to Newcastle -on-Tyne where Companies were then deployed to Preston, Bury,

Burnley and Blackburn. It was while the Regiment was in Newcastle that Mary Anne Jane Flack was born on 29th December 1849.

In 1851, the Regiment deployed to Ireland with the Headquarters stationed at Limerick. William Henry Douglas Flack was born in Limerick on 26 January 1852.

On 22 September 1852, Sergeant Major Billy Flack took his discharge from the 63rd Regiment and transferred to the 5th Royal Lancashire Militia based in Burnley, Lancashire where Lucy lived with her family of four children until her death on 25 June 1878.

When Lucy Louisa Catherine Flack was baptized on 27th July 1856, at Holy Trinity, Habergham Eaves, the address of her parents was recorded as "New Barracks" Burnley.

When Frederick William Cadmore Flack was baptized at Holy Trinity on 23 May 1858 the address was recorded as "Barracks Burnley". Whatever the reasons the Flacks chose Burnley as their new permanent home, by 1861 they were living at 3 West Gate Habergham Eaves, bringing to an end for Lucy, a life lived in military barracks.

Lucy Flack, William's wife, the mother of his eight children and of two children to her first husband, died at their home in Accrington Road of Bronchitis and Lung Congestion, at age just 59.

She was buried alongside their two earlier deceased children, Isabella, who had died at 8 months in 1863, and Augustus, who had died in 1876 at 15 years of age.

More details of the life of William "Billy" Flack and Lucy in Burnley are available on-line in my research report entitled "The Life and Times of Captain William Flack" ([click here](#)).

Lucy's story is remarkable for the insights it gives the reader into the tough life of an Army wife and family during the period 1830-1850. It also provides a rare insight into the families of those who served in the regimental bands of the period.

A summary of the details of Lucy's children is attached.

A copy of her death certificate and a picture of her grave in Burnley Cemetery are also attached.

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF DEATH



GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number 1801790-2

REGISTRATION DISTRICT	THE BURNLEY UNION
1878 DEATH in the Sub-district of Burnley	in the County of Lancaster

Columns:— 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
 No. When and where died Name and surname Sex Age Occupation Cause of death Signature, description and residence of informant When registered Signature of registrar

1878	14th June 1878 Accrington Road Burnley	Lucy Flack	female	59 years	Wife of William Flack Retired	Bronchitis 2 years long longed for death Entered by Dr. Little & Co.	Wm Flack widower & deceased resided at death Accrington Road Barnes Green	18th June 1878	Robert Morris Registrar
------	--	------------	--------	----------	----------------------------------	---	---	----------------	----------------------------

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Deaths in the District above mentioned.

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 18th day of November 2009

DYC 510797

See note overleaf

CAUTION: THERE ARE OFFENCES RELATING TO FALSIFYING OR ALTERING A CERTIFICATE AND USING OR POSSESSING A FALSE CERTIFICATE ©CROWN COPYRIGHT

WARNING: A CERTIFICATE IS NOT EVIDENCE OF IDENTITY.

IPS 037108 21542 0409 3MSFSL 03364



MAC



The grave of Lucy Flack, formerly Moran, nee Turner in Burnley Cemetery, Lancashire