

Short biography of Gregory Marcar Gregory

1851 He was born on 26 December and baptised on 22 January 1852 in the Armenian Church, Calcutta.

1864-1869 He was a pupil at Harrow School. He matriculated from Harrow in the Michaelmas Term (September). There are school prize books in the bookcase.

1870 He joined Trinity College, Cambridge on 24 February and seems to have been well provided for because the gold hunter pocket watch was his. We have a cup inscribed: '2nd Trinity Scratch Fours, 7 boats started 16 March 1871, 1 FJ Cannon, 2 GM Gregory, 3 WH Blake, Stk. CE Jolliffe, Cox HM Kisch'. Greg was told that he received a message from Calcutta saying his father had suddenly died and his allowance was cut off. This does not fit with other information so it is more likely that his father was in financial difficulties and his 'death' was a story to cover embarrassment. The story continues to say when he reached Calcutta he discovered that his Apcar cousins had taken over his father's business. They may have done so to provide support during bankruptcy hearings rather than steal assets, which is what is suggested. Anyway, he was unable to join the family business.

1873 In April he joined the Indian Civil Service (Opium Department), Bengal. This date suggests he spent a full 3 years at Cambridge.

1879 In April he was appointed Head Assistant.

1885 He married Edith Laura Sheridan (1855-1942), second daughter of John Sheridan of Middle Temple, who lived at Haroldstone Road, Kensington. They married at St Matthias Church, Kensington, London, on 2 July. Their wedding presents included the carriage clock on the sitting room mantelpiece and a mantelpiece combination, with clock on the left, barometer on the right and a thermometer between. It was a delicate ornament in the French style. Barbara inherited it and exchanged it in Robertsbridge jewellers for a watch and clock.

1886 Ada Marcar was born on 31 August, baptized St Thomas, Ghazipur, and died 14 August 1887 aged 11 months

1888 Marcar Sheridan was born on 23 June and baptized at St Thomas, Ghazipur (he died 1966 aged 78)

1889 John Sheridan was born on 15 September at Haroldstone House, Kensington (he was killed 19 February 1918 aged 29)

1890 In March Gregory was promoted to Sub-Deputy Opium Agent.

1899 He was appointed, in March, as Superintendent of the Opium, Indigo and Rosewater factory at Ghazipur. He had a local doctor friend (Fitzgerald). The photo albums show a good deal of life in Ghazipur. He served in the local army Volunteer Service and reached the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in the Ghazipur Rifles Regiment. He was awarded the Volunteer Decoration (Green medal in the stamp box). He was a very good shot and won the annual prizes - a wooden fruit bowl, punch jug and drum-shaped biscuit barrel. He was keen on stamp collecting and amassed several albums which were kept in the 'stamp box.' There is a photo of his study in Ghazipur from which items of furniture can be recognised. The deeply embossed ashtray was taken by Barbara and lost at her death along with other items.

1904 In May he retired from the ICS and returned to the newly-built 36 Gunterstone Road, West Kensington.

1911 The Census showed he had tenants: Galeston Gregory a student and nephew, Shanazar Galstaun a student and Lt Col Sarkies Avetoom, a cousin, of the Indian Army Medical Service. Sarkies had a military career in the Indian Army, mostly serving in North Africa. He was still living at Gunterstone Road in the 1930 census. Greg remembers he had eggs delivered from the kitchen via the food lift and he always came down for tea when he would invariably have a rum-baba. Sarkies married Ada Lilywhite (was she a widow nee Sheridan - Edith's sister?) in Sussex in 1933. The 1911 Census showed another Gregory M Gregory staying at a nearby hotel. His occupation was entered as merchant and he came from Isfahan, Persia, where the Armenian Jolfa district is, which suggests that we may still have distant cousins living there.

1913-1918 Gregory became President of the Armenian Association of London and was appointed Liaison Officer for Armenians in the UK from 1914. During the 1914-1918 war he worked at the War Office. He took special care of Armenian refugees and received a large silver cup as a reward. Greg's father sold this in Eastbourne in the 1950's and bought an Omega Seamaster watch which Greg has been wearing since 1966. His son, John was killed in France in 1918. Gregory's portrait was painted by Flora Lyon probably in

1919. Ursula suggested that he was a nominee for a senior post in the League of Nations just before he died.

1920 On 28 January, Gregory died of bulbar paralysis (stroke-induced paralysis preventing the swallowing reflex which led to fluid on the lungs and pneumonia) at West Kensington and was buried at West Brompton Cemetery (Times Obituary 3 February 1920). Edith Laura became a Christian Scientist and died in 1942 at 36 Gunterstone Road.