

VERY REV. LANCELOT PARKER BOOTH



Lancelot Parker Booth, "The Bower Studio", Durban, 1900
Courtesy Rev Melt van de Spuy, St. Barnabas Church, Cape Town

Until recently, the Rev. Dr Lancelot Parker Booth was unknown to me. As an adjunct to this history, I thought it reasonable to add a note on this man whom Mohandas K (Mahatma) Gandhi referred to as "a venerable gentleman very much loved by the Christian portion of the Indian community", "indispensable" and "indefatigable".

Rev. Dr Lancelot Parker Booth qualified with a M.D. From Durham University; and first applied to the Colonial Secretary's Medical Board to practice as a physician-surgeon on 10 August 1876 NAB CSO 560. 1876/2128 and was appointed as a District Surgeon to the Natal Government Medical Service and Indian Immigration Department between 1876 and 1888. Details of his arrival in Natal are unknown to me. He was ordained with a D.D. from Trinity College in 1888; and returned to Natal as Diocesan Superintendent of Indian Missions and Canon of Maritzburg, Natal, in 1889. His first wife, Olive Stott, died in 1888 NAB MSCE 8/3.

He established a dispensary for the newly arrived Indian community near the Alice Street bridge and built the original St Aidan's Mission Hospital across the road from his home in 1887.

Booth remarried one, Annie Sophia Grimes, in 1894.

Mention is first made of him in Gandhiji's memoirs when in July 1899 writing to *The Times of India* (Weekly edition; publ. 19 August 1899) he discusses the state of the education system for Indian children in Natal. At that time, there were about twenty-five schools created solely for the education of the children of indentured Indians and attended by nearly 2,000 pupils. Though these schools received a grant from the Government, it was totally inadequate and parliament declined to improve it. He described the buildings as being of the most primitive type, "wretchedly constructed" and often devoid of flooring. Most of these schools were managed by missionaries, chiefly from the Church of England Mission, under the superintendence of the Rev. Dr. Booth. Despite these unfavorable circumstances, children from affluent, wholesome backgrounds were being refused entry to good public schools. He drew attention to the fact that this stance by the authorities was both contrary to Christian teaching and the political philosophy of the Mother-state, Britain, at the time.

In the Second Report of The Natal Indian Congress published in the *Post* on 11 October, 1899, mention is made of the superintendence of Dr. and Mrs. Booth of the Natal Indian Education Association; their fund-raising benefit performances which led to the opening of a Diamond Jubilee Library; and the Indian hospital, Saint Aidan's Mission Hospital, which was established by community subscription assisted with a donation from Parsee Rustomjee and opened on the 14th day of September 1897. This followed "the exertions of Dr. Lilian Robinson (later to be replaced because of illness by Dr. Clara Williams), under the advice, help and control of Dr. Booth". Gandhi is reported as having spent an hour or more each day helping Dr. Booth administer to the sick.

With the establishment of the Indian Ambulance Corps, Dr Booth was to serve in a different role, that of teacher to the first 1000 volunteers who received training in hospital work; [WIRE TO COLONIAL SECRETARY: 4-12-1899] and medical adviser and mentor to the Indian Ambulance Corps Leaders [LETTER TO BISHOP BAYNES OF NATAL, circa. 11-12-1899], a role of which the Bishop of Natal, Rt. Rev. Baynes disapproved.

The *Natal Mercury*, 14 December 1899 reports a speech Gandhiji made at the request of the Hon. Mr. Harry Escombe, Premier of Natal, outlining the philosophy behind the creation of the Indian Ambulance Corps, the selection and medical certification by Dr Prince of the first 25 volunteers, the role of Dr. Booth, unpaid, both as trainer and in giving voice to their views when faced with stiff opposition from both the Colonial Secretary and Bishop Baynes [BOOTH: WIRE TO COLONIAL SECRETARY (11-12-1899)].

Thereafter followed their involvement in the battle of Colenso and the later temporary disbanding.

In a telegramme to Colonel Gallwey, Principal Medical Officer of Natal [TELEGRAM TO COL. GALLWEY circa. 7-1-1900], Gandhi draws the attention of the authorities to the fact that 500 free Indians are ready to do ambulance work as before until the war is over and that Dr. Booth had taken leave to act as medical officer and as superintendent. There followed their involvement with honour in the battles of Spion Kop and Vaalkrantz.

Other than in public addresses delivered by Gandhi, we last read of Dr. Booth in this context in a letter addressed to the Colonial Secretary [LETTER TO COLONIAL SECRETARY: 30-3-1901] wherein Gandhi, presumably for political reasons, debunks the notion that he had any formal appellation within the Indian Ambulance Corps - "General Buller's dispatch wherein (I am) described as 'Mr. Gandhi, Asst. Supt. Indian Ambulance Corps.' " He draws attention to Dr. Booth's services as Medical Officer, adviser and guide and those of Mr. Shire in relation to internal administration and discipline.

In Durban, on the 29 June, 1900, the Indian Community of Natal bade a formal farewell to Dr. Booth and his wife.

The following is the address that was delivered: DURBAN, 29 June, 1900

We the undersigned Indian subscribers place on record on the eve of your withdrawal from Indian work in this Colony, the sense of gratitude the Indian community owes you for your many acts of charity and kindness. To the poor among us you have been a friend and benefactor, irrespective of creed or caste. Many of us know from personal experience how we could rely upon your free medical assistance at all times. Your gentleness and kind sympathy have often succeeded where medicine alone would fail. The Indian Hospital, which was the direct result of your 17 years' labour in alleviating human suffering, is a standing testimony to your work in that direction.

Your services in connection with the Indian Ambulance Corps, the training you were good enough to give the ambulance class, also much sacrifice of time, the willingness with which you offered to accompany the corps in spite of pressing duties in Durban, your medical aid to bearers at the front and your counsel to the leaders, can hardly be overvalued by the Indian community.

We may say without exaggeration that you have presented to us a pattern of an upright Englishman and good, gentle Christian who knows no distinction between Jew and Gentile. The fact that half the number of Indian schools owe their existence to your energy is an indication of your efforts on behalf of the masses. It is hard for us to tender you, unmingled with sorrow, our congratulations on your preferment. Umtata's gain is our loss. You leave behind you a gap; it will be difficult to fill. The congregation of your church may find an equally eloquent preacher and as safe a guide, but where shall your congregation find so faithful, sympathetic and tried a friend whom they have learnt to know and love for close upon two decades? As a slight token of our esteem for you, we beg of you to accept this address and the accompanying purse for the benefit of your Indian Hospital.

We wish you and Mrs. Booth a happy time in your new sphere and pray that the Almighty may long spare you and your wife to continue your work of love.

Cannon Dr. Lancelot Parker Booth together with his second wife, Annie Sophia, left to serve as Vicar-General of St. John's, Umtata between 1900 and 1901; Dean of St. John's until 1912; Vicar and Sub-Dean of St. George's Cathedral, Cape Town between 1912 and 1913; Rector of St. Barnabas', Cape Town, 1913 to 1925. He died on 28 March 1925 KAB MOOC 6/9/2770.7435.

He saw service as a Medical Officer in the Indian Ambulance Corp, 1899-1900, earning the Queen's South Africa medal with 2 clasps and with the British Expeditionary Force in France as a Captain in the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1916.

LANCELOT PARKER BOOTH GENEALOGY

GENEALOGY

1. Lancelot BOOTH bc. 1790 Etherly, Durham married Ann PARKER 3 June 1820, Heighington, Durham (~ 28 April 1793 do. John Parker and Mary Newcomb)

1.1 Lancelot Parker BOOTH b. 10 Jun 1821 Etherly, Durham ~ 10 Jun 1821, Auckland St. Helen married Ann HEDLEY Chester Le Street, Durham 26 September 1842 (bc. 1825 Etherly, Durham)

This family was listed in the 1851 Census Returns for Byers Green/Hunwick & Helmington/ Newtown Gap/ Pollards Lands. Lancelot Parker BOOTH (Snr) was recorded as being a 29 year-old Colliery Viewer.

At the time of the 1881 Population Census, the couple was resident at 87 Scarboro St., Stranton, Durham, England

Name	Relation	M / U	Gender	Age	Birthplace	Occupation
Lancelot BOOTH	Head	M	Male	1822 59	W Auckland, Durham	Carpenter
Hannah BOOTH	Wife	M	Male	60	Gateshead, Durham	

1.1.1 Robert Lancelot BOOTH b. 19 January 1845 ~ 19 March 1845 Auckland St. Helen, Durham married Jane CHARLTON

1.1.1.1 La(u)ncelot Parker BOOTH b. 19 Nov 1873 ~ 17 January 1874 Haltwhistle, Northumberland

1.1.2 John William BOOTH b. Kelloe, Durham, England 2 December 1848 d. <1881 m. Charlotte HEDLEY

1.1.2.1 Lancelot Hedley BOOTH b. 18 September 1874 South Hetton, Durham / Edinburgh, Midlothian m. 5 February 1902 Par Holy Trinity, Darlington, Durham Gertrude Evelyn HUTTON (bc. 1875 Darlington, Durham)

At the time of the 1881 Population Census, the family was resident at 8 Cleveland Terrace, Darlington, Durham, England

Name	Relation	M / U	Gender	Age	Birthplace	Occupation
<u>Charlotte BOOTH</u>	Head	W	Female	27	South Hetton, Durham	Annuitant
<u>Lancelot H. BOOTH</u>	Son		Male	1875 6	South Hetton, Durham	Scholar
<u>Robert HEADLEY</u>	Brother	U	Male	21	South Hetton, Durham	Farmer Unemployed
<u>Eleanor HEADLEY</u>	Sister	U	Female	20	South Hetton, Durham	Annuitant
<u>Margaret ROBINSON</u>	Servant	U	Female	24	West Hartle Pool, Durham	Cook Domestic Servant

1.1.3 unknown

1.1.4 Lancelot Parker BOOTH b. 11 Nov 1850, Mount Pleasant, Pollards Lands d. Cape Town 28 March 1925 m. (first) 1884 St. Cyprian's Church, Durban Olive STOTT (do. Dr. Hugh Stott, Blackheath) b. unknown d. 18 December 1888

The Death Notice of Lancelot Parker Booth states that he was of Bishop Auckland, Durham. His parents are given as John Parker Booth of Bishop Auckland, Durham and Annie. However, I believe that this is erroneous. He died whilst living at "Donkel", High Level Road, Sea Point. His will was drawn up and signed "Late Rector of St. Barnabas" three days prior to his death. His estate of £51/6/9 was left to his wife. The will contains "a note of profound love and gratitude to the congregation of Saint Barnabas". MOOC 6/9/2770.7435

- 1.1.4.1 Lancelot Hugh BOOTH d. 8 August 1886 (when a minor. No record)
- 1.1.4.2 Ainslie BOOTH bc. 1886 K.I.A 30 April 1916 m. Martha Maden BARLOW

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission lists the following details:

Lieutenant AINSLIE BOOTH, Royal Army Medical Corps attached to King's Own Scottish Borderers died 30/04/1916 and was buried in Vermelles British Cemetery, France

Additional information: M A., M.B., B. Ch., Oxon., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Lond. Son of the Rev. Lancelot Parker Booth, D.D., M.D., and Olive Booth of Durban, Natal, South Africa; husband of Martha Maden Booth (née Barlow) of No.2 Beechcroft Rd., Oxford.

- 1.1.4 Lancelot Parker BOOTH d. 28 March 1925 m. (second) 1894 Annie Sophia GRIMES (do. J.R. Grimes of St Leonard's).

In 1881, the family was living at 2 Balham Hill Road, Streatham, Surrey, England. PLEASE NOTE: JRG (below) = John Ralph Grimes and not as transcribed

Name	Relation	M / U	Gender	Age	Birthplace	Occupation
John Reginald GRIMES	Head	M	Male	45	Madras, India	Secretary to Economic Life Assurance
Mary Ann GRIMES	Wife	M	Female	45	Edinburgh, Scotland	Wife of Same
Mary Katharine GRIMES	Daughter	U	Female	19	(B Subject), Madeira, Portugal	
Jesse Marian GRIMES	Daughter	U	Female	18	(B Subject), Madeira, Portugal	
Annie Sophia GRIMES	Daughter	U	Female	15	Balham, Surrey	Scholar
Lucy Georgina GRIMES	Daughter	U	Female	5	Balham, Surrey	
Martha Annie CHILTON	Servant	U	Female	34	Tenbury, Worcester	Cook
Ruth WICKENS	Servant	U	Female	26	Bolthamsted, Berkshire	Ladies Maid
Elizabeth. BLENCH	Servant	U	Female	24	Brighton, Sussex	Parlour maid
Mary Ann BAKER	Servant	U	Female	16	Chelsea, Middlesex	Under Housemaid

- 1.2 Mary BOOTH b. 25 December 1822 Etherly, Durham ~ 25 December 1822 Etherley Auckland, Durham

- 1.3 Ann BOOTH b. 26 December 1824 Etherly, Durham

1.4 John BOOTH b. 3 March 1826 Etherly, Durham ~ 3 March 1826 Auckland St. Helen, Durham married Margaret

1.4.1 Lancelot Parker BOOTH b. 1859 ~ 3 July 1859 Etherley, Durham

1.4.2 Maddelina BOOTH b. 1862 Etherley, Durham

1.4.3 John C. BOOTH b. 1864 Etherley, Durham

In 1881, the family was living in Etherley, Evenwood & Barony, Durham, England

Name	Relation	M/U	Gender	Age	Birthplace	Occupation
John BOOTH	Head	M	Male	1827 54	Etherley, Durham	Grocer
Margaret BOOTH	Wife	M	Female	1831 50	West Auckland, Durham	
Lancelot Parker BOOTH	Son	U	Male	1859 22	Etherley, Durham	
John C. BOOTH	Son	U	Male	1864 17	Etherley, Durham	
Maddelina BOOTH	Daughter	U	Female	1862 19	Etherley, Durham	

1.5 Robert BOOTH b. 5 July 1828 Etherly, Durham ~ 5 July 1828 Auckland St. Helen m. ??? d. <1881

In 1881, the family was living in Charlton Terrace, Evenwood & Barony, Durham, England

Name	Relation	M / U	Gender	Age	Birthplace	Occupation
Robt. BOOTH	Head	W	Male	52	Etherley, Durham	Colliery Screenman
Mary Ann BOOTH	Daur	U	Female	29	Etherley, Durham	
Elizabeth BOOTH	Daur	U	Female	24	Etherley, Durham	Dressmaker
Robt. BOOTH	Son	U	Male	25	Etherley, Durham	Shoe Maker
Anne BOOTH	Daur	U	Female	24	Etherley, Durham	Milliner
William BOOTH	Son		Male	22	Etherley, Durham	Joiner
John BOOTH	Son		Male	19	Etherley, Durham	Colliery Laborer
Parker BOOTH	Son		Male	15	Etherley, Durham	Scholar
Mable Lillian BOOTH	Grandaur		Female	3	Evenwood, Durham	

1.5.1 Mary Ann BOOTH bc. 1852

1.5.2 Robert BOOTH bc. 1856

1.5.3 Elizabeth BOOTH bc. 1857

1.5.4 Anne BOOTH bc. 1858

1.5.5 William BOOTH bc. 1859

1.5.6 John BOOTH bc. 1862

1.5.7 Parker BOOTH bc. 1866

1.5.8 Mable Lillian BOOTH

1.6 Jane BOOTH b. 24 November 1830 Etherly, Durham

1.7 William BOOTH b. 31 March 1833 Etherly, Durham m. Margaret (bc. 1836)

In 1881, the family was living at 15 Lower Tenters St., Bishop Auckland, Durham, England

Name	Relation	M/U	Gender	Age	Birthplace	Occupation
William BOOTH	Head	M	Male	1833 48	Etherley, Durham	Merchant Grocer
Margaret BOOTH	Wife	M	Female	45	Bishop Auckland, Durham	
Margaret E. BOOTH	Daughter	U	Female	23	Etherley, Durham	Living At Home
Edith Ann BOOTH	Daughter	U	Female	20	Etherley, Durham	Living At Home
Elizabeth A. YOUNG	Servant	U	Female	20	Newcastle-on-Tyne	General Servant

1.7.1 Margaret E. BOOTH bc. 1858

1.7.2 Edith Ann BOOTH bc. 1861

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22 January 2006. Reviewed Thursday, 30 October 2008.

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POSTSCRIPT from Howard Chadwick June 2008

1871 Streatham Surrey Census
Balham St
GRIMES
John **Ralph** Head Mar(ried) 35 Secretary to Life Assurance Office East Indies Madras
Mary Ann Wife Mar(ried) 35 Scotland Portobello
Mary Katharine Dau(ghte)r 9 Scholar Madeira Funchal/British Subject
Jessie Marion Dau(ghte)r 8 Scholar Madeira Funchal/British Subject
Arthur John Lund Son 7 Scholar Balham
Annie Sophia Dau(ghte)r 5 Scholar Balham
Ralph Fearon Son 4 Balham
Sarah Susan FERRY Governess 23 Un(married) Nursery Governess Mdx
Cambden Town
+ 3 servts

Her father married as John Ralph in Sep(tember) 1860 in Patrington District, Yks, to Mary Ann LUND.

Checked the original entry in 1881 and clear - John Ralph. The "p" is strung onto the "l" and could be "gld" at a pinch, but without too much effort is easily a Ralph.

STOTT GENEALOGY

1 John [Thomas] Stott bc. 1690 Glusbourne, Kildwicke, Yorkshire, married 8 September 1715 Kildwick, Yorkshire Elizabeth LAYCOCK (b. 1694 Glusbourne, Kildwicke, Yorkshire)

- 1.1 Hugh Stott ~ 9 September 1716 Glusbourne, Kildwicke, Yorkshire
- 1.2 George Stott ~ 22 March 1717 Norland, Yorkshire
- 1.3 Thomas Stott ~ 26 December 1718 Glusbourne, Kildwicke, Yorkshire,
- 1.4 John Stott ~ 5 August 1721 Glusbourne, Kildwicke, Yorkshire,
- 1.5 Grace Stott ~ 19 January 1724 Glusbourne, Kildwicke, Yorkshire,
- 1.6 George Stott ~ 26 April 1727 Glusbourne, Kildwicke, Yorkshire,
- 1.7 James Stott ~ 7 November 1731 Glusbourne, Kildwicke, Yorkshire,

1.6 George Stott b. 23 April 1727 of Glusbourne, Kildwicke, Yorkshire, England ~ 26 April 1727 Holy Trinity Goodramgate, York marriage 14 Novmber 1752 Kildwicke, Yorkshire, England Mary DIXON b. circa 1731 of Kildwicke, , Yorkshire, England

- 1.6.1 John Stott b. 14 April 1754 Glusbourne, Kildwicke, Yorkshire d. 4 May 1754 bur. 02 May 1754
- 1.6.2 George Stott ~ 18 May 1755 Glusbourne, Kildwicke, Yorkshire,
- 1.6.3 Hugh Stott ~ 1 October 1758 Kildwick, Yorkshire
- 1.6.4 Emmanuel Stott ~ 22 March 1761 Glusbourne, Kildwicke, Yorkshire,
- 1.6.5 Amy Stott ~ 28 October 1764 Glusbourne, Kildwicke, Yorkshire,
- 1.6.6 Henry ~ 5 July 1766 Glusbourne, Kildwicke, Yorkshire,

1.6.2 George Stott ~ 18 May 1755 Glusbourne, Kildwicke married Mary SHEPPARD 25 September 1784 Manchester Cathedral, Manchester, Lancashire
1.6.2.1 George Stott ~ 3 April 1785 Manchester Cathedral, Manchester, Lancashire

1.6.2.1.1 Hugh Stott married Janette COTTERELL ~ 21 May 1820 Manchester Cathedral

1.6.2.1.1.1 Frances b. dc. 1893

1.6.2.1.1.2 Emma Stott b. 21 June 1857 ~ 9 December 1857 St. Mary, Lewisham, Kent d. 1936 [NAB MSCE 24270/1936](#) married R Laming St. Cyprian's Church, Durban South 3 May 1883

1.6.2.1.1.3 Dr. Hugh Stott (of Blackheath) b. 27 July 1858 ~ 15 April 1859 St. Mary, Lewisham, Kent

1.6.2.1.1.4 Olivia Stott bc. 1864 NO RECORD d. 1888 [NAB MSCE 8/3](#) married Lancelot Parker Booth St. Cyprian's Church, Durban South on Easter Tuesday 1884.

1.6.2.1.1.4.1 Lancelot Hugh BOOTH d. 8 August 1886 (when a minor. No record)

1.6.2.1.1.4.2 Ainslie BOOTH b. 25 February 1886 K.I.A 30 April 1916 m. Martha Maden BARLOW

The death notice of Olive Booth née Stott states the name of the mother as Janette Coterett Stott. MSCE 8/3

In a letter dated 1 September 1893, Messrs. Fedr. Fuller & Son, Solicitors of Rugby, Warwickshire, write to the Colonial Office, Capetown on behalf of the Survivor and Executor Testamentary of Frances Stott asking for proof of the marriages of Miss Emma Stott to R Laming [NAB MSCE 24270/1936 & Vol. 27 No. 210](#) in St. Cyprian's Church, Durban South on 3 May 1883; and Miss Olive Stott married to Canon Lancelot Booth in St. Cyprian's Church, Durban South on Easter Tuesday 1884.

GRIMES GENEALOGY

1.1.4 Lancelot Parker BOOTH d. 28 March 1925 m. (second) 1894 Annie Sophia GRIMES (do. J.R. Grimes of St Leonard's) b c. 1865 d. "Beyond", Main Rd, Newlands, Cape 24 May 1946 (aged 81 yrs) [MOOC 6/9/12397.2688/46](#) (do. John Ralph & Mary Ann Grimes; sister Lucy Georgina Grimes living at 4 Campden Grove, Kensington W8.)

In 1881, the family was living at 2 Balham Hill Road, Streatham, Surrey, England

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Jesse Marian GRIMES	Daughter	U	Female	18	(B Subject), Madeira, Portugal	
Annie Sophia GRIMES	Daughter	U	Female	15	Balham, Surrey	Scholar
Lucy Georgina GRIMES	Daughter	U	Female	5	Balham, Surrey	
Martha Annie CHILTON	Servant	U	Female	34	Tenbury, Worcester	Cook
Ruth WICKENS	Servant	U	Female	26	Bolthamsted, Berkshire	Ladies Maid
Elizabeth. BLENCH	Servant	U	Female	24	Brighton, Sussex	Parlour maid
Mary Ann BAKER	Servant	U	Female	16	Chelsea, Middlesex	Under Housemaid