

GENEALOGY OF THE FAMILY OF BLAZE OF CEYLON

(Compiled by Mr. D. V. Attendorff)

I

Hendrik Carel Blaze of Amsterdam arrived in Ceylon in 1786 as Deerde Meister of the Ship "Amphitribe." He had the following issue:

- 1 ~~Florentina Hendrina married in the Dutch Reformed Church, Wolveendaal, 11th October 1810, David Michiel Perera.~~
- 2 John Henry, who follows under II.
- 3 Adriaan Harkes, died young.

II

John Henry Blaze, English Master in the Wesleyan Methodist Mission School at Bentota, and later Head Master of the Government Boys' School at Paiyagala, married at Kalutara by Governor's licence No. 790 dated 28th September 1826, Margareta Caroline de Joodt, Head Mistress of the Government Girls' School at Paiyagala, died at Kandy, 16th February 1895. He had by her:

- 1 Louis Ezekiel, who follows under III.
- 2 Jonathan Benjamin, born 20th January 1831, died at Kandy 1st September 1906.
- 3 Ransina Charlotta, born 7th June 1833.
- 4 Daniel Samuel, who follows under IV.
- 5 Sarah, married at Kandy, 27th October 1869, William Simpson Marshall.
- 6 John, died in 1848.
- 7 Martha Hannah, born 15th January 1843.
- 8 Matilda, born 20th January 1849, died in 1850.

III

Louis Ezekiel Blaze, born 12th November 1827, died 12th March 1894, married at Kandy, 4th October 1849, Henrietta Charlotta Garnier, died 19th January 1894. He had by her:

- 1 Son, died 1851.
- 2 John Thomas, M.A. (Oxon) Barrister-at-Law, Middle Temple, Advocate, born 28th February 1853, died 17th June 1921, married at Badulla, 28th December 1887, Lilian Van Rooyen.
- 3 Charlotte, born 25th July 1854, died 7th June 1929, married at Kandy, John William Horan of the Ceylon Government Railway.
- 4 Edmund Jackson, born 18th March 1858.
- 5 Louis Edmund, who follows under V.
- 6 Robert Ezekiel, who follows under VI.

IV

Daniel Samuel Blaze, born 23rd September 1834, died at Ipoh, 5th May 1917, married Inez, and he had by her:

- 1 Joseph Daniel, Licensed Surveyor, died at Ipoh, 2nd April 1939.
- 2 Edith.
- 3 Lilian Margareta, died 25th February 1928.

V

Louis Edmund Blaze, C.B.E., J.P., B.A. (Calcutta), Founder and Principal of Kingswood College, Kandy, 1891—1923, born 29th September 1861, married at Negombo, 16th December 1891, Alice Maud Avery, born 8th March 1865, died 1st March 1912, daughter of William Frederick Avery and Elizabeth Garnier. He had by her:

- 1 Irene Clarice, died 16th August 1893.
- 2 Alice Rachel.
- 3 Marie Louise, died 9th November 1917.

VI

Robert Ezekiel Blaze, J.P., U.P.M., Crown Proctor, Badulla, born 6th August, 1863, died 13th November 1916, married in Colombo, 23rd August 1890, Annie Laura Paulusz, born 20th June 1866, died 1940, daughter of John Gerard Paulusz and Annie Catherine Thomas. He had by her:

- 1 Annie Henrietta, born 19th December 1891 died 1892.
- 2 John Robert, who follows under VII.
- 3 Louis Gerard, who follows under VIII.
- 4 Annie Charlotte, born 7th November 1895, married at Badulla, 20th December 1919, Allanson Glanville de Kretser.
- 5 Judith Beatrice, born 20th January 1897, married in the Methodist Church, Kollupitiya, 22nd December 1930, Walter Leopold Pinto.
- 6 Thomas Frederick, who follows under IX.
- 7 Edmund Hugh, L.M.S. (Ceylon), Ceylon Medical Department, born 29th July 1900, married at Badulla, 11th April 1939, Mary Buyers, born 23rd January 1900.
- 8 Katharine Margaret, born 27th March 1902, married in the Methodist Church, Kollupitiya, 29th August 1933, Noel Eric Sproule Kalenberg, (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXV, page 158 and Vol. XXXII, page 140).
- 9 Heinrich Carel, born 5th June 1905, died 15th October 1905.
- 10 Benjamin Richard, who follows under X.
- 11 Robert Ezekiel, who follows under XI.

VII

John Robert Blazé, O.B.E., L.M.S. (Ceylon), M.B., B.S., M.D., M.R.C.P. (Lond), Senior Physician, General Hospital, Colombo, born 23rd March 1893, married in St. Michael's and All Angels Church, Colombo, 30th April 1941, Carlotta Bianca Milani Sansoni, born 21st December 1911, daughter of Bertram Sansoni and Kathleen Garvin. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXXIV, page 118). He had by her:

- 1 John Bertram, born 25th October 1942.
- 2 Mary Ann, born 27th August 1944.

VIII

Louis Gerard Blazé, L.M.S. (Ceylon), L.R.C.P. & S. (Edin), L.R.F.P. & S. (Glas), Senior Medical Officer, Ceylon Medical Department, born 26th July 1894, married in All Saints' Church, Galle, 19th April 1922 Claribel Louise Arndt, born 2nd Dec. 1899, daughter of Arthur Robert Theodore Arndt, Secretary of the Municipal Council, Galle, and Alice Mabel Felsing. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. VI, page 103, and Vol. XXVII, page 126). He had by her:

- 1 Son, born and died 14th February 1923.
- 2 Theodore Lucien, born 24th January 1925.
- 3 Vivian Louis, born 11th December 1929.

IX

Thomas Frederick Blazé, J.P., U.M., Crown Proctor, Badulla, born 15th February 1899, married in Colombo, 8th December 1926, Ellenor Marjorie Henrietta Schokman, born 30th August 1900, daughter of Walter Russel Schokman and Agnes Maud Baillie. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXV, pages 116 and 117). He had by her:

- 1 Annie Marguerite, born 10th November 1927.

X

Benjamin Richard Blazé, B.A. Hons. (Lond), F.C.I. (Birm), Diploma of Education, (Ceylon), Assistant Master, Central College at Piliyandela, born 2nd June 1907, married in the Baptist Church, Cinnamon Gardens, Colombo, 30th June 1932, Dorrit Caroline Wait, born 29th October 1915, daughter of Stanley Theodore Wait and Lilian Beatrice Gogery. (D.B.U. Journal, Vol. XXXIII, page 88). He had by her:

- 1 John Louis, born 8th October 1934.
- 2 Robert Theodore, born 7th April 1941.
- 3 Edmund Carel Thomas, born 8th April 1944.

XI

Robert Ezekiel Blazé, Superintendent of Police, born 27th June 1910, married in the Methodist Church, Kollupitiya, 16th December 1939, Mary Mirabel Pate, born 1st March 1919, daughter of Edwin Thomas Arthur Pate and Marie Mildred Frank. He had by her:

- 1 Robert Ezekiel, born 24th September 1940, died 25th December 1941.
- 2 Richard Edmund, born 4th May 1942.
- 3 Judith Anne, born 15th May 1944.
- 4 Susan Ruth, born 26th September 1945.
- 5 Katharine Mary, born 22nd November 1946.

Notes. 1. The following is a translation of a document in Dutch, and it refers to the founder of the family in Ceylon:

The members of the Board of Admiralty Meeting at Amsterdam have nominated and appointed the person of Hendrik Carel Blase (and he is hereby duly nominated and appointed) to serve as Third Mate under the command of Captain F. J. Wierds; and the officers, sailors and soldiers sailing under the abovenamed Captain are ordered duly to acknowledge the abovenamed H. C. Blase in that rank—

Determined at the meeting of the Renowned Lords of the Council on 7th October 1785.

D. I. Leyden

By command of the abovenamed
Council.

(2). The following letter of appointment refers to John Henry Blazé mentioned in II:

By the Grace of God, and under the sanction of the British Government.

Wesleyan Methodist Mission,
in the Island of Ceylon.
School Department.

In behalf of the Conference of the People in England, called the Methodists, we, the undersigned, being satisfied of the integrity and qualifications of Mr. John Blazé, do hereby appoint him to sustain the Office of English Master in the Wesleyan Methodist Mission School, No. 9 at Bentotte under our superintendence: and do hereby authorise him to receive the monthly salary of twenty rix-dollars, so long as he shall continue faithfully to perform the duties thereof to the satisfaction of the Superintendent of his Station for the time being which the said Superintendent will annually signify by his signature.

Given under our hands at the Mission House in Colombo this 10th day of March 1821.

Wm. Buckley Fox,
B. Clough.

General Superintendents of Wesleyan
Mission Schools in the Island of
Ceylon.

Recommended by me, the Superintendent of the Cultura Station; and delivered by me, to the Bearer, the abovenamed Mr. John Blazé, this 24th day of March 1821.

John McKenny.

3. Louis Edmund Blazé, referred to in V, having passed in January 1880 the Calcutta University First Examination in Arts, was appointed Head Master of the Lower School of Trinity College, Kandy. He resigned this post to be apprenticed as a Proctor student. Wearying of this study, he left for Calcutta in December 1882 to take the Bachelor of Arts Examination of the University, which he successfully passed. For three months in 1883, he taught at Bishop's College, Calcutta, and then for nineteen months at St. James' School, Calcutta, where he was again from August to December 1890. From October 1885 to July 1890, he was second Master (acting twice as Head Master) in the Boys' School at Lahore. In January 1891, he was back in Ceylon. He had a keen desire for a School of his own and to work it in his own way. But to start a new school in those days was the heaviest of handicaps. However, the school was opened at No. 11, Pavilion Street, Kandy, in May 1891 with the intention that it should be worked, as far as was possible, on the lines of the old English Public Schools. The name given to it was "The Boys' High School." The rooms here became too small for the increasing numbers who sought admission, and a house in Brownrigg Street was secured. In January 1898, the school began its new term here. Later, the distinctive name of "Kingswood" was adopted by the school. At the end of 1923, Louis Edmund Blazé's official connection with "Kingswood" ceased. He was made a Justice of the Peace for Kandy district, and in 1929 the dignity of the Order of Officer of the British Empire was conferred on him. In 1949, he was elevated to the dignity of Commander of the same Order. He is an original member of the Dutch Burgher Union, and has served continuously for many years on the General Committee. He has always taken the keenest interest in the affairs and progress of the Union. The publication of the Journal of the Dutch Burgher Union has had his full support, and his several contributions of articles on subjects of interest to the Union have been very much appreciated.

DUTCH COLOMBO

Once upon a time when good Queen Bess reviewed her trusty troops at the Fort at Tilbury and sent her gallant fleet to meet the great Armada, the countrymen of Pedro Lopez manned many guns on the Colombo ramparts, and the flag of Portugal floated jauntily over each gateway. Where now is the Fort stood then the Citadel, or inner fortress: the outer walls of cabook and lime, armed with small brass guns, extended along much of what is Norris' Road as far as Saint John's river, then a veritable stream running from a portion of the lake to the sea: this outer wall stretched along its bank and terminated at the sea beach. Kaymen's Gate and its tower being then a guarded approach from the open country, where the wooded hills of Wolfendhal and Hultsdorf in the distance were often infested by troops of the King of Cotta in wily ambuscade.

The Dutch changed much of this, and though they did their utmost to live in peace with the Native sovereigns, spared no pains or cost to render their strong-hold impregnable. Forts were constructed at Hanwella, Panebakere, Mutwall, &c. The outer walls of Colombo along the river banks of Saint John, were demolished: the swamp round the Fort was excavated and converted into the present lake, the earth removed from it going to form Slave Island and a portion of the ramparts. At the same time the late Fort of Colombo was rebuilt on a larger scale and on scientific principles, and it is supposed must have occupied a quarter of a century in construction. The strength that was gained by these means and the more pacific policy of the Dutch, gave an amount of security to their possessions which ultimately emboldened their principal officers and a few of the civilians, to build houses at some distance in the country, at Hultsdorf, Grandpass and Mattacooly on the banks of the Kelani. At the happy period of which I write, Proctors had not been invented: trade was in the hands of the government, and comprised little else than cinnamon and pepper.

Colpetty existed but as a native suburb: Mutwall and Grandpass were open country, dotted about by a few Dutch villas, whilst the Pattah consisted of a number of pretty streets pleasantly shaded by soorya trees, the houses tenanted by families the heads of which occupied responsible posts under the government. No native trader had then desecrated by his half-nude presence, the many, well-kept rows of pleasant cheery dwellings.

In the days to which these pages refer, communication with Europe was carried on twice in each year, when the spring and autumn fleets left Holland for Ceylon, laden with the goods suited to tropical countries. Transported in the spirit to those bye-gone days, let us stand upon the Battenburg Bastion and look out to sea with the Port Master and his chief pilot Jansz. The morning is bright, the air is cool and crisp, fresh from Adam's Peak, and the flag of the Dutch republic floats from the mast-head on the lofty outworks erected by the wave washed rocks where once stood a