

Doris Ward to India

The next record we have of Lionel is on 21st August 1913 when he married his first wife Doris Ward in Simla, now known as Shimla, in the state of Himachal Pradesh in the foothills of the Himalayas.

Marriage Register Book.

1 of 1913

twenty first

August

nineteen hundred and thirteen

Doris

Lionel Edward

Ward

Anscombe

Off full age

Off full age.

Spinster

Bachelor

Nurse

Asst. Hotel Manager

St. Bernard's Simla

Wild Flower Hotel Mahasu

Horace S. Ward

Clifford Anscombe

CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE.

69

Married in the presence of
 This Marriage was solemnized between us
 in the presence of us
 Minors
 Horace S. Ward
 Clifford Anscombe

Lionel Anscombe Doris Ward Marriage

Doris was christened Madeline Doris Ward and was the daughter of Horace Spencer Ward and Rose Dendy. She was born on 15th May 1889 in a flat above Horace's gentlemen's outfitters shop at 173 Westminster Bridge Road, near Waterloo Station in London.

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BAPTISMS solemnized in the Parish of St Mary Lambeth
in the County of London in the Year 18 89

When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
		Christian.	Surname.			
May 23 '89 18 89 July 21 No. 1017.	Emmanuel Arthur	Henry Newham Mary	Rosell	74 Ingrave St. Battersea	Painter	Curate
May 15 '89 July 21 No. 1018.	Madeline Doris	Horace Spencer Rose	Ward	173 Westminster Bridge Rd	Horace	Curate

Madeline Doris Ward Birth Baptism

Doris Ward to India

We can be reasonably sure that this is the same person that married Lionel because her father's name on their marriage record is given as Horace S Ward. Not only that but Doris had a brother Lionel Eric Ward who is the executor of her will and is referred to as Lionel's attorney on Doris's probate record.

In the 1911 Census on 2nd April Doris is living with her parents, three sisters and three brothers in Westminster Bridge Road, London. In the census she is recorded as being a ledger clerk in a draper's business.

[illegible]

Horace Ward 1911 Census

Then in August 1913 she is living in India and married. At that time it was not uncommon for single women to travel to India in search of a husband. Social conditions in Britain at the time meant that women had few rights and most professions were denied to them. So marriage was seen as the only goal in life. Women outnumbered marriageable young men in Britain, but in India, British men heavily outnumbered women. This pool of enterprising young men offered a much better chance of getting a good husband. They were rather derogatorily referred to as the “Fishing Fleet”! Should they be unsuccessful and return to Britain they were referred to as “Returned Empties”. Shimla was a popular destination for single women given that the climate was more equitable than elsewhere in India and as a result large numbers of Europeans, particularly British, congregated there in the summer months.

We can see from the 1939 Register that two out of three of Doris's sisters ended up being 'old maids', living in Torquay with their widowed mother. So Doris undoubtedly demonstrated some courage and drive in taking the decision to travel to India.

From the marriage record we can see that Doris is recorded as a nurse at St Bernard's in Shimla. Given that two year's previously she was a ledger clerk it's unlikely that she received formal training as a nurse. I can find no record of what type of establishment St Bernard's was, which probably means it was relatively small. It was possibly a maternity nursing home because there are a number of birth notices in the newspapers of the 1880 of children being born there. It's possible that Doris responded to an advertisement in a newspaper in England and was part of a group of young ladies who trained and travelled to India together.