

H GEORGE MADDISON

Henry George Maddison was born on 23rd August 1868 in Christchurch, New Zealand. He was baptised at St Michaels, Christchurch on 11th October 1868.

By 1871 he was living on Louth Road, Partney with his father Henry who was a lieutenant in the Lincolnshire Military.

In 1881 he was a scholar at Old Hall School, Watling Street, Wellington, Shropshire. The Old Hall School, beautifully situated on the edge of the Wrekin range, stood in its own grounds of 25 acres. It was one of the oldest and most picturesque Halls in Shropshire, the walls of the old oak-panelled drawing-room being attributed to Saxon times. There was a beautiful old-world garden of seven acres, noted for its flowers and vegetables, and the cricket field of 6 acres was one of the best in Shropshire. The school had its own farm and laundry. There was an open-air swimming bath in the gardens, and a large gymnasium offered facilities for physical training. There was accommodation for over 100 boarders.

This plaque in St Nicholas Church gives a few details of his military life:



During the Boer War (1899-1902) Henry served with the Namaqualand Border Scouts, number 1172. This corps, about 360 strong, was almost wholly recruited from half-castes. In the words of a British officer who, although not belonging to them, saw much of their work, "they were an excellent force, which did a great deal of hard patrol work under Colonel White, and had several stiff brushes with the enemy. They were conspicuous for consistently refusing to surrender when surrounded, as patrols were at times. They would keep up a fight till dark, and although half of them were killed the survivors of the party would escape. They made wonderful marches without water in their

desert country". The work of the regiment was very similar to that of the Border Scouts. The corps was employed in their own district in 1901 and 1902, and had the good fortune to be part of the garrison of Ookiep when that town was besieged in April 1902. The force which held the town made a most excellent defence, and were complimented by Lord Kitchener.

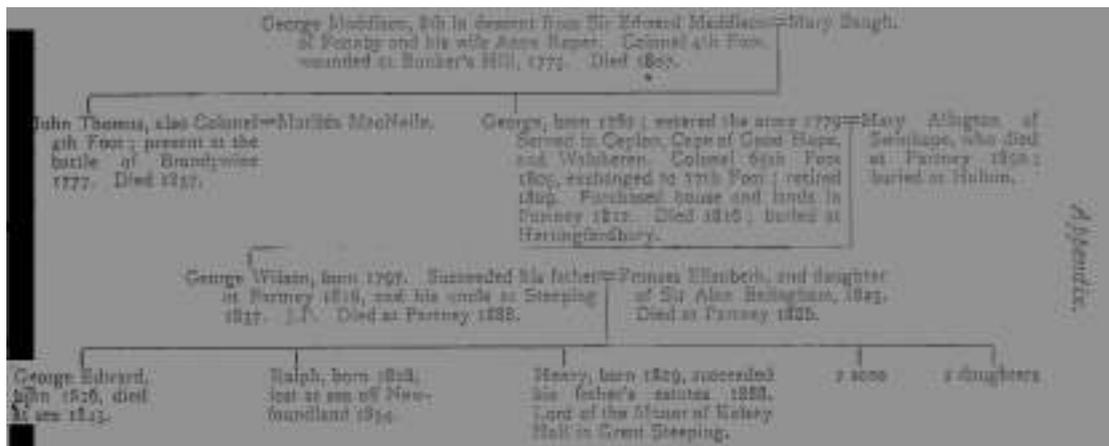
The Mentions gained were as follows:—

LORD KITCHENER'S DESPATCH: 23rd June 1902.—Captain H G Maddison; Lieutenant Rich; Sergeant G Muller; Quartermaster Sergeant L S Panizza; Private B Links.

He was slightly wounded on 10 January 1902 whilst fighting near Kakamas. and was awarded the South African medal with one clasp and King's medal with two clasps.

There is also a rumour that Henry Maddison was present at the arrest of Eamon de Valera, President of the Republic of Ireland, who with 100 riflemen fought British troops in Dublin during the 1916 Easter uprising.

The Maddison family had a long history in Partney, the scope of which is outside these notes. A brief ancestry follows:



George Wilson Maddison, Esq., LP., of Partney Hall, was the only son of Colonel George Maddison who purchased the Partney property in 1812. Colonel George Maddison was the second son of Lieutenant-Colonel George Maddison of Stainton Vale and Mary Baugh his wife. He was born in 1762, entered the army in 1779 and retired in 1809, having served in Ceylon, Cape of Good Hope, and the Walcheren campaign. He died in 1816, and is buried at Hertingfordbury, Hertfordshire. His wife, Mary, daughter of the Rev. Henry Alington of Swinhope, died at Partney in 1850, and is buried at Halton Hologate. Mr. G. W. Maddison, besides inheriting the Partney property of his father, succeeded also his uncle, Colonel Thomas Maddison, in lands at Great Steeping. He married Frances Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Alan Bellingham of Castle Bellingham, Ireland, who died at Partney, April

29th, 1886. Mr. Maddison died at Partney, June 10th, 1888, and was buried beside his wife in Partney churchyard. His two elder sons having predeceased him, he was succeeded in the Partney and Great Steeping estates by his third son, Henry George Maddison.

In 1911 Henry was living in Partney with his mother, Clara, his brother Humphrey and his sister Francis. Henry Maddison married Daisy Roberta Briscoe Dixon in 1913.