

Julia Ann Webb our Great Great Grandmother. Mother of Julia Ann Bond.

Parents:	Thomas Webbe – Christiana Barber (dates unknown)
Birth:	28 January 1819, Chelsea, London
Marriage to John Bott:	Unknown
Marriage to John Breakey:	2 May 1844, Madras, India
Marriage to Robert Bond:	2 June 1846, Kamptee, India
Marriage to Joseph Angell:	29 July 1851, Bangalore, India
Death:	17 Jan 1893, Bethnal Green London

All we knew of Julia before this research was from a family letter that stated she had gone to India as a companion to a British Army Officer's wife, that she had one child from her third marriage, that her previous two husband's were in the army and that her fourth husband's surname was Angell with whom she had one child. Her surname is sometimes spelt Webb or Webbe.

The following pages are the result of three days research in the Asia and Pacific Rooms of the British Library where records of the British military in India are held. The early records are not all transcribed and could be still located in Indian archives, I can't find any more information on Ann Bott other than her birth date. The records are also not listed in the same format which is why there is more information on some than others.

Children	
<i>with John Bott</i>	
Ann Elizabeth Bott	6 May 1838 – death unknown
William James Bott	17 July 1840 – 5 November 1840
James Bott	20 December 1841 – 23 July 1842
Mary Anne Bott	5 June 1843 – April 1844 (burial 20 April 1844)
<i>with John Breakey</i>	
William John Breakey	13 June 1845 – 16 May 1846 (of fever)
<i>with Robert Bond</i>	
Catherine Bond	10 September 1848 – 13 May 1849
Julia Ann Bond (our Great Grandmother)	22 January 1851 – 1928 (possible)
<i>with Joseph Angell</i>	
Elizabeth Angell	15 July 1854 – 25 August 1920
James Angell	18 June 1861 - 1889

All of Julia's sons died before her death. James Angell was the only son that survived into adulthood and he died aged twenty-eight. Our Great Grandmother Julia Ann Bond was her second child from Robert Bond.

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Julia must have had a very hard life, certainly while she was in India. Four marriages, the deaths of at least five children, the tremendous distances she must have travelled from England to India to Canada and back to England again must have taken a tremendous physical and mental toll and it is amazing that she survived all of this to live to seventy-three years old. From the census records after she returned to England she is profoundly deaf. She must have been a very strong lady.

There doesn't seem to be much source material available on a soldier's life in 19th Century India. Most of the information seems to be written by Officers of the Army or people living in that protected environment where accommodation was good and money was available to make life more comfortable. After scanning through a couple of books written in the mid 1800s about military life in India it's been possible to glean a few ideas of how difficult life must have been for the ordinary soldier and his family.

Regardless of who has written the book they all focus on the weather being incredibly inhospitable, with extreme heat in the summer and continuous dampness in the monsoon season. There is a book written by 'A Lady Resident' detailing the necessities of life for residence in India ("bring your own piano but not too big or it won't fit on the cart") and reading between the lines she points to the fact that ordinary soldier's wives had a very hard life. Commenting on life on board ship on the journey to India she suggests "in troop ships there are generally one or two soldiers' wives who would gratefully accept a small sum and any old clothes in return for their services to a lady or children".

And in the same book (where fleas are noted as being most annoying in the rainy season) she gives this hint of how bad life can be and this was likely to have been Julia's experience:

"In many respects, India is a more healthy country for young children than England. How rarely is there an instance of bronchitis, croup or any lung disease, and how slight in general are the infantine disorders of measles and hooping [sic] cough. **Of course these remarks do not apply to the children of European soldiers, among whom, from many causes, the mortality is fearful;** but among the upper classes, where there is no exposure to the sun, and proper food and accommodation, I fancy the deaths are in a smaller ratio than at home"

Cholera in particular seems to have been responsible for a great number of deaths at that time. Even the chaplains weren't immune to the onset of disease, Chaplain E. R. Otter arrived in India in 1836 and died there in 1841 and Chaplain F. W. Briggs arrived in 1840 and died in 1843. Major H Bevan notes in his book '30 years in India' that "the climate proved more injurious to troops than attacks of the enemy".

Transport was mostly by bullocks and carts both for general transport and army movements of heavy artillery. Forest areas were populated by tigers, leopards, elephants, bison, deer and hogs. Roads were built but not kept in good repair.

The following pages are all details from records in the British Library (except Mary Anne Bott) together with their reference details.

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First marriage: **John Bott**

Children:

First: **Ann Elizabeth Bott**

Born: 6 May 1838 (*Folio ref: N/2 Vol 16 p465*)

Baptised: 20th June 1838 at St Thomas Mount by G W Mahan - Chaplain.

Daughter of John Bott, Corporal 4th Regiment and his wife Juliana [sic].

No further records found

Second: **William James Bott**

Born: 17 July 1840 (*Folio ref: N/2 Vol 20 p70*)

Baptised: 2 September 1840 at Bellary by E R Otter – Chaplain

Son of John Bott, Corporal H.M. 4th Regiment and Juliana his wife

Buried: 5 November 1840 at Bellary (*Folio ref: N/2 Vol 20 p123*)

William James son of James [sic] Bott and Julia his wife.

Aged 4 months

Signed E. R.Otter Chaplain

Third: **James Bott**

Born: 20 December 1841 (*Folio ref: N/2 Vol 21 p60*)

Baptised: 26 June 1842 by F W Briggs, Chaplain at Bellary

Son of John Bott, Sergeant 4th and his wife Juliana

Buried: 23 July 1842 at Bellary (*Folio ref: N/2 Vol 21 p140*)

James, son of Sergeant John Bott H.M. 4th and his wife Juliana

Aged 7 months 2 days

Signed: F W Briggs Chaplain

Fourth: **Mary Ann(e) Bott** (*These details of Mary Anne are from familysearch.org*)

Born: 5 June 1843 Secunderabad, Madras, Tamil Nadu, India

Baptised: 14 Jun 1843

Father's name: John Bott. Mother's name: Juliana

Buried: 20 April 1844 at Secunderabad, Madras, India

Daughter of John Bott and Juliana

Comments:

Unable to trace records for his marriage to Julia or his death.

Unable to trace any further records on Ann Elizabeth, available records 1838 - 1854 have been checked for death. There is a record for an Ann Elizabeth Bott marrying a Samuel Foster Newsom in Madras, India in 1852 which means she would have been fourteen if it's the same Ann.