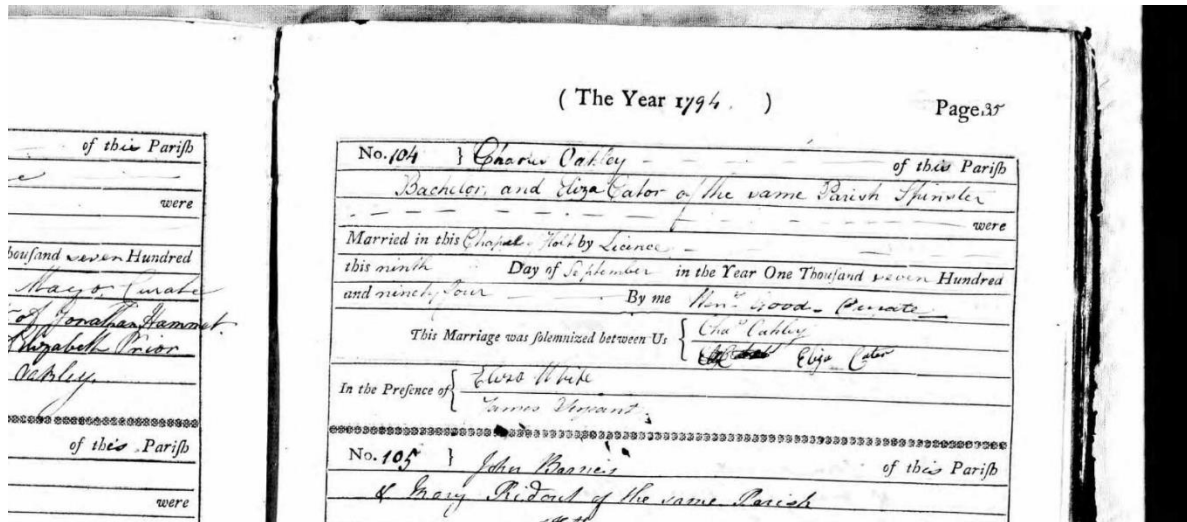


# Richard Cater Oakley aka Robert Carter Oakley

Richard Cater Oakley was baptised on 8<sup>th</sup> July 1795 at Wimbourne Minster. His father's name is Charles Oakley and there is no mother listed. Charles oakleys marriage certificate indicates he married Eliza Cator [ hence Richard's middle name] on 9<sup>th</sup> Sept 1794 .



We know he served in the 20<sup>th</sup> Foot Regiment as he was given a promotion in 1813 from Ensign to Lieutenant.

## Richard Cater Oakley in 1795

England Births & Baptisms 1538-1975

Wimborne Minster, Dorset, England

### Transcript of Richard Cater's record

First name(s)	Richard Cater
Last name	Oakley
Gender	Male
Birth year	-
Birth place	-
Baptism year	1795
Baptism date	08 Jul 1795
Place	Wimborne Minster
County	Dorset
Country	England
Father's first name(s)	Charles
Father's last name	Oakley
Mother's first name(s)	-
Mother's last name	-
Record set	England Births & Baptisms 1538-1975
Category	Life Events (BDMs)
Subcategory	Parish Baptisms
Collections from	England, Great Britain

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## R C Oakley in 1813

British Army Officer Promotions 1800-1815

Great Britain

### Transcript of R C's record

First name(s)	R C
Last name	Oakley
Rank	Ensign
Unit or regiment	20th Foot
Promoted rank	Lieutenant
Promotion date	October 21 1813
Departmental date	War Office November 9 1813
Announcement year	1813
Announcement date	09/11/1813
Replacing vice	St Aurin
Notes	-
Page	2207
Issue number	16803
Record set	British Army Officer Promotions 1800-1815
Category	Armed Forces & Conflict
Subcategory	Other Wars & Conflicts
Collections from	Great Britain, UK None

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The 20<sup>th</sup> Foot Regiment arrived in St Helena between March 29<sup>th</sup> and April 8<sup>th</sup> 1819. In February 1820 it replaced the 66<sup>th</sup> Regiment and remained there until the death of Napoleon in May 1821. RC Oakley was a Lieutenant of the regiment at St Helena.<sup>1</sup> There is no other Oakley listed.

An extensive search of birth records by the St Helena archives has not thrown up any birth of George Oakley in 1822 to a George Oakley or any other Oakley. Richard Cater Oakley remains the only documented Oakley on the island around this period.

This site by Peter Hicks gives some insight into RC Oakley <https://www.napoleon.org/en/history-of-the-two-empires/articles/talking-point-with-peter-hicks-hope-springs-eternal/>

*In the spring of 1819, the 20th foot regiment arrived on the island of St Helena where it was quartered in Jamestown, Francis Plain, Lemon Valley, at High Knoll and Ladder Hill. They were to replace the 66th in February the following year, whence they would have the honour of accompanying the Emperor to his last resting place. Rather surprisingly to modern eyes, there was a kernel of soldiers in this regiment who were "serious and zealous Christians", notably, Robert Carter Oakley and George Horsley Wood.*

It tells the tale of a young Scot Robert Grant who arrived on the Vigo in 1820 very ill and was cared for by Wood, Mellish and Oakley.

*All the details concerning Grant's invalidity and death on the island (including, verbatim, all the prayers the dying Grant offered up) were later communicated (mostly by Wood, but also by others) to the (Reverend?) Thomas Robson (in India at Ahmednagar in 1825) who published them in two editions, one in India and the second in London in 1827, under the title St Helena Memoirs. An account of the remarkable revival of religion that took place at St Helena during the last years of the exile of Napoleon Buonaparte.*

*Why is all this interesting? Well, according to Robson, when they were praying together (Grant, Wood, Armstrong, Oakley, and Mellish), they got it into their heads they should pray not only "that God would mitigate [the Emperor's] severe bodily sufferings during his long illness" but also for his conversion to Protestantism! George Horsley Wood (presumably the source for Thomas Robson's information) himself recounted that he had received from David Bogue a French translation of the latter's celebrated religious tract on the New Testament (written in 1801 and subsequently translated into several European languages). David Bogue was an extremely influential non-conformist minister who played a huge role in the growth of British Christian missionary work abroad. His wife, Charlotte (née Uffington), had already had a go at converting Napoleon five years earlier while he was still in France. She confessed to Wood that she had sent a version of her husband's tract to Carnot during the Hundred Days, hoping that Lazare would hand it onto the Emperor. The St Helena Memoirs recount how Bogue's tract in French was sent to Longwood, and how Madame Bertrand handed the copy actually read by Napoleon back to Oakley (who was employed teaching the Bertrand children); though the Grand Maréchal Bertrand could not vouch for how attentively the Emperor had actually read the document. In the end, in February 1822, George Horsley Wood sent the copy supposedly read by Napoleon back to Bogue in England, much to Bogue's delight.*

So Robert Cater Oakley was a Lieutenant, an evangelical Christian and a teacher whilst on St Helena.

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<sup>1</sup> [Napoleon's Captivity on St Helena 1815-1821: A Comprehensive listing of those present including civil, military and naval personnel with biographical details](#) Arnold Chaplin. Savannah Publications 2002. First published 1919.

He was a bit of an artist also producing *VIEW OF NAPOLEON'S TOMB, ST HELENA*  
<https://www.arcadja.com/auctions/en/author-lots/upumbyce/>.

The Dorset archives hold his diary and drawings <https://news.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/dorset-history-centre-blog/2022/05/27/the-journal-of-captain-oakley/>

This site <https://www.cheffins.co.uk/fine-art/lot-view,captain-robert-carter-oakley-british-17951835-view-of-napoleons-tomb-st-hel-39686.htm> showcases his painting but also states

*Captain Robert Carter Oakley (British, 1795-1835) View of Napoleon's Tomb, St Helena, with a sentry at his post and mountains beyond signed lower right "R C Oakley" pencil on card 22 x 33cm (9 x 13in)*

*Other Notes: Captain (later Lieutenant) Oakley arrived at St Helena in 1819 and left in 1822. During his time on the island he had direct contact with Napoleon and his household at Longwood. Oakley compiled a diary in which he refers to a version of the events surrounding the illness and death of Napoleon (5 May 1821) as stated to him by Dr Archibald Arnott. This recently discovered historic drawing appears to be hitherto unrecorded.*

His diary is summarised on the Dorset site as follows:

*Captain Oakley served with the 20th Regiment in Ireland, Spain and France between 1811 and 1816 during which time he kept a detailed journal. Following the end of the war with France the 20th Regiment was stationed on the Island of St Helena guarding the defeated Napoleon.*

*In 1828 Oakley was sent to India to re-join the regiment. He kept a beautifully illustrated journal of his voyage on board the East India Company's ship 'Duchess of Athol'. Sailing from Deal on 19 February Captain Oakley records somewhat mournfully that at noon on the 23 February they sailed past Portland where he was able to "take a last view of my native hills".*

*After some three months Captain Oakley arrived in Bombay (Mumbai) on 1 June 1828 and made his way inland to Poona (Pune)... This stay in India was short-lived and by November he was on his way back to Britain on board the 'Elphinstone'.*

*Oakley arrived home on 13 March 1829 spending his first night back in England sleeping in the same room at the same hotel as he used for his last night back in February 1828. He remained in England, at the regimental depot at Chatham, Kent, until 1833 when he once again returned to India. While in England however Robert had married Lydia Ann Cummins, of Bodmin, Cornwall. Lydia travelled to India with her new husband together with their new born son. A daughter soon followed, but sadly both the daughter and Robert died in 1835. They are both buried in Belguam, India.*

## Richard Cater Oakley in 1830

Essex Marriages And Banns 1537-1935

Essex, England

### Transcript of Richard Cater's record

<b>First name(s)</b>	Richard Cater
<b>Last name</b>	Oakley
<b>Residence</b>	Chatham
<b>Marriage year</b>	1830
<b>Marriage date</b>	29 Nov 1830
<b>Place</b>	Forest Gate, Emmanuel
<b>County</b>	Essex
<b>Spouse's first name(s)</b>	Eliza An
<b>Spouse's last name</b>	Commins
<b>Spouse's residence</b>	North Shoebury
<b>Country</b>	England
<b>Event type</b>	Marriages
<b>Archive</b>	Essex Record Office
<b>Archive reference</b>	D/P 592/1/14
<b>Page number</b>	13
<b>Record set</b>	Essex Marriages And Banns 1537-1935
<b>Category</b>	Life Events (BDMs)
<b>Subcategory</b>	Parish Marriages
<b>Collections from</b>	England, Great Britain

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## Richard Cater Oakley in 1835

British India Office Deaths & Burials

Belgaum, Bombay

### Transcript of Richard Cater's record

<b>First name(s)</b>	Richard Cater
<b>Last name</b>	Oakley
<b>Birth year</b>	1794
<b>Age</b>	41
<b>Burial date</b>	03 Jun 1835
<b>Place</b>	Belgaum
<b>Presidency</b>	Bombay
<b>Archive</b>	The British Library
<b>Archive Reference</b>	N-3-12
<b>Folio</b>	-
<b>Page</b>	332
<b>Catalogue Description</b>	Parish register transcripts from the Presidency of Bombay, 1709-1948, :
<b>Record set</b>	British India Office Deaths & Burials
<b>Category</b>	Life Events (BDMs)
<b>Subcategory</b>	Parish Burials
<b>Collections from</b>	Great Britain, UK None

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He left a son The Reverend Charles Edward Oakley who had married the Right Honourable Lady Georgina Mary Louisa Oakley nee Reynolds-Morton.

## Memorial to the Rev Charles Oakley - St Paul's Church, Covent Garden



The Actors Church, originally designed by Inigo Jones and extended by William Butterfield

Reverend Charles Edward Oakley died 15th September 1865

Reverend Charles Edward Oakley married Lady Georgina Mary Louisa Reynolds-Moreton, daughter of Henry George Francis Reynolds-Moreton, 2nd Earl of Ducie and Hon. Elizabeth Dutton, on 29th January 1856.

He died on 15th September 1865.

He was the Rector at Wickwar, Gloucestershire, England.

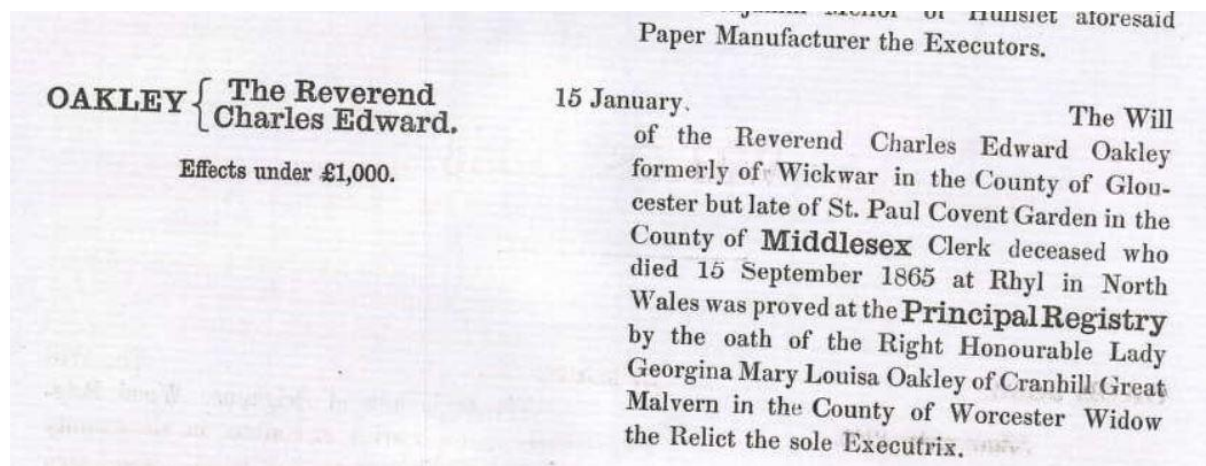
He was the Rector at St. Paul's Church, Covent Garden, London, England.

He graduated with a Master of Arts (M.A.)

Child of Reverend Charles Edward Oakley and Lady Georgina Mary Louisa Reynolds-Moreton

Algernon Seymour Bernard Oakley

Ref: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/bolckow/21174525339>



The Right Honourable  
Lady  
Georgina Mary Louisa  
OAKLEY.

Effects under £7,000.

9 December.

The Will  
of the Right Honourable Lady Georgina Mary  
Louisa Oakley late of Cranhill Great Malvern  
in the County of Worcester Widow de-  
ceased who died 20 October 1867 at Cranhill  
aforesaid was proved at the **Principal  
Registry** by the oaths of the Right Honour-  
able Henry John Earl of Ducie of Tortworth  
Court Wotton-under-Edge in the County of  
Gloucester the Brother and the Reverend  
Charles Hill Wallace of Clifton near Bristol  
in the County of Gloucester Clerk the  
Executors.

The will of Richard Cater Oakley :

*Richard  
Cater  
Oakley*

In the Name of God Amen

I Richard Cater Oakley a Captain in His Majesty's Excise and  
of foot Considering the uncertainty of life and the certainty of death do in my  
own handwriting make and declare this to be my last will and Testament in the  
manner and form following All my real and personal estate good rights in  
rights needs and effects of what nature or kind soever I give devise and bequeath  
unto Henry Esq. of Walsbyrie Minister in the County of Somerset late in  
the service of the Honourable East India Company and into Thomas Commins  
the younger of Wotton in the County of Cornwall Gentleman To hold to them  
and the survivor of them and the heirs executors and administrators of such  
survivor In trust that they my said Heirs and the survivor of them and  
the heirs executors and administrators of such survivor do and shall pay and  
apply the rents interest issues and profits of my said Estate and Effects unto a  
widow Ann Oakley my dear and beloved wife for and during the term of her  
natural life and from and immediately after her decease then in trust that  
they my said Heirs do and shall divide and dispose of my said Estate and Effects in  
two and amongst such of my children as shall be then living in equal shares  
and proportions on the day and their attaining the age or respective ages of a  
twenty one year But my will and meaning is and I so hereby order and  
direct that it shall and may be lawful to and for my said Executors Henry Esq.  
and Thomas Commins the younger during the minority of any one or more  
of my children with the consent in writing of my said wife but not otherwise  
to pay and apply the whole or any part of my said Estate and Effects or any re-  
venue to any person towards the better maintaining educating or advancing  
in life of any one or more of my said children And I do hereby nominate in  
writing and appoint the said Henry Esq. and Thomas Commins the  
younger **Executors** in trust of this my Will and jointly with my wife as  
Guardians of my children during their respective minorities hereby revoking  
all former wills by me at any time made heretofore. By the said Thomas  
Commins the younger I mean my brother in law my wife's younger brother  
and I make this remark because of the omission and interlineation of the  
words 'younger' in the foregoing page and to prevent mistake or dispute and I  
declare this to be my last will and Testament in witness whereof I have to this my  
will set my hand and seal this ninth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand  
eight hundred and thirty two

*R. C. Oakley*

In the Prerogative Court of Canterbury  
In the Goods of Richard Cater Oakley Esq. deceased.  
13<sup>th</sup> May 1836.

Only DNA will prove a linkage between this Oakley line and George Oakley.

Is it possible that George was the son of a slave and Richard Cater Oakley. Looking at descriptions of him in his naval records – his hair and eyes are described as black and complexion sallow indicating vitamin deficiencies most probably. George was 16 when he went to sea. If he stayed on St Helena , which we do not know until that time he would have stayed with his mother.

It is very clear on one of the census that he is a British Subject- why state this?

We cannot discount this theory until further evidence comes to light.

The years between George's birth and 1838 when he joined the navy may help us piece together more of his story. For now those record remain illusive.

DNA from descendants of George Oakley may also show evidence linking the family to slaves.