

The Feildens

Haughton and Bessie Feilden lived in here from 1887 to 1894/5.

Haughton Montague James Feilden was born on 20th April 1842 in Kingsbarns, Fife^{1,2} and baptised in St John the Evangelist, Pittenweem, on 20th May that year.³ He was the fifth child and third son of Sir William Henry Feilden, 2nd Baronet Feilden of Feniscowles, and Mary Elizabeth Wemyss. His older brother Henry was to become a notable Arctic explorer, and the eldest son William in due course inherited the baronetcy.

The family lived in Cambo House in Kingsbarns. A year before Haughton's birth the 1841 census shows Sir William and Mary at home on the 1200-acre estate with four children, together with a lady's maid, two nurses, a cook, a housemaid, a groom, a cowfeeder and a gardener.⁴

Haughton's childhood was spent in very wealthy surroundings.



Cambo House

In the 1851 census the 9-year-old Haughton is with the other children, aged fourteen down to one, at Over Rankeilour House, in Monimail, Fife, without their parents but with a governess, a nursemaid, and seven other servants.¹ I have not been able to find where the parents are in the census for that year — they both have many more years to live and so are clearly just away from home.

Feilden, Haughton Montague James, son of Sir William Henry Feilden, Bart., Feniscowles Hall, Lancashire; born 20th April, 1842. —2^aM. Left December, 1859.

Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, 1860-62; Lieutenant, Royal Artillery, 1863; Captain, 1875; Major, 1882; Lieut.-Colonel, 1889; retired 1894. Passed Artillery College. Brigade-Major, Royal Artillery, Gibraltar, 1877-81; Inspector of Warlike Stores, Portsmouth, 1881-86; Captain Inspector, Royal Laboratory, Woolwich, 1887. Instructor at Artillery College. Died at Hove, Sussex, 14th July, 1903.

1841-1910 Cheltenham College Register

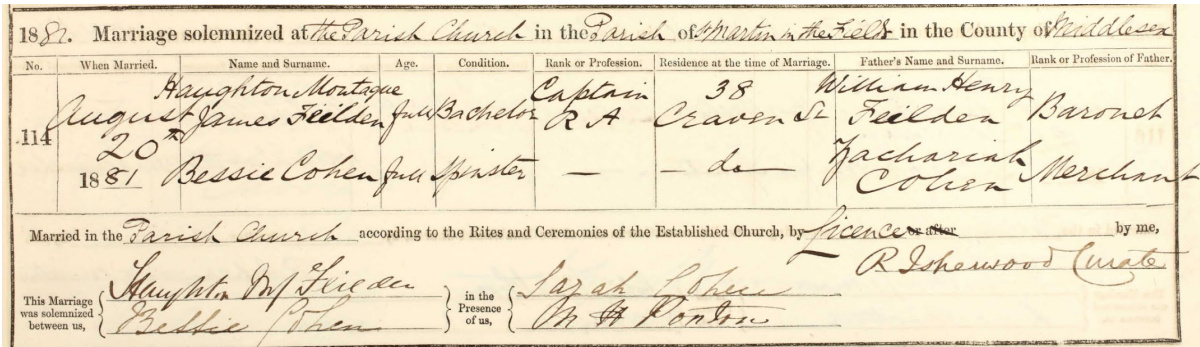
In August 1857, at the age of fifteen, Haughton attended Cheltenham College, leaving in December 1859 to enrol as a Gentleman Cadet in the Royal Military College in Woolwich.²

He graduated from the Military College in 1862, and on 27th January 1863 he was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the Royal Artillery, where he spent the rest of his career.^{5,6}

The details of his progress, as he gradually rose through the ranks, can be followed in the annual Army Lists, but are helpfully summarised in Cheltenham College's 1841-1910 Register.²

Haughton's first promotion, to Captain, is dated 24th November 1875. From the 1877 Army List on, the abbreviation *p.a.c.* appears by his name, indicating that he was one of the few Royal Artillery officers who had passed the Army College.⁷ That year saw him posted to Gibraltar as Brigade Major, the commanding officer's chief of staff.⁸

He returned to England in 1881. On 20th August that year, at the age of 39, he married 34-year-old Bessie Cohen in St Martin-in-the-Fields.⁹



Entry in the marriage register, with their signatures.

Bessie was **Elizabeth Betsey Cohen**, born in Newington in 1847, the daughter of Zachariah and Flora Cohen.¹⁰ Zachariah was a commercial traveller when Bessie was young, the family living in Newington Butts in Lambeth, then still part of Surrey. In the 1861 census, Bessie was living in the High Street in Newington Butts, with her father now a “glass and bottle merchant”.¹¹ The address perhaps suggests that the family had a shop and lived over it. By the time of Bessie's marriage, however, the family had left Lambeth, and their new address in Montpelier Square, a four-storey house in Knightsbridge, shows that Zachariah had been very successful, and the family's social status must have risen.¹²

The marriage certificate, surprisingly, has the same address for both bride and groom, a house in Craven Street, west of Charing Cross Station, just off the Strand. Checking this address in the 1881 census, conducted on 3rd April, four months before the wedding, we find Haughton and Bessie already living as man and wife, boarders in the household of Richard Millard, a military outfitter.¹³ It is possible to imagine that this arrangement, compounded by Bessie's status as a Jewish lady whose father was not a member of the gentry, might have met with some disapproval in the wider Feilden family.

No.	Address	Household	Name	Sex	Age	Profession
162	Craven St No 38	1	Richard Millard	Head	54	Military Outfitter
			Mary	Wife	65	none
			Haughton Feilden	Boarder	38	Captain in Army (retired)
			Bessie	do	27	none

In Craven Street, 1881

Haughton's next posting was to Portsmouth in the role of Firemaster in the Royal Laboratory at Priddy's Hard in Gosport, overseeing the manufacture of weapons.¹⁴ He remained there for five years, promoted to Major on 1st November 1882.¹⁵

By 1887 he was back in London,¹⁶ and the 1888 Army List shows him now an Instructor at the main Royal Laboratory in the Woolwich Arsenal.¹⁷ The 1889 Army List shows him promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel but simultaneously placed on half pay.¹⁸

The return to London in 1887 would no doubt be what prompted the couple's move to Victoria Road (as it then was).

Haughton and Bessie had had no children, but must have had servants. And, indeed, alongside the Army records which document the professional life of Haughton, there is a whole series of small adverts placed by Bessie seeking, typically, a cook and a housemaid. These not only document the couple's move to Charlton but also make it possible to identify other places where the couple lived.

So, while Haughton is engaged at the Royal Laboratory in Gosport (1881–1886), “Mrs. Haughton Feilden” is advertising in the *Morning Post* of 6th February 1883:¹⁹

COOK (Thorough Good Plain) WANTED, also HOUSE-PARLOUR MAID; two in family; wages £20 and £16: all found except beer; man for knives, &c.—Mrs. Haughton Feilden, Priddys Hard, Gosport, Hants.

Their subsequent move to Victoria Road prompts a search for new servants to work in Charlton, and the following advert in the *Morning Post* of 1st April 1887 is no doubt part of their preparation for life at a new address:²⁰

THOROUGH PLAIN COOK and Experienced HOUSE-PARLOURMAID WANTED at once, to live at Charlton; ages not under 25; two in family.—Reply, with all particulars, to Mrs. Haughton Feilden, Clements, Carlton-road, Weymouth.

In February 1891 Haughton received his final posting, as an Instructor at the Artillery College in Woolwich, which was located in the Red Barracks, the remains of which can still be seen in Francis Street.^{21,22}

Artillery College.	
<i>Director.</i> —Colonel C. Trench (from h.p.), 19 July 90.	<i>Captain Instructor Royal Laboratory.</i> —Lt.Colonel H.M.J. Feilden, 19 Feb. 87.
<i>Assistant Director.</i> —Lt.Colonel J. F. Harman (from h.p.), 22 Nov. 87.	<i>Professor of Applied Mathematics.</i> —A. G. Greenhill, M.A.
<i>Insts. in Artillery.</i> —Major E. M. Baker, 1 May 86.	<i>Lecturer on Metallurgy.</i> —H. Bauerman, FGS.
Major G. R. Townshend, 1 Apr. 91.	<i>Lecturer on Armour Plates.</i> —Captain C. O. Browne, late of R. Art. 3 Sept. 80. [Ph.D.]
Major P. A. MacMahon, 14 Apr. 91.	<i>Lecturer on Chemistry & Physics.</i> —W. R. E. Hodgkinson,
<i>Captain Instructor Royal Gun Factories.</i> —Major H. P. Willoughby, 1 Apr. 88.	<i>Lecturer on Practical Mechanics.</i> —H. W. Jones.
<i>Captain Instructor Royal Carriage Department.</i> —Major E. V. Elwes, 23 Feb. 89.	<i>Veterinary Lecturer.</i> —Veterinary Captain G. D. Whitfield, 19 Feb. 85.

Staff of the Artillery College, 1892²²

In the 1891 census, however, taken on 5th April, the Feildens are in Weymouth, in a house on the sea front, without live-in servants.²³ They are presumably on holiday — it's just after Easter — while the Victoria Road house has only a caretaker and her family in residence.²⁴ (The choice of Weymouth as a holiday destination also accounts for the reply address in the 1887 advert.) In fact by census night 1891 they had been in Weymouth for some weeks. An advert in the *Morning Post* of 13th March that year advertised for “Man and Wife... for a situation near London as Indoor Servant and Good Cook”, with responses to Mrs Feilden at their sea-front address, where they are presumably to remain for some days yet.²⁵ They had presumably let their previous staff go at the start of their holiday, which would also explain the need for a caretaker.

MAN and WIFE WANTED, for a situation near London, as INDOOR SERVANT and Good COOK; no other servants kept; assistance given.—Mrs. Haughton Feilden, 5, Royal-crescent, Weymouth.

After Haughton had spent three years at the Artillery College, the *London Gazette* reported that on 1st April 1894 he had relinquished his post, and was the next day “appointed to the Staff” of the Royal Artillery.²⁶ Finally, on 7th November that year, he left active service “on retired pay”.²⁷

Some time in the next few months, the couple left Charlton: an advert in the *Ipswich Journal* for 6th July 1895 sought a cook for the Feildens at a new address in the country, The Grange, Long Melford, Suffolk.²⁸

By 1900, though, they had moved again, this time to Hove.²⁹ There, on 14th July 1903, Haughton died after falling down stairs.³⁰ He left an estate valued at £4,701 (equivalent to approximately £700,000 today).³¹ Bessie remained in Hove, dying eleven years later on 21st June 1914.³²

LIEUT.-COLONEL HAUGHTON MONTAGUE JAMES FEILDEN, Royal Artillery, who was killed on the evening of the 14th inst. at Holland Road, Hove, by falling downstairs and fracturing his skull, was the third son of the late Sir William Henry Feilden, second baronet, of Feniscowles, by his marriage with the daughter of Colonel J. B. Wemyss, of Wemyss Hall, Fife, and a brother of the present baronet, Sir William Leyland Feilden. He was born on April 20th, 1842, joined the Royal Artillery in 1863, became captain in 1875, major in 1882, and lieutenant-colonel in 1889, and retired in 1894. He married in 1881 Bessie, daughter of Mr L. J. Cohen, of Catford Bridge.

*Death notice in the Brighton Gazette,
23rd July 1903*

Peter, April 2024

Notes

- ¹ 1851 Census, Scotland, 448/2/5/ (www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk)
- ² Cheltenham College Register 1841–1910, p.203 (wellcomecollection.org/works/ukvanmjf/items?canvas=243)
- ³ Fife Family History Society, Scotland, Parish Births & Baptisms 1564-1929, (search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/scotland-parish-births-and-baptisms-1564-1929)
- ⁴ 1841 Census, Scotland, 441/4/7 (www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk)
- ⁵ The National Archives, WO76/370 (Regimental Records Of Officers' Services 1775-1914, Royal Artillery) (search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/british-army-service-records — mis-indexed as “Filden”)
- ⁶ *London Gazette*, 6th February 1863, p. 643. A lieutenancy only became available for Feilden on the promotion of William Izod to Second Captain, who replaced Charles Strange, deceased, as Brevet-Major.
- ⁷ Army List, 1877, p. 171.
- ⁸ Army List, 1878, p. 171.
- ⁹ Marriage Register, St Martin-in-the-Fields, City of Westminster Archives Centre (www.ancestry.co.uk/discoveryui-content/view/2105593:61867).
- ¹⁰ 1851 Census, HO 107/1567 fol. 133, p. 23, 42 Francis St, St Mary, Newington.
- ¹¹ 1861 Census, RG 9/344 fol. 98, p. 1, 2 High St, Newington.
- ¹² 1881 Census, RG 11/120 fol. 58, p. 4, 15 Montpelier Sq., Westminster.
- ¹³ 1881 Census, RG 11/331 fol.73, p. 15, 38 Craven Street, St Martin-in-the-Fields.
- ¹⁴ See [/en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Priddy%27s_Hard#The_Royal_Laboratory](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Priddy%27s_Hard#The_Royal_Laboratory)
- ¹⁵ Army List, 1883, p. 65.
- ¹⁶ Army List, 1887, p. 167.
- ¹⁷ Army List, 1888, p. 167.
- ¹⁸ Army List, 1890, p. 59.
- ¹⁹ *Morning Post*, 6th February 1883, p. 1, col. 3.
- ²⁰ *Morning Post*, 1st April 1887, p. 7, col. 5.
- ²¹ *London Gazette*, 27th February 1891, p. 1119.
- ²² Army List, 1892, p. 114.
- ²³ 1891 Census, RG12/1647, fol. 4, p. 2, 5 Royal Crescent, Weymouth.
- ²⁴ 1891 Census, RG 12/528, fol. 28, p. 48, 7 Victoria Road, Charlton.
- ²⁵ *Morning Post*, 13th March 1887
- ²⁶ *London Gazette*, 6th November 1894, pp. 2692 & 2693.
- ²⁷ *London Gazette*, 6th November 1894, p. 6193.
- ²⁸ *Ipswich Journal*, 6th July 1895, p. 8, col. 4.
- ²⁹ *Morning Post*, 29th September 1900, p. 10, col 6.
- ³⁰ *Brighton Gazette*, 23rd July 1903, p. 5; and many other papers.
- ³¹ Principle Probate Registry, Calendar 1903.
- ³² Principle Probate Registry, Calendar 1914,

Online Sources

Army Lists: digital.nls.uk/british-military-lists/archive/88735803 (National Library of Scotland)

London Gazette: www.thegazette.co.uk

Newspapers: newspapers.com

Principle Probate Registry Calendars: probatesearch.service.gov.uk