

**SIR CHARLES HENRY  
FRANKLAND,  
BARONET: OR BOSTON  
IN THE COLONIAL TIMES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649527199

Sir Charles Henry Frankland, Baronet: Or Boston in the Colonial Times by Elias Nason

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Cover @ 2017

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**ELIAS NASON**

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SIR

CHARLES HENRY FRANKLAND,

BARONET:

OR

BOSTON IN THE COLONIAL TIMES.

BY

ELIAS NASON, M. A.

Time rolls his ceaseless course. The race of yore,  
Who danced our infancy upon their knee,  
And told our marrelling boyhood legends store,  
Of their strange ventures happ'd by land or sea,  
How are they blotted from the things that be.  
SIR WALTER SCOTT.



ALBANY, N. Y. :  
J. MUNSELL, 78 STATE STREET.

1865.

NEW YORK  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY

## PREFACE.

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"Who was Sir Charles Henry Frankland?" is a question which a brief story, entitled a *Legend of New England*, and published by William Lincoln, Esq., in 1843; and, still more recently, the ballad of *Agnes*, by Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes, have led the public to entertain. Was he a real personage or a myth; was there ever such a collector of the port of Boston; was he, indeed, buried under the ruins of Lisbon at the time of the great earthquake; was he rescued therefrom by the efforts of a poor girl named Agnes Surriage; did he afterwards make her his wife?

Is the legend true, or but the wild figment of some romancing brain? Only scattered fragments of colonial history are extant; how then shall we determine who this Sir Charles Henry Frankland was?

This very natural question I have endeavored to answer in the following pages.

It was my fortune to spend several of the happiest

years of my boyhood at the Frankland Place, in Hopkinton, Massachusetts; to see some few of the fast-fading memorials of Sir Charles Henry and Lady Agnes Frankland; to gather fruit and flowers from the trees and shrubberies which they had planted, and especially, to hear from the lips of Mrs. Mary Hildreth,—a lady of unusual force of mind, whose former husband, Dr. T. Shepherd, received the place from Mrs. Swain as early as 1793,—the Rev. Nathaniel Howe, Matthew Metcalf, Esq., Gilbert Dench Wilson, and others who had been well acquainted with a brother and sister of Lady Frankland, or their children, the romantic story of the visit to Marblehead, the rescue of the knight by Agnes Surriage from death at Lisbon, and other incidents connected with their eventful life at Hopkinton and Boston. At that period, indeed, some of the negro servants of Mrs. Swain, a sister of Lady Frankland, were still living, and a few aged persons, as Madam Elizabeth Price, who could well remember Sir Harry himself.

These remarkable stories, associated, as they were, with the old mansion and the wild and picturesque domain once occupied by the Indians, made a vivid impression upon my imagination, and I afterwards determined to verify them as opportunity might occur, and commit them to writing.

In doing this, I have examined many manuscript and printed pages, and files of colonial newspapers; I have fallen unexpectedly upon Sir Henry's Journal,—written in his own hand and covering a period of about thirteen years,—and have also received assistance and letters of encouragement from many different individuals, among whom I would most gratefully mention my very learned antiquarian friend, S. G. Drake, Esq.; the Rev. Alfred L. Barry; Dr. Oliver W. Holmes, whose charming ballad of *Agnes*, breathes the very spirit of the colonial times; Miss T. T. Whinyates, of Cheltenham, England, descendant of Sir Thomas Frankland, fifth Baronet, and Mrs. Lydia T. [Ellis] Daves, to whose father, Josiah Ellis, Esq., Edward Surriage sold the Frankland mansion at Boston in 1811.

If my researches serve in any way to answer the question, "Who was Sir Charles Henry Frankland?" or to exhibit life as it was in Boston under the old colonial regime, which the blood of our honored fathers washed away, they may not, as I hope, have been vainly undertaken.

January 1, 1865.



## CHARLES HENRY FRANKLAND.

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### CHAPTER I.

Birth of Frankland — Parentage — Family — Education — Companions — His father's death — Appointed Collector of the Port of Boston.

SIR CHARLES HENRY FRANKLAND, whose eventful history I now purpose to relate, was a lineal descendant of Oliver Cromwell,<sup>1</sup> Lord Protector of

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<sup>1</sup>Pedigree of the Frankland family from Cromwell to the present time. Oliver Cromwell, Lord Protector, b. 1599 d. 1658, m. Elizabeth, daughter of Sir James Bouchier of Folsted, Essex. The youngest daughter, Frances Cromwell, m. first, the Hon. Robert Rich, who d. 1657, and second, Sir John Russell of Cheltenham, Bart. Sir Thomas Frankland of Thirkleby, 2d Bart., m. Elizabeth Russell. She d. 1733. His eldest son, Thomas, succeeded him as 3d baronet. Henry Frankland, fourth son of the 2d baronet, Governor of the Hon. East India Co's Factory, Bengal, m. Elizabeth Cross, daughter of Alexr. Cross, Esq., merchant, and had seven sons and three daughters. Sir CHARLES HENRY FRANKLAND, 4th Bart., oldest son of the above, m. Miss Agnes Surriage of New England. Sir Thomas Frankland, 5th Bart., Admiral of the White and brother of the above, m. Miss Sarah Rhett of South Carolina. Sir Thomas Frankland, 6th Bart., (b. 1750, d. 1820,) m. Miss Dorothy Smelt, daughter of William Smelt, Esq., of Yorkshire. Sir Robert Frankland, 7th Bart., took the name of Russell in addition to his own. He m. Miss Louisa Murray, youngest daughter of the Hon. and Rev. Lord George Murray, Bishop of St. Davida. Sir Frederick Frankland, the 8th and present Bart., succeeded his cousin in 1849. He m. Miss Scath of Yorkshire.—(From Miss Whinyates, of Cheltenham, Eng.)

England, and was born in Bengal on the tenth day of May, 1716. His family is one of the most ancient, wealthy and respectable in the north of England. The very name Frankland<sup>1</sup> itself would indicate a remarkable antiquity, that being the appellation which was given in feudal times to the original proprietor of the soil. The seat of the family is Great Thirkleby Hall at Thirsk,<sup>2</sup> in the north riding of Yorkshire, England.

The title of baronet was conferred on WILLIAM FRANKLAND, the head of the family, by Charles the Second in 1660. His son, SIR THOMAS FRANKLAND, the second baronet, married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John and Lady Frances Russell, the youngest and favorite child of Cromwell, and whose personal attractions were such as to lead Charles the Second to solicit her hand in marriage.<sup>3</sup> Henry, the fourth son of Sir Thomas Frankland, resided at Mattersea, in Nottinghamshire, and married Elizabeth, daugh-

<sup>1</sup>The coat of arms is, Azure, a dolphin naiant, embowed, or on a chief of the second, two saltiers, gules. Crest on a wreath, a dolphin argent, haurient and entwined round an anchor, proper. The motto is beautiful and significant;—"Libera terra: liberque animus,"—that is, Free soil and free soul. See Burke's *Parage and Baronetcy of the British Empire*. See Dr. Franklin's *Autobiography*, p. 6, who derives his name from the same source.

<sup>2</sup>This town contains about 3000 people. It is delightfully situated on the banks of the river Colleek, over which are thrown two elegant stone bridges. The church is Gothic, and the ruins of an immense castle, built by the Mowbrays in 979, give a melancholy interest to the place.

<sup>3</sup>"Charles II was for marrying her." See Carlyle's *Cromwell*, vol. I, p. 67.

ter of Alexander Cross, Esq., by whom he had seven sons, the oldest of whom was CHARLES HENRY, who was born while his father was residing abroad as governor of the East India company's factory at Bengal.<sup>1</sup>

CHARLES HENRY FRANKLAND was educated in affluence and as the presumptive heir to the baronetcy and the estates at Thirkleby and Mattersea. Of his early days I have been able to glean but few memorials; yet it appears that the culture of his mind and manners was by no means neglected. He acquired a competent knowledge of the French and Latin languages; and what is better still, the art of using his own with ease and elegance. He studied with diligence the political and literary history of his own country, and made himself familiar with the principles of natural science, so far as then understood. Botany and landscape-gardening afforded him most delightful recreation, and occupied many of his leisure moments, even till the very close of life. His intellectual attainments fitted him for the society of such men as Horace Walpole, but one year younger than himself,—Henry Fielding, his senior by eleven years; and

<sup>1</sup>The other children of Henry Frankland were: I. Thomas, who succeeded his brother Charles Henry as baronet in 1768, and d. at Bath Nov. 21, 1784: II. William, b. 1721: III. Frederick app. Comptroller of the duties of the excise in Feb. 1768: IV. Ann, who m. Thomas Pelham 1st Earl of Chichester: V. Robert, captain of the Yarmouth, and barbarously murdered by the natives of Judda: VI. Mary, who m. Thomas Worsley, Esq: VII. Frances, who m. Roger Talbot, Esq.