

Public (1896) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 887

Dated 15th Aug. 1896.

[Despatch Abstract.]

WITHHELD MEMORIALS.

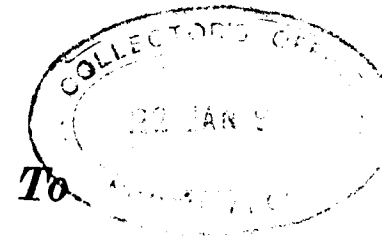
Withholding Memorial Rules A, paragraph XII (4), the memorial addressed to Her Majesty the Queen by Mr. J. Potter of Ramipet North Arcot District, praying for the grant of a pension or compassionate allowance.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.



Ranipett 5th December 1895.

To The Hon'ble. the Private Secretary to

Her Most Gracious Majesty,

The Queen-Empress of India,

LONDON.

HONORABLE SIR,

In appending herewith my Memorial to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress of India, I beg most humbly to crave that you, Honorable Sir, will kindly place the same before Her Most Gracious Majesty, and favor me with a reply stating what Her Majesty's pleasure is regarding it—for which act of charity, I will feel deeply grateful to your honor.

I beg respectfully to subscribe myself,

Honorable Sir,

Your most obedient Servant.

J. W. Potter

My address as follows:—

J. W. POTTER,

Ranipett,

North Arcot District,

Madras Presidency,

INDIA.

To

The Chief Secretary to Government.

Fort St. George.

Madras.

Honorable Sir,

I beg most respectfully
to submit herein, The Memorial
which I had forwarded to Her
Most Gracious Majesty the Queen,
Empress of India and which was
returned to me through the District
Collector of North Arcot, bearing
the following endorsement.

"Returned to the Petitioner who
is informed that no representation
from individuals in India, will
be entertained by the Home Government
unless they shall have been submitted
through the Local Government,"
hence I most respectfully beg
Honorable Sir, you will be pleased
to lay the same before His Excellency
the Governor and have it forwarded
as suggested in the endorsement

ment, I have the honor to be,
Sir, your obedient servant,
to the British

referred to, for which act of
kindness and charity I shall
feel extremely grateful, as I am
at present laboring ~~with~~ great
privations in my present time of
life. and kindly inform me of your
having done so, which will keep
my mind at rest until Her Most
Gracious Majesty's pleasure is
made known to me. -

I beg respectfully to subscribe myself
Honorable Sir,

Your Most Obedient Servant

For the Board of Trustees

J. W. Potter

Cambridge 2nd April
1896.

No. OF 189 .

Camp Police 4th June 1896.

Refon ending bog's

FROM

G. E. L. Campbell Esquire,

Ag. COLLECTOR AND DISTRICT MAGISTRATE, DESPATCH

North Arcot.

To

THE Chief Secretary to Government
Public Department

SIR,

With reference to the dy Assistant Secretary's Memorandum dated the 27th ultimo (re Ref No 831 dated 20th April 1896) I have the honour to state that the petitioner Mr. J. W. Pore therein referred to, is reported to be not at present, at Ramipet, having gone to Madras for treatment in the Eye Infirmary. As soon as he returns the necessary enquiry will be made and a report forwarded as ordered by Government.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your Most obedient Servant

For Collector.

Copied by hand
and by do.

ment, to the British

From

J. W. Potter Esq.

Ramipet

N. Arcot Dist.

Dated. 2
Recd 4 } 4. 1896.
Recd 6 } Encl. (2)

Subject.

Submitting a memorial to be forwarded to Her Majesty the Queen.

Ref No 831.

Referred to the Collector of North Arcot for report on the title of the memorialist to the consideration of Govt.

11/4/96

10/4/96

Colo. N. Arcot into the Can despo 22/4/96

Pub Memo 831 of 20-4-96.
Poll of 460 of 15-7-93 &c
D.O. deep no 367A of 16-10-94
A: Memorandum,

Public Dept.

From
The Dy Collector of North Arcot

To The Chief Secretary to Government
Public Department

10 JUN. 1896
RECEIVED
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Recd 10 } June 96
Regd 11 }

Referencing no 609 of 96

Encls - nil

Subject

Reporting that the petitioner
Mr. Potter is a person
at Raniapat and that
as soon as he returns
necessary enquiry will
be made and a report forwarded

Walcotah Taluk Office

22 June 1896

No 2799 of 96
Rev

To

The Head Assistant Collector
North Arcot

Respected Sir,

In continuation of this office
order no Refon no 3740 of 96 dated 20th
May 1896. I beg to report that Mr. Potter
of Raniapat, the memorialist to Her Most
Gracious Majesty The Queen Empress of
India, appeared before me yesterday
evening. He states that he has no record
to prove what he has stated in the
Memorial and asserts that what all he
has stated in the Memorial are true and
that he heard them from his aunt an
old lady now no more. The gentlemen
acquainted with the facts are not alive.
He only appeals to the generosity of The
British Government and requests that
he may be given some compassionate
allowance in consideration of the services
rendered by his Ancestor to the British
Government. He is a poor collector

offered to him as he was then in affluent
Circumstances. He does not claim any-
thing as a matter of right.

Mr Potter is now 77 years old and
his sight is much affected. He had
undergone an operation in one of his eyes.

He has a wife and she is said to be
60 years of age. These two have no means
of livelihood and from what I have
I am given to understand that they
depend only on the generosity of some
of their friends who help them occasionally
and with difficulty. This means being under
The two persons are too old to ek out
their livelihood themselves.

Mr Potter owned large properties and
was in affluent Circumstances once, but
his Condition is very deplorable and
is such as to deserve the generous help
he seeks.

What Mr Potter says may be true but
it is not possible to verify them here.

The Memorial and other papers are
herewith returned.

I have &c
(Sd) Kulkarni
Tahildar

2187 of 96

to the Collector with

to his no log Eng of 96 dated 27th April
1896 and in continuation of this office
Refon Cnr No 3187 of 96 dated 30th May 1896
There appear to be no means of verifying
Mr Potters' allegations, which are probably
a good deal exaggerated. But there
can be no doubt that he is at present
in very indigent Circumstances, and
I think a compassionate allowance
might very well be granted to him.
At best he will not need it many
years.

(Sd) E. L. Thornton

6.6.96
Ag Head Assistant Collector

(True copy)

13-6-96

For Collector.

6/56

For Collector

No. of 189

Camp Arcot, 11th June 1896.No 941 of 96
Eng

FROM

C. E. L. Campbell Esquire,

Collector and District Magistrate,

North Arcot,

To

THE Chief Secretary to Government
Public Department.

SIR,

With reference to Government memorandum dated, 20th April 1896 No 831 and in continuation of this office Ref on C. E. L. No 609 of 1896 dated 14th June 1896 I have the honour to forward herewith a copy of Walajah Tahsildar's report with the Head Assistant Collector's endorsement thereon dated 6th June 1896 on the petition of Mrs J. W. Potter to Her Majesty the Queen for pecuniary help.

2. The 3 enclosures received with the Memorandum referred to above are herewith returned.

I have the honour to be
Sir,

Your most obedient Servant

James Smith

For Collector

Copies by L. C.

From
The Dy Collector of North Arcot

To
The Chief Secretary to Government
Public Dept.

Dated 11-6-96

On 9/4/96

Enclosure

Recd 17/ June 96
Regd 18/ June 96

Reporting on the petition
of Mrs J W Potter of Ranipett
addressed to Her Majesty
the Queen for pecuniary help.

17/10

recd 18/6/96

Endt 1317
4776

Returned to the
Memorialist
Collector of North Arcot

for resubmission
of the Memorial du
attested on every
page as required
by rule VIII
Rules A. 1/20/96

18/6/96

18/6/96

To
The Collector of North Arcot
J. W. Potter Esq

Ranipett

N. Arc. Dist.

with Memorialist's
of Rules

we

Ranipett, 5th December 1895

2220

To
Her Most Gracious Majesty
The Queen Empress of India,
LONDON.

The very respectful Memorial of JAMES
WILLIAM POTTER, residing in
the town of Ranipett, in the Dis-
trict of North Arcot, Madras Presi-
dency.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY.

1. Your Majesty's Memorialist is the Grandson of a European Merchant
named David Potter, who carried on business in the Town of Vellore and
Ranipet in the District of North Arcot.

2. The aforesaid David Potter arrived in India about the latter end of
the past century (1,700) as a British Soldier in India, Madras Presidency, and
served in that capacity for some years, during the period Wandivash, Arni,
Arcot, and Pondicherry were in the hands of the English. This fact your
Majesty's Memorialist surmises as, from the circumstance of his Grandfather
having married a native female of respectable parentage in Wandivash, and
while in the Army, the aforesaid David Potter, being naturally gifted for trade,
he during his leisure hours, and assisted by his wife (my Grandmother), specu-
lated in petty dealings, and thereby acquired sufficient capital to purchase his
discharge from the Army, and to start a regular trade as a Merchant, in the
Fort of Vellore, and Arcot Cantonment, now known as Ranipett, and he also
carried a flying shop by accompanying the British Army against the Maharatta
Chiefs, and being fortunate, he amassed a decent fortune.

3. That in 1806, the ever memorable Mutiny of Vellore broke out, and
his Grandfather's very flourishing shop in the Fort of Vellore was ransacked by
the Mutineers, and not only this atrocity being committed, they stripped
Memorialist's Grandmother of all her precious jewellery she had on her person
during this sudden outbreak, but only spared her life and that of her children,
named as follows:—

- 1.—James Potter.
- 2.—Martha Potter.
- 3.—John Potter (Memorialists Father.)
- 4.—Thomas Potter.

The latter, named Thomas Potter, sustained the loss of his kneecap by a shot
fired by the Mutineers at one Key Sergeant Gill, who stood by the gate of
Memorialist's Grandfather's shop premises for refusing to surrender to them the
key of the Arsenal and Magazine, which rendered the said Thomas Potter a
cripple for life. Fortunately Memorialist's Grandfather David Potter was absent
from Vellore during this outbreak, he having gone to Madras on business, hence
his life was spared.

J W Potter

4. The Military authorities at Arcot Cantonment, having received intelligence of the sad state of matters at the Fort of Vellore, the 19th Dragoon's and 4th Regiment Light Cavalry under the command of Colonel Gillispie, rode up to the scene of this disaster, to avenge themselves for the diabolic atrocities committed by the Mutineers, by shooting all the European Soldiery, in cold blood at night when asleep, located in the Barracks there. The troops on entering the Fort by blowing open the gates, found the Mutineers quite in an inebriated state from the effects of the spirits they had imbibed from Memorialist's Grandfather's liquor stores in the shop which they had ransacked, and fell easy victims in the hands of the British Soldiery, without any further loss of valuable lives, and that after the mutiny was brought to a close, the then Government after deliberate consideration offered to recoup the loss sustained by Memorialist's Grandfather, and to grant a life pension of rupees 35 per mensem to his son Thomas Potter (Memorialist's Uncle) for the injury he had sustained, as alluded to in para. 3 of this Memorial, which crippled him for life. This offer was gracefully declined in consideration of he being a British subject, and for the sympathy he entertained for the serious loss of the British by the ruthless massacre of the European Soldiery garrisoned in the Fort of Vellore, but a Parsi Merchant named Bomunjee, a petty shopkeeper within the Fort of Vellore, who had also suffered loss at the hands of the Mutineers, the Government in consideration of the same, granted him (as compensation) a life pension of rupees 35 per mensem for 3 generations, which has ceased by the death of the third recipient, now several years passed.

5. That during the period of the Government of India being in the hands of the Honorable East India Company, a case of a compassionate monthly allowance of Rupees 30 per mensem was allowed to a lady, the wife of a Captain Dixon of the 1st Madras Fusileers when stationed at the Arcot Cantonment of the Presidency Madras. It was granted to her, she being left destitute at her husband's death, the cause was, that her husband having been cashiered and died subsequently, she was debarred from receiving the regular Military pension at his death, Memorialist submits this fact to be considered with other facts already stated for your Majesty's kind consideration.

6. Memorialist learns on credible authority, that His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, while touring in India, 20 years ago, has had the cases of several persons who had rendered signal services to the State brought to his notice, hence His Royal Highness very generously granted them a pension, and a few are now drawing their stipends, in the North Arcot District.

7. That your Memorialist was an unfortunate being even when he was a child, for his father John Potter was cut off by cholera at a very early age—

Sacred to the Memory of
John Potter,
who departed this life
on the 2nd March 1820,
Aged 23 years 4 months and 18 days.

This tomb is erected by his afflicted
Father as a testimony of his affection.

"Christian friends give heed to my cry,
Drop some tears as you pass by."

of the disaster which had happened of the ever memorable mutiny of 1806 at

vide copy of the inscription per margin placed on
his monument in St. Mary's Cemetery at Ranipett,
and both himself and his dear mother were taken
in hand by his aunt Martha Morris late Martha
Potter, and continued under her care till Memorialist attained his majority, and it was from
this aunt, that he had gathered all the particulars

J. W. Potter

Vellore described above, for she was
only escaped from the fact of her m.
jewellery.

the age of 14, and was present and
having surrendered all the valuable

8. That after the demise of late Grandfather in 1833, came in possession of certain landed property within the Cantonment of Arcot, bequeathed to him by his Grandfather, and after he had attained his majority, enabled him to subsist upon by the rents derived from the said property, up to the period of the sudden breaking up of the said Cantonment in 1868 has crippled your Memorialist's resources entirely, and since then he has been undergoing great hardships, and now that his sight is seriously failing, being afflicted with cataract in both eyes, and hence had to submit to an operation to his left eye at the Ophthalmic Hospital at Madras, which although successfully performed, yet his vision does not permit him to exert himself to eke out a livelihood to subsist upon. His right eye also is daily growing worse, and now that he has closed his 76th year, (being born on the 27th May 1819) all these infirmities fast closing upon him, places him in a very deplorable condition, for he has no ostensible means of support to fall back upon; although he has a few relations well-to-do people, yet they very grudgingly dole out small assistance at distant periods—a few rupees, and allege that they can do no more, as they have their own families to care for. Friends sometimes render assistance in the way of charity, but how long can such a state of matters continue.

9. Your Memorialist's object in submitting the above facts, is to enlist Your Gracious Majesty's sympathy on his behalf. He does not submit these facts for Your Majesty's favorable consideration as a matter of right, but the noble spirit his Grandfather evinced in declining to accept compensation from the then Government for the loss sustained, as described in para 4 of this memorial should carry weight with your Majesty to alleviate his distress in the way of charity by granting him some substantial help, either a pension or compassionate monthly allowance to subsist upon for the few short years that the Lord will be pleased to prolong his life in this world, and after his demise, should his wife Antoniah Potter survive him, a moiety or a portion thereof may be allowed to his widow for her maintenance during her life.

Memorialist makes this latter request most respectfully as she has shared with him, and still continuing so in this his time of adversity—that should your Gracious Majesty be pleased to grant this boon which your Memorialist most humbly craves at your Majesty's hands, he will feel deeply grateful for the same, so long as his fleeting breath lasts in him, and your Memorialist will ever pray.

J. W. Potter

I, James William Potter do
Solemnly declare that the facts
stated in the aforesaid memorial
are true to the best of my knowledge
and belief.

J. W. Potter

Can no 122 Eng of 96.

Returns to the petitioners
who is informed that
no representation from
individuals in India
will be entertained
by the Home Govern-
ment unless they shall
have been submitted
thru' the Local Gov.
examiners.

P. J. Jones.

Collector
(Thru the Sahibdar of
Wallaja)

at
s at
DESPATCHED
30 JAN 96

CHIEF SECRETARY
-4 APR. 1896
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

CHIEF SECRETARY
15 APR 1896
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

To
The Chief Secretary to Government.
Fort Saint George
Madras.

Honorable Sir

I beg most respectfully to
acknowledge the receipt of your
Memorandum No 1317 dated 21 July
1896. I have examined and resubmitted
my Memoranda as directed therein
to your honor, duly attested on each
sheet as required by Rule VIII
of the Memorial Rules, which I
humbly trust will be found
satisfactory.

I beg most respectfully to subscribe
myself

Honorable Sir

Your most Obedient Servant.

North Arcot District.

Pampet.

13 July 1896.

J. H. Pitter

Public Dept.

From Mr. J. W. Potter

Ranipett

N. Arcot.

Dated 13

Recd 15

Regd 16

July 96

Encls - one (enclos. 1 to

Pub. C. no. 125 2/4)

Subject

Submitting his memorial
addressed to H. M. the Queen -
Compross.

Memorial from W. James Potter
NOTE FOR THE CHIEF SECRETARY.

It is submitted
that the memorial
may be sent in circ.
before being returned
for attestation on
each page. Otherwise
Mr. Potter might
be led to entertain
hopes, which would
be cruelly shattered
in the event of not
deciding to with-
hold the memorial
under rule XII
(4) of Memorial Rules A.

Please see paras
7 & 8 of the note for
orders.

Copied
30.6.96

13
This cannot be called up
without a great deal
of the story was true but
very much doubt.

I think that the only thing
to do is to let the
man and back to
be signed on my page
as a result of this
rule - then to

After the report is
made deal with it immediately
C/ 4 XII A. R. R.
29/10
25/10

NOTE FOR THE UNDER SECRETARY.

as this goes down
to make as for issue
may the file be passed
on to M.R. for the
uniform, report of the
military service as
rendered by Mr. Potter's
hand further, which is
kept by the C.S.

C.S.
4-7-96

C.S.
4/7 M.R.
C.S.
4/7/96

FOR ORDERS.

The memorialist, James Potter, states that his grandfather, David Potter, was a European merchant who had amassed a great fortune, but that his "very flourishing" shop at Vellore was ransacked by the rebels during the Vellore Mutiny of 1806.

2 The then Govt offered to compensate David Potter for the loss sustained & to grant a life pension ^{of Rs 350} to him. Thomas Potter (memorialist's uncle), as his father was not offered a pension, rendered a cripple for life & the compensation was "gracefully declined". But a Parsi merchant, Bomanjee, who had also suffered at the hands of the mutineers accepted a pension which was continued to the third generation. Reference is also made to a confidential allowance.

8. Should it be decided

to do so the memorial will
first have to be returned
to Mr Potter for his signature
on every sheet as regd by
rule III of the memorial rules.

from Mr. James Potter

FOR ORDERS.

H. E. THE GOVERNOR.

THE HON'BLE MR. H. W. BLISS, C.I.E. &

THE HON'BLE MR. J. GROSE, C.I.E.

C.W.
19.6.96 No papers regarding Mr.
~~James~~ his grand-father can
be traced in the old records. It
is sub. that the question being
one of a compassionate grant for
military services rendered by
the memorialist's grand father,
the memorial may be
transferred to the L. G. C.

Note

Memorial from Mr James
Potter —

No papers are
traceable in regard to
the mil'y services rendered
by the memorialist's grand
father.

2 David Potter
like other soldiers of the
British Army seems to
have served in India
and purchased his dis-
charge from the Army.
For this service in India
he must have been
granted a pension. His
name appears under the
head "European Pensioners"
in the statement furnished
by the Mil'y Auditor,
recorded in M. C. List
14 Oct 1806.

3. In Aug 1806
a Court of Enquiry was
held by order of the
Comd

Com. in chief to inquire into the losses sustained by individuals at Vellore, in consequence of the insurrection which took place at that station. Daniel Potter appeared before the Committee & presented his claim for the losses sustained by him - although he was not able to substantiate his claim yet the Committee admitted the full amount claimed by him.

4. The York in M.C. dated 16 Sept 1806 approved of the arrangement proposed by the Committee and granted one half of the amount incurred in their Progress as compensation for the losses sustained by individuals.

individuals concerned.

Subsequently in M.C. dated 14 Oct 1806 orders were passed for the payment of the sum due to the different claimants.

5. From this it is clear that Daniel Potter, the memorialists grandfather, never have received the amount allotted to him.

6. Nothing can be traced in regard to the refusal of the amount awarded to Daniel Potter in his own name.

7. All the Confidential Volumes regarding the Vellore mutiny have also been carefully gone through & no papers can be traced in regard to the offer of a life pension to the memorialists uncle Thomas Potter.


20/7

J. W. Potter's

Ct.

In continuation of the note previously put up please see the further prepared from the old daily records and of 20th inst. It disproves the Memoir's assertion that his grandfather "gracefully declined" compensation. It is clear that Memoir's has no claim and his grandfather's services do not seem to have been exceptional. The memorial is merely an appeal ad misericordiam and it is submitted that he withheld under Rule XII (4). It does not appear that the Govt. is to blame for Mr Potter's indigent circumstances & the result of giving him a compassionate allowance which probably will be

However much this may be a case
for private charity it certainly
is not one for Government charity.
The tale told by the letter regarding her
sorrowers has been proved by the
records of the Hull. Dept. to be
purely untrue.

20
6/8/96
BD
9/8/96

Mr. Potter's Memorial

[Handwritten signature]

[G.
24.]
1,000-15-11-95.

Public DEPARTMENT.

Papers to be read in proceedings:—

Again G.O., dated 189 , No.

Again G.O., dated 189 , No.

Current No. 1252 of 1896, dated 2nd April, from Mr. J. W. Potter, Ramfett, N. Annot District.
" " 1923 " 1896, " 4th June, " The Collector of N. Annot
" " 1977 " 1896, " 11th June, " " " " "
" " 2278 " 1896, " 13th July " Mr. J. W. Potter

12-221 3.15.96 August 1896.

ORDER.

After a perusal of the records which bear on the subject of this memorial H.E. the Govr. in Council resolves to withhold it under Memorial Rules A para XII (4).

/ from Order/

14/8/96.

30B
11.8.96.

Mr. J. W. Potter, q= allots
Ramfett,
N. Annot District.
With copy of A. XII (4).
thru' the Collr. N.A. Dist.
H. do. (in original) for W. m. l.

aw.
11.8.96

21/8/96

H.C.
Be careful that the
old records get back to
their proper place.

sent to Mr. M.
on 16.12
14.1
11/2

20/7

When given for copying 18/8 (58m)
 When copied 24/8
 When examined 24/8
 When signed 24/8 } 189.

AGAIN G.O., No. 139
 DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO O. No.

DEER OF GOVERNMENT A A A A A A A

DEER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
 IN ORIGINAL.

N.B.—
 A = Copy in full.
 B = Not to be copied
 P = Comm. abstract only

When given for copying

When copied

When examined

When signed

189

READ AGAIN G.O., No.

189

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

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P = Copy abstract only.

Q = Copy heading only.