

Major Charles John Darrah RE

Charles John Darrah was born on 5 June 1835 in Galle Southern Sri Lanka. His father was a soldier of 46 and his mother Jane was 17.

He married Fanny Maxwell Willoughby at St Thomas Church Winchester Hants on 10 November 1864. Charles was a Gentleman Cadet at the Royal Military Academy Woolwich and was commissioned in the Royal Engineers on as a 2/Lt on 14 August 1854 and then 1/Lt on the same day. He served at the siege of Sebastopol from June to August 1855. Promoted to 2/Capt on 13 December 1859 and 1/Capt on 12 March 1861.

He was employed as the assistant astronomer and surveyor with the British North American Land boundary commission between 1858 and 1862. He together with Captain Robert Wolseley Haig RA were responsible for the observations for latitude and longitude at the British astronomical stations along the boundary.

In 1867 he was sent to work with the public Works Department in India. He was promoted Major on 15 August 1858. He was employed on the construction and running of the Abyssinia railway.

He died at Kirklee in the Presidency of Bombay on 12 June 1871. Probate was granted to Fanny Maxwell Darrah of 68 Cambridge Terrace Hyde Park on 25 November 1871. Effects under £1,500.

