

**ROBERT PARRY  
CALVANIST METHODIST MISSIONARY  
AND INSPECTOR OF COLLEGES IN INDIA**

Robert Parry was born in St Asaph, Flintshire in 1831. The family moved to Chester where his step-mother and two younger half-brothers died in a cholera outbreak.

In Chester, Robert became involved with the Calvinist Methodists and was ordained at Pwllheli. He left soon after with his first wife Anne, to join the Calvinist Methodist Mission at the Khassia Hills in Bengal. He was one of two young ministers to be sent to strengthen the mission following the so-called "Indian Mutiny" in the 1850's.

Anne died suddenly of cholera, leaving Robert with four young children. Following his loss, colleagues later discovered Robert in a pitiable state and it appeared he was also questioning his faith.

He left the mission and became a teacher, later a head of college and finally inspector of colleges for the government, eventually based in Calcutta.

He had two further children from two successive short-lived marriages to Annie and Harriet, who both died in India.

After some years, he married Catherine Bean, one of three sisters who all moved to Ryde with Robert when he retired in 1890. They lived at 16 Partlands Avenue. From later family descriptions the sisters are understood to have been Anglo-Indian - an Indian cook was said to be in residence during their final days in the 1920's.

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