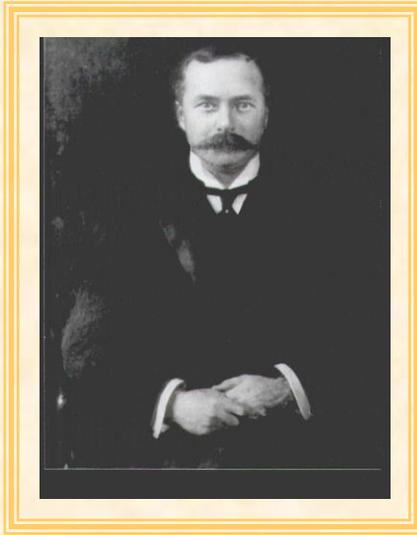


# Sir Peter Freyer



(1851 -1921)

*Peter Freyer was born on 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 1851 and was baptised in the parish of Ballinakill, Co Galway on the 26<sup>th</sup> of July. He was the eldest son of Samuel Freyer, a small land owner of Sellerna, near Cleggan and his wife Celia Burke.*

*At the time of Griffith's Valuation in 1855, Samuel Freyer was in possession of 17 acres at Moorneen and a house, office and land in Knockbrack, both town lands in the parish of Omey (Clifden). In 1876, when the list of landowners of more than one acre was compiled, Samuel Freyer of Claghacurra, Clifden, was recorded as having 210 acres.*

*Samuel Freyer's eldest son was named Peter Johnson after his parental grandfather, a chief officer in the coastguard service. Although his mother was a Roman Catholic, Peter Freyer and his siblings were brought up as Protestants.*

*Peter Freyer went to the Erasmus Smith School in Galway and won a scholarship to attend the Queen's College, Galway. He had a distinguished academic career at the College, obtaining in 1872 a first class honors degree in Arts and winning the gold medal.*

*He studied medicine for another 2 years, including a period as resident pupil at Dr Steven's Hospital in Dublin. He won another gold medal when he was conferred in 1874.*

*He then spent a brief time working in Paris. On his return he came first in the competitive examination for a commission as a medical officer in the Indian Medical Service. He filled the post of acting civil surgeon at Azamgarh from April 1877 and from 1878 he began to publish articles in the Indian Medial Journal.*

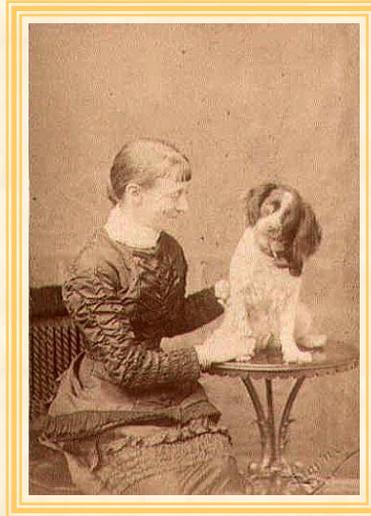




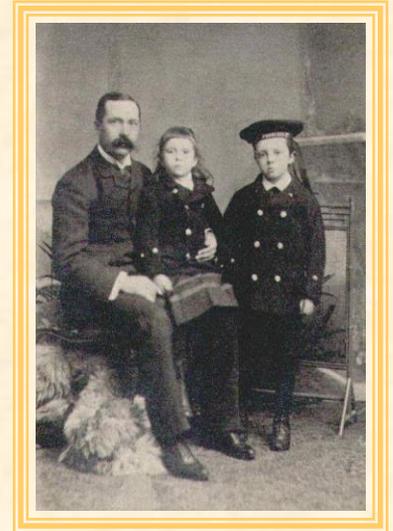
*Sir Peter Freyer as a young man in Military uniform*



*Sir Peter Freyer married Isabella McVittie, daughter of Robert McVittie of Dublin.*



*Sir Peter and Isabella had two children, Dermot and Kathleen. Dermott Freyer had three sons Michael, Grattan and Patrick and Kathleen had two children*



*Sir Peter with a tennis party in Paris*



*While based at Moradabad, in the North West Province of India, Freyer attended one of the native Princes, the Nawab of Rampur, who was suffering from paralysis. In gratitude for his services the Nawab gave Freyer 100,000 rupees, equivalent of £10,000.*

*His acceptance of this gift brought Freyer into conflict with the British administrative authority in India and a ban was put on his future promotion. This problem was sorted out by 1894 and Freyer, now a lieutenant colonel retired from the Indian Medical Service in 1896.*

*Indian Temple*



*Sir Peter Freyer with Indian elephant riders*



*Sir Peter with a large Indian and European tennis party in India*

*On his return to London Freyer established a private practice at 46 Harley Street, Cavendish Square and in 1896 was appointed to the staff of St Peter's Hospital for Stone. Sir Peter was appointed Examiner in Surgery at the University of Durham in 1902.*

*From 1904-1909 he was a member of the honorary medical staff of the king Edward VII's Hospital for Officers and from 1909 he was a consulting surgeon to the Queen Alexander Hospital, Millbank, London, which was the main post graduate training hospital for the Army.*

*In London Freyer rapidly established a reputation as a surgeon specializing in the treatment of urinary problems. In particular he became renowned for his treatment of stone in the bladder or kidney by the operative procedures known as lithotomy and litholapaxy and for his treatment of an enlarged prostate by a suprapubic operation known as total enucleation of the prostate.*

*He first performed a total extirpation of the prostate in December 1900 and soon afterwards he began to write about his successful cases. This led to some controversy with colleagues but Freyer is today accredited world wide for pioneering the operation now known as a prostatectomy*

*Early operating Table at St Peter's Hospital*



*In 1904 Freyer was awarded the Arnott Memorial medal in recognition of his contribution to surgery. He rejoined the medical service of the British Army during World War 1, acting as consulting surgeon to the Indian soldiers in various hospitals under the control of the Brighton Military Hospital.*

*On the evacuation of the Indian troops he became consulting surgeon to the military hospitals in the Brighton area and subsequently for all of Sussex, part of the Eastern Command.*

*He was awarded the Honor of Commander of the Bath in 1917 and six months later became a Knight Commander of the Bath. In October 1919 the National University of Ireland conferred him an Honorary degree of Doctor of Law.*

### *Freyer Memorabilia Display*



## *Thank You*

*Many thanks to Sir Peter Freyer's Family in particular his grandson, Patrick Freyer for presenting the Department of Surgery with this Memorabilia.*

*A special thanks to Mr Kieran Hoare, Archivist, James Hardiman Library, NUIG, for compiling a book of all the Freyer records and for supplying images for this presentation*

