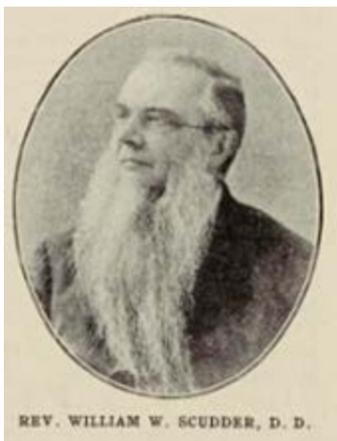


William<sup>8</sup> W. Scudder I, Early Years of the Arcot Mission, Widower Again and a Third Marriage to Frances Ann Rousseau. Their Years in India and Glastonbury, Connecticut, 1853–1895

Compiled by Margery Boyden, Scudder Association Foundation, Historian

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WILLIAM<sup>8</sup> WATERBURY SCUDDER I, LATER IN LIFE

The three Scudder brothers were hard at work their first year to establish the Arcot Mission, which was “about sixty miles from India’s eastern coast, and directly west of Madras. Lying between the twelfth and fourteenth parallels of east longitude, it covers an area of 9, 093 square miles, and has a population of 3, 048, 980 souls.”<sup>1</sup> During its second year, William<sup>8</sup> W. Scudder’s wife died.<sup>2</sup> As Jared<sup>8</sup> Waterbury Scudder continues, “The first Annual Report of the Arcot Mission was issued at the end of the year 1854, a little more than twelve-month from its organization:

Tokens of a vigorous and robust youth are already perceptible. Three “Stations” —Vellore, Chittoor and Arnee—have been selected as convenient centres of operation, and are occupied respectively by the Rev. Messrs. Henry M., William W., and Joseph Scudder. Already, two churches, each consisting of thirteen communicants, have been organized, one in Vellore and the other in Chittoor; and two congregations of native Christians, membership severally about seventy souls, assemble on the Sabbath to worship their new found Lord. An ‘Out-station has been

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<sup>1</sup> Jared Waterbury Scudder, *Historical Sketch of the Arcot Mission of the Reformed Church in America*, (Madras: Printed at the Scottish Press, by Graves, Cookson and Co. 1879), 1.

<sup>2</sup> Gracie K. Bradford, “Elizabeth (Lizzie) Oliver Knight Scudder Biography, *Scudder Family Historical & Biographical Journal*, Scudder Association Foundation, volume 7, no. 1, (Summer 2025): 15.

established in the city of Arcot, fourteen miles east of Vellore, and a small building of mud and thatch has been erected there to serve as a school house and church. Four vernacular Christian schools are in operation, and a ‘Praeparandi Class’ of thirteen selected and promising lads has been formed in Vellore, which is instructed daily by the missionary and his assistants in the Scriptures, Systematic Theology, and Heidelberg Catechism; as well as in in secular studies, embracing among the rest, Sanscrit, vocal Music, and Medicine.<sup>3</sup>

D. V. Scudder writes, “Although the founders still regarded healing of the body as subsidiary to the soul’s salvation, the Arcot Mission was the first to put medical service on equal terms with the evangelism.”<sup>4</sup> Jared<sup>8</sup> reports, “In the Dispensary, kept open throughout the year, many interesting surgical operations are performed, and a vast amount of relief is afforded to the sick and suffering.”<sup>5</sup>

All that William<sup>8</sup> did in the remainder of 1854 and most of 1855, he did while mourning the loss of his second wife Lizzie Knight in 1854 from cholera that necessitated him to care for his little motherless daughter, Elizabeth<sup>9</sup> Knight Scudder, born 20 August 1853<sup>6</sup> at Arcot, the year before her mother’s death. This child was also known as Lille<sup>9</sup> [Lily] in Knight family correspondence. Meanwhile, William<sup>8</sup> was always hungry for news about his elder daughter Kitty<sup>9</sup> from her Hastings grandparents who would inform him by mail of her growth and progress. Jared<sup>8</sup> writes of health issues and duty to a somewhat disabled father that interrupted some of the progress that the brothers had hoped to make in the advancement of the Arcot Mission in its infancy.

In late 1855, reinforcements came to the Arcot Mission in the form of two more of William<sup>8</sup>’s brothers, newlyweds Ezekiel<sup>8</sup> Carman Scudder and Jared<sup>8</sup> Waterbury Scudder with their new brides. On 22 August 1855 at Summit, Ohio, Ezekiel<sup>8</sup> had married Sarah<sup>7</sup> Ruth Tracy,<sup>7</sup> the daughter of his former landlords, the Rev. Myron<sup>6</sup> Tracy and his wife, Sarah<sup>8</sup> (Weld) Tracy,

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<sup>3</sup> J.W. Scudder, 1, 3–4.

<sup>4</sup> Dorothy Jealous Scudder, *A Thousand Years in Thy Sight; The Story of the Scudder Missionaries of India*, (New York: Vantage Press, 1984), 93.

<sup>5</sup> J. W. Scudder, Historical Sketch of the Arcot Mission, 4.

<sup>6</sup> Bradford, “Elizabeth (Lizzie) Oliver Knight Scudder Biography,” *Scudder Family Historical & Biographical Journal*, volume 7, no. 1, 15.

<sup>7</sup> "Ohio, County Marriages, 1789-2016", *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XD7T-PB8> : Fri Jul 19 21:46:44 UTC 2024), Entry for Ezekiel Scudder and Sarah Tracy, 22 Aug 1855, <https://www.familysearch.org/en/tree/person/sources/MBK6-WFC>.

when the brothers were earlier studying at Western Reserve in Ohio.<sup>8</sup> Jared<sup>8</sup> was married a week later to Julia Clayton Goodwin of Savannah, Georgia on August 29, 1855,<sup>9</sup> at New Brunswick, New Jersey where Jared<sup>8</sup> and Ezekiel<sup>8</sup> had been attending theological school. Their honeymoons were spent enroute to missionary service in India. Jared<sup>8</sup>'s *Historical Sketch of the Arcot Mission of the Reformed Church in America* states that Ezekiel<sup>8</sup> and Jared<sup>8</sup> arrived in India in March of 1855, but that seems unlikely because their marriages were in August of 1855 in the United States, as were the licensing and ordinations of the brothers in 1855 prior to their sailing for India.<sup>10</sup>

Jared<sup>8</sup> writes:

...the arrival...of Rev. Messrs. Ezekiel C. and Jared W. Scudder with their wives and a sister doubled the strength of the mission, and put it in its power to preach the Gospel still more extensively.... The joy occasioned by this re-union, found utterance in the following words:

Our Mission now consists of five brothers, four of whom have companions to aid them in their duties, and the other is helped by a sister, Miss Louisa Scudder. Thus we number TEN souls of ONE NAME, ONE FAMILY united in ONE MISSION, and serving ONE MASTER.<sup>11</sup>

Jared<sup>8</sup>'s account shares the achievements of each of these early years. Notable in 1856, was the hand of Providence in providing an opportunity to open a Mission Station at Coonoor, over 200 miles away in the heights of the Nilgiris, a cooler and healthier atmosphere, where two Englishmen had gathered a native Christian congregation. Their brother Joseph<sup>8</sup> was assigned to labor at Coonoor with the hope his health would improve sufficiently so that he would not have to go to America to recover. William<sup>8</sup> Waterbury Scudder, having labored some time again without the support of a wife and with a three-year-old motherless daughter Elizabeth<sup>9</sup> (aka Lille), to care

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<sup>8</sup> Sarah Ruth Tracy and her ancestral roots in "Isabelle Scudder Farrington Who Generously Gave an Endowment to the Scudder Association, Inc. in 1940. How Her Birth Family Inspired Her Life and Her Gift," *Scudder Family Historical & Biographical Journal*, volume 6, no. 1, (Winter 2024): 19-25, <https://scudder.org/isabelle-scudder-farrington-who-generously-gave-an-endowment/>.

<sup>9</sup> "New Jersey, Marriages, 1678-1985", , *FamilySearch*, (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:FZP1-N87> : 20 January 2020), Julia A. Goodwin in entry for Jared W. Scudder, 1855. Indexed incorrectly as Sendder, <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:FZP1-N87>.

<sup>10</sup> John Howard Raven, *Biographical Record, Theological Seminary, New Brunswick, 1784–1911*, (Printed for the Seminary, 1912), 130–131, <https://archive.org/details/biographicalreco00rave/page/130/mode/2up>.

<sup>11</sup> J. W. Scudder, *Sketch of the Arcot Mission*, 4.

for, in late 1856, the twice-widowed William<sup>8</sup> returned to America on furlough, temporarily leaving the Arcot Mission again with reduced staff.<sup>12</sup> William<sup>8</sup>, with his little daughter, would head home in hopes of introducing her to her older half-sister Kitty who was living with her Hastings relatives in New York. Another objective must have been that a hope to find another wife amenable to missionary service in India. William<sup>8</sup>'s sister Louisa<sup>8</sup> had done a fine job of assisting him and caring for both of his daughters after the passing of his first wife Kate from cholera and the second wife Lizzie from malaria. But to be most effective and stay long term, William<sup>8</sup> needed a wife.

It would be an arduous journey, from Madras across the Indian Ocean and around the bottom of Africa with a stop at the Cape of Good Hope, and with a stop at Jamestown, Saint Helena Island, before heading northward across the Atlantic to the United States. It was at or enroute to Jamestown that unforeseen tragedy once again visited William<sup>8</sup>, for he was called upon to bury his little daughter Elizabeth<sup>9</sup> Knight Scudder, at the Knollcombes Baptist Chapel Cemetery in Jamestown,<sup>13</sup> for she must have fallen ill on the voyage. She was less than four years old.

### **William<sup>8</sup>'s Third Marriage, to Frances Ann Rousseau of Troy, New York, Her Ancestry and Their Arrival in the Arcot Mission in 1859.**

On 26 August 1858, William<sup>8</sup> Waterbury Scudder was married to Frances Ann Rousseau, at West Troy, New York.<sup>14</sup> Born in 1830, Frances was the daughter of Lewis Rousseau, son of Alexander Rousseau, a Frenchman born in Bourdeau, France 7 March 1766, who immigrated to America and died in Troy, New York 2 March 1812.<sup>15</sup>

Alexander married in January 1793 Mary Frear at Troy, New York. They had the following sons<sup>16</sup>:

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<sup>12</sup> J. W. Scudder, 6.

<sup>13</sup> Elizabeth Knight Scudder, Find A Grave memorial, [https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/179867153:60541?tid=&pid=&queryId=3269d531-4c08-4d55-b15f-57528a059f1e&\\_phsrc=mHm3&\\_phstart=successSource](https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/179867153:60541?tid=&pid=&queryId=3269d531-4c08-4d55-b15f-57528a059f1e&_phsrc=mHm3&_phstart=successSource).

<sup>14</sup> W. W. Scudder and Frances A. Rousseau, "New York, County Marriages, 1778-1848; 1908-1937", *FamilySearch*(<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:Q2CL-TTQP> : Thu Jan 16 18:37:09 UTC 2025), Entry for W W Scudder and Frances A Rousseau, 26 Aug 1858, <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:Q2CL-TT7Q?treeref=K64R-HTS&lang=en>.

<sup>15</sup> Cuyler Reynolds, *Hudson-Mohawk Genealogical and Family Memoirs*, v. 4, (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1911), 1757. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSGD-BS16-8?lang=en&i=110>.

<sup>16</sup> Rousseau family Bible records, in *Daughters of the American Revolution New York Bible Records*, Film #008218670, <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSGD-B3SM-J?lang=en&i=111>.

John b. October 1793, d. November 1794 at aged 13 months,<sup>17</sup> Achille J., Henry, Lewis, Alexander, Benjamin, and a second son John, b. 1799.<sup>18</sup>

Frances Ann Rousseau's father, Lewis Rousseau, was born on 24 September 1804 at Troy, Rensselaer, New York and her mother was Caroline Silliman, born 1804 at Waterford, Saratoga County, New York,<sup>19</sup> daughter of Daniel Silliman and Caroline Wright.

William<sup>8</sup> W. Scudder and wife Frances soon departed New York and arrived back in the Arcot Mission in early 1859 with a new recruit, Rev. J. Mayou, as Jared Waterbury Scudder writes, to "infuse new strength and courage into overburdened and somewhat dejected hearts."<sup>20</sup>

The 1863 report of the Board of Foreign Missions states that Vellore "must be regarded as the central and most important station of the Mission.... Connected with it is our training school, or Arcot Seminary. The Mission has wisely located two Missionaries in this place. Rev. W. W. Scudder, besides his not slight duties as secretary and treasurer of the Mission, has the care of the Seminary; whilst the Rev. E. C. Scudder has charge of the Church, the local schools, and other station interests. Whilst the brothers assist each other in these labors, they expend much of their strength in preaching to the multitudes...<sup>21</sup>

In *A Thousand Years in Thy Sight*, the account by D. V. Scudder provides more personal detail from the family's perspective about this time that William<sup>8</sup> and wife Frances spent in the Arcot Mission. William<sup>8</sup> was put in charge of the Seminary which was to train evangelists and preachers and was its administrator. He also did "the endless work of the district visiting the village schools and churches and settling innumerable jealousies and contentions. His unique combination of strictness and tenderness won for him the confidence and affection of all with whom he came in contact. Throughout the countryside he was known as 'The very just father.'<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> Their first child John who died at 13 months is missed in some sources, having been confused with his younger brother born in 1799. This birth date and christening date for the first John were from "New York, Births and Christenings, 1640-1962", database, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:V2CQ-13J : 17 February 2023>), John Rousseau, 1794, <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:V2CQ-13J. 3>.

<sup>18</sup> The second son John's birthdate is found in a transcription of Rousseau family Bible records, in *Daughters of the American Revolution New York Bible Records*, see fn 15. The younger John married and is found in several censuses. He died in 1873.

<sup>19</sup> Birth and death dates from inscription on their grave monument at Albany Rural Cemetery, Menands, Albany, New York, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/186358907/lewis-rousseau>.

<sup>20</sup> J. W. Scudder, *Sketch of the Arcot Mission*, 7.

<sup>21</sup> *Thirty-first Annual Report of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church...the year ending April 30<sup>th</sup>, 1863*, (New York: Board of publication of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church, 1863), 10.

<sup>22</sup> D. V. Scudder, *A Thousand Years*, 94.

As Secretary and Treasurer of the Mission, William bore the brunt of the financial difficulties, and they were often extremely serious. The cost of living was constantly rising; the government taxes were heavy and mission already owed \$4,000 borrowed to meet such unexpected expenses as sending sick families to the hills, or paying their passage home. Remittances from America seldom arrived on time. Had it not been for considerable sums put at their disposal by Harriet Scudder,\* who had now become Mrs. Stanes, it is doubtful if they could have continued. They did their best to live upon the allowances which reached them from the Board, even adopting the food and living standards of the Indians—experiments soon abandoned as dangerously detrimental to health and morale. The English gave them clothing and food which they learned to accept as gifts to the work rather than to the individual.<sup>23</sup>

\*[Their Sister] Harriet had married a man who owned large tea estates in South India.

D. V. continues:

Such things wore William down. As he sat in his office struggling over his accounts, or appealing to the Board for remittances, he could see his wife on the veranda teaching English to the school boys. Her dress, a yellowish white, had a faint faded design which caught his eye. Why—he thought—that is the green sprigged muslin she wore when she first came to India. He remembered how he had admired it then. But now it was patched and darned—as were all her gowns— all, that is, except that brown faille the Collector’s wife had given her last year. Brown was not her color, besides, he associated it with the Collector’s wife, who had worn it so constantly. Mrs. Scudder didn’t mind whose dress it was; all she wanted was to look nice when she went to church.

William looked down at his own clothes, no better than his wife’s certainly. The white duck he had bought in the bazaar so many years ago had really lasted very well, but it was turned dingy grey from repeated washings in the river. He

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<sup>23</sup> D. V. Scudder, 94–95.

supposed that he and his wife could stand it, but it would be nice to be able to buy decent suits for Willie and Lewis when he sent them to America.<sup>24</sup>

William<sup>8</sup> and Frances had had two sons born to them in India: William<sup>9</sup> Waterbury Scudder II, born on 26 October 1860 at Chittor, Tamil Nadu, India<sup>25</sup> and Lewis<sup>9</sup> Rousseau Scudder on 22 December 1861 at Vellore, Tamil Nadu, India.<sup>26</sup> On 4 September 1864, daughter Frances<sup>8</sup> Anna was born at Vellore.<sup>27</sup>

Kitty, the child of his first wife, Katherine, was living with her mother's people in America. Only by the photographs which came to him at intervals could he 'keep knowledge of my child's growth.' Those grandparents were growing old. If they died, Kitty would be left penniless and alone. As he could not afford to send for her, he asked the Board to pay her way out to India, promising to reimburse them by installments. Her father's poverty must have made a deep impression on his small daughter for in later years, when Kitty was serving the Mission in India, the fear of poverty and the dread of dying in the poor-house haunted her constantly.

With each passing year, William found himself less and less able to accomplish the tasks which at first had been done so quickly. Like his father, he suffered from severe headaches, caused partly by the sun, partly by malaria and partly by the strain under which he lived. His sons, Willie and Lewis, had not regained their strength after attacks of typhoid. They all needed a vacation in the hills, but as long as the remittances from the Board came so irregularly, holidays were out of the question.

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<sup>24</sup> D. V. Scudder, *A Thousand Years*, 95.

<sup>25</sup> William<sup>8</sup> Jr.'s birth date is found on his death record, <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q57-L9SJ-VS8P?view=index&personArk=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AQP3V-1ZXL&action=view&cc=2001287&lang=en&groupId=>

<sup>26</sup> Lewis's birth date is found on his Find a Grave record with headstone, <https://www.familysearch.org/en/tree/person/details/M7J8-3GK>. His passport application states he was born at Vellore, <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/1174/records/147017?tid=&pid=&queryId=dce350cc-70f2-41b6-ab6e-f359cd0ee46b&phsrc=sND1&phstart=successSource>.

<sup>27</sup> Frances Anna's birth date was found in "United States, Genealogy Bank Historical Newspaper Obituaries, 1815-2013", *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QPBT-DK9X> : Thu Aug 21 18:38:37 UTC 2025), Entry for Mrs Frances Scudder Williams and Mrs S H Williams, 06 May 1958, <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QPBT-DK9X>.

At last, in 1872, he resigned from the Mission after twenty-six years in service in order to return to America and provide his children with a home. ‘Were our salaries large enough to embrace the education of our children,’ he wrote the Board, ‘we might place them at boarding schools, but you know that we have barely enough to support even one child at home. If we remain abroad, we have no alternative but to throw our children on the charity of individual members of the church. I cannot do this and the interest of my children and of others of the missionaries’ dependent upon me require that I go back home for some years.<sup>28</sup>

William<sup>8</sup> Waterbury Scudder returned with his family to America and served for twelve years as pastor for the Congregational Church in Glastonbury Connecticut. William<sup>8</sup>’s short biography in his Princeton undergraduate class of 1841 reunion edition states:

Returning to America in 1872 with his family, he received and accepted a call to the First Congregational Church of Glastonbury, Conn., and was installed its pastor 17 December 1878, having first served his connection with the Board of Foreign Missions of the Reformed Church. This step was reluctantly taken in the interest of his family, the education of his children seeming to demand his presence in this country.<sup>29</sup>



FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, GLASTONBURY, CT.<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>28</sup> D. V. Scudder, *A Thousand Years*, 95–96.

<sup>29</sup> Princeton, *Record of the Class of '41, The Semi-centennial Anniversary Reunion*, Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, 1891, 50.

<sup>30</sup> John Phelan, “First Church of Christ, Glastonbury, CT, [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:First\\_Church\\_of\\_Christ,\\_Glastonbury\\_CT.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:First_Church_of_Christ,_Glastonbury_CT.jpg). This building replaced the church on this site destroyed by hurricane in where William W. Scudder served.



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THE SCUDDERS OF GLASTONBURY, CT, 1890.  
Back row: Ethel, Lewis R., Kitty,  
Front row: Frances, Galen, William Waterbury Scudder I

His Princeton class of 1841 biography continues his story:

This object having been in large measure attained, by the invitation of the Board he returned to India to the Arcot Mission with Mrs. Scudder, in September '84—one of his daughters, Miss M. K. [Kitty], having preceded him in '83, and one of his sons, Rev. Lewis R., M.D., following him in '88.

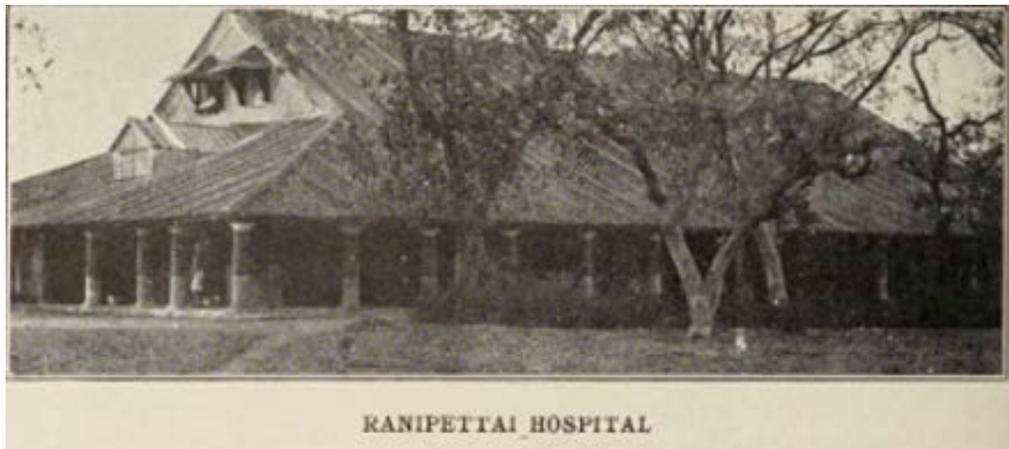
In '88, a Theological Seminary in the Arcot Mission, with a paid-up endowment of about \$50,000, was established by the authority of the General Synod, and in June of the same year Dr. Scudder was elected Professor in the Seminary, by the Synod. Since its establishment Dr. Scudder has devoted himself to the work of his Professorship with energy and success. In the early part of the year, 1891, through the great burden of labor resting on him health failed completely, and his life was for weeks despaired of. The Lord has however graciously answered prayer in his behalf and raised him up to health in a most remarkable manner.<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>31</sup> William Waterbury Scudder I family, contributed by Loren Woods on *Ancestry*, [https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/collection/1030/tree/1976293/person/192404064697/media/9b9a814f-7ff4-40e2-8415-120e20bb1ad9?queryId=e1316d5a-457d-4b83-8bb7-0cd3418314e7&searchContextTreeId=&searchContextPersonId=&\\_phsrc=GgI3&\\_phstart=successSource](https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/collection/1030/tree/1976293/person/192404064697/media/9b9a814f-7ff4-40e2-8415-120e20bb1ad9?queryId=e1316d5a-457d-4b83-8bb7-0cd3418314e7&searchContextTreeId=&searchContextPersonId=&_phsrc=GgI3&_phstart=successSource).

<sup>32</sup> Princeton, Record of the Class of '41, 50.

This miracle extended William<sup>8</sup>'s time in India by three more years. Then in 1894, after thirty-six years total of missionary service in Ceylon and India, William<sup>8</sup> Waterbury Scudder retired at age seventy-one and returned to the United States, leaving his daughter Kitty at Chittor and his son Lewis<sup>9</sup> and his wife Ethel Talcott Fisher Scudder to continue their service in India. Dr. Lew<sup>9</sup> was put in charge of the old hospital in Ranipet which position he assumed on 1 October 1889. For the sake of its longevity, he recognized the need for the hospital to become a mission institution instead of run by the government. Dr. Lew<sup>9</sup> contacted his kinsman Colonel Janeway for help who provided a "sum needed to remove the hospital from government control." The building was "in deplorable condition" and the operating room "the main thoroughfare to the wards." Keeping instruments and wounds aseptic was difficult.



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"A new hospital became Dr. Lew's greatest aim, and he decided that the Scudders could give it as a memorial to their grandparents whose initiative was responsible for so much that their descendants had accomplished. Through the Scudder Memorial Association which he helped to found, the money was raised. It came in a little at a time, until in 1919, the centenary of the sailing of the first Scudders on the *Indus*, land was bought in Ranipet, not far away from the old hospital. On December 19<sup>th</sup> of that year, Mrs. John Scudder II, the only living member of the second generation in India, then eighty-one years of age, was handed a silver trowel with which she dug the first earth for the laying of the cornerstone of the Scudder Memorial Hospital."<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>33</sup> "Ranipettai Hospital," Jacob Chamberlain, *Sketch of the Arcot Mission: with map and illustrations*, (New York: Board of Foreign Missions, Reformed Church in America, 1915), 32.

<sup>34</sup> D. V. Scudder, *A Thousand Years*, 160.

Lewis<sup>9</sup>'s son Galen<sup>10</sup> Fisher Scudder later oversaw the building of the present Scudder Memorial Hospital during the 1920s and its dedication in 1928 so that his father could “devote himself to preaching, teaching and administering the spiritual interests of the Mission.”<sup>35</sup>



SCUDDER MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, dedicated 1928

Although no longer the hospital's administrator, Dr. Lew<sup>9</sup> remained in India and assisted his son until his death on 18 April 1935, after serving there forty-seven years, with his wife Ethel serving for forty-eight.

After retiring in 1894, William<sup>8</sup> and Frances returned to Glastonbury, Hartford, Connecticut where he had served as pastor. William<sup>8</sup> died a year later on 4 March 1895 at Glastonbury and is buried at the Green Cemetery there.



WILLIAM<sup>8</sup> WATERBURY SCUDDER GRAVE MARKER

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<sup>35</sup> D. V. Scudder, *A Thousand Years*, 161, 335. Also, Dr. C. Anbu Suresh Rao, article in *Emunah*, Scudder Memorial Hospital Newsletter, [https://smhranipet.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/May\\_Jun24-SMH-Emunah.pdf](https://smhranipet.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/May_Jun24-SMH-Emunah.pdf).



WILLIAM WATERBURY SCUDDER GRAVE MARKER<sup>36</sup>

William<sup>8</sup>'s wife Frances Ann Rousseau Scudder served in India for twenty-three years total and their daughter Kitty for thirty-one years, from 1884–1915. With William<sup>8</sup>'s thirty-six years and his first and second wives combined five years, William<sup>8</sup>'s family in two generations served about 185 missionary years in the Arcot Mission in India, plus a little over five in Sri Lanka.

Without the efforts of William<sup>8</sup>'s son, Dr. Lewis<sup>0</sup> R. Scudder and grandson Galen<sup>10</sup> F. Scudder, to salvage what was started by William<sup>8</sup>'s brother Silas<sup>8</sup> Downer Scudder in 1866, it is likely there would not be a Scudder Memorial Hospital today in Ranipet.

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<sup>36</sup> Images for grave marker and gravestone were contributed to *Ancestry* by Peggy Grant.

**Summary: Examples of families with New England roots and culture that supplied a sizable cohort and multiple family members to American foreign missions' work**

Certain families from Connecticut and New York and New Jersey like the *Scudders* and *Lathrops* and *Tracys* and *Binghams* and *Welds* and *Waterburys* supplied multiple missionaries or more than one to ABCFM. Often the same families supplied members to American missionary work and to the clergy. New Hampshire and Vermont also supplied a number to bolster the numbers of those who served who were from New England. Many were Congregationalists but there were also Reformed Church of America, Presbyterians, Baptists, etc. Some Scudder spouses had siblings whose family members also served foreign missions like Knights and Pitchers.

Because they were from different states and communities about 200 miles apart, it has been a curious thing to try to figure out how some descendants of the India missionary branch of New Jersey Scudder family from among Dr. John<sup>7</sup> Scudder's posterity, whose immigrant ancestor was Thomas<sup>1</sup> Scudder (T), found and married their distant Connecticut Scudder cousins who were descendants of Thomas<sup>1</sup> (T)'s niece, Elizabeth<sup>2</sup> Scudder (E) Lathrop and her husband Samuel<sup>2</sup> Lathrop (*John<sup>1</sup> I*). Other distant Scudder cousins served side by side with the family of Dr. John<sup>7</sup> Scudder in the foreign missions to Ceylon (Sri Lanka) and India. Unless they were well versed in their full pedigrees going back to their earliest generations in America, probably most of them did not know they were marrying or serving with distant Scudder cousins by birth.

Two Scudder cousins were onboard with the medical missionary pioneer, Dr. John<sup>7</sup> Scudder and wife Harriet<sup>7</sup> (Waterbury) Scudder when they set sail for India in 1819: Harriet Wadsworth (Lathrop) Winslow and Lydia (Middleton) Woodward.<sup>37</sup> Out of the four new missionary couples on the *Indus* bound for Calcutta, there were two of Dr. John<sup>7</sup> Scudder cousins, so three out of the eight missionaries, a surprising percentage since none of them were involved in the other's planning to serve as missionaries.<sup>38</sup> All eight on board could trace their roots back to New England and to immigrants to Massachusetts Bay Colony during the Puritan Migration from

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<sup>37</sup> "A Story 200 Years in the Making," *Scudder Family Historical and Biographical Journal*, volume 1, no. 1, (April 2019): <https://scudder.org/200-years-in-the-making/>.

<sup>38</sup> "Did Dr. John Scudder Know He Had Two Scudder Missionary Cousins with Him Aboard the *Indus*, 1819?" *Scudder Family Historical and Biographical Journal*, volume 1, no. 2, (June 2019): 1–10, <https://scudder.org/did-dr-john-know/> and "Harriet Wadsworth (Lathrop) Winslow: The Third 'Scudder' Cousin on the *Indus*," volume 1, no. 2, (June 2019), <https://scudder.org/harriet-wadsworth/>.

1630–1644. From there, their ancestors had fanned out to New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, New Hampshire, but here they were all together now on the boat, from various religious denominations, part of a devoted band of missionaries for the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions enroute to the Indian subcontinent.

Like her fellow missionary, Harriet<sup>7</sup> Wadsworth Lathrop Winslow, Dr. John<sup>7</sup> Scudder's wife, Harriet<sup>7</sup> (Waterbury) Scudder, the daughter of Gideon<sup>6</sup> Waterbury and Ruth<sup>6</sup> Tuttle, was from the same Connecticut stock as other fellow missionaries to India, although she and Dr. John<sup>7</sup> Scudder met in New York. Harriet (Waterbury) Scudder's sister Catherine<sup>7</sup> (Waterbury) (Carman) Winslow also served and is buried in India. The Waterbury sisters' stepfather, Samuel<sup>6</sup> Downer, was also of Connecticut stock.<sup>39</sup>

It happened in enough cases to seem more than coincidence. How was it possible that as many of these biological cousins and cultural “cousins” from distant locations found each other to marry? Effects of the history of the Puritan Migration and of the history of the American movement for Independence and of the history of the religious fervor of the revival period of the early 1800s and of the American Board of Foreign Missions movement provided common ground for compatibility. But where were the potential social networks in common? Or was it a matter of “like” attracts “like,” especially when two are likeminded in spirit and principle? Or dare we suggest it being some sort of divine plan?

Because William<sup>8</sup> Waterbury Scudder I took a leave from his service in India to advance the education of his children, his family went to Glastonbury, Connecticut where he served as a minister for nearly a decade, it is easier in this case to see a path for having two of his children meet and marry those who were direct descendants from Elizabeth<sup>2</sup> Scudder (E) & Samuel<sup>2</sup> Lathrop of Norwich, Connecticut, and a third in-law child marry one whose ancestress had a sister who married as her second husband, Samuel<sup>3</sup> Lathrop, the son of Samuel<sup>2</sup> Lathrop & Elizabeth<sup>2</sup> Scudder (E). Only Kitty, his other surviving child, did not marry but she still managed to spend thirty-one years of her life in missionary service in India<sup>40</sup>:

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<sup>39</sup> “The Rev. William<sup>8</sup> Waterbury Scudder I: His Family Heritage and Youth in India and America,” *Scudder Family Historical & Biographical Journal*, volume 7, no. 1, (Summer 2025):4–16, <https://scudder.org/the-rev-william8-waterbury-scudder-i-his-family-heritage-and-youth-in-india-and-america/>.

<sup>40</sup> Dorothy Jealous Scudder, *A Thousand Years in Thy Sight*, (New York: Vantage Press, 1984), 335.

**Rev. William<sup>9</sup> Waterbury Scudder II** would grow up to become a minister like his father, but he served in America. He married *Bertha Jackson North* who was a 6<sup>th</sup> great-granddaughter of Elizabeth<sup>2</sup> Scudder (E) and Samuel<sup>2</sup> Lathrop through their daughter Elizabeth<sup>3</sup> Lathrop who married Isaac Royce. Therefore, their children are descendants of both Thomas<sup>1</sup> Scudder (T) and his niece Elizabeth<sup>2</sup> Scudder (E) Lathrop. William<sup>9</sup> Scudder II served as a minister in California.

**Dr. Lewis<sup>9</sup> Rousseau Scudder** became a missionary like his father but was also a medical missionary like his grandfather, Dr. John<sup>7</sup> Scudder. Dr. Lew<sup>9</sup> served for 47 years in India and his wife *Ethel Talcott Fisher Scudder* served in India for 48 years. They were married 7 August 1888 in Oakland, California after which they left for India where they had seven children where they served for 47 years and 48 years. Ethel's 4<sup>th</sup> great-grandmother, Elizabeth Reynolds, had a sister, Mary Reynolds, who married as his 2nd wife, Elizabeth<sup>2</sup> Scudder (E's) son Samuel<sup>3</sup> Lathrop, Jr.

**Frances<sup>9</sup> Ann Scudder** married a minister, Samuel Hubbard Williams who was a Scudder in his own right, twice a 5<sup>th</sup> great-grandson of Elizabeth<sup>2</sup> Scudder (E) and Samuel<sup>2</sup> Lathrop, through their two sons Samuel<sup>3</sup> Lathrop and Israel<sup>3</sup> Lathrop, making Williams a double cousin. Therefore, the children of Samuel Hubbard Williams and Frances<sup>9</sup> Ann Scudder are descendants of both Thomas<sup>1</sup> Scudder (T) and of his niece Elizabeth<sup>2</sup> Scudder (E) and Samuel<sup>2</sup> Lathrop. Rev. Samuel Hubbard Williams and Frances<sup>9</sup> (Scudder) Williams served in India, 1884–1886. They returned to Connecticut where Rev. Williams continued to serve as a minister.

Another example of Dr. John<sup>7</sup> Scudder's posterity who married missionary-minded New England cousins is William<sup>8</sup> Waterbury Scudder I's nephew, the Rev. Walter<sup>9</sup> Tracy Scudder, son of Dr. John<sup>8</sup> Scudder II and L. Sophia Weld, who married Ellen Emma Bartholomew. Ellen was Dr. Ida S.<sup>9</sup> Scudder's roommate at Women's Medical College, Philadelphia, and at Cornell Medical School. Ellen and Ida<sup>9</sup> became very close friends as they were roommates, both fun-loving and pursuing the same career. It is not surprising that Dr. Ida<sup>9</sup> would introduce her former roommate to her brother, Dr. Walter<sup>9</sup> Tracy Scudder, or that they would be attracted to one another and marry, having much in common. But did Ida<sup>9</sup> know that her roommate Ellen was a 7<sup>th</sup> great-granddaughter of Elizabeth<sup>2</sup> Scudder (E)? and thus were distant Scudder cousins? And did Ellen even know that she was a Scudder and that she and her husband, Walter<sup>9</sup> Tracy Scudder were distant cousins?<sup>41</sup>

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<sup>41</sup> Ellen E. Bartholmew is a 7<sup>th</sup> great-granddaughter of Elizabeth<sup>2</sup> Scudder (E) and Samuel<sup>2</sup> Lathrop. Walter<sup>10</sup> Tracy Scudder I is a 6<sup>th</sup> great-grandson of Thomas<sup>1</sup> Scudder (T), Elizabeth<sup>2</sup> Scudder (E)'s uncle).

William<sup>8</sup> Waterbury Scudder I had two sisters-in-law from Vermont who were first cousins on the Weld line: Dr. John<sup>8</sup> Scudder II's wife, L. (Sophia Weld) was a first cousin on the Weld line to her sister-in-law, Sarah Ruth Tracy, wife of Ezekiel<sup>8</sup> Carman Scudder, Sr.

Ezekiel<sup>8</sup> and Sarah's son, lifelong educator Myron<sup>9</sup> Tracy Scudder, (*Ezekiel<sup>8</sup> C., Dr. John<sup>7</sup>, Joseph<sup>6</sup> Nathaniel<sup>5</sup>, Jacob<sup>4</sup>, Benjamin<sup>3</sup>, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Thomas<sup>1</sup>(T)*), also married a distant Scudder cousin, Emma Welton Mereness of New York, who was a sixth great-granddaughter of Elizabeth<sup>2</sup> Scudder (E) of Norwich, Connecticut, and a sixth great-granddaughter of John<sup>2</sup> Scudder (J) of Barnstable, Massachusetts.<sup>42</sup> Their children descend from all three Scudder branches.

Unless these spouses of Scudders named above: *Bertha Jackson North, Samuel Hubbard Williams, Ellen Emma Bartholomew, and Emma Welton Mereness* were well-versed about their maternal line family pedigrees, they likely did not know their own blood Scudder connections.

Our Journal articles in 2019 honored the Lathrop/Scudder missionary family who were the children of Charles<sup>6</sup> and Joanna (Leffingwell) Lathrop. Harriet<sup>7</sup> Wadsworth (Lathrop) Winslow, her three sisters, Mrs. Charlotte<sup>7</sup> Huntington (Lathrop) Cherry, Elizabeth<sup>7</sup> Coit (Lathrop) Hutchins and Harriet<sup>7</sup> Joanna (Lathrop) Perry and the Winslow's daughter Harriet Lathrop (Winslow) Dulles. These all served as missionaries in Sri Lanka or India.<sup>43</sup> Add to that list Harriet W. L. Winslow's second cousin, Jane Lathrop, and their cousin David Coit Scudder and spouses who served in the same mission fields. Our Journal honored the "other missionary mother," Joanna (Leffingwell) Lathrop and her husband Charles<sup>6</sup> Lathrop, both descendants of Elizabeth<sup>2</sup> Scudder (E).<sup>44</sup> With the foreign missionary service by Lathrop/Scudder cousins from the Harriet Wadsworth (Lathrop) Winslow family who served with the Scudders in Ceylon and India at least 16 more Scudder missionary to Ceylon and India are added. These cousins shared an adventurous spirit and likeminded commitment to lives of Christian service that appears almost a byproduct of their common New England/Puritan migration heritage. How some who married met remains a mystery.

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<sup>42</sup> "Myron Tracy Scudder," *Scudder Family Historical & Biographical Journal*, volume 5, no. 3, (Fall 2023), <https://scudder.org/myron-tracy-scudder-1913-2nd-president-of-the-scudder-association/>.

<sup>43</sup> "Did Dr. John Scudder Know He had Two Scudder Missionary Cousins Aboard the *Indus*, 1819?" *Scudder Family Historical & Biographical Journal*, Scudder Association Foundation, volume 1, no. 2, (June 2019), <https://scudder.org/did-dr-john-know/> and "Harriet Wadsworth (Lathrop Winslow: the Third 'Scudder' Cousin on the *Indus*," <https://scudder.org/harriet-wadsworth/>.

<sup>44</sup> "Who Was Joanna (Leffingwell) Lathrop, 'Missionary Mother' to the Other 'Scudder' Missionary Family to Ceylon?" volume , no. 3, (December 2019), <https://scudder.org/who-was-joanna-leffingwell-lathrop/>.