

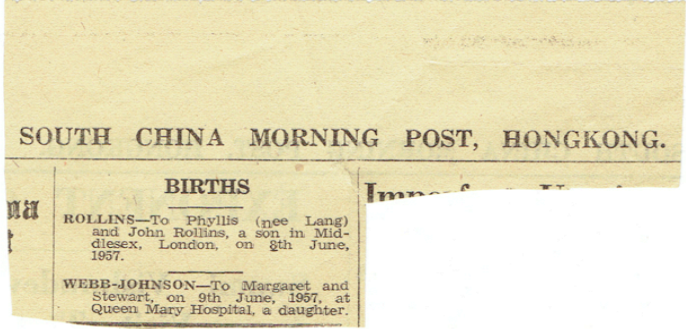


Family

The following genealogy are from the author’s perspective, Jonathan Lang Rollins, younger of two children born to Phyllis Rollins (nee Lang), who is the focus of the rest of this document. Reference to ‘Mum’ thus refers to my mother and ‘Grandma’ Mum’s mum Susie Lang (nee Kotwall). For more complete genealogy, including concubines, see Being Eurasian in Hong Kong.

Research on my mother’s family goes back as far as my maternal grandfather’s, John Charles Lang’s predecessors, who dwelled in Scotland in 1692. My maternal grandmother, Susan Nancy Kotwalls’ lineage has only been traced back to Bombay, India, 1862 and the Parsees who originally came from Persia, the modern-day countries of Iran, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan, hence my Asian genes. My Chinese heritage must come from my great great grandmother Mui Kui Wong, protected woman of William Paterson, my great great grandfather, however following this branch back further has proved impossible. Official records were not kept – family had both English and Chinese names, and names often changed to suit western tongues once the European enumerators and missionaries arrived on the scene. It was common for the original Scottish merchant traders to ‘take’ Chinese wives – as with Bill Paterson. My great grandfather Cameron Lang continued this tradition, and had a concubine wife besides Katherine Lang (nee Paterson). Known as Sai Ma (little granny) she had at least two children, Eva Lee (nee Lang) and Ivy Wong (nee Lang). Katherine, for reasons unknown, had only one surviving son, John Charles Lang, my Mum’s father, my grandfather.

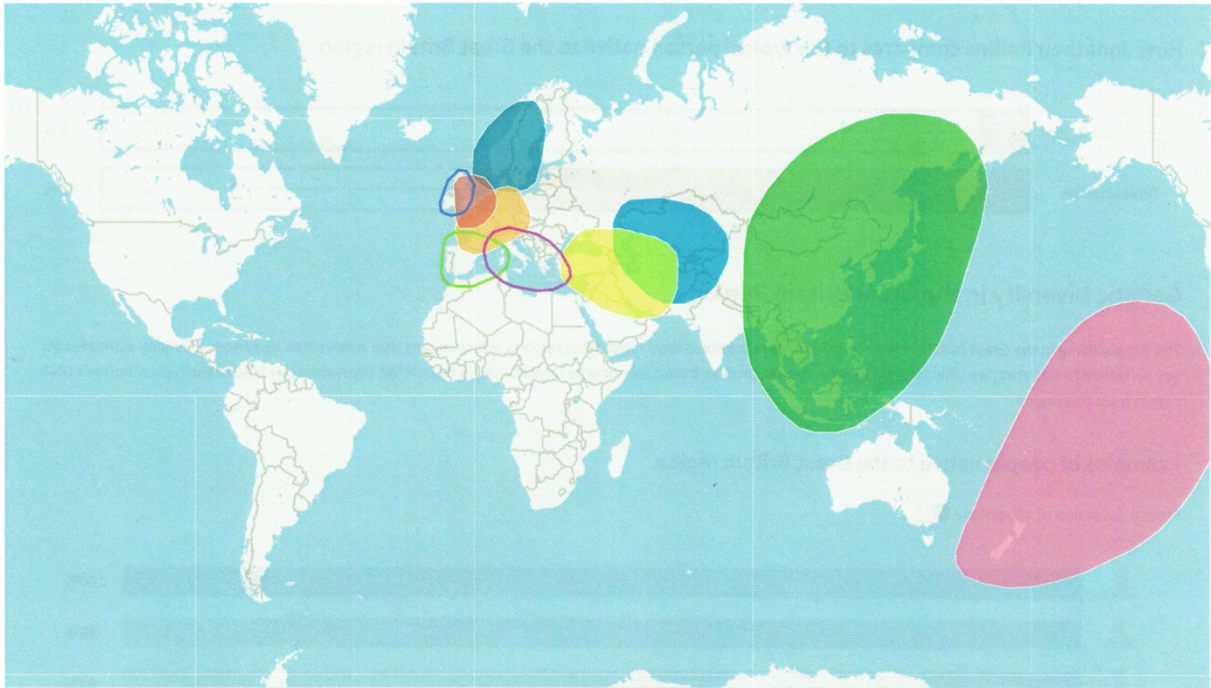
To family members reading this – welcome to your Scottish, Parsee, Chinese heritage. Welcome to the world of taipans, compradors, tea clippers, opium traders, concubines and pirates. Welcome to the deeply racist society of British colonial Hong Kong, where all non-Caucasians were considered Chinese and second class citizens, a world about to be turned upside down by the brutal, sword wielding, Japanese army.



The author/editor of Mum’s Diary arrives on the scene



Ethnicity estimate for Jonathan Rollins

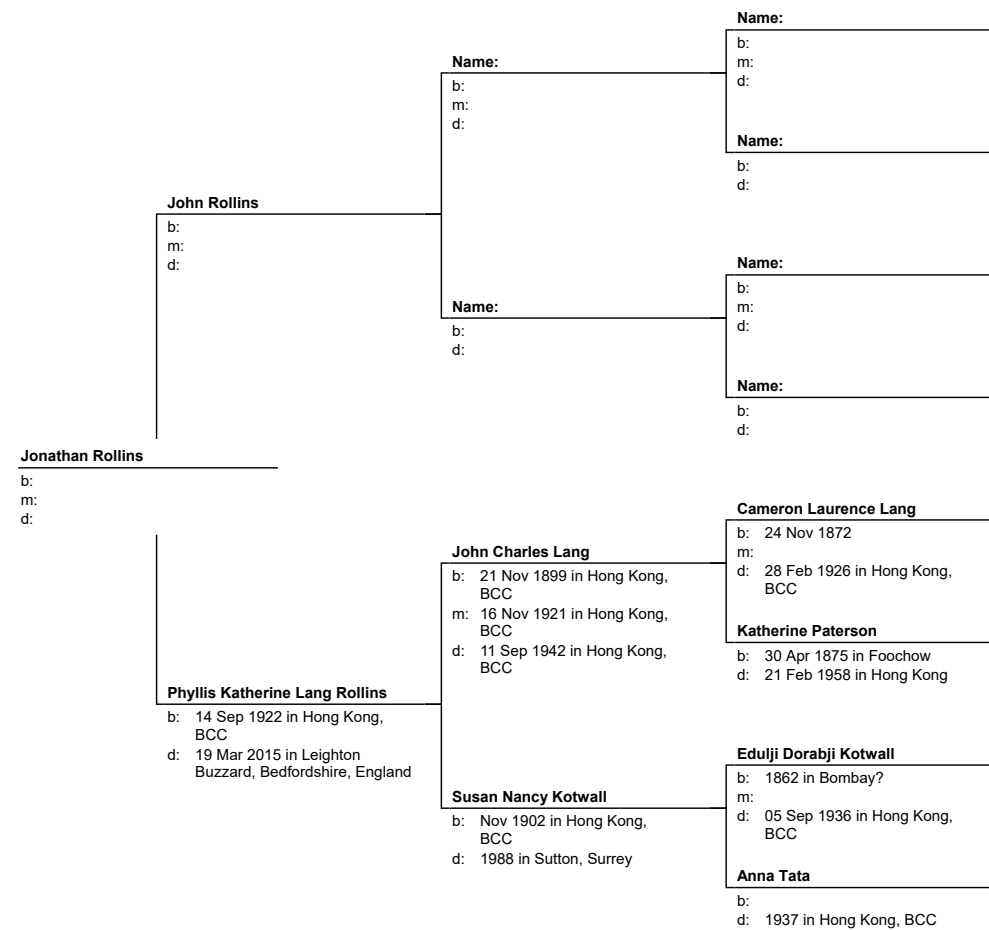


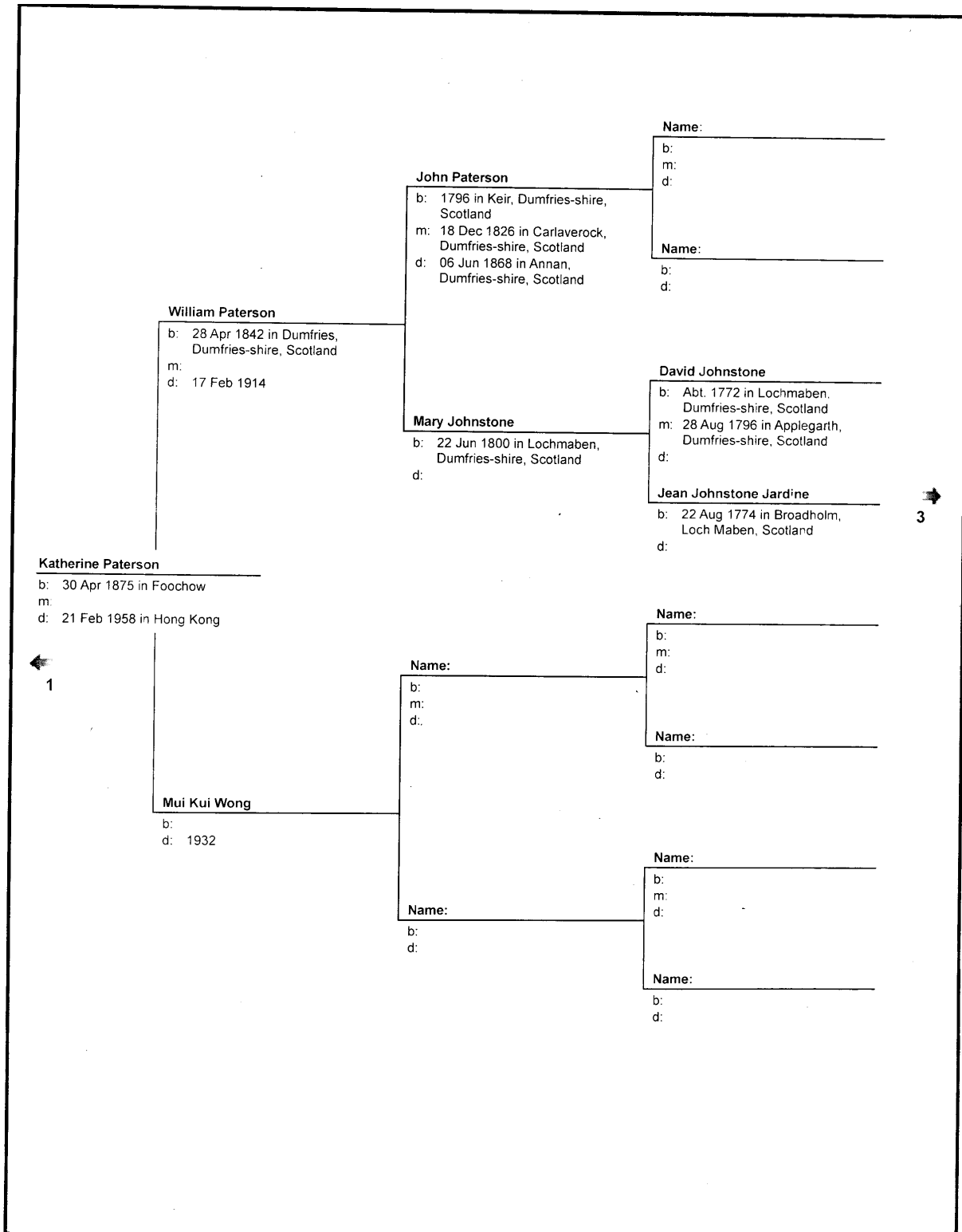
| REGION | APPROXIMATE AMOUNT |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Asia | 29% |
| Asia Central | Range: 5%-27% 17% |
| Asia East | Range: 7%-18% 12% |
| Europe | 57% |
| Scandinavia | Range: 17%-55% 36% |
| Europe West | Range: 0%-26% 7% |
| Great Britain | Range: 0%-20% 6% |
| Iberian Peninsula | Range: 0%-11% 4% |
| Italy/Greece | Range: 0%-10% 3% |
| Ireland | Range: 0%-3% < 1% |
| Pacific Islander | 3% |
| Polynesia | Range: 2%-5% 3% |
| West Asia | 11% |
| Caucasus | Range: 3%-18% 11% |

The Scandinavian genes, I suspect, come from the English side of the family – my father, John Henry Rollins, 12 inches taller than my mother with feet three times larger. My Dad had size 14 feet, my Mum size 5.



Pedigree Chart for Jonathan Rollins

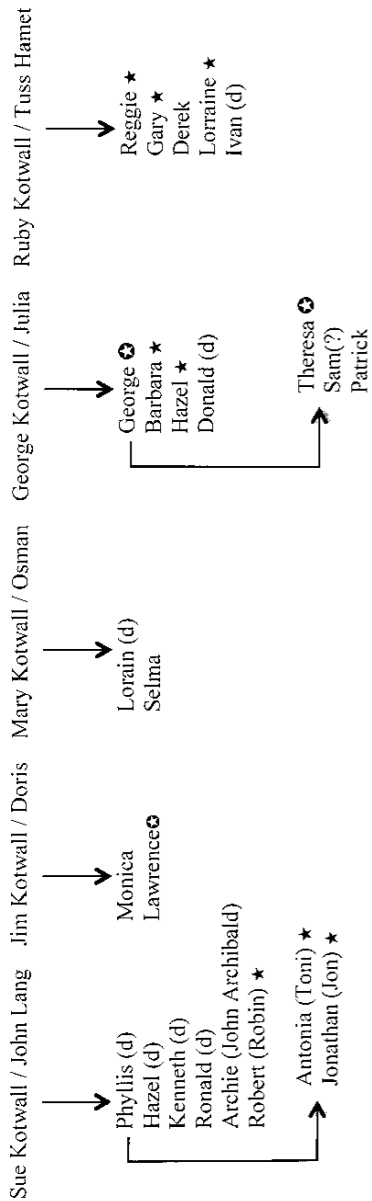






The Kotwalls, my maternal grandmothers family – her father was Parsee from Bombay

The Kotwalls



Ruby and Tuss are derived from the Parsi/Persian names Rubi and Tasrip
 Auntie Mary's Parsi name is Najool; Grandma Sue - Sherin. Both Jimmy and George had the middle name - Edulji - by Parsi tradition the sons take the father's first name as their second name.
 ★ met by Tonia and Jonny at Kowloon Cricket Club Dinner Nov. 2016
 ☉ met by Tonia and Jonny on other occasions Nov. 2016

All Kotwalls or Kotewalls originally from the same Kotwaj family (also spelled in variations of Cotwaj, Cotwal, Cotewal). Like Chinese names, one's name in English and how it was spelled was likely determined by the first registration or transcription by a British Administration official. Edulji ended up with the "e" dropped - whereas the other branch of the family went by Kotewall. They were Gujaratis and Edulji was probably born in or around Bombay. Thanks to Derek Lang for this explanation.

Much of the genealogy information in Mum's diary I have supplemented with pedigrees obtained from Peter Hall's *In The Web* (see Being Eurasian) with the exception of the Kotwalls that were not included. Perhaps they were not considered a notable Eurasian family – or perhaps because of their Parsee background. The Kotewalls with an 'e' are included.



Phyllis Katharine (also Kathline/Katherine) Rollins (nee Lang)



Born September 14th 1922 at the Government Civil Hospital, Hong Kong (St. Matilda's, Top of the Peak). Baptized October 21st 1922 at St. Andrew's Church Kowloon. Phyllis was fluent in both English and Cantonese. She was a first year student in the Arts Faculty of Hong Kong University – she was interested in Biology, but also wanted to teach. She was a pupil at, and taught at Diocesan Girls School. Mum sailed to England on the P&O Strathmore in early 1946 for the UK, listed as Lang on the ships register.



St. Andrew's Nathan Road Kowloon 2016



Baptismal Certificate signed by the Canon C.R. Lindsay

Godmother: Mrs. Stewart

The wife of the vicar at St. Andrews

Godfather: John Litton

Went to DBS (on school memorial) KIA, the brother-in-law of Sir Man-kam Lo and father of Justice Henry Litton



Mum's Mother: Susie (Susan/Sherine) Nancy Kotwall

Parsee - born 14 November 1902 Kowloon, Hong Kong. Died in the UK Sutton, June 1988



Grandma Susie

Pregnant with Hazel and holding mum

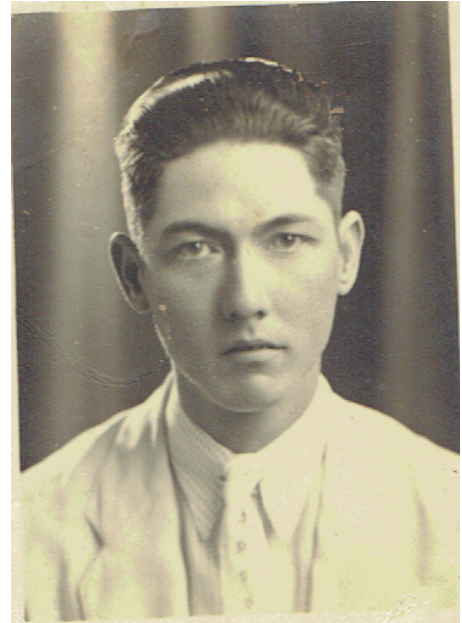


Grandma (Susie) and Gt. Grandma Katherine Paterson Lang on Ashley Road roof



Mum's Father: John Charles Lang

Born 1899 Kowloon, Hong Kong. Died September 1st 1942 (early death due to heart attack) John was the only "surviving" son - he, from the 9th pregnancy, hence being called Leung Gau (Lang #9) on his birth certificate. Worked for the British Government in HK, the Assessor's Office? He was in the colonial service, a land commissioner and Passport Officer working out of the old HK Post Office.



John Charles and kids: Ken, Archie, Mum, Ronnie and Hazel



JCL at work



Office outing JCL with pipe Sue and Mary foreground, Jimmy right

Mum's siblings: (see Being Eurasian for more complete information)

Hazel Adeline Hazel Lang

Born Feb. 20th 1924, died Oct. 26 2004. Hazel was also known as Jo. *“Freddie Broadbridge, related to the Churns, fancied Hazel and was the first person to call her Jo, no idea why, but as we know, your Mum made it hers for her sister”*. Pc email with Derek Lang.

Hazel married Eddie Gosano.

Kenneth Kenneth Lang

Born October 16th 1925, died 1983. Records indicate Kenneth married Julia Wing-Kwan Ho

Ronald Ronald Lang

Born June 27 1927 died November 21 1997. Ronald married Annita Reinisch.

Archie John Archibald Lang

Born September 1929. Archie married Trilby Abbass

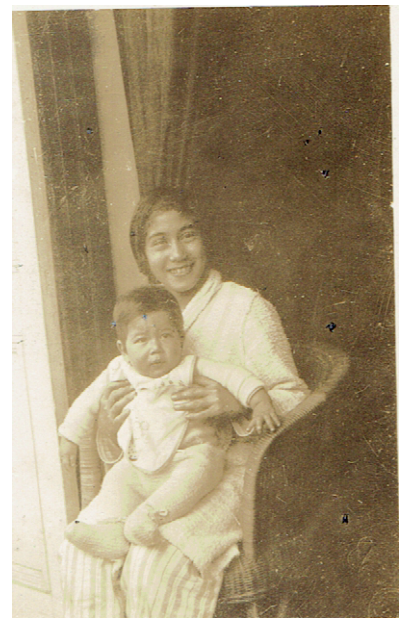
Robert (Sunny, Robin) Lang

Born June 16 1934. Robin married Rose from Ireland



Sisters, Mum right with Hazel

Mum with Robin. Mum called Robert 'Robin', and the nickname stuck, also 'Sonny' and 'Bob'. Robert married Rose from Ireland, who Mum called 'Rosa' – again the nickname 'Rosa' stuck and even Robert used it.



L to R Hazel, Ken (back), Robin, Grandma Susie, Ron (back), Archie, Mum. Taken during the occupation after JCL's death (sad faces).



L to R Mum, Hazel, Ken, Ron, Archie
(Uncle Robin not yet born or baby?) Mum
was the eldest.

Mum's Grandmother (Paternal) Katherine (Kathleen) Lang nee Paterson (Tai Keng Ching)

Chinese, died February 1958 at age 84, 4th of 5 children born to Jardine Matheson Tai Pan*, William Paterson and his protected woman, Miu Kiu Wong. Where mum got her middle name – Katherine was also called Kathleen and went by the Chinese name Tai Keng Tsing, Tai being the adoptive Chinese name of the protected woman of William Paterson. Katherine was very fair, light eyes, and spoke barely any English and dressed in the Chinese manner. (source email from Derek Lang). Eddie Gosano in his biography says the following:

“Kathleen Paterson, of the noted Jardine family of HK, was the archetype of the fair features of the white beefy English and the finely chiseled lineation of the Chinese woman of genteel heritage.”

*Tai Pan- literally ‘top class’ or ‘big shot’ is a senior business exec. or entrepreneur operating in China or HK.



Katherine Paterson Lang, (John Charles mother)

Sai Ma Fung Sin (Edith), Eva and Ivy's mother





Katherine Lang Laid To Rest At Happy Valley

The funeral of the late Mrs. Katherine Lang took place yesterday at the Colonial Cemetery, Happy Valley, with the Rev. Owen Eva of St. Andrew's Church officiating and a large number of relatives and friends attending.

The late Mrs. Lang died on Friday at her residence, 9, King's Terrace, at the age of 84. She is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Ivy Wong and Mrs. Eva Lee, and grandchildren, Kenneth, Ronald and Archie Lang, in Hong-kong, Robert Lang, in England.

Among those present were Mr. Ho Hung-kwan, Mr. and Mrs. Hung Mo-chui, Mr. and Mrs. Hung Shek-chui, Mrs. Low Cock, Mrs. E. Larkins, Mr. Albert Chan, Dr. and Mrs. R. Symons, Dr. and Mrs. G.A.V. Ribeiro, and Mrs. L.F.V. Ribeiro.

Wreaths were sent by Mr. Tseka Po and family, Mr. Ng Tse-wah, Mr. and Mrs. Ho Sai-wai, Mr. and Mrs. G. Van Bergen, Mr. Shanks and Mr. Tang Tat-sung.

Two names that crop up in Mum's diary are Fred Shanks and Eileen Van Bergen. The Van Bergen's were neighbors of the Lang's at 10 King's Terrace. Eileen Van Bergen was a best friend of Mum's who died early in the war. Fred Shanks was a working colleague of John Charles. Ivy and Eva were not in fact Katherine's children (see below). For reasons unknown, Mum and Hazel are not mentioned here.

Others mentioned in this clipping are from prominent HK Eurasian families (see Being Eurasian). Albert Chan was the father of Bruce Chan, author of *Forbidden Merchandise* with whom I was in contact with during research. We share a great, great grandmother Wong Mui-kiu – concubine of William Paterson. We are in fact 2nd cousins once removed!

“Cameron Lang had a concubine wife besides Katherine Lang (nee Paterson). Katherine, for whatever reason, was only able to have one son John Lang, my dad. The concubine, who my brothers and sisters addressed as Sai Ma (little granny) had two daughters, Eva Lee (nee Lang) and Ivy Wong (nee Lang).”

Robin Lang Pc 2016



Mum's Grandmother (Maternal): Anna Tata (Tung Ashu, also Peggy)

Died 1937 local Chinese woman born in HK – though we do not know how the name “Tata” came to be associated with her – perhaps some conjured front behind which Edulji managed to be buried in the Parsee cemetery despite marrying outside both faith and blood. 5 children including Jimmy and George (see Kotwall family tree).



Daughter on plinth
died in childhood



“Pre my research, all I knew of Grandma’s mother was that she was called Peggy; but also known as “Nosey Parker” in her absence. I assumed her to be full-blooded Chinese. I have since learned that her name was Anna Tata. (I’m guessing that you will have heard of Tata Motors, Tata Steel, Tata Industries, i.e. the most powerful of Indian families). The Tata’s were also of the earliest Parsi families into HK. I have yet to establish this, but my guess is that Anna was the daughter of one of the Tata brothers and a protected woman or concubine. Anna or Peggy as she was known, spoke only Chinese and was buried in the Catholic Cemetery. Man and wife probably communicated through a mixture of pidgin English and sign language. They had 5 children – Jimmy (James Edulgi), Mary, George, Susan (Shareen; Grandma) and Ruby.”

Email from Derek Lang 2011



Peggy with Sue and Mary



Grandma Sue at her father-in-law, Cameron Lang's grave, inscription 'always in our thoughts your children & grandchildren'

Mum's Grandfather (Paternal): Cameron Lawrence Lang

Born November 24 1872 died 1926 at age 54. Cameron Laurence Lang (Laing) (Leung Kam Lun) was Eurasian, Comprador of the HK & Kowloon Wharf & Godown for 34 years. His brother, Kenneth Robert, went with the spelling Laing (see Being Eurasian for genealogy).

“Cameron would have been the archetypal Eurasian, with a foot in both worlds, and a fluent command of both languages and cultures. He would have been in charge of all the coolies and dockworkers. He would have experienced the transition from the time where opium still flowed fairly freely in from India, to one where ethical pressure began to make some impact. He would have started as a young assistant comprador right at the time where two major Hongs (Jardine & Matheson and Swire & Sons) conglomerated their holds on opposing wharfs into a united HK & Kowloon Wharf and Godown as a united entity. Of the many possible paths I've ventured down in search of his father, there is one William Lang of Butterfield and Swire, in Shanghai – but I've come up empty time and again on this lead. My instinct tells me that, as first generation Eurasians of the entreport, the union of Cameron & Katherine may have been a match made by two powerful western fathers within leading Hongs of their children by local woman.”

(source Bruce Chan)

I have not been able to find any pictures of Cameron



Mum's Grandfather (Maternal): Edulgi Dorabji Kotwall

Born circa 1862, died in 1936 aged 74, Edulgi was a devout Parsi and a young merchant from Bombay (read the history of the Parsi diaspora from Persia to India) trading in silks, precious stones, silver and opium. Mother tongue was probably Gujarati, he would have spoken pidgin English but no Cantonese. Edulgi worked with, or for, the House of Talati – one of the well-established Houses in HK. The Talatis were among the first to arrive in Canton and Macau along with the East India Company. It seems Edulgi also had a young daughter late in his life with a concubine.

(Source email from Derek Lang)



“The photo of the Woman taken in Bombay one would guess to be his mother. Eldest daughter of Parsee broker/merchant Edulgi Dorabji Kotwall and Anna Tata (Tung Ashu)”

source email Derek Lang.



Mum's Great Grandfather (Paternal)

William Paterson

The following information is courtesy of Bruce Chan (Toronto) via Derek Lang

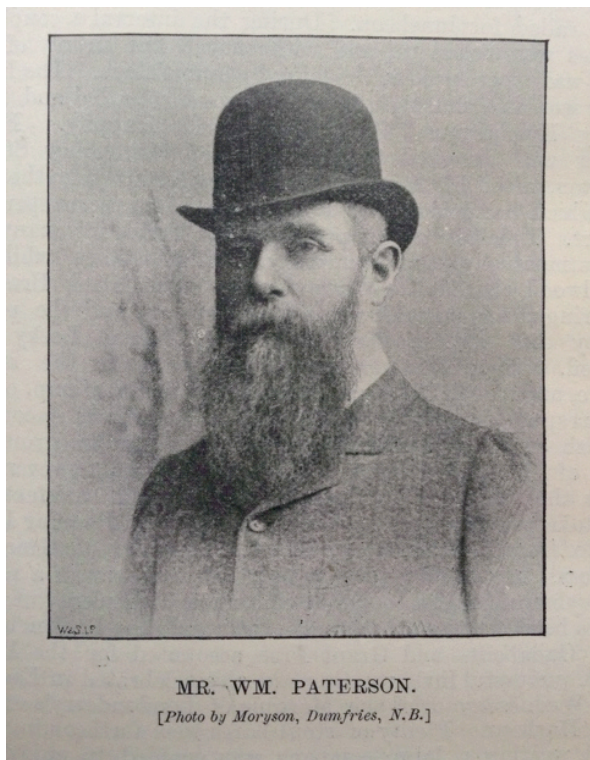
Scottish, born died 1914. Significant numbers of Western men who came out to the Treaty Ports (including HK and Shanghai) procured Chinese women as mistresses and companions with whom they had children, thus giving rise to the first Eurasians, most of whom were illegitimate. Smith (Rev. Carl T. Smith, HK based genealogist and social historian) adopted the term “protected women” for such mistresses, who nevertheless remained excluded from their protectors’ Western society.

Both sides of William Paterson’s ancestry were connected to Jardine Matheson Taipan originally located in Shanghai trading in tea and opium. He had 5 children (1 boy, 4 girls) by his protected woman – Wong Miu Kiu. Katherine was the 4th child, 3rd daughter. By the time he was about 46, William Paterson had been in China for close to 20 years and apparently had enough of the expatriate life. He decided to move back to the UK with his considerable assets and settle down to raise a legitimate family. On 27th August 1886 he conveyed to Wong Mui-kiu the property on 21 Aberdeen Street.

With the equity this house gave her, Wong, like some protected women of the day, acquired other properties to collect rental income and she grew wealthy. By 1929, when she made her will, she left a bequest far in excess of \$10,000. William Paterson retired and returned to Scotland before the turn of the century where he married ‘legitimately’ for true heirs. His son J.J. Paterson was a later Taipan with Jardine in HK. That side of the family is traceable back to Dumfriesshire where the Jardines, and associated clans have lived, and continue to live for generations.

William Paterson purchased Rockhall Mansion House, in the village of Rockhall in Mouswald, Dumfriesshire. On 20th January he married Isabella Johnstone Stewart. Ten years later, with two boys, Robert and Edward, he had moved to Broomlands House in Troqueer Parish, Kirkcudbrightshire County with nine servants. Since Paterson was 47 when he married Isabella, he would have left Wong Mui-kiu when he was around 42. He was 21 years older than Isabella, with whom he sired three sons: John Johnstone Paterson, Robert J. Paterson and Edward A. Paterson. He also had a daughter, name unknown.

Bruce Chan poses the following questions following the results of his research:

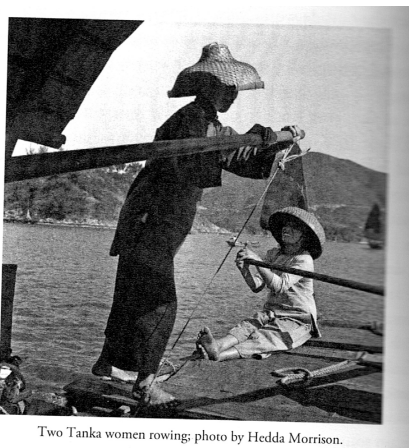




“What kind of relationship did William Paterson and Wong Mui-kiu have? We have no idea what terms of agreement it was based on. Was it affectionate or business-like, mutually rewarding, or skewed to serve only his wishes; was it mutually respectful, or marked by male dominance? How did their affair come to an end? How did he treat his children of mixed blood? Did he leave any trust fund behind to support their livelihood and education? Did he ever think of his Chinese family or miss them? All this is something we will probably never know....”

Mum’s Great Grandmother (Paternal) Wong Mui-kiu died 1932 (Edith? See chart pg. 437) All pictures from Bruce Chan’s Forbidden Merchandise

During his early years of service (1867-72) with Jardines, William Paterson was stationed in the Treaty Port of Foochow, and managed the opium and black tea trade. Opium was shipped from India to China, and from Foochow the famous tea-clippers raced to London in an average of 120 days. By the 1880’s, tea from Darjeeling, India was competing. Bruce Chan (see *Forbidden Merchandise*) believes that it was in Foochow that William met Wong Mui-kiu, and that she was a Tan-ka woman.



Two Tanka women rowing; photo by Hedda Morrison.

Tan-ka (boat dwellers). From Canton in Kwangtung province. They had come to HK 10 years after it became British, because they considered prospects would be better. “The half-cast population of HK were, from the earliest daysalmost exclusively the offspring of these Tan-ka people.

Europe in China, E.J. Eitel pg. 169

A certain ‘Hak Mui Ma’ (the boat women) in HK who was maintained by a European, organized a household of women, especially for the pleasure of Scotsmen. She was probably one of the earliest Eastern entrepreneurs

In The Web, P. Hall p.2

In 1879 William purchased 21 Aberdeen Street (Victoria HK) and in 1885 he returned to Scotland leaving the property to Wong Mui-kiu with whom he had sired five children, one son and five daughters, (see Paterson family chart in Eurasian) including Katherine Paterson (Tai Keng Ching). According to research by Bruce Chan, and from an interview with his Aunt Daisy (To).

“Aunt Daisy in her twilight years revealed that Wong Mui Kiu operated as a “mama san” (brothel keeper) and that she took care of a number of abandoned Eurasian children whom she raised together in her house”

Eurasian children were not a welcome part of Chinese families. Confirmation of Daisy’s recounting was found by Bruce in the form of an 1867 Gazette notice in which Wong was charged with operating an unlicensed brothel at 21 Aberdeen Street.



Wong Mui Kiu with her son Tai Ming-tak (right) and one of her four daughters (left). Tai Ming-tak was enrolled in the Central School, only a few steps from his home on Aberdeen Street. Sun Yat Sen was enrolled here the same year!

One of Wong's daughters, Tai Yuk Ching (1876-1955) was Bruce Chan's great grandmother, and another Tai Keng Ching (Katherine Patterson 1875-1958) the author's great grandmother. Tai Yuk Ching was Daisy To's mother, whom Bruce had the chance to interview.



Wong Mui Kiu with Tai Ming Tak and a sister.



Believed to be Wong Mui Kiu in middle age.

In addition to her son and four daughters, Wong also adopted four girls. Later in life she took the name Tai Wong Shi, although there is no evidence that she married. She died in 1932, a relatively wealthy woman with several properties, and left substantial sums to all her children and adopted daughters.

Her children did well, her son Ming-tak married Miss Mak, the Eurasian daughter of a Jardine's employee Hector Coll Maclean, whose other daughter – Mak Sau Ying was married to the future Sir Robert Hotung. Keng Ching (Katherine) married Cameron Lang (author's great grandfather) Eurasian assistant comprador of the Hong Kong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company.



Wong Mui Kiu in old age.



Wong Mui Kiu's (Tai Wong Shi) tomb in Chiu Yuen Cemetery, Mt. Davis Road, Pokfulam, HK Island. This impressive tomb is probably as a result of connections with Sir Robert Hotung

Wong was 'in her 70's' when she passed away, having had the satisfaction of witnessing her son's rise to affluence and success in his business career. During her twilight years, she was able to enjoy the upper-class status that came with living at Tai Ming Tak's residence at 13 Suffolk Road in the exclusive garden suburb of Kowloon Tong.

Bruce Chan *Forbidden Merchandise*

Mum was very close to her two Uncles, Susie's Brothers, George and James Kotwall, as evidenced by the many references to them in her diary.

Mum's Uncle George Edulji Kotwall (also spelt Kotewall in other references),



Jimmy and George

Executed October 29th 1943 (beheaded on Stanley beach). George was working with the BAAG, the British Army Aid Group. Formed by Col. Ride as an MI9 unit, the BAAG assisted POW's escaping Japanese camps and provided military intelligence to the allies. George was an "old boy" of Diocesan Boys' School and a private in No. 3 company of the HKVDC. Following the surrender of HK to the Japanese, George evaded capture and became an agent of the BAAG. There is a plaque outside the DBS school hall including his name that says:

"to the memory of the old boys who gave their lives in the second world war."

In 2016 Jonathan asked George Jr. if he felt bitter about the execution of his father by the Japanese. George replied that it was a long time ago, and it would poison you to dwell on this.



The following is an account George's brutal execution.

“The British Government had long been concerned at the excesses of the Japanese during the occupation of Hong Kong. When, in the summer of 1942, the Japanese uncovered evidence of a ‘resistance group’ amongst the interned civilians they set about trying to discover the membership of the group using the most brutal torture. In fact there was little to discover, the group was trying to smuggle in food from the outside and maintained a radio to listen to world news. However, to be associated with the group would have been fatal. The refusal of those who were arrested to betray others saved many lives. Nevertheless those arrested included Chinese residents who they had been in contact with. After many weeks of interrogation the Japanese decided they had discovered enough and the entire group of 33 who had been arrested were condemned to die. On the 29th October they were taken down to the beach to be beheaded. One of those who had escaped arrest because of their bravery, George Wright-Nooth, was subsequently able to put together an account of their last hours. He established that a Sandhurst educated Indian officer, Captain Ansari, had been able to address the group before they were led off for execution, which they knew would be by beheading”:

“Everybody has to die sometime. Many die daily from disease, some suffer painful, lingering deaths. We will die strong and healthy for an ideal; not as traitors, but nobly in our country's cause. We cannot now escape the enemy's sword, but no one should give in to tears or regrets, but instead face the enemy with a smile and die bravely”

George Wright-Nooth was able to piece together an account of the actual execution:

“There they were lined up in single file and told to sit down while guards blindfolded them. Among the Japanese officials watching were Kogi, Yamaguchi, his second-in-command Imiaye, and a doctor. Hirano was standing with drawn sword by the graves waiting for the first trio to be led forward the last few paces. It was Ansari, Scott and Fraser. Ansari knelt, hands still bound behind his back, eyes bandaged. Without prompting he leant forward to expose his neck, his face a mere inch or so from the sand. Hirano raised his arms, the sword slanted back above his head, glinting brightly in the sunlight. He glanced towards Kogi, who nodded. A momentary pause as he sighted on Ansari's neck, then down swept the blade in a silent, silver blur. It was an expert's stroke, removing the head with a dull thud. Blood from severed arteries spurted up over Hirano's polished field boots and soaked the bottom of his trousers. His sword had lost its shine. He stood motionless while the body and head, which had not fallen into the pit, were pushed in.

Now it was Scott's turn, then Fraser, then ...

Hirano began to tire and lose concentration quite quickly, so others took their turn, including Sahara and Takiyawa. The butchery became even more cruel and bloody as some victims moved, or inexpert swordsmen only partially severed a head. Some waiting prisoners who had broken down had to be dragged forward squirming and squealing and forced to kneel. Wong Shui Poon was struck by Sahara, whose blow only wounded him so that he lay shrieking in agony with his life blood pouring from his open neck. Still alive he was booted into the grave where he lay crying piteously until Sahara leaned over to thrust the point of his sword into his stomach.



Takiyawa made a similar mess with Kotewall. He also was thrown in while still obviously not dead. This time Takiyawa apparently finished him off with revolver shots.

It is of interest to record at this point that Takiyawa's eventual fate was perhaps appropriate. After the Japanese surrender he was seized, half-drowned, then lynched by a Chinese mob before being hanged, still alive, from the Star Ferry terminal and left to rot."

For another account of this episode and explanation of George's and Jimmy's arrests see appendices



Caption on reverse reads George (sitting) with his secretary Boris

Mum's Uncle James (Jimmy) Edulji Kotwall

1905 – 1944. Jimmy's name also appears on the plaque at DBS.

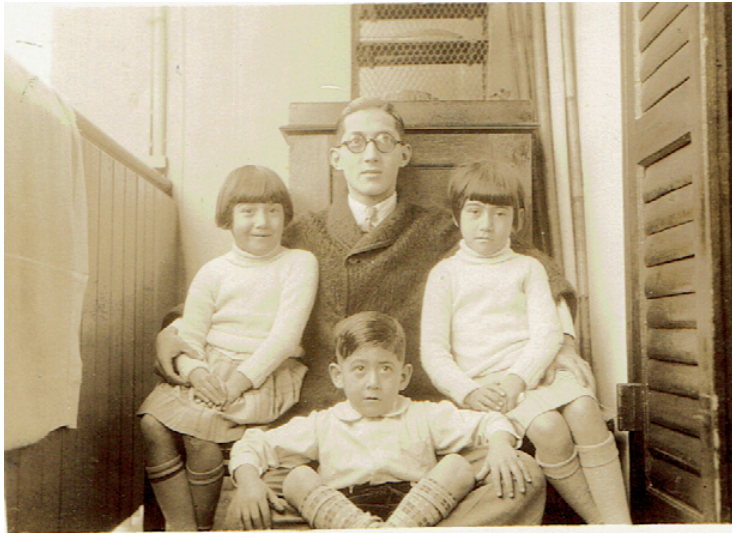
"Even more heroic was the role played by Eurasians in the town resistance: Jimmy Kotewall joined the BAAG knowing he was a marked man after the execution of his brother George on October 29, 1943. A Japanese officer told his wife (Doris) he was a brave man who'd met his death like a true samurai."

The Dark World's Fire: Tom and Lena Edgar in War - The Eurasians.

During a 2016 visit to HK Antonia and Jonathan got to visit with James' son Lawrence who described his memories of his father and how the Japanese caught his father. Jimmy was working for the BAAG sending information on ships in the harbour that he could see from his balcony. His houseboy took the messages in a matchbox to the Chinese border where they were handed over to a BAAG operative. The Japanese caught his houseboy, and a group of Japanese soldiers marched on his flat. Hearing them coming Jimmy quickly passed his latest shipping information to a servant to flush down the toilet. The toilet failed to flush properly and the Japanese got the information. Lawrence, although only a few years old, recalls sitting on his fathers lap before he



was taken away. Specifically he remembers the pattern on the china teacups. His sister Monica, who was older, corroborates this memory. Doris got to visit her husband in jail before he was executed. He had been tortured, and tried to commit suicide, but had been ‘stitched up’. James was executed August 31 1944. For details on Jimmy’s involvement with the BAAG see Appendix E.



Mum, Ken (front) and Jimmy and Hazel



Jimmy in his signature plus fours

Mum’s Aunts:

Auntie Eva Lee (nee Lang)

Birthday 20th February 1912. Married Frederick Kenneth Lee/Ahlmann (see Paterson and Ahlman genealogy in Being Eurasian). Eva is related by marriage to Dorothy Lee, a Eurasian friend of Mum’s mentioned in her diary and a heroine of the war (see pages 153 and 204).

Auntie Ivy Wong (nee Lang)

Believed to have been born 15 years after Eva, which makes Ivy more of a contemporary with her nieces than cousins. There are 16 references to Ivy in Mum’s diary – she was a frequent companion, and probably a pupil of mum’s. Ivy married a Wong (first name unknown).

(See Being Eurasian for the Lang Genealogy and the concubine link with Cameron Lang and Sai Ma Fung Sin)



Eva at Ashley Road



Eva with Fred?



Aunt Ivy with Fred



Grandma Susie’s Sisters (see Kotwall family tree pg.5)

Doris Kotwall

Wife of Mum’s Uncle Jimmy Kotwall. Following Jimmy’s execution, Doris and her two children Monica and Lawrence (see pg. 31) came under the care of the Lang family, who were at this point refugees in Macao. Doris requested Mum go and live with her which she did, looking after the children.

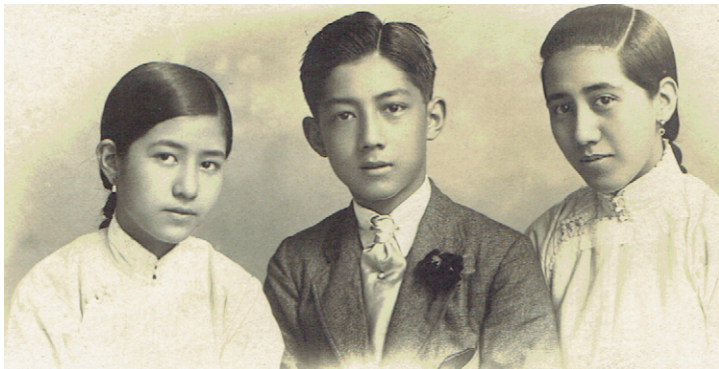
“Aunt D. seems to care for me, says I remind her in many ways of Uncle”

January 6th 1945 Diary Entry

Aunt Mary (Najool) Diana Kotwall 1906 – 1981

Aunt Mary married Dr. Osmond and lived in Penang, Malaysia. Mum mentions visiting Oxford with Eva Churn in 1947/48 *“We looked Ossie up at University College but having told him that I would not be in Oxford, I didn’t feel justified in making him break his coxing (with a crew waiting).”* Antonia and Jonathan visited Aunt Mary and Uncle Osmond in Penang on their way out to HK in 1963.

Aunt Mary at HKU



Mary, James and Sue



Mary



Sue and Mary 1918



Aunt Rubi (Ruby) Kotwall Born December 30th 1913

Married Tuss Hamet who is mentioned in letter from Hazel to Mum 1952

“Uncle Tuss has lost his job again. Thank God Aunty Ruby is working as Ed’s nurse and that helps them out a bit but nothing near enough to making ends meet. Poor Aunt Ruby, I am having her and Lorraine here for a few days, it’s Lorraine’s holiday. Ruby goes to work with Ed in the morning and comes back in the evening.”



Aunt Ruby with Hazel, on the roof Ashley Road



Aunt Ruby with Mum and Hazel



Aunt Mary's Wedding l to r Auntie Eva, Aunt Mary (bride), Sue and Aunt Ruby

Julia Kotwall

"Present from Julia"

3rd April 1946 Diary Entry

George Kotwall's wife, children George, Barbara and Hazel (see pgs. 30/31). Julia receives several mentions in Mum's Diary. It was Julia's children that made my sister Antonia and I so very welcome when we visited Hong Kong in 2016.

Eileen Van Bergen

"Black pages in the history of my life. Pages written by the Japanese – the deaths of Daddy and Eileen Van Bergen."

10th October 1942 Diary Entry

The Van Bergen's were neighbors of the Lang's living at 10 King's Terrace. Mum refers to Eileen as her bosom friend, and refers to her several times in her diary. Presumably she dies in the early days of the invasion (killed by the Japanese?). She is referred to in Mum's 1963 letters, also a letter from Antonia to Dad, 21st April 1963.



“Auntie Eileen who died years ago, her niece Veronica has a Coca Cola machine she leant to Jonny and I. Her big sister is called Phyllis after Mummy.” (see Kotewall genealogy in Being Eurasian)

Eddie Gosano

Born 20th December 1914, Eddie became Mum’s brother-in-law when he married her sister Hazel November 26th 1945. Eddie was of Portuguese origins from Macao so considered ‘Chinese’ by British authorities. The Gosano family lived two doors down from the Lang’s when they were on Ashley Road. He became a medical doctor. See Eddie’s auto-biography *‘Hong Kong Farewell’*. Eddie was interned in Argyle Street Camp January 1942 where he performed as a surgeon in the camp hospital, but as a neutral Portuguese was issued a pass to move outside the camp. Later he was moved to Sham Shui Po camp where he ‘languished for months’ until June 1942 when he was released being given a ‘3rd National pass’ and returned to live with his family on Soares Avenue, Kowloon. Some time prior to June 1942 he left to Macau where in the spring of 1943, he relieved Mrs. Joy Wilson to become head of the BAAG in Macao under code name Phoenix. Here he continued his pursuit of Mum’s sister Hazel (the Langs had also fled to Macau), whom he felt had previously rebuffed him due to his Portuguese heritage:

“Eddie Gosano, one of the filhos from Macao”

“Later when I teased her [Hazel] about it, she denied any such attitude vehemently, as it was obvious to her, so she said, that I was at that time carrying on an affair with her older sister Phyllis (Mum)”

For more on Eddie Gosano’s wartime activities, and how he was instrumental in saving Hong Kong, see pg. 247.

The following extract from a 1950 letter written by Mum to Dad (in hospital with colitis) gives a good idea of whom among her wartime acquaintances and family in HK Mum was keeping in touch with.

“I have just completed the delicious business of addressing Xmas cards to Gran (Peggy), Mum and bros, Gosanos, Dorothy (Kotwall or Lee?), Joyce Symons (see pg. 249) and clan, Sai ma and fam. Surface mail. Regret not able to show you first as we’re late! Still have Mike Proulx (see pg. 339) and one to Aussie Sylvia to do.” (Could be Sylvia Rainer pg. 236). ‘Aussie’ Sylvia visited Mum in England when I (JR) was young, she gave me a book and record on Australia that I long treasured.



The Langs 1967?

Archie Kenneth Ronald Robin Charles
 Hazel Grandma Sue Phyllis

What was Mum's childhood like? The following paragraph from American feminist Emily Hahn's *China To Me* gives some insight. She is referring to the Gittin's girls, Eurasian contemporaries of Mum, in a pre-invasion context.

"The girls had been brought up in the typical Hong Kong manner, spoiled and petted all their lives, in more luxury than our upper classes, a luxury that is based on human labour and cannot be substituted by any kind of labour saving gadget."

Mum's mum Susie was no doubt aware of the problems this might cause on marriage to a 'Coolie', hence her warning letter to my working class Dad (see pg. 420).



The following pictures were taken when Antonia and Jonathan visited Hong Kong with Uncle Robin November 2016 and were wined, dined and taken around by the Kotwalls.



Hong Kong Nov. 2016 l to r Gary Hamet, Anna (Gary's wife), Barbara (George K's daughter), Lorraine Hamet, Reggie Hamet, Hazel (George K's daughter), Uncle Robin (Lang) Antonia Seldon and Jonathan Lang Rollins



Hong Kong Nov. 2016 Jonathan Lang Rollins and George Kotwall. Apparently George displays the facial characteristics of the Parsee Edulji Kotwalls. (according to Barbara)



Hong Kong Nov. 2016 Barbara Kotwall,
Theresa (George and Amy's daughter), Antonia
Seldon



Hong Kong Nov. 2016 l to r Antonia, Theresa,
Barbara, Robin, Jonathan, Hazel, Amy and George



Hong Kong Nov. 2016 Lawrence Kotwall
(Uncle Jimmy's son) Jonathan Lang Rollins
and Robin (Robert) Lang



Two items found with Mum's Diary and photos. A cap badge, inscription reads Nulli Secundus Orient or Second to None in the Orient, the motto of the Royal Hong Kong Regiment Volunteers



This pumice stone given to Mum by her Uncle George was much valued during the war when soap was very scarce. It is carved with her initial K for Katherine. I remember this sitting on the edge of our bathtub throughout my childhood, next to the soap, which often consisted of many layers of soap bar endings stuck together – never thrown away. This pumice stone must have reminded Mum of her uncles on a daily basis.