

Louis John Butler Madden 1866-1942

(Jenny Norvick note: this information comes from a range of sources including the Straits Times newspapers, BMD records and passenger records. Catriona Ampudia is, I think the great-granddaughter of the Maddens. Michael Beck, who lives in Canada has painstakingly drawn together all the information from public records about Louis and about the other members of the Madden family. Frances, his sister, mentioned as the wife of Nicol Weatherstone, is my great grand-mother)

Louis John Butler Madden was born on 25 November 1866 and christened on 25 December in Allahabad, Bengal, India. His parents were (Michael) Louis Madden and Georgina Elizabeth Shuckford. (There is a note which says: Michael was the name in which Madden enlisted. Louis was his real name, he stated)

We surmise that Louis went with his parents early in 1876 from India to England, then emigrated with them to Singapore in April 1877.

We know from the Straits Times on 11 Feb 1880 that Louis was enrolled in the Chinese class at the Raffles Institute in Singapore beginning in November 1878. In February 1880 he was awarded the 2nd scholarship for proficiency in Chinese and the following year he was awarded the 1st scholarship. From the Straits Times on 15 Jan 1883 we know that Louis was still enrolled in school in 1883; he didn't do very well in the scholarship exams scoring fewer than half of the total marks.

We next see Louis in 1888 when he was listed in the Singapore and Straits Directory as "Teacher, Chinese class and clerk, Raffles Institution, Singapore"

In 1890 he was "Overseer, Bentong Straits Tin Co, Pahang. In 1891 LJB is shown as Assistant (as was FCL Madden). In 1894 both LJB and FCL were still employed as Assistants.

We know from the Straits Times of 4 Jan 1896 that L J B Madden attended a fancy dress ball on 3 January. Many others wore fancy costumes; LJB wore a tuxedo.

On 24 November 1897 it was reported that "At Persisek, Mr L B Madden was going down the river in a Chinese sampan with two friends and his Chinese boy who fell into the river and disappeared. His body was later found mutilated by a crocodile".

In 1898 LJB was Agent for W Smith, Civil Engineer and Contractor, Tapah, Perak. In 1899 Assistant Manager W Smith Brickworks, Taiping, Perak. By 1901 he was Manager.

Sometime between 1896 and 1902 Louis John Madden married Violet Ann (nicknamed Birdie). Aileen Norah was born in Malaya in 1902.

In the 1905 Directory LJB Madden was listed as Contractor, Taiping Perak. Mrs LJB Madden was also listed.

In August 1907, LJB Madden appeared in Court to accuse R M Sutton of forging LJB's signature to obtain \$400 from a contractor. Sutton pleaded guilty.

On 29 October 1908 Mrs LJB Madden left Southampton, due to arrive in Penang on 28 November, together with Master Madden and Miss Madden. Miss Madden was Aileen. We have no information about a second child except for this photograph (courtesy of Catriona Ampudia) of Aileen and her brother whose name is unknown.



In May 1909 it was reported in the Straits Times that Violet Annie (Birdie), the much loved wife of L J Butler Madden, died at Kildare, Swettenham Road Taiping on the morning of May 4 1909. She had been ailing for some days previously. (We believe that she was 28). On 31 May 1909 LJB Madden arrived in Singapore from Port Swettenham.

In December 1909 LJB Madden of Taiping, Perak advertised in the Straits Times for a capable man to look after a road contract in Pahang. The job went to Louis's younger brother Gerald. In March 1910 it was noted that "Mr G B Madden who went to Pahang last year to look after Mr L J B Madden's road contract returned to Taiping for a holiday"

On 9 December 1909 Mr L J B Madden had a very narrow escape from being killed while driving his motor car. While adjusting a screw somehow he lost control of the machine which rushed into a deep pit and was smashed up.

In April 1910, "Mr L J B Madden, the well-known contractor, who has been far from well recently, has gone for a month's holiday in Japan."

In the 1910 Directory, there was a listing for Madden and Boey Ah Chong, Building Contractors, Taiping, Perak. LJB was listed as Contractor, Surveyor, and General Agent, Perak. And the same in 1915

In 1910 F Madden is shown as Assistant to LJB Madden, Taiping, Perak. Also GB Madden is shown as Assistant to LJB Madden, Benta Kuala, Lipis, Pahang

On 13 January 1911, the Singapore Free Press reported the marriage on 7 January at the Church of the Holy Trinity in Batu Gajah, Perak, of Gerald Butler Madden and Beatrice Agnes Karl. Gerald was third son of the late Michael Madden of Singapore and youngest brother of Mr L J B Madden the well-known contractor of Taiping, Perak

On 27 July 1911 Louis J B Madden, widower age 44, married Evelyn Frances McCabe spinster age 27 in Chelsea. Louis was an engineering contractor; his father was Michael Louis Patrick Butler Madden an accountant, deceased. Evelyn's father was Peter McCabe a professor of gymnastics, deceased. Evelyn gave as her address 135 Holbein House. Louis (who lived in Malaysia) gave as his address 133 Holbein House which was the flat where Thomas Edward and Emma Mary Beck lived. Witnesses to the marriage were Harriet McCabe (Evelyn's mother) and Thomas (Edward) Beck. Emma Mary Beck was Louis's aunt.

Louis's brother Frederick had married Evelyn's sister, Margaret Theresa, in 1903. This is probably how Louis and Evelyn met.



Evelyn McCabe sometime before marrying Louis John Butler Madden (courtesy of Catriona Ampudia)

In November 1911 "Mr L J B Madden, the well known contractor of the FMS, who has been in England on a holiday, has arrived back in Malaya with Mrs Madden from London"

Noel Charles Butler Madden was born in Malaya in February 1913

On 1 June 1913 Mr LJB Madden with his wife and daughter left Taiping for England "Half Taiping will be there to see him off". On 4 July 1913 Mrs LJB Madden and child arrived in London from Malaya (but not LJB himself) (There is no mention of baby Noel being with them.)

"On 29 October 1913 Mr and Mrs LJB Madden arrived in Malaya from London aboard the Kaga Maru." But, on 7 November "Mr LJB Madden, contractor from Taiping, has had to postpone his departure for the East for another month owing to Mrs Madden having had to undergo an operation which we are glad to say has been successful. Mr and Mrs Madden leave London on 8 November." Passenger list shows Mrs LJB Madden leaving London with Master NC Madden age 10 months on 8 November, but not LJB himself. (So there is a bit of confusion here)

In August 1914 LJB Madden (member of the Church Committee) was present at the consecration of the cemetery at Kual Kangsar.

In March 1916 LJB Madden was elected a non-resident Fellow of the Royal Colonial Institute

Mr and Mrs LJB Madden returned from Australia on 23 November 1916

In February 1917 Mr Richard Morris of Siemens Brothers married Miss Esther M B White, late of the Singapore General Hospital Nursing Staff. The bride was given away

by her uncle Mr LJB Madden of Taiping and was attended by Miss Joyce Stafford as bridesmaid and Master Noel Madden as page. Esther (Butler) White was the daughter of Thomas White and Emma Mary Butler Madden, LJB's sister.

In August 1917 "Mr LJB Madden the well known contractor who has identified himself with various public institutions in Taiping will be leaving very shortly for Canada where he intends to spend a fairly long holiday" There must have been some delay before leaving because...

In October 1917 Mr LJB Madden was appointed a vice member of the Larut Sanitary Board. And...

On 5 November 1917, Mr & Mrs LJB Madden with Noel arrived in Seattle Washington.

On 28 December 1918, Mr & Mrs LJB Madden with Noel, arrived in London from New York. (Did they spend a year in Canada and USA?)

(LJB Madden isn't listed in the Directories after 1915 but Mrs LJB Madden is listed in 1915, 1920, and 1924)

On 27 September 1919 MR LJB and Mrs Evelyn FB Madden left London bound for Singapore. (On the same ship was SJ Madden, female age 22. Can't find any connection to LJB)

On 26 November 1921 LJB Madden was reported to have arrived in Singapore from London aboard the Kitano Maru. He is not on the passenger list. "On 2 January 1922 LJB Madden arrived in Singapore from London." (There are clear errors in the Straits Times reporting. Most of the passengers reported as arriving in January had already arrived in November 1921 and LJB Madden did not arrive on either date.)

On 18 January 1922 "Mr LJB Madden who is just back from home is on a visit to Ipoh.

On 16 March 1922 "Mr LJB Madden of Taiping is returning home this month. He will be out again next year. (Home means England even though LJB was never permanently resident there)

On 4 October 1924 "Mr LJB Madden has returned to Taiping from a six month holiday in England

In March 1925 Mrs E Madden left England for Penang after visiting her mother at 154 Addiscombe Road, Croydon.

In September 1927 Mr Louis Madden and Mrs Evelynne Madden left London for Singapore having stayed with her mother. And in November 1927 it was reported that LJB Madden, Member of the Royal Colonial Institute was in England.

In November 1927 Mr LJB Madden made a \$50 donation to the Bishopric Endowment Fund.

On 10 September 1928 Mr & Mrs LJB Madden left Southampton for Penang.

On 11 May 1929 Mr & Mrs LJB Madden left for London arriving on 10 June. They stayed at 154 Lower Addiscombe Road, Croydon and returned from London to Singapore on 4 October.

On 3 October 1929 the Reverend Philip Browning retired in Ipoh. Among the gifts received was a reredos from Mr LJ Madden of Penang. (Reredos:- altarpiece: a painted or carved screen placed above and behind an altar or communion table)

On 26 March 1931, Mrs EFB Madden travelling alone, arrived in London from Malaya, staying with her sister Kathleen McCabe Bates at 43 Ederline Avenue, Norbury.

On 24 September 1931 LJB Madden left London bound for Singapore. He had been staying at 52 Pollards Hill, Norbury, where Evelyn's mother, Harriette McCabe was then living. (The passenger lists don't show when LJB went to England or when Evelyn returned)

In April 1932, LJB Madden was among 10 shareholders who petitioned the Directors of United Engineers Limited to call a special shareholders' meeting to reform the governance of the company. The directors at first declined saying that there were only 9 signatories because LJB Madden had signed twice, first on his own account and second for the estate of Nicol Weatherstone (his deceased brother-in-law, husband of LJB's sister Frances). A week later the directors did call a shareholders' meeting which resulted in several of the proposals being implemented.

On 15 October 1932 it was reported that LJB Madden of Taiping has left on a visit to China for six weeks. LJB was also reported to be sailing from Singapore for Europe aboard the Nehang on 28 October.

In January 1933 "Mrs LJB Madden has returned to Taiping after a holiday in Europe".

In October 1933 Mr LJB Madden has left for Japan on a holiday

On 8 May 1934 Mr LJB Madden left Singapore bound for Europe. He arrived in London on 5 June where he stayed at the Royal Empire Club.

On 25 June 1934 it was reported that "Mr Noel Madden who came of age last December, son of Mr LJB Madden of Taiping, has passed his BA Tripos at Magdalene College Cambridge with honours."

On 27 August 1934, Louis Madden left London bound for Singapore. He had been staying at 52 Pollards Road, Norbury. He arrived in Singapore on 25 September.

On 31 October 1934 "Mrs LJB Madden is leaving on a two months trip to Yokohama."

In January 1935 LJB Madden left bound for Europe

In November 1935 it was reported that work on the Sitiawan Aerodrome is 90 percent completed. Owing to heavy rains the work had been delayed but Mr LJB Madden the contractor put the coolies at work at night so as to complete the work..." In July 1936 it was reported that the airport would open in the next few days. 'LJB Madden, who also constructed the Taiping Aerodrome, has done excellent work. . . Mr Madden completed the work to contract time.'

Long time Taiping resident Ellen Florence Tate died on 28 February 1935. Mr and Mrs LJB Madden were present at the memorial service.

On 25 February 1935 it was reported that" Mr LJB Madden who has been seriously ill in Taiping Hospital for the last month has recovered sufficiently to permit of his possibly leaving the hospital in a few days. In March he went to Penang to recuperate.

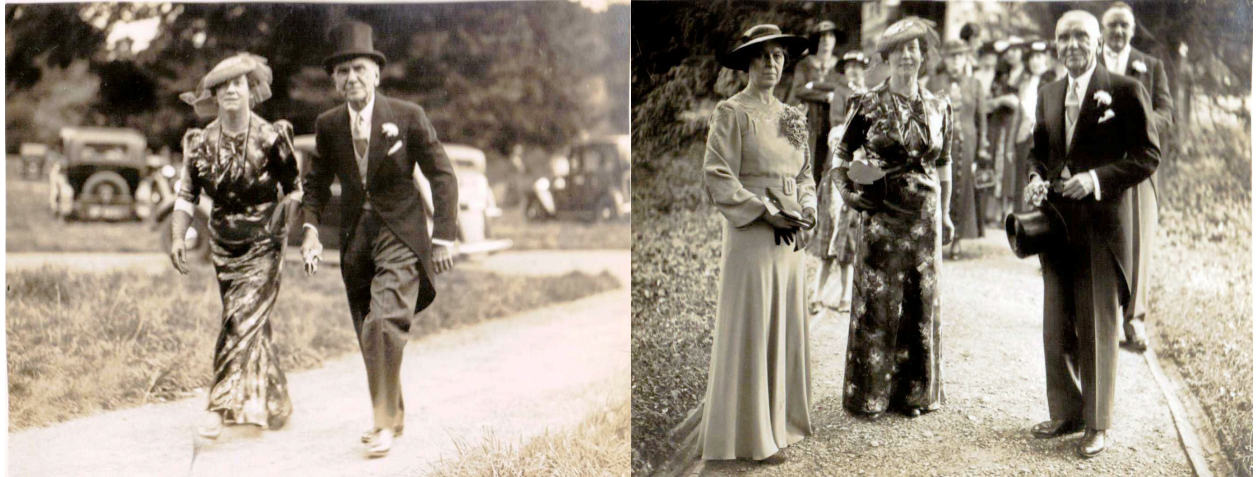
In 1936 LJB Madden was a founding member of the Taiping Rotary Club

On 7 June 1936, LJB and Evelyn Madden arrived in London from Malaya. (They are incorrectly listed as Mr & Mrs PS Madden) On 13 October 1936 Louis John and Evelyne Frances Madden arrived in New York from Southampton. On 1 November 1936 LJB

and Evelyn arrived in San Pedro California from New York. Then on 28 December 1936 it was reported that Mr & Mrs LJB Madden have returned to Taiping after a holiday at home.

On 30 May 1937 LJB and Evelyn arrived in London where they stayed at 60A Sydney Street, London. This was the home of their son, Noel. It was reported that the Maddens would arrive back in Malaya on 31 October 1937 aboard the Katori Maru (but they are not on the passenger list).

On 4 September 1937 LJB Madden witnessed the marriage of his son Noel Charles to Joan Linda Miriam Park, in Preston on Stour, Warwickshire. Here are two photographs of Louis and Evelyn taken at the wedding (courtesy of Catriona Ampudia).



On 10 June 1939 LJB and Evelyn arrived, on a ship that originated in Sydney, in London where they stayed at the Royal Empire Society.

On 14 February 1942 Louis John Butler Madden and Evelyn Frances Madden were on the SS Vyner Brooke when it was bombed by the Japanese in the Bangka Straits. Louis was reported as killed on that date in the water from injuries sustained. Evelyn was reported as killed on the same date but also on 22 April 1945. We think that she survived for three years in a Japanese prison camp before dying. There is an account that LJB also survived the attack and died later in the prison camp but it seems more likely that he died in 1942.



Noel Butler Madden created this memorial stone for Louis and Evelyn in Taiping Cemetery

(The story of the Vyner Brooke massacre is on the next page)

Louis Madden's estate was not settled quickly after his death.

On 19 November 1946 The Straits Times published a Legal notice requesting anyone with knowledge of a Will dated after 6 May 1936 and anyone having knowledge of any

property, banking accounts, life policies or other assets or liabilities to notify Messrs Piper Edis and Church, Solicitors Liverpool House Worthing Sussex.

On 18 June 1848 all persons having claims against the estate of Louis John Butler Madden deceased were asked to notify Rodyk & Davidson, solicitors.

On 1 October 1948 the Supreme court of Singapore granted administration of the estate of Louis John Butler Madden to John Christopher Cobbett of Singapore.

On 15 January 1951, Louis John Butler Madden, deceased, was one of a group of shareholders of The Straits Trading Company Limited, for whom duplicate share certificates were requested.

On 30 April 1951 a Law Notice was published in the Melbourne Argus, in which the Equity Trustees, Executors and Agency Company Limited would ask the Supreme Court of Victoria to affix its seal to an Exemplification of the letters of Administration.

Eventually Louis's estate passed to his only surviving heir, Noel Charles.

The Sinking of the **Vyner Brooke**

Built in 1928, the **SS Vyner Brooke** was a British-registered cargo vessel of 1,670 tons. She was named after the Third Rajah of Sarawak - Sir Charles **Vyner Brooke**. Up until the outbreak of war with the Japanese, **Vyner Brooke** plied the waters between Singapore and Kuching, under the flag of the Sarawak Steamship Company. She was then requisitioned by Britain's Royal Navy as an armed trader.

On the evening of 12 February 1942, **Vyner Brooke** was one the last ships carrying evacuees to leave Singapore. Although she usually only carried 12 passengers, in addition to her 47 crew, **Vyner Brooke** sailed south with 181 passengers embarked, most of them women and children. Among the passengers were the last 65 Australian nurses in Singapore. Throughout the daylight hours of 13 February **Vyner Brooke** laid up in the lee of a small jungle-covered island, but she was attacked late in the afternoon by a Japanese aircraft, fortunately with no serious casualties. At sunset she made a run for the Banka Strait, heading for Palembang in Sumatra. Prowling Japanese warships, however, impeded her progress and daylight the next day found her dangerously exposed on a flat sea just inside the strait.

Not long after 2 pm **Vyner Brooke** was attacked by several Japanese aircraft. Despite evasive action, she was crippled by several bombs and within half an hour rolled over and sunk bow first. Approximately 150 survivors eventually made it ashore at Banka Island, after periods of between eight and 65 hours in the water. The island had already been occupied by the Japanese and most of the survivors were taken captive.

However, an awful fate awaited many of those that landed on Radji beach. There, survivors from the **Vyner Brooke** joined up with another party of civilians and up to 60 Commonwealth servicemen and merchant sailors, who had made it ashore after their own vessels were sunk. After an unsuccessful effort to gain food and assistance from local villagers, a deputation was sent to contact the Japanese, with the aim of having the group taken prisoner. Anticipating this, all but one of the civilian women followed behind. A party of Japanese troops arrived at Radji Beach a few hours later. They shot and bayoneted the males and then forced the 22 Australian nurses and the one British civilian woman who had remained to wade into the sea, then shot them from behind. There were only two survivors - Sister Vivian Bullwinkel, and Private Cecil Kinsley, a British soldier. After hiding in the jungle for several days the pair eventually gave themselves up to the Japanese. Kinsley died a few days later from his wounds, and Bullwinkel spent the rest of the war as an internee.

Of the 65 Australian nurses embarked upon the **Vyner Brooke**, 12 were killed during the air attack or drowned following the sinking, 21 were murdered on Radji Beach, and 32 became internees, 8 of whom subsequently died before the end of the war.

THE **VYNER BROOKE**

This copy of a model of the **Vyner Brooke** was contributed 2007 by Dr. Neil McGregor,.



Below are the trips that Louis and his family took between 1905 and 1937. (The 1905 trip might not be Louis's wife, she could be Frederick's)

Departure Date	Departure Port	Name	Age	Occupation	Birth-place	Address in England	Residence	Destination
31 Oct 1905	Southampton	Mrs Butler Madden Master F Madden						Penang
29 Oct 1908	Southampton	Mrs LJB Madden Master Madden Miss Madden		none				Penang
4 Jul 1913	Penang	Mrs J B Madden Child Madden	29				Malay Straits	London
8 Nov 1913	London	Mrs LJB Madden Master N C Madden	29 10mos	none				Singapore
5 Nov 1917	Taiping/Seattle	Louis John Butler Madden Evelyne Frances Madden	50y 10m 33y 7m	Civil Engineer wife	India England Malaya		Taiping, FMS "	Singapore
28 Dec 1918	New York	Noel Charles Madden Louis John b Madden Evelyn F Madden	4y 10m 52 34	son Civil Engineer Housewife		Athelston, Shakespeare Rd Worthing,Sussex	Malay States "	Liverpool
27 Sep 1919	London	Noel Charles Madden Louis J B Madden Evelyn F B Madden	6 52 35				FMS "	Singapore
27 Mar 1925	London	S J Madden Mrs E Madden	22 39	none none		154 Lower Addiscombe Rd, Croydon	FMS "	Penang
9 Sep 1927	London	Louis Madden Evelyne Madden	60 42	Civil Engineer		"	FMS "	Singapore
10 Sep 1928	Southampton	John Louis Butler Madden Evelyn Frances Butler Madden	61 43	Civil Engineer married		"	FMS FMS	Penang Singapore
10 Jun 1929	Penang	Mr L J B Madden	63	Engineer		154 Lower Addiscombe Rd	England	London
4 Oct 1929	London	Mrs L J B Madden Louis Madden Evelyne Madden	44 62 45			"	England "	Singapore
26 Mar 1931	Penang	Mrs E F B Madden	44			Mrs Bates 43 Ederline Ave, Norbury	Fed Malay States	London
24 Sep 1931	London	Louis Madden	65	Engineer		52 Pollards Hill South, Norbury	FMS	Singapore
5 Jun 1934	Penang	Mr Louis John Butler Madden	67	Civil Engineer		Royal Empire Society	FMS	London
27 Aug 1934	London	Louis Madden	67	Engineer		52 Pollards Hill, London SW16	FMS	Singapore
13 Oct 1936	Southampton	Louis John Butler Madden Evelyn Frances Madden	69 51	Civil Engineer housewife	Allahabad, India Camberley, England			New York "
1 Nov 1936	New York	Louis John Madden Evelyne Madden	69 51		Allahabad, India Camberley, England		Taiping, MFS Taiping, MFS	San Pedro, California
30 May 1937	Singapore	Louis John Butler Madden Evelyne Frances Madden	70 53	Civil Engineer		60a Sydney Street. London	Malay States	London

Note: In 1925 the London telephone book showed that both Mrs Butler Madden and Mrs H McCabe lived at 154 Lower Addiscombe Road in Croydon. In 1928 Mrs McCabe moved to 52 Pollards Hill, Norbury and she was there until 1934. Mrs Leonard Bates at 43 Ederline Ave was Evelyn's sister, Kathleen McCabe.