



**11<sup>th</sup> February 2009**

**PRESS RELEASE**

### **Manx National Heritage secures important medal**

Manx National Heritage has secured an important medal that represents part of the Isle of Man's military history.

The medal, which was offered for sale by Morton & Eden in London, was purchased with the help of the Friends of Manx National Heritage. It was awarded for the Punjab war of 1848 and belonged to Lieutenant William Quayle of Ballatrolag, Malew, who served with the Bengal Artillery.

Matthew Richardson, Curator of Social History, commented:

*"Although Manx National Heritage has a good collection of medals covering the participation of Manx people in various conflicts, this was something of which we didn't have an example. The medal is important from a Social History perspective because it helps us to tell the story of this young man, a member of an important Island family, the Quayles, who was educated at King William's College and then like so many young men of his generation went off to play a part in the building of the British empire."*

The Quayles were a prominent southern family who had made their money as merchants in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. For many years they owned and operated the Castletown brewery. Two of their sons, William and John, were educated at King William's College and subsequently served in the army in India. William took part in the Anglo Sikh war for which he was awarded this medal; however, his story has a sad ending. Just two years after the award of the medal William died of a fever at Peshawar in modern-day Pakistan, aged only 24. His brother John also died in India a few years later, this time of sunstroke.

Yet, there is still a mystery to be solved. Matthew continued:

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*"In the Manx National Heritage library we have a photograph of a portrait of Lieutenant William Quayle. It is only a black & white photo of the portrait, and we would love to know where the painting is now, and perhaps be able to obtain a colour picture of it."*

If you can help please contact Matthew Richardson on 01624 648000 or email:  
matthew.richardson@gov.im.

**ENDS**

For further information please contact:  
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*Image captions:*



*The black & white photograph of the portrait of Lieutenant William Quayle.*



*The medal Lieutenant William Quayle was awarded for the Anglo Sikh War of 1848.*

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