

---

## William Hodgson Ellis

---

**I**T is a far cry, as human life goes, from 1845 to 1920—from Derbyshire at the time of the repeal of the corn laws, to Canada at the close of the Great War. Such was the period covered by my father's life.

William Hodgson Ellis was born on November 23rd, 1845, at Holme Hall, Bakewell, Derbyshire. He was the eldest son of John Eimeo Ellis and Eliza Hodgson. John Eimeo Ellis was the son of William Ellis, a scientific missionary of some note, who wrote many books on Madagascar and the South Seas, and was an eloquent speaker. He was also at one time secretary of the London Missionary Society, and in later life he lived at Rose Hill, Hoddesdon. I have always thought that my father inherited a great deal from his grandfather Ellis, whom he resembled in many ways, though differing widely in others. The love of animals, the love of botany, the poetic gift and the scientific spirit were all marked characteristics of Rev. William Ellis, who in his later years was called "the Apostle to Madagascar". He was twice married, and his second wife was Sarah Stickney, a well-known writer, author of "The Women of England", etc., and an ardent educationist. She conducted a school for girls at Rawdon House, Hoddesdon, which was one of the first experiments in combining higher education with what we should now call Domestic Science.

The first Mrs. Ellis, my great grandmother, accompanied her husband to the South Seas, and her eldest son was born on the island of Eimeo in 1818.

John Ellis graduated from University College, London, in 1839, with the gold medal in physiology and anatomy, and became a member of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1840. He settled down to practise in Bakewell, where he met and married Eliza Hodgson.