

## ROBERT BRUCE FOOTE'S LATER LIFE IN YERCAUD HILLS – A STUDY

**S. Deepalakshmi, M.A (His), M.A (Tam), M.Ed., M.Phil.,**

*Assistant Professor, Department of History*

*Government Arts College for Women, Salem*

### **Introduction**

Robert Bruce Foote joined the geography department at the age of 24. Before that 1858 selected by the geological survey of London on April 03. He also served in the areas of Chennai province of Bombay. In 1867 he was elected a member of the Geographical Society Of London. He was also given the post of Deputy Superintendent In The Vienna Exhibition Details Compilation in 1873. He was promoted to high official in April 1876. Then in June 1887 he took charge as Deputy Managing Officer. In 1884 he became a member of the University of Chennai and a member of the Board Of Engineers. He also served as a spokesman for the Edinburgh Institute of Geography. He was promoted to Superintendent in September 1885. He was then promoted to director in 1887. He retired in October 1891 at the age of 57 after working at the Geological Survey of India. After retiring, he was promoted to Geologist in Baroda. Undertook a study of the geography and mineral resources of this state. He compiled them and published a monograph. It turned out to be very useful. The department of Geography of the state of Mysore was established in 1894. Robert Bruce Foote was appointed head of the department. He stayed in Bangalore and worked. He studied geography and prehistoric times as an individual until 1904.

### **IVY Cottage**

Robert Bruce Foote built a house in Yercaud in 1870 it has two layers with a tiled roof. This house is slightly different from the house structure of other Englishmen who live in Yercaud. There is a large kitchen with a chimney just like the houses of other Englishmen. There was also a system for cold drying. Burning firewood in that place will make the whole room warm. Adjacent to it is his house as a two-story building. Usually in Yercaud no one has a two-storey house in this system. The entrance to the house has a beautiful view. Once inside, the front has a living room, adjoining kitchen and dining hall. Adjacent to it is a two-story house with many rooms and amenities. Inside the house there are wooden stairs to go upstairs. The carpet was laid on this staircase. There are loops on the side of the stairs to keep the carpet from moving. The most beautiful house was built by Robert Bruce Foote. He built it to go here in the summer and relax. In addition, the house of his father-in-law, Peter Percival, was in the area. So he also built a house in the area where his father-in-law lived. The house was named Ivy Cottage.

This Ivy Cottage house has become a place of history. Ivy is a plant. This is the green flag. Small roots appear at its nodes through which it spreads. Its leaves are evergreen and its leaves are very beautiful to look at. It is said that he named his house Ivy Cottage because of his interest in plants and nature. And raised this flag in front of the entrance of his house. Ivy Cottage can be seen through the old photo as it stretches to the height of two storeys. In

the photo you can see the beautiful plants in front of the house and the flag in the front yard and the flag in the arches. There is a lawn in front of the house. A photo of Robert Bruce Foote and his wife, Eliza Melissa, standing in the doorway of the house is currently on the internet. This photo is proof that Robert Bruce Foote lived in his old age. There is also a photo of him sitting near the window inside the house. where the Robert Bruce Foote was in Yercaud, taken only in the period between 1906-1909. A tourist named Wilson mentions it in his book. By him this book was published in 1888. Captain Markham's house is on the top of a cliff. Just below that, Robert Bruce mentions a house on the west hill near an extension of the slope. He mentions that Padra'sknol is at the top of Robert Bruce Foote's house. He also went home when he came as a tourist to servarayan hill. Robert Bruce Foote records the discovery of the first ancient stone tool in India and he writes clearly that the Arthur's seat is on the other side of the house. Francesca after visiting his house. Wilson went to their Arthur seat and describe its beauty. The house was bought by Commander R.F. Carey after the death of Robert Bruce Foote. He named the house Hunsden House has changed. Sabastine Abraham, who came to Yercaud from Kerala in the 1940, bought the house so that the children could study at Yercaud Manford and Sacred Heart Convent.

The tomb of Robert Bruce Foote is located in Holy Trinity Church. The house of Robert Bruce Foote is located to the right of this church. The house where Robert Bruce Foote lived has changed hands. But only the name Ivy Cottage, where he lived, has a permanent place in history.

### **Bruce Foote's Will**

Robert Bruce Foote bequeathed his asset in 1899. He also appointed guardians for his children through his wife Elisa Melissa Foote and trustees after his death. He later added in his will in 1908 the property details and the division thereof in the name and relationship of each are clearly explained and mentioned, including the balance and credit it has. Apart from his collections, the deed mentions character legs, pictures, print editions, wine, liquor, plate props, household items, horse-drawn carriages, and guns. Ancient symbols collected by Robert Bruce Foote are also mentioned in his custom document. He had assets in England as well as India. He also told the trustees in great detail how to maintain his assets and money. He also mentioned in the will the money to be paid for his funeral. He also mentioned in the will money to be paid for his funeral. He also mentions how to share it when selling his home. Deccan Sugar, Chennai Barry & co., has also written in its final will stating its holdings in the Mysore Kolar Gold Mine. Chandipappu explains in his dissertation that this will reveals the diversity of his personality.

### **Artifacts Preservation**

Robert Bruce Foote preserved all the artifacts he collected. He had archived all the artifacts such as stone tools, pottery, beads and iron found to express the culture of people who lived in the past. All of these were essential to the field of archeology. Helped to do studies. He did not live in his own house when he collected these items. However he kept it safe in a private house. Which he collected. The tool is not set aside either. The various tools

and antiquities he discovered made him an expert in various fields. He continued to inspect the material.

### **Chennai Museum**

The Government of Chennai purchased the antiquities collected by Robert Bruce Foote in 1904 and placed them in Madras Government Museum. Edgar Thurston was then the manager of museum. He paid Rs.33000 and got fruit items from Robert Bruce Foote. The Chennai museum is very old Museum. It was started in 1851. The First person in charge was Edward Balfour. A separate room was built in the museum, in which collected items from the Robert Bruce Foote were on display. His works are housed in the arts & Ethnological section of the museum. Pallavaram, Athirampakkam, Salem, Baroda and stone weapons with different special collections collected by Robert Bruce Foote in the Hyderabad paradise are preserved here. All of the fruit products collected by Robert Bruce Foote are valuable. These help to know the geography of south India and how man lived for millions of years. The Chennai Museum is an important place of interest not only historians but also contemporary students. The fruit not only explains Indian history but also bears the name of Robert Bruce Foote.

### **Catalogue of Antiquities**

Published as a book on sorting and describing details of archeology collected by Robert Bruce Foote. All antiquities collected by Robert Bruce Foote were numbered I 1908. Were lined up accordingly. Robert Bruce Foote continued to work on the boot catalog. His Health suffered. As well as decreased eye sight. However he continued to check the list of items several times. Many of the artifacts listed were missing. In the process of finding in Engaged. At the same time there were unnumbered and unlisted items. The Catalog of Antiquities considered of two volumes. The first volume contains a list of items oh years list, details about it, the district where the item was collected and where it was taken, including a map of the place where the items were taken. Shortly before Robert Bruce Foote's death, he also wrote the General Schedule, a two - volume book published on behalf of the Chennai museum. He has published two books, which are worldwide informative it is also a reference book that helps to know. Antiquities collected by Robert Bruce Foote have been classified as a Foote collection and published as a book. He written by 7 books. Some of them are Robert Bruce Foote's texts after his death.

### **His Last Days**

Robert Bruce Foote lived in his old age in Yercaud at Salem District. He had poor eyesight. However he continued his research foxes. His wife Eliza Melissa Foote died in Yercaud on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 1910. This caused great tragedy for Robert Bruce Foote. Eliza Melissa's body was buried in Yercaud. Melissa Wells, who had already been in couple's daughter, died in 1876. Eliza Melissa's body was buried near her daughter's grave. His grave is completely different. Created in pyramid system. Only the tomb of Eliza Melissa Foote is set in this form in this cemetery. When you look at this tomb, it looks like a dusty marble shining brightly in the sunlight. It is made of paradise granite stone. It is reddish

brown to look at. Large blackheads are also present. The pyramid is in the shape of a rectangle the center of the pyramid. The weight of the paradise granite stone used in this tomb is estimated to be about 975kg (975.60) Engineer Saravanan said they measured the tomb and calculated its weight. One can see that this tomb was thus designed based on the wishes of Robert Bruce Foote.

### **Robert Bruce Foote's Tomb**

We first know the back of Robert Bruce Foote's tomb, which looks magnificent. The ebony cross rising on the pyramid-shaped pedestal is visible. The tomb is 6 feet 7 inches long and 3 feet 7 inches wide. Ebony slabs are embedded on all four sides. At its head is an ebony pedestal with a cross on it. The pyramid-shaped pedestal is made of vinegar and fitted with a rectangle. Then a vinegar is taken from it and a cross made of black stone is attached to it. The crucifix is 3 feet 7 inches high and weighs 897 kg with a pedestal and crucifix. The front of the cross is carved. From the center of a circular ring lost.

### **Documentary**

Documentary about Robert Bruce Foote one was published by Ramesh Yanthara in 2017. He is a writer, researcher – documentary director and producer. He was born in 1971 in the Veppam Poondi in Salem district. He received his Masters Degree (M.F.A) from the college of painting, Chennai. He has already made a documentary about Gudiyam caves in Tiruvallur District. The inventor of Gudiyam cave was Robert Bruce Foote, so Ramesh Yantra became interested in learning about Robert Bruce Foote and collected the first his information that day. Robert Bruce Foote's achievements in India set Ramesh Yantra upside down. Let the general public know about Robert Bruce Foote, a man known only to those interested in archeology and geology, and his discoveries. Ramesh Yantra has made a documentary with a lofty aim that everyone should know. Ramesh Yantra completed the documentary Robert Bruce Foote (The Father of Indian Prehistory) after 3 years of continuous effort. He also directed the documentary. The documentary runs for 25 minutes. It was first screened in Chennai. Robert Bruce Foote was first person in India to discover an ancient stone weapon at Pallavaram, Chennai. The documentary is a tribute to Robert Bruce Foote, who achieved that feat. In addition, he conducted studies based on the three periods of the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. The documentary highlights that He was the first person to use these three periods of India. Foote's documentary was released on behalf of the Chennai Museum in August 2017.

The documentary tells the life of Robert Bruce Foote, hailed as the father of ancient history, and his rare work. He reported that Robert Bruce Foote, who worked in the Indian Geological survey for 33 years, traveled and explored about 53000 square kilometers with his friend William King during the tenure has taken everyone by surprise. Ramesh Yantra explains that Robert Bruce Foote discovered 452 antiquities and 4315 antiquities. He introduced all the archeological finds in the highlights. He thus added pride to India. A lot of people are competing to buy items collected by Robert Bruce Foote. He could have been super rich if he had sold them. But he left the collection to the Chennai Museum. And

Ramesh Yantra has said though the documentary that he is not coming to leave India in his final days.

The name of Robert Bruce Foote is stamped on the pages of Archeological History and Geography in India. His work in the 19<sup>th</sup> century was featured in periodicals. Those involved in Archeology and Anthropology, as well as those engaged in doctoral research, have been referring to Robert Bruce Foote's findings. It's no exaggeration to say that his research has projected him as one of the greatest innovators of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## Conclusion

Robert Bruce Foote was the first to discover old stone tools. He excavated prehistoric antiquities throughout south India. He classified his findings as Old Stone Age. His studies are of great help in learning the Old Stone Age and the New Stone Age in India. Tireless work, perpetual interest and his relations research resulted in discovering valuable discoveries. His Findings laid the groundwork for future Archeologist in India. Robert Bruce Foote was a man of interest in the fields of Geology, archeology, Ethnology, palaeontology, museology and Artist. The research on the life and work of Robert Bruce Foote, led to the discovery of new information, revealing hidden dimensions of this fascinating personality. Robert Bruce Foote was a geologist with an open, logical, inquisitive mind with knowledge in a variety of subjects. One can easily realize this if one reads his writing, especially, a book published by the Madras Government Museum titled *The Foote Collection of Indian Prehistoric Antiquities, Notes on their Ages and Distribution*. His discoveries opened a new avenue in India for the study of the history of ancient archeology. Foote built a valuable collection as a result of forty years of geological and pre-historic expeditions in various parts of western and southern India. Foote's collection of antiquities were sold to the Government Museum, Madras in 1906, where it is considered to be a valuable treasures in India.

## End Notes

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