A Brief Window Of Historic Events

Gaining knowledge of Historic events ether globally or specifically to a country can also enhance reasons for events that took place within your family and ancestors. You may find that a relative played a significant role in a historic event or a minor role; it may just be the case that the event or subsequent events affected them. The interesting follow on from Genealogy is that you can obtain knowledge of several subjects, one of these being History:

- 1505-1656 Portuguese Rule

Influx of Portuguese many of whom marry locals

Singhalese in many cases to converted to Christianity to acquire work under the Portuguese and took on the names of the masters or Priests of the Church. Examples like **de Fonseka, de Silva, Dias, Fernando, Ferdinandus, Mendis, Perera, Peirera, Rodrigue**

Jewish also came in via Portugal under Portuguese names

- 1656-1796 Dutch Rule

1640 Dutch had control of Galle

V.O.C. (Dutch East India Company) influx of personal of Dutch, German, Belgian, French, Swiss, Swedish and even Hungarian backgrounds. Names like **Altendorff, Blaze, Conderlag, Caspersz, Demmer, Dornhorst, de Kretser, de Vos, Drieberg, Ebert, Foenander, Gauder, Hepponstall, Leembruggen, Maartensz, Prins, Potger, van Ranzow, Stork, Toussaint, vander Smagt, Wambeek** to name but a few.

- 1788 De Meuron Regiment Arrive in Ceylon comprising of a mixture of a Swiss, French and other mercenaries

- 1795 De Meuron Regiment transfers to British control.

De Meuron regiment moved onto British Colombia some stay like **de Breard, de Meuron, de la Harpe, Raymond, Joseph, Piachaud and Senn families**

- 1796-1948 British Rule

While some of the Dutch Burghers chose to go to Batavia others chose to stay in Ceylon

English, Scottish, Irish and the other British colonies enter into Ceylon taking on various roles including planting – Administrative, Engineering with names ranging from **Armitage, Barnes, Davidson, Eaton, Forbes, Garvin, Green, Lyford, Mc Carthy, Perkins, Rowlands, Tytler, Walbeoff, Winter**

British colonies and other countries create work opportunities in Malaysia and Indonesia, West Indies, Australia to name a few. **Further Example** In about 1898 Siam now Thailand had work opportunities for the people of Ceylon, later in 1919 for people to stay and work in Siam they were asked to revoke their British passports and become Citizens of Siam.. Ceylon becomes the main shipping line to Australia it was also a main port stop for many journeys throughout the world

- 1865 Introduction of Trains

As one industry dies out another is created, while some towns prosper others reduce. Creating movement of people for work or other reasons.

- 1865 Coffee Industry collapses

Some people went bankrupt and left the country going to England and Australia to start new ventures or better prospects

- 1884 Tea Industry and planting becomes more popular

New methods employed people coming in to find their fortunes

- 1900 Boer War Prisoners sent to Ceylon totaling some 5,000 people

Some decide to stay on like Engelbrecht, van Rooyen, de Rooy, Sauer

- 1914-1918 World War I

Many go off to fight in the war and either lose their life or are greatly affected with some deciding to stay in other countries.

- 1939-1945 Word War II

War affects rations; movement of people, needless loss of life countries change control and a general move to self-rule grows momentum

- 1946 Post War Immigration starts

As Ceylon moved towards independence some decided to move on, in other cases some had met or made friends in other countries while others seek new opportunities created by the post war era.

- 1948 Independence of Ceylon

Nationalism takes hold with some Singhalese reverting back to their original family names

Exodus from Ceylon builds its momentum

- 1958 Sinhala only policy introduced

A ripple effect is created causing many problems with people deciding to give up their roots and move to other countries like Australia, Canada, England and America. Due to certain policies in existence some could not leave and stayed or left at a later date.