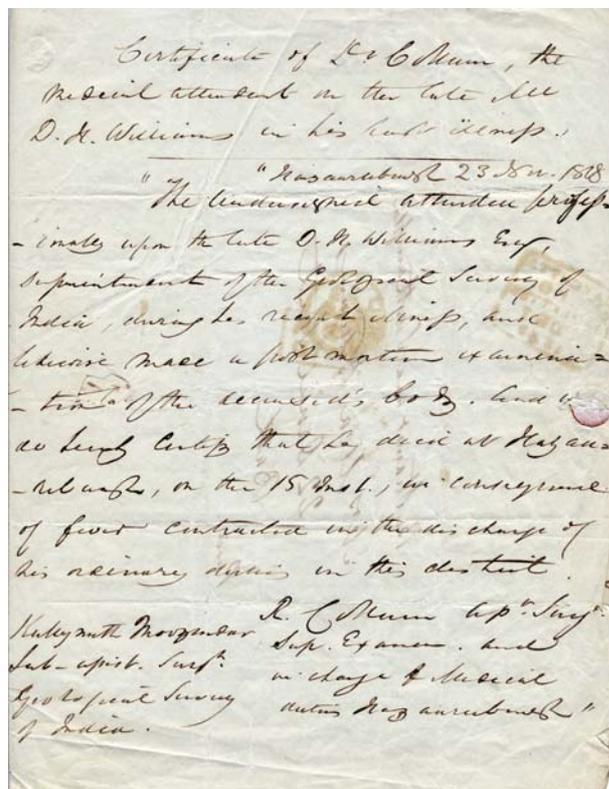


Map accompanying Williams' report on the Damodar Valley coalfields, published in 1850.

In 1850 De la Beche received a request from the East India Company for a geologist to replace Williams. This led to the appointment of Thomas Oldham, whose arrival in 1851 is taken to mark the founding of the Geological Survey of India. It may be noted that the average lifespan of a geologist on the Indian Survey at this time was about nine years, the most usual causes of death being malaria, sunstroke and cholera. Oldham however lived long enough to retire in 1876, the last two years of his life being spent in England.

The letters written by D. H. Williams to Henry De la Beche, along with much other official correspondence from the early years of the British Geological Survey, are preserved at the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff. Extracts from these letters will be found in T. Sharpe & P. J. McCartney *The Papers of H.T. De la Beche (1796-1855) in the National Museum of Wales*, Cardiff 1998. Unfortunately there is no known portrait of D. H. Williams.

(Right) Certificate sent to Williams' wife at Bath, recording the circumstances of his death from 'fever'. No mention is made of his fall from an elephant! (Courtesy of National Museum of Wales)



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