

Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles, FRS

(6 July 1781 – 5 July 1826) was a British statesman, best known for his founding of the city of Singapore (now the city-state of the Republic of Singapore) and the Zoological Society of London . He is often described as the "Father of Singapore" and the "Father of the London Zoo". He was also heavily involved in the conquest of the Indonesian island of Java from Dutch and French military forces during the Napoleonic Wars and contributed to the expansion of the British Empire. He was also an amateur writer and wrote a book titled History of Java (1817). The newly knighted and widowed Raffles was one of the very first people to be married in the then unfinished St Marylebone Parish Church on 22nd February in 1817. He married Sophia Hull. He had married his first wife first wife, Olivia Mariamne Fancourt, the widow of J C Fancourt, an assistant surgeon in Madras, in 1805. She had died on 26 November 1814.

Photographs:

Statue of Raffles in Singapore

Painting of Raffles in 1817, the year of his marriage at St Marylebone

