This volume uses a series of portraits of ‘imperial lives’ in order to rethink the history of the British empire from the late eighteenth to the early twentieth century. It tells the stories of men and women who dwelt for extended periods in one colonial space before moving on to dwell in others, developing ‘imperial careers’. These men and women consist of four colonial governors, two governors’ wives, two missionaries, a nurse/entrepreneur, a poet/civil servant and a mercenary. Leading scholars of colonialism guide the reader through the ways that these individuals made the British empire, and the ways that the empire made them. Their life histories constituted meaningful connections across the empire that facilitated the continual reformation of imperial discourses, practices and cultures. Together, their stories help us to reimagine the geographies of the British empire and to destabilise the categories of metropole and colony.

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COLONIAL LIVES ACROSS THE BRITISH EMPIRE: IMPERIAL CAREERING IN THE LONG NINETEENTH CENTURY

EDITED BY

DAVID LAMBERT AND ALAN LESTER
To Carolyn, and to Jo, Daisy and Evan
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