

Cock/Cock Family

The earliest record I have traced in Cornwall is a marriage at Constantine 19th Nov 1640

1. THOMAS COCKE and MARY PEARSE
b(1642)
2. ROBERT COCK m. JANE JAGO 26th June 1665
b(1642)
3. ROBERT COCK Junr m. MARY WALTERS alias CARNE
b(1679) 10th June 1710
4. ROBERT COCK m. RADIGUND NICHOLLS at
(1716) - 1753 (ST ANTHONY in MENEAGE) d. 1790.

Radigund must have moved to St Keverne in 1768, when she is first mentioned in the Tithes Book of St Keverne Parish. Perhaps she had a brother or relative William Nicholls. There had been at least four children of her marriage but I don't know how many survived. Peter her second son was my ancestor.

1753 - 1826. Peter married twice

- (i) Ann Rogers 2. 12. '80 d. 3. 5. '91 in childbed
Of their 6 children two appear to have survived.

Jane b Oct 1783
Elizabeth Sept. 1786

- (ii) Mary Mundy 1795 d. 1836 aged 64
* Robert - 15th April 1796 * migrated with his wife & family.
Alice 6th July 1797
Harriet 8th March 1799
Sophia 4th October 1803
Richard 23rd Sept. 1806 d. Dec 1806
Peter 9th Oct 1808

The family are described as gentlemen or yeomen. I located a slate headstone, elaborately engraved to the memory of Peter, Ann & their 3 infant children, in the churchyard at St Keverne.

The farmhouse occupied by the Cock family was a two storeyed stone farmhouse. Their name is recorded from 1768 until after the harvest of 1848. For some reason they moved to Launceston district and appear there in the 1851 census, at an 80 acre property called Newby at Altarnun. There may have been an interim period at Leedstown with relatives of Catherine Phillips, who married Robert Cock 1827. The two youngest children of that generation were born at Crowan.

In the 1851 Census they are listed

Robert Cock 55

Kitty (nee Phillips) 47

[Harriet 23 already married to Richard Oat
and in South Australia]

Robert Peter 20

Edwin (died in infancy)

* Edwin 17

Catherine 15

Mary 13

Matilda 11

Frederic 9

Louisa 7

Hugh Phillips 4.

Just precisely when they migrated I don't know, nor the name of the ship. I have seen a letter dated 1855 from John Smith of "Gambosola" to Robert Senr. which refers to the previous January and indicates that the family had been through difficulties. Robert Peter appears to have gone to Victoria with his youngest brother & had spent several months visiting Harriet Oats in the Bendigo goldfields. Edwin 21 had the responsibility of assisting his ageing parents, by then almost 60 yrs old, with some financial help from John Smith & his brother Francis. Robert Senr was a half-brother of John Smith's mother (née Elizabeth Cook.)

A later letter dated Jan 30th 1868 is headed South Creek, the old name for St Marys. It is from Robert Senr (74 yrs) to Edwin. It refers to the bad state of the roads after heavy rain & a waggon loaded with 3 tons of sugar in casks and 14 or 15 cwt of weatherboard. They had to be reloaded at Barry (a village near Neville)

It would appear that Edwin & his young family were about to move to Bathurst & as their 4th child was born at Mt Pleasant, I assume the Mrs Stewart mentioned in Robert's letter is Mrs Stewart widow of Major General Stewart who was granted 3200 acres by Governor Darling. (Maybe daughter-in-law)