

# So easy to work with

Children of Robert Cook  
Catherine or Kitty  
(Phillips)

Hannet b 1828

m 1848 Richard Oats

in Cornwall

Robert Peter b 1830

m 1862 Sophia Starr

Edwin b 1831 died in infancy

Edwin II b 1833

m 1863 Susannah Stephens

Catherine b 1835

m 1855 Henry Oats →

Mary b 1838 (brother of Richard)

m 1860 Joseph Hill

Mathilda b 1841(?) William Chatter

m 1864

Frederick b 1842 (unmarried)

Louisa b 1844 ?

Hugh Phillips b 1846

d 1865 aged 19 yrs

## COCK FAMILY

Cock or Cocke is not an unusual name in Cornwall and appears in widespread parishes. My particular forbears of that name were listed in the 1851 <sup>English</sup> Census, living on an 80 acre property called 'newey' at Altarnun near Launceston (Cornwall)

Robert Cock 55

Catherine or Kitty (Phillips) 47.

[Harnet 23 already married to Richard Clats  
living in South Australia (Gawler)]

Robert Peter 20

later moved to Bendigo district - Goffney's Creek.

Edwin (died in infancy)

Edwin 17 (my grandfather)

Catherine 15

<sup>Mary</sup> Matilda 11

Frederick 9

Louisa 7

Hugh Phillips 4.

to Launceston area They appear to have moved North following the 1848 harvest. Previously they had lived in the parish of St Keverne at a farm called "Lesneague" or "Lesnege", which was part of a large estate "Lanarth" formerly owned by the Sandys family who had acquired wealth from mining. Robert Cock's family really considered St Keverne as their home. It is a large parish embracing some of the wildest parts of the Cornish coast. It was the scene of many spectacular shipwrecks, being so close to the treacherous Manacle Rocks where the currents are strong and difficult

picturesque and redolent with history. The site has been a place of Christian worship since 600 A.D and it is thought that the pink and green granite of the Pellars was probably ferried over from Brittany, as it certainly is not local. In 1770 the tower of the church was struck by lightning during morning service and a vivid description exists in a letter from a curate at the time (of which I have a copy)

Outside the lych-gate is a tablet commemorating two Cornish martyrs Michael Joseph, the Smith & Thomas Flamank who led a march to London in protest to taxes imposed by Henry VIII for war against Scotland. In June 1497 they were badly defeated and the leaders hung, drawn and quartered at Tyburn.

The name Cock first appeared in the tithe books of St Keverne parish, when the widow of Robert Cock (1716 - 1753) moved from Constantine <sup>in neighbouring parish</sup> with her son Peter just a lad. She had the helpfully distinctive name of Radegund or Rhadegond (née Nichols) <sup>She has pen</sup> They farmed "Lesneague" or "Lesnege" and some other small farms. Peter became an overseer and responsible for the collection of tithes for Turn Traloe, a division of the parish.

Peter married twice

(1) Ann Rogers 2. 12. '80 died 3. 5. '91 after childbirth

Of their <sup>six</sup> children two daughters only ~~two~~ appear to have survived.

Jane b Oct 1783 m Richard Roskrige 1803

Elizabeth b Sept 1786 m John Smith 1809.

Their son John Smith migrated to Australia in 1836. He was later to become MLC and

lived at "Llanarth" in Balhurst. His contribution<sup>to the cause</sup> is described in "Grench not the Spirit" by Bertha Mac. Smith, wife of his grandson.

(11) Mary Mundy (1772-1836) m 1795

\* Robert 15<sup>th</sup> April 1796 migrated to Australia  
Alice 6<sup>th</sup> July 1797  
Heanet 8<sup>th</sup> March 1799  
Sophia 4<sup>th</sup> October 1803  
Richard 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept. 1806 d Dec 1806  
Peter 9<sup>th</sup> Oct 1808.

Tracing back from Robert and Rodegund Cock are two previous generations of Robert. Then Thomas Cocke m. Mary Pearse Nov 1640. They are described as gentlemen and yeomen.

In the St Keverne Churchyard, I found the headstone of Peter Cock

Beneath this stone  
are deposited the remains of  
PETER COCK

formerly reputable yeoman of this parish  
who died 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 1826 aged 75 yrs.

Also Ann (Rogers) his wife  
who died 11<sup>th</sup> May 1791 aged 31 yrs  
and also three of their children who  
died in their infancy.

There was an elaborately carved verse, much eroded and attacked by moss and lichen but I managed to decipher it. The engraver's name & the date 1841 are at the bottom right hand corner. I assume it was erected on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ann's death.

Peter Cocks<sup>2nd wife</sup> Mary Mundy is buried elsewhere.

The precise time that Robert Cocks & Catherine (Phillips) migrated, the time of their arrival, the name of the ship they travelled on or the ports of departure and arrival, I have not yet discovered. A letter dated July 1855 from John Smith of "Gamboola" and later "Manarth" Bathurst, refers to the previous January and indicates that Robert had been through a period of difficulty. Financial assistance was offered until the family found their feet again. (John Smith later the Honourable John Smith's mother Elizabeth was Robert Cocks' half-sister) At that time, the <sup>hus</sup> eldest son Robert Peter appears to have gone to the Victorian goldfields to spend several months with his sister Harriet Oats, taking the youngest brother Hugh Phillips Cocks with him. Edwin (21) later my grandfather had the responsibility of assisting his ageing parents at St Marys.

It would appear that they lived in the St Marys area for about 14 years before moving to Bathurst, then Neulle called No 1 Swamp or Mt Macquarie & later <sup>to</sup> Wellington in about 1890. My mother Ethel Anne Cocks born at Neulle in 1883 was the youngest daughter, 11th of thirteen children. There were floods on the

Hawkesbury River June 1852, June 1855, Nov. 1856, 1857-59 brought serious drought. 1860 floods in April, July, November and again 1864. 1867 was the highest flood on record and caused great destruction of property on the Nepean. Hawkesbury basins. It would have caused the highest spot in the tower of Richmond.

During those troublesome years, four members of the Cook family were married at St Mary's according to Wesleyan rites by the Rev Richard Amos an erstwhile missionary in Sierra Leone and Tonga. It was his custom to present the young couples with a family bible.

Mary Cook & Joseph Hill - 26<sup>th</sup> Nov 1860

Robert Peter Cook & Sophia Starr 5<sup>th</sup> Aug. 1862.

\* Edwin Cook & Susannah Stephens 30<sup>th</sup> Sept., 1863

Matilda Cook & William Chalker 5<sup>th</sup> Jan 1864.

The two daughters were married from "Fleuro" where Robert Cook and his family lived at the time. Edwin and Susannah were married at the home of her sister Mary Mullis (or Mullice) and her husband Jonathan who had been at St Mary's since 1850. A brother Joseph Stephens had come there in his teens some years earlier (1846)

They all brought with them enthusiasm and devotion stemming from the preaching of John Wesley and the Methodist revival. No doubt they participated in the establishment of the Wesleyan Church at St Marys (1861)

A letter in my possession dated Jan 30<sup>th</sup> 1868 is headed "South Creek", a name well-known at St Marys It is from Robert Cook (Senr) to his son Edwin about the time they were planning to move to Bathurst. Edwin's 4<sup>th</sup> son was born at Mt Pleasant where land 3,200 acres had been granted to Major General Stewart

by Governor Darling years earlier and was now run by his widow (The letter refers to Mrs Steward) <sup>or his son</sup> Edmund was probably a property overseer and earned £50 a year + housing. That letter refers to ~~his~~ <sup>Robert's</sup> younger son Fred driving a van carrying potatoes, three tons of sugar on casks and 14 or 15 cwt of weatherboard. Because of the heavy rain and the bad state of the roads, his progress was slow and he had to reload at Barry's.

Crops he mentions planting are turnips, pumpkins and barley and that half a year's rent was £5. Names he mentioned are Mr Yorke and Mrs Whately who may have been his landlady.

I have managed to find out some facts about 'Flours' but not who was owner in the 1860s. The old people seemed to be leaving a house without bars or locks and were worried about security. Edmund & Susannah had gone ahead by waggon with their young family.

In the Methodist section of the General Cemetery at Emu Plains near St Pauls Anglican Church is grave 2073 where is interred the youngest child of Robert & Catherine Hugh Phillips Cook who was epileptic. Formerly of Cornwall England

Born April 25<sup>th</sup> 1846  
died May 13<sup>th</sup> 1865

It is a very short grave with H. P. C. on the

7.

footstone and the inscription,

"Boast not thyself of to-morrow, for thou knowest not what the day may bring forth."

The only members of the family to remain in the district were Matilda and William Charker whose rather elaborate memorial is in the churchyard of St Mary Magdalene's. - Row J 3502

Matilda died in 1924

William 1929

They had a number of children

Eveline was the eldest. Ethel, the youngest daughter both married into the Turner family who were concerned with the timber business. Both visited our home at Manly in the early 1930s. "Eve" at that time had remarried Tom Bowman and they lived at Harlewood. Her sister Ethel Turner lived at North Sydney.

Phyllis A Hohnen  
71 Empire Circuit  
Forrest.

A.C.T 2603.