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21st July, 1982.

Dear Mrs. Hohnen,

Thank you for your letter of 12th July which interests me very much. I am not really taking on new jobs at the moment because we may be visiting S.Africa later in the year, and I do not want to leave a lot of work outstanding. However, Mr. Douch knows me well enough to know that (a) something of particular interest tempts me, and (b) having lived for more than 25 years in Mawnan and knowing Constantine and all that area very well after many years of research, I should be able to provide what you want.

At the moment of writing, I have not seen him, as I usually go to the RIC on a Friday afternoon, so I have not seen the additional information that he has. I know and love St. Keverne, especially the church, and have been many times to search for one grave or another when I have been working on a number of names, so it is very familiar to me, as well as the families that are buried there. Unless one has been there, as you have, they do not realise the connections between Mawnan and Constantine by water, being so close compared with the journey by road, and even more so in the past when the roads were no more than cart-tracks. So I was not at all surprised to see the movement of your mother's forbears from Constantine to St. Anthony for a marriage and eventually from Constantine to St. Keverne, although we do not know the reason why, as yet.

When I was at the Record Office yesterday I did some preliminary work and had to take a chance on whether you had already covered Constantine registers and Wills. Unfortunately, Robert Cock Senr. who died in 1753, did not leave a Will and there is only an Administration document which I have not yet examined. It is unlikely to show more than possibly the name of his widow. His father, also Robert, left a Will in 1733 and it is a good one, and there is one for Peter, who was his father's brother, and died in 1755. The latter does not mention his nephew's family, Radigund and her children, but they should have been provided for by his father, who made Radigund's husband his executor, so one wonders why Radigund moved to St. Keverne. I could not find that she had married a second time, but this could have been so. You will have quite a good line back in Constantine, if that is what you want, and I have been able to identify some of their dwelling-places by various means, not forgetting Charles Henderson's History of the Parish of Constantine, which Mr. Douch may have shown to you. I confirm the two sons of Robert and Radegund baptised in 1747 and 1753, and there were others before them:

7 Nov. 1742	Jane d. Robert Cock by Radigon h.w.
25 Jul. 1746	Alice " " " " " "

The latter may have been buried 7 Sept. the same year but only the name is given, and it could possibly have been another Alice (Quick) who had married Christopher Cocke in 1736. I have not gone back beyond 1742 for baptisms in detail as there is a gap in the registers that has to be covered by Bishops Transcripts. Marriages are very deficient in the 16th century and early 17th, as you will have noted yourself from the printed copy of Constantine marriages, so there is unlikely to be any more information available there. Anyway, there is a Robert Cocke and Mary Walters (alias Carne) marriage in 1710 and they, according to the 1733 Will, were the parents of Robert who married Radigund, he being born in 1716. Prior to this there are various sources and although marriages may be missing, baptisms can well show up knowing the names we are searching for. Also there are some very good Church Rate Books that I have found most helpful in the past.

As to literacy, farmer's sons did tend to be better than, say, a labourer's, and Peter's second marriage may only have been to a village girl, but on the whole I think girls were less likely to be educated. My own grandmother was mostly educated at home because they had a business in London and she was needed. She still used the old letter "s" like an "f" and had quaint expressions like "ai'nt" although the family was quite well off. There were a lot of people in St. Keverne in the 19th century I have found, and it also had many links with Falmouth and Penryn. If one made a study of the parish one would list (from memory) a Surgeon and Naval officers and there were a number of shops and

probably forms of entertainment. With the Naval connections, I can hardly think the ships anchored off the coast in the area, but probably in the Helford River where they came ashore via Manaccan (Helford Passage) which was quite near. With such an increased population, possibly higher even than today, I should think there would have been good schooling. There was, of course, Helston Grammar School, but the journey would have been hard - no school buses then - and if a son of one of the more wealthy farmers or others attended the Grammar School, whose headmaster at one time was a Coleridge, then I expect he would have been a boarder.

There may have been a link with Helston earlier than the 17th century, but in 1641 there was a Thomas Cocke living in Constantine, and he appears to have been literate. On the other hand they may have come from Wendron, north of Constantine, because at one time they apparently held 60 acres on the edge of the Merthyr Uny valley and Merthyr Uny is actually in Wendron. At any rate part of Bufton, adjoining, was sold to Robert Cock in 1686 and in 1660 a Thomas Cocke yeoman and Mary his wife were paying a tax on *Penalgy* and they could well have been the parents of a Robert Cock whose wife, Jane had a child in 1685.

I have made a good start, as you will see, and if you have anything to add, please let me know. As to charges, when specifically asked, I quote £3 an hour which I have reason to think is generally charged in this part of the country. Elsewhere it is much higher. However, I tend to charge more by the quality of the report than time spent, which is beneficial to the client when there is little to show. If people want photographs, and I expect you took all you needed when you were over, then I make a reasonable charge to cover petrol; film etc., and make it a pleasure trip with my husband.

It is quite a coincidence but when we were over at Trelowarren in Mawgan in Meneage recently to visit a craft exhibition, the couple who were on duty there, told us they live at Bufton and have the woods leading down to Merthyr Uny. They invited us to drop in any time, but I understand that what is left of what may have been an early house, is now an outbuilding which they have set up as a pottery studio and the present house is not that old. Many years ago now I was involved with a friend who was lecturing on Constantine and its old houses and we belonged to a group that produced a book on the Parish of Budock. My part being that which adjoined Constantine, I found that most of my work was involved with Constantine, hence my knowledge of the parish.

I hope this will give you food for thought. I spent 3 hours on this report and if I am in Redruth today, where they have early Bishops Transcripts on micro-film, I will see if I can decipher anything new. If you want copies of any of the Wills, these can be obtained. The two I mentioned, Robert (1733) and Peter (1755) are well worth having and should copy fairly well. Both men signed their names, and when Peter died he was described as Mr. Peter Cocke.

I see from a book that Mr. Douch may have shown you, Collect. Cornub. that a Robert Cocke issued a token at Helston in 1666 bearing "A Griffin rampant" but the name is not included in the County's Armour. You may be right that it comes from Koch, but one's first thought would be the male bird.

Yours sincerely,

Betty Fawell.