



# ROYAL INSTITUTION OF CORNWALL

COUNTY MUSEUM & ART GALLERY  
RIVER STREET · TRURO · CORNWALL · TR1 2SJ · Telephone: TRURO (0872) 72205

from 2, ENYS ROAD,  
TRURO  
TR1 3TE

Dear Mrs Hohnen,

From my using my private address you might rightly infer that I have 'retired': however, I still pick up genealogical enquiries and, from your letter, I see that we have corresponded before

From the Cornwall Family History Society's Directory of Members' Interests, I see that several members are researching the name Cocks, but not one of them in the bigard area. The surname is wide-spread and there are several alternative suggestions as to its origin. The most widely-held theory is that it is what is called a pet or affectionate diminutive, also used in Wilcock, to denote a pert, strutting, sure-of-himself boy. Indeed 'cock' is still commonly used in addressing someone rather familiarly - as in 'wotcher cock'!

The Welsh and Cornish have a word 'coch' which signifies 'red', so it is conceivable that a man with red hair or complexion, perhaps of a fiery temper, might be called Coch in the same way that a Viking was styled 'Eric the Red'.

This means, of course, that not all Cocks descend from

a common ancestor.

Making a reservation at the County Record Office, Courcy Hall, Inver, can be done by post or by phone (0872 73698): even in the newly-extended premises, space is often at a premium.

You ask if there are records of schools - certainly not in the 18th century when educational facilities in country areas were minimal, if they existed at all. There would have been the equivalent of the 19th century dame-schools where a man or woman would have taught the three R's, the pupils contributing their pence. Sometimes there was a parish school created by private charity.

You can judge the state of agriculture in a book written in 1811 under the name of G.B. Wotgan. From that you will see that improvements were then being introduced. On the Lizard farming would have been very much on a subsistence level: fishing would have been equally important to a coastal parish. Land and seaweed would have been basic manures.

If you want to look into Nicholls, Phillips and Mundy you would do well to book time on the microfiche reader at the Museum.

Good luck

Yours sincerely

John Douch

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Until Sept 30<sup>th</sup> 1982 MOULIN de THIENVA  
LUCHÉ - PRINGÉ  
72800 LE LUDE  
FRANCE.

Phyllis Hohnen

Ross Hohnen

13<sup>th</sup> June, '82

H. L. Douch  
The Curator  
County Museum  
River St  
Tress.

Dear Sir or Madam,

Thank you for your prompt reply to my enquiry. You realize of course I am Australian residing in France for a limited period. I had hoped that during this visit to France, while touring in Brittany, we might cross from Roscoff to Cornwall as we did some years ago, but it now seems unlikely.

Your quotation of the Marriage Settlement was interesting reading. It was all spelt out - Chapter. Verse - but I think the participant could possibly have been an Uncle of Peter Cock of St Keverne who was baptised 1753 in March, and in April 1753 his father ROBERT COCK died (husband of Rhadegund or Radeqund who died in St Keverne 1790+.

[I haven't my full records with me as I explained  
1. Is there a record of Robert Cock of Constantine?

2. Peter Cock of St Keverne d. 1826.

Peter married twice

(1) Ann Rogers who died 1791 - having lost 3 infants  
3. Their daughter Elizabeth married John Smith also of St Keverne 'Irelanwean' c 1806  
Their son John Smith migrated to Australia in the 1830s & eventually prospered, was active in breeding merinos & became an M.H.C in N.S.W.

Is there any record of that marriage settlement?



# Royal Institution of Cornwall

FOUNDED 1818



TELEPHONE  
TRURO 2205

CURATOR:  
H. L. DOUCH, B.A.

ASST. CURATOR:  
R. D. PENHALLURICK, B.A.

COUNTY MUSEUM & ART GALLERY

RIVER STREET

TRURO

Mme Phyllis Hohnea,  
Moulin de Thienval,  
Luché - Pringé  
72800 Le Lude  
France

5<sup>th</sup> July 1982

Dear Mme Hohnea,

I am not returning your £20 because I am insulted at being offered money - but because it seems over payment for a little expertise and my duties do not allow me to undertake more detailed research - much as I would like to do so.

I can offer you one firm piece of information: Robert Cook of Constantine was married to Redagon Nichols at St Anthony in Meneage on December 31st 1741. I will bear your problem in mind in the hope that I shall be able to find some time for your problem. In the meantime, if you want a genuine researcher I can recommend Mrs B. Farrell of 2, Florence Terrace, Falmouth.

As Keveve is unique in having 'turns': they come about because the parish is very large and conveniently divided for administrative purposes

Turn Bean on NE: 'bean' = 'vean' = little

Turn Iaboe NW.

Turn Irelan SW

Turn Iregan E

} all four meet at the church but Churchtown (ie. the area around the church) was not a turn.

The origin of the word is obscure but I recall how relatives used to say "I'm taking a turn down the street", in much the same sense.

Yours sincerely

H. Douch



The County Museum,  
River Street,  
Inuro

6<sup>th</sup> May 1982

Mrs Phyllis A. Hohnen,  
Moulin de Thienval,  
Luché - Pringé,  
72800 Le Lude.  
France

Dear Mrs Hohnen,

Although genealogical enquiries are far from being novelties, it is unusual to receive one from France, so one might the more wish to be of help.

When Peter Cock was described on his tomb-stone as "reputable yeoman", I wonder if that was an echo of the family's diminishing status. In our collection (U/15/16) there is a marriage settlement dated November 23<sup>rd</sup> 1741 when Humphrey Harvey and Elizabeth daughter of Peter Cock of Constantine were coming together

The parties were :-

- ① Henry HARVEY of Wendron yeoman
- ② Thomas HARRIS of Illogan gent
- ③ Humphrey HARVEY son and heir of ①

① conveyed to ② for the use of ③, upon his marriage, the estate of Irelill in Wendron

subject to payment of an annuity to Henry's wife Amy. After the marriage Humphrey and his wife "to be admitted into possession of the old mansion house now upon the said tenement of Irelill for himself and family to live in, together with a proportionate part of the Town place there, and shall also have the parlour chamber in the said dwelling-house furnished with bedding and other convenient household goods of the said



Henry Harvey the father, and shall likewise be admitted to keep one horse with and amongst the horses of his father -- and Henry Harvey doth promise, covenant and agree to give and provide for his said son Humphrey Harvey and his said intended wife and their family meat, drink and such like dyett as shall be used and expended in and amongst the family of him the said Henry Harvey for and during the term of two years next to come after the solemnisation of the said intended marriage" (and at the end of the term) "to find and provide wheat and barley-corn for him the said Humphrey Harvey sufficient to be expended in and about his family" (and to keep two cows amongst his father's on Irelill). (Upon his father's death, Humphrey, was to meet his legacies to his mother, brothers and sisters).

I am tempted to think that Peter was probably descended from the Cocks of Helston who appear as Mr(s) and gents in the parish registers. For this family the following wills are at the County Record Office

- William C. of Helston 1704
- Francis C - 1709
- John C - 1728
- John C - 1741
- Francis C - 1754
- Peter C of Constantine 1755
- Honour C of Helston 1762
- Elizabeth C " 1776

One or more of these might well give you both a link and a clue.

Yours sincerely

H. L. DOUCH

H. L. DOUCH.  
Curator



Address until  
Sept 1982.

MOULIN de THIENVAN  
LUCHE - PRINGE  
72 800 he hode  
France.

The Secretary, **Phyllis Hohnen**

**Ross Hohnen** 25<sup>th</sup> April, 1982

The Royal Institute of Cornwall  
County Museum & Art Gallery  
River St  
Truro.

Dear Sir & Madam,

Your address was given me by a fellow Australian, Miss Angela Broome who like myself has been doing genealogical research in Cornish forebears.

My mother's paternal forebears were named Cock and three generations were associated with the Parish of St Keverne, where they farmed a property called "Lesneague" part of "Llanarthistat". Peter Cock's headstone is in the graveyard of the Parish Church, & gives the date of his death as 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec 1826 at 75 yrs. The first mention of the name in "Tythe" books appears to have been 4<sup>th</sup> April, 1768, paid by Mrs Coc when Peter was about 17 yrs old.

His first wife Ann Rogers died following childbirth in 11<sup>th</sup> May, 1791 aged 31 yrs and three of their children died in infancy. Peter re-married Mary Munda and their eldest son Robert born in 1796 was my great grandfather. He farmed "Lesneague" until the harvest of 1848. About that time a daughter was born at Crowan & I have mention of Seedstown in an old letter which gives the impression that they may have been staying with relatives [Robert's wife was Catherine Phillips]. In the 1851 their names appear in the Census in the parish of Altermun at a farm of 80 acres called "Newhey". A couple of years later, Robert Cock & his wife Catherine migrated to Australia, but I have not as yet discovered the precise date.

Returning to Peter Cock who is described as a "reputable yeoman", I found records of a Peter Cock, son of Robert and Rhadegund, christened at Constantine 12<sup>th</sup> March, 1753, and an older brother Robert



Phyllis Hohnen

Ross Hohnen

christened at Constantine 25<sup>th</sup> July 1747. The death of Robert Cock Senr, husband of Rhadegund occurred not long after Peter's death. My assumption is that the union moved to 'Lesneague' in 1768. There is the death of a Rhadegund at St Keverne some years later and it appears to be an unusual name in the Parish lists. [Here in France, where we are making an extended visit, I find Rhadegund was a queen and patron saint of Poitiers.]

I read a book about the History of Helston by Spencer Jay when visiting Cornwall years ago where there was mention of a Robert Cock, Mayor of Helston 1684. Is there any record of his family available.

From this regardable, I wonder could you direct my inquiries in any direction which would add to my information and what search fees would be expected. I have been in touch some years ago with the Registry Office in Truro. What schooling would have been available

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

(Mrs) Phyllis A Hohnen.



Hope some makes sense. 71 Empire Circuit  
Forrest, A.C.T., AUSTRALIA  
18th December, 1975.

Dear Mr Currow (copy)

I am most grateful for the details you supplied about "Lesneague". My interest is merely fossicking out some particulars about Cornish forebears who came from St Keverne. My mother who is 92+ is the last survivor of a family of 13. Her father Edwin Cock was married in Australia in 1863 but must have migrated some ten years earlier. His father Robert Peter must have brought his nine children to Australia. His daughter Mary married a Hill, so there may be some link there. Grandfather refused to go back to his old home a "Lesneague". Twenty years ago I was in correspondence with Mr Lambigg not Lambuck who grew up on that farm. His grandfather moved to Lesneague in 1862 and the family lived there until 1935. He had very happy memories of his childhood there & sent me a photograph.

Another Cornishman who came to Australia in 1836 and became a member of the legislative council was John Smith. His father John Smith came from "Trehawean" (1781-1840). His mother was Elizabeth Cock (1786-1853) daughter of Peter & Ann Cock of Lesneague. Peter was born 1751 — 1826 (died)

" " 1760 — 1791

+ I learned



Peter was born 1751 — 1826 (died)

Ann " " 1760 — 1791

From copies of Parish registers I learned that Peter re-married Mary Mundy 1795 and their son Robert Peter was born & baptized 1796. He was my great grandfather and lived in Australia for 30 years before he died. Can you find any reference to Peter or Robert Peter Cook? Someone has prepared extensive family trees of the John Smith family. My mother always refers to him as the Honorable John whose eventual home as he grew older was called "Lanarth" at Bathurst in N.S.W. He may have had some link with your local square, Williams.



# AEROGRAMME



MR F. G. CURNOW  
TRELYN RD  
ST KEVERNE  
HELSTON  
CORNWALL  
TR 12 6NJ  
COUNTRY OF DESTINATION

## SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS

P. Johnson  
71 Empire Circuit  
Forrest  
ACT  
Australia POSTCODE 2603

FOLD FLAPS BEFORE MOISTENING GUM. FOR  
MAXIMUM ADHESION, PRESS DOWN FOR A FEW SECS  
IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED OR STICKER  
THIS FORM MUST BEAR POSTAGE AND RATE FOR AIR MAIL

" John Smith, the grandfather  
Hon. John Smith was a landed proprietor residing  
at Trelanuean & owning Tregarn, Gunggith  
and other smaller estates. He married in 1785  
JANE ROSKELLY and had 3 children.  
So although not actually related  
there was a step relationship.  
Times must have been very hard  
and no doubt the potato blight made the  
support of a young family a struggle. I've not  
been able to discover the name of the ship they  
travelled on. If I can repay you for your trouble  
let me know. Thank. again (Mrs) Phyllis Johnson



15-JAN-1983.

CS

TRELYN ROAD  
ST KEVERNE  
HELSTON  
CORNWALL TR12 6NF  
ENGLAND

Dear Mrs Hohnen

It was so nice to hear from you again and to know that I have been of assistance in researching your ancestors.

Yes! A Mr Cock did call to see me in September last year, at the time Gwen and I were about to leave for a holiday, so I was not able to spend as much time with him as I would have liked.

However I gave him a photo copy of the family tree you sent me, together with other information, he was very grateful and I am please to know that he has contacted you. I think his daughter and son-in-law was with him they left their address :- MR GEOFF LLOYD, 20<sup>A</sup> MOUNT PLEASANT, BIRGIN HILL, KENT.

Thankyou for the enclosures I shall file them with the other family records (COCK).

I am taking this opportunity in sending you a book that a friend and I had published to assist the appeal for £6,500 to restore our Church Spire and Tower, the money was donated and the



work completed by the end of 1981, we had 2,000 copies printed they sold at £1 each, some copies were left after the appeal fund closed, they have been in great demand by summer visitors and St. Keveene families overseas, the remaining books are being sold for maintenance of the church building and I have retained a number for my friends and postal contacts, I trust you find it interesting.

Richard and Jill Pearce sold Rendennis over two years ago, Richard has built a new house in the boxwood area.

Mr & Mrs Sargent are still at Nambol, I see them in the village occasionally also the Lambriks, I'll convey your Best Wishes when I see them.

I had a letter last Sept from Mary Mac Smith of LITTLE BORRÉ, BORENDRÉ, 2800 NEW SOUTH WALES, Mary was in England in 1979 and came to see me, it was her ancestor John SMITH who married Elizabeth COCK 1785, of course you know about that, but I wonder if you had met Mary's family and know about the book "Quench not the Spirit" with the story of the SMITH family. Mary told about the draught in Australia with the loss of cattle etc.

Given and I send our "Best Wishes" to you both for 1983 and perhaps I'll hear from you again when you arrive home.

Yours sincerely  
Frank Burnow



P.S. All the St Keverne records and Registers  
are now at Cornwall County Record Office Luro.  
No doubt Mr Dauch referred you to a researcher  
of Cornwall Family History Society, the membership  
of the society has greatly increased during the past  
few years it's world wide, they publish a journal  
4 times a year if you are interested, or perhaps you  
already know. The Hon Sec is - MRS M.S. TANQUE  
GLENDORCAL LODGE, LUSTY GLAZE LODGE, MENQUAY  
CORNWALL, TR 7 3AE.

Ygb.

CS

I4 Greenhills Avenue  
Penrith 2750 N.S.W.  
February 16th 1983.

Dear Mrs Hohnen,

Many thanks for your nice letter it was good of you to take the time from your trip. I know it takes me some time to come down to the every day things like sitting down to write, when I return from a trip like yours.

I have not had much luck with tracing the name of Coumbe which is a slightly different spelling from the usual. But one learns that we are in the hands of who ever is writing the entry, that is why so many variations appear. Just depends how well the person spells at the time.

I have a professional historian working for me in Adelaide trying to trace a little more of my great grandmother, but her death is not recorded in three states under the name of Elizabeth Jane Wyatt. I found in a legal document she is referred to as Jane Wyatt so perhaps that is why I have not been able to trace her.

The reason I know her first marriage was to someone called Coumbe, is because there is an initialled correction on her marriage certificate to that effect, when she married my great grandfather.

If there is anything I can ever do for you in this area in this regard I'd be pleased to help.

Once my thanks,

Yours sincerely,

*Winnifred Gibbs*

Winnifred Gibbs (Mrs)



Letter  
21.3.89



TRURO  
86 5552

90 Casaroes Park,  
Perran-ar-Worhal,  
Truro TR3 7QT.

29 Jan: 1989

Dear Mrs Hohnen,

Thank you for your letter which reached me safely. I moved from Florence Terrace in May 1987 to a small flat in Falmouth but felt too restricted so in August last year, moved again, into the country. I have a large mobile home in a very nice setting with quite a large garden.

I am enclosing cuttings from the old Telephone directory, which gives quite a good selection of property for summer letting but I don't think it will be easy in the middle of the holiday season. I always hesitate to recommend anywhere because on the occasions I have ventured to do so in the past, it has not been very successful. What suits one person is not always attractive to others. I have a friend who has taken a flat for several years at Swanpool in Falmouth but I know they



always book very early in the year. They stay at Swanpool House but I see it is not mentioned as such in the directory so is probably under the name of the owner.

I do very little research these days in spite of being nearer to Turo. Just an agency I have worked for and one or two of their connections. I don't belong to the CFHA having only joined other County Assns. that concerned my own ancestry but I know a number of people who do and meet up with them from time to time. The County Record Office has been enlarged as you may have heard but it still means booking in advance, especially in the summer.

I haven't any lengthy holidays planned for this year. I had two months in S. Africa last year - one month around Capetown and then Christmas near Durban, as my son and his wife have moved there for three years. I will give you my tel. No. as it is as well to ring before coming to save a wasted journey. I hope you find something to your liking and not too far from Turo. I am not sure whether you mean the Sargents were agents in S. Keweenaw. I have put the ones in the current directory on the cutting and you may recognise the address of one of them. There is one other "K" that I couldn't fit in:-

K.J. Sargent 9 Girls Park, Lanreath 20518. Thank you for stamps. It was my husband who collected them - I give them to a church charity. Sincerely Betty J.