

Early Days in Australia.

When the Cock family finally moved to Australia, I haven't discovered and so many small ships were chartered, it would be difficult to find out. Old letters have mostly been destroyed because, in the main, the demands of the life in the new country were so endless. Even their children, born in Australia, referred to the "old country" as home and old Cornish stories were told and retold.

The one tangible piece of evidence I have is that Harriett and Richard Oats eldest son Richard Cock Oats was born at Gawler S.A. Did they come to Australia to be near her? Did friends or relatives already here, urge them to come? Did news of the goldrush stir their interest? One can imagine earnest conversations round the table and it could have been no easy decision as Robert & Catherine who then past middle age. ~~Perth~~

Knowing that Edwin our grandfather married in 1863, I had assumed that he and Susannah had met at Emu Plains as new migrants. (not realizing that the whole family had come) I worked through Agents lists starting at 1861 and working backwards to 1849, but without success. *Letter from John Smith dated 1855.

Grandmother's Family

Grandmother's family name was Stephens. On her death certificate her father's name is given as Richard Stephens, ^{Farmer} ^{MC} labourer, and her birthplace Launceston Cornwall. Mother was under the impression that their mother had died when they were young and father re-married. They & her sister Ann left home and "went into service".

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were young and father re-married. They & her
sister Ann left home and "went into service".
Ann was a witness at her wedding at
St. Marys. Their mother's name was Charity
Coombe. Other members of her family also

lived in Australia. Cousin Edith remembered
grandmother's brother Joe Stephens ^{a policeman?} who lived at
Warren. ^{His boy was an S.A. officer} He used to visit us riding on horse
back. I loved these visits because he used to
bring a bag of sweets for me. The bag I carefully
returned when empty for a refill. I always listened
in to the conversation. On a return trip from
Queensland he told of "days a week long". I still
remember how I longed for a day that long in
which to run & play with Henry. Grandma
had two sisters Ann Trezise whose husband
had a business at Bathurst (He is referred to as Uncle
Billy and they had a lolly shop where M. was allowed
to hand out the sweets. I went to Bathurst to cook
for them as grandmother had other daughters to help her. - (Elena)
Much later another sister came
out from Cornwall and gave a fluffy toy
dog to Uncle Sid born 1887. He has it in his
arms in the group photo at Uncle Ted's wedding.
He must have been 3 or 4 and grandmother travelled
on the old zig-zag railway to meet her in Sydney. ^{late say 1890}
I remember highly coloured postcards of Capri
which maybe she bought as souvenirs on the
trip out. She was always known as Auntie Pip.
For one time lived with the family at Wellington.
Uncle Sid had said "she is only the size of a
beaver pip."

We never knew grandmother Cock
but cousin Eva Devenish stayed with them for
schooling when she was young. Uncle Jack
hoped that heaven would mean "seeing old
Mum again". Mother remembered her as being
always happy. She loved her nine boys and
was more ready for a romp than
disciplining them. She enjoyed gardening
though was so overweight she could not
bend much but used a Dutch hoe. Mother
remembered the road at ...

a musk rose with a beautiful perfume. The children were encouraged to have a little plot of their own. Grandmother made their clothes on a little chainstitch machine (which M had when I was young. It made a very neat stitch with a chain at the back. Wilcox & Lybb was the make. Once when a Singer agent called he scoffed, "you don't call that a machine!" She was also a good cook * and her eldest daughter Lil earned her living as a cook first at the Bostons & later at Judge Cohens. [He is mentioned in the Dictionary of Biography Henry Emanuel Cohen 1840-1912. In 1864 he opened a store at Bathurst with his twin brother George under the name of Cohen & Co but it was an unsuccessful venture & closed in 1867]

He was a prominent member of the Jewish Community after studying Law & being called to the bar in 1871. He began a political career & was elected to the 8th parliament. He advocated secular and compulsory education & land reform. Until 1878 - he was Treasurer for the Farnell Govt. 1896 was a judge of the Supreme Court.

They were generous to Aunt Lil when M was in Prince Alfred as a girl, allowing her to stay there with her when she was convalescing.]

* Grandfather made a brick oven similar to the one at Blundell's Cottage and Mother remembered the scent of the round loaves of fresh bread, when it was turned out to cool.

They were very hospitable and there were always lots of men around the table because ^{Grandmother} she always encouraged the boys to bring their friends home. She was very much overweight ^{6 stone} & had a stroke when she was 70. - When Uncle Frank had

Our grandparents Edwin Cock
was married to Susannah Stephens at
Emu Plains NSW 30th Sept 1863 by the Rev
Richard Amos ^{at the Residence of Mr Mullis - Emu Plains}
Witnesses were Ann Stephens
(grandmother's sister) and Jonathan Mullis. He
would have been 30 & she 21. Robert Peter
the previous year his elder brother had been married
the previous year by Rev Amos, according to
Wesleyan rites - 5th August 1862 to Sophia Starr
He would have been 32. Witnesses were
William Charles & Matilda Cock (a younger sister)

The Charltons made their home in
St Marys & were buried in the St Mary Magdalene
Church of England 1924 & he 1929. They must have
kept in touch - The bachelor brother of the family
lived with them most of the time but visited
his relatives in ~~Wollongong~~ ^{Newcastle} & some of the time
Aunt Mary Hill, Wolumba. Edith remembered
them. They moved in social circles with people
living in the district whom they'd known in
Cornwall. Among those she mentioned were the
Lethbridge Kings. The Hope family had known
them in Leunce etc. Her death certificate quotes her being in
Australia 72 yrs, which ^{must} mean ^{they came when she was} 10. 1852. Matilda or Aunt Tilly had ten children
of whom 7 were living at her death in 1924. while
staying with her son at Mascot. The eldest was
Eveline William, Fred, Eleanor, Albert, Percival
& Ethel. Eve used to visit us at Manly when in her
middle sixties. She lived at Harbord with her
2nd husband whose surname was Bowman. She
was short, high busted - with long hair
with a bun on top. She was a bit psychic
& spoke of someone at World War I whom she
^{dreamed} ^{pictured} of talking to someone dressed like
little red riding hood. One shoulder was
in shadow. Next news was that the person
had been seen on Sunday 11.

The youngest member Ethel
married someone called Turner whom Mother
thought was a timber-man of some sort. She
would have been the same age as her namesake
and I once remember visiting her home not
far from Falcon St North Sydney. The others
we had no news ~~looker~~ or contact with.

January 1864 at the residence of Mr Cock St Marys

William Charker (Bachelor born South Creek
Farmer 23 yrs of Elder Park

Son of Elena Anderson
Malilda Cock spinster - born Cornwall
23 yrs of St Marys

Daughter of Catherine Phillips
Farmer
Witnesses William
Louisa Cock. [Rev. Amos.]

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most members of the family in Australia
I could not follow up to New South Wales

Early Days in Australia.

Somewhere I read about the Origin of Cocks as a surname. Some seem a little far-fetched

I. Characteristic

- (a) W. Corn. Coch = red
- (b) Name for male birds
- (c) an early riser (given in England as a descriptive epithet)

II. Local

- (a) signboard
- (b) A short pipe or waterspout
- (c) a heap of farm material
- (d) a small boat or cog
- (e) a locality in Somersetshire

III. Genealogical

- (a) O.E.
- (b) Jewish personal name (dim. of Isaac in its Hebrew form)
- (c) Anglicization of Irish

IV. Occupational

Watchman or ministers of religion.

Most members of the family in Australia changed the spelling to Cocks or Cox.