

Charles Graham CARTTAR Correspondence 1915

Letter from Charles Graham CARTTAR to Ethel de Pearsall JAMES (nee CLABBURN) dated 25 Nov 1915, and notes on the genealogy of Pearsall, Hamilton-ffinney and Carttar families.

Notes and transcript by John Barnard, 1 Oct 2008.

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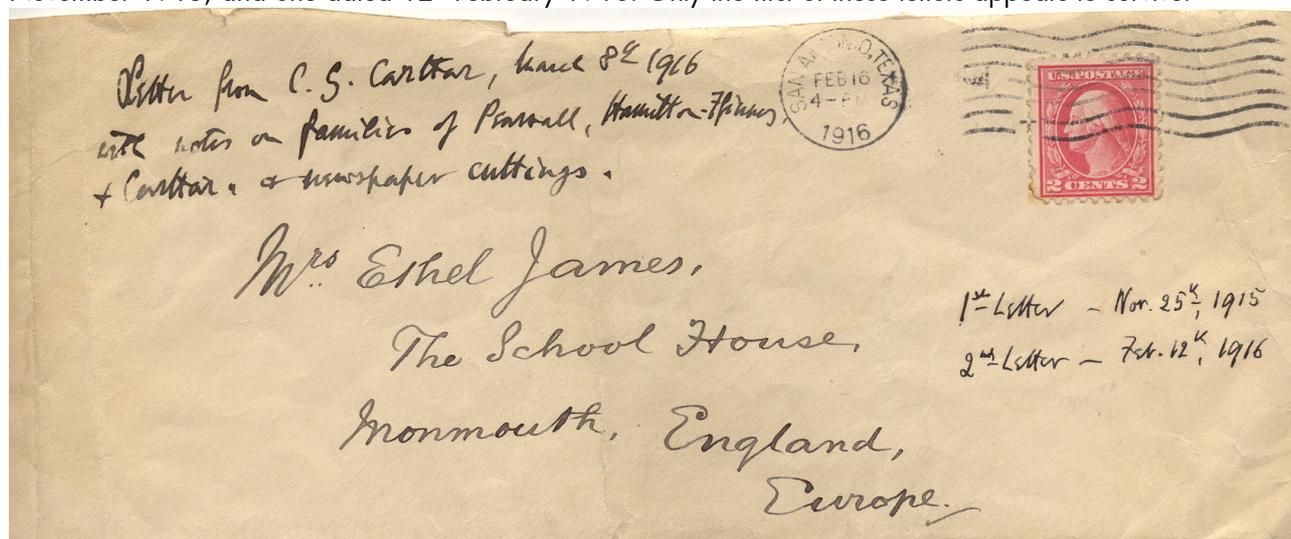
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1. Introduction

This letter is among manuscript material inherited from the recipient, my grandmother, along with some associated typewritten transcripts, which may have been prepared by her son, Robert C. T. James in the 1950s. The letter is accompanied by two manuscript sheets, in Carttar's handwriting. The first gives some genealogical and biographical information on the on the Pearsall and Hamilton-ffinney families, and the second gives some genealogical information on the Carttar family, and on Charles Graham Carttar's own biography.

2. Envelope

There is an envelope, postmarked 16 Feb 1916 in San Antonio, Texas, USA, addressed to Mrs Ethel James, with a manuscript note (in Lionel James's hand?) noting that it originally contained two letters, one dated 25th November 1915, and one dated 12th February 1916. Only the first of these letters appears to survive.



3. Letter

The letter itself is largely concerned with aspects of the War (which, of course, the United States had not yet joined) his (uncomplimentary) opinion of the British Prime Minister, Asquith, his relations with local Germans, and his involvement in the Texas British Association. He notes that he is in his 81st year and very deaf.

There is some material on family matters, which is transcribed below:

My dear Ethel,

I was much pleased to receive your very kind and interesting letter of 18th October, with the portraits of yourself and your two fine sons. [Hilary T. James and A. G. Trevenen James, then aged 15 months and 3 months respectively]. Many congratulations. They have been duly framed and hung up. Very many thanks for your care and attention to your dear mother [Rosey Clabburn, née De Pearsall] – pray give her my best love, and congratulate her on the arrival of those two fine new grandchildren.

Here all are much interested in "the war" ...

With kind regards to your good husband, and my best wishes to your two sons. I trust that I may be honored with news of you all sometime.

Yours affectionately

C. G. Carttar

P.S. I take the liberty of sending you, under separate cover, some photos which my interest you. [These appear to have been lost]

The reference to Ethel's mother, Rosey, is interesting, as he specifically *thanks* Ethel for her care and attention to her, implying that this is a responsibility he should have undertaken himself. Carttar was effectively Rosey's step-father, by virtue of his marriage, in 1865, to Anna Maria, the widow of the younger Robert Lucas de Pearsall.

The full text of the letter is reproduced below.

(1) A
Nov 25th 1915

My dear Ethel,

I was much pleased to receive your very kind and interesting letter of 18th October, with the portraits of yourself and your two fine sons.

Many congratulations.

They have been duly framed and hung up.

Very many thanks for your care and attention to your dear mother – pray give her my best love, and congratulate her on the arrival of those two fine new grandchildren.

Here all are much interested in "The War" –

It affects all business here, throughout the United States.

We have our anxieties also here with the troubles in Mexico – these just now promise to improve, but it will take some time yet to settle matters there.

There are a large number of Germans, German Americans, and American Germans in this place, with

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many German Societies, churches and schools –

Also many Austrians, Belgians, Greeks, and some Italians and French.

A few Germans do not agree with the Kaiser, but while admitting it keep very quiet.

I have many acquaintances and business clients amongst the Germans, and I manage to get along very well, and without trouble.

I get the Weekly edition of the London Times regularly, and with other papers sent to us, & our local papers keep fairly well posted. These European papers I pass along to British, French, & Belgians, and some to Germans.

The British Cox * I said "regularly", but the Times of the 3rd September I did not receive when due, but I saw a statement that a liner with 3,500 bags of mail had been sunk and I concluded my "Times" had gone to the bottom of the sea, and so it had – but I received one later, and in the issue of 10th of September was a paragraph stating that The Times, realizing what had happened, had reset the type and reprinted and remailed the Edition of the 3rd. I believe The Times is about the only newspaper to have the enterprise to do this, it was much commended on here.

The British here and our Texas British Association?

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have been very quiet and had few meetings lately. I had attended few of them, being very deaf and unable therefore to take any active part in the proceedings (this is also very bad in business matters), and not getting out to evening meetings, at ^{10.15} my age. I am a "back number" and being now only an "hon' life member" - had not kept fully in touch with them. However, as a Past President of the Association, I have stirred them up - to greater activity, now.

Some of the members have returned home and interested, & they have sent contributions to Red Cross, &c.

I have looked forward from time to time to making a visit to Belfast for a few days, altho' my health would not allow me to stay longer there. - About 3 years ago realizing I should not be able to take the journey, I resigned from my London Club, ^{The City Carlton} in which I had retained my membership as a "paid a Terce" in case I should ever go over.

We have cannot understand what seems to be a great want of decision and business methods, by your present government.

I do not trust Asquith (Winston is O.K. of course, and perhaps, Lord Lloyd) - Asquith is a politician and not a

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statesman, clever, and controls his 'liberal' followers; -
 But a man who puts a very able hourer at the War Office and who, as Prime Minister, knew working of what was going on in Germany (for neither he or his War Minister knew apparently of Germany's army, or what it was for), was not fit for the high office he was supposed to fill. - Quite incompetent in fact. - Can you not get a 'man' to handle things? -
 I do not care about his politics.
 I am no longer a politician.

So far we have had a very fine summer here, and not yet any frost, every thing still green.

With kind regards to your good husband, and my best wishes to your two sons.

I trust that I may be honored with news of you all sometimes.

Yours affly,
 G. G. Carttar

San Antonio, Texas.
 25 November, 1915

I take the liberty of sending you, under separate cover, some photos which may interest you.

4. Pearsall and Hamilton-ffinney Genealogy

Part of the manuscript sheet is missing, but there are two typewritten transcripts (possibly made by Robert C. T. James) which fill in the missing information.

Pearsall.

R. (17) Lucas Pearsall, of Willsbridge, Gloucester,
 known as the Author of the words of music of the song
 "The Hardy Norhammen", & others. -
 The Family is recorded in a book "Families of the Lancel
 Pearty", or similar name. - similar to a Peary. In which
 particulars of marriage &c. will be found. -
 I have no note as to his wife's name. -

His daughter, Elizabeth Still, married Charles Wyndham
 Stanhope, afterwards 2nd Earl of Harrington.

They had 10 children. -
 Second daughter was a Mrs. Hughes - who died over sea - she
 painted the portrait of her father that
 is in the National Portrait Gallery
 Mr. Pearsall migrated to ^{London} in ¹⁷⁸⁰ there he ^{resided}
 who gave a de to his name - and signed "de Pearsall".

His Son
 Robert Lucas de Pearsall,
 was an Officer in the Austrian Cavalry 1780 & de 9

His wife - Mrs. Hamilton-ffinney -
 was a daughter of
 The Rev. Dr. Samuel Lee, Rector of
 Professor of Arabic and afterwards of Hebrew in Cambridge
 University. - a great linguist - said he knew over 80 languages
 when he died, aged over 80 years & was then studying another.
 She died at Calais, France of cancer of the throat.
 Closely related - how not recorded, was
 Colonel Hamilton-ffinney - of Ireland,
 and a "Black" Kate Hamilton. -
 These Hamiltons were of the "Abercorn" Hamiltons.

Capt. Edward Hamilton-ffinney was your mother's
 grandfather and father of one son. [a Abercorn Hamilton]
 Major Samuel Lee-Hamilton, Hamilton-ffinney,
 of the British army. -
 Is dead - was married - had no children.

Colonel
 Capt. Ed. Hamilton-ffinney is said to have
 been brother of Capt. Hamilton-Clouck Post Capt.

In the following transcript of the above, my own notes are included in square brackets:

R. Lucas Pearsall, of Willsbridge, Gloucester, known as the author of the words and music of the song "The Hardy Norseman" and others. The family is recorded in the book "Families of the Landed Gentry" or similar name – similar to a Peerage, in which particulars of marriage etc. will be found.

[This is a reference to Sir Bernard Burke's "Royal Descents and Pedigrees of Founders' Kin", published in 1858, which includes a pedigree of the Pearsall family. I suspect that much of the information was provided by Pearsall himself]

I have no note of his wife's name.

[It was Marie Henriette Elizabeth HOBDAÏ daughter of the portrait painter William Armfield Hobday.]

His daughter, Elizabeth Still, married Charles Wyndham Stanhope, afterwards 7th Earl of Harrington. They had 10 children.

[Actually only 9 children, including both the 8th and 9th Earls, the latter being the father of the 10th and grandfather of the 11th and current Earl.]

Second daughter was a Mrs Hughes who died overseas – she painted the portrait of her father that is in the National Portrait Gallery.

[This is not quite accurate. Philippa Swinnerton de Pearsall married John Hughes in 1857, and died in London on 7 Feb 1917, aged 93. There is a discussion of the two versions of her portrait of her father in Edgar Hunt's biography of Robert Lucas Pearsall, pp. 6-7.]

Mr Pearsall migrated to Italy in [blank]

[actually it was Karlsruhe in Germany, after which he settled in Switzerland].

There he prefixed "de" to his name and signed "de Pearsall".

His son, Robert Lucas de Pearsall, was an officer in the Austrian cavalry – when? how? or why? he left that army I do not know. He was a fine swordsman.

[This is borne out by his occupation as "fencing master" given on his 1861 census return.]

His later misfortunes rose perhaps from his poverty. He wrote some verses.

[Carttar seems to be skirting round this topic, and certainly does not make clear what those misfortunes were – according to Edgar Hunt's biography of Robert Lucas Pearsall (the Elder), it was his profligacy that caused his poverty. I have not come across any verses he may have written.]

He married Anna Maria, the daughter of Captain Edward Hamilton-ffinney, a captain in the British Infantry, who died in Australia.

[Carttar is being very economical with the truth here, and fails to mention his own marriage to Anna Maria, which took place at St Mary's Church, Marylebone on 30 December 1865, exactly 16 days after her first husband's body was found in the Hertford Union Canal, Hackney Wick.]

His wife, Mrs Hamilton-ffinney, was a daughter of the Rev. Dr. Samuel Lee, Rector of [blank],

[actually he was Prebend of Bristol]

professor of Arabic and afterwards of Hebrew in Cambridge University. A great linguist – said he knew over 80 languages

[A more likely figure is 18]

when he died, aged over 80 years,

[his dates were 14 May 1783 – 16 Dec 1852, which makes him 69 at death]

and was then studying another. She died at Calais, France, of cancer of the throat.

[Her death is confirmed by a report in the Gentleman's Magazine, March 1866, p. 450.]

Closely related, how not recorded, was Colonel Hamilton-ffinney of Ireland, and a "Black" Kate

Hamilton.

[I have not so far found any reference to these.]

These Hamiltons were of the "Abercorn" Hamiltons.

[The Hamilton family were Earls and later Dukes of Abercorn (pronounced Avercorn), in the Scottish Peerage . A grand-daughter of the 6th Earl (1660-1734), Bridget Hamilton (d. 1789) married a Rev. Thomas Finney, and may have been the ancestor of the Finneys mentioned by Carttar, but I have not traced the connection.]

Captain Edward Hamilton-ffinney was your mother's grandfather,

[This appears to be a definitive statement that Anna-Maria Hamilton-ffinney was the mother of Rosey.]

and father of one son (a Abercorn Hamilton), Major Samuel Lee Hamilton Hamilton-ffinney, of the English army.

[The 1841 census shows the Finney family living at 7 Berkley Street, Lambeth and giving the ages of the parents (Edward, 35; Eliza 25) and three children: Samuel, 7; Anna, 6; and Victoria, 3).]

Is dead – was married – had no children.

[Samuel Finney was married in 1879 (FreeBMD: Kensington, Dec 1879, vol 1a, page 258). He is noted as the informant on his sister Anna's death certificate in 1880, and died himself in 1889, aged 54 (FreeBMD: Lambeth, Mar 1889, vol 1d, page 348).]

Colonel Hamilton-ffinney is said to have been brother of Captain Hamilton-Clark, Post Capt. Royal Navy – a Hamilton of the "Abercorn" Hamiltons.

[I have not traced this connection as yet.]

Mrs Binks; you mother must remember her, I think, she had a school, or rather took some pupils at her home in Harrogate. They were particularly good friends, and fond of each other.

[In the 1861 census, Rosey De Pearsall, age 12, is recorded as boarding at 184 Park Avenue, Levenshulme, Lancs with Annie Binks Binks (head of household), a teacher, age 31. Thus Rosey appears to have been sent away to be educated by Mrs Binks, possibly following her father's death and mother's remarriage in December 1865.]

Mrs Hughes I know less about; she stayed with her at N. London at times, I think, as a friend. Your mother did not, I think know either.

[This paragraph is unfortunately rather ambiguous, and it is not clear who the "she", "her" and "either" refer to. There may also have been errors in transcribing the typescript, as the manuscript for this paragraph is missing. Mrs Hughes is clearly Philippa de Pearsall, daughter of Robert Lucas de Pearsall (the elder), who married John Hughes in 1857. One possible interpretation is that Mrs Binks stayed with Philippa when in London, which suggests that following Robert Lucas de Pearsall's death in 1865, and the immediate remarriage of his widow to Charles Graham Carttar, it was Philippa who arranged for the education of her niece Rosey with Mrs Binks. However, it is clear from the letter sent to Rosey by Carttar's sister in 1879 that Rosey remained very close to the Carttar family. The final sentence may be intended to mean "your mother (i.e. Rosey) did not know her (i.e. Mrs Hughes) either", just as Carttar claims not to have known Mrs Hughes. Carttar was presumably unaware that Philippa was still alive, and living in London, in 1915. He may also have been unaware that Philippa wrote to Rosey in 1877, making it clear that they did know each other. I have no evidence that Ethel herself ever had any contact with Philippa, though Ethel was 37 and married by the time Philippa died.]

5. Carttar Genealogy

The second manuscript sheet, in Carttar's handwriting, gives some genealogical and biographical information on the Carttar family. In the following transcript, my own notes are included in square brackets.

The Carttars were settled on a freehold estate at Wrotham in Kent, as shewn by records and parish books there for centuries. This property was inherited by Joseph Carttar, and sold by my father.

A younger son had settled in Deptford, in Kent, in 16?? - his descendent was a Barrister and a member of Lincoln's Inn. His name, as such, and as a Baron of the Court of Exchequer, is in the Hall of that Society.

It gives his arms as: "sable, a lion rampant, or; crest: a lion's head, erased, or; Aequiliter et diligenter.

His son, or grandson, a naval architect, was "King's Master Shipwright" at Deptford dockyard.

His son, Thomas, owned much property in Deptford and Greenwich.

Thomas had a son, Joseph, my grandfather, articed to an Attorney, Geo. Mitchell, who was for years Coroner for Kent. At his death, Joseph Carttar was elected, after a severe contest, to the Coronership which he held for about 25 years.

[He was elected Coroner in 1811, and died in 1832, thus serving for about 21 years (Source: obituary for E. A. Carttar)]

At Joseph Carttar's death, his only son, my father Charles Joseph Carttar, then just turned 21, and admitted an attorney was elected coroner, after a contest, and held the office over 50 years.

[This is not quite accurate. Charles Joseph Carttar was born 9 Mar 1809 (source: IGI) and was elected Coroner on 3 May 1832, when he would have been 23. He died on 19 Mar 1880 after serving as Coroner for a little over 48 years. (Source: obituary for E. A. Carttar)]

When he died, my brother, E. Arundel, was elected to succeed him, after a contest, and held the office about 22 years. He was a Naval Architect by profession, but was a good lawyer.

[E. A. Carttar was elected Coroner on 29 Apr 1880, and died in 1902.]

From an early age I had to take care of myself; I was, practically, never at school as I always 'enjoyed' bad health. What little knowledge I had of Latin and Greek I had I learnt of my mother who was a good classical scholar. Ultimately I established myself as a "Public Accountant", then a new Profession, with some success. When health failed, I came to Texas, where I 'enjoy' better health. I am the last of the Carttars!

My father (CJC) married Clara Waite, the daughter of the Rev. Dr. Thomas Waite, D.C.L., of Oxford University, whose wife was Eliza Hamilton-Clark, a daughter of Capt^p. Hamilton-Clark, a Post-Capt^p. in the R.N. (another Abercorn Hamilton); he was understood to be a brother of Colonel Hamilton-finney. If so, we were cousins.

[There was also a marriage between a Susan Waite and a Major Edward Hamilton Finney on 15 Oct 1863 (reported in Gentleman's Magazine, 1863, p. 773). This Edward Hamilton Finney seems to be different from the one who married Eliza Lee on 22 Jul 1831, but I have not yet traced the connection between them. (The one who married Eliza Lee was commissioned Lieutenant in 62nd (or Wiltshire) Regiment of Foot 13 June 1830 [Army List 1831] while the one who married Susan Waite was commissioned Lieutenant in 1st (Royal) Regiment of Foot 17 Dec 1847 [Army List 1850]). It does, however, establish another link (if a rather indirect one, via the Waite family) between the Carttars and the Finneys, to put alongside Charles Graham Carttar's marriage to Anna-Maria de Pearsall (nee Finney) on 30 Dec 1865.]

The Rev^d. Dr. Thomas Waite was Head Master of Colfe's (?) Grammar School, Lewisham Hill. Was Chaplain to H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester, brother of Geoge 3rd, and a great friend of the Duke of Kent. Was "King's Preacher" for 25 years at Greenwich, afterwards Rector of High Halden, & Rector of Great

Chart, Kent, both on the presentation of the Archbishop of Canterbury. Dr Waite was descended from the eldest son of Capt. Thos. Waite, M.P. for Bolton, who signed the warrant for the execution of Charles 1st. He was the author of "Waite on the 39 Articles" - said to have been a great classical scholar in his day.

Carttar

The Carttars were settled on a freehold estate at Wingham, in Kent, as shown by records and parish books there for centuries. - This property was inherited by Joseph Carttar & sold by my Father.

A younger son had settled in Deptford, Kent, in 1622 - his descendant was a Barrister and a member of Lincoln's Inn. His name as such, and as a Baron of the Court of Exchequer, is in the Hall of that society.

It gives his arms as:

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Aquibellata et Diligenter.

His son or grandson, a naval architect, was "Kings Master Shipwright" at Deptford Dockyard.

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The Rev. Dr. Thomas Waite was Head Master of Colfe's (?) Grammar School, Lewinham Hill. Was Chaplain to H.R.H. the Duke of Gloucester, brother of George 3rd, and a great friend of the Duke of Kent. Was "Kings Preacher" for 25 years at Greenwich, afterwards, Rector of High Halden & Rector of Great Chart, Kent, both on the presentation of the Archbishop of Canterbury. Dr. Waite was descended from the eldest son of Capt. Thos. Waite, M.P. for Bolton, and signed the warrant for the execution of Charles 1st. He was the author of "Waite on the 39 Articles" - said to have been a great classical scholar in his day.