

Maria Caroline CARTTAR Letter 1879

Letter from Maria Caroline CARTTAR to Arthur Edward CLABBURN, dated 14 April 1879, giving congratulations on the birth of his daughter Ethel and news of the CARTTAR family.

Notes and transcript by John Barnard, 30 September 2008.

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1. Introduction

Maria Caroline CARTTAR was one of the sisters of Charles Graham CARTTAR (1835-1917), who married Anna Maria DE PEARSALL (nee HAMILTON-FFINNEY) following the death of Robert Lucas DE PEARSALL (the younger) in 1865, and thus became Rosey DE PEARSALL's step-father. This brief letter was sent to Rosey's husband two days after the birth of their first child, Ethel de Pearsall CLABBURN.

The letter shows that there were close relations between Rosey and the whole CARTTAR family. The CARTTARs lived together in the family home in Greenwich, and so far as I know Charles Graham CARTTAR was the only one of the younger generation ever to marry.

Unfortunately the letter does not give any direct information about Charles Graham, and makes no reference to Anna Maria (who would, of course, have been the new baby's grandmother). She died, aged 45, just over a year later, and her death certificate records that her death was caused by "scirrhus [carcinoma] of the breast 15 months", so she would have been ill at the time this letter was written. Interestingly the certificate records that she was the *widow* of Charles Graham Carttar, though he did not die until 1917, in San Antonio, Texas.

2. Transcript

Catherine House
Greenwich
April 14th 1879

Dear Mr Clabburn,

The news your note brought this morning gave us all very great pleasure. I am glad to hear Rosey and the little one are getting on well. I shall be very pleased to come and see Rosey on Thursday afternoon just for a few minutes but does not Nurse think that will be full early days for her to see anyone for I should not like her to get excited just yet. If I do not hear from you to the contrary I will call on Rosey on Thursday afternoon.

Papa¹ I believe is going to write to you himself this evening.

Rosey will be pleased to hear Uncle Allen² is here. He is so like Graham³ in the face that even Papa keeps calling him Graham instead of Arundel.

With my best congratulations and love to Rosey and yourself. Believe me, yours sincerely
Maria Caroline Carttar

We know no particulars of [unreadable]'s⁴ wedding. Emilie⁵ is to tell us all. She will be here about 3rd May. Emilie was at the wedding two days before she left Australia.

3. Notes

1. Charles Joseph CARTTAR (1809-1880), Coroner for Kent from 1832 to 1880 and the father of Charles Graham, Emile A., Maria Caroline and Edward Arundel CARTTAR.
2. From the context Allen seems to be a pet name for Edward Arundel CARTTAR (c. 1847 – 1902), who was the much younger brother of Charles Graham CARTTAR. He would have been about 12-15 years older than Rosey, and prior to his father's death in 1880 (when he succeeded him as Coroner for Kent) he worked as an Engineer in Belfast and Crewe, and presumably was thus only occasionally resident at the family home in Greenwich.
3. Charles Graham CARTTAR (1835-1917) was the eldest of the Carttar children, and so far as I know, the only one to marry. He married Anna Maria DE PEARSALL (nee HAMILTON-FFINNEY) sixteen days after the death of her first husband, Robert Lucas DE PEARSALL (the younger) in 1865. He is shown as living near Fleet Street in the 1871 census, but not with his wife. She died in April 1880 in Lambeth, and her death was registered by her brother Samuel Finney, suggesting that she was not in close touch with the Carttars. At some point Charles Graham migrated to Texas (for health reasons), corresponded with Ethel in 1915, and died there in 1917.
4. I am uncertain of this name, which looks as if it might be "Miha" or something close. This does not correspond to the names of any of the other Carttar sisters (Agnes, Clara and Eunice).
5. Emilie A. CARTTAR (b. circa 1837) was another sister to Maria Caroline and her brothers. She is shown as living at the family home in the 1881 census.

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April 14th 1879.

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Yours Sincerely,
Maria Caroline Arttar.

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