

## Family AT

### The Jeffcotts of Mancetter and Hartshill

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#### An Account of the Family

Our first knowledge of this family came from Alec Jeffcott of Coventry. Below is an extract of one of his letters to us.

The family seems to have its links with Hartshill. The family tree starts with John Jeffcott who was born in Nuneaton in 1764. His son Joseph died in 1861, leaving a will and naming two of his sons as executors. They were Joseph of Atherstone, a maltster, and Philip of Chapel End, a butcher. From this clue, we were able to consult the IGI to find that he married Mary Bates at Mancetter Parish Church in 1814 and that they had eight children.

Philip Jeffcott lived at Wood farm, Ansley and died at the age of 59 in 1891, leaving a will. Neither his will, nor his father's, have been viewed by us and this should be done at some stage to possibly add more detail to the tree.

At this point, we have found a gap in the family tree [resolved by 2020]. Two of the children of Joseph and Mary were Titus Andrew and David. Alec's father's name was also Titus Andrew and his uncle was David. The first Titus Andrew was born around 1834 and married in 1856. The second Titus Andrew was born in 1876. Clearly, due to the unusualness of the name, the two must be related in some way. Could they be father and son? We do not, at this stage, know and a birth certificate should be obtained to further the research.

By 2020, when we had a fresh look at all of the family trees in this chapter, we had added quite a bit more to this tree, taking it a further generation back and adding a lot more descendants from the children of Joseph and Mary. An extract from the 1851 census is shown below.

Parish or Township of Mancetter		Ecclesiastical District of		City or Borough of		Town of		Village of	
No. of Inhabitants	Name of Street, Place, or Road, and Name or No. of House	Name and Surname of each Person who abode in the house, on the Night of the 30th March, 1851	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of		Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind, or Deaf and Dumb
					Male	Female			
	84 Chapel End	Joseph Jeffcott	Head	Mar	64		Handloom Weaver of Ribton	Rowith, Warwick	
		Mary do	Wife	Mar	33		do	do Hartshill	
		Philip do	Son	Un	21		do	do do	
		David do	Son	Un	19		do	do do	
		Titus Andrew do	Son	Un	17		do	do do	
		John do	Son	Un	17		do	do do	
		William do	Son	Un	17		do	do do	
	54 Chapel End	William Parker	Head	Mar	61		Baker do	Leicester-Ratcliffe	

One branch of the family emigrated to the USA. The marriage return of Percival and Rebecca in Ohio in 1900 is shown on the following page, with the all important (to Americans) race of the couple given. Both white.

MARRIAGE RETURN. 945

1. Date of license Aug 20, 1900  
2. Full name of groom Percival R. Jeffcott  
3. Age last birthday 24  
4. Color (a) White  
5. No. of groom's marriages 1  
6. Residence Pleasant Valley  
7. Birthplace (b) Cleveland Ohio  
8. Occupation Teacher  
9. Father's name John Jeffcott  
10. Mother's maiden name Sarah Vernon  
11. Full name of bride Rebecca E. Tarte  
\*Maiden name if a widow \_\_\_\_\_  
12. Age last birthday 20  
13. Color (a) White  
14. No. of bride's marriages 1  
15. Residence Pleasant Valley  
16. Birthplace (b) Seabeck Wash.  
17. Occupation Boatkeeper  
18. Father's name John F. Tarte  
19. Mother's maiden name Eleanor W. Smith  
20. Date of marriage Aug. 22, 1900  
21. Place of marriage Pleasant Valley  
22. By whom married, and official station H. B. Garrison Minister  
23. Names of witnesses and their residences:  
No. 1 Frank Tarte W. B. Garrison  
No. 2 Frances Tarte W. B. Garrison

NOTE - (a) State color distinctly, so race may be known, as White, Black, Mulatto, Indian, Chinese, Mixed White and Indian, etc.  
(b) Give State or foreign country, so nationality is plainly shown.

This is a transcript of a letter written by Percival to an American Jeffcott in connection with letter 1092. Our American cousins never fail us with their claims of being able to trace their J ancestors back to William the Conqueror. If only it were as simple as that! The initials P R stand for the above Percival Robert Jeffcott. An interesting man!

Ferndale, Washington  
Nov 10, 1952

Mr Henry A Jeffcott,  
Philadelphia, Penn.

Dear Mr Jeffcott:

My first reaction on receipt of your letter was that of great surprise, followed by a keen interest in what you had to say relative to the Jeffcott tribe.

For many years (we came to the Oregon country in 1876) our family - the John Jeffcotts - were the only Jeffcotts in the West, but in later years, we have discovered several other members of the clan. Portland, Seattle, Victoria, BC, New Westminster, and Nelson BC, have each at least one, all using the same spelling, and three of them, upon being contacted proved to be distant cousins from the same part of England from which we hailed.

You are the second one that has written from the east. Some years ago I received a letter from a Jeffcott in Chicago, that also came from the same section of the old country. You are the first to any knowledge that sprang from any other country, and from what we know of the family ancestry I am persuaded that you line probably originated there and then migrated to Ireland.

We have the names of our Jeffcott line back for four generations, all residents of central Warrickshire, England, in and around Nuneaton. Several years ago, my oldest sister and her husband made a trip back to England, and she made an exhaustive study of the history of the family. She traced the name back to the time of the Norman Conquest in 1066; that they had crossed with William the Conqueror from France, or to be more exact the province of Normandy. Whether the ancestry back of that came with the Normans from Norway when they invaded France; merges with the Teutonic invaders, or loses itself in the ancient Gallic tribes of southwest Europe, we shall probably never learn. As far as I am concerned, it makes little difference what our forebears say have been in the mists of those far off times; we are more concerned in upholding the respect and integrity of the honorable Jeffcott name in the troublesome times of the present.

We have never known of a criminal in the history of the family, and uprightness, we are proud to believe in part of our escutcheon.

As for myself, I was born in Cleveland, Ohio in 1876. Father and Mother came from England in 1869. In the fall of '76, we moved to Portland, Oregon, where I and seven brothers and sisters grew up. As a young man, I came to this part of Washington, where I have since resided. Have a fine wife and five grown children.

Yes, I have done some writing along historical lines. 'Booksack Tales and Trials' is the latest, depicting early days in this section.

Trusting that you will find here what you desired to know, and that I may hear from you further, I remain,

Sincerely your 'cousin',

P R JEFFCOTT

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We then further learned from letter 1187 (Jeanie) the following about Percival Jeffcott:

'from the internet at <http://www.ac.wvu.edu/~cpnws/> (finding aids)

### **Percival R. Jeffcott Collection**

CPNWS Home Title Page Scope and Content Note Notes on Arrangement Inventory

### **Biographical Note**

Percival Robert Jeffcott was born in Cleveland, Ohio on April 27, 1876. That same year he and his parents moved to Portland, Oregon by way of the Central Pacific Railroad to San Francisco and the steamer "George W. Elder" to Portland. He attended grade school and high school in Portland and graduated from the Oregon School of Education in 1899.

After graduation Jeffcott moved to Whatcom County, Washington where he taught school for 25 years. He taught all but one of those years in the Ferndale and Custer school districts. He organized the first high school class in Ferndale in 1901, where he served as the principal, and also began the first high school class in Custer in 1904. In 1900, P. R. Jeffcott married Rebecca Tarte, the daughter of Sehome pioneers, John F. and Elinor (Smith) Tarte.

Jeffcott was particularly interested in Whatcom County pioneers and began collecting information about them in the 1920s. During his retirement at his "Garden Home Farm" near Ferndale, he published three books: Nooksack Tales and Trails (1949), which depicted pioneer days in Whatcom County between 1848 and 1895; "Blanket" Bill Jarman (1958), in which he attempted to unravel the mystery surrounding one of the first pioneer settlers in Whatcom and Skagit Counties; and Chechaco and Sourdough (1963), a history of the Mt. Baker Gold Rush. In addition, he edited the memoirs of pioneer, Robert Emmett Hawley in Skee Mus, and authored numerous articles pertaining to local history published in the Bellingham Herald, the Ferndale Record, and the Lynden Tribune.

One of Jeffcott's special interests was collecting photographs concerning local history, and among his collection is an extensive group of pictures of pioneer log cabins which were displayed annually at the picnics of the Whatcom County Old Settler's Association in Ferndale's Pioneer Park. P. R. Jeffcott served as historian for the Old Settler's Association and was also a member of the Clam Diggers Association and the Whatcom County Historical Society.

Jeffcott remained very active in his later years and was given the honor of helping to name and dedicate Sehome High School. Shortly before his death on January 4, 1969, the Bellingham Herald published the last article of his series concerning the founding of Sehome on Bellingham Bay.'

We were later to hear from Percival's great great nephew, Erik Jeffcott, and various other members of the AT family in the USA, detailing their, and their forbear's, lives in the US. Eric's great great grandfather was a dentist in the military, during the second world war. The gedcom gives more detail, as does Erik's email in 2002.

Hopefully, we will learn more of this side of the family, in due course.

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#### Letters Received

The following is an extract of a letter from Alec Jeffcott, then living in Coventry.

(154)

4th October 1983.

Dear Sir

I read of your interest in the Jephcott name. Here is Alec Jeffcott. I am 75 and retired to the above address, North Wales. My father was Titus Andrew Jeffcott and I had a brother Ralph. We were all born in The Rose Inn, Chapel-End, nr. Nuneaton. A public house which is now demolished.

My father had one brother David, a miner at Dry-Bread Colliery, Ansley. In 1918, when I was 10, we left Chapel-End and went to Coventry to keep the Nags-Head public house, my brother, ten years older than me, kept the Bear Hotel, Berkeswell, nr Coventry. I am the only one of our family name left to my knowledge, descended from my grandfather.

I myself was in the motor industry from 1922, starting at the then Standard Motor Co, and eventually Triumph Motors of the Layland Group. I was Chief Inspector of the machine shops retiring in 1969 after 45 years with the firm.

Unfortunately neither my brother or myself have a son to carry on the name.

I trust this information is of interest to you.

Yours sincerely

Alec Jeffcott

PS. My own grandfather on my father's side was a bricklayer living all his life at Coleshill Road, Chapel-End.

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