

# SIR WILLIAM GORE OUSELEY (1797-1866)

In the 1871 census for St. Austell, Cornwall there is an entry for Kate Whitelock, age 33, Unmarried, Governess, born in Middlesex, London. Living the house are her four charges, Harriett 9, Isabella 7, Edith 5 and Ousley 3. There is also a nurse, a cook and a housemaid. The surname for the children is Fitzmaurice. I was curious about the Ouseley name and did a little research to determine who this family was.

The parents were Capt James Terence Fitzmaurice (1835-1917) & Frances Rhoda Ouseley (1827-1907). This couple had five children:

Harriet Marcia Jane Fitzmaurice (1863-1933)  
Isabelle Annie Fitzmaurice (1865-1948)  
Aimee Edith Emily Fitzmaurice (1866-1890)  
James Campbell Gore Ouseley Fitzmaurice (1868- 1934)  
Mabel Madeline Rhoda Fitzmaurice (1878-1934)

Frances Rhoda Ouseley was the daughter of Sir William Gore Ouseley (1797-1866) a British Diplomat & Marcia VanNess the 20 year daughter of the Governor of Vermont, Cornelius P. VanNess. Her father's uncle was the noted orientalist Sir Gore Ouseley who was married to Harriet Georgina Whitelocke, the daughter of General John Whitelocke.



Self-Portrait  
Sir William Gore Ouseley

Sir William Gore Ouseley had an interesting diplomatic career. He was attaché in Washington D.C. from 1825 to 1832. He was one of several Britons who helped the new country of Argentina (1826) by gaining an advantage for Britain and negotiating contracts for expertise in the building of railways. In 1832 he was sent to Rio de Janeiro as a consul and rose to the position of minister resulting in a posting in Buenos Aires which lasted until 1850. His book *Notes on the Slave Trade, with Remarks on the Measures Adopted for its Suppression* regarding the Atlantic slave trade published in 1850 is still in print.

‘In October 1858 he was sent on a special mission to San José in Costa Rica as a Special Envoy on the British warship *Valorous*. His mission was to resolve Britain's interests in Central America, particularly the Bay Islands off Honduras, the Mosquito Coast and Greytown (both now in Nicaragua). In 1859, he negotiated a treaty concerning the British interests with Nicaragua and with Costa Rica which involved the President of Nicaragua personally. In early November, Ouseley required a change for his health and he announced his return to Britain before the treaty was signed. Within two weeks he had to return as his only son, William Charles Ouseley, had died at the age of 27 due to an opium overdose.’

Ouseley was an accomplished artist and his research into the legend of Dick Whittington & his cat revealed an unknown tenth century Persian manuscript of the legend.

The governess to Sir William's Fitzmaurice grandchildren, Catherine Kay Whitlock was baptized May 4, 1831 St. Botolph without Aldersdate the daughter of William Whitlock and Peggy Hills Town who were married there Jun.27,1829. I have not yet determined if there was any connection between the two Whitlock families mentioned in this article. See William Whitlock's Will in March 1996 issue of the

WFA newsletter.

SOURCES: R1255; R3412C