

Ralph Neville and Marjorie Carter

A love affair

Marjorie Carter was born 2nd Sept 1913, the daughter of Ida and Cornelius Carter, her father being a retired commander in the Royal Navy and JP in Barachois, Newfoundland, which at that time was still a British province. In her teens she was sent to a finishing school in England and on her return to Newfoundland entertained the guests at dinner parties given by her father for visiting British naval officers. At one of these parties she met commander **Ralph Neville** [b. 4 Sep 1887], 26 years her senior and a married man with two young children. Ralph was the eldest son of Admiral Sir George Neville CVO, KCB, Legion of Honour [died 5 Feb 1923] and also heir to the Butleigh Court estate of his uncle **Robert Neville-Grenville**.

Though Marjorie was just 19 and Ralph 45, they ran away and lived together in a log cabin in the woods of Newfoundland for four years where they had a daughter **Nadage** born 7th December 1935, registered in North Sydney, Nova Scotia. At the end of this four year period Ralph contracted pneumonia from which he died – on the 4th August 1936 [Corner Brook, Newfoundland]. His mother, **Fairlie Florence Neville** aged 74 must have attended his funeral since she sailed for Newfoundland, Canada on 21st August 1936 from Liverpool on the SS Newfoundland together with **Margaret Roberta Neville** aged 55 [daughter of Fairlie's brother-in-law Louis Neville].

Ralph was in line to inherit his uncle's estate but as it happened, Robert Neville-Grenville's wife Gertrude died two weeks after Ralph on 18th August 1936 and then the 90-year old Butleigh squire himself died a month later on 13th September 1936.

Butleigh Court with its estate now passed to the new heir, Ralph's son **Richard** [born 14 March 1922] by Ralph's legitimate wife Letice [or Lettice] Cary.

The aftermath of Ralph's death



- 1) **Marjorie Carter/Neville/Grant-Suttie/Underhill** b. 2nd Sep 1913, died 7 Jan 1998

Being left single with baby Nadage, Marjorie married **Major Donald Grant-Suttie** [born 14 Oct 1877, 36 years her senior] on 27th June 1937 [he had previously married Isobel Jane Campbell Hosack on 15th May 1931] and shortly after their marriage they had a son **George Philip** born

20th December 1938 in Sussex, New Brunswick. They had another child, **Anne** b. 26th Jun 1940, but then her husband died on 8 November 1940 when Marjorie was still only 27. Four years later she married an American officer, Lieut. **Paul 'Tom' Underhill** and they had four more children; Tom, Catherine, Joyce and Marjorie. This last husband abandoned Marjorie and her, now, 7 children in the late 1940's.

Her second partner [first husband] had been cousin and heir to Sir George Grant-Suttie 7th Bt. a Scottish baronet, and this inheritance passed to her son [George] Philip on Sir George's death on 19th May 1947 and he then became the 8th Baronet Grant Suttie. [Philip arrived in the UK in 1955 aged 16, married 13th Oct 1962, divorced in 1969 and died 7 Nov 1997]. Her other children all had successful careers.



- 2) **Nadage Carter-Neville** b. 7th Dec 1935, died 25th March 2014 Halifax, NS

Nadage graduated as a nurse in St. John's, Newfoundland in 1960 and while working for the RCAF met and married Dr. William Howard McConnell in Ottawa [d. 9 Jun 2006 aged 75] and they had two sons, Richard b. 1964 in Toronto and Conrad Edward b. 1967. Nadage was a supporter of the Saskatchewan and federal NDP, the Canada-USSR

association, the Friendship Centre in Saskatoon, Greenpeace, the Sierra Club, and she attended Black Panther meetings in Detroit while living in Windsor Ontario in 1974. Nadage

lobbied against the proposed construction of a nuclear power plant at Warman, Sask. and cruise missile testing at Cold Lake, Alberta. Nadage was an activist who not only spoke, but led and acted. In the summer of 1975, Nadage prepared thoroughly for a long distance hike on the Pacific Crest Trail in Washington State. The next two summers she took her 11 and then 12 year old son Richard on The PCT where they walked 750 miles together to Crater Lake, Oregon. In the subsequent summers Nadage, on her own, continued to walk across the state of California from north to south on the PCT. Nadage loved to test the limits of the human body and what one is able to do, she hiked the complete PCT for 2650 miles over 5 summers. In 1979 her son Conrad contracted leukemia and died in 1982. After Conrad's death, Nadage travelled to India where she lived for three years. A highlight of her time there was a climb to base camp 1 on Mount Everest. Nadage returned to Saskatoon in the late 80s and took up kayaking; again meticulously studying everything one would need to know about long distance kayaking. She eventually embarked on a successful trip 500 miles down the Saskatchewan River from Calgary to Saskatoon. Nadage lived in the Mexican mountain cities of Oaxaca and Patzcuaro from 1995 to 2009. In 2009 she returned to Nova Scotia with her son Richard where she was later diagnosed with Dementia. Nadage is survived by her son Richard and her daughter-in-law Lisa, her grandson John Felix and granddaughters Hannah and Mia. Also her sister Ann and her husband Charles, sisters Beulah and Marjorie, and brother Tom. Nadage always had a strong relationship with Ann's children Susan, Melissa, and Jon. Of Ralph's three children, Nadage certainly had the most fulfilled and positive life. *[extracted from her obituary]*

- 3) **Leticia Neville** b. 1888 London, d.o. 12th Viscount Falkland [Lt. Col. Byron Plantagenet Cary], died 1963 London

After Ralph had left her she sued her husband for divorce 'for restitution of conjugal rights' which was granted on 5th Nov 1934 [Sunderland Daily Echo 5 Nov 1934]. According to descendants of Gertrude Neville-Grenville's family, it was Leticia who was keen to sell off the estate and her family were executors. She then married widower **Philip John Sherwin Pearson-Gregory MC** [d. 12 Jun 1955] on 26 Jan 1937. His first wife had died in a car accident in 1930.

- 4) **Richard Neville** b. 14 Mar 1922, d. 1980

Richard was just ten years old when his father left the family and though Richard inherited the Butleigh Court estate in 1936, it was administered by executors until he came of age. He seems to have been brought up at the Henstridge home of his father's brother, Captain Philip Lloyd Neville. He had no interest in the large estate nor its manor house and sold off almost everything. This had devastating consequences for the building, Butleigh Court, and changed the lives of the inhabitants of the village. The estate built up over several generations and centuries was dismantled and the historic artifacts and family portraits from the Court dispersed.

Richard had achieved the rank of captain in the army but on selling his inheritance seems to have given up his commission and spent the rest of his life squandering the wealth he had come by. On 21 October 1960 he married divorcee Pauline Fisher who had previously been married [since 1947] to Major General Michael Forrester MC DSO CBE CB by whom she had two sons. That marriage had been dissolved in 1960. Richard and Pauline never had any children together. It is difficult to say what effect the scandal of his father's leaving, subsequent divorce and mother's re-marriage and his disrupted upbringing had on Richard, or his sister, but neither of them seem to have had fruitful or contented lives.

- 5) **Monica Neville** b. 1920, d. 8 Nov 1969.

Monica also seems to have lead an unsettled life and married four times; firstly on 11 Jan 1939 to Maj. Peter Holdsworth Hunt, divorced 1946, secondly 29 Apr 1948 Robert Maxtone Inglis, divorced 1955, thirdly 12 May 1955 to Lt-Col. Thomas William Arnold Anson, Viscount Anson, died 18 Mar 1958 [aged 45, father by first wife of Lord Lichfield the photographer], lastly 29 Jul 1959 Capt. Astley Dundas Cooper Cooper-Key, divorced 1967.