

WILLIAM W. ASTOR DIES SUDDENLY

Former American, With British Title, Succumbs to Heart Disease in a Brighton Hotel

WEDDED A PHILADELPHIAN

London, Oct. 20.—Viscount Astor of Hever Castle (William Waldorf Astor) died of heart disease Saturday morning at the Western Hotel, Brighton.

Lord Astor's death was entirely unexpected. It was stated at the son's home tonight, although his health had been declining for months. He walked about outdoors on Friday as usual. The body is lying at the residence of Lord Astor's son, Waldorf Astor, member of Parliament, in St. James's square.

In accordance with Viscount Astor's wish, his body will be cremated and the ashes will be placed in the private chapel of his one-time country home, Cliveden, at Tisbury, Wilts, now occupied by Waldorf Astor.

Few men of great wealth in England have been so little known to the public as was William Waldorf Astor. It was said that he left America to escape the limelight which newspapers threw upon millionaires. If that were true, he was successful.

Entered Exclusive Circle
During the first years of his residence here he established a position in the exclusive social set and entertained that circle in accordance with the most conservative British traditions. But he never attempted to become a leader in sport or politics, two fields in which rich Englishmen endeavor to attain publicity and popularity.

After the beginning of the war Mr. Astor gave up his London residence at Carlton House terrace and spent most of his time in the country at Hever Castle and on the Cliveden estate. The British exchequer will gain an important item through the Astor estate death duties. Such duties on estates of British subjects of more than £1,000,000 (\$2,000,000) are 20 per cent wherever the property is situated. Most British millionaires provide for insurance for the death duties.

Lord Astor's British income tax during the last period of the war had been slightly more than 50 per cent. According to gossip, his British and American taxes combined during that period exceeded his income. The report, however, has never been confirmed. Cliveden was advertised for rent last summer at £150 (\$750) a week.

William Waldorf Viscount Astor of Hever—was born in New York in 1848, the great-grandson of John Jacob Astor, the founder of the family fortune. He was graduated from Columbia College in 1873, immediately after which, in order to qualify himself for the management of the great Astor estate, he took up the study of law, succeeding his father, John Jacob Astor, in 1880 as the head of the family with a fortune then estimated at \$200,000,000.

He was admitted to the bar in 1870 and was elected to the New York Legislature three years later. After Astor had served three terms as assemblyman he went to Italy as the minister from the United States, remaining in that diplomatic post three years, until 1885. In 1878 he had married Mary Dahlgren Paul, of Philadelphia, who was a leader of New York society until her death in 1894.

Astor today is best remembered by Americans because of his action in renouncing his native country in 1890 and becoming a citizen of Great Britain. Nine years earlier he had announced his intention to make that country his permanent home.

Of the various phrases of the reason for his expatriation—his desire for "privacy"—one has been immortalized in American satire. "The United States," Astor is reputed to have said, "is not a fit place for a gentleman." A few years after establishing himself in England he purchased the Pall Mall Gazette and the Sunday Observer. But a faux pas almost at the outset wrecked his hopes for a decade.

The Pall Mall Gazette had been a liberal sheet until Astor bought it, with a succession of brilliant editors, notably Lord Milner, Lord Morley, W. P. Stead and Sir Edward Cook. Mr. Astor announced his purpose of making the Pall Mall Gazette a conservative organ, whereupon the editorial staff resigned and started the Westminster Gazette, an incident which created considerable attention, as such newspaper changes were then almost unknown in England.

Astor also conducted the Pall Mall Magazine for some years as a sort of magazine de luxe. The expense of that was heavy, but it was used as a ve-

VISCOUNT ASTOR AND HEVER CASTLE, HIS KENT HOME



The ex-American peer bought Hever Castle in 1905 when he gave Cliveden to his heir, Waldorf, Jr. The castle is about thirty miles from London. It was the home of Anne Boleyn, the ill-fated second wife of Henry VIII. Viscount Astor had the moat dredged and filled with water, built a new drawbridge and repaired the battlements. The restoration of Hever, with a Tudor village, consisting of guest houses for his house parties, is said to have cost him \$10,000,000.

hicle for the gratification of his own literary tastes, he being a contributor of numerous articles, mostly fiction. Indeed, while still an American citizen Astor had published two novels, "Valentino" and "Sofora."

Then Came the Magazine
That was Mr. Astor's courageous humor, but the millionaire had the magazine out and his stories in before the suggestion was a fortnight old, thereby getting in very effective support.

After turning his newspapers into Tory organs, Astor—so at least his enemies said and appearance supported—then threw himself into a campaign to capture a peerage with which to consecrate his British status.

Astor had purchased Cliveden, a magnificent residence on the Thames, formerly the home of the Duke of Westminster, paying \$1,250,000. During a concert at Cliveden, Astor ordered Sir Archibald Milne from the house. Milne had gone there at the request of the Countess of Oxford. Walking up to him, Astor said in a loud voice:

"I have not the honor of your acquaintance, and I have not asked you to come to my house. I shall publish in my newspaper tomorrow that you have come here uninvited."

Milne left the house and then sent an apology to Astor, but in spite of this the Pall Mall Gazette published the incident the next day. Unfortunately for Astor, he did not know that Milne was a personal friend of the Prince and Princess of Wales. He was given the choice of printing an apology to Milne in his paper or being expelled from the exclusive Marlborough Club.

The apology was printed. It was only after he had disposed of his newspapers, and as a result of his contributions to various war funds, that the honors so long desired came to him. In 1916 he was made a baron and in 1917 was created Viscount Astor of Hever, taking his title from Hever Castle in Kent, the birthplace of Anne Boleyn, which he had purchased and restored.

Astor was reckoned one of the richest men in England. Last summer his large realty holdings in New York were conveyed in trust for his sons, Waldorf Astor and Captain John Jacob Astor. A daughter, married to Captain H. H. Spender-Clay, also survives him.

ASTOR'S SON PREFERS TO STAY IN COMMONS

Plymouth, Oct. 20.—It is believed here that Waldorf Astor, who sits in Parliament for Plymouth, will reluctantly vacate his seat, which he will be compelled to do on succeeding to the peerage. He is regarded as an enthusiastic member of the House of Commons and is understood at the same time to be deeply interested in promoting legislation to remove the necessity of suc-

cessors to peerages vacating their seats. It is thought that the pressure of events hitherto has prevented his making the proposal in Parliament.

Mr. Astor enjoyed his constituency in December by an enormous majority, polling about 17,000 votes to his labor opponent's 5000.

Deaths of a Day
DR. H. W. STELWAGON DIES
Widely Known Physician Found Dead in Chair in His Office

Dr. Henry Weigmann Stelwagon, professor of dermatology at Jefferson Medical College since 1890, died suddenly last Saturday, while seated in a chair in his office, at 1524 Spruce street. Death was due to angina pectoris, from which he had been suffering for several years.

Doctor Stelwagon was recognized in medical circles throughout the world as an authority on skin diseases. He was born in Philadelphia on December 3, 1853. In 1872 he received the degree of B. S. from Antislava College and later the degree of M. D. and Ph. D. from the University of Pennsylvania. On October 9, 1884, he married Elizabeth Bender, of Easton, Pa., by whom he is survived.

During 1875 and 1876 Doctor Stelwagon was a resident physician of Philadelphia (Blockley) Hospital. From 1876 to 1878 he was a student in Vienna and Berlin. From 1880 to 1890 he was physician-in-charge of the Philadelphia Dispensary of Skin Diseases. From 1885 to 1890 he also held the chair of dermatology in the University of Pennsylvania and was associated in professional partnership with Professor Dahring. He was dermatologist in Philadelphia (Blockley) Hospital from 1888 to 1915, and consulting dermatologist since 1916. He was clinical professor of dermatology in the Woman's Medical College of Philadelphia from 1888 to 1907 and professor of dermatology in Jefferson Medical College from 1900 to June 1918.

Doctor Stelwagon was a member of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, of the American Dermatological Association and of the dermatological associations of France, Berlin, Vienna and Italy.

His best-known work is his "Diseases of the Skin," which was written in 1901 and is now in its eighth edition. It is used as the standard textbook on dermatology in most of the medical schools in the country.

He will be buried tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock, with services at his late home. Interment will be made in the West Laurel Hill Cemetery and will be private.

George B. Cresson
George B. Cresson, widely known in fire insurance and scientific circles here, died Saturday in his home, 23 Anshurst avenue, Swarthmore. He was fifty-nine years old.

For years Mr. Cresson was connected with the Franklin Fire Insurance Company, and later with the People's National Fire Insurance Company. His father, Edward T. Cresson, was a noted scientist.

Mr. Cresson was a member of the Episcopal Church. He leaves a widow and four children.

John S. Durham
Word was received here yesterday of the death of John Stephens Durham, a Philadelphia negro, well known as a lawyer and newspaper man, who died Friday in London.

Mr. Durham was born in this city in 1861. He was educated in the primary schools and later entered the Institute for Negro Youth, from which he graduated in 1876. For a time he taught school in the South. He returned to Philadelphia and entered the Towne Scientific School of the University of Pennsylvania, where overcoming strong racial prejudices, he became one of the favorites in his class. He also gained considerable popularity as an athlete.

While completing his law course he was elected editor-in-chief of the University Magazine, and was also engaged as an editorial writer on an evening paper.

In 1897 Mr. Durham married Miss Constance MacKenzie, a talented young white woman, who taught in one of the local high schools. She was the daughter of the late Dr. R. Shelton MacKenzie, a prominent Philadelphia litterateur.

Since the beginning of the war he had lived in London with his wife and son.

Mrs. Thomas Shaw

Mrs. Mary Shaw, wife of Thomas Shaw, a retired Philadelphia produce dealer, died yesterday in the home of her daughter, Mrs. J. B. Haywood, in Crayford. She was seventy-nine years old.

Mrs. Shaw leaves her husband and daughter, with whom she had made her home for years. Funeral arrangements will be made today.

NEW ARMY FOOD SHOP OPEN

Fourth in Chain Now Located at 4424 Lancaster Avenue
The fourth store for the sale of army foodstuffs opened today at 4424 Lancaster avenue. It is in charge of Major Charles E. Jones, of the United States army quartermasters' depot, Twenty-first street and Oregon avenue.

The Fred P. Bell store, Johnson street and Germantown avenue, is offering sugar-cured hams and other army stocks today at twenty-five cents a pound. Sales of clothing, hardware and canned meats will continue in the Third Regiment Armory, Broad and Wharton streets. Two other government stores are at the arsenal, 2620 Gray's Ferry road, and at 1524 Arch street.

SEEK BOLD HIGHWAYMAN

With Companion He Held Up Travelers and Killed Deputy Sheriff Chattanooga, Tenn., Oct. 20.—With James Oliver, twenty years old, in jail, posses today still were scouring the vicinity of Ooltewah, James county, for Ed Martin, his alleged companion and accomplice in the killing of Deputy Sheriff McIntosh and the robbery of many travelers on the Dixie highway, Saturday.

The two, discharged soldiers, it is charged, barricaded the highway near Ooltewah early Saturday, holding up all travelers who approached and finally capturing and holding for hours sev-

eral citizens who came to investigate the killing of Deputy McIntosh, who was shot by one of the boys whom he attempted to arrest.

Oliver was wounded in an exchange of shots with a posseman and was only captured, according to the officers, when he feared he was bleeding to death. Citizens who were held by the men were forced to take him to Ooltewah for medical attention. His companion escaped.

Six men and a woman were huddled along the roadside, covered by the pis-

tol of one of the bandits, while several of the hold-ups were in progress.

MAN FOUND DEAD IN BED
A light burning in the room of Harry Schustlis, 1112 Spring Garden street, attracted attention early today. The man was found lying dead upon his bed. He had apparently dropped dead while preparing to retire for the night. At the boarding house it was said that Schustlis was out of work and had no friends here. He was fifty-eight years old.

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