The Frank Le Cocq Jr. Family

Ralph B. LeCocq
THE FRANK LE COCQ JR. FAMILY.

FATHER: Francois Le Cocq Sr. Born in Netherlands. Immigrated to
Pella, Iowa, about 1843. His father, also Francois Le Cocq,
was born in France or Brussels, and also immigrated to
what was named Pella, Iowa. He was treasurer of the
Holland group who founded Pella. There is a Plaque in
the Pella Museum which gives the dates.
The Francois Le Cocq Sr. mentioned first above, moved
from Pella to Orange City, Iowa, where he was County Treasurer
and county recorder for some years. While I was attending
College at the University of Iowa I visited Orange City
and found many legal documents in the registration books
which had been recorded by my said grandfather. It was
all done in long hand in beautiful writing. After my
father, Frank Le Cocq Jr., founder of Harrison, South
Dakota, was established there said grandfather also
came to Harrison, S. D. with his family. He took up
some government land and he and my father established
the Bank of Harrison, which was later changed into
a real estate office.

Francois Le Cocq Sr. married MARIA VAN GORKUM. To this union
were born: Frank Le Cocq Jr. my father; Cornelia Le Cocq,
Sophie Le Cocq (married Markus); Christina Le Cocq (Plemp);
Mary Le Cocq (Van Konynenburg); Dora Le Cocq (Hoog);
Anne Le Cocq (De Jonge).

MOTHER: Maria Van Gorkum Le Cocq, daughter of my great grandfather
on my mother's side. (Framed picture in this collection)
Her twin sister married a man by the name of Haekley,
who moved to California in the California gold rush days.
This family was lost. I tried to trace thru the oldest
daughter, Emma Hoyt, but could not find any records of
her or her family in California or Oregon.

The above named son, Frank Le Cocq Jr., my father, married
RHODA BRINKS, whose father was ROELOF BRINKS, mentioned in
the book "Netherlanders in America" by Luces, all living then
in Orange City, Iowa or vicinity. All of them followed Frank
Le Cocq Jr. and wife, Rhoda to Harrison, South Dakota. Out
of the union of Frank Le Cocq Jr. and Rhoda Brinks there
were born EIGHT sons:

1. Frank Le Cocq, born 1884, in Harrison, South Dakota.
He was one of the first class graduated from the
"Harrison Classical Academy" under Prof. B. D. (Rev.)
Dykstra. This small school could not meet all the
requirements for entrance into a State University
so he took one year of preparation in Macalester
College, St. Paul, Minn. and then entered Purdue
University as a freshman, graduated four years later,
and got his first Civil engineering job on a rail-
road construction job in Kentucky. He then took
the job of City Engineer in Aberdeen, South Dakota.
Later he moved to the Pacific Coast, State of
Washington, and did work in various jobs and in
engineering project and in the oil royalty business.
He is now retired at 87 and is still living in
Riverside, California. Married to Dora Ungerma of
Lafayette, Indiana.
Ralph Brinks Le Cocq was born in Harrison, South Dakota on March 20, 1887, and at this writing he is almost 84 years old. He was one of the first class graduating from the Harrison Classical Academy under Prof. Rev. B. D. Dykstra. He then attended Macalester College in St. Paul, with his brother, Frank, for his freshman year. Then he attended Hope College for his sophomore year, and then he entered the University of Iowa as a junior, and graduated with B.A. degree. He then attended the University of Michigan law school and graduated with degree of LL.B. in 1912 and entered active practice with E.P. Wanzer, an old lawyer in Armour, So. Dak. In 1914 he moved to the State of Washington and started practice of his profession in Lynden, Washington. Years later he received from the University of Michigan the degree of Doctor of Jurisprudence (J.D.). In August 1966 he retired from active practice but retained his private office until this day.

During his long years of practice he served as city attorney for Lynden for 25 years, and as director on the school board for 14 years. He was instrumental and drew all the papers for the Lynden City Park and for the 236 Acre park devised by Mr. & Mrs. Hans Berthusen to the City of Lynden as Trustee. This is a large tract of beautiful virgin timber, and some cleared land, to be for the benefit of the public in perpetuity. He served as attorney for both banks in Lynden and for the Farmers Mutual Telephone Company, now the Washington Telephone Company. He took a special interest in the Calfhood Vaccination Program of the United State Bureau of Animal Husbandry, and was the delegate from the State of Washington to the international meeting which took place after the completion of the Five-year experiment in vaccination of calves. The vaccination program is now routine and the dread disease of Brucellosis has been wiped out. The first calf vaccinated in the United States under this program was born on the Buitenzorg Farm of R.B. Le Cocq (See article in Lynden Tribune) He also experimented with cross breeding Angus cows with purebred Brahman bull. This proved very successful for superior beef. (See article in paper) After three cross breedings one gets a new breeding, recognized as such in the United States, and named the BRANGUS. If crossed with Herfords the new breed is called the Brahford. Upon his retirement he established a TRUST FUND designated as the "R. B. LE COCQ FOUNDATION" for scholarships for Lynden Public and parochial High School graduates. There are two students now participating in the benefits.

Gideon Moody Le Cocq, born in 1889 in Harrison, S.D. Graduated from Harrison Classical Academy and entered the University of South Dakota, after graduating from the Iowa City preparatory school. Practiced at Oak Harbor, Wash. and then at Everett, Washington until his death in 1951. He ran for prosecuting attorney for Snohomish County but lost because it happened to be a democratic year and all republican candidates were defeated.

Irwin I. Le Cocq, born in 1891 in Harrison, South Dakota. Attended and graduated from the Harrison Classical Academy and then entered the University of South Dakota and took a four year course in civil engineering and received the degree of B.S. or C.E. He was City Engineer for several years of Aberdeen, South Dakota; moved in 1928 to Lynden, Washington, engaged in the Ford Motor business and then became president of the Lynden PEOPLES STATE BANK, which office he retains today. In 1970 the Bank built a beautiful new building. He was very successful in his chosen work. At the present time he plans to retire and take life easy.
5. Marion Le Cocq M.D. Born in Harrison, South Dakota in 1894 and died in Portland, Oregon in 1941. Attended the Harrison Classical Academy and University of South Dakota until he moved with his parents to the State of Washington, when he entered the University of Oregon and then continued in the Oregon University Medical College. Upon graduation he opened up his practice as a doctor in Lynden, Washington, and was highly successful as a practicing physician and surgeon.

6. John F. Le Cocq M.D. Born in Harrison, South Dakota in 1896 and died in Seattle, Washington. Attended the Harrison Classical Academy. After graduation he came to Washington with his parents, entered the University of Oregon, at Portland, entered the Medical school there and graduated with honors. Took special work at the University of Iowa Medical school and then became an associate of Dr. Eikenberry, Seattle Orthopedic & Fracture Clinic. After the death of Dr. Eikenberry he became head of the Clinic. At the time of his death the Clinic had grown into an important Medical Center, with several doctors and nurses and is today one of the important centers for this special medical work. Dr. John became well and favorably known on the Pacific Coast. He was at one time chosen to go on the good ship HOPE and spent about three months in the Orient teaching and operating.

7. Charles Edward Le Cocq, born in Harrison, South Dakota in 1899 and died in Bellingham, Washington May 17, 1948. He graduated from the Lynden High School, then attended the University of Washington in a course for civil engineering. After his freshman year he entered the University of South Dakota, at Vermillion, and continued his course in civil engineering, graduating with B.S. degree in Civil Engineering (C.E.). Returned to Washington and became assistant State engineer of Washington. Was in charge of the noted bridge across Deception pass and many other state paved roads and bridges. He was widely regarded as a very successful state engineer.

8. Edward E. Le Cocq M.D. Born in Harrison, South Dakota in 1901 and died in Lynden, Washington, while a resident of Seattle, Washington. Graduated from Lynden High school and then entered the University of Oregon and after graduation the Oregon Medical College at Portland, Ore. Upon graduation he specialized in New York City in Orthopedics and bone work and then entered into association with his brother, John F., in the Seattle Orthopedic Fracture Clinic until his death. During the war he was stationed in Pearl Harbor U.S. Hospital and became well known for his remarkable bone work.

Frank Le Cocq Jr., father of these eight sons, was born in Pella, Iowa in 1858, died in Lynden, Washington in April, 1930. Rhoda Brinks Le Cocq, his wife, was born in Zeeland, Michigan in 1865 and died in Lynden, Washington in 1936.