

The Astors; whose immense fortune came from furs, ships, and real estate; whose mansions bejewelled Fifth Avenue, Newport, and England; who became leaders “ first in America, then in Britain ” of polite society; whose births and deaths, private feuds and public scandals, political ambitions and philanthropic munificence have fascinated the rest of the world for close to two centuries. The story of their rise to prominence, of their long reign, of their influence and importance, is more than the saga of a rich and unusual family, for it illuminates from a unique vantage point the history of the past two hundred years. When twenty-year-old John Jacob Astor arrived in icebound Baltimore from Germany in 1783, his ambition was to live comfortably from the sale of musical instruments. At his death in 1848, he was the richest man in America “ he ruled over an empire and had founded a dynasty. Today’s generation of Astors, still wealthy, lead influential but less flamboyant lives than their predecessors “ as modest businessmen, horse breeders, playboys, philanthropists, novelists. But between them and their ancestor John Jacob “ who had spent his early years trudging along Indian trails bartering for furs and his last fourteen years quadrupling his fortune many times over on Manhattan real estate and rentals “ lies a peerless array of characters, social and political forces in their own times, whose power and prestige continue to be felt today. There was William Backhouse Astor, frugal and sombre, who loathed social gatherings. There was the Southerner Charlotte Augusta, who during the Civil War raised and equipped a regiment of black soldiers to fight for the North. There was Caroline Astor, who gave balls costing as much as \$200,000. There was the vindictive, prickly William Waldorf Astor, who unsuccessfully ran for Congress. There was an Astor feud settled only by the prospect of financial gain with the creation of the Waldorf-Astoria, designed to bring exclusiveness to the masses, a “€glittering incandescent fantasy“•. And there was Nancy Astor, vociferous Member of Parliament and leader of the Cliveden Set. From the free-wheeling entrepreneurial days of the early nineteenth century through two world wars to today, the Astors have been in the forefront of their age, both here and abroad, luminaries of politics, society, and culture. Through five generations, in all their splendour, in a richly anecdotal narrative interwoven with paintings, drawings, and photographs making vivid the people, their mansions, their rise to social prominence in the United States and in England, here then are The Astors. Virginia Cowles (1910-1983) was an author and journalist. Born in Vermont, USA she became a well-known journalist in the 1930s with her columns appearing on both sides of the Atlantic. During the Second World War she covered the Italian campaign, the liberation of Paris, and the Allied invasion of Germany. In 1945 she married the politician and writer Aidan Crawley. She wrote many biographies including Winston Churchill; the Era and the Man and Edward VII and His Circle. Endeavour Press is the UK's leading independent digital publisher. For more information on our titles please sign up to our newsletter at www.endeavourpress.com. Each week you will receive updates on free and discounted ebooks. Follow us on Twitter: @EndeavourPress and on Facebook via <http://on.fb.me/1HweQV7>. We are always interested in hearing from our readers. Endeavour Press believes that the future is now.

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Ad astra per aspera (Through difficulties to the stars)? Ad Astor per aspera “ merely making sense of the Astor family tree is enough to make a. John Jacob Astor (“) was the

founder of the family fortune. His son, William Backhouse Astor (1792-1845), who inherited the major portion of the. John Jacob Astor's Estate Astoria, Queens; Astor Place; The Waldorf-Astoria even if you're not a New Yorker, you've heard of these iconic. The Astors, Curtis Johnson, Eliehue Stanback, Sam (Byrnes) Jones, Richard Harris, grew up in The Orange Mound community in Memphis, Tennessee, while . A battle is raging over the Astor fortune. The main beneficiary is accused of scheming with others to drain the estate. The deceased, it is alleged.

The original founder of the Astor fortune was John Jacob Astor (1764-1848). John Jacob Astor was born in Walldorf, Duchy of Baden (Germany) from a Jewish . Rescuing his grandmother Brooke Astor cost him a cool, \$9 million inheritance but he'd do it all again in a heartbeat. Philip Marshall says he. Perhaps he was pointing out the busts of the Astor heirs or the Steinway grand pianos or the cabinets full of gold-rimmed china. As she stepped. Get the facts about John Jacob Astor, America's first multi-millionaire.

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