

Nancy Astor

a biography

Anthony Masters



Nancy Astor A Biography

Maurice Collis



Nancy Astor A Biography:

Nancy Astor, a Biography Anthony Masters, 1981 Nancy Witcher Astor Viscountess Astor CH 19 May 1879 2 May 1964 was the first woman to sit as a Member of Parliament MP in the British House of Commons She was the wife of Waldorf Astor 2nd Viscount Astor Wikipedia *Nancy Astor*, 1936 Typed signed note with a handwritten postscript typed signed note to Jos dated December 3 1941 England America Nancy Witcher Astor Viscountess Astor CH 19 May 1879 2 May 1964 was the first woman to sit as a Member of Parliament MP in the British House of Commons Nancy Astor a Conservative Party representative was the wife of Waldorf Astor 2nd Viscount Astor Astor was born Nancy Witcher Langhorne in Danville Virginia in the United States Her father was Chiswell Dabney Langhorne and her mother was Nancy Witcher Keene Her father's earlier business venture had depended at least in part upon slave labour and the outcome of the American Civil War caused the family to live in near poverty for several years before Nancy was born After her birth her father began working to regain the family wealth first with a job as an auctioneer and later with a job that he obtained with the railroad by using old contacts from his work as a contractor By the time she was thirteen years old the Langhorne family were again a rich family with a sizeable home Chiswell Langhorne later moved the family to their estate known as Mirador in Albemarle County Virginia Nancy Langhorne had four sisters and three brothers All of the sisters were known for their beauty her sister Irene later married the artist Charles Dana Gibson and became a model for the Gibson girl Nancy and Irene both went to a finishing school in New York City There Nancy met her first husband Robert Gould Shaw II a cousin of the Colonel Robert Gould Shaw who commanded the all black 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment They were married in New York City on October 27 1897 when she was 18 Unfortunately the marriage was a disaster Shaw's friends accused Nancy of becoming puritanical and rigid after she married while her friends claimed that Shaw was an alcoholic rapist They remained married for four years and had one son Bobbie Nancy left Shaw numerous times during their marriage the first during their honeymoon In 1903 Nancy's mother died and the now divorced Nancy moved back to Mirador to try to run the household but was unsuccessful She left on a tour of England and fell in love with the country Since she had been so happy there her father suggested that she move to England Nancy was reluctant so he told her the move had been her mother's wish and would also be good for Nancy's younger sister Phyllis Nancy and Phyllis finally moved to England in 1905 The earlier trip to England had launched Nancy's reputation there as an interesting and witty American Her tendency to be witty and saucy in conversation yet religiously devout and almost prudish in behavior confused many of the English men but pleased some of the older socialites They liked conversing with the lively and exciting American who at the same time largely conformed to decency and restraint Nancy also began at this time to show her skill at winning over critics She was once asked by an English woman Have you come to get our husbands Her unexpected response If you knew the trouble I had getting rid of mine charmed her listeners and displayed the wit that later became famous Despite her denial however she married an Englishman Her second

husband Waldorf Astor was born in the United States but his father had moved the family to England when Waldorf was twelve and raised his children as English aristocrats The couple were well matched from the start Not only were they both American expatriates with similar temperaments but they were of the same age being born on the same day 19 May 1879 He shared some of Nancy's moral attitudes and his heart condition may have encouraged him toward a restraint that she found comforting The marriage's success therefore seemed assured After the Astors married Nancy moved into Cliveden a lavish estate in Buckinghamshire on the River Thames and began her life as a prominent hostess for the social elite The Astors also owned a grand London house No 4 St James's Square which is now the premises of the Naval Military Club Through her many social connections Lady Astor became involved in a kind of political circle called Milner's Kindergarten Considered liberal in their age the group advocated unity and equality among English speaking people and a continuance or expansion of British imperialism

Nancy Astor Anthony Masters,1982 **Nancy Astor** Maurice Collis,1960 Nancy Adrian Fort,2013-01-22 A new biography of Nancy Astor American socialite and social crusader who blazed a trail through British society amid two World Wars In 1919 Nancy Astor became the first female Member of Parliament elected to the House of Commons she was not what had been expected Far from a virago who had suffered for the cause of female suffrage Lady Astor was already near the center of the ruling society that had for so long resisted the political upheavals of the early twentieth century having married into one of the richest families in the world She wasn't even British but the daughter of a famous Virginian family and fiercely proud of her expatriate ancestry But her moral drive was strong and she would utilize her position of privilege and influence to blow a bracing American wind into what she regarded as the stuffy corners of British politics This account charts Nancy Astor's incredible story from relative penury in the American South to a world of enormous countryside estates and townhouses and the most lavish entertainments peopled by the great figures of the day Churchill Chamberlain FDR Charlie Chapin J M Barrie and Lawrence of Arabia were all part of her social circle But hers was not to be an easy life of power and pure glamour it was also defined by principles and bravery war and sacrifice love and the most embittered disputes With glorious page turning brio Adrian Fort brings to life this restless controversial American dynamo an unforgettable woman who left a deep and lasting imprint on the political life of a nation

Nancy Astor Emily Astor,2019-11-28 170 pages of for the most part previously unpublished photographs of Nancy Astor first woman member of Parliament published on the 100th anniversary of her taking office **Nancy** Christopher Sykes,1972-01-01 A biographical study of Lady Astor that emphasizes her early years in America and her role in British politics and society **Nancy Astor** Maurice Collis,1982 **My Two Countries** Nancy Witcher Langhorne Astor Viscountess Astor,2019-12-12 In *My Two Countries* by Nancy Witcher Langhorne Astor Viscountess Astor the author delves into her unique experience of being an American born British politician This memoir provides a fascinating insight into the literary context of early 20th century British politics written in a candid and engaging style Astor's depiction of her struggles and triumphs on both sides of the

Atlantic adds depth to the narrative making it both informative and entertaining for readers interested in political history Nancy Witcher Langhorne Astor Viscountess Astor's background as the first female Member of Parliament in the House of Commons lends credibility to her depiction of the challenges faced by a pioneering woman in politics This book serves as a testament to her determination and resilience in navigating the complexities of political life in two different countries Her unique perspective as a dual citizen enriches the narrative making it a compelling read for history enthusiasts and those interested in gender studies *My Two Countries* is highly recommended for readers seeking a firsthand account of the intersection of personal identity and political life Astor's memoir offers valuable insights into the historical context of her time providing a rich tapestry of experiences that are both informative and engaging

The Northeastern Dictionary of Women's Biography Jennifer S. Uglow, 1999 The most comprehensive reference book of its kind with more than 60 new entries in this third edition *Nancy Astor, Portrait of a Pioneer* John Grigg, 1980 ***Nancy Astor, a Lady Unashamed*** John Grigg, 1980 ***Nancy Astor and Her Friends*** Elizabeth Coles Langhorne, 1974 *A Bibliography of British History, 1914-1989* Keith Robbins, American Historical Association, Royal Historical Society (Great Britain), 1996 Containing over 25 000 entries this unique volume will be absolutely indispensable for all those with an interest in Britain in the twentieth century Accessibly arranged by theme with helpful introductions to each chapter a huge range of topics is covered There is a comprehensive index *Macmillan Dictionary of Women's Biography* Jennifer Uglow, 1991-06-27 The enthusiastic response to the Dictionary has prompted this second substantially enlarged revised and updated edition It now contains essential details of the lives of over 2000 women from all periods cultures and walks of life from queens to cooks engineers to entertainers pilots to poisoners The new entries include women who have hit the headlines in the past five years from Cory Aquino to Madonna but the historical coverage has also been broadened in response to new research and a special new feature is the extended treatment of women from Third World countries With subsections for further reading comprehensive subject index and bibliographical survey the Macmillan Dictionary of Women's Biography is an invaluable reference source and a fascinating bedtime read *The 20th Century A-GI* Frank N. Magill, 2013-05-13 Each volume of the Dictionary of World Biography contains 250 entries on the lives of the individuals who shaped their times and left their mark on world history This is not a who's who Instead each entry provides an in depth essay on the life and career of the individual concerned Essays commence with a quick reference section that provides basic facts on the individual's life and achievements The extended biography places the life and works of the individual within an historical context and the summary at the end of each essay provides a synopsis of the individual's place in history All entries conclude with a fully annotated bibliography ***Nancy Astor*** John Grigg, 1980 *Women of Westminster* Rachel Reeves, 2020-03-05 Foreword by Dame Winifred Mary Beard This updated edition is a complete account of the first 100 years of women in Parliament In 1919 Nancy Astor was elected as the Member of Parliament for Plymouth Sutton becoming the first woman MP to take her

seat in the House of Commons Her achievement was all the more remarkable given that women and even then only some women had only been entitled to vote for just over a year In the past 100 years a total of 491 women have been elected to Parliament Yet it was not until 2016 that the total number of women ever elected surpassed the number of male MPs in a single parliament The achievements of these political pioneers have been remarkable Britain has now had two female Prime Ministers and women MPs have made significant strides in fighting for gender equality from the earliest suffrage campaigns to Barbara Castle s fight for equal pay to Harriet Harman s recent legislation on the gender pay gap Yet the stories of so many women MPs have too often been overlooked in political histories In this book Rachel Reeves brings forgotten MPs out of the shadows and looks at the many battles fought by the Women of Westminster from 1919 to 2019 **Reader's Guide to British History** David Loades,2020-12-17 The Reader sGuide to British History is the essential source to secondary material on British history This resource contains over 1 000 A Z entries on the history of Britain from ancient and Roman Britain to the present day Each entry lists 6-12 of the best known books on the subject then discusses those works in an essay of 800 to 1 000 words prepared by an expert in the field The essays provide advice on the range and depth of coverage as well as the emphasis and point of view espoused in each publication Research Guide to European Historical Biography, 1450-present: A-Col. Appendices 1-9. Maps James A. Moncure,1992

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