

The Crummer Marriage Certificate reveals some intriguing details. First, it confirms Aikaterine's family name was Plessos. Second, the author of the document was a Hellenic-speaker, with only a general knowledge of English. Third, James and Aikaterine were married in a western Christian ceremony though there was no such church on Kalamos. Therefore, the ceremony was most likely conducted by a military chaplain. Although the document states 'Roman Catholic', the Crummers were an Anglican family. Such distinctions would not mean much to an Orthodox person of the time.

The document also raises some intriguing questions. Why was it necessary to make the document bilingual? Why did the document's author use the ancient Hellenic calendar to record the date of the ceremony, rather than the modern Gregorian Calendar? Why is the document unsigned? Many questions that will never be answered.

The Marriage Certificate also challenges other sources on the life of Aikaterine Plessou. Her published obituary records that she married James Crummer in 1825, when she was sixteen years of age, 'at the residence of the Lord High Commissioner at Corfu'. The original document gives late March 1827 as the date of the ceremony and Kalamos as the location. James Crummer's obituary also states he was Commandant of Kalamos until 1827, supporting the Marriage Certificate. Exploring these discrepancies are an interesting exercise in historiography, which is of little consequence to the story of the life and times of Aikaterine Plessou Crummer.

The newly-weds moved to Kerkyra (Corfu), where their first child Amelia Helena⁶ was born on 26 March 1828. A few years later, Aikaterine and Amelia became the first Hellenic-born free settlers in New South Wales. The surviving family papers also hint at darker pages in the patchy biography of Aikaterine Plessou, now Mrs. Catherine Crummer.

An April 1829 letter from 'your ... brother Konstantinos Plessos' reveals that Catherine's family was unaware she had married and departed Hellas permanently. The letter did reach her, as confirmed by its existence amongst the Crummer family papers on the other side of the world. The letter confirms her younger brother had a decent level of education and that the Plessos family was prosperous enough to have servants.

A handwritten note sits beneath Konstantinos Plessos' letter, a short message to Aikaterine from S.N. Korzous, dated 15 April 1829:

«...κηρη εκατερηνη χερε εμης ασερν
εος την σημερον με τον κωστη σολα καλα
μονο απο την ευγενηαι σας δεν εχομε
καμηαν ηδησην κι τουτο μας ληπη καθη
μερηνος κηημενε...»

[...Ms. Aikaterine greetings we are
to this day with Kosti all is well
only from your noble person we do not have
any news and this saddens us
every day poor one...]

It is possible to deduce from this letter and note, written by a subservient individual with little formal education, that Aikaterine had severed all communication with her family. The reasons for this, as well as the reasons she kept the letter with its supplementary note, are more gaps in the historical record.

After short stays in England and Ireland, in October 1835, the Crummers arrived in the New South Wales colony with the 28th Regiment. Crummer accepting the post of Police Magistrate in Newcastle and Port Macquarie from 1836.

About the time of their arrival, a grand new residence was being inaugurated on the fringes of the Sydney Cove colony. A prosperous Scottish merchant named Alexander Brodie Spark had secured a parcel of land along the Cooks River and named it Tempe, for the Vale of Tempe at the foot of Mount Olympos in Hellas. His home, Tempe House⁷, would have been visited by the Crummers, as James was a reasonably senior government official and decorated veteran.

In January 1840, the Regiment was posted to India. Impacted by his war wounds and age – by then Crummer was 49 years of age – he sold his commission in the British Army and retired from active service, electing to become a colonial settler.

After twelve years at Port Macquarie, Crummer took up a post in Maitland, some kilometres inland, in the Hunter Valley, a post he held until September 1864. Major James Henry Crummer passed away on 29 December 1867, aged 76 years, being laid to rest in Port Macquarie Cemetery, next to daughter Augusta Louisa and grandson Eccleston.

According to the Obituary published in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, a firing party of eight veterans of the Crimean and Indian Campaigns escorted him to his

6. Mrs Amelia Helena Crummer Lodge tragically died during a trip Niagara Falls in 1864. She did not have children.

7. Tempe House is now a museum, open only a few days a year. https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/ahf_event/tempe-house-open-day/