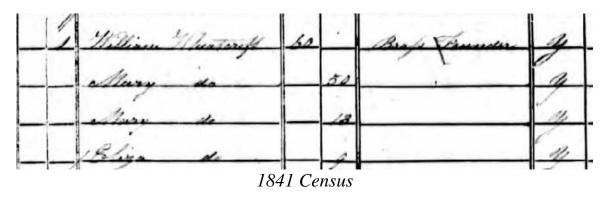
Nelson Wheatcroft Actor and Bigamist?



Christopher Wheatcroft was born on 15th February 1852 in London to parents William Wheatcroft and Emily Susanna Nelson.

His father William was born in Ramsgate Kent in 1824, and like his father before him was a brass founder, someone who melts down and casts items in brass.



William senior became a partner and financed the Poplar Gas Company an early London gas industry contractor, in the early 1820s after working as a foreman with the city of London Gas Co.

He entered a makers mark at Goldsmiths Hall in 1831 as a small worker from 18 Berkeley Street, Clerkenwell. His activities in the silver trade appear to be brief though as the 1832 birth certificate of his daughter Eliza lists his profession as brass founder. This is confirmed in the 1841 and 1851 census. He died in 1860. His wife Mary was living in Saint Marylebone Workhouse in 1871 and died in the summer of that year.



St Marylebone Workhouse

William Wheatcroft junior married Emma Susanna Nelson (from Birmingham) in December 1847 in Islington. She gave birth to their first son William there in 1850. In 1851 they lived at 54 St Johns Street Clerkenwell before moving to Berkley Street.

In the early 1870s Christopher turned his back on the brass trade and became a pupil of Mr J M Bellow he had decided to become a comedy actor. He took his mothers maiden name as his Christian name, thus was born 'Nelson Wheatcroft.'

Nelson met and married actress Jane Elizabeth Rogers from Middlesex in 1875 at Southampton, at the time they were both touring the country with Miss Blackwoods Company.

Juveniles, Comdey, and Burlesque.

M. R. NELSON WHEATCROFT, now on Tour with Miss Blackwood's Company, as Tom Stylus, Dr Botcherby, Iago, Sister Anne ("Blue Beard"), &c.; also MISS JENNY ROGERS, Singing Chambermaids and Burlesque. Disengaged shortly.

Address, Post-office, Deal.

The Era September 1875

His brother William, died in London that same year aged just 25.

The couple had five children, three daughters and two sons. May, born in Holborn, London in 1876. Bertie(Albert) Carloss, born in Cheltenham in 1877 and Eva Gretchen born in 1879, Holborn.

Harry and Gertrude died shortly after birth in 1875 and 1876 respectively.

The surviving children were all baptised on September 27th 1885 at St Stephens, Goldsmiths Row, Haggerston. This church eventually joined with St Augustine but is now gone.

The family lived at 23 Pritchards Rd, Hackney, London. Before moving to number 97.

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1885 Sept 276 No. 181	Bertie Carlou	Christope Joine Algobet	er Wheaterof h	L Pritchers Road	Actor	Man
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Baptism Record

After the birth of the children, Nelson toured the country with different theatre companies, Mr Edward Darbeys, Astleys Philharmonic, New Sadlers Wells, WJH Robinsons and Thomas Amory Sullivan.



Thomas Amory Sullivan

Thomas Amory Sullivan was married to talented actress Adeline Stanhope.

No.	When Married.	. Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Fath
114	Navember 8 1876	among Sallwan Adeline Stanko	32	Bachetor Sprister	Theatrical Agent	52 lepper Berjan Olace 52 lepper Berjan Olace		
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Marriage Certificate

They had two sons, Stanhope Augustus and Thomas Barry.

Adeline was the daughter of Rev. Hon. William Henry Stanhope and Grace Fanny Aguilar.

She was born in Paris, France in November 1853, although the 1871 census gives her birthplace as London.



Adeline Stanhope

In 1881 Adeline toured the country for a year, starring in her husbands productions, with Nelson Wheatcroft as her leading man.

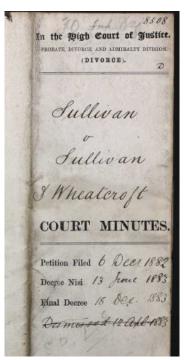


York Herald 1882

Her husband had to travel to America for three months on business and on his return found the couple were having an affair. He remonstrated with her and told his wife he was going to discharge Wheatcroft from the company, she then produced a protection order that she had obtained without her husbands knowledge and told him to leave.

Thomas instituted divorce proceedings in December 1882 citing Wheatcroft as an adulterer.

The decree nisi and final decree were issued in 1883.



Divorce

Nelson Wheatcroft abandoned his family in Pritchards Rd and moved to Argentina with Adeline before moving to the United States where he became an accomplished actor, playwright and director.

They married in 1886 and later founded the Stanhope-Wheatcroft School of Dramatic Art in Broadway, New York City

The school was connected with Charles Frohmans Empire Theatre and F F Mackays National Dramatic Conservatory.

Many silent movie stars studied at the school.

Rachel Crothers was firstly a student, then a coach at the school and became the first woman director in Broadway.

Nelson would often take off for a few weeks trout fishing on Moosehead Lake Maine with family and friends for a short vacation.

Adeline gave birth to a son on May 11th 1888 in New York, they named him Stanhope Nelson "Stanley" Wheatcroft. Stanhope himself was a well respected silent movie actor, who appeared in 63 films and worked with amongst others Charlie Chaplin. Some of his films are listed below:

Camile 1915
City Lights 1931
Under Two Flags 1916
Secret Service 1919

The Hottentot 1922 Broadway Or Bust 1924

Chrisopher Nelson Wheatcroft died at home, 153 West 45th Street Manhattan, New York City aged only 45 years on March 3rd 1897,of pneumonia after he caught a chill performing in a draughty theatre, after returning to the stage after a break and shaving off his moustache, to appear in Henry Millers Production Heartsease.

Controversy surrounded his death as it was reported in the newspapers he left two widows!

AN ACTOR'S MARRIAGES.

TWO LADIES CLAIM TO BE HIS WIDOW. Tikrk is living in England, with her ion and two daughters, a lady who claims to be the legal wife of Mr. Nelson Wheatcroft, one of the most eminent American actors, who recently died in New York, a man who had always inspired deep respect on the other side. On the other hand, there is also a lady in thp American capital who states that she was married to Mr. Wheatcroft in 1888, and who since that time lias been recognised as his wife by those who knew them. This lady was formerly an actress, and before her marriage was Miss Adelaide Htanhope. Ib appears from a letter written by a son nof the deceased man that his father was married to the first Mrs. Wheatcroft in England in 1875; that she has been living in the same house where his father left her; that evpr since his fathor left England he had written regularly and contributed to the support of his family, and that Miss Adelaide Stanhope, as be terms the other lady, knew his mother personally. The lady who is known to her New York friends as Mrs. Wheatcroft admits that she Was awara that Mr. Wheatcroft was married before he met her, and that he had Ok family of three children. However, previously to her marriage with him, he told her he intended to go to England and secure a divorce. He came to England and remained several months. When he returned to New York he assured her that ho' had obtained a divorce, and that be was in a position to marry her. The fact that he, wrote regularly from New York to his family in England and contributed to their support is confirmed by Mr». Adelaide Stanhope Wheatcroft. What slie says with regard to this is that he sent monthly remittances towards the support and education of his children, and that Uere was no attempt on his part to deceive her in respect) to it. Bub no nevgr uttered a syllable about supporting the mother of those children. Letters of administration have been granted to the lady in New York, but the 'deceased loft no will and apparently little property. On the contrary, so implicitly is Mrs. Adelaide Stanhopo Wheatcroft's belief that she it his legal Wife 1 that since his death she has been opguged in paying out of her own earnings as a teacher of the drama some of bis personal debt#.

New York Times 1897



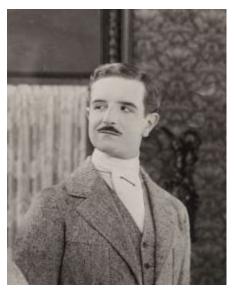
Nelson Wheatcroft

Adeline Stanhope Wheatcroft died in 1935 in Los Angeles.

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1. PLACE OF DEATH-DIST, No. 1201 DEPARTMENT VIT COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES STANDARD CE CITY, TOWN ON BURAL DISTRICTOR LOS ANGELES 2. FULL NAME Wheatcroft, Adeline WESDENCE, NWILCOX Hotel, Wilxox & Se	EXPRET AND NO. J.A. CO. Gen. Hosp. In plant octange in Proposition and Attribution, circ is made instructed as their and no plant of the confict and no circ is the confict and no circ is the circ in the circ i	
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Adeline Wheatcroft Death Certificate

It seems love wasn't plain sailing for their son Stanhope, either.



Stanhope Nelson Wheatcroft

A 1922 copy of Variety magazine stated that Stanhope had been ordered to pay his wife, Beatrice (Hayden) \$15 a week alimony pending the trial of her suit for divorce on the grounds of cruelty.

A Press article in 1926 suggests he will try anything to stop these payments, even stating his ex was dead, when in fact she was working as a legal secretary in California and didn't leave this mortal coil until 1950.

ACTUR CHARGES HE PAID "DEAD" WIFE ALIMONY

(By The Associated Press)

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 17—Stanhope Nelson Wheatcroft, formerly a well known figure on the screen and now but a "well-dressed extra," appeared in Judge Gate's court this week through his attorney, and made the sensational statements that he had been paying alimony to a dead woman. He also stated that members of his ex-wife's family had trimmed him of large sums by forging his name to checks.

The charges assumed such a serius aspect that Judge Gates order Wheatcroft to suspend payment of the alimony and to return to court on September 2 and present his proof that Mrs. Beatrice Wheatcroft was dead.

Associated Press 1926

He had declined professionally by this time, from promising stage actor, to silent movie star, to walk on parts.

The 1930 USA Census has him married to Jennie Faye, from Fort Sebastian. Stanhope Nelson Wheatcroft died on 13th February 1966 of myocardial

infarction and is buried at Pierce Brothers Valhalla Memorial Park North Hollywood, LA.



Pierce Brothers Valhalla Memorial Park North Hollywood, LA.

In August 1926 Beatrice gave birth to a son Douglas Malcolm Wheatcroft. Douglas was a very successful child actor in the early 1940s.

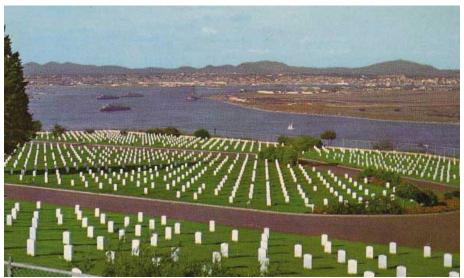
When Douglas Wheatcroft first began acting, his agent shortened his name first to Douglas Wheat and then to Douglas Croft. One of his first roles was in King's Row with the very popular child actor Scotty Beckett. He went on to play the young George M. Cohan in Yankee Doodle Dandy and the young Lou Gehrig in The Pride of The Yankees, but his most successful role was as the first (and youngest) Robin, The Boy Wonder in the 1943 Batman serial.



Douglas Wheatcroft

n 1945 he enlisted in the United States Army.

He died in 1963 and is interred in the Ft. Rosecrans Military National Cemetery.



Ft. Rosecrans Military National Cemetery.

Back in England Jane Rogers continued with her career on stage as a regular at the Adelphi Theatre in seasons 1879-86 having brought the children up single handed.

In 1887 she began touring again.

She was involved in an accident and injured in Liverpool returning from a visit to the Grand national in 1894.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS INJURED.

A serious accident occurred to a party returning to Liverpool from Aintree Races yesterday. The principal artists in the Prince of Wales pantomime, accompanied by a few friends, had driven to Aintree to see the Grand National Steeplechase. On returning, and when near their journey's end, one of the wheels of the four-in-hand in which they were sitting gave way, and the vehicle rolled over, precipitating all those on top, twelve in number, to the ground. It was discovered that seven persons were apparently seriously injurad. Ambulances were telephoned for, and the injured were removed to the Northern Hospital, where it was discovered that Mr Arthur Wilkinson, comedian, who plays the "Bad Baron" in the pantomime, had sustained a severe fracture of the base of the skull. He was unconscions, in a critical condition, and not expected to live. Mr Fred Williams, who plays one of the "Sisters," had sustained a fractured collar bone and had two ribs fractured. Mrs Williams had one arm broken. Miss Jenny Rogers, the Cinderella of the pantomime, was suffering from a severe sprain of the ankle and serious shock to the system. Mr E. W. Coleman and three other artists had sustained a severe shaking. Mr Charles, jeweller, and Mr Gregory, proprietor of the Waterloo hotel, who accompanied the party, also sustained a severe shaking. Mr Wilkinson alone was detained at the hospital, the others being sent to their lodgings. In the evening the parts of the injured principals were played by

Her two daughters, May and Eva became schoolteachers in London and in 1911 were still living with their mother who had moved to 27 Howard Road Walthamstow.

They never married.

Eva Gretchen died in 1943. Probate left to her sister May. May died in 1947.

Bertie married Lily May Dickens in 1906 in Islington. He was a Constructional Engineering Consultant. He died in mysterious circumstances in India in 1916.

WHEATCROFT Bertie Carloss of 167 Lower Circular-road Calcutta India last seen alive 30 May 1916 dead body found I July 1916 in the River Hooghly in India Administration London 6 November to Lily May Wheatcroft widow.

Effects £101 6s. 9d.

Jane Wheatcroft (Rogers) died in 1921 aged 79.