

brook's Papers were preserved. The credit for their 'discovery' goes to Derek Freeman who first heard about them vaguely in 1943, while living in Apia. At that time he was unable to look into the matter and shortly afterwards left Samoa to join the RNVR. Returning after the war, as interpreter to the writer and engraver Robert Gibbings, he heard that, in addition to the Papers, Westbrook's son, Edward, was in possession of several family portraits dating back to the seventeenth century and reputed to be Hogarths. The two sought out Edward Westbrook at his home in Aleisa. Whilst Gibbings and Edward Westbrook were engrossed in discussing the portraits and the Westbrook ancestry, Freeman was able to make a quick appraisal of the Papers.⁴ He realised that, despite their uneven quality, they were of considerable historical interest and noticed, with concern, that some were already damaged by the ravages of the climate and insects. In time, they would be completely ruined if left as they were. Before going on to London to study anthropology, Freeman was able to negotiate the transfer of the Westbrook Papers to the Turnbull Library.

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George Egerton Leigh Westbrook was born in Camberwell, London, in 1860 of a middle-class Congregational family. He sometimes boasted that he ran away from home at the age of sixteen but it seems more likely that he left with the reluctant consent of his family. By his own account, Westbrook arrived in New Zealand soon after in the *Famenothe* which he then deserted.⁵ For the next fourteen or so years he was mainly engaged as a station trader on various small Pacific islands before finally settling down in Samoa in 1891. Apart from three trips abroad, he was to remain there until his death in 1939. During a residence in Samoa covering almost fifty years, Westbrook was engaged in 'many and varied' employments. He was foreman to a gang of Samoan labourers on the Mulinu'u race track, he copied documents to be presented before the first Samoan Land Commission, he was a Sheriff's officer and a clerk for the British Consulate, he ran a hotel, collected accounts, was a salesman and a tide-waiter or customs officer.⁶ Finally, sometime after the turn of the century, he established his own business and became what Louis Becke described as the new style of trader, '... merely a shop-keeper, pure and simple, for he buys and sells over a counter, and keeps books . . . and only for his surroundings might be mistaken for a respectable suburban grocer in England'.⁷ In addition to being a storekeeper and importer, Westbrook was a broker for two English insurance companies, and also an active official of the Apia Racing Club and the Samoan branch of the Over-Seas League. He was instrumental in founding the Apia British Club too.⁸ Had he stuck to this straight and narrow path his name would certainly be unknown today because