

WHITLOCKS OF SWEDEN

There has been a branch of the Whitlocks of Wokingham family that has always fascinated me. Sir James Whitlock (1570-1632) had three brothers, Edmund (1564-1608) who was implicated in the Gunpowder Plot in 1605, a twin, William (1570-1597) who went to sea with Sir Francis Drake and Richard (1565-1624). The life story of any one of the brothers is full of the stuff historical novels are made of but it was Richard's life that caught my imagination.

At the age of sixteen he was sent to Dantzic, Sweden (now Gdansk, Poland) to work for his Uncle, Christopher Colte. It is known he married Katharin Dambits of Elbing, Sweden (now Elblag, Poland) and had upwards of sixteen children.

I always wondered what happened to Richard and his many children and if they had stayed in Poland what would the Whitlock name look like after three hundred years? Every once in a while I would come across a bit of information that would tantalize me and then leave me wishing for more. I found the (supposed?) death of a Richard Whitlock in Jaccarta in 1616, an employee of the Eastland Company of Dantzic. I say supposed since I know Richard lived until 1624 so who the other Richard was I am not yet sure. Then I found mention of a Richard Whitlock and his family of Dantzic listed in the Eastland Co. records of 1651. Possibly a son of Richard (1565-1624)? There was also the marriage one daughter to Capt. Potley and of Catherine Whitlock daughter of Richard Whitelock, brother to Sir James Whitelock, to Anthony Smyth of Cuerdley, Lancashire. In Liber Famelicus, Sir James Whitlock mentions receiving James Whitlock of Dansk (sic) the son of his brother Richard. The year is 1620 and Sir. James notes that James was born in Feb. 1601 in Elbing and had been educated by the Jesuits at Leopoldis near Civita Vecchia.

This was about all I knew until this July when I received a package of material from Jeremy Archer and included at the end was a photocopy from a Landed Gentry book regarding the Lloyd family. Listed under Richard (1565-1624) were two sons, James and John, with the descendants of John down to the 1840's still in Sweden. The name was still very much Whitlock and this fact possibly provides the clue to another mystery. In the 1850 U.S. census extracts sent by Chuck Rockett were several Whitlock families who listed Germany or Sweden as their place of birth. This is also true for Ontario, Canada where I have a couple of Whitlock families who give Germany as their place of birth.

It seems likely that these Whitlocks are descendants of Richard Whitlock who was sent off to Dantzic in 1581. Will be interesting to see if we can prove the connection.

SOURCES:GH134, 136: R63/11,88: X492/8