

IRISH REUNION

On the weekend of September 20, 1986 we held a mini family reunion for the Whitelocks who could trace their families back to Armagh Co., Ireland in the early 1800's. Those able to come were Art and Jean Whitlock of Cranbrook, B.C. and Art's distant cousin Cuma Schofield of North Fork, California, plus Harvey and Esme Trotter of Kelowna, B.C. Pam Hallock of Bothell, Washington met Cuma in Seattle and came up as well although her Whitlocks are from Connecticut and Vermont.

We spent two days pouring over the files, talking family history and just generally getting to know each other. I think everyone had a good time and it took me two weeks afterwards to catalogue all the bits and pieces of information that came out of the conversations. Esme Trotter lent us her collection of research on the Whitelocks of Ireland plus a large chart of the Whitelocks of Yorkshire.

Family traditions say the Whitelocks went to Ireland from England and then moved on to Scotland and America. We have not yet been able to determine where in England they came from but it is assumed it was probably from the Cumberland or Yorkshire area. Many coal miners and weavers were attracted to Ireland in the late 1700's and early 1800's so the Whitelocks may have been part of this group. The Griffith Valuations for Ireland are now available on microfiche plus more and more Irish information is becoming accessible so hopefully we will solve the mystery yet.

I have photocopied the borrowed material and returned the originals plus I have entered the charts into the computer and they are listed in this Newsletter under "New Files on Disk".

Art & Jean and Harvey & Esme set off on Sunday while Cuma and Pam stayed over to visit Expo86. Hopefully everyone went away enthused and we will be able to do it again.