WHITLOCKS OF BINHAM, SOMERSET

For some months Jim Whitelock of Plymouth has been working on trying to piece together the connection to the Whitlocks of Warkleigh of John Whitlock of Binham, Somerset. It has been a frustrating experience as it is obvious John is part of the family but we have been unable to determine how he is connected. John uses the arms of the Whitlocks of Warkleigh and is mentioned as "of Warkleigh" but still the connection eludes us.

There is a marriage licence dated 1686 for a John Whitlock and Joan Shenton of Dunster but no marriage record seems to exist. Their first four children, Sarah, John, Mary and Susanna are all baptized at Dunster between 1687 and 1694. The move to Binham seems to have taken place at this time as their last child, Joana was baptized at Old Cleeve,
Somerset in 1700.

In the church of Old Cleeve there is a memorial plaque to the memory of Mary Whitlocke and her father John Whitlocke - this plaque is surmounted by the Whitlocks of Warkleigh coat of arms. We have speculated that the marriage to Joan Shenton in 1686 was a second marriage for John and that he is the same John Whitlock who married Elizabeth Elston in 1671. Certainly Elston Whitlock and John Whitlock are connected as they appear together on numerous documents, including the "Right of Patronage" document for Old Cleeve Vicarage, but the relationship between the two is never mentioned. Elston Whitlock was proposed as the next rector of Old Cleeve in 1698 by John Whitlock and again in 1705 for Langtree, Devon. John Whitlock died in 1728 and is buried at Old Cleeve, Somerset. We have yet to come across any living descendants of this part of the family but hopefully, even if there are no Whitlock descendants we will be able to find someone descended from one of the daughters. Some of the families with connections to this part of the family are the Sydenhams, the Nicholls and the Gandys.

It has been a fascinating search and hopefully one day we will have the answers that have so far eluded us.

(Sources:REF213-216)