

When I had only been doing Whitlock research for a few years I remember meeting a fellow who told me when he was a child he knew some German Whitlocks. They spoke English with a heavy German accent and he remembered being surprised that they spelt their name exactly the same as he did. I did not know what to make of the comments and for years put it down to a mispronunciation of anglicization of a German name when the family emigrated.

The first hints that there might be European Whitlocks came from Sir James Whitlock(1570-1632)'s *Liber Familicus*. James talks about his brother, Richard Whitlock (1565-1624) who was sent to Dantzic, Prussia (now Gdansk, Poland) in 1580 to his uncle Christopher Colte. Richard worked for the Eastland Company that had been set up to rival the East India Company. James mentions Richard married Katherine Dambits of Elbing (now Elblag) and went to live there. I subsequently learned that Richard and Katherine had upwards of sixteen children and that their descendants remained in Europe. I had no knowledge of what happened to the family and had often wondered what the name Whitlock would have looked like after three hundred years in Poland.

This was the sum of our information for the last ten to fifteen years. The next clue came from a strange source - it was printed in the book *The Landed Gentry* which was available in most major libraries. Until Jeremy Archer sent me an extract in 1986 it had been missed completely. The book traced the descent from Richard & Katherine Whitlock down to the 1840's and detailed the service of several members of the family to the King of Sweden. If the family had connections with both Sweden and Germany and still spelled the name Whitlock then maybe these Whitlocks could all be descendants of the original Richard Whitlock. This could also be the origin of my german-speaking Whitlocks that I had heard about so long ago.

Sometime ago Chuck Rockett and I had talked about the possible descent of this part of the family and Chuck sent me a photocopy of the International Genealogical Index (IGI) for Germany showing all sorts of Witlocks, Wittlakes and Wittlackens. I had put it on one side and I wasn't sure if these variants of the name could be Whitlocks. With the 1900 US census project that has been underway for the past year it was obvious these variants were worth looking into. I went off to the local Latter Day Saints Church library and proceeded to go through the entries for Germany. It was obvious that these entries tied into the entries in the US census material and these people were the ancestors of the Whitlocks who appear in the 1900 US census. The entries went back to the 1630's and were fairly extensive although connecting families together was also difficult. The number of entries for both places made it quite clear this is going to be a major part of the family.

The entries went back far enough that those for the 1630's and 1640's could be the children of Richard & Katherine Whitlock but as we only know the names of one son and one daughter we can only speculate at this time.

This brings me to another angle to this mystery. The one son of Richard and Katherine that we do know was named James Whitlock. He was born about 1601 and we know from "Liber Familicus" that he was sent back to England to be educated by his uncle and namesake, Sir James Whitlock. James is not a very common name and certainly not in the late 1500's or early 1600's. I only have one mention of a James Whitlock before Sir James Whitlock (1570-1632) and then most of the references up to 1700 are part of the Whitlocks of Wokingham family. For some years now the descendants of James Whitlock of Virginia have been fairly certain of his connection to the Whitlocks of Wokingham family. The documents from the 1680's relating to the inheritance by Anthony Whitlock of Lambeth, Surrey of the Rappahannock, Virginia estates of Thomas Whitlock (1615-1659) mention Anthony's "kinsman" James Whitlock of Virginia as power of attorney in the sale. We know who Thomas and Anthony were but we have yet to find their connection to James. So far the use of the term "kinsman" remains a mystery. It occurred to me that maybe the reason we have been unable to find James Whitlock in England is that he may not have been born in England at all. We have James Whitlock born about 1650 which would easily make him the right age to be a grandson of Richard Whitlock (1565-1624). The family were certainly travellers as we find them as far away as Jakarta in the early 1600's. The likelihood that one of these Whitlocks could have ended up in America in the 1680's does not seem too far fetched. James Whitlock of Virginia and Anthony Whitlock of Lambeth would certainly have known of their common relationship to the famous Sir Bulstrode Whitelocke (1605-1675) although, like many distant relations today they might not have known their relationship to each other. Thus the use of the term "kinsman".

This is of course strictly speculation but then this research often consists of following up a series of speculations. The more information gathered and analyzed, the more accurate your speculations are!!

The next step I would like to pursue is to see if we can track down the names of Richard & Katherine Whitlock's sixteen children. I believe the British Museum Library has some of the records of the Eastland Co. of Dantzig. I plan to see what records would be available for Poland, Germany and Sweden. The fact that several members of the family were in the service of the King of Sweden as Majors, Knights of the Order of the Sword and Aide-de-Camps should mean there are records available. I would appreciate hearing from anyone with experience in these areas.

I also thought it might be useful to try and contact some of the members of the family currently living in Germany and Sweden and see if they know anything of the history of the family. I will see if I can do this through the international telephone directories. Lastly I will forward copies of this article to several of the Polish, German and Swedish journals across Canada and the United States and see if we

get any response from them.

This has been one of the longer mysteries in this research and one of the most interesting so it is great that some of the bits and pieces are coming together. I look forward to keeping you up to date on our progress with this story in upcoming issues of the Newsletter.