

# HORSE THIEF!

One of the commonest excuses for not getting down and doing the work to determine who your ancestors were is "I'll probably just find I am descended from someone hung as a horse thief". Well you can all quit now because Janis Kirby of London, Ontario has found ours!!

Among the early Quarter Session records for Kent are the following entries:

July 3, 1598

"Edward Stevens of Greenhithe butcher, William Leeke & George Whitlocke also of Greenhithe butchers for entering close of Wm Brockman at Lympe & taking 2 horses one bay & one white worth \_\_\_\_ (Stevens found guilty - Leeke "solit")"

"(The same) for entering close of Wm Jenkins at Burmarsh & taking a bay colored gelding worth 6 li. (Stevens & Leeke found guilty, Whitlocke does not appear.)"

September 19, 1598

"Info of Wm Brockman of Newington next Hythe gent. re theft of cattle by Wm Loache, Geo. Whightloke & Edw. Stevens"

September 26, 1598, Maidstone, Kent

"Edward Stephens, Wm Leeke & George Whitlocke all of Greenhithe butchers on July 3, 1598 broke into & entered a close of Wm Brockman gent. at Lympe & stole 2 horses, 1 colored Gay & other whitishe worth 6 pounds. Plead not guilty. Guilty to be hanged."

December 19, 1598

"Statement of Leakes re Whitlocke now in gaol in Canterbury, giving description of him"

George Whitlocke's fate is not clearly recorded so a little mystery still remains...