

# EARLY MASSACHUSETTS WHITLOCKS

The following extracts from the Essex County, Salem Quarterly Court records located at the Essex Institute were sent in by Norris Whitlock:

June 1643 John Whitlock fined 20 shillings for neglecting the Watch!

July 1643 John Whitlock has fine partly abated, at the request of Mr. Norrice in writing.

December 1643 Rose Whitlock v. Francs Tharly, for unjust molestation. Released each other from any "Lyes (Tyes?ed.) or Bonds concerning marriage"

These records are very important as I think they give us two major clues. The first relates to the Whitlocks of Connecticut as it has been assumed that this John Whitlock and Rose Whitlock were husband and wife and later moved to Fairfield, Connecticut, becoming the founders of that line of the family.

There has always been some question relating to the name of John Whitlock's wife as some documents point to Sarah Hirsch as his wife. The above extracts seem to indicate that Rose Whitlock of Salem could not be John Whitlock's wife as she was contemplating marriage to Francs Tharly in December 1643.

This brings us to the second major clue. If Rose broke off her intention to marry Francs Tharly in December 1643, does it not make her the most likely candidate to be the Rose Whitlock who married Abraham Parker on November 18, 1644 at Woburn, Massachusetts? This would fit with our theory that Rose was about age 20 in 1644.

What remains unanswered is the relationship between John Whitlock and Rose Whitlock. If this John Whitlock is the one who died in 1658 at Fairfield, Connecticut then he must have been fairly young in 1643. We have estimated his son David was born in the 1650's as we know his grandson, David was born in 1681. John's widow married Henry Whelpley and died about 1661, still a young woman. This would indicate that if there is a relationship between John and Rose that it was more likely brother and sister than father and daughter.

This is the first indication we have had that there might be a connection between the Whitlocks of Connecticut and the descendants of Abraham and Rose (Whitlock) Parker and hopefully more information will come to light. There are a couple of other references to John Whitlock of Salem that might be of interest:

The Probate Records of Essex County list the estate of Isabel West of Salem, October 30, 1644. Included in a Debt due from John Whitlock of 3 pounds

The History of Salem 1626-1637 mentions that in 1650 John Whitlock was the owner of lot #57 and first recorded in Salem in 1643.

The Essex Antiquarian of April 1904 (Vol.VII, No.2) mentions that John Whitlock owned the western half of this and the Masury lot very early, prior to 1657. The Lot formerly owned by John Whitlock was sold to a committee appointed to build the Episcopal Church, and St.Peter's Episcopal Church was erected thereon.

A look at the history of St.Peter's Church in Salem, Massachusetts may give us a clue to when John left

Salem.

Our thanks to Norris Whitlock for this passing on this information. It is always terrific to be able to review the material that past researchers used to make assumptions.

Sources: R18/1; R381; UBC60,61; X1192