

BERNAU INDEX

Beryl Metherell passed on a series of extremely interesting articles (R953) that recently appeared in the *Family Tree Magazine* regarding the Bernau Index. The index was compiled by Mr. C.A. Bernau and consists of about 4 million slips extracted from material held by the Public Record Office in Chancery Lane, London. The vast majority of the items are from Chancery and Exchequer Court Depositions and Proceedings. The period covered is roughly 1500 to 1800 although some references could be earlier.

We have quite a few Chancery Proceedings extracts in our files and in this issue of the Newsletter I have printed a detailed list of R112 that contains many of them. In particular R112 pages 64-82 list some particularly interesting ones. Unfortunately the person doing the extracts highlighted many of the Whitlock references with the result that when they were photocopied those sections are now generally unreadable!!

The material is full of family connections. A couple of examples:

"William Whitlock of parish of Sheppey, Kent, son and heir of John Whitlock of Lynsted, Kent, Yeoman and of Marie daughter and heir of (blank) Grangeman deceased..."

"[?? Whitlock] of Throwleigh, Kent, yeoman and [Anne Whitlock] daughter & heir of Thomas [Whitlock] deceased [??] Mantle, mother of Thomas, grandmother of Anne owned property in the parishes of ...Wye? and Roughton Aluphe, Kent, called South Coombe ... Jun. 2, 1607"

"Inquisition taken at Okehampton, Co. Devon 15 June I Charles following the death of William Whitlocke, gent ... William Whitlocke died seized of lands in South Strokisworthy in Ayshmondsworth, in Burdon, in Fenne, in Woolfardisworthy Co. Devon and ...etc."

"Inquisition taken at the Guildhall, City of London 19 Jan 2 Elizabeth [1560] following the death of Thomas Whitlock citizen and scissor merchant of London ... Thomas Whitlock was seised of lands of 'The George' in St.Sepulchre without Newgate, West Smithfield, London occupied by Anthony Silver, which he was granted by John Edlyn citizen and innholder of London by an indenture dated 29 Edward VI for £50. ... by his will he granted all his lands in London, Northamptonshire and elsewhere to Johan his wife for her life, and after her death to my sons, 'if God send my any' or to daughters if there are no sons or they die without issue. Jury swears that the heirs are Johanna Whitlock, wife, and Isabella, Catherine and Sarah Whitlock, daughters of deceased Thomas Whitlock."

This can be invaluable material in connecting generations together and picking up missing children. In some cases disputes are over land that was held for several generations and details are given of the descent to the Plaintiff to prove their right to hold the land.

It is clear from the material in our files that the Bernau index was used to compile the list of Whitlock entries shown in R112 but it is not clear if the complete list was taken. (The Index has been microfilmed and is available through the LDS Family History Centres.) The R112 material was part of the research funded by Pearl Olsen and as Pearl was particularly interested in determining the origins of James Whitlock of Ware, Gloucester Co., Virginia, in many cases the research was limited to particular areas or names.

If anyone is willing to try their hand at the Bernau Index to see if there are reference to your part of the family, I would suggest you contact me and I will pass on copies of the articles (R953) and the extracts already in the files (R112/64-82). A very interesting source particularly as material in this time period is limited.

Our thanks to Beryl Metherell for these articles.