

THE WHITLOCK TOMB

In his family history *Liber Familicus* Sir James Whitlock (1570-1632) makes the follow entry (in latin) following the death of his wife of thirty years: Note, on the 28 day of May, 1631 during Pentecost between the hours of 11 and 12 pm my cherished wife Elizabeth, died at Fawley Court in Buckingham county, age 55 ... a loving and faithful wife, with her family prudent, in adversity patient, above all others in piety, to God devoted, to the poor generous. To be buried in the church at Fawley in a private place.

In June 1632 Sir James also died and left instructions in his will for a monument for him and his wife to be set up in Fawley church. His son Bulstrode Whitlocke records in his Diary applying to the Bishop of Lincoln for a licence to make and build a burying place for his family in Fawley church. Bulstrode's entry reads: "the vault was square with benches to sett coffins upon them, & thither he removed the coffins of his mother and father, & then shutt up the passage into it through his own pew, yett so as to be easily opened upon occasion, he also sett up a fayre monument in the Isle which he built over the Vault, with the effigies of his father and mother in Marble, & the Epitaph engraven, which he found among the papers in his fathers Cabinet under his hand"

Bulstrode appears to have arranged for a south transept to be added on to Fawley Church to house the monument. Ruth Spalding in *The Improbable Puritan* says: "He planned the tomb himself and engaged William Wright, a 'graver in stone' of St.Martin-in-the-Fields, to build it in London. It was mainly of black and white marble, with falcons poised round the painted effigy of St.James in his Judge's robes and his wife Elizabeth in he everyday clothes. Perched above an arch of black marble, justice, Peace and plenty (done in alabaster) watched over the recumbent figures. A tablet, engraved in letters of gold, bore an epitaph which the Judge himself had composed. William Wright charged one hundred pounds for the sculpture, and Thomas Babb was paid fourteen pounds for painting it. The finished work was 'plain yet rich, beautiful yet substantial'. It cost three times the sum Sir James had allocated, but Bulstrode was content to meet the extra cost and it was gratifying that people came from far and wide to admire the tomb."

In the March 1994 issue I mentioned this tomb in Fawley, Buckinghamshire completed in August 1633 is now over 360 years old and is sad need of repair and that a fund raising campaign is under way for its restoration. Over the next few issues I will do several articles related to this part of the family and with this issue I would like to launch a small funds raising campaign of our own to help with this restoration project.

The original estimates were about £10,000 (\$20,000) to complete the project. I will be writing to the committee in charge of the project to get additional details and will publish them once we have them. For the time being I have suggested we set a goal of £500 about \$1,000 and Ernestine Dodl has started us off with a donation of \$40. As part of the fund raising plans I have suggested putting together a small booklet on the *Whitlocks of Wokingham, Berkshire* family. It is suggested the booklet contain the chart of this family, a short write-up about the restoration project and possibly pictures of the tomb and Sir James Whitlock's portrait at the National Portrait gallery. The chart of this part of the family is quite interesting as it traces back to the 1400's and has all the historical detail added, giving a bit of history on most of the earlier members. While it will be a few months before the booklet is completed everyone donating \$20 or more will receive a copy.

Fawley is one of the few Whitlock places in England unchanged from the 1600's and with its tomb and 17th century Whitlock stained glass windows it has become a Mecca for any Whitlocks visiting England. It is hoped our Association in some small way can help it on its way to the next 360 years.

With Ernestine's donation, one from my own family and \$100 from Association reserves we already have

\$204.42 in our fund. Anyone wishing to donate to this cause please send your donations (in any currency) to the Whitlock Family Association (payable to Peter Whitlock please). I will accumulate the funds here and remit them to the restoration committee once our goal is reached. I will also report in each Newsletter how our fund is growing. Please give what you can.