

WHITLOCK GOLF COURSE

In January I booked a few days off at the end of my meetings in Ottawa and took the two hour train ride down to Montreal. I wanted to do a bit of research at McGill University Library and I had heard that there was a Whitlock Golf Course in Hudson, Quebec. I thought this is worth checking out.

Despite the -17C weather the trip was a really pleasant one. I did a bit of exploring around Montreal and went to the McGill Library. I was not able to find what I was looking for but I enjoyed the visit and also managed to get to the McCord Museum on the same outing. I had telephoned the Golf Course and made arrangements with the manager to meet her there on the Saturday. I rented a car and drove out to Hudson which is about an hour out of Montreal heading towards Ottawa along the Ottawa River. The town of Hudson is a quiet little place full of antique stores and boutiques. The locals call it 'horsey' country as so many of the houses have stables and small hobby farms. After getting directions to the Golf Course I made my way along the country lanes and followed the edge of the course until the huge sweeping entrance showed the way in. I had wondered why there weren't any signs along the road directing your way but it was evident as I drove through the gates that this was a private club with no public access, thus no need for directions.

The Manager, Joan Hughes, met me at the entrance to the club house and we sat in the lobby to talk. On the wall above us was a large impressionist oil painting of an elderly aristocratic looking victorian lady in a straw hat covered with flowers. She is surrounded by irises and other flowers in her turn of the century garden. The brass plaque on the painting states the subject was Mrs. A.E.A. Whitlock. Joan had pulled out a couple of booklets they had published in 1987 recognising the 75 anniversary of the founding of the club in 1912. The booklets gave a bit of information regarding the purchase of the property from Mrs. Whitlock on the condition it remain a golf course 'in perpetuity'. There was not a lot of other information about the property or the Whitlock family. We talked with a couple of the long time members of the club and I took down a couple of local names and addresses to contact for further information.

It was the middle of winter so the major activities going on at the club were indoor such as curling but there was also cross country skiing. The Pro Shop was closed but Joan was kind enough to open it for me and you can imagine letting me into a room full of "Whitlock" material!! I did manage to restrain myself somewhat but couldn't resist acquiring one of their hunter green sweatshirts with WHITLOCK in gold across the chest over a stylized suede crest. I also came away with a couple of licence plates and a hat and a couple of items Joan donated. It was a very interesting visit and I promised Joan I would follow up with an article and bit of history of the property.

Driving back to Hudson (the golf course is actually in Hudson Heights) I passed Lower Whitlock street. I had to see where that went and it needless to say it led to Upper Whitlock street. These paralleled the back of the course and were beautiful tree lined streets with acreage lots. I stopped at the Re-Max real estate agent in Hudson and picked up a brochure on the area which had a terrific map showing the area I had just explored.

Now, while the existance of the Whitlock Golf and Country Club was unknown to me previously I am quite familiar with the Whitlocks of Hudson, Quebec. This family is from Lenox, Massachusetts and it was the Queens Ranger, Captain John Whitlock who was expelled in 1783 and settled first in Nova Scotia who moved to Hudson about 1805.

The land bordering Cote St.Charles now the Whitlock Golf and Country Club appears to have originally

been Lots 32-33-34 of the Cavagnal Concession. This was purchased by John Whitlock in 1804. The land remained in Whitlock hands until it was sold in 1913 to the newly formed Whitlock Golf Club. In *Historic Hudson, Old Cavagnal* by Celia Nelson there is mention of a Whitlock House which must have been separate from the farm as it was purchased in 1916 by Mr. & Mrs. R.S. Coltart and in 1945 inherited by their daughter.

Cavagnal 1820-1867 by John B. Thompson 1970 gives a fairly detailed history of the area. In the 1820's John Whitlock acquired the "saw mill in the Fief Choisy near the western boundary of the Seigneurie of Vaudreuil". There are fairly extensive court documents from the 1820's involving the sale of land left to Captain John Whitlock by his father John Whitlock of Lenox, Massachusetts. This land in Lenox had confused me for some time as John Whitlock had had his lands in Lenox confiscated in July 1784 and I did not understand how he could be selling them in 1825. It is now clear they were two separate tracts of land. The proceeds of the sale of John Whitlock Sr.'s land in Lenox, Massachusetts were likely those Captain John Whitlock used to purchase the Mill.

Mr. Thompson also mentions the marriage July 1, 1822 of "the beautiful American niece" of John Whitlock to his neighbour John Augustus Mathison (1781-1868). The niece was Harriet Vanderburgh but the relationship with the Vanderburghs is not yet clear. There is a Peter Vanderburgh mentioned in the 1825 documents relating to the sale of lands in Lenox, Massachusetts. In the appendix to his book Mr. Thompson also mentions that John Whitlock was born in Norwalk, Connecticut but this has not yet been proven.

John Whitlock died in 1832 and his burial is recorded in the records of the Mission of Coteau du Lac and parts adjacent, in the District of Montreal. The entry states "John Whitlock of the Parish of Vaudreuil Esquire late a Captian of the Queen's Rangers, died on the Seventh day of July, in the year of Our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-two and was buried on the ninth day of the same month aged eighty four years. By me (Signed) John Leeds, Minister. In presence of (Signed) J.A. Mathison, Charles Whitlock".

Five years later the family was split by the Rebellion of 1837 and same John Augustus Mathison, now a Major, was in command of the newly created Vaudreuil Loyal Volunteers. Following the quelling of the Rebellion Major Mathison had his wife's cousin's son, William Coley Whitlock arrested for his part in the Revolution and imprisoned in Montreal. [See WFN Vol.5 No.1 Pgs 2-3 for extracts from Matilda Whitlock's 1838 petition to have her husband released from prison.] I hope to do an article on the Whitlock involvement in the Rebellion of 1837 in an future issue of the Newsletter.

Celia Nelson also states that William Coley Whitlock was a son of Captain John Whitlock and was born in Nova Scotia (now New Brunswick) in January 1787. It mentions he received the farm in 1817. In 1829 William Coley Whitlock, age 42 married Matilda DeLesderniers whose sister was married to Francois-Xavier Desjardins, one of the *Patriotes* of the Rebellion of 1837. Following Matilda's death in 1856 William Coley Whitlock married his grand-niece Ann Eliza Amelia Mathison in 1866 at age 79. William Coley Whitlock died ten years later in 1876. Mrs. A.E.A. Whitlock is the subject of the portrait in the lobby of the Whitlock Golf and Country Club.

To date we have not been able to trace any descendants of this line of the family. John Whitlock's will of July 21, 1829 only mentions his son Charles Frederick Whitlock and his daughter Harriet Whitlock. It is assumed William Coley Whitlock had received his inheritance in 1817 when he came into possession of the farm now known as the Whitlock Golf and Country Club.

William Coley Whitlock had no children. Charles Frederick Whitlock who died at Hudson in 1863 had a son Charles. John Whitlock's son Jonathan farmed at "The Bay", Rigaud, not far south of Point Fortune.

Grace D. McGibbon mentions in her book *The Reverend Richard Bradford* "Jonathan and Margaret Whitlock requested Mr. Bradford to go to their home in the Seigniorie of Rigaud to baptize their young adult daughter, born Apr.12,1799". Lucy Maria Whitlock was baptised September 25,1815. Descendants may yet be discovered.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank Joan Hughes for her hospitality and the kind assistance of the members of the Whitlock GCC during my visit. Hopefully the visit has sparked new interest in the history of the area as well as the family from which the Club derives its name.

It would be interesting if we could arrange to have access to some of the items available in the Whitlock Pro Shop as several persons have already expressed an interested in acquiring items. Joan mentioned she would check with the operators of the Pro Shop to see if they could handle orders by mail and I will report on this in a future issue.

If any of you find yourself in Montreal be sure to take the drive out to Hudson to the Whitlock Golf and Country Club, it is a beautiful place and well worth the excursion.