STEPHEN WHITLOCK OF HOUND, WILTS

Muriel Allen sent in some extremely interesting material relating to her descent from Stephen Whitlock and Sarah Chalk who were married at Downton, Wilts Apr.23,1788. Muriel's dilemma is that Stephen appears to have already been married to Elizabeth Kincherton at Titchfield Aug.25,1784 and Elizabeth appears to still be alive in 1789/90. I will pick up Muriel's story from her letter of Apr.4,1995:

"On Page 4 of this same Newsletter (March 1995) X1886/1 mentions Elizabeth d. of Stephen & Elizabeth Widlock bp Aug.25,1784 Titchfield. This seemingly normal baptismal entry in the register actually hides a story of intrigue I am still unravelling:

I have had a note on this bp on file for a number of years, along with a mrge of Stephen Whilocke & Elizabeth Kincherton by licence <u>Aug 25 1784</u>. ... I did at one stage think this was my Stephen, but rather dismissed this when I found a Stephen bp Plaitford mrd Sarah Chalk at Downton 1788 ..., although Stephen & Sarah and his brothers did all move to Hound c.1790s.

Then in 1993 a fellow member of the Hampshire Society sent me a copy of the enclosed Titchfield Settlement Examination of a Stephen Whitlock, dated of examination 25 Aug 1784 - residing in Hound, born in Landford (next parish to Plaitford) Wilts. Also the daughter bp 25 Aug 1784 was actually about one year old!

What was Stephen up to? I think he panicked. Knowing he was to go before the Justices on 25 Aug 1784 and likely to be returned to his parish of birth, as he was unemployed and presumably had no settlement rights, he thought that if he married the mother of his bastard child he would be allowed to stay in Titchfield. Well, it appears not to have worked!

On searching the Titchfield Overseers Accounts 1775-1795 I have been able to keep track of Stephen from when he is found back in Plaitford in 1785 to at least Feb 1790. Did the Justices send him back, or did he abandon his family and go back home?

An abstract from the Overseer' A/cs is enclosed. As I was using the original books I could not photocopy a pity, they were a joy to read.

What have I proved so far - Stephen was born in Landford;

he was the son of Francis; he mrd Elizabeth Kincher(n)ton; he was the father of their daughter, Elizabeth he was living in Hound pre Michaelmas 1781.

So, what about Sarah? The Downton registers have the following entry: Mrge by banns of Stephen Whitlock and Sarah Chalk 23 Apr 1788 Witnesses include a Francis Whitlock

Two sons were born to Stephen & Sarah, 1789 and 1791, both bp Landford. A third son born 1796 was bp Bursledon (next to Hound), and I know the rest to the present day.

My intuition tells me we are talking about the same Stephen, but I can find no mention of the death of Elizabeth, his first wife, as yet, which means that his second "marriage" although in church was not legal. And, why did he return to Bursledon with Sarah and their two children when his first wife and child lived so close?

If there are two Stephens I am no nearer solving this problem - my descent is still from Stephen and Sarah (Chalk)!

I am continuing to look at the Titchfield Overseers' A/cs which may yet reveal further clues....I would be pleased to hear of other members' opinions on my conclusions. Does anyone know of something I don't! ...Muriel Allen 27 Coulson Road, Hedge End, Southampton, England SO30 0JS"

Muriel has an interesting problem. The overseers' A/cs for 1789/90 are very confusing:

		£sd
Jan 24 Elizth Whitlock	1 Mo relief	6 -
Mar 21 Elizth Kinchenton	3 Mo relief	18 -
Mar 21 By Caish of Stephen Whitlock	for Elizth	
Kinchenton Child		4 7 -
Apr 11 Elizabeth Kinchenton Child	3 weeks	4 6
Jul 4 Stephen Whitlocks Child 3 Mo		18 -
Aug 29 Elizabeth Kinchenton Child		12 -
Nov 21 Elizth Whitlock	3 Mo	18 -
1790		
Feb.13 Elizabeth Kinchentons Child	3 Mo	18 -

It is not clear from this record which child is referred to or whether Elizabeth Kincherton is still alive. Is the Elizabeth Whitlock referred to the mother or the child?

A couple of other interesting entries from the accounts are in 1786:

Mar 4 For Mr. Newberry for searching the Register of the parish of Plaitford for Stephen Whitlocks Age 3s 6d

Oct 27 By Caish of Francis Whitlock for the maintenance of his sons bastard by E. Kinchenton up to 25 Dec £3 4s 6d

I was interested in the Mar 4 entry where they searched in Plaitford for Stephen's birth as opposed to Landford where he stated he was born.

Obviously a gold mine of family history detail is contained in the Overseers accounts. It will be interesting to see if we can determine if this was one Stephen or two. If anyone can assist Muriel with this I am sure she would be pleased to hear from you.

Sources: X1953; X1954; R1131-3