

SUGARING OFF

Those with Devonshire and Cornish roots will be interested in the latest book by Martin Johns of Hamilton, Ontario. *Sugaring Off* is second book Dr. Johns has written about his part of the family. The first *Bamboo Sprouts and Maple Buds* being his memoirs of a life begun in West China in 1913 and transplanted to Canada in 1925.

Dr. Johns gives an excellent summary in his preface. "In the rural Ontario of the Nineteenth Century "sugaring off" was the most critical stage in a process which transformed raw maple sap into maple sugar, the delectable confection that graced the tables of our pioneer ancestors. The process required many hours of labour carried out with infinite care lest the sugar be burned and made useless. In analogous fashion, the creation and nurturing of a family demands many years of loving attention if its progeny is to enter the adult world equipped to serve its generation. This book is not about maple syrup but about the branch of the Johns family which was nurtured in China and "sugared off" in Canada during the years of the Great Depression. The parents Alfred & Myrtle, who served in China as missionaries of the Methodist Church of Canada from 1910 to 1925, were descendants of the pioneers that had come from England's West Country to settle in the Huron Tract of Canada West at the midpoint of the nineteenth Century."

Dr. John's mother, Myrtle (Madge) Johns was one of my early correspondents and it was her painstaking research that gave the first clues that what was then three different lines of the Whitlock family likely had a common origin.

Dr. Johns' children are in a position of being descended from two lines of the same Whitlock family. Dr. Johns descends from Richard & Grace (Judd) Whitlock while his first wife Margaret Hilborn is a descendant of Richard's brother Thomas & Joan (Cazer) Whitlock, both of Langtree, Devon. (My own line descends from another Richard Whitlock uncle to this Richard & Thomas).

The book is 216 pages with 120 pictures and family charts woven together by Dr. Johns' narrative of the evolution of his family. The cost is \$25 plus \$4 mailing and can be obtained by writing to myself or Dr. Martin W. Johns, 115 Dalewood Crescent, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8S 4B8.

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