

JAMES A. WHITELOCK (1940-1997)

It is with great sadness I advise you of the death of Jim Whitlock. Jim died suddenly of a massive heart attack on the morning of November 3, 1997. It was Jim's name and address that was the other half of my letterhead.

Jim and I knew about each other for some time before we actually met. We had both seen or heard references to each other in several places as we researched. When we finally did connect it was the beginning of a collaboration that was to span thirteen years. Jim and I called each other cousins but the relationship was fairly distant. We both descend from the Richard Whitlock who married Mary Knight at Langtree, Devon June 7, 1802. Jim through James Whitlock born in 1817 and I through Thomas Whitlock born in 1806.

Jim concentrated on the Devon families and over the years gathered together a vast collection detailing every Whitlock connection he could find in Devon back to the 1200's. Together we compiled the format for book on the Whitlocks of Langtree and through several drafts managed to get over 100 pages written and proofed. Unfortunately the project was put on hold a few years ago as both our careers took more of our time. Hopefully one day I will be able to resurrect the project and complete it. The research files we put together for the project continue to be a useful source for those interested in the Langtree families.

In 1988 Jim with his wife Sylvia hosted the Whitlock reunion in Plymouth, Devon. While the group was quite small I think everyone enjoyed the tours we put on and the final dinner Jim and Sylvia arranged on the last evening was an event to remember.

I will miss Jim's counsel and his advice. His detailed letters resulting for countless hours of thoughtful research will remain a legacy to all who come looking to know more about their Devon ancestors. Sylvia advises she is coping as best she can. She and her daughter Narissa have packed up all Jim's research and Narissa has it with her for safekeeping. Our hearts and thoughts are with Sylvia and Narissa.