

THOMAS WHITLOCK OF NEW JERSEY

In October William Kyle Whitlock of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania put a question out on the internet asking if anyone had information regarding a Thomas Whitlock who emigrated from England, likely Wiltshire to America in the 1640's. Within a day he had an answer back from Debbie Barrett with the following information. A Thomas Whitlock aged 18, Husbandman of Salisbury, Wiltshire emigrated to America in 1641. BINGO! - a perfect fit. The right age, the right place and the right time. While it is not proof I am confident enough to state that this Thomas Whitlock is the Thomas Whitlock who married Susannah Stock and settled in Monmouth County, New Jersey. The Thomas Whitlock who built what is now known as the Spy House Museum.

We asked Debbie Barrett to tell us more as this information had gone undetected for at least 40 years of active research and probably over a 100 years as the first research into this family was done in the late 1800's. Debbie advised us that the source was a database on Wiltshire research being prepared by Robin Holley of Calne, Wiltshire. Debbie contacted Mr. Holley and asked for more details about the database. Mr. Holley advised that there are 4327 entries entered so far, many of which are from the late John Whiles' collection of emigration extracts. Mr. Holley said that he would check the full transcripts still in the possession of Mrs. Whiles to see if there are additional Whitlock details shown.

I think it likely that while Thomas Whitlock (1623?-1703) listed Salisbury as his place of residence there is an good likelihood there is some connection with the town of Pitton which is 4 miles from Salisbury. Pitton is the place of origin of many of the Whitlock families around the world and there were numerous Whitlocks living there in the 1600's. Unfortunately the parish registers pre 1670 do not exist other than a few Bishops Transcripts from 1605. There are two Whitlocks baptised in Pitton in May 1605 so there were likely several families there at that time.

Just our index of Wiltshire references extends to eight pages so there is a great deal of Wiltshire material in the files. Unfortunately very little of it is pre 1650. Hopefully the renewed interest in Wiltshire resulting from this find will expand our collection of older Wiltshire documents. I did mention in a message to Robin Holley that we have Wiltshire references for the years 1275, 1281, 1287, 1295, 1306, 1307, 1318, 1392, 1394 and 1442 in our pre1538 records so the Whitlocks have been there a long time.

Thomas Whitlock's descendants are shown in the WHITLOCK.16 chart which I have now renamed to be The Whitlocks of Wiltshire #8 & The Whitlocks of New Jersey #1. Our sincere thanks to William Kyle Whitlock for initiating the search that resulted in this find. In additional we owe a debt of gratitude to Debbie Barrett for picking up on Bill's query and following through with the request and to Robin Holley for sharing the material in his database. Truly the find of the decade.

Source: X2417; "PITTON" file