

WILLIAM WHITLOCK OF PITTON, WILTS - SOLDIER

In Ralph Whitlock's book *A Victorian Village* he mentions several William Whitlocks who were living in Pitton, Wiltshire in 1851 (p.156). "1. William Whitlock, aged forty-six, living with his wife Ann and two children, Uriah, aged seven, and Sarah, aged two. He is described as an agricultural labourer and pensioner. Ted [Ralph's father] knew him as a one-legged ex-soldier known locally as 'Sergeant Whitlock'. His family was not complete in 1851, for later Mary-Ann and Walter were born. Uriah became the village shopkeeper and baker, and the whole family played a prominent part in village life during much of Ted's lifetime."

Marianne Whitlock has sent in additional information regarding William Whitlock. Via Elizabeth Cox, Marianne received a copy of William's discharge papers from the British Army (R1878). In addition Marianne obtained a copy of William marriage certificate (CERT 441) from St. Catherine's House. These two documents provided very interesting details about William's life and also enabled us to determine who his parents were.

In an Attestation for Regiments document dated Nov.24,1825 William Whitlock states that he is twenty years of age, a Labourer born in Pitton, near Salisbury, Wiltshire and that he enlisted in London Nov.23,1825. He is described as five feet, nine & one quarter inches tall of fresh complexion with hazel eyes and light brown hair. He enlisted for a bounty of four pounds in the 2nd or Queens Royal Regiment of Infantry.

His discharge papers are dated Oct.31,1840, Deesa Barracks and state he suffered from "habitual dislocation of the right shoulder which originated in 1834 in the act of throwing a ball and now recurs on the slightest exertion requiring his hand to be lifted above his head". He also received a wound through the same area at Ghazni July 23,1839. William served in Afghanistan from Dec.1,1838 or Feb.29,1840 and in the East Indies from Mar.1,1840 to Oct.31,1840. William's conduct is recorded as being excellent, trustworthy and sober with three distinctive marks of merit.

William appears to have returned to Pitton following his discharge and on Mar.15,1843 he married Ann Compton at the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Fisherton Anger, District of the Alderbury Union in County Wilts. Their marriage certificate states that Ann was the daughter of Charles Compton, Labourer and William the son of Robert Whitlock, Labourer. William made his mark but Ann Compton signed her name. The witnesses were John Compton and Elizabeth Compton.

Our records show that Robert & Sarah (Collins) Whitlock had a son William born at Pitton, Wiltshire Jul.11,1802. William & Ann (Compton) Whitlock had nine children. The first two within nine months, of their marriage. Thomas Walter Whitlock bp.Apr.30,1843 and Uriah Whitlock bp.Dec.10,1843. The others were George 1846, Sarah 1849, Sidney 1852, Elizabeth 1852, Walter 1856, Joshua 1859 and Mary Ann 1860. Ralph Whitlock notes that Sarah was an unmarried invalid and that Walter married but his wife ran away.

This is an excellent example of how military records can fill out a family history. Our thanks to Marianne Whitlock for pulling together these documents.

Sources:R47/1; R494; R1878; PR38,39; CERT441