

# RESEARCH TIPS

From time to time I am asked for suggestions where personal research into Whitlock lines has reached an impasse. This article summarises some of the ideas I have passed along over the years.

The first recommendation is always to recheck our own files if it has been awhile since you asked what we have. There is a constant stream of material coming in and I do rely on those interested to watch the Newsletters for items of interest. I will copy items and pass them on if I notice when I am cataloguing that the item is something a particular researcher was looking for. With over 80 lines to keep track of and several hundred researchers I do not always make the connections I should. I can easily check what you have been sent to the list of sources shown on the family card for the person you are interested in and make copies of new items that have come in.

Next I suggest trying to track down the "local expert". There is a "local expert" on almost everything. The Internet is becoming a particularly useful tool for this purpose. Remember the local libraries and Historical Societies. They won't do research for you in most cases but they can normally pass on the name of a "local expert". Most Counties or Towns have had some sort of history written about them and people have gathered together a great deal of information to put together those publications, not all of which gets included in the final book.

There are experts on Military records, down to particular battles your ancestor might have participated in. There are experts on ships that your ancestor might have travelled on. An expert on silver helped me pin down the likely owner of some Whitlock silver a few years ago. You never know...

When all else fails you may wish to ask for some professional advice. There is nothing like trying to summarize and explain your problem to some else to crystallise a likely avenue of research!!

Some years ago Chuck Rockett funded the extracting of the complete 1900 US census. This 479 page addition to our collection has been a primary source that we use constantly to assist American researchers to get started on the trail of their ancestors. The lady who did the work was Nancy Waterhouse, 1109 Loch Lomand Way, Salt Lake City, Utah 84117-4976 (Nwaterhouse@utah-inter.net). Nancy has assisted many researchers to get over their "brick wall". If you are considering professional help it is useful to consider several with proven records. Nancy is certainly one.

One additional option that proved successful in the past is to canvass an area using the local telephone directories. This is not so easy these days as many do not include postal addresses but City Directories can be used to fill some blanks. Some years ago Margaret Cohoe of Kingston, Ontario got together with Adrienne Campbell of Alice Springs, Australia and canvassed all the Whitlocks and Whitelocks of Australia. They had very good response and the results of their work make up a large part of Peter Whitaker's collection on the Whitlocks of Australia and New Zealand.

We can provide letterhead and questionnaire forms for this type of project and will assist in drafting a letter for you. More recently Mr. Fountaine of Hertford put an ad in the Saga Magazine regarding his Whitlock chart and is probably still receiving letters from people interested in their Whitlock ancestors.

Hopefully this has given you some ideas what to try next. Good luck.