

# WHITLOCKS OF MARIETTA, OHIO

Over the centuries the Whitlocks have been proud of their accomplishments and have attempted to record their own personal histories so their children and grandchildren would remember them. As far back as 1609 James Whitlock (1570-1632) started his *Liber Familicus* or Family Book. His son Bulstrode Whitlocke wrote extensively including life-long diaries. In the last century there are several documents, including the works of Sarah Whitlock Pennell on the Whitlocks of New Jersey printed in 1895.

In this century one of the first documents sent to us when we began this research in 1968 was the History of the Whitlocks of Halifax Co. Virginia published by W.H. Whitlock in 1941. About this time we also received extracts from a rough outline of the history of the Whitlocks of Langtree, Devon compiled by William Percival Whitlock and Francis Metherall Whitlock and printed in 1936 in Marietta, Ohio. A complete copy has now been sent in and it is this history I would like to deal with in this article.

The document is nine pages and entitled *Genealogical and Historical Sketch - Whitlock*. The "Foreward" sets the scene. "Ever since childhood 'grandmother Whitlock' repeated stories about her kinfolk and country, far across the sea, in beautiful Devon, England. These stories, too often fell on heedless ears, and are now partially forgotten; and with her passing, and that of her generation, much has been lost beyond recovery. What is yet remembered will soon be beyond recall, unless preserved in written record.

This, then, is an attempt to secure to us and our children, the facts of our lineage so far as now known; that the memory of our ancestors may be held in esteem, as it deserves to be, by their posterity. Imperfect as this record may be, it at least forms an outline for later revision...  
Dec.25,1936, Marietta, Ohio"

The following are extracts from the document:

"It is now nearly a score of years since an interest was excited by the discovery of Records, which gave a new and surprising meaning to the family name and history. During the World War ... Captain William Percival Whitlock, then in service, located at Paris, France, visited London, England. There he began research at the British Museum upon the Genealogy of the Whitlock Family. The Records of Heraldry there are kept only the names of families to whom a Patent of Nobility is Granted, and only as long as their is an heir to the Title....one of the most interesting to him was one resident in Devonshire, having a line of descent for Two hundred and fifty years...

In the summer of 1920 a visit was made to North Devon to the original home of our family at Langtree, a small town with its Parish Church having records three hundred years old. There is a farm known today as the COLLACOTT FARM situated about a mile North of the town, and a mile West of Torrington, where lived and died several generations of Whitlocks.

The old home where Jesse Whitlock was born had burned down some years ago. The barn is still

in use, and its heavy straw thatch underneath is a bright and clean, as when put on one hundred and fifty years past... The well has been in use for centuries. A large and lovely field is called to this day 'The Whitlock Meadow'. On one corner of the farm there stands a Chapel the lot given, and the building erected, by 'John Whitlock of Collacott Farm' and in the adjoining graveyard his, and his brothers bodies, rest...

Interviews were held with some very old men - one a hundred years old - who helped 'Richard Whitlock and his thirteen children over to Bideford, where he took ship for America' They took food enough for the Atlantic voyage hauled in wagons by his friends, to Bideford. The family walked to port about seven miles.

While we were in the graveyard, the 'Country Postman' entered, and proceeded to enlighten us regarding the family. 'Her was a good old soul, her wuz' indicating the grave of Elizabeth W. the wife of George, who died in 1893 at 70. Regarding George he said 'Im wuz the father of Vee, im wuz', pointing to the grave of John Whitlock, as the son. 'These parts used to be full of 'Wullocks', but they be all gone now. There be one down Holsworthy way, and im ud bee right glad to see yu, im wuud'...

In 1874 Mr. Saunders of Exeter, Ontario, Canada who visited Devon the year before told me that he visited 'Jack' Whitlock, still living at Peters Marland then in his Ninetieth Year. He was the brother of Charles Whitlock and the last of the family to remain in England."

The document describes the visit to the Whitlocks of Holsworthy and talks about the neighbouring parishes and their Whitlock connections, including Frithelstock and Warkleigh where the Whitlocks lived in the 1500's and 1600's. The connection to Anne Boleyn, wife of Henry VIII is touched on as well and the Coat of Arms and family crest of the Devon Whitlocks. The origin of the name is discussed as well as are some of the other prominent Whitlock families in England and their connections to America.

I assume "Grandmother Whitlock" mentioned in the Foreward would have been Mary Martha (Metherall) Whitlock (1828-1918) the wife of Rev. Jesse Whitlock (1824-1913) [See article "The Fifty" WFN 10:1:4].

From subsequent research we now know the persons mentioned in the graveyard are George Whitlock (1821-1896) and his wife Elizabeth Allen (1828-1888) who were married at Langtree May 9, 1850. George was the son John Whitlock (1778-1848) and his wife Catherine Palmer (1789-1870). We also now know the connection to the Whitlocks of Marietta, Ohio was a fairly distant one. The Philip Whitlock shown as the possible ancestor of the Whitlocks who came to Prince Edward Island and Ohio was in fact Thomas Whitlock (1755-1840) who married Rebecca Holman (1756-1825). The first common ancestor of the two families is Thomas Whitlock (1650's-1715) who married Mary Heaman (1644-1701). They were married at Langtree April 8, 1673.

The first-hand recollections mentioned in the document are invaluable. The Richard Whitlock mentioned is supposed to have left for America in 1851!! I am sure the descendants of this part

of the family will be thrilled to find there is an account of their ancestors embarkation. We assume this is Richard Whitlock b.1801 who married Sally Stoneman at Langtree, Mar.24,1825 and is shown on the 1851 census as "about to emigrate".

Our thanks to Ione Whitlock for passing this material on to us including the wonderful copies of the snaps taken during the visit to Langtree in 1920.

Source:R1942