

WHITLOCKS OF VICTORIA, B.C. 1849

Sir George Simpson, governor of the Hudson's Bay Company chose the spot in 1841 and in 1843 James Douglas arrived to establish a new outpost for the Company. On June 10, 1843 in Fort Garry the HBC's Council of the Northern Department resolved: *That the new Establishment to be formed on the Straits de Fuca to be named Fort Victoria...* This was in honour of Her Majesty Queen Victoria who had come to the throne in 1837.

By 1849 the Fort consisted of a stockade and a few buildings. It was not until 1851-52 that a townsite was laid out next to the Fort. It was to this rustic outpost that William Whitlock and his wife Honor Marks arrived on the *Columbus* in 1849. Married in St. Michael's Church, London in July 1848 the couple left shortly after their marriage for Fort Victoria. The journey around the Horn was a eventful one, including a three week stop at the Sandwich islands (Hawaii) while a leak in their ship was repaired. On July 21, 1849 their first son, William Thomas Whitlock was born at the Fort, the first European child born in the new Colony of British Columbia. In the Registers of the Hudson's Bay Company and Christ Church Cathedral, Victoria, B.C. the birth entry shows July 15, 1849 William Thomas son of William Whitlock and Honor Marks, Domestic Servants, born Ft. Victoria signed Robert John Staines, A.B. Cantab. Chaplain to the Hon. Hudson's Bay Co.

The family lived at the Fort for only eight months, leaving in November 1849 for Astoria. The family lived at Oak Point for some months while William worked at the local sawmill. By September 1851 they had arrived in Oregon City where they established a boarding-house on Main and Ninth streets. The Boarding House prospered and in 1853 they opened a store on Main Street. Goods were purchased in San Francisco. In 1866 William and Honor returned to England for a visit but were soon back in Clackamas Co., Oregon where they spent the rest of their lives. William died Jun. 19, 1883 age 58.

The reason for the trip to England in 1866 is not clear but we can assume they returned to visit family. William was the son of Thomas Whitlock and Mary Jones who were married at Isleworth, London Jul. 29, 1821. Our records show five children. The eldest Elizabeth Mary b. 1822, Thomas b. 1824, William b. 1825, Martha b. 1829 and Henry b. 1834. We do not know when either of the parents died. Henry Whitlock shows on the 1851 census age 17, a footman born in Kentishtown, London.

William Thomas Whitlock married Annie Henrietta Miller July 3, 1876 at Clackamas Co., Oregon. William became a teacher after leaving Forest Grove University. In 1890 he was elected County Recorder for Clackamas. William and Annie had two children Edward R. and Grace Anna

William Whitlock and Honor Marks had a second son Edward Henry Whitlock born December 3 1852 in Oregon. Edward was married to Myra B. Hand and shows in the 1900 US census for Oregon City. It is not known if they had any children.

While the Whitlock's stay in Victoria was a short one, they were witnesses to the very beginnings of this province and its capital city and 150 years ago. They were proud of the small part they had played and made sure it was recorded so their grandchildren and great-grandchildren would know the contribution they had made. We have yet to come across descendants of this part of the family but suspect as further research is done we will do so.

Sources: X441; X624/416,420; X846/3; X931; X946; R443; R797; R798

Sources:

1. *1001 British Columbia Place Names* by G.P.V. & Helen B. Akrigg, Discovery Press 1969
2. Provincial Archives of B.C. Film 834 (X441)
3. 1851 Census, City of London 1493 367 (X946)
4. 1850 & 1870 US Census, Oregon Territory (X931)(X846/3)
5. *Pioneer Families of the Oregon Territory 1850* (R443)
6. *History of Oregon* by Harvey K. Hines (R797)
7. *History of Willamette Valley* by Herbert O. Lang, 1885 (R798)
8. 1900 US census, Oregon (X624/416,420)