

MESHACH WHITLOCK OF SOMERSET

Eric Whitlock has sent in a couple of terrific examples of how parish records can help you trace your family:

The Parish Records at Taunton records office as follows:

Marriage at Beckington Parish page 53 entry number 207 of Parish Record "Meshach Whitlock (Wedlock crossed out), Labourer of this Parish and Mary Carter of the same Parish, Spinster, were Married in this church by banns this nineteenth day of October in the year One thousand eight hundred and two by me Robert Baker Bell Minister.

This marriage was solemnized between us: The mark of x Meshach Whitlock. The mark x Mary Carter. In the presence of John Finsbury and William Hudden (Clerk).

Also in the Parish records we can work out Meshack Seniors year and place of Birth from the following transcript regarding his request to settle in the parish of Beckington.

"Somerset The examination of Meshack Widlock Twinespinner now residing in the Parish of Beckington in the said County touching his settlement taken upon oath before us two of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said County this 9th Day of April 1808. This Examinant saith that he is about twenty nine years of age and was born in the Parish of St. Mary in Devizes in the County of Wiltshire as he hath heard and believes and that about six years ago he hired himself to William Bonnett of Beckington aforesaid Engineer for a year at the wages of ten pounds and meat, drink and lodging, which year he served in the said parish of Beckington but was married to his present Wife about seven weeks before the end of the year, that he served the said William Bonnett at Beckington aforesaid three or four months over the year and hath not since done any act to gain a Settlement in any Parish or Place to his knowledge or belief, that he hath a Wife named Mary and two Children viz William aged four years and James aged about half a year. This Mark of

x

Meshach Wedlock
Sworn before us

A Sainsbury

William Ireland"

The above records tell us that Meshach Whitlock was born in Devizes, Wiltshire and roughly about 1778. It gives us the place and date of marriage and his wife's name. The settlement record also tells us there was a son William Whitlock born about 1803. Meshach heads the WHITLOCK18 chart and we suspect we will be able to connect this family to one of the Pitton families eventually. These documents confirm the Wiltshire connection and get us a little closer to making that connection. Our thanks to Eric for passing them on to us.

Sources: