

LETTER FROM HOME, 1887

Pickering Dec 13/87

Dear Cousin

We are glad to hear from you, we could not tell what had become of you. My wife wrote to you last spring and the letter was returned and we have none other address but yours. Therefore I could not find any other but your last letter and your Aunt Mary did not know as she wished for some one to write for her. I will now try to give you all information I can think about. R.R. Sheffield is Dead and left Aunt the interest of his money, which some relative left him, and she was to take of the sum, if there was not what would do for her comfort. She was well last time I saw her, living in Eastgate. Your Cousin Wm Scales died perhaps 2 year ago. Last spring your Aunt Died, and later on Uncle George - then your Cousin John Died shortly after, so you see the breaking up. Oliver & Rooks carry on the Business. My wifes principal object was to ask if you knew any Parks - as one of their relatives left England some years ago and she saw in Chancery some one of that name leaving property to claim and the other part was for your Aunt Mary, as she had no one to write for her. We are glad to here things so faviourable with you all. It is hard here to make ends meet, everything is so sought into and overstocked. I continue my Fathers Trades as well as my own and have all my work to make ends meet and hard to work. Also I am now 61 I should have it a little easier. I enjoy good health that is above other considerations. My family are all well they are getting up - 4 in number the youngest 16. Brother John is at Bridlington, Thomas at Hull, Richard I do not quite know he was at Guisbro - sister Hannah at Scarbro. Last time I enquired of Uncle Fred my sister said she saw him sometime ago at Scarbro as he lives about Langdale End. He is stout and much troubled with asma or asmaticals I have not seen him since Father died 11 years ago.

We shall be glad to hear from any or all Uncles, or any Branch of their family. We often think and talk of you wondering how all are. Tell Uncle John Mr Toweisly Died this spring aged 86. He out lived nearly all his children and first wife. We wish to be kindly remembered to Uncle Matthew and Aunt if living when this note comes. I hope they are as my Dear Father was calmly waiting, full of hope for the better world. Kind regards to Uncle James & Aunt hoping they are well and as years increase, and we all come near to our journeys end, here we may be fully prepared for the Bright world above. You do not name your brother John we hope he is well, as its on your other Brothers & sister you have left. There are a few of old people left which you knew perhaps I cannot name many - I Bointon, R. Parkinson and a few more. Most of the heads of the Town are passed away and quite a fresh lot now occupying their houses - Trees are now being planted on both sides of Eastgate and other parts of Town as a memento of Queens Jubilee this year. We had lively doings all over on this account. A Bull roasted on ..ddy. Hill and General rejoicing. I must now draw to a close with our love to all and wishing you all I must say a happy New Year as this probably will not arrive before.

Your affect. Cousin
Wm. Whitelock

We have had a very hot dry summer so much so that turnips are scarce an open back end a lot of snow in October and fine often until now having sharp frosts in many places and people constantly leading for stock and other use.

The above letter was a keepsake of Bessie (Whitelock) Hayes of Olds, Alberta and was likely written to her father George Whitelock. George was born 1837 in Pickering, Yorkshire and married Jane Pickering there in 1861. By 1871 the family is living in Dereham, Oxford Co., Ontario. George's parents were John & Catherine (Foster) Whitelock who were married in Pickering, Yorkshire in 1835 and his grandparents were William Whitelock and his second wife, Eleanor Cuthbertson who were married in Sinnington, Yorkshire in 1804. The writer was William Whitelock who married Elizabeth Marie Parke in Pickering in 1852. William's parents were Thomas & Susanna (Pennock) Whitelock who were married in 1822 in Pickering. Thomas' parents were the same William Whitelock but by his first wife Hannah Wilson. They were married at Great Edstone in 1791. So George and William's parents were half-brothers. This family is detailed on our WHITLOCK27 chart, The Whitelocks of Marton, Yorkshire #2.

It is interesting to read about the celebrations of Queen Victoria's 50 years on the throne. I wonder if the trees planted on Eastgate are still there?

Our thanks to Fay Bailey for this item.

Source: X2185