

WHITELOCKE BULSTRODE (1650-1724)

In searching Whitlock sources on the Internet, Patrick came across a treasure that I received for my birthday this year. It is a 1724 edition of *Essays* by Whitelocke Bulstrode. I had heard of this person in the past but I had forgotten how he was connected to his namesake, Bulstrode Whitelocke. Our Bulstrode file had several Biographies that provided the story.

In 1575 Edward Bulstrode of Hedgeley, near Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire and his wife Cecilia Croke had a daughter Elizabeth who in 1602 married James Whitlock. In 1605 James & Elizabeth had a son who was named Bulstrode Whitlock. Edward and Cecilia Bulstrode also had a son Edward born in 1588. Edward Jr. had a son Richard Bulstrode born in 1610 who married Jocosa Dyneley. In 1650 Richard and Jocosa Bulstrode named their son Whitelocke after Richard's cousin Bulstrode Whitelocke (Bulstrode added the extra "e"s to his name.) King Charles had been executed the year before and Oliver Cromwell was in power. Bulstrode Whitelocke's career was on the rise as a prominent puritan and was therefore a useful connection to highlight by naming a child after him.

Richard Bulstrode was educated at Pembroke College, Cambridge and became a soldier, diplomatist and author. At the outbreak of the Civil War Richard joined the army of Charles and spent considerable time abroad during the Interregnum. He was knighted on his return to England in 1675 but almost immediately returned to live in Brussels. He later followed the Catholic King James to the court at St. Germain. He died there in 1711 at age 101. It is recorded he enjoyed good health and a clear mind to the end and died of indigestion as opposed to old age. Several collections of his writings were published after his death by his son Whitelocke Bulstrode.

Whitelocke Bulstrode was born in 1650. It is clear from his writings that he did not share his father's support for King James and he remained in England. Trained at the Inner Temple he purchased the manor of Hounslow in 1705 and became a justice of the peace for the county of Middlesex. Whitelocke Bulstrode wrote several scholarly works on philosophy, natural science and religion. Titles include "*A Discourse of Natural Philosophy, wherein the Pythagorean Doctrine is set in its true light and vindicated*"; "*The Pillars of Popery thrown down, and the Principal Arguments of Roman Catholics answered and confuted*" and lastly published in 1724, the year of his death was "*Essays on various Subjects*". The essays are moral and very puritan in their tone. The essay "Of Plants and Insects" is of particular interest as it illustrates the 17th Century dilemma of trying to explain plant and insect propagation and distribution as divine will. Of particular confusion is the concept of cloning plants which avoids the concept of a "seed". A quote from the Bible on the title page likely gives a clue to the times. *Am I therefore become your Enemy, because I tell you the Truth?* Gal. IV.16

Whitelocke Bulstrode married Elizabeth Dyneley of Charlton, Worcestershire and left a son Richard and two daughters. While the connection to the Whitlock family is getting a little distant, it would be interesting to know if there are any descendants today.