

BERYL FAY BAILEY (1933?-2003)

In February 1987 Fay replied to a letter I had written to her parents, Fred and Edith (West) Bailey of Burgessville, Ontario. This was the start of a long and steady correspondence.

Fay was a descendant of John & Catherine (Foster) Whitlock who were married in Pickering, Yorkshire in 1835. It was evident from her first letters that Fay had been curious about her ancestors for some time as she had copies of letters back to the 1960's giving bits and pieces of family stories.

Over the years Fay followed up on each clue that presented itself and was diligent about sharing each new find. As with most research, with each question you answer the next presents itself.

Some years ago I sent Fay a document that speculated that the name Whitlock came from the Anglo-Saxon for "elf play". Fay commented that she was working on building a fairy house in a wild part of her garden and she could now rightfully tell people that the place was her "Ancestral Seat".

Fay's sharing of her research with others helped trace the WHITLOCK²⁷ chart back to the William & Hannah (Wilson) Whitlock who were married in Great Edston, Yorkshire in 1791. Our additions lists are liberally sprinkled with copies of old letters, wills, parish records and census extracts that Fay sent in. Her efforts help turn a genealogical chart into a family history.

Our thanks to Fay's sister Lois for writing and her kind comments about how much the Whitlock Family Association meant to Fay. We will all miss her.