

HENRY B. WHITLOCK (1799-1871) OF GREENE CO., IL

The following was received from Mitzi Calbreath in March 2000:

All articles from The White Hall Register

May 20, 1871 - - An aged citizen killed with a hoe -- late this week news reached us from Rockbridge that on Thursday, Henry Whitlock, an old man, lona resident of Greene County was murdered with a hoe by George Freer, son of Elias Freer, in a blacksmith shop near the W.P. Witt place. The difficulty was some trivial matter about a gap in the fence and words coming up led to blows. Is seems Whitlock fled into the shop and Freer, who struck the fatal blow, causing instant death.

June 3, 1871 - Whitlock case - On Friday of last week, Sheriff Bell and deputy Williams arrived home froms Kirksville, Missouri where they had gone in search of Moses Freer, Jr. implicated in the Whitlock murder. Freer married one of Lewis W. Link's daughters and Lewis Link is a justice of the peace at Kirksville. The news of the killing had reached there but Freer had not been seen.

June 10, 1871 - Last Saturday one Freer brother, of George Freer in jail was brought before Esq. Cocke and Rainey on charges of attempt to bribe the jailor of Greene County, to allow the escape of the prisoner. George is the man that killed old Mr. Whitlock, On examination which was postponed and a hearing he was held in \$500. to answer.

July 29, 1871 - Alex Whitlock and J.W. Whitlock offer reward of \$300 for delivery of Morris Freer.

Jan 27, 1872 - Henry Whitlock, age 72 years, resident of Greene County for 40-50 years was killed on SW corner of the W.P. Witts farm 4 miles west of Rockbridge, 12 miles east of Carrollton on May 18, 1871... Moses Freer lived on Abram Freer's place about two miles east of the scene of murder. George Freer lived a few rods SW of the scene and Elias Freer, the father lived a mile west of the scene. Abram Freer had resided in Texas, 2 to 3 years and came back the day before the murder and stopped at his place where Moses Freer lived and George had gone over and the three had been to Rockbridge where there was whiskey and the boys were "taking a spree over Abe's getting back"

Where was bad feelins of Moses and George toward the deceased and witness Brown had heard George say on a former occasion, he meant to kill old Henry Whitlock.

Seems as tho they met as deceased, Henry Whitlock, came up the road from the south with his hoe where he had been covering corn at Andy Whitlock's. George had a plank in his hand and said "D_ _ n you, I'm going for you and drew his plank, the old man raised his hoe to ward off the blow. George pitched the plank endwise and hit the old man in the breast and caught the hoe and wrenched it from the old man's hands, who then retreated toward th house of Smith's, who lived in a house on land tended by Mr. Whitlock, followed by George and Mose and on the doorstep George struck the first blow in the back of the neck, Mose standing close by as the old mand entered the door, he received another blow in the neck with the hoe.

Smith and Mrs. Smith and the deceased got into the house and bolted the door, The door was broken down by the Freers from outside and George struck the old man again on the collar bone with the hoe,

Mose hollering "Kill him" At this stroke, the old man fell, never speaking again. Large drops of sweat burst out on his face, his eyes glazed over, his jaw fell and with a few gasps he died on the floor half sitting against the open door.

July 15, 1876 - George Freer, who was tried and convicted of murder in killing of old Henry Whitlock of Greene County and sentenced to Joliet for 14 years in 1872, was this week pardoned out by Governor Beveridge and reached home Thursday. This is one of the many moves in the master stroke of policy adopted by governors and presidents this year. George's vote will swell the mighty column for Hayes and Wheeler this fall. He is loyal to the core!

Henry B. Whitlock was born in Virginia Jul.29,1799 and died in Rockbridge, Greene Co. Illinois May 18,1871. He was the son of John Normont & Abigail (Preston) Whitlock. Henry B. married Hannah Smith (1801-1876) in Madison (later Greene) Co., Illinois Apr.25,1820. Henry B. & Hannah had 15 children between 1821 and 1844. Henry B shows on every census from 1820 to 1860 and appears to have lived in the same County his whole life. He purchased 38.89 acres in Rockbridge Township Dec.2,1839. It is described as W1/2SE & NENW & SWNW of Section 6 township 9NR10W. It is assumed that a parcel of this land became the Whitlock Cemetery following Henry B. Whitlock's murder in 1871. The cemetery still exists and is the subject of another article in this issue of the Newsletter.

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