

HENRY JOSEPH WHITLOCK, PHOTOGRAPHER

The following information written by David Simkin of Brighton, UK was posted on the GenForum by Larry Perkins:

“Henry Joseph Whitlock was the son of Sarah (born c1815, died 24 October 1862, Birmingham) & Joseph Whitlock (born 20 February 1806, Olney, Bucks - died 1857, Birmingham - death registered in Solihull in December Quarter of 1857). Joseph Whitlock was one of the earliest photographic artists in Britain and the first to establish a permanent photographic studio in Birmingham. In 1842, Joseph Whitlock reportedly paid Richard Beard £1000 for a licence to take daguerreotype portraits in Warwickshire and Northamptonshire.

On Monday, 30 January 1843, Joseph Whitlock opened Birmingham's first daguerreotype studio at 120, New Street. At the same time, Whitlock opened a photographic portrait studio at the Royal Assembly Rooms in Leamington Spa. During 1843, Joseph Whitlock also opened studios in Coventry, Rugby, and Warwick. In January 1844, Whitlock opened a further studio at Northampton. In 1847, Joseph Whitlock had established a photographic studio at Bromley House, Angel Row, Nottingham. In 1849 and between 1851 and 1853 the studio worked under the partnership of Whitlock & Thompson. Only the studio in Birmingham proved successful. For the first seven years or so, Joseph Whitlock held a monopoly in making photographic portraits in Birmingham.

In 1852, Joseph Whitlock expanded his business in Birmingham and recruited his two sons Henry Joseph (born c1835 Olney, Bucks) and Frederick (born c1839 Olney, Bucks.) to assist him.

In 1855, Henry Joseph Whitlock left Birmingham to set up his own studio at 42 High Street, Worcester. His father, Joseph Whitlock continued to run the photographic studio in New Street, Birmingham, but he was dogged by ill health. Joseph's wife and sons became more involved in the running of the business as his health declined .

When Joseph Whitlock died at the end of 1857 at the age of 51, the Birmingham studio, now at 110 New Street, passed to his widow Mrs Sarah Whitlock. On 24th October, 1862, Mrs Whitlock died at 110 New Street, Birmingham at the age of 47.

After the death of his parents, Henry Joseph Whitlock established a studio of his own at 11 New Street Birmingham. Henry J Whitlock was assisted by his two sons Arthur (born 1865 Birmingham) [the 20 year old lad standing at the back of the family portrait dated 1885] and Henry junior, aka Harry (born c1871 Birmingham).

Henry Joseph Whitlock founded the firm of H. J. Whitlock & Sons of Birmingham and Wolverhampton. A studio named Whitlock Brothers was operating in Wolverhampton at 63 Darlington Street in the early 1900s. Apparently the firm of Whitlock continued as a photographic business in Birmingham until the mid-1960s.

Henry Joseph Whitlock's younger brother, Frederick Whitlock (born c1839 Olney, Bucks.) was also a photographer and established his own studio in New Street, Birmingham and later at Park Road, Sutton Coldfield. Frederick's two sons, Herbert (born c 1870 Birmingham) and Frederick junior (c1874 Birmingham) were both photographers. In 1901, Herbert Whitlock was working as a photographer alongside his father in Sutton Coldfield and his brother Frederick W. Whitlock was a photographer living in Oxford.”



The above December 1885 portrait from Larry Perkins shows Henry Joseph Whitlock and his wife Eliza with children May b. 1869? Arthur b. 1865, Jessie b. 1864, Eva b. 1873? And Harry b. 1871

Our records show that Joseph Whitlock (1806-1857) married Sarah Mason (1815?-1862). Joseph was the son of James & Sarah (Holloway) Whitlock who were married at Ravenstone, **BKM** October 7, 1799. James Whitlock was born about 1780 and died in Olney, **BKM** in 1853. He shows on the 1841 census as a Timber Merchant.