

WHITLOCKITE

In the December 2002 issue of the Newsletter I showed a picture of the mineral Whitlockite. Patrick recently printed some material off the Internet that provides more information.

Whitlockite is a phosphate and is rare. The chemistry is $\text{Ca}_9(\text{Mg,Fe})(\text{PO}_4)_6\text{PO}_3\text{OH}$, Calcium Magnesium, Iron Phosphate Hydroxide.

The physical characteristics are:

- Colour is gray, yellowish, white or colourless.
- Luster is vitreous.
- Transparency: specimens are transparent to translucent.
- Crystal System is trigonal; 3 m
- Cleavage is absent.
- Fracture is uneven.
- Hardness is 5.
- Specific Gravity is approximately 3.1 (average for translucent minerals).
- Streak is white.

It was first discovered at the Palermo mine, North Groton, Grafton Co., New Hampshire. It forms small but distinct and well formed crystals. It has also been found in Rapid Springs, Yukon, Canada, Spring Creek mine Flinders Ridge, Australia and Tip Top Pegmatite, Custer Co., South Dakota, U.S.A.

It was noted in an article on kidney stones that Whitlockite is the most common of the prostate stones and I did not even know there was such a thing as prostate stones!!

Whitlockite is named for the noted mineralogist Herbert Percy Whitlock (1868-1948). He was the son of Thomas Whitlock & Caroline Vermilyea Hull of New York and is shown on the WHITLOCK16 chart. He married Julia Jacques Garner in 1904. They had no children.

For more information see Amethyst Galleries Inc. web site: www.galleries.com/minerals/phosphat/whitlock/whitlock./htm and the Gibson Consulting site: www.gravmag.com/kstones.html

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