

FRANCIS WHITLOCK (1806-1883) OF ESSEX

Sylvia Mort send an interesting bit of Whitlock trivia concerning an early train accident in Essex:

The Earliest train accident of which a record survives occurred at Yeldham on 20th January, 1877, when a pair of horses belonging to a Mr. Francis Whitlock were being driven across the track. The leading horse was struck and killed by an oncoming train but the carters had the presence of mind to jump clear and so escaped injury. After this accident it was made a rule that a warning whistle should be given by trains approaching the crossing, which was on a curve.

Francis Whitlock is part of the WHITLOCK08 chart. He was baptized in Little Yeldham, Essex June 1, 1806 and died at Great Yeldham October 12, 1883. While the horses mentioned in the above article belonged to Francis Whitlock it is assumed that he was not driving the horses at the time or the article would have described the actions of Mr. Whitlock. Francis Whitlock was the son of Thomas Whitlock & Elizabeth Quy. He married twice, first to Eliza Brown in 1832. Eliza died in 1843 age 32 and in 1847 Francis married Sarah (Steward) Gibbons. Francis and Eliza Whitlock had three daughters and one son. The son Walter Whitlock (1841-1924) of Poole Farm became a successful farm machinery manufacturer. [See WFN Sep 2001 re Dinkum Dumper] and his great-grandson Alan Carleton Whitlock (1907-1966) moved the business into innovative earth moving equipment that was way ahead of its time in the 1950's and 1960's.

Our thanks to Sylvia for this item.

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