

ELOPEMENT OF CHARLES & PEARL WHITLOCK 1895

A collection of newspaper clippings was sent in by Sherry Callahan regarding the elopement of Charles William Whitlock and Pearl Eunice Mumford. The event was obviously exciting news in 1895 in Elkton, Maryland as articles appeared in the Cecil Whig, Cecil Democrat and Cecil Star papers of December 14, 1895. All the articles are fairly similar and the one from the Cecil Whig is shown below:

LOVE'S ROUGH PATH

A Chesapeake City Elopement and an Exciting Honeymoon

The love of George W., alias Charles H. Whitlock and Pearl Mumford, of near Chesapeake City, laughed at more than locksmiths, and the experience of the ardent lovers this week has certainly afforded them a novel, if unpleasant honeymoon. Charles George's marriage was an elopement, and the fact that his bride was but 14 years of age, still holds her under parental control, and her mother has appeared upon the scene, indignant and bent after revenge on the crafty Whitlock.

On Tuesday of last week a young man stepped up to the desk at the Clerk's office and secured from Deputy Clerk John G. Williams a marriage license. The applicant after taking the necessary oaths, signed his name as William S. Snyder, and gave the name of the groom as George W. Whitlock, aged 22, and that of the bride as Pearl Mumford, age 19, both of Chesapeake City. The couple later in the day presented themselves at the Trinity Church Rectory, on Bridge street, this town, and were married by the Rev. Wm. Schouler, a matronly lady named Kelly accompanying Miss Mumford, the marriage certificate being regular to all appearances.

When the mother of the bride, Mrs. Mary Mumford, learned of the wedding, she was very much distressed at the conduct of her daughter, who was but fourteen years of age in October last. She stated that the girl had been met by Whitlock, that day while on her way to school, and had been persuaded by him to put on a long dress and accompany him to Elkton, to be married.

Whitlock's name is Charles, not George, and it therefore appears that the mysterious Snider perjured himself in securing the license, both as to the name George and the age of the girl.

States Attorney A.L. Crothers was notified and a warrant was issued for Snider, on the charge of perjury. The only Snider that could be found was Robert A. Snider, of Chesapeake City, who knowing nothing of the case whatever, was surprised at his presence being so peremptorily demanded at Elkton.

On Wednesday afternoon a hearing was held in the case before Squire Cleaver in Elkton. The witnesses failed to appear, and an attachment was issued for the arrest of Whitlock, his young bride, and others. They were brought to Elkton, and failing to give bond for their appearance at a hearing set for Thursday afternoon, were compelled to pass Wednesday night in the custody of Sheriff Mackey, who showed them every courtesy possible, allowing them to occupy a comfortable room in the residence portion of the jail. The hearing took place in the Sheriff's office before Squire P.H. Cleaver, on Thursday afternoon. Whitlock testified that he had engaged the man who gave the name of Snider, to secure the license for him, which he afterwards found in a "box," but he positively refused to reveal the man's identity. When told unless he gave this information he might be returned to jail, Whitlock replied that he would prefer to do so rather than divulge the fact. Mrs. Mary Mumford, the mother, and the bride herself, here fell

fainting to the floor, being no longer able to withstand the nervous strain to which they had been subjected. Deputy Clerk of the Court Williams did not know the person securing the license.

Magistrate Cleaver, at this point, dismissed the case, the costs being paid by Mr. Whitlock, father of the groom.

This family is shown at the end of the WHITLOCK57 chart as “also from Maryland”. The family descends from Samuel who married Louisa Pearce about 1800 and died in 1833. Sherry Callahan’s Main Line is ML349, an updated version is included in this issue of the Newsletter.