

CHARLES WHITLOCK (1826-) CIVIL WAR SECRET AGENT

On a recent visit with Edith Carlson of Eagle Point, Oregon, she gave me copies of several items relating to members of the WHITLOCK09 family, The Whitlocks of Connecticut. One these was a copy of page 597 from Volume III of the 1886 Book "The History of Chicago" by A.T. Andreas. The item was included in the "Telegraph and Express" section and referred to the life of Charles Whitlock:

"CHARLES WHITLOCK, general manager of the Inter-State Telephone Company, son of Zalmon & Sarah G. Whitlock, was born at Plymouth, Conn., on September 12, 1826. He received a liberal education in the schools of his birthplace and remained at home assisting his father in the manufacture of agricultural implements and machinery until he reached his majority. He then engaged in the same line of business on his own account at Purdy Station, which he continued for four years, and went into the real estate business in Brooklyn, N.Y., with which he combined building, buying and selling etc., where he remained until the War began. During the Rebellion he was in the Government service, and, at the cessation of hostilities, returned to Brooklyn and resumed business. Since 1880, he has been interested in electrical inventions, devoting much of his time to the telephone. In April, 1883, he came to this city in the interest of the celebrated Hopkins telephone patent, and has since been engaged in the development and organization of the company of which he is now manager. The innovation which Mr. Whitlock has been instrumental in placing before the public is another step forward and beyond any electrical invention yet produced, and it is undoubtedly destined to prove of greater benefit to the world than the telegraph. Mr. Whitlock was married on May 18, 1850, to Miss Emma Osborn of New York. They have three children, - Albert E., Belle and Charles, Jr."

Charles Whitlock was one of the four children of Zalmon Whitlock & Sally Gorham. Our records show he married Emma Culver Osborn May 13, 1851 in New York City.

In the article it mentions Charles was in "Government service" during the Civil War. Edith Carlson also provided a copy of a Civil War document indicating the type of "Government service" Charles was in. He was a Secret Agent!! An item from November 13, 1862 shows Charles Whitlock reporting to Major-General Burnside in Washington, DC on the location of Confederate forces and General Lee's headquarters at Orange Court House. He also comments on the condition of the forces and their food supplies.

Our thanks to Edith for this very interesting addition to our files.

SOURCES: R3045; R3046