

# 2012 OLYMPICS IN LONDON, ENGLAND

With the Olympics in London now history I thought a review of the Whitlock family involvement might be of interest.

In the lead up to the games there was a review of past British Olympians. This included H. Harold Whitlock of London who won a gold medal in the men's 50km race walk at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin. Harold was 32 at the time and amazingly he also participated in the Olympics in 1952 in Helsinki aged 48 where he placed 11<sup>th</sup> of 31. His brother G.B. Rex Whitlock was also in the same race in Helsinki and placed 4<sup>th</sup>. Rex had also participated in the 1948 Olympics in London but did not finish the race.

Hector Harold Whitlock and his brother George Bernard Rex Whitlock are part of the WHITLOCK53 family of London. This family were coach builders and made the Whitlock Car in the early 1900's

In the lead up to the recent events Eric Michael Whitlock sent in pictures of him carrying the Olympic torch in Gloucestershire on its way to London.

Eric Michael Whitlock is part of the WHITLOCK18 family, the Whitlocks of Somerset, England.

There were at least two members of the family that I know of competing in the 2012 games. Scott Frandsen of Kelowna, BC was part of the Canadian rowing team. While he and his rowing partner Dave Calder qualified for the finals in their category, they finished last of the six in the final race. Scott commented:

*Since the London Olympics came to a close, I've had a lingering feeling of an opportunity lost.*

*I find myself going through waves of overwhelming disappointment mixed with an appreciation for the uniqueness of the overall experience. We didn't get the result that we knew we were capable of (we finished sixth in the men's pair event), but the journey has been incredibly rewarding and another reminder of how much I love training for and competing in the Olympics.*

Scott Frandsen is part of the WHITLOCK01 family, a descendant of the Whitlocks of Langtree, Devon through Eliza Whitlock who married Richard Johns in 1845.

Later in the games it was British gymnast Max Whitlock's turn and he won two bronze medals in gymnastics events amazing performances. After winning the bronze medal in the team event Max commented: *"We came into this competition not expecting anything, not putting any pressure on ourselves and came out here to enjoy it.*

*"We've done this, which is amazing*

Following his event, Max's unique somersault on the parallel bars that helped place the British team in the medals was recognized by the International Gymnastics governing body and named for him - "The Whitlock".

Max Whitlock is from Hemel Hempstead, in London, the son of Madeleine Whitlock. We do not yet know how he fits into the Whitlock family.