

RICHARD WHITLOCK (1616-1666)

Richard Whitlock was baptized Nov.17, 1616 at St. Peter le Poer's Church, London - he was destined to live through some turbulent times. Lucky for him he was the eldest son of a wealthy Wokingham, Berkshire family. His father was also Richard Whitlock, the sixth child in the family, his father's eldest brother, William, being Lord of the Manor of Beches, in Wokingham, Berkshire. By his death in 1642 Richard owned the Manor of Beches, and was Lord of the Manor, his brother William, having first mortgaged the Manor and then sold it to Richard. In 1642 on the death of his father, Richard Jr found himself Lord of the Manor.

While Richard's father was schooled at Merchant Taylors in the ways of business and became a very successful London merchant, Richard was sent to Oxford and thrived in academia. Entering Magdalen College at 16, in four years he took a degree of Bachelor of Arts and in 1638 was elected a fellow of All Souls College. By 1640 he had a Bachelor of Civil Law degree.

By his father's will of 1642 Richard inherited the Manor of Beches and by 1644 he had sold the Manor to his younger brother Robert, who like his father was a successful London Merchant. Richard appears to have concentrated on academic pursuits and in 1654 published the book *Zootomia - or Observations on the Present Manners of the English*. It is not clear what role Richard Whitlock played during the Civil War and the Interregnum but Anthony a Wood comments that, following the restoration in 1660, Whitlock "wheeled about and took holy orders". He served at Foxton in 1660 and Stowe in 1661 and finally at Ashford in Kent. Richard appears to have found being a cleric challenging and it is recorded he did not get along with his parishioners at Ashford. He took to expressing his frustrations by etching sentences in Greek, Latin and English in the glass panes of the Vicarage House in Ashford.

Sometime after his father died in 1642 Richard married Joane ?? and we knew they had at least two children Anna Whitlock bp.Feb.4,1647 at St. Margaret's, Westminster, London and Elizabeth Whitlock bp.Apr.18,1648 and br.Mar.26,1649 St. Dionis Backchurch, London. What recently came to light in the Will of Richard's brother, Robert is that Richard and Joane had a third child, James Whitlock, likely born in the 1650's. The will tells us James survived childhood and was alive in 1670 when his Uncle Robert made his will.

This James Whitlock is the one we have been searching for for so many years. I am not sure how I had missed the reference to him when I first had access to Robert's Will in the 1970's but my extract taken at that time omits the reference to James. We know the James Whitlock who heads the Virginia families was born in the 1650's and was related to the Whitlocks of Wokingham family as he acted as their Power of Attorney in the 1680's when the Rappahannock, Virginia lands belonging to Thomas Whitlock (1615-1659) were inherited by Anthony Whitlock of Lambeth, Surrey. Anthony and James called each other "kinsman" although no relationship was given. We now know that Anthony Whitlock's grandfather Thomas Whitlock was a brother to James Whitlock's grandfather Richard Whitlock. We also suspect that James' wife Dorothy was the daughter of John Herne mentioned in his 1677 Will as married to _____ Whitlock of Virginia. The Herne family lived in London and John's brother William was in Maryland in the

1680's so there is a likely connection.

We have suspected for years the WHITLOCK25 family and the WHITLOCK02H family were related and the YDNA tests confirmed they shared the same YDNA. The Will of Robert Whitlock now confirms just how the families are connected. This adds six generations of Whitlocks to descendants of James Whitlock and takes these families back to the 1400's. If you trace back from Agnes de la Beche that family takes you back a further nine generations to the 1100's.

SOURCES: SOG264; R0010; R3226; GH167