

THOMAS WHITLOCK & CATHERINE STEELMAN 1794

I raised the issue of a major correction to the WHITLOCK25 chart in the last issue and I will try to explain the reason for the change here.

In the research provided by Mandane Ennis and Bobby Minish, into the Whitlocks of North Carolina, it is proposed that Thomas Whitlock who married Catherine the daughter of William Steelman (1794) & Mary Ponsonbay (1799) was actually the son of James Whitlock & Sylvia Jones who head the WHITLOCK87 chart. Currently we show him on the WHITLOCK25 chart as one of the sons of Charles & Esther Whitlock. He is first married to Catherine Steelman April 2, 1794 in Rowan Co., North Carolina. They have one daughter born in 1796 and Catherine dies, possibly in childbirth. Thomas marries as his second wife Mary Ponsonbay May 17, 1799 in Surry Co., North Carolina. Thomas & Mary have seven more children including a daughter Sylvia born in 1817.

It appears Charles & Esther Whitlock and James & Sylvia (Jones) Whitlock both had sons John, James & Thomas. Both lived in North Carolina. The deciding factor that separates these two families is that we know James Whitlock the son of Charles moved to Grainger Co., Tennessee as early as 1797. Bobby Minish therefore proposes the John, James and Thomas Whitlock that show together in Rowan Co., North Carolina must be the sons of James & Sylvia (Jones) Whitlock. The fact that Thomas names a daughter Sylvia adds even more weight to Bobby's proposal.

The following are Bobby Minish's notes that appear in our NCLAND file:

'The correct Thomas Whitlock makes his first appearance in the Surry County records on November 9, 1795 when he purchases 128 acres on the North Fork of Dutchman's Creek in from William Steelman. The land is described as "adjoining the Rowan County line, Thomas Cook, and Jesse Reavis." Later land and tax records would seem to indicate that the amount of land was actually 130 acres.

The following year a deed is written up in Surry County on May 7, 1796 showing Thomas Whitlock selling 80 acres of land on Dutchman's Creek to a George Moore of Rowan County which was witnessed by John Reavis and William Steelman. I don't believe the 80 acres he sold in 1796 was part of his 128 acre purchase from William Steelman because when Thomas makes his first appearance in the Surry County tax lists in 1796 for Captain Hudspeth's District, and the following year, he is shown still owning 130 acres of land and listed adjacent his brother James Whitlock. By 1798, county tax lists show him having acquired an additional 95 acres on Hunting Creek which was finalized in a deed from Matthew Brooks of Stokes County on September 16, 1799. This land was later sold to Reuben McDaniel on November 11, 1815. Reuben McDaniel was the brother of Isaac Jones' son Wiley's wife Nancy. The tax list for 1799 once again shows Thomas owning 225 acres in Surry County, but more importantly, it shows him listed adjacent Bennet Wood.

The deed that really pulls JAMES, JOHN, and THOMAS WHITLOCK together can be found in Surry County and was written up on New Years Day in the year 1803. On this day THOMAS WHITLOCK can be found selling his 1795 130 acre purchase on the North Fork of Dutchman's Creek to a man named JOSHUA BROWN with JOHN and JAMES WHITLOCK acting as witnesses.'

I think Bobby's research is methodical and logical and reaches the correct conclusion. The fact the

brothers, John, James & Thomas of Rowan Co. remain tied together through the Dutchman's Creek land transactions as late as 1803 is significant. The final deciding factor is that the name of Thomas' mother, Sylvia Jones is honored by being carried on for several generations. Thomas names a daughter Sylvia in 1817 and his son William Holeman Whitlock names a daughter Sylvia Caroline in 1857.

The conclusion is therefore that I am recommending we correct this error on the charts and move Thomas Whitlock and his descendants from the WHITLOCK25 chart to the WHITLOCK87 chart.

While we do not know yet who the parents are for James Whitlock who married Sylvia Jones, I suspect that YDNA testing of descendants will likely show they are part of the same family. We know Charles who married Esther had a brother James but whether this James is the one who heads the WHITLOCK23 chart or the WHITLOCK87 chart is not yet determined. Interestingly James Whitlock & Sylvia Jones named a daughter Agness. If James is the brother of Charles Whitlock, his mother would be Agness (Christmas) Whitlock.