

EDMUND WHITLOCK (1564-1608)

The primary source of details of Edmund's adventure filled life is his brother Sir James Whitlock's record of his family, *Liber Famelicus* published in 1858.

Edmund was the eldest of four sons born to Richard Whitlock (1533-1570) and his wife Joan Colte (1520's-1606). Edmund was born February 10, 1564 in the parish of Fenchurch, London. While his father died when Edmund was six his mother managed to keep her sons' inheritances out of the hands of her third husband Thomas Price. By the time each became an adult Joan had increased their inheritance substantially and each received an excellent education starting with Merchant Taylor's School under Richard Mulcaster. Edmund had a good knowledge of Latin, Greek and Hebrew that were the foundations of a University Education at that time. Edmund had the funds to travel and spent time in universities at Rostock and Wittenburg, Germany and Prague, Bohemia and Rome, Italy and finally Paris, France. He came to know the Governor of Provence and Mounsieur Desguieres made him Captain of band of footman. Edmund was an excellent soldier and his troupe participated over the years in many of the Catholic/Protestant battles at that time. Edmund was for the rest of his life known as "Captain" Whitlock.

Mounsieur Desguieres was likely Francois de Bonne, Lord and later Duke of Lesdiguières (1543-1626) a huguenot, who used his military expertise between 1562 and 1598 to assist the Protestant cause in France. He became a Marshall of France and was the last Constable of France 1622-1626. He is remembered throughout France with street names in several cities and the Pavillon de Desguieres in the Louvre.

Edmund's military career brought him in contact with many powerful men and he was good company and the type of soldier they liked to be associated with. He spoke French, Italian, Dutch and Spanish and his many years in France made him easily mistaken as a local. Edmund was as well as or better educated than many of his patrons and he likely appealed to men who had been less reckless with their youth and fortunes. Not many who lived lives like Edmund lived to recount their adventures including Edmund's brother William who went to sea with Sir Francis Drake and died at twenty seven fighting the Spanish. Men liked to have Captain Whitlock as a companion and he was supported by them after his return to England. His associations were not always wise ones. Twice they resulted in prison time.



François de Bonne, Duke of Lesdiguières (1543-1626)
Wikipedia

Edmund was at Essex House in 1601 when the Earl of Essex discussed plans for plotting against Queen Elizabeth. He spent some time in Newgate and Marshalsea before being acquitted of any involvement in the Earl's mutiny against the Queen.

In 1603 Edmund's valiant service to the Earl of Northumberland during his dispute with Sir Francis Vere including delivering the Earl's challenge to Vere resulted in warrant for his arrest and Edmund thought it wise to be in hiding for some time. The records of the investigation of this event exist and Captain Whitlock's role is detailed.

In 1605 Edmund was again in the wrong place at the wrong time. He dined with the Earl of Northumberland the evening before the Gunpowder Plot was uncovered and this time he was sent to the Tower and later Fleet Prison until examinations of the participants showed he had no knowledge of what was being planned.

From his youth Edmund was not very careful with money. He spent his inheritance from his father on travel and getting a continental education. He found he was suited to a military career and his experience in foreign wars held him in good standing upon his return to England. There were always friends to support him and at the end he was living at Newhall in Essex with Robert Ratcliffe the Earl of Sussex when he died in 1608. The Earl had him buried in the chapel there with his ancestors.

SOURCES: R0063; archive.org;

“Tudor Sunset” is primarily a romance; it is the story of the love of Meg Scrope and Dick Whitlock. As Meg, the maid-of-honor to Queen Elizabeth, was a Catholic, her life at court was precarious. Captain Whitlock was a poet, untroubled by religion until his conversion by John Rigby. About the lives of these two young people, the intimate details of the Court of Elizabeth during her last three years are accurately and dramatically reconstructed.

<https://archive.org/details/TheTeresianVol2issue111231932/page/n1/mode/2up?q=Captain+Whitlock>

After Sir Francis Vere had received and read this letter, he asked Captain Whitlocke, if he had nothing to deliver him by worde of mouthe ? He replied, that in cafe he should offer to write an answer by him, then the Earl of Northumberland gave him charge to saye, That he was forbidden to take any letter, but to crave a dire⁵¹ answer by word of mouthe \ which the Earle did assure himselfe Sir Francis Vere would not refuse to send. Then Sir Francis Vere reading the letter once againe, he willed Captain Whitlocke to signify unto the Earl of Northumberland, That upon such a subject as that was, he could not suddenly give answer, either by word or writing, but that he would think of it, and send it. Whereupon Captain Whitlocke asked him, Yf he would not name to the Earl of, Northumberland any prefixed time. Hee told him

Sunday Morning, the 25th, Colonel Ogle came to the Earl of Northumberland's lodging, and told his Lordship, That Sir Francis Vere, upon the receipt of his letter, had no disposition to lay himself open to the bearer thereof, as to let him understand his mind ; but that he had advised ^{fine*} with himself, and sent an answer of his letter in another. Which Colonel Ogle intreated his Lordship to receive. To this the Earl of Northumberland replied, That he was resolved to stand to that he had set down in his letter, sent by Captain Whitlocke ; That he would receive no letter, but a direct answer, appointing the time and place where they should meet, and bring either of them a friend, to be witnesses of that should be said between them both. His Lordship asked him withal. Whether Sir Francis Vere willed him to say, that his Lordship tied him to conditions that were over hard, by calling him to any such place abroad ? He said. Yes. To which the Earl of Northumberland answered. That it was no disparagement to Sir Francis Vere, to say a truth in any place, or in any man's presence; and if he would justify himself in any thing that should be laid to his charge, there was no place fitter than such as he required. Colonel Ogle answered, That Sir Francis Vere would bring no body with him, but was desirous to meet his Lordship alone, so that it might be in a place, for the respect whereof there ought to be no feuffling, or drawing of swords. To this the Earl of Northumberland replied. That he would not flick with him to meet him alone ; but to stand upon any respect of place, it was to no purpose, for neither his own house, nor Sir Francis Vere's, nor the court, nor the market-place, were fit for deciding their controversies. And that he must be sure, wheresoever he should meet him, he would not go without the weapons he did ordinarily wear, neither would bar the use of them, if it were requisite. With this, Colonel Ogle, being upon his departure, offered to deliver his letter a second time, saying, He knew not how to acquit himself of his duty towards Sir Francis Vere, if he did not deliver it accordingly as he gave him in charge. The Earl of Northumberland asked him. Whether he bad him leave the letter in his chamber, in case he would not receive it ? He answered. Yes, that he bad him expressly leave it. The Earl of Northumberland bad him lay it down upon the table : Which he had no sooner done, but the said Earl stepped to his

Sir Francis Vere, in answer to the aforefaid account, sets forth, That upon divers finifler reports (made by base and factious persons) he knew himself clear from wronging the Earl of Northumberland in his reputation; though, on the knowledge he had of the countenance and favour the Earl shews to certain mean persons, and the contentment he took in the bitternefs of their backbiting of him, he must confess he grew into contempt of this humour of the Earl's, and afforded him little respect. He acknowledges, that April 24, about fix of the clock in the evening, Captain Whitlock came to him. and after some speeches of other matters, he drew a letter out of 432 Percy, Earl of Northumberland.

to my brother Charles, my brother Allen, Sir Edward Frances, Edmond Powton, Giles Greene, Captain Whitlock; as may appeare, if they be examined. Soe as, my Lords, it is probable I should not have seen him at Sion upon Monday, if one accident had not happened, and that was this, A man of his came to court, to my lodging, upon Sunday, to enquire for Thomas Percy ; this man was a stranger to all the companie, and never seene before of anie of them. The fashion of the man your Lordships shall understand, to the ende he may be caught hereafter. If this man, by this meanes, had not discovered that his maister, Thomas Percy, had been in town, by this accident; and that he founde that my followers of neceflitie must knowe it, I thinke I should not have seene him upon Monday at Sion, and the rest of my companie, that afternoon, at Eflex-Houfe; one of the greatest arguments of fuspition laid to my charge.

Captain Whitlock* came also often to me, and would be talking to me like a madmai, as he was, both profanely against piety, and licentiously against modesty; though he did it after so jolly and witty a manner that he would tempt a man almost to forgive him even in spite of his heart. I answered as I thought fit, and asked him once withal what security he could have that the earth would not shrink under him, that so he might be swallowed up into hell, as he went drolling, and fooling, and blaspheming, up and down the world, both against the Catholic faith, from which he was not wholly a stranger, as having been long bred

<https://archive.org/details/atruhistorical00mathgoog/page/n108/mode/2up?q=Captain+Whitlock>

A True Historical Relation of the Conversion of Sir Tobie Matthew to the Holy Catholic Faith ...
by Sir Tobie Matthew , Arnold Harris Mathew

of necessity, know it all. A number of arrests were made, a Captain Whitlock being committed to the Tower. 'Sir Walter Raleigh is much suspected to be a privy to this action' but here the sleuths were up against the perfect alibi — Raleigh already being a prisoner in the Tower. On the morning, moreover, of 5 November a number of obvious precautions were taken. The king's attendance in Parliament was cancelled and guards were mounted on all the approaches to Westminster and Whitehall. The Lord Mayor was advised of a state of emergency and told to guard the city gates, other measures being taken as if to deal with the sort of disturbance for which the Earl of Essex had once been responsible. To Christopher Wright, who was playing the part of an innocent bystander, it was manifest that the plot had failed. There was no massive explosion but, instead, all the signs of a government now thoroughly alert. The streets were buzzing with rumours but there was no information to be had. So Christopher Wright left London at once by the road through Highgate. Keyes followed suit and so did Rookwood, who had placed relays of horses all the way to Dunchurch. Last to leave was Thomas Winter, who stayed behind to collect the latest news. Well mounted as he was, Rookwood successively came up with Catesby and John Wright, Percy and Christopher Wright. They arrived that evening at Catesby's house,

<https://archive.org/details/gunpowdertreason0000park/page/74/mode/2up?q=Captain+Whitlock>

Gunpowder treason and plot

by Parkinson, C. Northcote (Cyril Northcote), 1909-1993

For the Earl of Northumberland's representative, Captain Edmund Whitlock or Whitlocke (10 February 1565 - 24 August 1608), who was imprisoned in connection with both the Earl of Essex' rebellion and the Gunpowder Plot, see the ODNB article, and Harrison, G.B., *A Second Jacobean Journal*, (New York: Routledge, 1999 reprint), pp. 106-7 at:

http://books.google.ca/books?id=_VNFAQAAQBAJ&pg=PA106&lpg=PA106&dq=%22Edmund+Whitlock%22+%22Earl+of+Essex%22&source=bl&ots=08WoMS1VyW&sig=Zlt3nagkfTeeq_j2ApZCDGbUcBY&hl=en&sa=X&ei=6lPU_rfJ4fwoASFx4CoDg&ved=0CCIQ6AEwA#v=onepage&q=%22Edmund%20Whitlock%22%20%22Earl%20of%20Essex%22&f=false

http://www.oxford-shakespeare.com/CecilPapers/CP_83-43.pdf

A Second Jacobean Journal by G.B. Harrison.

Mostly quoted from *Liber Familicus*