

Answered
Oct 4, 1969
Q

September 29.

Dear Peter:

To-day I received a letter from Mrs. Johns and was rather amazed to learn that my cousin had never contacted you, I thought she would have been interested in the Whitlock family tree, and that is why I did not write you again, thinking she could give you much more detailed information than I could. However some is better than none at all, so shall give you the bits and pieces I do know about the Whitlock family. Of course Mrs. Johns could be mistaken about your not having any information from Lynda, she said no doubt the reason my cousin did not answer you was because she had lost her husband so recently. That puzzled me until I realized I had mentioned Lynda's husband was a cousin of Donald Gordons and that Donald has died within the year. Mrs. Johns also still firmly believes that my father was a Whitlock, though I had told her several times he was a brother of Mrs. William Whitlock. So I am wondering if she is becoming just a little confused, and no wonder if she should, she is now past eighty, I understand, and has been a wonderful woman, and still is. She and her husband were missionaries in China for years, though he had retired to Canada again previous to his death. Of course it is possible that you already know all this, just passing it along in case you did not. Thanks so much for giving me your background. Are you one of those people who form mental pictures of

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folks with whom you correspond but have not seen? Well, I am, and have to confess that I had pictured you as an older man, maybe even retired, since you were now writing a family tree. A hobby, no doubt. So was rather a shock to find you were still quite a young man, it is so seldom that boys your age are interested in such hobbies, I think it very commendable. And if you would like to know a little about me I am middle aged, shall be 54 on October 9th, Mrs. Johns had likely told you that I lost my husband in May, 1967. Now I put my time in with Church work, Hospital Auxiliary, Cancer Society and such. Last winter I did work for seven months at the Imperial Oil Office here, did book-keeping before my marriage, and keep hoping I can find part time employment this winter, find it much more difficult to pass the time during the winter months, though this year I have again started alley bowling, I belong to the Exeter Lawn Bowling Club, which I do enjoy during the summer. In August I finally got to see our wonderful West Coast, a friend and I went on a three week bus tour right through to Victoria, then south to Yellowstone and home through the U.S.A. Enjoyed every minute of it, the mountains were breath-taking, had only seen the White Mountains before. My favorite of all the cities we visited was Victoria, I felt I could gladly have stayed there forever. But no doubt I would have soon become lonely again for Ontario and especially for P.E.I., my birthplace. Really did not start out to write a "me" letter.

Shall make no apologies for further errors in typing, am self taught, so it is not good, to say the least but even at that is

3, much easier to read than my hand writing, so here goes. Do not believe I have used the typewriter since I last wrote you, at least I can find no typing paper so shall use the air-mail paper I purchase to write to my nephew in Australia, always send it airmail so use the light weight paper.

As you would expect I know only about the families of Uncle Billie and his brothers. First Uncle Billie, or William

I should say, born Jan 18, 1855. Died June 14, 1938. Believe I have already

given you the corrected information that William died in New York, N.Y. but was brought back home to Charlottetown for the funeral service and burial. His wife was Frances Vail, daughter of Annie Irving and John Vail, all of P.E.I. (My father, Brooklyn, was a brother of Frances.) William and Frances had six children:

1) Menton. Served during First World War. Was in Russia. I remember hearing. Married Violet O'Neil. For some time did store window decoration, sign painting, etc. (Uncle Billie also did this in conjunction with his picture framing business also "decorated", as we called it, the stages at the theatre when the travelling shows and plays would come to Charlottetown and along with his pay would receive free passes, which his wife Aunt Fannie, usually shared with my Mother.) When this type of work became more or less obsolete, Menton and his wife opened a restaurant which he operated until his retirement, and died a couple of years after. They had three children, Buddy, Barbara (Mrs. Jack Smallwood) and a younger daughter whose name I do not remember now. All married.

2) Gertrude Mrs. William Earl Hatt, now living in Texas so far as I know.

3) William E. (Bill), deceased about two years ago. His wife Betty died years ago. No family. Lived on New York and for years was Workshop Editor of the Woman's Day magazine. One year they gave him a leave of absence while he went to Europe to teach wood working crafts to the Am. soldiers. Retired before his death. When younger, while still in Charlottetown he, too, worked at same work as his Dad.

4) Earle. Do not know as much about him, was rather the black sheep of the family I believe. Years ago he did come back to Charlottetown and opened a rather posh restaurant, but never did too well at it and went bankrupt. His wife, Betty, came with him and their young son, Bill. They returned to New York, so from there on I have heard practically nothing of him.

5) Lynda, Mrs. Douglas Gordon, of Montreal. She, too, lived in New York. For several summers she and Aunt Fanny used to come back to P.E.I. on vacation, there she met Doug, a native of Nova Scotia, but who was working at the C.N.R. owned Charlottetown Hotel. Later he was employed with the Cunard Steamship Co. and they moved to Montreal to live. He retired last year, an early retirement as the company is no longer as active as it was, now is booking orders for tours on his own and has an office in their home, I understand.

That covers the family of William and Frances. I have given you all the little details you would be interested in, however some of them, such as Earle being a bit lazy, I would never want to come out in print, if you should compile a book of the Whitlock history.

5. JOHN
John. b. Jan. 20, 1857. Died Feb. 15, 1936.

Though I clearly remember his wife, I never did know her maiden name. They had five children. I have listed William's children, the oldest to the youngest, however I am not sure about John's children.

1) Nelson. Married to Connie MacDonald. A ~~bak~~ baker, worked for about thirty years at Stewart's Bakery, now retired for some years. Nelson and Connie had six children. 1. George (Pud). Works at R.T. Holman Ltd. He married a Miss Partridge, they have several children, the oldest probably married by now. 2. Reginald, also worked at Stewart's Bakery. Do not believe he ever married. 3. Margaret, now deceased. She was Mrs. Joseph Hunter, had two boys. 4. John, married and at least two children, do not know his occupation. 5. Roy (Buck). He is married, has several children, drives a delivery truck for some bread company. For several years he was - and may still be - quite active in hockey in the Maritime Clubs. His oldest son, Bobby, is now active in the same circuit, believe he also played with the Kitchener, Ontario, Rangers last season. 6. Katherine. Believe she married.

2) Fred. He went to the U.S.A., married, came back to Charlottetown for a few years, then left again, had a girl Marjorie and a boy.

3) Lulu. She married later in life, believe she also went to U.S.A. *no family.*

4) Lillian, Mrs. Wilfred Arbing, she and husband both deceased for some years as are at least ~~of~~ their children, I believe ~~there are only two living now - her Arbing and the children died as a result of~~

6. there are only two living, Blanche and the youngest boy. Mr. Arbing and the older children died as a result of T.B.

5) Mrs. John Furness, cannot remember her Christian name, however it may come to me before I finish this letter. They have been deceased for several years, also their oldest daughter, Lillian, and their only son, Albert, and their youngest daughter, Thelma, who was adopted. One daughter Florence, Mrs. Loman Cairns, still survives, though her husband is deceased.

6) Mae. I stated John had five children, for the time being I had forgotten about the youngest girl, Mae. The last time I heard of her, about three years ago, she was still living and was in a mental hospital in Charlottetown, her mind never developed as she became an adult.

Silas Whitlock:

Do not know as much about this family, really, though Weston lived next to us when I was a child, I did not know the rest of them as well. But so far as I know Silas and his wife had three children. Again they will not be in order as to age. 1) Weston, married Hazel Bryenton, they have two girls, Marjorie and Phyllis. Both girls are married and live on P.E.I.

2) Harry, whom I never did know.

3) Mae - or May - Mrs. Fulton Adams. At least I believe his name was Fulton. They had two girls, Doris and I think the other girls name was Helen, she was killed in

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a car accident at a railroad crossing when still a high school girl. Now I must correct that name, it was Higgins, not Adams. And her name was Helen. Then there was at least one boy, whom I did not know.

And I guess that is all the information I can give you about them. I always thought Caleb was a brother, too, however I see by your chart that he was a son of Isaac. I feel quite certain one of his sons was Edgar, whom I knew.

My sister lives near me here so I have phoned her several times for information or to verify some point while writing this, she is ten years older than I so remembers some of the details more clearly. I still feel sorry Lynda did not answer, I sent her your letter and chart. I do believe if you should want further information that you could write to Weston, who lives at 41 villa Avenue, Charlottetown, P.E.I. One of the sons of Silas. West, by the way, worked for years at Prowse Bros. Ltd, in the Men's Wear Dept. Prowse's went out of business a few years ago, and when I was home last summer I learned that West is now working at Eatons, still in the Men's Wear. I feel sure he would be past 70, wonder he has not retired. If you should write him, tell him I referred him to you, though you would have to mention my maiden name, Olive Vail, he just may not recall my married name. If you do not get any response there I could possibly write my oldest brother at home, he is 74 and is really good at remembering names and events from years gone by.

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One point that may interest you. When I was young, the house where John and his wife lived was a "double tenement" as we called them then and Nelson (his son) with his family lived in the other half. And that happens to be the house I was born in, my parents owned it then. I phoned my sister to ask her what John's occupation was, if a farmer. She said no, she could remember him going off to work carrying a lunch pail and as near as she can remember it was some business connected with eggs, possibly a grading station or something of that type.

Cannot think of any other points that may be of interest to you, so shall close for now; it is my bedtime, I have not kept at this steadily, have watched two programs and cut up ingredients for relish and performed a few other such chores, now the evening has passed, and I must admit I have enjoyed doing this, only hope it is of some help. And, as I said before, do feel free to write me at any time if I can be of any help at all. You must have thought that I suddenly lost all interest in your project, but now you will understand that such was not the case, had only thought she could have given you so much more information that I would not know about. So, all forgiven? Good! Lots and lots of good luck to you and your sister with your project and do hope your book really materializes. Bye for now,

Sincerely,

Olive Harvey

Box 335 Exeter