

117/1

TRYING TO ADD MORE BRANCHES TO OUR FAMILY TREE

WJ-283  
The last Whitlock family we have been able to trace our family line all the way back to is John and Mary Whitlock, who lived in Caroline county, Virginia. We have estimated his birth date to be circa 1715, and his death circa 1759. Caroline county was not formed until 1727 and we believe that he was born elsewhere in Virginia and that his father, grandfather, and perhaps, even his great-grandfather lived in Virginia before him.

Since we have been unable to go back any further than this John with certainty, I have decided to start with the very beginning history of the colony of Virginia and work forward, instead of backwards, as we did before, to see if we can connect with our John in Caroline county.

(1615-1658)  
The first Whitlock to arrive in Virginia was a Thomas Whitlock (1615-164?) who came to Virginia from Wokingham, Berkshire, England in 1638, just 31 years after the first settlement was formed in 1607, in Jamestown. He first settled in the Isle of Wight county. He had been transported, along with 6 others, by a Richard Bennett, the brother-in-law of Sir Bulstrode Whitelocke, of Wokingham. (Sir Bulstrode had changed his name by spelling it in the old way, but his children spelled it Whitlock.)

IN/678  
Thomas was later granted 1,000 acres of land in the Old Rappahannock county, where his will was recorded in 1659. (This land is now in Richmond county.) In the will, the land was left to his only son, Thomas, Jr., in the trust of his wife. The son died before his 21st birthday, and since his wife had remarried, thus losing her dower rights, the property went to his next legal heir, his nephew, Anthony Whitlock (1625-1708), of Lambeth, Surry, England. John Whitlock, a famous non-conformist minister, in conjunction with his sister, Joana Harris, gave an affidavit to the effect that Anthony was the sole heir to their cousin, Thomas Whitlock.

Evidently, Anthony did not want to move to Virginia, so he gave his kinsman, James Whitlock, power of attorney to sell the property. James then sold the land to Thomas Swinbourne on 20 February, 1682. James Whitlock was a planter in Gloucester county, Virginia, and he and his wife Dorthy, were members of the Ware Parish in that county. They had arrived in Virginia sometime after Thomas, but the exact date is not known.

The last record of this James and Dorthy Whitlock, that we find, is for the sale of 47 acres of land to Edward Meese, on 25 June 1691. Unfortunately, there are no surviving records of Ware Parish, so we have no records of the births of any of their children. However, I feel that this James could be the first of our family to arrive in America. But, with the complete absence of records, this will be hard to prove, other than circumstantialy.

As far as is known, there were only two other Whitlocks in the Virginia colony during the period 1650-1690, but, for various reasons I have eliminated one of them as our possible forebear. (See Notes)

Shortly after 1700, a James Whitlock and his wife Margaret appear in the records of Middlesex county, which is just north of Ware Parish. The Christ Church Vestry Register, in that county, records the birth of a son, Jonas (or Jason?) on 18 March, 1704/5

to this couple. From this date, and his first name, I feel that we can safely assume that this second James was the son of James and Dorothy Whitlock of Gloucester county.

In addition, Certified Genealogist John Fredrick Dorman, of Washington, D. C., who was once Assistant Archivist of the College of William and Mary, in Williamsburg, Va., has stated the following: "The entries in St. Peter's Parish register are certainly suggestive of the derivation of the New Kent Whitlocks from James and Dorothy Whitlock of Gloucester county."

Researching this, we find a John Whitlock who first appears in the "Pamunkey Neck" with a land lease, negotiated with the Pamunkey Indian tribe, in June of 1699. This land is in the present King William county, which was part of New Kent county until 1695, and is just west of Gloucester county, where James and Dorothy lived. In 1702 he was patented 233 acres of land for the transport of 5 people from England. This last piece of land was on Nicatawance Creek, in the then St. John Parish. He last appears in this area on the Quit Rent Rolls of King William county in 1704.

In the next record of John Whitlock he shows up just across the Pamunkey River, in New Kent county, in the 1684-1786 Vestry Register of St. Peter's Parish, that John Dorman speaks of.

He appears for the first time, in this old register, in 1706. Which leads me to believe that he moved from King William county to New Kent county circa 1705. These entries are as follows:

Robin, male negro belonging to John Whitlock	born 8/30/1706
Dick, " " " " " "	born 9/28/1708
Betty, female " " " "	born 5/ 3/1710
Moll, " " " " " "	born 7/ 2/1715
Moll, " " " " " "	died 7/26/1715
James Whitlock	died 3/29/1716
*John Whitlock	died 2/ 9/1717
Alice Whitlock	died 2/ /1717
Harry, male negro belonging to John Whitlock	born 7/20/1727
David, " " " " " "	born 3/ 4/1729
Watt, " " " " " "	born 5/10/1736
Watlington " " " " " "	born 6/24/1736
Fanny Whitlock, daughter of John Whitlock	died 8/21/1736
Jack, male negro belonging to John Whitlock	born 1/ 7/1737
Mathew " " " " " "	born 1/20/1739

(One interesting addition to these records is that the last three of these children were baptized a few weeks after their birth.)

These records show the death of John Whitlock on February 9, 1717 and the death of his wife, Alice Cooper Whitlock, the same month.

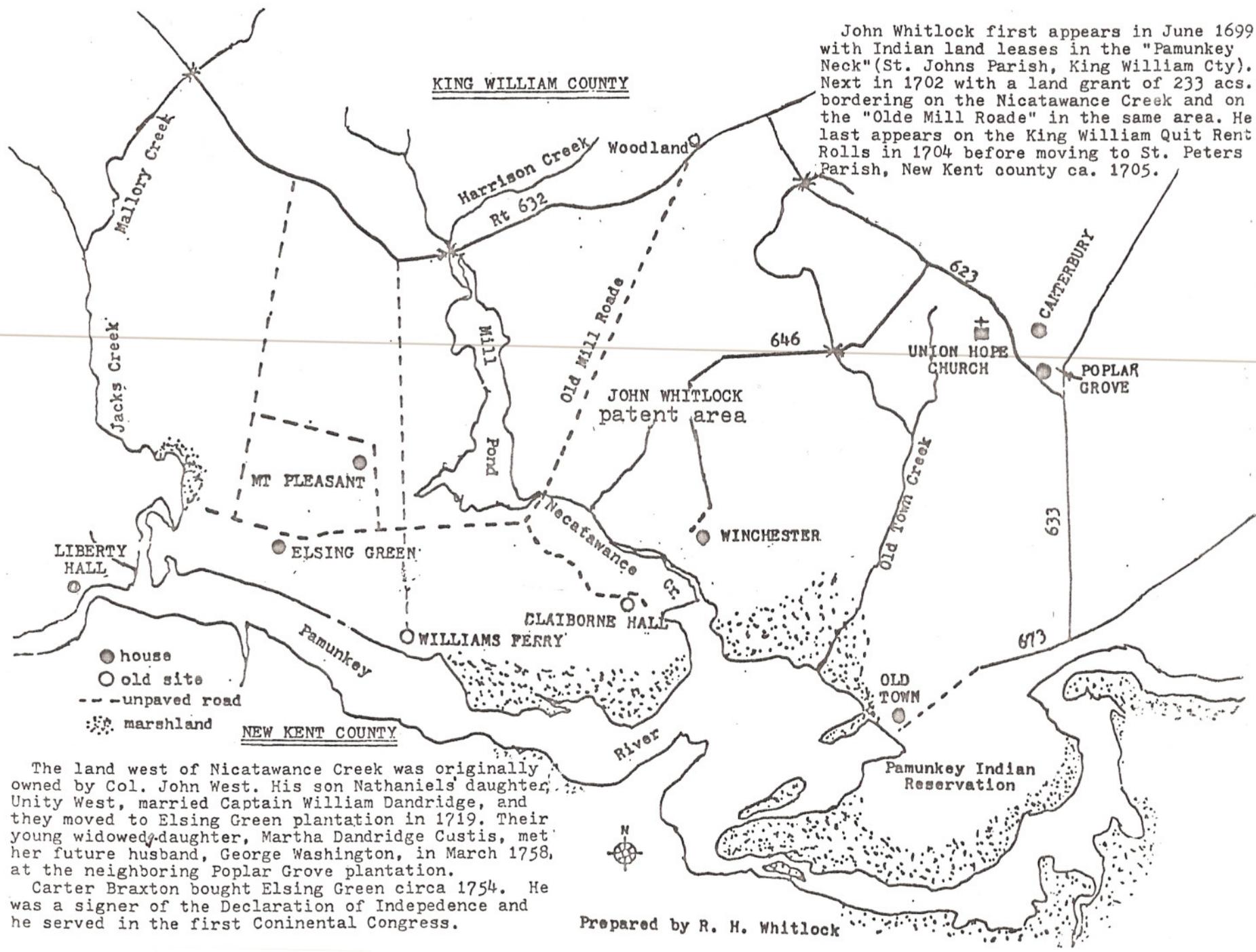
With the ensuing space of 10½ years before another entry for a John, it appears evident that this second one was the son of the first John and that he had been born prior to 1706, before the first entry in St. Peter's Register, and was the eldest son now of age.

There were no registrations of the birth of the children of either John, but since they did record the births of their slaves, they certainly would have recorded the birth of their own children! Because of this, we can assume the children of the first John were born prior to his move to New Kent, and the children of the second John after 1739, when the last entry of his name was made.

I DON'T HAVE THIS ENTRY

I DON'T KNOW THIS ALICE COOPER

John Whitlock first appears in June 1699 with Indian land leases in the "Pamunkey Neck" (St. Johns Parish, King William Cty). Next in 1702 with a land grant of 233 acs. bordering on the Nicatawance Creek and on the "Olde Mill Road" in the same area. He last appears on the King William Quit Rent Rolls in 1704 before moving to St. Peters Parish, New Kent county ca. 1705.



The land west of Nicatawance Creek was originally owned by Col. John West. His son Nathaniel's daughter, Unity West, married Captain William Dandridge, and they moved to Elsing Green plantation in 1719. Their young widowed daughter, Martha Dandridge Custis, met her future husband, George Washington, in March 1758, at the neighboring Poplar Grove plantation. Carter Braxton bought Elsing Green circa 1754. He was a signer of the Declaration of Independence and he served in the first Continental Congress.

Prepared by R. H. Whitlock

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To complicate our research, we also find a William Whitlock listed in St. Peters' Marriage Register, p 9 - "1669 Aug 28 Whitlock, William and Dorcet, Katherine".

We know that there was a William Whitlock who arrived in the Virginia colony in the middle 1600's, and first appears in the court records of York county as a witness to the will of one John Heyward in 1661. In 1670 he was granted land in Nansemond county, where he settled.

Did he come to New Kent county to marry Katherine, and the next year took her to Nansemond county with him, or did he remain in New Kent? His name does not show up in any further records in the New Kent area, and I find no record of the sale of his land in Nansemond county.

It is generally felt that the children of William of Nansemond settled south of the James river. For example, John and Sarah (Wilburn) Whitlock in Halifax county, on the North Carolina border.

However, unlikely as it may be, it is possible that there were two William Whitlocks in Virginia at that early date, and the one in New Kent could be our forebear, instead of John.

The St. Peter's Register later records a Richard & Elizabeth Whitlock, first with the birth of a daughter, Alice, 29 August, 1737, and next with the birth of a son, John, 14 December, 1738. This son John was probably named for his grandfather, John Whitlock, and the daughter named for her grandmother, Alice Cooper.

There is another possible son of John, or William. That is a William Whitlock, and wife Mary, who arrived in Louisa county circa 1736. (Louisa Co. & Hanover Co. had both been part of New Kent Co. until Hanover was formed in 1720, Louisa formed from Hanover in 1742) At his death, William's will was ordered to be recorded in Order Book 1742-48, pg 35 on 13 June, 1743. Another entry was "Appraisal returned by Mary Whitlock, exor. of William Whitlock, ordered March 1743." No will has been found, and no other information is forthcoming. However, we can assume that his death occurred in January or February of 1743.

It is quite possible that this William is the father of our John, in Caroline county. It may be only coincidental, but our John named a son William (b. ca. 1740), who is my great-great-great-great grandfather. It was very common, in those days, to name children for their grandparents, just as I was named for my grandfather.

Another reason for believing in this connection is the various birth dates that fit this pattern, e.g.

- born ca. 1640 James Whitlock, Gloucester Co.
- born ca. 1670 John Whitlock, New Kent Co. (Possible son named James)
- born ca. 1690 William Whitlock, Louisa Co.
- born ca. 1715 John Whitlock, Caroline Co.
- born ca. 1740 William Whitlock, Louisa Co.

Of course, it is also possible that the 2nd John, who last appears in the St. Peters records in 1739, moved to the Louisa Co. area about this time, also, and he is the John who appears later in Caroline Co.. If so, he was born ca. 1705 instead of ca. 1715 as we had supposed. This would mean that his first child was born when he was in his early 30's. However, we can find no record of his being in Louisa Co. other than his connection with Nicholas Gentry III, mentioned later.



There are several more reasons for my belief in these connections with the New Kent Whitlocks, the chief reason being the fact that there was a Nicholas Gentry who appeared in the St. Peters' register during the same period of time that John Whitlock did, and William and Katherine were married. For example - the baptism of a son named Nicholas, Jr., on 30 May 1697. Nicholas, Sr. died in 1709 but Nicholas, Jr. lived there until he moved to Louisa county in 1736, the same year that William Whitlock moved there.

Later, we find that two children of John & Mary Whitlock, son William and daughter Elizabeth, married children of Nicholas III, Mildred and David. William and Mildred (Gentry) Whitlock were my 4 X great-grandparents and lived in Louisa county. They named their first two sons John, for his father, and Nicholas for her father. They had a farm right next door to her father. David and Elizabeth (Whitlock) Gentry lived in Caroline county, near her parents, John and Mary Whitlock, although they did reside in Louisa county for awhile.

At the present, I am leaning strongly toward the idea that the William Whitlock (circa 1690-1743), of Louisa county, was the son of John of New Kent and the father of our John in Caroline county, but no matter what we may think, proving it is going to be difficult.

For example, one discordant note slips in on this theory when we find that a land purchase on the Mattaponi river, in the north of King William county, was recorded on 13 November 1713, and made by a John Whitlock. Nothing more! I am inclined to believe that this was the same John, of New Kent county, recorded in St. Peters' Vestry Records, with the birth of several slaves during the same time period. This would indicate that he was a man of some means, able to speculate in land. And he had owned land in King William county before. However, this could be another John, whom we know nothing of!!

One of the problems we have in adding to our family tree, and getting all of the facts together to prove it, is the great loss of records due to wars, fires and careless storage. And, in our case, Genealogist John Dorman points out that the loss of New Kent county records has been so great, that even less than we have discovered in Gloucester county records is now available to us.

So, because of this, there are several missing pieces to this puzzle that we need to certify any part of this theory, such as:

- 1) The birth records of the children of James and Dorthy Whitlock of Gloucester county, to ascertain if they did have a son named John, or possibly one named William.
- 2) The birth records of the children of the above John and William.
- 3) The marriage record of William and Mary Whitlock of Louisa county, as well as the birth records of their children.
- 4) The birth and marriage records of our John of Caroline county. (We do not know the maiden name of his wife, Mary.)

The purpose of this paper is to put all of the facts, that we have, together, and hopefully, with further research, eliminate the missing parts, so that we can either prove, or disprove, the theory of our direct connection to James and Dorthy of Gloucester county.

## NOTES:

1) As I mentioned, there were two Whitlocks, other than Thomas and James, who were in Virginia prior to 1690. The first was Wm. Whitlock of Nansemond county, already mentioned. The second was another Thomas Whitlock, who arrived in 1650, transported by one James Williamson along with 22 other people. This Williamson had 1150 acres of land on the Rappahannock river granted to him.

Thomas shows up later in the Hanover county area, with a wife named Ann. Their decedents are fairly well known and do not merge with our family.

2) We have other "clues" that, flimsy as they are, lead us to the feeling that the connection, of John Whitlock of Caroline county with the New Kent Whitlocks, did exist. e.g.

a) We know that the first John, in New Kent, was a slave holder, since he had recorded the births of several of his slaves. We know that John, of Caroline county, was also a slave owner. His son, George, mentions in his will, written in 1774, "a slave (male) left to me in Caroline county by my Mother Mary Whitlock". Mary, of course, was the widow of John and had died circa 1763. Census records reveal that families who were slave owners were actually in the minority.

b) James and Dorothy Whitlock lived in Gloucester county, where there was a town named Achilles. This town was probably named for an Achilles family living in the vicinity, since there are still Achilles families in Virginia. The eldest son of John and Mary was named Achilles. What the connection between the two families was, we do not know.

SAME  
THOMAS  
WHO ARRIVES  
161638

It is interesting to note that if we do make the connections that I have mentioned, our family line could be traced back to the year 1400, or thereabouts! 17 generations, counting mine. -or, 19 generations, counting my grandchildren!

- No  
Proof
- |     |   |                        |                                |
|-----|---|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 19) | John Whitelock of The Beeches,<br>(ca1400- ? ) Wokingham, Berkshire | m. 1434                | Agnes de la Beche              |
| 18) | William Whitelock<br>(ca1435- ? )                                   | m. ?                   | Cowdrey                        |
| 17) | Richard Whitelock<br>(ca 1470- ? )                                  | m. ?                   | Groves                         |
| 16) | John Whitelock<br>(ca1509- ? )                                      | m. 1554                | Ann Planner<br>(ca 1537- ? )   |
| 15) | Richard Whitelock<br>(ca 1560-1642)                                 | m. 1620                | Katherine Brechette            |
| 14) | Richard Whitlock<br>(1616-ca1669)                                   | m. ca1639              | Joane ?                        |
| 13) | James Whitlock of Gloucester Co.,<br>(ca 1640- ? ) Virginia         | m. ca1660              | Dorothy ?                      |
| 12) | John Whitlock of New Kent Co.,<br>(ca 1665-1717) Virginia           | m.                     | Alice Cooper                   |
| 11) | William Whitlock of Louisa Co.,<br>(ca 1690- ? ) Virginia           | m.                     | Mary ?                         |
| 10) | John Whitlock of Caroline Co.,<br>(ca 1715-1759) Virginia           | m. ca1734              | Mary ?                         |
| 9)  | William Whitlock of Louisa Co.,<br>(ca 1740-1818) Virginia          | m. ca1769              | Mildred Gentry                 |
| 8)  | William Whitlock of Augusta Co.,<br>(ca 1774-1853) Virginia         | m. 1793                | Nancy Gunter                   |
| 7)  | George Whitlock<br>(ca 1795-1838)                                   | m. 1816                | Nancy Kent                     |
| 6)  | John A. Whitlock<br>(1818-1899)                                     | 1 m. 1842<br>2 m. 1856 | Mary DePriest<br>Mary Lucy Ham |
| 5)  | Robert H. Whitlock of Parkersburg,<br>(1856-1913) West Virginia     | m. 1872                | Alice Sigler                   |
| 4)  | C. Harrison Whitlock of Lakewood,<br>(1893-1947) Ohio               | m. 1917                | Mabel McKibben                 |
| 3)  | Robert H. Whitlock Bay Village,<br>(1919- ) Ohio                    | m. 1948                | Alice Moran                    |
| 2)  | Brian A. Whitlock<br>(1951- )                                       | m. 1972                | Kathleen Frisce                |
| 1)  | Jason Whitlock<br>(1972- )  | m. --                  |                                |