

The Old Rectory
Englefield Road
Theale
Reading
RG7 5AS

Reading (0734) 303101

Peter Whitlock,
3804 Kilarney Street,
Port Coquitlam,
British Columbia
V3B 3G6 CANADA.

24 Jan 89

Dear Peter Whitlock,

I should first introduce myself. I am an journalist, working especially in radio and TV on a freelance basis. My reason for writing is a slightly unusual one. Some many years ago as a child I read with great interest and affection a book called *The Far Distant Oxus* by Katherine Hull and Pamela Whitlock.

I have recently found a copy of the book which I read to my children, and it occurred to me to try and trace the authors who were in their teens when they wrote it in 1935/6.

The book was dedicated to Peter and Brian (Whitlock). I have, as you can imagine, written to the publishers (Jonathan Cape) who replied saying that Katherine Hull died in 1977, and that they had no address for Pamela Whitlock.

As a long shot I wrote to Ralph Whitlock in Salisbury, whom I know as a journalist, and of course he has the same surname as one of these girls, (whom I would guess would now be aged around 70). He replied saying he could not help me trace the Pamela Whitlock, but he gave me your name and address as the Whitlock family historian.

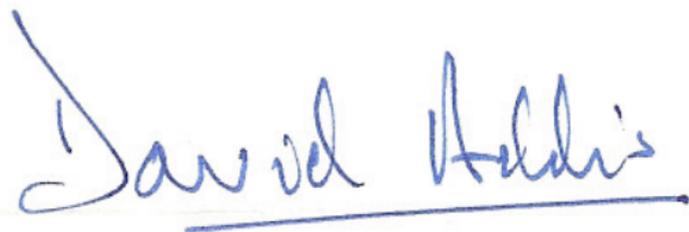
I would be very grateful for any help you can give me, or any suggestions as to other Whitlocks I could contact. The book is quite stunning, and I think it would make an excellent article on how these two teenagers came to write a best seller which in this past year alone has been taken out of my local library 10 times! The girls worked on the book in secret and when they had written it sent it to the famous children's author Arthur Ransome, without telling their parents.

The only other clues I can offer is that the books (There were 3 in all that I know of) were set in England's West Country, largely on what I think is Exmoor (Though it might be Dartmoor), and it would seem the girls knew the area well. Also, in the introduction there is a mention that Pam Whitlock was friendly with a Bridget Bodley.

Incidentally the Addis family has a good many ramifications and I have a cousin, Charles Addis who I suspect performs the same job as you do in keeping track of the branches of the family, and in producing an annual *Addis Bulletin*. My father for example was the youngest of 13 children, so there is plenty of material to draw on!

Thank you again, in advance, for any help you can give me.

yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Addis". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

David Addis.