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2 March 1990
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Dear Whitlock Family Association,

I would be most grateful if you would put me in touch with a researcher who has studied the Whitlock family of St. Clair County, Alabama in the period 1830-1860, or the Whitlocks of Hall County, Georgia about 1820. I would be very happy to exchange information on these people, and am eager to connect these Whitlocks with other Whitlock lines. Could you make my request known to Whitlock researchers, and send me the addresses of Whitlock researchers who have worked with Whitlock lines in Alabama and Georgia? I am also interested in the Whitlocks in Madison County, Alabama in 1830.

I have seen the publication Whitlock Gleanings, which appeared several years ago, a copy of which is in the Tennessee State Library. However, the Whitlock lines I am interested in from Alabama do not show up in this book.

JG
Misc

I am descended from Sally Whitlock, age 30 to 40, in the 1830 census of St. Clair County, AL. She has three male children under 15 at that date. At the 1840 census of the same county, Sally Whitlock is 40 to 50 and has a boy 15 to 20 and two girls under 10. Near Sally Whitlock in the 1840 census are Thomas Whitlock, Betsy Whitlock and Joseph Copeland. Thomas Whitlock is 40 to 50, and apparently has a wife, 7 boys, a girl, and there is a woman aged 90 to 100. Betsy Whitlock is 50 to 60, and has a boy 20 to 30. In the 1830 census of Madison County, AL there is a Betsy Whitlock and a Joseph Copeland. Sally Whitlock's daughter Talitha married a member of Joseph Copeland's household.

JG
Misc

At the 1850 census of St. Clair County, AL, Sarah Whitlock is 55, born in North Carolina, and has girls Delilah, 19, and Tabitha (sic: this should be Talitha), 15, both born in AL. At each of these census reports, Sarah is the head of household, though additional children turn up in her house. It is well established among historical and genealogical researchers that illegitimacy was very common in the district where Sarah Whitlock was living. Her daughter Talitha's children claimed that Talitha had Indian ancestry. The Indians were being removed from an area bordering St. Clair County at just about the time of Talitha's birth circa 1835, but apparently a claim of Indian descent was often used as a cover for illegitimacy, on the presumption that Indian records were unavailable.

In 1850 the other Whitlocks Thomas and Betsy are gone. Does anyone know where they went? And where did they come from?

A grandson of Talitha said that Talitha had brothers Jack, Mark and Kell, one of whom was a cripple. Possible sons of Sarah Whitlock might include John C. Whitlock, who married Celia Thomason on November 30, 1846^{MF} in St. Clair County. At the 1860 census he is 35, born in Georgia, and has 5 sons. He is living near Joseph Copeland at that date, and Sarah Whitlock, 65, is living in the household of Joseph Copeland, age 60, born in North Carolina. Another son of Sarah Whitlock might be Mat Whitlock, who is in the 1880 census of St. Clair County, 55 years of age and a cripple, born in Alabama.

On December 4, 1837 in St. Clair County, AL, Sarah Whitlock indentured her son Kell Whitlock, and on the same date William Flanagan indentured some of his children. At the 1830 census William Flanagan and Sally Whitlock were living next to one another. In 1840 there were not far away, but Sally was living next door to Thomas Whitlock and Betsy Whitlock. I believe that I have located William Flanagan in the 1820 census of Hall County, GA. And there is a William Flanagan Sen. next to the younger man. The older Flanagan was a Revolutionary War soldier and left a pension application with considerable genealogical information, including the names and birthdates of his children. These include the younger William Flanagan, born in 1790, but do not include a daughter Sarah. Flanagan had been a resident of Anson County, NC when he volunteered in 1777, then enlisted again in Richmond County, GA, and again in N.C. In 1801 he went to Jackson County, GA, and about 1823 to Hall County, GA, where he died in 1845. He was born in VA in 1757. His wife was Sarah Self. The younger William Flanagan was in the 1850 census of St. Clair County, AL, born in NC in 1790. Apparently Sally Whitlock was not a member of this Flanagan family, but could there be a connection between William Flanagan and Sally Whitlock at least in terms of place of origin? There are two Whitlocks near the Flanagans in the 1820 Hall County, GA census. These are Nathaniel and James Whitlock. The ages do seem right for Sally to be a wife of James Whitlock. Therefore, does anyone know anything about the James Whitlock of Hall County, GA in 1820, and what happened to him?

In the 1840 census of Hall County, GA, the younger William Flanagan is of course gone, but the Revolutionary War pensioner is still there, and next door is a William Kell, and in his house is another Revolutionary War pensioner, Robert Kell, age 89. Of course Sally Whitlock had a son Kell Whitlock. The pension application of Robert Kell does not name his children. He was born in Pennsylvania in 1756, lived in Orange, Surry and Burke Counties, N.C., then in Pendleton District, S.C., and was living in Rabun County, GA in 1833.

I have searched the courthouse records for Hall County, GA and for St. Clair and DeKalb and Etowah Counties, AL. At the 1870 census Sarah Whitlock is apparently dead, but the younger Copelands near whom and with whom she had been living were in 1870 in the newly-formed Etowah County. I have visited the primitive cemetery where these Copelands are buried, and there is no inscription for Sarah Whitlock. Her daughters married in St. Clair County, Delilah Whitlock to Obediah Battles on January 19, 1854, and Talitha Whitlock to Tillman R. Copeland

(grandson of Joseph Copeland) on December 12, 1853. Tillman and Talitha Copeland had children Paralee, Ruth, Martha and William R. and by 1860 were in Dekalb County, AL. There Tillman presumably died and in 1864 Talitha married George Washington Hulkan in Dekalb County. Talitha's gravestone gives her birthdate as February 12, 1837, and her deathdate as June 3, 1911. She died in Dekalb County. At the 1900 census she gives her father's birthplace as N.C. and her mother's as S.C.

If you can supply me with the addresses of Whitlock researchers who could assist me by tying in these lines to research they have done, I should be most grateful. Perhaps someone knows something about the Thomas Whitlock who was in ST. Clair County, AL in 1840.

Thank you for your kind assistance.

Sincerely,



Sherman Isbell

P.S. I enclose notes on various census reports relating to these Whitlock families. If you are so kind as to include my name in any of your publications, you might give my more permanent address, from which mail will always be forwarded to me: 1034 Westwinds Court, Columbia, MO 65203. I expect to be at my present address for the immediate future.