

Announced
Apr 24, 1993

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12th April 1993

Dear Peter,

Thank you for the last issue of the Family Newsletter which, as usual, was very interesting reading. Also I must thank you for the copies of the print-outs of the Oxfordshire Parish Registers - that really hit the jackpot for me!

You actually opened up the path for me to follow by your mention in your letter of a daughter Harriet shown as a daughter of James W and Mary Jeffery. This enabled me to confirm that the entry I had found in the 1851 Census showing a Sarah W and a daughter Harriet was in fact the wife (nee Brice) and daughter of Thomas W born in 1796 (the son of James and Mary Jeffery).

My wife and I really got the bit between our teeth then and, as I was able to get away from work for a long weekend, off we went to Oxford and into the Oxford Archives. What a treasure trove of information that was for me! I was able to link all the relations from James W and Mary Jeffery and then able to trace back as far as John W and Elizabeth together with all the brothers and sisters. We were able to check all the actual Banns Registers and Marriages for Whitney and Cogges so they verified all the connections - brilliant!

I was also able to examine the will of Elisha W made in 1727 and managed to have a photostat copy prepared. I have enclosed a copy for you together with a transcription for your records. It does appear that this Elisha was quite relatively rich man and that this will was made just before he died. I cannot at present claim that there is a family connection from Elisha as I cannot trace the wedding of John W and Elizabeth (circa 1750ish) or the John parentage line. That will be the next task.

While up at Oxford my wife and I went to St. Marys Church, Cogges and walked around the churchyard cemetery. Much to our delight we found the gravestone of John (died 1784) and Elizabeth (died 12.9.1818) and their daughter Ann (d.1779) who had died at the age of 29 years. I believe this Ann was married to Charles Clark 13/11/1779. Next to that grave was the gravestone of Robert Whitlock Smith, the son of William and Lucy Smith, who died 21st Feb 1827 aged 7 years. This Lucy was the daughter of John and Elizabeth and a sister to James and all the others!

Another interesting find was, when examining the marriage record of James W and Mary Jeffery in 1795 at Cogges, was the same day marriage of Anne Jeffery to a Stephen Lock. It must be presumed that they were sisters, possibly twins. The witnesses for both the marriages were a Deodatus Collis and an Elisha Whitlock.

I have included a list of various details taken from the various records we examined which you may be able to tie up with other families. I also noted in the newsletter that it does seem that there is another Whitlock (Mark Peter ?) on the trail of the Oxfordshire Whitlocks. I would be interested to know whether there is a relationship somewhere.

I have been able to gather so much information that I must now take stock and sort it out. I enclose an up-dated "Family Tree" which shows the relationships as I see them and which I feel I have proved. I will be going to Oxford again in a few weeks time to search through the records and see if I can tie up the loose ends and corroborate the family connection with the Witney family circa 1700. Hopefully I shall be able to send you some more information!

Finally I hope you find all the enclosed documents interesting and wish you and your Sister good health and a rewarding 1993.

Very sincerely,

PETER JOHN WHITLOCK.