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THE NAME AND
FAMILY OF
WHITLOCK

Compiled by
THE MEDIA RESEARCH BUREAU

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The name of Whitlock is said by some authorities to have been derived from the Dutch personal name Witlok, meaning "a courageous swordsman", while others say that it was derived from the residence of its first bearers at a white lake, and still others claim that it was originally a nickname having reference to the color of the hair of its first bearers. It is found on the ancient English records in the various forms of Witlok, Witlac, Witloc, Witlohc, Whitloo, Whitlac, Whitlok, Wytelock, Whytelock, Whytlock, Whytelak, Wytlock, Whitlocke, Whitelock, Whitlock, and numerous others, of which the last form mentioned is that most generally accepted in America today.

Families of this name were to be found at early dates in the English counties of Huntingdon, Oxford,

Somerset, Berks, Devon, and London and were, for the most part, of the landed gentry and yeomanry of Great Britain.

Among the earliest records of the family in England were those of William Witlock of Oxfordshire about 1273, William atte Whytelak of Somersetshire in 1327, Walter Whytelock of Somersetshire about the same time, John Wytlock of the latter fourteenth century, and John Whitelock or Whitlock of Berkshire in the early fifteenth century.

This last mentioned John Whit(e)lock is said to have married Agnes de la Beche before 1450 and was the father by her of William, father of Richard, who was the father of John and Richard, of whom the first was the father of a son named William, who had at least one son, also named William; and Richard, second son of the first Richard, married a Miss Colt and was the father by her of Sir James Whitlock, Chief Justice of Chester, who married Elizabeth Bulstrode and was the father of, possibly among others, a son named Bulstrode, who died in 1675, leaving issue by his ^{2nd} first wife Frances Willoughby of Sir James, as well as, by his ^{1st} second wife Rebecca

Bennet, of Sir William, Willoughby, Bulstrode, Mary, Frances, Hester, and Ann.

In the early sixteenth century one William Whitlock of Devonshire is said to have been the father by his wife Christian Lake of William and John, of whom the latter married Elizabeth Chichester and was the father by her of William, Thomas, and Joane, of whom the first had issue by his wife Margaret Botiler of John, Elizabeth, Avis, Pasco, and Joane; and Thomas, second son of John and Elizabeth, was the father by his wife Margaret Diggery of Anthony, Chichester, Pasco, and Margaret.

The brothers, John and Richard Whitlock, of Berkshire are said to have gone in the latter sixteenth century to London, where the first was probably the father by his wife Anne Plumer of a son named Richard, who was the father by his wife Catherine Burchet of Richard, Robert, John, and Catherine; and the second had at least one son, Sir James. X

It is not definitely known from which of the many illustrious lines of the family in England the first emigrants of the name to America were descended, but it is generally believed that all of the Whitlocks

were of common ancestry at a remote period.

The first of the name in America is believed to have been one Thomas Whitlock, who was living in the Isle of Wight County, Va., in 1638. It is probable that he was closely related to Thomas and Ann Whitlock, who were living in Virginia about 1650, but no definite record has been found concerning his immediate family or descendants.

One John Whitlock is said to have made his home at Fairfield, Conn., in the early seventeenth century and to have died there in 1658, leaving several children, whose names are not certain, with the exception of that of his son John.

The records of the family in America are decidedly fragmentary, and it is not definitely known whether the later records were those of descendants of the above mentioned emigrants or of later emigrants whose names are not known. The first theory, however, is that most generally favored.

In the latter half of the eighteenth century several records were to be found of a Virginia Whitlock family in Goochland County. Among these were those of Thomas

Whitlock, who married Mary Williamson before 1756 and was the father by her of Elizabeth, Lucy, John, and Thomas; those of John Whitlock, who probably married Ann Logan shortly before the year 1757 and was the father by her of Thomas, John, Sarah, James, Sally, and Michel; those of Robert Whitlock, who was the father in the year 1763 by his wife Agnes Alford of a daughter named Nannie; those of John, who had issue by his wife Sarah Edwards of a daughter named Milley in 1774; those of Thomas, who married Sarah Henderson before 1777 and was the father of Elizabeth and Sarah; and those of William Whitlock, who married Mildred Gentry before 1783 and had issue by her of Euclid, Betsie, Jean, and Jesse.

Sometime before 1773 one Robert Whitlock was living at Ridgefield, Conn., whence he removed to Saratoga County, N. Y. By his wife Susan he was the father of Eunice, Abel, Sally, Ann, Abigail, Peter, Ezekiel, Delinda, Nehemiah, and Friend.

Another branch of the Virginia family was represented in the latter part of the eighteenth century by one Charles Whitlock, who was the father by his wife Peninah

of at least one son, named Richard Henry, and probably of others as well.

The descendants of these and probably of other branches of the family in America have spread to practically every State of the Union and have aided as much in the growth of the country as their ancestors aided in the founding of the nation. They have been noted for their energy, industry, integrity, piety, perseverance, fortitude, patience, resourcefulness, initiative, courage, and leadership.

Among those of the Whitlocks who fought as officers in the War of the Revolution were Lieutenant John of New Jersey, Lieutenant Reuben of Virginia, Major James of New Jersey, and Lieutenant-Colonel Ephraim Lockhart of New Jersey, as well as numerous others.

William, Richard, James, Thomas, Robert, John, and Joseph are some of the Christian names most highly favored by the family for its male members.

Two of the many members of the family who have distinguished themselves in all parts of the world at various times are Elizabeth Kemble Whitlock of Lancashire, noted English actress, who was born in 1761 and died

in 1836; and Brand Whitlock of Ohio, American ambassador and author, who was born in 1869.

One of the most ancient and frequently recurrent of the numerous coats-of-arms of the English family of Whitlock is that described as follows:

Arms.--"Azure, a chevron engrailed between three birds (another, three eaglets close) or."

Crest.--"On a castle argent, a bird, wings displayed or."

(Arms taken from Burke's "General Armory", 1884.)

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