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Annexed
File # 19, 1994
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210 Meadowridge Drive
Lynchburg, Virginia 24503
February 1, 1994

Dear Peter,

My husband and I spent four weeks in England during September and along with our sightseeing we were able to do some Whitlock research and see places where Whitlocks lived and worked.

We were in London two days and in spite of the rain went to Fleet Street and saw the area where Sir Bulstrode Whitelocke practiced law and the church (since re-constructed) called St. Dunstan in the West where he was baptized and where his father James Whitelocke and mother Elizabeth Bulstrode were married.

We went to the Middle Temple where Bulstrode practiced law and at first were told that we couldn't come in because they were preparing for a dinner there that evening, but after explaining that we had come all the way from Virginia and that an ancestor (?) of mine was once the Treasurer of the Middle Temple and Keeper of the Great Seal, the guard at the door let us inside very briefly. We saw the inner hall where the tables were all set for a formal dinner, and then the guard showed us the hallway and wall where brass plaques with the names of all of the treasurers of the Middle Temple and the dates they served had been hung. We were very surprised and somewhat bewildered and chagrined to find that neither the name Bulstrode Whitelocke nor his son William Whitelocke were there. Several references indicate that Bulstrode was appointed treasurer of the Middle Temple and that his son William was also treasurer at a later date. An article in the Encyclopaedia Britannica (1957 Edition) (Enclosure #1) clearly states "He was called to the bar in 1616 and chosen treasurer of the Middle Temple in 1628". The plaque on the wall shows that a Thomas Twist was treasurer in 1628. We later got the address of the Temple Librarian and plan to write and ask for clarification of this apparent discrepancy.

After leaving London we drove to Lincolnshire and York and searched for information on the Yarbroughs, another branch of my family that came to Virginia from England about the same time as the Whitlocks.

Later in our trip we went to Oxford and saw St. John's College where both James and Bulstrode Whitelocke went to school.

On our way back to London we stayed two nights in Goring-on-Thames. From there we drove to Chilton Foliat in Wiltshire where Bulstrode's third wife Mary Wilson lived, and where he spent the last years of his life and died. Chilton Foliat is a pretty village with lots of thatched roof cottages, but we did not see the home (if it still exists) of Mary Wilson. We also went to a nearby village in Berkshire named Fawley and visited a church there, but we soon realized that this was not the Fawley where Bulstrode is buried.

The next day we drove to Henley-on-the-Thames and soon found out that we were in "Whitelocke country." When we mentioned Bulstrode Whitelocke in the local library everyone knew exactly who we were talking about.

We had lunch at a little restaurant called the Olde Bell Inn on Bell Street and talked with the proprietor who told us that even though his inn is 150 years old it is not the original Olde Bell Inn.

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We did not see the building which used to be the large coach inn owned by Bulstrode.

Because of our Whitlock connections we were treated to a personal tour of the mansion by a member of the staff when we visited Phyliss Court which is now an exclusive club. The present building is of a much later origin than the Phyliss Court the Whitelockes owned and lived in, but the existing building and grounds overlooking the Thames River are very beautiful

We were also treated very well when we visited Fawley Court which is now a Polish museum and religious retreat. Although the museum was not open to the public on the day we were there, the curator took us on a special tour of the whole building. As at Phyliss Court, the present building at Fawley Court is not the original Fawley Court owned by the Whitelockes, but it is built on the foundation of the first building. Our guide took us to the basement where we could see the original floor that James Bulstrode and succeeding generations walked on. The present Fawley Court designed by Christopher Wrenn in 1684 is also an impressive building overlooking the Thames.

One of the most interesting experiences of our trip occurred at Fawley Church. A small one-lane road typical of many rural English roads runs from Fawley Court to the little village of Fawley where the Church is located. We walked around the Church then went inside since the door was unlocked and had just discovered the magnificent tomb of James and Elizabeth Whitelocke when Mrs. Brown a local resident who looks after the Church came by. She graciously showed us around the Church and told us much of its history. She showed us the Whitelocke windows made with medieval stained glass salvaged from the old Fawley Court, and explained that the whole wing of the Church in which James' tomb is located was built by the Whitelockes to house that tomb and the tomb (located under the floor) of many other family members. We copied the names of those buried there from a marble plaque on the wall placed there by the family of one George Whitelocke from Ireland. You probably have a copy of this plaque. If not, let me know.

We left because of darkness and returned the next morning to take pictures. We were lucky again to meet Mrs. Morehead. The Church had just had their harvest festival and she was there removing the beautiful vegetables and flowers the members had brought for the festival to take them to needy families. Mrs. Morehead happens to be the keeper of the Church records. She also works in historical research at Windsor Castle. She related much more of the history and showed us the original Church records kept in a vault in the Church of births, marriages and deaths from 1573 to 1697. Someone (maybe from the Whitlock Family Association) had been there before us and had persuaded her to let him make photocopies of these records and this person had made a set of photocopies for her. At our request she agreed to make copies of her copies (not the originals) for us. From what she told us, it seems that our copies (which we have now received by mail) are only the second copies of these records the Church has ever given to anyone. I am enclosing copies of our copies of her copies (3rd generation) of the original records. (Enclosure #2). The originals are very difficult to read because of fading and deterioration so these are even harder to read, but they are very

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interesting. The pages she sent are from 1613 to 1697, the period the Whitelockes were associated with the Church.

Mrs. Morehead also showed us a tombstone in the grave yard outside the Church of other Whitelockes. I am also enclosing a copy of the names from this tombstone. (Enclosure #3).

I would like to mention that the monument of the reclining figures of James and Elizabeth Whitelocke and their tomb is very much in need of repairs. Attached is a copy of a list of repairs the Architect recommends. (Enclosure #4). They are trying to raise money for these repairs, but that is difficult to do with the very small congregation they now have. They estimate the cost now would be 1800 to 2000 lbs. more than the figure shows. We as the Whitlock Family Association might want to help them.

Mrs. Morehead in a letter written to me since we came back from England wrote: "As you know, both Bulstrode and his father were lawyers and Bulstrode in fact was Treasurer of the Middle Temple. Some years ago we approached Middle Temple and they gave us 2,000 lb. toward the cost of repairing the monument." This statement is further confirmation that Bulstrode was Treasurer of the Middle Temple.

We donated money to Fawley Church for the ladies to make a needlepoint cushion with Bulstrode Whitelocke's name to be used along with other beautiful kneeling cushions with other member names which I noticed in the church. She was very grateful for that contribution.

Our trip to England was very enjoyable, as well as educational, and we found the people to be exceptionally helpful and friendly. We collected several books about Henley and will share any information you feel you do not have. We also took pictures of Fawley Church and other places of interest but you probably have most of those. We thank you for your suggestions of places to visit while in England.

Sincerely,
Ernestine W. Dodl
Ernestine W. Dodl

Enclosures:

- (1) Article from the Enclopaedia Britannica
- (2) A copy of the Register of Births, Marriages and Deaths from 1613 to 1697 from Fawley Church
- (3) Wording on a Whitlock Tombstone in the Churchyard at Fawley Church
- (4) Architects' Suggested Work" for Repairs to the Tomb of James and Elizabeth Whitelocke at Fawley Church