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Mr. Peter M. Whitlock,
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Dear Peter,

Many thanks for your letter of 19 February, enclosing an interesting account of Mrs. Dodl's travels over here in pursuit of the Whitelocke family. I am sorry to have been so long in acknowledging your letter, but the article on 'Bulstrode Whitelocke's Religion and Views on Freedom of Conscience' has entailed much more research than I expected or intended, and I only recently submitted it to the editors of *The Journal of Ecclesiastical History*. I will let you know if they accept it.

Now I will try to reply to the points in your letter and then go on to Ernestine Dodl's:

I am sorry to read that you are not planning a visit to G.B. this year, but do let me know if you should change your plans. I'd be delighted to see you all here again. Yes, I would be very pleased to have a copy of the Fawley Parish Register transcript, although it sounds rather like an enthusiastic amateur's unchecked copy. Please 'bill' me for the cost. I am puzzled by the query about the death of William, son of William Whitelocke, in June 1675 - only a month before Bulstrode's death. Sir William (Bulstrode's son) was married on 19 May 1659 (not 1671 as shown by me in *The Improbable Puritan*, following J.S. Burns's misinformation). His third son, William, married Ann Noel. Even with early marriages in those days, it is impossible that a boy who can't have been born before 1662 could have been married and died by 1675. I'm sorry I can't help.

Turning now to Ernestine Dodl's letter, she is certainly an enterprising traveller. Commenting on points she raised:

1. Bulstrode was indeed baptized in St. Dunstan's in the West, but his parents were NOT married there but in Beaconsfield Church, Buckinghamshire, near Elizabeth's home, see James Whitelocke's *Liber Famelicus* p.15.

2. The *Encyclopedia Britannica*, which she quotes, is not always a reliable source of information, but I wonder whether 1616 may be a copying error for 1626? (In 1616 B.W. was a boy at school, aged eleven). My 14th edition of the *Enc. Brit.* states that Bulstrode was called to the Bar in 1626; it also records (mistakenly) that he was made Treasurer of the Middle Temple in 1628. Regarding his supposed appointment as 'Treasurer', I agree with your reading that at the Middle Temple Festivities in that year the youthful Master of the Revels was chosen Treasurer of the Christmas Revels, which caused some envy.

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Several writers have (understandably) misread his reports of this event. *The Diary* statement is a bit ambiguous, but his 'Annals...' of his first 29 years, which I ran to earth in Dublin (now in the British Library, ref. Add.Ms 53726 fol.46) records more clearly: 'When the Parliament of the Temple, consisting of the gentlemen in Commons, met to choose their Christmas Officers, the Master of the Revels was chosen Treasurer.' I think that is clear enough - a 'Christmas Officer' - for the Revels. I am surprised, however, that his son William's name does not appear as Treasurer of the Middle Temple.

3. Yes, Bulstrode and his father were both students at St. John's College, Oxford. There is a portrait of B.W. in, I think, the Senior Common Room. (We English would say that the two Whitelockes, father and son, studied or were at College there, not that they 'went to school' at St. John's - but that's me being pedantic.)

4. The Chiltern Park estate still exists, just over the county boundary in Berkshire, but in the parish of Chilton Foliat, which is just in the county of Wiltshire. The house is still there, but a later construction. Bulstrode and Mary lived there, but made it over, in their lifetime, to Samuel when he married - which made life awkward for Sam and his wife, with his parents breathing down their necks and monitoring their movements and what time in the morning Sam came back from a drinking spree - as *The Diary* shows. Over the south door, inside the Church, is an unattractive bust of Sam's son Bulstrode Whitelocke. The nearby village of Fawley is mentioned, briefly, in *The Diary*, when Whitelocke was living at Chilton Lodge.

Fawley, near Henley on Thames is, indeed, Whitelocke country. I am glad there was a good welcome there, but I'm concerned to read about the poor condition of the splendid Whitelocke tomb, which Bulstrode built for his parents. I knew that the roof was in need of repair. I do hope that the necessary £2,000 can be raised. The owners of Fawley Court claim that it was designed by Sir Christopher Wren, but have still not, I believe, been able to supply any evidence to confirm this. Besides Fawley Court and Phyllis Court, at one time Whitelocke owned Greenland, another large estate adjoining Fawley Court, also overlooking the Thames. The Whitelocke window, set by the late distinguished artist John Piper, is the one I found in Ireland. It shows Whitelocke's armorial bearings and The College of Arms reported to me that it was probably made early in the 1630s. John Piper had to divide it in two, as there were only two narrow, lancet windows in which it could be set. It was taken to Ireland by a member of the family in the late 18th century, if I remember rightly. The notion that it was made from medieval stained glass, salvaged from the old Fawley Court, is I think pure fiction!

With very best wishes to you all, and to Mrs Dodl, if you are in touch with her.

from,

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Ruth Spalding