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Answered
Dec 27, 1994
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Whitlock Family Association
Peter M. Whitlock
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December 2, 1994

Dear Peter,

I received the Whitlock information, thank you. I'm sorry to be so late in responding to you. At first I looked at the printed information before looking at the gedcom and thought I might be able to correct the wife of Aaron Parker from Abigail Adams to Abigail Winship and add to your records, but then the gedcom listed her correctly. Oh well. At any rate, I'm sending you my descent from Rose Whitlock.

One of the Virginia libraries (perhaps Virginia Polytechnical Institute?) has about 8 volumes of the Essex County Massachusetts Quarterly Court records, and my teeth itch to think I might be able to order them on inter-library-loan. Perhaps there will be more in there about the Whitlocks? I do know that the few pages sent to me by the Wenham Museum in Mass. contained lots of my other ancestors, which made me want to get my hands on those books. I had a slew of people in Essex co. once. I guess we're not so lucky with Middlesex county records. Wish there was some good printed material on that county. The only thing I've found is a sociological study of the sex lives of some of the residents in that county, which was very enlightening. It seems that one of Rose's sons (and my ancestor!) Moses, was thought to have been one of the probable other men who was guilty of philandering with a woman named Elizabeth Downe Brown (Mrs. William) who was indicted along with Thomas Davis, late of Boston in 1676 for "uncivil company-keeping" and a few other things unsavory to the Puritans and was on trial for her life! In 1678, after the death of her husband, she was convicted in the Suffolk County Court of "lewd, wanton and uncivill carriages, (and) sentenced to bee forthwith whipped with twenty strokes and then returned to prison, there to remain one month and then to be conveyed to Charlestown and again to be whipped severely twenty stripes." It was on this occasion that the suspect is thought to have been our Moses Parker. It continues that "Although the son of a pillar of the Chelmsford church, Parker had already been convicted of selling liquor to Indians and "obsceen carriages drawing out his yard [penis] in the presence of many persons at Roxbury ordinary [inn]."

In October 1682 he was convicted of "deflowering" Mary Barrett. This is from SEX IN MIDDLESEX POPULAR MORES IN A MASSACHUSETTS COUNTY, 1649-1699 by Roger Thompson, pub. by The University of Massachusetts Press, Amherst, Mass., 1986, and reprinted in paperback in 1989, pages 146-7. I guess we can't really know our ancestors until we check the court records. Looks like Mose was a "fun" loving fella, huh? Just after reading about this, I was somewhat ?comforted when I saw singer Rod Stewart on the David Letterman show talking about "dropping trow" at some local bars in New York. He said that, where he came from (in England), to do that was considered a celebration of life. So Mose, maybe, was just celebrating?

I am sending you some stamps as you requested, but only hope that is enough repayment for the costs you endured. Thank you very much for sharing with me. You didn't really say what the costs of joining the Whitlock Assn. are. I'm not sure I can do it this time of year though. And we have a son ready for college next year and I don't work (yet) so am not sure about what I'll be able to even continue yet, genealogically speaking. I have to have my subscriptions to NEHGR and TAG. They are a must. I also looked over the citations on the disk, but am not sure what would be of interest to me at this time. I'd probably want some of the English material if we only knew Rose's English origin, but alas, not yet. Thanks again.

Barb Petty