

SIR BULSTRODE WHITELOCKE

His connections with Hersham, Surrey and Tregaron, Cardiganshire, involving Sir Richard Pryse of Gogerddan, William Lilly and Carleton Whitelocke of Hersham Surrey.

THE WHITELOCKE FAMILY

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Sir Bulstrode Whitelocke's grandfather was Sir Richard Whitelocke a merchant in London. He had married Joan, widow of John Brockhurst, and daughter of John Colt, Littlemunden, Hertfordshire. Sir Richard had four sons, the first was Edmund, born in 1565, then Richard, followed by the twins, James and William born posthumously on 28 November, 1570. Sir Richard Whitelocke died early in 1570. The widow of Sir Richard saw to it that the four boys had an excellent education, sending them all to the Merchant Taylors School in London.

Edmund Whitelocke, the eldest son of Sir Richard, went to Oxford studied classics, the studied law at Lincoln Inn. He went on a foreign tour of the Universities including Germany. He died in 1608 while visiting the Earl of Sussex at Boreham Essex aged 43. The second son Richard (1565-1624) became a Merchant. He left England to live at Danzig on the Baltic and later moved to Elbing. Richard's son James returned to England in 1620 to be educated at Magdalen Hall, Oxford. William (1570-c.1597) one of the twins, studied law. However, he went to sea, and served under Drake. He was killed fighting the Spaniards, age 27.

Judge James Whitelocke, Knt. (1570-1632) Sir Bulstrode Whitelocke's father went to the Merchants Taylors school in 1575 at the young age of five and then to St. John's College Oxford, as a Probationer on 11th June 1588 where he matriculated in 1589. He graduated as a Bachelor of Law in 1594. He was admitted to the Middle Temple in 1592-3 and was called to the Bar in 1600. (This set the pattern for the education of some of his children and grandchildren.)

Sir James Whitelocke married Elizabeth Bulstrode, daughter of Edward Bulstrode of Hedgerley Bulstrode, Buckinghamshire, in the parish church of Beaconsfield on 10th September 1602. The Bulstrode family appear not to have owned land in the parish which bore their name for a long time. The manor had been given to the Templars circa 1170, and became known as Temple Bulstrode, no doubt by the Bulstrode family and was sold after the dissolution of the Monasteries, away from the Bulstrode family.

Sir James continued to study law in depth and did not agree with the "Divine Right of Kings" as declared by James I and defended the rights of individual subjects. He wrote one or more discourses on the subject. Sir James was imprisoned for a few days at the time of the "Gun Powder Plot" in 1605 as a suspect. Fortunately this did not appear to damaged his future law career.

Sir James was appointed Chief Justice for the Court of Sessions at Chester and it included the area of Flint, Montgomery, and Denbighshire. He returned to London when he became Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas. James Whitelocke purchased Fawley Court, Fawley in 1616, a large property on the northern bank of the Thames in Buckinghamshire. He died in 1632 and was buried at Fawley Court. His wife Elizabeth had died the previous year.

SIR BULSTRODE WHITELOCKE

Bulstrode was one of two sons and five daughters of Judge James Whitelocke and Elizabeth. Bulstrode's brother died in infancy together with three of his sisters.

Bulstrode Whitelocke, was born 6th August 1605 in Fleet Street and was baptised at St. Dunstan's in the East. He was educated at Eton and then the Merchant Taylors School. He went to St. John's College Oxford in 1620 at the age of 15. He studied law and was called to the bar in 1626. He became an M.P. for Great Marlow the same year. His main home was Fawley Court, and he purchased the nearby Phillis Court. In London he had spacious lodgings at the Middle Temple and owned another town house.

Sir Bulstrode Whitelocke was one of the members of the "Peace Party" and on their behalf in 1642 at the start of the Civil War tried to negotiate a peace settlement between King Charles I and the Parliamentarians (the Round Heads) for cessation of hostilities. Bulstrode, like his father, did not believe in the "Divine Right of Kings" but in Royalty respecting the rights of individuals, and obeying will of Parliament.

He became a Parliamentarian, and continued to be part of the inner circles of government throughout the Civil War Period. He became involved in arranging very important trade treaties for the export of copper and other items from Sweden to England and safe passage for our ships with non-interference with our trade with some Baltic countries. He eventually went Sweden as Ambassador, to see the King of Sweden for the signing of the treaty. He left England on 6th November 1653 and returned about July 1654. He seems to have become a great friend of Queen Christiana of Sweden. The daughter of his Uncle Richard who had settled in Danzig, and her husband accompanied him to Sweden.

He was appointed a Commissioner of the New Great Seal after Charles I was executed, and continued to hold this office intermittently under Oliver Cromwell. He later became Keeper of the Great Seal under Richard Cromwell in 1658.

Although one of the senior ministers of the Cromwellian government, he managed to avoid being appointed to Commissions or Courts of the more extreme nature. He seems to have been an extremely clever and able Parliamentarian. However, like many of the more moderate Parliamentarians, he became disillusioned during the last few years of the Protectorate. Sir Bulstrode Whitelocke was offered a peerage at least twice according to his "Memorials" but he refused each time.

Sir Bulstrode Whitelocke became the patron of William Lilly the Astrologer. Whitelocke was very ill in November 1641 and it was thought that he might die. The wife of a friend of his, John Lisle, the Regicide, took a specimen of urine to Lily to examine, and requested some medicine for him. William Lilly sent a message back that he did not need any medicine and he would recover completely in a few days. Whitelocke was to suffer later from kidney stones which caused him a great deal of pain and bouts of ill health.

This was the start of a lifetime friendship. Lilly's rival and enemy Wharton, a Royalist was imprisoned and probably would have been executed on a charge of Treason but for the successful intervention by Sir Bulstrode Whitelocke at Lilly's instigation. He was very impressed by Lilly seeking help for his rival and enemy. Later on Lilly was imprisoned on a trumped up charge at the instance of the Presbyterians. Whitelocke intervened and Oliver Cromwell ordered his release.

William Lilly of London and Hersham Surrey, out of gratitude, decided to leave his Estate to two of Bulstrode's Whitelocke's sons. Whitelocke paid off some of Lilly's debts and a mortgage. In a Settlement about 1658, William Lilly left the part of his estate to Bulstrode's youngest son by his second wife Frances, Bulstrode Jnr. and part to Carleton. Bulstrode was to inherit the house and Hurst Wood, Hersham, and Carleton, second son of his

third wife, was to inherit other lands owned by Lilly in Hersham. All the Estate was later redirected to Carleton, second son of Whitelocke's third wife Mary, as the Bulstrode Jnr. unexpectedly received a large legacy from Dr. Thomas Winston, a friend and family doctor to Mary his third wife, at the time she was married to Colonel Rowland Wilson.

The estate of Dr. Winston was very complicated as several persons had claimed an interest in it. It took an Act of Parliament in May 1663 (the Earl of Portland's Bill) before Bulstrode Jnr. could take possession of his inheritance. This Act of Parliament also included a revision of Lilly's Settlement, setting aside Bulstrode Jnr.s' claim to Lilly's House at Hurst Wood, with the consent of Lilly, and putting Carleton in his place.

Whitelocke very was anxious to arrange legacies for his younger sons. His income as a lawyer was very much diminished in the final ten years of the civil war. He was very active in sorting out settlements from various childless persons. He arranged for his son Willoughby to inherit the Wandsworth Estate from his sister Celia's father-in-law, "Old Dixon", and after the death of Whitelocke's sister Celia Dixon, he would also inherit Dixon's Hertfordshire estate. As part of the agreement, Whitelocke paid old Dixon £400 at the time of the agreement and agreed to pay £300 in legacies at his death.

Although a Parliamentarian and closely involved with Cromwell he had managed to steer a moderate course through the vicissitudes of this period, avoiding association with the extremists on either side of Cromwell and although appointed to sit on judgment of Charles I, did not actually do so. When Charles II returned to England in 1660, Whitelocke no doubt considered it prudent to retire and live a quiet life at Chilton Lodge, Chilton Park, Wiltshire.

Whitelocke wrote the "Memorials" about 1662, compiled as a parliamentary and political diary from 1635 to 1660, in which he gave details of parliamentary proceedings, speeches and other meetings from various sources. It also includes discussions held in private with Cromwell. At this time no record was made of Parliamentary proceedings. (Hansard was not started until 1774.) He had also kept a fairly detailed personal diary for most of his life, in triplicate!

Sir Bulstrode Whitelocke had been given Fawley Court by his father in settlement on his marriage to Rebecca Bennett, daughter of Alderman Bennett of London, in June 1630. Through his maternal grandmother he inherited Chilton Foliat on the Wiltshire/Berkshire Borders. Rebecca became insane and died in 1634. They had one son, Sir James Whitelocke born 13 July 1631. Sir James fought in Ireland and was Knighted by Cromwell on 6th January 1657. He married a wealthy widow, Mary Pitcher with a life interest in Trumpington Hall, where the couple lived. They were a very extravagant couple causing Bulstrode Snr. many problems. At one time James' creditors tried to acquire Fawley Court in settlement of the debts, but were soon told that it still belonged to his father. Probably another of the reasons why Bulstrode arranged the various settlements for his other sons was so that these estates should not be seized by James's creditors. There were several children of the marriage. Sir James inherited Fawley Court on the death of his father in 1675. He sold the estate in 1694, where upon much of the house was demolished. A large house was built on the site by its new owner. (The new house still stands to-day, its parkland lying along the North side of the River Thames.) Sir James died in 1701.

Sir Bulstrode Whitelocke then married Frances Willoughby, sister of Francis, Baron Willoughby of Parham, Sussex on 9th November 1635 at Fawley Court. This was a romantic runaway marriage. Frances left her home secretly to marry Whitelocke against the wishes of her family. It was a very happy marriage. Bulstrode and Frances Whitelocke had nine children, many of whom were born at Fawley Court. Fawley Court was sacked by Royalist soldiers in 1642, who removed curtains, bed hangings, and the household linen. The soldiers also tore up books and damaged manuscripts in the library. Some of the younger children were at the house at the time, looked after by William Cooke and his wife, Frances and the older children were in London. The family had returned by August 1643 as Hester was born at Fawley court on the 8th August of that year. Bulstrode was devastated by the death of

Frances on 17 May 1649. Their eldest son William was knighted by William III in 1689. He inherited Phillis Court.

Sir Bulstrode Whitelocke married in 1650, as his third wife, the wealthy widow of Alderman Rowland Wilson, and daughter of Bigley Carleton, a London Grocer. They married at first in secret in Bromham Church, Bedfordshire, publicly on 5th September at St. John's Church, Hackney. This was followed by a large reception for Members of Parliament and friends.

Bulstrode and Mary had at seven children, five sons and two daughters. (Whitelocke had a seventeen children from his three marriages.) Chilton Park in Wilshire was purchased by Bulstrode with money provided by his Wife Mary, in 1663. This is a few miles east of Chilton Foliat, his other property. The house, Chilton Lodge was where Bulstrode and Mary spent most of their time after 1660 in retirement and where he died in 1675, but was buried at Fawley Court. Samuel, the eldest son of this marriage inherited Chilton Park. Carleton was his second son of this marriage.

THE HERSHAM CONNECTION

In 1636 William Lilly and his wife moved out of London to Hersham where they shared a rented property with Captain and Mrs. Gibson. It is possible that Lilly may have had to leave London due his strong Puritanical views. Here Lilly lived for five years in seclusion. It was probably during this period he intensified his study of Astrology and possibly medicine. He had first taken an interest in Astrology about 1630 and then began to seriously studied it. He then returned to London to continue to practice Astrology and Medicine.

By 1651 Lilly had become disillusioned with the rule of the Parliamentarians and Cromwell, as did many other former supporters. In 1652 Lilly was committed to prison for his critical comments and writings on Parliament, probably at the instance of the Presbyterians. The Presbyterians led attacks on astrologers as they did not like astrology being linked with the Bible. Sir Bulstrode Whitelocke intervened on his behalf and Oliver Cromwell had him released after 13 days. No doubt it was this incident which made Lilly decide to move back to Hersham.

William Lilly purchased Hurst Wood, Hersham, Surrey in 1652. This was a substantial property, a house with 13 hearths and 18 acres of Parkland. He also purchased other property in Hersham, and leased Felcrofte. (Rydens School area of Hersham). However, he did continue to visit London and retained his house in the Strand.

Jane, Lilly's second wife died in 1654 after twenty years, childless. This had not been a very happy marriage. He married again, Ruth Needham a year or so younger than himself. Like his first one this was a very happy marriage.

As stated above, Lilly was very grateful to Whitelocke for arranging his release from Prison in 1652. In 1658 Whitelocke mentions he paid a debt of £300 and other items. Elsewhere a mention is made of paying off a mortgage on William Lilly's behalf, so it is possible that the debt of £300 arose on the purchase of the house in Hersham. He also made a payment of £100 to Lilly's brother. (Lilly's brother was also childless). The payment of £100 was probably compensation for not inheriting his brother's property in due course. An agreement was drawn up to settle Lilly's property on two of Whitelocke's sons (see above). Eventually all of it was settled on Carleton Whitelocke, Whitelocke's second son by his third marriage in 1663. Lilly made several purchases of additional land in Hersham in the next few years. Whitelocke helped to fund these purchases. The land so purchased was put in the joint names of Carleton Whitelocke and William Lilly. For example on 12 October 1658 Whitelocke paid £40 as a half share in a purchase of a piece of land by Lilly. 6

Over the next ten years Sir Bulstrode Whitelocke and his wife Mary made several visits to Hersham, staying overnight each time. His retirement probably enabled him to travel around and make private visits. Earlier, in his diary one or two visits further a field are not carried out due to his parliamentary commitments. The first visit to Hersham was on 29th July 1661, followed by another visit on 7th September of the same year.

In June 1664 the Whitelocke and his wife stayed with Lilly and his wife in Hersham for two nights. Samuel and Carleton (age 12) probably accompanied them on this occasion. On 14 February 1666 Whitelocke, his wife and Carleton visited Lilly at Hersham. On the following day they went to see "a new built house." On the 18th February they returned to London.

In February 1666/7 Carleton accompanied his parents on another visit to Hersham. Whitelocke says in his diary "Mr. Lilyes and his wife were very kind to them" and "he rode with Mr. Lilly about the grounds and his wife a quaker yett gave gentile entertainment."

On 9th May 1669 Whitelocke, his wife and Carleton went by water to Putney, where a coach belonging to Mary's brother-in-law, Wilso, took them on to Mr. Lilly's house. Here they stayed until the 14th May 1669. The coach then took them to the ferry at Hampton, and on the other side of the river Mr. Wynwood's coach took them to Ditton Park. By now Bulstrode's health was deteriorating due to the stones in his Kidney's. Travelling around a year or so later became almost impossible. Lilly and Whitelocke continued to correspond on his health matters.

Carleton Whitelocke born in 1652, in London, studied law in the Middle Temple. He married firstly, Katherine Henley daughter of Sir Andrew Henley of Bramshill, Hampshire in 1678, by whom he had five daughters. Their first child Mary was born and baptised in Elvetham Hampshire. Carleton and his family may have moved to Hurst Wood in Hersham, by 1684, as they had a third daughter, Ruth baptised in St. Mary's Church, Walton-on-Thames. This was followed by another daughter Katherine in 1685 baptised in the same Church.

William Lilly had died in 1681 and in his will left the house to his wife Ruth for her lifetime, and thence to Carleton.

Ruth died in 1692 and in the burial register is stated to be "of Kingston." It is not clear if Ruth continued to live in the house at Hersham for a few years after William Lilly's death, or if Carleton Whitelocke had taken up permanent residence at Hurst Wood by 1684 as suggested by the baptism of his children in the church at Walton. Carleton would have found his lodgings in the Middle Temple rather cramped with his family of five children. Certainly by 1690 Carleton was transacting business from Hersham, two years before Ruth died.

Katherine died and Carleton married a second time about 1698 to Mary Alwyn. They had one son John Carleton Whitelocke. John Carleton Whitelocke served as an Officer in the King's Arm in Ireland and eventually settled at Prior's Wood, Dublin.

Very little is known about the activities of Carleton Whitelocke. He was the Steward of a Manor on his father's estate at Chilton, Wiltshire, and held the Court Baron there during his father's life time. He continued as the Steward after his father's death for his brother Samuel. However, a letter has come to light, written from Hersham on 17th April 1690 offering to repair Beaminster Market Hall after a fire. (*) Carleton edited his father's "Essays Ecclesiastical and Civil" for publication. It was published in 1706. Carleton Whitelocke had died the previous year in 1705, age 53.

THE WELSH CONNECTION

Two daughters of Sir Bulstrode Whitelocke and Frances Willoughby, his second wife, married into the Pryse Family of Gogerddan (near Aberystwyth) in Cardiganshire.

Elizabeth Whitelocke had been sent to live with her widowed Aunt Elizabeth Mostyn at Chester on 6th October 1649, at the age of 11, and to be brought up by her aunt after the death of her mother, Frances, six month's earlier. Aunt Elizabeth Mostyn was one of Bulstrode's two surviving sisters, and had married Sir Thomas Mostyn, Knight of Flint in 1623.

Elizabeth married Sir Richard Pryse, later 3rd Baronet, by 5th August 1653. Elizabeth had been born in 1638 and was only 15 when married with the consent of her father. Sir Bulstrode Whitelocke was Sergeant-in-Law at the time of the marriage. Sir Richard Pryse of Gogerddan, was Member of Parliament during 1646-1648, and supported the Parliamentarians.

In return for a dowry of £2000 Gogerddan properties were put in a settlement for Elizabeth in 1653. (Incidentally the same amount as Whitelocke was awarded for his expenses and services while in Sweden about this time.) The Pryse family at this time owned a vast amount of property in Cardiganshire, thousands of acres, but much of it was mortgaged. This included the Manor and Lordship of Caron (Tregaron) and the author's property Trebrysg. Sir Bulstrode Whitelocke, his son William Whitelocke, together with Edward Bulstrode and Richard Bulstrode (nephews?) were party to, or witness to several property deeds for the Pryse family over the next seven years.

Sir Richard Pryse and Elizabeth did not have any surviving children. Elizabeth in the next few years suffered several miscarriages. The couple visited Fawley and London a few times over the years. Whitelocke mentions Elizabeth in his diary staying at Fawley not long before he died in August 1675. Sir Richard Pryse, 3rd Baronet died about 1680. He was succeeded by his brother Sir Thomas Pryse who died in 1682.

Hester Whitelocke (born 8 August 1642) married Sir Richard Pryse's younger brother Carbery Pryse about 1662. Hester went to stay with her sister Elizabeth at Gogerddan and then refused to return home to her father. She married Carbery Pryse without her father's permission, much against her father's will and her Aunt Mostyn's disapproval.

A letter from Sir Bulstrode Whitelocke's sister Mostyn (received 17 February 1661/2) intimating a suspicion that Hester intends to marry Carbery Pryse, complains that Sir Richard Pryse's youngest brother is "a man of no fortune and much disorder". Hester and Carbery Pryse went off to Barbados for a year or so, to stay with her Uncle Lord Willoughby in order to escape from her family's displeasure. Hester and Carbery returned to England in April 1667.

Carbery had died by 16 February 1668/9 leaving Hester with one son who was later to succeed to the Pryse estates and title as Sir Carbery Pryse. Hester seems to have had a very tough time for several years. Sir Richard Pryse in a letter received 10 February 1668/9, excuses his wife (Elizabeth) not receiving into the house Whitelocke's daughter Hester, who had married his brother and had a son by him. On 16 February 1668/69 there is a letter from Sir Richard Mostyn, Whitelocke's nephew saying that they could not prevail upon Sir Richard to take in Hester and her son. (Elizabeth was probably jealous as Hester had produced an heir to the Pryse estates. Whitelocke in 1672 mentions a series of "letters of trouble from Hester". Some time later, Hester married a second time, a Welshman named Mr. Scawen.

Sir Carbery Pryse, born circa 1667, Hester's only child, became 4th and last Baronet about 1682, after the death of his Uncle Sir Thomas Pryse, as a minor. Sir Carbery Pryse exploited the mines on Pryse property and this was intensified when a very rich deposit of

silver and lead ore was found. As a result of this he fought several legal battles to free Silver and Gold mining from control of the Crown Monopoly, "The Society of Mines Royal". An act of Parliament was passed in 1693 which brought to an end this monopoly. Sir Carbery Pryse died in 1694.

The Pryse estates passed to his mother Hester Scawen (for her lifetime). After her death the estates passed to a distant cousin of Sir Carbery Pryse.

It is possible that Sir Bulstrode Whitelocke consented to the marriage arranged by his Sister Mostyn for Elizabeth his daughter into the Pryse family in 1653, as it would ensure that the silver, lead, and zinc ores from the valuable metal mines owned by the Pryse family went to help the cause of the Parliamentarians rather than that of the Royalist supporters. There was a Royalist Mint for silver coins at Aberystwyth Castle for a short period. However, after 1646 when the Parliamentarians gained control of Aberystwyth Castle and Cardiganshire, it appears that very little mining took place in the County, but it probably continued in a small way on the Pryse estates.

COINCIDENCE

The author's property, Trebrysg in Tregaron was owned by the Pryse family at the time of the marriage of Whitelocke's daughters to Sir Richard Pryse and Carbery Pryse. The author's previous property was in Hersham, Surrey, very close to the Felcote/Felcroft property and not far from the house owned by their step-brother Carleton Whitelocke from 1681.

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 (*) Note in "Dialstone" no 88 July 1980, received from Marie Eedle of Beaminster.
 Calendar of Deeds, Coleman Collection, in National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth.

Note:

In the Parishes Registers of St. Helen's Bishopsgate, the entries for the baptisms of the children of Sir Bulstrode Whitelocke and Mary, his third Wife, Mary's name as Mary Willoughby. Her maiden name was therefore Mary Willoughby Carleton, daughter of Bigley Carleton, Grocer of London.

George Greenwood believed that Mary was related to the Carleton Family of Chertsey and their distant cousin Sir Dudley Carleton, diplomat.

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