

Received
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L.J. Otis
253 Redford Crescent,
Stratford, Ont.
N5A 1P3

7 May, 1997

Mr. Whitlock;

I received your letter dated 22 Apr. 1997 and the accompanying material recently. I'm still in the process of digesting it all.

In response to my puzzlement about the discrepancies about John Whitlock's birthdate (1689 vs 1699), you indicated that it was 1689. However, an accompanying descendency chart maintains that it was 1699. The chart shows Thomas and Rose Whitlock in the preceding generation were brother and sister as you stated, but John Whitlock is shown as descending from Thomas Whitlock, who you said had never married, although that wouldn't prevent him from fathering a child. If John Whitlock was born in 1689 as you stated, Thomas Whitlock would have been 15 years old, not impossibly young to be a father, and it would possibly explain why he wasn't married, but is this the actual case or a comedy of errors? If it's true, is there a record of the mother? Needless to say, I'm still puzzled.

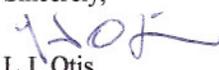
I noted in the May 2nd edition of the London Free Press, on the obit page, that a Harry Darius Whitlock, age 81, of Sarnia had died on 1 May 1997. There wasn't a more extensive writeup. I don't know if you're familiar with the name. Incidentally, Kenneth Johns died on 20 Apr 1997, age 85, in Exeter. His brother was Walter Johns, who was head of the University of Alberta in the 60's.

I've copied off pages from both editions of "Between the Fences", the 1992 original, and the 1996 supplementary edition, relating to the Richard Johns and Whitlock families, and related branches. I may have missed a few, but there's enough here to keep you confused for some time. I highlighted names to help a bit. The Kerslake family is there because Shirley (Coulter) Kerslake is the youngest daughter of my great-aunt Addie (Johns) Coulter, the oldest daughter of Henry Johns. She had two other surviving children: Earl Coulter, who lives in Campbellford in central Ontario and Doreen (Coulter) Finkbeiner, who lives in the Dashwood area of Huron County, Ontario, but I don't have much information on their families.

Based on my own experience with information I'm familiar with, the data in those pages should be approached with caution.

I noticed photocopies of marriage extracts from parish records in England among the material you sent. Perhaps you could advise me how to go about obtaining this kind of material and census information. Richard Johns and other members of his family didn't leave Devon until 1849, so they should show up in the 1841 census.

Well, no doubt there's things I've forgotten to mention, but it'll have to keep. Thank's again for the material.

Sincerely,

L.J. Otis