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To: whitlock@valleynet.bc.ca <[whitlock@valleynet.bc.ca](mailto:whitlock@valleynet.bc.ca)>  
Subject: Re: Lesly H. Whitlock  
Date: September 6, 1999 3:05 PM

Hi Peter,

You had two questions about Lesly H. Whitlock. Let me address the second question first as that will help explain my answer to the first question.

The 1840 census of Greenville County SC had the following information about the family of Lecil Whitlock: The oldest male (which would have been Lecil/Lesly) was listed as being between 30 and 40. The oldest female (presumably wife Mary) was between 20 and 30. There was one male (presumably William Harrison) between 5 and 10 and two females (presumably Nancy and Louisa) who were less than 5. Also living nearby was the family of Stephen Whitlock. This Stephen was listed as being between 30 and 40. I assume that he might be a brother or cousin of Lesly. By the way Greenville County is adjacent to Union County, SC.

You asked if I considered May 15, 1810 to be an accurate date for Lesly Whitlocks birth. That date as you mentioned was derived from an obituary. It might be more pertinent to ask if the L. H. Whitlock in that obituary was really Lesly H. Whitlock. I have assumed for several years they were the same person but there is a little bit of a mystery that keeps me from being certain. Let me ramble a little bit and I think you will see what I mean.

Here is the way Lesly's birthdate shapes up from each of the census records where he can be found:

1840 Greenville County SC	Lecil Whitlock	30-40	
1850 Laurens County SC	L.H. Whitlock	48	blacksmith
1860 Abbeville County SC	Lesly H. Whitlock	52	blacksmith
1870 Abbeville County SC	L.H. Whitlock	68	

I have not been able to find Lesly Whitlock in the 1880 census. I did find his family with wife Mary listed as head of household in the 1880 census of Abbeville County. This would lead one to believe that Lesly must have died between 1870 and 1880. That is what I assumed until I ran across the obituary which appeared in the Hartwell Sun on May 24, 1884. I don't know if you have seen the entire obituary so here is what it said:

Died on the 11th of May, L. H. Whitlock, of heart disease, aged 74 years lacking 4 days. He was by trade a blacksmith, and was skillful and useful in the community. He worked for some time in the Samuel Collin's axe shop-the proprietor of the celebrated "Collins' axe." He was confined only two weeks, and although he suffered intensely, seemed very patient. During his illness he said a great many times that he was ready to meet his God at any moment. He was well cared for during his sickness, and kind neighbors did

all they could. He leaves a wife to mourn her loss, but we hope her earthly loss is his eternal gain.

Elbert County, Georgia                      A Friend

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As you can see there are a lot of reasons to think this could be Lesly H. Whitlock. The age although not completely agreeing with the census records is close enough. Also his occupation as a blacksmith and the fact that Elbert County Georgia is adjacent to Abbeville County South Carolina seem to suggest this could be our Lesly. In addition I went to the county seats of both Elbert County and Hartwell County and have been unable to find any other records of an L.H. Whitlock living in those counties prior to this obituary.

Every thing would suggest that this obituary is for the same Lesly H. Whitlock who had lived in Abbeville County. The troubling factor however remains the question of why he was not listed in the 1880 census with his wife Mary and can't be found anywhere else.

Hope this helps. I would be interested in knowing what you would surmise from this information.

Don Sawyer

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