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1 August 1999

Frederick J Whitlock
17 Sutherland Road
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My dear Fred: I

I was so very pleased to have your letter of 25 July and particularly Quentin's address and his marvellously detailed information - I am most grateful to you for sending it. I shall be writing to him for I see that like you, he and I are related in many ways, some indeed pretty closely, and over many generations and as I have said on many occasions the inhabitants of Pitton and Farley and district were one great big happy (or bickering) family for many hundreds of years!

I think I can give you another contact who is very much more clued up than me on this genealogy business. As you might have come to expect he is a relative too principally through the Victorian Parsonses which means he has genes from all the old families from time immemorial! But he is rather closely related to the Parsonses, Prewetts and Whitlocks as is Quentin and therefore presumably you yourself. Anyway you might like to give him a call for he is a real buff and struck on the parish! He is Gavin Maidment of 23 Verbena Crescent, Waterlooville, Hants. PO8 9DE. and his paternal grandmother was Harriet May Parsons (1890- 1967) a descendant of Levi and Charity Parsons who left Farley in the 1830's. Gavin runs the Local Studies Room at Havant Public Library so is in a real position to help if necessary I guess.

You have made a tremendous amount of progress - I am full of admiration. I have had a passing interest recently in George Whitlock (1825-1852) since I am in the middle of another book on the farming in the parish and tracing the descent of some farms from 1580 or so to 1950. Some passed down by wills fairly intact through a number of families including the Battens, and I see from my notes that your George married Eleanor Batten nee White in 1849 and that she had married a William Batten in 1835 and therefore had interests in one of the farms at Farley. I don't have anything about your George, but I do have three other George Whitlocks in 1851. At Pitton: George I a widower aged 37 and a labourer with whom lived his son Job aged 8: George II aged 50 a widower and woodman with sons James aged 19 and daughter Ellen aged 15: and at Farley George III, aged 18, Apprentice, born ~~at~~ Harnhill, Dorset living with Joshua Parsons, 45, and Mary (nee Whitlock), 42, and described as their son-in-law. This is clearly wrong as I believe he was Mary's illegit son born in Dorset where she was probably in service, for Joshua and Mary had only been married two years and just had James Parsons (of my books). If your George was a porter it was in Salisbury for the so-called Hospital was a set of almshouses (see my books).

I may be able to help you with a clue to Hannah Mussel(↓). This was a common surname in the district and you ought at least to try East and West Grimstead where the Mussells were a well-known family of Dissenters in this and the last century as well as at Pitton. I knew one or two in the Thirties at West Grimstead. In 1813 Thomas Mussell, a prominent local

** might in Marnhull*

Methodist got a licence to run a meeting house at West Grimstead so the family must go back a long way although I have never followed them up. Also the Hardings (Quentin's lot) were a family of the Grimsteads for many yaers and I knew the last who lived and farmed at Drove End farm now the Balmer Lawn Stud (!) and a 'Country House'.

Thanks for asking after me. I duly turned up at the Cancer Clinic in May and was given the all clear which was a great relief. I feel very well and quite back to what I was. But I am on the conveyor belt they tell me and I have to go for another check and blood test on 17 August and then every three months for two years then six months for I dont know how long and then less frequently until 2010! I asked them who is going to drive the Zimmer Frame. But they are all lovely people and so kind and caring with it. On the strength of it we are going to Minorca for a week in Septemner (from Bournemouth) for I shant have to worry about a weak bladder!

Many thanks for your letter and I hope you find the 'backs' of this one interesting. Hope the wedding goes off OK! And that Jeans parents are OK too - we know the feeling as we had to cope with two mothers for a lot of years as they both died in their late nineties but happily not ill very long..

Tom Dve

(L.M. Parsons)

[Handwritten signature]