

19AUG2004

Hi Peter,

Thanks for the E-Mail dated 07 Aug 2004.....Subject.....Main Line.

Re: File ML304

I did not know for sure what the complete name of my Great Grandfather, Thomas Green Whitlock. I had guessed that the G. Stood for George and now I know better.

I hope that the information that I have enclosed will complete some of your records.

Also I am sending copies of letters that I got from another relative that were written by Peggy Ernst, the daughter of Bessie Whitlock (married name ??) whom was the sister of my Grandfather, James Thomas Whitlock. I found the letters to be interesting reading and it shows that there were some family secrets in my family.

Thanks again,

Thomas Gerald Whitlock.

P.S. I have not been able to located the Peggy Ernst who wrtote the letters in 1979-1980 and do not know if she had any children. When she wrote these letters she must have been in her 60's or older.

James Thomas Whitlock 1874, Wilson County TN Died 16 April 1972  
 Melissa Adaline Ausbrook 1876, Sumner County TN..Died 16 Mar 1961  
 John Whitlock and wife Myrtle  
 Monroe Tuney Whitlock  
 Bessie Whitlock  
 Bob Whitlock ???????(not sure about this one) Lubbock, TX

#### Children of James T. Whitlock

James Noble Whitlock-Carrollton Tx  
 Homer Thomas Whitlock-Carrollton Tx  
 Perry Thomas Whitlock Carrollton, Dallas County, Oct 2, 1907-Dec 13, 1964  
 (Wife) Ardis Cox 6 Nov 1911-13 Jan 1974  
 Elsie Lerora Whitlock-Bishop-Carrlollton, Tx  
 Eura Faye Whitlock-Reed-Carrollton, Tx  
 Cleo Whitlock-London-Carrrollton, Tx

#### Grandchildren of James T. Whitlock

By; James Noble W.  
 James Donald Whitlock-Carrollton,Tx  
 Avonel Whitlock-Wolf-Carrollton, Tx  
 By; Homer Thomas W.  
 Edwina Ruth Whitlock-Thompson-Carrollton, Tx  
 Ada Elise Whitlock-Blair-Carrollton, Tx  
 By: Perry Thomas W.  
 Thomas Gerald Whitlock-Carrollton, Tx  
 By: Elsie Lenora Whitlock-Bishop  
 Alan Brook Bishop-Carrollton, Tx  
 Glenda Ann Bishop-Kirk-Carrollton, Tx  
 By: Cleo Whitlock-London  
 Mary Alice London-Holland  
 Mike London  
 By: Eura Faye Whitlock-Reed  
 Louis Carrol Reed-Carrollton, Tx  
 Robert Ryan Reed-Carrollton, Tx

#### Thomas Gerald Whitlock 08/02/1930

First Wife...Joan Wylie 11/22/1930-Married Waco,McClennan Co Tx 4/20/1949  
 Children Gregory Thomas Whitlock,Aug 18.1955  
 Linda Gail Whitlock-Bridges-March 25,1959  
 Second Wife...Dolores Jo Pass. 11/6/1941-Married Dallas,Tx 12/12/1963  
 Children Harlan Jay Whitlock-Jan 12, 1960(Adopted Son)  
 Shelly Dee Whitlock-Kuykendal-June 14, 1964  
 Third Wife...Doris Jean Collard. 05/10/1941-Married Dallas,Dallas Co. Tx  
 June 15, 1978 ..Last,BEST and Final wife

Sarah (1840-)

(3) 1.3.1 George Wheeler

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Birth: 23 11 1823, Nunton, Wiltshire

Death: bef 1828

(3) 1.3.2 Sarah Wheeler

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Birth: 19 6 1825, Nunton, Wiltshire

Death: bef 1840

(3) 1.3.3 George Wheeler

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Birth: 20 7 1828, Nunton, Wiltshire

Spouse: Elizabeth Chant

Birth: 27 6 1831, Downton, Wiltshire

Death: 30 12 1901, Fisherton Anger, age: 70

Marr: 22 10 1850, Homington, Wiltshire

Children: Emma (1868-)

Emma (1854-)

William (1856-)

Henry (1858-)

Sidney (1860-)

Miriam (1863-)

James (1865-)

Emma (1869-)

(4) 1.3.3.1 Emma Wheeler

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Birth: 1868/1869, Britford, Wiltshire

(4) 1.3.3.2 Emma Wheeler

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Birth: 27 8 1854, Nunton, Wiltshire

(4) 1.3.3.3 William Wheeler

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Birth: 27 4 1856, Nunton/Bodenham

Spouse: Mary A

Birth: 1861

July 24, 1979

Hi!

*(initials)*

As Bessie has told you, I have been trying to gather information about her(our) family. My goal during the past year has been to find out as much as possible about Susan Johnson whitlock. Knowing that you, too, would be interested, I have decided to briefly present what I've found. Let me begin by telling you that the law requires that records pertaining to the mentally ill be closed to the public. I can't tell you the details and process I used, nor reveal the names of those who helped me. Let's just say that I'm stubborn and refused to take "no" for an answer.

*NT307  
NT443*

Tradition tells us that Susan was an artist and that a sunstroke while she was painting alone in the fields resulted in a mental disorder. The Wilson County, Tennessee court records are blunt and harsh in the wording used in that day. On Wednesday morning, July 6th, 1886, the following entry was made in the Court Minutes Book: "On motion, the Court ordered that Mrs. Whitlock, a lunatic, be sent to the Tennessee Hospital for the Insane as a county pay patient, and that the chairman issue his warrant for \$52.00, one quarter's charges."

Now, let's travel to Nashville and view the hospital records there. The old records on microfilm show that Mrs. Susan Whitlock of the city of Watertown, county of Wilson, was committed on September 15, 1886. She died December 19, 1932 and was buried on the hospital grounds. Although an old cemetery which hasn't been used in more than forty years still contains the ancient tombstones dating back to the 1800's, Susan Whitlock's grave was unmarked.

The story of Susan Whitlock's mental illness might have been marked "closed" at this point if I had not been fortunate enough to locate an elderly person who actually knew and talked to Susan Whitlock! We have the verbal tradition handed down to us, but Susan's version differs and I will relate it exactly as it was told to me.

Susan had five children and she had to work hard on the farm. Thomas G. Whitlock was an unfaithful husband and was "messin' 'round" with another woman. Susan was working in the vegetable garden and her husband was nearby. Susan became ill and suffered some kind of stroke, probably from the effects of the sun and the heat. Susan called to her husband to get help, but he wouldn't get anyone to help her. Instead, while she was ill he had her declared mentally insane and placed in the asylum so he could be free to do as he pleased with the other woman.

The hospital record shows the name of a granddaughter, Mrs. C. B. Hutsell. Mrs. Hutsell visited the Asylum in 1928. Susan lived to be an old, old woman but she knew the names of her children and their birthdates and was permitted to eat at the table with the doctors and nurses. Mrs. Hutsell offered to make a home for her grandmother in Dallas, but the doctors felt that the change of climate would be too much of a strain on her health. The records show that Susan had a chronic heart problem several years before her death.

Thomas G. Whitlock and John and Jim knew that Susan was alive. A few years before Susan's death, a snapshot was made of her and there is no doubt that the family knew her whereabouts. Susan's one request was that she not be buried on the hospital grounds. One relative arranged for a burial plot in Dallas, but a heated family discussion brought the decision for Susan to be buried at the Asylum and secrecy to be maintained.

At this point let me state that I am acting merely as a reporter. It is up to you to form your own opinions. It is possible that the story about Susan painting alone in the field when she suffered the attack was told by Thomas G. Whitlock, her husband, because he didn't want it known that he was nearby. Or,

Children: James Sultan, (1886-)  
Ethel (1889-)  
Henry (1858-)

(5) 1.3.3.3.1 James Sultan, Wheeler

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Birth: 1886, Alverstoke

(5) 1.3.3.3.2 Ethel Wheeler

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Birth: 1889, Portland, Dorset

(5) 1.3.3.3.3 Henry Wheeler

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Birth: 25 4 1858, Bodenham, Wiltshire

(4) 1.3.3.4 Henry Wheeler

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Birth: 25 4 1858, Bodenham, Wiltshire

Spouse: Charlotte

Birth: 1869, London

Children: Nellie (1885-)

(5) 1.3.3.4.1 Nellie Wheeler

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Birth: 1885, Chelsea

(4) 1.3.3.5 Sidney Wheeler

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Birth: 8 1 1860, Nunton, Wiltshire

Spouse: Mary

Birth: 1859, Hill Deverill

Children: George (1886-)  
Ethel Mary (1893-)  
Ellen (1893-)

(5) 1.3.3.5.1 George Wheeler

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Birth: 1886, Croydon, Surrey

(5) 1.3.3.5.2 Ethel Mary Wheeler

Susan in her illness could have misinterpreted the situation and events which led to her commitment. That is for you to decide.

Susan recovered from the stroke to find herself an inmate of the Asylum. Since mental delusions often accompany insanity, it is doubtful she could have convinced the staff she was sane in the beginning. And, we can imagine the frustration of finding yourself labeled a lunatic and shut away from your family and children. Her initial reaction, when Susan realized her situation, probably would have done little to prove her sanity. But, as years passed, Susan was nicknamed "Aunt Whit" and given privileges by the staff which indicates she was not treated in the manner customary for one who is mentally disturbed. And the person who actually met and talked to Susan described her as "bright as could be." So, once again it is for you to decide whether Susan was mentally ill and recovered, or whether she was sent to the Asylum as a result of a physical illness which provided a good excuse to get her out of the way. Whatever your conclusion, bear in mind that during that era once a wife was placed in the Asylum, even if she recovered she could not be released unless her husband gave permission and agreed to accept her back into his home. The records show that it was not uncommon for a husband to refuse for the wife to be released and she had to remain an inmate of the Asylum.

I've told you the story of Susan during the years of her illness. Now, let me tell you a little about her background. This information is not hearsay; it is based on documented fact.

Susan Johnson was the daughter of James B. and Alecy Ann Johnson, whose marriage license was issued August 13, 1834 in Wilson County, Tennessee. Susan was born in 1851. The year before her birth, the 1850 census record shows the children living in the household of James B. Johnson were: Eli and Levi (twins), Sarah, James Monroe, Fredonia Harriet, Robert, and Lena. During the following years, in addition to Susan Johnson, a son named John was born.

The records indicate that James B. Johnson was a well-to-do property owner in District 15 of Wilson County. Although the address is listed as Watertown, the tiny crossroads community where they lived is known to local residents as Statesville. I have climbed the hills to houses nestled in vegetation much like the countryside where the Whitlocks lived before coming to Texas, and talked to descendants of the Whitlock's neighbors. I visited the church the James B. Johnson family attended -- the Smith Fork Baptist Church which was established in 1806. Beside the church is a cemetery and although many tombstones have been destroyed or removed, I find the marker for Susan Johnson's mother: Alsy A. McCaffery, wife of J. B. Johnson, born in Virginia May 14, 1812 - died March 10, 1883, 70 yrs. 10 mos. 4 days. Beside her is the grave of one of her twin sons, Levi Johnson. You may have noticed the different spelling of the given name of Alesy/Alsy McCaffery Johnson. Bear in mind that education was sometimes scanty in that area and spelling was usually based on the way a name sounded.

And so now we know a little more about Susan Johnson Whitlock. In the future, the Lord willing, I will travel the road to Virginia. Thomas G.'s people, the WHITLOCKS and the BROGAN family came from Virginia and now I will know to also search for the JOHNSON and McCAFFERY families. It's hard work, but interesting to me and I hope not too boring to family members who receive these reports.

Must scoot - Peggy Ruth (Bessie's little girl)

Peggy Ruth



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Birth: 1893, Sanderstead, Surrey

(5) 1.3.3.5.3 Ellen Wheeler

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Birth: 1893, Sanderstead, Surrey

(4) 1.3.3.6 Miriam Wheeler

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Birth: 5 4 1863, Britford, Wiltshire

Spouse: Richard Marchant

Birth: 1868, Coleshill

Children: Helen (1893-)  
William (1896-)

(5) 1.3.3.6.1 Helen Marchant

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Birth: 1893, Coleshill

(5) 1.3.3.6.2 William Marchant

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Birth: 1896, Coleshill

(4) 1.3.3.7 James Wheeler

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Birth: 9 4 1865, Britford, Wiltshire

(4) 1.3.3.8 Emma Wheeler

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Birth: 10 1 1869, Britford, Wiltshire

Spouse: Henry C Tutt

Birth: 1868, Salisbury, Wiltshire

Children: Amy E. (1890-)  
Nellie M. (1891-)  
Frederick C. (1894-)  
Henry G (1897-)  
Frank R (1900-)

(5) 1.3.3.8.1 Amy E. Tutt

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Birth: 1890, Salisbury, Wiltshire

(5) 1.3.3.8.2 Nellie M. Tutt

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Birth: 1891, Salisbury, Wiltshire

(5) 1.3.3.8.3 Frederick C. Tutt

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Birth: 1894, Salisbury, Wiltshire

(5) 1.3.3.8.4 Henry G Tutt

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Birth: 1897, Salisbury, Wiltshire

(5) 1.3.3.8.5 Frank R Tutt

---

Birth: 1900, Salisbury, Wiltshire

(3) 1.3.4 Miriam Wheeler

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Birth: 14 3 1830, Bodenham, Wiltshire

(3) 1.3.5 James Wheeler

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Birth: 9 10 1831, Nunton, Wiltshire

Death: 27 9 1858, Nunton, Wiltshire, age: 26

Spouse: Ann(e) Maple

Birth: 1833/1834, Nunton, Wiltshire

Father: Thomas Maple (1793-)

Mother: Unknown

1861 census living with father Thomas Maple and her children in Nunton born Nunton.

1867 Widow when married to Alfred Vincent

1901 Census living in Nunton

Marr: 6 8 1853, Nunton, Wiltshire

Children: Harriet(t) (1853-1895)

Eliza (1855-)

George (1856-1940)

Jane (1857-)

(4) 1.3.5.1 Harriet(t) Maple (Wheeler)

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Birth: 14 4 1853, Nunton, Wiltshire

8 July 1980

Hello again!

In the summer of 1979, I wrote to several family members telling about my trip to Tennessee in search of information on my great-grandparents, Susan (Johnson) WHITLOCK and Thomas G. WHITLOCK. Because the family responded with interest and enthusiasm, I will tell you of my recent journey to the hills of Tennessee.

I closed my 1979 letter by stating that I planned to "travel the road to Virginia" on my next research trip. However, I decided more work was needed in Wilson County, Tennessee before I would be ready to backtrack to Virginia.

Wilson County, Tennessee records and the Texas death certificate of Thomas G. WHITLOCK revealed that his parents were Thomas K. WHITLOCK and Dicey Elizabeth BROGAN. The Tennessee records I found in the court house and the Tennessee State Archives combined with the information I found at the Smith Fork Baptist Church/Cemetery in Wilson County, led me to the parents of Susan (Johnson) WHITLOCK. Susan's father was James B. JOHNSON and her mother was his wife, Alecy McCAFFERY. The purpose of my 1980 research trip to Tennessee was to find the father of Alecy and pick up a few clues on the JOHNSON and BROGAN lines, keeping my eyes open for WHITLOCK information I might have missed in 1979.

Before beginning my 1980 "report" let me pause briefly to mention one interesting fact uncovered less than one month ago. Removing an old photograph of an elderly woman in a scrapbook we found a note and the writer of the note identified herself as "Susana" WHITLOCK, grandmother of Bessie WHITLOCK. Not only did the note establish a family relationship, but it also gave her birthdate as December, 1850. And, the handwritten note shows us that Susana WHITLOCK could read and write and was mentally alert. The spelling of her given name as "Susana" on the note may clear up a question I had been having as to whether she had two given names -- Susan, middle initial "A" -- or one name -- Susana. Anyway, the finding of the photograph encourages us to continue to search among old possessions on the homefront, rather than concentrating solely on traveling far afield. But now we'll turn our thoughts to my travels "far afield" to the beautiful state of Tennessee.

Armed with the information I found in the summer of 1979 on the tombstone of Alecy (McAffery) JOHNSON, mother of Susan (Johnson) WHITLOCK, I headed to the Wilson County court house at Lebanon which is near Watertown, Tennessee. From Alecy's tombstone I knew the date of her birth, so I began by roughly estimating the probable age span of her father. Thus, by checking the records for that time period, I was able to locate the will which named Alecy JOHNSON among the grown children of Robert McCAFFERY. From the will, we can determine not only that Robert McCAFFERY was Alecy's father, but also learn the names of other family members. Until you have spent hours searching through crumbling documents written in faded spiderweb scrawl, you cannot imagine the excitement you experience when important information is located! In the midst of the dignified county employees, I let out a loud yell that startled Bill. As a result he knocked over a stool and the employees came running. But, they understood my elation and were happy for me!

After spending two days at the Wilson County court house, I was ready to head for the Tennessee State Archives where all the old documents have been microfilmed and filed at Nashville. However, before I tell you about my work at the Archives, there is something I need to mention which you must keep in mind.

Death: 1895, age: 41

Spouse: George Stratton

Birth: 1856, Bishopstone, Wilts

Policeman St. James, Westminster, London on Marriage Cert 1877 age 20  
1881 census , Policeman in the village of South Mimms, Middlesex

Marr: 23 7 1877, Nunton, Wiltshire

Children: George (1880-)

(5) 1.3.5.1.1 George Stratton

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Birth: 1880, South Mimms Middlesex

(4) 1.3.5.2 Eliza Wheeler

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Birth: 5 9 1855, Nunton, Wiltshire

(4) 1.3.5.3 George Wheeler

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Birth: 2 5 1856, Salisbury, Wiltshire

Death: 10 2 1940, 10 Warren Rd, Guildford(St.Lukes), age: 83

Spouse: Fanny Slater, Source

Birth: 24 12 1868, Rock Worcestershire

Death: 10 9 1962, 264 Walton Rd, Woking, age: 93

Bapt: 28 2 1869, Rock, Worcester,

Father: Henry Slater, Father (1807-1872)

Mother: Emma Rees (Reece), Mother (1824-?1906)

Marr: 17 9 1890, St Michael-le-Belfrey, York

Children: George A. (1891-1941)

Clyde Alexander James (1895-)

Alice Violet May (1897-1963)

Norman Howard Slater (1899-1918)

Oswald Albert Victor (1902-1994)

Alfred Henry (Wilfred) (1903-)

Gladys Evelyn E. (1906-)

Harold D.V. (1911-)

(5) 1.3.5.3.1 George A. Wheeler, Son

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Birth: 11 9 1891, Staffordshire

When our ancestors came over the mountains from Virginia, many of them came on foot carrying an ax, a muzzleloader, and a few other necessities. Thus began an era of struggling to survive; education was a luxury. The men who kept the records had to rely on the way a man pronounced his name; his signature was usually an "X" mark. For this reason, by searching the records with our ears as well as our eyes, considering the way a name might sound, we find various spellings - McCAFFERY, McHAFFREY, McCAFFERY, etc. How do I know when I have located our ancestor? Well, I carefully compare family groups, time periods/dates, land descriptions, various records both private and public, documents, etc.

Although you may be fairly sure of family relationships, until you have a minimum of three items of proof for a "link" in the generations, you are not in a position to consider documenting the line. It is a long, difficult process, beginning with the gathering of clues. Glancing over data and pertinent material already assembled, we have a number of clues about the McCAFFERY/McCAFFERY family before they came to Tennessee. Alecy's tombstone tells us the date of her birth and that she was born in Virginia. The land and census records furnish additional information. But, I must postpone our journey in backtracking on the trail of the McCAFFERYs, the people of Susan (Johnson) WHITLOCK's mother, until I gather more information and proof.

Although much time is spent studying old records, some things can only be found by exerting a lot of energy and perspiration. Stopping in the tiny community of Statesville (near Watertown) in Wilson County, Tennessee, I asked the location of nearby cemeteries. Although the majority of the cemeteries in the area are listed in books and marked on maps, some are known only to the local people. A professor "cousin" I grew to love because of his kindness to me, taught me many things before his premature death. His influence guided me to the importance of talking to the people living in the area. Thus, following instructions I received at the Statesville grocery store, I scrambled over a fence and under a blazing sun climbed a steep, winding pathway up a rocky hillside. (This was the property of Lanon Moore on Knight Springs Road in Statesville.) There, among high weeds I found a tiny cemetery which is not marked on the area maps or any records I have seen. Some of the tombstones had been broken by cattle grazing in the area, but were still legible. Members of one of the McCAFFERY/McCAFFERY families were identified by markers, but none of our direct line. Verbal tradition in the area tells of WHITLOCKS resting in unmarked graves on the hillside, but until Resurrection Day they must remain asleep and unknown to us.

Because many of the old tombstones are gone and the graves are unmarked, we mainly depend on the census records for birthdate information, etc; a few other private and public records are sometimes available. However, those of you for whom I prepared a Family Sheet need to locate Alsy/Alecy McCAFFERY on your record and post the following information I obtained on her father -

|      |                            |                     |
|------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| #22  | Name:                      | Robert McCAFFERY    |
| (b.) | birthdate:                 | 1768 in VA          |
| (m.) | (leave blank at this time) |                     |
| (d.) | death date:                | 1856 Wilson Co., TN |

In addition to documenting the McCAFFERY line, I also had a little time to work on the JOHNSON, BROGAN, and WHITLOCK lines. I had lost the BROGAN trail and could not pinpoint "our" line when they left Wilson County, but an old will may be pointing me in the right direction now. The JOHNSON and WHITLOCK names were so common in the area that they are proving to be a great challenge, but I gathered material which may be helpful. But, I must spend many months following up the "clues" before I'll be ready to tell you more.

Death: 8 6 1941, Old Woking, Woking, age: 49

(5) 1.3.5.3.2 Clyde Alexander James Wheeler, Son

Birth: 5 2 1895, 10 Alfred Cottages, Brougham St, Aston Manor, Aston Warwickshire

(5) 1.3.5.3.3a Alice Violet May Wheeler\*, Daughter

Birth: 10 11 1897, Staffordshire

Death: 11 3 1963, Woking, Surrey, age: 65

Spouse: Phillip Baden Berriman

Other Spouses Victor Evans

(5) 1.3.5.3.3b Alice Violet May Wheeler\* (See above)

Spouse: Victor Evans

Sargent in South African forces

Children: Gladys Evelyn

Other Spouses Phillip Baden Berriman

(6) 1.3.5.3.3b.1 Gladys Evelyn Wheeler, Granddaughter

(5) 1.3.5.3.4 Norman Howard Slater Wheeler, Son

Birth: 7 6 1899, Staffordshire

Death: 21 9 1918, Epehy, France, age: 19

Burial: Epehy Wood Farm Cemetery, Somme, France

(5) 1.3.5.3.5 Oswald Albert Victor Wheeler, Son

Birth: 8 1 1902, 10 Jubilee Terrace, Walton Rd, Woking

Death: 30 3 1994, St Peter's Hospital, Chertsey, age: 92

Burial: 4 1994, Woking Crematorium, age: 92

Spouse: Ada Mary Florence White

Birth: 14 1 1904

Death: 21 12 1970, 90 Courtenay Rd, Woking, Surrey, age: 66

Burial: 24 12 1970, Woking Crematorium, age: 66  
Father: Robert Henry White (1877-1966)  
Mother: Ada Mary Hawkes (1877-1956)

Birth record 1904 Jan-Mar Chertsey 2a 56 Marriage record 1926 Apr- Jun Guildford 2a 240

Marr: 3 4 1926, Register Office Guildford

Children: June Constance (1927-1934)  
Doreen Ann (1929-1998)  
Oswald Howard Joseph (Bill) (1930-)  
Michael (Twin) (1945-)  
Derek (Twin) (1945-)

(6) 1.3.5.3.5.1 June Constance Wheeler, Granddaughter

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Birth: 7 1927, Woking  
Death: 3 1934, Guildford, Surrey, age: 6

(6) 1.3.5.3.5.2 Doreen Ann Wheeler, Granddaughter

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Birth: 27 4 1929, Woking  
Death: 1998, age: 68

Spouse: John George Briars  
Birth: 1926, York, Yorkshire  
Marr: 1956, Lagos, Nigeria

Children: Ann June Constance Mary (1957-)  
Penelope Ruth (1959-)

(7) 1.3.5.3.5.2.1 Ann June Constance Mary Briars

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Birth: 1 5 1957, Woking, Surrey

Spouse: John Richard Stapley  
Birth: 1953, Eastbourne, Sussex  
Marr: 1 8 1987, Bali

Children: James Robert Derek (1988-)  
Laura Elizabeth Marguerite (1991-)

(8) 1.3.5.3.5.2.1.1 James Robert Derek Stapley

It has been wonderful to travel the Tennessee Time Tunnel. The history books tell us that the area around Wilson County was once utilized by the Indians as a common hunting ground for deer, bear and buffalo; beaver were plentiful. The first settlers (among them our ancestors), came in the early 1800's and made their way along the narrow ridges and steep walled bluffs. I look upon myself as a TRACKER - following their trail.

My week in Tennessee flew by quickly and soon it was time to leave the mountain decorated with wildflowers. Surrounded by civilization after returning home to Texas, my thoughts kept returning to the peace of the mountaintop where deer feasted on wild blackberries within sight of the cabin. And, I was reluctant to return to the fast pace of our modern-day world. But, our people lived on the mountains and in the lush green valleys for more than 150 years. And, because the dust of my people is mingled with the Tennessee soil, I know that one day I will return!

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Since I have a portion of a page left, I'll share a poem with you which I clipped out of a magazine; the author is Dorothy Hilliard Poffatt. It's one of my favorites!

#### THE BRIDGE

The way I walk I see my mother walking,  
The feet secure and firm upon the ground.  
The way I talk I hear my daughter talking  
And hear my mother's echo in the sound.  
The way she thought I find myself now thinking,  
The generations linking  
In a firm continuum of mind.  
The bridge of immortality I'm walking,  
The voice before me echoing behind.

As always,

Peggy Ruth

Mrs. William Ernst  
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Irving, TX 75061