

MEMO from Ralph Whitlock to Peter Whitlock, December 30th, 1977

One of the great men in the reign of Charles II of England was Sir Stephen Fox, who was born, of a farming family, at Farley near Salisbury in 1627. He was controller of the King's household, Paymaster-general, an M.P., and held a number of high offices. Was a most respected figure in four reigns and founded the two noble houses - the Earldom of Ilchester and the Earldom of Holland.

He was the son of William Fox, who died in 1652, also of Farley.

And William Fox was the only son of Robert Fox, of Farley, who married (date unspecified) Agnes, daughter of Stephen Whitlock, of East Dean, near Salisbury.

Stephen Fox had a good singing voice and pleasant personality and was educated at the choristers' school of Salisbury Cathedral. At the age of 15 he went into the service of the Earl of Northumberland. Now, according to Arthur Wakeling, there is in the British Museum a letter in Sir Walter Raleigh's handwriting, absolving a Captain Whitlock from complicity in Guy Fawkes' Gunpowder Plot (to blow up the Houses of Parliament). Captain Whitlock is said to have been in the service of the Earl of Northumberland. He was released without trial. The Gunpowder Plot took place in 1605. It would seem fair to assume that there was a connection between the Whitlocks and service with the Earls of Northumberland and that young Stephen managed to get enrolled in 1642 because of it. One can conjecture that the Captain Whitlock was a relation of the Agnes Whitlock who was fox's grandmother.

In 1747 and 1748 an ^{misc} Ambrose Whitlock was churchwarden of Farley. I have his financial account for the year.

In 1703 a ^{Ww 109} W. Whitlock appears in the churchwarden's account for Farley, as a person to whom a payment was made.

In 1670^k, Ann, the daughter of William ^{Ww 107} Whitlock, was baptised at Farley on November 2nd.