

THE WHEELOCK FAMILY

IN

NOVA SCOTIA

Compiled by
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1987

I DEDICATE THIS BOOK
GRATEFULLY
TO THE MEMORY OF MY MOTHER
ENA ALMEDA CHARLTON WHEELLOCK
THE SOURCE OF ITS
INSPIRATION

This book is the result of a life-long interest, and its materials have been gathered from varied sources. It is the fruit of personal inquiry and the cooperation of many friends. It has been a pleasant diversion over the years from the more demanding tasks of life, and I am grateful for this privilege and for the shared interest of other family members, many of whom I have not met, and noit a few of whom have now passed away.

I wish to thank all of you who have procured and provided information or who have helped this project forward in any way. I will not attempt to give your names, and would be almost certain to make important omissions; but please accept my simcere thanks!

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Mr. Frederic Melvin Wheelock of Amherst, New Hampshire, who gave impetus affecting a large block of family members.

The following is submitted in the hope that other members of the family may also be stirred to add their contributions toward the rounding out and completion of this genealogy. There are no doubt errors aplenty, and reporting needed corrections will be much appreciated.

God bless our family; guard our homes; and make us an instrument of his truth in the world!

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I D E N T I T Y

We shall be giving brief consideration here to two marks of identity with respect to the Wheelock Family: (1) The Surname, by which family members are distinguished from others in the normal course of community life; and (2) The Coat of Arms, by which, in the "Age of Chivalry", knights in armour were distinguished in tournament or battle, and also by which documents were authenticated.

The Surname

The Christian name - the name given to a person on admission into the Christian Church - dates back to the early history of the Church. In England, individuals were long distinguished by Christian names only. In the process of time the use of surnames became universal, the sole exception in England now being members of the royal family, who sign by their baptismal names only¹.

Surnames have their origins variously in a wide range of things. Patronymics, in which the name of the family founder is featured, make up a large block of the total. His occupation in the mediaeval society of which he was a part, his office or function in the church or community, and even some prominent physical feature might prompt the name by which he was specifically distinguished, and so his surname. Creatures, real or mythical, which may have stood in some sort of totem relationship to the family origin or figured in its tradition, may be reflected in the family name. Many times it had to do with the locale of the family residence or landed holdings.

What was the inspiration of the Wheelock surname? It may be a matter of surprise, at this point, for the reader to be assured that the surname Wheelock has nothing to do with wheels, or locks, or other such hardware. Nor does the "wheel-lock", which figures in the evolution of fire-arms (an ignition device between the "matchlock" and the "flintlock"²) have any connection with the family name. "Wheelock" is a river name³, and derives ultimately from a charming little river that winds its way through the lush green fields and farmlands of the Cheshire plain. The vill and manor of Wheelock adopted the name from the river which flowed nearby, and the Norman lord who acquired the estate some time after the Conquest, in turn, adopted the name for himself and his descendents, abandoning the surname by which he had been known in Normandy, and thus identifying himself as completely English.

The story of the Wheelock name takes us back to the beginnings of the British race and the name itself is of Celtic origin. "The beginning of the 3rd century B.C. was the period of the greatest Celtic movement, but the expansion had no doubt begun long before that period...The Celts moved westward and two divisions of them reached the British Isles, namely the Brythons and the Goidels. The Brythons crossed the channel and established themselves in England and Wales but the Goidels, probably in the 4th century B.C., passed directly from the mouth of the Loire to Ireland where they quickly became the ruling caste."⁴

As these Celtic immigrants spread themselves over the near-empty expanses of this largely uninhabited land, only objects relative to the contour of the country in its primitive state attracted attention. Rivers, mountains, lakes and features significant for survival: to these they gave names as they pressed forward. Among the ancient streams that thread their way across the level plain was one which because of its nature they named the river "having turns". It is an unpretentious stream that pursues its tranquil and unhurried course to empty its waters into the Dane, which in turn joins the Weaver at Middlewich that they may find their way through the Mersey at last to the open sea. One wonders just why the little stream should have attracted special attention. Might it not have been that there was something else that awakened interest as being essential to wellbeing and survival. There was salt; for which the region today is noted. It was mined by the Romans, and it is not too much to suppose that these vast deposits were noticed and employed from the very first. The Roman soldier received salt as part of his pay, and that simple fact is remembered today in our English word "salary".

Today the Welsh language is as near as we can get to the speech of those ancient Brythons. We know the little stream today as the River Wheelock. The name is said to be cognate with Chwilogen River⁵, and derived from the Welsh chwel or chwyl meaning "turn" (from a root svel - 'to turn')⁶. Evans gives a Welsh adjective chwelog, 'having turns'⁷.

England afterwards experienced three foreign invasions and conquests by people of another speech and language - Roman, Anglo-Saxon and Norman - but through all these disruptive changes the original name held even though its original meaning may well have been forgotten. Of course there were changes. It was a time of near universal illiteracy,

and among those who could write spelling was influenced in large measure by the way the spoken word sounded. Then as now pronunciation itself reflected dialectal differences and racial background. There appears also to be a lack of concern as to consistency in the spelling of surnames; differing spellings occurring sometimes in the same document (or was this the work of a careless scribe?) There are other cases in which a different spelling of the name has quite obviously been done deliberately.

As a result there are more than twenty different spellings of the name "Wheelock" that have come to my attention in various books and old documents. The Domesday Survey of 1086 spells it Hoiloch⁸; the Dictionary of National Biography⁹ gives five variant spellings - Whelock, Wheloc, Wheelock, Wheelocke and Whelocke; Earwaker¹⁰ gives five spellings - Wheelock, Queloc, Qwelok, Whelock and Whelok. Then there is Qweloc (1439), Quelocke (1322), Wheeloke (1589), Whilock (1558), Whilocke (1660), Whillock (1610), Whillocke (1637), Willock (1691), Whylock (1620), Wyllocke (1569) and Whyloke. There may be more. It is said that the present spelling Wheelock dates from about 1390¹¹.

"WHEELLOCK, river name, Cheshire. (Qwelok, 1321, - Catalogue of Ancient Deeds, London, 1890-1906; Whelok, 1440, - Index to the Charters and Rolls in the British Museum, London, 1900, 1912). On the river is Wheelock village (Hoiloch, - Domesday Book, London, 1783-1816. This reference also includes the Exon Domesday. The date of both is 1086. Whelok, 1260. County Court, City Court and Eyre Rolls of Chester, Chetham Soc. NS, 84. Welok, 13. Index of the Charters and Rolls in the British Museum, London, 1900, 1912). Wheelock is a British river-name, cognate with Chwilogen River, 1198, Dugdale, W., Monasticon Anglicanum, London, 1846, v, (in Wales) and derived from Welsh chwel or chwyl 'turn' (from a root svel - 'to turn'). Evans gives a Welsh adjective chwelog, 'having turns'. The Wheelock is a very winding river."

From: The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names by Eilert Ekwall. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1936. Under the heading of Wheelock.

The Coat of Arms

The Coat of Arms today is an interesting vestige of "The Age of Chivalry" and serves little more than a decorative purpose. It is, however, a distinctive and cherished bit of family heritage and deserves our consideration as such. Says Anthony Wagner, Richmond Herald¹²: "Heraldry springs from the devices, boldly painted in bright colours, which knights in the first half of the twelfth century began to bear on their shields to identify themselves in tournament and battle. Passing from father to son these ensigns came to be thought of more as family than purely personal possessions, and so became matters of family pride and social importance".

Heraldry emerged in the century after the Norman Conquest. "Nothing is more certain than that neither armorial banners nor shields of arms were borne on either side at Hastings."¹³ Duke William had to bare his head after the battle before he could persuade his men that he was still alive. The emergence of heraldry was both sudden and widespread. In the 20 years between 1135 and 1155 seals show the original use of heraldic insignia in England, France, Germany, Spain and Italy.¹⁴ The great seal of 1189 of Richard I is the first occurrence of an English sovereign with arms on his shield.¹⁵

The Coat of Arms in its common form consists of the combination of the shield, helmet and crest.¹⁶ So the Wheelock arms appear bare and deprived as we see them usually depicted without either helmet or crest.¹⁷ The inclusion of the helmet is legitimate for everyone. Since "in the days when knights were bold, and armigerous, everyone wore a helmet of some sort in battle, so everyone now is entitled to a helmet in his grant of arms."¹⁸ In the older days of Heraldry the position of the helmet in the coat of arms varied as much as the shape of helmets, but "since the 17th century there have been rules laid down and generally observed for the delineation of helmets."¹⁹ "The helmet of an esquire or gentleman shall be of steel and in profile, with the visor closed."²⁰

The absence of a crest is a different matter - the Wheelocks have none! This is due to the fact that the Wheelock arms originated before crests came into use. The Wheelock arms date from 1285, and "modelled crests were not usual till the fourteenth century."²¹ However, the evolution of the crest had reached an intermediary phase "taken in the thirteenth century (which) was to paint not the helmet but a fan-shaped

metal crest fixed to the top of it"²². "This combination, of shield, helmet and crest, soon became and has remained common form, and...the three together are called by a name that belongs to none of them, a Coat of Arms"²³.

The fact that the Wheelock Coat of Arms is lacking a crest attests to the antiquity of the arms and family. "There are few families today who possess arms without a crest. Some like the Churchills of Muston have no crest and for that reason we can be sure both of the antiquity of the family and its arms; but no grant today would be made of arms without a crest"²⁴. So wrote the heraldic authority, Mr. L. G. Pine, B.A., F.SA.Scot., M.J.I., Editor of Burke's Peerage, Burke's Landed Gentry, etc. The same would be true, one presumes, of the Wheelocks of Wheelock.

The regulating of the use of armorial bearings in England is the work of the heralds. They received their first charter of incorporation from Richard III in 1484 and in five centuries have recorded or granted arms to some 40,000 families. "Down to 1300 perhaps something like fifteen hundred distinct coats of arms had been adopted in England"²⁵.

In 1530 King Henry VIII instituted "Visitations" by the Heralds and these continued at fairly even intervals of about twenty years until 1686. These Visitations were tours of inspection by counties to register arms and pedigrees of the nobility and gentry of those parts, and to reprove and control those who laid claim to arms which they had no right to use according to the rules²⁶. In later Visitations the Heralds recorded or granted crests to those who held older arms granted before crests were included. In this they evidently did a thorough job.

However it may have been, the Wheelock arms was one of the few not dealt with. This could perhaps be explained by the fact that at the time of the first Visitation (1530) the manor and estates of Wheelock were not in Wheelock hands, nor had they been for 90 years. The last of the Wheelocks of Wheelock had passed away in 1439, and the inheritance then passed to the female line of the family, Leversage by name. The Leversage arms is "Argent, a chevron between three plough-shares erect, Sable". And they have a crest: "A leopard's face jessant a fleur-de-lis, Or".

Anthony Wagner, Richmond Herald, has this to say with regard to these ancient arms: "The simplicity of the older coats goes with great charm of design. Draughtsmen in the thirteenth century had often at once a freshness and a majesty of sight and touch now seldom seen. In the little art of heraldry they needed no guidance of rigid rule, but saw without telling, what was best in general"²⁷.

The design of the Wheelock shield is very plain and simple: "Argent a chevron between three Catherine wheels, Sable". The first named colour is always that of the "field", or the colour of the shield on which the design is to be painted, In this case it is Argent (Old French terminology is used) or Silver (White). The design is a chevron between three Catherine wheels in glossy black standing out splendidly against the silvery whiteness of the field - beautiful in its dignified simplicity!

Concerning the chevron, Oswald Barron has this to say: "The Chevron, a word found in mediaeval building accounts for the bargeboards of a gable, is an Ordinary whose form is explained by its name. Perhaps the very earliest of English armorial charges, and familiarized by the shield of the great house of Clare, it became exceedingly popular in England. Its width varies in different examples. Likewise its angle varies, being sometimes so acute as to touch the top of the shield, while in post-mediaeval armory the point is often blunted beyond the right angle"²⁸.

With the Chevron are three Catherine wheels. The Catherine whose name is here referred to was the good Catherine of Alexandria, of whom history has little to tell us. According to the legend recorded in the Roman martyrology, and in Simeon Metaphrastes, Catherine upbraided the Emperor Maximinus for his cruelties, and adjured him to give up the worship of false gods. The angry tyrant, unable to refute her arguments, sent for pagan scholars to argue with her, but they were discomfited. Catherine was then scourged and imprisoned. When the empress went to reason with her, Catherine converted her as well as the Roman general and his soldiers, who had accompanied her. Maximinus now ordered her to be broken on the wheel; but the wheel was shattered by her touch. The axe proved fatal, and the martyr's body was borne by angels to Mount Sinai, where Justinian I built the famous monastery in her honour. The wheel being her symbol, she was the patron saint of wheelwrights and

mechanics, as well as the tutelary saint of nuns and maidens. Her day of commemoration is November 25th.²⁹

This interesting bit of legendary background however has little significance to us other than that it gave the name to a certain wheel that became very popular in heraldry - the Catherine wheel. In fact, the Catherine wheel "is the most usual heraldic form"³⁰ of the wheel. With the surname of Wheelock, there would naturally be a wheel or wheels on the coat of arms. And so the three Catherine wheels!

How did this come about? Oswald Barron states: "There can be little doubt that ancient armorial bearings were chosen at will by the man who bore them, many reasons guiding his choice."³¹ In 1285 that would have been Thomas de Whelok, who in that year completed the consolidation of his estate.³² It remained the badge of the Wheelocks of Wheelock for more than 150 years until in 1438 the male line of the family terminated in the death of Richard de Quelock, The Wheelocks of Wheelock had been there for perhaps three hundred years.

THE WHEELOCKS OF WHEELOCK

The Norman Conquest of England, which began with the victory at Hastings in 1066, terminated with the surrender of Chester in 1070³³. William undertook this last expedition in person and was only able to secure the continued loyalty of his weary Anjouan and Breton soldiers with promise of great reward. From York they crossed the mountains "by roads until then impracticable for horses" and encountered determined resistance in Cheshire. At Salisbury, on his return south, William distributed abundant rewards to his followers, and repaired to Winchester, to his royal citadel, the strongest in all England³⁵.

Cheshire was constituted a county palatine (in which the vassal lord had all the rights of royalty), with an independent parliament consisting of the barons and clergy, and the courts and all lands except those of the bishop were held of the earl. "No Englishman in Cheshire retained estates of importance after the Conquest"³⁶. The lands in the Township of Wheelock passed into the hands of the Mainwaring Family.

The Township of Wheelock is described in the Domesday Survey, 1086, as follows:³⁷

The same Randle holds Hoiloch.
Earl Morcar held it. There are III hides rateable to the gelt (tax). The land is IIII carucates. One is demesne and (there are) IIII serfs and II radmans with I caucate. There is a wood III leagues long and I broad. In King Edward (the Confessor's) time and afterwards it was waste. It is now worth XX shillings.

(Note: Meanings of terms - Hide: basic sense, 'enough land to support a family'; an old English measure of land, varying from 80 to 120 acres. Rateable - taxable. Gelt - a tax paid to the crown by English landholders in the times of Anglo-Saxon and Norman kings. Carucate - a Norman measure of land which could be tilled with a caruca (plow) and a plow team of four oxen or horses yoked abreast; about 80 acres reckoned for taxation purposes by the old English law. Demesne - In feudal law lands held in ones own power as distinguished from lands held by a

superior, including a manor house and adjoining lands in the immediate use and occupancy of the owner. Serfs - Persons in feudal servitude, bound to the master's land and transferred with it to a new owner. Radman - One belonging to that class of feudal tenants obliged to do cavalry service to their lord. League - A measure of distance; in English-speaking countries usually about 3 statute miles or 3 nautical miles.)³⁸

According to Williamson's Villare Cestriense, "Roger Mainwaring, about Henry the Second's time (1154 to 1189) released to Hugh de Whelock all his claim to the vill of Whelock, which he (the said Hugh) held of Richard de Moston knight and (also released him) from suit of mill and court of Warmincham". "And not long after this," Mr. Williamson adds, "Adam de Whelock gave to his brother Hugh all his right in this place and in 1285 Thomas de Whelock bought the lands of Randle, son of Nicholas de Blackwood, his brother, in Blackwood, which Hugh, his father, had given the said Nicholas. And 15 Edward II (1321) Thomas de Whelok, and Julian his wife, obtained from Ralph de Hassale, chaplain, the manor of Whelok for life, (with) remainder to Thomas his son and Alice his wife and their heirs for ever"³⁹.

So it all came together: Hugh's acquisition from the Mainwarings, Adam's gift to his brother, and in 1285 the purchase of Blackwood. Together they constituted a very fine estate. That year (1285) was also the year in which the Wheelock Coat of Arms was granted. Then in 1321 the manor house of Whelok became available to Thomas de Whelok and wife Julian (son of Thomas who purchased Blackwood); they could now live in the dignity that befitted their estate. It had been a long time coming; the de Whelocks had been there for perhaps near 200 years. Thomas de Whelok died the following year, and his son, another Thomas de Whelok, and wife Alice took over. And so it continued on, the proud possession of the Wheelocks of Wheelock, for another 117 years.

Thomas de Whelok and wife Alice had a son Thomas and grandson Thomas who in turn succeeded them as lords of the manor and estates of Whelok, making in all a succession of five of the same name. The name appears in old records and documents several times. In 1309 Thomas de Whelock with others occurs in the Cheshire Recognizance Rolls as a lessee of the town of Middlewich, and the next year he and John de Coton, Richard de Morton, and Adam de Bostok, who were purveyors (supplier of provisions) of the King (Edward II) for the Hundred of

Northwich, entered into a recognizance (bond) of 100 shillings to bring to Chester, before a certain day, all the corn and "bacon" charged upon the said Hundred, or to pay 4 shillings for every "bacon". The "manor of Qwelok" is mentioned in 1337, and in 1366 there is a reference to Thomas de Whelock, senior. In 1387 Thomas de Whelok, of Whelok, had an exemption from serving on juries, probably on account of services abroad, for in that year protection of his lands was assured to him on his going to Ireland in the train of Robert de Vere, Duke of Ireland.⁴⁰

John de Whelok, who died in 1406 was the son and successor in the manor to the last of the five Thomases referred to, and on the 13th April 1415, a writ was issued to inquire of what lands were in his possession at the time of his death, but the return of this is not now extant. We know that he was of a charitable and compassionate disposition because carved in the oak panelling on the south side of the chancel of St. Mary's Church, Sandbach, is the memorial of his generous provision for the education of poor boys of the parish - "John Wheelock to the Parson and Wardens £6 per annum from land in Hassall, for teaching poor boys".⁴¹

John de Wheelock was living in 1405. According to Mr. Williamson, in 1406, when John de Wheelock must have been already dead, "William de Venables of Kinderton brought two writs against Adam, son of Adam de Bostock, and others for taking away the body of Richard, son of John, son of Thomas de Wheelock and the custody of 16 messuages (in law, a dwelling house with its outbuildings and adjacent land) &c which John held of him by knight's service, viz homage and 10 shillings a year and the jury found for William Venables." It sounds as though the gang had kidnapped the now fatherless lad and engaged in high-handed theft!⁴²

Richard de Wheelock seems to have married in 1422 above his social status without proper authorisation! On the 10th June 1422 he entered into a recognizance, together with William de Venables, of Kinderton, and others, in the sum of 10 marks, as a fine for having married Eleanor, daughter of Sir Hugh de Hulse, Knt., and widow of Sir Richard de Vernon, Knt., without the King's license. In 1430 he was appointed a collector of a subsidy in Northwich Hundred, and on 11th June 1432 a warrant was issued to John Savage, constable of the Castle of Halton, to receive him and George de Wevere into custody (for whatever reason)!

Richard de Wheelock died on the 27th December 1438, and was buried in Sandbach. His tombstone, in "the middle of the quire" of St. Mary's Church was existing in 1596, when it had on it, in brass, a coat of arms, Wheelock impaling Vernon, and a long Latin inscription, of which the following is a translation:

Here lie (the bodies of) Richard Qweloc Esquire, who died the 27 December in the year of our lord, 1439 (sic for 1438) and the lady Eleanor Vernon his wife who died in the year of our lord 1400 (sic for 1474) and Thomas Qweloc son of the said Richard and Eleanor, who died the last day of the month ofin the year of our lord 1439, on whose souls may God be merciful.

Live grateful to God, buried to the whole world,
unspotted by crime, always ready to depart.
Living flesh cannot be better subdued, than by
ever reflecting what it will be when dead.
After man the worm, after the worm, corruption
and horror, so every man changes into not-man.

With the early death of young Thomas Qweloc, the line of the Wheelocks of Wheelock came to an end. The inheritance passed to the female line, the heiresses being Richard's aunt Alice, who at the age of 50 was living unmarried, and his cousin Agnes, who at age 40 was the widow of Richard Leversage of Macclesfield. The estates thus passed to the Leversages, who continued as lords of the estates and manor of Wheelock (Wheelock Hall) for over 200 years. On 1st Sept. 1647 William Leversage sold the estates and manor to Thomas Moulson of London, who died the following year and they passed by terms of his will to his nephew Thomas Stephens of Lypiatt, co. Gloucester. This last William Leversage was an ardent Royalist in the Civil War with the result that his estate was sequestered and he was fined £260.

Since when Hugh de Whelock bought the lands of Roger Mainwaring "in Henry the Second's time" until the sale to Moulson in 1647 his descendents had been in Wheelock, a period of perhaps 500 years. "Hugh Wheelock of Wheelock" was one of the original donors to the Charity Trust, his name carved in the oak panelling on the north wall of the chancel of St. Mary's Church, Sandbach, to that effect, states his contribution as being £33, one of the three largest. The Chapel on the north side of St. Mary's Church has always been associated with Wheelock, the arms carved in the oak panelled ceiling being Leversage quartering Wheelock, and known as the "Wheelock Chapel".

Mr. John Meredith gives us the following account of the Wheelock Manor House in the Parish News of Christ Church, Wheelock, in December 1965:

"The home of the ancient Wheelock family was on the site of Wheelock Hall Farm now the residence of Mr. John Witter. For many years it has been occupied by members of the Lowe and Witter families, well-known and respected Cheshire farmers. Until the year 1921 it was part of the Wheelock estate owned by the Ackers or Shackerleys of Moreton and Somerford.

"In my early years it was in a rather unsatisfactory condition but it had been a good example of a half-timbered Elizabethan manor-house. Traces could be seen of old designs on the out-buildings and a few old stones forming an arch-way can still be observed in the stabling. Some authorities state that there was a small chapel here probably connected with the monks of Coppenhall. It may have been a monk's cell and, in that case would be most probably, the first Christian place of worship in the village.

"The Wheelocks procured the estate from the Mainwaring family who came over here with Duke William in 1066. The Mainwarings got on the right side of the Conqueror who rewarded them with some of the best estates in this country.

"A distinguished member of the Wheelock family was buried in the middle of the Choir at Sandbach and his tombstone was there until about 1600. He was for a time the patron of the Sandbach living and the Chapel at the north-east corner of the Church is still known as the Wheelock Chapel and is now completely furnished and consecrated as a memorial to the late Archdeacon Armistead. This Richard de Wheelock was the last of the Wheelocks to hold the estate.

"In the year 1439 the Manor of Wheelock passed to Thomas de Worth who married the heiress and their daughter married Richard Leversage who thus came to the manor house. (Note: There would seem to be an error here. The Inquisition post mortem taken 13th Jan. 1439 states that Richard de Whelok "died on Sunday in the feast of the Holy Innocents (28th Dec.) last past (1438), and that Alice de Whelok, and Agnes, formerly wife of Richard Lyversegge, are the next of kin and next heirs, namely the said Alice, sister of John, father of the said Richard, and Agnes, daughter of Elizabeth, sister of the said John, and that Alice is

50 years of age and Agnes 40." If Agnes Leversage is declared heir, her parents must have both (Thomas de Worth and Elizabeth de Wheelock his wife) been dead and Agnes was "formerly wife of Richard Lyversegge", who also presumably was dead at the time. (Agnes' son Reginald Leversage was "the first of Wheelock".)

"William Leversage (Reginald's great-great-great-grandson) was a noted Royalist in the Civil War, and took an active part in the fighting round Kinderton and Holmes Chapel. For this, his estate was seized and he was fined £260.

"The Wheelocks and Leversages were among the founders of the Sandbach Charities. Their names are inscribed on the North Wall of the Sandbach Chancel and the crest of Leversage quartering Wheelock can still be seen on the roof of the North Aisle." (A few editorial changes have been made.)

Earwaker in his History of Sandbach⁴² provides the following footnote: "Families of the name of Wheelock, probably descended from younger sons of the Wheelocks of Wheelock, continued to reside in this neighbourhood, and are met with in the parish Registers and in local deeds, wills, etc. Hugh Wheelock and Richard Wheelock were living in 1604, and the will of Hugh Wheelock, of Wheelock, proved 1638, the inventory of Richard Wheelock, of Barthomley, taken 1628, and the will of William Wheelock, of Winterley, proved 1631, are still preserved in Chester. Several later Wheelock wills are also to be found at Chester."

The still unsolved problem is to discover from the scanty vestiges of local history still surviving just where the ancestry of Rev. Ralph Wheelock, who came to Massachusetts in 1637, comes on stream with the Wheelocks of Wheelock. One strongly suspects that such a connection exists. The hope of finding it is dim; but it is still alive and a possibility.

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