LETTER TO THE EDITOR: THE TWO WIVES OF ROBERT WHITNEY

by David L. Kent [1]

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In his article, "The Two Wives of Robert Whitney, Esq., Lord of Whitney", Adrian Benjamin Burke (2008) properly refrains from identifying the maternity of Whitney's children, clouding the possible link to an illustrious ancestry through Constance Touchet. May I point out that in the case of one of these children, there is rather strong evidence enabling descendants to trace their way so far back as the ninth century Arpadian dynasty of Hungary? This record is neither speculation nor antiquarian reconstruction, though it is neither contemporary nor primary. Whitney's daughter Ellen married John Puleston, son of John Puleston. Ellen's grandson Rowland Pulstone reported on 16 Nov 1588 to Lewys Dwnn that Ellen was the daughter of Robert Whitney and his wife Constance. The visitations of Dwnn, holder of a heraldic commission, display a high standard (Meyrick, 1846). Pulstone reported "Elin" as "v[*ferch* = daughter of]: Robt Whitna ab *[sic]* Cwstans ab Sr Robt Whitna ab Sr Robt W. Knts"--not in the customary form, but clear in meaning. The names of Pulstone's great-grandparents would have been known to him.

References

Burke, Adrian Benjamin (2008). The Two Wives of Robert Whitney, Esq., Lord of Whitney: A note on the proof of royal descent of John Bevan. *Foundations*, 2(5):350-357.

Meyrick, Samuel Rush (1846, editor). *Heraldic visitations of Wales and part of the Marches ; between the years 1586 and 1613, under the authority of Clarencieux and Norroy, two Kings at Arms,* by Lewys Dwnn. Llandovery: Society for the Publication of Ancient Welsh Manuscripts, vol.2, p.151.

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