FURTHER COMMENT ON WHITNEY

by Adrian Benjamin Burke [1]

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In his letter: *The Two Wives of Robert Whitney*, in the previous issue of *Foundations*[2], David Kent cited the Welsh pedigree string from the visitations of Dwnn (Meyrick, 1846) of Ellen (Whitney) Pul(e)stone, *ie* "*Elin*" "*v[erch] Robt Whitna ab Cwstans ab Sr Robt Whitna ab Sr Robt W. Knts*." Kent argued that '*ab Cwstans'* meant, effectively, 'and Constance', implying Ellen was the daughter of Robert Whitney, Esq., Lord of Whitney by his first wife, Constance Touchett, a daughter of Sir James Touchett, Lord Audley. I showed in my original article that there were several pedigrees in circulation by that time, some of which showed all of Robert's children by his first wife, others that showed only a daughter Joan/Jane by her and still others that showed all of his children by his second wife Elizabeth Vaughan. We have no way of knowing what document or oral tradition served as the source for this pedigree. I should point out that this pedigree string pertains to Ellen's paternal ancestry, stating she was the daughter of Robert, son of "*Cwstans*", son of Sir Robert, son of Sir Robert Whitney, Knight. Ellen's father was in fact the son of Sir Eustace Whitney, and as Michael A Faraday, who is familiar with the names and the history of Marcher families pointed out to me, 'Cwstans', 'Custans' or 'Custance' (as the name 'Constance' was usually spelled then) is almost identical to 'Ewstans', 'Eustans' or 'Eustance' (as the name 'Eustace' often appears in records from that time). I believe that a transcription error probably occurred mistaking the original handwritten manuscript's 'E' in "Eustance" for 'C' as appeared in Meyrick (1846). In Welsh the 'w' is equivalent to 'u' in English. In this case, Dwnn gives the correct male ancestry of Ellen (Whitney) Pul(e)stone as: Ellen daughter of Robert, son of Eustace, son of Sir Robert, son of Sir Robert Whitney, Knight. Furthermore, Lloyd (1882) citing Cae Cyriog MS.; Lewys Dwnn, vol. ii, p. 359 for this pedigree string ignores the 'ab Cwstans' altogether; "*Elen, daughter of Robert Whitney ab Sir Robert Whitney, Knight, ab Sir Robert Whitney, Knight*." I conclude that Dwnn's pedigree for Ellen (Whitney) Pul(e)stone provides her paternal line for four generations but does not touch upon her maternity.

References

Lloyd, Jacob Youde William (1882) *The History of the Princes, the Lords Marcher, and the Ancient Nobility of Powys Fadog, and the Ancient Lords of Arwystli, Cedewen, and Meirionydd*. Published by T Richards, pp.27-28.

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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[2] *Foundations* (2008) 2 (6): 454.