

UPDATING THE WHITTALLS OF TURKEY GENEALOGY IN 1996 AND ORGANIZING THE REUNION OF 1999

Updating the Genealogy

It was at the farewell party for David and Annie Whittall in July 1993 following the marriage of Catherine (Whittall) and Jeremy Scholfield, that Maya (Whittall) Donelan flattered me about my computer skills – they are non-existent without the unstinting support of my husband, Paul. The wine flowed and the result was that I agreed to update the *Descendants of the Whittalls of Turkey genealogy* which had been drawn up by Yolande Whittall and written out by Ben Perkins in 1966-67.

Paul and I researched appropriate computer programmes at the time and came across *PEDIGREE*. We produced a sheet which listed all the information this programme could handle and printed our name and address at the bottom. We then asked Yolande for the names and addresses of family members that she had and we approached my father, the late Roland James La Fontaine Whittall, for his address book. Some 30 letters went off enclosing the sheet of *PEDIGREE*'s capabilities. We asked all the addressees to photocopy the sheet and pass it on to other family members. We also said that we would accept updates for a period of 3 years.

The descendants of the Whittalls of Turkey responded with gusto. To start with, I had taken the information from Yolande and Ben's version of the genealogy of 1966-67 and put the data into *PEDIGREE*. At that stage, we had 1400 names on the database. By the time we had finished, three years later, we had 2600. Following his retirement from full time employment in IBM in 1987, Paul had worked as a part-time contractor for them. However, in about May 1996 he ceased paid employment to edit the database that I had been busily updating. Our dining room was commandeered by him for a period of 6 months. *PEDIGREE* assigned numbers to each record that was entered, so I wondered at times whether Paul had lost his marbles, as I would hear him muttering "James 45, where are you?" or "James 45 should be married to Magdalen 67: where are you Magdalen?"

The completed draft, with 25 pages of index was printed by a small local firm who found it hard to believe that such a family could exist. Neither could our postman, who handled the increase in mail coming to our home! By this time, members of the family had ordered the finished version and towards the end of November, we took a vast quantity of books to the Post Office, who promptly dispatched us to the rear of the building as the counters would otherwise have been busy with us for the whole day!

At the end of this exercise, I had accumulated some 350 family addresses.

Organising the Family Reunion of 1999

A chat with Sue (La Fontaine) Ruffle shortly after the publication of the genealogy led to thoughts about a reunion. Yolande and Maya were sounded out and both supported the idea enthusiastically. So, around the beginning of 1997, Yolande, Maya, the late Monica Bazell, Michael Whittall, Paul and I got together for what was to be two and half years of hard, but very interesting and enjoyable, work.

Once again, I sent off letters to all those whose addresses I had, asking if they would be interested in attending. Paul set up a spreadsheet as is his wont. As the replies came in, we realised this was going to be a huge affair. Initially 150 said they would come, but in the end we had 352 attendees. Imperial College was the chosen venue and their main dining room with a small ante-room was booked for the event on Saturday, 5 June 1999. The quality of the meal improved as the funds came in and Paul tracked the finances on the computer. Meetings were held, mostly on Saturdays, at Maya's and a few at Yolande's homes.

These meetings were great fun. Apart from the serious discussions, the social side was great. Maya or Yolande would produce lunch, others would bring the dessert and the "lubrication".

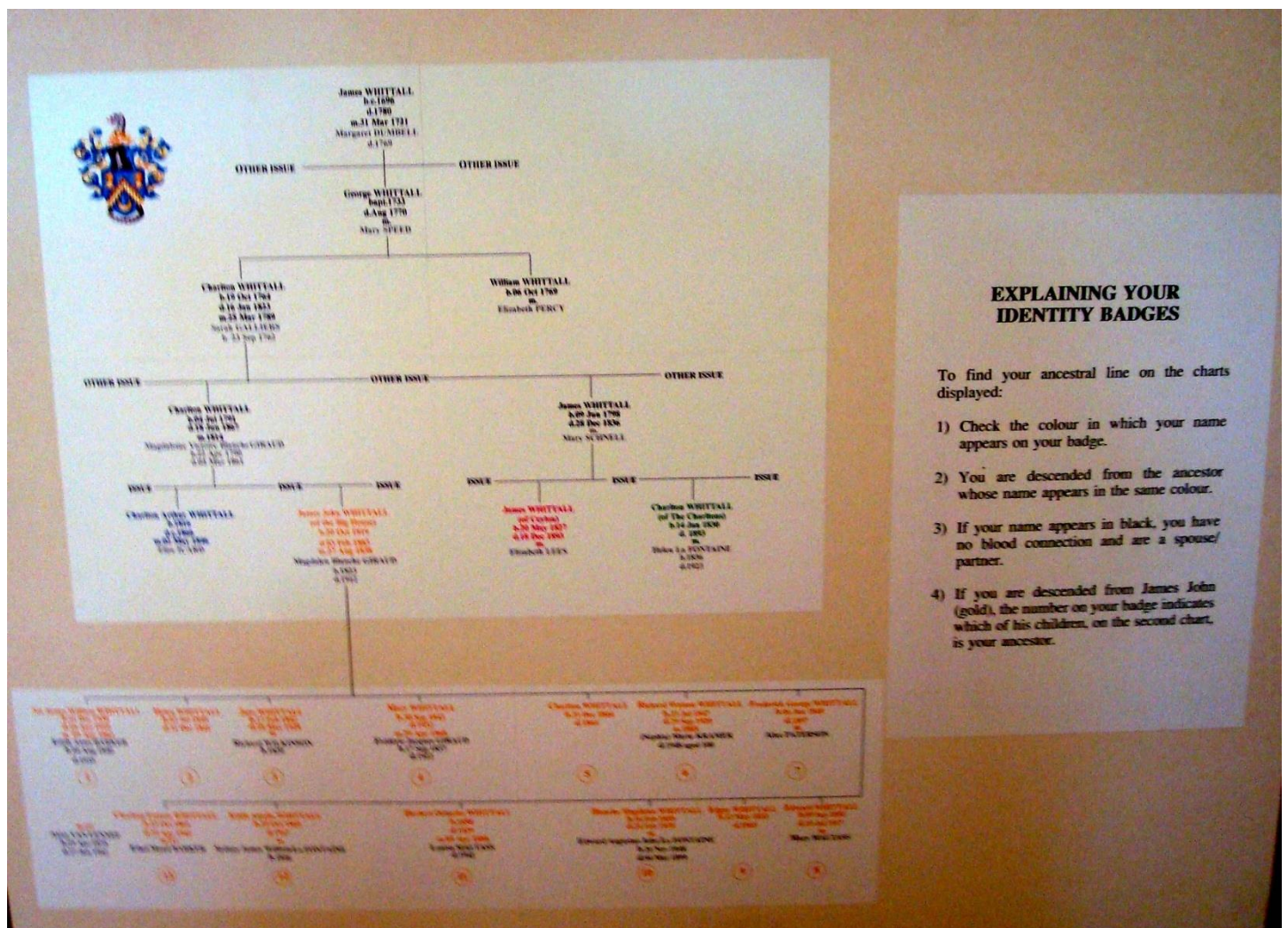
A couple of days before the event, when discussing the final arrangements with Imperial College, I think it was the Catering Manager who expressed such horror at the idea that 350 odd people would be wandering around the dining room while he and his staff were trying to set tables, that he requested we be allocated another room for the initial gathering and tea afterwards! So, we were lucky enough to be given the room directly above the dining room which was much the same size and allowed us to move around with ease! And this was at no additional cost.

The event on June 5th started at 11.30 am when Maya, Monica and I greeted the arriving family and handed them their colour coded identity badges, as below

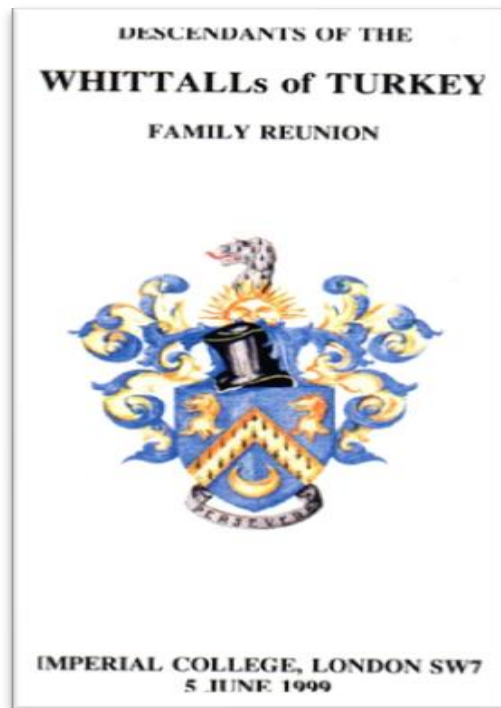


Chris Lawson stood at the entrance of the hall and guided people to the appropriate badge distributor, so that there was not too much of a melée at the entrance.

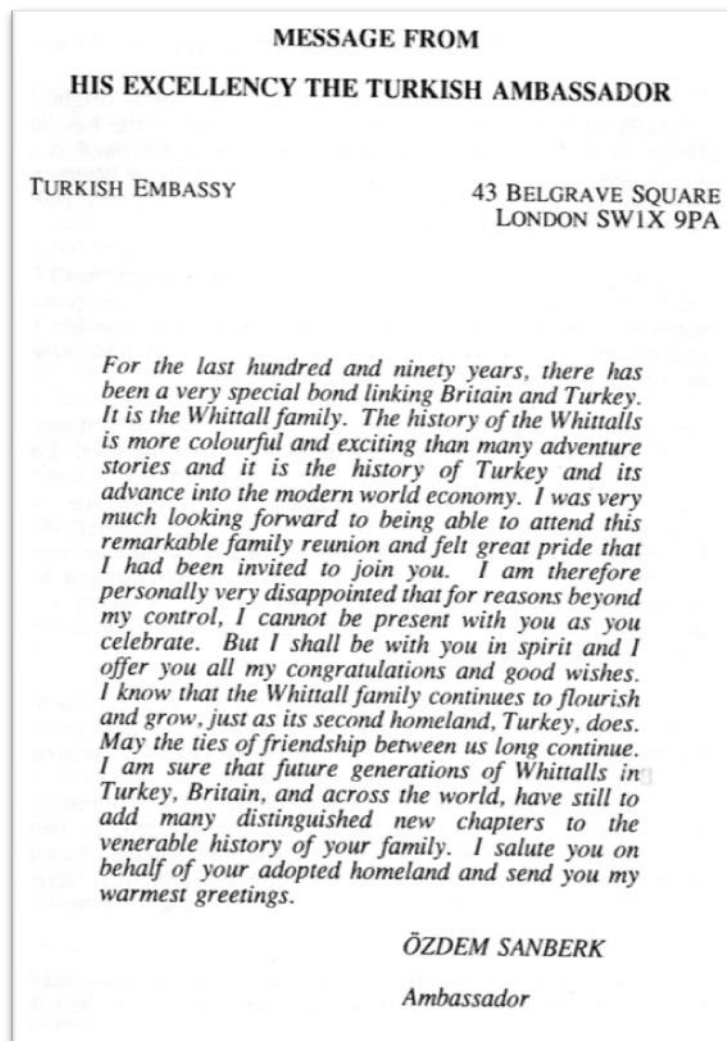
Yolande “manned” the display board indicating ancestry according to badge colour helping those who were not sure where they hailed from!



With their badges the family was given a leaflet which featured the programme for the day, the front cover of which is shown below:



and which included the following message from the then Turkish Ambassador, H.E. Özdem Sanberk,



a brief history of the family, and a list of the attendees by country of residence. The family then helped themselves to coffee and started greeting one another. The noise level rose, not gradually, but fast! At this point, when just about all the badges were distributed, Michael Whittall stood on a chair – and nearly needed a loud hailer – to welcome all the family to this amazing event!

Around the room were display boards depicting scenes of family history and life in Bornova and Moda; thanks are due to Jeremy Scholfield for producing these display boards for us.



Captions:

Top row from left: **Charlton Whittall**, born Liverpool 1791, died Smyrna 1867 – The first Whittall to go to Turkey. **Magdalene Victoire Blanche Whittall** (née Giraud) 1790-1861, wife of Charlton Whittall. Believed to be **George Percy Whittall**, first cousin of Charlton Whittall (and said to be a good portrait). **James John Whittall** 1819-1883, son of Charlton and Magdalene Whittall. **Magdalene Blanche Whittall** (née Giraud) 1823-1912, wife of James John Whittall.

Second row from left: Portrait of **Master James William Whittall** by David Wilkie Kt, Smyrna, dated 29 January 1841. **James William Whittall**, later Sir William Whittall 1838-1910, son of James and Magdalene Whittall. **Edith Anna Whittall** (née Barker), later Lady Whittall 1840-1935, wife of James William Whittall. **Edith Amelia La Fontaine** (née Whittall 1860-1947, wife of Sydney James William La Fontaine. We do not know who the last portrait depicts and identification is sought.

BORNOVA, İZMİR



The home of
Sydney James William La Fontaine
(now designated a listed property)
currently occupied by
Daphne Aliberti



The Big House
home of James John Whittall
(extended and currently used as
the residence of
the Dean of Ege University)



ST. MARY MAGDALENE
Built by Charlton Whittall
and given by him to the Anglican
Community.



The home of
Edward Whittall
(now designated a listed property)
currently occupied by
Gwyneth Giraud

Clockwise from left: the home of Sydney James William La Fontaine (now designated a listed property currently occupied by Daphne Aliberti); the Big House, home of James John Whittall (extended and currently used as the residence of the Dean of Ege University); St Mary Magdalene, built by Charlton Whittall and given by him to the Anglican Community; and the home of Edward Whittall (now designated a listed property) currently occupied by Gwyneth Giraud.

MODA, ISTANBUL



The home of
William James Harter Whittall



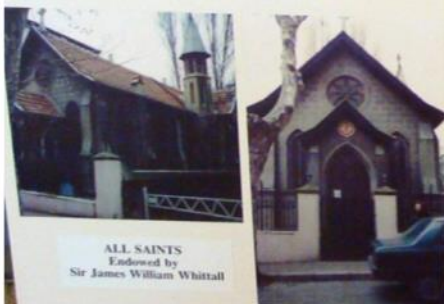
The home of
James Frederick La Fontaine Whittall
(now designated a listed property)
currently owned by
family of the late Barry Manço



The home of
Frederick Edwin Whittall



Moda Pier in the early 1920s



ALL SAINTS
Endowed by
Sir James William Whittall



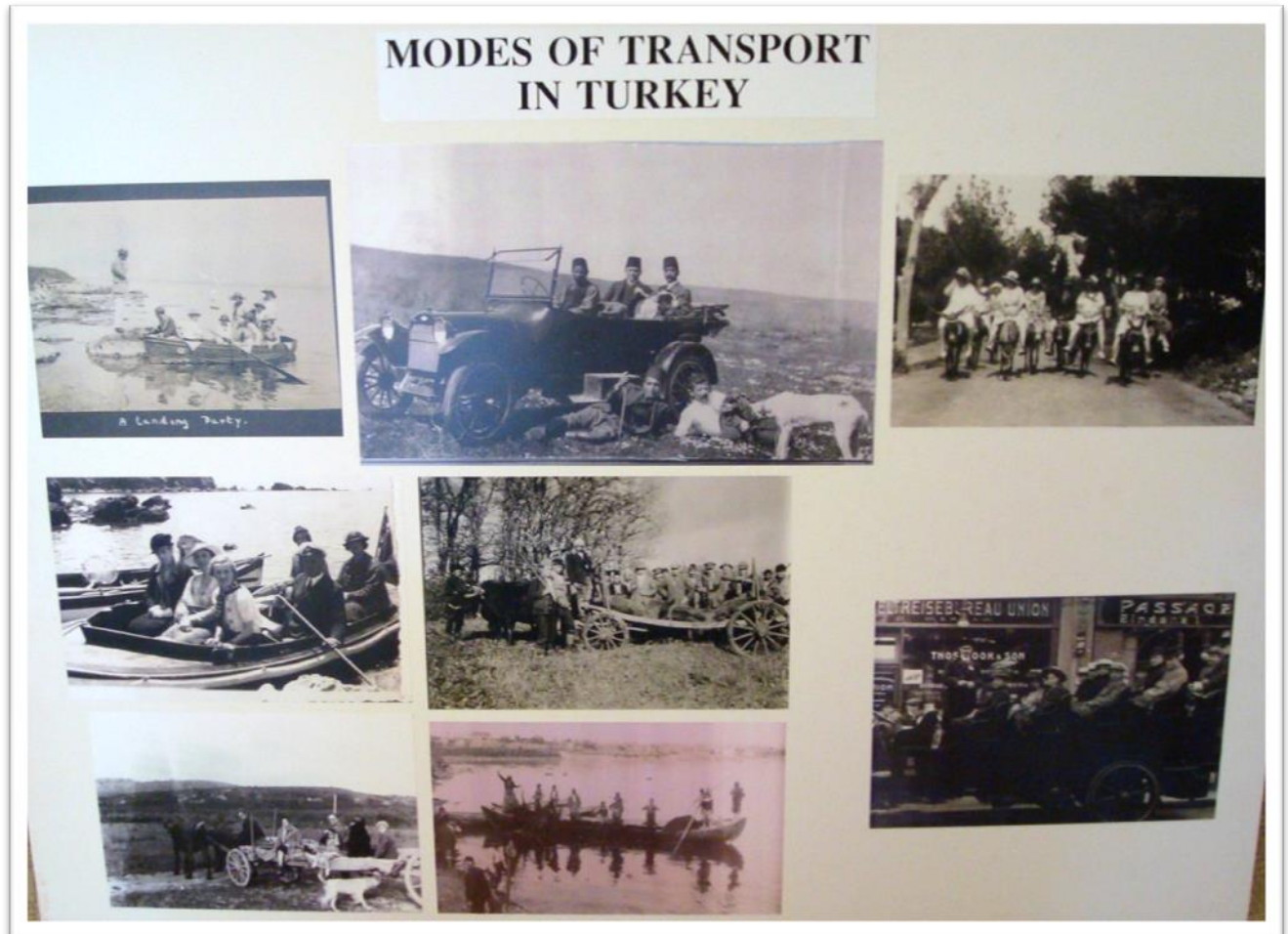
Sir James William Whittall's
garden before
the First World War



Top row from left: the home of William James Harter Whittall; the home of James Frederick La Fontaine Whittall (now designated a listed property) currently owned by family of the late Barış Manço; the home of Frederick Edwin Whittall

Middle row: Moda Pier in the early 1920s; part of the dining room of Frederick Edwin Whittall's home with portraits of himself and his wife, Adelaide Helen Whittall (née La Fontaine)

Bottom row: two photographs of All Saints, endowed by Sir James William Whittall; two views of Sir James William Whittall's garden before the First World War.



SPORTS



FOOTBALL



SELİM of BALÇIK
Sportsman, Guide, Philosopher
and Friend to
three generations of the
Whittall family

Printed and Published from No. 37 in Deniz Sporları (Hunting & Sea Sports) No. 28
The World Class Sportsman that We Have Lost
(Mr. F. Edwin Whittall)
Mr. F. Edwin Whittall lived for over 80 years on 7 March 1953 aged 89 at his home in Menteş, the great gentleman killed in Turkey in 1948. Although Mr. F. Edwin Whittall was born in England, he spent the majority of his life in Turkey.
As his health and ideas advanced from youth to Turkey, he would travel from Deniz to Istanbul and back on weekends to purchase material on behalf of his father.
He was a great sportsman and one of the best in Istanbul. He was a great hunter, which was proved in Turkey during his youth, the development of Turkey and his father. He was a great sportsman and one of the best in Istanbul. He was a great hunter, which was proved in Turkey during his youth, the development of Turkey and his father. He was a great sportsman and one of the best in Istanbul. He was a great hunter, which was proved in Turkey during his youth, the development of Turkey and his father.
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FISHING



In the Football photograph, top row: Edward Whittall, George Whittall, Godfrey Whittall, Donald Whittall and Herbert Whittall; second row: Edwin Charnaud, Percy La Fontaine, Albert Whittall (Captain), Herbert Jolly and Havelock Jolly; and seated on the ground: James Giraud.

As it is difficult to read, here is the transcript of

The tribute to Frederick Edwin Whittall from *Av ve Deniz Sporları (Hunting & Sea Sports) No 28 in Turkish with the English translation following on*

*Kaybettiğimiz Dünya Çapında Bir Avcı
(Mr F Edwin Whittall)*

Mr F Edwin Whittall, 5 Mart 1953 tarihinde, 89 yaşında, Modadaki evinde, gözlerini hayata yummuştur.

Büyük babasının babası 1809 senesinde Türkiye'ye yerleşmişti. Mr F Edwin Whittall ise İngilterede doğmuş olmasına rağmen, hayatının en büyük kısmını Türkiye'de geçirmiştir.

Gençliğinde ve Türkiye'de demiryollarının inşasından evvel, babasının hesabına tiftik mübayaa etmek üzere, İzmitten Ankaraya at sırtında gider gelirdi.

Büyük bir sporcu ve futbolu Türkiye'de ilk tanıtanlardandı. Filhakika onun gençliğinde Türkiye'de oynanan rugby futbolu yerine bir kaç sene sonar "association futbol" a terketmiştir. Fakat tercih ettiği sporlar balıkçılık ve avcılıktı.

İzmit körfezinde ve Marmara havasisinde levrek avlamağa karşı bilhassa alâka gösterirdi.

Bütün ömrü boyunca herkezten fazla çulluk avlamış olması muhtemeldir. İlk zamanlarda tercih ettiği av sahaları Balçık, Kaderli, Ovacık ve Denizli köyleri civarı idi. Fakat sonraları ve seksen yedi yaşına kadar her kış muntazaman avlandığı yer Alemdağı olmuştur.

O mükemmel bir büyük hayvan avcısı idi. Eskişehir yakınındaki Türkmen dağı ile Konya vilâyetinde uzun zaman ulugeyik (red deer) yağmurca geyiği (fallow deer), dağ koyunu (mouflon). Dağ keçisi (ibex) ve ayı avlamıştır. Avladığı uly geyiklerinden bir çoğunun başı Messrs Rowland tarafından, dünya rekorunu kırmış başlar arasında "Londra muhafızı adıyla vasıflandırılmıştır.

Kuzey Anadolu ulu geyiklerinin, güney batı Anadolu ve Toros dağlarındaki ulu geyiklerinden ayrı ve mümtaz bir sodan

oldukarını Avrupaya tanıtınların birincisi deęilse de birincileri meyanında bulunması muhtemeldir. Kuzey Anadoludaki geyiklerin kalın, sık çatallı ve birbirine yakın boynuzlu , güney Anadolu geyiklerinin ise daha ince, uzun, seyrek çatallı ve birbirinden ayrıık biybuzlu olduklarını tesbit etmiştir.

Gençliğinde, yağmurca geyiklerini , Trakyada Meriç nehri mansabı yakınlarında buluyordu. Aynı zamanda, Bozlar ile Karabiga civarındaki Yeni çiftlikte avlamış olduęu yağmurca geyiklerinin adedi dünya rekorunu kırmıştır.

Londrada intişar eden “The Field” mecmuasına yazdığı mektuplarla Anadoluda yaşıyan kızıl yaban kounlar (Ovis Orientalis) hakkında dikkat nazarını çekmiş ve bu hayvanlardan Konya civarında bizzat avladığı bir tanesinin başını nümune olarak muhafaza etmiştir.

Aynı zamanda, Londradaki Güney Kensington Tabiat Bilgisi Müzesile (South Kensington Natural History Museum of London) de muhaberaata bulunmakta ve Anadoluda ve bilhassa Bursa- İznik – Yalova havalisinde bulunan deęişik ayı cinsleri hakkında malûmat vermekte idi.

87 yaşını geçmiş olduęu halde, kendisinden ancak bir kaç hafta evvel vefat eden, Hüseyin Pehlivanla birlike, bir çulluk dublesi yapmak üzere Alemdağına gitmesi, onun son avcılık faaliyetini teşkil etmiştir.

The World Class Sportsman that We Have Lost
(Mr F Edwin Whittall)

Mr F Edwin Whittall closed his eyes to life on 5 March 1953 aged 89 at his home in Moda.

His great grandfather settled in Turkey in 1809. Although Mr F Edwin Whittall was born in England, he spent the majority of his life in Turkey.

In his youth and before railways were built in Turkey, he would travel from İzmit to Ankara and back on horseback to purchase mohair on behalf of his father.

He was a great sportsman and one of the first to introduce football to Turkey. In fact rugby football, which was played in Turkey during his youth, was abandoned in favour of association

football. But the sports he preferred were fishing and hunting. He was particularly keen on fishing for sea bass in the bay of İzmit and the Marmara region.

It is more than probable that in his lifetime he shot more woodcock than anyone else. Initially he preferred the areas around the villages of Balçık, Kaderli, Ovacık and Denizli. But later on and up until he was 87 years old, each winter he chose to hunt at Alemdağ.

He was an expert large game hunter. For a long time, he shot red deer, fallow deer, deer, moufflon, ibex and bears on the Türkmen Dağ near Eskişehir and in the regions of Konya. A great many of the heads of the red deer he shot were classified by the London keepers Messrs Rowland as being amongst the world’s record breaking trophies.

While he may not have been the first, he was probably amongst the first people to tell Europe that the North Anatolian red deer was a different and special breed compared to the red deer to be found in South East Anatolia and the Taurus mountains. The North Anatolian red deer has thick, frequently forked antlers close to one another; the South Anatolian deer has finer, longer and less frequently forked antlers which are wider apart.

In his youth, he found the fallow deer in Thrace, close to the Meriç River’s estuary. At the same time, the number of fallow deer he shot at Yeni Çiftlik in the region of Bozlar and Karabige, broke world records.

Correspondence with “The Field” magazine published in London drew his attention to the red moufflon (Ovis Orientalis), and he kept one head of those that he hunted personally in the Konya regions as a trophy.

At the same time he was in communication with the South Kensington Natural History Museum in London to which he was supplying information about the different types of bears to be found in Anatolia and particularly in the Bursa-İznik-Yalova areas.

Even though he was over 87 years of age, he and Hüseyin Pehlivan, who pre-deceased him by a few weeks, went to Alemdağ together and shot woodcock for the last time.



As it is difficult to read, below is the

**Extract from "The Tulip" by Anna Pavord
(Published by Bloomsbury Publishing plc 1999)**

Tulipa WHITTALLII (Hall)

Hight 30 cm. Leaves (3-4) long, but wider than those of the closely related species *T. orphanidae*. The margins are sometimes tipped with deep red. The stem is quite dark at the top, where it meets the flower. This is an outstanding tulip with neat, pointed petals. The colour is a burnt orange, very distinct and unusual. The outer petals are smaller than the inner ones and are flushed with a pale creamy-buff on the reverse. A sharp, thin buff line is drawn, as with a ruler, up the midribs of the inner oetaks. The flower makes a perfect rounded bud with all the petals meeting at a sharp point in the middle. Smokey, indeterminate basal blotch, greenish-black with a yellow halo, the dark colour drifting slight up the veins of the petals, like watercolour paint on wet paper. Filaments earkgreen or olive, anthers almost black. Found in the eastern Mediterranean especially round İzmir (Smyrna) in western Turkey, where it flowers in April. Considered by some authorities to be a variant of *T. orphanidae*, scarcely deserving species status.

This tulip was introduced by Edward Whittall (1851-1917), a descendant of an English family who settled in İzmir in 1809 and founded an export company, Whittall & Co. As a result of hunting trips, Whittall became interested in the flowers of western Anatolia and, eventually, horticulture became his main business. His own garden in Bornova near İzmir was filled with rare plants. Many of the local villagers collected plants and bulbs for him, some of which were exported to England and Holland. With the surplus, Whittall employed a team of men to plant the slopes of Nif Dag, a mountain near İzmir, and by 1893 he estimated that more than a million bulbs had been naturalised there.

Whittall sent bulbs of *T. Whittallii* to Henry Elwes who worked up the stock in his Gloucestershire garden and distributed it. It was named in Edward Whittall's honour by A. D. Hall. Though small, this is an excellent garden tulip, growing well and increasing freely. The colour is rich and unusual.

PREVIOUS FAMILY GATHERINGS



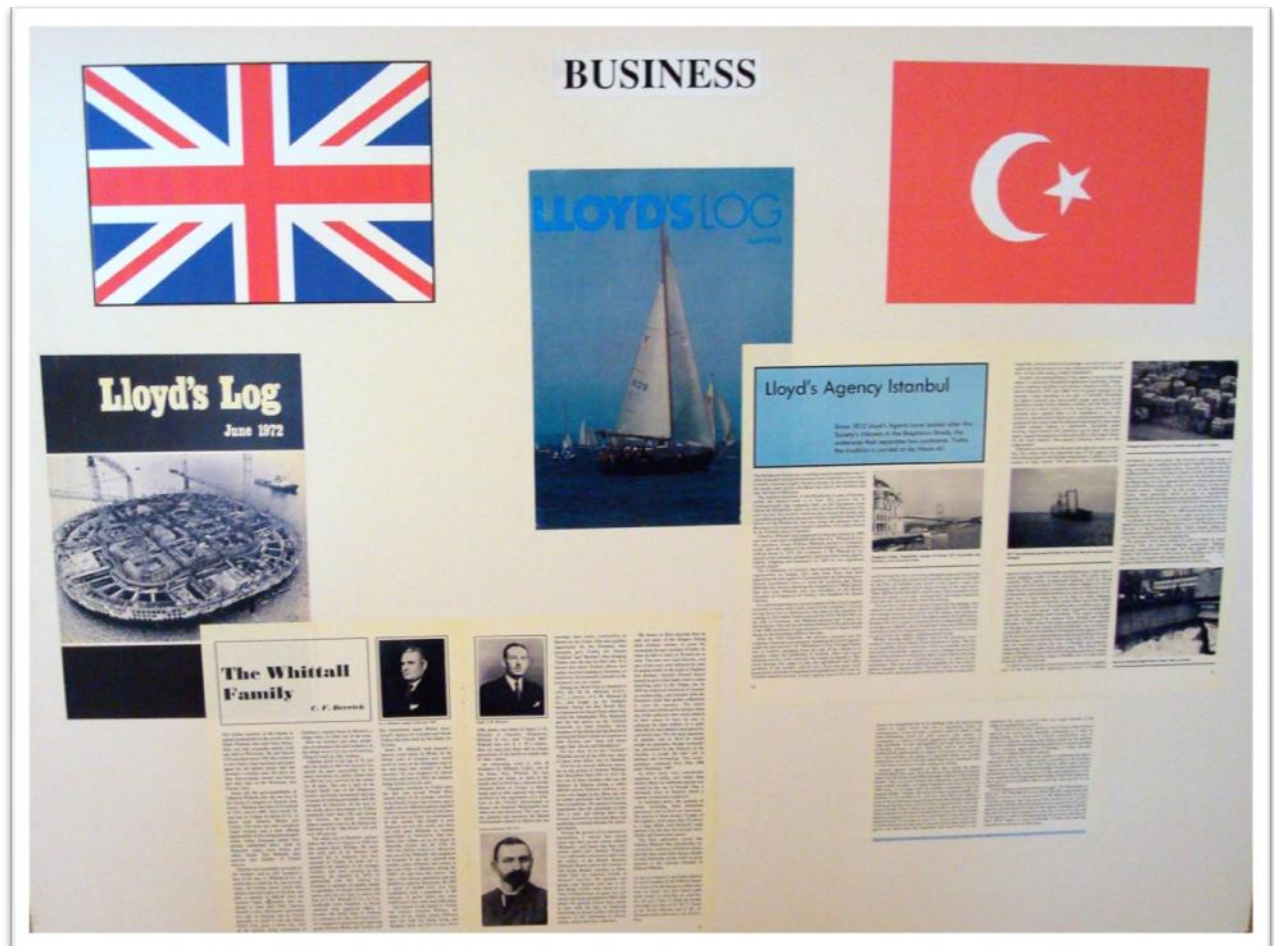
Those in the photograph on the left (60th Wedding Anniversary in 1947):

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 1. John Edward La Fontaine | 2. Edward Leonard (Eddie) La Fontaine |
| 3. Joan Denise Binns (née La Fontaine) | 4. Peter Morier La Fontaine |
| 5. Grace Edith La Fontaine | 6. Hubert Victor Whittall |
| 7. James Frederick La Fontaine Whittall | 8. Kenneth Edwin La Fontaine Whittall |
| 9. Lily Whittall (née Williams) | 10. Roland James La Fontaine Whittall |
| 11. Phyllis Audrey Landale (née Gardner) | 12. Percy Kenneth Whittall |
| 13. Eileen Helen La Fontaine (née Whittall) | 14. Lydia Mary Whittall (née La Fontaine) |
| 15. Adelaide Helen Whittall (née La Fontaine) | 16. Frederick Edwin Whittall |
| 17. Audrey Grace Gardner (née Whittall) | 18. Mary Whittall (née Malins) |
| 19. Patricia Mildred Eileen Binns (now Lorcin) | 20. Betty Ann Whittall (now McKernan) |

Those in the photograph in the centre (December 1902):

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 1. Frank C Whitehouse, b. 1872 | 2. Harry Whittall. B. 1873 |
| 3. Elmina Wells (Whittall), b.1876 | 4. Arthur Hill, b. 1886 |
| 5. Frederick Edwin Whittall, b. 1864 | 6. Hugh R Thompson |
| 7. Audrey Whittall (Gardener), b. 1888 | 8. Hugh E C Whittall, b 1870 |
| 9. Norman Whittall, b. 1891 | 10. Alfred Herbert Barker, b. 1863 |
| 11. Eileen Whittall (La Fontaine). b. 1889 | 12. James Frederick Whittall, b. 1890 |
| 13. Albert Hill, b. 1856 | 14. Edith Hill (MacManaway), b. 1887 |
| 15. Harry Pears | 16. William James Harter Whittall, b. 1871 |
| 17. Reginald Whittall, b. 1872 | 18. Myrth Whittall, b. 1902 |
| 19. Gwendoline Barfield (Whittall), b. 1882 | 20. Florence Whittall (Whitehouse), b. 1876 |
| 21. Millicent Whitehouse (Perkins), b. 1900 | 22. Edith Mary Whittall (Thompson) |
| 23. Adelaide La Fontaine (Whittall), b. 1867 | 24. Edward Whittall, b. 1902 |
| 25. Edith Anna Barker (Whittall), b. 1840 | 26. Roland Whittall, b. 1892 |
| 27. Sir James William Whittall, b. 1838 | 28. Lella Whittall (Barker), b. 1863 |
| 29. Linda Whittall, b. 1866 | 30. Gwyneth Whittall (Horwood), b. 1902 |
| 31. Gwyneth Gilchrist (Whittall) | 32. Gertrude Whittall (Pears) |
| 33. Mary Gertrude (Molly) Pears (Pringle-Patterson) | 34. Lilian Whittall, b. 1872 |
| 35. (Norah) Edna Whittall (Strafford) b. 1901 | 36. Kenrick Whittall, b.1878 |
| 37. Leslie Edwin Whitehouse | 38. Lorna Pears (Whittall), b. 1894 |

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 39. Evelyn Barker | 40. Kenneth Whittall, b. 1895 |
| 41. Edith Barker (Guiton, Chapman), b. 1898 | 42. Hugh McKinley Whittall, b. 1896 |
| 43. Enid Hill (Ravenshill), b. 1895 | 44. Hubert Victor Whittall, b. 1898 |
| 45. Ruth Hill (Pain), b. 1898 | 46. Nesta Whittall (Yorke), b. 1899 |
| 47. Monica Whittall (Jackson), b.1899 | 48. Vernon Whittall, b. 1898 |



The board above reads (on the left):

The Whittall Family – by CF Derrick published in Lloyd’s Log in June 1972

The earliest member of this family to appear prominently in the records was a James Whittall, who came from Shropshire, but who eventually settled, lived and died in Worcester. He was born in 1705 and died about 1780. He is believed to have been a hop merchant and estate agent for the landed gentry and was certainly a wealthy man. He drove his own four-in-hand, owned race-horses and won cups at the Worcester and Chester Races.

James was the great-grandfather of Charlton Whittall, who was the first of the family to emigrate to Smyrna (now İzmir). Charlton was born in Liverpool in 1791, and in 1809, when barely 18, was sent to Turkey by Breed & Co. to foster trade between Britain and Turkey. The latter was then considered virgin territory and a land offering opportunities to the young and energetic trader. Other European traders were already established there, some of Huguenot origin, some Italian and others Greek. The Whittalls later married into families of French descent.

Charlton was reasonably successful in his business, and in 1811 launched a firm of his own, C. Whittall & Co., to enable him to trade for his own account. Later, his brother James joined him, taking a one-third share in the firm, and after a number of difficult years the business began to prosper, and continued to trade until 1938. Charlton became a very well-known personality not only in Smyrna, but in Turkey generally, so much so that the Sultan, Abdül Aziz, spent a whole day, with all his retinue, being entertained at Charlton’s country home in Bornova, a village some six miles out of the town.

Both the brothers and other gentlemen of substance who had residences in the village were to be seen each morning riding to work on their donkeys.

Charlton lived to the age of 76, and after his death in 1867 the business was carried on most successfully by his eldest surviving son, James. James died in 1882 but was survived by his widow for 29 years. She was a lady of

the Giraud family (one of the Huguenot families previously mentioned) and was a woman of striking personality with the strongest of characters. At the time of her death, direct descendants in Turkey numbered more than 150, and during her lifetime, the family Christmas dinner required seats in the dining and ballrooms of the “Big House” for well over 100 persons.

The eldest son of Charlton’s partner, James was born in Smyrna in 1838 and was named James William. He spent the early part of his and married life in England, but later returned to Turkey. In order not to prejudice the interests of his younger brothers, who were carrying on the business, he founded in 1873, in partnership with Mr Sydney La Fontaine (a member of another family of merchants of French extraction and whose sister he was later to marry) the firm of J. W. Whittall & Co., in Constantinople (now Istanbul). A British company with registered offices in London, the family hope to celebrate its centenary less than two years hence. It is engaged in importing and exporting goods between Britain and Turkey, and has represented many British firms. Lloyd’s Agency for Istanbul and North Turkey has been held by the family for 74 years.

James W. Whittall built himself a massive stone house in Moda, on the Asiatic coast of Istanbul and would travel to town on the European coast in his own large boat manned by three oarsmen. He was knighted by Queen Victoria, and died in 1910, the business being carried on by his sons.

Changing conditions in Turkey after the first and second World Wars caused many of the younger members of the family to leave the country, and it would be difficult to gather together a dozen remaining in Istanbul, and there are even less in İzmir. In consequence of this exodus, the family is now dispersed all over the world, and there are now more Whittalls in Canada, particularly in Vancouver, than anywhere else. Others are to be found in Australia, Ceylon and the USA. In 1953 the British Consul in Montreux was one of the Whittalls who originated in Istanbul. It was also reported that another, James Whittall, had settled in the Low Veld of Rhodesia during the 1920’s. At that time this district had only a thin African population and was labelled as unfit for Europeans. By 1966 a ranch of 65,000 acres had been established, with a population of 500 Africans. It grows maize and raises 3,000 head of fine cattle and 1,000 sheep.

One branch of the family in Turkey last century included William, the father of our Arthur, James, Edward, who was with the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank and died in Java about 1898, James, the father of Major J. M. Whittall of Chandler, Hargreaves, Whittall & Co., and “Uncle Bob” Whittall who was A. J. W.’s deputy. May we hope that there will be future generations of the family to supply men of their calibre.

An interesting story is told of Frederick E. Whittall, C.B.E., son of Sir James Wm. Whittall. He had succeeded his father as head of the family, and in 1914 was a director of the National Bank of Turkey (a British bank) and in that capacity was closely involved in the negotiation of a £5m. loan to the Turkish Government to finance the Istanbul Municipality just when war was imminent. The loan was not granted, and moreover the British Government refused to deliver the two warships then under construction in Britain for the Turks. This was a golden opportunity for the Germans, who promptly gave Turkey the famous “Goeben” and “Breslau”, thus bringing Turkey into the war on their side. It is known that many Turkish officers had earlier received training in Germany, so maybe our Government’s attitude to the proposed loan was sound.

During the Royal Visit to Istanbul in 1971, Mr. H. M. Whittall, D.S.O., M.C., a director of J. W. Whittall & Co., who fought on the Gallipoli beaches during the First World War, accompanied the Royal Party when they visited the Dardanelles War Memorial and the war graves on the Gallipoli Peninsula on 22 October. Seven members of the family had the honour of meeting the Royal visitors in Istanbul on 24th October and “they will never forget their charm and friendliness”.

No less than 12 of the “Turkish” Whittalls served in the 1914 war: three of them were killed, two at Gallipoli.

Now for an entirely different character in the person of Edward Whittall, who flourished from 1851 to 1917. He was one of three brothers who ran the business in Smyrna during a rather difficult period. Edward, however, was never very happy in his office, but was an ardent sportsman and loved out-of-door occupations. He organised hunting expeditions into the mountains at least once a year, and during these trips became interested in the local flora, and gardening eventually became his principal interest.

During the pursuit of my interests in horticulture, I noticed that several plants had their generic names suffixed “Whittallii”, and found that they were indeed called after Edward Whittall. I was sufficiently interested to delve into the subject at the British Museum (National History) and at the Library of The Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, where there are extensive records of Edward’s activities. His grounds and garden near Smyrna were one of the first things visitors were taken to see. They contained trees of great size and variety and large greenhouses

filled with plants. He opened a flower shop. Partly at least with the idea of imparting knowledge to all and sundry, thus giving impetus to the cultivation of flowers locally, which had been unknown.

His letters to Kew describe how he sent out many of his villagers during slack business seasons, to scour the mountains for new varieties of bulbs. At times he had as many as 50 men out at once. The men were paid liberally, and part of the costs were defrayed by sales of surplus bulbs to the trade in England and Holland. Initially Edward hoped merely to give a few weeks work to some deserving poor in his village, but by 1899 he employed hundreds of families on similar tasks, and business with the European trade had grown sufficiently to cover his expenses. The letters disclose how distressed he became when any of his collector were much delayed in their return to base, he was so solicitous for their welfare. It is quite clear that he was indeed a most generous and kindly man. For large quantities of material sent to Kew he would accept no payment, though eventually was persuaded by the Director of the Gardens to accept the bare cost of packing and forwarding. The correspondence continued from May 1890 until December 1907.

At times there were considerable surpluses of bulbs, and rather than destroy them, an additional garden was created at the top of Nymph Dag, a mountain close to Smyrna, where a number of men were employed.

As indicated above, the quantity of plants (including dried herbarium specimens) sent to Kew were enormous: the records of them occupy 15 pages of the registers, with more than 30 entries to a page. Bulbs were Edward's main interest, but the lists also include trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants.

The Kew authorities record that Edward Whittall had considerably enriched their collection of bulbous plants, and that they owed their unique display of early flowering spring bulbs in great measure to the constant liberality of Edward Whittall.

As may be surmised, I am deeply indebted to several members of the Whittall family for much of the information on which these notes are based; they have indeed taken much trouble in satisfying my enquires. For the rest, I have to thank the prompt and ample assistance of Dr. W. T. Stearn of the British Museum and of Mr. R. Desmond, Chief Librarian at the R.B.G., Kew.

The board above reads (on the right):

Lloyd's Agency Istanbul
(extract from Lloyd's Log April 1983)

Since 1812 Lloyd's Agents have looked after the Society's interests in the Bosphorous Straits, the waterway that separates two continents. Today the tradition is carried out by Vitsan AS

The Bosphorous Straits are a winding natural waterway some 17 miles long and varying between just over a half mile to two miles in width, running roughly North to South. At the Northern end the straits open up into the Black Sea and at the southern end into the Sea of Marmara.

The western shoreline of the Bosphorous is part of Europe, whilst the eastern bank is in Asia. The ancient city of Constantinople was originally built on the European coast where the Bosphorous opens out into the Sea of Marmara, but over the last two or three centuries has crossed the straits and expanded along the European and Asiatic coastlines down both shores of the Bosphorous and also along the adjacent Sea of Marmara's European and Asiatic coastlines. It is today known by its Turkish name of Istanbul.

Charlton Whittall had emigrated to Smyrna (İzmir) in 1809 and two years later established the firm of C. Whittall & Son. His grandson, James William Whittall, moved to Constantinople, then the capital of the Ottoman Empire, to establish a trading house in 1873. His company, J. W. Whittall & Co, despite a few setbacks, prospered, main activities being import, export, shipping and insurance. In 1897 he was appointed Lloyd's Agent.

The Committee of Lloyd's had established their agency organisation in August 1811 and John Prior had been appointed the first agent to Constantinople the following year. Several incumbents were to hold the position and James Whittall was chosen following the resignation of Philip Sarell. The next year Whittall, who was president of the British Chamber of Commerce in Turkey, was knighted by Queen Victoria.

It is unfortunate that no record remains of the Lloyd's agency activities in those early years, most of the company's records having been lost or destroyed at the time of the cessation of trading in 1914 when Turkey entered the First world War on the side of Germany, and Whittall partners left Turkey for the duration. The one

record which remains of this early period is the 1890 certificate of appointment as Lloyd's Agent, which hangs in the Istanbul office to this day.

After the 1918 Armistice, the partners returned and the company's business was resumed, including the Lloyd's agency under the new style of J. W. Whittall & Co. Ltd. Though Turkey was in turmoil, changing from the rule of the sultans to a republic under the leadership of Atatürk, there was much business activity, with relatively few traders to handle it. War-torn Europe was eager to buy the agricultural and other products of the country, and in turn, there was great local demand for all kinds of manufactured goods since there was no Turkish industry as such. Lloyd's agency had its fair share of work during this time, surveying damaged cargo arriving in the country. In those days there was very little quay space available in the Port of Istanbul, and much of the import cargo was discharged into lighters from ships moored in the outer port. These lighters were old, dirty, and ill used. Their tarpaulins were often too small, or in rags, consequently rain water leaked in from the top, and sea water from the bottom.

The surveyor, who had to issue a report on the damage, was often in some doubt when asked to apportion the liability for the damage between the carrier and the lighter, but whatever percentages were allocated to the lighter made little difference, because the Port Lighter Administration categorically refused to accept any liability, and it would have been too difficult and uncertain a case for anyone to go to the expense of court action to try to force the Lighter Administration to pay.

Widely varying import cargoes had to be surveyed; from sanitary ware to cocoa beans, from firebricks to hides. The five or six carefully chosen surveyors could not possibly have the specialised knowledge required to assess damage incurred by many of the articles on which they had to issue reports, so it was common practice to use "technical experts" to assist in the assessment. This was an additional headache for the Lloyd's agency manager, because these "experts" had to be recruited from the trade, and quite apart from trying to find a man with, hopefully, sound technical knowledge, one also had to try and make sure that he was in no way connected with the consignee, nor, on the other hand, a rabid competitor!

Another interesting feature of the agency's survey work was where it concerned household appliances (including refrigerators, washing machines and vacuum cleaners) which, in the period between 1955 and 1960, were in great demand in the country. Cargo handling in the port of Istanbul (including the lighter hazard) was notoriously rough, and many of the appliances would arrive dented, crushed, and the body paint ruined to an extent which, in the exporting country, would certainly have caused them to be considered a write off. However, chronic lack of spare parts, and the necessity to make equipment last many times the planned operating life, had made Turkish artisans experts at repair work. Incredible panel beating, improvisation and judicious use of putty and spray paint, caused the majority of the write-offs to find eager buyers on the local market, thus greatly reducing claims on the underwriters.

Ship survey work, both in the past and right up to the present day, has always been an important part of the agency work, both when acting for the Salvage Association, London, or at the request of ship owners. The agency's area, comprising the narrow straits of the Dardanelles and Bosphorous, is the scene of heavy shipping traffic in both directions. This traffic has to contend with various navigational hazards such as strong currents and the necessity to make radical changes of course, which have to be precisely executed in order to follow the curves of the straits, and maintain position in a narrow channel. At the same time, a close watch has to be kept on other shipping moving on the same or opposite course often only a few cables away. It is, therefore, not astonishing that accidents occur, and over the years the agency staff have acquired considerable experience in handling these incidents. Two major examples were the collisions of the tankers *Peter Zoranic* and *World Harmony* in 1960, when both ships exploded and fire raged in the Bosphorous as the vessels drifted helplessly out of control, practically all the crew members having perished; again in 1979, the Romanian tanker *Independenta* exploded and burnt fiercely following a collision with the Greek cargo ship *Evrialy*. In this case the explosion shook the city of Istanbul and suburbs, shattering panes of glass three miles away. The wreck of the tanker subsequently grounded off the Haydarpaşa Port (Asiatic coast of Istanbul) and her cargo of 90,000 tons of crude burnt furiously for a full month.

As with Lloyd's agencies, in ports all over the world, a regular part of the work is the reporting to Lloyd's of shipping movements. In most ports, this involves reporting names of vessels arriving or sailing from the port together with details of flag, tonnage, and relevant dates. However, Istanbul has the added peculiarity of having to report transits as well, because there is a continuous flow of ships from the Mediterranean to the Black Sea, or in the opposite direction, which pass through the straits without stopping, except for pratique, as they enter Turkish waters. However, by the terms of the Montreux Treaty, these particular waters are also an international waterway, and all merchantmen and passenger vessels have the right to transit at any time in both directions.

Keeping track of shipping in these circumstances, is quite a problem, bearing in mind that, on the average, over 1,000 vessels may transit in any one month, at any time of the day or night, fair weather or foul.

At present, the recording of movements begins either at the Black Sea entrance to the Bosphorous, or at the Mediterranean entrance to the Dardanelles after which vessels calling at Istanbul are singled out. Reports go to Lloyd's by telex as well as by the traditional mailed shipping list.

The agency's work has caused its staff to build up close relations with the Istanbul shipping community, making personal acquaintances amongst the ship agents and ship owners. Over the course of the years, the shipping community has come to recognise and appreciate the fact that even if the agency is there to protect the interests of the underwriters, it will always be completely fair in its dealings with the insured ship owner or cargo owner who has a legitimate claim. In consequence it has become a practice (and at times a very time-consuming one!) for ship owners, ship agents, or their problems. As the management and staff have made it a principle always to give impartial advice and explain technicalities (particularly in respect of General Average) with care and patience, the agency is regarded rather as a public institution, and rate the day when there is no telephone call, or visit from someone or other asking for advice.

Lloyd's agency, Istanbul, in fact, also covers the entire Turkish Black Sea coast, and the whole of the North of Turkey above the line from Cape Baba through Ankara to the Iranian border. This, of course, means that frequently, and often in the worst winter weather, an urgent request is received to survey a TIR truck, or its cargo after an accident somewhere near the Iranian border. Usually, the surveyor has to guess roughly the location of the accident site, and can only find it by taking a train or bus to the nearest provincial town then hiring a jeep and driving along the road, often in bitter cold and snow, until the truck is found. If he is lucky, he may be able to move any cargo which remains to the nearest gendarmerie post for safe keeping while he arranges for the recovery and repair of the truck, or its abandonment to customs in case of a constructive total loss. Communications are bad and it may be several days before the agency can learn what has happened and report back to the applicant for survey who is often very angry because of the delay in sending him a report.

This work is, no doubt, similar to that of most other Lloyd's agencies the world over, basically consisting as it does of safeguarding the interests of Lloyd's underwriters and of insurers in general, assessing the claims made on the policies they have underwritten and taking measures to reduce possible loss or prevent aggravation of damage to ships, aircraft, vehicles or cargoes they have insured.



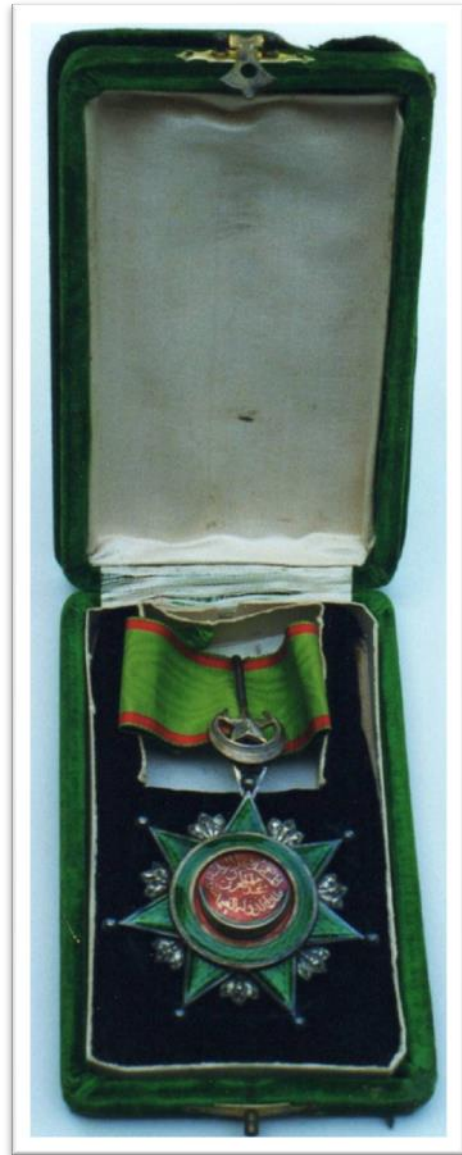
In each country the ways and means of achieving the above objectives will vary to some extent according to the facilities available on the spot. This is the field in which each Lloyds Agent is a specialist, as is his knowledge of local conditions and possibilities, and his experience of laws and regulations in this area, together with his general knowledge of insurance practice, that particularly qualifies him to give the best service to an underwriter.

Lloyd's agency, Istanbul, firstly through J. W. Whittall & Co. later as J. W. Whittall & Co. Ltd. (both British companies) and finally as Vitsan A.S. (successors to J. W. Whittall & Co. Ltd) a Turkish company, has now given this service to the Lloyd's community and the international insurance market for 85 years and the lessons learnt by each of the agency managers during this period have been passed on to the next in line. It is the aim of the agency's staff to continue giving this service to the best of their ability based on their knowledge of their area and the experience stored up over the years.

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This glass cabinet displayed items of value, such as the silver tea set which had come down the family line from Charlton Whittall, as well as two silver goblets given to Charlton and Madeleine Whittall by Breed & Co. upon their marriage which were loaned to us by the late Roland and Lily Whittall; copies of Edmund Giraud's "Family Records" published circa 1934 and Yolande & Ben Perkins' genealogy published circa 1966;

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and the Order of the Mecidiye presented to Charlton as a thank you by Sultan Abdül Aziz following a stay in his house which was loaned to us by Desmond and Simone Whittall;



a special glass covered display case was made under which the Grant of Arms given to Charlton Arthur Whittall could be examined. This was loaned to us by Bill, Chris and Angela Perowne;



- the framed original British Chamber of Commerce certificate presented to Sir James William Whittall upon his retirement - he founded the British Chamber of Commerce in Istanbul. This was loaned by Desmond and Simone Whittall;

CERTIFICATE PRESENTED TO
SIR JAMES WILLIAM WHITTALL
FOUNDER OF THE BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
IN TURKEY
UPON HIS RETIREMENT

Loaned by Desmond and Simone Whittall

Sir James William Whittall, Bart.
CONSTANTINOPLE

We, the undersigned Members of the British Chamber of Commerce of Turkey resident at Constantinople, Smyrna, Salonica and elsewhere desire to place on record our appreciation of the valuable services you have rendered to the Chamber of Commerce as its first President during a term of 10 years and of your untiring efforts to promote British Trade with the Home Country.

As one of the founders of this Chamber you have enlarged the scope of usefulness by assisting in creating other similar Chambers in the East. It is thanks in great part to the efforts of the Chamber and more especially to your personal energy that the Community has witnessed the creation of the Commercial Consulate at the British Embassy. The new British Seamen's Hospital, the numerous facilities and advantages which have accrued to British Shipping and British Trade in general and other objects and interests in which we are interested bear witness to your foresight and your public spirit.

It is with deep regret that we received your resignation but upon you to devote the time and attention that you felt were necessary in the interests of the Chamber.

In resigning the duties which, as you have fulfilled them, we have been of an arduous character, we trust, and are confident, that your interest in the progress of the British Community and especially in the development of its Commerce will continue as in the past and our sincere hope is that you will long be present among us in good health to enjoy the fruits of your labours.

Yours faithfully,

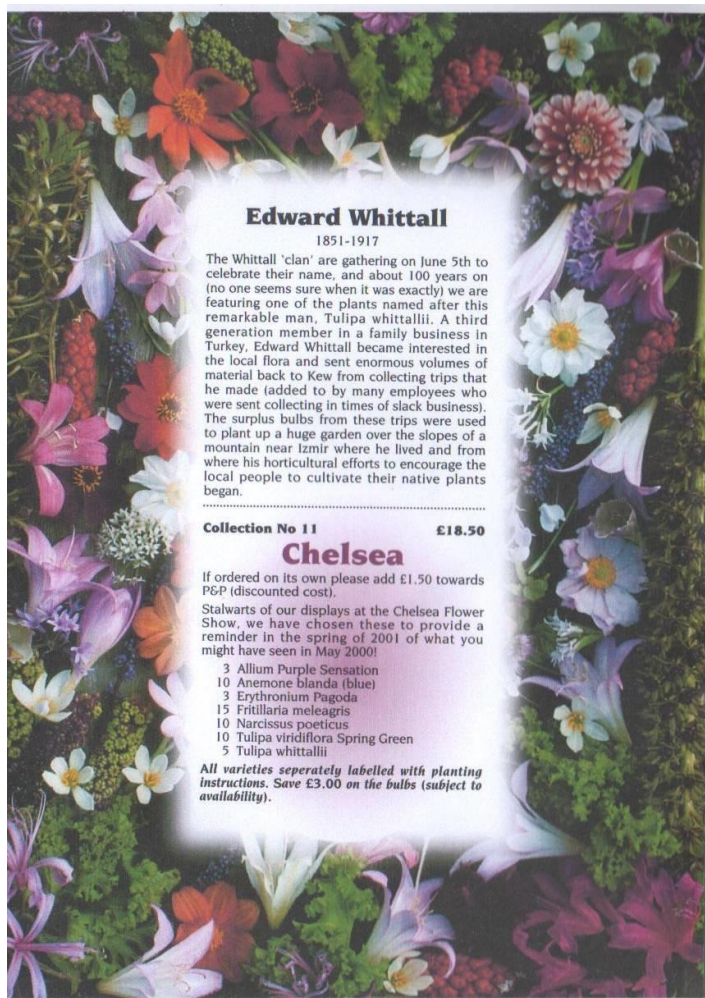
London		London	
Adams & Co.	Barrow & Co.	Barrow & Co.	Barrow & Co.
...

- my album of photographs of the graves of our ancestors in both Bornova Anglican Cemetery and Haydarpaşa Cemetery in Istanbul;
- a basket on a table containing little boxes of tea from former Whittall plantations in Ceylon, kindly donated by David Whittall jr.



- pots of the Whittallii tulip which Simone Whittall had persuaded Avon Bulbs to hold back for our reunion from their display at the Chelsea Flower Show in May that year; in fact, the Avon Bulbs mail order catalogue for that year carried the following article on the inside of its back cover:





Edward Whittall

1851-1917

The Whittall 'clan' are gathering on June 5th to celebrate their name, and about 100 years on (no one seems sure when it was exactly) we are featuring one of the plants named after this remarkable man, *Tulipa whittallii*. A third generation member in a family business in Turkey, Edward Whittall became interested in the local flora and sent enormous volumes of material back to Kew from collecting trips that he made (added to by many employees who were sent collecting in times of slack business). The surplus bulbs from these trips were used to plant up a huge garden over the slopes of a mountain near Izmir where he lived and from where his horticultural efforts to encourage the local people to cultivate their native plants began.

Collection No 11 £18.50

Chelsea

If ordered on its own please add £1.50 towards P&P (discounted cost).

Stalwarts of our displays at the Chelsea Flower Show, we have chosen these to provide a reminder in the spring of 2001 of what you might have seen in May 2000!

- 3 Allium Purple Sensation
- 10 Anemone blanda (blue)
- 3 Erythronium Pagoda
- 15 Fritillaria meleagris
- 10 Narcissus poeticus
- 10 Tulipa viridiflora Spring Green
- 5 Tulipa whittallii

All varieties separately labelled with planting instructions. Save £3.00 on the bulbs (subject to availability).



Mail Order
Catalogue

Autumn 1999
to Spring 2000

£2.00

- David Whittall jr gave the key note speech, below:

**THE WHITTALLS OF TURKEY
1999 FAMILY GATHERING
WELCOME ADDRESS
IMPERIAL COLLEGE
LONDON, ENGLAND
JUNE, 05, 1999**

David W. L. Whittall

Welcome to the Whittall Family Gathering. It is truly remarkable to me that in the closing months of the millennium we have been able to gather nearly 350 descendants of the Whittall family of Turkey. We have come from nearly every continent, from Asia, Australia, Europe and North America, from 18 different countries, representing many generations to renew old acquaintances, to make new acquaintances and to recognize together the astonishing fact that we are all descended from two brothers who settled in Turkey: Charlton and James, and their sons James and Charlton and James and Charlton who were the first generation to be born in Turkey. But it is more than the mere coincidence of our ancestry that has brought us all together here today. More than that it is a common awareness that there are a few, brief, passing windows in history when socio-political, geographic and commercial forces align in such a way as to create truly extraordinary opportunities for a few exceptional people. Such a confluence of events occurred at the beginning of the 19th century on the coast of Turkey and the opportunities were seized by a whole family which became a village and was once described in Parliament as "a nation".

It is no exaggeration to say that, for some of us, (a great number of us), the family history is a passion. It is a passion because it is like a big fairy tale that belongs to us. I grew up with the stories of my forbears, merchant princes, all brothers and sisters and cousins, who had their own ships controlling much of the trade between England and Turkey, vast homes and gardens filled with relatives who were visited by a Sultan and a Pasha and who, when seated at Christmas dinner, sometimes numbered over one hundred. They knew that theirs was a special time and they recorded it for us. In the bookshelves of my home are the books they wrote and on our walls hang their portraits. My father's generation is just about the last which can remember parts of this history first hand and pass it on in story. My generation and my children's generation and their

children's generation can only read about these past times. When my father's generation and the generations before him have passed, we will be the principal actors in the family and we will be charged as the guardians of this great family history.

While some success has been achieved in tracing the family history much earlier, when we speak of the Whittalls of Turkey we mean specifically the brothers Charlton and James who first came to Turkey and the four of their sons born in Turkey who had offspring. From them, we - the surviving Whittalls of Turkey - are all descended.

In 1809, ten years after Admiral Nelson's victory at Aboukir had led to an alliance between England and the Ottoman Empire, Charlton Whittall came to what is today Turkey to represent the interests of Breed & Company. He settled in Smyrna (now Izmir) and two years later established C. Whittall & Co. which was incorporated into membership in the British Levant Co in the following year 1812. This was a remarkable accomplishment. According to an account by its last Chaplain the Reverend Robert Walsh, the Company was "...the most valuable body of merchants perhaps in the world: there were at one time 800 members, and they had a fleet of twenty four large vessels carrying thirty guns each, trading in different ports of the Turkish dominions."

The members of the Levant company were called "factors" and when they formed an association for the protection of their interests it was called a "factory" - by which was meant 'a house or district inhabited by traders in a distant country'. Under a Charter of privileges known as the Capitulations, foreign merchants were allowed to operate in their factories under the protection of their own consuls, preserving their civil and political rights and operating under their own court of laws and judges.

Smyrna, the strategic collecting point for the produce of Asia Minor, with its fine port was the leading factory and the commercial capital of the Ottoman Empire. Among the Europeans - or Franks - as they were known, the French still enjoyed the top position in the empire at this time. Within Smyrna, the French merchant Jean Baptiste Giraud, who had been established there since 1780, commanded a leading position and served as the Austrian Consul. In 1814, Charlton Whittall married his daughter Magdeleine Victoire Blanche Giraud and so began our two families' long and happy association.

This was also the beginning of the Whittalls' long association with Turkey. Ray Turrell, (a great great granddaughter of Charlton who was raised in Bournabat) writes: "from then on he never looked back...From being an insignificant factor in the moribund Levant Company, he inherited the company itself, or rather, part of its trade, and with it the mantle of the Elizabethan merchant princes. To his descendants, England was always 'England', never 'home' as it was to exiled colonials. The family visited the country at intervals, kept their money there, and sent their children there to school and university: but the sun rose and set for them in Turkey where they were princes in their own right, and their wealth and power, and, to some extent their arrogance had almost no limits."

At his death in 1811, J.B. Giraud owned extensive properties in and around Smyrna. One of the more valuable of these, inherited by the future Mrs.Charlton Whittall, was later known as the "Whittall Frank Hane" and became Charlton's town residence and the headquarters for over 100 years of C. Whittall and Co. In 1817, Charlton's brother James (working for Mr. Breed in Liverpool) joined Charlton in Smyrna. In the early years of business, they were engaged principally in the import from Manchester of iron, commodities and other goods needed for Smyrna's development. By the 1820s, the company was also recording significant exports to England of dye roots, dried fruits, valonea and other native products. The business was managed carefully and as the profits grew, the scope of the business was expanded. Charlton invested in two sailing vessels and was the first in Smyrna to own a steamship. As railroads and other communications opened up Smyrna to the interior, the firm's operations were extended further. Direct connections were established with the principal districts of the interior and agencies were established in various parts of the coast, at Dardanelles and Mersyna and in the principal islands of the archipelago. In 1825, when the Levant company was dissolved, Charlton Whittall was one of its last surviving members and his firm had, indeed, inherited many of the Company's traditions and its trade. By its centenary celebration in 1911, C. Whittall & Co was the leading export firm in Asia Minor.

Conditions were difficult when Charlton first arrived in Smyrna and the plague was only one of the many hardships he faced. Probably following the example of J.B. Giraud, he rented a house in Bournabat (now Bornova) from which he and later James commuted to the Whittall Frank Hane on donkeys. As their business thrived, their families grew and Bournabat became the family home. Jean Baptiste Giraud and his compatriots had resided in Bournabat in sufficient numbers that it was known as the "French village" and French was spoken there. But Charlton and James' descendants multiplied with such speed that they soon dominated the village. Indeed, by the time Charlton's daughter-in-law Magdeleine died in 1912, she had thirteen children, 91 grandchildren and 256 direct descendants mostly in the village! Quoting again from Ray Turrell: "Bournabat, then was the name of our village and for us it was the whole world. There will never be another place like it, and for those of us who now live far away from its quiet gardens, it is ambered in time and remains forever sunlit and happy, full of childish dreams and laughter. "Everything in that inner circle [of Bournabat] was connected with the family in some way or another. I cannot stress this fact enough...The family built and spread and extended the village, indeed they created a good deal of it. The newer parts were almost entirely theirs, their stately houses and the gardens which surrounded them, - Italianate and romantic and plumed with Cypresses; their church, their clubs, the village water system; the road which led to

the sea-port and the warehouses which financed all this splendour. Almost every house in the European quarter which was worth living in was occupied by some member of the family. It was really a family quarter and round it spread the original village like a ragged fringe."

Gertrude Bell, an outsider looking in to Bournabat at the end of the 19th century had the same impression: "The Whittalls are grain merchants, they've been settled here since about 1809. All these people are connected with one another. They have married each other and everyone is a cousin to everyone else...They have the bulk of the English Trade in their hands, branch offices all down the southern coast, mines and shooting boxes and properties scattered all down the sea coast of Asia Minor and yachts on the sea. They all have immense quantities of children. The sons, young men in the various Whittall businesses, the daughters very charming and gay. The big gardens touch one another and they walk in and out of one another's houses all day long gossiping and laughing. I should think that life presents itself nowhere under such easy and pleasant conditions."

Pleasant as conditions seemed at the end of the century, they were difficult in the beginning and the brothers Charlton and James, although they had two dozen children between them, produced only two sons each who had offspring. These four sons, the first generation of Whittalls born in Turkey, were named James and Charlton and James and Charlton. Charlton's second son "James of the Big House" married his cousin Magdaleine Blanche Giraud and they had 13 children. Their household was the centre of the family in Smyrna for years and Magdaleine was the quintessential matriarch. She lived to the age of 89, was a great great grandmother and presided over Christmas meals seating over 100 relatives. Her word was law for ninety-one grandchildren. James was a famous collector of Hellenistic coins of Asia Minor. His brother Charlton Arthur Whittall married Elise Icard and they had 11 children. Charlton Arthur moved to Constantinople and apparently made a fortune supplying hay and feedstuffs to the British army during the Crimean War.

James' first son - known as "James of Ceylon" broke the mould a little bit. He had a remarkable life and became a truly leading citizen of Hong Kong and a prominent figure in Far Eastern Commerce. James is the least written about of the first generation so I digress for a moment to introduce him in the full light he deserves. He moved to the city of Canton in China by the age of 20. Canton must not have been too foreign to him because the treaty ports in Imperial China were perfectly analogous to the factories in the Ottoman Empire. In fact, the residences in Canton were also called factories. Foreigners also enjoyed the same extraterritoriality and a buccaneering commercial adventurism prevailed on the China coast. James began his career with an agent of the Pacific & Oriental Steamship Co but soon joined the preeminent firm of Jardine Matheson and Co. He was sent to Shanghai where he survived the Taiping Rebellion and quickly rose to become head of the Shanghai business. He became the Acting Danish Consul at Shanghai and served on the Shanghai Municipal Council and the Shanghai Defence Committee. He married Elizabeth Lees, the widow of a captain in the merchant service, and had six sons and two daughters. His brother Edward Whittall joined the firm in Canton and eventually became a partner of the firm in Yokohama. He died with no children. In 1864 James Whittall moved to Hong Kong and became the Taipan (or head of the company), a position he held for a decade. He was also appointed to Hong Kong's Legislative Council, was a Justice of the Peace and served as Consul General for His Hawaiian Majesty at Hong Kong. He became in 1863 the first Chairman of the Hong Kong and Whampoa Dock Co and served as a director for two periods of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China. He was a Director of the Union Insurance Company of Canton and was Chairman of the General Committee of Hong Kong's City Hall as well as a Director of the Hong Kong Club. He was fond of sports and was a founder of the Shanghai Municipal Racetrack. James also owned the 33 tonne "Heather Bell" - one of only 7 yachts listed in the China Yearbook as being registered in the Hong Kong Yacht Club at that time. He was also noted for his generosity and philanthropy and was the Treasurer of the Diocesan Home and Orphanage, a Trustee of the Seaman's Hospital, and Trustee and Chairman of the General Management Committee of the Sailor's Home. In the 150 year history of Jardine Matheson, Maggie Keswick wrote of him: "He was an able Taipan, a man of strong opinions and a skilled entrepreneur." In 1874, He left Jardine Matheson and went to London where he formed J. Whittall & Co. In 1880, he went to Ceylon, took over Jardine Matheson's interests there and founded Whittall & Company. The company began with 122 Estates which were developed as tea plantations and became one of the largest and most important companies in Ceylon. In 1991, the Whittalls Group of companies in Sri Lanka was sold to John Keells Holdings (Sri Lanka's largest company). I have been in touch with John Keells who have maintained the plantations formerly owned by Whittalls and they have couriered tea from these very plantations for us to enjoy with our lunch today.

When James Whittall died, the China Mail ran the following obituary: "Of a very kindly disposition, he was ever ready to assist anyone connected with the far east. He was a splendid specimen of what the British Merchant can be - shrewd and honest, and with a kindly thought and word for all with whom he was brought into contact".

Returning now to Turkey, Charlton (known as "Charlton of the Charltons") was the second son of James Senior. He married Helen LaFontaine and had twelve children. His eldest son Frederick James went to Ceylon to join his Uncle James in the tea plantation business.

From these four descendants of Charlton and James, the second generation of Whittalls born in Smyrna is so numerous that it is impossible to review them all here. Many of them accomplished great things that are well documented in our various family

histories. Charlton's first grandson Sir James Whittall, however, must be discussed because he is the founder of the Constantinople branch of the family. He was born and raised in Smyrna but, after looking after C. Whittall & Co.'s interests in England for a number of years, settled in Constantinople in 1873. He took up residence in Moda on the Asiatic coast and founded the firm of J. W. Whittall and Company. In 1887 he founded the British Chamber of Commerce in Turkey and was its President for 19 years. He was knighted by Queen Victoria in 1898.

Sir James married Edith Anna Barker of Smyrna and they had eleven children. Their first son, Frederick Edwin Whittall, married Adelaide Helene La Fontaine and they had twelve children. And so it was that Moda became the family village for Sir James and his many descendants just as Bournabat was the family village of Charlton and his descendants. When Sir James arrived in Moda, the foreign population was quite small. By 1906, Moda had a British community of 149 people. In his book *Ben Kendim*, Aubrey Herbert wrote: "In Constantinople there are as many communities as once existed in Byzantium. The old English community included many names, such as Whittall, that are famous throughout the Near EastThey have proved probably one of the most sober, respected and hard working bodies of colonists in the world."

Whether in Bournabat or Moda, the Whittalls of Turkey distinguished themselves not only through their commercial acumen but through their love of their adopted home and through their charity and liberality to their communities and neighbors. The Capitulations gave them an extraordinary status to practice their commerce, their religion and their way of life in an empire which had sometimes been hostile to these things. The internal convulsions which accompanied the rise of Modern Turkey and the First World War marked the end of the Capitulations and the end of this extraordinary but temporary way of life. Through financial assistance given by Frederick James Whittall of Ceylon in 1927, C. Whittall and Company persevered after the war but was liquidated in 1938 upon Frederick James' death. J.W.Whittall & Co. continued to operate right up through the 1960s.

Another important distinguishing characteristics of our family (and all great families for that matter) is a dedication to the collection, preservation and dissemination of the family history. This tradition ignites and maintains interest in the family and its members... fostering, as Monica Bazell put it to me "the great umbrella of belonging". While many of the family records were lost or destroyed in the burning of Smyrna in 1922, the account of the early Whittalls by "James of the Big House" was a foundation for future documentation of the family history.

Sir James Whittall's publication of *Frederick the Great on Kingcraft* also included *Family Reminiscences*. From Moda also, his son Edwin made substantial efforts to collect and document the family history. Edmund Giraud used many of these documents and more to produce his authoritative *Family Records from Smyrna* in 1934. He also wrote *Days Off* - a great account of the family's hunting, fishing and yachting tradition in Turkey. Geoffrey Whittall produced a very scholarly synthesis of these papers in the 1970s. Yolande Whittall's publication of *the Whittalls of Turkey from 1809-1973* is a definitive chronicle of the family. Yolande also produced a family tree. Ray Turrell's *Scrapbook*, covering the period from 1809 to 1922, is a beautiful account of family life in Smyrna. Most recently, Betty and Paul McKernan have produced a professional quality *Whittall Family Genealogy* - a truly titanic effort.

In the past the family was geographically concentrated and family gatherings were as regular as the holidays. The family's embrace was firm and all-encompassing...like the tentacles of an octopus. Today, the Whittalls of Turkey are to be found almost everywhere in the world - but in no place in any great concentration. Family cohesion will, therefore, depend on the young generation, their knowledge of family history and developments and their enthusiasm and dedication in preserving and contributing to the continuity of our historical records. Our meeting at the end of the millennium serves the purpose of bringing the family together, to refresh relationships and make new connections which can form the basis of future collaboration in enjoying and preserving the family's heritage.

The Past

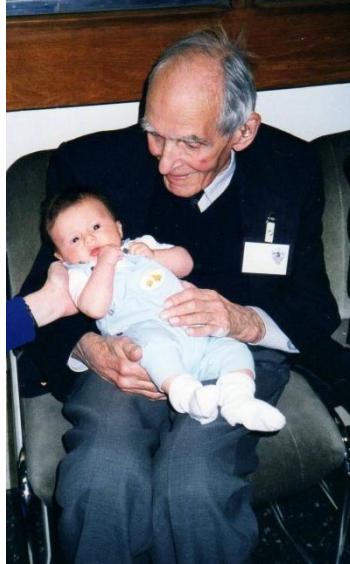
*The Past is dead men say---it is not so;
All that was known of old we may yet know.*

*The past is but a name--so might a girl
That weaves a necklace, to each several pearl
Her hands relinquish, give the name of "Past"
And "Now" the gem she holds, and till the last,
Count each new pearl as lost that leaves her hand,
Nor mark the growing beauty of the strand.*

*The names departed which we name once more,
The dim remembered ways we trod of yore;
All these, the pearl relinquished of our hand,
still shine eternal in the perfect strand.*

-Edmund Giraud, Bournabat, 21st January, 1932

Many photographs were taken that day, but the one that is the most memorable is that of the eldest member of the family there, Dr Geoffrey Whittall (aged 93), with the youngest member of the family, the 2-month old Christopher, son of Mimi (Haselden) Wort:



The day ended after a cup of tea had been had. The event, however, had not quite ended as there was a picnic the following day in Holland Park and this was advertised by the following display board:

SUNDAY from 12.30 on

FAMILY PICNIC

IN HOLLAND PARK

on the

NORTH LAWN

(see map below)

BRING YOUR OWN FOOD

All welcome!

Parking available in park and on adjacent streets

Atty queries: Maya Douhan 0171 716 0717