

WHITESIDE FAMILY ASSOCIATION

February 2021



WFA Will Continue!!

Many thanks to those of you who have stepped up to the plate to help the WFA continue into the future! We somehow knew you were there and we just needed to reach out to you. Beginning in the fall of 2021 we will have a new leader and new officers and some new board members. The future is exciting.

SPRING BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The WFA Board of Directors will meet via Zoom on March 24, 2021. Check the website for the link needed to join this meeting. All members are welcome to participate in these meetings.

The agenda will include discussion of the changes going forward. Plans for the future will be discussed. The hope for future in person meetings is anticipated.

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ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

The 2021 election for WFA Board members will be by a digital vote with a slate and will be with a “yes” or “no” vote for the entire slate.

This election is officially announced via this article. All current and life time members should expect to receive an email by the end of February with voting instructions included. Each member will be asked to vote either “Yes” for the slate or “No” for the slate.

Be watching for this email!

Another Genealogical Society’s Webinar

Welcome to a new contributor to our newsletter Rachel Trousdale. She is also a member of the Virginia Genealogical Society and this is her recap of the content of their webinar on February 10, 2021.

Dr. Shelley Viola Murphy presented a virtual lecture to the members of the Virginia Genealogical Society (www.vgs.org) entitled “Breaking Down Challenges with African American Genealogical Research.” Dr. Murphy is a Descendant Project Researcher with the University of Virginia, working to identify and track descendants of the enslaved laborers who built UVA. Much of the advice she gave in her presentation would be helpful to any genealogical researcher:

You are going to have brick walls in your research, so you should embrace them and learn to love them. They will help you to learn and hone your research craft.

You have got to be organized, or else you will not be able to make sense of your research; choose a system for organizing your family history materials, and stick to it -- a filing system in a cabinet, notebooks, folders, or a digital solution.

Set a realistic goal for your research: What do you want to know? Ask yourself, “Who is going to know what I need to know, and who is going to know what I don’t realize I am missing?”

Remember Dr. Murphy’s 4 C’s of research: Courthouses, Cemeteries, Churches, and Communities. These “4 C’s” are good to remember in conjunction with Elizabeth Shown Mills’ “FAN principle,” or Friends, Associates, and Neighbors.

The Virginia Genealogical Society will be hosting a series of webinars on 14 April, 9 June, 11 August, and 8 December 2021. More information can be found on the VGS website.



Many thanks to those who have stepped up to the plate for the WFA. But we definitely do not have all the volunteers we need to move into the future on a firm footing. These are the areas where help is still needed:

- Assistant for the webmaster
- Assistant for the treasurer
- Support in editing articles for the website
- Contribution of articles for the newsletter

WHITESIDE FAMILY ASSOCIATION 2021

In thinking about the year we are in my first hope is that our Fall Board of Director's meeting can be held in person. By implication our hope is that the virus is in the rear view mirror for all "those of Whiteside". Nevertheless we have zoom meetings as backup to continue overseeing WFA activities.

This year will be characterized as a year of transition which I expect will require encouragement and support from all the membership. By the end of 2021 we will have a new President and a new Vice President and at least two new people on the Board. This is very positive for this new energy will provide the vision, the direction and the implementation of more value added activities for the WFA.

I expect 2021 will be a year of new DNA analysis tools. The big players are Ancestry.com, My Heritage, FTDNA, Gedmatch and DNA Painter. All their websites have upgraded significantly offering more precision tools to analyse our matches. The newest company, DNA Painter is a go to site for chromosome mapping to see where your segments match another's segments and thus a potential connection. Easy to use and offering new incites is the DNA business model for the industry. The WFA intends to devote more time to DNA analysis, both Y and autosomal and perhaps use the web site for posting results.

The newsletter is widely appreciated and a valuable tool to communicate Whiteside findings. Our intent this year is to make it more interactive and to allow for membership personal research articles and genealogical experiences.

Our vision statement is Origins and Connections. Given the popularity of Whiteside Family Facebook Group maybe we should add "chat" to our statement. Over 500 Whiteside are enjoying each other's virtual chit chat. It is fun and informative to see what other Whiteside's are interested in. We encourage more of this.

We wish for those of Whiteside a happy and safe 2021 and look forward to hearing from you.

Bill G

It is with great pleasure that I introduce another new contributor to our WFA newsletter. Welcome to Judy Schiel who introduces us to a town now buried under a lake!

Is there really a long-forgotten town under a lake?

This fall I was a guest for a month at the Rumbling Bald Resort at Lake Lure, NC. On a nice day I decided to go for a walk and saw an old cemetery up on a small hill. It is the Buffalo Cemetery. I love looking for related family in old cemeteries. I was not at all surprised to find Whiteside graves there as I know my grandmother, Ruth Whiteside Jones, had family that came to North Carolina and Virginia. I have studied this family and am a member of the Whiteside Society.

The Town of Buffalo is now in the depths of Lake Lure. The people who once lived there were proud, self-sufficient people happily living in the community of Buffalo in the beautiful Hickory Nut Gorge of North Carolina! We do not want these people to be forgotten as a person or a whole community.

There is no know record of how many people lived in the Town of Buffalo but judging by the church records of the Whiteside Valley Church of 1918 with 98 members, it can be assumed that the entire town was about 150 people. A dam was built to generate electricity in the early 1900's, and just after the completion of the dam the town was flooded. From what I could find online much of the town was torn down and relocated as were parts of the church. The graves in the small graveyard were re-located on beautiful little hill overlooking Lake Lure. (Info from the book "Precious Memories; Bill's Creek Community, Lake Lure, North Carolina", by Virginia Dare Dalton Wilson). (cont)

What buildings were not moved remain under the lake today. I wish I could take a boat out **on a clear day** to the very center of the lake and **look to the mountain that looks exactly like a Buffalo and I could look down and see the location of the town. Maybe next year.** The Town of Buffalo was in what was known as Whiteside Valley. It was centered on farming and mining. This town was often a brief stop for those heading through Hickory Nut Gorge on the Drover's Road to Asheville, NC.

The Whiteside Valley Church was organized July 7, 1892. When it was known that plans for the lake to be built were going to flood the area in the 1920's, the church members began to look for another property and ending up tearing down the original church, using the materials to build on and repair the old Chimney Rock Church site. Tradition says the steeple from the original Whiteside Valley Church was used on the new church.

There are numerous first- hand accounts of workers removing building from what is now our lake. One of the workers who helped removing the left over material from the town and building the lake was offered land in exchange for his work and said" "You couldn't farm it, you can't grow anything on it, you can't put cows on it...it's worthless" William Joe Jay Kiser ("Strawberry Kiser") 1903-1979 Reported by Grandson [Todd Kiser](#). It is interesting fact that he was also the one who left the jeep truck in the Town of Buffalo at about the center of the lake.

The Whiteside Church was named after, J. M. Whiteside, the Pastor for many years. The Church is now Chimney Rock Baptist Church. Chimney Rock Baptist Church was" organized July 7, 1872 and met in a log schoolhouse on Rock Creek. The church was disbanded about 1902 when it was last mentioned in the Association's minutes. Many of its members united with Whiteside Valley Baptist Church around 1892. In May 1926, the church was sold to Carolina Mountain Power due to the Lake Lure dam being built. On August 29, 1928, the Whiteside Valley church became Chimney Rock Baptist, and is still located on that site.

"Chimney Rock School #10 was a building with three classrooms and an auditorium that was built near what is now near the middle of Lake Lure. In 1925 the school was discontinued because of the flooding taking place for the lake. Chimney Rock School was located next to Barzilla's Ledbetter store which also sat along the river valley.

[Buffalo Cemetery in Lake Lure, North Carolina - Find A Grave Cemetery](#)



[Rock Springs Baptist Church Cemetery in Rutherfordton, North Carolina - Find A Grave Cemetery](#)

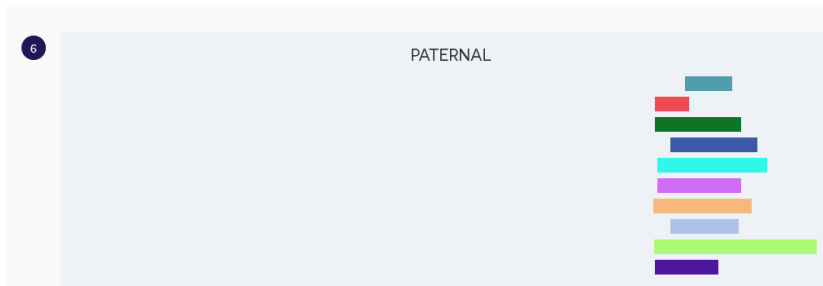
[Judy Schiel](#)

MyHeritage and DNA painter, tools to find Whiteside connections.

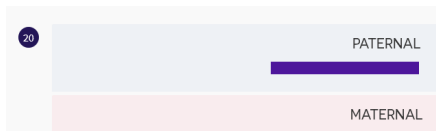
I went to MyHeritage, to which I subscribe and have sent a DNA sample, and searched the surname WHITESIDE in my DNA match list. MyHeritage reports on autosomal DNA matches only. <https://www.myheritage.com/site-572483021/whiteside> I got 17 names, only one surname was Whiteside, the rest I did not recognize. Certainly they were not cousins that I have communicated with. These matches are from US, UK, New Zealand and Canada. My first thought was that they descend from my oldest known relative William Whiteside 1690 but down a line other than mine.

I decided to click on the Whiteside surname. He shares 22.8cM with me on 2 segments, the largest being 16cM. This is pretty strong, I have known and proven cousins with less than that. Unfortunately this Whiteside has a tree of only 2 people, not much help. Next step was to look at him in the chromosome browser. He matches me on Chromosomes 6 and 20. I wondered if there were any triangulated matches that is someone who matches me and matches this Whiteside on the same chromosome in the same location. If there are matches like this then it is highly likely they also are related and maybe I will recognize a name.

Yes, MyHeritage flags triangulated matches and I have 10 with my Whiteside match. Now here a way to look at these 10 matches. I use DNA Painter <https://dnainter.com/> to catalogue the names one spot and for easy follow up. This is a free website to which you download the DNA of a match to see where it matches you. I won't get into how to use only to say it's easy. Here are the 10 triangulated matches between me and my Whiteside match. They all overlap, some more than others. I have not shown names as I do not have their permission, the software shows with and without names. The #6 in the upper left corner is the chromosome and each match is shown by a color bar.



Some of these matches match me on other chromosomes, for example,



With a picture of my match and precise information location and size I can now credibly contact the match and start a dialogue about a common ancestor. If you experiment with this and have questions I would be pleased to help.

William G. Whiteside