



WHITESIDE FAMILY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

November 2024

Welcome to the “new” look for our newsletter. At its fall board meeting a decision was made to head all communication tools for the WFA with this same picture of a “Tree of Life.” Upon seeing this visual all people will know that it is news from the WFA. We are happy to join this effort with our “new” look.

WFA General and Directors Fall Meeting

On Thursday, October 10 the WFA directors met via zoom for its fall meeting. Chaired by the president Bill G. Whiteside, the group welcomed a large group of WFA members. Jim Whiteside and Patricia Blackstock were the only directors who were absent.

The WFA website provides readers with the work of all 3 primary family researchers: Don Whiteside, Bill R. Whiteside, and Foster Clay Whiteside. FC Whiteside’s work focuses on family 1000 and includes information about the women as well as the men. This is a unique opportunity for all researchers and needs to be advertised.

Problems with login to the new WFA website were discussed and the board indicated that these should be corrected as soon as possible. The old website will remain active for at least another year.

The Whiteside Family Facebook group has over 600 members and reaches many people who are otherwise unknown to the WFA. Kim Leon will work with Dan Boucher to develop “teasers” to attract more members.

Chip will send out a sample of Genopro software to several individuals for their shared usage.

There are several new findings including the Religious Census of 1766 Ireland. These will all be posed.

The WFA Delaware agent has agreed to continue, but his new address must be filed with the state,

The membership, financial, and research project list reports were all accepted and can be found on the website.

The next meeting will be in April 2025 again on zoom.

**In Memoriam
Elliott Whitesides
1932—2024**

Elliott, a charter member of the WFA, played an important role as an associate and leader.. Sandi Trapp is one of the only charter WFA members who is still active in our group. She has written some memories of Elliott and his role in the early days of the WFA. Many thanks to Sandi for sharing.

For those of you who are new to the WFA and may not know about the organization's "early days," the person who started this group was Warren Whiteside, a good friend, who is not with us any longer. Warren was interested in his Whiteside beginnings and reached out to people researching their Whiteside ancestors via the internet, which was in its infancy (this was about 1998).

Warren made a connection with Elliott Whitesides (yes, Elliott's surname had an "s" on the end) in Tennessee, and Elliott and his wife, JoAnn, offered to have a Whiteside gathering at their home. At that meeting, along with Warren and Bobbie Whiteside of Odessa, Delaware, was Barbara Whiteside, who came from Lancashire, England, for the meeting (who I had met via the internet several years before the gathering) "Plain Bill" and Sherry Whiteside from Cottage Hills, Illinois; Joe and Thelma Whiteside from Roseville, California; Bill and Esther Whiteside of Cashiers, North Carolina; Joe and Ida Ruth Whiteside of Salem, South Carolina; Larry Whiteside from Florida; and my husband, Norm and I. I think there were one or two other people, but their names elude me.

Prior to this gathering, I had not heard of the late Professor Don Whiteside, but Elliott and "Plain Bill" were aware of Don (someone who had spent much of his time researching Whiteside ancestors) and thought Don's research should be shared. With his family's permission, a decision was made to create a WFA website and put Don's multiple self-published papers on this future WFA website.

At the gathering we did elect a president, Warren, and some other officers, and decided to have an annual gathering. Many of those at the initial gathering have left us, but others have taken their place and enriched what the WFA has to offer.

Sandra Whitesides Trapp

FAMOUS WHITESIDE WOMEN

Our Scotch-Irish ancestors were hardy, feisty, opinionated, and had a work ethic enjoyed by only a few other ethnic groups. Their commitment to their Presbyterian beliefs brought much grief and persecution through the centuries. They were forced to move from England and Scotland to Ireland and then to America seeking religious freedom. We can talk on end about how staunch our ancestors were, but the real heroes of most of those stories were the women who supported the men. Behind every strong man was an even stronger woman! For a few minutes I want us to examine some stories of famous Whiteside women and perhaps a few who weren't so famous.

Ethel Winona Whiteside was born in Brunswick NJ in 1885. She traveled the country on the vaudeville circuit in the early 1900s. Ethel Whiteside's act included herself and Five Pickaninnies. Now, what are Pickaninnies? These are little black boys who performed as dancing, singing comedians usually in the presence of a white woman leader. Ethel Whiteside appeared in this southern act with her pickaninnies and one San Francisco reviewer noted that "she makes a pretty stage appearance in a red gown and she led the little fellows through the act in a way that compelled the audience to give the act a big reception. Indeed many managers on the Keith vaudeville circuit looked to her as a leader. A fellow vaudeville performer remembered that "She was often in the chorus line at the end for comic antics as the girl who was always out of step and racing to catch up with the others....."

Here is a completely different kind of famous Whiteside woman! Vaudeville acts were the most popular theater for ordinary people in the early 1900s. Ethel Whiteside was one of the leaders in this entertainment world. Not much is known of her private life except that she did marry John Fitzmorris/Fitzmaurice her manager and she had no children. Ethel died in New York City in 1960.

Another Whiteside woman of note was Margaret, wife of Thomas C. Whiteside, in the Phineas Whiteside family. In her later years she employed a twelve-year-old girl, Anna Mary Robertson, to help with the house. Mrs. Whiteside had experienced a stroke and needed the heavy work of the house to be done. Mrs. Whitesides taught Anna to do the "prettiest fancy work" in Washington County. But Anna was more intrigued by the pictures that hung in the Whitesides home, and she began studying and drawing them after Mr. Whitesides gave her the first chalk crayons she'd ever seen. The Currier and Ives scenes reminded her of how her father had raised her to soak up the simple beauty of the land that surrounded her. "A body can't dream indoors; you must have earth and sky for dreaming."

Anna Mary worked for Mrs. Whitesides until her death in 1875 and maintained the family home for the next year until a nephew came to take care of the farm and home. In the years following she worked in several other homes before she finally married at age twenty-seven. She was the mother of ten children—half of whom she buried as infants.

It was not until she was over seventy years old that Anna bought her first artist's brushes and "oil paint in tubes" at the coaxing of her sister. All of her life Anna had enjoyed the fancy needlework that Mrs. Whitesides had taught her so many years ago, but now arthritis made it difficult for her to do that. She painted four pictures and hung them in the local drugstore window. A local collector bought all four and became her sponsor in the art world. Anna is known to

the world today as "Grandma Moses" whole paintings hang in museums across the country. Before she died at the age of 101, she had painted more than sixteen hundred pictures. Though she never set foot into an art school, she received all the awards they had to offer. Had Margaret Whiteside not taught that young girl to do needlework, one of America's greatest painters might never have known the pleasure of expressing her-self through art. The influence of Whitesides women has been felt far and wide.

Margaret Whitesides was a typical woman of her time, but her support of Anna Mary impacted the young girl's entire life and impacted the entire world through the paintings of Grandma Moses. There have been so many Whitesides women through the years who have not been recognized in the history books, but whose lives have impacted their worlds in ways far beyond anything they could comprehend. My own (Barbara Hanna Olson, newsletter editor) grandmother Whitesides was one of those women. She was born Nancy Elmina McClure and married my grandfather William Boyce Whitesides at the age of 19. In the next 20 years she gave birth to ten children – nine girls and one boy (he was part of a set of twins!). In 1918 she was left as a widow to manage a farm and mother a house full of girls. My own father, who courted the baby of those girls, would tell you quickly that he had more respect for Mrs. Whitesides than any other woman he had ever known. She was a force to be reckoned with. She was not alone in her strength and strong Christian faith. Her direct descendants today number in the hundreds. Every one of those lives has been impacted by this very strong lady.

Whitesides ladies are to be respected and recognized. Famous or not so famous, they are our Heritage!

1766 Religious Census of Ireland

In September 2024, I visited the National Archives of Ireland, located in Dublin. I was hoping to find information on three lines of my family. One of those was John Whiteside (family 0401) who emigrated to Toronto, Ontario, Canada around 1843-44.

At the archives I found in the 1766 census for Dublin a John Whiteside and a William Whiteside.

Upn my return to Toronto, I searched the 1766 census for the name Whiteside in the Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland. I found:

No. 1366 Bundle 80 return in Banagher Parish (County Derry) 4 April 1766

John Whiteside and William Whiteside

No.1152 Bundle 80 return in Dungiven Parish (County Derry) 4 April 1766

John Whiteside and William Whiteside

No. 674 Religious Census in Magherafelt

Edward Whiteside, John Whiteside and Widow Jane Whiteside

No. 797 Bundle 78 Kilbroney Papist Families

George Whiteside

Patricia Blackstock