

The Whigham Report

Newsletter of the Whigham Family Association

Vol. 6, No. 2

March 19, 2005

Robert E. Whigham, Jr., 1938-2005

Death of Robert Elmore Whigham, Jr.

Our much loved "cousin" and historian of the Whigham Family Association, co-author of "The Whigham Chronicles", Robert Elmore Whigham, Jr., departed this earth, Tuesday, January 11, 2005, about 1 a.m. Robert died as he lived - in his own home, surrounded by Bee, and his son and daughter. He was buried, Thursday, January 13th, in Magnolia Cemetery, in Mobile, Alabama. A native Mobilian, Robert was the third child and only son of Robert Elmore, Sr. and Edith Parker Whigham. He was preceded in death by his parents, his sister, Elizabeth, and a daughter, Ann Cowles Whigham.

He is survived by his companion of many years, Bee Alsup, his daughter, Angela Bell, son Robert III,, grandson, John Maurice Bell, two granddaughters, Lillian Ann Bell, and Allie Whigham, a sister, Barbara Ann Neuhoff, three nephews and four nieces.

But, to those of us who benefitted by Robert's depth and breath of family research, Robert will live on as the spirit behind "The Whigham Chronicles." He was the one who constantly prodded and questioned me about the progress of the work. He spent innumerable hours on the phone and the internet ferreting out the smallest bit of new information. I received countless forwarded emails from him, and many of you may have first learned of the effort to chronicle the journey of the Whigham family across this land by an email from Robert.

There are simply no words to convey how much Robert meant to the creation of a detailed account of our family history. Letters and packages arrived weekly with new information. Not only did he reach across state lines, he reached across the ocean to Scotland and Ireland to find other Whighams with information about the family. His contact with John Whigham in Scotland led to the establishment of a connection between our family and the Whighams of Scotland

He contacted researchers in Northern Ireland to learn more about where the Whighams lived there. It was Robert who first told me, "Joyce, our Whighams would have been wearing orange - not green." For years, before he became so ill, I would get daily emails from him - each with another tidbit of information. Often, we would both be up in the wee hours of the morning doing research and contact each other online.

Though we were cousins and were both born in the same city, though his sisters had been childhood playmates, and though my mother worked for his father for years, I had never met Robert until the first reunion in 1999. But, I had heard of him. My mother told me a number of times before her death in 1993 that he had called her wanting to know more about our part of the family. However, I wasn't interested in genealogy back then.

The work he did and the contributions he made to bringing this family together and to creating the strong bond of family we are finding through our reunions and our family association will live long after he has left us. They are his legacy to us. I can only imagine some of the conversations he is having in Heaven. I am sure that one of his first questions to our ancestor Thomas Whigham was, "What ship did you come to America on?" For that was the one question he was constantly asking. I don't know if we shall ever know the answer to that question in this life, but the fact that we are even asking is due to Robert's passion for our family history.

We will all miss him. And, I shall especially miss him. There will be no more emails signed, "Your Double Cousin," Robert." For we were related through both our Simpson and our Whigham lines. But, all those of us who are interested in our "family roots" have lost a talented and dedicated researcher. And, we will never forget what he did for all of us.

Our Whigham Family Association sent flowers. If you would like to send a sympathy card, please mail it to - The Robert E. Whigham, Jr. Family, 1400 Dauphin St., Mobile, AL 36604.

The Upcoming Reunion

Each time one of our reunions has ended, my thought for each of you has been the old Irish blessing.

May the road rise to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face.
And rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the hollow of His hand.

And, given the uncertainties of life, it is appropriate for each of us to wish the same for the other. That is why the reunion is so important. It provides us the opportunity to come to know our extended family members.

We all come from differing backgrounds, differing life experiences, and differing expectations of ourselves and others. But, when we come together at the reunion, we are parts of a whole. We are the progeny of courageous and adventuresome people. And, they must surely look down with pride as we come together to see their descendants who are so diverse but so joined together by our common Whigham ancestry.

Many of you have not yet attended one of our reunions. And, you have missed so much. So, this summer if you are physically able, please join us. We promise you good food, good company and a good time.

Baby Report

Dues are Due

Several of you have asked when your dues are due.

They are due every January 1st. We decided to do this two years ago to make it easier for our treasurer.

So, if you have not already done so, please send your check for \$10, payable to *The Whigham Family Association* to: **Lance Russell**

**18744 Founders Drive
Fairhope, AL 36532**

If you are not currently a member of the association and would like to join, dues are only \$10 per year per family which help to defray the costs of the newsletter, etc.

The more members an organization has, the stronger it is.

Our treasurer, Lance Russell and his wife, Sherry, have a new baby girl, born just in time for Easter. Elizabeth Marie Russell made her grand entrance into this world on Good Friday, March 23rd. She weighed 6 lbs and measured 19 inches long. Mother and baby are doing fine.

HELP!!! LOST WHIGHAMS!!

A number of our January newsletters were returned with wrong addresses, moved, etc. I would appreciate it if you could help me find any of the following people:

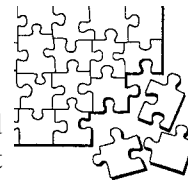
Jeannie Dalrymple, Shayne Whigham Nelson, Claire Pebworth, Mrs. Foster Taylor, Geoffrey Neil Whigham, Jim Whigham of Seattle, WA., and John Whigham of Eastman, GA. It seems there are others, so if you know anyone who didn't get their newsletter or someone who should be added, please let me know. You can do by mail, phone or email. The address is:

*Joyce Whigham Dorrycott
6454 Village Park
San Antonio, TX 78250-4053
210-680-5701 or whighamgen@aol.com*

Missing

Pieces of the Puzzle

No sooner did the newsletter hit when I received a letter from Joe



Graves telling me that Tommie Jean Overstreet was wrong about his grandmother's name. He assures me it was Sarah Frances, and he says he should know. So, what we learn from this is that we can all forget. Some times we even disagree. But, we shall keep his grandmother's name as Sarah Frances.

I had breakfast a couple of weeks ago with Don Whigham (Gerald Don) and his wife, Joan. They were in San Antonio to visit his daughter. Don is a descendant of Thomas Galloway Whigham (son of the Thomas whose grave plot we are currently repairing). He promised to get his family information to me soon. It was great to meet another Whigham "cousin."

Sending the Whigham Chronicles . . .

One of the major projects of my co-author, Robert E. Whigham, Jr., when the 2nd edition of the Whigham Chronicles was first published in the summer of 2003, was to have copies of the book put in as many libraries, archives and other locations as possible to make it available to other family researchers.

This was a project so dear to him that he purchased six books for it and sent them from Mobile, Alabama to Edinburgh, Scotland and to Belfast, Northern Ireland. He even mailed me a list of locations where he thought books should be placed. It seems a fitting project to me that we should pick up the responsibility of sending books to those places where none have yet been sent.

The following is a list of places that he had made, and the name of the person who donated the books to each location. Where there is no name, it is because we either have not as yet sent one there or because I have failed to add it to the list.

If you would like to choose one of those locations which does not currently have a copy or if you would like to send one to some other library, etc., I believe this would be a fitting memorial to Robert's memory. At the reunion we will be asking the association to contribute to this project as well.

Below is the list Robert made and sent to me in July 2003:

The Whigham Chronicles has been placed in the following facilities:

Library of Congress, Washington D.C., 2 copies, Whigham Family Assn.; *National DAR Hdqtrs.*, Washington, D.C., Barbara Knotts and Cathy Martella; *Georgia State Archives*, William Denny Whigham, Sr.; *Alabama State Archives*, Russell D. Whigham, Jr.; *Enterprise City Library*, Enterprise, AL, memory of deceased daughter; *Roddenberry Library*, Cairo, Georgia, family of Robert Judson Whigham; *Louisville, Georgia Library*; Frank C. Chance; *Macon, Georgia Library*, J. L. & Mary Nell Thompson; *Sylvester, Georgia Library*, J. L. & Mary Nell Thompson; *Washington County, Alabama Library*, Joyce Dorrycott & Don Green; *Sons of the Confederacy*, Joe Graves; and by Robert E. Whigham, Jr., to each of the following locations: *Mobile Public Library*, Mobile, Alabama; *Linen Hall Library, Belfast, Northern Ireland*; *Genealogical Society Library*, Mobile, Alabama; *National Archives, Edinburgh, Scotland*;

General Records Office of Scotland.

Other locations identified by Robert but which do not have books are as yet are: *Ellen Payne Odom Library, Moultrie, Georgia*; *CEL Regional Library, Savannah, Georgia*; *Augusta, Georgia, Library*; *The Scotch-Irish Society, Bryn Mawr, PA.*; *Public Records Office (Proni), Belfast, Northern Ireland*; *Public Records Office, Dublin, Ireland*; *General Register Office, London, England*; and the *State Archives of Florida, Iowa, Mississippi, Pennsylvania and Texas.*

If you would like to "adopt" one of these locations to donate a book in Robert's memory, please send me your check for \$54.95, and I will put a suitable notation inside as to who is donating it in memory of Robert. If you know of another location to which you think a book should be sent, please let me know, and I will add it to the list.



Presentation of "Whigham Chronicles" to New Registry House, Edinburgh, Scotland, by John Cowie Whigham, on behalf of Robert E. Whigham, Jr.

More Reunion Info

Myron Whigham, our Vice President and the one in charge of the reunion activities, has suggested that we add the auctioning of a hand-made quilt as one of those activities. If any of you make quilts or have one you wish to donate for this purpose, please let Myron know. If not, we shall try to obtain one elsewhere.

I hope all of you who can will participate in our Silent Auction by bringing something you have made yourself. It was one of our best activities last time and raised \$1,000 for our cemetery repair project.

And, I want to say "thank you" to Don and Catherine Whigham for contributing to the effort to clean the graves of Virginia, Evelyn and Justin Earl

Whigham, I'm still raising funds if any of the rest of their descendants would like to contribute. Virginia Whigham was the great grandmother of many of our members.

Other Whigham Deaths

In addition to the death of our historian, we have also lost other members of our Whigham family.

On February 5, 2005, Marvin Winton Whigham, Sr., one of our oldest association members, passed away at the age of 95.

Marvin was the son of Joseph Nathan Whigham and Minnie Lee Atchison, the grandson of Richard Nathan Whigham, and the great grandson of Joseph Whigham, Sr. He is survived by a son, Marvin W. Whigham, Jr., and three daughters, Sandra, Judith and Sharon.

In the past year or so, we have also lost a number of other Whigham family members that have not been mentioned previously. They are:

William Edward Sims, husband of Sarah Martha Whigham, January 14, 2005.

Carmen Whigham Boyce, March 9, 2004

John Lester Whigham, October 9, 2003

Grady Lee Whigham, October 20, 2003

John Lester and Grady Lee were brothers.

In Other News . . .

William D. Whigham, Sr., who attended our first reunion in Florida in 1999, recently sent me the following update on his family:

His granddaughter, Elizabeth Ashley, and her husband, Steven Overby, are the proud parents of a son, William Reece Overby, born June 23, 2003. Bill's other granddaughter, Amy, received her M.D. degree from Emory University in May 2004 and is currently interning at Vanderbilt University Hospital, in Annapolis, MD.

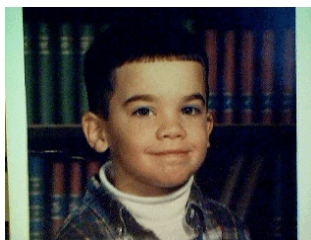
PICTURES, PICTURES, PICTURES

For years I have been asking for pictures for the picture album. Now that I am fully engaged in putting the album together, I have found that there is a problem I had not anticipated. Many of you sent family pictures with only the family name, i.e., "The Bill Smith Family." Others have names I can't identify in our family database. So, please help me with the following:

How do these people fit? Keath, Cody & Crystal Eastley; Teresa, Danielle, Danny, Brandy Sumner (think that belong to Lavada Whigham but don't have all these names); Heather and Cheryl Doran.

Now, can anyone identify these pictures?

So, please contact me by email, unicornjd@aol.com; by phone 210-680-5701, or by mail to identify anyone on pictures you may have sent that were unidentified or if you know who these people are. And, if by some chance, you have failed to send pictures, there is still time to email or mail them to me at: Joyce Whigham



Dorrcott, 6454



Village Park, San Antonio, TX
78250-4053. The albums will be ready at the reunion. I will also send out info concerning

the album on our website.

www.whighamfamilyassn.com