

# The Whigham Report

Newsletter of the Whigham Family Association

Vol. 8, No. 1

February 19, 2007

## 5<sup>th</sup> Whigham Reunion on Horizon

### *Louisville GA in June*

The 2007 reunion is fast approaching. In fact, we will be gathering in Louisville in Jefferson County GA in just over 4 months. Final arrangements are being made by our reunion committee, and the registration form is included in this newsletter. More detail about the reunion will be forthcoming in the April newsletter.

This is one reunion you really should not miss. We are returning to the site of Queenstown, just outside Louisville, where the ancestor of many of us came with his royal land grant in the 1770's. Though we seem doomed not to learn how he got to America (at least we haven't so far identified the ship he came on or why he was listed in a Quaker colonial group in Wrightstown), we do know he was in Queenstown and where his land was located.

It is increasingly important for us to gather when we can, especially since we have lost so many of our family members this last year. We will sadly miss Porter Whigham, Jr., and Joseph Jerome Whigham, both of whom have been such strong supporters of the association and at most of our reunions.

### *Places to Stay*

While there are still a number of plans to make for the reunion, one major action was taken last summer. That was the identification of possible places for us to stay while in Louisville.

There had been real concern over where we would find lodging since Louisville was such a small town. So, it was reassuring to identify the following motels and bed and breakfasts.

The following is a list of some of them:

Louisville Motor Lodge, 308 Hwy. 1 bypass, 478-625-7168. This will be the "official" site of the reunion. A number of us already have reservations there.

Wadley Motel, 430 Poplar St., Wadley, GA (about 9 miles from Louisville, on the Hwy. 1 bypass, 478-252-9393.

Bed & Breakfast - Magnolia Mornings, Hubert & Patsy Jordan, 1038 Speir St., Bartow, GA, (11 miles away), 866-429-3777.

Bethany Farms Bed & Breakfast, Tom & Pam Coleman, 6694 Old Hwy. 1, Wadley, GA, 478-252-8259.

Old Town Plantation Bed & Breakfast, Martha Black, 8910 Hwy. 17 South, Louisville, GA 30434, 888-754-2717 (toll free), 478-625-1401.

There are probably other places nearby, but it is important that you

make your reservations if you have not done so already. It is easier to cancel a reservation than to arrive at the reunion without a place available to stay. That happened to some of our "cousins" at a previous reunion.

### *What Will We Do There?*

One of the most interesting things that happens at our reunions is meeting new "cousins" and getting to visit with those we already know. Over the years I have met so many wonderful people who are part of our extended family.

And, if you are an ardent genealogist as I am, you can visit the Louisville Library and the Jefferson County Historical Society (in Louisville). If you get there early you can visit the courthouse on Friday and do some research of your own.

You can visit the Revolutionary War Cemetery - or go to the Ebenezer Reformed Presbyterian Cemetery, where a number of our earlier Whighams are buried. And, if you come to the reunion, these are some of the places that will be on our tour on Saturday morning.

Along with the tour, we will have our Silent Auction to raise money for our fund to repair the graves of our ancestors. This

has been one of our most successful activities at the reunion. It has been so interesting to see the various items that come in from our family members. Some make great jelly or pickles; others crochet or knit various items. One of our cousins is talented at photography. Others do woodwork.

All the profits made from this activity go to repair and restore graves of those who have been passed away for over 100 years.

Our work in restoring these graves reminds me of all the cemeteries we've visited over the past 13 years. As I found one Whigham grave after another, I found myself identifying with this poem -

*"Your tombstone stands among the rest;  
Neglected and alone.  
The name and date are chiseled out  
On polished, marbled stone.  
It reaches out to all who care  
It is too late to mourn.  
You did not know that I exist  
You died and I was born.  
Yet each of us are cells of you  
In flesh, in blood, in bone.  
Our blood contracts and beats a pulse  
Entirely not our own.  
Dear Ancestor, the place you filled  
One hundred years ago  
Spreads out among the ones you left  
Who would have loved you so.  
I wonder if you knew  
That someday I would find this spot,  
And come to visit you."*

Author Unknown

So, please join in our continuing efforts to show respect to our ancestors.

### ***A Few 'Joyce' Words***

I realize it has been a long time since our last newsletter. From August through December

I was busy running the fall political campaign for the Democratic campaign for the Democratic organization that I lead. In the midst of it, Don and I took the trip to New England that I had promised him we would last spring when he was so ill.

While in New England, we researched Don's family in the New England Historical Association and in the state archives of Rhode Island, Connecticut and New York.

In New York I also spent a little time looking for Whigham family members. I did find a copy of the will of Hannah Whigam, the wife of Edward Whigam. So far I haven't found a connection to anyone in our database.

Due to a Supreme Court ruling in August, we had a special election for Congress in December. This extended our election season and kept me busy until just before Christmas.

We are both doing well and look forward to the convention in June. I am currently trying to focus on what I will contribute to the silent auction. One of my great weaknesses is that everything interests me. So, I am constantly involved in one project or another, but the three that call to me continually are genealogy, politics and needlework.

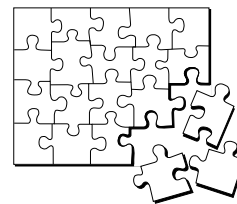
Do join us at the reunion. We will have such a great time together. And, if you have never been before, we are so anxious to meet you.

### ***New Little Whighams***



Keith and Faye Whigham are once again proud grandparents. Their son, Brian and his wife Rachael, have a new son of their own.

Carter Keith was born on September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2006.



### ***More Pieces of the Puzzle***

These last months have continued to produce more contacts with Whigham family members. Some were simply writing to buy books; some were asking for information on their families; some were sending me information on their families - and some were phone calls giving me notice of the deaths of family members. (More about that later)

One of the most rewarding parts of being the keeper of so much information on our family has been the ability to share that information with those who have so many questions about their ancestors.

I heard from Cathie Ferguson from New Zealand who is looking for her ancestors in Scotland. John Whigham of Scotland was able to help with some information. In the process, we learned more about her family.

Sebastian Sheppard, our cousin from England, sent me more information about his family. (#515 on pg. 119 in the *Chronicles*) So, to update your records: Sebastian, whose surname is misspelled in the book) is the son of Cynthia Whigham, and the grandson of Walter Kennedy Whigham. He is married to Lorraine McPhee, has two children, Sebastian Alexander, and #516 Aneka

Caroline. More information on this family in the addendum.

I also heard from Nancy Helms of Colorado. She is a descendant of Joseph Whigham, Jr., through her mother, and whose father descends from the brother of Rev. Helms who married Mary Ann Whigham, the sister of Joseph Whigham, Jr. She not only bought a book but, hopefully, will provide us more information about her branch.

And, from Diane Wilson, granddaughter of Ola Mae Whigham Roberts, I got a lot more information on her branch.

I have received a number of corrections over the years and hope we get them all in the addendum. I sent a number of them to Carl, Lance and Nancy to work on that, but I haven't heard from anyone but Nancy who is busy working on her "secret project" for the reunion.

John Allen Whigham from the John Whigham (2<sup>nd</sup> son of the original Thomas) branch contacted me and indicated that several people from his branch planned to attend our reunion.

And the list goes on. We have such a large and diverse family, and we are so fortunate that so many are interested in their ancestry. It is that interest which has produced the *Chronicles* and which increases our knowledge of the family continually.

### ***DID YOU KNOW?***

Shea Whigham is in a new movie, "First Snow," which will come out on March 23<sup>rd</sup>?

Mark Whigham, Shea's uncle, has been tapped for a role in a movie, beginning in March?

Darrell Hammond, star of Saturday Night Live, is descended from Mary Ann Whigham Helms, daughter of Joseph Sr.

Ben Susak, descendant of Angus Milton Whigham, was on the TV show, "So You Think You Can Dance," last summer?

Kimberly Whigham, daughter of Faye and Keith, spent last summer starring in a production of the musical comedy, "Just Plain Anna Amanda." She played Anna.

And, Becky Whigham Louwsma's daughter, Kimberly is dancing in a production in Las Vegas?

If you know of other Whighams involved in the entertainment industry, let me know, and I will mention them in the next newsletter.

### Deaths in the Family

This last year has been a difficult one. We lost so many of our family members - some so well known to those of us who attend reunions.

On the second of November, I received one of those dreaded phone calls. Our cousin and by-laws chair, Joseph Jerome Whigham, had passed away after a short illness. Jerome, as I called him, used to call and email me regularly. Sometimes, he just wanted to talk; other times we would discuss family history.

Jerome was born on April 21, 1933, to Joe Lee and S.L. Whigham. He was married to Christine Wheeler in 1967 and brought up two children - Martha Demean and Jay Scott. Jerome headed the Division of Fruit

and Vegetables for the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services from which he retired on December 31, 2001, after 35 years of service.

He was dedicated to the association. Every reunion he brought jellies and jams that he had made for the Silent Auction.

Our cousin, Barbara Long Knots, lost her son and her brother in 2006. Her oldest son, Kenneth, died on June 18<sup>th</sup>, at the age of 51. Then, on November 4<sup>th</sup>, her only sibling, her brother, John, passed away in West Monroe, LA, at the age of 67. John left behind a wife, Kay, two children, Slade and Melanie, three grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Adding to Barbara's sorrow this year was the loss of her first cousin and close friend, Cathy Martella, who died on May 27<sup>th</sup>.

On September 1<sup>st</sup>, Eunice Weeks Martin, passed away in Covington County, Alabama.

Eunice was born October 18, 1919, in Coffee County, Alabama, and was buried on Sunday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, in the Lowery Church of Christ Cemetery, in Lowery, Geneva County, Alabama.

The daughter of Warren and Minnie Whigham Weeks, Eunice was married to Milford Martin and the mother of six children.

On October 10<sup>th</sup>, my first cousin, Deloris Whigham Singley - and the sister of Roland and Bennie Ray Whigham - who usually attend our reunion - passed away.

Deloris was born on April 16<sup>th</sup>, 1929, to Eugene and Vella Whigham. She was married to Lyman Singley and the mother of two children - son, Larry, and daughter, Wanda. She was buried on October 12<sup>th</sup>, in Advent Cemetery, in Silas, Choctaw County, Alabama.

Then, on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, Mildred Edmondson Whigham, died in Seminole County, Florida. Born on November 8, 1918, Mildred married Julian Bertie (J.B.) Whigham in 1943. She was the mother of seven children and was preceded in death by her son, Thomas Edmondson Whigham.

Mildred was a graduate of Troy State Teacher's College and went on to be a teacher. Her daughter, Karen Coleman, left her hospital bed to deliver the eulogy at her mother's funeral.

The last time I spoke to her in September Mildred reminded me to come to see her next time we got to Florida. She only lived about 20 minutes from my sister's, and Don and I visited she and J.B. each time we went to Florida.

On August 3<sup>rd</sup>, Nellie Ruth Whigham Caylor, died in Flowers Hospital, Enterprise, AL, following a sudden illness. Nellie Ruth was the daughter of Garland and Mattie Lou Hatcher Whigham and was born on October 24<sup>th</sup> 1930 in Dale County, AL.

She was survived by two sons, John Burt and Mitchell Caylor; one sister, Bonnie Whigham Rudd; and one brother, Harmon Whigham. Nellie Ruth

was buried in the Meadowlawn Cemetery in Enterprise.

In addition to these deaths in the family, Ruby Mull Whigham, died at the age of 80, of Dacula, GA, on August 5<sup>th</sup>. She is survived by her husband, Dewey H. Whigham, daughter, Cathy and son, Ralph, 10 grandchildren, and 9 great-grandchildren. Ruby was buried on August 11<sup>th</sup>, in Gwinnett Memorial Park.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to all of these families.

### ***Whigham Website and Blog***

During the summer I began a blog on our family. However, it wasn't interactive, so I am going to create one on blogspot.com. I want to have a means of allowing us to interact so that we can keep up to date on what is happening within our extended family.

If you haven't looked at our website recently, it would be worth your while to do so now. It is still unfinished, but we are working to bring change.

### ***The Whigham Chronicles***

Our supply of books continues to diminish, but there are still enough of them to take care of the new Whighams who find us from time to time. More and more we are getting requests for books for gifts and for a family's child so they will have one as well. If you want one, send your check for \$54.95, payable to the Whigham Family Association, to me at: Joyce Whigham Dorrycott, 6454 Village Park, San Antonio, TX 78250.



I am sure that the time will come when someone else in the family will put together an updated version.

Until then, this is our best record of the Whigham family, and I am very grateful to all those who contributed to it and to those who send me corrections as they uncover them. If you know of changes that need to be made, let me know.

### ***Pictures, Pictures, Pictures***

I continue to be asked if it is too late to send pictures for the family photo album. It is never too late for the manner in which the book is being put together allows for continual additions.

This book will not be bound. Rather it will be in a loose leaf binder with the pictures enclosed in sheet protectors. That way pages can be added in as necessary.

My only concern is that it will get too thick even for the 3" binders we plan to use. Well, that is not my only concern. I fear losing pictures, or not knowing who is in the picture - or a dozen other things when you undertake an exercise of this magnitude.

So, please be patient with me, and I promise to do the best job I possibly can. If you can email your pictures, they seem to print better. Otherwise, send good quality pictures. Please don't send inkjet printed pictures as they tend to be very poor quality.

### **Dues Time Again**

Please send your \$10 per family dues for 2007 to:  
Lance Russell, 18744  
Founders Drive, Fairhope, AL  
36532.

**Jefferson County, Georgia**

Jefferson County was created in 1796 from Burke County and Warren County Georgia. (Thomas Whigham originally settled in Burke County but, when Jefferson County was created, the Whigham family were became among the first residents.)

Louisville was the first permanent capital and was also the first site where the government buildings were owned by the state. Savannah had served as the capital from Georgia's colonial period. For a short time Augusta was temporarily the capital city, while a new town, Louisville, was being built in what was then the frontier. This new town would become the capital by an act of the General Assembly passed January 26, 1786.

When the first session of the General Assembly met in

Louisville on the 12<sup>th</sup> of January in 1796, Jefferson County was created. It was named for Thomas Jefferson while Louisville derived its name from King Louis XVI of France. The county was home to many Scotch-Irish who had settled the township of Queens borough, prior to the Capital era.

Jefferson County is rich in history with many families migrating on to the west and south of it. Many of the Jefferson County families asked for passports through the Creek nation to the Alabama area. (One of my maternal ancestors was one of them.) Finding new land, these settlers began the population of the west.

Louisville remained the state capital of Georgia until 1806. The old Slave Market is still in existence.

The Jefferson County Historical Society was formed in 1995 to help people with the city's and their family's history. Their address is: P.O. Box 491, Louisville, GA 30434-0491.

**2007 Death**

We have already had at least one Whigham death in 2007. On January 26<sup>th</sup>, Richard Whigham and his nephew, Jared, were working on the roof of a three story house being built by Richard's brother, Harry, who is a contractor.

The roof was icy, and both men fell off. Unfortunately, Richard fell on a stack of pavers and was killed instantly. Jared fell on to the ground and suffered broken bones and internal injuries. He is currently recovering at home.

Richard was 49 years old and retired from the Navy. He was buried in the County Line Cemetery near Opp, AL.

**NOTE:** Karen Coleman, J.B.'s daughter, continues her recovery in the hospital in Tampa, FL. Please remember her in your prayers.

**Please fill out, detach and mail with check as soon as possible to:  
 MYRON WHIGHAM, P.O. BOX 274, SAMSON, AL 36477.  
 Make your checks payable to: The Whigham Family Association**

I will be at the 5<sup>th</sup> Whigham Family National Reunion, June 29 - July 1, 2007. Please make the following reservations: \_\_\_\_\_ adults, age 18 and over (\$15 each); \_\_\_\_\_ teenagers ages 13 - 17 (\$10 each); and \_\_\_\_\_ children ages 6 - 12 (\$5 each). **We need this information to make plans for all the activities.**

I cannot attend but would like to join the Family Association and make a donation. Enclosed is my check \_\_\_\_\_.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Please note if you will bring something for the Silent Auction and/or the cake walk. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_