

## THE WHITACRE FAMILY

The Book of Jared by Eleanor Hall

Vol. 3 – pgs. 245 – 247

*Other sources of information on the Whitacre family:*

*Bedford Co. Court Records*

*Hinshaw's Enc. Quaker Genealogy – Correspondence with Mrs. Elmer J. Whitacre, Niagara Falls, NY & Sarah Fell, Genealogy of the Palmer Family; Book of Jared Vol. 1 – pg. 676.*

The first Whitacre we are aware of in our ancestral line is John of Thet, Yorkshire, England. He is the grandfather of Hannah Whitacre, who was the first wife of John Jared, Wagon-maker, and Veteran of the Revolutionary war.

John Whitacre came to America as a single man. In Philadelphia on March 12, 1702, he married Jane Parker, the widow of John Scott.

We quote from a story about the early settlers of Muncy Valley on the west Branch of the Delaware River in Eastern Pennsylvania. The author is Mary Elizabeth Whitacre, whose intimate knowledge of the West Branch country has enabled her to reconstruct a remarkably clear picture.

“ On 10/12/1699” (This would be November by the calendar in use then.) “John and Jane Scott purchased from Thomas Dugan 100 acres of land in what is now Bristol Township, Bucks Co., Pennsylvania. (Bucks Deed Book 3:50). According to Warren S. Ely, this property lies just below Tullytwon on the Delaware River, practically at the site of “Cold Spring” where Thomas Dugan had established the first Baptist Church in 1684. John Scott lived less than two years after he steeled here. His will was dated 8 mo, 17, 1700” (November) “and was proved in Philadelphia 26 February 1700/1. Jane Scott – ‘my said wife’- was named sole executrix.”

By deed dated 6/7/1701, “Jane Scott Executrix of John Scott,” transferred the 100 acres on the Delaware to Tobias Dymock, (Bucks Co., Dd. Book 3:50) and in the following year she married John Whitacre at Falls Monthly Meeting (Min. Mo. Mtg. 12/3/1702.) Immediately thereafter, with her husband and children, she moved to Upper Makefield Township, where Whitacre had purchased 600 acres of land from Thomas Stevenson. (Bucks Co. Dd. Bk. 11:736)

There is a definite record of but two children of John and Jane Scott, (1) Thomas, and (2) John. Of Thomas comparatively little is known. He resided for a time in Upper Makefield on land adjoining that of his step-father, John Whitacre, and his name appears on the Poor Tax lists of 1742 and 1744 as well as on a petition for a new road in Upper Makefield dated 1755. (All in the files of the bucks Co. library at Doylestown). He was a member of Falls Meeting of Friends and was disciplined in 1748 for permitting his daughter of be married at home, by a justice, to a man who was not a Friend.

“John Whitacre, and Naomi his wife took a certificate to Kingwood at about the same time, but according to Warren Ely, within a short time all had moved about twelve miles north to Greenwich and no further record of Thomas has been located.” Continues Mary Elizabeth Whitacre.

“It would appear that John Whitacre dealt generously with his stepsons, as with his sons. It has been noted that Thomas Scott had land in the immediate vicinity of that of his stepfather, and on March 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, 1734, John Whiacre conveyed to John Scott by lease and release, 150 acres in Upper Makefield, a part of the 600 acres which he had purchased from Thomas Stevenson. (Buck Co. Deed Book).”

Through the rigid discipline of the Quaker Church John “Whitticar’ was “liberated to marry Jane Scott, 1702/12/3.” (Hinshaw: Quaker Genealogy) pg. 1037. To them two sons were born, John Jr. 14 May 1704, and Robert, no birthdate is given, it was probably about 1706. John Jr. md. 24 June 1734, Naomi Hulme.

Following along with the history of John Whitacre Jr. we learn his marriage to Naomi Hulme was celebrated 24 June 1734 at Falls Monthly Meeting. Naomi, his bride, was the daughter of George and Naomi (or Ruth?) (Palmer) Hulme, of the same congregation.

John Whitticare had a large family by today’s standards. One daughter and six sons. Hannah, the oldest child, was born 21 September 1739. She was followed by George, Benjamin, Joshua, Caleb, Robert b. 20 September 1758, and Joseph. They were certainly not the most sedate Quaker family in their community. It seems some of them were constantly before the Church facing disciplinary action.

George was reported “Married out of Unity” 25 June 1768, and dismissed. Eight years later, 31 August 1776, he acknowledge his error, and was accepted back into the fold.

His brothers, Benjamin and Caleb had a fight. Caleb made acknowledgement 30 September 1775, but Ben was dismissed. At the time they were described as “sons of John and Naomi Whitacre, who were received on Certificate from Kingwood, MM in New Jersey, 31 October 1761.”

John Whitacre and his wife, Naomi, with children, George, Joseph, Benjamin, Joshua, Caleb, and Robert, received a certificate of removal from Kingwood, 6/9/1757 and were all received soon after on certificate by Falls MM in Loudoun County, Virginia.

Benjamin was dismissed for fighting 27 April 1776. He repented and made acknowledgement, so was reinstated 28 April 1781. His wife, Alice, whom he married while not in membership was accepted into the Quaker Faith on the

request of Benjamin, 23 June 1784. (Considering the dates, I wonder if this fighting was being a participant in the Revolutionary war?).

On February 24<sup>th</sup>, 1776 the report came to the Monthly Meeting that Caleb and Benjamin Whitacre are “still making addresses to young women not of our Society, with the object of marriage.”

The third son, Joshua, was condemned at Goose Creek MM in November 1776 for joining the Army. He did not repent, this mis-deed of marching off with a musket to help keep the Red-Coats and Indians off their doorstep, was considered very serious, so on 24 April 1777 he was disowned. This, however, did not end his troubles. On 24 April 1780 Ann Steer, his sweetheart was reported “married out of unity to Joshua Whitacre.” She was disowned 24 May 1777. She made acknowledgment 24 November 1792, but was not accepted. She must have been accepted at some later date, because on 24 November 1804 she was granted a certificate of removal to Middletown MM in Ohio.

Caleb, the fourth son, acknowledged his indiscretion in making advances to young ladies “not of the Friends Society” and was accepted, “he now being pledged to marry Phebe Gore.” The marriage was consummated 21 October 1776.

“Caleb, son of John and Naomi Whitacre of Loudoun Co., VA (formerly of Kingwood, NJ) md 31 October 1776, Phebe Gore who was received by request 26 September 1776 at Goose Creek Meeting House, Virginia, Auspices of Fairfax MM. They were transferred to Goose Creek MM in Virginia 1785. Phebe died before 27 October 1806 when Caleb and his three children, Thornton, Aschsah, and David were granted certificate to Salem, MM Ohio, by the Goosecreek MM Here, finally, Caleb is listed “clear”. He married secondly, Miss Brachen, the daughter of Soloman and Sarah (Miller) Bracken.

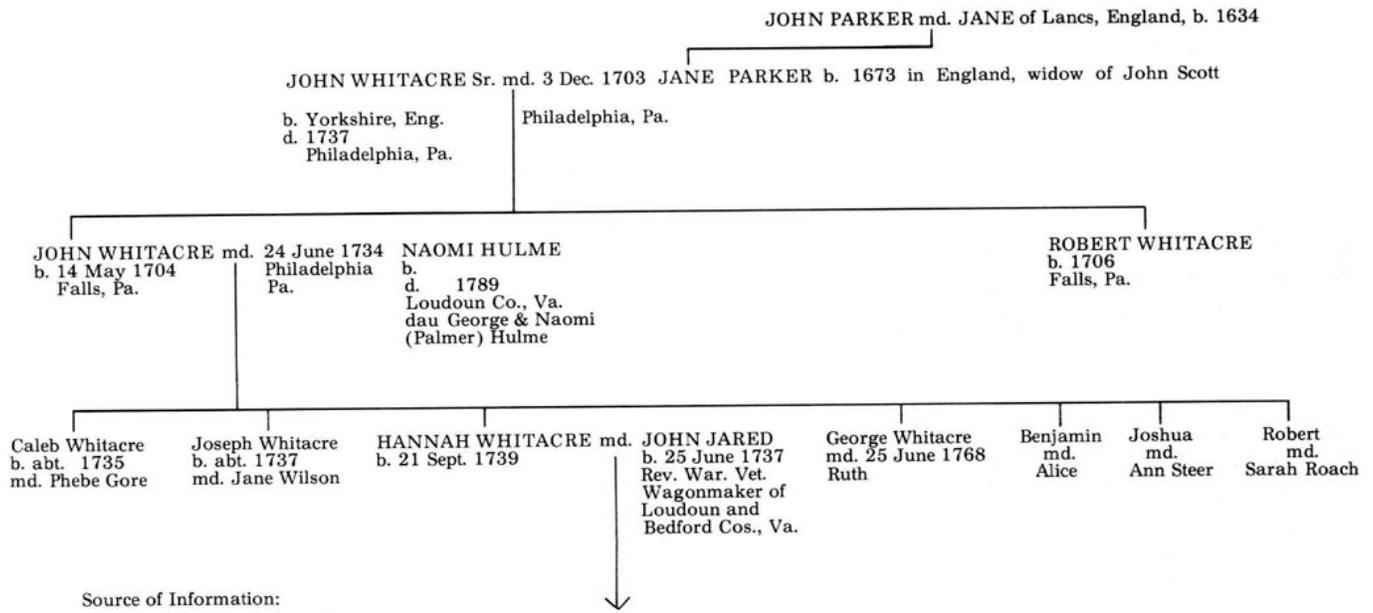
Benjamin was dismissed 27 April 1776. On 24 October 1781 his acknowledgement was accepted and he was reinstated.

Robert, b. 30 September 1758, Loudoun Co., VA d. 18 September 1828. He married Sarah Roach at Fairfax meeting House, 28 May 1783. Sarah was born 22 April 1760 to Richard and Hannah (Sands) Roach.

Joseph and his wife, Jane Wilson, were disowned 27 may 1780 for marrying contrary to discipline.

What a wayward-stiff-necked bunch! Some of the haughty blood of Ephriam must have dribbled down through the ages to stir that family to restlessness.

WHITACRE FAMILY HISTORY



Source of Information:

Bedford Co. Court Records  
 Hinshaw's Enc. Quaker Gen.  
 Corres with Mrs. Elmer J. Whitacre,  
 Niagara Falls, N.Y.  
 Sarah Fell, Gen. of the Palmer Family

*\*See Chapter 15 for Whitacre/ Whitaker family listings.*