

WHITEHOUSE FAMILY HISTORY CENTRE

Newsletter, 1st June 2025

Dear Readers,

What is going on with the WFHC ? It looks so different !

At the end of 2024, Keith Percy made the decision that a transition was in order. He enlisted the help of his daughter Helen Percy to package the website and turn it over to the Guild of One Name Studies with the thought that I would take over WFHC administration working through the Guild. Probably because I did not know enough technically to know what I did not know, nor which were the right questions to ask, the transition was more than a bit rocky. I imagine the patience of Guild officers was tried severely. I was able to set up a profile for the project on the Guild site but failed in being able to edit the Guild hosted webpage. The following statement is taken from the profile for the Whitehouse One-Name Study:

About the study

The Whitehouse Family History Centre (WFHC) was begun by Keith Percy in 1981. Since then, he has grown it tremendously and established it as a great resource for Whitehouse research.

Like Keith, I am a Whitehouse descendant. Shortly before a family trip to England in 2014, I thought to see if I could make some headway on my Whitehouse ancestors who had been a brick wall for me for 30 years. I was stuck at my 2 great-grandfather, Dr Joseph Hollis Whitehouse, who had emigrated from Canada to the US and settled in Michigan. His death certificate (1914) had an incorrect name for his father. A few emails with Keith served to unlock my brain. Within a few months, I was looking at Canadian records of George Whitehouse MD and Mary Coleman Whitehouse, parents of Joseph. This enabled Keith to plug my branch into the growing network of WFHC family trees. Then it was a simple matter to obtain from GRO the death certificate of Benjamin Whitehouse (1757-1840), father of George. Grateful for this experience and recognizing the great value of the WFHC, I have been contributing modest efforts to assisting Keith in various projects ever since.

WFHC may be accessed at www.whitehousefhc.org

After a few frustrating months of stalled progress, my son Alexander Strehlke took the HTML package created by Helen, re-secured the domain name (graciously funded by Keith) and recreated WFHC as an independent website. He took the initiative to modernize the format, making the material more accessible.

I pronounced this a success after I proved able to edit the new site and upload files.

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Progress with Whitehouse records since the February 2024 Newsletter

Much work was accomplished in 2024 by Keith with contributions from Peter Loach and me. After a very slow start due to the four months of already mentioned technical difficulties early this year, work recommenced in May 2025:

- (1) Revising the 1851 census file; completed September 2024.
- (2) Normalising forenames and altering the layout of the 1881 census file, to make it consistent with our work on the 1911 and 1851 censuses; completed December 2024.
- (3) Revising the new (online) GRO (England & Wales) index of births, which is very time-consuming and has temporarily stalled. Restarted and re-stalled again.
- (4) Extending coverage of black country baptisms, particularly by creating a single file for the whole of Dudley Registration District, adding Wednesbury and improving West Bromwich; completed December 2024.
- (5) Work has begun on expanding the 1860 US Census file. This was last revised in 2021 and covers only Indiana and Kentucky. Additional states will be added in increments.

Frontier Tragedy

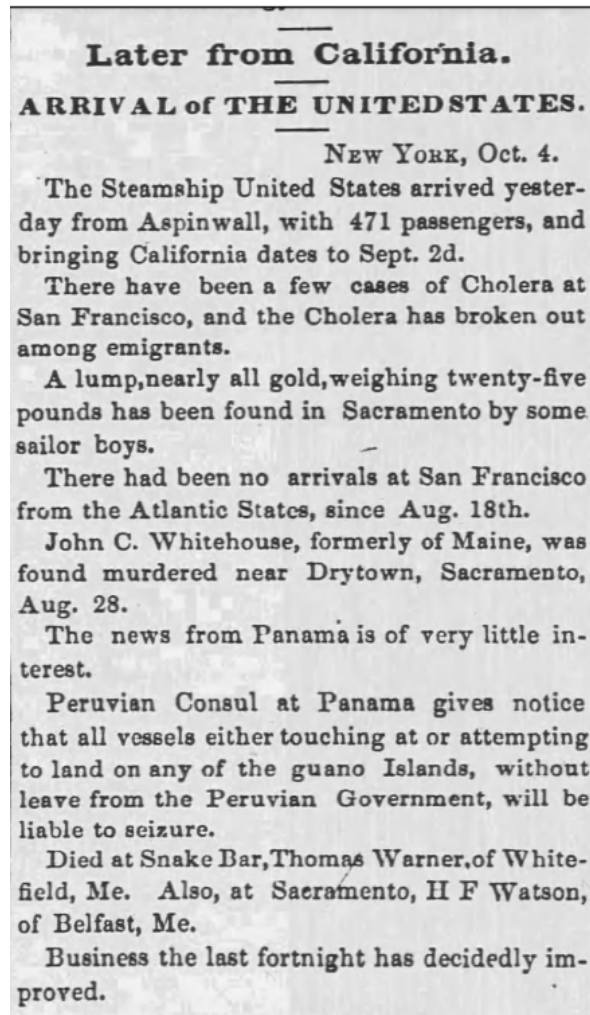
As I reside in California, it was the first state tackled for addition to the 1860 US Census. While researching, another Whitehouse came to light, one who did not make it to the 1860 Census. From the Daily Alta California, Volume 3, Number 233, 24 August 1852:

HORRIBLE MURDER.— We learn through Burt & Co.'s express, that Mr. Jonathan C. **Whitehouse**, formerly of Maine, was on Saturday evening found dead, about two miles from Drytown, on the trail from that place to the Drytown and Mocosumne Canal. A musket ball had passed through his body, and his skull was fractured. Mr. **Whitehouse** was a most inoffensive citizen, and the bloody deed must have been perpetrated for the purpose of robbing him, as his pockets were completely rifled of all their contents. He was twenty-one years of age. Great excitement exists in Drytown in consequence of this daring outrage. —

Six weeks later, the news had made it from California back to Maine. The Bangor Daily Whig and Courier, Tuesday, 05 October 1852 reports that the SS United States arrived at New York the day before bringing word that “John C. Whitehouse, formerly of Maine, was found murdered near Drytown, Sacramento, Aug. 28.” The article in its entirety follows:

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We can all hope that business will continue to improve.

I wish whoever reads this, success in their Whitehouse Research.

Feedback is welcome.

Best Regards,

Brian