

# WHITEHOUSE FAMILY HISTORY CENTRE

Newsletter, 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025

Dear Readers,

The year is almost over, and it is time for a quick taking stock of this enterprise. After a rocky transition early in the year, things settled into a routine of research, review and posting on the website.

## **Note on Website Functionality**

Formerly, it was possible when accessing files on the WFHC site to click and view and then to consciously download. Since the creation of the new website in Spring of this year, this is no longer the case for many of the files. It comes down to the type of file.

- If the file is an html or pdf, it will still appear with a single click; these files must be consciously downloaded if so desired by the user.
- If the file is Word or Excel (\*.doc, \*.docx or \*.xlsx), a single click will download the file but will not open it for viewing.

## **Progress with Whitehouse records since the June 2025 Newsletter**

*Progress is taking place at a reasonable pace:*

- (1) The expansion of the 1860 US Census file is now complete for all states. The new version has been uploaded to the website. This consisted largely of me adding material and Keith checking, a reversal of our former practice. You may recall from last time that formerly the file contained Indiana and Kentucky with 318 entries. The new version contains 2,200 entries. Of these, 65% are Whitehouse or variants. Great credit must be given to Keith for the impetus to get us over the finish line this month.
- (2) Thanks to Keith's efforts this year, the Pre-GRO Marriage file now stands at 2,981 entries. This file combines West Midlands Pre-GRO Marriages with the file referencing WFHC trees and now includes London and the Home Counties 1789-1837 with some gaps.
- (3) Next on the docket is a review of the 1880 US Census file. Keith has already taken a pass and normalized forenames. This file contains 3,126 entries, with 66% being Whitehouse.

## **Sesquicentennial of Fatal Train Crash, or Another Untimely Demise**

While researching the entry for 5-year-old S D Whitehouse of Maine in the 1860 Census to resolve the initials, I found that he met a tragic and premature end 15 years later in the immediate aftermath of a train collision. Samuel D Whitehouse was 19 years old. He was the son of Jesse Whitten Whitehouse, a Railroad Engineer. Samuel worked as a Fireman for the railroad. The collision involved a "Wild Engine" – a non-scheduled, unauthorized engine which hit a scheduled train in heavy fog. This was in March 1875. Mr Whitehouse sued the Grand Trunk Railroad for negligence.

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Newspapers

by Ancestry

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/875189597/>

The Portland Daily Press (Portland, Maine) · Tue, Mar 9, 1875 · Page 2

Downloaded on Sep 9, 2025

## **The Grand Trunk Accident.**

**LEWISTON, March 8**—Samuel D. Whitehouse, injured by the collision on the Grand Trunk, died Saturday night. This morning Coroner Brooks empanelled a jury, who listened to the report of the post mortem by Dr. Horr, when the jury adjourned to three o'clock to await the arrival of witnesses.

Evans and Cummings the other men hurt, are doing well.

## **Bizarre Burglary**

This item, considerably more recent, was brought to my attention by Marion Gray of The Guild of One Name Studies, courtesy of the Newswatch Project. As Mr Ashley Whitehouse would have been born in the early 1980's, he is outside the normal scope of WFHC research.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2025 **NOTTINGHAM POST** 5

### Burglar disturbed couple - then smashed up their car

A MAN caught breaking into a couple's home hurled bricks at the homeowner and smashed up a car as he escaped.

Ashley Whitehouse, 42, wore a balaclava when he broke into the home on Wingfield Avenue, Worksop.

Whitehouse, of Primrose Way, Worksop, ransacked the kitchen and stole a purse containing a bank card before walking into their bedroom. After an altercation, he was chased out of the front door while continuing to threaten his victims.

He then threw a paving slab through their car window and hurled stones and bricks from a nearby garden at the man, who he also hit in the stomach with a large stick, police said.

After the incident, which happened at around 8am on March 23, a mobile phone was recovered from a plant pot. Officers then identified it as Whitehouse's device. Two hours later, the he was arrested at home.

While being detained, he headbutted a police officer, injuring her ear.

Whitehouse admitted burglary, criminal damage, possession of an offensive weapon in a public place and two counts of assault occasioning actual bodily harm.

He was jailed for a total of two years and 11 months when he appeared at Nottingham Crown Court.

Detective Constable Amy McMillan said: "It will have been a

Burglar Ashley Whitehouse was captured on a doorbell camera



frightening experience for the victims to be awoken by an intruder and then come face to face with a masked man inside their home.

"Burglary is an offence which can have a deep and lasting impact on those affected. This is why preventing break-ins and bringing

burglars to justice is a priority for the force.

"Whitehouse reacted violently to being disturbed and continued his aggressive behaviour by hurling bricks at the victim as he fled and assaulting him. When officers tracked him down a short time later

he responded by headbutting an officer who was simply doing her job.

"As a force we will not tolerate attacks on officers. Being assaulted and injured while on duty is not part of the job description and never will be."

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I truly hope that no one who reads this awakens to or suffers injury from a masked intruder. Rather, I wish whoever reads this a splendid 2026 and success in their Whitehouse Research.

Feedback is welcome.

Best Regards,

Brian