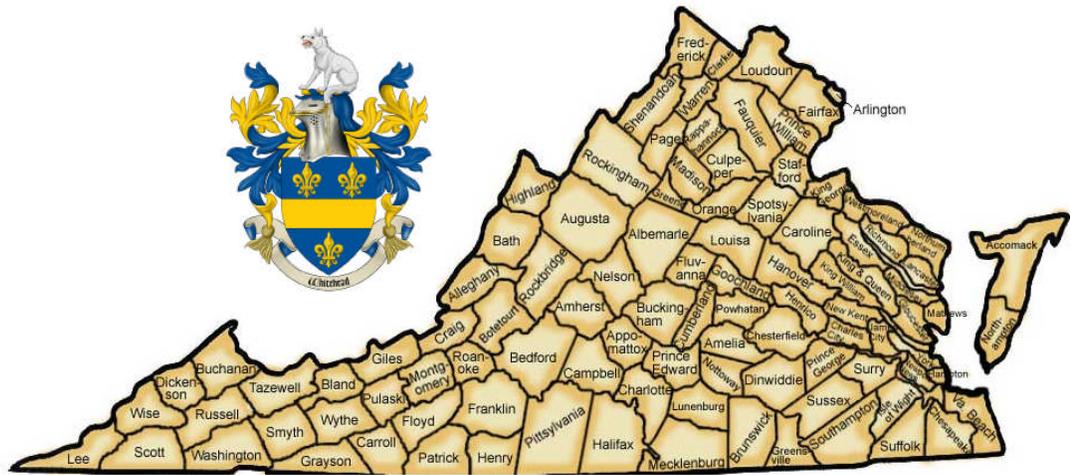


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The Whitehead Family Tree, Virginia Roots, 1600-1900:

A Collection of Family Trees, Histories, and Biographies
about the early Virginia Whiteheads, their ancestors,
and their direct descendants



By BERT "TIGER" WHITEHEAD IV
(Descendant of John Whitehead, 1735-1787, Amherst County, VA)

PAGE 1 OF 24

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YOUR FAMILY TREE

Feel free to use this page to document the names, birth years, birth states, and spouse's name of your direct ancestors up to the first known Virginia Whitehead in your family. If your ancestors are listed in this book, you can also list the page number on which they are found, for easy reference later to their biographical information.

My Name: _____ Birthdate: _____ Spouse: _____

1. _____, _____, _____, _____, _____
Earliest Known Ancestor, Birth Yr, Birth State, Page #, Spouse's First/Last Name
2. _____, _____, _____, _____, _____
Child, Birth Yr, Birth State, Page #, Spouse's First/Last Name
3. _____, _____, _____, _____, _____
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18. _____, _____, _____, _____, _____
Child, Birth Yr, Birth State, Page #, Spouse's First/Last Name

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**Please send all corrections/content to the author,
Bert "Tiger" Whitehead, at: tiger.whitehead@gmail.com.**

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CHAPTER 1 - Introduction

This book is a labor of love from one Virginia Whitehead descendant to all the other Virginia Whitehead descendants, their relatives, and all those otherwise interested in the Whitehead family history. My name is Bert “Tiger” Whitehead IV and I’m a descendant of John & Sarah Burcher Whitehead of Amherst County, VA, 1735-1787. This book includes information about: the Whitehead family name and its origins; four Whitehead Coats of Arms from England and Scotland; and over 220 Whiteheads who lived from the 13th Century to the late 19th Century. This includes: ten of the earliest Whiteheads known to have lived in Europe from the 13th Century to the 17th Century; 13 Whiteheads who immigrated from Europe to non-Virginia colonies; 23 Whiteheads who migrated to Virginia prior to 1670, and another 18 who sailed there from 1670 to 1750; 74 Whiteheads who have lived in Virginia in the 17th and 18th Centuries, including many from the prominent family lines of Arthur Whitehead of Isle of Wight and John Whitehead of Amherst; references to another 80+ Whiteheads who’ve descended from these early Virginia Whiteheads and who lived as late as 1899; and the migrations of many Virginia Whiteheads to other states in the U.S., and other colonies within Virginia.

In preparing for this book, I have spent hundreds of hours combing through records, sites, and historical accounts; therefore, I am confident that my research will provide wonderful, detailed, and accurate records for thousands of Whiteheads in the world today who are known to, or who have likely descended from, a Virginia Whitehead. Nevertheless, despite how much information I have provided in this book, I also know that for many of your own family members who’ve descended from Virginia Whiteheads, I may have only scratched the surface! In fact, you may have much more information about a particular Virginia Whitehead or descendant than I have found because you have received information directly from your ancestors and relatives while doing your own research. Likewise, you may have even found that I’ve made an error in my own research. Therefore, in the interest of improving this book and its accuracy, and making it a blessing for many future Whiteheads to come, I have a Special Offer for all readers of this book! (See Page 3). I hope you will become an active participant in the future of this book about our Virginia heritage.

Chapter 2, “Whitehead Origins, 5th Century to 17th Century Europe,” begins with a general history of the “Whitehead” name, having originated from Anglo-Saxon tribesmen who migrated from Germany to England as early as the 5th Century. The chapter highlights the development of England from the 5th Century to the 11th Century, the use of more reliable records starting in this latter Century, and the continuing development of the Whitehead name into other derivations including Whytehead, Whited, Whitted, and Whitehedd. This chapter discusses several known English Whiteheads, many with these variant spellings, who lived in the 13th through 17th Centuries: Roger Witheved, Adam Whytehevde, Robert Whitete, Agnes Wythod, Henry de Whiteheved, John Whitehead, Sarah Whithed, Richard Whitshead, John Whithaved, and some of the Whiteheads from the Tytherly-Lancashire Group of Whiteheads including Sir Henry Whitehead, Richard Whitehead, and Anne Whitehead. The section on English Whiteheads includes three known Whitehead

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Family Coats of Arms, including one that may have been used by the Whiteheads of Tytherly-Lancashire. The chapter also displays a Coat of Arms for Whiteheads from Scotland, as well as a few prominent Scottish Whiteheads of the 16th Century: Andrew Whitehead, Philip Whitehead, and the Whitehead of Park family. Finally, this chapter discusses the Whitehead migration to Ireland, including one known Whitehead of early 15th Century Ireland, John Whitehead. The chapter concludes with a brief discussion of political, social, religious, and economic trends in 17th Century Europe, and the emergence of the New World, which prompted many Whiteheads to migrate to America, including Virginia.

Chapter 3, “Whitehead Migration to Virginia, 1620 to 1750,” discusses the 41 known Whiteheads who specifically came to Virginia, either by land from other colonies, or by sea from Europe, prior to 1750. The chapter begins with the first 24 known Whiteheads to migrate to the New World in the early 1600s, including Daniel Whitehead (Hempstead, NY, ca 1620), Richard Whitehead (“New England”, ca 1620), John Whitehead (New Haven, CT, ca 1620), and several others. The chapter then discusses the earliest known Whiteheads to migrate to Virginia: the first, John Whitehead, arrived in Virginia by 1625; another Whitehead may have arrived in Virginia as early as 1622. 21 other Whiteheads also arrived in Virginia from 1634 to 1670; these are all discussed in this chapter. This chapter then details the “Three Brothers Tradition,” which holds that most or all Virginian Whitehead families descended from the lines of three original brothers who were granted land in Virginia in the early to mid-1600s. This section discusses the five Whitehead men (Arthur, William, Richard, John, and Robert) who are the best candidates to be the three brothers of this tradition, but we also debunk this tradition by describing the 18 or 19 other Whiteheads who arrived and lived contemporaneously with these five men from 1620 to 1670, and therefore who likely make up at least 10 different Whitehead lines that originated from Virginia. This chapter concludes with a list of 18 additional Whitehead arrivals to Virginia by sea during the years 1670 to 1750.

Chapter 4, “Virginia Whitehead Biographical Sketches, 1620-1799,” takes your understanding of Virginia Whiteheads deeper by providing biographical sketches of 63 known Whiteheads to live in Virginia from 1620 to as late as 1799, including those identified in Chapter 3; in addition, this chapter lists 13 more Whiteheads in the Virginia Wills & Administrations of 1660 to 1800 (no biographical sketch provided). Many of the Whiteheads in this chapter are members of two prominent Virginia Whitehead families with perhaps the most known descendants of Virginia Whiteheads living today: Arthur Whitehead, 1625-1706, of Isle of Wight County, VA, and John Whitehead, 1735-1787, of Amherst County, VA. For these two family lines, this chapter simply lists the names of these men and their known family members and descendants who lived up until 1799 in Virginia; their biographical sketches are provided in later chapters: Chapter 5 (Arthur Whitehead) and Chapter 6 (John Whitehead).

Chapter 5, “Arthur Whitehead, 1625-1706, of Isle of Wight County, provides the detailed biographical sketches of 29 known ancestors and descendants of Arthur Whitehead of Isle of Wight County up to 1899, and an additional listing of at least 40

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more Whitehead descendants of these primary 29 Whiteheads. While Chapter 4 listed only the members of this line who actually lived in Virginia, and only those living as late as 1799, this chapter extends the Arthur Whitehead family tree another 100 years, to 1899, including ancestors from England and descendants who lived well beyond the Virginia borders in several other U.S. states.

Chapter 6, “John Whitehead of Amherst County, 1735-1787,” provides the detailed biographical sketches of 37 known descendants of John Whitehead of Amherst County up to 1899, and a listing of at least 40 more Whitehead descendants of these primary 37 Whiteheads. While Chapter 4 listed only the members of this line who actually lived in Virginia, and only those living as late as 1799, this chapter extends the John Whitehead family tree another 100 years, to 1899, including descendants who lived well beyond the Virginia borders in several other U.S. states.

Appendix A, “Migrations of Virginia Whiteheads to Other U.S. States (and other VA Counties),” discusses the Virginia Whiteheads and their descendants who are known to have migrated from Virginia to other states throughout the country (as well as to other counties throughout Virginia). This chapter may help Whiteheads in other states to determine whether they are descended from Virginia Whiteheads.

Finally, Appendix B, “References,” lists the 83 sources that this author used to provide information for this book. Note: there may be some information that I have gathered from a few other sources, such as independent websites, but that I have inadvertently failed to document the source because I had captured much information long before deciding to write this book. As I come across these sources again, or as readers inform me of the sources for some of the information that I have provided, I will update the References section accordingly.

End of Chapter.

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CHAPTER 2 - Whitehead Origins, 5th Century to 17th Century Europe

The name Whitehead derives from Old English words hwit, which means white, and heafold, which means head [1]. The Whitehead family appears to have originated from Anglo-Saxon tribesmen who migrated from Germany to England, beginning in the 5th century. Prior to the 5th Century, Rome militarily occupied England, and the citizens were known as Britons. After Rome ended its military occupation of England, the Angles and Saxons migrated into England from their native Germany (in the state now known as Schleswig-Holstein), forcing the native English Britons into Wales [1]. From the 5th Century until the 9th Century, the Anglo-Saxon society of England consisted of several kingdoms divided into many tribal regions. These kingdoms were finally united into one country of England under Egbert in the 9th century, but the tribal society prevailed [1].

Known English Whiteheads prior to 17th Century

Unity in the country was solidified in the 11th Century (1066), after the Norman's of France conquered England in what is now referred to as the Norman Conquest. This conquest changed the culture of England from a tribal culture to a more modern culture, one which was more politically, socially, and legally sophisticated. English society slowly grew away from tribal families with tribal leaders, and more into a typical nation with a King. This society also diligently kept records of marriages, land transfers, and other civil matters. These records, especially those beginning in the 13th Century (1200-1300 AD), establish that the Whitehead name was widely spread throughout England; the records since then also speak of people named Whytehead, Whited, Whitted, and Whitehedd, sometimes having two different spellings for the same person [1]. According to the Internet Surname Database, many historical records contain references to people with last names that match these or other variant spellings:

Early recordings of the surname include Roger Witheved, who appeared in the Hundred Rolls of Huntingdonshire, dated 1273, and Adam Whytehevde of Hoton, who was a juror on an inquisition before the sheriff of Berwick in 1300. In 1338 Robert Whitete was recorded in the Manorial Records of Sheffield, Yorkshire. Occasionally, the name may derive from "Hwithod", meaning white hood, and an occupational name for one who made white hoods for use in monasteries. An early example is that of Agnes Wythod recorded in the Hundred Rolls of Oxfordshire, for 1279.

Finally, but more rarely, the name may be locational from residence on a chalky headland, as in Henry de Whiteheved, of Cornwall, in 1297. Recordings from surviving early London registers include: the marriage of John Whitehead and Margret Malwins on August 13th 1564, Sarah Whithed, christened at St Giles Cripplegate, on October 13th 1643, and Richard Whitshead, who married Alice Rye

at St James Paddington, on October 4th 1783. The first recorded spelling of the family name is shown to be that of John Whithaved. This was dated 1219, in the "Pipe Rolls" of Leicestershire, during the reign of King Henry 111rd, 1216 - 1272. Throughout the centuries, surnames in every country have continued to "develop" often leading to astonishing variants of the original spelling. [70]

One common tradition of many English Whitehead families was to develop a "Coat of Arms" to represent their family name. "A coat of arms or armorial bearings (often just arms for short), in European tradition, is a design belonging to a particular person (or group of people) and used by them in a wide variety of ways. Historically, they were used by knights to identify them apart from enemy soldiers. In Continental Europe commoners were able to adopt Burgher arms. Unlike seals and emblems, coats of arms have a formal description that is expressed as a blazon." (Wikipedia)

Two of the most well-known Coat of Arms for Whiteheads from England (of which this author is aware), and which are very similar, are shown below. One of them has a crown, which indicates that the Whiteheads who used this crest were royalty.



Both of these crests have the heading, Dum spiro spero, which means "While I have breath I hope" [1]. The other symbols and colors on the family crest mean the following [4]:

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CHAPTER 3 - Whitehead Migration to Virginia, 1620 to 1750

Having learned about the genesis of the Whitehead name and family lines in Europe, we now turn to the migration of Whiteheads to the New World in general, and specifically to Virginia, into which at least 41 Whiteheads migrated from 1620 to 1750 – some by sea from Europe; others by land from other colonies. The Whitehead family lines originating in Virginia are an important part of the history of hundreds of thousands of Whiteheads in America and the world today. In fact, some early historians and story-tellers were so bold as to even claim that *Virginia* Whiteheads were the source of most or “all” Whiteheads that existed in the early 20th Century from “New York to Georgia” and states westward:

“According to tradition, the Whitehead family, now represented by various groups from New York to Georgia, and especially in Virginia and westward to Kentucky and Tennessee, all derive from early English settlers on the lower shores of Chesapeake Bay [Virginia].” [5]

Despite this early tradition, however, we know today from Passenger Lists [3] and other records that dozens of Whitehead settlers arrived in and branched out from not only Virginia but also several other eastern colonies from 1620 to the 20th Century, including New York, Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, and even “New Netherlands,” which covered the states today known as New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania and Connecticut.

The First Whitehead’s in the New World, 1620 to 1670

The turmoil within Europe, as well as stories of new opportunities abroad, made the New World appear attractive to many Whitehead families from Europe. Thus, starting at least as early as 1620, as revealed by American port records, many Whiteheads sailed to America to start a new life in the New World. According to the records known to this author, 24 different Whiteheads arrived on America’s ports between **1620** and **1670** (note, some people may be listed multiple times, if multiple records existed) [3]:

1. Daniel Whitehead, 1620-1650, Hempstead, NY
2. Richard Whitehead, 1620-1650 New England
3. John Whitehead, 1620-1650, New Haven, CT
4. George Whitehead, 1634, VA
5. George Whitehead, 1635, VA
6. Samuel Whitehead, 1637, Boston MA
7. Mary Whitehead, 1637 MD
8. James Whitehead, 1638, VA
9. Arth Whitehead, 1643 VA
10. Richard Whitehead, 1645, CT
11. John Whitehead, 1645 MD
12. Daniel Whitehead, 1647, New York, NY

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13. Elizabeth Whitehead, 1651, MD
14. Daniel Whitehead, 1652, New Netherland
15. Daniel Whitehead, 1653, Long Island, NY
16. William Whitehead, 1655, VA
17. Wm. Whitehead, 1655, VA
18. Fran Whitehead, 1658 VA
19. John Whitehead, 1658-1663, Maryland
20. William Whitehead, 1658-1663, Maryland
21. Robt Whitehead, 1663, VA
22. Eliz Whitehead, 1664
23. Ja Whitehead, 1667, VA
24. James Whitehead, 1668, VA

The First Whiteheads in Virginia, 1620 to 1670

Narrowing our focus to Virginia alone, Virginia hosted at least 22 different Whiteheads during the middle 1600s, who likely represented at least 10 different Whitehead family lines. As mentioned earlier in this chapter, port records list eleven of these Whiteheads who arrived by ship via Virginia ports from **1634 to 1670** (three of these names – George, William, and James of 1667/68 – may be from duplicate records, leaving only eight immigrants by sea during this period).

1. George Whitehead, 1634, VA (Ch. 3)
2. George Whitehead, 1635, VA (Ch. 3)
3. James Whitehead, 1638, VA (Ch. 3)
4. Arth Whitehead, 1643 VA (Ch. 4)
5. William Whitehead, 1655, VA (Ch. 3)
6. Wm. Whitehead, 1655, VA (Ch. 3)
7. Fran Whitehead, 1658 VA (Ch. 3)
8. Robt Whitehead, 1663, VA (Ch. 3)*
9. Eliz Whitehead, 1664, VA (Ch. 3)
10. Ja Whitehead, 1667, VA (Ch. 3)
11. James Whitehead, 1668, VA (Ch. 3)

In addition to the 11 Whiteheads listed in Virginia port records, we know from other records that at least 11 other Whiteheads lived in Virginia during this 50-year period. They are as follows:

12. John Whitehead, Northampton Co and/or Amherst Co (1615-77),
13. Robert Whitehead, James City County, ca 1625 (Ch. 3)
14. Richard Whitehead, Cleveator County, 1620-1701 (Ch. 3)

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The “Three Brothers” Tradition

The Three Brothers Tradition holds that three Whitehead brothers were the first (and apparently only) Whitehead immigrants into Virginia in the 17th Century, and therefore that all Whiteheads originating from 17th Century Whitehead Virginians can trace their lineage to these three brothers. With records that are known today, we now can now debunk two, and possibly three, myths arising from this tradition: 1) that these three men were the first Whitehead men to arrive in Virginia; 2) that these three brothers are the source of all Whitehead families to descend from 17th Century Virginia Whiteheads; and possibly 3) that that these three men were even brothers at all! Nevertheless, this tradition is an intriguing and interesting part of our Virginia Whitehead history, and it does provide some record of a few Virginia Whiteheads, so we are sharing it with you now.

The Three Brothers tradition has been recorded by two different early historians, Lyon G. Tyler, and J.B. Whitehead. J.B. Whitehead, [5] historian and himself a descendant of Virginia Whiteheads, wrote of two different accounts of this “three brothers” tradition, including the one by his predecessor historian, Lyon G. Tyler:

“One account due to Lyon G. Tyler, [6] states that during the reign of Charles II, three brothers received a grant of land between Jamestown and the York River. A somewhat similar account, due to Hugh Blair...

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CHAPTER 4 -- Virginia Whitehead Biographical Sketches, 1620-1799

The following Whiteheads, including all of those already discussed in Chapter 3, are known to have lived in Virginia from 1615 to 1799. Many Whitehead family lines who originated in Virginia, and certainly the best documented family lines, are descendants of either Arthur Whitehead, 1625-1706, of Isle of Wight, County, or of John Whitehead, 1735-1787, of Amherst County. Please see Chapters 5 and 6 for biographical sketches of Arthur, John, and their respective descendants, as well as some of Arthur's ancestors.

Virginia Wills & Administrations Records

Many Whiteheads from 1620 to 1799 are known only by their mention in the Virginia Wills & Administrations records. These records list 33 early Virginia Whiteheads who died prior to 1800, either with a will (w), or intestate (i), i.e. without a will. [9] Of the 33 Virginia Whiteheads listed below, an asterisk * after their listing indicates that this author has found **no** other biographical information about them; therefore, they will not be listed again for the remainder of this book. For those with no asterisk, these Whiteheads are listed in the "Biographical Sketches" section below, with all known (by this author) biographical information about them. Many of the these Whiteheads – those related to Arthur Whitehead of Isle of Wight County (1625-1706) – are also discussed in Chapter 4. [Do you have more information to share about these Whiteheads? If so, please see the Special Offer on Page 3!!](#)

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES, VIRGINIA WHITEHEADS, 1600-1799

Below are biographical sketches of all Virginia Whiteheads known to live in Virginia prior to 1800, with the exception of the Whiteheads listed above in the Wills & Administrations table with an asterisk by their name, which indicates that this author has no other information about them.

Ca. 1615-1677, John Whitehead, Northampton County or Amherst County, VA

Two Whitehead histories, one by Lyon G. Tyler, and another by J.B.

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Whitehead, mention John Whitehead as a possible third brother in the popular “Three Brothers” tradition. Tyler puts him in Amherst County, VA: “Another account, and perhaps the most reliable, is that during the reign of Charles II, a grant of land was made to three brothers in eastern Virginia between Jamestown and York River. One of these was John Whitehead, and that John Whitehead, of Amherst, as well as all the family, of that name in Virginia, are descended from him.” [6] J.B. Whitehead, however, puts this John Whitehead in Northampton County, VA: “Possible brothers [of Arthur Whitehead] are John (1615-1677) and William (brought in 1655), both of Northampton Co.” [5]

Ca. 1625, Robert Whitehead, James City County, VA

Records reveal a Robert Whitehead who died in James City County in 1625 and may also have had many descendants in Virginia, although no records exist concerning Whiteheads in that county after 1706. According to J.B. Whitehead:

“Probably the earliest definite reference is that to Robert Whitehead who died in James City County in 1625 (Va. Hist. Mag. No. 23, p. 4). He mentions his ‘heirs’ and we have other references at later periods in James City and York Counties. James Whitehead was brought into James City County by Benjamin Carrill in 1638. Nazareth Whitehead receives a land grant in 1706. There is, however, apparently no evidence of any pronounced survival of the family in this County in the later periods.” [5]

Ca. 1634, George Whitehead

Listed in Virginia port records as passenger arriving in the year 1634. Another George Whitehead is listed in port records for the year 1635. May be the same person. According to J.B. Whitehead, George Whitehead was “brought into Princess Anne County in 1635 by Adam Thoroughgood.” [5]

Ruth Whitehead Dafoe, in her book about John Whitehead of Amherst County and his descendants, writes the following colorful history about George Whitehead, whom she incorrectly thought (based on the Passenger Records alone) was the first Whitehead to arrive in Virginia. Her historical account is based partly on facts and partly on reasonable hypotheses.

"The course of American history was changed little or none by the arrival of the first Whitehead on Virginia shores. The records tell us little about him. We know his name was George, and that he made the journey on the sailing vessel, "Jon and Dorothy". It was a day in June when George and the others on the ship first saw the sandy beach of Chesapeake Bay. The trip had been long. Many weeks had passed since he had sailed away on this venture, weeks cramped in close quarters of a tiny ship. On this twenty-fourth day of June, 1635, it must have been with great relief that George saw gulls flying in the sky, then a dim outline of dark green trees, and finally the shore-line. After the "Jon and Dorothy" was brought gently to rest on the shore

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and her white sails deflated, the tired travelers put their feet on land. George probably did not think that there was anything unusual about the occasion. He would have been incredulous if informed that three hundred and ten years later, someone else bearing his name would be scribbling the date of his arrival!

We can only guess at the appearance of George. Whether his eyes were blue or brown, if his hair was black, blond, or gray we do not know. He may have been a young man, straight and slim, out for adventure, Perhaps he was an older man, hoping to establish a home for a family left behind in England.

There is no doubt as to the financial status of our ancestor. He didn't have enough money to pay his own fare to America. A very wealthy gentleman named Adam Thorogood paid it, as well as the fares of the other 104 emigrants who came at the same time. England was anxious to have settlers in the colonies and urged the formation of such groups. Captain Thorogood was granted 5350 acres on Chesapeake Bay for bringing these people.

It is regrettable that we have no further trace of George. He lived, worked, perhaps reared a family and died in obscurity, as did the greater part of the Virginians during the 17th and 18th centuries. Fragmentary records are all that exist today of that highly romantic period.” [32].

Ca. 1638, James Whitehead, County Unknown

Listed in Virginia port records as passenger arriving in the year 1638. No other information.

Ca. 1639 - 1701, Richard Whitehead, Gloucester County & King and Queen County

Richard Whitehead was born about 1639 in England, he came to Gloucester County, Virginia sometime by 1660, and he later migrated to King & Queen County. J.B. Whitehead writes this about Richard Whitehead:

“There is frequent record of this Richard. He was a prominent man in intimate touch with influential people in England, and from the seals on a number of deeds which are still extant, it is evident that he was a member of the prominent Whitehead family of ‘Uplands Hall,’ Lancashire, England. Owing to the destruction of the records in Gloucester and King William Counties, there is apparently no certain record either as to this Richard’s ancestors.[5]”

Though we have no record of his ancestors, we do know that Richard married Damazine (Damasine) Thomasin in about 1660, most likely in Virginia, and they had four children:

1. Elizabeth Whitehead
2. Mary Whitehead, “eldest daughter,” b. Abt. 1660, King William City, King & Queen County, VA; d. Aft. 1700. She married Philip Ryan Abt. 1680, VA.
 1. Had son, Whitehead Ryan
3. Damazine Whitehead, b. Bet. 1660 - 1680, VA.
4. Philip Whitehead, b. ca. 1665, of King & Queen County, Va; d. 1747, VA. He married Elizabeth about 1690 in VA.
 1. Had daughter, Elizabeth.

One of Richard’s occupations was as a land surveyor, appointed by the English government:

“An account of barrels of powder sent to Virginia into various counties (York, James, King & Queen, Gloucester, Middx, Rappa”... “The Numbers of Coroners to be appointed in Each County in this his Maj’ties Colony and Dominion of Virginia are as followeth”. The list includes: York County, 4; New Kent County, 4; King and Queen County, 6; Middlesex County, 2; Essex County, 4. Ibid, Volume 1310, 1st July 1699, List of Surveyors appointed. Includes: King and Queen: Rich’d Whitehead; Middlesex: Edwin Thacker; Essex & Richmond, Wm Moseley. [76].

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CHAPTER 5 – Arthur Whitehead, 1625-1706, of Isle of Wight County, His Ancestors, and His Descendants

Arthur Whitehead of Isle of Wight, 1625-1706

Arthur Whitehead arrived from England in Virginia in 1643 from Lancashire County, England. He is listed [19, 24] as one of 9 guests brought to the Virginia colony by Obedience Robins who was granted 450 acres in Northampton, Va by England, in exchange for bringing these new colonists to England's American colonies [19, 23]. This was a common method that England used to transport new colonists to its American colonies. He was descended from Edmund Whitehead of Rochdale, Lancashire Co, England.

Information about this line is listed below, beginning in chronological order with Edmund Whitehead, Arthur's grandfather.

1571: Edmund Whitehead of Whittington, Lancastershire, England

Edmund Whitehead was born in 1571 in Whittington, Lancastershire, England, and died Jan 21, 1596 in Lancashire England. On January 21, 1595, at the age of 24 years old, he married Isabell Burrow, in Whittington. Isabell was born about 1575 in Whittington. Edmund and Isabell had one known child, Arthur, born on March 30, 1595, in Rochdale, Lancastershire, England [28].

The record seems to indicate that Edmund had a brother, "William Edmund Whitehead," born ca. 1574, and their father's name was also "Edmund Whitehead." [29]

b. 1595: Arthur Whitehead, aka Arthure Whitehead of Rochdale, Lancastershire, England

Arthur Whitehead, aka Arthure Whitehead, born on March 30, 1595, married (possibly) Dorothy Lightowlers, daughter of Robert Lightowlers of Windy Bank in Rochdale [30]. Early records in the history of the parish of Rochdale in the county of Lancaster [31] show that a certain Arthur Whitehead was required to pay 1 shilling of taxes to support the war against France: "Tax for raising money by a poll, payable quarterly for one year, for carrying on a vigorous war against France. Arthur Whitehead, 1 s."

Arthur appears to have two known children:

1. Edmund Whitehead, b. February 07, 1617/18 in Rochdale, Lancastershire, England. Edmund Whitehead married Susan Heaton on November 12, 1639.
2. Arthur (Sr) Whitehead, b. 1625 in Rochdale, Lancastershire, England (note: this son, Arthur Sr, is the one who would later sail to America in 1643).

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b. 1625: Arthur Whitehead Sr, b. in Rochdale, Lancastershire, England (son of Arthur Whitehead & Dorothy Lightowlers), migrated to Isle of Wight County, VA. m. Katherine Ruffin

Arthur Sr left England in 1643, at the age of 18. He arrived in America on March 22, 1643 aboard the ship *Guiding Star* and landed in Virginia. He was listed as one of the Head Rights of Obedience Robins, who on that day received a patent for 450 acres in Northampton County, VA.” [27]. The other eight people listed as one of the Head Rights of Obedience Robins were: John Coleman, Henry Edwards, Nicholas Every, John Ellis, Henry Baston, Stephen Horse, Thomas Chapman and John Carter.

Arthur Sr. settled in Northampton County, where County property and cattle records [33] show him in there up to 1650. He migrated to Isle Of Wight Co., VA. as recorded in land transfer records. He died in 1655, at the age of 30. Arthur had one child:

1. Arthur Whitehead Jr. (went by “Sr” as an adult), born 1648 in James City Co, VA; Died 1710/11 in Isle of Wight Co, VA. [27]

Arthur was married likely twice, although the name of his first wife is unknown. She may have died on the passage to America. This first wife was the mother of Arthur Jr. In 1654, only one year prior to his death, Arthur Sr married Katherine Ruffin in Isle of Wight County, VA. Katherine was born in 1634 in British Isles or Gravesend, Kent, England, and died August 24, 1687 in Isle of Wight Co., VA.

After Arthur Sr’s death in 1655, Katherine Ruffin was married two more times. First, she married a man named Edward Thorton, with whom she had a daughter Rebecca (some records “Katherine”). Rebecca Thornton later married and had children with Stephen Horsefield, whom Katherine [Ruffin] Thornton named in her will as her “son-in-law.” [35] Arthur Jr. referred to Rebecca as his sister when he gave her cattle via a 1673 deed of gift witnessed by Robert Ruffin and William Gidis. Robert Ruffin was the only son of William Ruffin.

Katherine’s husband Edward Thornton died and she then married a third time to John Bathe. Katherine’s name was recorded as Bathe (Bothe) in 1687 when her nuncupative will was proven in Isle of Wight Court. However, Barnaby McKinnie (whose sister Rachel married William Whitehead, b. 1672) gave her name as Booth when he used her as an importation head right in 1713.

In her nuncupative will recorded in Isle of Wight County, Katherine left her legacies to her...

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CHAPTER 6 -- John Whitehead of Amherst County, 1735-1787, And His Descendants

b. 1735, John Whitehead of Amherst County, Revolutionary Soldier

John Whitehead was born in 1735, either in New Kent County, VA, or in Nansemond county, VA. New Kent County was created from York and a portion of James City County in 1654, and it was itself the parent county of King & Queen William counties. John Whitehead married Sarah Burcher in New Kent County in 1755. Unfortunately, the records of New Kent county were destroyed during the Civil War, leaving us with very little records of John's birth, life in New Kent, or of his parents, ancestors, or other relatives. The family historian Irving P. Whitehead places John's birth in New Kent and provides other information about John and his wife:

John Whitehead was born in New Kent county, Virginia, in the year 1735, and came to Amherst county about 1760, bringing with him his young wife Sarah (Burcher) Whitehead. The deed book of old Amherst, which was cut from Albermarle in 1761, shows he purchased in 1762 a tract of land of 125 acres on the head waters of Huff creek in what is now the Sardis neighbor. He was a type of the sturdy farmer of that period, who felled the forest timber and made the wilderness a habitable land. During the revolution he was a staunch patriot; was a member of a company raised in Amherst by Colonel William Cabell; served under the Marquis de Lafayette in the Virginia campaign; and was present at the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown. [65]

The historian J.B. Whitehead also writes about John Whitehead and several of his descendants:

“There is also ample record of many Whiteheads in Amherst, New Kent, Nelson, and adjacent counties in Virginia. These have been traced by Lyon G. Tyler to John Whitehead of New Kent County., b. 1735, but beyond this, there is no record. The line includes Dr. John Whitehead, well-known physician and surgeon of Salisbury, N.C. Dr. Richard H. Whitehead, Dean of the Medical Faculty of the University of Virginia, Maj. Thomas Whitehead, b. 1825, of Nelson County, and later of Lynchburg. It is thus suggested that a number of representatives of this line drifted into North Carolina, in addition to those spreading from the Isle of Wight and Southampton groups. There is, however, nothing beyond the early tradition to indicate an original direct connection or relationship between these two groups. “[5]

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Birthplace: New Kent County or Nansemond County?

Some records list John Whitehead's birthplace as Nansemond County, VA [68]. If Nansemond County is the correct birthplace, this would place John Whitehead's birthplace in the same locale as the "Whitehead's of Isle of Wight County" line, although there is no confirmed connection between these two Whitehead family lines. Nansemond County, Isle of Wight County, and Southampton County are roughly part of the same locale in Virginia. During the 17th century, shortly after establishment of the Jamestown Settlement in 1607, English settlers explored and began settling the areas adjacent to Hampton Roads. By 1634, the English colony of Virginia consisted of eight shires or counties with a total population of approximately 5,000 inhabitants. One of these shires was Warrosquyoake Shire. In 1637, this shire was renamed to Isle of Wight County. In 1749, the portion of Isle of Wight County west of the Blackwater River became Southampton County. Later, part of Nansemond County (now the Independent City of Suffolk) was added to Southampton County.

Other records list John Whitehead's birthplace as New Kent County. If John was born in New Kent county, there is a slight – although unconfirmed – possibility that John was related to the "Whiteheads of Gloucester" line, originated by Richard Whitehead who came to Gloucester county, VA from Lancashire, England in sometime between 1639 and 1660. Records show that this Richard Whitehead was granted 2000 acres in Rappahonoak and New Kent Counties in 1674 [66]; therefore, some of

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b. Abt 1756, Mary Whitehead (daughter of John Whitehead & Sarah Burcher)

Mary Whitehead was born about 1756 in Amherst Co, VA, died Feb. 22, 1817 in Alabama. Mary married John Smith. John Smith was a Revolutionary Solder and was also mentioned as a guardian of Cary Whitehead in the John Whitehead estate, 17 December 1792. To learn more information about John Smith and his father, Abraham Smith, Amherst Co., please visit:
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/abraham_smith_amherst_va/join

b. abt 1757, Rhoda Whitehead (daughter of John Whitehead & Sarah Burcher)

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Rhoda Whitehead died young, unmarried. No other records.

b. abt 1759, Elizabeth Whitehead (daughter of John Whitehead & Sarah Burcher)

Elizabeth ("Betty Ann") Whitehead was born about 1759 in Amherst Co, VA. She died after September 04, 1844 in Amherst Co. Va. She married Moses Wright in about 1772, Amherst Co., VA. Moses Wright was a Revolutionary soldier from Amherst Co. VA. (Albemarle Co. until 1761). [56] This Moses was the son of Elizabeth and Benjamin Wright (died 1799). [57]

b. Aft. 1763, Nancy Whitehead (daughter of John Whitehead & Sarah Burcher)

Nancy Whitehead, born after 1763. Married Francis Powell on Dec 02, 1794 in Amherst Co, VA. Consent of John Whitehead given. No other records.

b. 1764, Burcher Whitehead (son of John Whitehead & Sarah Burcher) m. Nancy Camden

Burcher was the oldest son of John Whitehead and Sarah Burcher. Burcher was born Oct 12, 1764, Amherst Co., and died on Sep 1, 1814, Amherst Co, VA (estate filed there). Burcher was 23 years old when his father died; his mother was fifty-two at the time and still had several young children, including four-year old James. Ruth Whitehead Dafoe wrote the following account about Burcher at this time:

[In the year that John died, in 1787,] Burcher was in love with Nancy Camden and anxious to marry. John Junior was eighteen and in a few years would have similar ambitions. She was glad his father had sent him to school, for he could teach the younger children. The girls, Marry and Betty Ann had beaus...[32]

The next year after his father's death, Burcher married Nancy Camden on Dec 28, 1788 in Amherst Co, Va. Consent of William Camden was given. Nancy was the daughter of William Camden and Sybil Dent. Over the next several years, Burcher...

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APPENDIX A -- Migrations of Virginia Whiteheads to Other U.S. States (and other VA Counties)

Whitehead Migratory Patterns from 17th/18th Century Virginia

Although early traditions overstated the role of Virginia Whiteheads as the source for “all” Whiteheads from Georgia to New York and westward, it is undisputed that hundreds of thousands of Whiteheads throughout America and the world, both past and present, are descendants of these early Virginia Whiteheads. This section traces a few known migrations of Virginia Whiteheads into other states, as well as into other counties of Virginia (other than Isle of Wight and Amherst). This may help Whiteheads in those other states or counties to trace their lineage back to a particular Virginia Whitehead.

Alabama

Virginia Family: Arthur Whitehead of Isle of Wight.

Edmund Dimond wrote, “William Whitehead (b. 1685) moved from Isle of Wight County, Virginia to Bertie (now Halifax) County, North Carolina, where his son, Lazarus Sr., was born about 1726. William W. Whitehead (ca. 1767-1822), a son of Lazarus Sr., was born near Swift Creek, Edgecombe (now Nash) County, North Carolina. He married Susannah Edmunds about 1797 and moved to Marion County and then Lawrence County, Mississippi. Descendants and relatives lived in North Carolina, Mississippi, Alabama, Indiana, and elsewhere.” [18]

John Bennett Bodie wrote, "Most Whitehead's who settled in the Southern United States in the early 1800's can trace their roots to Arthur and Katherine (Ruffin) Whitehead [grandparents of Arthur of Isle of Wight]. This line of Whitehead's migrated from Virginia into the Carolina's into Georgia, Tennessee and Alabama. The first of this line into Alabama was Archibald Whitehead and his wife Nancy Smith. They came into Alabama about 1810. [27]

William W. Whitehead, son of Lazarus Whitehead & Mary Bryan, married to Susannah Edmunds and descendant of Arthur Whitehead of Isle of Wight County, moved with his wife in about 1797 "to Marion County and then Lawrence County, Mississippi. Descendants and relatives lived in North Carolina, Mississippi, Alabama, Indiana, and elsewhere.

Arizona

Virginia Family: John Whitehead of Amherst County, VA

Bertram Whitehead (“Bert Whitehead Jr”), descendant of John and Sarah Burcher Whitehead of Amherst County, VA, was born August 18, 1907,

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son of Bertram Whitehead and Betty Dabney, in Mexico while Bert Whitehead Sr. worked there. His family later moved to Douglas, Arizona, where Bert Jr. was living during the taking of the 1920 U.S. Census. He later moved to Bisbee, AZ where he and his wife, Ruth Simon, both lived the remainder of their lives until the 1970s.

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APPENDIX B -- References

- 1 Swyrich Corporation, Whitehead Family Crest and Name History
- 2 History of Whitehead Families, Benjamin Whitehead, Barrister-at-Law of the Middle Temple, London – W.A. Axworthy, 26, Palace Ave., Paignton
- 3 Passenger and Immigration Lists Index, 1500s-1900s
- 4 These crest symbols were described to Bert Whitehead by a person who worked at a business that provides family crests and family histories.
- 5 J.B. (John Boswell) Whitehead, "The Whitehead Family in Southern Virginia," p. 814+, printed in Genealogies of Virginia Families V, R-Z
- 6 Lyon G. Tyler, Encyclopedia of Virginia Biography, Vol. IV, Virginia Biography, p. 42-43
- 7 See Grants, Va. Land Office

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