

Hendricks County

This family seems to have come from or lived in Rowen County, N.C. later to become Surry and Guilford, Burke and Wilkes Counties (four separate counties from Rowen.)

They lived in such places as Deep River Area - Chadham County.

According to the "Society of the Descendants of the Colonial Clergy," Joseph Murphy (Morphew) was born in Spotsylvania, Virginia, on April 1, 1734. He had a brother William who also was a Baptist Minister in earliest Tennessee and Kentucky. Their father was William. Joseph was ordained at Deep River, North Carolina in 1760 and served as a missionary to South-western Virginia. He settled on the Little River of the Pee Dee (Montgomery, N.C.) 1759-1768. He later served at Shallow Ford (Yadkin County) in 1769-1780, then Deep River Creek in Surry County (1790-1803) he died in Surry after 1803.

In 1790 Mary Morphew settled on the South Fork of New River, now Watuaga County with the Coleman family. Not to far away Daniel Eggers and several others formed the Three Forks Baptist Church. The first west of the Blue Ridge mountains. The Morphews also lived in Burke County. Next they went to Elk Creek in Wilkes County along the Boone Branch. Some left October 4th, 1811 from Ashe County and Elk Creek, N.C. with a wagon train for Kentucky and points north. During the years from 1805-1815 settlers such as Wilcoxins moved to Estill County, Kentucky - Benjamin, Joseph, James Morphew Sr. and others joined the long procession. The Caldwells and Nathan Morphew went to Ohio and was in Preble County by 1808.

Historians think there were as many as 50 people in this movement and that they all met at James Morphews place on Elk Creek for their farewells. They left Elks Creek and friends and relatives behind who weren't making the trip. They then picked up the Shawnee Trail which runs between Elk and Stoney Creeks, thru' Cocks Gap, then to New River, following that to Three Forks Church and Cemetary and stopping for services. At this point James, Joshua and Benjamin left the party going by boat down New River to Ohio. The rest of the party went on past Three Forks, past what is now Boone, N.C., past Hodges Gap, across Grave Yard Gap, down to Dog Skin Creek, around the base of Rich mountain, on to the State Line Gap, which passed between Zionvillw and Trade, N.C. to the head of Roam Creek to what is now Shouns Cross Roads, over Iron Mountian and Stone Mountain along a trail used for years by Indians, and since Daniel Boone had moved from Surry to Beaver Creek, which was near Elk Creek he very likely used the Shawnee Trail. After Iron and Stone Mountains we came to Holston Valley, at some point here the party separates with all of Silas Morphews family and Elizabeth Englads party separates with all of Silas Morphews family and Elizabeth Englads

page 2 journey north

brothers going down the Clinch River south to Tennessee and Alabama, James outfit left thru' Moccasin Gap of the Clinch Mountains to Powells Valley and Powell's River, and the Wilderness Trail which took them north on to Kentucky.

Just where did they go? It is not correct to say that all the NW bound Morphews journied to Estill County, Kentucky before fanning out. Nathan and James Jr, probably never saw Estill County on their move to Preble County, Ohio, or they may have been like many others, settled for a year or two somewhere on the route northwest, found the land too poor and moved on again until they located just what they were looking for. There is a hint that Joseph Morpew lived for a short time (1811-182?) in Lee County, Va. near where Cumberland Gap was used to admit pioneers through the highest mountains into the badlands of the SE Kentucky and promises of better lands further north. Altho' the Virginia stop cannot be confirmed, it is known that Joseph Morpew was living in Estill County by 1825. County records list his son James (born 1805) marrying Rebecca Hogan there. By 1827 or 1828, the Estill County Morphews moved on once again -- this time to Putnam County, Indiana.

For further information concerning this family, read the book donated to the Putnam County and Marion County State Libraries by Arlie Morpew, Author of Franklin, Indiana called "The Morpew Family a genealogy of the Morpew (Murphy) group and their kin.

The 1977 family have spilled over into the western United States, also living closer in Hendricks, Marion and surrounding counties.

Joining other family anmes in kinship are some
Aldridge - Alkire -- Amick -- Andrews -- Bridgewater - Broughton
Burke - Burroughs - Campbell - Chadwick - Cherry -Cheshire - Coleman -
Conner - DeWitt - Douglas - Duckworth - Eggers - Ebly - England - Everling -
Figg - Finchum - Frazier - Furgeson - Garner - Gleason - Griggs - Grimes -
Hedges - Heinz - Hogan - Hogg - Hollick - Horn - Hunter-Jackson (2 separate
families) Lasley - Marks - Mc Cloud - Morpew - Neidigh - Nolan - Norris -
Oldaker - Owens - Parker - Russell - Sheets - Sigman - Smith - Springer -
Stamm - Taylor - Welch - Whitley - Younker among others.

Random Information Whitley Family

1. Filson Club 118 Breckinridge, Louisville, Ky. 40203 has a book called Early Lincoln County History, this book goes into William of Crab Orchards life and mentions his children - also has a catalog and a miscellaneous folder of letters concerning the Whitley family - also a microfilm of the census for Kentucky from 1810 - 1880, other various sources such as cemetery records and bible records of the Whitley Family - per letter I received. (I plan to send hopefully send for some information, but must pay for it, and as you mentioned gets rather dear.
2. Kentucky Historical Society Letter
 - a. Chalkleys Records of Augusta County, Virginia - Book for 1745-1800
 - b. Torrines Virginia Wills and Administration 1632-1800. The only Whitley in Rockbridge or Augusta City listings is Moses who left a will in 1788 - they don't have the will, and Solomon is slightly mentioned (I was trying to find the sons names - this was before I found out about the Filson Club.
3. Our Indiana State Library (the largest in the country shows among other things a William and James Whitley of Tazswell, Virginia (they can't give much over the telephone but will help when I go up there. Parking is a premium since our Senate Building is next door. But I plan to try again. Perhaps I can induce my son to drive me there and pick me up.
4. In Whos Who of the Middle West.

William R. Whitley, pediatrician, Born Waterford, Wisconsin Aug.21, 1891 I wrote to their State Library and they wrote back and told me that our State Library had the same information, to check there.
5. The Whitley Name means White Wood (Library Information) in times past persons were named for places they lived, parents occupations, such as Baker, Miller, etc. Per book called the Normans.
6. There is a Whitley County Indiana, also Whitley City, Indiana, in Kentucky there is a Whitley County which became so big it was divided into two counties, the second part now called Mc Creary County with Whitley City as its county seat, all named for William of Crab Orchard.
7. Among noted persons with the name of Whitley is June Taylor of the old Jackie Gleason Show, June Taylor Dancers. June Whitley Taylor. On the older Bonanza Show a Director of Photography named Whitley.
8. From Historical Society paper (Bessie information)
 - a. Marriage Records William Whitley married Polly Truitt March 28, 1830 Ripley County.
 - b. In the March 1976 Geneological Helper, a Dennis Freeman ask for

andom Information Continued

- information on Joseph Walker B. 1795 Rockbridge County, Va. his wife was Elizabeth Whitley, daughter of Samual Whitley and Sarah Baggs.
- c. In the September Issue a Mrs. C.D. Brayton of Culver City, California wanted to know who the parents of Robert Whitley Sr. were B. ca 1780, Va. married Elizabeth Kilgore B. Va. ca 1778 lived in Lawrence County Indiana 1817. Their children were John - Steven - Robert Jr. all born Tennessee.
- d. Old Illiana Quarterly - Erwin Whitley married Elizabeth Scott, April 11, 1830 Vermillion County Indiana also in Fountain County - the United Brethren Church - the Riverside Church near Attica records orig. 1896 with a Rev. D.C. Warren Pastor shows among others Issac N. Whitley and M. S. Whitley as members, also in Fountain County records of John Ward who apparently kept a childrens home, names a James Whitley date shown 14 September, 1842. Illiana Book Vol 4 No 4 Fall of 1968
Martin County John Whitley married Minerva Kilgore and lived in Martin County, Indiana, (this information was in the 1968 Illiana Genealogy Book by Mrs. James L. Dyal, Rte 3, Box 527, Eugene, Oregon 97401) in 1860s, their children Mary Elizabeth, Dr. James, Ziba, Noah, Phoebe, Emily and Mattie.
also James Riley Whitley B. ca 1830 married Charlotte Curlin Hubbs could be above county, all per Bessie Wright Adams of Humboldt, Illinois. Tippecanoe County, Indiana West Point, Indiana lived a Sadie Marks m John Marks (Sadie Whitley), also Julia Andrews (Whitley) daughters of Chapman A. Whitley (my relative) Julia was in an orphanage in Lafayette.
9. One Moses Whitley is listed in Nashville, Tennessee as a Rev. War Soldier
10. A Mrs Frances A. Price 1010 Highland Circle, Junction City, Kansas, 66441 in the Helper ask if anyone knows the following Her Line
Willis Whitley B. Va 1796 m. to Polly (Mary) Swain B. Alabama 1825
their children
William B. 1826 - Samuel B. 1828 married Polly Sanmons, Adams County, Ill.
Elisha B. 1832 - Elizabeth B. 1834 - Amanda B. 1836
Samuel Whitley m. Polly Sanmons, 2 children
Willis Winquit b. 1852 D. 1928 married Ida Ward
Nancy b ?
Willis and Ida Whitley had Murty B. 1874 - who m. Olive Kennedy, Mrs. Prices father was the 2nd child of Murty and Olive and Willis Whitley and Olive
Willis Whitley B. 1907 m. Florence Miller 1925 in Missouri.
11. Warren County A John Ward kept a county home for boys, one was James Whitley dated 14 September 1842. This book is in the possèssion of Harold Hoagland a gr gr grandson in Fountain Countain County and copied by Mrs. Homer Royal, no address shown.
12. Book called Whitelys of America by Amos Nelson Whiteley donated to Indiana State Musumn by Dr. Heller, I have been in contact with a Dr. Herbert L. Heller, Professor Emeritus of Route 3, Sherwood Drive, Greencastle, Indiana 46135, and he tells me he didn't know of the book however, he did mention that his uncle Clarence H. Smith was curator of the Henry County Historical Society Musumn at 614 S. 14th, New Castle, Indiana. He was the historian and genealogist of the town and county. A room has been dedicated to his menory and work and service to others. The curators has just completed indexing the volumns of writings he compiled from 1920 to 1955 which were published in the New Castle Courier off and on all these years. The curators are Mrs. Mary and Mrs. Bertha Van Hoy. The later did the indexing. He mentioned the following.
On page 833 of the History of Henry County, Indiana published in 1884 by the Interstste Publishing Co. a biography of a Robert H. Whiteley, farmer, stock raiser born in Carolina County, Maryland August 27, 1815 He came to Indiana and located in Milton, Wayne Co. then to Henry County in 1846, married to Jane Woolen January 2, 1837 and they had twelve children.

Random information continued

this following information concerns the Bessie Wright Adams Line

John Sanders Whitley B. May 14, 1770 was the son of Randolph and

Tabithia Whitley and he married Bathsheba Bateman they 8 or more children

1. Elisha born 1800 is my line.

2. Sharp born 1802 married Sarah ? in a land abstract listed as Sally

This Sharp Whitley married either in Tennessee, Kentucky or Southern

Illinois. At least he had wife when he came to Moultrie County, Ill.

He then moved to Coles County, Illinois and thento Texas after he sold his land.

(Circa 1806) we think this Sharp (another) married but don't know who.

We think could be Sharp Whitley B. 1784/1794 and probably son of above

(Randolph and Tibithia and brother of John Sanders Whitley, think he

married 1806 and had a son 1807 named Joel. In 1809 Sharp on jury in

White County, Tennessee. Other children

1810	John M. born Illinois	1825	Female
1811	Sarah born Kentucky	1827	William H.
1815	Randolph	1829	Henrietta
1819	Synthia	1830	Lititia
1822	Elizabeth		
1823	Nancy		

In 1836 ist wife died (comment of Mrs. Adams,"and I don't wonder after 11 children so close".) Sharp married again same year to Tryphene ?

1840 Male child - born dead

1842 Sophronia B. ?

2nd wife died November 1860

3rd wife Sarah ? and had a daughter Sarah.

Elisha born 1800 also had a daughter Sarah - she m. John Duncan.

William Whitley son of John Whitley Jr. m. Sarah A. ? B. 1841 D. 1902

William Whitley B. 1840 Missouri Died 1919 St. Clair County, Missouri

John Thomas Whitley B. 1846 Missouri D. 1893 Missouri

m. Sarah E. ? B 1849

they had a daughter Sarah Elizabeth Whitley and son Joseph Whitley

Joel Whitley son of Sharp B. 1807 m. Nancy Campbell had 7 children, the 6th named Sarah.

John Reynolds Whitley B. October 20, 1830 Tennessee M. Sarah Carter Cummings

(her mothers name was also Sarah) Sarah Carter Cummings married 2nd

Byrd Lewis 1876

Random information from Bessie Wright Adams continued

Joel Franklin Whitley B. 11 October, 1837 m Sara M ?

John Henry Whitley B. 18 May, 1842 Tennessee m. 1st Martha Howard,
married 2nd Sarah Margaret Blair they had daughter Sarah Maud who
married Thomas Jefferson Pruitt

John Allen Whitley B. 11 April 1873 m. Maude Fussell had daughter
Sarah Elizabeth Whitley

Sarah Ruth Whitley Beals daughter of John Randall Whitley and Jane
Arrington Abston (late 60s in Feb. 77) has a daughter Jane living at
Hoffman, Illinois . Think Janes name is Siegrist.

Happening

Happing some years back in Bement, Illinois

"A 17 year old boy from Bement, Illinois, Piatt County drowned in Wymen
Park, Sullivan, Illinois. He was Jesse Lee Whitley son of Jesse B. Whitley
He is buried in a Bement cemetary.

He had 3 brothers Donald, Darrell and Gary, 3 sisters, Linda, June and
Caroline. His grandmother was Nancy Whitley of El Paso, Illinois

John Henry Whitley B. 18 May 1842 Tennessee M. 1st Mattha Howard sorry repeat

Routh Benbow of Ft. Worth, Texas who with her cousin Mrs, Helen Whitley
Strader of Clovis, New Mexico wrote the book "Wandering Whitleys" passed
away October 1976, leaving a daughter Judy who is married to Pastor Lawrence
Dee Burks of the Beverly Hills Baptist Church, in Ft. Worth. Not known if
other children.