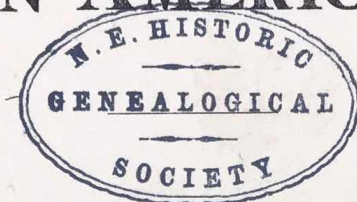


# THE WHITCOMB FAMILY IN AMERICA



## A Biographical Genealogy

WITH A CHAPTER ON OUR ENGLISH FORBEARS  
"BY THE NAME OF WHETCOMBE"

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CHARLOTTE WHITCOMB

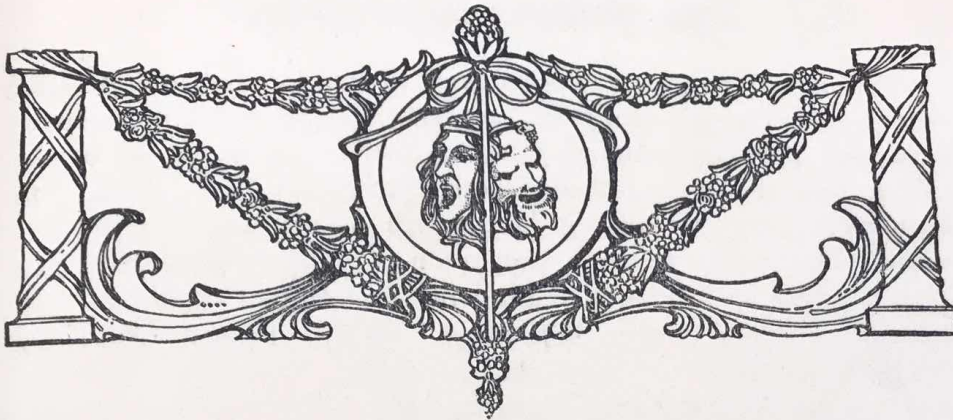
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"And if I have done well and as is fitting the story, it is that which I desired;  
but if slenderly and meanly it is that which I could attain unto."

—2 *Maccabees*, XV. 38.

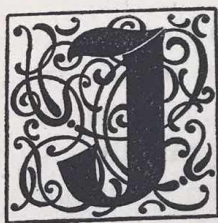
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MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA  
October, 1904



## John Whitcomb and his Descendants in America.

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JOHN WHITCOMB (or Whetcombe as the name was spelled) is believed to have been the first of the Whitcomb family to settle permanently in America. He was long supposed to be the son of Symon Whetcombe who was one of the original patentees of the old Massachusetts Colony as one of the six Englishmen of gentle birth to whom was made the famous Grant of Land\*, under charter by the king. But the publication of the will of Symon's father, John of Sherbourne (Dorset, England), shows this belief to have been erroneous.

According to this will\*\* which was proved in 1598, Symon was at that date under twenty-one years of age, and as John, our progenitor is allowed to have been born about 1588, it is obvious that Symon could not have been his father.

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\*See Grant of Land on p. 19.

\*\*This will which is reprinted from "Genealogical Gleanings in England," by Henry F. Waters, may be found on p. 18.

## THE WHITCOMB FAMILY.

Failing Symon as the father, some of our kindred are adopting him as a brother of Immigrant John and already one or more books have been published naming John of Sherborne, the writer of the will in question, as the father of both Symon and "our" John. Unfortunately, there is nothing in the will to warrant that finality; neither does further research warrant it. John of Sherborne's son, John, is given, by the terms of the will, his father's "lands and tenements in Ackerman Street, Shirbourne," but it is not yet learned that this John, the owner of the Ackerman Street lands and tenements, came to America, neither is it settled that he did *not* come hither, though a trusted English correspondent writes that "John Whetcombe Senior and Junior are buried in Sherborne." This statement which might seem to settle the question does not settle it, for no dates were given nor have dates since been secured. So in the event of there having been three Johns of Sherborne one of them may have been our ancestor after all.

But that careful and trustworthy investigator and genealogist, Henry F. Waters did not decide Symon's brother John to have been our ancestor. He frankly confessed that he had not found from what part of England John came nor whose son he was. There have been much research and correspondence during the past year but today as ever since we sadly relinquished Symon, the American Whitcombs are looking for an ancestor back of Immigrant John,—that is, a definite, individual, verified ancestor.\*

Prof. Shepardson believed that he had found something worth following up in Alexander Brown's "Genesis of the United States"

\*"Ancestors there are in plenty, several there seem to be that would fulfil the requirements as to age, eligibility, etc., but choosing an ancestor like choosing a wife, should not be done lightly or unadvisedly. As for myself I would go all my life without the one, as I have gone all my life, to date, without the other, rather than to get one which later would be found to have been ill chosen. We are not very sorry orphans when we (the youngest born of us) can show a clean line of ancestry back for ten (or is it eleven?) generations, and if the real ancestor does not materialize after reasonable research, what is to hinder calling a convention of Whitcombs, when eligible ancestors may be proposed and balloted for, the one getting the strongest vote to be It?"—(Extract from a letter to C. W.)

## JOHN WHETCOMBE (1).

and, strangely enough, two professional genealogists have directed attention to the same hint. The paragraph is quoted below:

"Harper, John, . . . . . a member of the East India Company. June 16, 1620; he gave a Mr. John Whitcombe who married his daughter Anne, a share in Virginia." There is a fair monument to himself and wife on the south side of the parish church of St. Margaret Moyses, Breadstreet Ward, London, with an inscription. From the latter I glean that John Harper was treasurer of Christ's Church Hospital, and Alderman Deputy of Breadstreet Ward, London. He had five children but at the time of his death he left only a son John, and a daughter Anne married to John Whitcomb, London.

Further we find in "Visitations of London"\* as published in 1880, that there were living in 1634 John Harper, gentleman and his sister Anne Harper, the latter married to John Whitcombe gentleman, of London, and having children; Thomas, *John*, Robert, and five daughters, and that the three sons were living in 1634.

Though facts are what we want, beliefs are worthy of consideration since they sometimes lead to facts, and the belief is gaining ground that John, second son of John and Anne Harper Whitcomb of London, and Immigrant John were one and the same man. Prof. Shepardson believes it and gives his reasons which are quoted here:

"(1) John Whitcomb, who married Anne Harper, received a share in Virginia.

"(2) 'Virginia' in 1620 was synonymous with 'America.' The Massachusetts settlers went to 'Virginia.'

"(3) John and Anne had oldest son who was heir under primogeniture rule.

"(4) John had only a second son's prospects in England and when his father offered him the 'Share in Virginia' he accepted it and with Frances and the children sailed for America."

If this theory be as correct as it is reasonable to one familiar

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\*See Visitations of London, p. 21 in this book.

## THE WHITCOMB FAMILY.

with Colonial conditions, then John had a line direct to the time of Henry IV. and was entitled to the Arms of the Berwick Whitcombs.

The English Whitcombs were of the Established Church. Several of them had been church dignitaries as is narrated in the Chapter on English Whitcombs, but during the transitional epoch following the evolution of the Pilgrims—that period of unrest when spiritual awakening and religious fervor were at flood tide, certain members of the family became Puritans. According to the late Samuel Whitcomb, Jr., Dr. John Whitcomb the Oxonian was one; Symon was certainly one and John, our progenitor was one.

Not all the Puritans were non-conformists, many of them were contented to remain in England and others came to New England not as Separatists but with the hope of bettering their fortunes. What part religion had in impelling John's emigration must be left to conjecture but it doubtless had its influence.

Though Symon the avowed and zealous Puritan never came to America\*, John appeared in Dorchester as early as 1633. He may have come earlier; perhaps he was one of the voyagers with the good Winthrop on the ship *Arbella* in 1630. It would be interesting to find complete lists of passengers in boats destined for Dorchester in 1630-1633, but if such lists exist they are not yet found.

John became a church member in 1635; this and the birth of his youngest son Josiah, which occurred in 1638, are the only events of his family life recorded during the years he spent in Dorchester. Later evidence shows him to have been well-to-do for the times, a man of intelligence and enterprise much given to buying and selling land. His hand writing was strong and full of individuality and it is obvious that he was a man of academical education.

\*Symon Whitcomb continued an active member of the Company at home but did not come to New England. He held the office of assistant, was constant in his attendance at the meetings and was employed on many committees. Besides his subscription to the capital stock he joined with others in a loan to the Company and was one of the purchasers of the ship *Eagle* afterward the *Arbella*. We may conclude then that he was a man of some substance, a respectable citizen, and a zealous Puritan. P. 7, Vol. III., *Trans & Coll. Am. Antiq. Soc.*)

## JOHN WHETCOMBE (1).

In 1640 he removed to Scituate where he owned land, one piece being a farm of 108 acres near the mouth of the North river on the Marshfield side, and after 1646 when he became one of the Conihasset\* Partners he owned the lands which through that transaction became his share.

During his residence in Scituate he was made constable, then one of the most remunerative as well as one of the most important offices in the gift of the townsmen. To act as sheriff he must have been a freeman in Scituate, but the only mention of his being such is in the Records of Plymouth Colony where the entry is, under date June 3, 1652, "Freeman admitted to this court and sworn, "John Whetcombe and John Willis." Marvin says, "Any man could become a freeman—he had only to be a Christian." Again, The Memorial History of Boston (Vol. I.) says, "Church members and church members only, exercised the franchise." Therefore as he became a church member in 1635 he may have been a voter and have taken part in town affairs from that date.

In 1644, he sold his farm on North River to one Thomas Hicks and another disposal of land in Scituate was in 1654 when he conveyed half his share in the Conihasset lands to John Williams, Jr., giving the other half to his son Robert. During this year, 1654, he

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\*Concerning the Conihasset Grant there was in Scituate Township much discussion between Hingham and Scituate and Plymouth Colony regarding boundaries, from 1642 to 1682. Within the original bounds of Scituate township was included a large tract of land which the Colony Court had granted to four gentlemen, usually called "Merchant adventurers of London," called "Conihasset Grant." This was purchased of the other three by one of the four original owners, Mr. Hatherly, before 1646, and in that year he divided it into 30 shares (reserving one-fourth part of the whole) and sold it for 180 pounds to a certain Company since called the "Conihasset Partners." "Many of this Company were such as had already located themselves upon these lands, and were twenty-seven in all, including James Cudworth, John Whetcomb, and Rodolphus Ellmes—"These partners appointed their clerks, surveyors, committees and agents and conducted their affairs with all the efficiency of a corporate town." Later, upon Hatherly and the Conihasset partners petitioning the Courts that the territory allowed was "too straight" for their growing needs and discussion arising as to the bounds of this tract, in 1656 the Court granted Mr. Hatherly a tract three miles square on the Westerly side of Scituate, as indemnity for his "entanglements with the people of Scituate" and to "satisfy the Conihasset Partners." This he divided into 40 shares of which the Conihasset Partners had 27. (Gleaned from Dean's Hist. of Scituate; pp. 5 and 6.)

## THE WHITCOMB FAMILY.

removed to Lancaster where two years before, when the town was platted, he had invested some money. Not all his children accompanied him to Lancaster. His daughter Catherine was settled in Scituate where in 1644 she had been married to Rodolphus Ellmes, a young man who had come over from England in 1635 on the Planter when he was but fifteen years old; Robert, who had received his patrimony, also remained in Scituate and James, whose boyhood and youth seem to have passed without observation, is not mentioned until later when he is discovered a merchant in Boston and a man of affairs.

John Whitcomb and his son John, Jr., have been named as among the founders of the town of Lancaster. John's signature appears as "one of the pioneer settlers in the Nashaway Plantation which afterward became Lancaster" according to Mr. Nourse's Early Records, and, though he was not among those who actually took up a residence in 1652, he was among those who had a right by the conditions of the covenant to come later. He was also one of the signers to the petition for a township,—“We being now about twentie families, etc.”—[Nourse's Early Records, p. 37.]

The first inhabitants of Lancaster were apportioned land according to their “estate,” that is, “so much land to every £100 of estate and accordingly for a greater or less estate.” In these divisions John Whitcomb's estate is large in proportion to the rest, in fact among the largest. From the old entries reprinted in “The Early Records” the following quaint descriptions are copied.

“The lands of John Whetcombe senior.

“home Lott. his house Lott Given and Granted by the town Lyeth on the west side (of the) Neck being twentie acors bounded (South) by the Lott of Robert Brick and north by the Lott of his son John Whetcomb buting East upon the Lotts that Ly upon the east side the neck and buting west upon his entervail a high way Running Cross it to quasaponikin entervail.

“*Entervail Lott.* And his entervail Lott part of it on the east side the North River thare being by Estimation about fifteen acors

SIGNATURE OF JOHN WHETCOMBE (1) WRITTEN AT SCITUATE, MASS., IN 1649.

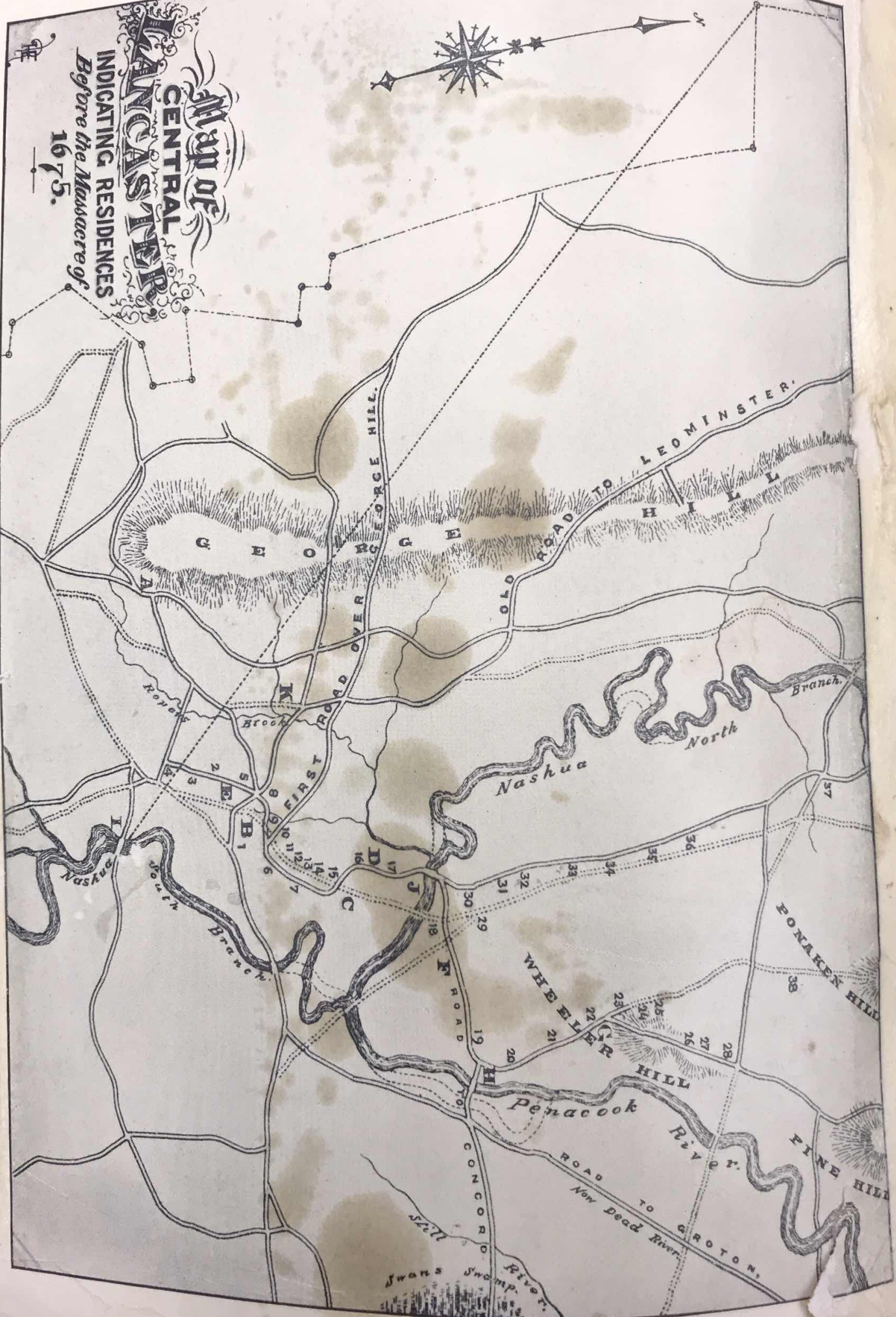
John Whetcombe

SIGNATURE OF JOHN WHETCOMBE (1), WRITTEN AT LANCASTER, MASS., IN 1658.

John Whetcombe



**MAP OF**  
**CENTRAL**  
**MASSACHUSETTS**  
 INDICATING RESIDENCES  
 Before the Massacre of  
 1675.



## JOHN WHETCOMBE (1).

and a half bounded west by the North River and east by his upland Lott buting South upon the Lott of Robert Brick that was Granted him by the town and buting North upon the entervail Lott of his son John Whitcomb nine acor; of entervail at quasiponikin between his son John Whitcomb and him either of them having an Equall portion that is four acors and half but it was not divided between them when it was Laid out the whole being bounded southardly by a high way that Goes between the meadow Lott of Steven Gates and westardly by the North River and south west by a Lott of Richard Linton this four acors and half makes up the other fifteen and half his full Lott of twenty acors according to the town Grant but acording to Liberty Granted by a town order the fifteen acres and half exactly measured it was found to be but fourteen acres and half and so it is an acre wanting which is Laid out together with his second division of entervail."

John's house lot is numbered "33" on the accompanying map and his son John was assigned a lot of equal size next to it marked "34." These lots extended across the street eastward meeting the other range of lots upon the Neck. The present Postoffice and Bank build- in Lancaster are upon old Whitcomb land.

The family next, on No. 35, was named Gates and in the Gates Genealogy, recently published, the frank admission is made that Mr. Gates was of an impetuous temper and quarreled with his neighbors, the Whitcombs, thus confirming the following which is by Mr. Nourse in the Early Records: "The Gates blood seems to have been of decidedly tropical nature. . . . Stephen Gates quarreled with his neighbors, the Whitcombs, was deprived of his constable's staff and moved away from Lancaster after less than three years residence."

This was the man who brought action against John Whitcomb, then seventy years old, on a complaint that his swine had been killed by John's sons. The following note of hand, and petition are very human documents and full of interest:

## THE WHITCOMB FAMILY.

### NOTE OF HAND.

"John Whettcombe for and in consideration of three swine killed and spoiled by his three sonnes, doth hereby promise to pay unto Steven Gates the sune of forty-five shill. in wheate within a week after michael tyde next 1658 to be payed at his house in Sudbury the sd Steven allowing for the carriage of the wheate tenn shill 6d.  
Date Apr. 2, 1658.  
John Whetcombe."

John later petitioned to be released from paying the note in the following document:

*"To the honored County Court at Charlestown.* The humble Petitioner of Jno. Whetcome humbly sheweth that whereas yor Petitioner hath set his hand to a note to pay fortie and five shillings to Steven Gates of Sudbury. It was by reason of age and weakness I did not consider of it that I had no right to pay anything to him before he did duly make it apeare that I had damnified him. He did complaine before the deputie Govr his worpp that I or my sonnes had killed and spoiled three of his swine in the woods, And made as if we stole them & with many threats which did amaze yor petitioner so that I could not declare my case which is such as I have now gotten to be drawne vpp fairly in wrighting by which it may appeare to this honord Court that I had not wronged Steven Gates nor was indebted to him anything for which I should agree to paye him anything. Wherefore yor petitioner being aged and weak, and mean in estate hath wronged himselfe and family in loss of so much, besides by this means of giueing satisfaction there is an imputation of theft cast vppon mee and the family of yor petitioner (toyr great Greef being inosent in that respect) and we are much defamed in our names and creditt, and therefore do humbly request this honord Court, that our case may be considered and my bill may be suspended untill the next County Court, and that then the case may be fully heard on both sides and determind according to evidenc and equitie and yor peti-

## JOHN WHETCOMBE (1).

tionr shalbe redy and willing freely to yeald unto what is right and shale thankfully remain

Yor worrrpp humble servant

(Middlesex Court Records.)

John Whetcomb."

According to the Middlesex Court Records John had decided the case against himself by giving his note; this note, John being a Christian and a law abiding citizen, doubtless "payd in good wheate after michael tyde," and later events prove that "Peace hath her victories," for during the two or three succeeding generations several marriages occurred between the sons of the turbulent Stephen and the daughters of the self-respecting John.

The products of John's tillage in Lancaster up to 1662 were corn, tobacco and flax with roots and garden herbs and vegetables. The farm probably yielded maple sugar also and the inventory shows that there was an orchard. Log houses were the rule in the time of John and a description of one would probably give the features of all. They were usually of one story and an attic. Small openings in the log walls served as windows; these were protected at night by shutters made of hewn planks; sometimes glass was simulated by the use of skins scraped to semi-transparency or by the skins of bladders. Later the luxury of small panes of greenish glass was introduced. Doors were made of hewn plank battened together and the latch-string was universal. A huge chimney in the middle of the house provided a fireplace which served the purposes of heating and cookery and in Lancaster each family ground its own corn until to the general rejoicing, a miller with his wheel and millstones arrived. There was no idle class; whatever had been a man's condition in England here he worked with his hands. If he had a trade so much the better; if he had not he tried to have, for necessity compelled him to be resourceful and inventive. The miller, the smith, the shoemaker were in demand and every man was in some degree an agriculturist. There and then "Adam delved and Eve span."

# THE WHITCOMB FAMILY.

After some thirty years of this primitive life in the Colony, eight of it spent in Lancaster, the aged Puritan John Whetcombe, met "the inevitable hour," September 24, 1662, and died aged about seventy-four years. He was laid with other forefathers of the hamlet in "the old burying ground," but today no fragment of even a battered stone marks his resting place.

He was married in England to Frances <sup>COGGAN</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, family name unknown, and in England his older children were born. He had certainly five sons, perhaps six, and three daughters. There are no records of births, but in wills and other documents the children's names have been found. He died intestate and the widow and children mutually agreed upon a division of the property which was approved by the court. Frances made her will May 12, 1671, and died at Lancaster May 17, 1671. She named her youngest daughter, Mary, as executrix.

## CHILDREN:

- + CATHERINE,\* was married in 1644 to Rodolphus Ellmes of Scituate. They resided in Scituate; nine children.
- + JAMES.
- + JOHN.
- + ROBERT.
- + JONATHAN.
- ABIGAIL, perhaps died unmarried; no record.
- + JOB.
- + JOSIAH, born 1638, Dorchester, Mass.
- MARY, was married to John Moore, August 13, 1643. He was the son of John and Anna Smith Moore.

\*The New England Historical and Genealogical Register, 1886, p. 305, gives a will of Sarah Ellmes of the parish of St. Saviour's, Southwark, in the County of Surrey, England, widow, 25 August, 1653, proved 20 April, 1654. In it is a clause, "To son Rodolphus Elmes (now in parts beyond the seas) the sum of £10 if he shall be living at the time of my decease." The children of Rhodolphus and Catherine were:

Sarah, born Sept. 29, 1645; married 1662 Thomas Hatch.

Mary, born June 9, 1648.

Joanna, born March 28, 1651.

Hannah, born Dec. 25, 1653.

John, born July 6, 1655.

Joseph, born March 16, 1658.

Waitstill, born Feb. 9, 1661.

Jonathan, born 1663.

Rhodolphus, born 1668; married Bethniah Dodson, Feb. 20, 1695-6.

## JOHN WHETCOMBE (1).

“An Inventory of the Lands goods and Chatels of John Whitcomb (deceased) of Lancaster as the wase prized by Thomas Wilder and Jacob Farrer boath of them of the same towne as the wase prized Accordinge to their best estimation the 2th of October, 1662.

Imprimus the house orchard and broake up land.....	£26—00—00
Ite land within some unbroke up 24 Aikers.....	24—00—00
Ite Intervale land without some ii Aikers.....	05—10—00
Ite house lots unbroke up 36 Aikers.....	18—00—00
Ite in medow 12 Aikers.....	24—00—00
Ite in lands of Second divition 300 Aikers.....	07—10—00
Ite in the Corn on right in the towne.....	04—00—00
Ite two oxen.....	12—00—00
Ite one old cow.....	04—00—00
Ite more in Cattell.....	18—04—00
It in Corne .....	15—14—00
It in tobacco .....	04—00—00
It in flax .....	01—00—00
It a paire of Cart Wheelles .....	02—00—00
It plow & furniture for plow and Cart .....	02—14—00
It in swine .....	07—04—00
It in axes & howse.....	00—10—00
It in Armse .....	01—00—00
Ite bedstead beding and aparell .....	12—00—00
It in pewter brass & Iron tooles with other lomber.....	07—00—00

Witness our hands,

THOMAS WYELDER,  
JACOB FARRER.

Cambr. 7 (8) 1662 John Whetcomb appearing in Court is granted power of administration on the estate of his father deced. & tooke his oath to the Inventory above written that it is the truth & yt if any more appeare He will timely & truly ..... (?) the Same and The Court ordered that ye sd estate be divided according to ye agreemt of ye partyes consrned, the wich agreemt was Exhibited in Court and attested by Major Willard to be ye art (?) & is on file with ye Records of this Court.

THO DANFORTH R.

The following is a copy of the document setting forth the partition of the estate of John<sup>1</sup> among his heirs. It was approved by the court and placed on file among the Middlesex court records.—(C. W.)

## THE WHITCOMB FAMILY.

These may be to intreat this honoured court to take into consideration that whereas John Wetcomb late of this Towne of Lancaster in the Countie of Midlsex, who deceased without making a loyal will that if they see it fitt and convenient they would be pleased to confirme this agreement and covenant which the widow and soe many of the children of the deceased as therein is concerned doe mutualy and vneanimeisly consent unto, which is here by this present writing now after declared.

First, we all mutualy agre that Francis Wetcomb widow and late wife of the deceased and our mother shall have the now dwellinge house and one halfe of the orchard that now is and that is to be of that which is nerest to the said dwellinge house and soe much broakup upland ground as will make up that in her part of the orchard two Aikers of the nerest broakup land therunto, and also two Aikers of broakup Intervale land lying betwixt the said dwellinge house and the riuer also one third part of that we cale the pasture and also one third part of the meadow and likewise a third part in all doworage belonging to the estate of her deceased husband soe as it be not of the second divition and moreouer we agre if she please she shall her firewood out of the two house lots which wase her husbands soe long as it is there to be had and these to have and to hould to her or to her Assigns for and during the time of her natural life we also doe agre that she shall have all the Cattel (Exceptinge two hogs thre pigs and one Cow) which was her husbands we likewise agre she shall have all the housold stuff exceptinge what heereafterin this writinge is expressed in particulars giuen and to whom we also agre she shall have all the flax, and also one halfe of the Corne that this yeare wase growing on the old land and thirtie pound waight of tobacco made up in roule and made merchantable and she to pay one half of all dets which ought to be charged upon her late deceased husbands estate we also mutualy agre that John Wetcomb and Jonathan Wetcomb two of the said deceased John Wetcomb's sonnes shall haue the house lot which is next unto good man Brooks lot and also ninetene Aikers of Intervale next adjoyinge thereto (exceptinge soe much thereof as we haue agreed as doth apeare and herein above is expressed to be our mothers for the time of her natural life) and the same to haue and to hould from the time of the confirmation of this writinge and to them their heirs or Assigns and for ever and after the decease of our mother the part excepted in like maner we also agre that the said John and Johathan shall haue the residue of the tobacco and the hogs & pigs Above excepted and also each of them one pewter platter and John one silver spoone, and Jonathan one Cow and also the Said John and Jonathan shall haue the cart wheles, and plow and what tacklinge or furniture there is belonginge to them or to the horses and also two hows and two axes we also mutualy agre that

## JOHN WHETCOMBE (1).

Job Wetcomb and Josiah Wetcomb the two youngest Sonnes of the Said deceased John Wetcomb shall have the vpland or house lot which formerly wase their brothers Johns lott it beinge twentie Aikers and also twentie one Acers of Intervall lott and part of it adjoininge to the before mentioned Intervall lott and part of it lyinge at quassaponakin and part of it where it shall fall to bee layed out the same to have and to hould to them their heirs or assigns for ever we also mutualy agre that the portion of medow alotted our mother for terme of her life Shall after her decease be equally divided to us foure here named brothers and for all other medow or medows second divitions with all after divitions or dowers with dowerage and all other rights and privileges belonging to the Estate of the said deceased John Wetcomb we mutualy doe agre to diuide them also equally amongst us foure above named brothers the same to have & to hould to them their heirs or assigns & for ever.

Also we mutualy agre that Abigail Wetcomb daughter to the deceased John Wetcomb Shall haue one cow out of her fathers estate furthermore we the Above Said Francis Wetcomb, John Wetcomb and Jonathan Wetcomb mutualy agree that when Mary Wetcomb daughter of the Said deceased John Wetcomb is Sixtene years of age we will giue to her one Cow Also it is further mutualy by us agreed that the above said John and Jonathan Shall pay the other halfe of the dets which ought to bee charged upon the Estate of the Said deceased John Wetcomb and for beter confirmation of this agreement amongst us we each signe it by Settinge here vnto our hands this Second of October 1662 in the presence of

wittnes

THOMAS WYOLDER,  
JACOB FARRER.

At a Common Court held at Cambridge  
Octob 7 1662.

This above being the mutuall agreemt of all partys (illegible) and to attested by Major Simon H. Willard in open court is allowed & confirmed by act of yr court as attest.

FRANCIS WETCOMB,  
JOHN WETCOMB,  
JONATHAN WETCOMB,  
JOB WHETCOMB,  
JOSIAH WHETCOMB,  
MARY WETCOMB,  
ABIGAIL R. WHITCOMB,

THOMAS DANFORTH Recorder.

Entered and recorded the 7th of Octb 1662 In the Registr of Wills & Inventory lib. 2, page 67.8.9.70, by Thomas Danforth Recorder.





## The Jonathan Line.

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ONATHAN WHITCOMB,<sup>2</sup> (John,<sup>1</sup>) may have been the fourth son of John,<sup>1</sup> if James is counted among the children, though this is conjecture only, as no dates or order of births are known at this writing, (Jan., 1904). With his brother, Robert Whitcomb, his brother-in-law, Rodolphus Ellmes, John Hoar and others, he served on the jury of inquest upon the death of Richard Mann of Scituate, Mass., February 16, 1655, and must have been at least 21 years of age if the common law of England fixing the legal age held in the Colonies then. He removed from Scituate to Lancaster, Mass., with his father in 1654, and seems to have exercised the rights of a freeman thereafter. He, with others, signed a petition to governor and council for aid after the Indian raid of 1675-6, and, excepting a temporary absence from the town because of its devastation by the savages, he spent the remainder of his life in Lancaster.

From the death of his father in 1662 he shared the home lot with his brother John until the death of the latter in 1683, when it became

## THE WHITCOMB FAMILY.

wholly his. That he acquired real estate besides that in Lancaster is shown by the inventory.

He was married November 25, 1667, to Hannah \_\_\_\_\_ and their home was situated in the middle of the town. He died in February, 1690, and the inventory of his estate was taken February 25, 1691, by his brother-in-law, John Moor, Samuel Sumner and Cyprian Stevens, and was returned under oath by his widow, April 7, 1691.

The amount of the inventory was £88 5s and as the items are of interest they are herewith given:

House Barn, and 20 acres of land.....	£ 32-00-00
Brush land, 15 acres.....	£ 2-00-00
Bare Hill meadow, 1½ acres.....	£ 1-10-00
Hassocky meadow, 2 acres.....	£ 2-10-00
Plum-tree meadow lot.....	£ 0-05-00
Pine-hill, ½ acre.....	£ 0-05-00
Hog Swamp, 1¼ acres.....	£ 1-05-00
Intervale at Cambridge, 14 acres.....	£ 3-00-00
Outlands at Cambridge, 67 acres.....	£ 5-14-00
Personal estate, horse, sheep, cows, etc.....	£ 39-16-00

About two and one-half years after the death of Jonathan, or on July 18, 1692, Hannah, Jonathan's widow, was killed at the house of Peter Joslin in Lancaster by Indians. The tragedy has been considered by several writers in their annals and histories of the times. (See Nourse's Early Records of Lancaster; Whitney's History of Worcester County; N. E. Hist. & Gen. Reg. Vol. IV; etc.)

After Hannah's death the estate was divided among the heirs by Joseph White and James and John Houghton. They allowed to Mary, the youngest daughter, £14 6s.; then to Jonathan, the oldest son, £36 on condition that he pay to the younger daughters, Mary, Katherine and Ruth, 29 s. 4 d. each; then Hannah, Abigail and Elizabeth to be paid £8 12 s. by the administrators, Josiah Whitcomb and Jonathan. Some of the children were born away from Lancaster during a period when the town had been temporarily abandoned after the Indian raid.

## THE JONATHAN LINE.

### CHILDREN:

3. HANNAH,<sup>3</sup> born September 17, 1668; died December 9, 1668.
- + 4. JONATHAN,<sup>3\*</sup> born February 26, 1669.
5. HANNAH,<sup>3</sup> born August 29, 1671; married Joseph Blood, Groton, Mass. *MO*
6. ABIGAIL,<sup>3</sup> born May 5, 1674; married William Kelsey of Windsor, Mass., in 1694.
7. ELIZABETH,<sup>3</sup> born 1676.
8. KATHERINE,<sup>3</sup> born 1678.
9. RUTH,<sup>3</sup> born 1680.
10. MARY,<sup>3</sup> born 1682.
- + 11. JOHN,<sup>3</sup> born May 12, 1684.

4 JONATHAN WHITCOMB,<sup>3</sup> (Jonathan,<sup>2</sup> John,<sup>1</sup>) was married (1) to Mary (Blood) Joslin, daughter of Abraham and Mary Blood of Lancaster, somewhere between 1685-1689. (Samuel Smith of Littleton recorded that he was married (1) to Mary Joslin and (2) to Mary Blood, daughter of Joseph Blood of Groton, Mass.) He was married (2) to Deborah Scripture of Groton, September 4, 1710, at Concord, Mass. He died April 10, 1715, and she probably died shortly before him, as, about that time, he paid Samuel Barrows for a coffin. The children were named in settling the estate, but the correct order of birth is uncertain.

### CHILDREN:

- + 12. JONATHAN,<sup>4</sup> born 1690. (?)
- + 13. JOSEPH.<sup>4</sup>
- + 14. NATHANIEL.<sup>4</sup>
15. HANNAH,<sup>4</sup> married Joseph Powers; nine children.
16. MARTHA,<sup>4</sup> died March 18, 1721.
- + 17. EPHRAIM,<sup>4</sup> born April, 1702.
18. MARY,<sup>4</sup> born 1704; married John Cobleigh, Jr.
- + 19. BENJAMIN,<sup>4</sup> born December 11, 1711, in Groton.
20. LYDIA.<sup>4</sup>

11 JOHN WHITCOMB,<sup>3</sup> (Jonathan,<sup>2</sup> John,<sup>1</sup>). "Probate court records in Cambridge indicate that the wife's name was Rebecca, and

\*The family record of Jonathans descendant, Isaac Temple of Gardner Me., makes the two oldest children, Hannah and Jonathan, twins, born Feb. 26, 1669.

## THE WHITCOMB FAMILY.

her family name may have been Wilder. She seems to have married January 2, 1722, or 1723, Samuel Chamberlain of Chelmsford, as he finally settled up the estate, which the widow Rebecca started to administer; and he especially mentions that the youngest child was one year and two months old when the father died. The next two, aged three to four, and six to seven years, would correspond with the children of John Whitcomb, born 1684"—George A. Gardner.

The family resided in Lancaster, Mass.

### CHILDREN:

- + ~~21~~ JOHN,<sup>4</sup> perhaps born 1713, Lancaster, Mass.
- 22. ABIGAIL,<sup>4</sup> baptized March 13, 1714 or 1715.
- 23. HANNAH,<sup>4</sup> baptized June 24, 1716.
- + 24. ASA,<sup>4</sup> baptized August 16, 1719, Lancaster, Mass.

12 JONATHAN WHITCOMB,<sup>4</sup> (Jonathan,<sup>3</sup> Jonathan,<sup>2</sup> John,<sup>1</sup>) "had lime kilns, was a tanner, currier, blacksmith, shoemaker and made coffins. By a deed, October 20, 1710, he was a 'cordwainer.' The old dam still remains, and places can be seen, where he got his lime rock."—G. A. G. He was married, May 15, 1716, to Deliverance Nutting, daughter of James Nutting and granddaughter of John Nutting, the wedding taking place at Groton, Mass. He died somewhere about 1767 or 1770; his wife was living as late as 1774 in Lancaster, Mass.

### CHILDREN:

- + 25. JONATHAN,<sup>5</sup> born December 23, 1717.
- + 26. WILLIAM,<sup>5</sup> born September 10, 1719.
- + 27. OLIVER,<sup>5</sup> born August 21, 1721.
- 28. ELIZABETH,<sup>5</sup> born January 17, 1723 or 1724.
- 29. TAMER,<sup>5</sup> born March 20, 1726; married Isaac Haild, June 7, 1745.
- 30. LYDIA,<sup>5</sup> born March 22 or 23, 1727 or 1728; married Ezekiel Powers; she died 1767, was a widow in 1750.
- + 31. JOB,<sup>5</sup> born April 16 or 26, 1730.
- 32. MARTHA,<sup>5</sup> born December 25, 1732; was unmarried in 1767.
- + 33. ABNER,<sup>5</sup> born February 12, 1734.
- + 34. JOTHAM,<sup>5</sup> born August 8, 1737.

## THE JONATHAN LINE.

### CHILDREN:

- +128. ABNER,<sup>6</sup> born February 13 or 18, 1760, Groton, Mass.
- +129. SAMUEL,<sup>6</sup> born January 30 or 31, 1763.
- +130. JOHN,<sup>6</sup> born August 30 or 31, 1764.
- +131. EBENEZER,<sup>6</sup> born July 30, 1766 or 1767.
- +132. OLIVER,<sup>6</sup> born June 18, 1768.
- +133. ELI,<sup>6</sup> born February 18, 1770.
- 134. SARAH,<sup>6</sup> born February 2, 1772; was married (1) October 23, 1792, to James Grayham; (2) to ——— Gilson.
- 135. IRA,<sup>6</sup> born February 13, 1774; died young.
- 136. LUCY,<sup>6</sup> born ———; died August 5, 1823; was married December 19, 1822, to Samuel Dennis (2nd wife).
- +137. IRA MEADS,<sup>6</sup> born 1795.
- 138. EUNICE,<sup>6</sup> born ———; died when a young girl from excessive nose bleed.
- +139. DAVID,<sup>6</sup> born May 30, 1808.

**34** JOTHAM WHITCOMB,<sup>5</sup> (Jonathan,<sup>4</sup> Jonathan,<sup>3</sup> Jonathan,<sup>2</sup> John,<sup>1</sup>) was married May 14, 1766, to Deborah Robbins, daughter of James and Deborah Robbins. They lived in that part of Harvard, Mass., set off as Boxborough. He died February 17, 1821, and she, January 22, 1822, aged eighty years.

### CHILDREN:

- 140. TRYPHENA,<sup>6</sup> born June 8, 1767; was married August 21, 1785, to Jeremiah Richardson of Newfane, Vt.; she died December, 1829.
- +141. LEONARD,<sup>6</sup> born March 31, 1769.
- 142. MOSES,<sup>6</sup> born July 5, 1771.
- 143. BETTY FLETCHER,<sup>6</sup> baptized April 3, 1774; married ——— Wright; died April 20, 1856.
- 144. ABIGAIL LELAND,<sup>6</sup> baptized October 5, 1777; published April 3, 1808, to Joseph Tucker of Acton, Mass.
- 145. PETER,<sup>6</sup> baptized March 25, 1781; was married October 2, 1802, to Sarah Wyman of Bedford, Mass. They lived in Brookline, N. H. No children.

**36** SAMUEL WHITCOMB,<sup>5</sup> (Joseph,<sup>4</sup> Jonathan,<sup>3</sup> Jonathan,<sup>2</sup> John,<sup>1</sup>) was born in Littleton, Mass., July 9, 1719, but concerning his marriage and subsequent life and death there is at this date no rec-