

## PREFACE

The name "Whatley" (as it was spelled by Samuel Whatley, his parents, and his probable grandparents, Shirley and Rebecca Whatley - and their descendants almost without exception for the past two hundred fifty years) is one version of the modern English "Wheatley". During the 1200's, 1300's, 1400's, the name was spelled Whateley, Whattelegh, Whatteley, Watheley, Wately, Wetley, Watele, Whatele, Whately, Whatle, Whetele, -y, -ye, de Whateley, Whattele, of Wheatley, Vetelegus, Weteley-e, Whetelay, Whetlay, Whettleius, Whetley. Earlier spellings used during the 1100's included de Wateleia, Waccheleia, Watelei, Whatel'. A Thomas de Wateleia witnessed a legal settlement in Oxford, Oct. 1192. Many are of the opinion that the "Whatleys" of the Southern part of the U.S.A descend from Sir John (Whatley) of Frome, Somerset, England. He had served with Edward Seymour, Duke of Somerset, in Scotland and France during the years 1544-45 and was granted a Coat of Arms by the King of England showing three garbes or sheaves of wheat on the shield, depicting the wheat "fields" from which the "Wheatley" or "Wheatleigh" name originated. On its crest is a helmet and a stag's head. John Wheatley (Wheatleigh) settled on an estate at Frome, near Wells, in Somersetshire in 1547 and a son John was born May 31, 1547.<sup>3</sup> The name "John" appears frequently throughout the Whatley families of the South. In 1670, a John Whatley who had received a grant of land in Isle of Wight Co., Va., wrote his will and passed 100 acres of land to his eldest son, John. One John Whatley is mentioned with Mary Hurford (or Hansford?) in the Parish Register, Christ Church, May 23, 1700. By 1727, a John Whatley had 400 acres surveyed ("...Surveyed for John Whately..") in Hanover County, Virginia. A few years later, 1732, during the reign of King George II of England, Shirley Whatley (the relationship to John Whatley of Hanover Co., Va., is not known.) received two grants also in Hanover Co. Two years later, within a period of two days, Shirley (who was then married) sold the land in Hanover Co. and it is presumed that he moved to another section of Va. Between 1751-54, Shirley Whatley and family moved from Virginia to N.C. to what was then Granville Co., N.C. (His son Ornan Whatley was born in Virginia May 8, 1751. Later he and his wife, Judith, lived in Richmond and Princess Anne, Virginia; he died in Georgia.) In 1754, William Whatley was mentioned next to (his brother?) Shirley Whatley, Jr. in a Muster Roll of the Regiment in Granville Co., N.C. (Shirley Whatley, Sr. was also mentioned in the same muster roll.) These may have been the two eldest sons of Shirley Whatley, Sr. William Whatley, father of Samuel Whatley (1762-1826) was in Bute Co., N.C. 1761-2 as his son Samuel Whatley was in fact born 1762 in Bute Co. It may be that the oldest sons or adult sons of Shirley Whatley Sr. moved away by 1763 as their names do not appear on a petition of 1763 in which their father signed. Shirley Whatley (Sr.) wrote his will Dec. 19, 1778, in then Bute Co. N.C. By 1778, William and Wilson, Surveyors, were deceased.

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1. "A Biog. Register of the University of Oxford (England) to A.D. 1500, Emden, V. III.

2. "Whatley Grandfathers" (The Wilson Whatley Line), unpub., Mary Elizabeth (Whatley) Jones, Abilene, Texas, 1973, p.2

3. "Genealogy of the Wheatley or Wheatleigh Family", Wheatley, E.H., Thomas Pub. Co., NH, 1902