Substantial research assistance for this paper was provided by Mr. James M. Knox of Palo Alto, CA. However, family groupings, assumptions and conclusions are strictly those of the compiler. The Register Numbering System is used, and the numbers are a continuation of those used in a previous paper on this family in Maryland. Comments and corrections addressed to the compiler will be appreciated.
FORT DUNMORE
1767-1780

Prior to 1740, the western extent of civilization was on the eastern slopes of the Allegheny Mountains along the eastern flowing rivers; the Shenandoah, and the headwaters of the Potomac. The valleys of the western flowing rivers; the Cheat, the Allegheny, the Monongehala, and the Youghiogheny, were the domain of hunters, Indian traders, explorers, and adventurers.

The country west of the mountains was a fertile wilderness. Boyd Crumrine, in a speech delivered before the Western Pennsylvania Historical Society in 1894, says of it:

Thomas Hutchins, an engineer with Bouquet's expedition in 1764, said of it in his "Topographical Description of Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Maryland" published in London in 1778: "The whole country abounds in Bears, Elks, Buffaloes, Deer, Turkeys, etc., an unquestionable proof of the goodness of its Soil." In a footnote, Hutchins quotes from Gordon, a still earlier explorer: "This country may, from a proper knowledge, be affirmed to be the most healthy, the most pleasant, the most commodious, and the most fertile spot of earth, known to the European people." Francis Parkman, writing of the country west of the Alleghanies in 1760 says: "One vast and continuous forest shadowed the fertile soil, covering the lands as grass covers a garden lawn, sweeping over hill and hollow in endless undulation, burying mountains in verdure, and mantling brooks and rivers from the light of day."(1)

The famous Long Hunters had already invaded this primeval wilderness and were slaughtering its teeming game by the thousands. This wasteful destruction of their sustenance, a gift from the Great Spirit, enraged the Indians, and in consequence the aggressors, hunters, and explorers met with armed resistance. The Long Hunters shot buffalo, elk, and deer for their skins and Indians for their scalps.(2) Any white man who attempted to settle in this region, did so at great peril.

Established government was virtually non-existent, and the seats of government were hundreds of miles away. France claimed all the lands west of the westernmost range of the Alleghanies by right of prior discovery. Their interest was Indian trade rather than settlement, and they encouraged the Indians to drive out any settlers coming across the mountains. Virginia claimed that its charter extended to the Mississippi River in the west, and to Lake Erie in the north. Pennsylvania was engrossed with its dispute with Maryland over its southern boundary, and at this time ignored its common boundary with Virginia to its south and west.

In 1748, Thomas Lee, of the King's Council in Virginia, initiated settlements on the lands west of the Alleghanies, through a land corporation called the Ohio Company. A grant was obtained from the King for five hundred thousand acres of land, to be taken chiefly on the south side of the Ohio, between the Monongahela and Kanawha rivers. Two hundred thousand acres were to be selected immediately, and to be held for ten years free from quit rents and taxes, on condition that the company should seat one hundred settlers on the land within seven years, and build a fort and maintain a garrison sufficient to protect the settlements. Lawrence and Augustine Washington, older brothers of George Washington, were members of the Ohio Company.\(^3\)

Augusta County, Virginia was formed 1 Nov. 1938, with Staunton as its County Seat, but the first court was not held until December 1945.\(^4\) Augusta County tax lists by 1748 indicate that there were quite a few settlers in the trans-Alleghanies, but because of the meager descriptions of location of the taxables, it is impossible to determine their number with any exactness.

Regular army troops from England and members of the Virginia militia constructed a series of forts or stockades to protect the frontier. Early in 1754, a body of Virginia Militia under William Trent was sent to construct a fort at the junction of the Monongahela and Allegheny Rivers. Before the fort was finished, a large body of French and Indians appeared, and the fort was forced to surrender. This was the initiation of the French and Indian War, brought on by the constant conflict between the settlers and hunters and the Indians. This conflict continued until 1763 when France ceded all her claims to lands east of the Mississippi to England. During this conflict all the forts except Ligonier fell, and the settlers were driven out of the trans-Alleghenies.

The lists of tax delinquents in Augusta County in 1754 and 1755 contained well over a hundred names, with about a third of them noted "gone to North Carolina" and the balance "moved out of the Colony".\(^5\) These were undoubtedly settlers who had been driven out of the area by the French and Indians.

\(^3\) Crumrine, op. cit., p. 3.
\(^4\) Jean S. Morris, Chronology of Western Pennsylvania and District of West Augusta, Virginia, Pittsburg, 1982.
\(^5\) Lyman Chalkey, Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish Settlement in Virginia, 1912.
The treaty of 1763 did not stop or even seriously diminish the Indian attacks and reprisals. Chief Pontiac of the Ottowa Indian nation, possibly instigated and abetted by the French, led the combined Indian nations of the Northwest in a continued war against the whites. It was not until the close of this war in 1765 was the western frontier considered safe for settlement. The Treaty of Fort Stanwix, 25 Oct 1768, formalized the end of Pontiac's War and established a Treaty Line, beyond which there were to be no white settlements.

The Ohio Company was not the only claimant to the lands south of the Ohio and west of the Alleghenies. In the early 1750's Colonel George Groghan made a Treaty with the sachems of the Five Nations in which the sachems granted to Groghan personally all the land south of the Ohio and between the Monongahela and the Kanawha. Groghan filed this treaty as a deed in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Augusta County, Virginia. George Groghan was a well known frontier diplomat, Indian trader, and land speculator and an associated of Christopher Gist, who was an agent for the Ohio Company. Groghan's claim was ignored by Lord Dunmore, but later became the basis for many law suits between Groghan and settlers of western lands after the start of the American Revolution.

In 1765 Pennsylvania created a Board of Property to administer territorial affairs west of the Susquehanna River. In 1769 the state established a Land Office to record patents in the area covered by the Treaty of Fort Stanwix. This Land Office continued to record patents until 2 Dec 1776, when the Revolution forced it's closing. Virginia's Land Office also closed about this time and remained closed until 1779.

Virginia records continued to refer to the present site of Pittsburg as Fort Dunmore, Pennsylvania records as Fort Pitt. John Murry, Earl of Dunmore and Governor of Virginia, visited Fort Dunmore to establish Virginia's claim to this region. On 11 Oct 1773 the District of West Augusta was created out of Augusta County, Virginia and on 6 Jan 1774 Dr. John Connolly arrived at Fort Dunmore to set up a government. Settlers were forbidden to execute any Acts of the Pennsylvania government. The first session of the District Court of West Augusta was held at Fort Dunmore 21 Feb 1775.

Pennsylvania had formed Bedford County, embracing all of what is now southwestern Pennsylvania, 9 Mar 1771 with the County seat at Fort Bedford. Two years later, 26 Feb 1773, Westmoreland County was formed with the county seat at Hannas Town. Thus the two conflicting governments were now less than thirty miles apart.

Dr. Connolly was arrested by Westmoreland County authorities less than three weeks after his arrival at Fort Dunmore and jailed at Hannas Town. He was soon released on his promise to return before the April term of court. He returned, but in a manner entirely unexpected. He returned with from one

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hundred fifty to one hundred eighty armed men "with their colors flying, and Captains, &c, had their swords drawn. The first thing they did was place sentinels at the court house door, and then Connolly sent a message that he would wait on the magistrates and communicate the reasons of his appearance." Connolly arrested three of the Westmoreland magistrates and sent them under guard to Staunton, county seat of Augusta County, Virginia.\(^8\)

Crumrine goes on to say: "Then followed a series of arrests and counter arrests, long continued, resulting in riots and broils of intense passion. Every one who, under color of an office held under the laws of Pennsylvania, attempted any official act, was likely to be arrested and jailed by persons claiming to hold office under the government of Virginia. Likewise were Virginia officers liable to arrest and imprisonment by the Pennsylvania partisans."\(^9\)

Settlers in the area were forced to choose one side or the other. The majority of the early settlers, being from Virginia and Maryland, chose allegiance to Virginia; but turmoil continued until final resolution of the Virginia-Pennsylvania boundary in 1784. Added to the turmoil between the whites, was the continued Indian depredations brought on by the desire for plunder, rather than outright war.

Resettlement along the Monongehela and Youghiogheny River valleys began anew after the end of Pontiac's War. Bell\(^10\) made an interesting study of Virginia Land Grants issued for Ohio and Yohogania Counties. While these grants were all made after 1779, when the Virginia Land Office was reopened, the original date of settlement claimed was stated. There were no claimed settlements in Ohio County prior to 1774. In Yohogania County David Duncan claimed settlement in 1752 and Thomas Gist in 1753. A total of nine people claimed settlement prior to 1767. It is not known whether these people remained during the Indian Wars, or left and returned later. Five people each claimed settlement in 1767 and 1768, building to a peak of 188 in 1774. Similar data for Monongalia County was not available.

Formal peace with the French and Indians did not free these new settlers from continued Indian atrocities. In 1774 the Rev. John Corbley, who had organized Goshen Church on Muddy Creek in the previous year, has had wife and five children killed while on their way to church one Sunday morning.\(^11\) This is the same John Corbley who had been jailed in Culpepper VA "for preaching the Gospel contrary to law".\(^12\) Lauderbaugh goes on to say:

\(^8\) Crumrine, op. cit. p. 11.
\(^9\) Idib, p. 11.
\(^12\) Rev. J. G. Lauderbaugh, Peters Creek Baptist Church, Library PA, 1948, p. 11.
The year 1774 brought trouble by the Indians with murderous raids upon the settlers. Those who lived east of the Monongahela River were disturbed because the Indians looked upon them as Pennsylvanians against whom they held no hostile feelings. Those west of the river were regarded by the Indians as Virginians against whom they held a number of grievances and they were attacked savagely. Hundreds of these settlers fled eastward over the mountains for safety. One writer asserts that more than two hundred people crossed the Monongahela River in one day between Redstone Creek and Cheat River in their flight from the Indians.\(^\text{(13)}\)

The first houses erected by the settlers were log cabins, with covers of split clapboards, and weigh poles to keep them in place. They were frequently seen with earthen floors, or if wood was used, they were made with split puncheons a little smoothed with a broad-axe. As time went on, the most general mode of building was with hewn logs, a shingle roof and plank floor, the plank cut out with a whip saw. There were, however a few framed and stone buildings erected prior to the time of the Revolution.\(^\text{(14)}\)

The dress of the early settlers was of the plainest material, generally of their own manufacture. The men's coats were generally made with broad backs, and straight short skirts, with pockets on the outside having large flaps. The breeches were so short as barely to reach the knee. Stockings were drawn up under the knee band and tied with a garter below the knee, so as to be seen. The shoes were of coarse leather, with straps to the quarters, and fastened with brass or silver buckles. The hats was either fur or wool, with a round low crown and a broad brim. The female dress was generally a short gown and a petticoat made of the plainest materials.\(^\text{(15)}\)

Thus it is seen that the Trans-Alleghenies was a wild and unsettled frontier when JOHN WHITAKER, his brother JAMES, and ABRAHAM WHITAKER, either a brother or a first cousin, migrated to the area in the summer of 1767. Each of the three were accompanied by their wives and sizeable families. One source\(^\text{(16)}\) says that they were accompanied by the WEST and HAYS families but this cannot be substantiated. ABRAHAM HAYS was married to FRANCES PETIT, a sister of the wife of James Whitaker. This same source says that they were the first white families to settle in the region, but this is apparently incorrect. From the evidence at hand they were certainly among the first.

\(^{13}\) Ibid. p. 13.
\(^{15}\) Ibid. p. 114.
JOHN WHITAKER was the head of a large nuclear family in Baltimore (nor Harford) County, Maryland, residing a mile or so west of Bel Air. Both of his parents died in 1739, when he was only 17, and left him with the responsibility for six younger brothers and sisters. He married at 19 and had eight living children of his own by 1767. He had acquired over 400 acres of land west of Bel Air and had been farming this land, along with several of his brothers for over 20 years. John's brother CHARLES had left the family group in 1741, his two sisters had married in 1747 and 1753, and his brother ISAAC had married and gone on his own by 1760. By 1767 the family group consisted of John and his family, his brother JAMES and his family, and possibly his brother ABRAHAM and family. In the spring of 1767 John sold all of his Maryland land except one tract. The final tract was sold in 1771.

Their route west would have been north to York, PA on the highway from Bush River to York, then west on Braddock's Trail, through Fort Bedford, past the ruins of Fort Necessity, and on to the western river valleys. Their household goods and supplies would be limited to what could be carried by horsepack. Braddock's trail was impassable to wagons. A flintlock rifle for every adult male was a necessity.

The genealogy of these Whitaker families:

9. (18) JOHN3 WHITAKER (Charles2, John1). b. 2 Jul 1722, d. ca. 1798, m. MARY McCOMAS ca 1741, b. 8 May 1725, d. ca. 1802. Their children were:

14. i. CHARLES, b. 11 Dec 1742
15. ii. JOHN, b. ca 1748
16. iii. ABRAHAM, b. ca 1751
17. iv. ISAAC
18. v. JESSE
19. vi. AQuilla, b. 24 Aug 1755
20. vii. HANNAH
21. viii. ELIJAH

Where John Whitaker and his family settled is uncertain. He does not appear anywhere in land records in either Virginia or Pennsylvania. Doubtless his only title was a "tomahawk claim". Smeltzer says "about 1767 they emigrated from Maryland to Washington County, now Allegheny County, in Western Pennsylvania and settled in what is now Mifflin Township on the Monongahela River about eight miles above Fort Pitt and almost directly across from Braddock's Field". In another place he says that James Whitaker first settled on Peters Creek and later moved to Mifflin Township. (19)

(17) The history of this family in Maryland is given in this compiler's paper, "The Whitaker Family of Baltimore County, Maryland", Maryland Historical Magazine, forthcoming.
(18) The Register numbering system is used. Numbers are a continuation of the above paper.
(19) Wallace Guy Smeltzer, op. cit. p. 39
Lauderbaugh says that John lived on Peters Creek, near the present Washing­
ton-Allegheny County line.(20) Other sources infer that they first settled
on the east side of the Monongahela, with John later moving to Peters Creek
and James moving to Mifflin Township. This would have been more reasonable
considering the Indian problems of the time. Wherever John settled, the
lack of clear title to his land would come back to torment him.

Somewhere along the way JOHN\(^3\) WHITAKER had become a Baptist minister.
The first mention of his ministry is found in Buck.(21)

in 1772 a Baptist missionary to Ohio passed through Western Pennsylvania and reported that "the Reverend Isaac Sutton is an ordained minister". He mentioned also "three candidates for the ministry, whose names are mess. John Corbly, John Swinglar, and John Whitticur (sic)".

There is no doubt that John was later ordained, rather than practicing as a lay preacher. Spencer says:(22)

At the close of 1780 there were five ordained Baptist Preachers in ... Kentucky-William Marshall, Joseph Barnett, John Whitaker, Benjamin Lynn (and) John Skaggs. ... Marshall, Lynn, and Skaggs were Separates (a division leading to later discord) while Barnett, Whitaker and Gerrard were Regulars. ... John Whitaker had been a Separate Baptist Minister in Virginia, but for some unknown reason had changed his party.

No record was found of church affiliation or activity for John in Mary­
land. However, the Harford Old School Baptist Meeting House was formed in 1754 near the forks of Winders Run and in the immediate vicinity of where he lived. The first and long time minister, the Elder John Davis, was known to have ordained several ministers "by the laying on of hands" and sending them forth to found new churches. We can only speculate that John was either or­
dained by the Rev. Mr. Sutton, or returned to Maryland for ordination by Elder Davis.

On Wednesday, 10 Nov 1773, the Rev. John Whitaker organized a Baptist Church "living near the mouth of the Youghioughenny River". The church was given no distinctive name at this time, but was later called Peters Creek Baptist Church. This church continues to this day as a large and flourish­ing parish in Library, PA. The original Covenant and Minutes of this church still exist, and the portion through March 1780 is considered to be in John's handwriting, as he continued to preach there until he left for Kentucky.(23)

(23) All information concerning Peters Creek Baptist Church is taken from
(1) The Covenant and Minutes, Peters Creek Baptist Church, Library PA,
(2) Boyd Crumrine, History of Washington County, PA, 1882, p. 891 and
(3) J. G. Lauderbaugh, op. cit.
The spelling, punctuation, and sentence structure of the Covenant indicate that the Reverend Mr. Whitaker was not too literate a man, and the Minutes conform this. The Covenant appears to be a paraphrase of the "Philadelphia Covenant" adopted a few years previously by the Baptist Convention in Philadelphia. It was possibly written from memory, to judge from the lack of literacy. Article 5 is particularly interesting; "not to Live in the neglect of any know Duty Either to our God or king our Neighbor Ourselves but to Endeavour to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peac" At some later date the phrase "or king" had been struck out.

The covenant was originally signed by nine people; John Whitaker, Thomas Applegat, Isham Bennet, Henry Lemon, Teton Elrod, Christopher Millier, Mary Whitaker, Margret Gannet (Garret?), and Ailsey Lemon. The location of the residences of many of these signers is known. Thomas Applegate lived at or near the present site of the borough of Elizabeth on the Monongahela River, Peter Elrod lived on the banks of the Yougioughenny River five miles above the junction with the Monongahela, where Elrod's ferry was maintained. Isam Barnet lived between the Monongahela and Yougioughenny Rivers. Henry and Aisley Lemmon probably lived east of the river. The distances these people had to travel to "the mount of the Yough" was considerable.

By 2 Jul 1779 some thirty two people had signed the Covenant. It is interesting to note that none of John's children or their spouses were ever members of the church. However, Abram Whitaker signed a subscription list dated 2 May 1780 for the support of the Rev. David Phillips, Rev. Whitaker's successor.

The first entry in the Minutes was dated 30 Sep 1775. After "being met together to Consider all things that might be for the Glory of God and for the Muteal Benefit of Each other prayer being made to proceed to business", a preaching circuit was established. Once every two months, "Communion" was established at the Church at the forks of the Yough River, Loril (Laurel) Hill, "Mudy Crick", and Ten Mile. This circuit cannot be explained in the light of the present day record, as Rev. John Corbly had founded a church on Muddy Creek in November 1773 and a church had been established on Ten Mile Creek the same month. Corbly remained the preacher at Muddy Creek for many years, so the Rev. Whitaker could not have filling an empty pulpit. A church building had been built for Muddy Creek congregation on the Jacob Van Meter farm in 1773.

Other entries in the Minutes show the degree that the congregation considered social and business matters, as well as religious items. On 6 Apr 1776 Teter Elrod was called before the Church "Concerning Seling a certain Tract of Land and Marking of hogs and Concerning a horse". Elrod satisfied the congregation on these charges. In later meetings brothers were charged with "horse Raising (racing?)" and "geting Drunk on the Sabbath". Another brother was brought before the Church charged with sleeping with his wife before he was married to her. His wife, also a member of the congregation, was not charged. The brother "Acnoledges himself to be guilty (and) is sot aside".
Brother Thomas Applegate seems to function as Deacon of the Church in its early years. He appears frequently in the Minutes as a messenger to the annual meeting of the Baptist Association, and is often delegated to call on erring brothers and sisters. When, on 2 Jul 1779, Brother Teter Elrod was charged with keeping a disorderly house, Brother Applegate was appointed to "Enquire into the above Charge". Brother Elrod is assumed to have kept a Public House in connection with his ferry. On 13 Mar 1780 "the Church Met has Concluded Thomas Applegate to be gilty of the Sin of Fornication is to be excluded the 25 of this instant". The entire entry starting with Thomas was struck out. This entry is dated 25 Mar 1780: "Thomas Applegate Being accused of Being with a Woman is suspended for forther pruf--". Brother Applegate does not appear further in the Minutes and does not appear on a list of members included in the Minutes later that year.

Rev. Whitaker left for Kentucky 1 Apr 1780, and on 5 May "Brother Talor Chosin by the Church as Elder". The Rev. David Phillips was received by letter 1 Sep 1780. After this the Minutes seem to have been kept by Amanda Philips (sic) presumed to be his wife. From this point on the Minutes are much more literate.

Only one more entry in the Minutes is of interest here. In an entry dated Seventh Day January 6, 1780 (1781) it was agreed that Brother Philips should sign the letter to Brother Whitticker (sic) read before the congregation. This is assumed to be Brother Whitaker's transfer letter.

JOHN WHITAKER does not appear in any court records on Pennsylvania. His first appearance in Virginia records is made after Augusta County formed the District of West Augusta and sessions of the County Court began sitting at Fort Dunmore. One of the first acts of this court was to prepare a list persons to recommend to the Governor of Virginia as proper persons to be added to the Commission of the Peace for West Augusta. Included in the list was John Whitacre (sic) and George Rogers Clark. The next day John Whitacre and several others were appointed to view a road; and at the court for 16 May 1775 John Whitacre and others again were appointed to view a road.(24) From these entries it could be assumed that he had assumed a position of importance in the community by 1775.

In 1776 the District of West Augusta was divided into the Counties of Monongalia, Ohio, and Yohogania. Yohogania County encompassed all the Monongahela River valley. On 24 Mar 1778, John Whitaker, "a minister of the Gospel", came into the Court and took the Oath of Allegiance and Fidelity.(25) This oath was required by an act of the Virginia Legislature of all people holding public office, and was intended to assure allegiance to Virginia alone. The oath took this form:(26)

(25) Ibid.
(26) Virginia Statutes, Chapter XCVIII, p. 68.
I (name) do declare myself a citizen of the Commonwealth of Virginia; I relinquish and renounce the character of subject or citizen of any Prince or other state whatsoever, and abjure all allegiance which may be claimed by such Prince or other state; and I do swear to be faithful and true to the said Commonwealth of Virginia, so long as I continue to be a citizen thereof. So help me God.

Since this oath was only required of holders of public office, very few people are recorded as having taken it. We assume that John Whitaker's commission as Justice of the Peace continued in Yohogania County and was the basis for his taking the oath. On 28 Sep 1779 AQUILLA WHITAKER took the same oath. No basis for his oath is apparent. However, we can speculate that he was an officer in the militia at Fort Dunmore. This is only speculation as very few militia records at Fort Dunmore survive, but six months later he appears as an Ensign under George Rogers Clark at the falls of the Ohio.

Virginia reopened a Land Office in 1779 and sent three Commissioners to Fort Dunmore to record Patents for residents in the area. The border controversy with Pennsylvania heated up at the same time as the borders of the various states had become an important topic in the Constitutional Convention then in session. Virginia was objecting, but it appeared that the Mason-Dixon line would be continued as the southern border of Pennsylvania. However, it was proposed that Virginia land titles would be valid in Pennsylvania "unless invalid because of prior claim". The first deeds in the Yohogania Deed Book were a series of deeds by George Groghan based on his 1749 treaty with the sachems of the Six Nations. The original Treaty was also filed by Groghan. This treaty and the deeds covered all the land west of the Monongahela River from its mouth to a point about 12 miles upstream.

Filing of these deeds couded the land title of every settler west of the Monongahela, and at this time there were well over a thousand of them. Groghan and his associates had already filed suit in Yohogania County Court against many of these settlers. The case of Groghan vs Whitaker, Whitaker, Whitaker, and a long list of others was filed 24 Nov 1778. Groghan vs Abraham Whitaker and James Whitaker was filed 25 Mar 1779. Several other suits were filed in the same period in which the Whitaker family was involved, but since only the docket survives, the cause of action is unknown. The settlers had few options. Many of them had no title but "squatters rights" since no Land Office had been open in which to apply for a patent. Even those with Virginia Patents would have to contest Groghan's prior claim. The other options were to settle with Groghan or to move on.

ABRAHAM and JAMES WHITAKER elected to stay and clear the title to their land. At the time of their deaths a few years later they obviously had clear title to their holdings. JOHN WHITAKER elected to move on.

The winter of 1779-80 was the hardest on record up to that time. All the streams were frozen over solid. The Ohio River must have been at a massive flood stage when a party of over 1,000 people on 63 flat boats left
the Monongahela on 1 Apr 1780 for Kentucky. John Whitaker and his entire family, including spouses of many of his children and quite a few grandchildren, were members of that party. (27) A journal kept by one of the party said that they reached Limestone (Maysville, KY) on 16 Apr and the Falls of the Ohio on 1 May.

John\(^3\) Whitaker seems to have continued his extended family all during his stay in the Fort Dunmore area. While several of his sons and his daughter married during this period, there are no indications that any of them established separate households. John\(^4\) had married MARGARET (PATTY) GRAFTON and had several children prior to 1780. Abraham\(^4\) had married SUSANNAH HUMBLE about 1778. She was said to be the daughter of MICHAEL HUMBLE who lived on the east bank of the Monongahela opposite the present city of Homestead. Michael and his family, along with his brother CONRAD HUMBLE went to Kentucky the same time as the Whitakers. His motivation for leaving does not seem to be a clouded land title, because some eight years later, in 1788, he sold his Westmoreland County holdings for a considerable sum and warranted the deed.

AQUILLA WHITAKER married MARY KUYKENDALL during this period. Mrs. King (28) says that the marriage took place in 1772, when the groom was 17 and the bride was 12, but she does not cite a source for the information. She goes on to say that the brides parents were BENJAMIN and REBECCA KUYKENDALL, and that they objected to the marriage because Aquilla was not only young but poor -- having only a horse, saddle, bridle, rifle, and a few skins. Both Benjamin Kuykendall and his son Moses had daughters named Mary. According to Mrs. PHEOBE WHITAKER SHACKLEFORD, her great-grandfathers name was Moses, and her great great grandfather was Benjamin. (29) Aquilla and Mary's first child was born in 1778, so a marriage date of 1776 or 1777 would be more reasonable. Mary was pregnant with their second child when they went to Kentucky.

HANNAH WHITAKER married (EPHRIAM?) STANDIFORD either in Maryland or Yonogania County. His first name is speculative since it only appears as a witness to a deed made by John\(^3\) Whitaker in Bullitt County, Kentucky some twenty years later. The other two witnesses, AQUILLA STANDIFORM and JOHN WHITAKER STANDIFORD, were apparently Hannah Standiford's sons.

CHARLES\(^4\) WHITAKER with his brothers John and Aquilla and his cousin JAMES WHITAKER Made trips to Kentucky in 1775 and 1776 to hunt and to mark out land claims. On their return to Kentucky in 1780 they found their 1775 improvements were invalid because they were within the Military Surveys at the Falls of the Ohio. but many of their 1776 claims resulted in Warrants,

(29) George Benson Kuykendall, History of the Kuykendall Family Portland, OR, 1919, quoting a letter from Mrs. Shackleford.
which they either sold or developed into Patents. Virginia issued Pre-
emptive Warrants to anyone who settled on unclaimed land, marked its bounds, erected a dwelling, and planted a crop. In addition, a "Certificate in 
Right of Settlement" for 1000 acres was obtainable by each holder of a Pre-
emptive Warrant by payment of the State price of 10 shillings per hundred 
acres. The act did not require the "dwelling" to be inhabited for any period 
of time or for the "crop" to be harvested, so these actions were often pre-
functory. Claimants were often grossly inaccurate in marking the bounds of 
their 400 acres. Later surveys sometimes showed they contained as little as 
285 acres or exceed 800. These early explorers moved from place to place in 
small groups, "making improvements" in their own names and in the names of 
relative and friends, and each swearing to the improvements made by the 
others. Often it was many years before valid surveys were made and filed to 
document these claims and much overlapping of claims resulted. The result-
ing lawsuits flooded the Kentucky Courts for some 50 years. (30)

In May 1779, the Virginia Legislature established an additional class of 
land warrants in the Act Establishing the Land Office. (31) This was the 
Land Office Treasury Warrant, obtainable by anyone for "waste or unappropri-
ated land" by payment to the Treasurer of forty pounds for every hundred 
acres. These warrants were valid anywhere in Virginia, in contrast to the 
Preemptive Warrants that were required to be filed in the county of their 
location. On 27 Feb 1780, John3 Whitaker and his son Aquilla bought Land 
Office Treasury Warrants 2059, 2063, and 2070 for a total of 850 acres. We 
know that it was John3, rather than his son John4 who bought these warrants 
by tracing the later sale of the land obtained with them. One of Aquilla's 
first acts on reaching Kentucky was filing for Preemptive Warrants in his 
own name and for his brothers Abraham and Charles. These warrants were for 
1000 acres each.

10. CHARLES3 WHITAKER, (Charles2, John1), b. 11 Jan 1724, m. Dec 1749, 
wife's name not stated, Augusta County, VA.

Charles3 Whitaker was the first person to leave the family group headed 
by his brother John when, in November 1741, he petitioned the Maryland court 
to make Parker Hall his guardian. He is thought to be the Charles Whitaker 
who first appears on the tax lists of Augusta County, Virginia in 1748 as a 
tax delinquent. Augusta County at this period extended from the Shenandoah 
Valley to include all of what is now West Virginia, Ohio, and Southwestern 
Pennsylvania. Where Charles lived in this area is unknown, but using the 
tax lists and assuming that he lived near people who could be located by 
deeds, he is assumed to have been in the Cheat River near Brock's Gap. This 
is west of the present Winchester, VA and many miles from where his brothers 
settled twenty years later.

(30) Depositions by various members of the Whitaker family in some of these 
suits can be found in "History in Circuit Court Records", Register of 
the Kentucky Historical Society, Vol. 28.
(31) Virginia Statutes, Chapter XIII, p. 50.
Marriage licenses were issued by the County Clerk in the name of the Governor and no records were kept except those needed to make a fee settlement annually. In Augusta County the names of license applicants were entered on the fly leaves at the ends of the Fee Book and often only the name of the man was entered. The name of Charles Whitaker's wife is not recorded. (32)

He appears again in the record in 1751 in Augusta County Will Book No. 1, when the appraisement of the estate of William Jackson included a note of Charles Whitaker. On 12 Aug 1752, he appeared before the court as a defendant in a lawsuit and petitioned the court "that the plaintiff had already hired both lawyers practicing before this Court." Gabriel Jones was assigned to defend him. No record of the outcome of this suit was found. In March 1754, in the case of Davis vs. Whitaker, a judgement was entered "Charles Whitaker removed out of Colony." (33)

In 1754 and 1755 most, if not all, the settlers in the Cheat River Valley had been driven out by repeated Indian attacks. Many of these people went to the more peaceful area in western North Carolina, where settlers had been coexisting with the Cherokee for some time. A Charles Whitaker is found on the upper part of the Yadkin River in 1764 as a constable. (34) Several Whitaker families that are found in southwestern Kentucky in the early part of the nineteenth century are thought by many researchers to be his descendants.

11. JAMES\textsuperscript{3} WHITAKER (Charles\textsuperscript{2}, John\textsuperscript{1}), b. 22 Dec 1726, m. (1) 29 Jun 1749 MARY SANDERS, m. (2) 25 Aug 1763 CATHERINE POTEE (Partee, Petite), d. ca. 1789. His children by both marriages were:

23. i. AARON, b. ca. 1751
24. ii. JAMES, b. 1756
25. iii. ISAAC, b. ca 1763
   iv. CHARLOTTE, b. ca 1756
   v. ELIZABETH, b. ca. 1776
26. vi. ABRAHAM, b. ca. 1780
27. vii. DANIEL

Although James\textsuperscript{3} Whitaker does not appear in the Virginia record and infrequently in Pennsylvania records after 1780, there is little doubt that he came west in company with John and Abraham Whitaker and the West and Hayes families. The wives of Abraham Hayes and Abraham Whitaker were apparently sisters of Catherine Potee Whitaker although each of their maiden names were spelled differently in the marriage records.

(33) Lyman Chalkey, op. cit. p. 28, p. 347.
(34) Jo White Lynn, Abstracts of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, Rowan County, North Carolina, Vol. II
James Whitaker is first found in the list of taxables for Peters Township, Washington County, PA in 1781, being taxed for 300 acres of land, four horses, four cattle, and three sheep. Soon after this date he moved to Mifflin Township on the Monongahela River where he acquired a tract of some 500 acres, built a square hewn log house, a saw mill, and brought the farm to a high state of development. The Borough of Whitaker in Homestead PA takes its name from this farm. Accounts vary, but some say that the original house is still standing, between Second and Third Streets in Whitaker while others say the house burned in the 1890's. Mrs. Violet Link of Homestead claims that she lived in the house in her youth and that it is still standing, though materially modified over the years. She was unable to pointpoint the exact location.  

This ad appeared in the Pittsburg Gazette 16 Feb 1788, shortly before James' death:

TO BE SOLD FOR CASH

Five hundred and 95 acres of valuable improved land, situated on the Monongahela River, 8 miles above Pittsburg. The improvements are, a good square log dwelling house, stables, and excellent peach and apple orchard, good meadow, 100 acres of clear land under good fence and a saw mill in good order. An indisputable title will be given the purchaser. The terms are one half to be paid in hand, for the remainder a credit will be given for seven years, the purchaser giving bond, bearing interest with approved security.  

A feature article in the Daily Messenger of Homestead is as noteworthy for its inaccuracies as for its content.

Allegheny County, Pennsylvania was formed out of parts of Washington and Westmoreland Counties. The will of James Whitaker, dated 16 Jun 1788 in Washington County, was the first will recorded in Will Book 1 of Allegheny County. It was recorded 23 Jun 1789.

The will provided adequately for his wife Catherine during her lifetime and divided his land at her death between Aaron, Abraham, and Isaac. Isaac was to have the sawmill. His sons James and Daniel were only bequeathed "eighty pounds of that money that is at Maryland when it is gained by Law". The compilers speculations about the disparity of these bequests will be given later. The daughters were given sums of the same money, plus a horse, saddle, bridle, a cow and calf, and a feather bed and furniture. Several slaves were disposed of in the will plus a final bequest. "Also, at my death I give to Elinor, a negro wench, her liberty."

The inventory of personal property of James Whitaker remaining after these bequests, as well as listing the usual household and farm items, contains the following:

A judgement against Benjim Bradford Norris in Harford County & Ste of Maryland . . . 630.
A bond on Ephriam Standiford of Kentucky with interest for 4 or 5 years . . . . . 83.
A judgement against Thomas Hues obtained in Westmoreland county . . . . . . . . . 11.
and several more.

Benjamin Bradford Norris was a well to do planter in Harford County and a distant relative of James'. Why the judgement had not been collected some 20 years after James left Harford County is unknown. Ephriam Standiford was the husband of one of James' nieces and they had gone to Kentucky some eight years before. It is doubtful if any of these debts were ever collected.

James and Catherine's daughter Charlotte married JOHN ROUSH who died in 1791. She married, second, JAMES EVANS and moved to Shelbyville Kentucky, near her uncle JOHN WHITAKER and many cousins. Her son JOHN ROUSH was with other Shelby County troops in the War of 1812, and was at the Battle of Tippecanoe. James and Catherine's daughter Elizabeth married JAMES JEFFERIES and moved to Gallia County, Ohio. He died there in 1844 and she died in 1845. They had ten children.

James Whitaker's wife, Catherine, survived her husband by 25 years, passing on in 1813. The widow Whitaker, with Isaac, Aaron, and Abraham appear on the 1791 tax list for Mifflin Township, Allegheny County. (37) Aaron, Isaac, and John Whitaker are listed in household 17 in the 1790 Allegheny County census. The widow Whitaker and another John are listed in the next household. Neither of these Johns can be identified. Catherine,

Aaron, and Isaac are on the 1800 census in Allegheny County; and Aaron, Abm, and Isaac appear in Mifflin Township, Allegheny County in 1810. From this data it is assumed that Catherine continued to live with her three sons until her death.

23. AARON⁴ WHITAKER (James³, Charles², John¹), b. ca. 1751, d. 25 Mar 1833, m. date unknown. MARTHA ANN ROUSH, b. ca 1763, d. 28 Oct 1854. Their children were:(38)

i. CATHARINE, m. JOSEPH WEST, Sr. (1757-1841)
ii. JAMES, (1790-1858) m. 1819 NANCY GILSON
iii. SARAH ANN, (1793-1865) m. JOSEPH WEST, JR.
iv. NANCY, (1803-1870) m. THOMAS WEST (1793-1863)
v. AARON, JR., (1804-1847) m. ANN DELLENBAUGH
vi. MARGARET, M. JAMES IRWIN
vii. FANNY, M. JOHN LONG
viii. POLLY, M. SAMUEL MORRISON
ix. JOSEPH, d. 1841, m. Margaret
x. MARTHA, m. ARCHIBAL REED
xi. AQUILLA THOMPSON, (1824-1854) never married.

Aaron⁴ Whitaker continued to farm the land inherited from his father all his life. He was described as a veritable giant, weighing nearly 400 pounds. He supplemented his farming by making frequent journeys to New Orleans. He would build a large flat boat or keel boat on the Monogahela at the edge of his farm, load it with his own and purchased produce, and when high water came in the spring, take it down the river to the New Orleans market; several times making the journey alone. After selling his load and the boat, he would walk back home across the Natchez Trace. On several occasions, he took ship from New Orleans to Baltimore and walked home from there.

Aaron severed during the Revolution, being listed in the Washington County Rangers on the Frontiers from 1778 through 1783(39) and in Captain Samuel Cunningham’s company, Second Battalion, Washington County Militia in 1782.(40)

A tablet commemorating this service is on the firehouse in Whitaker Borough:(41)

To Honor the Memory of
Aaron Whitaker
A Soldier of the Revolution
Sone of James and his wife Catherine Whitaker
Pioneer Settlers about 1767
Whose farm includes the Borough which bears their name
This Tablet is placed by the
Pittsburg Chapter of the Daughters of
The American Revolution
1916

(38) Data on this family is from DAR Magazine, Vol. 44, p. 381-382; and Wallace Guy Smeltzer, op. cit. p. 42-47.
(40) Ibid. Sixth Series, Vol. 2, p. 35
(41) Smeltzer, op. cit. p. 43.
Aaron's daughters Catherine and Sarah Ann married father and son, Joseph West Sr. and Jr. Aaron and his wife, along with his son James and his wife and Joseph West Sr., about 1832, each donated an acre of land for the erection of a church and burying ground. The church was originally known as the Whitaker Methodist Church and is now the Ann Ashley Memorial Methodist Church in Homestead. There are several memorial windows in the present church to members of the Whitaker family and several members are buried in the old graveyard.

24. JAMES\textsuperscript{4} WHITAKER (James\textsuperscript{3}, Charles\textsuperscript{2}, John\textsuperscript{1}), b. ca. 1756 d. 17 Nov 1804, m. ca. 1781 ELIZABETH FOUKE. Their children were:\textsuperscript{(42)}

   i. NANCY, b. ca. 1782, m. ca. 1803, WILLIAM WILSON
   ii. ISAAC, moved to Indiana
   iii. JAMES, moved to Michigan
   iv. MARY, b. 1971, d. 1827, m. GEORGE SHANNON
   v. ELIZABETH
   vi. CHARLOTTE, d. 1824
   vii. RACHEL, b. 1801, m. 1823, JAMES A. SCRANTON
   viii. GEORGE, b. 1803

There were two men named James Whitaker in Mifflin Township during this period, the James above and JAMES\textsuperscript{4} (Abraham\textsuperscript{3}, Abraham\textsuperscript{2}, John\textsuperscript{1}). This compiler believes that the James above was the one captured by Wyandotte Indians; first, because of the terms of his fathers will, and second, Major James Sullivan Whitaker said that the James Whitaker captured by the Indians was a cousin.\textsuperscript{(43)} Of course both James above was a first cousin. At the time of Aaron\textsuperscript{3}'s death, the James who was captured by Indians was well established in Ohio and would not be expected to be left a share of his fathers land.

Mrs. King gives an interesting account of the capture, qutoing Hon. Homer Everett, in his history of Sandusky County:\textsuperscript{(44)} The account was based on an interview with Mrs. Rachel Scranton, seventh child of James.

About the year of 1780 (Mrs. King speculates 1774) two brothers Quill (actually Aquilla, first cousin) and James Whitaker, in company with another young man, left Fort Pitt one morning on a hunting expedition. They wandered a considerable distance from the fort intent upon securing game with which to gratify their friends, but in the unexpected moment a volley of rifle balls rattled among the trees. One took mortal effect in the body of the young man, another passed thro' the hat of Quill Whitaker, who saved himself by flight. The third ball shattered the arm

\textsuperscript{(42)} A data on James Whitaker and his children from J. Estelle Stewart King, op. cit. p. 10.
\textsuperscript{(43)} Dr. Lyman Draper, Draper Manuscripts, Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison Wisconsin.
\textsuperscript{(44)} King, op. cit. p. 9.
of James, the younger brother, and in a few minutes he was a prisoner of a band of painted Wyandotte warriors. After several days of hard travel the Indians with the captive reached a hill, within the present bounds of Richland County, Ohio. Here the lines were formed and Whitaker's bravery was tested on the gauntlet course. The boy, wounded as he was, deported himself with true heroism. The first half of the course was passed without a single scratch, but as he was speeding on to the goal an old squaw, who cherished a feeling of deep revenge, mortified by the captive's successful progress, sprang forward and caught his arm near the shoulder, hoping to detain him long enough for the weapon of the next savage to take effect. The prisoner instantly halted and with a violent kick sent the vicious squaw and the next Indian tumbling from the line. His bold gallantry received shouts of applause along the line. Attention being diverted he sprang forward with quickened speed and reached the post without material injury. Not satisfied that this favorite amusement should be so quickly ended, it was decided that the prisoner should run again. The line for the second trail was formed when an elderly and dignified squaw walked forward and took from her own shoulders a blanket which she cast over the shoulders of the panting young prisoner, saying, "This is my son. He is one of us. You must not kill him." Thus adopted he was treated with all kindness and affection which the savage heart is capable of cherishing.

Stripped of all the flowery language, this account is probably as Mrs. Scranton heard it from her father in her youth. Mrs. King goes on to say that ELIZABETH FOUKE was captured by the Wyandotte Indians in 1776 in western Pennsylvania and adopted by the tribe. Elizabeth and James were married in Detroit in 1781 and settled on a tract of 1280 acres given them by the Wyandottes on the Sandusky River in what is now Fremont County, Ohio. Mrs. King claims they were the first white settlers to permanently reside in Ohio. James died in 1804 and was buried on the farm. The date of his widow's death is not known, but it was after 1817, because the Treaty with the Wyandotte Tribe made 29 Sep 1817 recognized her title to the land.

25. ISAAC4 WHITAKER (James3, Charles2, John1) b. ca. 1763, d. ca. 1838, m. date unknown, SARAH NcNEEL. She was b. in 1771 and d. 1858. They were reportedly the parents of ten children.(45)

(45) King, op. cit. p. 7.
Isaac^4 Whitaker appears on the 1791 tax list for Mifflin Township in Allegheny County, and in the 1790, 1800, and 1810 censuses. The compiler did not trace census data past 1810. He does not appear on any Revolutionary War rolls and is presumed not to have served. We can speculate that he continued to operate his sawmill and farm until his death and made minimum impact on the public record.

26. ABRAHAM^4 WHITAKER (James^3, Charles^2, John^1) b. ca. 1780, d. 6 Apr 1832, m. date unknown, MARY McCLURE. She was b. in 1786, d. 3 Aug 1862 in Bedford, Cuyohoga County, Ohio. Their children were:(46)

i. MARGARET, b. 1816
ii. JAMES, b. 1813
iii. CHARLES, b. 1815, d. 1847 in Nebraska
iv. ALFRED, b. 1817
v. CATHERINE, b. 1820, d. 1892 in Ohio
vi. ANDREW McCLURE, b. 1823, d. 1896
vii. JOHN, died young
viii. LEWIS PARTEE

Abraham^4 Whitaker does not appear in the 1790 and 1800 censuses, and would not be expected to, because of his age. The Abraham Whitaker shown in the 1791 Mifflin Township, Allegheny County tax lists would have been his fathers first cousin (listed below). According to Andrew McClure Whitaker all of the children were born in the house that their grandfather had built in Homestead. Abraham was a Justice of the Peace in Allegheny County for 25 years, being first appointed by Governor Snyder.

27. DANIEL^4 WHITAKER (James^3, Charles^2, John^1)

Daniel Whitaker does not appear in the Virginia or Pennsylvania records. The 1781 tax lists for Fallowfield Township, Washington County lists a Daniel Whitaker, but he is assumed to be a different man. A Daniel Whitaker is with George Rogers Clark's expedition against the Indians in 1782 and in Jefferson County, Virginia (Kentucky) records in the same period. He is assumed to be this Daniel. About 1790 he went to Hinds County, Mississippi. In this same county in the early 1800's are found the names of Hayes, West, and Patten; all family names found earlier in Westmoreland County. ABRAHAM^5 WHITAKER (Aquilla^4, John^3, Charles^2, John^1) married FRANCES WHITAKER 13 Nov 1837 in Hinds County, Mississippi. She is said to be a daughter of this Daniel. Daniel's going west prior to the death of his father would account for the bequest in his fathers will of only a future interest of money that was due in Maryland.

(46) King, op. cit, p. 8.
22. ABRAHAM\textsuperscript{3} WHITAKER (Abraham\textsuperscript{2}, John\textsuperscript{1}), b. 11 Aug 1727, m. Susannah, place and date unknown, d. ca. 1792 in Allegheny County. According to his will, their children were:\textsuperscript{(47)}

\begin{itemize}
  \item i. MARTHA, M. WILLIAM VAUGHN
  \item ii. ISSAC
  \item iii. JAMES
  \item iv. JOHN
\end{itemize}

Whether this Abraham Whitaker was a brother or first cousin of the brothers John and James Whitaker will always be in question. A complete discussion of this problem is given in the compilers paper on the Maryland period for this family.\textsuperscript{(48)} But whether brother or cousin, he came to the Monongahela River Valley with John and James in 1767. He does not appear in the Virginia Records other than as a signer of a rather plaintive plea to the Governor of Virginia dated 22 Jun 1782. In this petition over 400 residents of Yohogania and Monongalia Counties plead that the Governor let them know where they stand in the settlement of the Virginia-Pennsylvania border controversy.\textsuperscript{(49)}

Abraham Whitaker appears on the list of taxables for Peters Township, Washington County in 1781. In 1783 he was taxed for 300 acres in Pitt Township, Westmoreland County. In 1791 he appears on the tax list for Mifflin Township, Allegheny County. He does not appear on the 1790 census.

Since there were two Abraham Whitakers in this area prior to 1 Apr 1780, this one and the son of John\textsuperscript{3} Whitaker, it is impossible to sort out their military service prior to this date. One of them was on the return of the 3rd Battalion, Westmoreland County Militia, 2 Apr 1778, and an Ensign. In 1782 one of them, presumably this one, appears on the roll of Captain Samuel Cunningham's Company, 2nd Battalion, Washington County Militia.\textsuperscript{(50)}

Abraham's will is dated 17 Feb 1792. There was no date of probate recorded, but the will immediately preceding his was recorded 17 Dec 1794. Abraham is assumed to have died before that date.

THOMAS WHITAKER and his family came to Smiths Township, Washington County prior to 1786. There is apparently no connection between his family and other Whitaker families listed here. One source said he came from Pennsylvania; in any case he had a Pennsylvania land warrant. The warrant was surveyed for him and named "Slow and Easy". It contained 400 acres. He continued to farm there until his death in July, 1794. He and several of his sons appear frequently in the Pennsylvania record, but the information will not be listed here.\textsuperscript{(51)}

\textsuperscript{(47)} Allegheny County, Will Book 1, p. 70, Will No. 32.
\textsuperscript{(48)} Beaumont W. Whitaker, The Whitaker Family of Baltimore County Maryland 1677-1767", Maryland Historical Magazine.
\textsuperscript{(49)} Virginia Genealogist, Vol. 17, p. 216-220.
\textsuperscript{(50)} Pennsylvania Archives, 6th Series, Vol. 2
\textsuperscript{(51)} Boyd Crumrine, History of Washington County, PA, p. 914.
This does not account for all the people with the surname Whitaker who were in Southwestern Pennsylvania prior to 1800. There was a Thomas Whittacre, distiller, no acreage listed, in Fermanaugh Township, Cumberland County from 1778 to 1785. A Samuel Whitaker, freeman, and Samuel Whitaker, 210 acres, in Rye Township from 1778 to 1785. The 1790 census has a James Whitacker Sr. and Jr. in Washington Township, Fayette County; and the two unidentified John Whitacres in Allegheny County. The 1800 census has an unidentified James in Green County and a Daniel in Fayette County. Military rolls of the period list some of these given names and several more.

The Whitaker family of Baltimore County, Maryland played a significant role in the early settlement of Allegheny and Washington Counties, Pennsylvania; although they seemed to consider themselves residents of Virginia and showed some objection to the Pennsylvania claims. The record implies them to be hard working, God fearing people who were recognized as leaders in their community. At least, the surviving record does not paint any of them as rogues or scoundrels. While one family went on to Kentucky as early as 1780 others stayed in the area, at least until the 1850's.