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TRINITY

CAPTAIN WILLIAM WHITEWOOD,
1740-1768.

In the year 1740 there was born to Captain John Whitehead and his spouse Mary, in the seaboard village of Lime Regis in Dorset, England, their first boy. As he was their fourth child, and had been preceded by three girls, he was thrice welcome as one who would eventually follow the sea, and succeed his father in a calling that seemed to run in the blood; for the Whiteheads had been seamen in the generations of the past, as far back as any one in the village had ever heard of.

It was a very happy day in the Whitehead family when Mrs. Whitehead was well enough to take the baby to church for baptism, and the Captain by careful manoeuvring had managed to get permission to run up from Weymouth for a day or two whilst his vessel was unloading, and to be present at the service.

Those were days when fancy names were unknown, and when one, plain Christian name that smacked of England was considered enough for any English child. Consequently the boy was given the name William, after his grandfather, and upon which name, together with those of James and John, they had been ringing the changes for several generations in the Whitehead family.

There was nothing in particular to distinguish Master William as he grew up, from any ordinary intelligent boy. As common with the majority of boys at school, there was a dash of salt water in his blood, and hence many of his spare moments were used up on the wharves, and in the fishermen's boats; whilst his summer holidays were spent either at Weymouth, or Poole, under the eye of his father, whenever he happened to be in port at the time.

Captain John Whitehead, as commander of the brig "Swallow," was one of the best known captains in Twillingate, early in the eighteenth century for he was in the employ of John Slade of Poole who carried on a business in Twillingate at the time; a business that was so successful that when Mr. Slade died in Poole in 1792, he left a fortune computed at £70,000 sterling, all made out of Newfoundland trade.

When William Whitehead was sixteen years of age, he was taken from school and apprenticed to this firm of John Slade, under the guidance of his father, and on board the brig "Swallow," to learn the practical duties of seamanship.

Thus in the year 1756—just as the celebrated seven years war had begun—he made his first acquaintance with Newfoundland, when at the close of her maiden voyage across the Atlantic, the "Swallow" dropped anchor off the well equipped premises of John Slade in the roadstead of Twillingate.

After several voyages every year for three years between Poole and Twillingate, Captain Whitehead was chartered by Benjamin Lester & Co., of Poole, to take a cargo of general merchandise to their overseas establishment at Trinity, Newfoundland. This meant a pleasant change of scenery after the monotony of the past years; and introduced him to new batch of friends, who, like those at Twillingate, were more than kind to him.

Here, in Trinity, in addition to other descendants of Dorset and Hants, he

met a family of Taverners whose forebears had been old friends of his in Poole. The Taverners were among the oldest, and most highly respected people in Trinity in those days; and the fact that Amy Taverner, one of Jacob Taverner's sisters, was married to John Garland who was then in charge of the Lester interests in Trinity, gave Captain Whitehead and his crew many privileges which they thoroughly enjoyed during their stay.

The captain's son, William, became a general favorite, and, with his father's permission, he spent his evenings on shore and usually at the house of Jacob and Catherine Taverner.

William's chief attraction, however, was Betsey, one of Jacob's daughters, who was about his own age. Whilst the captain, and Mr. and Mrs. Taverner were deeply interested in recalling the old Dorset days, and recounting history to date; the young people had fallen seriously in love with each other and ignoring the past, they were outlining the history of the next four years, so far as they were concerned. The general outline of the subject under their consideration was that of the old story of mutual love, and the pledging of eternal fidelity to each other; the details were: after the two remaining years of William's apprenticeship had expired, and had been followed by two more, William would be captain of his own vessel, and then he would return to Trinity and they would be married.

There were no concrete sidewalks in those days from Lester's premises, Trinity, "around the point" and along the cliffs to Taverner's Point; and the many nasty falls over the ragged edges of the stones, and the scrambling through the woods in the darkness of night after night, made their many marks on William's best courtship suit. Betsey had not overlooked this, and with all his clothes carefully overhauled and repaired; and with many tiny additions to his clothes bag, William left the Taverner home for the last time for years to come. On September 6th, 1759 the "Swallow" left Trinity for Poole, whilst William left his heart on Taverner's Point and Betsey waved a good-bye from the outer end of it, till the Fort Point hid the "Swallow" from her view.

During the next two years William was several times in Twillingate; but with no opportunity to get to Trinity, and almost entire absence of correspondence by letter, they were the longest two years of his life. Then, however, after he had served the apprenticeship, with credit to himself and all concerned, he transferred his services from the employ of John Slade of Poole and Twillingate, to that of Benjamin Lester of Poole and Trinity, and accepted the position of mate with Captain Martin Barnes on the ship "Polly."

Then in the fall of 1763 the "Polly" dropped anchor between Lester's wharf and Taverner's Point, Trinity; and as soon as William's work was done (remembering the ruggedness of the path along the shore) he got into the ship's boat, and dropped quietly around the point to the beach at Taverner's Back Cove. It was a familiar spot to him, and having pulled up the boat and fastened her to a rack on the shore, he found the foot-path leading to the house.

The old dog came to the edge of the bank and disputed his right to go any further. A word or two from William constituted the pass-word; the old dog knew his voice, and together they went to-wards the house. It was a moment of suspense to William. He rapped, and in response Betsey opened the door, and like the old dog she knew his voice. After certain preliminaries of welcome in the porch, he was comfortably ensconced in the old barrel-arm-chair in the big kitchen, and was being made welcome by the whole family.

It was early morning when William got back to the vessel. During those quiet hours that intervened, he and Betsey had much to talk about, re the past, present, and future. Feeling quite sure that within a year from the present, with Mr. Garland's influence, he would be in Trinity again, and in charge of his own vessel, they reiterated their plans of three years before—to be married then. The few weeks of his stay in Trinity were very happy ones, and then William left for "only another year, please God." A good many things happened during that year; but when on the 15th of August, 1768, the brig "Lester" was reported as entering Trinity harbour from Poole, it soon became known, from the unusual display of bunting on her, that Captain William Whitehead was in charge of his own vessel. Because of the great respect that Mr. Garland had for Captain Whitehead, and the fact that his bride-to-be was a niece of Mrs. Garland, everything possible was done to intensify the heartiness of the welcome; and all this was exceeded only by the festivities of the day when the following entry was made in the old Church Register:—

"Sept. 7th, 1768. Married, Captain William Whitehead and Elizabeth Taverner, daughter of Jacob and Catherine Taverner."

There are three other entries in the same old Registers, viz. 1768. Inter-

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red, Robert Thomas, servant to Capt. Whitehead.

Sept. 27th, 1764. Baptized, A child of Captain William and Elizabeth Whitehead, named William.

Nov. 21st, 1767. Interred, William, child of Captain William and Elizabeth Whitehead.

After these entries, the name Whitehead disappeared from Trinity. Probably the Captain and his wife went to England to live. The name Taverner is still one of our town and district names.

AN OUTLINE HISTORY OF THE SWEET FAMILIES, 1740-1822.

I have been asked by one, who like myself, is interested in the past, to give him some information about the Sweet families of a hundred and fifty years ago. All that I know about them is what I have gathered from the events of their lives as given in the old Church Registers, and endorsed by local traditions, and the headstones in the old churchyard. To begin with, there were three brothers by the name Sweet, who came to Trinity from some part of the Old Country about 1740. The Christian name of two was William; one was known as William S. and the other as William Jr. The name of the third was John. William Sweet Jr. settled at English Harbour, while William Sr. and John settled at Trinity. Re the English Harbour William: There was one Barnet Bestone and his wife Martha. They were married before the old Church Registers were begun. In 1753, Barnet Bestone was begun. In 1752, William Sweet married his widow, Barnet Bestone and his wife had several children. I think they must have lived with their mother after her marriage to William Sweet, as in each of the entries associated with their marriage. Mrs. Sweet's name is associated with them. Thus in 1767, 1768 and 1770, respectively, Christopher Dyet was married to Elizabeth Bestone; William Pottle was married to Honara Bestone; and John Bugden was married to Sarah Bestone, and each is referred to in the entries as "a daughter of Mrs. William Sweet by her first husband, Barnet Bestone." One Thomas Norman died in 1764, and he is referred to as a servant to Mr. William Sweet, planter in English Harbour. Mr. Sweet died in 1767. Thomas Pendergrass died in 1768 and he is referred to as a servant to Mrs. William Sweet. Mrs. William Sweet died in 1788, aged 69 years. Then those who were relatives of the Sweets, began using the name as a Christian name; and in the Baptismal Register, there are several males and females with that Christian name—e.g., Sweet Barnes, Sweet Pottle, and William Sweet Pottle, etc.

Then of the other William Sweet Sr., who died in Trinity, I find the following entries:—

1772. Married, William Sweet Sr., planter in Trinity, and Sarah Taverner.

1775. Baptized, A daughter to William and Sarah Sweet, named Ann.

1775. Interred, John Jovett, servant to Mr. William Sweet, planter in Trinity.

1787. Married, Thomas Dampier and Ann Sweet.

1807. Interred, Mrs. Ann Dampier, daughter of William and Sarah Sweet.

1814. Interred, Sarah, wife of William Sweet.

1822. Interred, William Sweet Sr., aged 78 years.

There are some other entries re John and Mary Sweet. They were married before the Marriage Register was begun. Hence though there is no record of their marriage, a son to John and Mary Sweet named Andrew is recorded as having died in 1763; and another son John who died in 1777; while John Sweet, the father of those two boys, died in 1767, and his widow, Mary Sweet, died in 1785. They are all buried in the old churchyard at Trinity. Those from English Harbour are buried with the Bestones and Pottles; whilst William Sr. and his wife Sarah are buried in another plot of the churchyard. Every grave is marked by a headstone. On that of William Sweet Sr. it is recorded that he was "an old and respected in-

habitant of this Harbour." On that of John Sweet, whose age is given as 44, the first two lines of the epitaph are: "Death's sudden stroke on me was very sore, Just as I turned the age of forty-four."

William Sweet Sr. once owned the meadow now belonging to Mr. Hussey, on the north side of St. Paul's Church, Trinity. When the Road Commission of 1825 gave to Mr. Garland that piece of land between Mr. Sweet's meadow and the church Road, in lieu of all the land that Mr. Garland had given for public roads; it was stipulated that a right of way be presented from the Church Road to Mr. Sweet's meadow. It is still preserved and used by Mr. William Jenkins to get to his barn on the Hussey property. And, by the way, Mr. William Jenkins on his mother's side is a great grandson of William Sweet Sr., who once owned the land on which Mr. Jenkins' barn is built. Thus, I have done my best to give the information asked for. It is more or less disjointed; but I hope it may be of some satisfaction to the person interested.

YAFFLE.

I desire to thank those who so kindly responded to my request for information re the origin and meaning of the word Yaffle.

I find there were several others who knew as little about it as I did, and who are as grateful for the correct information as I am. Some one said: "He who questioneth much will learn"; to which a friend of mine always added the words: "Yes, if he is rightly informed." I have been rightly informed that The Standard Dictionary of the English Language gives:

Yaffle—(Verb)—Toen U. States—to carry a bundle of codfish.

Yaffle (Noun)—(I) Provincial-English—a bundle of codfish.

Yaffle (Noun)—(II) Provincial-English—an armful.

Hence, in Newfoundland, we hear the expressions, "a yaffle of codfish," "A yaffle of wood."

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A. T.—The rough Sheelah to which you refer was in 1872. There was no life lost in Trinity. An old woman in Trinity Bight came to Trinity during the fine morning of that day, to buy some tobacco for her husband. As she was returning the storm caught her, and whilst crossing a sheet of ice she either walked over, or was blown over the edge of it, and drowned. When they told the old man that probably his wife was drowned, he said: "Well, if that's so, then hussy and all is gone."

SARAH AINSWORTH, AGED 88 YEARS.

Sarah Ainsworth was born in Trinity in 1841. She was a daughter of John and Sarah Ainsworth and lived in Trinity for many years. Then, after the death of her parents, she went to live with her sister Mrs. Robert Facey at English Harbour, and when they moved to St. John's, she went there with them. On March 24th, God called her to rest, and in keeping with her last wish, her body was brought to Trinity on March 26th and laid to rest beside her mother and sister in St. Paul's Cemetery—R.I.P. Mr. Robert Facey and his son William came with the body, and returned to St. John's by the outgoing train. Mr. Facey and his son were born in Trinity and we were glad to see them here again. Their memories of Trinity are largely happy ones. They could not fail to notice the many changes that have come to us, in common with every other part of the country. I repeat, their many friends were glad to see them.

—W.J.L.

March 29th, 1924.

Chevrolet produced 245,000 motor cars in 1922; 500,000 in 1923; commencing March 1st, 3,000 Chevrolet are being manufactured daily—all of which are high class fully equipped motor cars.—mar14,101,ead

Our Dumb Animals

REPORT OF CHIEF AGENT FOR WEEK ENDING MAR. 28th.

Received a report from a lady on Rennie's Mill Road of a rat, terrier black and white which had been badly bitten and disabled by a large dog. Before I reached the spot the dog had been taken away by a lady resident of Military Road. She also phoned to me to come to examine the dog at her home. I went and found it in such a condition that it would not live, and finding no owner for it, I humanely put it to death. Received a report of a milkman who has been leaving his horse standing near different beer shops in the city, without any covering for hours at a time. It was outside one of these shops that I found the horse, and after finding the owner advised him to go home. Some time later he was arrested by the police, charged with being drunk and neglecting his horse. He was sentenced to sign a \$50 bond and it caught doing the same thing within the next six months would have to go to goal for 30 days. Sent in two horses for lameness. I am awaiting a report from the Veterinary Surgeon on some other horses. The Society has received reports from Grand Falls of

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cruel inhuman treatment to young dogs tackled to slides and catamarans. I ask the Magistrate and constable there to have same investigated and the parties brought to justice. I thank Mr. Chas. Lester and his men for shovelling snow on to the road on Duckworth Street where the gravel was and also near the station in order to ease the load for his teams of horses which were conveying heavy

machinery from Harvey's to the railway freight sheds. Mr. Lester used extra horses also in order to lighten the burden on account of the heavy roads, for which his horses and myself thank him.

I wish to congratulate Doctor Bishop, V.S., on his appointment as Government Inspector of live animals for slaughter as well as meats. He will be a great assistance in forwarding

the interests generally of the S.P.A. no doubt. Phone all complaints to No. 653.

JONAS BARTER, Chief Agent.

The final performance of "Pilate's Daughter" takes place to-morrow (Sunday) night in the Casino Theatre. It is no exaggeration to say that you owe it to yourself to see this production. It is a masterpiece of solemn and inspiring appeal, with climaxes of dramatic intensity.—mar29,11

Church of England

EXPECTED TO PROCLAIM HENRY VI A SAINT.

LONDON, Mar. 8 (A.P.)—The labor of many of those who have worked many years for the canonization of King Henry VI is about to bear fruit. The king, who founded Eton and Kings College, is expected to be proclaimed a saint by the Church of England at its assembly.

In addition to the annual ceremonies in memory of its ancient founder, which are held annually at Eton, a college society has obtained permission to lay a wreath on May 21 each year on the spot in the Tower of London where, tradition says, Henry VI was murdered.

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"When baby was a week old a fine rash broke out on his forehead and scalp, which later formed small blisters. The blisters soon spread and when he was three months old his head was covered with eruptions. He cried and rubbed his head and his hair all fell out. He got very little sleep."

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Doctors warn against remedies containing powerful drugs and alcohol. "The Extract of Roots, long known as Kether Seig's Curative Syrup, has no dope, or strong ingredients; it chases away indigestion, biliousness and constipation. Can be had at any drug store." Get the genuine.