

John (Sr., Jr.) and William White

In 2004 I published the book *MOVERS and SETTLERS: THE WHITE FAMILY*. The ancestry of Isaac White which I received from researchers, William and Vera Rafford Brown, of Wilmington, Delaware was included. Their hypothesis was that a David White was the father of Isaac White although they opined that a William White might be his father but after their analysis, they choose David White as the father.

In 2021 and 2022 I received information from Thomas E. White in his book *The Whites and where they came from* that states that William White was probably the father of Isaac White.

Note:

I have chosen to use Sr. and Jr. to represent the two original generations of John White to delineate their records. John White, (Jr.) had a son, John White, whom I designate John White, III for the same reason.

John White (Sr.)

John White was listed among the “first settlers”¹ in Somerset County, Maryland having arrived from Northampton/Accomack County, Virginia in 1661/1662. John White lived in Rehoboth, Pocomoke Hundred, Somerset County, Maryland. Reportedly he was born in Caldecott, Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire, England. Buckinghamshire or Bucks is northeast of London.

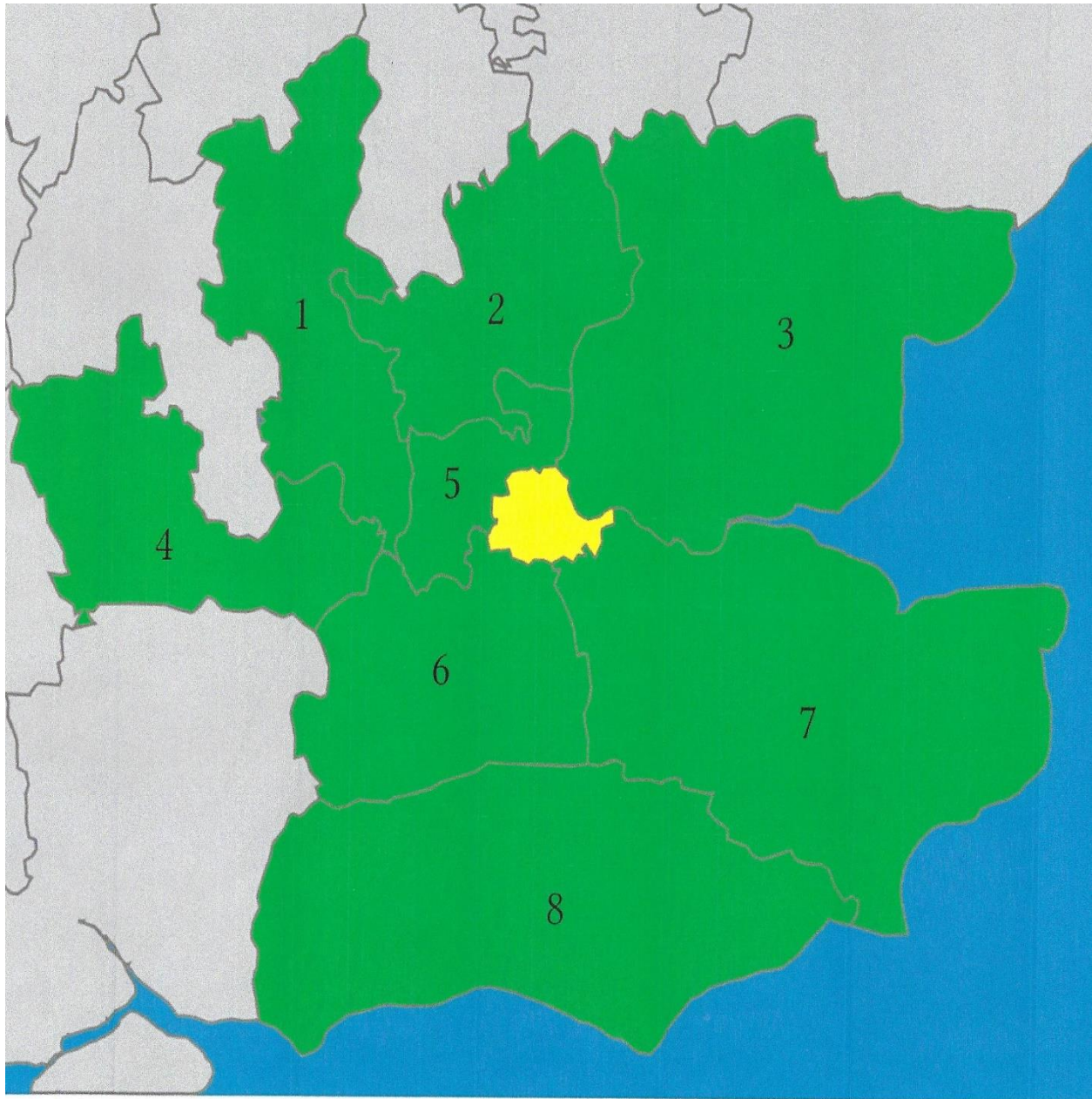
The Buckinghamshire area of England has existed since it was a subdivision of Mercia (585-919). Newport Pagnell was a town in the city of Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire. The town was first mentioned in Doomesday Book of 1086 as Newport (New Market Town). This survey book was completed under the order of King William I, William the Conqueror, to list his holdings and dues owed to him.

Below is the map location of Buckinghamshire in England. It is just northwest of London.

¹ *Old Somerset on the Eastern Shore of Maryland*, Clayton Torrence, 1935, page 281



The upper right projection of Buckinghamshire contains the city of Milton Keynes.



London: 1. Buckinghamshire 2. Hertfordshire 3. Essex 4. Berkshire 5. Middlesex (now part of Greater London) 6. Surrey 7. Kent 8. Sussex.

The yellow represents London and No. 1 represents Buckinghamshire.

On August 22, 1666, Lord Baltimore created Somerset County (named after his sister, Mary Somerset). Eight commissioners or justices were appointed, including John White (Sr.).

George Calvert was the first Lord Baltimore having been titled by King James I in 1625. George Calvert had served as Secretary of State to King James I. George Calvert thought of the Americas as a place that could become a refuge for English Catholics and a place for religious

freedom. The Calvert family was Roman Catholic. George Calvert asked James I for a royal charter to settle the land north of Virginia which later became Maryland, but James I died before this charter occurred. His son, Cecilius Calvert, became the second Lord Baltimore and granted a charter and title to 12 million acres for the land of Maryland.

In 1634 Lord Baltimore II came to America with two ships, *Ark* and *Dove*, transporting 128 settlers. They established a town called St. Mary's City on the Potomac River for Roman Catholic freedom. Few Catholic's arrived but many Quakers, Presbyterians and Puritans arrived. He gave about 100 acres of land to every adult for a small payment of tax or quitrent of 1-2 shillings yearly per acre of land. The settlers did not have to buy the land originally

The first settlers came in 1661/62 after the founding of Old Somerset County on 22 August 1666. ² John White settled on the Pocomoke River (Sound) having initially arrived in Northampton/Accomack County, Virginia.

In 1651 William Stevens, gentleman, had arrived in Northampton, Virginia from Lebourne (?), Buckingham Parish, Buckinghamshire, England. ³ Both William Stevens and John White were from Buckingham Parish in England.

In 1650/1651 John White arrived in Virginia. ⁴ Perhaps John White and William Stevens moved to Maryland because of the religious freedom practiced there and the two were Presbyterian.

There was always a close relationship between the Stevens and White families. Col. William Stevens in his will refers to Mrs. Sarah (Keyser) White as "*my sister White*" and John White as "*my brother John White*". ⁵

John White (Sr.), gentleman, was a founder ⁶ of Old Somerset County, Maryland and was a member of the first court for Somerset County commissioned August 22, 1666. He owned plantations called Coldicott, Buckinghamshire, Unity, Newport Pannell and Partner's Choice located near the Pocomoke River. ^{7 8 9} The Pocomoke River is the boundary between Somerset and Worcester Counties, Maryland. Rehoboth is five miles from the mouth of the river into Pocomoke Sound, a branch of Chesapeake Bay. Pocomoke River is very deep for its width at 7 to 45 feet in depth.

John White, (Sr.) was married to Sarah Keyser by Robert Madox, clerk, on June 27, 1666. William Stevens had married Elizabeth Keyser, sister of Sarah Keyser.

John White (Sr.) was a Justice of the Peace, member of the Maryland Assembly and Sheriff of Somerset County from 1679 to 1683. ¹⁰ He died about 1685 on the plantation of William

² *Old Somerset on the Eastern Shore of Maryland*, Clayton Torrence, 1935, page 280

³ *Old Somerset on the Eastern Shore of Maryland*, Clayton Torrence, 1935, page 281-282

⁴ *Cavaliers and Pioneers: Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants*, 1623-1666, Vol. 1, Richmond, Virginia, Dietz Printing Company, 1934, page 767,

⁵ *Old Somerset on the Eastern Shore of Maryland*, Clayton Torrence, 1935, page 461

⁶ *Old Somerset on the Eastern Shore of Maryland*, Clayton Torrence, 1935

⁷ Family records, Katherine Goodman, <http://worldconnect.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=kcgoodman&id=I6021>

⁸ <https://www.jhowell.com/tng/getperson.php?personID=I2263&tree=1>

⁹ John White, Maryland, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1635-1777. Will book 4 page 200

¹⁰ Maryland Records On-Line, Somerset County, Judicial Records, Sheriff, 1679-1683

Stevens, his brother-in-law, called Rehoboth, in Somerset County, Maryland. John's wife, Sarah, was the administrator of the will.

On the October 3, 1685 Probate in Pocomoke, Somerset County, British America, John White (Sr.) willed 800 acres, part of Buckingham plantation, and 500 acres, part of Partner's Choice plantation, to William, his first son. To his second son, Stevens, he willed Coldicott plantation at the death of his wife, Sarah. He willed to John, his third son, Elizabeth, his oldest daughter, and to Sarah, his youngest daughter, 700 acres residue of Buckingham plantation and 650 acres of Unity plantation. He willed 700 acres of Newport Pannell to Tabitha and Priscilla, his twin daughters. He willed to his wife, Sarah, residue of Partner's Choice and 1/3 residue of the remaining estate, real and personality.

Personality means moveable assets.

Colonel William Stevens, father of Sarah Stevens, was the first representative from Somerset County to the Provincial Assembly, later he was a member of the Governor's Council and then Deputy Colonial Governor. He was a member of the Church of England in England but his home in Maryland was a gathering place for various religious sects. He requested that a Presbyterian minister be sent from the Presbytery of Leggan, Ireland to Somerset County. Rev. Francis Makemie arrived in 1683.

Colonel Stevens owned 3350 acres of land surveyed in 1665. The oldest Presbyterian Church in the United States still in use is in Rehoboth.¹¹

John White (Jr.)

The following information also includes references from the *Miles Files 22.2, 100 Families from the Eastern Shore, from Charlemagne to the early 1900's*. John White was listed in Somerset County, Maryland in the early 1700's.¹²

John (Jr.) was born circa 1672 in Somerset County, Maryland, according to Tom White's records and the Miles Files, and died before 12 March 1735/36 in Somerset County. He married first, Alice Minshall, about 1692 and Josina (Josphina?) Coleburn after May 26, 1692.¹³ Ann Minshall, b. December 27, 1668, and d. before 1735) is the daughter of Jeffery Minshall and Frances Carsley.¹⁴ Frances Carsley is the daughter of Henry Carsley and Elizabeth Berryman.¹⁵

The estate of John White (Jr.) was settled on April 25, 1737 at Somerset County, Maryland. William White was listed on the settlement.

Henry Carsley came to Virginia from Yorkshire, England in 1623 and was on the muster taken on February 1624/25 at Wariscoyack (Warraskoyack), Virginia.¹⁶ He was listed as "Henry Carsley, age 23, in Danniell Gookines' muster." Henry was a headright in Daniel Gookin's patent for 2500 acres in Upper Norfolk County of December 29, 1637. The shipping and cattle

¹¹ *The Ocean Highway: New Brunswick New Jersey to Jacksonville, Florida*, WPA, Federal Writers Project, page 56, 1938

¹² *The Whites and where they came from*, Thomas White, 2007 and 2019, page 7

¹³ *Adventurers of Purse and Person*, John Frederick Dorman 1607-1624/5, page 489

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶ *Adventurers of Purse and Person*, John Frederick Dorman 1607-1624/5, page 50

breeding plans by Gookin did not prosper and Henry Carsley migrated to the Eastern Shore where many settlers obtained land after the massacre of 1622/23. He obtained a lease from “Accawmack” court for 50 acres upon Old Plantation Creek (present day Northampton, County) on the south side of Fishing Creek on February 19, 1633/4.¹⁷ (Henry Carsley can be listed as belonging to the early settlers for membership in the Jamestowne Society.)

John White (Jr.) died and his estate¹⁸ was divided was among his children. The estate appraisers were James Trahern and William Addams. The administrator was Thomas White, (III)¹⁹ his son.

Thomas White (Jr.) the son and administrator of the Estate of John White, (Sr.) records “This accountant chargeth himself with all & singular the goods Chattles & Credits of the said John White Senior as proved inventory o the same is Exhibited to the Prerogative office amounting to the sum of 112 pounds, 9 shillings and 1 pence.”

The heirs included:

John White, (III) his portion

Isaac White, his portion,

Francis Carey who received payment for his wife, Sarah (White), her portion

Josina White, (relict, 1/3)

William White, his portion (leads to family of Betty Ruth White Baker)

Elizabeth, her portion, received by John Matthews, her husband

Rachell White, her portion

Stephen White, his portion to John White, grandson of John White, Sr.

Thomas White, his portion, administrator²⁰

The account of Thomas White Adms. of all & singular (any and all) the Goods, Chattles & Credits of John White Senior^{21 22} late of Somerset County—

Deceased

“The Accountant chargeth himself with all & singular the goods Chattles & Credits of the said John White Senior as *proved* inventory of the same is Exhibited into the Prerogative office amounting to the sum of 112-9-1” (*pounds, shillings, pence*)

On April 25, 1737 Thomas White, son of John White (Jr.), came before Nehemia King, Deputy Commissioner, Somerset County, Maryland in the Prerogative office stating the following:

¹⁷ *Adventurers of Purse and Person*, John Frederick Dorman 1607-1624/5, page 486

¹⁸ Dated April 25, 1737 from information taken from the Administration Accounts of the Prerogative Court of Maryland, Libers 11-15, 1731-1737

¹⁹ John White III is my designation to separate the three John Whites

²⁰ *Maryland Probate Records, 1674-1774*, CD # 5206, Prerogative Court Abstracts 1731-1737, page 131

²¹ The first use of *Senior* in the family records that I have found.

²² This *Senior* John White would be Jr. in my listing. The first John White had died in Maryland.

“And humbly craveth an allowance for the following Payments and Disbursements:

Pd. Francis Cary in behalf of his Wife’s Portion as a paid receipt in full appears 7-17- 1½

Pd. John White in full of his Portion of paid receipt in full appears 7-17-1 ½

Pd. Josina White Relict of the said John White Deced in full for her third part of the Estate as amt recd in full appears 27-9

Pd. Wm White in full his Portion of paid receipt appears 7-17- 1 ½

Pd. John Matthews in full of his part of his Wife’s Portion as amt recd I full appears 7-17- 1 ½

Pd. Rachel White in full of her Portion as paid receipt in full appears 7-17-1 ½

To this accountant Thos White in Satisfaction of his part of the Estate & his Paying all Charges of the Administration as by an Agreement amongst the Heirs on Negro man valued at 30—

Ball(ance) of this Acct belongs to (TOTAL) 104 14 9

John White Heir of Stephen Ball Due is 7 14 4

White Grandson of the said John White Deced.²³

The total amount of personal property distributed was 112 British pounds, 9 shillings and 1 pence. On February 26, 1773 the land was appraised by Freeholders and accepted by John White (Jr.), administrator. (526 pounds, 19 shillings and 5 ½ pence)

William White

William White was perhaps born was born in Somerset County, Maryland. William was listed in the estate settlement of John White, (Jr.) in Somerset County, Maryland. Later William moved to Kent County, Maryland.

Maryland was settled mainly by the English and Delaware was initially settled by the Dutch and Sweden. Eastern shore Maryland land was depleted of nutrients because of tobacco crops so the English moved to Delaware lands.

On June 4, 1742 William White requested a survey for 130 acres of land in the Forest of Murtherkil Hundred on a Branch called Meredith Branch. He was to pay a yearly rent of one penny sterling for each acre to the Proprietarties at Philadelphia.²⁴

William White requested a survey of 200 acres of vacant land adjoining the Head of Wild Cat Swamp in the Forest of Murtherkil Hundred.for one penny rent.²⁵

²³ Translation of John White Estate Document 12/28/2007, 331, Somerset County, Signed, Sealed & Testified. Provided by Tom White, September 2022

²⁴ White, William in Delaware Land Warrants and Surveys 438 of 572.jpg

²⁵ Ibid.

In 1745 William owned land ²⁶on Meredith's Branch (a creek) in Murtherkill ²⁷ Hundred, Kent County, Delaware. William White had left Maryland about 1734 and died intestate in Kent County, Delaware in 1762. His wife, Sarah, is listed as the administrator of the estate.²⁸

The State of Delaware was responsible for the welfare of orphans and the protection of the property of minors. The Kent County Orphans Court administered this process. Guardians were appointed to divide the property and provide for the widow. The widow inherited 1/3 of the estate and the rest of the property was divided among the children. Records from Kent County list Sarah as the administrator of William's estate.

In 1770 John White (III) was appointed guardian of Isaac White, son of William White.²⁹ Isaac White was named the son of William White in court documents. ³⁰

On March 1, 1770 John White (III) petitioned for and was granted guardianship of Isaac, Mary and Stephen White. Isaac White was over age 14 (born after 1749 and before 1776); Mary (born after 1756) and Stephen White (under age 14 but born after 1756). ³¹ The document lists that Isaac White was to receive 100 pounds at age 21. ³² The document further states that John White (III), administrator of William White's estate, could state another date and the administrators choose May 20, 1773. The personal property distribution to Isaac White plus interest was 132 pounds, 9 shillings and 11 ½ pence. William White's land estate was 512 pounds, 10 shillings and 9 ½ pence. ³³ The total estate value present day dollars is about \$30,000 dollars.

A copy of Isaac White's bond follows dated March 1, 1770. John White (III) and John Banning were the signers to the bond. ³⁴

²⁶ William White in Delaware Land Warrants and Surveys, June 4, 1742, page 438. 130 acres of land in the Forest of Murtherkill Hundred, Kent County, Delaware was warranted to William White, Land known as "Whites Lott." The land was on Meredith Creek. He later was warranted a 200 acre tract in the forest of Murtherkill Hundred, Kent County, Delaware on June 30, 1748. This was vacant land adjoining the Head of Wildcat Swamp in the Forest of Murtherkill Hundred. He was to pay one penny sterling for each acre to the Proprietaries of Pennsylvania and Counties on Delaware. The land was known as William's Burgh."

²⁷ *The Whites and where they came from*, Thomas White, 2007 and 2019, page 8. Great Britain devised a plan to divide land for judicial and tax purposes. A "hundred" referred to a portion of land on which 100 families lived. Originally there were five "Hundreds" in Kent County. The names, Murderkill, was derived from the Dutch word for "Murder" and "kill" the Dutch work for Creek. The English translation is "Mother Creek."

²⁸ *Wills and Probate Records, 1676-1971*, Old Index A-Z, 1680-1910, Kent County, Delaware, 1762, page 293

²⁹ *Guardian appointment*, John White (III) for Isaac, Mary, Stephen White, Kent County, Delaware, 1770.jpg

³⁰ *Ibid.*

³¹ *Isaac White, minor of William White, deceased*, Orphan Case File, 1770-1773, Delaware Public Archives

³² Orphan Court Case Files, Delaware Public Archives, 1770-1773

³³ Distribution William White Estate, Delaware Archives, Kent County, Delaware, A 54, page 172, 29 May 1788

³⁴ Orphan Court Case Files, Delaware Public Archives, 1770-1773

KENT County, on DELAWARE, are held and firmly bound, unto
 of the same Place, a Minor about the Age of
 fourteen Years, in the juft and full Sum of one Hundred
 Pounds
 current lawful Money of this Government, to be paid to the faid
 Heirs, Execu-
 tors, Administrators or Assigns: To which Payment well and
 truly to be made and done, We bind ourfelves, our Heirs, Exe-
 cutors, Administrators, and every of them firmly by thefe Pre-
 fents. Sealed with our Seals, and dated this first
 Day of March Anno Domini 1771

THE CONDITION of the above Obligation is fuch,
 That if the above Bounden, Heirs, Executors, or Ad-
 ministrators, fhall and do well and truly pay and deliver, or caufe
 to be paid and delivered, unto the above-named
 Heirs, Execu-
 tors, Administrators or Assigns, all fuch Sum or Sums of Money,
 and other Estate, that fhall come to his Hands or Poffeffion
 as Guardian of the faid (deducting thereout
 fuch reasonable Sum as the Orphans Court for the County of
 KENT aforefaid fhall allow for the faid Guardians Care and Trou-
 ble in managing the Estate of the faid) and that when the faid
 fhall arrive to the Age
 of Twenty-one Years, or otherwife at fuch Time as the faid
 fhall be
 thereunto legally called, then the above Obligation fhall be void, or
 elfe to be and remain in full Force and Virtue.

Sealed and Delivered
 in Prefence of
 John White Seal
 Wanning Seal
 White & Sons of a

On November 29, 1770 John White (III) petitioned for Division of William White's land. William White died intestate and left issue behind him of eight children: John, William, Rachel (married to Thomas Needles) since deceased leaves one child, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Mary and Stephen who were the true heirs and legal representatives.³⁵

On May 2, 1772 the Freeholders³⁶ returned their recommendations stating that the land will not divide amongst the heirs. The Surveys Map of Property –section A 118 acres, section B 5 acres, section C 131 acres (land called Oldfield Range) and section DFG of 134 acres. This later is part of White land included in Elder Maryland Surveys.

On 1 May 1772 the land value was accepted by John White (III) for the land of the late William White, deceased. The valuations for rents of the minors Mary and Stephen was accepted on August 3, 1772. The total land valuation listed on February 26, 1773 was accepted by John White for the value of 526.19.5 ½ and listed eight heirs.

³⁵ Orphan Court Case Files, Delaware Public Archives, 1770-1773

³⁶ Individuals who owned land, paid taxes and could vote.

The heirs listed included John (III), William, Rachel (who intermarried Thomas Needles) who since deceased and leaves one child), Sarah, **Isaac**, Jacob, Mary and Stephen.³⁷

The land of William White was purchased by his eldest son, John White (III). John White (III) was the eldest son and received two shares of the land and the rest of the children each received one share. The fair value of the land was decided by outside freeholders who were landowners who had the right to vote and hold public office.³⁸

Isaac White, born on June 4, 1752, was in Guilford County by 1775 when he married Sarah Vaughn by Thomas Rice the Clerk of the Parish of Guilford County, North Carolina.

Isaac White would have been 18 years of age in 1770 and should have received 100 pounds from the estate of William White according to his bond. William White, son of William, also received his 100 pounds from the estate. The brothers may have traveled together to Guilford County, North Carolina. The Revolutionary War was threatening, and the local Delaware Indians were becoming more hostile to the settlers. The Indians sided with the British which prompted the move to North Carolina. The Battle of Guilford Courthouse occurred on March 15, 1781 so the brothers were there by that time.

Land for purchase in Delaware for at the time of their inheritance would have been scarce as the Delaware had considerable swampy land but land was available in North Carolina. They apparently purchased land near Guilford Courthouse.

The early settlers in western North Carolina during the 1740's were of German origin or Quakers, but by 1750's the Scots Irish came to the area. Daniel Boone and family, a Quaker, settled in this area. The settlers came south by the Great Wagon Road from Pennsylvania and the Fall Line Road or Upper Road from Virginia and Maryland. The further south the roads extended the use of wagons was more difficult. Travel from eastern and central North Carolina to western North Carolina was difficult as trails were not well established.

Isaac White received a land grant, No. 1161, in current eastern Tennessee for his service in the militia under Captain William Bethel.. The American Continental army was a regular force that was joined by a militia force in battle. The Regular Army individuals received large land allowances for their service and the militia received much less land. There is another, not related, Lieutenant Isaac White that received land in Guilford County for his military service. He fought at the Battle of King's Mountain.

Phillip L. Baker, MD

© 2022

³⁷ *Orphan Court Case Files*, Delaware Public Archives, 1770-1773.

³⁸ *The Whites and where they came from*, Thomas White, 2007 and 2019, page 9