

Individual Narrative of William⁷ L. Whaley [107] Son of Alexander Whaley and Abigail⁶ Leverich [55]

William L. Whaley was born on 22 Mar 1774 at Newtown, Queens Co, New York, the son of Alexander Whaley and Abigail Leverich. The birth date is documented in a Whaley Family Record, communicated by Mrs. Ida Whaley Strahan of Montclair, New Jersey in a 12 March 1924 letter to Dr. Charles K. Clearwater. A transcription of this record is appended to the *Register of Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths of the Bushwick Reformed Church*. Dr. Clearwater was the minister for 28 years at the Colonial Reformed Church at Newtown. A review of that Church's records did not disclose any Whaley family records.^{1,2,3,4,5}

William L. Whaley was likely living in the household of his father Alexander in 1790 in Bushwick, Kings Co, New York. The census tallies for Alexander Whaley in the 1790 U.S. Census match up with known family members by age, including two free white males over the age of 16, i.e. Alexander and son William. William was likely unmarried at the time. The census tallies record three free white females, likely his mother Abigail and his sisters Elizabeth and Sarah.⁶

In 1799, the State of New York enacted legislation providing for the collection of taxes on real estate and personal property. A William Whaley, is recorded on the tax assessment roles for 1799 Oyster Bay, Queens Co, New York, and in 1800 at Brooklyn, Kings Co, New York.⁷

The 1800 U.S. Census records only one William Whaley in New York State, living at the town of Oyster Bay, Queens County. The census tallies include two free white males under the age of 10, 1 free white male age 26 to 44, and 1 free white female. Alexander Whaley, father of William Whaley, in his will prepared in 1832, mentions grandsons John and David, children of deceased son William. This is consistent with the Oyster Bay census tallies. The census tallies for the 1800 U.S. Census record for Alexander Whaley, are not consistent, therefore it is unlikely that William was then living in his father's household, although he is listed in the Bushwick tax assessment list in 1800.^{8,9,10,11}

William Whaley turned 21 years of age in 1795. Census records suggest that William Whaley was married between 1795 and 1800, perhaps in Bushwick, Kings Co, New York. The name of William Whaley's spouse has not been identified. Neither a specific marriage date nor a specific place of marriage has been identified.^{12,13}

By 1804, William L. Whaley had moved to Manhattan, New York County, New York, where he worked as a carpenter and a cartman. New York City Directory entries include the following.

- 1804, Cartman, Essex
- 1806, Cartman, Orchard near Hester
- 1807, Cartman, 46 Orchard
- 1808, Carpenter, 81 Murray (Whale)
- 1809, Carpenter, 81 Murray (Whale)
- 1810, Carpenter, Upper end Third.^{14,15,16,17,18,19}

The 1810 U.S. Census includes only one William Whaley living in New York State, i.e. Ward 10 Manhattan, New York Co, New York. The census tallies include three free white males under the age of 10 (David, John, Unidentified), 1 free white male age 26 to 44 (William), 1 free white female under the age of 10 (unidentified), and 1 free white female age 26 to 44 (wife of William). The 1800 Oyster Bay tally of 2 free white males under age 10 combined with the 1810 Manhattan tally of three white males under age 10 suggest that David and John were born between 1798 and 1800. Another possibility is that the 1800 William Whaley of Oyster Bay was not the same person as the 1810 William Whaley of Manhattan.²⁰

William Whaley is listed in the New York City Directory 1811 to 1820 employed as a cartman.

- 1811, Cartman, third (Whale)
- 1812, Cartman, Third near Stanton
- 1814, 48 Pump
- 1815, Laborer, 48 Pump
- 1816, Laborer, 144 Division
- 1818, Cartman, Allen near Delancey
- 1819, Cartman, 67 Division
- 1820, Cartman, 122 Division

The almost annual address changes suggest that William rented his dwelling place. No land purchases have been found for William Whaley in Manhattan.^{21,22,23,24,25,26,27,28}

"William Wale" is recorded in the 1820 U.S. Census, Ward 3 Manhattan, New York Co, New York. The census tallies include 2 free white males under the age of 10, 1 free white male age 10 to 15, 1 free white male age 16 to 18, 1 free white male age 16 to 25, 2 free white males ages 26 to 44, 1 free white female age 10 to 15, and 2 free white females age 26-44. These tallies would include the family of William Whaley, and suggest that there was a second family, unidentified, living in the household.²⁹

William Whaley is listed in the New York City Directory 1821 to 1829 employed as a cartman.

- 1821, Cartman, Grand near the Ferry
- 1822, Cartman, 67 Suffolk
- 1823, Cartman, 67 Suffolk near Delancey
- 1824, Cartman, 186 Orchard
- 1825, Cartman, 186 Orchard
- 1826, Cartman, Willet near Stanton
- 1828, 397 Cherry
- 1829, 125 Pitt.^{30,31,32,33,34,35,36}

William L. Whaley died between 1829 and 1832, probably in Manhattan. Neither a specific date of death nor place of burial has been identified. William is listed in the New York City Directory for a final time in 1829, but no widow is listed 1830 and after. There is no census record in 1830 for a William Whaley in Manhattan, New York County, New York. William W(h)aley's appear in the 1830 census in Chautauqua and Otsego counties, New York, but both individuals are too young (age 30 to 39) to be William L. Whaley born in 1774. The 1832 will of Alexander Whaley mentions his deceased son William and his sons David and John Whaley. No will or estate file has been found for William in New York County, New York.^{37,38,39,40}

Further information regarding the sons of William L Whaley has not been determined. The 1850 U.S. Census index at Ancestry.com for individuals born c 1795-1805 in New York State provides the following results:

- i. David Whaley: Green Co, WI; Meigs Co, OH; Montcalm Co, MI
- ii. John Whaley: Dutchess Co, NY; Washington Co, NY; Monroe Co, MI.⁴¹

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Endnotes

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