

Individual Narrative of Elizabeth⁷ Whaley [110]
Daughter of Alexander Whaley and Abigail⁶ Leverich [55]
Wife of first husband John Franklin Tunnard
Wife of second husband Thomas Cowgill

Elizabeth⁷ Whaley was born on 23 Mar 1781 at Newtown, Queens County, New York, the daughter 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}

Elizabeth died on 30 Mar 1865 at Newtown, Queens Co, New York, at age 84, and was buried at the Newtown Presbyterian Church. Josephine Frost's cemetery inscription gives her name as Elizabeth Tunnard Cowgill, age 84 years 7 days (hence born 1781) . The Newtown Presbyterian Church records death record gives her name as Elizabeth T. Cowgile, age 84 (hence born c 1781).^{6,7} Alexander Whaley, the father of Elizabeth Whaley, made a will dated 12 July 1832 which named among his heirs a daughter Elizabeth Cowgill. No reference is made to her husband's given name.⁸

Elizabeth Cowgill of Newtown, Queens Co, New York made a will dated 25 March 1865. Elizabeth died 30 March 1865, and the will was proved 29 May 1865. The will names two surviving children: William F. Tunnard of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, son of her first husband (given name not cited); and John H. Cowgill of Salem, New Jersey, son of second husband (given name not cited).⁹

Elizabeth Whaley married for the first time John Franklin Tunnard circa 1805 at New York. The name of Elizabeth Whaley's first husband is based upon the baptismal record of Louisa Franklin Tunnard 16 August 1807 at the Bushwick Reformed Church in Kings County, New York. Louisa parents are identified as John Franklin Tunnard and Eliza Whaley. The 1805 marriage date is an estimated date based upon Louisa's 3 May 1807 birth date. No marriage record has been found.¹⁰

J. F. Tunnard, teacher, is listed in the New York City Directory (Manhattan) for the years 1805 to 1810.^{11,12,13,14,15,16} The 1810 U.S. Census for Manhattan, New York Co, New York records a John Tunnard as a head of family in Ward 2. The census tallies include 1 free white male under age 10 (William Frederick Tunnard), 1 free white male 26 to 44 (John F Tunnard), 1 free white female age 26-44 (Elizabeth Whaley Tunnard), and 1 free white female under age 10 (Louisa Franklin Tunnard).¹⁷

J. F. Tunnard disappears from the New York City Directory after 1810, and does not appear in the 1820 or 1830 U.S. Census in New York State. Therefore, he must have died between 1811 and 1817. Elizabeth had a son John H. Cowgill (so named in Elizabeth's 1865 will) born c 1817 (1850 Census) and Elizabeth is identified as Elizabeth Cowgill in her father's 1832 will. Neither a specific date of date, nor a place of burial, has been found for John Franklin Tunnard.^{18,19,20,21,22}

Therefore, Elizabeth Whaley Tunnard must have married a second time to Thomas Cowgill at New York, between the date of her first husband's death after 1810 and the birth of her son John H. Cowgill c 1817. No marriage record has been found. An unsourced family tree posted at FamilySearch.org states that a Thomas Cowgill was born c 1781 in New Jersey, the son of William B Cowgill and Lydia Dawson.^{23,24,25,26,27}

Thomas Cowgill is identified as the second husband of Elizabeth Whaley Tunnard in several records. Thomas and Elizabeth Cowgill of Newark, New Jersey are listed as heirs in a notice published in the *Long Island Farmer* on 23 July 1831. Thomas and Elizabeth Cowgill of Newark, New Jersey are also cited as heirs in the estate proceeding *Citation to the Next of Kin* June-July 1831, and *Final Settlement* dated 20 February 1841, both pertaining to the estate of William⁶ Leverich [59] an uncle to Elizabeth, who died in Newtown in 1831. John H. Cogill married for a second time in Salem, New Jersey on 23 February 1862. The marriage record identifies his parents as Thomas and Elizabeth Cogill.^{28,29,30,31}

The 1841 *Final Accounting* provides the following additional information: "The petition of Adrian Van Sinderen and John I Brower surviving executors of the last will and testament of William Leverich late of Newtown in Queens Co and State of New York, deceased ... the petitioners further show that Cornelia the widow of the said Testator, particularly named in the said last will and testament departed this life on the 28th day of January in the year 1840 without having been married since the death of said Testator; and that the Surviving Children of the Brothers and Sisters of the Said Testator, excepting Sarah as are expressly excepted in the said will, were on the day of the death of the said Cornelia, as follows, to wit ... Alexander Whaley Jr and Elizabeth Cowgill, children of Abigail Whaley, now deceased, who was a sister of the said Testator, and the wife of Alexander Whaley, now also deceased ... And your Petitioners further show that they are informed and believe that the said Elizabeth Cowgill formerly intermarried with Thomas Cowgill. That the said Thomas Cowgill on or about the 5th day of September in the year 1816 left his said wife and his home for the State of Ohio, that in the summer of the year 1817 he wrote to his said wife that he was then in the city of New Orleans and that since that period no intelligence whatsoever has been received of or from him, that it is not known what has become of him, but that he is believed to have died shortly thereafter. Your Petitioners therefore submit whether it is not safe and proper to treat the said Thomas as being presumed to be dead."³²

An article appears in the *New York Spectator*, 18 November 1835: "List of Premiums Awarded by the Managers of the Eight Annual Fair of the American Institute ... Mrs. Elizabeth Cowgill, Newark, N.J. for a bed spread, containing 6028 pieces, made by a lady 56 years of age (hence born c 1779) ... A Diploma". Elizabeth Cowgill is also listed in the 1835-1837 Newark City Directories as a widow living at 99 Mulberry Street. Therefore, Thomas Cowgill must have died between 1831 and 1835, probably at Newark. Neither a specific date of death nor a place of burial have been identified for Thomas Cowgill. No further record of widow Elizabeth Cowgill is found in the 1838-1839 Newark City Directory, nor the 1830 and 1840 U.S. Census of Newark, Essex Co, New Jersey.^{33,34,35,36,37,38,39,40}

It is likely that widow Elizabeth Cowgill removed from Newark, New Jersey back to New York State sometime after 1838. However, Elizabeth does not appear in the 1840, 1850, or 1860 censuses in either Queens Co or Kings Co, New York. She also does not appear to be living with her son John H. Cowgill, according to the 1840, 1850 and 1860 censuses of Salem, Salem Co, New Jersey.^{41,42,43,44,45,46,47,48,49,50}

On 25 March 1865 Elizabeth Cowgill of Newtown made a will, which mentioned the following persons.

- William Tunnard of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, son by her first husband (not named)
- John H. Cowgill of Salem, Salem Co, New Jersey, son by her second husband (not named)
- Sally, her sister (Sarah L. Frere McDermott)
- Alexander W. Tunnard, deceased son, brother of William F. Tunnard
- Mary M. Tunnard, wife of William F. Tunnard
- Elizabeth W. Tunnard, daughter of William F. Tunnard
- Elizabeth T. Cowgill, daughter of John H. Cowgill
- Mute niece Cornelia Ann Smith (daughter of Sarah L. McDermott)
- Elizabeth Louisa Van Tassell, daughter of Cornelia Ann Smith
- Sarah Irwin, daughter of Cornelia Ann Smith
- Jane P. Leverich, cousin (daughter of uncle Edward Leverich).
- Henry S. Leverich (cousin, son of Uncle Edward Leverich) was named sole executor.

The will was witnessed by Charles D. Leverich (grandson of uncle Edward Leverich) and Edward Leverich (son of uncle Edward Leverich). The will was proved by the Queens Co Surrogate on 29 May 1865.⁵¹

The 1850 U.S. Census of Bushwick, Kings County, New York includes the following family group.

- Sarah L. McDermott, age 65
- Cornelia Frere, age 40
- Sarah S. Smith, age 13
- Elizabeth Smith, age 11.⁵²

Elizabeth Whaley had at least four children, all born in New York, and two surviving to adulthood. By her first husband John Franklin Tunnard:

- i. Louisa Franklin Tunnard, born 3 May 1807, baptized 16 August 1807 at the Bushwick Reformed Church, Kings Co, New York; died young.
- ii. William Frederick Tunnard, see below.
- iii. Alexander W. Tunnard, died young, perhaps in New Orleans, Louisiana.

By her second husband, Thomas Cowgill:

iv. John H. Cowgill, see below.^{53,54}

William Frederick Tunnard was born 17 June 1809 in Manhattan, New York County, New York. William married c 1834 probably in New York State Mary Meeker Periam. William is recorded in the 1850 and 1860 U.S. Census as a carriage maker in Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana. William served in the civil war achieving the rank of Major in the 3rd Louisiana Infantry, Confederate States of America. William died 17 February 1871 in Baton Rouge and was buried in the Magnolia Cemetery.^{55,56,57,58,59}

John H. Cowgill was born in New York State c 1817 based upon his age in the 1850 and 1860 U.S. Census. John would appear to have adopted the Cogill spelling variant for his surname, based upon various records. Other variant spellings that appear include Cogle, Cogal, Coghill. John married c 1841 (based upon age 7 of eldest child in 1850 U.S. Census), Margaret Mulford, most likely in New Jersey. John and Margaret are recorded in the 1840, 1850, and 1860 U.S. Censuses in Salem, Salem Co, New Jersey. Margaret died 18 September 1860. John is likely the same "John Cogal" who appears in the 1870 U.S. Census in Bridgeton, Ward 2, Cumberland Co, New Jersey with a wife Charlotte, widow Feganbush. John married for a second time 23 February 1862 in Salem New Jersey, to widow Charlotte J. Fegenbush, the daughter of George Morrison. The 1880 U.S. Census of Bridgeton records "John Coghill" age 63, hence born c 1818, with a wife Charlotte, and an apparent step son Samuel Coghill, who was likely the same as 1870 household member Samuel Fegenbush. The various records indicate that John Cogill's occupation was a carriage upholsterer. Interestingly, John's half brother William F. Tunnard was a carriage maker in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. John Cogill died in Salem, New Jersey on 25 June 1894, age 78.^{60,61,62,63,64,65,66,67}

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