

Fancroft,

Roscrea,

4/8/55.

My Dear Cousin Phyllis,

Thanks for your letter which I was delighted to get, & when you are free to come you will be very welcome to Fancroft.

I am expecting one of my brothers over from British Columbia towards end of the month I do not know date & I am sure he would like to meet you too also my sister from Lisburn hopes to get down to see you too. She hopes to do a little touring round & hope you will be able to join them my sister brings my car down & my nephew Bobby expects to have Rob. at some time I would drive.

Any way you will be very welcome when ever you come & I am sure you will

fit in the family as Mavis did when over. We all enjoyed her short stay with us, & by the sound of your letter I am sure we will enjoy yours too, we are all looking forward to seeing you in near future for what ever time you may have to spare & we hope you will enjoy your Irish visit as much as the rest of your trip.

Yes it is a busy time at this end so you will forgive me for not answering your letter sooner.

Must close with much love & all the best for the remainder of your trip.

Yours sincerely,

Majorie Whitten.

Edward Whitten (gentleman) Dublin

m

Ann Parks

17. 10. 1776.

one of sons of Edward who became bankrupt: sold land.

Robert Whitten m Amelia Shaw 1808

1. Edward born 19th July 1809
2. Robert Richard 9th Feb 1812
3. Mary Anne Whitten 18th Aug. 1814
4. Jane 27th April 1817
5. William 12th May 1819
6. George 14th Sept 1821 d. Dec 1821
7. George Frederick (4 children) 6th Jan 1823. d. 1908

Cromwell 1642 - 1648

1. Edward Whitten - Dublin Directory 1790
an agent in Dublin Castle. York St
(also a Robert - trunk with name) → (elite)
2. William Whitten (26 Dominick St) built 1781
Coach builder - in wonderful state of preservⁿ

↓ Edward Dunbarglain?; Kingstown Co Dublin
 ↓ 6 children
 Elizabeth (Lillie) born 1854
 Margaret Sophia
 John Samuel 1860 - 1925 m English girl fr Manchester
 ↓
 Elsie Victoria b 1900
 Mahel 1907

Name known in Dublin since 1577.

ROSS HOHNEN met Mabel W. ten from Dublin
at a Conference of Former Guides and Scouts
— much travelled in Australia 1971.

Excerpts from letters from Mabel Whitten
(Dublin) now returned in Vancouver to P.A.H.

21st Aug. 1973.

Many thanks for your letter
received yesterday. I wasn't altogether surprised
as your husband said he would write. I was more
surprised to hear of a Whitten in Australia. I
hope you won't mind, I have called you Phyllis
as I feel it is more than likely we are related,
although so far in spite of some research, I
cannot trace the link between us.

The information in your letter or
any of the names mentioned do not convey
anything to me, so I'll give you some details
of what I know about my family.

As far as I know the Whittens
were friends of Cromwell and he gave them
land in Co. Tipperary, but as Cromwell is
a "dirty" name over here, because of his
butchery of the Irish, I don't say much about it.
However the Whittens came from the Isle of
Wight and as the Isle of Wight is near France
there is a possibility of a Huguenot connection.
Cromwell came to Ireland in 1642 and left
about 1648, so we must have come in between
those years.

I don't know when my family came
to Dublin but in a Dublin Directory 1790,
there are two Whittens mentioned, one an
Edward Whitten living at 46 York St (now
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What that means I'm not sure. The other was
a coach builder named William Whitten

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Edward Whitten living at 46 York St (now
flattened) He was an agent in Dublin Castle
What that means I'm not sure. The other was
a coach builder named William Whitten
(spelling the surname with an "O.") and
he lived at 26 Dominick St. He got an order
from the Dublin Corporation to make a Lord

Mayor's coach and no expense spared. So he built a beautiful coach, very ornamental and the Dublin Coat of Arms (three castles) on several places. I have seen the coach and it is in a wonderful state of preservation. Actually, they are working on it now as well as some others and will be on view again. York St. & Dominick St. in those days were where the elite of Dublin lived, so I think they must have been comfortably off, although I have heard of a Whitten who lost his money in the French revolution and became a beggar overnight. This was around 1789 so Whittens were in Dublin then.

The furthest I can go is to my grandfather GEORGE FREDERICK WHITTEN (1823-1908). I thought I might be able to get a look at his birth certificate which would have told me who his father and mother were but the Custom House had no records before 1864, so I was stuck there and don't know where he was baptized.

My grandfather had 4 children living that I remember.

EDWARD who lived in Dumbarglain(?) Kingstown Co Dublin - he had 6 children all dead now.

ELIZABETH (or LILLIE as she was called) b 1854 (single)

MARGARET SOPHIA (single)

JOHN SAMUEL (my father) b 1860 - 1925.

I suppose there were other children who didn't live or died young.

George Frederick was also in America - where or when I don't know but I

I suppose there were other children who didn't live or died young.

George Frederick was also in America - where or when I don't know but I don't think my father was born there. Grandfather came back to Ireland but he had a sister who stayed in America and married someone

called Brown and called herself Whitten-Brown.

The interesting thing about this is that Alcock & Whitten Brown made the first West-East Atlantic crossing by air and landed in either Galway or Connemara and there is a monument there to them. I haven't seen it but may do some day. I haven't seen ~~it~~ think it is safe to assume that the Whitten Brown man is a relative of mine.

[ENCYCLOPAEDIA BRITANNICA) (1971)

BROWN, SIR ARTHUR WHITTEN (1886-1948) British aviator who with Capt. J W Alcock made the first direct airplane crossing of the Atlantic, was born in Glasgow, the only son of U.S. parents on July 23rd 1886. He was trained as an engineer in the Westinghouse company in Manchester and went to South Africa in 1912. In World War I he served in the Manchester regiment and later in the Royal Flying Corps and in the R A F as pilot. In 1919, as a navigator to Alcock, he made the record crossing of the Atlantic in a Vickers Vimy twin-engined bi-plane at an average speed of about 120 m.p.h. Taking off from St John's Newfoundland at 4.13 p.m. on June 14, they landed 16 hrs 27 mins later in a bog at Clifden, County Galway. For this performance Alcock and Brown shared the £10,000 prize offered by the London Daily Mail and both were awarded knight hoods. Brown later returned to engineering and was general manager of the Metropolitan Vickers company in Swansea Wales for some years. He died at Swansea on Oct 4 1948.]

My Father John Samuel married an English girl from Manchester and had 2 daughters

ELSIE VICTORIA b 1900

MABEL b 1907. (single)

There is 7 years between us. Elsie married a CRANSTON of Scottish origin, but has been a widow for a long time and has no family.

There are not many Whittens as far as I know in Ireland. I never heard of my grandfather having brothers and sisters except the Whitten Brown, so maybe if he had any they went to America and are connected with the ones you speak of in Maine USA.

The morning I received your letter I was looking at the Irish Times and saw the Announcement of a Whitten death in Roxsrea (see separately). It was the "Fancroft" which made me look at it, as I had just seen the word in your letter. In another few days there was another announcement of a Whitten death and the same word "Fancroft" was mentioned. Those two people (husband and wife I presume) are probably connected to you. I enclose the two cuttings from the paper. It seems strange that Australian papers weren't asked to copy only American and Canadian.

By the way there is a family crest for Whittens. It has a sailing ship at the top and the first owner did some brave deed at sea. Generously is denoted on the crest and the motto is "Braving the Storm".

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One more little bit of information. There was a Robert Whitten apparently connected with Dublin Castle. He went across to London regularly with important documents when we were under British rule, backwards

5.

and forwards by stage coach. I remember seeing a small tin trunk under Aunt Lillie's bed with the name Robert Whitten on it. I don't know what became of it eventually. This Aunt Lillie (my father's sister) knew a lot about the family history and used to tell us serious things but unfortunately no-one ever jotted it down when she was saying it.