

Hall County history

Whelchel family from Holland

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Dr. Francis Whelchel Sr., ancestor of the Whelchel families of Northeast Georgia, emigrated from Holland to the new country America about 1745. Family records state that his only sister, Louisa, remained and died in Holland.

Francis Whelchel received his education in France and came to America as a physician. He was married to Miss Ann Stockton in 1752, settled in Albemarle County, Va., and he and wife Ann became parents of eight children — four sons and four daughters.

The family moved southward to Union District, S.C., (now Cherokee County), and Dr. Francis Whelchel and the four sons enlisted in the Revolutionary War. One son, William, died in the conflict and another son, John, was seriously wounded in the Battle of Cowpens. Dr. Whelchel found John crawling along the battlefield and helped dress the wounds of his son.

A publication "The King's Mountain Men" gives this account:

"John Whelchel was born in Albemarle County, Va., in 1756 and enlisted from Union District, S.C., at King's Mt. He was under Williams. He also served against the Cherokees at Cowpens. He received four saber cuts on the head and was present at Eutaw. He married Abigail Davis 1784 and applied for pension in 1832 from Hall County, Ga.

"Francis, David (Davis) and William, brothers to John, were also in the battle, as was also their father Francis who cared for the sick and wounded."

Little is known about Dr. Francis Whelchel and family when they lived in Virginia, but in South Carolina they erected a home and helped build the Gethsemane Methodist Church.

Dr. Whelchel and several members of the Whelchel family are buried in the old Gethsemane Church cemetery on Gilkie Creek, Cherokee County, South Carolina.

Children of Dr. Francis Whelchel Sr. and Ann Stockton were:

1. Francis Whelchel Jr., born Sept. 16, 1754. He was married to Judith Davis Jan. 10, 1782. Judith was born June 14, 1762. Francis Whelchel Jr. died and was buried in South Carolina and Judith came to Hall County with some of her children. She is buried in the Hopewell Methodist Cemetery near Murrayville, Hall County.

Children of Francis Whelchel Jr., and wife Judith (Judy) were: Francis, III; John; Davis; Valentine; Ann; Abigail; Judith; Elizabeth; and Nancy. John, son of Francis, Jr., came to Hall County about 1822 and his brother, Francis III, came a year later and brother Davis followed in 1824. Ann, Elizabeth, and Nancy came with their mother soon thereafter.

2. Dr. John Whelchel, son of Dr. Francis Whelchel and Ann Stockton, was born Oct. 10, 1756, in Virginia. He married Abigail Davis, July 15, 1784. John is buried in the New Bridge Church Cemetery, Hall County. The DAR has marked his grave as a veteran of the Revolutionary War.

3. Davis Whelchel, son of Dr. Francis and Ann Whelchel, married Nancy Burns or

Barnes; however, there is one belief in the family that possibly he was never married.

4. William Whelchel, son of Dr. Francis Whelchel, was killed in Revolutionary War.

5. Elizabeth Whelchel, daughter of Dr. Francis Whelchel, married William Ownby.

6. Patsy Whelchel married — Collins.

7. Hannah Whelchel married Barnes.

8. Ann Whelchel

An interesting note states that Francis Whelchel III was called "Frank the Stiller," since it was not against the law to operate your own still; John Whelchel, son of Francis Jr., and Judith Whelchel, was called "John the Good Fellow" and Davis was known as quite a conversationalist. Davis especially enjoyed matching wits and arguing given points on almost any subject.

John and Davis Whelchel,

sons of Francis Jr., and Judith, settled on Little River and for them Whelchel was named. A Presbyterian, Edward Cowan, and a Baptist, Philip Brice, or Buice, helped the Whelchels build the Old Harmony Grove Church Methodist Church which is now the New Bridge Baptist Church. The Whelchels were of the Methodist faith but all denominations worshipped together in the same little log church.