

Isaac Whitehouse first wrote to the Mission House in London six months after his arrival in Jamaica. He said nothing about his voyage to the Island, presuming that his colleague and travelling companion, John Jenkins, would have done this.

John Jenkins did, in fact, write several letters about his experiences, and the following is an extract from a letter describing the end of the outward voyage. After the sailing ship from England anchored off Morant Bay in Jamaica, the rest of the journey to Kingston had to be on a small coastal vessel.

"The vessel was not larger than a good ship's long boat and the hold was filled with sugars, coffee, rum etc., so that we had but a very small portion of the deck to sit upon; so small indeed, that we were completely huddled together, and such a steam arose from the sugars and the bilge-water, as when it came from the hatchways nearly suffocated us.

The almost direct rays of the sun assisted to make the whole not only painful in the extreme, but equally dangerous.....

Our kind friends had provided us with a little wine, salt-fish, bread, water and beer; but the water, which was most agreeable, soon got so exceedingly hot that it grew insipid, and the bread and fish, to persons whose saliva, by the heat, was reduced almost to the consistency of birdlime, were not at all agreeable.....

after being out seven hours we put into St. David's Bay, only about eleven miles from Morant Bay.....and spent the night with as much comfort as we could expect, considering the swarms of mosquitoes, and the smarting of burnt faces, hands, etc..... " Next day the journey went on for another thirteen hours, the sun was even hotter with the temperature varying from 110 to 120 degrees. "Perspiration ran from every pore " Jenkins wrote, "our faces hands and feet were blistered." In this condition Isaac Whitehouse and his party reached Kingston.

WHITEHOUSE

OF TIPTON

1978/9.

1.

ERIC H. WHITTLETON
WESTMEADE
104 ROWLANDS AVENUE
HATCH END
MIDDLESEX HA5 4AP

In recent years there has been an increased interest in family history. Many books have been written on the subject, family history societies have been formed in all parts of the country, and in the New Year the B.B.C. is to show a series of programmes on the subject at peak television viewing time.

You may not have considered that this could be of personal interest, and have not looked far back at our own family history.

Particularly to Isaac Whitehouse who sailed from the port of Bristol on February 1st 1824, to commence a missionary service with the Wesleyan Methodist Church that over the next fifty years would take him to Jamaica, the Bahamas, Bermuda, and St. Kitts : a life of hardship, sacrifice and religious faith. For his Christian views he was arrested, flung into prison, threatened with death, and his chapels razed to the ground. He rebuilt those chapels, designed and supervised the erection of others, acted as secretary to missions, and as District Superintendent of others. His wife, who was always at his side, brought thirteen children into the world, and it is to their descendants that these lines are addressed.

During all his years with the Wesleyan mission Isaac Whitehouse wrote regularly to the administration in London, and nearly all his letters have been preserved in their archives. They give a fascinating picture of his life and times, added to by the many others who wrote similar letters.

It is felt that some recognition of his life's work should be made, and circulated to known descendants. In this way a little of the family history can be placed on record, and perhaps new facts brought to light.

Perhaps you will write and give your opinion of this 'newsletter', and if possible add to our knowledge of this worthy ancestor.

E.H. Whittleton.

ISAAC WHITEHOUSE

Wesleyan Missionary.

Born Tipton Staffordshire

February 13 1799

Baptised: March 3 1799

Married December 23 1823

at Dudley Worcestershire to HEPHZIBAH FEATHERSTONE

EVANS.

Baptised June 23 1805.

Died Jamaica

August 9 1892.

Died Jamaica

January 5 1874.

Isaac Whitehouse was the eldest son of James Whitehouse of Tipton, Staffordshire, who worked a business with Canal boats and horses as a carrier in the town.

When his father died in Novn 1834 his address was given as Horsley House Road. This was in Toll End, a hamlet to the north east of Tipton. He left a widow, Mary, who was 63 years of age. James Whitehouse named five children in his will, and his second son Joseph carried on his business in the absence of Isaac. Joseph died in February 1864, and left two married daughters.

Of Isaac Whitehouse and his wife's thirteen children, eight are known to have married; all daughters. Hephzibah Evans Whitehouse married Henry Edward Kemp, a leading merchant of Nassau, Bahamas, in February 1847. Many 'Kemp Family' descendants have maintained an interest in their family.

Maria Whitehouse married Henry Hendrick Lee in Jamaica on 18 September 1872. The Lee family have many items of family history in their possession. Mary Whitehouse, the fourth daughter, married the Rev. William Reeve in 1865, but died in childbirth leaving three other children. Descendants of the Reeve family live in Canada at the present time. Eric Whittleton, who has written these notes, is a descendant of Henry Edward Kemp.

This space was intended to be given to a reproduction of an etching of Isaac Whitehouse, published in 1842 in the 'Wesleyan Methodist Magazine.' It did not print satisfactorily so in its place are two anecdotes that have been related in the family.

At 'Blackheath' (near Moneague, Jamaica). June 1851.

"Sunday was th great day among the slaves for baptisms and marriages. One hundred couples have been married at the same time. Once when the ceremony was being performed (shall I say ceremonies?) there was a little stir among the onlookers which at last found vent in words. 'Peek, brudder, peek!! Again; 'Peek,brudder, peek, why don't you peek?.' My father paused for a moment, when a voice fell on his ear: 'Minister, you marrying de wrong man to de wrong woman.' This was just in time, and so a dreadful catastrophe was averted." (Maria Whitehouse in a sketch of the work of her father: "Missions, past and present.")

"On another occasion when my father had been stricken down by fever, the report went abroad that he had died. The nearest missionary - who lived many miles away - hastened to offer his deep sympathy and consolation to the widow and children, and to perform the last sad rites.

He found my father sitting up in a chair enjoying chicken broth. He exclaimed: 'Mr Whitehouse, I came to bury you!.' "Well", said my father, "you won't have that pleasure this time." His death was forwarded to England and he read his own obituary notice in the 'Matchman'. (From Maria Whitehouse)

FROM YOUR LIBRARY.

"Knibb, 'the Notorious.'

Phillip Bright. Sidgwick & Jackson

Published 1973. An account of a mission to the slave in Jamaica: 1803-1845. From the Baptist view. Mentions Isaac Whitehouse.



REV. ISAAC WROTTEBURGH,

MISSIONARY TO JAMAICA AND THE BAHAMAS.

Engraved by W. GIBSON Esq. & Printed by T. W. HUNT.