

Individual Narrative of Alexander⁷ Whaley Jr. [115] Son of Alexander Whaley and Abigail⁶ Leverich [55]

Alexander Whaley^{1,2} was born on 15 Sep 1791 at Bushwick, Kings, 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.³ On 14 October 1792 Alexander, son of Alexander Wailey, was baptized at the Newtown Presbyterian Church.⁴

Alexander Whaley Jr was married for the first time about 1814 to Maria (unidentified surname). The marriage date is estimated based upon the birth year of their first child Maria Whaley, which is based on Maria's age in the 1855 New York State Census.⁵ The New York City Directory for 1814 lists brothers Thomas and Alexander Whaley, locksmiths 139 Chatham. The 1815 New York City Directory lists each brother separately as locksmiths, Thomas at 12 Mott and Alexander at 10 Catherine. The brothers are similarly listed at the same locations in the 1820 New York City Directory.^{6,7,8} Alexander "Whaley" is recorded in the 1820 U.S. Census, Ward 3 Manhattan, New York Co, New York. As discussed in more detail below, the census tallies are consistent with known family members.⁹

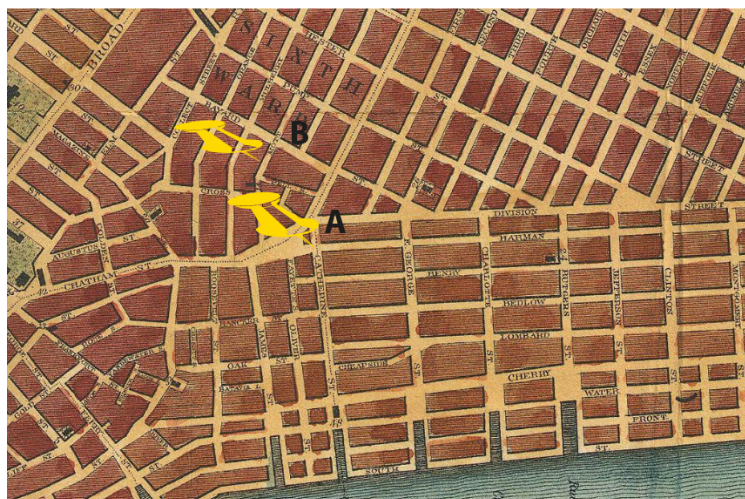
On 11 October 1826 Alexander Whaley Jr purchased land in Manhattan, New York County New York, from Francis Pike and his wife Jane, in consideration of \$200; lots in Ward 12:

- Lots 89, 90, 91, 92: between 6th and 7th Avenues, 62nd and 63rd Streets
- Lots 121, 122, 123, 124: between 8th and 9th Avenues, 62nd and 63rd Streets
- Lots 157, 158, 159, 160: between 8th and 9th Avenues, 61st and 62nd Streets
- Lots 173, 174, 175, 176: between 6th and 7th Avenues, 61st and 62nd Streets.

On 10 February 1827, Alexander Whaley Jr., "gunsmith of New York City and County, and his wife Maria, resold the same land in consideration of \$400 to Henry Fitz, land agent of New York City and County. Both deeds were recorded on 2 March 1827.^{10,11}

Alexander Whaley is listed in the 1826-1827 New York City Directory as a gunsmith at 16 Catherine Street. His brother Thomas Whaley is listed as a locksmith at 46 & 48 Mott Street.¹²

1807 William Bridges Map <1871 Reissue>



**1826-1827 New York City Directory: Alexander Whaley
gunsmith 16 Catherine Street [A]; His brother Thomas
Whaley, locksmith 46 & 48 Mott Street [B].**

On 7 December 1827 the *New York Commercial Advertiser* reported that "yesterday morning, in the 29th year of her age, after a lingering illness, which she bore with Christian fortitude and calm resignation to the will of her Redeemer, Maria, wife of Alexander Whaley, Junior" died. A place of burial for Maria has not been determined.¹³

About 1828, Alexander Whaley Jr. married for a second time Elizabeth, whose maiden name was likely Lane. The marriage date is estimated based upon the 1829 birth date of their daughter Susan Whaley. Subsequent to Alexander's death, Elizabeth remarried Joseph McCloud. The 1855 New York State Census Record for Joseph and Elizabeth McCloud includes as a household member Susan Lane, age 60, identified as "mother-in-law". It is also possible however that "Lane" reflected a second marriage for Susan. A New York City Death record for her daughter Susan Whaley Balderson in 1907 gives her mother's name as Davenport, no first name provided. However, death records for Joseph McCloud Jr and Elizabeth Ann McCloud identify their parents as Joseph McCloud Sr and Elizabeth Lane.^{14,15,16,17}

On June 1, 1829 the *New York Evening Post* reported that Alexander Whaley Jr. had been appointed a Customs House Officer. The 1830 New York City Directory records Alexander Whaley, customs house officer, 62 Forsyth.^{18,19} Alexander "Whaley" is recorded in the 1830 U.S. Census, Ward 10 Manhattan, New York Co, New York. As discussed in more detail below, the census tallies are consistent with known family members.²⁰ On 25 October 1830 the *New Evening Post* reported that "at a meeting of the Democratic Electors of the 10th Ward ... the following persons were nominated and appointed a Committee of Vigilance for the ensuing election ... Alexander Whaley Jr."²¹

Alexander Whaley is listed in the 1831 New York City Directory as a customs house officer at 159 Forsyth. His brother Thomas Whaley is listed as a locksmith at 46 & 48 Mott Street.²²

Alexander Whaley Sr of Bushwick, Kings Co, New York made a will dated 12 July 1832. In his will, he mentions among his children Alexander Whaley Jr.²³

Alexander Whaley is listed in the 1832 New York City Directory as a customs house officer at 159 Forsyth, and in 1832 the same at Forsyth corner Division. His brother Thomas Whaley is listed as a locksmith at 46 & 48 Mott Street.^{24,25}

Alexander Whaley Sr died in 1833 in Bushwick, Kings Co, New York. About this time, Alexander Whaley Jr disappears from the New York City Directory, having removed to Brooklyn, Kings Co, New York.

On 2 May 1835, Alexander Whaley of Brooklyn purchased a portion of his father's estate in consideration of \$775, .42 of an acre of land at Bushwick Crossing, i.e. from Bushwick Crossing south 199 ft on Bushwick-Jamaica Turnpike,; west 43 ft; North 200 ft; east 75 ft. The deed was recorded 16 May 1835.^{26,27}



Alexander Whaley Jr is listed as a customs officer in the 1835 edition of the *National Calendar and Annals of the U.S.*²⁸

In 1838, the New York Daily Express published a tax assessment list for Brooklyn. This list included Alexander Whaley with property at 62nd Street between 9th Avenue and Bloomington Road (contemporary Ft. Hamilton Parkway).²⁹

Alexander Whaley Jr. died on 2 Feb 1840 at Brooklyn, Kings, New York, at age 48. A burial place has not been identified for Alexander. The 1841 "Final Accounting" for the estate of Cornelia Leverich 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 Alexander Whaley Jr, departed this life on Sunday the 2nd day of February in the year 1840, being after the death of the said Cornelia the widow of the said Testator ... that the said Alexander Whaley Jr as your Petitioners are informed and believe died intestate but that no person hath as yet qualified as the legal representative of the estate³⁰ "

Alexander Whaley Jr did not leave a will. On 13 April 1854, 14 years after his Alexander's death, Joseph McCloud petitioned the Kings Co Surrogate for letters of administration on Alexander's estate. Joseph identifies himself as "husband of Elizabeth McCloud, formerly the widow of Alexander Whaley, who died March 1840." The petition identifies children of Alexander as: John Whaley of California; Susan wife of Benjamin "Baloon" (subsequently determined to be "Balderson"); Peter Whaley of Bushwick; Joseph and Cornelius Whaley of Manhattan. Two grandchildren are also identified: Ann E. McCloud and Rufus Dunham, both of Brooklyn.³¹ A search of both the 1840 U.S. Census and the 1840 City Directories for New York and Brooklyn does not produce a listing for Alexander Whaley, or Elizabeth Whaley widow, or Joseph McCloud.^{32,33,34,35}

A search of both the 1840 U.S. Census and the 1840 City Directories for New York and Brooklyn does not produce a listing for Alexander Whaley, or Elizabeth Whaley widow, or Joseph McCloud.^{36,37,38,39}

Alexander had seven known children born between 1815 and 1831, five by his first wife Maria and two by his second wife Elizabeth. Little or no information has been found regarding Peter and Joseph Whaley. The mother of Rufus Dunham has been identified as Maria Whaley and the mother of Anne E. McCloud has been identified as Jane Whaley.^{40,41,42,43}

The 1820 and 1830 U.S. Census tallies are consistent with the known children of Alexander Whaley Jr. 1820: 1 free white male under age 10: son John A; 1 free white male age 26-44: Alexander Whaley Jr.; 2 free white females under age 10: daughters Maria and Jane; 1 free white female age 16 to 25: unidentified; 1 free white female age 26 to 44: first wife Maria. 1830: 2 free white males under age 5: sons Peter and Joseph; 1 free white male age 10 to 14: son John; 1 free white male age 30 to 39: Alexander Whaley Jr.; 1 free white female age 5 to 9: daughter Susan; 1 free white female age 10 to 14: daughter Jane; 1 free white female age 20 to 29: second wife Elizabeth; not yet born: son Cornelius.^{44,45}

- i. Maria Whaley was born about 1815 probably in Manhattan, New York Co, New York. On 29 July 1835 Maria married Captain Rufus Dunham. The marriage notice identifies Maria as the eldest daughter of Alexander Whaley Esquire of Brooklyn. Captain Dunham died 1 April 1840 when his ship *Escambia* was lost in a storm at sea while on a passage from Charleston SC to New York City. The 1840-1841 New York City Directory lists Maria Dunham, widow of Rufus, 117 Ludlow. Maria married for a second time about 1841 Ebenezer Dunham, who may have been related to Rufus Dunham. Maria Dunham is listed in the 1855, 1865, and 1892 New York State Census, and the 1850 and 1880 U.S. Census, all in Brooklyn, Kings Co, New York. Maria died in April 1894, and was buried 23 April 1894 at Green-wood Cemetery in Brooklyn. However, a New York City death record for Maria who died in 1894 gives her father's birthplace as Trenton, New Jersey. This data element is either incorrect (her second husband Ebenezer Dunham was born in NJ), or the Maria Dunham who died in 1894 was not the Maria Dunham who was the daughter of Alexander Whaley Jr.^{46,47,48,49,50,51,52,53,54,55,56}
- ii. Jane Whaley was born about 1817, probably in Manhattan, New York Co, New York. About 1840 Jane married Simon McCloud. Their daughter Anne E. McCloud was born about 1841, probably in Brooklyn. Simon (age 32, rope maker), Jane (age 32), Anne E. (age 9), and Adeline McCloud (age 0) appear in the 1850 U.S. Census in

Williamsburg, Kings Co, New York. Jane Whaley McCloud likely died between 1850 and 1855. The 1855 New York State Census records a Simon McCloud (age 38, ropemaker) boarding in the household of Joseph McCloud and his wife Elizabeth, formerly the widow of Alexander Whaley Jr. Ann E. McCloud (age 14) and Adeline McCloud (age 6) are boarding in the household of Eliza Holmes. Both households are located in Ward 16 of Brooklyn. The relationship of Eliza Holmes to the McCloud family is undetermined. A burial place for Jane Whaley McCloud has not been identified. An Anne "McLeod" (age 18) is found in the 1860 U.S. Census in Manhattan Ward 15, New York County, New York. Anne is unmarried and living in an institution of some kind (not identified) inhabited primarily by single young people under the age of 30.^{57,58,59}

- iii. Pursuant to census records, John A. (perhaps Arden) Whaley was born about 1819, probably in Manhattan, New York County, New York. On 14 December 1846, the Brooklyn Daily Eagle reports that a John A. Whaley was a member of the Committee organizing the first annual ball of the Democratic Association of Forty Acres. The 1850 U.S. Census of Trinity Co, California records a John A Whaley, age 30, unmarried, born in New York. John married Emily Coffin Southward about 1854, probably in California. The 1860, 1870, and 1880 Censuses record a John A. Whaley (ages 43, 50, 62, born in New York) living in Humboldt Co, California. His occupation is variously listed as merchant, butcher, and revenue collector. John died after 1880. A specific date of death and place of burial has not been determined. The RootsWeb death index includes a death record for a John Whaley in 1888 in Santa Barbara, California, age 78, hence born about 1810. In light of the age and place of death, this is probably not our John A. Whaley. As per a passport application dated 13 August 1898, John's grandson is identified as William Alexander Whaley. The use of Alexander as a middle name lends support to the Brooklyn link for this John A. Whaley, son of Alexander Whaley Jr.^{60,61,62,63,64,65,66,67}
- iv. Peter Whaley was likely born between 1820 and 1831 in Manhattan, New York County, New York. No individual matching those characteristics is found in the New York or Brooklyn City Directories, or the census records for New York or Kings County. The 1850 (Williamsburg, Kings County), 1860 and 1870 (Newtown, Queens County) censuses identify a Peter Whaley (Whaley, Waily, Waley) born about 1823, however his place of birth is Germany in all three records, so this Peter is not likely the son of Alexander Whaley Jr.^{68,69,70}
- v. Joseph Whaley was likely born between 1820 and 1831 in Manhattan, New York County, New York. No individual matching those characteristics is found in the New York or Brooklyn City Directories, or the census records for New York or Kings County. There is one isolated city directory entry for a Joseph Whaley, 1840-1841 in Brooklyn, a milkman Kent Ave near Myrtle Ave. A Joseph Whaley, born about 1826 in New York, and his wife Huldah are found in the 1870 and 1880 U.S. Census in Cattaraugus Co, New York. The 1875 New York State Census for this couple indicates that Joseph was born in Wyoming Co, New York. Therefore, no evidence links this Joseph Whaley to Alexander Whaley Jr.^{71,72,73,74}
- vi. Susan Whaley was born about 1829 probably in Manhattan, New York Co, New York. The birth year is an estimate based upon census records. About 1844 Susan married Benjamin Balderson. The marriage date is an estimate based upon the birth year of their first child. The 1855-1856 Brooklyn City Directory lists Benjamin Balderson, ropemaker, home Debevoise, near Morrell. Susan and Benjamin are found in the 1855 and 1875 New York State Census, and the 1860 and 1870 U.S. Census, all in Brooklyn, Kings Co, New York. Susan Balderson is recorded as a widow in the 1900 U.S. Census of Ward 21 in Brooklyn. Susan Balderson died 25 March 1907 in Brooklyn. The *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* provided the following obituary note: "Susan Whaley, widow of Benjamin Balderson, who had lived in the vicinity of Hart street and Broadway for nearly half a century died yesterday at her residence at 415 Hart Street. She was one of the eldest members of the Dekalb Avenue M.E. Church and of its Ladies Aid Society. Mrs. Balderson was born in Brooklyn 77 years ago and was the daughter of Alexander Whaley. She leaves two sons and four daughters."^{75,76,77,78,79,80,81,82}
- vii. Cornelius Whaley was born about 1830, based upon his marriage record, in Manhattan, New York Co, New York. Cornelius was married 1 January 1857 in Manhattan to the widow Mary E. Miller. Cornelius Whaley died 20 July 1861, at which time he was residing at the Wards School East 17th Street, Manhattan. The death record indicates that he was buried in Scotch Plains (NJ), but the name of the cemetery is not given.^{83,84}

Elizabeth Lane Whaley, widow of Alexander Whaley Jr, remarried c 1840-1841 Joseph McCloud, a rope maker. Based upon the ages of children noted in the 1850 U.S. Census of Williamsburg, Kings County, Joseph was likely a widower, and had at least two children by his prior marriage, Thomas and Peter. Based upon the 1855 New York State Census

and the 1860 U.S. Census, all in Brooklyn, Joseph and Elizabeth had children Sarah Maria, Elizabeth Ann, and Joseph. The 1855 household also included Sarah Lane, age 60, Elizabeth's mother; and Simon McCloud, age 38, also a rope maker, and widower of Elizabeth's step daughter Jane Whaley McCloud.^{85,86,87}

Elizabeth (Lane)(Whaley) McCloud probably died at Brooklyn between 1860 and 1865. Elizabeth is recorded with Joseph in the 1860 U.S. Census. However, by the time of the 1865 New York State Census, Joseph is recorded with apparently another wife, Mary A. McCloud, age 36. Mary is identified as Joseph's wife. The census record indicates for Joseph 2 prior marriages plus his current marriage. Joseph is age 51, consistent with earlier census records, and is then employed as a tailor.^{88,89,90,91}

Maria Whaley and Captain Rufus Dunham had at least two children, Rufus and Charles. Maria and Rufus are identified as the groom's parents in the New York City marriage records for both Rufus Jr and Charles. Rufus Jr was married in Manhattan 2 August 1877 to Minnie Sohl. Charles Dunham was married in Manhattan 5 April 1869 to Addie Case, widow Woodruff. Maria is found in the 1850 U.S. Census as the probable wife of Ebenezer Dunham, possibly a relative of Maria's first husband Rufus Dunham. However, the 1850 household does not include Rufus Jr or Charles, who would have been ages 10 and 9 in 1850. The household does include three children, presumably of Ebenezer and Maria, Julia age 10; Henry C, age 7; and Sarah, age 3.

No further evidence of Rufus and Charles, subsequent to their marriages, has been found. Neither Charles nor Rufus are found in the 1869 and 1879 City directories for Manhattan and Brooklyn, nor are they found in the 1875 New York State Census. They should not be confused with Rufus and Charles Dunham, born c 1839-1841 in Rensselaer Co, New York, the sons of David and Lucy Dunham. The relationship if any among Rufus, Ebenezer, and David Dunham is not known.^{92,93,94,95,96}

Joseph McCloud died 6 July 1883, then residing 408 Broadway in Brooklyn Ward 12. He was buried at Cypress Hills Cemetery.⁹⁷

On 23 July 1884, the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* published the following legal notice: "WHALEY-INFORMATION IS desired of the names and address of the heirs of ALEXANDER WHALEY, formerly a resident of this city, who died in March 1840; his widow, Elizabeth, afterward married one Joseph McCloud, formerly of the old Town of Bushwick. Please address DAVID BARNETT, attorney, etc. 397 Fulton St." Since Joseph McCloud had died in 1883, it is possible that this advertisement was related to the settlement of his estate. However, a review of the Kings Co, New York surrogate index does not disclose any records pertaining to the settlement of Joseph's estate. A review of the Kings County Conveyance Index also does to disclose any relevant transactions.^{98,99,100}

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Endnotes

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- ²²*New York NY City Directory 1831* (New York, New York: Thomas Longworth, 1831). Hereinafter cited as *New York NY City Directory 1831*.
- ²³Alexander Whaley will (17 May 1833), Volume 4, pages 265-269; Kings County, New York Surrogate, 2 Johnson Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201. Hereinafter cited as 1833 Probate Alexander Whaley.
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- ⁴¹*New York Commercial Advertiser*, 3 September 1835, page 2.
- ⁴²1850 U.S. Census New York, Kings County. Ancestry.com, Provo, Utah. NARA, M432, Roll 519, Town of Williamsburg, page 212B.
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