

2014 White open letter

I am writing this as an open letter to be forwarded or sent to the White researchers that I have corresponded with or know of and those in Northern Ireland who helped me. There are many "stories" about Moses and Hugh White who arrived in America in the first quarter of the 18th century. I would like to share my hypotheses based on what I have read and what I have found in the US and Northern Ireland.

I will start with my connection to the White line. In the will of Thomas Hayes, written 9 March 1807 and probated at the December Court 1807 in Barren County, Kentucky, a bequest is made to his daughter, "Patsy White, the wife of James White". Their daughter Margaret White is my 2nd great Grandmother. Through the spouses of his other children and other associated families I was able to trace Thomas Hayes to Union County SC. In the 1800 census in Union County I found Thomas with his wife and younger children living next to James White age 16 to 26 with a wife (Patsy) 16 to 26. In the will of Stephen White (son of Hugh White) he gives to son James acreage next to Thomas Hayes. I have not found this in other research and would like to add it to the mix.

Next I would like to address the arrival of the two brothers, Hugh and Moses White. All seem to agree that they and their families were admitted in 1722 by certificate to the Neshaminy Dutch Reform Church in PA. Shortly thereafter those from Eerlant (Ireland) were so aggressive that the Dutch withdrew and the church became Presbyterian. The question remains of how and when they came to America. I tend to side with those who say that Hugh White came to America as a prisoner of the 1715 Jacobite war and that Moses followed with both families between 1716 and 1722. There are at Kew prison records for Chester Prison of prisoner Hou White (#121) from that war. There are 1716 embarkation records at Kew for Hector White showing his transport via the ship Goodspeed. There are arrival records in Maryland of Hugh White on the Goodspeed who was indentured to Daniel Bryant for 7 years. Though the names are dissimilar, it appears to be the same person based on those who were imprisoned and transported with him. Some say that Moses followed with his and Hugh's families. I have not found any record of the arrival of Moses and the families.

The Jacobite movement (those wishing to return the line of the deposed King James to the English throne) is often considered Catholic, but there were many protestant and especially Presbyterian members who with the Catholics apposed the established church. It is not illogical to find the son of a committed Presbyterian minister being part of this cause after (or even before) the death of his father.

Now we come to Adam White who was in his 3rd pastorate at Dunluce Church in Bushmills NI from 1692 until his death in 1708. I visited Bushmills this year and visited the various churches in the area. I also was able to talk to various local historians about the churches and the religious situation at the time the Whites were there. I will continue to pursue the questions I still have about this time and place. I spent some hours at the Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland in Belfast reading the transcribed 1701 to 1706 minutes of the Route Presbytery. When referred to in other research a brief summery has been given. In checking these (monthly for the most part) minutes for attendance records for Adam White and reports of the Dunluce Church, I found some interesting things. As reported by others, Adam White's attendance was irregular and there was a real problem with the church not paying him the stipend he was due. The lack of attendance could be attributed to an inability to travel due to an illness late in his life or to lack of support

from the church. I found that the Dunluce congregation was represented several times by a John White, elder. Was he a son who did not go to America, another relative or an unrelated White? Best find of all was that on January 8 1705/6 Adam White was absent but Dunluce was represented by Hugh White, Commissioner! Our Hugh would have been 34 years old at the time and old enough to be chosen as a representative (still called commissioners) for the church. These years are the only ones that have been transcribed, but I have since found that there is a packet of minutes covering 1701 to 1775 at the same repository. These should be checked at least to Adam's death in December 1708 and I may be able to go back and do that as well as pursue other leads. **It turns out that the year 1775 is a typo and records go only to 1705/6)**

Adam White's earlier life has been outlined as to his birth and education in Scotland and 2 previous pastorates in Ireland as well as a 6-year imprisonment from 1664 to 1670 and a flight to Scotland in 1688. The imprisonment and flight were due to oppression of Presbyterians by the established church. Interestingly, Moses is said to have been born in 1665 and Hugh in 1671. Is this true or dates made to fit the circumstances? There was also mention of a possible flight to the continent before his death, as well as information that one of the sons or Adam himself married Isabella Jane Cochran b ca 1675? in Eire, Lugo, Galicia, Spain d 1693 (Bushmills?) daughter of William Cochran and Mary McCoy.

Timeline:

- c 1627 Adam born in Inveraray, on Loch Fyne, Argyll, Scotland (?)
- c 1645 Adam entered Glasgow Univ. in Scotland
- 1648 Adam graduated from the University of Glasgow with a Master of Arts degree
- 1654 Adam became a minister in Laggen Presbytery, Church at Fannet, County Donegal, Ireland
- 1661 Adam was evicted from his church as a result of being charged, by the King of England, that he was conducting services contrary to the Church of England.
- 1664 Adam White was confined to jail at Lifford.
- c 1665 son, Moses White born (d.1735, Newcastle, Delaware).
- 1670 Adam White was pardoned by the King and freed from Lifford.
- c 1671 son, Hugh White born (d. 1741 Neshaminy, Chester, PA).
- 1672 Adam White was minister of Ardstraw, in County Tyrone, Ireland.
- c 1688 Adam White fled to Scotland.
- 1690 King William agreed to a law to establish the Church of Scotland under a Presbyterian system.
- 1692 Adam White returned to Ireland and became a minister at Bushmills, co Antrim.
- c 1693 Adam White's wife dies.
- c 1698 Moses White had son, Joseph (d.1808 Anson Co, NC).
- c 1703. Moses White had son, David (d.1767 in PA).
- c 1708 Moses White had dau, Mary, m. Mr. Jones prior 1735.
- 1708 Adam White died at Bushmills, co Antrim, N. Ireland.

There is a lot of circumstantial evidence to indicate that Adam White was the father of Hugh and Moses. There are no records of other children of Adam White. **One other son found in 2015 trip,** The question is how much is required to accept this theory in a period with few records for non-established church members.

Some remaining questions:

There is a mention in the book “Scotch Irish pioneers in Ulster and America” (p271) that a township in Chester County was renamed Donegal due to the number of Scotch Irish migrants. Hugh, Henry, and Moses White are listed as being among the chief immigrants. Who is Henry? (Brother, son, other)

When and how did Moses and the 2 families arrive in America?

Is there any helpful information available from Adam White’s 2 earlier pastorates Fannet, Lagan Presbytery , 1654-1672 (much of this time while in prison) and Ardstraw 1st, Derry and Donegal Presbytery, 1678-1692?

Where in Scotland did Adam White flee to in 1688?

Where did Adam’s wife stay while he was in prison 1664-1670?

Who is the John White who represented the Dunluce church in the minutes of Route Presbytery 1701 to 1706?

Is there anything additional in the packet of Presbytery minutes 1701 to 1775?

Is there any information available about the Cochran family of Eire, Lugo, Galicia, Spain?

Who paid for Adam White’s education in Scotland? Some say affluent descendants of John White, the Lord Mayor of London.

If you have any comments, observations or additions, please contact me at:
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