

THE WHALEY GAZETTE

A Publication of the Whaley Historical House Association - Fall 2008

Vote for R. J. Whaley in '08 . . . (1908, that is)

With campaign signs sprouting in yards, bumper stickers plastering cars, and an endless stream of commercials filling the airwaves it is impossible to forget this is an election year. As the nation focuses its attention on this historic election, it is appropriate to dedicate some space to remember R. J. Whaley's bid for statewide office a century ago.

R. J.'s 1922 obituary in the *Flint Journal* stated his philosophy, ". . . that every good citizen should be willing to give some time to public affairs." Faithfully living by his precept, R. J. accepted an appointment to Michigan's School for the Deaf board of trustees from Governor Edwin Winans in 1891. When a Central Board of Control was formed to administer the Michigan State Public School in Coldwater, Michigan School for the Deaf in Flint, and Michigan School for the Blind in Lansing, R. J. accepted the position of treasurer. However, his appointment ended early when he was removed from office because he saved the State of Michigan over \$25,000. A biography of Whaley stated that the incident, "afforded him cause for merriment to reflect that as a reward for his economy in the state's behalf he was legislated out of office."

Though R. J. was an advocate of public service, he was reluctant to run for office. Politically, R. J. was a conservative and aligned himself with the Democratic Party. Whaley's obituary stated, "He never sought public office but was sometimes drafted by his party as its standard bearer." Since the possibility of a Democrat's victory in the Republican stronghold of Michigan was slim, it seems probable that R. J. was "drafted" to run as his party's candidate for State Treasurer in 1908. In a field of seven candidates, R. J. came in second with a total of 181,161 votes. Republican Albert Sleeper won the contest by capturing 328,240 of the 537,929 votes cast. Sleeper's career in Michigan politics was on the ascendancy and in 1916 he was elected as Michigan's twenty-ninth governor.

As prominent members of the community, the McFarlan-Whaley families had a strong tradition of public service to their hometown and state. Alexander McFarlan, R. J.'s father-in-law, served a term as Flint's mayor in 1875 and ran for State Treasurer in 1878 and, in a feat R. J. would duplicate thirty years later, lost. Alexander McFarlan Jr., R. J.'s brother-in-law, served many years as an alderman in Flint.

If you cannot recall voting for the office of State Treasurer that is because it has not appeared on the ballot since 1962. With the ratification of Michigan's fourth and current constitution in 1963, the office became one filled by appointment of the governor.

Friends of Whaley House Museum 2008 Holiday Reception

Our annual Friends of Whaley House Museum Holiday Reception will be held on Monday, December 1st from 4 pm to 7 pm. This year, we will be holding the event in conjunction with the Genesee County Historical Society. Begin your holiday celebration with a festive evening of hors d'oeuvres and holiday music and enjoy the many rooms of Whaley House Museum decorated as your favorite Christmas carol. We hope to see you there!

2008 Christmas Sponsorships

A few sponsorships for Whaley House Museum's 2008 holiday season still remain. The Back Parlor and Dining Room are available at the rate of \$100 each. Sponsors receive a full-color placard in their room of sponsorship, and listings in our Christmas newsletter and on our website, whaleyhouse.com. Deadline for 2008 sponsorships is Monday, November 17.

For additional information, please call the museum at 810.235.6841 or email 1885@whaleyhouse.com.

R. J. Whaley's 1878 Trip to Europe: Part II

In the last edition of *The Whaley Gazette*, R. J. Whaley traveled with Sam Androus to tour Europe and see the Paris Exhibition of 1878. When we left off, they had just landed in Ireland and were making their way to Dublin.

Editor's note: Any indecipherable portions of R. J.'s writing have been replaced with brackets and hypens; spelling, grammar, and editorial marks are his own.

Friday July 19th

We arrive in Dublin at 11³⁰ + immediately go through the old parliament building. the furniture +c as used by the house of lords are now there. It is used for the Bank of Ireland we then go to Christs Church built about the 11th Century It is beautifull as restored by Henry Roe a Distiller of Dublin some of the old pavement[----] is and placed by itself One inscription is dated 1584 Cecille Harrington (Queen Elizabeths time) Strawbool was burried here his wife +c He invaded this country in 1169 died 1177 The Church was supposed to havebeen built by the Danes under the church is all filled with toombs Many tablets found found in the ruins are now placed in the walls one of Sir Henry Sidney dated 1577 also Edward Griffith dated 1508 Lots of stones were dated 1562 + 1180 There were two statues one of Charles the 2^d + one of James the 1st of England Stones of the different parts of the building are preserved also the old fountain (babitsmal) There is a Stone coffin supposed to have been St Laurance [----][----] who is supposed to have been the founder of the Church and it was a Catholic Church It is elegant but is the same style + finish as originaly done I forgot to say I saw lots of leaden coffins that were taken out + remains reinterred We then go to the Old Castle of Dublin It is guarded used as a barracks by soldiers It has a square or court in the center for parade +c We then go to the Chapel of the castle It is one mass of carvings every Lord Lieutanant of Ireland from 1173 to date Coat of Armes is here finely carved It is not large but very nice The Nelson monument + Duke of Wellington in Pheonix Park are fine structures also William of orange Orange on horse back The Cistern House is also a fine building I am not sorry that we came here for it is a fine city we went to Pheonix Park in the evening heard the band the Wellington monument is in this park

Saturday July 20th

We visit Trinity College Dublin commenced in 1591 Queen Elizabeth Regina picture The organ in ex[----] [----] was taken from the [----] The chandalier was in the old house of lords The Chapel is beautifull also the memorial windows The commons hall ^dining hall is also lined with paintings of ancient men in high places. The Library ^built in 1735 245000 volumes is next We saw an edition of

Shakespeare 1664 The Breeches Bible so called dated 1583. This bible edition was suppressed by reason of the broad language also saw the first book of common prayer dated 1545 that was issued This college was opened in 1591 the first student came in 1593 and his name was Usher + it has never been closed since except at night The Harp of ^Boroimke Brian Boroimke used between the 10th + 11th century also the Charter horn of O. Cavaugh This is what they held their estates by in the 12th Century also Jewelry of that date which is very curious Roman Catholic Mass book printed in Paris in 1510 the letters are red + black and as beautifull as anything of the present day. Then we saw the first edition of Protestant Bible printed commenced in 1535 ended October 4th same year there were 200 printed + this is one of seven known to exist. We then go to the Botanic Garden which are very beautifull. Plants from all over the world are there and flowers of every description next comes Glasnevin ^ catholic cemetry many fine monuments are here David O Connell is the most prominent. We leave at 4 PM for Glasgow in a small boat The Earl of Carlisle

Sunday July 21

I get up at eight AM just as we come to the Scottish Isles Cambria they look very pleasant the island of Bute is on our left It is a large island + belongs to the Marquis of Bute we did not rest well last night It was foggy and we came near running into two vessals We pass the monument of Henry Bell erected to his honor for being the first inventor of River Steamboats we also pass Dumbarton Rock which is fortified both are on the [----][----] above Grunosk The shores of which are very high and look quite picturesque We shall reach Glasgow about 12 at noon I have a terrible cold + when once in my room I think I shall stay there

Stirling July 23d/78

We saw the spot where James the 3- was burried who died June 2d/1488 also his Queen the Princess Margaret of Denmark in the place where once stood the Abbey of Gambus Kenneth of which only the tower remains It was built in 1127 and destroyed at the time of the refformation

Wednesday July 24

Tell McIntosh that Fredrick son of the sec of Royal Bank of Scotland came home short time ago married and returned to Singapore to attend Bank there yesterday we went through Stirling Castle and wash delighted with it We saw a number of curiosities a wooden crown used when the real one was captured also ancient implements of war. Pictures. John Knox pulpit and many other things Saw the room where the Earle of Douglas was killed by James the 2nd Alexander the 1st died here in 1124 The country is beautifull around the Castle and the Garden below where the Royal sports were played are still kept as of old The country from Sirling to Edinburgh is splendid We also

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R. J. Whaley's 1878 Trip to Europe (Continued)

visited the Greyfriars Church erected by James 4th 1494 the architecture is French James the 6th was crowned here

July 29th 1567. The sermon was Preached by John Knox There are several Roman consecration marks around the church the cemetery adjoining is well laid out but and the finest ground I have seen

This day we have looked over Edinburgh pretty thoroughly excepting the castle of Edinburgh Holyrood Pallace we have seen except the portion used by Queen Victoria when she stops here we saw Lord Darnley Room also the eating room (where Rizzio was killed) of Mary Queen of Scots also her bedroom dressing room +c also the picture gallery with 106 of Scotland kings. They are not beautiful but ancient The Tapestry is still hanging in the rooms and is splendid The Chapel though in ruins shows that it was elegant Under the east window is where Queen Mary promised to marry Lord Darnley We also saw the place where Lord Darnley was blown up by (it is supposed) Bothwell who Mary afterwards married We also saw Knox house sat in his chair saw ancient thumb screws also a machine for putting on the head of scolding woman though the woman who acts as guide assured me that it would easily fit a mans head. The knockers on the door were curious I will try and remember them I am sick + tired + will stop

Thursday July 25th/78

We spent the day mostly with Mr ^J. T. Robeson US Consul and he is jolly sure We have visited most places of interest except the castle and now go there with Robsen. There is not so much of interest as in Holyrood or Stirling. Neither are the old buildings as elaborate as in those

Friday July 26

Melrose Abbey founded by David 1st 1136 + consecrated in 1140 Saw an ancient kneeling stone with 4 Horse shoes cut in back side also saw the grave of Michael Scott (the wizard) in Scotts Lay of the last minstrel from the Abbey we went to Abbotsford the residence of Walter Scott It is a pleasant ride of 4 miles from Melrose and a beautiful place It is finished mostly after ancient architecture on the inside and is full of antiquities of every description + is decidedly the prettiest place we have yet seen we will leave here at 11³⁰ for London and expect to arrive about 10³⁰ this evening The ruins of this country are all very much alike Have just recd the delightfull intelligence that there has been a smash up South of here and its uncertain when we will get away from here we waited 3 hours and then started for London which we reached at 12 o'clock at night

Saturday July 27th

We done very little to day except write our letters and visit with the Piersons which we met at the United Hotel I thought surely I would get some word from Alex but did not and only one letter from home took at walk in the afternoon

and brought up at the Theatre Carrington The play was splendid and we had the pleasure of seeing the Prince + Princess of Wales their two little boys also the Duke of Connaught the Princes brother who is soon to be married to a German Princess It was purely an accident our seeing the Royalty after the Theatre we went to the Imperial Hotel with our Liverpool friends and took a glass of Stout together

Sunday July 28th

We went to Westminster Abbey to hear Bishop Cox of America we also went around by Buckingham Pallace and through St James Park also went by the Parliament buildings +c Then Sam went to our Hotel with the Piersons + I went down to the Imperial to call on Miss Lake + Miss Bushnell had a very pleasant visit with them also with our Liverpool friends the ladies leave for Paris in the morning In the evening Mr Whipple + myself took a walk in the Haymarket + surroundings which we enjoyed to the fullest extent XXXXXXXX

Monday July 29

We started out this morning for the Tower Bank +c It being a free day at the Tower we concluded to visit that at another time We went to the Bank presented my letter to Mr Charles Rose and was shown through the Bank It is an immense institution we have had millions in our hands + saw many millions more in Gold Bars and coins We visit the Argyle Rooms in the evening and see the Demi Monde in all their finery some are very pretty and very stylish. all are stylish but not all pretty. They wont refuse Wine + many drink Whiskey Brandy +c

Tuesday 30 July

visit Westminster Abbey saw the Great Charter of Edward the Confessor dated 1065 and many other old manuscripts to numerous to mention The nobility have always been buried here we have seen them all and they are all in one portion of the Church We spent the forenoon at the Tower and were escorted through at at 2¹⁴ gait though I presume it is just as well we saw all that is usually shown ^ including the Crown Jewels One gets very tired looking so steady at the many things there is to see There is so many interesting things in the Abbey for it is there that the best or greatest of Great Britain lies buried since a very early period One portion of the Abbey is used exclusively for those of the best blood. I have met Mr Peck. Mr Doughty. + Mr Wisner of Saginaw The two former have engaged rooms with us for one week We have Passes to the House of Commons and so take our way in that direction to be on hand at five o'clock PM + after waiting three hours became disgusted + went home and to theatre to hear Irving in Bills

Wednesday July 31st/78

British Museum saw Cedar of Lebanon 3000-years old + saw Lower half of Statue of Lucius Verus erected before

R. J. Whaley's 1878 Trip to Europe (Continued)

the year 161 Book of Genesis + Exodus dated 461 in Hyroglifics The Library contains over a million volumes I did not examine them all we three go to Hyde Park an Kensington Gardens. Museums +c see the Albert Memorial also Memorial Hall opposite which seats 14000 people The Museum is very extensive I have seen so much old stuff to day that I am sick The State carriage of the Lord Chamberlain of Ireland in 1780 Its carving also the same of England the carving is very fine also furniture of that date carved Oak bedstead dated 1593 fine work also one of 1490 saw Cypress wood chest of 1350 finely carved

Thursday Aug 1st/78

Windsor Castle. The Albert Memorial Chapel is the most beautiful we have seen the mosaic work is very fair and the sides and floor are beautifully inlaid with all kinds of stones saw the date of one tower 1583. we now go to the State department and present our passes Audience Room. Tapestry made in 1785. Presence Chamber Tapestry made in Rome 1783 + 4 Guard chamber ornamented with all kind of guns placed in every position It has the Elephant carriages also cannon taken the Spanish Armada the guns are Waterloo guns next the Banqueting Hall (St George Hall) It is lined with Pictures of the Royalty

Grand Reception Room The floor is of polished oak and the tapestry is elegant ^the Hall was Decorated in the time George 4th next is the Throne Room the Queen chair is at one end of the room the painting are splendid next Ante Throne Room next the Rubens Room the paintings are all by him everything is beautiful The tapestry is red silk the ceiling was decorated in the time of George 4th next State Ante Room nothing special except the tapestry formerly dining room of Charles the 2nd next is the Zuccarelli Room paintings all by him Tapestry in time of William the 4th next the Vandyke Room the paintings are all by him Tapestry red silks as before The St George chapel is the most ancient of all the buildings + is now being restored taken all together it is immense + now for the Royal Stables where we see the private carriages + horses of the Queen about 60 in number They are all Gray color in first stable 2 sorrel stallions given by Victor Emanuel of Italy saw the place where the Royal family learn to ride Then comes the saddle horses Saw old horses of Prince Albert 30 ^years old – 30 – also Scotch horse very old a favorite of the Queen which she used to ride over 30 years old and long hair next comes the Harness + Saddle room It is fine and everything looks devine next carriages one given by Louis Phillipe of France to Prince consort next is Bay carriage horses The Queen always uses Gray horses for her private driving what an immense establishment and to think there is four of these kept up for the Queens benefit= Buckingham. Orsbern. Balmoral + Windsor the Prince Consort was burried at Frogmore about a mile from Windsor castle Doughty and myself go out this evening

Friday Aug 2d/78

I have discovered that Benj Franklin lived across the street at one time at No 7 Craven St

Monday Aug 5th/78

This is what they call a Bank Holyday I am to get my rings and watch at 8PM started for Paris But I did not get neither the rings nor watch and the rest went on to Paris and I wait untill tomorrow

Tuesday Aug 6th/78

I went to see about my watch and rings they said I should have them at 12 oclock + at 12 oclock they said I should have them at 4 PM I have been in the National galery for three hours and I am tierd of looking at paintings Brown + wife came to our Lodging house yesterday morning I have not seen much of them for we are sightseeing all the time they go from here to Antwept and then through Switzerland + Italy I dont expect to see them again

Wednesday Aug 7th/78

I arrived in Dieppe at 6³⁰ this morning and as our train did not leave untill 10 oclock I took a walk about town we went first to the market + then to the cathedral which we found looking very old but of the same architecture as those we have seen before the town is all French and for the first time I feel like being in a strange land I got to Paris at 2 oclock PM and found all the Cabs on a strike and it was hard to get any one to take me to Mm Desailly but I finally got there and then I could not talk but finally a Mr Frank from Germany came in and acted as interpreter and took me out for something to eat brought me back and I am now waiting for Mr Doughty and Sam who are to be here at 8 o'clock PM but to think of the great mass of human beings that are constantly going by and not one that I can talk to. Even the girl who acts as porter I am sitting with at the front door but she cant talk to me Boys came in at 8 oclock + we all took a cab and drove through the principle Boulevards and Champs Elysees which are the most beautiful street I ever saw. and so brilliantly lighted of course we occasionally stoped at a Cafe for our wine and at one oclock in the morning everything was lively as at 9 in the evening in our country

Thursday Aug 8th/78

Louis called for me at 10 oclock we went out for lunch and then we started for the Exhibition and now I will stop for there is to much to write about

R. J.'s adventures in Paris and travels through Europe continues in the next edition of *The Whaley Gazette*.

President's Letter

Greetings,

Christmas is right over the horizon and plans are underway to transform the House for the holidays. The theme this year is "Christmas Carols." Ruth Pullen, our Christmas meister, has the decorations planned for each room but we need some "elves" to help. Great skill is not needed; Ruth is a great mentor. If you would like to volunteer for one of our decoration work sessions, please contact Andy at the House for dates and times. Also mark the Saturday after Thanksgiving on your calendars as the day we put up the tree and make sure everything is in place! We also enjoy a great potluck afterward.

Our new Board is busy at work with fundraising projects under Dave Barkey's leadership. Our first event will be a spaghetti dinner at St. Paul's Episcopal Church (the Whaleys' Church) on January 23. We always need volunteers and encourage you to bring family and friends to the event. Also on the drawing board is a Restoration Workshop featuring "how to" demonstrations, vendors, and speakers. Also under consideration are Texas Hold'em nights--similar duties as working at Bingo. If you would like to help us with these activities, contact Andy at the House.

Have a Happy Hallowe'en but don't eat too much of the candy. Thanksgiving and Christmas are coming.

Sally Jaeger, President
Whaley Historical House Association

Nineteenth Century Trivia

During the World's Columbian Exhibition held at Chicago in 1893, engineer George Ferris introduced the first Ferris Wheel. The Ferris Wheel was constructed to be an American response to Gustave Eiffel's Tower built for the 1889 Universal Exhibition hosted in Paris. A massive structure, the Ferris Wheel had nearly 1,500,000 riders during its run from May through October, 1893. The Wheel had 36 cars and towered 250 feet over the Fair's midway.

About how many people could fit into each car?

- A. 5
- B. 14
- C. 36
- D. 60

Answer in the next edition of *The Whaley Gazette*.

Calendar of Events

November

Guided Tours - Sundays 1 pm to 4 pm, and Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 am and 3 pm
Explore the museum and discover the contributions of the Whaley family to their community.

Fall Volunteer Meeting - 11/8 - 10 am to 12 pm
Join your fellow volunteers to hear what is happening at the museum and learn more about the Whaley family. Meeting theme: Be Prepared! Potluck lunch following the meeting. *As always, new volunteers are invited to attend!*

Christmas at Whaley House Museum Decorating Day - 11/29 - 9 am to 5 pm
Join us to decorate the Christmas tree and finish decorating the museum. Bring a dish to pass for our lunchtime potluck!

Christmas at Whaley House Museum - 11/30 - 1 pm to 4 pm
Kick off the holiday season with a visit to the Whaley House Museum and see the work of area florists and museum volunteers.

December

**Friends of Whaley House Museum
2008 Holiday Reception
12/1 - 4 pm to 7 pm**

**Christmas at Whaley House Museum -
12/5, 12/6, 12/7 - 1 pm to 4 pm**

**Christmas at Whaley House Museum -
12/12, 12/13, 12/14 - 1 pm to 4 pm**

**Christmas at Whaley House Museum -
12/19, 12/20, 12/21 - 1 pm to 4 pm**

January

**New Year's Day at Whaley House Museum -
1/1 - 1 pm to 4 pm**
See how the Victorians spent their New Year's Day at Whaley House Museum's first ever Calling Day.

**Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser -
1/23 - 4 pm to 7 pm**
Join us at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Flint for a spaghetti dinner to raise funds for Whaley House Museum.

WHALEY HOUSE MUSEUM

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Join us Friday, January 23, 2009

from 4 pm to 7 pm at

St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Flint

for a spaghetti dinner fundraiser to support

Whaley House Museum.

Enjoy dinner, a tour of St. Paul's, and discover

the Whaleys' important connection to

one of Flint's oldest churches.