WILLIAM CUSHING WHITRIDGE

An eminent physician, whose familiar figure is fresh in the memory of many who are yet living, was born in Tiverton, R. I., November 25, 1784, and died in New Bedford, Mass., December 28, 1857, in the 74th year of his age. His father was a distinguished physician in his day, as was also his two brothers, Dr. Joshua R. Whitridge (Class of 1811) of Charleston, S. C., and Dr. John Whitridge (Class of 1818) of Baltimore, Md.

Dr. Whitridge entered Brown University in 1800, but subsequently went to Union College, Schenectady, N. Y., where he graduated with distinction in 1804. He entered at once as a pupil in his father's office and attended one full course of lectures at Harvard University. He did not, however, take a medical degree, and in 1847 received from Harvard the honorary title of Doctor of Medicine. He began active practice at Tiverton, R. I., and continued to labor there with success until 1822, when he removed to New Bedford. Here he toiled in a widening circle of professional occupations until his death bore him from the scene of his labors. His personal appearance was highly prepossessing, and his manners were simple and unaffected. He possessed a quick and ready perception, a rare faculty of analysis, and a remarkable facility in the attainment of useful and important facts bearing on his profession. The public confidence in his skill as a physician was very great, and it is said that at the time of his death he had the largest consultation practice in New Bedford. Dr. Whitridge was frequently delegated by the Massachusetts Medical Society to attend the sessions of the American Medical Association, and was present at those of Boston and New York.

FROM History of New Bedford, Mass. p. 568
Leonard Bolles Ellis
D. Mason & Co.
Syracuse 1892.
Dr. William C. Whitridge, New Bedford, Mass., ---26, ae. ---
"The demise of the venerable Dr. Whitridge, which took place at his residence in this city, from an attack of erysipelas, will be deplored by a wide circle among us as the loss of an intelligent and estimable personal friend— one whose heart ever responded with generous sympathy alike to their weal and woe in life. In a professional career extending through a period of half a century, Dr. W. has ever deservedly maintained a high reputation for medical skill, both with the public generally and the members of the faculty with whom he has been associated, one of the latter of whom very recently assured that during the last 25 years scarcely a single week had passed in which he had not consulted with him upon cases occurring in their medical practice. As a man, he was honored and esteemed by all; as a physician, he was valued and respected; and, as a kind friend and benefactor, he was liberal and sincere. 'Oft to relieve the wretched was his pride;'
and freely were his valuable professional services rendered, until his last illness, to the poor and needy as to those upon whom fortune had lavished its ampler bounty. The loss which the community has sustained in the departure of such a man, although in the fullness of his years, will not speedily be obliterated."—New Bedford Mercury.

Annual Obituary Notices
Crosby Vol. I 1857
**UNION COLLEGE ALUMNI RECORD**

1. Name in full: **William C. Whitridge**  
   Class: **1804**

2. Born on:  
   (Give date and place in full)  
   **November 25, 1784, Tiverton, Rhode Island**

3. Residences before entering college:  
   **Tiverton, R.I.**

4. Prepared for college at:  
   (If entering from another college, so state)  
   Course:

5. Entered:  
   (Give year, month and class if not freshman)  
   **1804**

6. Left college:  
   (Give approximate time of leaving)  
   **1804**

7. College life:  
   Under each head state kind of activity, any offices held, and college year in which active or held office, thus: (1) freshman, (2) sophomore, (3) junior, (4) senior.
   a. Athletic teams (class or varsity).
   b. Other activities (member or officer debating team, musical or dramatic association, press club, Concordian or Garnet boards, etc.)
   c. Fraternity, literary or social organizations of which a member.
   d. Class offices.
   e. College prizes and honors.

8. Study at other institutions after leaving Union (how long and where)

9. Degrees (with institutions granting them and dates):  
   **Honorary degree of M.D. Harvard, 1847**

10. Class reunions attended.

11. Commencements attended.

12. College reunions and dinners attended.

13. Member of:  
   (alumni association if officer state office and date held)

14. Postgraduate office held in class or college organization (member or officer Graduate Council, Trustee of Union, class president or secretary, etc.)

15. Relatives (own or wife's) at Union (name, relationship, and class):  
   **Joshua Barker Whitridge, brother. John Whitridge, brother, Gustavus Rodolphus Whitridge, nephew, son of Joshua B.**

16. Parents' names in full (with country of ancestry, college, occupation, residence, date of birth and death, and other important facts.)
   b. Mother: **Leah Cushing born July 21, 1753. died at Tiverton, March 17, 1846.**

17. Brothers and sisters: (name, date of birth and death, college if other than Union)  
   **Nancy Whitridge, b. Tiverton Oct. 22, 1783; died Jan. 31, 1856. Polly Whitridge, b. Tiverton Dec. 29, 1785; m. Samuel West of New Bedford.**

18. Married:  
   (name of wife, date and place of marriage; if wife dead, date of death)

19. Children (name, date of birth, college, if other than Union)  
   **Wm. Whitridge, Horeto L. Whitridge, merchant.**

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*(Further details not transcribed due to limited space)*
20. Business and professional career, business or professional connections and positions held. (Give each in order with dates when held and place.) Practised medicine for a short time at Little Compton, R.I., and had an extensive practice from about 1822 until his death in 1857 at New Bedford, Mass., where he was known as the "beloved physician".

21. Public positions held in civil life (with dates.) (Include such positions as trustee, director, vestryman, etc.)

22. Military history and titles (with dates.) (If in army or navy, enter under 20.)

23. Professional and scientific organizations of which a member.

24. Social, civic, and literary organizations of which a member.

25. Literary productions (with date of publication and name of publisher).

26. Religious denomination: Unitarian

27. Political preference.

28. Recreations...

29. Other facts or remarks.

Place of death: Died at his home, County & Elm Sts., New Bedford, Mass.

Date of Death: December 23, 1857.

30. Addresses; residential, (a), business (b), with (c) dates when occupied. (Check the address to which mail should be sent.)

a. b. c.
a.
b.
c.
a.
b.
c.
a.
b.
c.
a.
b.
c.
a. d.
b.
c.

Forwarding address, by which can always be reached.


Use these reference letters in checking any information given above and add date; thus A 5/19/26—information furnished by self May 19, 1926. Use extra pages if necessary, numbering answers to correspond with numbers of questions on sheets. Answer all questions noting any you might not wish published.
17. Answered in full—only in part on form

Nancy Whitridge, born October 22, 1783, at Tiverton, R.I.
   Died Jan. 31, 1856

Polly Whitridge, born December 28, 1765 at Tiverton, R.I.
   Married Samuel West of New Bedford

Joshua Barker Whitridge, born March 14, 1789, at Tiverton, R.I.
   Died April 12, 1865

John Whitridge, born March 23, 1793, died

Ruth Whitridge, born January 15, 1795, died April 12, 1846
   Married Charles Cushing of Dorchester, Mass.

Deborah Whitridge, born Jan. 28, 1797, died Nov. 15, 1821
   at Tiverton, R.I.

Lucy Whitridge, born August 27, 1799, married John W. Shaw

Thomas Whitridge, January 2, 1802
   Died at Tivertonia
   Baltimore County, Md.
   October 27, 1833

Polly, Joshua B., and Elizabeth who died in infancy.

18. Married his cousin Olivia Cushing of South Berwick, Me.
   September 20, 1813. She was born in Boston
   February 20, 1783. Died at the home of
   her daughter, Mrs. Isaac Cook, South Natick, Mass.
January 24th 1931

J.R. Brown Jr Esq., Chairman,
#27 W. Erie St.,
Albany, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Brown:-

In further reply to your letter of December 22nd
I am enclosing data about my grandfather, Dr. John Whitridge of
Baltimore, and my great Uncle, Dr. William Cushing Whitridge of
New Bedford Mass. I do not suppose you want a photograph of the
latter but if you should, Mrs Edward Shoemaker, #1031 North Calvert
St. advises me she will be glad to furnish same. The old homestead
at Tiverton, R.I. where these two fine men were born is still in the
family, in my possession. Dr. William Cushing Whitridge was a very
fine man and doctor. In the old graveyard at New Bedford stands a
monument marked "The Beloved Physician" erected after his death by his
patients in his memory. I never knew him but in my early days when I
visited New Bedford, some of the old people there told me what a
dear and remarkable man he was. At the old homestead is a much delapidated picture of Eliphalet Knott. I understand he was one time President
of Union College, and a famous educator, am I correct?

Any further information I shall be glad to give you if I can do so.

Very sincerely yours,

Morris Whitridge.
May 14, 1963

Mr. Morris T. Raymond
Devil's Garden Road
South Norwalk, Conn.

Dear Mr. Raymond:

After checking our records, here is the information you requested in your May 1 letter.

1. A list of the living members (and their addresses) of the Class of 1905 is attached.

2. We are addressing Carl Otto von Danenberg '06, at 95 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn 36, N.Y.

3. Yes, you are correct with regard to John Bigelow, LL.D. Doctor Bigelow, A.B., Union 1835, was U.S. Consul to France from 1861-64 and U.S. Minister to France from 1864-67.

4. As you probably know, Joshua Barker Whitridge was born March 14, 1789, in Tiverton, R.I., to William and Mary (Cushing) Whitridge. As you state, he received his A.B. degree from Union College in July 1811 and his medical degree from Harvard in 1815. An autobiographical sketch published in Charleston, S.C., states he received an A.M. degree from Union in 1816. Our records do not substantiate this nor do they mention that he returned to Union in an official capacity. After graduating from Union he studied medicine and the collateral branches with his father and at Harvard University. He practiced medicine and surgery in the U.S. Army from December 1812 to a period subsequent to the war - was one of the retained officers on the medical staff - resigned his commission July 1815. December 1815 went to Charleston, S.C. and engaged in the practice of all branches of his profession. Married the former Miss Hannah Haskell.

In March 1846 Dr. Whitridge retired from his professional duties and moved to his plantation "Rose Bank", Wadmalaw Island, south of Charleston, S.C., where he engaged in fine Sea-Island Cotton planting.

Joshua Whitridge was the author of several literary and scientific works. He was an Honorary Member of the Rhode Island Medical Society 1835; Honorary Member of the Massachusetts Medical Society 1836; Corresponding Member of the Rhode Island Society of Natural History 1837, elected twice Vice President and twice President of the Medical Society of South Carolina and received an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Medicine, ad eundem, from the University of the State of New York 1846, etc., etc.
Mr. Morris T. Raymond

May 14, 1963

His oldest son, Gustavus R. Whitridge graduated from Union in 1850 with an A.B. degree and New York Law in 1853. His son, Alonzo C. Whitridge also graduated from Union in 1858 with an A.B. degree and became an M.D.

Two brothers of Joshua Whitridge were also alumni of Union – William Cushing Whitridge, A.B., Union 1864, Honorary Doctor of Medicine, Harvard 1847 and John Whitridge, A.B. Union 1816, M.D. Harvard 1819.

We hope the above will be of help to you in your quest for information about your wife's grandfather, Joshua Whitridge.

Sincerely,

Henry J. Swanker
Director of Alumni Relations.

Enc.
February 28, 1931

Mr. J. P. Brown Jr.
27 W. Erie Street
Alhambra, Calif.

My dear Mr. Brown,

I am sending you under separate cover—a photograph of my great-grandfather, who was a photograph of a portrait now owned by yours.
Grandson William S. Whitridge of Baltimore

My cousin from Whitridge if you would like to have the photograph

Sincerely yours,

Elizabeth T. H. Shoemaker
1804   William Cushing Whitridge

Union A. B. 1804
Harvard Medical M.D. 1847
Died 1861

Harvard University
Quinquennial Catalogue
Officers & Graduates
1636-1925