

Judge Robert Whyte  
January 6, 1767 – November 12, 1844

Section 5 # 50029

Robert White was born on January 6, 1767, in Wigtonshire, Scotland, eldest son of William White, tenant farmer on lands belonging to Lord Galloway. In 1782 Robert graduated from the University of Edinburgh. Two years later he left Scotland and journeyed to America. For the next three years he was a Professor of Languages at William and Mary College, Williamsburg, Virginia, before moving to North Carolina to study law. He married Phereby Glasgow, daughter of Colonel James Glasgow who was Secretary of State in North Carolina. They moved to Nashville in 1802 where he set up his law practice. About the same time, he changed to the spelling of his name to “Whyte.” The couple had nine children.

Robert Whyte was appointed by Governor McMinn to serve as Judge of the Supreme Court of Errors and Appeals. He held this position from 1816-1834.

In Nashville, he was a member of the Masonic Lodge and the St. Andrew’s Society. He was a longtime member of the Baptist Church. He died on November 12, 1844, at 77 years and 10 months. His funeral was preached by Rev. R.C.B. Howell at the Baptist Church. He was buried with Masonic honors at City Cemetery. The Masonic Brethren and members of St. Andrew’s Society were present. There is an impressive inscription on his monument which ended with these words: “His course of life gave evidence of the depth and sincerity of his belief and its calm and peaceful close proved that life had lost its sting.”

His wife Phereby Whyte purchased a City Cemetery lot on January 15, 1845. On this lot today will be seen the large monument for Judge Whyte, a box tomb for their daughter Phereby S. Whyte Bedford, who died in 1814, aged 17 years, only married for one year to Benjamin S. Bedford and a small box tomb William W. Bedford, one year old son of Benjamin S. Bedford by his second wife Martha. There is also an illegible tombstone which is probably for Phereby Glasgow Whyte, who died, at age 90, and was buried on the family lot on March 19, 1855, according to the City Cemetery Interment records. Her will was probated in Davidson County on December 12, 1855. She listed three grandchildren as her heirs.

#### Sources

Robert Whyte Papers (1767-1844). TSLA  
Obituary. *The Whig*, November 16 & 21, 1844. Judge Robert Whyte  
Marriage Davidson County, TN. Dec. 8, 1813. Benjamin Bedford & Feribe White (sic)  
Inscription on Monument. Judge Robert Whyte. City Cemetery website  
City Interment. March 19, 1855. Mrs. Fernaby White (sic) City Cemetery website  
Davidson County, TN. Wills. Recorded December 12, 1855. Phereby Whyte

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