

= Robert White (Virginia physician) =

Robert White (1688 ? 1752) was an early American physician , military officer , pioneer , and planter in the Colony of Virginia .

White was born in Scotland , the son of John White , a physician practicing in Paisley , Renfrewshire . He studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh , and later served as a surgeon with the rank of captain in the Royal Navy of the Kingdom of Great Britain . He relocated to the Thirteen Colonies between 1720 and 1730 , first to Delaware , then Pennsylvania , and finally as a " pioneer settler " in present @-@ day Frederick County , Virginia between 1732 and 1735 . White was one of two physicians practicing in Frederick County , and conducted his practice from his residence near Great North Mountain . White was part of a larger wave of Scottish physicians who settled in Virginia prior to the American Revolutionary War .

White was the progenitor of the White political family of Virginia and West Virginia . He was the father of Alexander White (1738 ? 1804) , United States House Representative , and the grandfather of Virginia judge Robert White (1759 ? 1831) and United States House Representative Francis White (1761 ? 1826) .

= = Early life and education = =

Robert White was born in Scotland in 1688 . He was the son of John White , a physician practicing in Paisley , Renfrewshire who died in 1742 . White 's lineage was of both Scottish and English origins , descending from Covenanters , a Scottish Presbyterian movement during the 17th century . He studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh in Edinburgh , Scotland , and graduated with a Doctor of Medicine degree from the institution .

= = Royal Navy service = =

Following the completion of his education , White served as a surgeon with the rank of captain in the Royal Navy of the Kingdom of Great Britain . While it is not known for certain why White resigned his commission , White family tradition held that he left the Royal Navy after he engaged in a duel with another officer .

= = Arrival in America = =

White was the first member of his family to travel to and reside in America . Between 1720 and 1730 , White arrived in the British Colonies where he visited his uncle William Hoge (an ancestor of United States House of Representatives member John Blair Hoge) residing in Delaware Colony . White fell in love with Hoge 's eldest daughter Margaret and he married her in Delaware Colony . White 's marriage to Margaret was likely the cause of his resignation from the Royal Navy . He and Margaret , along with her father William Hoge , relocated near York , Pennsylvania where White erected a residence he named " White Hall " after his family 's ancestral home in Scotland .

= = Settlement in Virginia = =

From York , White relocated between 1732 and 1735 as a " pioneer settler " to a stream along Great North Mountain near Winchester in Orange County , Virginia (later included as part of Frederick County following its 1738 creation) , where he established a plantation . During this move to Virginia , White was accompanied by his elderly father @-@ in @-@ law William Hoge , who settled three miles south of Winchester on Opequon Creek . White was one of the earlier pioneer settlers of Frederick County . White and Hoge , along with other families , established the Opequon Meeting House , the oldest Presbyterian congregation formed west of the Blue Ridge Mountains .

White " staked out " his farm between 1732 and 1735 consisting of 375 acres (152 ha) along Hogue Creek , south of the present @-@ day unincorporated community of Hayfield , Virginia along

U.S. Route 50 . White 's land tract was surveyed by John Mauzy on April 22 , 1751 , and he was issued a formal land grant from Thomas Fairfax , 6th Lord Fairfax of Cameron on November 15 , 1754 . Mauzy 's survey stated that White had been residing on the land tract since at least 1751 . White established his permanent residence on this land grant , which became the ancestral home of the White family of Virginia and West Virginia .

White was one of two physicians practicing in Frederick County along with Daniel Hart (died about 1748) . White practiced from his residence near Great North Mountain , and one of his more notable patients was Colonel James Wood , founder of Winchester , Virginia . White 's son Alexander married Wood 's daughter , Elizabeth Wood . White was part a larger wave of Scottish physicians who settled in Virginia prior to the American Revolutionary War . White 's alma mater , the University of Edinburgh , was a leading center of medical education and research , and the school trained more physicians than were needed in Scotland . Unlike White , the majority of Scottish physicians practiced in the main centers of population in the colonial port cities .

= = Later life and death = =

White died in 1752 at the age of 64 and was interred in the eastern corner of the Old Opequon Cemetery at the Opequon Presbyterian Church in Kernstown , 3 miles (4 @.@ 8 km) south of Winchester . By 1855 , a tree was located at White 's burial site in the eastern corner of the cemetery , and the same tree remained at his burial site in 1891 . White was survived by his three sons , Robert , Alexander , and John , and his wife . His son , Dr. Robert White , Jr . , inherited the White family farm following White 's death .

= = Marriage and children = =

White married Margaret Hoge , the eldest daughter of his uncle William Hoge and his wife , Barbara Hume . White and his wife , Margaret , had at least eight children together :