

Chapter IV

McKEES OF RUSHVILLE, ILLINOIS

DESCENDANTS OF THOMAS MCKEE OF MCKEE'S HALF FALLS, SON OF ALEXANDER
MCKEE, VETERAN OF THE BATTLE OF THE BOYNE

IN 1690 the Battle of the Boyne was fought near Drogheda north of Dublin, the latter more correctly named in Gaelic Baile Atha Cliath, that is *the town of the ford of the hurdles*. The two opposing armies were those of James II of England and William of Orange, who had invaded the realm from Holland on the express petition of a substantial portion of the English nobility who were convinced their rights and liberties under the capricious James Stuart were otherwise irretrievable. It seems highly probable that a great many Mackays were under arms for the Prince of Orange, but as no muster roles are available the number and their antecedents will ever remain unknown to us.

Genealogy that rests wholly on tradition is of dubious value, but an exception occurs when the tradition in question repeats itself often, and comes from several widely separated sources. Of this variety is the tradition that four McKee brothers landed in Ireland with Prince William's army, fought at the Boyne, then settled in North Ireland except the one who returned to England. Repeatedly, McKees residing in Ireland, and others occasionally in America, have written me that their family traces its descent to one of these brothers. The closest to documentation of this claim that the present author has discovered is contained in *David McKee and Descendants* mentioned above. Although it scarcely needs documentation, in view of the diffusion of the tradition among so many McKee families, we may benefit from noting just what Professor James Y. McKee, author of that volume, a man of considerable erudition and probity, found concerning it.

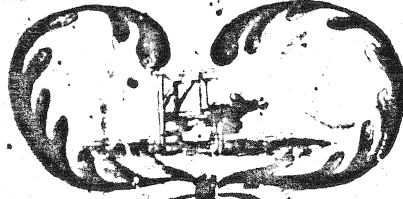
In his Preface, Professor McKee remarks that twenty-seven years earlier he had discussed family origins with Joseph G. McKee, and had been surprised at the paucity of his own information concerning his antecedents. This incident seems to have set him on his course of research. The important point is that he mentions an earlier visit to Ireland by Joseph G. McKee, at which time the latter compiled a Family Tree that disappeared after his death. The dates work out about thus :

1. The volume *David McKee and Descendants* was published in 1892.
2. Its author died December 24, 1891.
3. His conversation occurred 27 years earlier than when he wrote his Preface, which dates it during the Civil War in 1864.
4. We might conjecture, then, that Joseph G. McKee's visit to Ireland occurred around 1860, or even earlier.

Professor McKee indicates that information almost at once commenced to flow in, by the following comment : " One and another, however, in Ireland and in America, contributed facts and hints as to where facts might be found, till that which seemed only a stump,



William McKee
Born
Jan 11
1794



Catherine McKee
Born
May 10
1794



William McKee
and
Catherine McKee, Married
Sept 7 1814

Harriet McKee
Born Aug 1 1815
Died
Sept 11 1819

Elizabeth McKee
Born Sept 1 1818
Married
Zachariah Sprigg
July 1854

William McKee
Born Jan 22
1810

Catherine McKee
Born Feb 11 1817
Married
Jos. Tuller

Marcus McKee
Born Dec 7 1814
Married Philip Horn
Aug.

Henry McKee
Born Dec 20 1821
Married
Harriet Stratton 22 Jan
1843

James McKee
Born Oct 10 1809
Died
Dec 10 1841

Mary McKee
Born Oct 8 1816
Married
William Price
March 16

Harriet McKee
and Aug 21 1814
William Mays McKee
Died April 21 1845

Agnes McKee
Born Dec 6 1811
Married Rev. Harlan
Whitcomb 21 Jan
1843

Agnes McKee
Born
Aug 10

Amelia and Clara McKee
Born
August 14 1820
Amanda McKee
Charles McKee
March 18 1841

EARLY MCKEE FAMILY TREE OF RUSHVILLE SEPT.

a trunk with a few stubby branches, became a well-developed tree whose every branch is spreading vigorously and symmetrically”.

He then opens his first chapter by asserting, “ the first real knowledge we have of the McKees dates from over two hundred years ago, when four brothers bearing that name left Scotland for bonnie England. There they soon joined the army of William, Prince of Orange, and shortly afterwards, in 1690, we find them, with the rest of the army, in the northern part of Ireland ”. He did not indicate whether he possessed documentation for this statement.

Professor McKee does not say that they fought at the Battle of the Boyne, but in the first place they would have had no choice about it since the sole reason for Prince William’s landing was to engage King James’ forces, and in the second place several correspondents have written to the present author from Ireland to confirm that their ancestor fought at the Boyne, *and was one of the four brothers*.

Nor does he conjecture the names of the four brothers, but these might almost be deduced by observing and applying the method Scottish Presbyterians and Covenanters employed in naming their progeny. The first son was usually named for his father’s father, and the second for his own father. From the list that Professor McKee supplies, the names of the four brothers might be postulated as follows :

Alexander McKee, who settled in Antrim,
 Hugh McKee, who settled in Lisban,
 David McKee, returned to England with William of Orange,
 John McKee, who settled in the Ards.

Actually, we need not postulate Alexander McKee, because considerable documentary evidence already attests to *his existence*, the approximate dates of his birth and demise, and the identity of at least one of his progeny, Thomas McKee of McKee’s Half Falls. Thomas’ ancestry is proudly claimed by two or three sets of supposed descendants, with flattering obeisance to his undiminished virility, and *the truth may be hard to prove*.

The genealogies given by Professor McKee that stem from Hugh McKee, who was himself a veteran of the Boyne, make it quite likely that *a James McKee* was the father of the four brothers, since Hugh named his first son James.

Professor McKee believed that the brother who settled in Antrim emigrated to Pennsylvania a short while later, perhaps during the 1735–38 exodus from Ulster, and that he and his sons became the progenitors of the *McKees of Virginia and Kentucky*, whose history was ably written by Major George Wilson McKee in the closing years of the nineteenth century, (J. B. Richards, Pittsburgh, Pa., 1891). This would be the *Battle of the Boyne veteran* Alexander McKee. It is known that Thomas McKee was his son, but although we are aware that he sired other children in Scotland, Ireland, or after he came to America, the scanty records are silent as to both their existence and possible identity. It is of course possible that he was also the father of the three who went to Virginia, Robert McKee, William McKee, and John McKee, since Professor James Y. McKee had found evidence to cause him to believe that their father was one of the four brothers who fought at the Boyne. We know that Hugh McKee was one of those brothers, and that Alexander McKee was another. We took a

long guess that the other two may have been named David and John. If the three Virginia pioneers *were not sons* of Alexander senior, then it seems reasonable to assume they were nephews. The Boyne legend is persistent in several genealogies that the author has read, a few of which are contained in the present volume ; and while "family legend" is naturally viewed askance by genealogists, it undeniably has a modicum of evidential value. But for yclept "family legend" it would have been impossible to have found the trails that led to this volume. The single circumstance which, if it stood unopposed, might weigh heavily against Alexander McKee senior having issue of other than the one boy, Thomas McKee of McKee's Half Falls, is that he mentioned only Thomas in his will. The will is dated May 27, 1735 ; the testator Alexander McKee died early in 1740, as the will was proven May 26, 1740.

Fortunately, the present author obtained a photostat of the will itself, rather than depend on excerpts supplied by the County Clerk's office. A careful consideration of the last paragraph compels us to an opposite conclusion, as its methodical and positive language leaves no room for doubt that there was an earlier will, which by the present will is "utterly" disallowed, revoked, and disannulled. There may have been more than one previous will, as he alludes to *testaments, wills, legacies, and executors*. In any event, it would have been wholly unnecessary and idle to "revoke, disallow, and disannul" previous documents *if they did not exist*, and to make specific reference to *legacies*.

The will was obviously penned by his son Thomas, who also witnessed it, as the handwriting is identical. It might be added that the signatures of the first two witnesses are also in a hand oddly similar to that of Thomas McKee. The circumstance that Thomas McKee, the sole heir, wrote the entire will also adds immeasurable weight to the conclusion that the carefully worded paragraph concerning revocation, disavowal ("disallowed"), and annulment was not an idle inclusion, because Thomas was in a position either to know or to ascertain whether earlier wills existed.

It is the present author's opinion that Alexander McKee *had other children*, who were for some reason *completely disinherited* by the will that made Thomas his sole heir.

A photostat of Alexander McKee's will dated May 27, 1735 is reproduced herein ; the original is at Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Will Book, Vol. A-1, p. 45. The exact text follows, for greater ease in reading :

In the name of God amen the twenty seventh Day of May in ye year of our Lord 1735 I Alexander McKee of Donegal in ye County of Lancaster Gentleman Being Very Sick and weak of Body but of perfect mind and memory Thanks be to God therefore calling unto mind ye Mortality of my Body and knowing that it is appointed For all men once to dye ; do make and ordain this my Last will and Testament that is to say principally and First of all I give and Recommend my Soul into ye Hands of God that gave it ; and for my Body : I Recommend it to ye Earth to be buried in a Christian Like and Decent manner at ye Discretion of my Executors nothing Doubting But at ye Generall Resurrection : I shall Receive ye same again By ye mighty power of God : and as touching such worldly Estate wherewith it heath pleased God to Bless me in this Life : I Give Devise and Dispose of ye same in ye Following manner and Form

Item : I give to my well Beloved Son Thomas McKee whom I Likewise Constitute make and ordain my only and sole Executor of this my Last will and Testament all my wordly Substance By him Freely to be possessed and Enjoyed by him his heirs and assigns Forever and I Do hereby uterly Disallow Revoke and disannul all and Every other Formal Testaments wills Legacies and Executors by me in any ways before this time named willed and Bequeathed

NANCY MCKEE

KEE

CATHERINE MCKEE
B. SPINSTER
DAUGHTER OF WHITE ELK

MARIE ANN MCKEE
B. 1796
M. THOMAS FREDERICK OF
IRELAND IN 1816.
WHITE ELK WAS HER
MOTHER

1770-D. 1814. M. IS AN INDIAN GIRL WHITE ELK.
SHE DIED JAN. 7, 1830. SEE ST. JOHN'S CHURCH RECORDS;
DEPUTY SGT. IN MILITARY; MEMBER PARLIAMENT
M. THOMAS FREDERICK ASKIN 4.17.1817

CHARLES W.
MCKEE

JAMES FRANCIS
MCKEE
B. 1790 D. 1808
DROWNED IN DETROIT
RIVER. SON OF
WHITE ELK

ANNETTE MCKEE
M. DR STANTON

CHARLES FREDERICK
MCKEE
B. 1.24.1834
SERVED IN H.M. CUSTOMS
BLAIR

EDWARD J. MCKEE

JANE PHYLLIS
MCKEE
6.24.1866 6.6.1935

ALEXANDER MCKEE
B. 1802 D. 1836
M. PHYLLIS JACOBS IN 1825
HIS MOTHER WAS THERESA ASKIN

THOMAS MCKEE
B. 1826 D. 1902
CO. CLERK OF ESSEX CO.
SANDWICH, ONT., CANADA
M. (1) ISABEL JOHNSTON
(2) MARY BAGER
(3) COLTON

ALEXANDER MCKEE

JAMES ARTHUR MCKEE
B. 1829 D. 1889
M. MISS ELIOT
REEVE OF
SANDWICH

ARABELLA
MCKEE
M. FRANK E. MAROON

ARTHUR
MCKEE

ELLEN
MCKEE

MARY MCKEE (RANKIN)
B. 1824 D. 1884
M. COL. ARTHUR RANKIN

GEORGE RANKIN
B. 1842 D.

ARABELLA
MCKEE
SPINSTER

ALEXANDER "CHICK" MCKEE
B. D. CA. 1935
MAYOR OF SANDWICH, ONT.

JIDO RANKIN
M. SIDNEY DREW
BROTHER OF
JOHN DREW

ARTHUR MCKEE RANKIN
B. D. 1914
M. KITTY BLANCHARD
D. 12. 1911

PHYLLIS MCKEE RANKIN
(DAVENPORT)
B. 8.30.1877 D. 11.19.1933
M. HARRY DAVENPORT
DISTINGUISHED ACTOR OF
STAGE AND SCREEN
B. 1.19.1866 D. 8.9.1949

EDWARD LINCOLN DAVENPORT
B. 10.18.1911

CATHERINE
DAVENPORT
B. 6.7.1855 D. 12.7.1954

CAROL VINING
DAVENPORT
B. 6.6.1940

ARTHUR RANKIN
DAVENPORT
B. 8.31.1896 D. 3.23.1947

ANN ETARL DAVENPORT
B. 3.23.1903

PHYLLIS GAIL
DAVENPORT
B. 9.30.1944

CATHERINE
MCKEE
M. GREYDON

UNK. UNIDENTIFIED.
SHE HAD SEVERAL CHILDREN, INCLUDING
NAMES

NEER MCKEE SUPERINTEN
DENT AT S. J. PROBABLY A
GIRL TO DETROIT THEN C
B. 1700-38 B. JAN. 5. 1798 AT S.
INDIAN GIRL
PORT TIT
B. 9.30.1944

EF

W BROTHER

COLONEL BLEEN
AFFAIRS AT FORT PITT
THE LATER MARRIAGE
FROM THE LATER
RE

CAPTAIN THOMAS MCKEE, OF MCKEE'S FORT, AT MCKEE'S HALF FALLS, PENNSYLV.
HE WAS BORN IN ANTRIM, NORTH IRELAND, CA. 1695, D. 1769, LEAVING SIX CHILDREN, NOT DEP.
HE HAD FASTED OR MARRIED A SHAWANOE GIRL SAID TO HAVE BEEN OF TECUMSEH'S FAMILY, NOT DEP.
HIS FAMOUS SON ALEXANDER. LATER, IT IS REPRESENTED, HE MARRIED A WHITE WOMAN
MARY, BUT THIS IS NOT DOCUMENTED, AND EVEN HER LAST NAME IS UNKNOWN.

JAMES MCKEE
B. CA. 1720-30 D. 1782
M. ELIZABETH

JAMES MCKEE, JR.
B. IN SNYDER CO. PENN. CA. 1740 D. 1810
M. SUSANNA NESBIT

MICHAEL RAYMOND MCKEE
B. 8. 17. 1948

DAVID JOEL MCKEE
B. 2. 24. 1951

JUDITH FRANCES MCKEE
B. 2. 11. 1953 D. 3. 8. 1953

RODERICK HUGH
O'NEILL MCKEE
B. 12. 31. 1954

DUNCAN HEREMON
MACAOIDH MCKEE
B. 3. 17. 1957

HUGA MCKEE
B. CA. 1720-30 D. MAY 1795
M. MARY NESBIT

WILLIAM MCKEE
B. 1. 11. 1782 D. 6. 11. 1851
M. CASSANDER FRANKS

JAMES MCKEE
B. CA. 1750 D. CA. 1830
M. AGNES DICKSON

HENRY MCKEE
B. 12. 13. 1821 D. 12. 3. 1880
M. MARY MOORE

CHARLES EDWARD MCKEE
B. 12. 14. 1872 D. 2. 18. 1924
M. SARAH ELLEN EPPERSON

RAYMOND WALTER MCKEE
B. 12. 24. 1899
M. FRANCES IDA HOWE

NDER
EE
D. 1740
AND
TERAN

CATHERINE MCKEE
B. 8.29.1829 D. 4.8.1867
M. ROBERT BRUCE GUTHRIE
B. 2.4.1822 D. Oct. 1874

MARIA
LOUISA
MCKEE
B. 5.2.1827

JOHN A. MCKEE
B. 1.31.1832

JAMES
THOMAS
MCKEE
B. 6.2.1834
BACHELOR

HELEN ELIZABETH
MCKEE
B. 6.2.1839
SPINSTER

SR. 1100 2 10-10 1831
JULY VOL. 4, P. 137
DATED 1.1.1834 PROBATED 6-14-1836
THIS JAMES MAY HAVE BEEN SON OF COL. ALEXANDER RAINIER
JOHN M.

THE WILL OF ALEXANDER
MCKEE, THE BOYNE VE TE RN,
DATED MAY 27, 1755, DEFINITELY
INDICATES THE EXISTENCE
OF OTHER UNIDENTIFIED
CHILDREN

Raymond W. McKee
Pasadena, California

ALEXA
MCKEE
B. ca. 1665
BORN IN SCOT
BOYNE VE

ELIZABETH MC

CATHERINE MCKEE
B. CA. 1780 D.
M. GEORGE ERMATINGER
18.3.1803, AN ENSIGN IN
2ND BATTALION OF ROYAL
CANADIAN VOLUNTEERS

HARRY C. MCKEE
MOTHER WAS A COLTON

ROBERT MCKEE

HESTER MCKEE

WILLIAM J. MCKEE

ALEXANDER JACOB MCKEE
MOVED TO CALIFORNIA

ELLEN PHYLLIS MCKEE
D. IN INFANCY

INDIAN AGENT FOR THE
BESTED, HANDED HIM TO THE
CROWN. MCKEE'S ROCKS BELONGED TO HIM.
ESTHERIE BEYU AGENT LOYAL TO THE CROWN.
MCKEE'S SON THOMAS RECEDED HIM TO THE CROWN.
MCKEE'S ROCKS BELONGED TO HIM.
HE DEPARTED 3.9.1718. SHE AND HIS SON THOMAS REMAINED LOYAL TO THE CROWN.
HE REMAINED LOYAL TO THE CROWN.
HE DEPARTED 3.9.1718. SHE AND HIS SON THOMAS REMAINED LOYAL TO THE CROWN.
HE REMAINED LOYAL TO THE CROWN.

JAMES MCKEE
JONES
MARIA
WISITTI
12.2.1812
M. JONES

ALEXANDER
ADDISON
MCKEE
B. 11.24.1828

THOMAS MCKEE
B. 1.10.1792
M. NANCY MATHEMS
(BORN 11.10.1798)
ON 1.20.1820

CATHERINE MCKEE
b. 15.1803 d. 11.1818
M. MCFADEN

JANE ANN
1800 d. 1800
M. BROCKE

SARAH MCKEE
B. 1794 D. 2.22.1857
M. DAVID
MCGUNNAGLE
(MCGUNNAGH)

MARGARET,
ELIZABETH,
SARAH, &
JAMES

ALEXANDER MCKEE
B. 12.9.1796 D. 2.3.1867
M. ELEANOR JONES
IN 1824

ANDREW
MCKEE
B. 3.6.1815

JUNE ANN
DAVENPORT
B. 4.24.1946

HARRY EDWARD
DAVENPORT
B. 1.12.1948

JAMES MCKEE OF MCKEE'S ROCKS. B. 1755 D. 6.10.18
M. ELIZABETH YEENER. B. 1769 D. JULY 1809

JOAN MCKEE
B. 1700 D. 11.1700

In the name of God Amen the twenty seventh Day of
 May in ye year of our Lord 1735 of Alexander McKee
 of Bonigab in ye County of Lancaster Gentleman Being
 very Sick and weak of Body but of perfect mind and
 Memory Thanks be to God therefore calling unto mind ye
 Mortality of my Body and knowing that it is appointed
 For all men once to dye; do make and ordain this my
 Last will and Testament that is to say principally and
 first of all I Give and Recommend my soul into ye
 Hands of God that Gave it; and for my Body: I com-
 mend it to ye Earth to be buried in a Christian like and
 Decent manner at ye Discretion of my Executors nothing
 Doubting but at ye Generall Resurrection I shall Receive
 same again by ye mighty power of God; and as touching
 such worldly Estate wherewith it hath pleased God to
 Bless me in this Life: I Give Devise and Dispose of ye same
 In ye following manner and Form

Item: I Give to my well beloved Son Thomas make whom
 I Likewise constitute make and ordain my only and sole
 Executor of this my Last will and Testament of my
 worldly Substance by him freely to be possessed and enjoyed
 by him his heirs and assigns forever and do hereby
 Disallow Revoke and disannul all and every other former
 Testaments wills Legacies and Executors by me in any
 ways before this time framed made and bequeathed
 Ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my Last
 will and Testament in witness whereof I have hereunto
 set my hand and seal ye Day and year above written

Alexander McKee

Signed sealed published pronounced and
 Declared by ye said _____ as
 his Last will and Testament in ye
 Presence of us ye Subscribers viz

John Mitchell
 James Chambers

Ag: Lovell
 Thomas McKee

Ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my Last Will and Testament in witness whereof I have hereunto Set my hand and seal ye Day and year above written.

Alex'r M'Kee

Signed sealed published pronounced and
Declared By ye said as
his Last will and Testament in ye Presence
of us ye Subscribers viz

John Mitchell
Samuel Chambers
Larey Lovey
Thomas McKee

As to the Boyne veteran whom we have conjectured to be named *John McKee* (previously Mackay) and who settled in the Ards, a northeastern extremity of Ireland also, Professor James Y. McKee has only this to say: "*where he has numerous descendants until this day*". It seems likely that this McKee brother lived out his years in north Ulster, although this is by no means certain. However, some of his children almost certainly emigrated to America.

Significantly, a John McKee died in August, 1777, in Logan Township, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, who could have been the Boyne veteran, although he would have had to be at least 102 years old at the time of his death to have been 15 in 1690. This is remotely possible, of course, as many of those leathery old Scot-Irish made longevity a family characteristic, but highly improbable.

The present author obtained a certified copy of this John McKee's will, which was dated August 3, 1777 and was probated September 1, 1777. It is will number 69, Will Book C, page 51. His wife's name was Isabella, and two sons and a daughter are mentioned in the will, as well as a grandson Benjamin. James McKee appears to have been the eldest son, as he was named an executor with one Joseph Brady; John was the younger son, and the daughter was Isabella. The grandson Benjamin is denoted as the son of James, and is left 82 acres of land. The author also has a copy of the will of this James McKee, dated December 9, 1794 and probated October 16, 1795, in which he makes reference to the land bequeathed to his son Benjamin by the lad's grandfather John McKee.

This family consisted of the following, but the author has failed to find the connection between it and the McKees of Virginia or Thomas McKee of McKee's Half Falls, although it undoubtedly existed in Ireland, and before that in Scotland. It is redundant of course to remind the reader that our family originated in Ireland, spent centuries in Scotland, then returned to the mother country just after, sad to relate, English persecution brought famine and sorrow upon them. The fighting Scot-Irish commenced to emigrate to America by the thousands early in the first half of the eighteenth century. Most of them passed through the port of Philadelphia, then settled somewhere within a hundred or so miles, in Pennsylvania. It is almost literally true that these men fought and won the American Revolution. Those who doubt this asseveration have only to review the rosters and pension rolls. A short-cut to the same conclusion can be had by noticing the townships: *Donegal, Londonderry, Antrim*, and so forth. They so loved the homeland of their ancestors, to which Scotland's oppressors forced them to return, that they brought dozens of local Irish topographical names with them. The map of Pennsylvania abounds with these Gaelic denominations, even down to such ancient words as Tyrone, Avondale, Bangor, Ben Avon, Castle Shannon, Duncannon,

Antram, and so forth. A bit of the ould sod was veritably transplanted to Pennsylvania in this transportation. John McKee's immediate progeny was as follows :

JOHN McKEE (ISABELLA) (WILL DATED 8.3.1777, LOGAN TWP., CUMBERLAND CO. PENN.
PROVEN 9.1.1777, WILL NO. 69, WILL BOOK C.)

ISABELLA McKEE

JOHN McKEE

JAMES McKEE (ELIZABETH) (WILL DATED 12.9.1794, PROBATED 10.16.1795, FRANKLIN
CO., LURGAN TWP.)

JOHN McKEE

ISABELLA (Youngest daughter)

ROBERT McKEE

BENJAMIN (M. JANE)

JOSEPH McKEE

ALEXANDER (M. RACHEL KIRKPATRICK) D. 1807

JANE (M. MILLER)

ELIZABETH (M. MOSES KIRKPATRICK AT MIDDLE SPRING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
NEAR SHIPPENSBURG, PENN.)

WILLIAM McKEE

According to what the present author has been able to learn, the facts and circumstances in these very early years, documented in somewhat more abundant fashion than other material that has crossed his desk in the past five years, proclaim the descent of the line of the Rushville, Illinois, McKees, which is the author's line, thus :

1. ALEXANDER McKEE, who fought at the Battle of the Boyne in 1690, near Drogheda in East Ireland, was an officer in the forces of William, Prince of Orange, according to a genealogical article quoted a few pages hence. There can be little doubt that he and his brothers belonged to the Strathnaver MacKays, because one of them who died in 1706 and was buried at Carncastle in Antrim caused arms containing the three bears' heads of Lord Reay to be carved on his monument. Unfortunately that particular monument has either weathered away or crumbled, for it no longer exists at Carncastle. However, the hiatus is bridged by the act of the Ulster King of Arms, Sir Neville Wilkinson, who confirmed arms in 1912 to a descendant, John Reginald McKee, in Ireland. They were grounded on the arms claimed on the 1706 monument of which either a photograph or a drawing probably existed in 1912. In 1956, the late King of Arms of Ireland, Sir Gerald Wollaston, K.C.B., K.C.V.O., granted arms similarly grounded, and containing the three bears' heads as their principal charge, to another descendant of one of the four McKee brothers who were Boyne veterans, H. Malcolm McKee of Bangor, North Ireland.

A monument bearing the date of 1756 also stood in the churchyard at Carncastle, bearing the name of a boy Robert McKee and the same Mackay arms. The present author discovered a drawing of these arms in the *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*, Vol. VI, No. 1, p. 240,

January, 1900. They are reproduced herein. Thus, we possess sound proof that the four McKee brothers who fought at the Boyne considered themselves part of the Strathnaver and Reay branch of the Clan Mackay, and moreover believed themselves entitled to adopt the clan's armorial bearings. Lord Reay has been the title borne by the head of this branch of the Mackays since 1628. The proof is already probably as complete as it will ever be that the four McKee brothers were younger sons of that branch.

If Alexander McKee and his son Thomas came to America as early as 1707, which one account indicates, then it is reasonable to suppose that Thomas was the eldest son and fourteen to eighteen years of age at the time. We do find persuasive evidence that they arrived sometime between 1707 and 1734, and we know that Alexander, the Boyne veteran, died in 1740. The 1707 date is suggested from an article in *American Biography* (1928), The American Historical Society, Inc., Vol. 31, p. 181, which is quoted further on in this chapter.

On the other hand, according to information supplied by the Genealogical Section of the State Library of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania :

" Alexander McKee, born about 1665 ; died 1740 ; lived in County Antrim, Ireland. Came to America and settled in Donegal, Lancaster County, *prior to 1735*. His son Thomas McKee was born in Ireland about 1695, and came to America with his father ; and with them was Alexander, young son of Thomas. Thomas was a farmer and Indian trader. He died in Harrisburg in ³1770. He married first in Ireland, with issue. He married next an Indian woman, with issue. Children of his Irish wife : Alexander, born in Ireland about 1720, died 1799. Alexander married an Indian woman, with issue. Children by (Thomas McKee's) second marriage : Catherine, married Greydon, issue : Elizabeth ; Nancy ; James, born ²1755, died 1834 ; married first an Indian woman, with issue ; married second, Elizabeth Verner (1769-1809) with issue".

In the above-mentioned biographical sketch in *American Biography*, which is reproduced later in this chapter, the statement is made that Thomas McKee's father, who although unnamed in that particular sketch is named in the Eleanor Guthrie Reed papers reposing in the State Library at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, as *Alexander McKee*, (a) died after engaging for 35 years in the fur-trading business with his son Thomas McKee ; and, (b) that Thomas McKee thereafter " *continued the business at McKee's half Falls, in what is now Snyder County, Pennsylvania, where he established a trading store. He had his business at this place in 1742, although it is believed that he had established a branch of his father's business there six years before this date*".

¹ As will appear elsewhere, James McKee was one of the children of this marriage, and since Mrs. Fendrick in her *American Revolutionary soldiers of Franklin County, Pennsylvania*, opined that James McKee was in some way related to Hugh McKee, the latter and the son of the former, James McKee *Junior*, having married Nesbitt sisters, it is the present author's conclusion that Hugh McKee and James McKee, Sr. were probably brothers, and sons of Thomas McKee of McKee's Half-Falls. Their half-brother (Colonel) Alexander McKee may have been from an Irish or Scot mother, one account having him born in Ireland circa 1720, although two other accounts say or imply Alexander was born in America. However, James McKee and Hugh McKee would have been borne by Thomas McKee's second wife, a Shawnee girl ; of course, they could have been *brothers of Thomas*, as Alexander McKee, Sr.'s will shows he had other children.

² The present author suggests that this is quite another James McKee, very possibly the James McKee who was the son of Colonel Alexander McKee, and thus the *grandson* of Thomas McKee of McKee's Half Falls. Oddly, James Logan McKee, a son of John McKee of Virginia, was born March 14, 1752 and died August 14, 1832. James Logan McKee was born in Pennsylvania, and accompanied his parents to Rockbridge County, Virginia in 1754. His father John was born in 1708, so that James Logan McKee was born when his father was 46 years of age. His mother Jane Logan McKee was slain and scalped by Shawnee Indians. Were we to accept the James McKee offered as the son of Thomas, and who is said to have been born in 1755, Thomas McKee his father would have been 60 years of age when James was born. Instead, the author believes it much more reasonable to assume that Thomas McKee's son was James McKee (Senior) who died in 1782 and whose will was dated July 20, 1777.

³ Actually, he died in 1769, as his son Alexander was his administrator when he appeared in Orphans' Court, December 6, 1769. R. W. M.

This would date the arrival of Alexander McKee and his son Thomas McKee in America at circa 1707. However, other accounts merely say they came *before* 1735, but one of them definitely states that Thomas McKee married in Ireland, and by his Irish wife had his first son Alexander, who was said to have been born in Ireland circa 1720. Thus it will be seen that there is an uncertain gap of from 14 to 27 years between the two suggested dates of their arrival in this country, that is to say between the year 1707 and say 1734, the latter to meet the condition "*before* 1735".

2. Alexander McKee, the younger, who by one account was born in Ireland of an Irish mother, whom Thomas McKee is supposed to have married there, but who by another source of tradition is attributed to a Shawnee Indian mother whom Thomas married in America, rose to be a commanding figure in the frontier country. The following brief sketch of him came in a letter dated January 23, 1957, from Douglas Thurston Kee, Q.C., of Chatham, Ontario, Canada :

"At Blenheim, Ontario, not far from Chatham, there is a memorial cairn known as the McKee Treaty Cairn. This commemorates the signing of a treaty with the Indians at Detroit in 1790 under which this part of the country was opened for settlement. The Indian agent at Detroit, which was of course then still in British hands, was Colonel Alexander McKee, and he was instrumental in arranging the treaty. This Colonel Alexander McKee was a very important man in his day, in this part of the country. For example, in 1788 when the District of Hesse was set up he was named as one of the judges of the Court of Common Pleas, and in the list of names suggested for first Executive Council for Upper Canada his name appears. He appears to have died in 1799 in Windsor, Canada. He had a son (and probably other children as well), who was Colonel Thomas McKee, who was also very prominent in the early history of this district.

This Colonel Thomas McKee was *member of parliament* for Kent in 1796 and for Essex in 1801, they being counties in the present Province of Ontario. One of his descendants, W. J. McKee, was long *member of parliament* for Essex, and the family generally played a very important part in Windsor's early history for three or four generations. While at the moment I cannot put my finger on my authority, I am fairly certain that the original Colonel Alexander McKee came from Pennsylvania and was probably connected with your family.

The first time I am in Toronto with a few minutes to spend, I'll see if I can find anything out as to these McKees, in case you do not have a record of them. Strangely enough, when Chatham was laid out in 1795, town lots were granted to Colonel McKee and to Lieutenant Thomas McKee, his son, probably a case of land speculation, as they certainly always lived in Windsor".

¹ In the year 1707 three McKee brothers landed at Boston from Ireland. The descendants of one of them, Andrew McKee, who settled near Hartford, Connecticut, are detailed in the chapter *McKee Septs and their Brief Genealogy* herein. What is known of their arrival was written by a descendant Julius C. McKee, as follows :

"My pedigree, as near as I know it, according to the traditions in our family, four generations back, as I have been informed by my father and Uncle Jason McKee. There were three brothers as my father says ; two as Uncle Jason thinks. I think father is correct, as he was 16 or 17 years older and his memory very good. They came to America and landed at Boston.

The youngest, 16 years old, named Andrew McKee, or MacKee as it used to be written, settled in East Hartford, east of old Hartford City, in the state of Connecticut, about five miles from the city, and became a farmer, in 1707. It is supposed that the other brothers settled one in Virginia, the other in Kentucky. Andrew was born in the north of Ireland in 1691. His father was Scotch, a chief among them, my father says : his mother Irish. He lived in America 58 years. He died September 24, 1765, aged 74 years, and was interred at Manchester Center, Connecticut. Andrew had a first wife and a second wife, and had children by both. I can only speak of three, Nathaniel, Robert, and Joseph, by first wife. John, second wife."

As we gradually assemble what little is actually known of this extraordinary person Colonel Alexander McKee, we come slowly to realize that he was just what Douglas Thurston Kee described him as being, *a very important man in his day*. In good fortune and bad he seems to have held steadfast to his persuasions, and having committed no dishonorable acts he deserves our admiration as a thoroughly able and honorable man. The history that follows is no more than a glimpse of the man, but it has been gleaned from sources I consider reasonably accurate as to the general facts, and only partially so where dates are concerned.

Colonel Alexander McKee, having attained the rank of Captain by the Spring of 1776, was the Deputy Indian Agent at Fort Pitt, Pennsylvania, to which post he had been appointed by Sir William Johnson in 1772, to replace Colonel George Croghan who had resigned. All of his background, training, and experience fitted him uniquely for the task of intermediary between the white settlers and the several Indian tribes. From the rank of Ensign in 1756, to which he was appointed to go with the Forbes Expedition, he rose to a lieutenancy in the French-Indian war in 1757, *still in his teens* according to John C. Fitzpatrick in his *The Diaries of George Washington*, Houghton Mifflin, 1925. Since Colonel Alexander McKee, by some accounts, was born in 1720, a considerable confusion of dates exists. If we were to assume for a moment that Mr. Fitzpatrick was correctly informed, and his language is certainly unequivocal: "Here nature quickly taught him self-reliance and it is not surprising that he was awarded the rank of Lieutenant in the French-Indian war in 1757, while he was still a youth in his teens", then Colonel Alexander McKee was born in America, and not earlier than 1738. This would mean that early colonial writers, who castigated him mercilessly because he chose to remain loyal to Great Britain, were correct in at least one of their assertions to the effect that he was the son of Thomas McKee of McKee's Half Falls *and his Shawnee wife*. As to their other charges that he had the nature of a savage by inheritance from his mother, all of the evidence that has seeped through to us weighs on the opposite side of the scale, for time and again we find him placating the Indians and trying to reason the whites into a semblance of fairplay. From the bare facts and his conduct in response to them, the present author is convinced that the traduction by early writers was without justification, and that Colonel Alexander McKee conducted himself throughout that trying period as a man of high character, intelligence, and unimpeachable honor.

Returning for an instant to Mr. Fitzpatrick's statement that Colonel McKee was yet in his teens in 1757, it occurs to me that he was possibly misinformed in this particular, although this is by no means certain. So many singular contradictions occur in the various dates and records concerning Colonel Alexander and his father Thomas that a faint suspicion arises as to whether some of the early records may not have been either altered or contrived in order to generate a genealogical foundation for something.

In another place in his *The Diaries of George Washington*, Mr. Fitzpatrick muses on the odd tricks of Fate that George Washington, who had dinner at Captain McKee's home, should pursue one course in the years to follow, while Captain McKee should adhere to the British and follow quite another. He remarks that George Washington was only six or seven years older than Alexander McKee. George Washington was born in 1732 and died in 1799 at the age of 67.

At any rate, the newly appointed Deputy Indian Agent McKee was almost at once confronted by an Indian uprising known as Lord Dunmore's War. He employed his friendship with the Indians, his knowledge of their language, and his comprehension of their habits and methods of thought, to prevent the Six Nations and the Delawares from growing as hostile as the Shawnees. It should be kept in mind that his wife was an Indian girl, and

that his father Thomas McKee had also married a Shawnee squaw, who some early writers contended was Alexander McKee's mother. The Shawnees had been on the warpath in Virginia for several years, and had kept the frontiers in a state of terror from their depredations; Jane Logan McKee was killed and scalped by them, the fate of hundreds of men, women, and children not actually within the stockade of a fort.

It must be recognized that from the Indians' point of view the white settlers were no better than robbers bent on taking tribal lands that had been their own for thousands of years. Treaty after treaty was broken, invariably by white encroachment over recently established borders, then by Indian violence and bloodshed. Deputy Alexander McKee, with the aid of Captain Connelly and Colonel Croghan conferred with the Indian chiefs, and gradually persuaded them to bring their warriors under control. Alexander McKee came to the defense of the Indians, stating among other things that "*they have given great proof of their pacific disposition and have acted with more moderation than those who ought to be more rational*". Gradually, it became evident that the Deputy, because of his peculiar attainments and keen intellect, was one of the most important members of the community of which the village of Pittsburgh was the center.

At the close of Pontiac's War of 1763-64 he had received from General Henry Bouquet, as a reward for his outstanding services, 1,400 acres at the mouth of Chartier's Creek, on which McKee's Rocks now stands, upon condition that he would always be subject to military or other call "*For the Good of his Majesty's Service*". A pledge so taken is not lightly taken, or at least should not be. Deputy McKee kept it faithfully, and by so doing brought down upon his head contumely and vilification such as few men, and particularly innocent men, have ever suffered. About five years before the start of the War of the Revolution, as previously mentioned, George Washington was a dinner guest in Deputy McKee's home. At that time Washington was running some surveys, and had come north to Pennsylvania from his home in Virginia.

Alexander McKee also owned some 2,000 acres of land on the Elkhorn River in Kentucky, besides the Chartier's Creek property. He was a Justice of the Peace, and by reason of this and the fact that he was the Deputy Indian Agent at Fort Pitt, he quickly rose to a position of both influence and wealth in the community.

However, in February 1776, a messenger left Niagara with a letter from Col. John Butler, a British officer in charge at Fort Niagara in the absence of the commandant Col. John Johnson. It invited Alexander McKee to a British council at Niagara to be held in May, 1776. An Intelligence representative of the Colonies immediately sent word to Colonel Richard Butler, who was a staunch patriot, that the letter was en route to the Deputy. Col. Butler at once informed Alexander McKee that the letter would soon reach him, and that he would be expected to reveal its contents. Soon after its arrival the Commission of Safety was invited to Alexander McKee's home, and he there read the letter to them. They demanded his parole, which they received and accepted in oral form. Col. Richard Butler had expressed the opinion that the Deputy's word was wholly sufficient, and the members of the Commission had with a mild show of reluctance acceded. Colonel Butler had a dual purpose for showing his confidence in Alexander McKee; first, he genuinely admired and liked him as an officer and a soldier of first quality in both honor, courage, and ability. Second, he hoped by placing his trust in him to preserve a loyalty for the Colonies, or at any rate to persuade him to remain neutral.

The course of this segment of history might have been altered if Col. Butler had not been called away from Fort Pitt immediately after this meeting. In his absence, the Com-

mission sent word to the Deputy that he might choose between putting his parole in writing or being made their prisoner. He could not have helped receiving from friends intelligence of the strong feeling running among the patriots against him, and accelerated by the story being circulated in whispers that Alexander McKee was secretly organizing the Indian tribes against the white settlers.

The pledge he signed at the behest of the Commission of Safety was as follows :

“ I, Alexander McKee, Deputy agent for the Indian affairs for the District of Fort Pitt, do hereby promise and engage that I will not transact any business with the Indians on behalf of the Crown or Ministry ; that I will not directly or indirectly correspond with any of the Crown or Ministerial Officers, nor leave the neighborhood of Fort Pitt, without the consent of the Commander of West Augusta. Given under my hand at Pittsburgh, this 9th day of April, 1776 ”.

The Continental Congress, having been acquainted with the contents of the letter from Col. John Butler of Niagara to Alexander McKee, passed the following resolution :

“ Resolved that the Congress, relying on the integrity and honor of Captain Alexander McKee, order that he be permitted to go at large on giving his parole to the Commander of West Augusta and not engage or be concerned in any measure injurious to these Colonies by stimulating the Indian Nations to make war or otherwise ”.

Lord Dunmore of Virginia had added of course to Captain McKee's perplexities by secretly forwarding to him a British commission as Lieutenant-colonel of a battalion that he purposed should be raised in the country immediately surrounding Fort Pitt. The messenger, with the message and commission he bore, were of course intercepted. When the matter was made public it generated a new surge of suspicion against the unfortunate Deputy, and he must have had the bewildered sensation of a man who must soon decide whether to dive from a tower or chance the obloquy of descending back to ground level.

Then, in August of 1775, Lord Dunmore submitted to the British Government a carefully compiled list of high-ranking individuals who might be relied upon to remain loyal to the Crown. It contained Alexander McKee's name, among others, and a copy of course made its stealthy way into the hands of the Patriots.

General Edward Hand, who was the commanding officer at Fort Pitt, for some little time confined Captain Alexander McKee to his Pittsburgh house, and refused him permission even to visit his country estate at McKee's Rocks. Then General Hand received a letter from Commander Arbuckle of Fort Randolph, who by the way bore Captain McKee a deep personal grudge, that said in part :

“ He must be an enemy to the U.S. for the Grenadier Squaw (An Indian woman wholly friendly to the Colonial whites. She is mentioned in *Border Warfare*, an almost contemporaneous history.—R.W.M.) and her friends who are now at this Garrison say that he has engaged his Indian friends to carry off his effects to their town, which being accomplished, he would then make his escape to Detroit ”.

He also said that Captain McKee's Indian wife—squaw, as he expressed it—was already at Detroit, and was freely receiving whatever necessities and merchandise she sought on his credit. General Hand might, on such damaging information, have ordered the Deputy's immediate arrest. Instead, he directed him to go to Yorktown for a hearing before the Continental Board. Captain McKee ignored the instruction. On February 7, 1778, General Hand repeated the order, apparently with some exasperation ; Captain McKee apologized for his failure to obey the first instruction and promised to depart for Yorktown at once.

What must have been the emotions of the harried man at this point, his closest friends falling away from him to a cause that he could not help viewing as plain rebellion against the Crown, while his own pledge and basic fidelity chained him to his King ! Just after he had given his second instruction to Captain McKee to journey to Yorktown, General Hand was compelled to lead what was known as the Squaw Campaign into the Indian country. Upon his return he learned to his dismay that Captain McKee had again ignored his order, on a plea of illness that could have been quite genuine, of course. But matters were traveling rapidly to a climax.

On Saturday night, March 28, 1778, Captain McKee and his group of followers slipped silently away in the darkness, and made their way to Detroit. In the party were Captain McKee's negro servants, together with Simon Girty, who was to become notorious as a leader of the Indians for Great Britain, Matthew Elliott, Robert Surphlit, and John Higgins. The British welcomed Alexander McKee with open arms, since they stood in need of a military man acquainted not only with the chiefs of the various tribes, but with their languages and habits as well.

One thing is absolutely certain : Alexander McKee committed no crime more heinous than breaking a parole wrested from him under threat of imprisonment. He had received land from the Crown on his promise to remain loyal, and simply chose the British rather than the Colonial side of the controversy, which was according to the dictates of his own conscience. He was a thoroughly honorable and able man, and there appear to have been no exceptions.

In Major George Wilson McKee's fine work *The McKees of Virginia and Kentucky* (J. B. Richards, Pittsburgh, Pa., 1891) will be found the full text of the letter from which the following pertinent matter is quoted ; the letter is dated at Centre College, Danville, Kentucky, June 21, 1889, and is from Rev. Dr. John Lapsley McKee to Major George Wilson McKee :

"First, during the clannish wars in Scotland there was a great feud between the McKees and the MacIntoshes, in which the McKees, being greatly outnumbered, were nearly annihilated. The little remnant fled into France, where they intermarried with the ¹Huguenots and, after the ²Revocation of the Edict of Nantes, they were nearly all murdered by the Catholics. The little remnant fled into Holland. There they entered the army of William, Prince of Orange, and marched into Ireland. They were in the siege of ³Londonderry and acquitted themselves

¹ On June 5, 1956, Malcolm McKee, Solicitor for the Supreme Courts of North Ireland, included the following in his letter :

"Here is an extract from a letter of my first cousin, the late Right Rev. Phineas McKee, who died in harness as Moderator during the recent war. It is dated November 1936 : 'We had a quite misty and mythical ancestress known as *auld Jenny Couch* (name pronounced Coosh just as Quiller-Couch does his). This probably imports a strain of Huguenot into the amalgam'".

² The Edict of Nantes is reproduced herein, for the reader's information.

³ The siege of Derry by the troops of James II lasted seventy-three days, the city being relieved by troops of William of Orange on August 10, 1689, when it was on the point of surrender from famine. In the spring of 1690 William of Orange himself landed at Carrickfergus with a formidable army, said by one author to number 45,000 men, well trained and equipped, and with sixty pieces of cannon. The same author, an advocate of James II by the way, states that the latter's troops totalled only twenty-three thousand badly trained, poorly armed recruits, with but twelve field pieces. The two armies encamped opposite each other June 29, 1690, near Drogheda, beyond the river Boyne. The following day, June 30, 1690, they commenced manoeuvring, and various contingents engaged each other. General Schomberg, who commanded the Prince of Orange's army, was killed at the passage of Oldbridge, during the battle. Toward evening James II's army retreated toward Dublin ; within two days James himself embarked for France, never again to set foot in Ireland. This was the *Battle of the Boyne*. R. W. M.

If it should happen that any of my readers are interested in camp life and other intimate glimpses into the logistics of William, Prince of Orange's army preceding and at the Battle of the Boyne, two diaries of observers actually present are published on p. 76 of the *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*, Vol. 4, 1856. R.W.M.

with great gallantry, and suffered patiently the privations of that awful siege. From the North of Ireland *ten brothers* came to Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. From that point they diverged at an early day to different places, *viz.*, Virginia, Alabama, West Pennsylvania, and Michigan. Those going to Alabama and Michigan *were Indian agents*, married Indians and raised large families of half-breeds who were magnificent specimens of well-developed, physical men. One of them was in command of some of the enemy in the battle, I think, of the River Razin. My father risked his life in trying to capture him”.

The reader will have already sensed Rev. Dr. John Lapsley McKee's misapprehension that it was one of the *pioneer brothers* who became Indian Agent at Detroit for the British, whereas this was of course Colonel Alexander McKee, grandson of Alexander McKee, the Boyne veteran, and son of Thomas McKee of McKee's Half Falls. The Alabama McKee was a grandson of Robert McKee, the pioneer of Virginia, and named John McKee. He never married but sired several half-breed children. He was United States Senator from Alabama, and Indian Agent for the Chickasaws and Choctaws.

Also, Colonel John McKee of Virginia treated on several occasions with the Cherokees, whose confidence he evidently possessed. It seems that the Indians sincerely tried on each occasion to observe the terms of their treaty, only to find the new borders violated by the whites. The result was that this mighty tribe went on the warpath and wrought considerable havoc among the advancing white settlers. At one such time Governor Blount sent John McKee to try to arrange a peace. Andrew Jackson wrote: “John McKee Dear Sir The late proclaimed peace . . . (has been) attended with Depredations and Murders not Less than Twelve men killed and wounded in this District. Why do we now attempt to hold (another) Treaty with them. Have they attended to the last Treaty. I answer in the Negative then why do we attempt to Treat (again) With the highest Esteem. Andrew Jackson”.

As a good many references have already been made to the Battle of the Boyne and the four McKee brothers who participated in it, and since other references are made to it and them in other parts of the present work, it may be as well to identify that conflict at this point.

BATTLE OF THE BOYNE

Usually, a battle is best described by an eye-witness. Often, such a spectator sets it down in verse. There exist two versifications of what actually transpired that summer day in 1690 on the banks of the Boyne River; one was by a man who actually took part, while the other was written later by another person from hearsay. Rev. Dr. Hume, who specialized in collecting and collating versions of ancient Irish ballads, set both of them down in 1840, and permitted them to be published in *The Ulster Journal of Archaeology*, p. 9, Vol. 2, 1854. The following is the one which bears internal evidence of having been composed by a man who partook in the famous battle, so important to McKees who descend from one of the four brothers who came over from Scotland with Prince William's army and fought at that decisive battle that changed the tide once more toward Protestantism:

THE BOYNE WATER

July the first, in a morning clear
 One thousand six hundred and ninety,
 King William did his men prepare,
 Of thousands he had thirty;
 To fight King James and all his host,
 Encamped near the Boyne Water,
 He little feared though two to one,
 Their multitudes to scatter.

King William called his officers,
 Saying, "gentlemen mind your station,
 And let your valour here be shown
 Before this Irish nation.
 My brazen walls let no man break ;
 Our subtle foes we'll scatter :
 See that you shew good English play,
 This day at the Boyne Water".

His officers they bowed full low,
 In token of subjection,
 Said they, " My liege you need not fear,
 We'll follow your direction".
 He wheeled his horse—the hautboys played,
 Drums they did beat and rattle
 And Lilli-bur-lero was the tune
 We played going down to battle.

Both foot and horse we marched on,
 Intending them to batter ;
 But brave Duke Schomberg he was shot,
 As he crossed over the water.
 And when King William he perceived,
 The brave Duke Schomberg falling,
 He reined his horse with a heavy, heavy heart,
 And the Enniskillen men he called.

" What will you do for me brave boys ;
 See, yonder's men retreating,
 Our enemies encouraged are,
 And our English drums are beating.
 I'll go before and lead you on ;
 Boys use your hands full nimble ;
 With the help of God we'll beat them down,
 And make their hearts to tremble".

The Enniskillen men they did not know,
 It was their King spoke to them,
 But when informed of their mistake,
 They bowed full low unto him :
 We'll go before—stay you behind,
 And do not cross the water.
 Old Britain's lamp shall clearly shine,
 And our enemies we'll scatter".

We formed our body at the ford,
And down the brae did swatter,
And each man grasped his fellow close,
As we passed through the water.
But oh ! my stars had you been there,
When we their trench came under ;
Sulphur and smoke darkened the air,
And the elements did thunder.

King William he did first advance,
Where bullets sharp did rattle,
The Enniskillen men bore noble hands,
And soon renewed the battle ;
Then lion-like we made them roar,
Like chaff we did them scatter ;
King William pressed his way through blood,
That day at the Boyne water.

My Lord Galmoye within a crack
Of our fore-front advanced,
Both great and gay in rich array,
Like princes' sons they pranced.
In a full body they came down,
With broad sword and caliver,
With whip and spur, most Jehu like,
~~As the devil had been their driver ;~~

Within ten yards of our fore-front,
Before a shot we fired ;
But a sudden snuff they got that day ;
They little it desired.
For man and horse fell to the ground,
And some in their saddles,
And many turned up their forked end,
As we call " coup the ladles ".

Prince Eugene's regiment was the next,
On our right hand advanced,
Into a field of standing wheat,
Where Irish horses pranced ;
But the brandy ran so in their heads,
Their senses soon did scatter ;
They little thought to leave their bones,
That day at the Boyne Water.

THE BOOK OF McKEE

We turned about, our foes to flank,
 Intending them to batter ;
 But suddenly they did us spy,
 And fast began to scatter.
 The Irish they ran first away,
 The French they soon did follow,
 And he that got fastest away,
 Was aye the happiest fellow.

“ Oh, ree ! Oh ree ! ” cried Dermot Roe,
 “ Oh help, dear Lady Mary,
 By my fet we are all dead men this day,
 If we do longer tarry ”.
 They threw away both fife and drum,
 And firelock from their shoulder ;
 King William’s men pushed very hard,
 To smell the English powder.

I never saw nor never knew,
 Men that for blood so gaped ;
 But yet I’m sure that three from ten,
 Of them that day escaped.
 We formed the French on our left wing,
 The enemy to batter,
 And glorious was our victory,
 That day at the Boyne Water.

Both man and horse lay on the ground,
 And many there were bleeding.
 I saw no sickles there that day,
 And yet there was sharp shearing.
 But still the faster we pursued,
 The more we did them scatter,
 Our hearts were to each other bound,
 That day at the Boyne Water.

Had Enniskillen men got leave that day,
 When they their foes defeated.
 For to pursue the enemy,
 That from the field retreated.
 Ten thousand broguineers and more,
 Would not have been much cumber,
 Nor James’ men have rose again,
 By the third part of their number.

Now praise God all true Protestants,
 And heaven's great Creator,
 For the deliverance that he sent,
 Our enemies to scatter.
 The church's foes shall pine away,
 Like churlish-hearted Nabal,
 For our deliverer came that day,
 Like the great Zorobabel.

Now praise God all true Protestants,
 And I will say no further :
 But had the Papists gained the day,
 There would have been open murder.
 Although King James and many more,
 Were not that way inclined,
 Yet it was not in their power to stop,
 What the rabble they designed.

Both France and Spain They did combine,
 The Pope and Father Peter,
 They thought to steep a rod in brine,
 Great Britain to whip completer,
 But Providence to us was kind,
 Sent William to cross the water,
 Who broke the rod and their black design,
 And their bones lie at the Boyne Water.

In his *Chronicles of Border Warfare* (Clarksburg, Va., 1831), Alexander S. Withers states on p. 43 :

"The emigration from Great Britain to Virginia was then (*ca.* 1735) very great . . . there were then many adventurers, who had recently arrived from Scotland and the north of England. Among these adventurers were John Lewis and John Mackey. Salling's return (he had been captive of an Indian tribe for six years.—R.W.M.) excited a considerable and very general interest . . . Lewis and Mackey listened attentively to the description given of the country in the valley (of the Shenandoah.—R.W.M.), and pleased with its beauty and fertility as represented by Salling, they prevailed on him to accompany them on a visit to examine it more minutely . . . Lewis made choice of, and improved, a spot a few miles below Staunton, on a creek which bears his name—Mackey on the middle branch of the Shenandoah near Buffalo-gap ; and Salling in the forks of James river, below the Natural Bridge . . ."

P. 44 : "Hugh Telford, who settled at the Falling spring, in the forks of the James river . . ."

P. 94 : "Previous however to the actual settlement of the country above the forks of the Monongahela, some families (in 1767) had established themselves in the vicinity of Fort Redstone, now Brownsville, in Pennsylvania. At the head of these were Abraham Tegard, James Crawford, John Province, and John Harden. The latter of these gentlemen afterwards removed to Kentucky and became distinguished in the early history of that state, as well for the many excellencies of his private and public life, as for the untimely and perfidious manner of his death".

P. 256 : " In August (1782), there was a grand council convened at Chillicothe, in which the Wyandots, the Shawanees, the Mingoes, the Tawas, Pottawatomies, and various other tribes were represented. ¹Girty and McKee—disgraces to human nature—aided in their deliberations. The surrender of Cornwallis, which had been studiously kept secret from the Indians, was now known to them, and the war between Great Britain and the United States, seemed to them to be verging to a close. Should a peace ensue, they feared that the concentrated strength of Virginia would bear down upon them and crush them at once. In anticipation of this state of things they had met to deliberate what course it best became them to pursue. Girty addressed the council. He reminded them of the gradual encroachments of the whites ;—of the beauty of Kentucky and its value to them as a hunting ground. He pointed out to them the necessity of greater efforts to regain possession of that country, and warned them that if they did not combine their strength to change the present state of things, the whites would soon leave them no hunting grounds ; and they would consequently have no means of procuring rum to cheer their hearts, or blankets to warm their bodies. His advice was well received and they determined to continue the war ”.

3. THOMAS McKEE, who accompanied his father Alexander McKee to America early in the eighteenth century, aided him in establishing their farm and a system of trade with the Indians. This took place in Donegal, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, as various accounts seem to indicate that the fort and trading post at McKee's Half-Falls was established by Thomas only a few years before his father's death.

One account states positively that Thomas McKee married first in Ireland, that Alexander McKee was born there ²about 1720, and that his second marriage in America was to an Indian girl by whom he had issue of Catherine who married Greydon, Elizabeth, Nancy, and James. It should be borne in mind that descendants of Pocohontas are pardonably proud of their lineal descent from her, and go to great lengths to prove it. The Shawnee girl whom Thomas McKee married thus far remains unnamed, but their progeny certainly have proved themselves men of determination, virile, enterprising, and fearless. The record speaks for itself.

It seems evident that ³Thomas McKee was a man of stature in even the wilderness, and among the incredible men who pioneered America. He was, the author feels, quite young

¹ This is Simon Girty and Colonel Alexander McKee, son of Thomas McKee of McKee's Half Falls, who was British Indian Agent at Detroit. Alexander Withers can be pardoned for the bitterness of a patriotic American, but *by his own account* our American settlers became just as ruthless, brutal, and barbaric as the Indians ; and we are compelled to confess that very few examples of equal barbarity, excepting episodes like Tarleton's butchery, were ever perpetrated by British regulars. R.W.M.

As for Simon Girty, who is depicted by Withers as the lowest form of crawling life, a doubt as to his complete rascality is formed in the present author's mind by a simple incident where Girty personally paid some Indians the ransom they demanded to release a white woman, who then returned to her people. Men of complete depravity do not ransom strangers. R.W.M.

" Col. McKee, the British Indian Agent, and principal stimulator of the war then existing between the United States and savages."—*History of Huntington Co., Ind.* ; p. 80, 1885 edition.

² Lenore E. Flower, a noted genealogist of Carlisle, Pennsylvania, wrote to me among other matters that, " one (McKee), a young private aged 25, served in the year 1746 in the Colonial War ; he was *Andrew McKee, born in Ireland.*" This would cause him to have been born in 1720 or 1721, the same year *Alexander McKee* is said to have been born there. She also stated that " Ensign Alexander McKee was with the Forbes Expedition in 1758, or rather was appointed in 1756." This we know from other sources was the Alexander McKee who advanced to the rank of Colonel Alexander McKee as an Indian Agent in British service at Detroit.

³ *Annals of Augusta County, Virginia from 1726 to 1871*, by Jos. A. Waddell, Staunton, Va., 1902, p. 89 :

" Some dissatisfaction having arisen among the Indians in regard to the Treaty of Lancaster, a conference was held at Logstown, on the Ohio, in 1752, between chiefs of the Six Nations and Joshua Fry, Lunsford Lomax and James Patton, Commissioners of Virginia ; and another deed was executed by six chiefs, consenting to the deed of July 2, 1744, and promising to assist and protect British subjects settled ' on the southern or eastern part of the river called Alleghany.' This deed was dated June 13, 1752, and was witnessed by George Croghan, Thomas McKee, William Preston and others. (This was Thomas McKee of McKee's Half Falls. R.W.M.)

when he came to America, because if we should for the moment accept that he and his father arrived, let us say, in 1725 when Thomas' son Alexander would be only 5 years of age if he was born in 1720 in Ireland, *Alexander McKee, Sr.*, would have been 60 years of age. Men rarely move voluntarily from civilization into a wilderness at that age, even today, unless pursued by the devil himself. It may have happened exactly so, but the author lacking evidence inclines toward an earlier date of emigration, as well as that young Alexander may have been born in America. Mere conjecture, no more, but several sets of dates strain one's sense of probability.

In any event, Alexander McKee the veteran of the Battle of the Boyne, and his son Thomas McKee, quickly oriented themselves in their adopted homeland. Their practical appraisal of their surroundings and of their redskin neighbors is attested by their survival and the simple circumstance that Thomas later built a fort that is of historical record on the Susquehanna at McKee's Half Falls, part of his land holdings. The evidence that they knew how to be real friends with the Indian tribes is testified to by the fact that Alexander married an Indian girl and became famous in Canada as the Colonel Alexander McKee who negotiated the treaty which made possible the opening for settlement of a large segment of Canada across from Detroit ; and by the fact that his father Thomas, and his brother James according to some accounts, married Indian girls. The fort which Thomas McKee built at McKee's Half Falls is thought by some investigators to have been on the west side of the Susquehanna, as the topography there would be far more auspicious for apprehending an approaching foe, but there seem to be early records of travellers who stopped at his place and delineated it as on the east side of the river. It is possible that his residence was on the east side and the fort and trading post across the river, for reasons that may have been obvious at the time. Thomas McKee engaged in various conflicts with the French and their savage allies, in the Colonial Wars, serving as Captain Thomas McKee across the Susquehanna River from Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, in 1747 and 1748.

Much earlier, he had received on September 18, 1734, a *Blunston License to Settle*, this singular and historic document being named after the Deputy Surveyor of the Provinces, Thomas Blunston. It was issued by the William Penn Proprietaries during the disagreement with Lord Baltimore over boundaries, and granted a *license to settle* on 200 acres adjoining on the north side of Conodoguinet Creek, for which he possessed a warrant for the survey of the tract. It is worthy of noting dates here : had he and his father Alexander only just arrived in 1734, his father who was thought to have been born *circa* 1665 would have been 69 years of age when they emigrated from Antrim to America ! Moreover, it is unlikely that an unknown person would have received a Blunston License immediately upon his arrival in Pennsylvania. Most dates point to a much earlier arrival.

An interesting letter from the area near McKee's Half Falls came into the author's hands :

R. 1, Port Trevorton, Pa.

Jan. 31, 1955.

" McKee's Half Falls got its name from the rapids which can be seen half way across the Susquehanna River, and a man named Thomas McKee who was a famous Indian Trader and Ranger.

He was a native of Donegall Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. He immigrated from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, about the year 1744 to the east side of the Susquehanna River where Dalmatia now stands. Moved to the west side of the river in 1755, where McKee's Half Falls now is located. He built a trading post there, also used as a fort. Thomas McKee

married an Indian woman (a Shawnee). They had two sons together. Their names were James and ¹Alexander. He might have been married before, but we do not know anything about him before he came to this section of Pennsylvania. He held much land north and south of McKee's Half Falls, also west about 4 or 5 miles.

Our records here show the dates of Thomas McKee around a hundred years ²earlier than yours. They are probably different generations. Any information you may be able to give us here at McKee's Half Falls, Pa., on this subject will be greatly appreciated, or if you want more details of our Thomas McKee be free to ask.

Thanking you, I am thanking you for this valuable information. I am yours respect.

J. B. ROHRER

P.O. Port Trevorton, Pa., R.D.1.

This Thomas McKee died 1772 at McKee's Half Falls. We think he is buried here".

Another account, it will be seen, states that he died at Harrisburg in 1770, but he actually died in 1769.

From the scattered glimpses into the life of Thomas McKee of McKee's Half Falls, it seems abundantly clear that he gave an excellent account of himself in this period when a man's exploits were often recorded by a scratch on a powder horn or a file-mark on a rifle barrel. Serious mistakes of judgment were interred with the body. Family Bibles recorded births and deaths, both frequent events, as well as marriages. Nothing else was sacred enough to be included.

On June 2, 1763, George III, King of England, appointed James Burd and Thomas McKee, both of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, Justices of the Peace within the counties of Northampton, Berks, and Lancaster, to chastise and punish all persons offending against the laws and statutes within the said counties. Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, Deed Book, Volume K, p. 27.

It definitely appears that Captain Thomas McKee of McKee's Fort at McKee's Half Falls died in 1769, as his eldest son Alexander McKee filed a petition in the Orphan's Court dated December 6, 1769, according to the records of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, Vol. 1768-1772, p. 163, wherein he, as administrator of the estate of his deceased and intestate father, declared that Thomas McKee died seized of a plantation and tract of Patented Land on Eastward of the River Susquehanna in Upper Paxtang Township, commonly called New Providence, and containing 469 acres.

Later, on August 4, 1773, Captain Alexander McKee filed another petition (Vol. 1772-1776, p. 134) stating that Thomas McKee died leaving six children, one of them a minor.

THOS. McKEE, DECEASED

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UPON THE PETITION of Alexander McKee Administrator of all and Singular the Goods and Chattles Rights and Credits which were of Thomas McKee late of Paxtang Township deceased Setting forth that the said Thomas McKee hath died Intestate Possessed of a Personal Estate to the Amount of £95 3s. 0¹/₂d. as appears by an Inventory duly filed and remaining in the register's office at Lancaster That the Debts of the said Intestate come to the Knowledge

¹ It should be noted that Mr. Rohrer's information indicates that Alexander was born in America, son of an Indian mother, and not in Ireland. Thomas McKee actually had six children.

² This reference was to the addressee's inquiry concerning Thomas McKee born December 6, 1780 in Hardin County, Kentucky, who was great-grandson of Thomas McKee of McKee's Half Falls.

of the Petitioner amount to the sum of £975 0s. 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. as appears from the account thereto annexed exclusive of the further Sum of £227 18s. 9d. due from the said Intestate to the Petitioner That the said Petitioner hath paid off Sundry Debts of the deceased amounting to £107 12s. 9d. as will appear from divers Vouchers brought here into Court and that the said Thomas died seized of a certain Plantation and Tract of Patented Land below the Mouth of Mahontongo Creek at the upper end of the long Narrows Situate in Upper Paxtang Township in the County aforesaid Containing Two Hundred Acres and the Usual Allowance of six Per Cent for Roads and Highways And that the said Intestate had issue six Children one of whom is Yet a Minor and Praying the Court to make an order empowering him to sell and convey the Tract of Land aforesaid to enable him to pay off and discharge the debts of the said deceased and to maintain and educate the said Minor Agreeable to the Act of Assembly in such Case made and Provided and the said Administrator being duly Qualified to the Truth of the Accounts by him exhibited to the Court IT IS CONSIDERED by the Court and ordered that the said Alexander McKee do on the Twenty fourth day of August instant expose to Sale by way of Public Vendue the Tract of Land above mentioned to enable him to Pay off and discharge the Debts of the said deceased etc. and the Court further orders that the said Sale be held on the Premises that Proper Notices be given thereof according to Law and that the Petitioner make Report of his Proceedings to the next Orphans' Court.

By court order, based on Alexander McKee's Aug. 27, 1773 petition, 200 acres of the tract were sold to William Dunbar for £215. Then on September 27, 1773, in Vol. R, p. 444, the same land is deeded to Alexander McKee by Dunbar, so that we may conclude that the administrator merely used Dunbar as his own intermediary to acquire the property in question.

McKEE'S FORT¹

"With regard to the time of the erection of this fort and its precise location, history is somewhat at variance. Some writers have attempted to place it on the east side of the Susquehanna river. From data at hand which will be subsequently treated of, the probabilities are that its location was upon the west side of the Susquehanna river. The writer feels perfectly assured, from all the evidence there is upon this subject, that it was more likely that this fort was placed on the west of the river, than upon the east side of it. The Historical Map of Pennsylvania, hitherto referred to, places it on the Northumberland side and gives the date of its location as the year 1756, but we have before found occasion to question the entire accuracy of this publication as to dates, times, and so forth, being sustained in such criticisms by indisputable authority".

"Thomas McKee, we find was an Indian trader who located at the falls, now called McKee's Half Falls, in 1744. He was one of a party of traders who discovered the body of Jack Armstrong who was murdered at what is now Mt. Union. He may have resided at this place at that time but it was not certainly known. But upon the opening of the land office in 1755, Thomas McKee took out a warrant March 5th, 1755, for a large tract of land beginning below the mouth of the Mahontonga creek and which extended along the river above, embracing the Half Falls. To further establish this fact, the title papers, now in the possession of J. L. Weiser, at Mahontonga, J. B. Hall and John S. Rine, now owners of this land, show that it was originally owned by Thomas McKee, being a most significant fact tending to give the location of this fort or post at McKees Falls, which is now known as McKees Half Falls. An Indian path ran across the plantation, which was known as McKee's Path. It extended from Shamokin, now Sunbury, to the Juniata River, and touched the Susquehanna at the mouth of the Mahontonga creek and crossed westerly to the mouth of Delaware run, near Thompsontown, on the Juniata river".

"The plantation taken up by Thomas McKee was evidently extensive in its area, embracing many acres of land of the most fertile soil along the Susquehanna river. The country being an open one from Fort Halifax, on the east side of the river, up to McKee's Falls, where Thomas

¹ See Frontier Forts in the Cumberland and Juniata Valleys, Vol. 1, p. 621.

McKee was located, on the west side, it is altogether probable that the fort had a better location on the west side of the river on account of the place being more accessible to garrison or troops going from one fort to another. The topography of the country hereabouts would also be a significant factor in determining the location. The country, at many places on the west side of the river, extended back in width several miles before the hills were reached, so that an approach by the enemy could be more easily detected for a considerable distance around, the land being very level and fertile along the western side of the river from here on down to a point opposite where Fort Halifax was situated ”.

“ The argument, therefore, of selecting fertile soil and many acres of it in extent, as his place of abode, would seem to outweigh any assertion that he had chosen the eastern side, where the land is bluffy and not adapted to agriculture, and where troops and garrison would find less convenient place ”.

“ On the western side, also, the writer knows that there have been dug up the remains of the red man in large quantities. It is stated and the statement would seem to be supported, that there was here in this vicinity an Indian burial ground, the many remains, such as bones, arrows, Indian implements of almost every fashion going to substantiate this assertion, and Thomas McKee must at some time have held title to these lands, now held by the Weisers, the Halls, the Rines, as appears in subsequent conveyances of the real estate on the west side of the Susquehanna river ”.

“ In order further to negative the statement that the fort was located on the east side of the river, we present the fact that the letters passing between the Provincial authorities and Thomas McKee show that there was a fort in existence or mentioned in such letters as early as 1756. And we find that eleven years later than this period he was granted a patent for four hundred acres of land across the river, in Northumberland county. This fact would not dispute his ownership to the land previously taken up on the west side of the river and would also tend, by reason of the priority of time in acquiring lands on the Snyder county side, to establish more firmly the belief that his fort was erected upon the plantation first owned, as all history proves that the means of defence against the raids of the savage were first provided for and it is, hence, unlikely that McKee would live hereabouts for this length of time without erecting some fortification to protect himself against the hostile Indians ”.

“ The Sechrist meadows, as they were later on patented, were his. The Sechrists are a large and influential people, now living in the vicinity of McKee’s Half Falls, postoffice, in Snyder county. These meadows were sold by McKee to the Sechrists, as appears by patent of July 26, 1767, executed to Jacob Sechrist. The three islands in the river, Shuman’s, of one hundred acres ; Hays’, of seventy acres, and Kline’s (now Yeager’s), of eighty acres, were included in this warrant. One hundred and fifty acres of land above the Half Falls tract was sold to Rudolph Smelzer, August 7, 1766 ”.

“ In order now to come back to the Provincial records in establishing the fact that the fort was built by Thomas McKee, we find the matter referred to in the history of the other forts south of it on the Susquehanna river, McKee’s Fort being placed about twenty-five miles above Fort Hunter. As is contained in instructions to Thomas McKee, in a letter dated January 26th, 1756, we have : ‘ You are to receive from the officer now commanding the detachment of Capt. Reed’s company at Hunter’s Mill, and who you are to relieve, such arms, accoutrements, blankets, tools and stores as he may have in his hands, belonging to the Province, with which you are to furnish your company, but if that be not sufficient, you are to apply to Capt. Frederick Smith for a further supply out of what he will receive from Capt. Reed and Capt. Hendricks ’. And, again, we find him appointed under a commission as captain of a company to consist of twenty-eight men and two sergeants, besides himself and lieutenant, and is instructed to proceed immediately to raise the company ; when complete, they are to be mustered before James Galbraith, Esquire, and, after being mustered, they are to march to a place called Hunter’s Mill, on the Susquehanna, and either complete the fort already begun there or build another

at such convenient place as James Galbraith shall advise, and in case it should be thought necessary to erect a new fort, you are to build it of the form and dimensions herewith given you ”.

“ The next important data we have is a letter dated Lancaster, April 19, 1756, from Edwin Shippen to Governor Morris, in which he states, ‘ I have been at Capt. McKee’s Fort, where I found about ten Indians, men, women and children ; three of the women lying very ill in bed. The Captain tells me that John Shekellamy is greatly dissatisfied with being there, and has several times been out of temper, which he would hope was owing to nothing but the sickness of the Indians, and to their being often insulted by the fearful ignorant people who have sometimes told Shekallamy to his face, that they had a good mind to scalp him. Shekallamy informed me that he wished the Indians would be moved down where Capt. McKee’s women and children were and afterwards, if the Governor thought proper he would go to Wyoming and endeavour to bring down a Shawanese captain, who would have come with him, but the Delawares would not permit it. At the council at Wyoming, whither your Honor sent Silver Heels and The Belt to know why the Indians struck their brethren, the English. This Shawanese captain observed that it was not more than one year and a half since he had taken the Governor by the hand and heard everything that he said and why he should so soon forget him. That he was sitting between the Six Nations and the Governor, takes one in each hand ”.

“ That council consisted of Shawanese, Chickasaws, Mohickans and some of the Six Nations, and Shekallamy was appointed to give the answer, who spoke and said : ‘ You, my young brothers, the Shawanese, it may be, know the reason of striking the English, as you are always in council with the Delawares ’. ‘ No ’, answered the Shawanese, speaking to the Six Nations, saying, ‘ Old brothers, we cannot tell why the hatchet was taken up against the English, but you know the reason of it, who are always with them at General Braddock’s battle ’. Shekallamy says : There are about four hundred Indian warriors at Tioga, of the Six Nations, Delawares, Munsees and Shawanese, and about forty more at Wyoming. He says if we attempt to go up to Shamokin to build a fort, we may expect to be attacked by a body of five hundred Indians in our march ”.

“ According to your Honor’s instructions to Mr. Burd, I have prevailed with Shekellamy to stay where he is until we can hear again from your Honor. I pity the sick Indians much because there is neither sheep, calves or poultry to be got in that part of the country, though game is very plenty ; yet the Indians dare not venture out of the fort for fear of being murdered, and the Captain informs me that the garrison has been poorly served, the provisions having been very ordinary but they are now a little better used, yet he would fain believe the persons employed about them do their best, he finds that one pound of Burlington pork will go as far as two pounds made in that country ”.

“ John Harris has built an excellent stockade around his house, with a good cellar room, which is the only place of security that way. He has but six or seven men to guard it, and if the Government would order six men more there, it would, in my opinion, be of great use to the cause, even were no provision to be stored there at all, though there is no room for any scarce in Capt. McKee’s fort.”

“ Without this small addition of men above-mentioned, and the Indians should destroy it, the consequence would be that most of the inhabitants within twenty miles of this place would immediately leave their plantations. The enemy can come over the hills at five miles distance from McKee’s fort. But, notwithstanding all I have said on this head, I am convinced that the number of stockades set up and down the country do more hurt than good ”.

“ By the best intelligence I can get, it will be best for Col. Clapham to march his regiment on the west side of the Susquehanna, after first marching eight or nine miles on this side ; the only difficulty will be in crossing the river. I know there are several bad passes, as far as Capt. McKee’s plantation, where I have been ; it is but twenty-five miles from Hunter’s Mill ”.

“ And here comes the point that is important in the location of this fort. As stated before, the country on the west side of the river being the most accessible for a garrison to march between these points up and down the Susquehanna with no obstructions, it is all the more likely and convincing that Fort McKee was located where McKee's Half Falls now is ”.

“ I ought to have acquainted your Honor before, that I have cautioned Capt. McKee against suffering anybody to abuse the Indians for the future, and by all means advised him to keep a straight watch over the young Frenchman whom he has under his care ”.

“ In 1749, Conrad Weiser, on his way to Shamokin with a message from the Governor, met the sons of Shekellamy at the Trading House of Thomas McKee, which he delivered to them there, because he had been informed that all the Indians were absent from Shamokin ”.

“ The following letter from Conrad Weiser establishes also, and is confirmatory of the fact that there must have been a fort at McKee's, because he states that he happened to meet the eldest and youngest son of Shekellamy at the Trading House of Thomas McKee, being distant from Shamokin, now Sunbury, about twenty miles. In a letter from Col. Clapham to Governor Morris, dated Fort Halifax, July first, 1756. ‘ I shall leave twenty-four men at McKee's, each under the command of an ensign and captain, as I have removed all the stores from Harris' and McKee's to this place ’.”

“ In another letter from Col. Clapham to Governor Morris, dated Fort Augusta, August 17th, 1756, he says : ‘ I omitted to inform your Honor that the garrison at McKee's have very little ammunition. I hope the commissioners will make the greatest dispatch in furnishing all these necessary supplies ’.”

“ An interesting fact to note in conclusion concerning this spot, now bearing the name of its immortal founder, is that the name of the great Indian chief, Kishacoquillas, who was a power amongst his own people in the vicinity north of Lewistown and along the southern base of the range of the Seven Mountains, is inseparably linked with it, he having died there August, 1754, and his name thus becomes identified in his death, with this fort, while in Mifflin county, where he roamed in Indian fashion, directing his warriors as only the red chieftains could, his name was impressed by the deeds of his lifetime upon the history of that county, there being a Kishacoquillas valley and a creek, a wild and rushing stream bearing his name ”.

“ The date of the death of Thomas McKee is given as in the year ¹1772. The picturesque and romantic surroundings of the landscape on both sides of the Susquehanna, where Capt. McKee located himself and erected his fort, should inspire this commission if not prompted by the authentic history attaching to it, relative to Provincial times, to erect a memorial tablet, thus rescuing from the gnawing tooth of time the facts in the case and transmit them to future generations ”.

“ (Without disputing with the writer of the foregoing article on McKee's Fort, it is a pity he did not pursue his researches further. Bishop Cammerhoff, in going to Shamokin in the winter of 1748, kept to the east side of the Susquehanna and tarried at McKee's, where he was hospitably entertained. There is no doubt of the location of McKee's residence) ”.

There is scant evidence that would identify the author of the parenthetical paragraph just above, unless it was Mr. Egle himself, who was intensely interested in the work, but the present author is of the distinct opinion that Thomas McKee of McKee's Half Falls may have been astute enough to establish his *residence* on the eastern banks of the Susquehanna, and his *fort* and trading post on the west. Living could thus be more pleasant on the easterly side of a magnificent river with sunsets to close a weary day, while the terrain that surrounded the fort on the westerly bank of the river may have supplied some tactical advantages that did not escape our wary pioneer, and made living more certain.

Although we have discovered that Thomas McKee of McKee's Half Falls, who died intestate in 1769, had six children and that one of them was a minor at that time, we know

¹ He died in 1769. R.W.M.

the name of but one of them positively : Alexander. From a different source we are assured that another was James, born in 1755 when his supposed father was 60 years of age, and who rather oddly came into possession of his *brother* Alexander's land holdings on Chartier's Creek where McKee's Rocks stands when Alexander escaped to Detroit to join the British. This is most singular, to put it mildly, even if the relationship is really that of brothers, rather than *father and son*.

We may now have a glimpse of the McKees the author believes were the other sons of Thomas, and in particular the senior Hugh McKee.

In Mrs. Fendrick's *American Revolutionary Soldiers of Franklin County, Pennsylvania*, page 162, she says that Hugh McKee who married Mary Nesbit and James McKee (Senior), father of the James McKee, Jr., who married Mary's sister Susanna Nesbit *were probably related*. As elsewhere stated, it is the author's conclusion that Hugh McKee was James McKee, Jr.'s uncle, and a brother of James McKee (Senior). Both were, he conceives, sons of Thomas McKee of McKee's Half Falls by his Shawnee wife, unless indeed he really married a white woman.

It also is barely possible that Hugh McKee and James McKee, Sr., were two of the *five brothers*, the others being Robert, William, and John McKee of Virginia. Otherwise, they were probably first cousins.

It will later be seen that *American Biography* (1928), The American Historical Society, Inc., Vol. 31, p. 181, in its biography of Thomas McKee of McKee's Half Falls, traces him to North Ireland, neglects to mention his father's baptismal name, and states that James McKee, *Junior*, was his son. *This would indeed be an anomaly*. The author can understand how the error occurred, and as said before believes that Thomas was the father of James McKee, *Senior*, whose will was dated July 20, 1777, and proved in May, 1782. Up to the present, no evidence of a will by James McKee, Jr., has come to light, but that *junior* was the son of James McKee, *Senior*, needs no argument.

There is another equally persuasive set of facts that link these various families : their *intermarriage with brothers and sisters of the Nesbit and Dickson families*. Here are a few of them :

1. Hugh McKee (Born c. 1720-40, D. May 1795) married Mary Nesbit, sister of Susanna Nesbit who married James McKee, Jr.
2. James McKee, Jr. (Born c. 1740-50, D. 1810) married Susanna Nesbit, sister of Mary Nesbit who married Hugh McKee. Both girls were daughters of Thomas and Jean Nesbit.
3. Rachel McKee, daughter of James McKee, and sister of James McKee, Jr., married George Dickson.
4. James Dickson, a brother of the above George Dickson, married Martha Nesbit, who was a sister of Mary Nesbit and Susanna Nesbit mentioned in 1 and 2 above.
5. The farm of James McKee (Senior) adjoined that of Thomas and Jean Nesbit, parents of Mary, Susanna, and Martha Nesbit.
6. Three of these McKees, James, Jr., and his sons Thomas and Hugh, were with General Washington's forces during the unfortunate winter at Valley Forge. So was Joel Tullis, Sr., of Pennsylvania, whose son Joel Tullis, Jr., later married Cassander McKee, daughter of William McKee, Sr., of this line, and his wife Cassander Frakes.

A corroborative bit of evidence that bears on some of these family relationships is an account of Hugh Taylor and his will, recited by Virginia Shannon Fendrick in her *American Revolutionary Soldiers of Franklin County, Pennsylvania*, p. 210 :

HUGH TAYLOR

"Appears as a freeman in 1778 in Guilford Twp., and in 1781, he was in service under Captains James Young and John Woods. Cumberland Co., Penna., records: Abstract of the will of Hugh Taylor; dated Dec. 17, 1781; proven Feb. 1, 1782. Sister's daughters, viz.: Sarah and Elizabeth Vance, land in Westmoreland County, five miles south of Kitauing Town, one half mile east of the river Allegheny, and plantation Black Lick, in County aforesaid. Gives to sister Jane Watson, wife of Josiah Watson, a beaver hat. *William Nesbit a Bible Susanna McKee, wife of James McKee* (this would be Jr.), a legacy. *James McKee, Sr.* also mentioned in will. A Box Iron, is given to Frances Sloan, wife of William Sloan. Jane Nesbit a legacy. Sarah Vance is bequeathed a silk gown formerly belonging 'to my aunt'. Elizabeth Vance is given a Scarlet cloth cloak, and each of the two just mentioned bequeathed linen smocks. Brother Andrew's daughter Elizabeth, a legacy. Executors named in will are James McKee, Sr., and Andrew Reed. Brother Andrew is to receive everything remaining. George Dickson and George Dickey, a son-in-law of Hugh McKee Dec. 6, 1765. Penna. Archives, 5th Ser., Vol. 6, p. 104-111".

Here we have Hugh McKee, James, McKee, Sr., James McKee, Jr., Susannah (Nesbit) McKee, and several other Nesbits, George Dickson and George Dickey (the latter was an executor of Hugh McKee's will), all named in a single document, which tends to disclose the close alliance between these several families, and also connects James McKee, Sr. and Jr.

The Dicksons' nativity, fertility, and morbidity are summarized as follows from sources as authentic as most early records of this character:

Andrew and Agnes Dickson

(P. 20, 65, 125, 162, 166, 62, *American Revolutionary Soldiers of Franklin Co., Penna.*)
(by V. Fendrick)

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Andrew Dickson (Dixon) | (buried in Antrim Twp. Franklin Co. Penna.) Born <i>circa</i> 1710. |
| Agnes | Will dated 10/5-1770 prob. 6/11-1783. Land willed to |
| Married <i>ca.</i> 1733 | sons George and James. At death had minor son John, and |
| Both are buried | another son Andrew; daughters AGNES, Sarah, Easter, |
| in Antrim Twp., | Jean, Hannah. Will at Carlisle, Penna. |
| Franklin Co., Penna. | |

CHILDREN: George Dickson B. *ca.* 1750, will dated 2.12.1815, D. 1817, married in 1770 Rachel McKee. Buried 12 mi. from Noblestown, Penna. Rachel daughter of James McKee, of Cumberland Co. Penna. This is James McKee, Sr., in whose will she is mentioned.

James Dickson B. 4/20-1739, M. Martha Nesbit, daughter of Thomas (Martha) and Jean Nesbit. Thomas Nesbit's will is dated April 1783. James Dickson served as ensign under Capt. James Poe in 1777-78 and under Capt. John Woods 1780-81-82.

Andrew Dickson Born 5/21-1748. Died in Revolutionary War.

Hannah Dickson (p. 20) Buried at Falling Spring; married John Andrew; will dated Dec. 1803; probated Jan. 1804.

Jean Dickson (p. 129 Fendrick) Middlespring (B. *ca.* 1734) married John MaClay, born 1734, died 4/4-1804. Buried Lurgan Twp.

Easter (Esther) Dickson.

Sarah Dickson.

John Dickson (minor in 1783) (B. ca. 1770.) m. Jane.

Agnes Dickson ¹(believed to have married James McKee, son of Hugh McKee and Mary (Nesbit) McKee).

Since the Dickson genealogy is rather hard to find, it is given in detail in the following tabulation, because the author discovered that the McKee and Dickson families were allied by marriage more than once :

DICKSON GENEALOGY

John ²Dickson was a merchant in Edinburgh, Scotland. His son George went to Ireland and became a merchant in Armagh. George's son Andrew brought his family and came to America with his two elder brothers. Six children were born to Andrew in Ireland and four after coming to America. Andrew Dickson and wife are buried in Antrim Township, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania.

Children born in Ireland :

| | | | |
|--------|-------------------|----|----------------------|
| Hannah | born Oct. 5, 1734 | .. | Married J. Andrews. |
| George | „ Dec. 7, 1735 | .. | „ Rachel McKee |
| Jean | „ Dec. 12, 1737 | .. | „ in Chambersburg |
| James | „ Apr. 20, 1739 | .. | — Went south. |
| Esther | „ May 2, 1741 | .. | Married John Hunter. |
| Sarah | „ Feb. 15, 1743 | .. | — — |

Children born in America :

| | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|----|----------------------------|
| Andrew | born May 21, 1748 | .. | Died in Revolution. |
| ³ Agnes | „ Feb. 25, 1750 | .. | Married — Boyar |
| Mary Ann | „ May 29, 1752 | .. | „ in Chambersburg. |
| John | „ Aug. —, 1756 | .. | — Settled in Poland, Ohio. |

George Dickson served in the Revolutionary War as a Militiaman and Fifer. He married Rachel McKee in 1770 and had the following children :

| | | | |
|-----------|-----------|----|--------------------------------------------------|
| James | born 1772 | .. | Married Miss Frazee. |
| Andrew | „ 1775 | .. | „ Sarah Frazee. |
| Agnes | „ 1777 | .. | Died at age of 19 years. |
| Mary | „ 1780 | .. | Married Joseph Burnside. |
| Rachel | „ 1782 | .. | „ Solomon Irons |
| Hannah | „ 1785 | .. | „ Andrew Henderson. |
| Elizabeth | „ 1789 | .. | „ James Stewart. |
| William | „ 1791 | .. | „ 1st : Margaret Glenn. 2nd : Margaret Astin. |

George Dickson died in 1817 and he and his wife Rachel are buried 12 miles from Noblestown, Penna. (Noblestown is in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.)

¹ This has no foundation whatsoever ; it is merely the author's conjecture because James McKee, the author's Revolutionary War ancestor, was married to a girl whose personal name was Agnes, and as a matter of fact it is contradicted by one account that this Agnes Dickson married a man named Boyar, and another that she married David McBrayer.

² "The surname of Dickson as descended of one Richard Keith, said to be a son of the family of Keith Marischal, took their name from Richard (called in the south country Dick), and to show themselves descended of Keith, Earl Marischal, they carry the Chief of Keith." *System of Heraldry* (Nisbet).

³ "The Keiths are not of Clan Chattan but a distinct noble name. Sir William Keith, Hereditary Great Marischal of Scotland, was by King James II created Earl Marischal." *The Clans, Septs and Regiments of the Scottish Highlands*, (Frank Adam ; revised by Sir Thomas Innes of Learney, Lord Lyon King of Arms of Scotland). p. 302-303.

⁴ The author considers it possible that she married James McKee, son of Hugh.

Andrew Dickson and Sarah Frazee were married in 1797 and had the following children :

| | | | | | |
|-----------|------|------|----|---------|---------------------------------------------|
| George | born | 1801 | .. | Married | Agnes Frazee. |
| Johnathan | " | 1802 | .. | " | 1st : Mary Johnston. 2nd : Mary Ralston. |
| Mary | " | 1803 | .. | " | John Frazee. |
| James | " | 1805 | .. | " | Nancy Morrow. |
| Rachel | " | 1807 | .. | " | David Anderson. |
| Leah | " | 1809 | .. | " | John Jameson. |
| Andrew | " | 1811 | .. | " | 1st : Mary Cummins. 2nd : Mary Clemons. |
| Sarah | " | 1813 | .. | " | Mathias Tustison. |
| William | " | 1814 | .. | " | Maria Tustison. |
| Hannah | " | 1816 | .. | " | John Quigg. |
| John | " | 1818 | .. | " | Margaret Robinson. |
| Elizabeth | " | 1820 | .. | " | William Mathews. |
| Margaret | " | 1822 | .. | " | William Robinson. |

Andrew Dickson and his wife Sarah are buried in the Dickson Cemetery near Tire, Ohio.

The following are excerpts from a letter written Jan. 11, 1928, by George B. Slater, Cannonsburg, Pa., to Mrs. V. S. Fendrick :

" The eldest of the four brothers born in America was Andrew, whose birth was in 1748, and who died in the service in the Revolutionary War. Andrew Dickson, Sr's. children were named Hannah, George, Jean, James, Esther, Sarah, Andrew, Agnes, Mary Ann, and John.

George Dickson was born December 7, 1735, and died in the fall of 1817. He married in 1770 Rachel McKee, then 29 years of age, a daughter of James McKee. You are right about the Dicksons going to Indiana County, but so far as our history goes none of this family remained there. George Dickson's father was Andrew Dickson who came from Scotland and settled near Chambersburg. In the summer of 1772 George came to Black Lick Creek, now Indiana County, accompanied by his younger brother John, and bought 400 acres of land. There they built a cabin, cleared what land they could during the summer, and then went back to Chambersburg for the winter. In 1773 they returned and cleared more and in 1774 George moved his family into the cabin. He continued to clear and cultivate the land until 1778, when in the greatest haste, they were obliged to flee upon receiving news of the Wyoming Massacre and the near approach of hostile Indians. With his wife and their small children James, Andrew and Agnes, all mounted two saddle horses, upon which they returned across the mountains to Chambersburg. In 1782, George and his brother John again visited their property in western Pennsylvania to find everything in ashes. Coming southward to Pittsburg, suitable land was found and purchased from one Thomas Reed, an early settler who held it under a patent. John Dickson went farther west into Ohio, where he married and settled near Poland. As to the record of George Dickson's military service, I did not look it up in the Archives. We copied it from records of one of the other Dickson relatives and as we know of five who have joined the D.A.R. on the Dickson line and gave the same record which I sent you we felt it was alright as the N.S.D.A.R. did not register a kick"

MARGE S. KIEFFER,

Clerk of Courts Office,

Chambersburg, Penna.

The following historical excerpt is transcribed directly from the volume mentioned but, the present author has succeeded in supplementing and correcting it in several important respects. For example, the summary fails to mention that Thomas McKee married a ¹Shawnee girl, and by her had several children, among them James, ²Alexander, and Hugh. Then, too, the article mistakenly attributes James *Junior* to Thomas McKee. This should be James McKee (Senior). The Scottish Presbyterians that removed to Ireland, and thence to America, usually named the first son after the father's father, whom the excerpt leaves unnamed. If his name were James, which it was not, because it was Alexander, his grandson would very likely have been named James; even in such circumstances it seems most improbable that a *junior* would be attached to his name. *Junior* usually is assigned when father and son bear the same Christian name, but it would be most extraordinary for it to attach in the case of grandfather and grandson.

The family of James McKee, Jr., as previously stated, is mentioned in Mrs. Fendrick's *American Revolutionary Soldiers of Franklin County, Pennsylvania*, in considerable detail. He named one son Thomas and another Hugh, which certainly represents a commemoration of family antecedents as we have constructed them. However, he also had a son named James and six other children, correctly named in the article with the exception of Rachel, who is mentioned as *my daughter* in the will of the James McKee whose will was dated July 20, 1777, and proved in May, 1782. This is *not* James McKee, Jr., whose will the present writer has not discovered, but an older man a copy of whose will the author possesses; its executors were named as William and James McKee; William renounced but James served. This Rachel McKee married George Dickson (1770-1817), son of Andrew and Agnes Dickson. George Dickson served in the Revolution under Captain John Woods and Captain James Poe in the Cumberland County Militia, and his family is delineated a few paragraphs back.

A significant circumstance connected with James McKee, Jr., is that while he married Susanna Nesbit *ca.* 1749, daughter of Thomas and Jean Nesbit, Susanna's sister Mary Nesbit married the Hugh McKee, "*thought to be related*" to James McKee, Sr., but obviously *not* James McKee, Jr.'s son Hugh. It seems indubitable that James McKee, Jr., was Hugh McKee's nephew. Hugh and Mary McKee were members and pewholders of the old Welsh Run Church. This Hugh McKee's will is dated November 18, 1794 and was probated May 22, 1795, his son Thomas McKee and his son-in-law George Dickey acting as executors. It will be noted that the younger Hugh McKee, whose wistful letter to his mother from Valley Forge is reproduced hereafter, is said to have been killed March 21, 1812, by a falling log.

Thus, it is clear that there were two Hugh McKees, one of whom married Mary Nesbit *circa* 1750, and the other *whose father* James McKee, Jr., married Susanna Nesbit, Mary Nesbit's sister.

As previously shown, Mrs. Fendrick, page 162, says concerning the elder Hugh McKee, "It is probable that he was related to James McKee of Antrim Township, who left a daughter Rachel (who) married George Dickson". She treats of James McKee, Jr., under a separate section on the same page, so it seems perfectly evident from this and the above mentioned will that Rachel McKee was the daughter of a much older man than James McKee, Jr.

As mentioned earlier, Captain Thomas McKee served in the Colonial Wars across the river from Cumberland in 1747-'48. This was as is otherwise substantiated the Thomas

¹ There is reason, which appears elsewhere, to doubt this.

² One account asseverates Alexander was born in Ireland in 1720.

McKee (some say there were five, and others say eleven) who came over from Ireland *circa* 1735-7, except that he came earlier, perhaps as early as 1707, with their father Alexander. Three of the other brothers we can identify as Robert, John, and William, of Virginia.

A family tree of four of the *original five McKee brothers of Pennsylvania and Virginia* is reproduced herein, as complete as the writer has been able to contrive it. From the people on this tree hundreds of American McKee families descend, including his own.

It should be regarded as exactly what it is, a portrayal of known facts, coupled with some reasoned supposition. The number of male McKees in America between 1700 and say 1734 was necessarily *very few*. Then, in the great exodus from Ulster about 1735-7, some others arrived: perhaps five and mayhap eleven McKee brothers. Every shred of written matter on the subject leads us to the conviction that *these* brothers were directly descended from one of the four McKee brothers who helped vanquish James II at the Battle of the Boyne, and we do have scattered and fragmentary documentation that one patriarch and father of the great emigration to America was *Alexander McKee*. There seems to be no reason whatsoever for the author, who confidently asserts that the McKee Clan was in very ancient times Irish, to dispute that Alexander McKee on this side of the Atlantic and in Antrim, was Alexander Mackay in Scotland, whence he undoubtedly came to Antrim with the forces of William of Orange. Mind you, all Scots came from Ireland, and the roots of our own Mac Eths or Mackays back into history's dimmest beginnings incubated there, with those of the royal O'Neills. But all of this was in early centuries immediately surrounding the Incarnation.

Thomas McKee of McKee's Half Falls, Pennsylvania, as taken from *American Biography* (1928), The American Historical Society, Inc., Vol. 31, p. 181.

"The McKee or McKay family is of Scotch origin, the line here traced being descendants of the chiefs of the Mackay clan of Kintyre, Scotland, a clan the history of which forms one of the romances of the Highlands of Scotland. Branches settled in England and in Ireland. Burke in his 'General Armory', records five coats-of-arms for individuals and groups bearing the name Mackay, located in Scotland and Ireland, and it is a significant fact that four of these carry three bears' heads as principal charges. The armorial bearings described above are those of McKay of Edinburgh, which are similar to those of McKay, 'barons Reay, while crest and motto are identical".

In attributing Alexander McKee (Mackay), who was one of the four brothers who fought under King William at the Boyne, to Kintyre without qualifying explanation, the article commits serious though unintentional error. The fact that one of them claimed the three bears' heads of the clan which Lord Reay heads definitely identifies Alexander and the other three brothers as Strathnaver Mackays of northern Scotland. Even in law, the death bed statement of a man is taken to be true; in the same sense, it is quite unthinkable that a man would claim arms to which he was not entitled on his tombstone. However, the Kintyre Mackays were themselves a cadet branch of the Strathnaver clan, according to Robert Mackay and also Angus Mackay, the authors.

¹ The arms of Lord Reay are comparatively recent (1628). The earlier Strathnaver Mackay arms carry a sinister hand, perhaps the *Red Hand*, and three mullets, i.e. stars. The M'Kies of Larg, a cadet branch of the Mac Eths (Mackays) of Strathnaver, *since the days of Robert Bruce* have blazoned: Argent, two ravens pendent from an arrow fessways piercing their necks proper, on a shield azure a lion passant of the field, armed and langued gules. Crest, a raven proper; motto LABORA. R.W.M.

Angus Mackay in his *Book of Mackay*, Wick, 1906, p. 360, says :

“The earliest reference to these Mackays (The Argyle and Western Mackays) which we have found is in a charter by King Robert Bruce, 31 Mar., 1329, confirming two shanmareats of land in *Kintyre* to Gilchrist Mac Ymar M'Clay and to Gilchrist his younger son in heritage with remainder to Ymar his elder son and his heirs. (The charter itself, in Latin, is printed in part as Appendix No. 1 in Angus Mackay's volume). Various writers have concluded that this *Kintyre* family is the CLAN AID (AOIDH) whose genealogy is given in the Advocate's Library Manuscripts of 1450. This conclusion may be correct, but if it be it serves to show how inaccurately the 1450 manuscripts recorded the genealogy of that family. Below we give the Manuscript List for some generations in the left hand column, and parallel to it the genealogy as recorded in the charter of the Bruce.

| Per Manuscript List | Per Charter from Robert Bruce |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Farquhar, son of | |
| Ivor, son of | Ivor and Gilchrist, sons of |
| Gilchrist, son of | Gilchrist, son of |
| Gillespie, son of | Ivor, son of |
| Gillananeamph, son of | Aidh |
| Gilchrist, son of | |
| Cormac, son of | |
| Gillamichael, son of | |
| Aidh | |

In the 1450 list the first three generations may be correctly recorded, but beyond that it does not seem to us of much if any value. *Those who argue from this list that the CLAN AID had no connection with the Strathnaver CLAN AOIDH have very slender grounds to go upon.* (Emphasis supplied.—R.W.M.) It is an undoubted historical fact that the Mac Eths (an early spelling of MacAoidh, Mackay, McKee.—R.W.M.) were closely connected with Somerled of Argyle, that they fought together and intermarried. (For example, *circa* 1130 A.D., Malcolm Mac Eth was forced to flee to Argyle when his father Angus Mac Eth, Earl of Moray, who was a son of a daughter of Lulach, King of Scotland 1057 A.D., was slain in a battle with the forces of David I, King of Scotland in 1130 A.D. Somerled, regulus of Argyle, espoused the cause of Malcolm Mac Eth and gave him his sister in marriage. See p. 22 of *Book of Mackay*, here being quoted.—R.W.M.). In the unsettlement prevailing at the time it is quite likely that some of these fugitive Mac Eths settled in Argyle and the Western Isles, where they took root under the spreading shield of the house of Macdonald. And that Donald MacEth (Mackay) of Strathnaver should take a wife from the island of Gigha in the early years of the fourteenth century is some confirmation of this view”.

The foregoing, as noted, is directly quoted from *The Book of Mackay*, by Angus Mackay. Almost 100 years earlier, *circa* 1828, another member of the clan Robert Mackay also wrote his *History of the House and Clan of Mackay*, from which the following is a direct quotation :

“Morgan (Mackay) was succeeded by his son Donald I (1325–1340). His accession to his father's property may have been about the year 1325. Sir Robert (Gordon) says he married the daughter of Iye of Gigha, the son of Niel, by whom, he adds, he had a son called Iye, after his grandfather. Gigha is an island in the district of Kintyre, which Pennant describes to be about six miles long and one broad ; and as in ancient times there were thanes of Gigha, this Iye might have been one of them. It seems to imply that *Donald had relations in Kintyre* (emphasis supplied), when he went such a distance for a wife, and corroborates the above statement, that some of the Mackays had previously been settled there. Indeed, the Mackays continued to be persons of eminence in Kintyre until the last century, and their descendants under other names, are so still”.

Earlier, Robert Mackay in the same volume named above makes the following apodictic comment :

“ The Mackays united with their brave countrymen, in support of their independence ; and there is reason to think they were led by Magnus (Mackay) as their chief. It is said, that a charter is still extant, of certain lands granted by King Robert (the Bruce) to Mackay ; and there is in the Register Office, a charter of lands in Kintyre, granted by that prince to one of the Mackay family. The latter is to Gilchrist-Mackay-More Mackay, for homage and service, of the pennyland of Killiwillen, and the pennyland of Skelamonsky in Kintyre, dated at Monyreth in Galloway, the 31st day of March, and of the king's reign, the fourteenth year ”. (Haddington's Collection of Ancient Charters. *Robertson's Index.*)

“ The branch of the Mackay family from which the McKee line traced below is descended settled in County Antrim, Ireland, under the following circumstances : The father of Thomas McKee, mentioned below, was an officer in the army of William of Orange, which was sent into Ireland. He helped to defeat the forces of James II in the battle of the Boyne in 1690, and for his services to the English crown received land in Ireland ”.

“ Thomas McKee and his father left County Antrim, Ireland, and came to this country to engage in the Indian fur trade. They settled along the Susquehanna River in Paxtang Township, of what was then Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, both continuing in the fur trading business for about thirty-five years. At the end of that time the father died, and Thomas, the son, continued the business at ¹McKee's Half Falls, in what is now Snyder County, Pennsylvania, where he established a trading store. He had his business at this place in 1742, although it is believed that he had established a branch of his father's business there six years before this date. After the ²defeat of Braddock, the Indians burned Thomas McKee's trading post, which he rebuilt and fortified in 1756. He was a captain in the Colonial forces in the French and Indian War. Later he was an Indian agent, and several times visited Fort Pitt and other places to confer on Indian affairs. He was also special commissioner of the Proprietors of Pennsylvania to the Wyoming settlement. He died in 1772, having disposed of his extensive land holdings. He married, and among his children was James, Jr.³ ”

“ James McKee, Jr.,³ son of Thomas McKee, was born about 1740, at McKee's Half Falls, on the Susquehanna River, now Snyder County, Pennsylvania, and like his father became a trapper and fur trader. After his marriage he moved into Cumberland Valley, where he purchased land at several places and where eight of his children were born. In 1773 he purchased

¹ McKee's Half Falls appears on Rand McNally maps as late as their 1948 Atlas, and lies across the river from Dalmatia, Pennsylvania. Four locations bear the McKee name in that state : McKee's Half Falls, McKee's Gap, McKee's Rocks, and McKeesport. A basic Family Tree for the latter family has been included herein. In Kentucky, McKee is the capital of Jackson County. It was named for John R. McKee.

² July 9, 1755. General Braddock ignored the excellent advice of one of his young officers named George Washington, or he might have had a victory instead of a defeat. He chose to arrange his troops in a phalanx rather than to deploy them Indian fashion, thus converting them into perfect targets.

³ *recte*, James McKee, *Senior* who died in 1782, and was probably born between 1715 and 1722. It is a fact, however, that James McKee, *Junior*, was born, as above stated, in Snyder County, Pennsylvania, and *circa* 1740. Since McKee's Half Falls is in Snyder County, this circumstance in this author's opinion implants a bond of almost undeniable relationship between Thomas McKee of McKee's Half Falls, James McKee, Sr., James McKee, Jr., and Hugh McKee, Sr. The author of the genealogy here reproduced overlooked a generation. James McKee, Jr. was the son of James McKee, who was the son of Thomas McKee of McKee's Half Falls, who was the son of Alexander McKee, the veteran of the Battle of the Boyne.

The error into which the writer of the above-quoted genealogical article has fallen will be more evident if we look briefly at dates. Thomas McKee's father died in 1740. He and Thomas had been at their trading post some 35 years. Hence, they arrived in America *circa* 1705-7. If James McKee, *Junior*, who was born *circa* 1740, were ascribed to Thomas McKee of McKee's Half Falls, and we were to assume (1) that Thomas was (say) 15 when he came to America, and (2) twenty years of age when he married, Thomas McKee would have been 48-50 years of age when James McKee (Junior) was born.

It is the present author's conclusion, and the dates and names in certified wills tend to confirm his belief, that James McKee (Senior) was Thomas McKee's son, as was the elder Hugh McKee.

land between Congruity and West Apollo, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, to which place he was about to remove when the Revolutionary War broke out. James, Jr., and his two sons Thomas and Hugh, enlisted in a company of Frontier Riflemen, a part of a regiment commanded by Colonel Chambers. They participated in the New Jersey campaign and wintered at Valley Forge. At the close of the war in 1783, James and his family of eight children removed to the Westmoreland County property. James and his sons had visited the Westmoreland County home several times before this, and had erected a cabin and cleared the land, but on their arrival for final settlement they found their cabin had been burned down. This had taken place when the Indians burned Hannastown and devastated the Westmoreland frontier. In 1809 James McKee, Jr., while preparing to remove to the 'Ohio' country, was taken sick, which illness resulted in his death in 1810. He was buried in Congruity Presbyterian Churchyard, Congruity, Pennsylvania. His widow went to Ohio in 1811 and a few years later died at Andrew McKee's farm near Zanesville, Ohio, where she was buried. James McKee, Jr., married Susan Nesbit, daughter of Thomas Nesbit. Children (first seven born in Cumberland Valley, last three in Westmoreland County) : 1. Thomas, 2. Polly, 3. Hugh, of whom further. 4. Martha, 5. Rachel, 6. William, 7. James, 8. Abbie, 9. Andrew, 10. Ruhaminah".

"Hugh McKee, son of James McKee, Jr., and Susan Nesbit McKee, was born about 1760 near Greencastle, Antrim Township, Franklin County, Pennsylvania. He engaged in the Indian fur trade and at the outbreak of the Revolution enlisted in the Continental Army. He participated in the New Jersey campaign. The following letter from Valley Forge indicates that he shared the severe suffering of that dreadful winter :

In Camp on the Schuylkill, Dec. 12, 1777.

Dear Mother :

My company came here yesterday and we are preparing for a long stay. We feel that we have a long gloomy winter ahead. The General does not think we will move before spring. My foot is still very sore and walking about in the cold and snow with it bound up in cloth does not help it any. God knows I do not complain when my comrades are also without shoes and without covering, and our country's liberties are in the balance. We laugh at our hardships and joke about the beef-fed Britons. Be brave, the God of Battles is with us. It is so cold, I can hardly write another word and what I have written with this poor quill and worse fluid may not be made out. Father and brother are out scouting toward Philadelphia.

Your loving son,
Hugh.

"Hugh McKee became a captain of Riflemen before the close of the war. He was also captain of the Congruity Rifles during the War of 1812. After the settlement in Westmoreland County, Hugh McKee married and purchased a farm near his father's home, and there all of his children were born. After the death of his father, in 1810, he moved into Jefferson County, Pennsylvania, and settled at Hamilton Post Office, where he was killed March 21, 1812, by a log falling upon him from the roof of his cabin. He was buried in the old Punxsutawney graveyard, his being the first grave in that cemetery. He married Elizabeth Thompson. Children : James, Thompson, Thomas, Sarah, Susan, Nancy, William".

It should be kept in mind that we possess positive evidence that Thomas McKee of McKee's Half Falls had six children ; and we believe three of them were Alexander, James, and Hugh. Alexander is very satisfactorily documented although there is substantial reason to doubt that he was born in Ireland of an Irish mother, rather than in America of an Indian mother the same as the other children. James also occurs in several independent accounts, but to attempt to identify him as James McKee, Jr., as the foregoing account does, is clearly an error. James McKee, Jr.'s father obviously had to be James McKee, *Senior*, who was

possibly himself the 'son of Thomas McKee of McKee's Half Falls. This brings us to Hugh McKee, and it was concerning him that Mrs. Fendrick found internal evidence amongst the early documents she perused that Hugh McKee (Senior) and James McKee (Senior) were related. In view of their ages, the most logical assumption is that Hugh was an uncle of James, Jr. ; and a brother of James McKee, Sr. James, Sr. and Hugh, Sr. may have been sons of Alexander McKee, Sr.

4. HUGH McKEE, whose birthdate I have failed to find, was probably born *circa* 1730, and died in May, 1795. He was married to Mary Nesbit, while his nephew James McKee, Jr., whose birthdate is also unknown but who died in 1810, was married to Susana Nesbit, a sister of Mary Nesbit. Hugh McKee sired four sons and five daughters. They were Thomas McKee, William McKee, *James McKee*, and Andrew McKee ; the girls were Martha, Ann, Mary, Isabel, and Elizabeth. Where the spouses of these daughters are known, their names are shown on the McKee Family Tree that includes Hugh and Mary McKee. Mrs. Fendrick says of him :

" Hugh McKee was a 2nd Lieutenant in 1st Company, 6th Battalion, Cumberland County Militia July and October, 1777, and May and November, 1778. He was a pew-holder in Welsh Run Church, as were also Mary and William McKee. His will, probated May 22, 1795, states he was of Peters Township "

She then lists the above named children, and adds, " It is probable that he was related to James McKee of Antrim Township, who left a daughter Rachel, married to George Dickson. Pennsylvania Archives, 5th Series, Vol. 6, p. 367, 372, 376, 383 "

His will is reproduced immediately following. The odd bequest to Mary of " one french Crown " is inexplicable among money bequests reckoned in pounds, unless it were by some chance a coronet.

Will of Hugh McKee, dated November 18, 1794. (He died in May, 1795.)

IN THE NAME OF GOD AMEN, I Hugh McKee of Peters Township Franklin County and State of Pennsylvania being weak in body but of sound memory do this eighteenth day of November in the year one Thousand seven hundred and ninety four make and publish this my Last will and Testament in manner following *viz.* : It is my will and desire that my Just Debts and Funeral Charges be paid out of my Estate by executors hereinafter named. And first I will and Bequeath unto my beloved Wife Mary² and her heirs the sum of one hundred and twenty pounds and likewise a bed and Furniture and a Horse and Saddle. Also I give to my Daughter Martha and her heirs Fifty pounds. Also I give to my Daughter Ann and her heirs sixty pounds. Also I give to my son James and his Heirs one hundred pounds. Also I give to my son Andrew and his Heirs one hundred pounds. Also I give to my Daughter Mary and her heirs one french Crown. Also I give to my Daughter Isabel and her heirs Fifty pounds. Likewise I give unto my daughter Elizabeth and her heirs fifty pounds and a Horse and Saddle with a bed and furniture. And I also give to Mary Wilson and her Heirs five pounds or a saddle. And Likewise it is my will and desire that my Executors do sell and dispose of that plantation or Tract of Land on which I now live (if possible it can be done to good advantage) in the Course of the first year after my decease, But if no convenient opportunity offers they may postpone the sale until the Course of the second year after my decease but no longer, and also it is my will and desire (if the sale be accomodated the first year) that my Executors do out of my real Estate pay the Legacies above mentioned to all and every one of my Heirs Respectively in four equal payments the first payment to be made agreeable to the above mentioned accomodation of the sale of the Land *viz.* : of the Land to be sold the

¹ He may have been a brother of Captain Thomas McKee.

² This is Mary Nesbit, sister of Susanna Nesbit who married James McKee, Jr. R.W.M.

first year. The first payment is to be made one year after my decease the second payment two years after my decease the third three years, and the fourth and last payment four year after my decease, but, and if the Land be not sold until the second year, the first payment is not to be made until two years after my decease, the second payment three years, etc., as above specified. And I do will and bequeath unto my son Thomas his heirs or assigns the one half of my real estate with all my personal property, after my just debts and the Legacies above mentioned are paid. Likewise I do will and bequeath unto my son William and his heirs the other half of my Real Estate after my just debts and the above mentioned Legacies are paid to be paid to him in the following manner, after the first mentioned yearly payments are made to the above named Legatees, *viz.* : the one half of the surplus or Remaining Cash Occruing yearly from the sale of the Land, to be paid to him (my sd. son William or his heirs) yearly by my executors. And lastly I do nominate ordain and appoint my son Thomas and my Son in law George Dickey to be sole Executors of this my last will and Testament, To see that the same be duly Executed according to the Intent thereof.

IN WITNESS whereof I the said Hugh McKee have to this my last will and testament set my Hand and Seal, the Day and year above written.

Signed Sealed and acknowledged by the said
Hugh McKee as his Last will and Testament
In presence of us,—

HUGH McKEE (SEAL)

Alexr. Glendining, Walter McKinnie, Adam Rusk

¹MARY McKEE

Probated : May 22, 1795—Recorded : Vol. A, Page 333

5. JAMES McKEE, one of his younger sons received but one hundred pounds legacy, while the main property was divided between the two eldest sons Thomas and William. It was this James McKee whose wife's name was Agnes ; the writer suspects she was Agnes Dickson, daughter of Andrew and Agnes Dickson, but as two other possible marriages for her have been advanced by earlier writers, this is uncertain. This could have been a second marriage.

The Revolutionary War record of James McKee commenced in Pennsylvania and he concluded his service while residing in ²Hardin County, Kentucky. The following is as nearly a correct catalogue of it as this writer has been able to find :

JAMES McKEE : Born *c.* 1760, Died *c.* 1820-30. Married Agnes (Dickson, supposititious) *c.* 1778. Served as private under Capt. James Poe and Lieut. Daniel Smith in 1777-78 ; Penna. Archives 5th Ser., Vol. 6, p. 522, 526, 583. Served as private 1780-81 under Capt. John Woods, Penna. Archives, Vol. 6, p. 76, 92, 104. Emigrated during War of Revolution to Hardin Co. Ky., then *circa* 1811 to Crawford Co., Ind., where he died *c.* 1820-30. (The author's diligent search for his grave has been unavailing.) Served in Capt. Chas. Polke's Company, under command of General George Rogers Clark, 1782. See Payroll in Virginia State Library, I.P.D. 93.

¹ This was Mary Nesbit, sister of Susanna Nesbit, wife of James McKee, Jr. The McKee farm adjoined that of the Nesbits, Thomas and Jean. The children of this couple were William Nesbit, who served under Captain John Woods and Captain James Poe in the Revolutionary War. The four daughters were Mary Nesbit, who married Hugh McKee ; Frances Nesbit, who married William Sloan ; Susanna Nesbit, who married James McKee, Jr., nephew of Hugh McKee ; and Martha Nesbit who married James Dickson.

² Hardin County, Kentucky was formed in 1792 from Nelson County. Nelson County was formed in 1784 from Jefferson County ; Jefferson County was formed in 1780 from Kentucky.

Other information concerning this veteran may exist but the author has not been able to discover it, beyond the brief mention that is made of him in *Biographical Review* (1892), Biographical Review Publishing Co., Chicago, Ill., p. 334, thus, under the biography of his grandson William McKee (Jr.) (Jan. 22, 1813–Dec. 17, 1897) : “The paternal grandfather, James McKee, emigrated to Kentucky during the War of the Revolution, and thence removed to Indiana, where he passed the remainder of his days”.

The author has employed the services of three different and competent genealogists on this single problem, and has corresponded with various state historical societies as well as a retired researcher who has catalogued all of the principal graveyards in Crawford County, Indiana, without finding the last resting place of this McKee veteran. In a sketch of the life of his grandson (through Thomas) Major David McKee, the following comment does appear. As it undoubtedly was dictated by Major David himself, it supplies us with a brief glimpse of the veteran, and may reveal the reason his burial place cannot be found in Indiana, since it intimates that James McKee may have died in Kentucky, instead of Indiana :

“Major David McKee, farmer and stock raiser, was born in Sangamon County, Illinois, December 14, 1823, the youngest of eleven children of Thomas and Hannah (Frakes) McKee, of Scotch-Irish descent, and natives of Kentucky and Pennsylvania, respectively, and born somewhere near 1770 (*recte* 1780 and 1782). They married in Kentucky, where the father was engaged in farming, although until about 1815 he worked at blacksmithing, somewhat”.

6. WILLIAM McKEE. Of this son of the Revolutionary war veteran James McKee, the *Biographical Review* goes on to say : “William McKee, Sr., was reared in the Blue-grass State, and there was married ; he removed to Indiana when it was yet a Territory, and was a pioneer of Crawford County. He purchased land and made it his home until 1826, (He emigrated on January 22, 1826.—R.W.M.) when, accompanied by his wife and ten children, he removed to Illinois. The journey was made by teams, which was not devoid of interest. Mr. McKee had visited this section the year previous, making the trip on horseback ; he purchased a land warrant which called for 160 acres, paying therefor \$100 ; on his return to Indiana he stopped at Springfield and cleared his title at the Government office. It was, indeed, a courageous heart that looked at such a future calmly ; the country was thinly settled ; the poles of the Indian wigwams still stood in the ground, market towns were far distant and provisions were high. Mr. McKee erected a double log cabin, using wooden pegs instead of nails ; the door was constructed of puncheons, and was furnished with the historic latch-string”.

“William McKee built a horse-mill in 1828, it being the third in that section of the country. People came to the mill from as far south as Rock Island.

Mrs. McKee manufactured cloth from the flax and cotton that her husband raised, with which to clothe the family. Mrs. McKee's maiden name was Cassie Frakes ; she was a native of Pennsylvania, and a daughter of Henry and Hannah Frakes ; her death occurred at the house of her daughter, which is situated close to the old home farm”.

In *History of Schuyler and Brown Counties, Illinois*, W. R. Brink & Co., Philadelphia, 1882, p. 233, there is also a note of this early pioneer's entry into Schuyler County, Illinois, as follows : “William McKee came from Indiana, April 16, 1826, (Recall that he started this journey January 22, 1826.—R.W.M.) and located in Section 18. He had a large family, mostly daughters. Both he and his wife died here several years ago”.

Tracing William McKee back into Indiana, we find the following entry in *Biographical and Historical Souvenir for the Counties of Clark, Crawford, Harrison, etc.*, 1889, John M. Gresham & Company, Chicago, page 47 :

"One man settled on Cider Fork of Whiskey Run Creek in what is now Whiskey Run township. This was Thomas Strond. He must, therefore, be accounted the first settler of Crawford County having settled in March, 1806. In the fall of 1806 Mr. Strond was followed by E. E. Morgan, William McKee, and William Frakes. Morgan and McKee settled in the northeastern part, while Frakes settled in the northwestern part of the county".

From County Clark records we learn that William McKee bought 163 acres in Crawford County April 29, 1814, and sold it February 21, 1832 to Samuel Oram of Schuyler County, Illinois.

William McKee's older brother Thomas McKee was born in Hardin County, Kentucky December 6, 1780. He married Hannah Frakes, whose sister Cassander Frakes married Thomas McKee's brother William McKee. These girls were daughters of Henry and Hannah Frakes of Pennsylvania. Thomas McKee was killed in a coal mine accident near Rushville, Illinois January 5, 1833, and from the circumstance that diligent search of local burying grounds has failed to disclose his last resting place, the author surmises that his remains were lost in the accident. His wife Hannah Frakes McKee died August 22, 1864 and is buried at Bethany Church Burial Ground north of Rushville, Illinois.

He and his family crossed the Ohio into Indiana about 1805, when his son James was but an infant. They appear to have stayed a short while in Crawford County, then to have proceeded to Harrison County. After a few years they again moved westward to Sangamon County, Illinois, where their son (Major) David McKee was born. He was the youngest of their eleven children. In 1823 Thomas McKee was the first white settler to arrive at what was known as the Bainbridge settlement near what is now Rushville, Illinois. The following excerpts, their source noted, authenticate this early pioneer's community interest and stature.

COMBINED HISTORY OF SCHUYLER AND BROWN COUNTIES, ILLINOIS
(W. R. Brink & Co., Philadelphia, 1882)

Page 58 :

In the fall of 1823 the nucleus of the Bainbridge settlement was formed by the arrival of Thomas McKee, a native of Kentucky, who built his cabin on the northeast quarter of section twenty, and Willis O'Neal, who came with him and settled on section sixteen. They were both men of family, and came from Indiana to Illinois, first coming to the house of Calvin Hobart, where they spent a week before moving into Bainbridge. McKee was a natural mechanic and possessed the ability to manufacture almost any article from wood or iron. He was a good gunsmith, and well as blacksmith, and as soon as he built his cabin he also built a shop and commenced to work at the latter, being the first blacksmith in the county. The history of McKee will be found more minutely given in the history of Littleton in which he also made the first settlement, while that of O'Neal may be found in the Pioneer Chapter of Brown County. These were the principal, and we may almost positively assert were the first and only emigrants to that portion of the country now included in Schuyler county in the year 1823. It is unnecessary for the historian to record the axiom that their life was one of ceaseless toil and endless privation; and while it required sturdy and brawny arms to wring from the soil the scanty subsistence necessary to sustain life, it required stouter hearts to brave the dangers of a pioneer life, in a distant land, and away from pleasant and comfortable homes from which many of the older settlers had come to enter the wilderness and prepare the way for the rapid march of civilization, which has since crowded many of them farther towards the Orient.

Page 62 :

About this time, 1826, Calvin Hobart, Nathaniel Eels, and William McKee had mills of this description (band mills) in the vicinity of Rushville. After the grain had been taken there and crushed, it was brought home and sifted through what they called a "sarch", woven of

horse-hair, by the pioneer women. These were made with meshes both coarse and fine, for sifting either corn or flour. The first sawing of lumber was done by hand with the whip saw. The nearest saw mill and the first one in this part of the county was built south of Crooked Creek, on the old Scott's mill site. The earliest settlers frequently went to ¹Beardstown and purchased flour to make their bread. It was then considered a great luxury to have bread made from wheat flour ; rye, hominy, and jonny cakes made simply of corn meal and water mixed together, generally without any salt, constituted their bread-stuff principally. The customs and modes of living are fully described in the succeeding chapter, and we must only touch upon them here.

Immigration rapidly increased, and the work of enumerating those who came in 1826 and the improvements they made now commands our attention. Thomas McKee, our pioneer of 1823, had not been dilatory in setting forth the fertility of the soil and the beauty of the country, when writing to his friends and relatives, whom he had left in Indiana. His letters were the means of bringing a large number of pioneers from that state, the first arrivals being a party that came on the 16th day of April, 1826. From the lips of Joel Tullis, who is the last of the party now living in the county, we have gathered the following : In the party were William McKee, Joel Tullis, his son-in-law ; William McKee, Jr., his son ; Charles Hammond, Isaac Linder, Vincent Westfall and James Thompson. They all came in wagons, William McKee, Sr., and Joel Tullis, each with a two-horse wagon, and the rest depending on those two for transportation. They crossed the river at Beard's Ferry and pushed on to the residence of Thomas McKee, the brother of William McKee, Sr., where they remained until William McKee, Sr., selected the northeast quarter of section 18 of Rushville township. Several double cabins were soon built, and all hands went to work with a will ; and a good crop of corn, potatoes, cabbage and other vegetables was soon growing on the forty acres, which they had fenced and put into cultivation. Charles Hammond and his wife did not remain later than the following spring when they left the county, and Isaac Linder, who had left his family in Indiana, being so well pleased with the country, did not wait to assist with the crop, but started back afoot to dispose of his property and at once move out. Joel Tullis was the only one save John Thompson, who had a wife and family. Their names were James, Mary, Joel ; and Hammond, who also brought a family consisting of a wife and one child. In planting they simply turned the sod, and between the crevices of the broken soil they dropped the corn. This crop was known as "sod corn". The season was favorable, and the yield bountiful, the corn producing twenty-five bushels to the acre, the potatoes, cabbages, and other vegetables equally fine, while the watermelon patch was so thickly covered with the enormous and luscious fruit that a passage over the patch could be easily made without placing the foot upon the ground. This magnificent crop was but a fair example of the fertility and productiveness of the soil in early times, and was largely the cause of many remaining who would otherwise have rambled on. As soon as their crop was well advanced, the younger ²McKee was left in charge, and William McKee, Sr., and Joel Tullis, who went along to assist his father-in-law, to move his household goods, family and stock, started to Indiana with their wagons. John Thompson also went along to assist, leaving his family with Mrs. Tullis ; and Vincent Westfall, who had left his family, accompanied them. Upon the arrival in Indiana, Joel Tullis began the construction of a pirogue. He first selected a large, straight poplar tree which he felled, then cut from the butt a log about sixty feet long, which was dug out until nothing but a shell remained. Wide boards were then nailed to the upper edge of the sides and allowed to extend out over the water ; oar-locks, oars, and long poles for propelling when oars could not be used completed the pirogue, which was finished by the last of September. They commenced the loading of the craft, whose cargo consisted of household goods, leather, groceries, a carding machine for William McKee, and two men with families emigrating to Morgan county, while the working

¹ On many occasions my father humorously described some heavily bearded stranger as, "Mr. Brush from Beardstown". He must have heard this from Rushville relatives. R.W.M.

² This is Uncle Billy, otherwise William McKee, Jr., whose Bible came to the author through Cyrus L. de Witt. R.W.M.

force of this ancient method of transportation consisted of Joel Tullis as captain, and John Thompson, James Thompson his brother and unmarried, John Combs, single, and Captain Daniel Matheny, a married man. All aboard ! and the craft left the bank and was soon drifting down the waters of the Ohio. They travelled by day, frequently grounding upon sand bars, as the river was very low, and then all hands had to get out and " lift over ". Joel Tullis, after several " lift overs ", discovered that the channel of the Ohio was staked out, and by noticing closely no farther delays were experienced by our travellers, who sped along by day and camped upon the banks at night, with nothing for shelter but the blue vault of heaven lighted up by the lurid glare of their camp fire. The solitude of the wilderness was broken only by the sound of the splashing of oars, or the echoes of the songs of the hardy woodman, as he was hewing out his home in the depth of the forests which then skirted the streams. The season of the year was such that the trees of the forest were clothed in a robe of many colors, and the romance of the trip was such as almost any one could enjoy and gladly make even at the present day. They reached the mouth of the Ohio without incident, and were soon speeding their craft up the Mississippi, and thence up the Illinois river. On their way up the last named river, a large deer with antlers of many prongs, sprang into the water and attempted to swim. The younger men of the party were soon in a canoe and gave chase to the noble game which was soon overtaken in the river, its head bent by the sturdy arm of one of the number, its throat cut, and the carcass secured. Though game was plentiful, no time was wasted in its pursuit, as all were anxious to reach the end of their journey. Many Indians were encountered on the banks and in the channel of the river but all were peaceable and friendly. Just at sunset on a beautiful October day, the prow of the pirogue touched the banks of the Illinois river, where the village of Frederick is now situated, the line was made fast and Tullis, Matheny and John Thompson started for their cabin, twelve miles distant, where they arrived and were received with a hearty welcome. James Thompson and John Combs were left to guard the pirogue and its precious cargo.

The next day, the cargo was transferred from the pirogue to the cabin. After a few days rest, Daniel Matheny and Charles Hammond started to meet William McKee, Sr., who was making the journey in wagons. In the latter days of October the party arrived in the wagons with the stock. Those who returned in the wagons were William McKee and family, of wife and six children, Isaac Linder and family, and Daniel Matheny's wife and child, Westfall remaining in Indiana. Joseph Bowhall, wife and children, and Thomas Popham with a family were also of the party, who settled around Tullis and McKee ; remaining but one year, and then moved on. Of Linder and Combs, we could get nothing definite. William McKee, Sr., continued to reside upon his improvement, until his death ; and his son now occupies the old homestead, one of the most valuable farms in the county. Joel Tullis subsequently moved into Buena Vista township, and in 1847, becoming restless from the encroachments of the rapidly increasing population, he sold his home, loaded his family of wife and children into an ox-wagon, and started on an overland journey to Oregon, which was then offering a section of land to each settler who might locate within its boundaries. After a journey fraught with sufferings of the most excruciating and heart-rending nature, burying no less than six of his children by the dreary wayside, without coffins and in graves hollowed out by himself, he reached his destination. He returned to Buena Vista township in 1857, purchased a farm upon which he resides with his children, enjoying the evening of his life in peace and quiet. (Joel Tullis died in 1888.—R.W.M.) Daniel Matheny settled in Woodstock first and then moved to Oakland, and from there to Iowa". (He married Ann McKee, a daughter of Thomas McKee, who was William McKee, Sr's elder brother.—R.W.M.)

Page 79 :

Thomas McKee was authorized to employ a skillful surveyor to lay off the town (Rushton, now Rushville).

¹ The account was written *circa* 1880, at which time William McKee, Jr. and his wife Sarah, were living on the home place.

Page 82 :

The first board of County Commissioners (Schuyler County) was elected on the fourth of July, 1825, and was composed of Thomas McKee, Samuel Horney, and Thomas Blair.

Page 83 :

Ephraim Eggleston, Jacob White and William McKee were appointed fence viewers March, 1828, and Henry Wills, John Ritchey and Phillip Spohnamore overseers of the poor.

Page 84 :

Second board of County Commissioners Thomas McKee, Samuel Horney, Thomas Davis, 1828-1830.

Page 100 :

The county commissioners ordered in April, 1828, on the report of Thomas Davis, William Burrus, and Garret Wycoff, viewers, that a cart road be opened from Calvin Hobart's mill (on Sec. 16, Twp. 2 N, R 1 W) to Thomas McKee's, thence to intersect the road from Rushville to the north line of McDonough county, between Joel Tullis' and James Trainer's From Rushville through sections eighteen and nineteen, in township two north, range one west, to intersect the public road from William McKee's to Joel Tullis', September 5th, 1831.

First Bridge Across Crooked Creek. This bridge was near where the Ripley bridge now stands. Mr. Chadsey completed it in a satisfactory manner and received the contract price. The abutments were built by Thomas McKee, who received for the work one hundred and sixty dollars.

Page 101 :

William McKee and John Taggart were granted leave to build a mill dam on the eighth of December, 1835, across Crooked Creek in the southwest quarter of section twenty-nine, township one south, range two west.

Page 102 :

The fifth precinct (this was in 1832) included all of the townships three north, ranges one and two west, and so much of three west as lay east of Crooked Creek. Riley Pennington, James McKee, and David Snider, judges. Elections at the house of Thomas McKee.

Page 110 :

Oct. 1, 1829, Aaron Harding married to Nancy McKee, by Thomas McKee, Esq. Eight other marriages were solemnized by Thomas McKee, Esq., between 1826 and 1831.

Page 113 :

Thomas McKee became justice of the peace in May, 1826. In 1827 he became a magistrate. In 1839 James McKee (son of Thomas) became justice of the peace.

Page 160 :

William McKee, private under Capt. Wm. C. Ralls ; later under Capt. John Stennett. Also James McKee and Daniel Matheny, Jr.

The family of William McKee was associated with the family of Joel Tullis in Kentucky ; and later Joel Tullis, son of the Revolutionary War veteran of the same name who spent the historical winter at Valley Forge with General Washington's troops, as did James McKee, Jr., and his sons Thomas McKee and Hugh McKee, married Cassie (Cassander) McKee, William McKee's daughter. It seems more than likely that the first friendship between the McKee family and the Tullis family began during that dreary winter at Valley Forge, as Joel Tullis was at that time a resident of Pennsylvania, as was James McKee, father of our William and Thomas, and as were the three McKees who were also soldiers in that tattered and often barefoot army. It will be recalled, and it can be easily seen on the McKee Family Tree herein which traces Thomas McKee of McKee's Half Falls, that James McKee, Jr., was a

nephew of the Hugh McKee who was the father of the James McKee of whom William and Thomas, here being considered, were sons. Thus, the Hugh McKee mentioned was great-uncle to the Thomas and Hugh, James McKee, Jr's sons, who wintered with Joel Tullis at Valley Forge; hence, they were second-cousins of our James McKee.

The chart that follows traces briefly the ancestry and descendants of Joel Tullis the veteran of Valley Forge, while another of the McKee Family Trees included in this section continues with the descendants of Joel Tullis (junior) who married Cassie McKee. The history that follows shows clearly how closely the families were allied following the almost certain burgeoning of their friendship at Valley Forge.

JOEL (OR JOHN HENRY) TULLIS AND HIS WIFE MARY, SCOTTISH EMIGRANTS

TO PENNSYLVANIA, AND THEIR DESCENDANTS

JOEL (JOHN HENRY) TULLIS (B. ca. 1725 D. ca. 1800) (Mary)

ELIZABETH (M. JOHN HENRY WALKER)

JOHN TULLIS (REMAINED IN KENTUCKY)

MARY TULLIS (NO RECORD)

JOEL TULLIS (B. ca. 1755, D. ca. 1820) M. HOLLAND EMIGRANT CATHERINE POPPIN. HE WAS WITH WASHINGTON AT VALLEY FORGE, AND AFTERWARDS EMIGRATED TO KENTUCKY

PETER P. TULLIS WENT TO OHIO

SARAH (SECOND WIFE OF JOHN HENRY WALKER)

ELIZABETH

CATHERINE

HOSEA TULLIS WENT TO OHIO

JOHN TULLIS WENT TO OHIO

MARY

JOEL TULLIS (B. ca. 1800 D. ca. 1884-8) (M. CASSIE McKEE B. 2.11.1807 D. 3.30.1870). HE JOINED WILLIAM McKEE WHEN THEY CAME FROM INDIANA TO SETTLE IN ILLINOIS, WAS BLACK HAWK INDIAN WAR VETERAN, AND HIS WIFE CASSANDER McKEE WAS DAUGHTER OF WILLIAM McKEE.

TULLIS, McKEE AND HARDING FAMILY HISTORIES¹

"The early histories of these three families are closely inter-related and very much the history of the Westward movement of the early American Pioneer. Hardings and McKees are now very plentiful along both sides of the Ohio river and it is very difficult to determine if all came from the same ancestors. The given names (John, Henry, James, Hannah, Cassie, Nancy, Sarah, etc.) are very common in those regions and were more so a century ago. The Tullis family were known to have come from Scotland and the other two names indicate Scotch origin. Joel and Hosea are decidedly Tullis family names while several names such as Elizabeth and Mary were common in all three families before the records of intermarrying".

¹ As told by Clara Byrnes, a descendant of William McKee, through his daughter Cassie McKee and Joel Tullis.

"The hardships and dangers on the early frontier along with the lack of material with which to work had great effect on conduct of life and the record of the same. When we know that Abraham Lincoln believed at his death that his own mother and father were not married (record of their marriage has since been found) we realize the difficulty of keeping accurate account of the shifting population. Most of the information has been handed down by word of mouth. We know that the original Tullis came from Scotland with his wife Mary and that his son Joel was at Valley Forge with Washington. No doubt the hardships of that winter were so impressive that he mentioned it in comparison with the lesser hardships of the frontier. The other families may have been in service during the war but had no such impressive experience. We know that Joel Tullis married a girl from Holland and again this grandmother with her foreign accent was much more impressive than an English speaking grandmother. The McKee brothers married sisters and both families came to Illinois, and information concerning them is yet meagre. There is reason to believe that the wife of James McKee was named Agnes because of the desire of some to call Nancy 'Agnes'. Nancy's mother disliked the mother-in-law and held out for 'Nancy'.

"The girls married and started raising a family as soon as they reached maturity because there was nothing else they could do. Women were scarce on the frontier and it was inconvenient for a woman without a husband for protection in this wild situation. It is not to be criticized if convention were sometimes overlooked in the struggle for self-preservation against Indians, starvation and cold. The records show that the husbands were in all cases considerably older than the wives and there were usually a few more girls in the families than boys. This tended to correct the lack of proportion in sexes".

"There was very little schooling to be had in early Kentucky. Some enterprising person would occasionally 'take pupils' but there were no public schools and the people were mainly self-taught to read and write. Material for such practice was scarce and the Bible was usually the reading text. These were typical pioneers and the only information they had of the new country they might be going to was the word passed around from someone who had been there. No newspapers and no accurate maps to give this information were yet available. Relatives were considered the more dependable source of information and the families tended to stick together. It was said by an old pioneer in Montana that he had observed that very few of the pioneer settlers stayed on the land they settled. They always gave way to the homelovers who became the permanent citizens while they moved on for new adventure. Death, sickness, dangers and hardships—none could deter them from their course of adventure. It would be unthinkable at present to start on an overland trip in a wagon with new born babies or sick mothers but scarcely thought of then. It is interesting to note that in the records of all the families studied, there is no death of women between 45 and 70 years of age. Mortality was high for children under one year".

"Kentucky soon became too tame for the pioneers. People came back with tales of the wonders of the new country which naturally improved with each telling. The McKees and Tullises talked of the advantages of these new lands, not even knowing themselves that the real cause of desiring to move was the love of adventure. Joel Tullis of Valley Forge was past sixty and remained in Kentucky. William McKee with his family including his son-in-law, young Joel Tullis, went to Indiana. Thomas McKee went to Southern Illinois, thence to Bainbridge Township, Schuyler County (1823). He was a mechanic and blacksmith, making all sorts of equipment from guns to spinning wheels. His reports to the brother in Indiana caused the second move of William McKee and family (1826)".

"With William McKee and family were Sarah Walker Thompson (an older sister of Joel Tullis) with her second husband, John Thompson, and three children. Several single young men and a Hammond with wife and child were along. The Hammonds returned to Kentucky soon. The party arrived in Bainbridge Township at the home of Thomas McKee and all moved to the leveler land with richer soil in Buena Vista Township and neighboring regions. Apparently from accounts, only the able bodied came on the first trip and with very light equipment. As

soon as log houses were constructed to accommodate the pioneers, William McKee, Joel Tullis and the two Thompsons, John and James, took the two teams and vehicles back to bring the rest of the family and equipment. The road was only an Indian trail and only passible for light loads at the time when the land was not clear or drained. The heavier equipment had to be brought back in a large pirogue. Joel Tullis described the pirogue as a large 60 foot cottonwood log dug out to a shell and broad boards nailed on the sides to prevent tipping. This was propelled by poles and oars down the Ohio, up the Mississippi and Illinois to the landing at Fredrick. Band saw, carding machine, household goods, etc., were in the pirogue while the main group came overland with horses, cattle, sheep, light equipment, etc. William McKee brought a nice stallion in this bunch”.

“Several new settlers came on this second trip. William McKee was in charge of the overland group and Joel Tullis was in charge of the pirogue. In spite of the slow travel by the rivers the pirogue arrived first and two of the party went back to meet the slow moving overland procession. One of the girls had her collar bone broken as a result of a runaway on the start of the trip but carried on her share of the duties in the stoic pioneer fashion. This was reported to have been Nancy, later the wife of Aaron Harding. All of William McKee’s family except the two oldest were in this second group. Apparently Sarah Thompson and three children and the young wife, Cassie Tullis, were left in Schuyler County under the protection of the latter’s brother, William McKee, Jr., (reported to have been only fifteen) while the others returned for the equipment. Needless to say, they needed no wild west thrillers in this new country with the adult men all away”.

“Quantity of food was plentiful, although at times the quality was not choice. Wild game, fruits, etc., were soon supplemented by cultivated products and Illinois became too tame for the pioneers in 1847. During Joel Tullis’s twenty year stay on NW $\frac{1}{4}$ section of Buena Vista Township several incidents occurred which are of interest. He contracted for \$43.00 to build the doors for the first Rushville Jail. The specifications were that two layers of $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch seasoned oak plank be used with one layer perpendicular to the other and nailed together with clinched spikes at 3-inch intervals. He furnished the materials and hung the doors on heavy iron hinges. Isaac Linder received \$150.00 for building the jail. Joel Tullis helped build the dam for the Mill at Brooklyn on Crooked Creek. He reported wild deer as a menace to the crops but good food. His brother Hosea and a Boggs settled on the next section in 1830 but were frightened by the Indians and returned to Ohio to settle. Several brothers were in Ohio. Walkers came to Illinois and Joel’s cousin Felix settled at Brooklyn. Joel Tullis was in the Black Hawk War in 1832”.

“More information has been obtained which should be added to the above accounts. From William McKee, Jr.’s family Bible it is found that William McKee, Jr., was born in Crawford County, Indiana, January 22, 1813 ; which indicates that the McKees had left Kentucky before that time. Since it is said that Joel Tullis, Sr., never left Kentucky, it is evident that Joel Tullis, Jr., did not come to Indiana with the McKees and not for several years afterward. No doubt the McKees knew the Tullis and Harding families before leaving Kentucky (all people in Kentucky knew each other in 1800) and young Joel Tullis stopped on an exploring and hunting expedition at the home of the old acquaintances in Indiana and was attracted by the charms of the eldest daughter. Thus the romance began. Deduction would date the coming of Joel to Crawford County about 1823, perhaps later”.

“John Harding came from Kentucky to Indianapolis and there the Hardings renewed association with the old acquaintances, the McKees, not far away in Crawford County. Thence the Hardings moved to what is now Logan County, Illinois. The oldest son, Aaron, went to Schuyler County and brought back Nancy McKee as his bride (October 1, 1829). Aaron Harding with his wife and one child went to Warren County in 1831. John Harding died at the home of his youngest daughter in Oregon at the age of 71 in 1851. There is a Hardinsburg in Kentucky to indicate the presence of many Hardins there”.

"The trip with the pirogue evidently started on the Wabash River and the distance around to Fredrick by water was over 600 miles and less than 250 miles by land. William McKee, Jr., was not yet fourteen when he was left in charge of the women folks of the party while the men went back to Indiana after the goods and the remaining members of the families. In 1839 William McKee, Jr., went to Oregon and stayed twelve months. He was single and perhaps this consisted mainly of exploration, as the flow of migration for homesteads had not as yet started to Oregon. Only a few wheel vehicles had successfully passed over the trail at that time. William McKee, Jr., went again to Oregon with the Joel Tullis caravan in 1847. He was a veteran of the Black Hawk War of 1832 and saw service in the Whitman's Volunteers organization against the Indians in Oregon Territory. He returned to Illinois in 1852".

"It has been reported that the Tullis family stopped in the Dalles, Oregon but settled at Walla Walla (now part of Washington State). They passed within thirty miles of Walla Walla on the way to Dalles and returned 150 miles eastward from the Dalles to Walla Walla. The daughter, Mary, and Joel Thompson's wife died of mountain fever and it is reported that they were buried in the Dalles. The boxes from two wagons furnished the material for the coffins. Three others died and were buried in Walla Walla (without coffins). It was not psychological for the pioneers to backtrack in a new country. It gives them a sense of losing ground gained by very hard travel but soil was a little better near Walla Walla. However, the two places may have been visited in the reverse order".

"When the news of gold discovery reached Oregon, Joel Tullis in a party of four went to California to inspect the prospects. Travel on foot was not difficult through the mountains (no road for wagons) and they stopped in Northern California at the nearest point of the gold field and returned home. Joel Tullis took sick on the way home and had to be carried the last hundred miles. Joel Tullis had been badly shaken by the death of four children and now his own illness brought the realization that his death would leave a widow with children and the oldest boy only eleven years of age. He was afraid of his own decision and had lost his nerve but his wife and children were true pioneers. It is reported that the one thing that kept him from giving up was that he had a paper signed by all old enough to understand, stating that they were willing to go. John Henry was the youngest of the children to sign and James Harding was quite provoked by not being asked to sign. It is said that the paper was signed before leaving Illinois but from another source it is said that all over nine signed the paper and John Henry was not nine until after they were in Oregon. Whenever signed, this paper would be an extremely valuable document showing the human side of this history making national movement. Re-assured by the resilience of the youthful spirit and the optimistic hopes of the children, Joel Tullis loaded his possessions in a boat (boat still runs between the Dalles and Astoria on the Columbia River), went down the Columbia, transferred to an ocean liner and went to San Francisco where the goods were again transferred to a river boat and taken up the Sacramento River to the foot of Mt. Shasta. Here on balmy Southern slopes of Mt. Shasta, on a tributary of the Sacramento River, a stream fed by enormous mountain springs, they panned for gold. Life was perhaps much pleasanter to recall here as the boys spoke of hunting for small gold nuggets to trade for cookies at the trading post".

"The degree of their success or the success of the elders is not known but it is said that the son-in-law, John McKee, who stayed in California struck it lucky. This was not the life for a true pioneer and the Tullis family sold out all their goods and returned to Illinois".

THE FRAKES FAMILY

Henry and Hannah Frakes, originally from Pennsylvania, were the parents of Cassander Frakes (5.30.1784-3.17.1867) who married William McKee (1.11.1782-6.11.1851). Their other daughter Hannah Frakes married William McKee's brother Thomas McKee (12.6.1780-1.5.1833). Hannah Frakes was born *circa* 1782 and died August 22, 1864. She is buried at Bethany Church Burial Ground north of Rushville, Illinois, while her sister

Cassander is buried in the McKee Cemetery formerly called Sugar Grove North, near Rushville, Illinois. From the will of Henry Frakes, the text of which follows, it is disclosed that there was also a son Alexander Frakes. Apparently, there were other sons also, as we find Alexander, Peter, and John in Indiana at the same time that William McKee was there. Several land entries follow Henry Frakes' will, from which it seems evident the two families emigrated about the same time.

HENRY FRAKES' LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT

In the name of God amen, I Henry Frakes of Hardin County and State of Kentucky being weak in body but perfect in mind. Do make this my last will and testament, my wish and desire is that after my decease, that my dear wife Hannah Frakes to be my Executor and after my just debts is paid, I do give and bequeath my land whereon I now live to my son Alexander Frakes, after the decease of his mother, but my wish is that my dear wife shall have the rent of the place to raise the children while she lives, and I further bequeath all my moveable property to my wife Hannah Frakes, only my desire I wish is for all the *Garles* to have a cow half as soon as they are of age. I now want to wish to resine my soul to God who gave it, and my body to the ground from whence it was taken, this being on the nineteenth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and one.

Signed, sealed and delivered
in presence of us
Michael Hargan
Jacob Enlow
Randal Slack

HENRY FRAKES

SEAL

At a County Court begun and held for Hardin County on Monday the 14th day of December, 1801. This last will and testament of Henry Frakes deceased was proved by the oaths of Michael Hargan, Jacob Enlow, and Randal Slack subscribing witnesses thereto and ordered to be recorded and on the motion of Hannah Frakes the Executrix therein named she having made oath according to law execution of the said will is granted her : she having bond with Jacob Enlow, Michael Hargan and David Morrison her securities in the penalty of \$800 conditioned as the law directs.

Teste

Ben Helm, Co. Clk.

COPY ATTEST : Recorded in Will Book A, page 149.

H. A. BOYD (Signed)

SEAL

Hardin County Court Clerk

INDIANA LAND GRANTS

Grantor : Crawford County, Indiana, Deed Indexes :—

William McKee, 1832, Sec. 20, Twp. 4 S, Range 2 E.
Jacob McKee, 1865, NE-SW-Sec. 22, T 2 S, R 1 W.
Jacob McKee, 1865, SE-SW-Sec. 22, T 2 S, R 1 W.

Grantee :—

William McKee, 1850, NW-NW-Sec. 34, T 1 S, R 1 E.
William McKee, 1850, SW-NW-Sec. 34, T 1 S, R 1 E.
William McKee, 1850, SE-NW, Sec. 34, T 1 S, R 1 E.
Jacob McKee, 1860, NE-SW-Sec. 22, T 2 S, R 1 W.
Jacob McKee, 1860, SE-SW-Sec. 22, T 2 S, R 1 W.

Land Entries, Crawford County, Indiana :—

- Jeffersonville Land Office, Book 3.
 p. 6. Twp. 1 S, Range 1 E.
 William McKee, NE-SW-Sec. 24 ; 1-24-1840.
 William McKee, NW-SW-Sec. 24 ; 6-24-1840.
 p. 60. Twp. 4 S, Range 2 E.
 Peter Frakes, SE-Sec. 5 ; 9-26-1822.
 p. 61. William McKee, Frac. Sec. 20 ; 4-29-1814.
 p. 62. Alexander Frakes, SW-Sec. 30 ; 2-31-1822.

Land Entries, Orange County, Indiana :—

- Jeffersonville Land Office, Book 3
 p. 246. Twp. 2 N, Range 2 E.
 John Frakes, SW-Sec. 2 ; 9-6-1821.
 William Frakes, SE-NE-Sec. 4 ; 6-10-1836.
 p. 247. John Frakes, NW-Sec. 11 ; 3-19-1818.

Will Abstracts : Washington County, Indiana :—

- p. 57. James McKee, proved 9-20-1853.
 Heirs (relationship not stated) :
 Sally Lynch (not 18).
 Mary Catherine Lynch (not 21).
 Jackson Lynch.
 exec. : Jackson Lynch.

The census data which follow clearly disclose that between 1810 and 1820 James McKee the veteran, and Hannah Frakes, either died or left Hardin County.

James McKee and Wife, and Hannah Frakes, in 1810 Census :
 Source : 1810 census Hardin County, Kentucky (Vol. 4).

| | MALES | | | | | FEMALES | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------|---------|-------|-------|-------|---------|
| | -10 | 10-16 | 16-26 | 26-45 | over 45 | -10 | 10-16 | 16-26 | 26-45 | over 45 |
| P. 292 Coonrod Frakes | 2 | — | — | 1 | — | 3 | — | — | 1 | — |
| 292 Daniel Fraikes .. | 2 | 1 | — | 1 | — | 3 | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| 293 Hanna Frakes .. | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | 2 | 1 | — | 1 |
| 301 James McKee .. | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| 302 John Frakes .. | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |

— No others named Frakes or McKee —

Source—1820 census HARDIN Co., Kentucky (Vol. II) (Census marked pp. 6 and 7 missing.)

P. 13 William L. McGee Males : 3 (10-16) ; 1 (16-26) ; and 1 (over 45).

Females : 1 (16-26) ; last column washed out in photostating
 —only this one female in columns 1, 2, 3 and 4.

No McKee—No Frakes (var.)

The above 1810 census shows that Hannah Frakes' husband, Henry Frakes, had evidently died before this 1810 census. Hannah Frakes was born before 1765.

It also indicates that James McKee and wife, Agnes, were born before 1765, and that their children had all left home by 1810.

The above excerpt of the 1820 census does not show any of the 1810 Frakes and McKee family still living in Hardin Co., Ky. James McKee's son William had gone to Indiana before this time.

It seems probable that the origin of the Frakes line is in Scotland, and even if the pioneer into America should prove to have come from Holland, which possibility has been mentioned by one of those of the name from whom I sought information, it is still quite within the realm of possibility that the line was more remotely from Scotland. Many Presbyterian Scots who subscribed to the Solemn League and Covenant were compelled to leave their native Scotland as a result of religious persecution under the Stuart Kings and Cromwell; many fled to Ulster, a few to Holland, tradition says, and others to France where they allied in a measure with the Huguenots. One account, which is contained in the present volume, states that the McKees who were in France and who had intermarried with the Huguenots suffered heavily upon the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes, for out of that revocation, of which there is explanatory detail in another section, came the infamous *Massacre of St. Bartholomew* on August 24, 1572.

No foundation for these peregrinations has emerged except tradition, so proof must wait until some McKee or Frakes comes forward with family records, that at least retain whatever persuasive weight they first possessed, and do not change as they pass from one generation to another.

The matter that follows has not been reduced to any semblance of order, but a connecting thread does seem to run through at least a portion of it.

Henry and Hannah Frakes, said in an early biographical volume to have come to Hardin County, Kentucky, from Pennsylvania, were the great-great-grandparents of the present author, being the parents of Cassander and Hannah Frakes, as previously noted. In *Kentucky Historical Records* (Lucy Kate McGhee) the dates of their marriages are given as follows:

Hardin County, Kentucky, marriages:

Frakes, Cassander, to William McKee, September 27, 1804.

Frakes, Hannah, to Thomas McKee, April 16, 1801.

McKee, Agnes, to Joshua Matheny, October 23, 1808. Daughter of James McKee.

It also appears that there were several other early marriages of Frakes girls in Hardin County, including Ann, Dorn, Elizabeth, Mary, and Susanna Frakes.

The Pennsylvania Census of 1790 contains on page 124 a Robert Frakes in Huntington County; his family, including himself, consists of four males over 16 and one under 16, as well as three females over 16, which would include the mother.

There is on file a will in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, of William *Frake*, dated March 29, 1788, proved March 14, 1791.

A will for Nathan Frakes was probated in October, 1807, in Bourbon County, Kentucky.

In one of Perrin's historical works on Kentucky there is mention of Jacob Frakes of Hardin County, Kentucky, whose son John Frakes married Mary Anna Scott, and operated

the Saint Cloud Hotel at Brandenburg, Meade County, Kentucky. It appears that John Frakes was born in Harrison County, Indiana, in 1835, and it will be seen elsewhere that other members of the Frakes family emigrated to that area in the early 1800's. Other children of Jacob Frakes of Hardin County were Harvey, Scott, and William the eldest. The girls were Kittie, Jennie, Sallie, Olivia, Maggie who married Howard Roberts in Indiana, and Fannie who married Henry Brandenburg of Illinois.

Harrison County, Indiana, was organized in 1808, and comprised parts of Washington, Orange, Crawford, and Floyd Counties. The following early marriages there may prove of present or future interest :

Peter Frakes to Nancy Van Winkle, 5.26.1815.

Nancy Frakes to Peter Kishline, 10.11.1813.

Esther Frakes to Absolem Brandenburgh, 8.11.1815.

In Crawford County, Indiana we find :

Elizabeth Frakes to Mathew Beard, in 1838.

Margaret Frakes to William Howard, in 1840.

It will be noticed earlier in this chapter that the volume containing biographical and historical sketches of Crawford County, Indiana, pioneers, published in 1889, mentions on page 47 that William McKee and William Frakes arrived in 1806. We have succeeded in identifying William McKee as the present author's great-grandfather who married Cassander Frakes, and there seems to be a strong probability that William Frakes was related to Cassander, was perhaps her brother.

The very early immigrant seems to have been Conrad Frakes, born *circa* 1740, who emigrated from near Nova Scotia about 1770 to Philadelphia. He was a weaver by trade. One of his sons was Philip Frakes, born in 1760 near Nova Scotia. He in turn had three sons, John Frakes, Philip Frakes II, and Joseph Frakes. Philip Frakes moved from Nelson County, Kentucky, in 1806, to Butler County, Ohio, then after some three years moved to Franklin County, Indiana. He remained in Franklin County until 1817, when he removed to Sullivan County, Indiana, and on April 14, 1817, took up land in Fairbanks Township.

John S. Frakes was born in Nelson County, Kentucky, in 1786, a son of Philip Frakes II. He married Elizabeth Dotson in Nelson County on February 7, 1808. In 1814 they emigrated across the Ohio River to Perry County, Indiana.

Philip Frakes II married Phoebe Case in Nelson County, Kentucky, the issue of which marriage was Asa Frakes, who became a Baptist minister.

As for Alexander Frakes, a brother of Cassander and Hannah Frakes, and son of Henry and Hannah Frakes of Pennsylvania, he seems to have emigrated to Illinois in the early 1800's, as the following biographical data concerning him appears in a Knox County history published in 1878 :

- P. 103. "Alexander Frakes and the Nance brothers settled on Section 9 in the early 1830's. Frakes afterwards moved to Oregon, where he died".
- P. 131. "At the election held August 7, 1830, Alexander Frakes was elected County Commissioner".
- P. 461. "Alexander Frakes, native of Kentucky, was one of the earliest settlers of Knox County, and one of the county commissioners for many years. He was a fair type of that moving, restless frontier man who finds more pleasure in the sub-

jugation of a country than the occupation of it after it has been settled. He came to Knox County in the Fall of 1828 at the age of 36 years, and settled on the southwest quarter of Section 9, Henderson Township. Mr. Frakes evidently had a strong aversion to being crowded and wished to go to a country less populous. He left here for Oregon in 1853, saying he wanted more elbow room. He died several years ago in his adopted state of Oregon. Alexander Frakes served in the Black Hawk War, Volunteer Rangers, in Captain William McMurry's Company from Knox County”.

The following is an excerpt of a letter from Mr. Sherman Frakes of Ontario, California, under date of July 22, 1957 :

“ All the things I relate in this letter may not be pertinent to the information you asked for in your letter dated July 16, 1957. In doing this I will have to rely on my memory of people, places, and events of my early childhood as I do not have a family Bible or any other form of written records pertaining to my ancestry.

My father told me his ancestors came from Holland and settled in Pennsylvania. I do not know the year they came to this country, but it was sometime prior to 1800.

My Grandfather, Cunrad (pronounced Coonrod) Frakes, (I was told it was a Dutch name) and his brother, Acy, moved from Pennsylvania to Vigo County near Terre Haute, Indiana. There may have been other members of the family who also moved there, but I remember only my great uncle, Acy, who was a minister. I do not know of what faith. He had one son named Lyman Frakes.

My Grandfather died before I was born, but father said he was a farmer and that he and my Grandmother, whose name I do not recall ever hearing, had twelve children, six boys and six girls. My father was their sixth child.

This is all that I remember about my father's brothers and sisters and their families :

His brother, Bill, was the oldest of the family. He was also a farmer and had one son named William. I do not know the year of his birth or death, but he was still living in 1882.

His brother, Jacob, was a brick molder—date of birth and death unknown.

His brother, John, died before I had any memory of him.

I believe his brother, Squire, was a carpenter.

His brother, Jim, was a bachelor.

Of my father's sisters, I remember hearing only three names mentioned. They were Lydia, Nancy and Mary Ann. His other three sisters were perhaps dead before I was born in 1865.

I suppose the reason I remember so little about my father's brothers and sisters is that I saw them only once or twice after I was seven years old.

My father, George Washington Frakes, was born February 22, 1820, at Middletown in Vigo County, Indiana, and died in 1882 at Summerville, Missouri, Texas County, where he is buried. He was a blacksmith by trade and spent most of his early life in Indiana where he met and married my mother, Sara Case. I am the youngest of their three children. My sisters who are deceased were named Molly and Rachel.

When the Civil War broke out, my father enlisted and served three and a half years under the command of General Sherman in Company “ F ”, Regiments 33 and 85. He was hospitalized after three and a half years of active service and later discharged because of ill health. In 1872 he moved his family to Missouri and spent his remaining years ”.

BIOGRAPHY OF WILLIAM McKEE, JR.

(As published in the *Rushville Times*, Dec. 30th, 1897)

Out in the open air, within sight of the old ancestral home he loved so well, and within the shadow of the trees that he had watched thrive and grow for more than seventy years, and as the twilight marked the close of another day, the long, stirring life of William McKee came to an end Dec. 17th.

He died within a stone's throw of the place where as a lad, 71 years before, he had worked with willing hands to assist in the erection of a home in what was then a wilderness. He loved the scenes of his childhood, and when he had satisfied that intense longing for a stirring, busy life, full of hazard and adventure, which was presented to the youth of the early 30's and 40's, he returned to the home of his father ; and there in the peace and quiet of his home, honored and respected by all his neighbors and enjoying the well earned fruits of his early labor, he lived the quiet, uneventful life of a farmer. But throughout his life he retained what may be termed the pioneer disposition, and in spirit and sentiment he was a man of the people. While he made no pretensions of religion, he had that kindly spirit which prompted him to share with his fellow-man, and unobserved he tendered to the wants of those who came to him for assistance. His last days were cheered by the companionship of his aged wife and daughter, who is the last surviving child.

It was in April, 1826, that Mr. McKee first came to Schuyler County. He moved from Crawford County, Indiana, on January 22, 1826. His father, William McKee, Sr., had heard of the rich and productive country in Central Illinois from a relative, who had settled here the year before ; and not caring to bring his family of children, mostly daughters, to a wild and unsettled country, without having previously made a home for them, he set out early in the spring of 1826 for Illinois. In the party were Wm. McKee, Sr., Wm. McKee, Jr., Joel Tullis, Charles Hammond, Isaac Linder, Vincent Westfall and James Thompson. Mr. McKee, Sr., purchased the 160 acre tract of land in the northeast quarter of section 18, Rushville Township, for \$100, and here set to work to provide a home.

Three years before the Hobarts and Chadseys had blazed the pathway into the wilderness of Schuyler, and in the few succeeding years other families had settled here.

When young McKee first saw Rushville it was not what it is today. There were no three-story brick buildings, no laid out park and square surrounded by fine buildings, no pretty residences stretching out in every direction, no schools, no churches, and, above all, no means of connection with the outside world. There were none of these. The site of the town had been located the February previous, and the early settlers could not help but admire the selection. The town was above the surrounding territory and was drained by two ugly looking creeks, just as it is today ; but in those days its site was only a clearing of the primeval brush. Mr. McKee delighted to tell of his pioneer experiences. Though his home on the farm is two miles from Rushville, and now separated by the finest farming land in the country, he said he had on numerous occasions in the spring when the water was high, paddled from his log cabin to where the depot now stands.

Like other pioneer settlers Mr. McKee, Sr., staked his claim, not on the now fertile prairie, but along the creek and in the woods. Northward of the McKee homestead is some of the finest prairie land in the world, yet the early settlers thought it best to settle in the edge of the timber, and here spent the best years of their life clearing the land, while the rich, fertile and productive prairie land lay at their very door. The McKee farm is mostly timber and contains the magnificent maple woods that supplied the early settlers with sugar, and from that day to this has been productive of a source of revenue. The elder McKee saw these advantages ; he viewed the grand old woods, made sure there was a never failing supply of water close by, and maybe he saw the outcroppings of coal which underlies all this land ; with all these favorable and significant circumstances, and with such a wealth of natural resources at his very door, Mr.

McKee doubtless felt as though he was as fortunate as the man who has a large deposit in a bank.

He built his log cabin on the same plan as those which abounded in the country roundabout. The logs were cut and trimmed to make the walls, and the roof was covered with clapboards. The old cabin stood on a sort of small table land, or plateau, on the hillside between the new house and the railroad bridge over the public highway, and a little in the rear of where the frame tenement house now stands. After the log house had been completed, Mr. McKee, Sr., returned to Indiana for his wife and six children. William, Jr., was the second child in the family, and while his father went to Indiana he spent his time improving the surroundings at their home in the forest. After coming to this county the family was increased to ten children. But before leaving for Indiana Mr. McKee saw that the crops he had planted in the early spring would yield a bounteous harvest. The little patch of ground he had planted in corn, flax and melons was covered with ripening grain and fruit. The favorable season of 1826 gave a great impetus to immigration, and Schuyler county was rapidly settled in the succeeding years.

Mr. McKee returned from Indiana with his family, driving across country, while Joel Tullis, his son-in-law, made the journey by boat, floating down the Ohio, thence rowing the boat up the Mississippi and Illinois rivers. On this trip the settlers brought with them a carding mill and necessary tools to construct other machinery.

The elder McKee was, we should judge, somewhat of a mechanic and a man of great energy and industry. With the tools he had brought from Indiana he began the construction of a band mill, propelled by horse power, and did a big business in grinding grain for the people of the adjacent settlements. Mr. McKee, Jr., worked with his father, and he remembered when settlers from as far north as Rock Island came to the McKee mill to have their grinding done. They thought nothing of settlers coming fifty miles to the mill; that was almost an everyday occurrence in those pioneer times. There was also a blacksmith shop in the near neighborhood, and these industries did a thriving business.

The Indians, principally the Saxe and Foxes, had moved further north with the coming of the early spring and camped along Spoon River in the edge of the forest. The dusky sons of the forest were friendly and gave no trouble to the settlers. And on the McKee farm, at a point north of the house, is a silent monument to the aboriginal inhabitants. Through a beautiful bit of woods there is clearly marked the trace of an Indian trail. The woods on the McKee farm were a favorite rendezvous for the Indians. All kinds of game were found there in plenty, and even to this day it is a favorite hunting place. One has only to look from the car window just when the train leaves the prairie and enters the woods to get a splendid view of the old McKee homestead, and further distant, on the opposite side, the splendid woods, the former hunting grounds of the Indians, present themselves.

Mr. McKee not only operated his band-mill, but he soon afterwards constructed a saw mill and then in the early thirties he erected a dam across Sugar Creek and operated his mill by water power. There were several mill seats on Sugar Creek at that time, and the McKee dam was located at what is known as the main ford, where the stream is crossed by the road from Rushville to Browning. Here a good business was done until the stage of water became too low to furnish constant power. An evidence of enterprise on the part of Elder McKee and his son William was the rafting of pork and grain down the Illinois river, thence into the Mississippi and to New Orleans. At the saw mill they cut out lumber for their rafts, and with the hardy backwoodsmen of their time shared the hardships and pleasures of a trip down the river. These trips were greatly enjoyed by Wm. McKee, Jr., and served to satisfy that spirit of adventure which was a factor in his early life. He had a liking for an out-door, roving life, which was completely satisfied by his career in later years.

One did not have to wander far from home in those early days in search of thrilling adventure. They were everyday occurrences, and the hardy race of pioneers who battled against

such great odds to establish homes in the now fertile plains of Schuyler county will always be remembered with reverence and their deeds should not be forgotten.

Mr. McKee, Jr., experienced all the hardships which came to early settlers during the winter of the deep snow in 1830, when all over the prairie the snow was from four to five feet deep and the springs were filled level with the hill. The McKee household must have fared better than many others, for they had been in the country now four years and had time to make improvements, build shelter for their stock and have provisions stored in their granaries. But among those who moved into the country that fall and who had made no preparation for a hard winter the suffering was awful.

THE BLACK HAWK WAR

Mr. McKee was the last of the one hundred and fifty volunteers in this county who answered Gov. Reynold's call and enlisted to drive Black Hawk and his murderous band of Indians beyond the bounds of Illinois. During the winter of 31-32 Black Hawk mustered his warriors on the Iowa side of the river and made preparation to invade Illinois. The settlers became alarmed and called upon Gov. Reynolds for protection. He issued a call for volunteers and named Beardstown as the point of rendezvous. Wm. Minshall, who afterwards became circuit judge, made an eloquent address to the hardy pioneer settlers who had gathered in Rushville on the 23rd day of April, 1832, and one hundred and fifty volunteers, who furnished their own arms and equipments, went from this county to Beardstown.

Wm. McKee was at that time a lad of nineteen years, but his father furnished him a wagon and team of horses and he went to the front with the soldiers. Abraham Lincoln was an officer in this war and marched with his company from Beardstown to Rushville and here encamped for the night, a half mile north of our city.

The body of volunteer soldiers marched up to near Rock Island, where they expected to meet the Fox and Saxe Indians under the leadership of Black Hawk. The first engagement was disastrous to the whites, and the battle is now commonly known as Stillman's defeat. In this engagement eleven white men and eight Indians were killed. Mr. McKee after the battle went on the field with his wagon and team and hauled six of the eleven dead soldiers to a place of safety.

Mr. McKee was in Gen. Whiteside's brigade, captained by William C. Ralls at the time of this engagement. He was mustered out of the service at the mouth of the Fox river May 28, 1832. But the trouble continuing with the Indians, he again enlisted and on June 6th, started to the front. This time he was a member of Capt. Stennett's company of Rangers and he carried arms until September 4th, when the company was mustered out of service, the Indians having abandoned all hope of continuing in a war with the whites.

WITH WHITMAN IN OREGON

In 1839 Mr. McKee's health began to fail, and as the far west offered inducement for health and adventure, he started in 1839 for far-away Oregon. It was a long, hard trip across the plains, deserts and hazardous mountain passes, with warring Indians roaming over all the territory, but Mr. McKee had become accustomed to the hardships of frontier life and started upon the long journey with bright hopes that the change in climate would benefit his health. And fortunately such was the case. He roamed around the northwest for a year and then returned home. On the return trip he packed his belongings on a mule and mounting another animal he started to make the long ride home. He could tell of many exciting incidents that happened while he was riding through the wild and almost deserted country, but unfortunately no record was made of them and they can never be given to the world.

In 1847 he made a second trip to Oregon. His brother, Joel McKee, and Joel Tullis accompanied him. For the latter gentleman it was a long hard trip filled with sorrow. Six

of his children died on the way and their bodies were buried along the Indian trails, wherever the party happened to be camped when death came to them.

Dr. Marcus Whitman is doubtless entitled to the credit of saving Oregon, Washington and Idaho to the United States. When the British Hudson Bay Company established a post at Fort Hall they tried in every way to keep the citizens of the United States out of Oregon, intending to make it a British province. Dr. Whitman, learning of these designs, rode from Oregon to Washington, D.C., a distance of 3,000 miles, during the winter of 1842-43. He interested the politicians of the country in the wealth and worth of Oregon and the northwest, and during the ensuing summer he led an immigrant train with 875 settlers into the territory of Oregon and saved it to the Union. Mr. McKee became intimately acquainted with Dr. Whitman, and worked for him six months in a mill during his first visit to Oregon in 1839. In November, 1847, Dr. Whitman, wife and twelve other members of their household were murdered by the Cayuse Indians. A call was made for volunteers and again Mr. McKee offered his services to put down the Indian uprising. There he experienced more hard fighting than was encountered in the Black Hawk war. The Indians sought safety in the mountains and sallied forth at unexpected times and gave battle to the volunteers, always shielding themselves from a return fire. Mr. McKee frequently spoke of a tedious three-day fight in this campaign, which was marked by hard fighting at times. He came out of the conflict without injury save to his clothing, which was rent and torn until they would barely hold together. Though he was only a transient visitor in that country he vowed that, as a loyal American, his place was to help his country whenever the opportunity presented itself, and he did noble service in repelling the attacks of the Indians.

From Oregon he went to California in 1849, where he joined the throng of gold miners. Here he remained until 1852, when he returned to the old homestead in Schuyler county, which was from thence forth to be his home. A home that in his last days was a home of peace and contentment. He lived to a ripe old age and without pain or a moment's suffering, his long, stirring and eventful life was ended. From first to last he remained a typical pioneer: strong, sturdy, self-reliant, and his long life was marked and controlled by strict integrity and personal uprightness.

In 1853 Mr. McKee was married to Sarah Cornelia Wilmot. Five daughters were born to them, Amanda (Mrs. Henry Hite), Sarah Ida (Mrs. Samuel D. Wheelhouse), Mary Cassey, and Wilametta McKee, and Bertha J. (Mrs. Cyrus L. DeWitt). Mrs. McKee and daughter, Mrs. DeWitt, are the only surviving members of the family.

Mr. McKee has three surviving sisters and one brother. Joel McKee now resides in Palo Pinto, Texas; Mrs. Bettie Sprigg at August, Illinois; Mrs. Dorcas Horney in Warren county and Mrs. Jacob Ritchey in Rushville township.

H. F. D.

WILLIAM McKEE, JR.

One of the oldest and most prominent citizens of Schuyler County was born in Crawford County, Indiana, January 22, 1813, a son of William McKee, who was a native of Kentucky. The paternal grandfather, James McKee, emigrated to Kentucky during the war of the Revolution, and thence removed to Indiana, where he passed the remainder of his days. William McKee, Sr., was reared in the Blue-grass State, and there was married; he removed to Indiana when it was yet a territory, and was a pioneer of Crawford County. He purchased land and made it his home until 1826, when, accompanied by his wife and ten children, he removed to Illinois. The journey was made by teams, which was not devoid of interest. Mr. McKee had visited this section the year previous, making the trip on horseback; he purchased a land warrant which called for 160 acres, paying therefor \$100.00; on his return to Indiana he stopped at Springfield (Illinois), and cleared his title at the Government office.

¹ His double-cousin (later Major) David McKee was in California during the Gold Rush also, but if they met there neither seems to have mentioned it.

It was indeed a courageous heart that looked at such a future calmly ; the country was thinly settled, the poles of the Indian wigwams still stood in the ground, market towns were far distant and provisions were high. Mr. McKee erected a double log cabin, using wooden pegs instead of nails ; the door was constructed of puncheons, and was furnished with the historic latch-string.

James Vance built the first horse mill operated with a rawhide band. This was built when the subject of this sketch came to this country. Calvin Hobart built one in the fall of 1826, then William McKee, father of our subject, built a horse-mill in 1828, it being the third in that section of the country. People came to the mill from as far north as Rock Island (Illinois). Mrs. McKee manufactured cloth from the flax and cotton that her husband raised with which to clothe the family. Mrs. McKee's maiden name was Cassie Frakes ; she was a native of Pennsylvania, a daughter of Henry and Hannah Frakes ; her death occurred at the home of her daughter, which is situated close to the old home farm.

The subject of this sketch was thirteen years and four months of age when he came to Illinois. On the journey he drove a four-horse team with a jerk line. He has a vivid recollection of many of the experiences which fall only to the lot of the pioneers. He remained in the State until 1839, and then started on a missionary tour among the Indians in the far West ; he crossed the plains to Oregon, and spent one year among the savages ; at the end of twelve months he returned to Illinois and resumed farming ; continuing this occupation until 1847. Then he again crossed the plains to Oregon and during that year, the Indians attacked the mission, twenty-five miles from Walla-Walla, and murdered Dr. Whitman and others. He volunteered to assist in subduing the redskins and was six months in the service. He was in Oregon until 1849, and then went to California ; he was suffering from ill health and his funds were limited, compared with the extremely high price of provisions, flour selling as high as \$2.50 per pound. In 1852 he returned to his home and located on the old homestead which he now occupies.

Mr. McKee was married in 1853 to Sarah C. Wilmot, a native of Stueben County, New York. She was educated in the pioneer schools and at the age of twenty began to teach. Only one of her directors who examined her could read or write ; she received for her services the magnificent sum of \$2.50 a week.

Mr. and Mrs. McKee are the parents of five daughters ; Amanda, wife of Henry Hite : she died Feb., 1882, leaving an infant son, Archie M., who is being reared by his grand-parents ; Mary C. died in infancy ; Ida S., wife of Samuel D. Wheelhouse, died in April, 1880 ; Bertha, wife of Cyrus L. DeWitt ; and Meta, who died in October, 1889, aged 14 years.

Politically, Mr. McKee affiliates with the Democratic party, although in former times he was a Whig. He is a man of wide experience, having passed through all the phases of life on the frontier. He has always been loyal to the interests of Schuyler Co., and has the entire confidence and respect of his fellow men.

(The above Biography was copied from the book, "Cass, Schuyler and Brown counties, Illinois—containing Biographical sketches of Pioneer and Leading Citizens".
Published 1892 by Biographical Review Publishing Co., Chicago, Ill.)

William McKee (Senior) resided upon his improvement until his death in 1851. He gave the plot for the Sugar Grove Cemetery and he and his daughter, Amanda Ritchey, (mother of William McKee Ritchey) were buried in a double grave. He and she were the first burials in the cemetery. His daughter had preceded him in death by some five or six weeks and he requested on his deathbed that her body be disinterred from Bethany Cemetery and buried with him in a double grave in Sugar Grove Cemetery.

William McKee, Jr., resided on the homestead until his death, December 17, 1897. It then passed to his daughter, Bertha (McKee) DeWitt, who sold it to Samuel Dean.

Rushville was located as the seat of justice, March 6, 1826. It was first known as Rushton in honor of Dr. Rush, an eminent physician of Philadelphia, but for some reason was changed to Rushville, April 24, 1826. The commissioners appointed Dr. Blair to go to Springfield and obtain a patent for the S.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 30, Township 2N 1W. The sum of \$150.00 was paid for the E. $\frac{1}{2}$ of the $\frac{1}{4}$ by Jacob White, and Dr. Blair was allowed \$2.50 for his work and time. The $\frac{1}{2}$ was that part lying about 80 feet east of the public square. The first house built in Rushville was in the spring of 1826 by John Terry, just across the street south of the Webster school building. The second house was built by Hart Fellows, where the northeast corner of the public square now stands. Thomas McKee was authorized to employ a skilled surveyor to lay off the town. It was directed that one tier of ten acre lots on the east side of the $\frac{1}{4}$ section should be divided into $2\frac{1}{2}$ acre lots.

About 1915 the present author's father informed him of three important persons in the family's background. They served as points of departure in the present search, which eventually has led back through the annals of our great nation, then into those of Ireland and Scotland as well, all in pursuit of trails left by our fighting, loyal, tumultuous clan. Incredible though it seems, we can find faint traces of our clan backward almost 1,500 years, and if we were willing to grant the ancient Irish bards and ollaves the same degree of probity we accord the authors of the books of the Old Testament, we could then peer backward into the dimmest shadows of antiquity, as they pretend to have done. Let the reader not forget that any man could be traced even to Noah if the trail could be discerned, since all of us are believed to descend from him after the flood. However, the claims made by early Irish historians that they had succeeded in tracing the Heremonian and Irian lines to Noah are now known to have embodied an extravagant portion of poetical license.

The three personages whom the author's father in particular carried in his memory were Major David McKee who founded the Anti-Horsethief Association, Captain Joel McKee who settled in Palo Pinto County, Texas, *circa* 1855, and a *McKee who was either related to or associated with Light Horse Harry Lee*. It will not add to the sum total of our information to describe the processes by which the answers to these three problems emerged, except perhaps to say that we now have the complete history of all three of these men, together with from one to several contemporary portraits of them. These and portraits of many others came as a result of more than 6,000 letters sent and received by the author in a heart-warming interchange with an uncounted number of the gracious members of our tribe.

Major David McKee, whose brief history follows, was a devout man who eschewed both liquor and tobacco, vigorous withal because he sired nineteen children. It has been the author's privilege to correspond extensively with three of his daughters and two of his granddaughters, who have placed the data that follow and much more at his disposal. Major David gained his majority in the Civil War. On one occasion he was obliged to obtain a furlough to settle the affairs of his first (double) cousin Captain William McKee, who was killed at the battle of Prairie Grove, Arkansas, December 7, 1862. A substantial marble monument to Major David stands at Kahoka, Missouri, his home town. His Bible has descended to his granddaughter Edna MacMahon of Duncan, Oklahoma, who is herself a proud member of Daughters of the American Revolution. Incidentally, as is mentioned elsewhere in its more proper place, the body of Captain William McKee was brought north through Confederate lines by Henry Lafayette McKee, son of his eldest brother James McKee, who drove his team hard at night, and hid by days, to recover it to Northern soil. The author's father was a reverent admirer of Major David McKee, although it is doubtful if he ever met him. The author's second son is named *David Joel McKee*.

The other two McKee progenitors that helped form the keystone of this investigation were Captain Joel McKee, whose biography follows that of Major David, and Colonel William McKee. The latter is immortalized in the history of the infant nation he labored to preserve, as well as in Major George Wilson McKee's *McKees of Virginia and Kentucky* (J. B. Richards, Pittsburgh, Pa., 1891). Colonel William McKee was one of Virginia's delegates to the Constitutional Convention whose business it was to decide whether Virginia favored adopting or rejecting the proposed *Constitution of the United States of America*. He was selected by his adherents because he was in favor of adopting it. However, the eloquent Patrick Henry was violently opposed to its adoption, as he felt his beloved state's sovereignty was being surrendered to strangers from distant states who would gather in a far away national capitol and decide his state's fortunes and future. Patrick Henry's oratory swayed many people, and finally Colonel William McKee's constituents reversed his instructions, so that now he was mandated to *vote against* adopting the Constitution. He violated his instructions, and voted for its adoption, in opposition to the vote of Patrick Henry and several other noted delegates.

One of the delegates *who voted the same as he*, was Light Horse Harry Lee. Just in the event that the reader does not recognize his cognomen, this man was Lieutenant-General Henry Lee, who served under the direct command of General Washington, and was the father of our renowned and beloved Robert E. Lee. The story of his life is sad, but since it is inextricably interlaced with those of contemporaneous and subsequent Lees, people interested in that great family should not fail to read the life of Light Horse Harry Lee.

LIFE SKETCH OF MAJOR DAVID MCKEE

Major David McKee, farmer and stock raiser, was born in Sangamon County, Illinois, December 14, 1823, the youngest of eleven children of Thomas and Hanna (Frakes) McKee, of Scotch-Irish descent, and natives of Kentucky and Pennsylvania, respectively, and born somewhere near 1770. They married in Kentucky, where the father was engaged in farming, although until about 1815 he worked at blacksmithing, somewhat. They then spent five years in Harrison County, Indiana, and then moved to the county of our subject's birth. In 1825 they settled in Schuyler County, permanently. They died in 1834 and 1864, respectively.

Our subject was educated in the log school houses of Schuyler County, Ill., and in Hendersonville, and remained with his mother until about the age of eighteen. Then he spent the first years of his married life as a farmer in that county until 1844, when he spent a year in Farmington, Iowa, and then moved to Clark County, Missouri. He farmed near Athens (in north part of county) for some time, and in June, 1861, he became a second lieutenant in the Home Guards. After the Clark County, Missouri, forces were united under Col. David Moore he became a major and a short time later, while in St. Louis as a delegate to procure arms and rations, was appointed recruiting officer by General Fremont. He then returned to his home and formed a cavalry battalion of about 700 men, and was elected Major. After some service in Macon City, Mo., in 1861-2, they were merged in the Seventh Missouri Cavalry Volunteers. Our subject had one of the four battalions, and after some skirmishing, they were at the following places: Marshal, Lexington, Sedalia and Springfield. (All in Missouri). In July, 1863, he resigned on account of disability contracted in the service, and moved to Athens, Missouri, after renting his farm. In 1866 he became manager of a woolen factory and grist mill at that place, but two years later returned to the farm where he remained

until he came to his present home (in North Clark County) in 1873. His wife, Martha J. Keesecker, is a native of Kentucky, where she was born August 14, 1823. She came to Illinois when about seventeen years of age and was married August 12, 1842, at her home in Schuyler County, Illinois. She died November 25, 1855, after having borne seven children. The following year he married Mrs. Elvira Breeding, the widow of Mr. M. Breeding, and daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth Randolph. She was born October 18, 1837, in Indiana, and in 1851 moved to Iowa and three years later was married to her first husband, who died in October, 1855. Three of our subject's nineteen children are deceased. He is now on a fine farm (1887) of 200 acres which is well cultivated, and on which he deals largely in stock, holding at present twenty horses, twenty-six thoroughbred cattle, and droves of hogs. Politically he is a strong prohibitionist, opposing tobacco as well as whisky, and holding the principles of the Republican party. Before the war he was a Democrat, and voted for Pierce first and for Douglass in 1860. He served twelve years as a Justice of the Peace and sometimes as township assessor. He joined the first Masonic lodge of the county, about forty years ago and passed all the chairs. He was organizer and Grand Worthy President for about ten years, of the A.H.T.A., and captured a large number (probably the largest of any member) of thieves. He, his wife and four children are members of the Congregational Church.

DEATH OF MAJOR DAVID McKEE

(From the *Kahoka Gazette-Herald*, March 13, 1896)

After an illness of many months, Major David McKee died at his home in Kahoka, of cancer of the face and other complications, on Saturday afternoon, March 7, at 2.30 o'clock, aged 72 years, 2 months and 22 days. Funeral services were conducted at the Presbyterian church, Monday, by Revs. Dicken and Johnson, after which the body was taken in charge by the Kahoka Masonic Order, assisted by Wm. McKee Post, G.A.R., and was buried according to the rites of the former order in Kahoka cemetery.

Major McKee was born in Sangamon County, Illinois, December 14, 1823. His parents moved to Schuyler County, Illinois, in 1825, and the subject of this sketch remained there until 1844. August 12, 1842, he was married to Miss Martha J. Keesecker and in 1844 they moved to Farmington, Iowa. After a year's residence there he moved to this county, near Athens, where he engaged in farming—with the exception of a few years spent in California in the early 50's—until the breaking out of the war. In 1861 he joined the Home Guards and was made a lieutenant. Later he was appointed recruiting officer by Gen. Fremont and raised a regiment of cavalry—the Seventh Missouri—of which he was elected Major. He served with distinction in a number of engagements, notably at Marshall, Lexington, Sedalia and Springfield. He resigned his commission in July, 1863, on account of disabilities contracted in the service and returned to his home. Since then and up to a year ago he devoted his time, principally to farming and stock raising. For a number of years he resided on his fine farm in Jackson township. His first wife died in 1855. The following year he married Mrs. Elvira Breeden. Major McKee was the father of nineteen children—seven by his first wife and twelve by his second wife. He had been a member of the Masonic order for forty years, was one of the charter members and for many years president of the Anti-Horse Thief Association, a justice of the peace for twelve years, and always took a leading and active part in all matters pertaining to the material and moral welfare of the county. He was a member of the Congregational Church.

In his death the county loses one of its most honored and enterprising citizens and his family a devoted husband and father. Besides his wife, five sons and nine daughters survive him; also two brothers, James of Anson and Preston of Kahoka, and two sisters.

MAJOR DAVID MCKEE'S ELK SPECULATION AND HIS TRIP TO CALIFORNIA,
AS WRITTEN BY HIM

"I, David McKee, was born December 14, 1823, in Sangamon County, Illinois, and in 1825 my parents moved to Schuyler County, Illinois; and in 1833, my father, Thomas McKee died; and August 14, 1841, I was married to Martha J. Keesecker; and in 1843 I moved to Appanoose County, Iowa; and in August, 1846 I moved to Farmington, Vanburen County, Iowa and bought the ferry across the DesMoines River; and in February, 1848, I bought a place three miles south of Farmington, but across the state line into Clark County, Missouri".

"I raised three Elks and broke them to work, in Clark County, Mo., and as I called it—one of my wild goose chases I corresponded with the great Museum man, P. T. Barnum, of New York, who had great inducements for me to bring them to the city of New York; and if I could drive the Elks, or two of them, to a vehicle on Broadway, he, Barnum would give me a good big sum of money. I sold a half interest in the Elks to John D. Smith, before we started for New York. We were gone six weeks. We went from Clark County, Missouri to Chicago, Illinois, by land with a buggy, as there were no railroads to Chicago from Missouri. We went to La Salle on the Illinois River. There was a canal running from there to Chicago. We had a horse along, and I took the horse, hitched him to the buggy and started for Chicago, and I went on to a town eighteen miles along the canal by the name of Ottowa, I expected to meet the canal boat there. I waited twenty-four hours for the canal boat and when Smith came he was tired of canaling so we took the Elks off and drove them alternately with the horse through to Chicago. We attracted a great deal of attention on the way, and in Chicago. There we shipped our Elks on board the Old Sultana, a steamer for Buffalo, New York. We had a rough voyage indeed, with some laughable circumstances, as well as sad scenes. We thought the ship was going to sink at one time, and Smith said—he wished he could see Lib, that was his wife, and after a while he said—he wished he could give Lib his money. He had then belted around him \$800.00 in gold.

"We reached Buffalo City safe, with the loss of one man, and minus our main mast. A gladder man never stepped ashore than I was. It must have been laughable to those on the dock. When the ship landed and the passengers went off—some of the passengers shouted 'Glory', others haloed 'Amen', ever so often, as loud as they could hullo".

"The vessel was reported lost in a storm. We first made shore at Montreal, Canada. Then it was telegraphed to Buffalo, that we were all safe and when we landed at Buffalo there were hundreds of people on the Dock to meet their friends. Some women to meet their husbands. Some men to meet their wives. Some laughed, others cried. I stood looking on—too glad to laugh and too big to cry. After resting twenty-four hours, we hitched up our Elks, or two of them to a buggy and drove through the city. Then we shipped on the railroad to Albany, New York. There we stayed over Sunday—drove all over the city—had lots of fun".

"Then we shipped on a boat, on the North River, to New York City. After staying there ten days, we sold our stock of fun, for it was fun to see two big stout western men sitting in a buggy drawn by two Elks. We had no trouble getting the streets, as all horses gave way as we drove along. Men, women, and boys, followed along the sidewalks to see the Elks and the two western men driving them. We stopped at the Jersey Mote. We had lots of reporters of papers to call on us, and tickets sent us to attend Barnum's Museum, and many other places of amusement. We had lots of fun; and finally sold our Elks at a heavy loss—to Smith especially—but, I always thought I got well paid for my Elk speculation. I got \$56.00 in money and \$1,000.00 worth of experience and fun".

"And in April, 1852, I and H. A. Stewart, Perry Sawyers, and Alexandria Anderson, started across the plains to California with an ox team. About one hundred miles west of the Missouri River, we crossed at what was then called Council Bluffs, Iowa; all the country

west belonged to the Indians and one of our company's wagon axles broke and the rest of the train went on to water, and I stopped to help unload the broken wagon on to another wagon. There was a lot of willows a little ways off and as soon as the train got out of sight by passing over a ridge, the Indians rushed out of the willows and surrounded us, there was only three men and two women—and if we weren't scared, I never was. The Indians did not want to hurt us but they wanted to take the provisions, but we did not know what they intended to do—maybe kill us. They climbed into the wagon and commenced to take what they pleased, and then the fun began—the old lady, her name was Moore—she said, it won't do to let them take all the grub—and she struck an Indian with the ox whip and then a general engagement ensued—and the oxen ran off with the wagon—and during the hottest of the contest some men who were out buffalo hunting came along and scared the Indians off and relieved us. Then we picked up the scattered grub and went on and overtook our train. That night the Indians robbed a train, that camped near where they attacked us, of everything they had. One of the men got away and got into our camp next morning with nothing on but shirt and pants. Then about where Lincoln, the capital of Nebraska is, we camped there. Two women fought a fair and square fight, their husbands looking on, until one grabbed a fire shovel. Then they parted them. They fell out about turning a pan cake”.

“We made the trip in 112 days without the loss of anything we started with—with the exception of myself, betting my pocket knife on some immigrant's Nativity, and lost it. We had excellent health. Neither of us four was sick a day. Never missed a meal nor paid a cent. all the way through, except on the desert from the Humbolt River. We paid 25 cents apiece for one pint of water. The water had been packed on mules from Trucky River and the man that had the water would not let anyone have more than one pint, as he said he had brought the water to give to immigrants who had no money to buy it with. I remained in California till December 15, 1853. That day Mr. H. A. Stewart, who (he and I had crossed the plains together) left San Francisco, California, for home by the way of the Nicaragua route to New Orleans. Then we bought tickets to St. Louis, Missouri, on a steamboat. When we got to Caro, Illinois, there we had to get off the boat, owing to the fact that the Mississippi River was frozen over. There we bought a horse apiece and crossed the Mississippi River on the ice on horseback. Then from St. Charles on the Missouri River. There we crossed the river on the ice, and a party wanted us to pay toll for crossing on the ice. He said that when the River froze up the ice bulged up in cakes and left the ice so rough that neither horse, man, nor wagon, could cross ; and him and some others had cut the rough places and made it smooth.

NOTE BY MRS. ALICE (MCKEE) HUFFMAN, MENO, OKLAHOMA, NOV. 17, 1915 :

Mr. Charles Keesecker, Wife, daughter, granddaughter, and Sister Mary McKee, visited at the home of J. S. and Alice Huffman (née McKee) ; and Mr. Keesecker told us that father (David McKee) bought the Elks when they were very young, from a man in Iowa ; and Mr. Keesecker helped father break the Elks.

He was a brother to father's first wife.

He said father had two sets of harness made for them in Farmington, Iowa. That they were very hard to break. Borrowed John D. Smith's yoke of oxen, and ox cart ; hitched the Elks to the cart, the oxen in front ; then the Elks could not get away.

MRS. ALICE HUFFMAN (née McKee).

NOTES OF MAJOR DAVID MCKEE AT THE WORLD'S FAIR, IN CHICAGO, ILL., JUNE, 1893

“Railroad Company, Pennsylvania. All ancient machinery articles ; including the first locomotive, and passenger trains, and wagon team.

I met with Megan—who I vouched for, for cattle bought at Henry Thompson's SALE. He knew me.

The Fine Arts Building covers thirty acres of ground, it contains the paintings, and represents all the Nationalities of the World. All implements used by the different nationalities is here on exhibit. Even men and women—Great Britain and Canada can boast of.

The sight of the Eskimo Man is of note. They are dirty. There are missionaries in that country.

The largest wheel in the world is here, it is two hundred and fifty feet high.

The Balloon ascension—500 feet—held by a rope.

The big alley is one mile long ; and all nations is here in person, with all kinds of things to sell. I must say that I think the Germans beat all the nations. Italy has more carving on wood, brass and copper, than all the others. They have a Door that has all kinds of birds, animals, and people, carved on it by hand.

The state building of Illinois is said to be the best and cost the most of any. California, next to Texas, the poorest display of all.

Washington is good. Virginia has the old style about everything.

Chicago, Ill., June 15, 1893. Pennsylvania is good. It has the old Bell, that tolled our Independence ; and the chair that Lord Cornwallis used daily at his headquarters in Yorktown in 1781 when it was Surrendered to American troops. There is lots of furniture here of Randolph's and other old statesmen. I sat in Cornwallis's chair while writing the above.

Great Britain has very costly articles on display. Harness, Buggies, Carriages, but they do not think that the Americans appreciate their display—they told me so—we had quite a talk.

Canada is good. The Canadian Indians have a good display here.

The object of each department is to show the old tools and machinery used fifty and a hundred years ago, and right by that the tools used now—to show how they have improved.

Germany has the largest gun in the world, it is thirty-six feet long.

Illinois is certainly ahead for her age. The state of Illinois was admitted in 1818. Ohio is next—it is good.

New Mexico makes a fine showing. Has trees four feet in diameter. Petrified. Cuts, sanded off, and polished like glass. Showing bark and growth of tree.

Old Mexico has the old wooden fork plow with a yoke of oxen hitched to it ; and their old solid wheel cart. She makes a poor show of advancement.

I see Daniel Webster's old family carriage.

I see President Polk's family carriage.

I see John Randolph's old secretary desk ; and his bed-stead, the spread on it was ninety-five years old.

Go right up to Sixtieth Street—five blocks north—right under the street. Midway pleasant.

Buffalo Bill Show of the Wild West is certainly worth seeing. It is real.

The fine art gallery is three stories high. It contains the finest sceneries on the ground here. The crucifixion of our Savior with a large body of Jews on horse-back and a-foot at the crucifixion. It was painted in Germany. The thief is painted. All the whole thing—just as we see in the New Testament. It is solemn to look at—it is so real and lifelike—it looks like they could talk.

The largest vessel that is here yet is the Whaleback ; but a few of the foreign nations not represented yet ; they will come.

Sitting Bull's real cabin is here—and the real Indian that decoyed Custer into the battle.

Midway is a Street—that all nations of people are there.

Lincoln Park is fine ; all, or nearly all, kind of animals are here.

There is one street in Chicago thirty miles long ; and the electric cars run all the way on State Street.

The stock yards is worth going to see.

The Masonic Temple is fourteen stories high—and elevators take you to the top—I went up.

The painting of the battle of Gettysburg is a fine scene.

The scene of driving lions to a carriage is very strange—but it is so—they mind him better than our horses do us.

The old Libby prison building is here.

The transportation building is where all implements of all kinds, from a wheel barrow to the largest engine in the world, is shown.

The agriculture building is fine.

The Mohawk Indians are here. They are the oldest civilized Indians in the United States. They are more white blood than Indian, tho' they have their bark tepees and very many old relics.

The statue of James W. Marshall, the man that discovered the gold at Captain Sutter's Millrace in California, is in the California Building—very large.

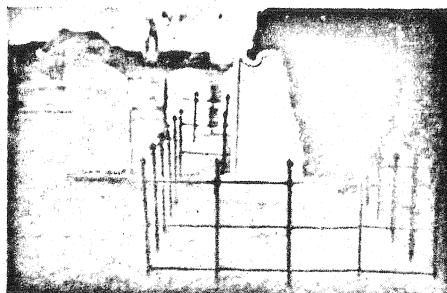
The manufacturing buildings is the greatest place to see the advancement of everything.

The sleighride, a quarter of a mile in a circle, on snow and ice. The largest engine in the world, at this time, was made in Milwaukee, Wisconsin".

DIARY OF HUGH ALLEN STEWART

It was in the spring of 1852 when O. P. Sawyer, Alexander Anderson, David McKee, and H. A. Stewart, equipped with ox team, started for California. They left as soon as the grass was strong enough to supply feed for the cattle, as it was impossible to carry feed for the cattle and themselves too. A goodly supply of bacon, flour, potatoes, and some hardtack was the principal food. Two cows that were giving milk were taken along to make up the team. The cows were a valuable asset to the party as they continued to give a little milk all the way through, which aided materially in the preparation of the daily meals. An old fashioned churn was taken along as a container for the milk supply, and the jostle of the wagon agitated the milk to the extent of churning nice lumps of butter each day which added to the variety of the food. The party of four traveled alone from Clark County, Missouri, to Omaha, where the Government agent assisted the emigrants in making up their train, as it was necessary that a number of parties form a train in order to protect themselves from the Indians.

From Omaha there were two principal routes which had been marked out by men acquainted with the country, and who had men employed as guides to direct the movement of the train. These two routes were "Sublette's Cut Off" and the "Beckwith Route". The four in question took the "Beckwith Route", and in 145 days from the time they left Omaha they landed in Sacramento. This was a record breaker up to that time. On arriving in California the party proceeded to dispose of their equipment. They found ready sale for their cows at \$150.00 each. With considerable effort the oxen were sold at \$50.00 each, owing to the fact that they were extra good strong animals. In disposing of their oxen at the price of \$50.00 each, they were very lucky, as the country was over-run with work cattle. Their surplus provisions sold readily and at a good profit above the cost in Missouri ; but



HEADSTONE OF BIG DAYEY McKEE OF THE TEMPLE AT LOUGH ENNEY, CO. DOWN, and McKEE MONUMENT AT BOARD MILLS, IRELAND.

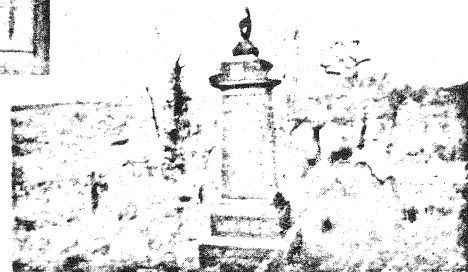


Plate 30

(Pages 117-8)



Plate 31

(Page 119)

McKEE HOME AT ANAHILT



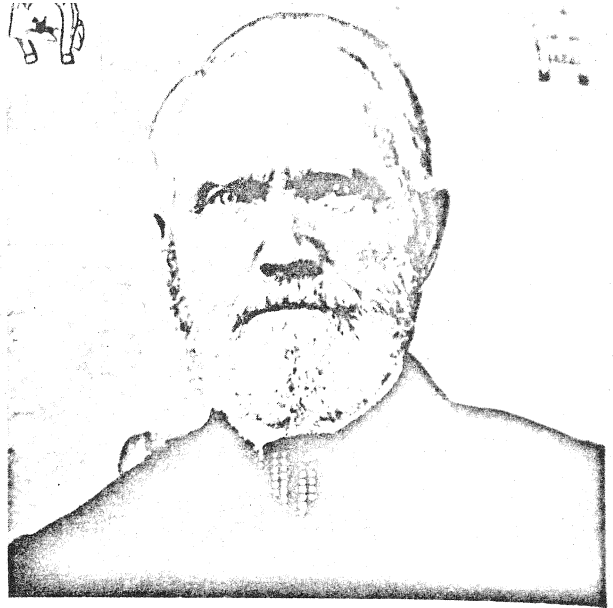
WILLIAM McKEE SR., of RUSHVILLE
Plate 32 (Page 187)



CASSANDRA FRAKES McKEE
Plate 33 (Page 188)

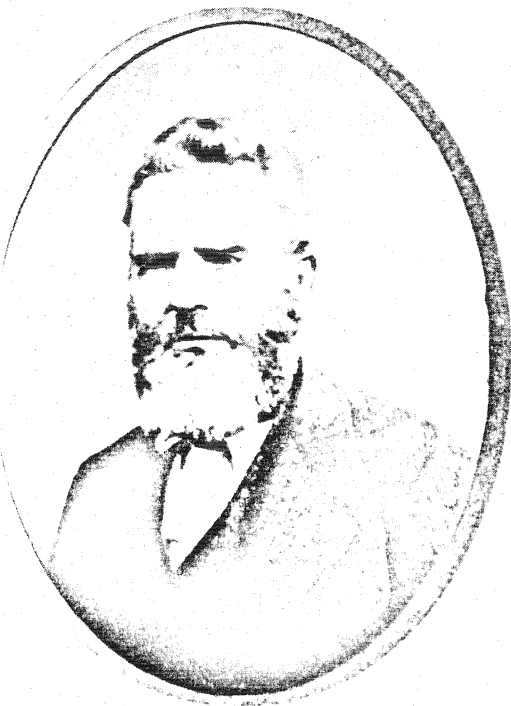


(Page 208)



MAJOR DAVID McKEE
Founder of A.H.T.A.
Plate 34 (Page 207)

MAJOR DAVID McKEE and ELVIRA BREEDING
McKEE



CAPTAIN JOEL McKEE

(Page 213)



JAMES McKEE and ELIZABETH PLASTERS McKEE
Plate 37 (Page 215)

there was no sale for the wagons, consequently they were side-tracked in an out-of-the-way place to rot down.

Their trip was a thrilling one from the time they left Omaha until their journey was completed ; for they were now in the land where the Indians were monarch of all they surveyed. But being fortunate in securing an efficient guide at Omaha, one who knew all about Indian tactics, they avoided any clash with the Red Man, although on one occasion their guide ordered them to circle the teams to form a breastwork which was done so quickly that it bluffed the Indians who withdrew without a shot being fired.

On arriving in California the Company had practically all the bacon they had started with, for the reason that Stewart, their cook, had nothing to do after meals except to clean up the dishes and hunt by the roadside as the train moved along to the next camp place. By his skilled marksmanship the company was kept in fresh meat such as antelope, deer, and buffalo during the entire trip.

In the train which was made up at Omaha, there was a family, the two principals of which quarrelled continually. It was the custom of the man to give his wife a whipping about twice a week. This practice grew very distasteful to the whole train and especially to McKee, who declared if the act was repeated, he was going to interfere. One morning at breakfast a few days later the trouble started and McKee could not stand it any longer ; therefore he rushed in and with a punch in the jaw laid the fellow out full length, and while watching the man instead of the woman, the latter reached for the frying pan that was on the fire and bringing it down on McKee's head, he was severely burned with the hot grease. McKee, then and there, made a vow to never again interfere in family rows.

It was the custom of the emigrants to write their names and addresses on everything possible along the road. Every buffalo skull and bones were covered with names of the people from all over the country, which proved to be a directory to those who followed. Cunning styles were adopted by many companies ; among them was a company of three from Farmington, Iowa—Mrs. Archer, Flood, and Young. The style adopted by this company was Archer, Flood and Bringham Young.

CAPTAIN JOEL McKEE

Captain Joel McKee must have been a tremendous personality, and a man of considerable determination. Somewhere, he learned surveying, and in Texas practiced it as a profession. His granddaughter's husband William Smith sometimes follows his surveys, even today. The author's father, Charles Edward McKee, had met Captain Joel, as the following short biography of him testifies, and admired him deeply. The fact that Joel fought in the Confederate Army, as did many of our McKee relatives from Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee, poignantly compresses within our immediate view the terrible futility and sadness of that great conflict between the states. At least a dozen, and perhaps twice that many, of your people and my people, all liberty-loving, God-fearing McKees, died on the battlefields of our Civil War. Whether for North or South, they fought for what they knew was right : in the Northern armies for the freedom of enslaved humans ; in the Southern forces, for the right of a proud and brave minority to work out in their own way a vexatious problem they had inherited from their great-grandfathers, now so economically entangled with their daily lives that instant change, imperiously sought by the North, meant nothing less than ruin. As previously noted, the author's second son is named David Joel McKee,

after his two great-grand uncles. An aged daughter of Major David, when she learned of this, wrote, "Bear that name proudly, my boy". He does. Della McKee Pollock joined our ancestors in April, 1955.

Captain Joel McKee was born at Rushville, Illinois, August 18, 1823, and died in 1903 in Oklahoma, where he is buried. He was a son of William McKee and Cassie Frakes McKee; hence he and Major David McKee were known to each other as double-cousins, inasmuch as their respective fathers were brothers, and their mothers sisters.

"Joel McKee¹ and Fannie Metcalf were married April 24, 1876. Their marriage license was written by her father, William Metcalf, who was County Clerk. They had two children, John William and Cassey Ann. John William and Lula Houx were married March 31, 1896. They had two children, Edith (Mrs. Fred Eubanks) and May, now deceased. After Lula's death, he (John William) married my mother, Easter Emma Maxwell, on September 4, 1915. I (Emma Ora Smith) am their only child. I was born December 6, 1918. On April 24, 1948 I married William Benjamin Smith".

"Cassey Ann McKee married Willard H. McClendan. Their children are: Mary Emogene, Anna Ruth (deceased), Ralph Record, Willard McKee (deceased), Randolph, Paul and Eugene. I don't know where they are now. Paul was in Phoenix, Arizona, and Gene in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Aunt Ann has been dead for many years. John William McKee, my father, was born November 20, 1877 and died May 11, 1945. He is buried at Palo Pinto, Texas".

"Mrs. George Metcalf has told me that Edward McKee, nephew of Joel, from Joplin, Missouri, was in Palo Pinto in 1896 and attended the wedding of my father and his first wife. She walked home with him after the wedding. They believe he returned to Joplin, married and raised a family. If living he would be in his 80's".

"Joel came to Palo Pinto County in 1855 and settled at McKee's Crossing on Dark Valley Creek (on Brazier River) about nine or ten miles north of Palo Pinto. He came here from Hill and Navarro Counties, Texas. He brought with him 350 or 400 horses (horses at that time were the most valuable personal property people had). The Indians from the Indian Territory, now Oklahoma, made three or four raids and got very nearly all of his horses. Finally, in 1898, he received \$7,900.00 for them. It was very difficult to get payment for them for one had to prove what tribe of Indians took them. I guess he should have had Major David McKee on their trail, don't you?"

"During the Civil War, Grandpa was captured and jailed in Denver, Colorado. With him were Anson and George Wilson, uncles of Mrs. George Metcalf. He had a Company of 40 or 50 men. They were in the Federal Prison there five months short of two days, he said. A Mr. Hart was the turn-key at the jail and only locked it at night. One night Grandpa said to Hart, 'Do you want to grip the hand of a rebel?' That same night Hart left the jail unlocked. The Wilson brothers played their fiddles while Grandpa walked out, and then they walked out too. Robertson, one of the guards, watched them walk away. Later, Grandpa saw Robertson who was very ill and without a horse and he gave him his horse so he could get to a doctor. He never saw him again. It would be interesting to know if he recovered".

While it would not be practicable to print a biography for even all of the *distinguished* McKees who appear on the accompanying McKee Family Tree that traces the descendants

¹ Incidents and Family history recalled by Emma Ora McKee Smith and her cousin George Metcalf.

of Thomas and William, a few will be given briefly. Any McKee who is interested in the story of a particular McKee ancestor will be most welcome to write to the author, who will gladly supply any details in his possession.

Since the present volume was undertaken in the first place for the selfish purpose of supplying information to the author's sons and their future progeny concerning their ancestry, the biographies of their agnatic great-grandfather, grandfather, and father are included herein; the author hopes inclusion of his own will not be considered immodest, as the reason seems to him sufficient to dispel that impression, in view of the primary object of the volume in its inception.

JAMES McKEE (12.11.1803—11.16.1902)

This James McKee was the first child of Thomas McKee and Hannah Frakes McKee. He was born in what is now Hardin County, Kentucky, across the Ohio from Indiana and emigrated with them to Crawford County, Indiana, when he was an infant. As he grew into a boy he occupied himself, we conjecture, much as all frontier boys did in those early days. Children had definite chores about which stern parents could hardly afford time to cavil. Firewood, feeding pigs, cleaning out stable-stalls, bedding down the horses, helping, as soon as they could learn to milk a cow, with the milking, weeding garden patches, helping with hoeing corn, flax, cabbage patches, and so forth. Two hours a day of play would be extraordinary, especially if the boy were fortunate enough to be close to a backwoods settlement with a school.

It must be remembered that the menfolk procured the family food by cultivating crops and hunting. Venison and wild turkey were standard provender, supplemented by fresh or dried vegetables. The equipment for "canning" did not reach our frontiers for many years. However, potatoes, turnips, apples, and the like would usually survive a winter in a cool, dark cellar. A spring-house, built over a natural spring, generally provided fair refrigeration for butter, milk, eggs, and curds.

The women not only saw to conditioning and preparing the food, but carded and spun flax and wool into yarns, then having woven these into cloth, sewed the cloth into clothing for their men, themselves, and their children. There were no idle hours. Facilities for washing and drying clothes were primitive, and the soap had to be made from lye and tallow or grease. The houses were log cabins, the chinks between the logs filled with clay or mud. Some fireplaces were built of stones, if they were available in the locality; otherwise of logs thickly plastered with clay. There is no need to comment on the fire hazard inherent in the latter type of construction.

Doctors were practically non-existent on the frontiers, and what they knew would not equal the learning of a present-day chiropractor, so whatever medication was to be administered to the ailing had usually to be at the hands of the men and women of the family. Infant mortality was dreadfully high, as an examination of the family trees will show. The author's father had inherited a considerable store of these early home remedies, and never hesitated to apply them. For example, a gashed foot usually involved a consultation among several of the elders to decide whether the poultice should be made of bruised and steeped mullen, a wad of freshly chewed tobacco bound to the wound, or fresh warm cow manure poulticed snugly to the gashed member. The old gentleman leaned heavily toward the last named method, and on at least three occasions the author spent a night with a foot so swathed.

When it was bathed clean in the morning the entire area where the poultice material had touched was blanched white, and in each instance the wound healed quickly *without the slightest sign of swelling or angry infection.*

Tonsilitis was usually treated by applying hot goose grease and a flannel cloth to the neck. Chest colds were similarly treated. Sassafras tea, tansy bitters, whisky, rhubarb, turpentine, tannin from oak bark, and so forth through a long and most ancient pharmacopoeia helped. Today we have penicillin, achromycin, streptomycin, sigmamycin, erythrycin and dozens of other antibiotics based on the original bacteriophage.

In view of the necessity for both men and women on the frontier to work long, hard hours, it is not surprising that many men were thought of as old at fifty, and women sometimes as old women at thirty. Yet many of them had long life spans. James McKee lived to be almost 100 years of age. His parents had moved on to Sangamon County, Illinois, by 1823. His descendants have told the author that he attended the same school as Abraham Lincoln for a while. This must have been in Illinois. There is also the story that he eventually had a violent quarrel, and perhaps a fight, with his father Thomas. Having counselled with one of his brothers, who advised him against remaining home under the circumstances, James took some provisions, climbed in a dugout canoe, and paddled himself out onto the Mississippi. There he got himself taken aboard a river steamer and made his way south to New Orleans. That part of his history is a blank. A few years later the rumor came north that a McKee was drowned at New Orleans, so the family assumed it was James. Then, one day, he turned up in the Rushville area, and soon married a handsome widow, Elizabeth Plasters. The marriage was blessed with twelve children, who appear on the accompanying family tree.

When Captain William McKee, his younger brother, was killed on December 7, 1862, at the Battle of Prairie Grove, James McKee's son Henry, as elsewhere noted, drove a team and wagon north through Confederate lines with his body, driving by night and hiding from patrols by day.

The author has an excellent photograph of James McKee and his stately wife Elizabeth Plasters McKee that appears to have been taken during or shortly after the Civil War.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM McKEE (1816—12.7.1862)

There is not very much information available concerning this Civil War veteran. His son Benjamin Prentice McKee named his own son after the grandfather, and used no half-way measures in doing it: he named him Captain William McKee. He is a man of very considerable erudition, presently connected with The Economic and Business Foundation of New Wilmington, Pennsylvania. He is an author and educator of such stature as to have earned listing in *Who's Who in America*, where his various attainments and connections are repeated in detail. He and the author correspond in a desultory manner.

A beautiful pastel portrait of Captain William McKee the veteran passed to his daughter Ann, and from her to her son Arthur Frank Anderson of Hopewell, Kansas. He very graciously gave it to the author, and it now hangs in the latter's gallery of more than 100 McKee portraits. Captain William was wearing his Union Army uniform when the portrait was made, as will be seen from the reproduction herein.



Plate 38 CAPTAIN WILLIAM McKEE (Page 216)



Plate 39 HENRY McKEE OF MONMOUTH (Page 216)



Plate 40 MARY MOORE McKEE (Page 217)

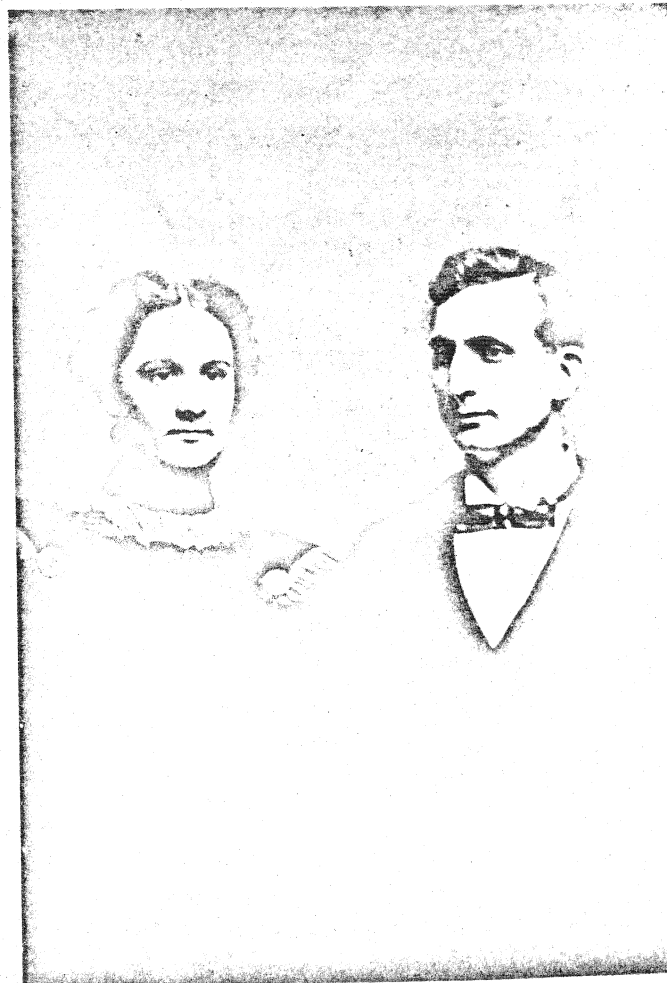


Plate 41 CHARLES EDWARD McKEE and SARAH ELLEN EPPERSON McKEE (Page 217)

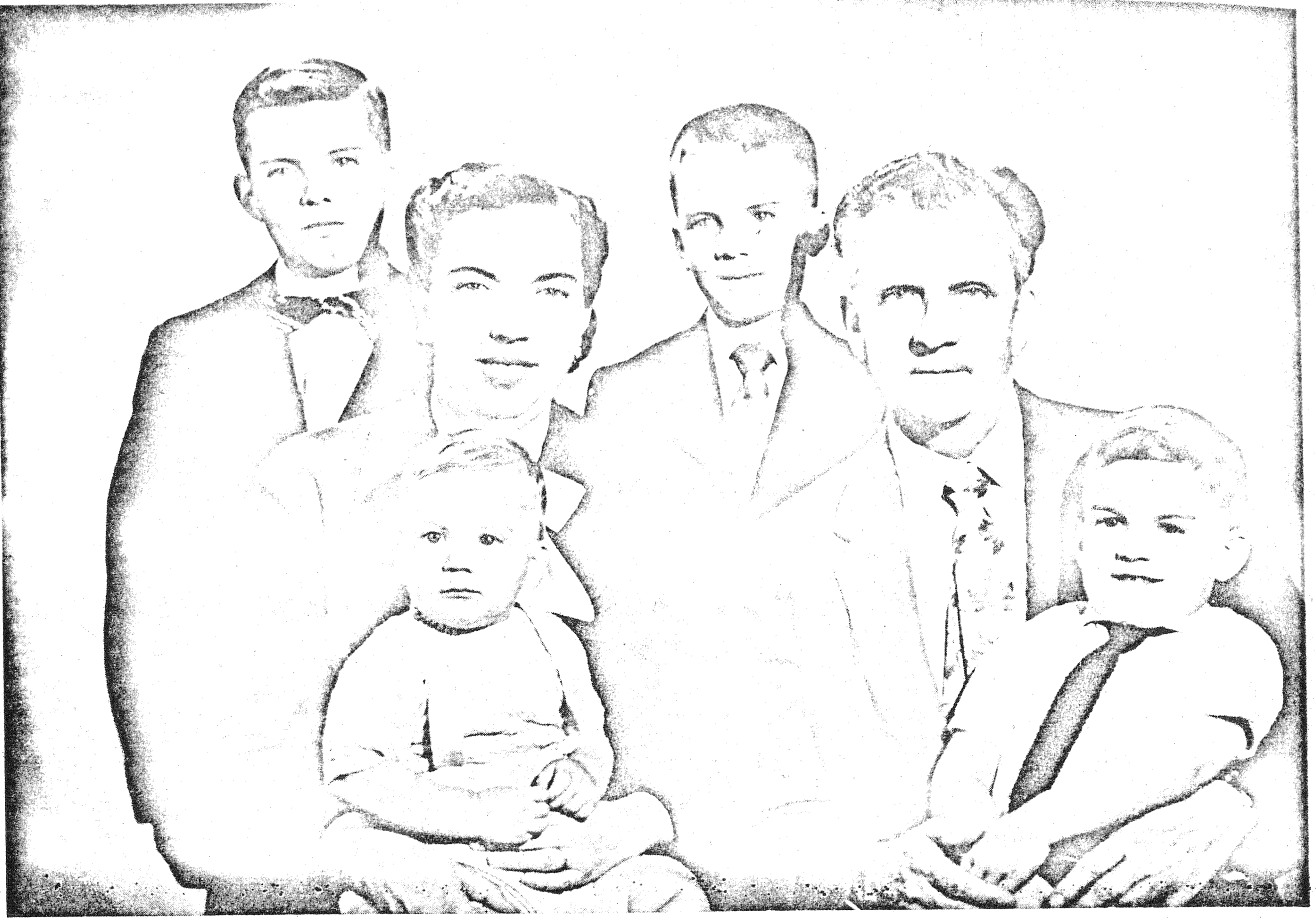


Plate 42 RAYMOND WALTER McKEE and FAMILY



Plate 43 COLONEL WILLIAM McKEE (Page 207)



Plate 44 RAYMOND WALTER McKEE (Page 220)

Captain William's grandson Albert J. McKee lives in Kahoka, Missouri, a man now in his early eighties, where he conducts a leather goods business founded by his father John T. McKee in the previous century as a harness store. It will be remembered that Kahoka was the hometown of Major David McKee, also. It lies just across the Mississippi from Rushville, Illinois, as we reckon distances today.

7. HENRY McKEE (12.13.1821—12.3.1880). Henry McKee was the son of William McKee and Cassander (Cassie) Frakes McKee, and a brother of Captain Joel McKee, and William McKee, Jr., whose brief histories have already been given. It will be seen from the accompanying McKee Family Tree that there were also several prolific sisters. Henry McKee was born December 13, 1821, and died near Monmouth, Kansas, December 3, 1880. While it has always been said that he was born near Rushville, Illinois, it seems more likely that he was born in Indiana, probably in Crawford County, as William McKee, his father, did not emigrate to Illinois until 1826. He is buried at Monmouth, Kansas, and the author has a photograph of his headstone, still legible.

In the very old McKee Family Tree reproduced herein, the original of which is owned by Hazel Ritchey West of Western Springs, Illinois, the latest date is 1856, which indicates that it was made at about that time. As Joel McKee later was a competent surveyor, it is the author's guess that it was he who drew this for his father and mother, William and Cassie McKee. On it there is a notation that Henry McKee married Harriet Matheny January 22, 1843. An entry just below notes that she died August 31, 1844, and that their infant son William Thomas died April 21, 1845.

It should be recalled that the daughter of James McKee, father of William and Thomas, married Joshua Matheny October 23, 1808, in Hardin County, Kentucky. Ann McKee, a daughter of Thomas, married Daniel Matheny. From these three inter-marriages it is evident that the McKee and Matheny families were close for many years.

The history of Henry McKee between this time and March 10, 1849, is undoubtedly one of his trek to Kansas. He married Mary Moore on that date, the issue of which marriage was eight children :

| | | | <i>Born</i> | <i>Died</i> |
|------------------------|----|----|-------------|-------------|
| Joel McKee | .. | .. | 12.22.1849 | Oct., 1877 |
| Harriet McKee | .. | .. | 5.13.1852 | 6.10.1927 |
| John Henry McKee | .. | .. | 11.24.1854 | 2.18.1931 |
| Claral McKee | .. | .. | 6.19.1857 | 12. 7.1870 |
| James McKee | .. | .. | 11.24.1860 | 12.14.1879 |
| Alice McKee | .. | .. | 10.10.1862 | 12.20.1867 |
| William Franklin McKee | .. | .. | 8.10.1865 | 1936 |
| Charles Edward McKee | .. | .. | 12.14.1872 | 2.18.1924 |

Joel McKee's son Herman Oscar McKee, now retired, lives at Sand Springs, Oklahoma. His issue are shown on the Family Tree as James Ralph McKee, Evelyn, and Gladys, from at least one of whom he has grandchildren.

Harriet McKee, the author's well-beloved aunt, died at Joplin, Missouri in 1927. She was a beautiful woman even as she grew older, and intensely proud of her ancestry even

though she knew it back only to William and Cassie McKee. She would have been delighted to learn that our line can be traced without a break to Alexander McKee (Mackay), the veteran of the Battle of the Boyne in 1690.

8. CHARLES EDWARD McKEE (12.14.1872—2.18.1924). He was a son of Henry McKee and Mary Moore, and was the author's father. His own father died in 1880 when Charles Edward was a child of eight, and a short while later his mother married a Reverend Meeks, whom the children disliked. Charles Edward went to live with his older sister Harriet McKee Finch, who was married to a livery-stable owner in Joplin, Missouri. His education stopped at about the fifth grade, as Harriet's husband Phillip was illiterate and looked upon excessive education with more than a little suspicion. Phillip Finch, a horse-loving Kentuckian, had been reared by a negro mammy, and his speech indicated as much. He owned two livery stables in Joplin, and they very obviously earned him an excellent income, for he drove beautiful spans of horses, always dressed in finely tailored clothes, maintained a well-furnished home, and kept, it was whispered, two or three fancy women.

A livery-stable rented rigs, that is horses and buggies, to any who could pay the price, usually three dollars per day. Also, they boarded privately-owned horses and stabled the buggies, surreys, phaetons, or whatever the owner affected. A rider called a petey-boy picked up or delivered the rig on call. It was almost invariable that the rooms above the livery stables were rented to ladies of the evening, who evidently found both the location and atmosphere conducive to good trade. The author can recall quite a few oblique references to these tenants by both his mother and his aunt, but Uncle Phillip, who had distinct views about Woman's place in a man's world, remained unimpressed.

Charles Edward was a handsome man. He followed several different pursuits at one time or another, but never learned a trade or a profession. Early in his career he was a conductor on a horse-drawn trolley car in Kansas City, Missouri. Later he worked in the lead and zinc mines around Joplin, earning \$1.50 to \$2.00 per day. Then in about 1905 he started an ice route, which grew until he had eight or ten routes, with perhaps fifteen or twenty employees. Eventually, he sold these and bought a retail sporting goods store, which went bankrupt in 1912.

After the bankruptcy he obtained a political appointment as sexton of a cemetery on the west side of Joplin, but apparently saved no money and later lived close to the border line of poverty. The author left home in 1916, at the age of 16, and by 1924 was in St. Louis when the message reached him that Charles Edward McKee had been partially paralyzed by a stroke. He went to Joplin and was at his father's bedside when death mercifully intervened. Charles Edward McKee is buried at Joplin.

He was born near Columbus, Kansas, December 14, 1872, and married Sarah Ellen Epperson December 25, 1898. She was a daughter of Elam Jefferson Epperson and Mary Cleaveland Epperson; she was born at Vinita in the Indian Territory, which later became Oklahoma. She was black-haired, brown-eyed, and eternally tense; a beautiful, fiery person in her youth, she mellowed in spirit and appearance as the years wore on.

It is an odd commentary, that Charles Edward McKee's name in the Family Bible of his mother denominated him as "Edgar McKee", since the companion of Hugh McKee, whom Professor James Y. McKee definitely names as one of the four brothers who fought in the Battle of the Boyne, was a lad surnamed *Edgar*. This could hardly be more than a coincidence, as the author is convinced no immediate ancestor had more than hearsay evidence even back to the Revolutionary War veteran James McKee.

There is a positive record that Charles Edward visited his uncle Joel McKee in Palo Pinto County, Texas, shortly before his marriage to Sarah Ellen Epperson, as appears in the brief history herein of that pioneer, and Confederate veteran.

He was a good father, and a good man, for although unreligious he was never irreligious. He was a good citizen who never missed voting on every issue and candidate before the electorate. His charitable contributions were silver dollars handed individuals who might never have screened a Community Chest staff, but each gift was a spontaneous offering of a part of the little he had to a mortal his instincts told him needed it, whether or not he deserved it. The author is grateful that he was privileged to hold his tightly clasped hand during the last five or six hours of his life.

ELAM JEFFERSON EPPERSON (1855—6.27.1926)

This kindly, handsome gentleman was the father of Sarah Ellen Epperson McKee. It is said that he was born in Indiana, near Indianapolis, and that his Quaker father was Peter Epperson. This is supported by no evidence of any kind, and search of Indiana records has disclosed nothing whatsoever about him. The author remembers him vividly. He had two other daughters, Maude Epperson Wilkins and Myrtle Epperson Walker. Also, he had a son Clarence Epperson who was murdered at Neosho, Missouri, about 1921 while trying to apprehend some nocturnal intruders on his farm. He and the author were boyhood companions whose escapades would scandalize the clan if recorded.

Elam Jefferson Epperson was a stone mason by trade, and a very good one. He was reputed to build a fireplace that drew better than any other in the area that rose from another hand. His family Bible, printed in 1814, came to the author from his daughter, an aunt, Maude Epperson Wilkins. She, incidentally, was solely responsible for the author's ability to go as far as the sophomore year in High School, by purchasing the necessary books. Beyond that point economic pressure was too great on all of the family. It should be realized that in 1914 and 1915 men were grateful to earn from \$9.00 to \$12.00 per week. An average foreman received \$25.00 per week. A man who gained the \$300 per month level was outstanding in the community.

From the Bible above mentioned the author has inferred that Sarah Boles, born November 13, 1817, was the mother of Elam Jefferson Epperson.

MARY CLEAVELAND EPPERSON (3.26.1857—7.23.1941)

This rather inflexible woman was the mother of Sarah Ellen Epperson, and was the wife of that patient and gracious man Elam Jefferson Epperson. There was a positive legend in the family that she was a cousin of Grover Cleveland, who became president. The author has found no support whatsoever for this relationship, but as a matter of fact has virtually no information about her background, family, or more remote antecedents. There were Clevelands, often spelled Cleaveland, in America *circa* 1650, but nothing today exists as a starting point for our present exploration. Her mother, after Cleveland's death, married a Matney (odd, the close resemblance to the Mathenys who intermarried with the early McKees) and there are faint memory murmurings among 75 year old relatives about ladies who rode side-saddle with ostrich-plumed bonnets. Really, nothing much more. Ten years earlier the author corresponded with one of these early Matneys, then resident in Oklahoma, and very old at that time. He had been a beloved elder (step) brother to the author's mother Sarah Ellen, and barring a miracle has already passed to his ancestors.

Rance Cleveland of Richland, Kansas, as well as Jane Cleveland (Coleman) of the lovely little pioneer town, were brothers and sisters of Mary Cleveland Epperson. John Coleman, a Confederate veteran, was a shooting companion of the author. John had a Pennsylvania squirrel rifle (willed to the author, but which did not reach him) while the writer shot a Stevens .22. The relative accuracy of the author's gun impressed his kind mentor; John Coleman was then nearly eighty, while the author was about twelve.

9. RAYMOND WALTER McKEE (12.24.1890). This is the author of the present volume which, as mentioned earlier, he undertook for the initial purpose of supplying his sons with the history of their antecedents. Like a banyan, the project grew and branches dropped down roots of their own, while the main trunk became thicker and sturdier and the roots slowly penetrated deeper. Eventually, the search led to the discovery that the McKees were indigenous to Ireland as MacAodhs; members of the clan went to Scotland, with Fergus MacErc apparently, and from that origin sprang the mighty Mac Eths, Mackays, MacKies, MacGhies, and McKees, all part and parcel of the same great Celtic clan. In late centuries members emigrated to Ireland, some in the army of the Prince of Orange, and others earlier and later. Individual histories are today enshrouded in mists that may never dissolve, unless parish and family records now obscure are discovered.

The author was born December 24, 1899, in Joplin, Missouri, the son of Charles Edward and Sarah Ellen McKee. Two early illnesses, cholera infantum and inflammatory rheumatism, tended to retard his growth, so that instead of attaining an average family stature of six feet or more, he stopped at five feet ten inches with the appearance of being of even lesser height. He attended grade schools Lafayette, Alcott, and Irving, then through the sophomore grade of Joplin High School. He married at the age of sixteen an eighteen-year-old Sicilian girl. The issue of this marriage was a daughter June McKee, who married John Gibbons, and Betty Jean McKee who survived only a few hours. In 1947 the author married Frances Ida Howe, and the issue of this marriage were Michael Raymond McKee, David Joel McKee, Judith Frances McKee, Roderick Hugh O'Neill McKee, and Duncan Heremon MacAoidh McKee.

Immediately after his early marriage he engaged in various pursuits, at first operating an ice route of his own, then driving a team of horses and wagon for Wells, Fargo and Company, predecessor of Railway Express. Later he became Money Clerk for the same company, then obtained a clerical position with Empire District Electric Company. This came about by an offer of advancement to \$65.00 per month, then considered a respectable salary. However, shortly, greener fields beckoned in fabulous Texas, in its northern oil capital Wichita Falls, itself next door to oil-spouting Burkburnett. This offer was for \$165.00 per month as a "public accountant". The next two or three years were 12-to-18-hour-a-day years, with a 20-cups-of-coffee-per-day partner banking the collections, in his own name. The partnership dissolved and the present writer became attached to a firm of public accountants in Tulsa, Oklahoma, yclept *Mattison & Dowling*. They had a contract to make the 1,800 income tax returns annually for the entire Osage Nation of Indians. Upon the author devolved the chore of directing this proceeding, under the exceedingly desultory surveillance of a partner Ed Dowling, who never once came to Pawhuska to give us a hand.

Those days among the blanketed Osages, who spoke virtually no English, were employed in learning their income from the Indian Agent's records, then interviewing each tribe member through an interpreter. Thumb-print signatures were affixed to the returns. The Osage Nation owns its lands in commonalty. About 1905 every then living person, including

unborn infants, was allotted a headright, or share. The shares pass only by inheritance, but are fractionated into very small portions in some instances.

The author took his C.P.A. examination in 1921 and was thereafter admitted to the American Institute of Accountants, and the ranks of Certified Public Accountants in Missouri. In 1923 he joined the St. Louis staff of Price, Waterhouse & Co., remained with that eminent firm nearly two years, then emigrated to California. There he joined the staff of Haskins & Sells; then in 1926 became comptroller of Richfield Oil Company, and afterward vice-president and assistant to the Chairman of the Board. The company entered into some unfortunate oil purchase contracts, in a "gentlemen's agreement" with three other major companies, that Richfield would perform a group-function of buying excess crude production to keep it out of the hands of small independent refiners who, if they obtained it, would refine it only partially and cut the market price of both gasoline and fuel oil. Such an agreement was of course unlawful, being clearly in restraint of trade. Soon Richfield found itself with oceans of oil it could neither store nor sell at a profit, and when its officer who had entered this cul-de-sac arrangement appealed to the other three major companies to keep their gentlemen's agreement it turned out that they did not even speak English. In short, they refused to perform their promise to repurchase just proportions of the crude oil, and they could not help knowing what the result would be for Richfield. The company passed into receivership in about 1931, with about \$20 million worth of oil in its storage, but owing local banks somewhat more than \$10 million. Too late it learned that the time to borrow is when you do not need the loan; *never*, if you really need it!

During a period of two or three years the company had encouraged its employees to purchase company stock, not by private subscription at lower than market prices, as is today's custom, nor by favorable options like hundreds of companies grant administrative officers and "key men" in modern usage. Instead, Richfield employees were encouraged to buy company stock in the open market *on margin*. Margins were thin in 1927, 1928, and 1929, often no more than 15% or 20%, so that a drop of three or four points might mean a substantial request from a broker in dollars. To more than one-hundred of its so-called key men Richfield lent sums of money to sustain their marginal holdings of company stock when the market began to sag in the Fall of 1929, but the October crash wiped them out to a man.

After a few years public accounting and tax practice in San Francisco, and about a year in the employ of the United States Department of Justice, he again gravitated into corporate administrative work as secretary and treasurer of Maywood Glass Company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Anchor Hocking Glass Corporation. The latter is the second largest glass container manufacturer in the world, and first in glass tableware.

This sketch will be closed at this point, after relating a few highlights of the author's fifty-seven years, included not because they differ much from the experiences thousands of others are having from day to day, but because he wishes his sons to know a few of the events that crossed their father's road.

When I was about eight or ten years of age, William Cody, known now to history as Buffalo Bill, brought his Wild West Show to Joplin annually, and I never missed seeing him. He was very handsome in buckskin, black jack-boots, a white sombrero, and his flowing white hair and carefully trimmed white beard. His was always the dramatic entrance on his huge white horse, from whose back he casually broke a dozen or so one-inch balls tossed into the air, using a lever-action rifle. I was a trifle chagrined when a shipment of ammunition that was consigned to him through my father's sporting-goods store proved to be 30-30

rifle shells loaded with bird shot. Still, he was quite a hero even so, and has since become a legend. He at one time had one of the great Indian chiefs with him, probably Geronimo.

At about the same period I saw the fabulous race horse Dan Patch, a trotting horse as I recollect him. My uncle took me to a baseball game where Walter Johnson pitched, as did Christy Mathewson.

Also, I recollect seeing Theodore Roosevelt, when he was campaigning on the Bull Moose ticket. My uncle supported him avidly. My father was a life-long Democrat, however, and regarded William Jennings Bryan as only one degree removed from a saviour.

We truly lived in the gas-light era. Our home was lighted by gas, and we cooked with it, but heat was supplied by a coal stove in the dining room. There was no inside plumbing except a cold water hydrant at the kitchen sink. Water for all purposes was heated in a large tea-kettle on the kitchen stove. We bathed once a week in a round galvanized tub which, like Goldsmith's chest of drawers, did double duty; as a wash-tub on Mondays. The toilet was an outside privy, and the Sears-Roebuck catalog in the corner just about lasted us from one issue to the next.

Father kept several cows and a varying number of horses. For fifty cents a week I cleaned the stalls, bedded down all animals for the night, trundled the manure to the manure-pile in several wheelbarrow loads, and processed the milk through a De Laval separator twice a day. We did not pasteurize our milk. Mother then bottled fifteen or twenty quarts, which I delivered in a small wagon, later on a bicycle, to her customers nearby. She also kept about fifty chickens and sold eggs. Many things came from "milk-and-egg money". Schools were always close, usually from three-quarters of a mile to a mile. Everybody walked, or rode a bicycle to school. In winter the snow sometimes was as much as two feet deep, which slowed us down until we got a path beaten, but also supplied the means to several sports.

When World War I started, after Germany torpedoed the Lusitania, I was a money clerk for Wells, Fargo and Company, and just seventeen. However, my little daughter June was about six months old, and although I registered for the draft stating my age as eighteen, I was deferred because of my family status. In those days both Messengers and Money Clerks wore guns, but the guns' vintage and the complete absence of care made it very doubtful how effective one of them would be. The safes in express cars had no dials, and the Messenger on the train did not know the combination to his safe. A Money Clerk carried a dial in his pouch and several safe combinations in his memory. His function was to transport currency, bullion, and gems to and from the trains. On one occasion I had ten sacks of silver dollars, each containing one thousand dollars, to place on a train going into Oklahoma. I loaded them on a hand truck and started down the platform at a run, as the train's conductor was a choleric old crustacean who would not have waited an extra minute to avoid running over his Aunt Emma. One of the cast iron wheels on the hand truck had a nick in it, and soon I heard the startling but musical tinkle of silver dollars rolling along the concrete platform. Several passengers helped me gather the miscreant coins, and when I counted the supposed contents of the damaged bag a few minutes later all were present and accounted for. It made a more careful Money Clerk of me, though.

In later years I spent a period of at least three years in and out of Tulsa, Enid, Pawhuska, Dallas, Fort Worth, Wichita Falls, and other southwestern cities in Income Tax work and auditing. I arrived in Tulsa during its infamous race riot, one morning in about 1922. If the truth had been told, at least a thousand negroes were slaughtered in that demonstration

of white superiority. Of course, I was born south of the Mason and Dixon line, so have never shared the uninformed sentiment that negroes and whites should be considered absolute equals. No man is actually racially tolerant unless he would be willing for his daughter to marry a negro, and I have met not a single person who meets that test. But the Tulsa race riot was unprovoked slaughter, for slaughter's sake, without pretense to right, and by the skurviest kind of white trash. The city was under martial law for several days, for whatever good that accomplishes.

At Lawton, Oklahoma, there was a huge Indian reservation, and there I did see the aged Geronimo, in semi-captivity. Men are great according to their physical responses to the stimuli that motivate them, and the spiritual glow that surrounds those responses. Many an Indian *sachem* should be examined in that light, and in no other.

In 1924, after I had come to California, I wrote a book entitled *Accounting for the Petroleum Industry*, collaborating with an English friend David Morland. McGraw-Hill published it in 1925. In 1936-37, I wrote a volume *Handbook of Petroleum Accounting*, which Harper & Brothers published in 1938.

In about 1947, I became interested in the just formed Paralyzed Veterans Association, and a short while later collaborated with Gilford Moss, assistant State Attorney for Illinois, himself a paraplegic, and Jerry Giesler the noted Los Angeles attorney, in organizing and setting in motion the National Paraplegia Foundation. In the intervening decade it has made slow but steady progress, and now operates fifteen scholarships by which young surgeons may specialize in neuro-surgery, particularly of the spinal cord. The eventual result will be that if a spinal injury can be operated by a specialist within three or four hours after its occurrence the patient will have an excellent chance to recover, rather than become a paraplegic or a quadriplegic.