

TWO OF THE FIRST McWHORTER/ McWHIRTER/ McWHERTER FAMILIES OF KENTUCKY

Contributed by C. T. McWhorter, 3019 Parkwood Drive, Brunswick, Ga. 31520
formerly of Taylor County, Kentucky.

The surname McWhorter is occupational in origin and is believed to be associated with the Scots meaning "One who played the harp". Variations of McWhorter are M'Whirter, MacWhirter, McWherter and MacWhorter. The motto recorded with The McWhorter Coat of Arms is "TE DEUM LAUDAMUS" (We praise Thee, O God)

Around the middle of the 17th Century several McWhorter families migrated from Scotland to Northern Ireland, and thence to America to escape the religious wars and the persecution, they were among the early arrivals in the new world. We believe they were Scotch Highlanders because most of them settled among the Appalachian Mountains and their foothills in Penn., Md., Va., fanning out into other states.

The 1800 tax list of Ky. lists the following:

3-10-1789,	James McWhorter	in	Madison Co.
1800,	"	"	" Knox Co.
"	Robert McWhorter	in	Knox Co.
"	James McWhorter	in	Lincoln Co.
"	John McWhorter	"	" "
"	George McWhorter	"	" "
1799	James McWhorter	"	Cumberland Co.
1800	Moses McWhorter	"	Logan Co.

We will deal with the families of John and George. We believe that James (Madison Co.) and Moses (Logan Co.) were of another branch or branches of the family.

John McWhorter lived on Rockfish Creek, Albemarle County, Va. (Now Nelson Co.) died there 1759. He had a large family, among them were four sons, Robert, James, John and George. Robert and James being among the older children, John and George the younger ones. His estate was administered by his wife, Eleanor, and son James. James died in 1763. Robert was a private from Va. in The French and Indian War and a Lieut from Carolina in The Revolutionary War. The family moved from Virginia to Union Co., South Carolina in 1766 settling on the Pacolt River, evidently there were other McWhorter families living in that territory as others than John's family are shown as serving in the Revolution from Union Co., S. C. There were four (4) Revolutionary War soldiers from John's family, Robert, John, George and James from Union Co., S. C. James was the nephew of the others, he being the son of James who died in Va. 1763, he was about eight years old when they moved from Va., or he could have been the son of Robert who also served in The French and Indian War 1760s. There is a tradition that some time after the war the three brothers decided to spell their names differently with "o", "i", "e" to distinguish their lines. John and George received land grants in Lincoln Co., Ky. (now Casey) in 1796. They had served with Carolina troops during the Revolution.

John McWhorter Jr., born Albemarle Co., Va. 1749, died Casey Co., Ky. 1833. When he died he was the only living soldier of The Revolution living in Casey Co., and he drew a pension of \$80.00 per year. He settled in Middleburg, Yosemite section, in 1796 and we believe is buried

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in that vicinity. He was married twice according to his pension papers, but does not give the names of his wives, except that his widow was named Elizabeth. We believe that his first wife was Elizabeth Jasper and the second wife Elizabeth McClure. The marriages were in South Carolina, and some say that Elizabeth George was one of his wives. We do not have good proof that he married Elizabeth Jasper, except that records mention his brother-in-law was John Jasper.

Mr. H. B. Townsend of Orrick, Mo., whose wife, Helen, is the Great-Great-Granddaughter of John and Elizabeth McClure McWhorter, advises that John McWhorter and Elizabeth McClure were married April 14, 1784 (this verified by family record). This is the only record available in so far as I know. I am advised that there are numerous McWhorter records in Union County, S. C., but that it would take weeks of study to get them all.

From the information I have been able to gather (which has been handed down by word of mouth) the children of John and Elizabeth Jasper were as follows:

George Married	Agnes Simpson
James "	Milly Pigg
Jesse never "	(lived with Robert)
John married	Elizabeth Hite
Elijah "	Mary Pigg

Mr. Townsend of Orrick, Mo. advises that family records show that the children of John and Elizabeth McClure were:

Willis and Wilson (twins) never married	
Wilson was living with his sister Sarah Pigg in Ray Co., Mo. in 1850	
Robert H. ??	Other information says: married Julie Hite
Richard W. married	E. Sutherland
Sara "	Lewis Pigg
Mary (Jensey) "	Capt. John Riffe

Their lines are so complex it is an impossibility to trace as there were so many children and they are intermingled in Ky. with the offspring of his brother George who had some by the same names. When John died in 1863 there were at least five (5) John McWhorters living in Casey Co., John, his son John who married Elizabeth Hite. He probably had a son John. George's son John (who came back to Ky. from Tenn.). His son John and his brother William's son John. John and George named a son for each other. His son George moved to West Tenn. around 1820 when that area was opened to settlement. He took along with him some orphaned children of his deceased brother James. They moved from Clay County, Ky. and they use the "e" in their name(McWherter).

George McWhorter, born in Albemarle Co., Va. in 1752, moved with his family headed by his mother Eleanor to S. C. in 1766. He served with Carolina troops in The Revolutionary War. He and his brother, John, received land-grants in Lincoln Co., Ky. (now Casey Co.) and moved there in 1796. They soon separated and George moved over into Pulaski Co., and around 1800 moved to Lincoln Co., Tenn. where some other McWhorter families were living and died there in 1815. We do not have any record of his marriage, not even the name of his wife, but assume that it was

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in S. C. before moving to Ky. He had four (4) children, sons Abner and John, and daughters Eleanor and ? who married brothers Adam and Amos Morris. A record in Pulaski Co., Ky. 1819 signed by the four men mentioned above, all of Lincoln Co., Tenn. giving Abner power of Atty. to set free a former slave (and his wife) of their deceased father and father-in-law George McWhorter formerly of Pulaski Co., Ky.

We do not have any information concerning the marriages of Abner and John, both served in the War of 1812 with Tenn. troops. After the war Abner came back to Ky. to live, settling in Pulaski or Russell County. John remained in Lincoln Co., Tenn. for a while, but he returned to Ky. We believe to Pulaski or Casey Co., leaving his son William in Tenn. William was my Great Grandfather. We do not have records of other children of John, but am confident that there were other children who came to Casey Co. with him. William moved to Casey Co., Ky. around 1830. William born 7-8-1791, died 7-4-1877 in Texas. Casey Co. records show William McWhorter married Polly Moore 8-18-1819. Their children were John, James, William M., Joshua, Thomas, Mary, Sally, and Elizabeth (Polly Ann). William M. died in Texas 1859, Joshua died in Texas 1862, Thomas died in Texas in 1865 (copied from my grandfather's Bible). No information on their families.

Sally (no children) married Dr. Lair, died in Texas. Mary married James Davis first, then ? McWhorter from Ill., had several children. She died in Texas at the age of 95. I talked with her son, John E. McWhorter, who lived in Lewisville, Texas in 1962 (died in 1965) and he said that my grandfather (his Uncle James) visited them in 1900. He informed me that his mother had the old family Bible with the record of the family of William in it, but it was destroyed in 1940 when their house burned so consequently he was not able to give much information, except that there were many McWhorters in Texas from El Paso across the state. He thought William and wife were buried in Collin Co. I checked the phone directories in Dallas and Fort Worth and found twenty eight (28) McWhorters listed in Dallas and fourteen (14) in Fort Worth. William and his family settled in the Dallas-Denton area. I have learned that there are several McWhorters in southern Oklahoma, some of them were cattlemen and drove herds from the Big Bend on The Rio Grande to Montana and Kansas.

William moved from Casey Co., Ky. to Texas in 1850 with his family, except sons John, James and daughter Elizabeth (Polly Ann) who remained in Casey Co. Polly Ann married George Reid, Casey Co. and lived in Ellisburg vicinity and had two sons, Alfred and Sam. Alfred had an adopted son, no information on Sam.

John McWhorter (son of William) born in Tenn. and moved his family to Casey Co., Ky., is buried at the head of Fries Creek in Smith Cemetery. He married three times, first to Royalty, then to Campbell and Smith. There were two sets of children by Royalty and Campbell, but we are unable to separate them. I knew Wallace and he and Perry were of the younger set. William T. married Sarah Elizabeth James of Crab Orchard, buried Hustonville Cemetery, Lincoln Co. Children:

David James married (1st) Mandy Moran, (2nd) Nancy Dona Russell, (3rd) Artie Russell, buried Hustonville Cemetery.

Owsley Evan married Pearl N. Reid, eight children, four living,

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two in Ky., two in Ill., among them is Mrs. Ruby McWhorter Sanders, Liberty, Ky., who furnished this and other information. Buried in Hustonville Cemetery.

Mary Bell married ____ Adams, six children, and lived Dripping Springs, Garrard Co.

John William married Ann Moran, Casey Co., had three girls, four boys all living in Ill. Buried Bloomington, Ill.

Albert Thomas married May____? , one son Marvin lives in Ill. Buried Hustonville Cemetery.

Arch Burton married Lillie Turpin, 4 boys, 1 girl. Buried Hustonville Cemetery.

Edd Walker, unmarried, died 20 yrs. of age.

Nancy Mildred Henry McKinney, 4 girls, 1 boy living in Ky and Ind. She is the only living child on Will T.

Mary Elizabeth married Clayton Brown, Casey Co., two girls and 7 boys.

Henry married Sarah Russell, had several children, moved to Utah and joined The Mormon Church.

Levenworth married Sarah Benson, no information.

Julia married ____? Douglas, moved to Hart Co., Ky., no information.

Johnny married Janie Hill, no children, buried Casey Co.

Perry married Clara Rock, Cuba, Ill. one son, one (1) daughter, both live in Cuba, Ill.

Wallace married Tish Adams, one(1) son, Arthur, lived in Savoy, Ky. All deceased.

James Burton born Lincoln Co., Tenn. 1826, died Mannsville, Taylor Co., Ky., 3-11-1911, married twice, first to Mary A. Douglas 11-17-52, second to Ann Stayton Oct. 14, 1892. All buried in Douglas Cemetery near Campbellsville, Ky. Children of James and Mary Douglas were as follows:

Charley W. born 4-18-1854, died in infancy.

Martha A. born 8-29-1856, married R. A. Mann.

James D. born 3-15-1859, married Sarah E. Mann.

Charles H. born 4-25-1861, married Mary A. Bookout.

Wm. S. born 12-28-1865, " 1st. Sue B. Tucker, 2nd. Nannie Rice.

John Quincy " 9-25-1863, unmarried, died 1882.

George P. " 3-24-1869, married Mary A. Walker

Martha's children were Ethel who married Omar Cox, both deceased, their children Rebecca Spears and Malcon Cox lived in Campbellsville, Ky. Annie married Herbert Read, both deceased, her daughter Marjorie Gilbert lives in Campbellsville.

James D. children, Wm. Edwin who married 1st. Lottie Williams, 2nd Ethel Moore. A son by Lottie James Edwin, all deceased, twin sons Herschel and Virgil who died young. Charles T. married Lucile Kilby, they live in Brunswick, Ga.

Charles H. (no children)

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William S. and Nannie have a daughter Mary Douglas who lives in Mannsville, Ky.

George P. had a son James R., who married Mary Butler. They have four sons, David, Roger, Jerry and John. They all live in Knoxville, Tenn., except Roger who lives in Miami, Fla. James R. deceased March 13th, 1972.

James Burton McWhorter saw active service in The Mexican War 1847-48, serving under Generals Taylor and Worth. Upon return to Casey Co., Ky. married Marrha A. Douglas whose parents, Charles and Mary Adams Douglas, owned a large plantation near Campbellsville. They owned seventeen slaves at the outbreak of The Civil War. The Campbellsville airport is located on part of the farm. Mary Adams Douglas was related to The Adams Family of Mass. and Virginia. He moved to the farm in 1853, was sheriff of Taylor Co. during the Civil War, was sheriff when Confederate troops burned the courthouse in 1864. He moved to Mannsville, Taylor Co. in 1877 and died there 3-11-1911. He was an Elder in the Stoner Creek Christian Church.

McWhorters were among the early settlers of America and they are found in most of the states. The census records available disclose the fact there are approximately 1925 heads of households in the U. S. with the McWhorter name. They have served in every war involving our country beginning with The French and Indian including both sides in the war between the states. The descendants of the families of John and George are found in many states, especially in Ky., Tenn., Mo., Ill., Va. and Texas.

Mr. Fred J. Burkhard, Editor of The Casey County News, also member of The Executive Committee of Kentucky Historical Society, writes: "This is becoming an interesting family in this county. There seems to be about fifty grandchildren from this One (1) Clan and they are handsome and talented, they are sturdy stock. This family will always be an influence here as many of them are in some kind of business or another."

These are direct descendants of John and George, but it is too complex to separate them because so many had the same given names. Mr. H. B. Townsend of Orrick, Mo. advises that his wife, Helen, is the great-great-granddaughter of John McWhorter and Elizabeth McClure, she being the great-granddaughter of John Riffe and Mary (Jensy) McWhorter who had eleven children, also that Sarah and Lewis Pigg had a large family and there are at least eighty (80) descendants of John and Elizabeth living around Orrick, Ray Co., Mo. Elizabeth was born in 1753, died 1841 and buried in Ray Co., Mo. Mr. Townsend does not have any record of the marriage of John and Elizabeth Jasper.

The above information was obtained over a period of several years from war records, courthouse records, old letters, research by others, my grandfather's Bible, word of mouth, Public Libraries, Filson Club of Louisville, Ky., and information furnished by:

Mrs. Ruby McWhorter Sanders, Liberty, Ky.

Miss Fay McWhorter, Louisville, Ky.

Mr. H. B. Townsend, Orrick, Mo.

Miss Nancy R. Roy, El Cajon, Calif.

Mr. Davis L. McWhorter of Bethel, N. C., who is of another branch of the

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McWhorter family, made an extensive research on it several years ago and some of it which concerned the family of John McWhorter Sr., his four(4) sons and their families was passed on to me by Miss Fay McWhorter who is a descendant of Elijah son of John Jr.

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Items from: THE PARIS KENTUCKIAN, Vol. XIX, No. 5, Paris, Bourbon Co., Ky., Wed., March 5, 1884.

Submitted by Katherine Berry Barnett (Mrs. G. L.), 6604 Rockhill Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64131.

List of Letters remaining unclaimed in Post Office at Paris, Ky. March 5th:

Anderson, Miss Katie	Gilky, Sarah Mrs.	Neal, James Mr.
Allen, Mrs. Evaline	Hughes, Joseph Mr.	Parker, M. E. Mrs.
Buckner, W. S.	Howard, Lucinda Mrs.	Palmer, Thomas
Buckner, Walker	Haggard, Cora Miss	Steel, Nathan
Burns, Simon	Hayes, Mr. John	Spears, Mrs. Eliza
Buckner, Mrs. Sue	Hampton, Jas. W. Mr.	Smith, Mrs. Ellen
Bush, Mrs. Jane	Harris, Mary Eliza Mss	Simms, J. E.
Brookens, Alex col'd	Johnson, Davis	Turner, Thomas
Bowen, Hattie Miss	Jones, Juley Miss	Thomas, Charlotte
Barton, Fannie Mrs.	Jackson, Mary E. Miss	Talbott, Wm.
Buckhannon, Marion	Jackson, Geo.	Williams, Mrs. Aira
Corbin, Mattie Miss	Keese, Lizzie Miss	Wilson, Mrs. Margaret
Conner, William	Kaplan, Hy	Williams, Douglas
Campbell, Annie Miss	Lincks, Polly Miss	Wilkerson, Jack
Elliot, Lizzie Mrs.	Moore, O. S.	Washington, Mary
Elliot, James Mr.	Millery, Leevrie Miss	Watson, Mrs. Lucy
Frazier, Ann	Menifee, Spencer Mr.	Walsh, Miss Nannie
Guilding, Bell Mrs	McCord, Tim Mr.	Washington, Mattie
Grady, T. G. Mrs.	Martin, Rutha Mrs.	
Granger, Sam S. Mr.	Netherton, E. M. Mr.	

Persons calling for the above letters will please say they are "advertised."

S. S. Clay, P.M.

BIRTHS

Born to the wife of Dr. S. W. Price, a 12 pound son. (N. Middletown)
Born to the wife of Isaac Crouch, Jr. a son - their first born. (N. Middletown.)

Kentucky Genealogy Help Line

Queries are published free up to 50 words as space is available.

Send Queries To:
Kentucky Explorer
P. O. Box 227
Jackson, KY 41339

Pruitt

Seek info. on Joseph C. Pruitt, b. ca. 1816, Whitley Co., Ky., d. ca. 1878, possibly in Hardin or McNairy Co., Tenn., son of John Pruitt and Judith DeMoss, m. ca. 1840, Sara Addie Bailey, had Myrna, Sara, Lidda M., Susan E. (all b. Miss.), John C., Cirena D., James Matthew, and Henry Clay (all b. Tenn.). Any info. appreciated.

Carolyn Kemp
17781 Hunt Road
Hillman, MI 49746
chilkoot8981@speednetllc.com

Elmore

Seek info. on Elizabeth "Lizzie" Elmore (possibly d. in the 1890s) and her son, Stanley, lived near Summersville, Green Co., Ky. Lizzie was 3rd wife of William M. Elmore. Any info. appreciated.

Phyllis Sims
400 Adams Street
Tiskilwa, IL 616368
815/646-4248
pcsims3@gmail.com

Combs

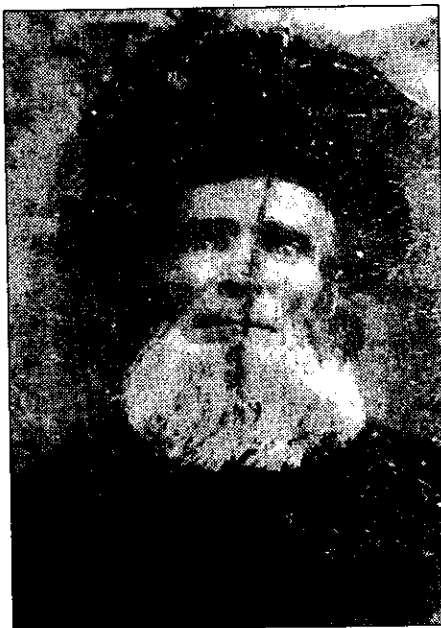
Seek info. on the following: Granville P. Combs, m. Lourana Remby Grigsby Combs; William H. Evans, m. Armelda or Amelda Sizemore (supposedly a full-blooded Indian); Nicholas "Nick" Combs, m. Louvena Evans Combs; and Tom Hall, Sr., and family. Any info. appreciated. Will share any info.

Nellie Combs Boyd
135 Patch Road
DeFuniak Springs, FL 32433

Keathley Tackett

Seek info. on the mother of Martha Ellen Keathley Tackett. Any info. appreciated.

Ruth Drury
12621 Hale Street
Riverview, MI 48193



Carolyn Kemp of Hillman, Michigan, shares this photo possibly of Joseph C. Pruitt of Whitley County, Kentucky. See query at left.

Neal-Smith-Taylor

Seek info. on my g. g. grandparents, John A. Neal, b. 1840, Jessamine Co., Ky.; Suzan Harriet Smith, b. 1839, Ky.; and Martha Ann Taylor, b. 1/16/1848, Mason Co., Ky. Any info. appreciated. Will share info.

Larry D. Smith, 982414
E-W-34
1 Park Row
Michigan City, IN 46360

Click

Seek info. on my grandmother, Delphia A. Jordan Click, Carter Co., Ky., m. Samuel E. Click, had William H. Click. Any info. appreciated. Will share any info.

Criss Click Bloomfield
16964 KY 59
Vanceburg, KY 41179

Adams

Seek info. on my. g. g. g. grandfather, Jesse Adams, b. 1796, son of Spencer Adams, moved, 1803, from N. C. to Floyd Co., Ky. (now Letcher), were farmers and Baptist ministers, m. 6/9/1816, Rhoda Martin. Also, any info. on Adams families. Any help appreciated.

Kim Baldridge Johnson
Bella Vista, AR 72715
heavnhlpme@att.net

Rice

Seek info. on descendants of James Rice, and Philip R. Rice, Bracken Co., Ky., ca. 1800. Any help appreciated.

Sallie Szymczyk
1203 Larkhall Court
Cary, NC 27511
919/896-2114
sbszymczyk@bellsouth.net

McWhorter

Seek info. on the burial place of Jesse C. McWhorter and his second wife, Eliza York McWhorter. It is believed that Jesse is buried in Laurel Co., Ky.; and Eliza possibly buried near Livingston, Rockcastle Co., Ky., near her second husband, a Parker. Any help is appreciated.

Margaret McQuarter
1269 Barnesburg Road
Somerset, KY 42503
606/274-5103
margaret.mcquarter@yahoo.com

Potter

Seek info. on Potter Cemetery for the freed slaves after the Civil War. Also, info. on Henry Potter, Albe Potter, Jasper Potter (my grandfather), and Dora Hoskins Potter (my grandmother); lived and died in Laurel Co., Ky., but originally from Leslie Co., Ky. Any info. appreciated.

Delbert Potter
129 Wolf Pen Road
Annville, KY 40402