

John McCraught

- William McCreight
1650

William McCreight and Agnes Anderson

McCreight Genealogy:

From Ireland to Kansas

Compiled: 2/10/2008/by Anamarie Jensen Joosse, daughter of Mary Lois McCreight, granddaughter of Carey S. McCreight. Sources: "These Are the McCreights," 4th & 5th Editions, c. Doug McCreight, (Used with permission), "The Carey S. McCreight Family Directory," interviews and correspondence with children of Carey S. McCreight.

Coming To America

Genealogy of Carey Steele McCreight can be traced from a clan who set sail on October 29, 1772, from Belfast Ireland to America on the "Pennsylvania Farmer." A family group of about 26, of whom David McCreight was the patriarch, included his wife Mary Harper, their 6 sons and wives, 2 daughters, and 13 grandchildren. The journey lasted 8 weeks and 4 days, about average for those days. But an Atlantic crossing in winter with 300 people aboard a 350-ton sailing ship was a great undertaking. A baby was born to James, one of the sons and his wife, but sadly this baby died on the way. They landed in Charleston, South Carolina, on December 28, 1772. This was a popular port for the Scots-Irish immigrants of the day. Many American McCreights are descended from groups who immigrated to Charleston.

The patriarch David's children were Isabella, Robert, William, Matthew, James, David Jr, Martha, and John.

A record shows that the South Carolina Council made grants of land on the 6th of January 1773 as follows: William 400 acres, David Jr. 200 acres, David 150 acres, and James 100 acres. The land was at Jackson's Creek, Craven County, Camden District.

The Revolutionary War was to come in just over 2 years. The Scots-Irish were in general opposed to the British government so it is not surprising that the older brothers were soon in Washington's army. A good many of the descendants in America have heard of the following story recorded in the family Bible which dates back to 1772:

[The patriarch] David's sons, being in the [American] army, he and his two daughters were assailed by the Tories [The Tories were irregulars recruited by the British.], he being seated in his old armchair, when they demanded certain information in regards to Gen'l Washington's army, and refusing, they, the Tories, threw a tomahawk at him, without harming him but striking the old chair. He told them in his Scottish brogue "Unless the Lord will it, ye ca'na." They thought the Lord was his shield and protector, and left him unharmed.

David's son William died on December 5, 1776, only 4 years after landing in South Carolina. His wife died in 1779. He lived at South Fork of Jackson Creek, South Carolina. It is said that his home was burned during the Revolutionary War. But it is also known that he built the first plank house in South Carolina in 1774. This house still

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stands and is on the Historic Register. William's descendants remained in what is now Winnsboro, Fairfield County, South Carolina. Matthew's family also remained in Fairfield County, but other family members moved elsewhere. James and his family went to Crooked Creek, Indiana County, Pennsylvania in the 1780's. David Jr and his family moved first to Bath County, Kentucky in 1802, and then to Tranquility in Adams County, Ohio, in 1814.

All we know of son John is that he is mentioned in the will of the patriarch David (1709) being granted ownership of David's "great Coat." Matthew is mentioned in the will being granted ownership of David's "blue Coat." It is said that Matthew contributed to the Revolutionary War by providing a horse, saddle, and bridle for state troops. He was awarded 12 pounds, 10 shillings March 22, 1788. All that is known of Robert is his baptismal date: 8/2/1733.

Our Genealogy Story, in brief

[Various McCreight descendants will be identified by their birth date or birth year in parentheses. For example, the patriarch David is given as David (9/14/1709) or David (1709).]

David McCreight (9/14/1709), born in Ireland, had 6 sons and 2 daughters. His wife was Mary Harper, also born in Ireland. They were married July 20, 1732. She died January 19, 1780. David died September 14, 1799, in Fairfield, South Carolina.

We are descended from **David Jr. (1746)** the 5th son of David Sr. (1709). He married Martha Margaret Orr November 10, 1770 in Belfast, Ireland. David Jr. was age 26 and had a baby already when they came to America. He served as a Private in the Revolutionary War, Vol. Co. of Rangers, Camden District, South Carolina. He and his family moved from Winnsboro, South Carolina, where they first settled, to Bath County, Kentucky in 1802 by covered wagon. While crossing the mountains, Martha died and is buried near Cumberland Gap, Kentucky. David lived over 10 years in Kentucky and then moved to Tranquility, Adams County, Ohio and lived with his son James on a place known as "The William O. McCreight Farm." He was charter member of the United Presbyterian Church of Tranquility. They had 7 children. David Jr. died February 7, 1817 (but his burial place is unknown).

We are descended from David Jr.'s oldest child **William (2/14/1772)**, Belfast, Ireland) who was brought on the ship as a baby. He was married to Nancy Smiley (1777) on May 24, 1795 at Charleston, South Carolina. He and his family moved to Tranquility, Ohio. They had 5 children. William died December 7, 1815 and Nancy, May 24, 1845 in Tranquility, Ohio.

Next comes William's oldest child **Ephraim (4/27/1797)**, Charleston, South Carolina). He married Sarah Elizabeth Cummings on February 26, 1818 in Tranquility, Ohio. She was born December 22, 1796, in Kentucky. They lived in Sunbeam, Illinois, where he died August 6, 1850. Sarah died Sept 15, 1876, and they are buried at Candor Cemetery, Sunbeam, Illinois. They had 9 children.

Next comes Ephraim's oldest child **James H. (8/12/1820, Tranquility, Ohio)**. He married Nancy M. Smith (4/1/1822) on March 16, 1843. She died January 18, 1855 at the young age of 32 after giving birth to their 4th child on January 2. Sadly, this baby named Harvey Bigger only lived 7 months and is buried in Sunbeam. James married a second time on August 28, 1856 to Margaret E. Robinson (born 3/27/1836). They lived in Sunbeam, Illinois. James and Margaret had 7 more children, for a total of 11. James and Nancy's oldest child, Samuel Graham (7/8/1844), died (unmarried) in the Civil War on December 25, 1862. James died on November 30, 1871, and is buried in Candor Cemetery, Sunbeam. Margaret died April 20, 1899.

We are descended from James H.'s 3rd child, **Joseph Claybaugh (3/8/1849, Sunbeam, Illinois)**. He married Nancy Jane McCreight (2/4/1845) on October 2, 1873, in Viola, Illinois. She was his father James H.'s 1st cousin, the granddaughter of Matthew (2/18/1776) the third son of David Jr. (1746). Her father was William Knox McCreight (10/4/1810) and her mother was Polly McCreight (2/27/1815) daughter of David McCreight. Polly died October 28, 1858. Joseph and Nancy Jane lived in Vinton, Iowa. They had 7 children but there was a daughter, Luella May, (the 6th child) (estimated birth 1884) who died as a toddler or preschooler from so-called "brain paralysis," it is said, after having accidentally swallowed a pin. Her exact age is unknown but she was walking and talking. In the fall of 1887, they and their 6 children, all under the age of 13, traveled by wagon to Nebraska to homestead. They arrived in Benkelman, Nebraska, on October 20, 1887. Tragically, Joseph contracted typhoid fever, evidently from having drunk contaminated water from the slough. He died on November 27, 1887, just 6 weeks after arriving there and is buried in the Benkelman Cemetery. His gravestone notes he lived just 38 years, 8 months, and 19 days.

These are the children of Joseph and Nancy Jane, all born in Vinton, Iowa: Clarence Edgar (known as Ed) (12/29/1874), Jesse Hays (11/17/1876), James William (known as Will) (2/24/1878), Carey Steele (1/7/1880), Mary Elizabeth (2/19/1882), and Grace Ellen (2/14/1886). We are descended from the 4th child **Carey Steele (1/7/1880, Vinton, Benton County, Iowa)**.

The widow Nancy Jane's homestead land was the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ and the N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 27, Township 1, Range 37. Receiver receipt for her land was issued in 1888 and the patent was filed May 13, 1891, under the Homestead Act of 1862. Hearing good stories about life in Lyndon, Kansas, where the United Presbyterian Church was highly spoken of by others, she decided to move there. Carey was about 12 when they moved to Kansas. Nancy Jane died March 12, 1916 and is buried in Lyndon Kansas.

Carey Steele McCreight married Eva Lena Knox (8/28/1884, Wahoo, Nebraska) at her parents' home in Guthrie, Oklahoma, on December 20, 1905. They farmed in Lyndon, Kansas. Their children are **Gladys Lena, Elsie Lucille, Rachel Louetta, Howard Carey, Ruth Leola, Mary Lois, Harold Knox, Blanche Elcetta, and Lloyd William**. Eva died April 6, 1935, and is buried in Lyndon, Kansas. Carey married Ruth Marlatt (10/24/1893) on August 28, 1938 at Lyndon, but they divorced in 1944. He married

Elizabeth Smith on August 24, 1950, and they resided in Hutchinson, Reno County, Kansas. Carey died in his sleep on December 16, 1968, and is buried at Lyndon.

Gladys (11/7/1906) married Wilbur Clarence Humphrey (1/21/1904) on May 23, 1937. They had a dairy farm at Pomona, Kansas. He died September 24, 1971 in a car accident. They had 6 children: Leonard Clarence, Doris Mae, Erma Irene, Ruth Marie, Lois Fern, and Vera Katherine. Gladys married Albert Lee Robbins (5/21/1909) on July 31, 1983, and he died in 1987. Gladys died November 7, 1994, and she and Wilbur are both buried in Lyndon Cemetery, Lyndon, Kansas.

Elsie (2/7/1908) married Harlan Elmer Goldsmith (1/8/1910) February 2, 1931. Elsie taught school for a couple years. They farmed in the Lyndon area. She died of leukemia on November 2, 1980. They had 2 children: Jennie Lee and Jo Ann. Harlan died June 10, 1990, and they both are buried in the Lyndon Cemetery.

Rachel (12/10/1909) married Adin Tannahill (2/21/1912) on June 2, 1934. She taught school for a few years. They had 4 children: Margaret Ann, Howard Adin, Samuel Carey, and Floyd George. After their children were grown Rachel and Adin worked for Gospel Missionary Union as cook and maintenance staff in a home for missionary families on furlough. She died of heart failure on February 27, 1970, at age 60 and is buried at Lyndon. Adin died February 4, 1996.

Howard (8/20/1912) married Lucille Alberta Schrader (9/25/1914) on April 9, 1939. They ran the Twinette Barber and Beauty Salon (with Lucille's twin sister and husband) in Hoisington, Kansas. In Arkansas City, Kansas, Howard owned and operated the Crystal Barber Shop. Lucille completed a bachelor's degree in 1960 and taught elementary school for 13 years. They had 2 children: Judith Kay and Dick Wayne. He died innocently in a car accident in Kansas City June 17, 1971, and is buried in Arkansas City. On October 25, 1988, Lucille married William K. Lord. He died in 1997. Lucille resides in Johnson City, Tennessee.

Ruth (3/20/1914) married Paul Thomas (Tom) Christesen (3/13/1916) on February 12, 1940 and they lived in Lyndon, Kansas. Ruth was a beautician and Tom, a tire builder for Goodyear Tire in Topeka, Kansas. They had 3 children: Ruth Jeline, Thomas Alden, and David Hans. In adulthood, David changed his name to Jason Walker. Ruth died July 18, 2001, and Tom died June 23, 2006. Both are buried in Lyndon Cemetery.

Mary Lois (12/22/1915) married Harold Frank Jensen (9/28/1911) on May 15, 1939. She had two years of college at Sterling College, Sterling, Kansas. She taught elementary school for several years. Harold was a minister in the United Presbyterian Church, serving churches in Ohio, Missouri, Illinois, and Kansas. They had 5 children: Evalena Joy, Ruth Ellen, Anamarie Lea, Harold Keith, and Mary Kathleen. Keith was killed in a car accident caused by a drunk driver in Kansas when only 19 years old. Mary died of complications of Alzheimer's disease November 16, 1975 in Lyons, Kansas. Harold died at age 91 on April 18, 2003, while residing in Lincoln, Nebraska. Harold and Mary are both buried in the Lyons Cemetery, Lyons, Kansas.

Harold (9/7/1917, Osage City, Kansas) graduated from Lyndon High School in 1935 and from Sterling College, Sterling, Kansas with a BA degree. On December 18, 1939, he married Vanetta Gayle Volkland (9/15/1921). He was Purser-Pharmacist Mate in the U.S. Maritime Service during World War II. In 1948 he began a teaching career in the Wichita area of Kansas. In 1958 he graduated from Wichita State University with a master's degree and progressed on to being a principal and then, superintendent. He and Vanetta hosted an exchange student, Skuli Johnson from Reykjavik, Iceland during 1966/67. He retired in 1983. Vanetta died of Alzheimer's disease on February 3, 2008 and is buried in Wichita KS. Harold continues to reside in Wichita. They have 4 children: Kent Everett, Larry Keith, Sheryl Ann, and Mark Allen.

Blanche (2/19/1919, Osage City, Kansas) married Charles Everett Ward (2/6/1920) November 7, 1938, and they lived in Silver Lake and retired in Topeka, Kansas. Blanche was a trained beautician. Charles served in the US Army during World War II. His life time career was as a tire builder for Goodyear Tire Company in Topeka. He died June 4, 1993. They had 3 sons: Ethan Everett, Charles Henry, and Robert Carey. Ethan died June 9, 1984 of lung cancer. Charles Henry (Chuck) died June 1, 2005, also of cancer. Blanche died December 24, 2006. She and her sons are buried in the Prairie Home Cemetery, Topeka.

Lloyd (10/7/1924, Osage City, Kansas) married Wanda Ilene Henneke (2/6/1926) on October 14, 1945. Lloyd was successful in wheat farming in Enid, Oklahoma, and was also was a bricklayer. They have 2 children: Deanna Rae and Thomas Lloyd, and have retired in Enid, Oklahoma.

For continuing current information on the children and grandchildren of the McCreights, see "The Carey McCreight Family Directory." Continuing genealogy of those with the last name of McCreight throughout the United States is being recorded on an on-going basis with Doug McCreight, editor of "These Are The McCreights." He welcomes being sent updates at dougmc8@att.net We descendants of Carey McCreight have been one of the most active contributors to the 5th edition. Currently, a great-grandchild of Lloyd William McCreight, Emma Grace Fisher (10/26/2006) is the youngest entry, and ends Chapter 1, which is the chapter listing descendants of David McCreight, Jr. (1746).