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## McKemie Pioneers

*John McKemie Goes to the Congaree*

We go now to John McKemie, son of Francis (of Abington, Pa.), who was son of Robert McKemie and nephew of the Reverend Francis. John married Jane Elliott in 1766; he was 32 years of age and she 16. They set out down the Catawba Trail, according to Carlton Cain, to reach the Congaree River area of South Carolina. Carlton states:

They must have visited the Sugar Creek Area where Margaret Alexander had inherited her father's plantation mentioned in his will of 1765, as it was on their route to the Congaree. They lived for several years in this area, the Congaree, which was heavily malarious, losing three or four babies in infancy, then moved into the Broad River area of Fairfield County, continued having children for over 20 years, with eight surviving to adulthood.

Johnston, who became this author's great-great-great grandfather, was the first-born according to Carlton, the second according to William Moores McKemie. At any rate, he made a strong ancestor!

Johnston lived in the Fairfield area, married Mary Pearson, daughter of General John Pearson, in 1791, and accumulated substantial property and land. They raised seven children to adulthood. His will was written in 1823, when his age is presumed to be 53, and divides his property among his children in reasonable fashion, after providing for his widow, Mary.