

## McKEOWN HISTORY

( Prepared by Anderson Mayo McKeown )

1 9 3 4

For several years, I have been looking over old books, letters, etc., hoping to find some of the past history of the McKeowns of Fairfield and Chester Counties. The most valuable records were destroyed by fire along with the dwellings and other property during the War between the States when General Sherman's Army passed thru this part of the state. Old Uncle William, better known as "Dr. Billy", had a carefully kept family record reaching back four generations in Ireland. He lived in his father's old home and prided himself on keeping it just as his father had had it when he died in 1827. The house was located about one third of a mile from the home of his brother, Grandfather John McKeown. When "Dr. Billy" died in 1865, the Yankees burned the old home. All the records, books, furniture, etc., that had been valued so much, were destroyed with the old home.

Later, my mother, with old Uncle Sam McKeown and old Cousin Hugh C. McKeown, reproduced a great deal of the records. Mother gave this material to my brother, W. L. McKeown, to have printed in book form. His home in Atlanta, Georgia, was destroyed by fire, and the records with it. Old Uncle Sam's home was burned and his copy of the records was lost also. Since then, there has been no complete record of the family history, but I find that there is much to be found yet from old letters and various other sources.

The McKeowns (or McKowns) that first settled in Chester and Fairfield Counties in South Carolina came from Ireland, some from County Antrim, Donegal County, Cavan, and Ulster Province. There were several families that came over at different times - in 1759, 1762, 1767, and 1773. Although some spelled their name "McKeown", and others "McKown", they all claimed to be related. Some of the families settled in Fairfield County on "Little River" (creek), some in Chester County on "Little River" (the same stream), while others settled on Rocky Creek in Chester County.

The men were of a mechanical nature. They worked with wood and iron and made anything from a water pail to house furniture, and even corn mills. They bought the mill rocks, then made the gearing. They made mills for water power, and some for hand power. I remember a hand mill which was burned by Sherman. Some of the McKeowns were also farmers, school teachers, and land surveyors. The favorite McKeown names seem to have been John, Alexander, Moses, Jackson, Hugh, James, Andrew, and Thomas.

I am a McKeown on my Father's side and also on my Mother's side. I will first trace the McKeown history of my Father's side.

John Christopher Wilson was born Jan. 22, 1853. He married Almedia A. Lewis. He died May 7, 1887.

Hugh Seed was born Jan. 2, 1854. He married Katie Strong, died Feb. 3, 1888.

Theodore Benjamin was born Feb. 28, 1856. He first married Nannie B. Robinson. After her death, he married Mary W. Elder.

Anderson Mayo was born Dec. 5, 1857. He married Anna Norwood Elder.

Samuel O'Neal was born Jan. 5, 1860. He is not married.

William Leroy was born Sept. 29, 1861. He married Bessie Castles.

I, Anderson Mayo, married Anna Norwood Elder and live near old Hopewell (A.R.P.) Church in Chester County. We were married Oct. 21, 1880 by the Rev. J. C. McMullen.

Our children are as follows:

Lillian Irene was born Aug. 1, 1881. She married Minor F. Smith and lives in Spartanburg.

Infant daughter, stillborn, Nov. 24, 1883.

Mary Elder was born June 21, 1885. She married Kirk E. McKeown and lives in Blackstock.

Addison Alexander was born April 13, 1887. He married Margaret Gill Neely and lives in Rock Hill.

John Christopher was born April 14, 1889 and died July 4, 1889.

I shall now trace the line of the McKeowns on my Mother's side of the family.

Robert and Elizabeth McKeown, with their children, landed in Charleston from Ireland in 1773. They settled in Chester County near other McKeowns on "Little River", west of Blackstock. They had two children: James, born in 1764 and Mary, born in 1769. James married Elizabeth McKeown a daughter of Jackson McKeown, who had come from Ireland about 1762. James farmed and built a sawmill on Little River. James and Elizabeth had three children.

William was born in 1789. He never married. He died Feb. 22, 1864.

John (my Grandfather) was born in January, 1795. He married Polly Wages. He died Nov. 24, 1864.

Hugh Crawford was born in 1799. He never married. He died April 22, 1866. Elizabeth died August 1, 1803, and James married again. His second wife was a Miss Tennant of Fairfield County. They had five children who all lived to be grown and married. Then went to Mississippi and Alabama. These children of James and his second wife were:

Samuel Sr. landed in Charleston in 1767, having made the voyage from Ireland in the "Earl of Donegal", Commander Dunkin Ferguson. He came up to Fairfield County and settled west of Woodward, South Carolina on "Little River" (creek) where he farmed. He also built and ran a grist or corn mill (water power) on "Little River". (Later the Tories burned the mill). His wife was a McKeown before their marriage. Several of their children were born in Ireland. These older children were girls. In 1768, a son, Samuel, was born who was later called "Long Sam". He was my Great-Grandfather on my Father's side.

Long Sam and two of his brothers, Mose and Jacky (or John) came up into Chester County and settled on lands near Cornwell, South Carolina. Long Sam married Mary McKeown, a daughter of Robert and Elizabeth McKeown, who had landed at Charleston in 1773. They settled west of Blackstock, South Carolina, on "Little River".

Long Sam was a cooper by trade. He made all kinds of wooden vessels: large casks for packing and shipping tobacco (several hundred pounds to the cask), barrels for all uses; kegs of various sizes; wash tubs; water buckets, and water pails. The pail looked like a small tub except that it was tall and always had one stave that was longer than the others. This was for the handle which was made to fit the hand.

Long Sam and Mary, his wife, reared a large family. A list of the children is as follows:

John was born July 1, 1793; Married Bettie Trussell.

Jane was born Nov. 16, 1794. She married Hugh McKeown, son of Short Sam, and moved to the State of Mississippi.

Margaret (Peggie) was born May 24, 1796. She married Robert Cameron. They both died within a few years.

Nancy was born Jan. 2, 1798. She married William Meade. (He was the father of Jesse Meade.)

Hugh Seed (My Grandfather) was born Nov. 25, 1799. He married Susan Wilson.

Elizabeth Crawford was born Jan. 2, 1802. She married Samuel McKeown, son of Short Sam. They moved to Mississippi.

Samuel was born April 30, 1803. He married Jenny Thompson.

James was born March 22, 1805. He married Polly Thompson.

Mary Bingham was born May 10, 1807. She married Mathew Gosey and moved to Florida.

Susannah Chambers was born June 8, 1809. She married a Stogdale and moved to Alabama.

Mose was born August 21, 1811. He married Bettie Thompson and moved to Arkansas.

Esther McKeown was born August 28, 1813. She never married. She went to Arkansas and lived with her brother Mose and his family.

My Grandfather, Hugh Seed, with his wife, Susan Wilson, settled on the lands of his Father and built shops, both for wood work and blacksmith work. He also built wagons, made farm implements, coffins, and other articles. They reared a large family. Hugh Seed died in 1858 and Susan in 1869. Their children were:

Theodore Perry, born Jan. 23, 1824. He married Martha Woolly of Florida. She died and he married Patsy Peay of Chester County, South Carolina.

Addison Porter (my father) was born January 26, 1826. He married Elizabeth Jane McKeown, only child of John McKeown, Esq.

Christopher Wilson was born April 22, 1828. He never married; moved to Florida.

Ann was born Sept. 15, 1830. She married Anderson Mayo and moved to Florida.

Nancy Fannee was born Jan. 6, 1833. She married Leroy McKeown and moved to Florida.

Washington O'Neal was born Jan. 19, 1835. He married Esther McKeown, daughter of James McKeown.

John James was born Sept. 1, 1838. He never married. He was killed in the War between the States. - Battle of Williamsburg, May 5, 1862.

Hugh Seed was born July 16, 1840. He died while a baby.

Samuel Scott was born Jan. 2, 1843. He never married. He died a prisoner of war in Elmira, N. Y.

Elizabeth Susannah was born February 28, 1848. She moved to Florida. Lived with her sister, Ann Mayo, then married J. B. Law.

Addison Porter McKeown, my Father, married Elizabeth Jane, the only child of John and Polly McKeown. They settled on McKeown land near his Father.

Their children are as follows:

Mary Jane was born Sept. 7, 1851. She married W. W. Lewis. She died Sept. 15, 1925.

James, whose wife's name I have forgotten.

Robert, who married a Miss Polly.

Andrew Bingham Jackson, who married Miss Halsey of Chester County.

Eliza, who married Ephriam McCully.

Mary, who married John McCully. The McCullys were school teachers. They were brothers. My mother went to school to Ephriam. He taught not far from where the negro church, Cross-Roads Church, is now located. John and Polly McKeown had only one child, Elizabeth Jane, my Mother. She married Addison Porter McKeown. They had seven children. Mary Jane, John Christopher Wilson, Hugh Seed, Theodore Benjamin, Anderson Mayo, Samuel O'Neal, and William Leroy, as I have already shown in tracing the McKeowns on my Father's side.