

THE HISTORY OF THE
McCOY FAMILY

BY

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DAVID McCOY (spelled McKeay in the Scottish), my great, great, great, great, grandfather, was born in Edinburgh, Scotland on July 26, 1744. In 1757, at the age of thirteen, he and his three older brothers, John and two others whose names we do not know, sailed for America from the port of Liverpool, England. David and John remained in America, but the other two brothers set sail on a merchant vessel, and we know nothing more of them.

John and David moved westward and took up a claim, probably under *Squatters Rights*, on a parcel of land about a mile west of the Ohio River in what is today Hopewell Township, Beaver County, Pennsylvania. This land was located in what is today the area around "Five Points" and Old Heights Road.

The Indians, plentiful in the area in those days of the French and Indian War, soon put the brothers to flight. They sailed down the Ohio River to a place called Shinango (Shenango), now New Castle, where they could watch from high ground for Indians who navigated the river in their canoes. There they remained until 1772, when they returned to their claim in Hopewell. Finding that other squatters had nested on the land that they had earlier claimed as theirs, they found it necessary to then purchase the land. They built a log cabin, which was located behind what was in recent years the Five Points Elementary School. That cabin was still standing as late as the 1940s. About this time we lose track of John McCoy, and nothing more is mentioned of him. In about the year 1820, David built a large double house on Old Heights Road. That house, though remodeled, is still standing, and in use. It is now 3123 Old Heights Road.

The 'History of Beaver County Pennsylvania', published by A. Warner & Co. in 1888, reports that David McCoy owned a large farm consisting of 600 acres in Hopewell Township. The tax records of Beaver County for the year 1802, shows David paying taxes on a 400-acre farm in Hopewell. However, the only official records that showing that David McCoy ever purchase any land in Hopewell Township, was found in the Recorder of Deeds Office for Allegheny County, Pennsylvania (Deed Book 3, page 391), whereby, on November

18, 1794, McCoy purchased, from Thomas and Deborah Gray of Massachusetts, a 200 acre tract known as *BUNHILL-ROW*, which was located in the vicinity of what is today Five Points and Old Heights Road. (From 1788 to 1800, that area of Beaver County was a part of Allegheny County) This 200-acre parcel, *BUNHILL-ROW*, was originally patented by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on June 7, 1785, to John Morgan, and can be seen on the original patent and warrant map of Hopewell Township.

David McCoy served, 1776 to 1777, in the Continental army during the Revolutionary War, and saw action in the areas around Fort Ticonderoga and Crown Point in New York State. A copy of a letter written in 1973 by David McCoy's great, great granddaughter, Mary Margaret McCoy, to her cousin Elizabeth McCleaster, can be seen in my McCoy file. Most of what she writes was taken from the diary that David McCoy kept during the war years.

On April 23, 1783, David McCoy married **NANCY SHEARER** of Path Valley, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. Nancy was born in County Tyrone in the Scottish Highlands, and migrated to America with her family. Nine children were born of this union, but only four would live to see adulthood. (More on these children later)

David and Nancy lived out the later years of their lives in the house on Old Heights Road. Nancy died on August 16, 1825 or 1826. David died on December 22, 1831, at the age of 87. Both are buried in the Veazey Cemetery, which is located just off of Kane Road in Hopewell. Sometime in the 1980s, a great great granddaughter of the McCoy's, Elizabeth (McCoy) McCleaster (1903-1997), placed a new grave marker on David's grave, which indicates his military service in the Revolutionary War. The two daughters of Elizabeth McCleaster, Evita (McCleaster) Mudrick, and Marjorie (McCleaster) Wright, are the last direct descendants of David and Nancy McCoy still living on what was the McCoy homestead; *BUNHILL-ROW*. Their homes are on Gorsuch Lane, just a short distance from the old McCoy home.

In his will (attached), written November 13, 1831, David McCoy left his 200-acre farm to two of his children, Archibald and Nancy.

The children of David and Nancy (Shearer) McCoy were as follows:

1. Nancy - born 1783
2. John - born February 28, 1784

3. **Mary** - born June 1, 1786, died April 2, 1855
4. David - born October 14, 1788
5. Sarah - born June 7, 1791
6. John II - born July 10, 1794
7. Jane - born September 2, 1797, died 1858
8. Nancy II - born October 11, 1800, died 1887
9. Archibald - born July 24, 1803, died September 14, 1883

Only four of these nine children lived to adulthood: Mary, Jane, Nancy II, and Archibald. Following is their history.

MARY McCOY - Born June 1, 1786, married **JAMES CRAIG JR.** of Hanover Township. They were my great, great, great, grandparents. From about 1828 on they made their home (later the home of Robert and Mary Jane Craig Temple) on what was to become Temple Heights, now the Woodlawn Park section of Hopewell Township. They were the parents of five children: David, Elizabeth (Eliza), John, **Mary Jane** (my great, great, grandmother), and Sarah.

Mary (McCoy) Craig died on April 2, 1855, her husband James Craig Jr. on November 20, 1861. They are buried, along with their three daughters, in the Scottsville Cemetery, Hopewell Township. (For more on the children of James and Mary McCoy Craig, see the Craig family history, which I have written.

JANE McCOY - Born September 2, 1797, married William Agnew of Hopewell Township. William was the son of Robert and Esther (Carnagy) Agnew, also of Hopewell.

Following their marriage in 1817, William and Jane made their home on the McCoy homestead until the death of Jane's father, David McCoy, in 1831. They then purchased a small farm, consisting of 31 acres, situated partly in southern Hopewell Township, Beaver County, and partly in northern Moon Township, Allegheny County. The house, which is still standing and occupied, along with all of the out-buildings, are located on the Beaver County portion of the farm. (To locate the home of William and Jane McCoy Agnew, go south on Brodhead Road to Spring Run Road, turn right on Spring Run Road, go less than a mile to Old Flaugherty Run Road (a dirt lane), follow Old Flaugherty Run Rd. to end. The house sits at the top of the driveway on the left)

William and Jane (McCoy) Agnew had eight children, as follows:

1. John - married to Elizabeth Kirk.
2. Agnes - 1820-1854, married Samuel Newell in 1843.
3. Esther
4. William Jr. - Ca. 1836-1863, died in Libby Prison during the Civil War. (More on William Jr., follows)
5. Archibald - 1823-1908, married in 1846 to Mary Jane Purdy 1828-1900, daughter of John Purdy of Hopewell (not the John Purdy that served in the 140th Regiment during the Civil War).
6. David
7. Jane - married a man named Simens.
8. Samuel C. - 1840-1915, he inherited his parent's 31-acre farm, which he eventually enlarged to 97 acres. He and his wife are buried in the New Bethlehem Church Cemetery, Independence Township.

Jane (McCoy) Agnew died in 1858, William Agnew in 1871. They are reportedly buried in the Scottsville Cemetery in Hopewell Township, but I have been unable to locate their graves.

NANCY MCCOY - Born on October 11, 1800. The story has been told in the family that in 1821, when Nancy was twenty-one years old, a child was born on a neighboring farm; this child's name was Peter Eachel. (The Eachel farm was located where Clearview Estates is today) When Nancy first saw this child, she declared that she would wait until he was grown, and then marry him. Twenty-one years later, in 1842, Nancy McCoy and Peter Eachel were married; she was forty-two, he was twenty-one.

Following their marriage, Nancy and Peter built a two-story farmhouse on the 70 acres of land that Nancy's father had willed to her. This acreage, a part of the BUNHILL-ROW property, encompassed what is today Five Points, known then as 'Cross-Roads', and it's environs. Their home, razed in 1998, stood in that triangle of land along Brodhead Road that lies between Old Heights Road and Route 151. The CVS Drugstore now stands where the Eachel home once stood.

Peter, a tailor by trade, and his wife Nancy only had one child, Agnes, born in 1844.

Peter Eachel died in 1871, Nancy (McCoy) Eachel in 1887. They are buried in the Veazey Cemetery, next to Nancy's parents.

Agnes Eachel married Isaac Harper in about the year 1864, they had five children:

1. Anderson - 1866-1956
2. James - 1872-1954
3. Mary Ann - born 1876, married William Couch
4. Emma -1878-1954, married Samuel Sainer
5. Alexander - 1880-1948

Isaac Harper was struck and killed by a train in South Heights in 1892. In 1902, Agnes and her son James laid out most of their 70-acre farm into lots, and named the area Harper Village. For many years thereafter, the area was known as both 'Five Points' and 'Harper Village'. Today it is simply known as 'Five Points'.

Agnes (Eachel) Harper died in 1915.

ARCHIBALD MCCOY - Born on July 24, 1803. On April 19, 1832, he married Jane Leitch (born 1811), daughter of Daniel Leitch of Hopewell Township. James Scott, Esq, performed the marriage.

Archibald had inherited 130 acres of his father's estate, BUNHILL-ROW, including his house on Old Heights Road. Archibald and Jane McCoy spent their entire married life in this house. They had seven children, as follows:

1. Agnes S. -1833-1908 - She never married, staying at Home with her parents, and upon their deaths inherited the homestead. When she died the Homestead passed to her nephew, Edward B. McCoy (son of her brother David), whom she helped to rise. About 1950, Edward sold the Major portion of the remaining McCoy land off in lots, now known as McCoy Heights. When Edward died in 1958, the old McCoy home was sold to outsider.

2. Elizabeth -1835-1908 - Married James Irons Douds. They owned a farm in Beaver, and are buried in the Beaver Cemetery.

3. David -1837-1894 - Married Margaret Stevenson. They were the parents of Edward McCoy, above, And Stuart McCoy (1873-1931), father of the Elizabeth McCleaster earlier mentioned as the woman responsible for the marker on David

McCoy's grave. Stuart McCoy served in the Army and saw duty in the Philippines during the Spanish American War in the 1890s, and the Boxer Rebellion in China in

4. Mary Jane - 1848-1870
5. Hannah -1851-1936 - Married John Creese (1847-1904)
6. Roseann - 1853-1863 - Twins
7. Anne - 1853-1854

Archibald McCoy died on September 14, 1883, his wife Jane (Leitch) McCoy in 1890. They are buried in the Scottsville Cemetery, Hopewell; next to his older sister Mary and her husband James Craig Jr. Also buried with them are five of their children: Agnes, Hannah, Mary Jane, Roseann, and Anne.

Many descendants of David and Nancy (Shearer) McCoy, including this writer, still live in the Southside section of Beaver County where it all began, well over 200 years ago

MCCOY PEDIGREE

David McCoy

1744-1831

m.

Nancy Shearer

-1825/26

|

Mary McCoy

1786-1855

m.

James Craig Jr.

1786-1861

|

Mary Jane Craig

1824-1864

m.1850

Robert Temple Jr.

1822-1899

|

James Craig Temple

1851-1922

m.1876

Anna Maria Hinkle

1858-1944

|

Archibald Robert Temple

1884-1962

m.1907

Laura Louise Loomis

1883-1961

|

Robert Loomis Temple

1908-1974

m.1931

Lillie M. Schilo

1911-

|

Richard G. Temple

1935-

m.1960

Ellen M. Davidson

1939-

Addendums

1. Archibald McCoy had at least three indirect descendants named after him, they were: Archibald Agnew, his nephew, Archibald Byron Temple, his grand nephew, and Archibald Robert Temple, his great nephew.

2. Five of the women mentioned in this work participated in the making of the 'Friendship Quilt', in the 1850s, which is now in my possession. They were; Jane, wife of Archibald McCoy, and two of their daughters, Agnes and Elizabeth, Agnes Eachel, daughter of Nancy (McCoy)Eachel, and Mary Jane Agnew, wife of Archibald Agnew and daughter-in-law of Jane (McCoy) Agnew.

3. William Agnew Jr., son of Jane McCoy and William Agnew Sr., and my 1st cousin four generations removed, served in Company I, 140th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers, during the Civil War. On July 2, 1863, following the bloody battle of the 'Wheatfield' at Gettysburg, corporal Agnew was capture by Confederates while trying to rescue his Sergeant, David Walker Scott, my 2nd cousin four generations removed.

Agnew was taken to Richmond Virginia and imprisoned in the infamous Libby Prison, where he died on September 13, 1863. His body was removed to Salisbury, North Carolina, and interred in the military cemetery.

4. In 1845, the children of David and Nancy McCoy; Mary, Jane, Nancy, and Archibald, and their spouses, purchased a 300-acre tract of land, originally known by the name *SHERBOURN*, that bordered their parents homestead, *BUNHILL-ROW*, on the north. On December 25, 1851, they partitioned these 300 acres, as follows:

- Mary and James Craig received 62 acres on the west side of the Brodhead Road, the southwest corner of the property, which includes the land around what is today S. Beverly Drive.

-Jane and William Agnew got 100 acres. Their portion of the property, the northeast corner, encompassed what is

today Mt. Olivet Cemetery. This land in time passed to their son Archibald Agnew who built a two-story farmhouse on the property that is today used as the cemetery office.

- Nancy and Peter Eachel received 83 acres, the northwest corner, on which today sits the St. Elijah Cemetery.

- Archibald and Jane McCoy received 89 acres, the southeast corner, bordering on his father's property.

On the same day, December 25, 1851, Archibald McCoy and his sister, Nancy (McCoy) Eachel, partition among themselves the 200 acre homestead of their parents, as ordered in their fathers will, written twenty years earlier. Archibald received 135 acres, and Nancy 70 acres.

HISTORY OF THE NAME 'ARCHIBALD' IN OUR FAMILY TREE

The name ' **Archibald**' appears in four consecutive generations within our family tree, though not in the same family each time.

The first time, as far as I know, when the name appears is with **Archibald McCoy**, born 1803, died 1883. He was the only son, and youngest child, of my four great grandparents, David McCoy and Nancy Shearer. His older sister, Mary McCoy and her husband James Craig, were my three great grandparents. Therefore, Archibald McCoy was my three great uncle. He is buried in the Scottsville Cemetery, Hopewell Township.

The name appears a second time with **Archibald Agnew**, born 1823, died 1908, he was the nephew of Archibald McCoy, above. His parents were Jane McCoy and William Agnew; his grandparents were David and Nancy McCoy. His aunt was Mary (McCoy) Craig, my three great grandmother. Therefore, Archibald Agnew was my 1st cousin, four generations removed. He is buried in the Scottsville Cemetery, Hopewell Township.

The name next appears with **Dr. Archibald Byron Temple**, born 1859, died 1903, he was the grandnephew of Archibald McCoy, and the first cousin one generation removed to Archibald Agnew. His parents were Robert Temple and Mary Jane Craig, the daughter of Mary (McCoy) Craig, his great grandparents were David and Nancy McCoy. Dr. Archibald Byron Temple was my great uncle. He is buried in Chetopa, Kansas.

The fourth and final person to carry the name was **Archibald Robert Temple**, born 1884, died 1962, he was the great nephew of Archibald McCoy, first cousin two generations removed to Archibald Agnew, and nephew of Dr. Archibald Byron Temple. His parents were Dr. James Craig Temple and Anna Maria Hinlde, his grandparents were Mary Jane (Craig) Craig and Robert Temple, he was the great grandson of Mary McCoy and James Craig, and his great,

great grandparents were David and Nancy McCoy. Archibald Robert was my grandfather. He is buried in the Woodlawn Cemetery, Aliquippa, Pa.

**Taken from the *History of Beaver County Pennsylvania,*
Warner & Co. 1888**

ARCHIBALD AGNEW, farmer, P. O. Sheffield, was born July 4, 1829, on a part of the old McCoy place where his father then resided. His grandfather, Robert Agnew, was a native of Ireland, came to America, joined the continental army, and became one of the heroes of the revolution. He was captured, and taken to Quebec and confined on an English prison ship three months. After the war he went to Cannonsburg, Pa., and from there to the wilderness of Beaver County. He settled on Reardon's Run, lived here about fifty years, and died at the home of his son, William, aged eighty-five years. He was a member of the Old Seceder's church. His wife was Margaret Carnagy, who died young. They had three sons and three daughters. Of the sons William married Jane, daughter of David and Nancy (Shearer) McCoy. They had eight children, four of whom are deceased: John, Agnes, Esther and William. The last mentioned died in Libby Prison. Those living are Archibald, David, Jane and Samuel. William Agnew died at the age of seventy-eight years. He was a member of the United Presbyterian Church; in politics a Democrat. Archibald Agnew, subject of this sketch, married Mary J., daughter of John Purdy. Three children have blessed this union: James P. (died young), John C. and Margaret, the latter wife of John Greene. Mr. and Mrs. Agnew are active members of the United Presbyterian Church. He is a Democrat and has held various township offices.

-- LAST WILL --
OF
David McCoy
Registered January 23rd, 1832

IN THE NAME OF GOD AMEN: I David McCoy of the township of Hopewell in the County of Beaver and State of Pennsylvania being very much indisposed and weak in body but of sound mind memory and understanding (blessed be God for the same) but considering the uncertainty of this transitory life I do make and publish this my last will and testament in manner and form following to wit. Principally and first of all I commend my immortal soul into the hand of God who gave it and my body to the earth to be buried in a decent and Christian like manner at the discretion of my Executors hereinafter mentioned and as to such worldly estate wherewith it has pleased God to bless me in this life. I give and dispose of the same in the following manner to wit 1st. It is my will that the two hundred acres of land for which I have a clear deed on which William Agnew now resides I do give and bequeath unto my son Archibald and my daughter Nancy, to be divided in the following manner, to wit. One hundred and thirty acres to Archibald and the usual allowance and seventy acres to Nancy and the allowance and further the hundred acres I own over the river I give and bequeath to my son Archibald and my daughter Nancy to be divided in three parts Archibald to have two parts and Nancy one part. All the above mentioned lands to be divided as above stated both in quantity and quality and as to my goods and chattels which I formerly had I have already divided them between my son Archibald and my daughter Nancy and lastly nominate constitute and appoint my son Archibald McCoy and Daniel Christy to be the executors of this my will hereby revoking all other wills legacies and bequests by me heretofore made and declaring this and no other to be my last will and testament*

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have set my hand and seal this thirtieth day of November 1831.

David McCoy

(Seal)

Signed sealed published and pronounced
and declared by the timid testator as his
last will and testament in the presence of us two in
his presence and at his request have subscribed as
witnesses.

ATTEST John McClister

Lawrence Shivelay.

Richard G. Temple
April 2002