

## CHAPTER ONE - JOHN S. MCGEE, CIRCUIT RIDER

### *Generation No. 2*

**2. JOHN SIMPSON<sup>2</sup> MCGEE** *JOHN<sup>1</sup>*) was born December 09, 1818 in Beavertown, Beaver County, Pennsylvania, and died March 28, 1890 at his home near Uno, Hart County, Kentucky. He married **ANN REMINTA HAWKINS** April 02, 1839 in Anderson County, Kentucky, daughter of FRANCIS HAWKINS and PERMELIA SHELTON. She was born May 17, 1820 near Salvisa, Mercer County, Kentucky, and died January 30, 1901 at the home of her son, James W. McGee, in Horse Cave, Hart County, Kentucky.

Notes for JOHN SIMPSON MCGEE:

John Simpson McGee was born on December 9, 1818 in Beaver County, Pennsylvania, the son of a tailor also named John McGee. The identity of his mother is not known. His father moved the family from western Pennsylvania to Oxford, Butler County, Ohio in the early 1820's, and his mother died not long after their arrival in that state. About 1825, his father remarried to Jane Cassel, the daughter of Ralph Cassel from South Carolina. On January 8, 1827, a half-brother, Ralph McGee, was born, the first of six children to be born while the family resided in Ohio. According to Redford's article in Methodism in Kentucky, it was during this time in Oxford, that John S. McGee was converted to Christianity when he was 9 years old. After residing in Oxford, Ohio for more than ten years, the family moved to neighboring Fayette County, Indiana around 1836/1837.

### **Central Kentucky**

In 1838, when John S. McGee was about 19 years old, he left Fayette County, Indiana and traveled south to the central Kentucky area. His exact destination in Kentucky and his reason for going there are unclear, but it is believed that he may have had relatives who lived in Mercer County. The 1820 census recorded seven McGee households residing in Mercer County, two in 1830, and five "Magee" families living there in 1840. John McGee's name appeared for the first time on the Mercer County tax rolls in 1838, where he was simply listed as "Jno S. McGee," with no real estate or taxable personal property. It may be significant, however, that his name on the original tax record occurred immediately between the names of Joseph McGee and David McGee which would suggest the possibility that these men were related in some way. Additional research is needed to investigate a possible connection to these families.

(Note: The names of individuals listed on the Mercer County tax rolls are grouped alphabetically; i.e., all surnames beginning with "A" are grouped together, then "B," etc. However, the names within each group are not arranged alphabetically, and when three individuals with the same surname are listed together, one after the other, it generally indicates some type of familial relationship.)

John S. McGee was missing from the Mercer County tax rolls from 1839 to 1841, but he returned there for one year in 1842. After he had courted and married Ann Hawkins in 1839, the family made their residence in adjoining Anderson County, where he was listed in the 1840

census as John "Magee." The Hawkins family farm, where Ann Hawkins was born and raised, was also located in Mercer County, so it seems reasonable that John McGee would have met Ann Hawkins in Mercer County shortly after his arrival there from Indiana in 1838.

John McGee and Ann Hawkins were married on April 2, 1839, in Anderson County, Kentucky, and a copy of both their marriage bond and their marriage license is preserved on microfilm in the archives of the Kentucky History Center in Frankfort, Kentucky. She was the daughter of Francis Hawkins and Permelia Shelton and was born and raised on the Hawkins home place located near the small community of Salvisa. The Hawkins farm was originally settled by Francis Hawkins' father, Benjamin Hawkins, who came to Kentucky from Orange County, Virginia in 1789.

(Note: The old Hawkins home place is still standing today, although it's no longer used as a dwelling. The two-story log house is quite large with a stone fireplace and chimney on each end. Although originally built as a log structure in the shape of a "T", the logs were later covered with clapboard siding, and the rear extension was torn down. The Hawkins family cemetery, enclosed by a dry-stacked stone wall and now in a sad state of disrepair, lies about 200 yards from the house. The cemetery is good sized, as family cemeteries go, and contains several graves, presumably including those of Ann's grandparents, Benjamin Hawkins and Nancy Ann Bourne. Only three of the most recent headstones have inscriptions, the remaining graves being marked only with fieldstone slabs. The three inscribed stones are for Ann's parents, Francis and Permelia Hawkins, and her brother, William C. Hawkins. The property is now owned by descendants of Robert Stratton, who purchased the farm from the Hawkins family in the early 1920's.)

*The 1840 census for Anderson County, Kentucky listed **John Magee** as head of the household with the following family distribution: One male under 5 yrs., one male 20-30 yrs., and one female 15-20 yrs. Also included in the household was one female slave 10-24 yrs. old. (Note: the male under 5 yrs. of age was the couple's first child, Medley Shelton McGee, born February 29, 1840.)*

Although John and Ann McGee were named as residents of Anderson County in the 1840 census, they soon returned to Mercer County, where his name appeared for the second and final time on the Mercer County tax rolls in 1842, once again listed as "Jno S. McGee." The birth of the couple's second child, Jouette Fletcher McGee, on August 20, 1841, probably took place in Mercer County. Rev. McGee's obituary stated that he joined the Methodist church at Salvisa in 1842, which is located in the northeastern Mercer County. Later that year John McGee was licensed to preach, and in the fall of 1843, he was admitted on trial as a preacher by the Kentucky Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church and assigned to the Barren Circuit.

As a circuit riding preacher, Rev. John S. McGee was kept on the move and preached at several locations within his appointed circuit throughout the year until the annual conference, at which time he was assigned a new circuit. In addition to Barren, his various appointed circuits in Kentucky included the counties of Shelby, Nicholas, Mason, Greenup, and Knox as well as Wood County, Virginia (now West Virginia). The following excerpt, taken from Terry Walters' "McGee Family History Outline," describes how the circuit rider system worked within the Methodist Church:

"Each man had his appointment for a strictly limited time. A two year time limit on a preacher's tenure at a church or circuit was established in 1804, with the understanding that an annual change was normal; the limit became three years in 1864 in the Methodist Episcopal Church, and four years in 1866 in the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Every preacher kept on the move in his circuit, and this was true even of ministers appointed to city locations, for they had several outposts. Thus the itinerant system went round and round, like a small hoop (the circuit) always turning around on a larger hoop (the annual conference) which itself was always in motion. In this way, some preachers were appointed to circuits in which they preached perhaps four times (once each quarter) in each of many preaching points, and then went off to the annual conference for appointment to a different circuit. William Taylor testified that if a young man married "while on trial" (to become a preacher), he was not admitted. If he were admitted and married before the fourth year, he was appointed to "a very poor circuit, where he and his young wife would enjoy their honeymoon among the whippoorwills."

*The 1850 census for District No. 1, Bourbon County, Kentucky lists **Jno S. Magee**, age 30, head of the family, a Methodist minister, his wife, Ann R., age 29; a son, Medley S., age 10; a son, Jouett T., age 9; a son, Richard D., age 7; a daughter, Martha A., age 4; and a daughter, Permelia H., age 3.*

After his term at Millersburg, Kentucky, located in Bourbon County, Rev. John McGee was assigned to the Shelby Circuit, and the family moved to Christianburg, Kentucky, a small community in northeastern Shelby County about eight miles from the county seat, Shelbyville. The following news item appeared in the Shelby News, dated May 26, 1852:

Married

On the 4<sup>th</sup>, by Rev. John S. McGee, Miss Martha Stockton, of Franklin, to Mr. W. S. Marshall, of Shelby County, Ky.

It was during his appointment to the Shelby Circuit, that the couple's four month old baby daughter, Betty Ann McGee, died on August 3, 1852.

DIED (The Shelby News, Shelbyville, Ky., August 18, 1852, p.3)

On the 3d instant, in Christianburg, BETTY N., infant daughter of Rev. J. S. and Ann McGee.

## **South Central Texas**

Toward the end of 1852, Rev. McGee was assigned to south-central Texas where he would spend the next four years as the presiding church elder. According to Terry Walters, the family settled in Valley, Texas, a small crossroads community located on Cibolo Creek in Bexar County just east of San Antonio. It was from here that Rev. McGee would make his rounds and preach at rural communities in Bexar, Guadalupe and Wilson Counties. Today there is a Texas State Historical Marker located at the United Methodist Church at LaVernia, Texas which, in part, reads as follows:

### LAVERNIA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Earliest services of this church were held near here at Bethesda, in 1853, by the Rev. J. S. McGee, a circuit rider

The following excerpt was taken from an article on the history of the LaVernia United Methodist Church, Wilson County, Texas.

"As early as 1853, Rev. John S. McGee, of Seguin, a circuit rider, held Methodist services along the Cibolo Creek in the area of what is now LaVernia, particularly at Bethesda that we know of. During this era, he, like other Methodist horseback circuit riders, passed through this area holding religious services in people's homes or in school houses, if such were handy.

"The necessary equipment for a circuit rider was quite meager - a good horse and a pair of roomy saddle wallets containing primarily his Bible and Hymn Book. And the requisite qualities for the preacher himself were also few, but needful - a good constitution (most of them were young men), able to endure hardships as a soldier of his Master; a gift of song, a fair stock of common sense; and a large measure of zeal for his Master's cause. These men went to a new land, a land of strangers, with the love of God and man in their hearts.

"The Rev. John S. McGee, mentioned above, suffered a great heartache while in this area. One version says that about the year 1855, the young son of Mr. McGee and another man were out looking for livestock, on horseback, when Indians attacked them. Young McGee's mule could not run as fast as the horse and he was captured and scalped. This was a hard blow to the McGee family, and in later years they moved back to Kentucky."

In October 1853, The Seguin Mercury newspaper of Seguin, Guadalupe County, Texas advertised Rev. John S. McGee as preaching at the Seguin Methodist Church every first, second and third Sabbaths of each month at 10:30 a.m.. He spent the remaining Sundays preaching in the rural communities of Woods Chapel and Perryman Crossing on the Cibolo River. Note: The original church building, where Rev. John McGee preached, is still standing in Seguin, Texas, on the northwest corner of Washington and Camp Streets. The building is now being used as a dwelling place. (Terry Walters' "McGee Family History Outline.")

In 1854, John S. McGee's name appeared on the Bexar County tax rolls for the first time:

*John S. McGee, tax payer #249; owns 235 acres valued at \$3000; located on waters of Cibolo; also two negroes valued at \$1000; three horses at \$150; forty six cattle at \$300; and seventy five hogs valued at \$150. (Terry Walters' McGee Family History Outline).*

### **The Murder of Jouette McGee by Indians**

Jouette Fletcher McGee, the second oldest child of John and Ann McGee, was killed by marauding Indians in July of 1855, near the town of LaVernia in what is now Wilson County, Texas. He was only fourteen years old when the tragedy occurred. There have been numerous reports and articles written that describe the incident that happened that day, and three of them are reprinted here, including one written by Rev. John McGee himself. Also included is a short item about the tragedy that appeared in The New York Times.

The first excerpt was taken from a thirteen-page "sketch" written by Capt. James Martin Trainer, who later married Jouette's sister, Martha Alice McGee. In his later years, at the request of his daughter, Libbie, Capt. Trainer wrote a narrative in which he described his early life and times in south Texas. The full article makes interesting reading and is available on the internet at:

< <http://wc.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=358520&id=I1189> >



“In 1855, the Indians made their last raid down the Cibolo. It was on this raid that they killed Jewett McGee; they also killed a negro woman and stole a few horses. I have read several accounts of this raid, but they were very incorrect. It was in July, the Indians passed down about one mile west of our place and crossed the Martinez between the Goodloe and the Ewell place. Soon after crossing the Martinez they killed the negro woman. They then passed on down Lipan branch to about one mile west of Lavernia where they met Mr. Rector and Jewett McGee. They saw the Indians coming toward them at a distance, but through the dense fog they supposed them to be stock men, until they were almost upon them. They then turned and ran for the dry creek bottom. But Jewett was riding a mule and could not make him run. The Indians soon ran upon him and roped and pulled him off the mule. He threw the rope off of himself and the Indians let him go, but took the mule. Unfortunately, Jewett ran on in the same direction that Mr. Rector had gone and soon met the Indian who had been chasing him. The Indian plunged his lance through Jewett’s body and ran on after the others. These facts about the killing were gathered partly from Mr. Rector and partly from a Mr. Maddox, who happened to ride up in time to witness it. But being unarmed he could only look on from a safe distance. I remember that brother William and I started to Port Lavaca early that morning with ox teams loaded with cotton. Our road went around west of the Indian route. We were resting for noon where St. Hedwig now stands, when a man rode up and told of the killing. We drove on down to Mr. Applewhite’s that evening, when we found Jewett’s body. It had been washed, dressed and laid out in the basement story of the old rock house. Mr. McGee and many of our neighbors were there. We also remained there that night. The next morning brother William and I resumed our journey to La Vaca, and Mr. McGee assisted by many sympathetic friends removed the body of poor little Jewett up home and buried it. He, I mean Jewett, was then fourteen years old and was between your Uncle Med and Dick. Your Mamma was next younger than Dick. At Mr. Applewhite’s that night it seemed to me that Mr. McGee would die of grief. I was glad that I did not meet the family until a month afterward, when their grief had somewhat subsided.

“The Indians moved rapidly on down through the hills west of Cibolo, and although closely pursued, made their escape across the San Antonio River. But they were afterwards intercepted by a party headed by Pete Tomelson, and at least one of the Indians was killed. The dead Indian was scalped and the scalp was sent to Mr. McGee. I remember when the scalp was shown to me it still had the Indian smell.”

A second version of the incident, slightly different from Capt. Trainer’s narrative, is this story taken directly from a newspaper article called “Texas through Time,” written by William M. Wiseman. The article appeared in the January 11, 1995 edition of the Wilson County News published in Floresville, Texas:

“On Frontier’s Edge, LaVernia Suffered Deaths in Comanche Attack on July 4, 1855

“Among early ministers in the area was John S. McGee, who was a Methodist circuit rider. McGee preached in Seguin every first, second and third Sunday of each month at 10:30 a.m. The remaining Sundays he spent in the communities of Woods Chapel, Perryman’s Crossing and Bethesda.

“Bethesda Community was located across the Cibolo River from LaVernia and ceased to exist when LaVernia became the principal town. The church that McGee helped form is now the United Methodist Church of LaVernia. A historical plaque in front of the church describes the founding. Reverend McGee had a young son, Jewett (Doc) McGee, who was visiting his uncle Pendleton Rector, at the time of the last Indian raid. . . .Pendleton Rector was an early settler from Tennessee. He fought in the Fredonian War at the Battle of Velasco in 1832 and was a participant in the Battle of San Jacinto. At the time of the raid, he was 52 years old. He was the uncle of Jewett (Doc) McGee.

“Lucy was a black slave girl who worked in the household of Mr. W. R. Elam. Elizabeth Elam, Mr. Elam’s wife, was especially fond of Lucy and raised her much in the same manner as her own children. Lucy was about fourteen at the time of the raid.

“It happened on a hot day on July 4, 1855. Most of the men in the area were in Seguin attending a Democratic meeting and barbecue. A group of about 30 Comanche’s, led by Chief Wildcat, went on a horse- stealing raid down the Cibolo Valley.

“Lucy was the first victim of the raid. She was carrying a bucket of water on her head that she had gotten from

Lipan Creek (a tributary of the Cibolo, now called Dry Hollow). She was carrying water to the work hands of Robert Floyd, who were working in a nearby field. When she saw the Indians she thought they were cowboys and stopped to look at them. The Indians roped the bucket off her head and then began to rope her. She threw the ropes off several times, but they succeeded in tying her. Lucy was lanced several times and cut across her stomach. Her screams attracted the men in the field. The field hands took Lucy to the Elam house where she described her terrible experience. She lived several hours, but, despite their best efforts, she died of her wounds. Mrs. Elam sent a messenger down the river to warn settlers of the raid.

“Pendleton Rector and his nephew, Doc McGee, were out in a field looking for horses. The Indians gave chase to them. The horse Mr. Rector was riding fell, and Rector narrowly made his escape in a thicket while the Indians took his mare and saddle. McGee was riding a mule who balked and he was easily taken. He was roped and dragged to the ground. After tormenting him with lances, he was lanced to death and scalped. Rector ran on foot to the settlements and gave the alarm.

“Captain Henry McCulloch, an old Indian fighter, called for volunteers to go out and fight the Indians. That evening 27 people saddled up, rode out and joined others from the Cibolo Valley. Captain McCulloch and his men trailed the Indians to a point 50 to 60 miles west of San Antonio, where they encountered a second group of men trailing the Indians. McCulloch and his men returned to their families. The second group was a squad of rangers under the command of Captain Tumlinson. This group overtook the Indians near the Mexican border. The Indians scattered at the sight of the rangers, who then fired at them from a long distance. While some Indians were hit, none were killed. The abandoned horses were gathered up and taken back.

“In that same year, 1855, a group of Indians made a raid near Selma and carried off a large herd of horses, mostly belonging to Johnny B. Brown and Captain William Davenport. Captain Davenport was in command of a small company of minutemen for frontier protection. He gathered his men and trailed the Indians to the Medina Valley, north of the present city of Bandera. A small Morman settlement was located there. Davenport and his men attacked the Indians in camp, killing several, including the chief.

“The chief’s ornaments and shield were given to Rev. John McGee, whose son was killed at LaVernia. He carried these with him later in the year when he returned in mourning to his old home in Kentucky.”

(Note: Pendleton Rector was no blood relation to the McGee family as the article claims. He was simply a neighbor, and, according to Rev. McGee, he was helping Jouette round up a cow and its calf when the incident occurred.)

The final version of the story is found in a letter written by Rev. John McGee which originally appeared in the “Texas Christian Advocate,” dated October 6, 1855 and was later published in the “Annals of Southern Methodism,” by Charles Force Deems, dated 1856, pgs. 381-383.

### **Rev. McGee’s Letter about the Tragedy**

“MR. EDITOR: Our home is filled with sorrow; grief, sad, heart-rending grief, such as we never before experienced, has fallen upon us like a dark cloud, shutting out, almost, the light of heaven.

“My second son, Jouette Fletcher McGee, aged 14 years and 11 days, was killed by the Indians, on Friday morning, the 31<sup>st</sup> of August, 1855, about 9 o’clock A.M.

“On the evening before (Thursday) I had sent him down the river (Cibolo) about ten miles, to Bro. Pendleton Rector’s to bring home a cow and a calf. On the morning of Friday, after breakfast, Bro. R. started with him to help drive the cow a short distance; when about a mile from Bro. R.’s and about half a mile from Mr. Applewhite’s house, on the stage road from San Antonio via Sulphur Springs to Victoria, my son discovered some men in the distance driving stock, and called Bro. R.’s attention to it; but they supposed they were Mexicans with a caballado. After passing some two hundred yards farther on the road, some six or seven warriors, that had covered their

advance with some musquitte bushes, came out suddenly upon them. Bro. R. at once discovered that they were Indians, and remarked to my son that they must save themselves by flight; my son was on a small Mexican mule, and remarked to Bro. R. that he would be killed. Bro. R. told him no, they would not kill him: he was still urging his mule, and crying to Bro. R. not to leave him, but could not get the mule ten steps from the place. Three warriors took after Bro. R., and the other three or four came upon my son; they threw a lasso upon him, and jerked him to the ground; he freed himself from it, and sprang to his feet; they threw it upon him again, and again he threw it off, and ran in the direction that Bro. R. had gone; this party then left him and took his mule. My son ran some two or three hundred yards up a sloping ridge, and had reached the top, when he was met by the Indian who had followed Bro. R., who, as he passed him, struck him with a spear at the lower edge of the right shoulder-blade, ranging down, and came out just above his left hip.

“Bro. R. after crossing the ridge, in looking back reined his horse out of the road; his horse bogged and fell with him; he sprang to his feet and ran, hallooing and motioning as though there was help at hand. The Indian came up to his horse and took him and turned back, and murdered my child.

“I suppose the reason why the other party left him, was because of his expertness in freeing himself from the lasso; he had learned this from a Mexican that I have had in my employ for some time. I gather these facts from Bro. R., and a young man, who at the time was sitting on his horse a few hundred yards distant, and witnessed the whole scene.

“The Indians had commenced their operations the night before, in the neighborhood of Hillsborough, at the foot of the mountains, passing down the valley of the Cibolo, stealing horses all the way down. After passing some four miles below me, they came across a negro girl of Mr. Elam’s, going out to work, and killed her.

“Our community was wholly unprepared for a thing of this kind; in fact we supposed that we were as safe from Indian depredations as you are at Galveston. Our men hastily gathered up their rifles and started in hot pursuit. The Indians passed down near the Sulphur Springs; there they run Mr. Irvin in, who was out looking for horses. Some five or six men hastily gathered up some guns in the store of Mr. Irvin, and started in pursuit; they overtook the Indians in about three miles; they had just passed through a bog, and were changing saddles. Col. Wyatt attempted to shoot, but found that he could not without getting off his horse. When he dismounted, the Indian that was on my son’s mule jumped off and ran back some fifty yards – shot four or five arrows at him. Mr. Irvin came up and shot twice at another Indian that was coming to the rescue of the one on foot, but with what effect is not known. The party of whites who were behind, coming upon the trail, turned off to intercept them at the crossing of the San Antonio river; but the Indians crossed some distance below.

“The party of Col. Wyatt brought back some twenty or twenty-five horses, and my son’s mule and saddle. I did not learn the sad news until about 3 o’clock P.M., having been out in pursuit of the Indians. Mrs. McGee was some twenty miles from home at the time. I arrived at the house of Mr. Applewhite about sun-down, and found my poor boy cold in death. Kind friends had spared me the affliction of seeing him all bathed in his blood; he was neatly shrouded, and his bloody clothes washed: but when I knelt by the side of my poor child, and put my hand on his cold brow, and called his name, and no response – may kind heaven spare the parent from such awful anguish as I then experienced. He was the idol of his mother. At the still hour of midnight a messenger broke the sad intelligence to her, which was like the pouring in of the cold waters of death. This world is clothed in drapery to us it never wore before. He was a kind-hearted, dutiful child – loved his mother most fondly. Under other circumstances it would be afflicting to part with a child; but to think of the awful excitement and agony of my poor child in the hands of savage brutes, is almost more than I can bear. God alone can sustain us. He alone make the darkness light about us; “He doeth all things well.” May we have grace to say, “Thy will be done.”

“I cannot close this article without a reflection or two. There is an awful responsibility resting some place with our governmental affairs. Here we have a General and Staff, Depots of Ordnance and Subsistence, hundreds of government horses, forts, stations, and soldiers, agents with tens of thousands of dollars to feed the poor Indians, hundreds of thousands of dollars spent annually by our government for the defense of the frontier; and yet, from the Guadalupe to the Rio Grande, the country is overrun with murderous bands of thieving savages, and no security of either life or property. My case is not the first and only one: poor Forest’s family, Judge Jones’ overseer, strangers found here or there, besides many more carried into captivity; and many that the light of eternity alone will discover. They come within four or five miles of the sleeping cannon of the Alamo, and steal horses; penetrate the interior,

rob and murder, go back untouched and unscathed. Things are in a worse condition now than when Texas stood alone. Who is to blame? People and press of Texas, speak, and speak boldly; who is to blame? Where and with whom does this blood rest?

In deep affliction, your brother,

JOHN S. MCGEE  
Forrest Home, Bexar Co., Texas”

The following item was extracted from an article that appeared in The New York Times, published September 19, 1855:

#### NEWS FROM TEXAS

More Indian Outrages – The Elections – Movements of Captain Henry – The Crops

The Seguin Mercury of the 1<sup>st</sup> inst. has the following:

“A report reached town yesterday that the Indians, supposed to be seven hundred in number, had captured the little son of Rev. McGee, on the Cibolo. He was going from the residence of his father, two miles below the crossing of the old San Antonio and Seguin road, down the Cibolo to Mr. Rector’s, a few miles this side of Sutherland’s Springs, when he was taken.

“We have since learned that the Indians killed the boy. The old man Rector narrowly escaped the same fate by leaving his horse and taking to the bushes. The Indians took his horse.....”

The Bexar County, Texas tax rolls for 1855 listed John S. McGee as a resident tax payer:

*John S. McGee. Tax Payer # 249; 235 acres valued at \$3000. located on the waters of Cibolo; three negroes valued at \$1800; eight horses, \$300.; 50 cattle, \$400.; 40 hogs, \$80.*

In 1855, Rev. John S. McGee was assigned to the Austin District in San Antonio, Texas. The following newspaper item appeared in the October 16th issue of the San Antonio Herald:

Sugar Cane – Rev. Mr. McGee presented us with a specimen of his sugar cane, raised on the Cibolo. It was not equal to that which took the premium, but would be called a fair article, even in cane growing sections. He exhibited a number of stalks at the Fair, which numbered fifteen and sixteen joints, well matured, and this from the first year’s growth. Who will now say that our soil is not adapted for the growth of sugar cane. Those who do had better hold their piece until they can produce a better growth than that of our friend McGee’s.

### **Kentucky, then Return to Texas**

In 1856, Rev. John McGee was reassigned to Kentucky, and the family made the long trip back north. Their tenth child, George P. McGee, was born July 10, 1856 in Texas, so the McGees would not have departed until at least a few weeks after his birth. Once in Kentucky, John McGee was assigned to the Logan County Circuit and Russellville Station according to notes from his obituary. William Dempsey McGee, the couple’s eleventh child, was born in Kentucky on April 12, 1858.

In 1859, Rev. John McGee was once again assigned to south-central Texas, where he was

appointed presiding elder of Gonzales District, a position he held for the next four years.

*The 1860 census for Valley Post Office, Bexar County, Texas lists **John S. McGee**, age 42, a farmer and head of the household, his wife, Ann, age 40, a son, Medley S., age 21, farming, a son, Richard D., age 17, farming, a daughter, Martha A., age 15, a daughter, Amelia E., age 13, a son, John L., age 10, a son, Joseph F., age 5, a son, George P. age 4, and a son, William D., age 3. The family real estate was valued at \$2100. and their personal estate was valued at \$3355.*

The family's twelfth child, James Wilson McGee, was born in Bexar County, Texas in 1861, and their youngest, Virginia Lee, was born there in 1864. During the Civil War, the two eldest sons, Medley S. McGee and Richard D. McGee, served with the Confederate forces as members of the 3rd Texas Infantry. After the war, the oldest daughter, Martha Alice McGee, married James M. Trainer in Bexar County in September 1865. She was soon followed by her older brother, Medley, who married Nancy Reynolds in December of the same year. In Captain James Trainer's narrative, he also wrote about the departure of the McGee family for Kentucky in 1856, and their return again to Texas in 1860. That story can be found under the notes for Martha Alice McGee (page [169](#)).

In 1865, Rev. John S. McGee was appointed as the Agent for the Guadalupe Male and Female College at Seguin, Texas.

In the fall of 1866, Rev. McGee was once again reassigned to the Louisville Conference, and the family prepared for the return trip to Kentucky where they would eventually establish a permanent base and remain for the rest of their lives. When the McGees left Texas in early 1867, their four oldest children remained behind, having married into local south Texas families: Medley and his sister, Alice, both having married in 1865; Permelia marrying in March 1866; and Richard in January of 1867. In each case, Rev. McGee was the presiding minister at the marriage ceremony. All of these children would have families of their own and live out their lives in Texas.

## **Hart County, Kentucky**

Rev. John McGee's first appointment after his return to Kentucky was the Morganfield Circuit, where he traveled for almost two years. In 1868, he was appointed to the Hodgenville Circuit and then to the Greensburg District, where he traveled and preached for three years. While assigned to the Hodgenville Circuit, the family resided in the small village of Sonora in Hardin County.

*The 1870 census for Sonora, Hardin County, Kentucky lists **John S. McGee**, age 51, born in Pennsylvania, head of the household and a minister of the Gospel, his wife, Ann, age 50, born in Kentucky, a son, John S., age 19, born in Kentucky, a son, Joseph F., age 15, born in Texas, a son, George P., age 13, born in Kentucky, a son, William L., age 11, born in Kentucky, a son, James, age 9, born in Texas, and a daughter, Virginia, age 6, born in Texas. Also living in the home was Sarah Davis, age 26, a domestic servant. The family owned no real estate, and their personal estate was valued at \$400.*

In 1872, Rev. McGee was appointed to the Horse Cave Circuit located in Hart County, Kentucky, and it was here that the McGee family would finally purchase property and establish a permanent base. Even though John McGee would continue to travel and preach for another ten years, the farm located near the small community of Clear Point would become their final home.

Note: The hamlet near where Rev. McGee's farm was located in Hart County was originally called Clear Point, Kentucky, but today the community is known as Uno. The following description comes from Robert Rennick's book, Kentucky Place Names:

"Uno (Hart) – This hamlet with extinct post office at the jct. of US 31E and KY571, 6 miles southeast of Munfordville, is said to have first been called Clear Point or Clear Pint. Local people will not admit to the latter, but cannot explain the former. The tradition tale is that it was first named for what one could buy there, a very clear brand of corn whiskey, and that when the post office was established it was called Clear Point as more seemly for a post office. The post office of Uno was established there on October 24, 1887, with John M. Perkins, postmaster, with the Clear Pointers suggesting that this is but the Spanish word *uno* meaning "number one," obviously applied to the post office and the community as a commendatory name. The Clear Pinters, however, recall that, whenever a resident was asked where he was going, he would reply "Oh, you know." Actually there were 2 Clear Point post offices at 2 different locations. One was established on May 22, 1843, with William H. L. Renfro, postmaster, and closed in 1856; the other was established on Feb. 20, 1846, with John B. Cobb, postmaster, and discontinued in 1860. It is not known which was the forerunner of Uno. The Uno post office closed in 1906."

The following excerpt was taken from the Courier Journal newspaper of Louisville, Kentucky. It was part of a longer news article reporting on the annual meeting of the Methodist Conference which was held in the city each year.

(Louisville Courier Journal, Louisville, Kentucky, Thursday, October 14, 1875)

J. S. McGee made an affecting speech to the Conference. His life has been a hard one. He has been in West Virginia and in Texas, where one of his boys was killed by the Indians. He is now in feeble health. His physicians say he must cease preaching, but he wishes to die exclaiming, "Behold, behold the Lamb!" Well did the Bishop say: "It is very affecting to see a true heart struggling against its fate. We wish to labor, but God sometimes lays an embargo upon us." Mr. McGee was superannuated.

In a deed dated January 26, 1876, John McGee purchased from W. T. Harlan his undivided interest in a 51 acre tract of land that Harlan had inherited from his grandfather, William Walton. (Hart Co., Ky. Deed Book W, p. 37)

Later the same year, in a deed dated November 26, 1876, John McGee purchased from Thomas S. Walton, and Mary C. Walton, his wife, a 71 acre tract of land located near the small community of Clear Point in Hart County, for the sum of \$2,676.55, of which \$1,420.76 was paid down in cash and the remainder secured by a promissory note due on January 1, 1879. The deed stipulated, however, that if the loan was not paid off at maturity it would bear an interest rate of 6% per annum until paid, but that said McGee would not be pushed by administrators to pay off said note and that he would have a reasonable length of time after maturity to conveniently do so.

In addition to preaching sermons on Sunday, a part of every minister's duties includes presiding at wedding and funerals, and Rev. John McGee was no exception as the following two newspaper items illustrate. The name of the newspapers and their publication dates are not

known, but they were provided by Jean Utley, a descendant who lives in Florida:

#### MARRIED.

In the Methodist Church in Morganfield, by the Rev. Jno. S. McGee, Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Saml. H. Davis to Miss Sudie L. Huston, daughter of Judge Geo. Huston.

Attendants: Mr. Watt Davis; Miss Cartie Huston; Mr. Jim Ford; Miss Emma Anderson; \_\_\_ Flournoy; Miss Sallie Givens; Mr. Catlett Taylor; Miss Nannie Ely; Mr. Egly; Miss M. L. Casey; Mr. Waller Mason; Miss Allen Chapman.

#### DIED

On Wednesday morning, October 6<sup>th</sup> at the Commercial Hotel, of Typhoid Fever after an illness of three weeks, William Wesbey, aged about 37 years.

Four years ago, or thereabouts, Wm. Wesbey came to this town a stranger to all of us. During that period he has worked as a cooper, and latterly as foreman of the shop, - Quiet, industrious, sober and civil, he soon made many warm friends of the best people, male and female, in our community. In his last illness, he received patient, constant and anxious attention from an excellent physician, and from the ladies and gentlemen of the hotel. Rev. J. S. McGee, of the Methodist church, beautifully and feelingly, at his grave, made mention of his homeless exile among us. Far from home and all of its attachments, he died a stranger among strangers, and yet in the midst of friends whom he found and kept by a habit of kindness and usefulness which seemed to be a part of his nature.

No epitaph could be inscribed on his tomb more eloquent than the tears that were shed over his grave.

### **Rev. John S. McGee's Fraternal Letter**

In 1878, Rev. John S. McGee wrote the following "Fraternal Letter" to be read before the members of the Western Virginia Conference meeting, which was to be held in Catlettsburg, Kentucky later that same year. In the "letter" he talked about his early years as a circuit rider and gave some interesting insight into his famous debate with Rev. Maddox over the "Plan of Separation." The article is reproduced here in its entirety, taken from the newspaper, The Central Methodist, dated September 21, 1878. (Source of the original newspaper clipping is Jean Utley).

"On our third page we print a fraternal letter from Rev. John S. McGee, of the Louisville Conference, to the recent session of the Western Virginia Conference. This letter came too late to be read before the Conference, and we take the liberty to print it in order that it may reach those for whom it was intended. We hope Bro. McGee will tell our readers all about that celebrated campaign, and his early experiences in this section.

#### Fraternal Letter

"To the Bishop and Members of the Western Virginia Conference, Catlettsburg, Ky:

"Dear Brethren: I promised myself the pleasure of visiting your Conference at its present session in this place, but the pressing duties of my district in filling the last round of quarterly meetings denies me this pleasure.

"I especially desired this for many reasons. Thirty two years ago I was on this ground - a mere stripling - in the third year of my ministry - in charge of Greenup circuit, Kentucky Conference. We kept house in a little 10x12 cabin, about thirty steps in the rear of Catlett's old tavern. This was parlor, bed room, kitchen, etc., and answered well then all the comforts and purposes of house keeping.

“Then, our wants were few – having shelter, food, and very plain raiment; horse, saddle-bags, with Bible, hymn book, and discipline, and the “Plan of Separation,” we were thoroughly furnished unto the word and the work of the ministry. Here my first daughter was born. Levi Hampton kept the tavern – it was a tavern in those days. Then Billy Hampton lived some little distance up the Sandy River; the Geiger brothers – one in the village and the other out in the country. Catlettsburg then was made up of three or four houses – Catlett’s tavern, the 10x12 parsonage, Mr. Allison’s dwelling and store house on the bank of the river at the ferry, with my Scotch friend, Clark, or whispering Clark, as clerk. These made up the entire sum of this that I hear now is a great city, with its stores, its fine residences, shops and offices, halls and churches, the busy hum of its trade and commerce.

“Then we preached in the bar room of the tavern, and circuit preaching at an old house of Billy Hampton’s, on the bank of Sandy River, about one mile above. I have heard in that old house and bar room the happy shout of the then simple-hearted people of God; and have seen sinners turn pale and tremble as an aspen leaf.

“Then there was large heartedness, a simple, child-like religious earnestness, and unbounded hospitality.

“Then the kindness and liberality of both saint and sinner toward the preacher was cheerful and ready. If a saddle was needed, a kind-hearted sinner, with a little aid from church members, provided it. If a carriage, yes, a carriage, with wheels and springs; yes, elliptic springs, for they took off of the old carryall the old leather springs, painted it, curtained it, sprung it, cushioned it, and furnished the horse all ready to take the family away down in Kentucky home and to the Conference at Harrodsburg, Bishop Paine presiding. No railroads then, no telegraphs, all mud roads and turnpikes. How nice I thought my carriage was until that old toll-gate keeper made me pay toll for a burden wagon instead of a carriage!!

Then, in the winter of 1845 Bishop Andrew, through Dr. Bascom, sent me into the then Kanawha District, Ohio Conference, to take charge of it by vote of societies, according to the Plan of Separation, thus bringing the district into the Kentucky Conference and the Church, South.

“Then, first I took charge of Wayne circuit by vote of societies, with Stephen and Burwell Spurlock as local preachers, Burwell Spurlock as my assistant.

“Then, we moved on Guyandotte circuit, with William McCommas the local preacher. Then, changed my base to Barboursville, occupying the parsonage. After securing Wayne and Guyandotte circuits we moved on Point Pleasant circuit on the Great Kanawha.

“Then and there I was met by the champion of the district, Rev. Maddox, of the Ohio Conference, and challenged to debate on our church questions, accepted the challenge, the time fixed, moderators appointed, the ends of the earth came together to see the fight between the North and the South. It was the all-absorbing question of the day. Intense bitterness and partisan hate characterized the opposition all through the district. John C. Harrison, my presiding elder, Burwell Spurlock, and William McCommas went with me. I remember it was like a funeral procession all the way from Barboursville to Buffalo Shoals, on the Great Kanawha, where the debate was to be held. Harrison was silent, McCommas was glum, Spurlock groaned deep and heavy, not a suggestion, or word of encouragement, from any of them. I supposed they accompanied me only as a Christian duty, to see me decently buried.

“My young friend, Sam Black, was on the ground when we arrived. Sam was on an adjoining circuit, and between Point Pleasant and Parkersburg. Sam was my stenographer and took down the speeches verbatim literatim, in his head. When we went into the house, Harrison, McCommas, and Spurlock, hid away somewhere, but Sam, noble and brave, held up his large head in the midst of that great assembly, and I could read in that broad, open countenance an earnest desire for the success of the stripling. Maddox led off. By some means, I don’t know how, I got underholts on him. And when we adjourned for dinner, an old, shrewd mountaineer sprang from his seat first and ran to the door, leaping out, striking his hands and feet together, cried out at the top of his voice, “Ohio beat by Jing!” When we got to our rooms brethren that said nothing before, had many suggestions and commendatory remarks. Harrison said, modestly, “John, you have him on the hip, throw him hard.” The afternoon was a triumph, the house came down with rounds of applause; my antagonist was routed – horse, foot, and dragoon. The Kanawha district was ours – I had the field.



“Among the greatest spoils of the victory was the full unconditional surrender of my young friend, Sam. Black, with his entire circuit. This opened the way to Parkersburg, and our lines were moved up the Ohio to the Pittsburgh Conference. I gave Sam his side arms and let him go back to lead his people on Southward. Since then I have only occasionally heard of my young friend. I learn that recently he has been as far South as Atlanta, and made his mark, and left some very decided impressions. How I would love to meet him on this side of the river, and sit down and talk over our old battles for the right in that day of border warfare. I wonder if he is married? [Yes. – Ed.]

“Then, after two years of the hardest work of my itinerant life, I asked for an appointment in Kentucky, Bishop Paine hoping to appoint me to the Kanawha district. I needed rest, and quiet. Every foot of the ground had been sternly and stoutly contested, the rabble were against me, and sometimes we had to say very decidedly, thus far and no farther. Under the blessing of God we succeeded. We believed then, as now, we were in the right.

“Then, my circuit extended from Tygart’s creek in Kentucky to far beyond the Kanawha in Virginia.

“Now, you have a city with its churches and schools, a printing office, a good church paper, with a meek editor. How changed it must be now from the then.

“How I would love to see the old stomping ground again, and especially at this time, while your Conference is in session, to look in upon you while engaged in your Conference business and see and hear what God hath wrought. Not many familiar faces would greet me. But then I could stand up, envy you, and say: Brethren I am the first representative Southern Methodist preacher on this ground. I am your oldest member of this territory.

“I learn that Stephen Spurlock has gone home to heaven, and how many more, I have not learned. I suppose Burwell Spurlock, Wm. McCommas, [McCommas is dead – Ed.] S. C. Shaw, Billie Hampton, the Geiger brothers, and others are still with you, and my young friend, Sam. Black – may he live a hundred years.

My brethren, accept from your elder brother my heart’s best wishes and prayers for your religious success, with great peace and prosperity, and if denied the pleasure of meeting here, may it be “over there,” and may great grace and peace be yours. Amen”

Jno. S. McGee

In a quit claim deed, dated January 24, 1880, Thomas B. Thompson and Julia, his wife, George W. Thompson and Bell, his wife, and Alice M. Thompson (single), all residents of St. Louis, Missouri, granted to John S. McGee of Hart County, Kentucky all their rights, title and interest to the lands and estate of William E. Thompson and Sarah A. Thompson, his wife, both deceased, said tract being situated in Hart County, Kentucky. The exact acreage was not specified nor was the purchase price.

*The 1880 census for District 5, Horse Cave, Hart County, Kentucky lists **John S. McGee**, age 60, a farmer and head of the household, born in Pennsylvania, both parents born in Pennsylvania, his wife, Ann R., age 60, born in Kentucky, both parents born in Kentucky, a son, John L., age 29, a laborer, a son, George P., age 24, a laborer, a daughter-in-law, Rosa Lee, age 18, a son, William D., age 23, a laborer, a son, James C. W., age 19, at home, and a daughter, Virginia L., age 15, at school.*

Following is the transcription of a letter, dated March 13, 1882, written by Rev. John McGee to his son, Richard, who lived in Guadalupe County, Texas. The letter was obtained from Ann (Moran) McCurry, a McGee descendant currently residing in California. A note at the top of the transcription stated that the original was written with indelible pencil and difficult to read because of creases in the paper and water stains.

Horse Cave, Ky.  
3 – 13 – 82

Dear Richard –

Yours of Feb 7<sup>th</sup> came to hand the 11<sup>th</sup>.

Pearl was vaccinated with pus Bovine virus, her scab has come off and I send it to you.

In vaccinating, take a sharp knife and \_\_\_\_ slightly, just so the blood will start or ooze out a very little. Take a small piece of clean \_\_\_\_, put the scab, or part of it, on and with small portion of spittle soften it into a pulp. With point of the knife dipped into it, pour on the \_\_\_\_ part. Let it dry well before putting the sleeve down. It takes but a very little to do - best only to take a small portion at a time.

We are all well except Will. He has been in bed for a few days – better now.  
We have had a great deal of rainy warm weather – very warm for this season.

I am glad to hear that John is so studious. I hope to have \_\_\_\_ and be blessed in good children.

I expect I had best \_\_\_\_ the scab & send \_\_\_\_ & the Capt. some - \_\_\_\_ can send Melia some from one of the children's arms and you can vaccinate Bob & Susie's children from your children's arms.

Did the asthma remedy do Susie any good?

(Note: a portion of the letter is torn off and missing here)

I have not seen the life of Potter yet.

I cannot tell yet if we can come next fall. \_\_\_\_ so much in debt yet and it will be fully on how we get along.

I have great anxiety about all of you, for your spiritual and temporal welfare – and pray every day that God would provide for and take care of you. Tell John his GrandPa calls his name every day in prayer.

All send love. God help you all.

Your Pa, Jno S. McGee

(Note: In the above letter, "Pearl" was Etta Pearl McGee, the 2 year old granddaughter of Rev. John McGee and the daughter of George P. McGee. In the 1880 census, George P. McGee and his wife, Rosa, are shown to be living on the farm with his parents in Hart County. "Melia" refers to Rev. McGee's daughter, Permelia Helen Roberts, who lived in Hays County, Texas with her own family. "The Capt." was Rev. John McGee's son-in-law, James Trainer, who was married to his daughter, Martha Alice. They lived in Bexar County, Texas. "Bob & Susie" were actually Robert and Susan Eggleston, a black couple who lived and worked on the farm run by Richard McGee. According to the 1880 census for District 75, Guadalupe County, Texas, the Eggleston's had six children. It is believed that Susie (born in Ky.) may have come to Texas originally with the McGee's perhaps as a slave or servant, then remained there when the family returned to Kentucky.)

In a deed, dated June 3, 1882, Thomas S. Walton and Mary, his wife, conveyed to Jno. S. McGee a tract of land containing forty eight and one half acres located in Hart County, Kentucky near the community of Clear Point (now Uno). The purchase price was eleven hundred dollars (\$1100.00) to be paid as follows: three hundred and thirty dollars and eighty seven cents (\$330.87) cash in hand and one note for seven hundred and sixty nine dollars and thirteen cents

(\$769.13) due the 25<sup>th</sup> day of December 1880 with interest from maturity at 6 % per annum until paid. (Hart County, Ky. Deed Book 26, p. 224)

A deed of conveyance to J. S. McGee was executed on March 23, 1883 by court appointed Commissioners of Hart County in which two tracts, known as Lots no. 5 & 6, located in Hart County, Kentucky, were sold to John McGee. One lot contained 20 acres, and the second lot contained 57 ¼ acres. (Hart County, Ky. Deed Book X, p.336).

Below is a second letter from Rev. McGee to his son, Richard, in Texas, dated September 25, 1884, written while Rev. McGee was visiting the governor in Frankfort, the state capitol of Kentucky. Because of John McGee's writing style, some words in the original hand-written letter were difficult to decipher, but the transcription below is complete except for one individual's name which could not be interpreted. (Original letter is in the possession of Ann (Moran) McCurry, who lives in California.)

Dear Richard

I am here the guest of Gov. Knott, an old friend of mine. Gen. Conference adjourned on Monday night in Louisville, Ky. I talked as a superannuated relation. I go tomorrow up to Jennies, \_\_\_\_\_ is there and preach on Sunday at the place I joined the church 43 years ago. Jennie & Bascom will go home with us. I do not think we can come to Texas this winter. I am so in debt yet. My brother was to see me in Louisville. He lives near Greensburg in Indiana. He owns 600 acres of fine land worth \$75.00+ an acre. I did not intend writing to John before this. God bless you all.

Your Pa,

Jno S. McGee

(Note: Governor Knott was the Democratic governor of Kentucky from 1883 – 1887. The word, superannuated, means retired or no longer qualified for active duty because of age. Rev. John McGee was placed on the superannuated list in 1883, at the age of 65 years old. "Jennie," who was also called Virgie, was Rev. John McGee's youngest daughter, Virginia, who married Bascom Henry Gritton, a veterinary surgeon from Mercer County, Ky. John McGee initially joined the church in 1842, at Salvisa, Mercer Co., Ky., so Jennie and Bascom lived near there. In the reference to a brother, who lived near Greensburg, Indiana, he was talking about Ralph McGee, who was born in Butler Co., Ohio in 1827.)

In both of the letters to Richard, John McGee mentioned that he was still deeply in debt. The exact nature of his financial woes is not known, but it's possible that he lost much of his personal wealth as a result of the Civil War, a calamity from which he never fully recovered. The 1860 census for Bexar Co., Texas showed him with real estate valued at \$2100.00 and personal assets worth \$3355.00. The 1870 census for Hart Co., Kentucky shows him with no real estate and personal assets valued at \$400.00.

John Simpson McGee died at his home near Uno in Hart County, Kentucky on March 28, 1890 at the age of 71 years old, and was buried in the Horse Cave Municipal Cemetery. According to his obituary, he suffered greatly from sciatic rheumatism during the last year of his life. The 1900 census showed his widow, Ann McGee, living with her son, James Wilson McGee and his family near Horse Cave, Kentucky.

## **Last Will and Testament of John S. McGee**

John S. McGee's last will and testament was dated November 29, 1889, and was hand-written by him on lined paper from his home near Clear Point in Hart County, Kentucky. The original document is in the possession of a great-great granddaughter, Suzi (Ball) Everitt, and a scanned copy appears with the photographs at the end of this chapter.

Clear Point, Hart County, Ky.

Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>, 1889

Know all men that I, John S. McGee, in view of the uncertainty of life, my age and disabled condition of body, being physically helpless and the age and infirmity of my wife, in order to have someone of our choice & trust to take care of us and provide for our comfort and \_\_\_ substance (sustenance?) during our natural lives do enter into and make the following contract and agreement with my son, James W. McGee.

1<sup>st</sup> That for and in consideration of his faithfulness as a son with care and tenderness to provide for all our necessary wants and comforts during our natural lives, that our deaths he shall be entitled to fifty (50) acres of land in his own right. This is to include the dwelling house and out buildings.

2<sup>nd</sup> The survey to begin in the Burksville road running north with the line of fence taking in our half of the pond thence to line of fence dividing between me and Rice estate, thence east with that line to include the timber and cabins, thence south along the line to a large oak old \_\_\_\_, thence west along the old Crain line sufficient distance to leave 20 acres in the southeast corner running parallel with the former Crain lines to the Burksville road, all to include fifty (50) acres in one body. If not enough land as indicated in the boundary then the first to be moved west to make 50 acres.

3<sup>rd</sup> My wife Ann R. McGee is to retain and have full possession & control of the dwelling with all of the household & kitchen furniture, beds, bedding etc. during her life to be disposed of as she may think best. It is understood and agreed that myself and wife are to be left free and untrammelled in our rights and privileges of our home and its peaceful enjoyment during our life.

5<sup>th</sup> If I should die before making my will entire and complete the above is to hold and bind my estate as above with all of the conditions and obligations above mentioned and to cover all of his clauses (?) & interest in and to any other part of my estate.

Jno S. McGee  
Ann R. McGee

(There is no 4<sup>th</sup> clause in the document, but instead the numbering goes from the 3<sup>rd</sup> clause to the 5th clause.) The will was fully proven and recorded on October 2, 1894 by the Hart County Court Clerk, J. M. Brents. Witnesses, J. W. McGee, J. P. McGee and R. V. Vaughn all attested that the document had been entirely written in the hand writing of John S. McGee, now deceased.

## **Obituary of Rev. John S. McGee**

The following obituary appeared in the Minutes of the Louisville Annual Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church, South, 1890, p. 38.

John S. McGee was born in Pittsburg December 9, 1818; was converted under the ministry of Edwin Roberts and

Richard Deering at Salvisa, Ky.; was licensed to preach under James King, from Joseph's Chapel, near High Bridge. He was received on trial in the Kentucky Conference in the fall of 1843, and was the first preacher ever ordained Deacon in the M. E. Church, South. He was appointed to the Barren Circuit as his first field of labor. His second appointment was Greenup Circuit; his third was Barbourville; his fourth was Parkersburg, Va. Here he had a debate on the division of the Church with a man by the name of Mattox, a member of the M. E. Church, who was regarded as a man of great ability by both Churches. Young McGee was well posted on the controversy, and with his quick blood and Irish wit he swept everything before him, and carried the audience. It was a great day for Southern Methodism. His next circuit was in Mason County; then Millersburg, then Christiansburg, then Shelby Circuit. At the close of his first year on Shelby Circuit he was transferred to Texas, and traveled four years as presiding elder, and then he was sent to San Antonio. He then came back to Kentucky, and staid three years, filling Logan Circuit and Russellville Station. He then returned to Texas in 1859 and was appointed presiding elder of Gonzales District, which position he held for four years. In 1863 he was appointed to Seguin Circuit. At the Conference of 1864 we see no mention of his appointment; but at the Conference of 1865 he was appointed Agent of the Guadalupe Male and Female College. In the fall of 1866 he was again transferred to the Louisville Conference, and was appointed to Morganfield Circuit, and traveled here two years. In 1868 he was appointed to Hodgenville Circuit, and then to Greensburg District, which he traveled three years. In 1872 he was appointed to Horse Cave Circuit. In the fall of 1874 he was superannuated. In 1876 he was sent to Mount Lebanon Circuit. In 1877 he was appointed to Columbia District, where he traveled four years. In 1881 he was sent to Smith's Grove Circuit; in 1882, to Louisville Circuit. In 1883 he was placed on the superannuated list, which position he occupied until his death. Brother McGee was the father of thirteen children. Two died in infancy, and one, a noble boy, was killed in Texas by the Indians, at the age of fifteen years. He leaves a widow over seventy years of age – a noble and godly woman who proved to be a true helpmate indeed to him, sharing all the hardships of his ministry. As a preacher Brother McGee was far above the average. He was well posted in the distinctive doctrines of his Church, and woe be it the man who crossed swords with him against Methodism. J. S. McGee was unlike all other men. He was in a true sense "sui generis." He was of Irish blood, full of wit, quick-tempered, and very impulsive. He loved his friends ardently, and hated his enemies with great vigor; but was always ready for peace on honorable terms, and would meet an opponent on the half-way ground to bury the tomahawk. In controversy his sarcasm was intense and as sharp as a two-edged sword. At the grave on funeral occasions, or discoursing on tender themes, he was as pathetic as a mother weeping over the grave of her first-born. He was imperious in his nature; was impatient of contradiction. There was no peace where his will was not obeyed. This ingredient in his nature brought him into sharp conflict with many a man; and made him seem sometimes to his family hard and unfeeling; and yet a more tender and loving husband and father at heart was hard to find. This he showed especially in the liberal provision he made for his family. Yet such was his temperament that life was not all sunshine, and many a storm struck his life's bark furiously, and made his journey over life's sea rugged and unpleasant. But no man perhaps ever came into port with a calmer sea and clearer sky. For more than a year he was the subject of the most intense bodily pain – sciatic rheumatism. It was really pitiful to see the strong man and aged soldier coming into port, helpless and totally dependent on others for everything thought to be necessary for his comfort, for long before he died he was as helpless as a newborn babe. The strong, self-asserting will was subdued. A sweet resignation to the will of God and others seemed to possess him, and a great calm came into his being, and his end was peaceful and triumphant. He saw Bishop Kavanaugh and Dr. Redford standing by his bedside before he died, he said. He also spoke of a beautiful boy time and again. The family supposed it was his dear murdered boy who was killed by Indians in Texas. It was well for him that he was a long time coming to his final end. His life sweetened and he became a tender, loving, confiding child, and his evening sky was bright, and his sunset was radiant with the light of eternal life. He died at his home in Hart County, March 28, 1889, and was buried in the cemetery at Horse Cave, Ky. Peace to his ashes.

James A. Lewis

(Note: Although the obituary gives March 28, 1889 as the date of John S. McGee's death, that year was incorrect, and 1890 was the correct date. He wrote his last will and testament on November 29, 1889, and his tombstone is inscribed March 28, 1890. A second obituary, found in the archives of the LaVernia United Methodist Church, LaVernia, Texas, is slightly different from the one above, and it does show the correct date of March 28, 1890. The author suspects that the obituary found in LaVernia, written by T. C. Peters, was probably the original from

which the above version was taken. A copy of the second obituary can be found among the photographs at the end of this chapter.)

#### Notes for ANN REMINTA HAWKINS:

Ann Hawkins was the second of ten children born to Francis “Frank” Hawkins and Permelia Shelton. She was born on May 17, 1820 on the Hawkins family farm, situated on the Kentucky River in Mercer County, Kentucky just south of the Anderson County line. The small community of Salvisa was located nearby. The old two-story log farmhouse where she was born and raised still stands today, and the Hawkins family cemetery where her parents are buried is located a short walk from the house.

Several months prior to Rev. John McGee’s death, an arrangement was made with his son, James W. McGee that he would take on the responsibility of primary care provider for his parents in their old age. John McGee was 71 years old, and Ann was 69, and both were in poor health. Rev. McGee was essentially bed-ridden suffering from sciatic rheumatism and almost totally dependent upon others for his daily needs. James was planning to marry Lena Hodges and they agreed that after their marriage they would live in the home with his parents in order to better care for them. In return for this service, Rev. McGee prepared a written document, dated November 29, 1889, in which he and Ann granted fifty acres of land to their son including the house and out buildings where John and Ann McGee currently resided. Rev. John S. McGee died on March 28, 1890, and Ann McGee would continue to live with her son, James and his wife for the next eleven years until her death in 1901.

Approximately six months after her husband’s death, Ann McGee traveled to Laurens, South Carolina to visit her youngest daughter, Virginia Gritton. “Virge” was married to Henry Bascom Gritton, a horse doctor and surgeon from Mercer County, Kentucky, and they had relocated to Laurens the previous year. The Gritton’s had three children; two daughters, Vaughan and Frankie, and one son named Tom. The following letter was written by Ann McGee to her son and daughter-in-law, Jim and Lena McGee, shortly after her arrival in South Carolina. Ann McGee would have been 70 yrs. old and a widow for seven months at the time of her visit. In Kentucky, Lena was almost due with the couple’s first child. The letter was hand-written in pencil, and unfortunately a few words were impossible to decipher due to the letter’s poor condition. (The original is in the possession of Jean Utley, a descendant currently residing in Florida.)

Oct. 17, 1890

I promised to write so here it is. My dearest children \_\_\_\_ went in town \_\_\_\_ the streets, but I thought I would rather write to my dear children at home. You know I feel so anxious about Will when I left you I could hardly bare it when I told Jim good by. I felt well it is finished. I’ll see no more of them, so my baby took me and went on. We started at nearly twelve, got to Nashville it was dark. Took a sleeper, passed through Chatanooga about one at night, from there to Atlanta, got there at six twenty, miss’d connection just ten minutes, had to stay all day until dark. Now don’t let your vain imagination runout & think you could do justice to our mortified feelings. No sir, we started just the time we would have gotten home but alas we had to go into Greenville at one o’clock at night with baggage & children. Well, that weighed on my mind so much it rather took my thoughts from home matters for awhile. When the train whistled to stop I felt all feverish. We gathered up and went out. Lo and behold there stood Miss Tress Bardon’s brother & Bascom Gritton, met us about forty miles up the road, had made arrangements at the

tavern, had a bus waiting & instead of so much anticipated trouble, it turned out a pleasant surprise. Was it not nice. O, I felt so thankful & happy over it. Mr. Bardon beg'd & pled with Bascom & Virge to go home with them & stay all night, said his wife said we must come, next morning his wife come away over to the tavern to see Virge and I. We started six twenty in the morning & run down to Laurens by half past eight or nearly nine o'clock. Well you just ought to have seen the people how glad they were to see Virge & the children. They would holler to Tom & Vaughn & Frank & run in to see Virge. Men, women & children & boys & darkies. Two ladies have called already. They seem to think so much of Bascom. I have not been anywhere yet. I know I will like the people. I have not been over town any to see it. The soil in the surrounding country is just adapted to cotton. Virge lives in a nice house with six nice rooms. The furniture that she has is nice. The servant the best I ever saw & the best husband. Virge certainly ought to be happy. She has store carpet on her floor & in the hall, and a large lamp hangs in the hall lit at night. There is a gentleman occupies one room. He is a doctor, a nice man. I told Frank I was writing to Uncle Jim & Aunt Lena, what must I tell them. She (said) tell them I will come up & stay all night with them soon. Tom is good as he can since we got home. I can't write I so often see something to run to look at. Virge gone to market. O, how I want to hear from home. Have they done anything with the land yet. Where do you run to. Let me know all that comes up. Lena, do you really miss me. I stood the trip better than I thought I could. Wrote a card to Eman, Rosa & Sally, a letter to you. Our trunk just come. Just going to take a drive, finish when I get back. Well, Bascom fail'd to take us out riding because of a wild horse he is breaking that has seven devils in it & he is trying to cast them out & a lady called also that hindered us. Well my dear Lena, are you still up, are you well. Now write to me just as soon as you are over your trouble. O, may my God bless you, be with you & help you be good & faithful & he will. I see more negroes here in one day than I do at home in a year. I'm sitting on the piazza, the people \_\_\_ people the cotton. Just across the street stands an ox with nice buggy harness on in shavs (?) to a spring wagon just as Virge said. Much love to everybody and forty seven shares to yourself. God bless you both.

Your mother, Ann R. McGee

In a deed of conveyance, dated October 24, 1895, William D. McGee sold jointly to his brother, James W. McGee and his mother, Ann R. McGee, the tract of land upon which James W. McGee then resided, lying on both sides of the L & N turnpike between Clear Point and Bear Wallow in Hart County, Kentucky, containing 76 acres, 13 perches. The purchase price was one thousand and nine hundred twenty five dollars (\$1925.00). (Hart County, Ky. Deed Book 35, p.337).

*The 1900 U.S. Census for District 55, Horse Cave, Hart County, Kentucky lists James McGee, age 38, as head, his wife, Lena, age 32, a daughter, Reminta, age 9, a daughter, Katie, age 6, a daughter, Pricie A., age 3, and a son, James S., age 1. Also living in the household was his mother, Ann McGee, age 80, a widow. The census record stated that Lena McGee had given birth to four children, all of whom were still living. Ann McGee had given birth to thirteen children, ten of whom were still living.*

The following postcard, currently in the possession of Charles McGee, was sent by James W. McGee to his brother, Medley S. McGee in Stockdale, Texas on January 25, 1901:

Horse Cave, Ky.  
Jan. 25, 1901

Mr. M. S. McGee

Dear Bro  
Mother is very low and the doctor says he thinks there is no hope for her.  
Would love for you all to come immediately if you care. All rest well at present. - Your Bro

J. W. McGee

Ann (Hawkins) McGee died five days later on January 30, 1901, at the home of her son, James McGee, in Horse Cave, Hart County, Kentucky. She was 80 yrs. old and was buried along side her husband in the Horse Cave Municipal Cemetery.

### **Rev. John S. McGee's Journal Book**

Ann (Moran) McCurry, a great granddaughter of George Pierce McGee, has in her possession a most interesting old journal that belonged to Rev. McGee. Most of the hand-written entries range from the 1850's to the 1860's, but some items date as early as 1846. The book is a real hodge-podge of information, a kind of combination journal, ledger and scrapbook. While its primary use seems to have been to record routine farm business, it also contains several hand-written poems by Ann McGee as well as a short personal note written by Medley McGee on his seventeenth birthday (see page 104). Several published newspaper articles, dated 1846 and written by Rev. McGee, had been clipped and pasted onto pages in the ledger book. Other newspaper clippings were pasted on parts of the inside front and back covers and dealt with various remedies for curing scarletina, measles, lockjaw, and toothache as well as instructions on how to cure a ham and how to convert common lard oil to good sweet oil to be used like olive oil.

On the inside of the front cover, partially pasted over with newspaper clippings, the words, "John McGee of Woodford County, Kentucky," have been hand-written several times, and it appears that John McGee was practicing to write his name. The McGee family resided in Woodford County shortly after they were married, and in fact, their first child, Medley Shelton McGee, was born in Woodford County in 1841, so that would date the journal to around 1841.

A typical page from the journal is reproduced below with daily entries written in pencil by John McGee. In April and May of 1856, the McGee family was residing on the Cibola River in south-central Texas.

- |        |  |
|--------|--|
| Apl 26 | 1856 - Good Rain, Plenty   |
| Apl 29 | This day finished planting my bottom field of corn the <u>second</u> time – the grasshoppers having destroyed the first planting – and still continue their ravages – cutting down my valley field corn, sugarcane & garden. They are in vast numbers in my fields – sowed millet in the bottom – 28 <sup>th</sup> – planted cotton again. |
| Apr 29 | On the night of the 29 <sup>th</sup> a most violent rain fell – the river raised about a foot.   |
| May 2  | Commenced planting corn in valley field cut down by grasshoppers.  |
| May 8  | Good rain fell on Thursday morning   |
| May 13 | The grasshoppers commenced leaving.  |



- May 14 Grasshoppers continued to leave – many left behind. - Rain and Norther for 3 days from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup>  
Sowed millet in the new field
- May 15 Grasshoppers continued to leave
- May 16 Commenced planting corn in the bottom field the third time.
- May 17 ---Finished planting corn the third time in the bottom field – planted the white army beans – watermelons – sowed garden seeds.
- A few grasshoppers remain – but some leave every day – as fast as they shed off and get the strength to go.

### **Rev. John S. McGee's Bible**

One question that has plagued many researchers working on the John McGee family line is, “Whatever happened to Rev. John McGee’s bible?” As a circuit riding preacher, he would have carried his bible with him for over forty years, traversing many hundreds of miles of back roads and wagon tracks throughout the rural areas of Kentucky, western Virginia and south-central Texas. No doubt many of his favorite passages had been underlined, and one can easily imagine the occasional comment or note written on the page margins. Perhaps most intriguing of all to family historians would be the names and dates recorded there. No one living today seems to have any knowledge of the bible’s whereabouts. Certainly no one contacted by this author ever remembers seeing the bible. Yet, there is very good evidence that the old book still existed as recently as twenty four years ago.

After Rev. John McGee’s death in March 1890, his widow, Ann, lived out her remaining years in the household of her son, James W. McGee, in Hart County, Kentucky, until her death on January 30, 1901. It would seem logical, then, that the bible would have remained in the possession of someone from that line of the family. One of James W. McGee’s daughters was Pricie A. McGee, who lived her whole life in Hart County, Kentucky. Pricie outlived both of her husbands, and her only child, a daughter, died at the age of nineteen in 1938. When Pricie (McGee) Richardson died in Horse Cave on August 1, 1983, her nephew Royce Nichols, who lived at Elkton, Kentucky, was appointed the executor of her estate. Pricie had been an antique dealer, and a public auction was held in order to dispose of her estate, which included several pieces of period furniture as well as many lamps and other items. While compiling an inventory list of his aunt’s household goods, Royce discovered Rev. John McGee’s old bible! Following is an excerpt from a letter that Royce Nichols wrote to his cousin, Ann McCurry at the time of the discovery:

Elkton, Ky.

8 – 27 – ‘83

Dear Ann,

That was certainly a nice letter from you and so thoughtful to include the stamped addressed envelope.

I just came from H. C. (Horse Cave) Saturday afternoon, spent the day going over some of the many things needed to be done. Today – Saturday, I did find the bible – had never seen it before. It’s so large, maybe 12” or more in thickness and extra large size. It has quite a few records that go back nearly 200 years. Wish I could have gotten it, but seems to me Aunt Ruth would be the favored one since she is the oldest and closest relative. However, I promise you that I will have a record of everything in it pertaining to our family and will send you a copy.

“Aunt Ruth” referred to in the letter was Pricie’s sister, Mina Ruth McGee, the youngest of the siblings and the only one still living when Pricie passed away. At the time she was married to Wade Buzzarde and was living in Hardin County, Kentucky, located about forty miles north of Horse Cave. Ruth died on November 11, 1997, and her estate passed on to her two daughters, Ruth Cralle and Jane Gorin, but the John McGee bible was not among her possessions. Apparently she never received the bible after her sister’s death.

Royce Nichols died on July 7, 1994, and his daughter, Jean Utley, who currently resides in Florida, has in her possession all of her father’s family papers, photographs and documents, many of which she kindly made available for this author to use in preparing this report. Included among her father’s possessions were two family bibles, one belonging to James W. McGee and the other to Pricie McGee Richardson, but unfortunately, Rev. John McGee’s bible was not among her things. If Royce Nichols was ever able to make a copy of the family records contained in Rev. McGee’s bible, those papers have not been found.

Nothing more has been heard about the book since 1983, although efforts are still underway to locate it. Most of the McGee descendants living today are not even aware of the book’s existence. The most logical explanation is that some unknown person appropriated the bible before Royce had the opportunity to safeguard the book or to copy the family information recorded inside. In 1983, at the time that Pricie’s goods were to be sold at auction, someone must have recognized the historical significance of the book and simply made off with it.

Children of JOHN MCGEE and ANN HAWKINS are:

8. i. **MEDLEY SHELTON<sup>3</sup> MCGEE**, b. February 29, 1840, state of Kentucky; d. March 01, 1911, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas.
- ii. **JOUETTE FLETCHER MCGEE**, b. August 20, 1841, prob. in Mercer County, Kentucky; d. August 31, 1855, Bexar County (now Wilson County), Texas.

Notes for JOUETTE FLETCHER MCGEE:

Jouette McGee was killed by a Comanche Indians on August 31, 1855 when he was only 14 years old. Three accounts describing the incident can be found above including one by Rev. John S. McGee..

9. iii. **RICHARD DEERING MCGEE**, b. October 08, 1843, state of Kentucky; d. November 22, 1905, Guadalupe County, Texas.
10. iv. **MARTHA ALICE MCGEE**, b. December 29, 1845, Catlettsburg, Greenup County (now Boyd County), Kentucky; d. February 14, 1908, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas.
11. v. **PERMELIA HELEN MCGEE**, b. March 11, 1847, state of Kentucky; d. June 09, 1911, state of Texas.
- vi. **WILLIAM A. MCGEE**, b. December 1848, state of Kentucky; d. bef. 1850.
12. vii. **JOHN LEGRAND MCGEE**, b. December 03, 1849, state of Kentucky; d. August 17, 1929, Horse Cave, Hart County, Kentucky.

- viii. **BETTY ANN MCGEE**, b. March 10, 1852, d. August 03, 1852, Shelby County, Kentucky.
- 13. ix. **JOSEPH FLOOD MCGEE**, b. December 12, 1854, state of Texas; d. bef. April 14, 1930.
- 14. x. **GEORGE PIERCE MCGEE**, b. July 10, 1856, state of Texas; d. November 21, 1937, Hart County, Kentucky.
- 15. xi. **WILLIAM DEMPSEY MCGEE**, b. April 12, 1858, state of Kentucky; d. bet. 1920 - 1930, Hoopeston, Vermilion County, Illinois.
- 16. xii. **JAMES WILSON MCGEE**, b. June 06, 1861, Bexar County, Texas; d. February 27, 1938, Hart County, Kentucky.
- 17. xiii. **VIRGINIA LEE MCGEE**, b. July 20, 1864, state of Texas; d. bet. 1910 - 1920, Laurens County, South Carolina.





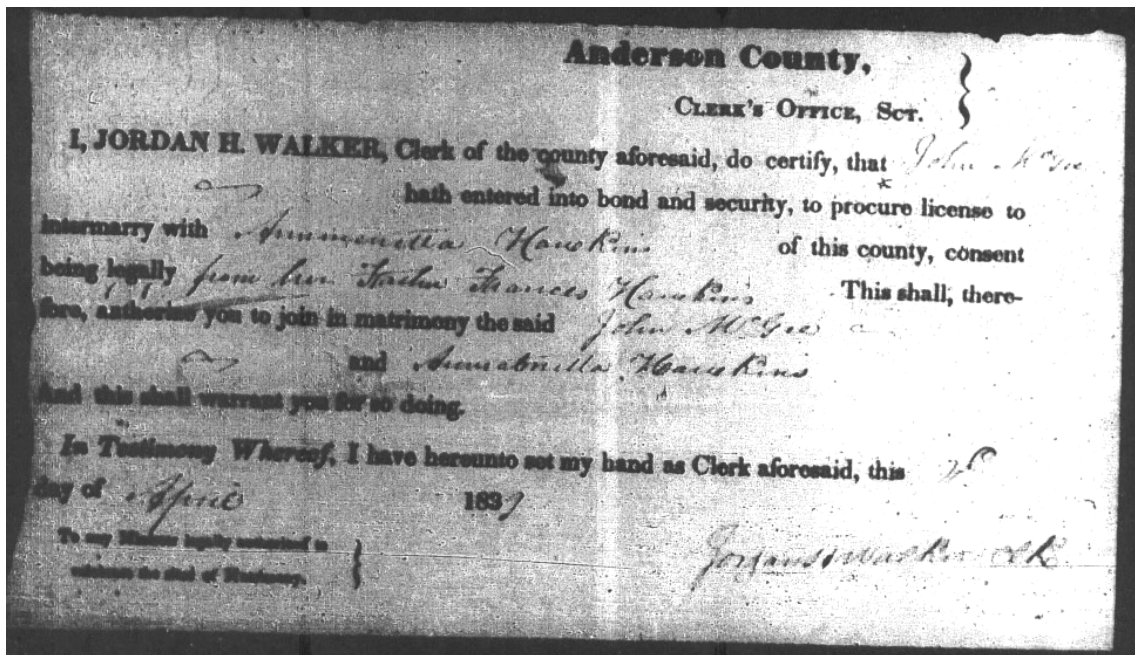
**1. Rev. John Simpson McGee. In 1845, he was the first minister to be ordained Deacon in the United Episcopal Methodist Church, South.**



2. Rev. John Simpson McGee (1818-1890)



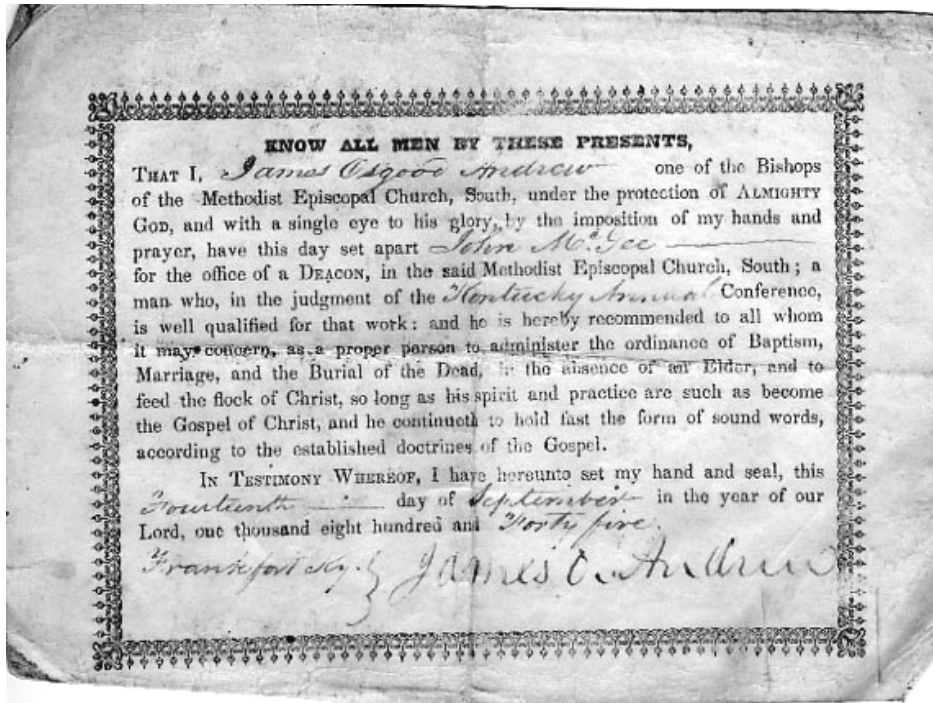
3. Ann Reminta Hawkins (1820-1901)



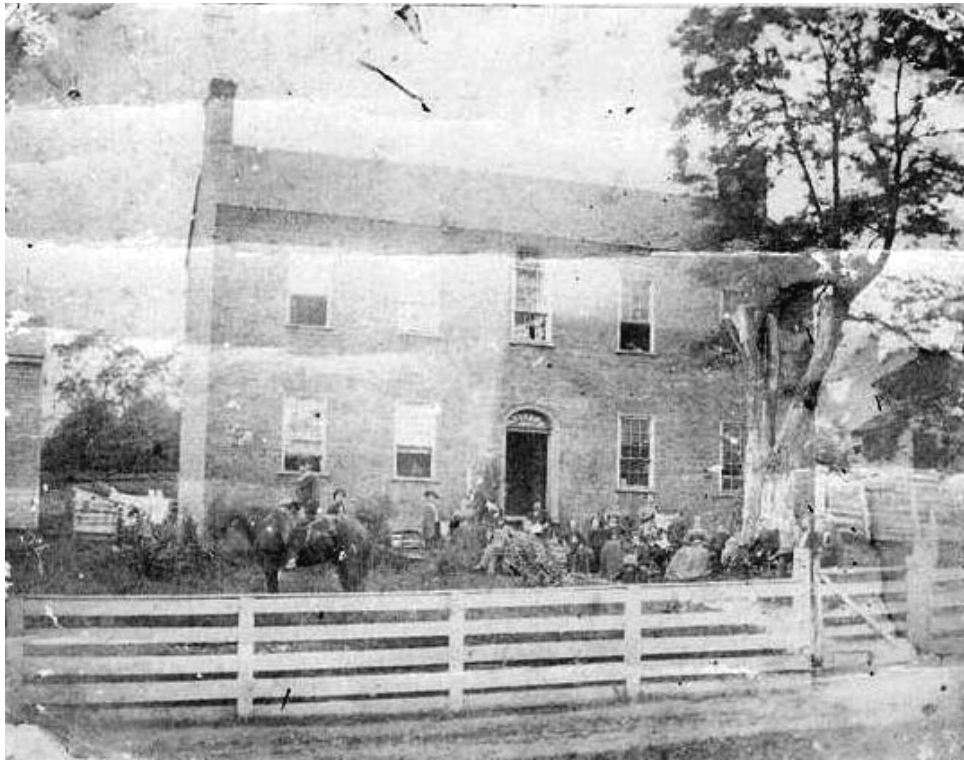
4. Anderson County, Kentucky Marriage Certificate for John McGee and Ann Hawkins, dated April 2, 1899.

Know all men by these presents that we John  
 McGee and James W. Hawkins are held and fast by  
 Command of the Court of Anderson County in  
 the sum of fifty pounds, to the payment whereof  
 of, with and truly to be made, We bind our  
 selves, our Heirs &c. jointly and severally  
 by these presents, sealed with our  
 seals and dated this 2<sup>d</sup> day of April 1839  
 The Condition of the above obligation is such  
 that unless a Marriage is shortly intended  
 to be solemnized between the above named  
 John McGee and Ann Hawkins  
 of this County, None shall at all ways appear  
 hereafter that there is no just Cause to ob-  
 stinuate the said Marriage then the a-  
 fore obligation to be void, else to remain  
 in full force and virtue  
 Witness my hand  
 Jordan Walker  
 Clerk of the Court  
 Done Special by Command of Francis Hawkins  
 Father of Ann Hawkins in his  
 own proper Hand this 2<sup>d</sup> day of April 1839  
 Francis Hawkins  
 Married by Jordan Walker 2<sup>d</sup> April 1839  
 see Return file 3<sup>d</sup> April 1839  
 Jordan Walker

5. Marriage Bond of John McGee and Ann Hawkins with the consent of the bride's father, Francis Hawkins, dated April 2, 1839, and signed by the Anderson County Court Clerk, Jordan Walker.



6. Ordination of John McGee to Deacon of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, by Bishop James Osgood Andrew at the Kentucky Conference, dated September 14, 1845.



7. The McGee family at their residence near Uniontown, Ky. ca 1867. Uniontown was part of the Morganfield Circuit, assigned to John McGee on his return from Texas.



Horse Cave, Ky  
3-13-82

Dear Richard -

Yours of Feb 7th came to hand the 11th.

\_\_\_\_\_ was vaccinated with pus Bovine virus, her scab has come off and I send it to you.

In vaccinating, take a sharp knife and \_\_\_\_\_ slightly, just so the blood will start - or ooze out a very little. Take a small piece of clean \_\_\_\_\_, put the scab, or part of it, on and with small portion of spittle soften it into a pulp. With point of the knife dipped into it, pour on the \_\_\_\_\_ part. let it dry well before putting the sleeve down. It takes but a very little to do - best only take a small portion at a time.

We are all well except Will. He has been in bed for a few days - better now.

We have had a great deal of rainy warm weather - very warm for this season.

I am glad to hear that John is so studious. I hope to have \_\_\_\_\_ and be blessed in good children.

I expect I had best \_\_\_\_\_ the scab & send \_\_\_\_\_ & the Capt some - \_\_\_\_\_ can send Melia some from one of the children's arms and you can vaccinate Bob & Susie's children from your children's arms.

Did the asthma remedy do Susie any good?

(a portion of letter is torn off here) I have not seen the life of Potter yet.

I cannot tell yet if we can come next fall. \_\_\_\_\_ so much in debt yet and it will be fully on how we get along.

I have great anxiety about all of you, for your spiritual and temporal welfare - and pray every day that God would provide for and take care of you. Tell John his GrandPa calls his name every day in prayer.

All send love. God help you all.

Your Pa,  
Jno S. McGee

8. A transcription of a letter from John S. McGee to his son, Richard, who lived in Guadalupe Co. Texas, dated March 13, 1882. The original was written in indelible pencil, and parts of it were illegible due to water stains and creases in the paper. (Furnished by Ann McCurry)



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,

FRANKFORT, *14* Sept 25<sup>th</sup> 1884

Dear Richard

I am here the guest  
of Gov Knott, an old friend of  
mine. Our conference adjourns on  
Monday night in Louisville, &  
I take a superannuated  
relation. I go tomorrow  
up to Jennies, your Ma  
is there. and preach on  
Sunday at the place I found  
the Church 43 years ago.  
Jennie & Bessie will

9. The first page of another letter from John McGee to his son, Richard, in Texas, dated September 25, 1884. The letter was written from the state capitol, Frankfort, Kentucky, where Rev. McGee was a guest of Governor Knott.

So come with us,  
I do not think we  
can come to Texas this  
winter. I am so in  
debt yet. My brother was  
to see me in Louisville  
he lives near Greensburg  
in Indiana. He owns  
600 acres of fine land  
worth \$75.00+ per acre  
I did intend writing  
to John before this  
God bless you all  
Yours  
J. S. McGee

10. Page two of John McGee's letter to Richard. The part that begins on the fifth line reads as follows: "My brother was to see me in Louisville, he lives near Greensburg in Indiana. He owns 600 acres of fine land worth \$75.00+ per acre." This information was the key to identifying Ralph McGee of Decatur Co., Indiana as the brother of John McGee. (Letter furnished by Ann McCurry)



**11. A view of John S. McGee's home in Hart Co., Kentucky located near the village of Clear Point, which has since been renamed "Uno." The McGee family settled here about 1872, and John McGee died here in 1890. The house was torn down around 1960.**



**12. Another view of the John McGee home place near Uno, Kentucky. In addition to the house, the farm consisted of about 71 acres.**





**13. Ann Reminta Hawkins**



**14. Ann Hawkins at age 70. Photo taken in 1890 during a visit to her daughter in Laurens, SC**



**15. The Hawkins home place located in Mercer County, Kentucky as it appears today. The log construction was later covered over with clapboard siding. Ann Hawkins was born here in 1820.**



16. The Hawkins family cemetery is located approximately 200 yards from the house and contains several graves, only three of which are marked with inscribed headstones.



17. The grave of Ann's father, Francis Hawkins, born Feb. 24, 1785, died June 14, 1869.



18. Ann's mother, Permelia Shelton was born Apr. 10, 1797 and died Dec. 17, 1847.



**19. Francis Hawkins (1785-1869)**



**20. Permelia Shelton (1797-1847)**

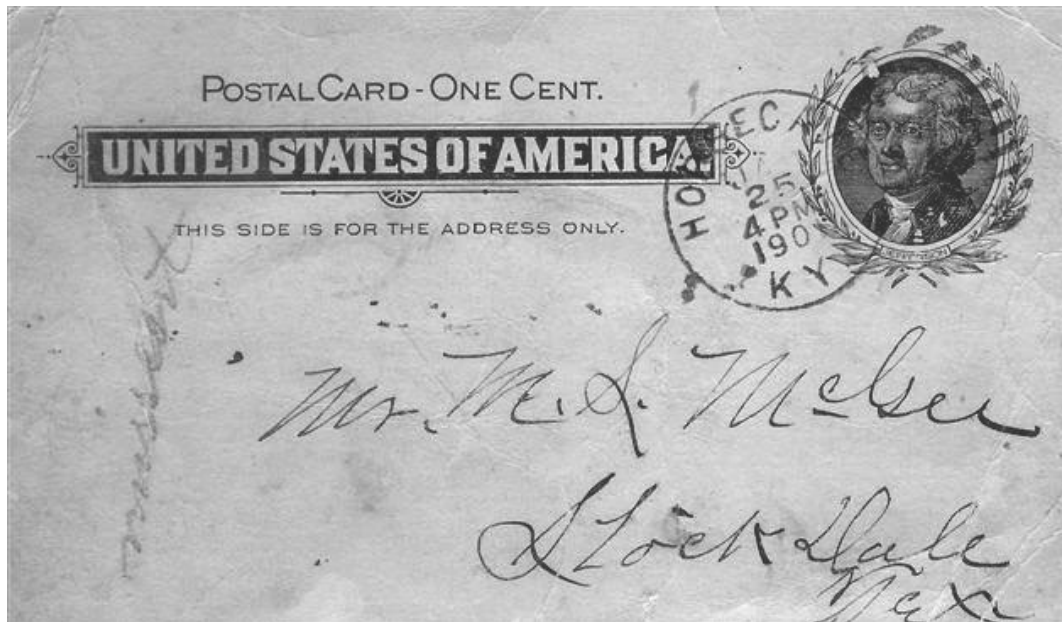
**The images above are believed to be those of Ann R. Hawkins' parents, who were married on August 31, 1813, in Mercer County, Ky. They had ten children together, Ann being the second.**

Ann R. McGee

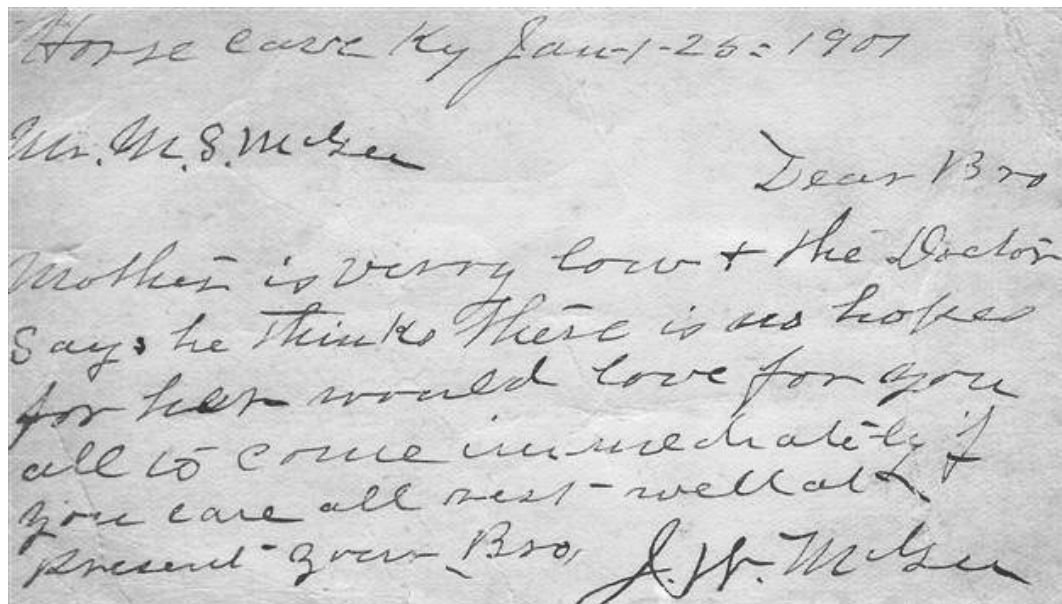
- 1 When first the midnight cry is heard  
O What a glorious shouting  
Behold the bridegroom has appeared  
With angels all about him  
Ten millions saints in triumph sigh  
From every land and nation  
Will soar above the fading sky  
Possessors of salvation
- 2 From satan sin and worldly care  
Numbers are daily turning  
With oil of grace they are supplied  
Their lamps are always burning  
Not like the meteors transient light  
Which only burns while waisting  
But like the sun supremely bright  
A steady flame and lasting
- 3 While foolish virgins go to buy  
From them who have for selling  
The wise ones hear the bridegroom cry  
Come to the marriage dwelling  
Then they shall dwell with their blessed Lord  
Upon his breast reclining  
While haters of his holy word  
Are wailing and repining
- 4 These virgins then while here you stay  
O pray and sing to gather

21. One of several poems thought to have been written by Ann McGee found in John McGee's ledger book. (furnished by Ann McCurry)





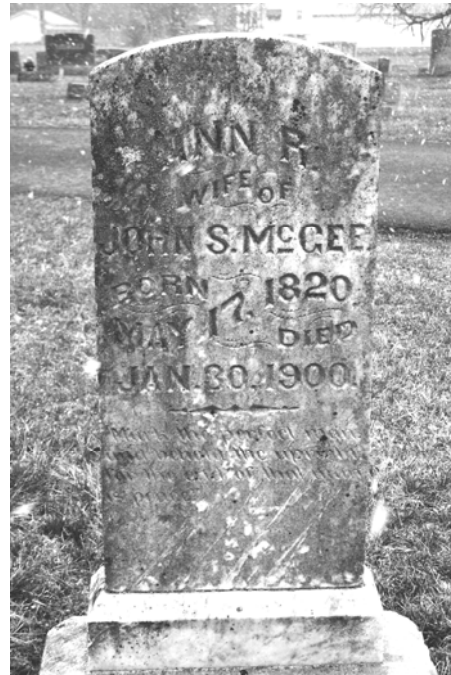
22. Postcard from Horse Cave, Kentucky addressed to Medley S. McGee in Stockdale, Texas. (furnished by Charles McGee).



23. The card, dated Jan. 25, 1901, was written by James W. McGee to his brother, Medley, informing him that their mother was critically ill. Ann Hawkins died five days later on Jan. 30.



24. John S. McGee and his wife, Ann, are buried in Horse Cave Municipal Cemetery located in Hart County, Kentucky.



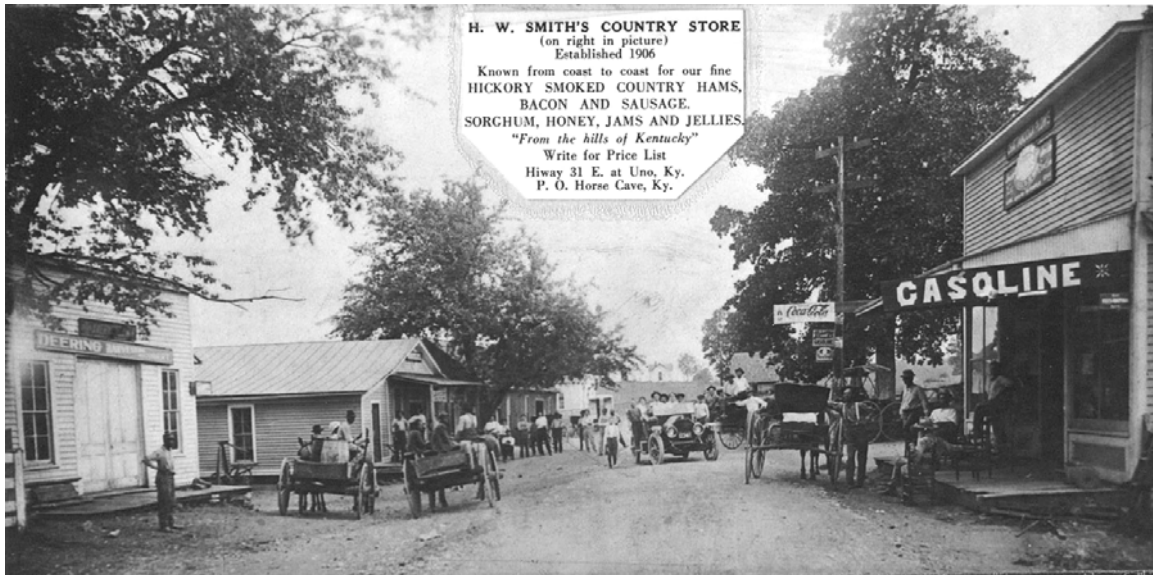
25. The year of death inscribed on Ann's headstone is incorrect and should read 1901.



26. Texas Historical Marker commemorating Rev. John McGee.



27. Horse Cave, Hart County, Kentucky – 1905. Rev. John McGee settled his family nearby in 1872, approximately six years after their return from Texas.



28. Street scene of downtown Uno, Kentucky – 1920's.

Clear Point, Hart County Ky

NOV 29<sup>th</sup>, 1889

Know all men, That I John S. McGee in view of the uncertainty of life, my age and disabled condition of body, being physically helpless and the age and infirmity of my wife, in order to have some one of our choice trust to take care of us and provide for our comfort and quitt subsistence during our natural lives, do enter into and make the following contract and agreement with my son James W. McGee

st That for and in consideration of his faithfulness as a son with care and tenderness to provide for all of our necessary wants and comforts during our natural lives, That at our death he shall be entitled to fifty (50) acres of land in his own right, this is to include the dwelling house and buildings

rd  
The survey to begin in the Burksville road running north with the line of fence taking in one half of the pond thence to line of fence dividing between me and Rice estate, thence east with that line to include the timber and cabins thence south along the line to a large oak old corner.

29. Page one of the last will and testament hand written by John S. McGee and dated November 29, 1889.

thence west along the old <sup>line</sup> Crain <sup>line</sup> sufficient  
distance to leave 20 acres in the South  
East Corner running parallel with  
the former Crain line to the Burskville  
road all to include fifty (50) acres in  
own body. If not enough land as in-  
dicated in the boundary then the first  
to move west to make 50 acres.

3<sup>rd</sup> My wife Ann R. McGee is to retain and  
and have full possession & control  
of the dwelling with all of the house  
hold & kitchen furniture, Beds bedding  
&c during her life to be disposed of as  
she may think best, it is understood  
and agreed that myself and wife are  
to be left free and untrammelled in our  
rights and privileges of our home and  
its peaceful enjoyment during our life.

5<sup>th</sup> If I should die before making my will  
entire & complete the above is to hold  
and bind my estate as above with all  
of the conditions and obligations  
above mentioned and to cover all  
of his claims & interest in and to any  
other part of my estate

John S. McGee  
Ann R. McGee

30. Page two of John S. McGee's last will and testament.

