

The Five McGee (McGhee) Brothers

The five McGee brothers all born in Ireland and migrated to America circa 1750.

1. **John McGee 1730-1810**
2. **James McGee 1736-1818**
3. **Robert McGee 1738-1815**
4. **William McGee 1740-1822**
5. **David McGee 1745-1823**
6. **Jane McGee** a sister, stayed in Ireland and married a **Charles Young**. Her son, James, did come to North America.

The 5 McGees

In the year 1758 in Virginia. The five brothers, John, James, Robert, William and David, appear in Augusta County, along the Roanoke.

In the 1760's each of the five brothers purchased land in the area of Augusta County, Virginia which became Botetourt County in 1769. Some of the brothers later sold their holdings in Virginia and moved to Kentucky. (There are land grants and copies of the plots in the Botetourt County seat of Fincastle that can be ordered).

1. John McGee settled in the section of Kentucky which later became Mercer County. In the 1760's and 1770's he lived in Botetourt Co. Va. on the Catawaba Creek. He married Mary McCoun, daughter of James & Margaret (Walker) McCoun, in Virginia about 1767.

John McGee was a private in John Murray's company of Botetourt Co. Militia under the command of Gen. Andrew Lewis. He fought in the battle of Point Pleasant on October 10, 1774. (*Point Pleasant, or the Battle of Kanawa as earlier known as, was a part of Dunsmore War, a war between Virginia and the Shawnee & Mingo Indians relating to exploration and settlement of the western Virginia (Kentucky) lands*)

In 1773, two of John McGee's brothers in-law, James McCoun and Robert MacAfee came to Kentucky from Virginia to survey lands for themselves and their relatives. On July 26 and 27, they surveyed 1,000 acres for John McGee on both sides of the salt river. McGee's acres joined lands surveyed for Samuel MacAfee and Samuel Adams. (the same Samuel Adams that signed the declaration), and lay about four miles northwest of present day Harrodsburg.

In 1775 the Botetourt Co. group of men called the MacAfee company made their second trip to Kentucky in order to clear land and build cabins. This time John McGee was among the travelers.

August 17, 1779 The McGees and other families and their possessions moved slowly and painfully on packhorses through south western Virginia and the gap. On

September 27, they arrived safely at Wilson's Station on Salt River, about 2 1/2 miles from Harrodstown.

On Oct. 26, 1779 John McGee went before the court of Commissioners meeting in Harrodsburg and claimed the 1,000 acre tract which the MacAfee Company had surveyed for him in 1773. He was issued a certificate for the land.

The John McGee family stayed in the James MacAfee cabins during the winter of 1779-80. These cabins were the largest and most secure living quarters of any of the Salt River settlements.

In the fall of 1780 the McGee family moved to their own cabins, but impending danger from Indians forced them to return to the safety of the MacAfee Station several times. About 1790 John McGee built new family homes on his property near the eastern edge of Salt River. The house was sturdily constructed of field stones with walls two feet thick. Small holes were left in the masonry through which guns could be sighted.

John McGee died in Mercer County January 1, 1810. He was buried in New Providence Presbyterian Cemetery.

2. James McGee purchased land in the area of Augusta County, Virginia which became Botetourt County in 1769. He later sold his holdings in Virginia and moved to Kentucky. He died in Mercer County Kentucky on July 8, 1818, leaving a wife named Molly (McGee) and six children: Robert, David, Dolly, Rachel, Jane, and Eliza.

3. Robert McGee purchased land in the area of Augusta County, Virginia which became Botetourt County in 1769. Robert McGee married Jane (McGee) and had these children; Jane (McGee) Hendersen, Rachel (McGee) McBeath, Hannah (McGee) Hutchinson, Mary "Polly" (McGee) Havens, and John McGee.

It is written in a book "Kentucky: A History of the State, Battle, Perrin, & Kniffin" that Robert McGee with his wife Jane, came from old Ireland and settled in Virginia, where he lived and died. Robert McGee died 1815 in Augusta, Botetourt County, Virginia.

4. William McGee, like his brother David also was the owner of another McGee's Station, this in Bourbon County or Cove Spring, located near Georgetown Road, McGee's Fork and McClures's Run - a branch of Cooper's Run, built about 1776.

Those at this McGee Station included: Alijah Woods (1776); Roger Clements (1781); Ralph Rayborn (1781); Joseph Proctor (1782); Dawson Wade and his son James from Greenbrier Co VA (1784); John McGuire (1779); Nicholas Proctor (brother of Joseph, to KY in 1778, also at Boonesborough); Strouds and McGee's, along with a Mrs. Wilson (later at Woodford Co). These names taken from various depositions.

William McGee died without issue in Clark County in 1822.

5. David McGee came (to Kentucky) from the head of Roanoke in Botetourt Co. Virginia, originally Fincastle County. He came to Kentucky in the spring of 1775, in company with John Floyd and several others and encamped on Boone's creek.

David McGee, settled on Howards Creek (Clark County) in 1775. The ledger of Henderson's Company store at Boonesborough shows that McGee opened an account at the store on June 3, 1776. David McGee's pre-emption consisted of 1,400 acres and was bounded on the east by the west fork of Howards Creek and extended west over the head of Jouett's Creek, commencing with the Hickman line, embracing Haydon's corner.

In Fayette County Record Book A, is recorded the disposition of David McGee, taken January 15, 1805, in Clark Co. before Richard Hickman, justice of the peace. David McGee stated that he resided in Fayette Co. in part of 1775 and the whole of 1776, part of 1779 and 1780, and was conversant in locating lands and as well acquainted with hunters on the waters now called Grassy Lick.

David McGee established McGee's Station circa 1780 about 2 1/2 miles northwest of (present day) Boonesborough. The exact number of families who lived at McGee's station is not known. A few names have been found in scattered records.

In deposition made by Robert McMillian, Jan. 5, 1808 the pioneer said that there were fifteen or twenty families living at McGee's Station in 1782-1783. Among these were Captain John Fleming, founder of Flemingsburg, John McGuire, famed Indian fighter, James McGuire, Roger Clements, Ben Walker and Alexander Neely.

David, was an associate of Daniel Boone and was called to testify at some of the numerous trials in which Boone was the defendant regarding land claims.

David married Jean Robinson they had two sons, John and David McGee Jr. David McGee died in 1823 in Clark County Kentucky.

Sources:

"Footprints of our ancestors, The Plumb Story" by Ione Poole Murdock

"Kentucky: A History of the State, Battle, by Perrin, & Kniffin

"The Lyman Copeland Draper Manuscript Collection" the Kentucky Papers

"In Search of Morgan's Station and The Last Indian Raid in Kentucky" by Harry G. Enoch