

THE MCGEE FAMILY

By JOHN J. MCGEE

The McGee family originated in Scotland; was later found in Ireland and was of the first families to come to North America.

John McGee the Pioneer and one of the early settlers in Kentucky (born about 1730—died June 1st, 1810) came from Botetourt County, Virginia; was a member of the McAfee Company in 1775, and built his cabin on the banks of Salt River on his 500 acre land survey,¹ the same tract of land which was later granted to him by Patrick Henry, Governor of Virginia. This land was surveyed and laid out for John McGee by his brother-in-law, Robert McAfee and the McAfee Company in the year 1773. (Robert McAfee married Anne McCoun and John McGee married Mary McCoun, both daughters of James McCoun and his wife Margaret Walker.) John McGee's land claim was bounded by the land claims of Robert McAfee on the south and Samuel McAfee on the north—about five or six miles north of Harrodsburg, now in Mercer County.

John McGee fought in the battle of Point Pleasant—Oct. 10, 1774, and served with Virginia Volunteer Militia during the Revolutionary War. In 1779 he and his family with the McAfee company left Botetourt County, Virginia for their new home in Kentucky, but they returned when they discovered that the provisions and clothing which the families had stored up for the trip had been destroyed.²

On August 17th, 1799 John McGee and his family again left their home in Botetourt County and came into Kentucky with the McAfee Company and spent the winter of 1779 and 1780 in the James McAfee Station on Salt River, north of Harrodsburg.

In the fall of 1780 John McAfee and his family moved to the cabin he had just built on his claim located on the banks of Salt River. In May 1781 he and his family were again forced to find shelter in the McAfee Station with others of the company on account of Indian depredations. In the attack on the Station on May 9th, 1779 the Indians made several attempts to "rush" the station but being unsuccessful they retired in order to draw the white men out, again without success, because within the "fort" or stockade the order had been given to keep close and to fire only when any Indians should show themselves. In this way John McGee killed an Indian and several others saw Indians fall after firing.

¹ See *The Register*, Vol. 21, page 18—*The Certificate Book of the Virginia Land Commission 1778 & 9*. John McGee received a grant of 1000 acres on both sides of Salt River.

² See *Register*, Vol. 25, page 28—*The Life and Times of Robert B. McAfee and the first Settlements on Salt River*.



HOME OF JOHN MCGEE (THE PIONEER)

Built in 1790 on the bank of Salt River on a grant issued by Patrick Henry in 1780.



FAIRACRES

Built by Peter Dunn, 1846. Residence of John J. McGee IV and John J. McGee III.

In April 1787 the Indians came again and one night went to the place of John McGee and stole his horses and also went to his brother-in-law Robert McAfee's and to Captain Peter Casey's and stole their horses. This band of Indians was trailed, one of their number killed and the horses recovered.

In March 1785 John McGee was one of the twelve people of the Salt River Settlement that met and agreed to build, and organized New Providence Presbyterian Church. In 1790 he built a stone house for his home, locating it a few yards from his cabin. He also received another grant of 500 acres of land, from Governor Charles Scott of Kentucky. This grant joined the original grant on which he was living on the east side, and had been assigned to John McGee by his brother-in-law, Robert McAfee in payment on a promisory note. The overlapping boundary lines of this last grant caused a lot of trouble and lawsuits with Joseph Lillard and others.

After the death of John McGee in 1810 his widow Mary McGee (called Mollie by her husband) and her oldest son James, went to Monroe County, Missouri and made their home there. In November 1829 Mary McGee and her son James and five members of the McKamey family (and Marietta, a colored woman) organized and established Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church, located about six miles east of Paris, Missouri. James died about 1846 and his mother in 1837. Both are buried at Pleasant Hill Church.

Joseph McGee (son John McGee the Pioneer and his wife Mary McCoun) lived about one mile east of his father's stone house. This house of Joseph McGee's was located on his father's land grant on the Old Trails Road (Harrodsburg to Frankfort Turnpike). This house was a Tavern, owned and operated before the Civil War by Joseph's son, John J. McGee, a slave owner, who when the slaves were freed lost twenty-five negroes.

John J. McGee owned a large part of the two original land grants from Governor Patrick Henry of Virginia and Governor Charles Scott, of Kentucky and this land continues to remain in the McGee family, its present owners being John J. McGee and Dorothy W. McGee, the great-great-grandchildren of John McGee, the Pioneer.

The old McGee Tavern was torn down and a new house was built about 1860 by John J. McGee, the son of Joseph, on higher ground about 150 yards west of the Tavern. The name of his place is Oak View, and it is located about $\frac{3}{4}$ miles west of the present Kentucky Highway No. 35 (Louisville Road) on the Jackson pike.

Note.—For the Pioneer life of John McGee see "The Life and Times of Robert B. McAfee and his Connections" in The Register of The Kentucky State Historical Society, vol. 25, January, May and September 1927. In these magazines the name is mis-spelled John MaGee in several instances. See also The Register—1923 and Index.

THE WILL OF JOHN MCGEE

Mercer County, May the 1st, 1808—

In the Name of God Amen!

I John McGee of the county aforesaid calling to mind the mutability of all living and being deeply impressed with a sense of my approaching dissolution and at this time being weak in body but of perfect mind and memory do ordain and establish this instrument of writing to be my last will and testament.

In the first place I resign my soul into the care of Almighty God who gave it relying alone upon the merits of Jesus Christ for Salvation and my body I desire to be decently buried by my Executors to be hereinafter named.

Secondly—it is my desire that my debts be paid out of what money is due me.

Thirdly—My son James has got all that I intend for him already.

Fourthly—My daughter Polly Woods is to have one half of a three-hundred-and-twenty-seven-and-three-quarters acre of Land lying on Salt River above the second creek above Brashears Creek laid on the shares by John McCoun, Sen. to her and her heirs forever. The other half the said John McCoun is to have to him and his heirs for his trouble of laying the claim.

Fifthly—It is my will that my daughters Prudence Smith, Peggy Simpson and Ann Smith have a tract of Land containing three hundred and sixty acres on Salt River at the Narrow passage to be divided equally between them and to their heirs forever.

Sixthly—The five hundred acre tract of Land adjoining me on the East for which I am now at law with Joseph Lillard and others, my sons John, Joseph and William and their heirs are to have.

Seventhly—The Land I live on the whole tract I now own is to go to my wife Molly and my son David equally in interest until the death of my wife at which time my son David is to have the Same to him and his heirs forever.

Eighthly—My Negro man Tom—David my son is to have him, and his heirs forever. All the balance of my negroes as I got them by my wife, it is my desire that they should still belong to her, and at her death or at any time she prefers to dispose of them to any of the children she thinks proper &

Ninthly—As to all the balance of my personal property including money Horses, cattle, hogs, sheep, household furniture and all my movable property of whatever kind it be shall go to my wife and my son Davy and at my wife's death my son Davy is to have the whole, to him and his heirs forever.

Tenthly—It is my desire that my son John be my Executor to see that this

my will is properly attended to, in witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand & seal, this 1st day of May, 1808.

John McGee (Seal)

Signed in my Presents

Robt. B. McAfee

Matthew Forsythe

William Blackwood

Codicil—May 14, 1808—

My daughter Jane McGee who I have omitted to name in the body of my will got all I ever intended for her

his
John X McGee
mark

Test—Robert B. McAfee

Thos X Caldwell

A True copy—March 14, 1838

by John J. McGee

From Mercer County Clerk's Office

Will Book No. 4, pages 90-91.

INVENTORY AND APPRAISEMENT OF JOHN MCGEE'S ESTATE.
FEBRUARY 9, 1810.

To one Negro man Tom	\$300.00
To one Negro man Stephen	350.00
To one Negro boy Gilbert	200.00
To one Negro girl Letty	200.00
To one Negro woman Sukie & three children	550.00
To one small horse	30.00
To one brown horse with a bald face	40.00
To two small bay horses	85.00
To one Gray mare	40.00
To one brown colt	30.00
To five milk cows	40.00
To five young cattle	18.00
To five Barrows first choice	10.00
To eight sows and seven pigs	16.00
To eleven hogs third class	29.00
To five calves	7.50
To fifteen head of sheep	20.00
To one wagon and hi gears	45.00
To two plows and hangings	10.00

To one Log-chain	3.00
To two iron wedges	1.83
To four axes	5.00
To four hoes	4.00
To wheat	24.00
To one Loom and all the Reels gears Samples and all the rest that belong to her	15.00
To one Saddle	1.50
To four old Dutch Sythes	1.25
To one Bryer Sythe	.83
To five barrels	4.50
To one large pot	2.00
To two ovens a pot and scillet	5.50
To five pales and a can	1.50
To some pieces of old Iron	1.75
To one auger and five chisels	1.50
To one Shoemaker hammer and punches	.75
To one bell	1.00
To three bridles	1.50
To two hackles	6.00
To two meat tubs	1.00
To one dochist(?)	1.75
To one whiskey Barrel	.75
To one big wheel	1.75
To four parc of Chards(?)	1.25
To Warpen Spool	.50
To two Spinning-wheels	3.50
To one Reel	1.00
To one bed and furniture	18.00
To two Counterpius	3.00
To nine chairs	2.50
To one Table	1.75
To two smoothing irons	1.50
To one pair of Stilyards	1.50
To one Gun and Shot pouch	4.50
To all the puter	6.00
To one Coffee Mill	.75
To furniture	3.50
To <i>nivcs</i> & forks	1.00
To one Looking-glass	.50
To one Large Bible, Dictionary & other books	6.50

To one <i>pare</i> shears	.33
To two Slates	.50
To Money Scales	1.00
To two Chists	3.75
To one hand saw	.50
To one Box & two _____	.50

The whole amount is.....2,172.99

We the undersigned appraisers of the Estate of John McGee, Dec'd above named do certify that the above appraisement is correct according to the best of our skill and ability we having been first sworn according to Law given under our hands this ninth day of January 1810.

Samuel Adams
 Matthew Forsythe
 Simon X Marshall
 his mark

McGEE GENEALOGY

John McGee—b. about 1730—d. in Mercer County, Ky. January 1, 1810;
 married in Virginia _____

Mary McCoun—b. August 13, 1750; d. in Missouri July 29, 1837.

Children

Names—	Dates of birth	To whom married
James McGee	b. Jan. 6, 1768	m. Polly Wilson
Jane McGee	(no date)	m. John Bigham
John McGee	b. Nov. 28, 1775	m. 1st Jane Curry 2nd Mary Bigham
<i>Joseph McGee</i>	b. Oct. 14, 1778	m. Nancy Lyon
Peggy McGee	(no date)	m. Robert Simpson
Polly (Mary) McGee	(no date)	m. Andrew Wood
William McGee	b. 1785; d. 1846	m. Jane Bigham and Sally Voris
Col. David McGee—	b. June 30, 1792 d. Aug. 16, 1851	m. Sally A. Duncan b. Feb. 9, 1793 d. Jan. 25, 1862
Prudy McGee	(no date)	m. James Smith
Ann McGee	(no date)	m. Hugh Smith

Joseph McGee— b. Oct. 14, 1778 m. Sept. 12, 1805
 d. Sept. 10, 1853 in Mercer Co.
 Nancy Lyon—3/9/1789
 8/2/1825

Children:

Thely McGee b. Jan. 31, 1809 m. Mr Beadle
 David McGee b. Dec. 7, 1812
 d. Sept. 16, 1850
 Harvey McGee b. Dec. 7, 1814
 d. Jan. 16, 1870
John Jackson McGee— b. March 17, 1816 m. Amanda Helen Irvin
 d. Aug. 7, 1864
 James McGee b. Aug. 13, 1818
 d. Feb. 20, 1867

John Jackson McGee—b. March 17, 1816; d. Aug. 7, 1864; m. Nov. 2, 1854—in
 Mercer Co., Ky.

Amanda Helen Irvin—b. May 14, 1834; d. Nov. 18, 1916.

Children:

Joseph Irvin McGee—b Dec. 18, 1859; d. Oct. 24, 1862
 William Henry McGee—b. Sept. 12, 1862—never married; d. Oct. 23, 1921

John Jackson McGee—b. Dec. 14, 1864; d. July 3, 1906; m. Virginia
 Witherspoon in Mercer Co., Ky.—b. Dec. 15, 1874—d. Nov. 21, 1927.

Children of John Jackson McGee & Virginia Witherspoon:

John Jackson McGee (III)—b. Feb. 1902—m. Rosalind Bottom
 Dorothy Witherspoon McGee—b. Jan. 8, 1907

John Jackson McGee—b. Feb. 16, 1902—m. May 17, 1924
 Rosalind Bottom b. Feb. 3, 1903

Children:

John Jackson McGee—b. Sept. 19, 1933
 Lew Parrin McGee—b. April 16, 1938

Notes—

- 1—Mary McCoun was the daughter of James McCoun, who came from Botetourt Co., Va., to Kentucky in 1775 with the McAfee Company. Her mother was Margaret Walker.
- 2—Amanda Helen Irvin wife of John Jackson McGee (1816-1864) was daughter of James B. Irvin and Lucretia Starns of Madison Co., Ky. After the death of her first husband she married in 1867, Henry C. Willis—b. 1832—d. 1911; had 2 daus. not m.
- 3—Virginia Witherspoon wife of John Jackson McGee (1864-1906) was daughter of James F. Witherspoon of Anderson Co., Ky. and his wife Nancy Ann Penny of the same county.
- 4—Rosalind Bottom wife of John Jackson McGee (b. 1902 and still living in 1940 in Mercer County) daughter of Fern K. Bottom m. in Mercer Co., Ky. and his wife Louise Perrin of Fayette Co., Ky.

 The sons of the Pioneer John McGee:

Joseph McGee and Col. David McGee lived and died in Mercer County, Kentucky; James McGee and John McGee (Junior) left Kentucky with their mother, Mary McCoun McGee after the death of their father in 1810, and settled in Monroe County, Missouri. John McGee, Jr., died when he was burned in a Prairie-fire while going across Missouri to Monroe County.

William McGee moved to Johnson County, Indiana.

Peggy McGee, daughter of the Pioneer John McGee, married Robert Simpson and moved to Monroe County, Missouri.

 John McGee's Military Record:

John McGee (The Pioneer) was born about 1730—died in Mercer Co., Ky. Jan'y 1st, 1810—Was a Private in John Murray's Company of Botetourt Co., Va. Militia under command of General Andrew Lewis, at the Battle of Point Pleasant.

JOHN MCGEE'S LAND GRANT (Virginia Grants, Book 7, Page 183)

Patrick Henry Esquire, Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, to all whom these presents shall come, Greetings:

Know ye that by virtue and in consideration of part of a preemption Treasury Warrant no 20 issued the 12th day of February 1780 there is granted by the said Commonwealth unto John McGee a certain tract or parcel of Land containing five hundred acres by survey bearing date the 8th day of June 1780 lying and being in the county of Lincoln on both sides of the town fork of Salt river adjoining the Lands of Samuel McAfee on the north. and Robert McAfee's land on the south and as Followeth to wit: Beginning at two white oak trees on the

west side of Salt river in Samuel McAfee's line running from thence south two hundred and sixty poles to two white oaks in Robert McAfee's Line, thence with his line east three hundred seven and three quarters poles crossing the river to two post oaks, thence north two hundred and sixty poles to a white oak tree in Samuel McAfee's line, thence with his line west three hundred seven and three quarters poles crossing the river to the Beginning, with its appurtenances to have and to hold the said tract or parcel of Land to the said John McGee and his heirs forever, In Witness whereof the said Patrick Henry, Esquire, Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia hath hereunto set his hand and caused the Lesser Seal of the Commonwealth to be affixed at Richmond, on the first day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand, seven and eighty-five and of the Commonwealth the tenth.

PATRICK HENRY

JOHN MCGEE'S LAND

Charles Scott, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, to all to whom these presents shall come, Greetings:

Know ye, that by virtue and in consideration of a Land Office Treasury Warrant No 2745 and granted the 19th day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-three there is granted unto *John McGee, Assignee of Robert McAfee* a certain tract or parcel of Land containing Five Hundred acres by survey bearing date the fifteenth of June one Thousand seven hundred eighty (1780) Lying & being on east side of Salt River and bounded as follows (towit): Beginning at *A* at a White oak tree a corner of his Pre-emption Lands in Samuel McAfee's Line running from thence with the pre-emption Line south 260 Poles to two Post Oak Trees a corner (of) his pre-emption thence east $307 \frac{3}{4}$ Poles to two white oak trees, thence north 260 Poles to a Sugar and Hoopwood tree in McAfee's Line, thence with his Line $307 \frac{3}{4}$ Poles to the Beginning. * * * with its appurtenances: to have and to hold the said tract or parcel of Land with its appurtenances to the said John McGee and his heirs forever. In witness whereof the said Charles Scott, Esq., Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, has hereunto set his hand and caused the Seal of the said Commonwealth to be affixed at Frankfort on the 17th day of October, in the Year of our Lord 1808.

By the Governor—Charles Scott

J. Bledsoe—Secretary

Recorded—Book I—page 222