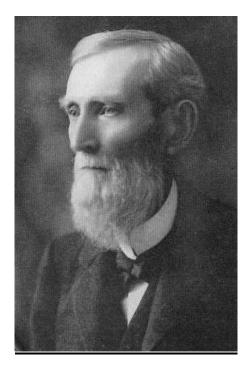
JOHN WILLIAM MCCOY

Introduction.

This paper was initially written as an assignment for the home study program for the National Genealogy Society. It identifies the evidence that I have located regarding the vital records for John William McCoy as well as the evidence that I have showing that my grandfather, Paul McCoy, was the son of John William McCoy and Delia Maria Evans. It is a work in progress.



John William McCoy (1826-1902)¹

Birth Date: 14 September, 1826.

While I have no primary evidence for this, I do have clear, direct secondary evidence to support this date. The death record of John W. McCoy² states that he died on 26 January, 1902 at the age of 76. While it does not give his date of birth, the given age of 76 indicates that 1825 or 1826 was probably his year of birth. This is indirect secondary evidence for the approximate year. It appears, however, that John W. McCoy died in his 76th year, not at the age of 76.

There is direct secondary evidence to support a birth year of 1826: John McCoy's tombstone in the Woodlawn Cemetery reads "John W. McCoy/1826-1902."

¹ Photo of J.W. McCoy kindly supplied by Ellen Sutton of Evanston, Illinois.

² Death record of John W. McCoy, Marion County, WV Death Book 2, p. 157, Marion County Courthouse, Fairmont, WV.



Tombstone of John W. McCoy in the Woodlawn Cemetery, Fairmont, Marion Co., WV.³

The obituary of John W. McCoy (*Fairmont Farmer's Free Press*, 30 Jan 1902⁴) provides a specific date of birth: "He was in his 76th year, having been born in Tyler county, Virginia (now West Virginia) September 14, 1826." The microfilm copy of his obituary provides clear, direct secondary evidence of the date of birth.

A biography of John W. McCoy appears in *Biographical and Portrait Cyclopedia of Monongalia, Marion and Taylor Counties, West Virginia*. It states "John W. McCoy...was born in Tyler county, Virginia (now West Virginia), September 14, 1826." This provides direct secondary evidence for his date of birth.

A brief sketch of John W. M'Coy, Esq. appears in *History and Progress of the County of Marion, West Virginia*⁶. It states "the above named gentleman...was born near Middlebourne, Tyler county, Virginia (now West Virginia), on the 14th of September, 1826...." This provides direct secondary evidence of his date of birth.

A photocopy⁷ of the application of John Evans McCoy, grandson of John W. McCoy, for membership in the Sons of the American Revolution, states that John W. McCoy was born 9-14-1826 Tyler County, Virginia. This is indirect, secondary evidence for the birth date of John W. McCoy.

The federal censuses provide some clues as to the birth date for John William McCoy, son of Joseph and Jane McCoy. There is a John McCoy in the household of Joseph and Jane McCoy in the 1850⁸ Federal Census, Tyler County, VA. This John McCoy is listed as being age 23, born in Virginia. Since the enumeration date was 2 August, 1850, the age given fits with his birthday of September 1826. It provides indirect, secondary evidence.

³ Photograph by Susan Brown, staff member of the Woodlawn Cemetery, Fairmont, Marion Co., W.V. April, 2002.

⁴ Obituary of John W. McCoy, *Fairmont Farmer's Free Press*, 30 Jan 1902. Microfilm copy at the Fairmont State College Ruth Ann Musick Library, Fairmont, WV.

⁵ Biography of John W. McCoy in *Biographical and Portrait Cyclopedia of Monongalia, Marion and Taylor Counties, West Virginia* (Rush, West & Company, Philadelphia, PA), 1895, p. 37.

⁶ Biography of John W. M'Coy, Esq. in *History and Progress of the County of Marion, West Virginia* by George A. Dunnington, 1880, p. 145.

⁷ John Evans McCoy mailed Carol P. McCoy a photocopy of his SAR application (dated 25 April 1969) some time in the 1990's

⁸ Household of John W. McCoy in 1850 Federal Census, Tyler County, VA. Microfilm Series M432_979, p. 357B, dwelling 494.

John W. McCoy⁹ is in the 1860 Federal Census with Delia M. McCoy in Middlebourne, Tyler County, VA. In this instance John W. McCoy's age is listed as 31, which suggests that he was slightly younger than he really was if he were born in 1826. Delia M. McCoy's age is given as 29. They are with Joseph, age 4, born in VA; Maria C., age 2, born in VA; and Charles, age 4/12 months, born in VA. The 1860 Federal Census provides indirect, secondary evidence, which is inconsistent, but close to the other evidence for his birth date of September, 1826.

The 1870 Federal Census provides indirect, secondary evidence that suggests that John W. McCoy was born in either 1826 or 1827. John W. McCoy¹⁰ is in the 1870 Federal Census in Marion County, WV. His age is given as 43 and his birthplace as Virginia. He is listed as a lawyer who has real estate worth \$3,800 and a personal estate of \$1,500. He is listed with Delilia¹¹ (sic) M., age 36, who was born in Virginia. There is a Joseph M., age 14, who is their son. (See photocopy of part of 1870 record for John W. McCoy below.)

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Household of John W. McCoy in 1870 Census in Fairmont, WV¹²

John W. McCoy is in the 1880 Federal Census in the Fairmont Independent School District (T9_1407, ED 86, p. 389A.) as being 53 years old. The census was taken on 8 June 1880. The 1880 Federal Census provides indirect, secondary evidence, which is consistent with John W. McCoy having been born in Sept. 1826. There is no extant copy of the 1890 Federal Census.

Strangely enough, the 1900 Federal Census provides some inconsistent information about John W. McCoy. John W. McCoy appears in the 1900 Federal Census for Fairmont Independent

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⁹ Household of John W. McCoy in 1860 Federal Census Middlebourne, Tyler County, VA. Microfilm Series M653_1382, p. 5; dwelling 501.

¹⁰ Household of John W. McCoy in 1870 Federal Census, Marion County, WV. Microfilm Series M593_1693, Part I p.574A, dwelling 219, household 223.

John W. McCoy's wife's name was actually Delia.

¹² Picture of household of John W. McCoy in 1870 Federal Census on www.genealogy.com.

District, Marion County, WV. ¹³ The census, which was enumerated on 11 June 1900, shows John W. McCoy at 103 Locust Avenue. He was said to be born Oct 1828, age 72, married 44 years, born in W.V., father born in Ireland, mother born in Maryland, occupation attorney. With him is D.M. McCoy, wife, born August 1830, age 69. The month and year of John W. McCoy is inconsistent with Sept. 1826. However, it is likely that whoever gave the information to the census-taker was unsure of the details of this information. It is direct secondary evidence that conflicts with his likely birth date.

While the state of West Virginia did not issue birth certificates in 1826, most of the direct secondary evidence suggests that John W. McCoy was born on 14 September 1826. Even though the 1860, 1880, and 1900 censuses suggest that he may have been born later (1828), the preponderance of evidence suggests that he was born on 14 September 1826. Therefore I consider that birth date to be very likely although not conclusively proven.

Birth Location: Tyler County, West Virginia (then Virginia.)

While I have no primary evidence to support Tyler County, I do have clear direct secondary evidence to support this location. The death certificate of John W. McCoy (Marion County, WV Death Book 2, p. 157) states that he was born in West Virginia ¹⁴. This is direct secondary evidence for the location of his birth.

The above-referenced SAR application of John Evans McCoy states that John W. McCoy was born in Tyler County, Virginia. The obituary of John W. McCoy (*Fairmont Farmer's Free Press*, 30 Jan 1902) also provides a specific county for his birth: "He was in his 76th year, having been born in Tyler county, Virginia (now West Virginia) September 14, 1826." The microfilm copy of his obituary provides direct secondary evidence of county of his birth.

His 1895 biography in *Biographical and Portrait Cyclopedia of Monongalia, Marion and Taylor Counties, West Virginia*, p. 37 states "John W. McCoy...was born in Tyler county, Virginia (now West Virginia), September 14, 1826." This provides direct secondary evidence for the county of his birth.

The brief biography of John W. M'Coy, Esq. in *History and Progress of the County of Marion, West Virginia* (p. 145) provides direct secondary evidence for a more specific location in the county of his birth. It states "the above named gentleman...was born near Middlebourne, Tyler county, Virginia (now West Virginia), on the 14th of September, 1826...."

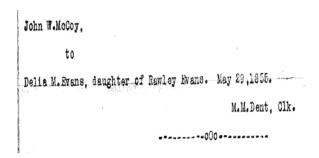
While the state of West Virginia did not issue birth certificates in 1826, all the direct secondary evidence suggests that John W. McCoy was born in Tyler County, Virginia, now West Virginia.

¹³ Household of John W. McCoy, 1900 Federal Census, Fairmont Independent District, Marion County, WV (Microfilm T623_1764, Book 2, ED 53, sheet 1, p. 67A.)

¹⁴ Technically John W. McCoy was born in part of Virginia, that became West Virginia.

Date of Marriage: 29 May 1855

The marriage of John W. McCoy to Delia Maria Evans is recorded in Monongalia Marriage Book A, p. 172. It states that John W. McCoy married Delia M. Evans, daughter of Rawley Evans, on 29 May 1855 in Monongalia County, VA. The marriage was officiated by M.M. Dent, Clerk. This is strong, direct, primary evidence for the marriage date of John W. McCoy and Delia M. Evans.



Photocopy of Marriage Record of John W. McCoy to Delia M. Evans Monongalia Virginia Record Book A, p. 172

The obituary of John W. McCoy (*Fairmont Farmer's Free Press*, 30 Jan 1902¹⁶) provides only a year for his marriage, but it is consistent with his official marriage record above: "In 1855, deceased was united in marriage to Delia M. Evans of Morgantown, who died a short time ago."

The 1895 sketch of John W. McCoy in *Biographical and Portrait Cyclopedia of Monongalia, Marion and Taylor Counties, West Virginia* (p. 37) states: "In May, 1855, John W. McCoy was united in marriage with Delia M. Evans, of Morgantown, Monongalia county." This provides direct secondary evidence for the month and year of his marriage.

The previously referenced SAR application of John Evans McCoy states that John W. McCoy married Delia M. Evans on 5-30-1855 in Monongalia County, Va. This is direct secondary evidence that John W. McCoy married Delia M Evans, however, it is off by one day from the date of May 29th in the Monongalia County Marriage Book.

John W. McCoy is in the 1860 Federal Census¹⁷ in the same household as Delia M. McCoy in Middlebourne, Tyler County, VA. John W. McCoy's age is listed as 31. Delia M. McCoy's age is given as 29. They are with Joseph, age 4, born in VA; Maria C., age 2, born in VA; and Charles, age 4/12 months, born in VA. This is indirect, secondary evidence that John W. McCoy married Delia M. McCoy some time before 1856 since there is a young male, Joseph,

Marriage record of John W. McCoy to Delia Evans, 29 May 1855, Monongalia Marriage Book A, p. 172. Record photocopied and certified by Michael A. Oliveria, Monongalia County Clerk, Morgantown, WV on 8 July 2002.
 Obituary of John W. McCoy, (*Fairmont Farmer's Free Press*, 30 Jan 1902. Microfilm copy at Fairmont State College Ruth Ann Musick Library, Fairmont, WV.)

¹⁷ Household of John W. McCoy in 1860 Federal Census, Middlebourne, Tyler County, VA, (Microfilm Series M653_1382, p. 5; dwelling 501.)

age 4, who is likely to be their son. John W. McCoy and Delia M. McCoy's oldest son was named Joseph Melville McCoy. The death certificate of Joseph Melville McCoy (Death Certificate No. 384644 District of Columbia) states that he was the son of John W. McCoy and Delia M. Evans and that he was born 3 March 1856 in Middlebourne, W.Va and that he died on 5 April 1937 in Washington, D.C. This is indirect secondary evidence that John W. McCoy and Delia M. Evans were likely married at least nine months prior to March 3, 1856. It appears that their first child was conceived within a month after their marriage.

John W. McCoy¹⁸ and "Delila" M. McCoy appear in the 1870 Federal Census. It appears that they are listed with their children. Since Joseph M. is age 14, it suggests indirectly that John and Delila were married about 1855, which is consistent with his marriage record.

John W. McCoy, age 53, head of household, and Delia McCoy, age 50, wife, are in the 1880 Federal Census in the Fairmont Independent District, Marion County, WV¹⁹. This is direct secondary evidence that John married Delia McCoy. Their son, Joseph M., is listed as being age 24, making his birth year 1856. This is indirect secondary evidence that John married Delia at least nine months prior to that time.

John W. McCoy appears in the 1900 Federal Census for Marion County, WV. ²⁰ The census, which was enumerated on 11 June 1900, lists John W. McCoy as born Oct 1828, age 72, married 44 years. With him is D.M. McCoy, wife, born August 1830, age 69. The number 44 years suggests that John W. McCoy was married in 1855 or 1856. It is indirect secondary evidence that supports an approximate date for the marriage. Because the initials "DM" could stand for "Delia Maria", it is direct secondary evidence that supports Delia Maria as his wife.

Since there is good direct primary evidence that John W. McCoy married Delia M. Evans on 29 May, 1855, I consider the date of the marriage to be proved.

Location of Marriage: Monongalia County, Virginia (now West Virginia)

The marriage record of John W. McCoy, listed in Monongalia Marriage Book A, states that John W. McCoy married Delia M. Evans on 29 May 1855 in Monongalia County, VA. This is strong, direct, primary evidence for the marriage location of John W. McCoy and Delia M. Evans as being in Monongalia County. Since Delia M. Evans was the daughter of Rawley Evans, who lived and died in Monongalia County, it seems reasonable that Delia was married in that county.

¹⁸ Household of John W. McCoy in 1870 Federal Census, Marion County, WV. Microfilm Series M593_1693, Part I p.574A.

¹⁹ Household of John W. McCoy in 1880 Federal Census, Fairmont Independent District, Marion County, WV. (Microfilm Series T9_1407, ED 86, p. 389A.)
²⁰ Household of John W. McCoy in the 1900 Federal Census, Fairmont, Marion County, WV. (Microfilm Series

²⁰ Household of John W. McCoy in the 1900 Federal Census, Fairmont, Marion County, WV. (Microfilm Series T9_1407, Fairmont, 5th ward, ED 58, sheet 1, p. 67A. 103 Locust Avenue).

Death of John William McCoy: 19 January, 1902 in Fairmont, Marion Co., WV

The death record of John W. McCoy²¹ states that he died, a widower, on 26 January 1902 at the age of 76 of pneumonia in Fairmont, WV. The informant was E. Musgrave and Son, Undertaker, and the place of burial was Woodlawn Cemetery. This is direct primary evidence of the location and the date of his death.

There is additional direct evidence to support this death date: John McCoy's tombstone in the Woodlawn Cemetery reads "John W. McCoy/1826-1902." (See photograph of John W. McCoy's tombstone earlier in this report.) According to the records of Woodlawn Cemetery²², Fairmont, WV, John W. McCoy, died on 26 January 1902 and was buried in Section One Lot 237 on 28 January, 1902.

The obituary of John W. McCoy (*Fairmont Farmer's Free Press*, 30 Jan 1902) provides a specific time of death: "John W. McCoy...of this city died at his home on Locust avenue Sunday morning at 8:30 o'clock." Sunday of that week was January 26th. Locust Avenue was located in Fairmont, Marion County, WV. The microfilm copy of his obituary provides direct secondary evidence of the date, time, and specific location of his death.

John Evans McCoy's 1969 SAR application stated that John W. McCoy died 1-26-1902 in Fairmont, West Virginia. This is direct secondary evidence to support his death date and location.

While there is a partial record of the administration of the estate of John W. McCoy in the Marion County Probate files, I have not been able to locate a copy of this record as yet. According to the Marion County records, John W. McCoy's estate was administered by his son, James E. McCoy. As part of the estate, the heirs of John W. McCoy disposed of some property in 1902. This 1902²³ deed, dated 28 October, provides indirect evidence that John W. McCoy had died by 28 October 1902 and it suggests that he had died prior to 17 March 1902. This deed refers to the power of attorney executed by William R. McCoy to John B. McCoy, dated 17 March 1902. It seems likely that this power of attorney (which I have not seen) was executed to facilitate property transactions as part of John W. McCoy's estate.

Among the deeds of the McCoy family in Fairmont there is a specific clue to John W. McCoy's date of death. For over 50 years several McCoy descendants (daughters Sallie and Minnie and daughter-in-law, Kathryn) maintained the family home on 205 Locust Avenue in Fairmont. In 1963 my grandfather, Paul McCoy, sold the 205 Locust Avenue property to Jo Ann Lough, who still lives across the street²⁴ at 200 Locust Avenue. This deed²⁵ to the McCoy

²¹ Death record of John W. McCoy, Marion County Death Book 2, p. 157, Marion County Courthouse, Fairmont, WV. Certified by Janice Cosco, Marion County Clerk 17 June 1998.

Phone call with Susan Brown, (20 March, 2002) staff member of the Woodlawn Cemetery, Fairmont, WV.
 Deed of heirs of John W. McCoy to J. Fay Watson, dated 28 October 1902, Marion County Deed Book Vol. 117,

p. 387, Marion County Courthouse, Fairmont, WV.

²⁴ In a recent phone call with Jo Ann Lough (April 4, 2003), I learned that Jo Ann Lough never moved into the 205 Locust Avenue property. She is currently working to have it declared a historic property named the Beeson-McCoy House, and to raise money to restore it and donate it to Fairmont State College in Fairmont, WV as a folk cultural center. Note: it seems likely that 205 Locust Avenue was at one time referred to as 103 Locust Avenue.

homestead provides numerous clues about the heirs of John W. McCoy and refers specifically to the death of John W. McCoy. On p. 429 the deed states: "John W. McCoy departed this life intestate on the 26th day of January, 1902, leaving surviving him...Paul McCoy, his son."

Based on the preponderance of direct primary and secondary evidence, I believe that it has been proved that John W. McCoy died in Fairmont, WV on 26 January 1902.

Paul McCoy (#4)—Son of John W. McCoy

From the indirect evidence in the above referenced 1963 deed, we know that John W. McCoy had a son named Paul. There is strong, clear, convincing evidence that Paul McCoy was the son of John W. McCoy. His birth record²⁶ states that he was the child of John W. McCoy and Delia M. McCoy. The record states that he was born in Marion County, WV on 29 August 1874. This is direct primary evidence that Paul McCoy's father was John W. McCoy.

Paul McCoy married Irma Constance Pollak on 9 February 1909 in NYC. His marriage record²⁷ states that his father was John W. McCoy and his mother was Delia M. Evans. This is direct secondary evidence that John W. McCoy was Paul McCoy's father.



Photograph of Paul and Irma McCoy in NYC 1909 (owned by Carol P. McCoy)

In November 1936 (specific date illegible) Paul McCoy applied for his social security number (058-07-1466). The application listed his father as John William McCoy and his mother

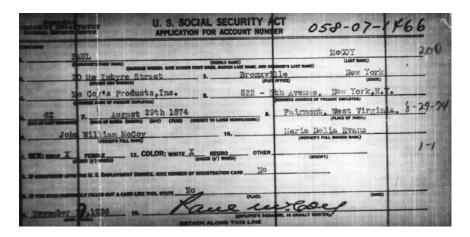
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²⁵ Deed from Paul McCoy et al to Jo Ann Lough, dated 1 July 1963, Marion County Deed Book 659, p. 428-433), Marion County Courthouse, Fairmont, WV.

 ²⁶ Birth record of Paul McCoy, Marion County Birth Book 1, p. 118. Certified by Janice Cosco, Marion County Clerk, 17 June 1998, Marion County Courthouse, Fairmont, WV.
 ²⁷ Marriage of Paul McCoy and Irma Pollak, 9 February 1909, Certificate 3055, NYC Municipal Archives, 31

²⁷ Marriage of Paul McCoy and Irma Pollak, 9 February 1909, Certificate 3055, NYC Municipal Archives, 31 Chambers Street, NY, NY.

as "Maria Delia Evans" (sic). This is direct secondary evidence that John William McCoy was Paul McCoy's father. See photocopy of application below.



The death certificate of Paul McCoy²⁸ states that he died on 2 November 1966 in Bronxville, NY and that his father was John William McCoy and his mother was Delia M. Evans. The informant, Rawley D. McCoy, was his son. This is direct secondary evidence that John William McCoy was Paul McCoy's father.

The 1880 Federal Census provides direct secondary evidence that Paul is the son of John W. McCoy. John W. McCoy, head of household, age 53, appears with Paul McCoy, age 6, listed as his son in the 1880 Federal Census in Fairmont, Marion Co., WV²⁹.

John W. McCoy³⁰ and Paul McCoy both appear in the same household at 103 Locust Avenue in the 1900 Federal Census for Marion County, WV. The census lists John W. McCoy born Oct 1828, age 72, married 44 years, born in W.V., father born in Ireland, mother born in Maryland, occupation attorney. With him is D.M. McCoy, wife, born August 1830, age 69 and Paul McCoy, son, age 25, born Aug. 1875, age 25, an attorney. Also in the household are Paul's sister, Minnie, and brother, Ernest. While the birth dates of John W. McCoy and Paul are incorrect, this is direct secondary evidence that Paul McCoy was the son of John W. McCoy.

John Evans McCoy in his SAR application of 1969 states that his father was Paul McCoy, born 8-29-1874 in Fairmont, West Virginia and died on 11-2-1966 in Bronxville, NY. He states that his grandfather was John W. McCoy and his grandmother was Delia M. Evans. This is clear direct secondary evidence that Paul McCoy was the son of John W. McCoy.

Paul McCoy's obituary in *The Yonkers Herald Statesman*³¹ stated: "He was born in Fairmont, W.Va, Aug. 29, 1874, the youngest of 10 children of the late John William and Delia

²⁸ Death certificate of Paul McCoy, # 281, 2 November 1966, Bronxville Village Hall, Bronxville, NY.

²⁹ Household of John W. McCoy, 1880 Federal Census, Fairmont Independent District, Marion County, WV. (T9_1407, ED 86, p. 389A.)

³⁰ Household of John W. McCoy, 1900 Federal Census, Microfilm Series T9_1407, Fairmont, 5th ward, ED 58, sheet 1, p. 67A.

³¹ Obituary of Paul McCoy, *Yonkers Herald Statesman*, November 3, 1966, p. 3, microfilm, Yonkers Public Library, Yonkers, NY.

Maria Evans McCoy. He was graduated from the Fairmont State Normal School in 1894 and received a B.S. and law degree from the University of West Virginia in 1898."



Paul McCoy in the Monticola Board of Editors University West Virginia 1896

The 1895 biography of John W. McCoy³² states that his son Paul McCoy³³ was attending the University of West Virginia at that time. This is direct secondary evidence that John W. McCoy was Paul McCoy's father.

On a final note, there is microfilmed birth record for Paul McCoy³⁴, which misspells his name as "Pearl" McCoy: Pearl McCoy born 8/29/1874 to John W. and Delia McCoy, reported by father, John McCoy. Since I never heard my grandfather refer to a twin sister, Pearl, I can only conclude that the recorder made an error in transcribing Paul's name and accidentally changed his sex to female!

Based on all the clear, consistent, primary and secondary evidence, I believe it has been proved that Paul McCoy was the son of John William McCoy (and Delia M. Evans).

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³² Biography of John W. McCoy in *Biographical and Portrait Cyclopedia of Monongalia, Marion and Taylor Counties, West Virginia* (Rush, West & Company, Philadelphia, PA, 1895, p. 37).

³³ I have in my possession primary evidence documenting that Paul McCoy attended the University of West Virginia—an original edition of the 1896 UWV Monticoa (yearbook), which has numerous pictures of and references to Paul McCoy.

³⁴ Microfilm Reel 102 Marion County, WV Records, West Virginia and Regional History Collection, West Virginia University Library, Morgantown, WV.