

## McCOY FAMILY OF TYLER CO. WV

Although I was born in NY and live in Maine, my McCoy roots run deep in Tyler County West Virginia. My great-great grandfather, Joseph McCoy Junior came to Ohio County (later Tyler) Virginia in the early 1800's, married, raised his children, and lived there until he died on 1 November 1877 at the ripe old age of 91.

Born in Ireland on 19 Feb 1786, Joseph McCoy Junior was the son of Scot-Irish immigrants, John McCoy (1751/52 -1816) and Easter (Esther/Hesther) McCartney/ McCarty (1754 -1850). His grandfather, Thomas McCoy/McKay, supposedly remained in Tyrone Northern Ireland. As was custom, Joseph was called "Junior" to distinguish him from an older Joseph McCoy who lived in Ohio County Virginia as early as 1803 when he bought land from John Caldwell. Joseph McCoy Sr., probably Joseph's Uncle, was a prominent judge in Tyler County.

In 1802 John and Heather McCoy along with Joseph, John, Sarah, Abraham, Jane, and Margaret McCoy sailed from Londonderry (Tyrone) Northern Ireland on the *Mohawk*, arriving in Wilmington Delaware and Philadelphia on 6 July 1802. They settled first in the Shenandoah Valley before moving to western Virginia. William McCoy, a brother of Joseph Jr., had immigrated earlier and settled at Lewistown in Mifflin County Pennsylvania. John McCoy Jr. and Joseph McCoy Jr. were said to have stayed in Mifflin County before moving to Ohio County in the early 1800's.

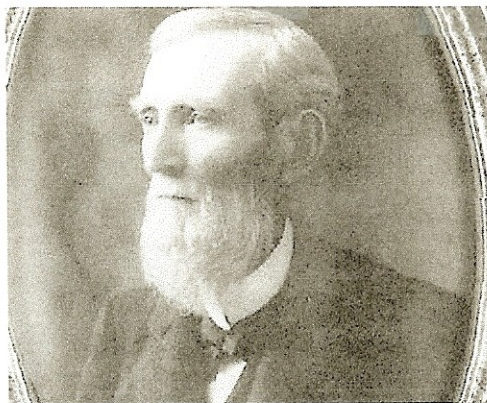
On the 4th of July 1808 John McCoy bought property from John Lee on "the loop" on Middle Island Creek, two miles below Middlebourne. John McCoy Sr. deeded this

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land to his sons Joseph Jr. and John Jr. in 1810 and to Abraham (via Joseph Jr.) in 1816 shortly before John McCoy senior's death. This land to his sons Joseph Jr. and John Jr. in 1810 and to Abraham (via Joseph Jr.) in 1816 shortly before John McCoy senior's death.

Shortly after Tyler County was created from part of Ohio County Virginia, two of Joseph McCoy Junior's brothers-John Jr. and Abraham-became Tyler County's first naturalized citizens with Joseph McCoy Sr. performing the ceremony in 1815. John Jr. later married Sarah Wells, daughter of Charles Wells and co-founder of Sistersville. A prominent legislator, John McCoy Jr. rode on horseback from Sistersville to Richmond Virginia and supposedly died following a rain-soaked journey on 26 August 1835.

John McCoy Sr. died in Tyler County on 27 March 1816 four days after writing his Will which named Joseph McCoy Jr. and Joseph McCoy Sr. executors. It mentioned his wife, Esther, a granddaughter (Sarah) and six children-Joseph, Abraham, John Jr., Jane, Margaret, and Sarah-omitting William. Witnesses were his friends William Ivers, Joseph Archer, and William McKay.



John William McCoy

Joseph McCoy Junior, a Presbyterian, was a farmer and likely a weaver as were many Scot-Irishmen. Before marrying, Joseph lived with his widowed mother, Esther who later lived with John Junior. Esther McCoy of "SL" (Scotland) died age 96 February 1850 in Tyler County.

On 20 June 1824 in Tyler County Joseph McCoy married Jane Martin (b. 26 July 1795 in Pennsylvania; d. 12 April 1873) with Isaac Reynolds performing the ceremony. Jane Martin's grandfather-John Martin (1739-1837)-bought property from John Caldwell in Ohio County Virginia in 1797. Jane's father, Joseph Martin (1763-1833), bought land from his father January 1800. The McCoy and Martin families were early trustees of a log cabin church built on William McCoy's land. Joseph Martin, a Revolutionary War Veteran and first sheriff of Tyler County, is buried with his wife Martha Bryson in the church cemetery in Little, Tyler County.

Joseph and Jane McCoy's children were all born in Tyler County: James Charles (1825 - 1919); John William (1826 -1902); Nancy McCoy Erwin (1828 -1908); Robert Dilworth (c. 1830); Joseph M. McCoy (died young); Sarah Jane McCoy Furbie (1832-1924); Margaret McCoy Laidley Smith (1834 - after 1923); and Mattie McCoy Gorrell (1838 - about 1930).

Jane Martin McCoy died 12 April 1873. Joseph McCoy Jr. then lived with Mattie and Ralph Gorrell in Wick Tyler County. Joseph



Delia Evans (McCoy)

died 1 November 1877 at age 91 years 8 months and 13 days at the Gorrell's home.

My great-grandfather John William McCoy, the second son of Jane and Joseph McCoy, was born 14 September 1826 in Tyler County. He married Delia Maria Evans on 29 May 1855 in Monongalia County Virginia. Delia was the daughter of Rawley Evans and the granddaughter of Monongalia pioneer Colonel John Evans. Educated at Northwestern Virginia Academy at Clarksburg WV, John W. McCoy read law with John W. Horner (Delia Evan's brother-in-law) of Middlebourne. He was admitted to the Tyler County bar in 1854, and served as Tyler County's prosecuting attorney from 1857 to 1862. In 1868 John W. McCoy moved with his family to Fairmont, Marion Co. WV where he died on 26 Jan 1902.

Several of John W. McCoy's children were born in Tyler County-Joseph Melville (1856); Maria Christiana (1858); William Robert (1860); Mary Jane (1862); James Evans (1865); and John Bertram (1867.) Three children-Sarah Jane (1869), Ernest (1871), and my grandfather Paul (1874)-were born in Fairmont.

Submitted by: Carol P. McCoy, 11 Johnson Rd., Falmouth, ME  
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