

Thomas Higginson McBee Family

Pioneers of 1852

compiled by Stephenie Flora

oregonpioneers.com

Thomas Higginson McBee [died prior to emigration]

b. 16 Feb 1777 Frederick County, Maryland

d. 26 Oct 1835 Stark County, Ohio

[burial location unknown](#)

m. 21 Feb 1797 Liberty Town, Frederick County, Maryland

Rachel Rilet/Riley [Pioneer of 1852]

b. 1770 Frederick County, Maryland

d. c Apr 1852 on Oregon Trail in Nebraska of cholera

[burial location unknown](#)

note: if maiden name is French it would be pronounced similar to Riley

1 Nancy Marguerette McBee [did not emigrate to Oregon]

b. 1798 Frederick County, Maryland

d.

m. George Roberts (13 Jun 1799-1826) 19 Apr 1821 Stark County, Ohio

2. Elizabeth McBee [did not emigrate to Oregon]

b. 25 Mar 1800 Frederick County, Maryland

d. 08 Jun 1865 DeKalb County, Indiana

buried [Wartenbe Cemetery](#), DeKalb County, Indiana

m. Jacob Dickerhoof 05 Oct 1824 Stark County, Ohio

3 William Henry McBee [Pioneer of 1852]

b. 18 Nov 1801 Frederick County, Maryland

d. 11 Apr 1862 Benton County, Oregon

buried [McBee Burial Site](#), Winkle Butte, Benton County, Oregon

m. 12 Jun 1828 Stark County, Ohio

Elizabeth Milligan [Pioneer of 1852]

b. 08 Mar 1808 Pennsylvania

d. 27 Jan 1893 Benton County, Oregon

buried [McBee Burial Site](#), Winkle Butte, Benton County, Oregon

d/o John Milligan and Abigail Rigg

1850: District 75, Ray County, Missouri, October 16, 1850; William McBee, 48, farmer, \$100, MD; Elizabeth, 40, PA; Rachel, 20, OH; John, 18, farmer, OH; Thomas, 16, farmer, OH; George, 14, OH; Elizabeth, 13, OH; William H., 11, MO; Joseph, 10, MO; [David, 7, MO] James, 4, MO; Nancy, 2, MO; Rachel, 80, MD

ODLC: #4269 Benton; b. 1801 Fredrick Co, MD; arr 30 Oct 1852; sc 19 Mar 1854; m'd Elizabeth 12 Jun 1828 Stark Co, OH; died prior to 15 Jul 1873

1854: Benton Co Census; William McBee, legal voter, 1 male +21, 4 males 10-21, 3 males -10, 1 female +18, 1 female 10-18

1860: Butte Pct, Benton County, Oregon, June 26, 1860; William McBee, 58, farmer, \$1440 \$1977, MD; Elizabeth, 53, PA; William H., 20, farm laborer, \$0 \$500, MO; Joseph, 18, farm laborer, MO; David, 16, MO; James, 14, MO; Nancy J., 12, MO; John T., 27, farmer, \$0 \$1000, OH

Children of William McBee and Elizabeth Milligan

3-1. Rachel Ann McBee [Pioneer of 1852]

b. 24 Sep 1829 Stark County, Ohio

d. 1852 Ray County, Missouri or on Oregon Trail (?)

burial location unknown

m. 16 Apr 1851 Ray County, Missouri

David P. Adams [Pioneer of 1852]

b. 1825 Ohio

d. aft 20 Aug 1857 Benton County, Oregon

burial location unknown

1850: District 75, Ray County, Missouri, October 16, 1850; William McBee, 48, farmer, \$100, MD; Elizabeth, 40, PA; Rachel, 20, OH; John, 18, farmer, OH; Thomas, 16, farmer, OH; George, 14, OH; Elizabeth, 13, OH; William H., 11, MO; Joseph, 10, MO; [David, 7, MO] James, 4, MO; Nancy, 2, MO; Rachel, 80, MD

3-2. John Wesley McBee [Pioneer of 1852]

b. 09 Feb 1831 Stark County, Ohio

d. 22 Jan 1888 Lane County, Oregon

buried [Eugene Pioneer Cemetery](#), Eugene, Lane County, Oregon

m1. 31 Oct 1855 Marion County, Oregon

Elizabeth Jane Matheny

b. 1839

d. Nov 1869/Mar 1870

burial location unknown

d/o Permit and Mary Matheny

m2. 21 Jul 1874 Benton County, Oregon

Josephine Grubbs

b. 09 May 1847 Michigan

d. 27 Sep 1893 Lane County, Oregon

buried [Eugene Pioneer Cemetery](#), Eugene, Lane County, Oregon

d/o John Grubbs and Susan Austen

1850: District 75, Ray County, Missouri, October 16, 1850; William McBee, 48, farmer, \$100, MD; Elizabeth, 40, PA; Rachel, 20, OH; John, 18, farmer, OH; Thomas, 16, farmer, OH; George, 14, OH; Elizabeth, 13, OH; William H., 11, MO; Joseph, 10, MO; [David, 7, MO] James, 4, MO; Nancy, 2, MO; Rachel, 80, MD

DLC #2230 Marion County; McBee, John W., T8S R4W sec 12, 160a; born 1831 Stark County, Ohio; arrived Oregon 01 Oct 1852; settled claim 22 Mar 1853. Affidavit: Joseph M. Pomeroy, John McBee (See DC 3958 in T13S R4W sec 6 for same party) [Genealogical Material in Oregon Donation Land Claims vol iv p. 37]

“John McBee & Elizabeth Mathena (sic), m. 31 Oct 1855; Enos Garrison, M.G. Record #212 p.57.” [Marion County Marriage Records by Jean Custer & Daraleen Wade 1871-1874 p.12]

The Corvallis *Gazette* of Saturday last contains the following: The house of Mr. J. W. McBee was consumed by fire the first of the week; origin of the fire unknown. The family barely escaped with their lives, losing everything in the shape of clothing, furniture, etc.

[Polk County Times, Dallas, Oregon, May 29, 1869 p.3]

DIED.—Mr. John W. McBee, whose farm and home is near Springfield, died at that place Sunday morning, aged about 50 years. He leaves a wife and several children. Mr. McBee was an honest upright man and was greatly esteemed by his neighbors. The funeral took place Tuesday to the Odd Fellows cemetery near this city, the interment being conducted by Springfield Lodge, I. O. O. F., assisted by Spencer Butte Lodge of this city.

[Eugene City Guard, Eugene, Oregon, January 28, 1888 p.5]

Children of John McBee and Elizabeth Matheny
3-2-i. Samuel Edward McBee (1856-1945)

S. E. McBEE is an agriculturist living on a thriving eighty-acre farm one mile east of Springfield. He was born in Benton county, Oregon, December 13, 1856, a son of John W. and Almira (Mathena) McBee, natives of Ohio and Indiana respectively. The father came with his parents to Oregon in 1852 and the mother, in company with relatives, came to this state in the same year, her parents having died in the east. After the father's marriage he settled in Benton county, Oregon, on a homestead of two hundred acres which remained his home until in 1874, when he sold out and settled in Lane county, where he purchased one hundred and sixty acres one mile east of Springfield. Upon that farm he lived until his death, which occurred on the 23d of January, 1888. The mother had passed away in 1868 and after her death the father had again married, his second union being with Miss Josephine Grubbs, a native of Pennsylvania. By the first marriage there were five children, of whom S. E. McBee, of this review, is the eldest, the others being: W. A., of Pleasant Hill, Oregon; Mrs. W. C. Campbell, of Spokane, Washington; Martha Grubbs, deceased; and Mrs. Ida Collins, of Springfield. Unto the second marriage were also born five children, as follows: Jesse, of Seattle, Washington; Bert, a resident of Lorane, Oregon; Elmer, of Springfield; John, of Benton county; and Lillie, the wife of Frank Bartholomew, of Springfield.

S. E. McBee remained at home until he attained the age of twenty-four years, receiving a good common-school education and assisting in the farm work. At that age he was married and began farming on one hundred and sixty acres of land in Lane county which belonged to him. This land, which was situated on the McKenzie river, he cultivated for twelve years, after which he sold out and removed to the old family homestead, one mile east of Springfield, where he lived for five years. In 1902 he purchased twenty-five acres and in 1904 made his home upon that land which he has by purchase added to, until he now has eighty acres, of which fifty acres are in a high state of cultivation, the remainder being in timber.

Mr. McBee was married on the 3d of August, 1881, to Miss Catherine Wileox, also a native of Oregon, born in Lane county, December 4, 1863, a daughter of Philo and Rosanna (Brown) Wileox. Her father was born in Vermont, November 1, 1834, while the mother's birthplace was Missouri. The father came to Oregon in 1857 by the way of the Isthmus of Panama. In 1865 he settled on Camp creek, in Lane county, where he purchased two hundred and eighty acres of land, upon which he resided for six years. He then sold the land and purchased ninety-three acres within two miles of Springfield. He lived upon this farm for many years, bringing it under a good state of cultivation, erecting suitable improvements and making of it a very desirable farm property. In 1892 he sold the farm and retired from active life, and now at the age of seventy-eight years makes his home with his son-in-law, S. E. McBee. Mrs. Wileox crossed the plains when six years of age with her parents, with whom she lived until her marriage. She passed away in June, 1891. In the

Wileox family were three children, of whom Mrs. McBee is the eldest, the others being: John F., of Salem; and Mary Ellen, the wife of T. M. Johnson, of Echo, Oregon. To Mr. and Mrs. McBee have been born ten children, all of whom are living: Charles O., who was born in September, 1882, and married Anna Saul; Lena M., born January 23, 1884, at home; Bertha E., born July 2, 1885, the wife of George W. Stewart, residing near Springfield, by whom she has two children, Harold and Lucille; Ina L., who was born February 11, 1887, the wife of Fred Cline, of Springfield, and the mother of two children, Bernice and Ralph; Melvin, who was born November 23, 1889, and who married Beulah Koch and resides near Springfield; Lewis B., born February 5, 1893, who has a business-college education and resides at home; Edward W., born January 17, 1895; Wayne W., born July 1, 1897; Loris G., born January 22, 1901; and Alice R., born October 14, 1902.

Mr. McBee is prominent and popular in fraternal circles, being a member of the Odd Fellows lodge, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Patrons of Husbandry, having filled all of the chairs in those orders. ~~He and his family are affiliated with the~~

Methodist Episcopal church, in the work of which they are deeply interested, and the family is a highly respected one and widely known in the community. Mr. McBee is a progressive, up-to-date farmer and, although he gives strict attention to business, finds time for fraternal and social life and is highly esteemed by all who know him.

[Centennial History of Oregon by Joseph Gaston Vol 4 p.863-4]

3-2-ii. William Alfred McBee (1859-1927)

3-2-iii. Clara Mabel McBee (1860-1945)

3-2-iv. Mary Jane McBee (1865-1895)

3-2-v. Ida Marie McBee (1867-1929)

Children of John McBee and Josephine Grubbs:

3-2-i. Jesse Austin McBee (1875-1893)

3-2-ii. Henry Burton McBee (1877-1943)

3-2-iii. Elmer Francis McBee (1881-1955)

3-2-iv. Lily Myrtle McBee (1885-1961)

3-2-v. John Wesley McBee (1887-1946)

3-3. Thomas McBee [Pioneer of 1852]

b. 12 Jan 1833 Stark County, Ohio

d. 25 Jan 1859 Benton County, Oregon

burial location unknown

1850: District 75, Ray County, Missouri, October 16, 1850; William McBee, 48, farmer, \$100, MD; Elizabeth, 40, PA; Rachel, 20, OH; John, 18, farmer, OH; Thomas, 16, farmer, OH; George, 14, OH; Elizabeth, 13, OH; William H., 11, MO; Joseph, 10, MO; [David, 7, MO] James, 4, MO; Nancy, 2, MO; Rachel, 80, MD

3-4. George W. McBee [Pioneer of 1852]

b. 13 May 1835 Stark County, Ohio

d. 19 Jan 1879 Benton County, Oregon

buried [Winkle Cemetery](#), Benton County, Oregon

m. 13 Oct 1864 Benton County, Oregon

Missouri Elizabeth Porter

b. 20 Dec 1850 Benton County, Oregon

d. 02 Sep 1875 Benton County, Oregon

buried [Winkle Cemetery](#), Benton County, Oregon

d/o John Edward Porter and Mary Winkle

1850: District 75, Ray County, Missouri, October 16, 1850; William McBee, 48, farmer, \$100, MD; Elizabeth, 40, PA; Rachel, 20, OH; John, 18, farmer, OH; Thomas, 16, farmer, OH; George, 14, OH; Elizabeth, 13, OH; William H., 11, MO; Joseph, 10, MO; [David, 7, MO] James, 4, MO; Nancy, 2, MO; Rachel, 80, MD

At his residence, in this county, Jan. 19, 1879, George W. McBee, aged 43 years 8 months and 5 days.

Deceased was born in Stark county, Ohio, and came across the plains to Oregon in 1852, and settled in Benton county, where he continuously resided until removed by death. Was married to Miss Missouri E. Porter, Oct. 13, 1864, who died Sept. 2, 1875. Mr. McBee was an honorable, upright man, a good citizen, kind friend and neighbor, and leaves three children, and a large number of relatives and friends to mourn their loss. His disease was typhoid pneumonia, and lived only nine days after being taken sick—cut down in the very prime of life. Surely, in "the midst of life we are in death."

[The Corvallis Gazette, Corvallis, Oregon, January 24, 1879 p.3]

Administrator's Notice.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the undersigned has been duly appointed Administrator of the estate of George McBee, deceased, by the County Court of Benton county, Oregon; all persons having claims against said estate are required to present the same to said Administrator with the proper vouchers within six months from this date at his residence 7 miles south of Corvallis, in Benton county, Oregon, or at the office of James A. Yantis, in Corvallis.

WILLIAM H. McBEE,

Adm.'r estate of Geo. W. McBee, dec.'d.

Dated Feb. 3, 1879.

7feb16:6w4.

The Corvallis Gazette, Corvallis, Oregon, February 7, 1879 p.3]

Children of George McBee and Missouri Porter:

3-4-i. Mary Elizabeth McBee (1866-1948)

3-4-ii. William Henry McBee (1869-1942)

3-4-iii. Annie McBee (1870-1870)

3-4-iv. Rosa McBee (1873-1883)

3-5. Elizabeth McBee [Pioneer of 1852]

b. 25 Feb 1837 Stark County, Ohio

d. 19 Dec 1889/1899 Benton County, Oregon

buried [Mount Union Cemetery](#), Philomath, Benton County, Oregon

m. 01/31 Dec 1857 Benton County, Oregon

Andrew Jackson Linebarger [Pioneer of 1843]

b. 1829 Fountain County, Indiana

d. Jun 1861 Forest Grove, Washington County, Oregon

buried [Mount Union Cemetery](#), Philomath, Benton County, Oregon

m1. 22 Jan 1852 Lucy Elizabeth Gilmour

s/o Lewis and Jane (Henderson)

1850: District 75, Ray County, Missouri, October 16, 1850; William McBee, 48, farmer, \$100, MD; Elizabeth, 40, PA; Rachel, 20, OH; John, 18, farmer, OH; Thomas, 16, farmer, OH; George, 14, OH; Elizabeth, 13, OH; William H., 11, MO; Joseph, 10, MO; [David, 7, MO] James, 4, MO; Nancy, 2, MO; Rachel, 80, MD

File: Linebarger; arrived 1843, settled 1850 Linn Co; d. 1861 bur Union Cemetery, Forest Grove, Washington Co, OR; m1. 22 Jan 1852 Lucy Eleanor Gilmour; m2. 31 Dec 1857 Elizabeth McBee;

Linebarger; settled in Benton Co, OR; died of pneumonia while visiting his brother in Forest Grove; is buried in Union Cemetery, Forest Grove, Washington Co, OR (father of 1 child by first marriage--Elizabeth; father of 2 children by second marriage--Nancy V., Mary J.)

Oregon Statesman: Jan 26, 1858 2:7 Linn Co, A.J. Linebarger m'd 31 Dec 1857 to Elizabeth McBee

Mrs. George (Mary) Davis
May 29, 1939

Mrs. Davis was interviewed at the Davis farm about four miles south of Corvallis, near Muddy Creek. Her recollection was not especially good, but it seemed to the interviewer that the things she did remember were reliable. She said:

"My father was Andrew Linebarger, who settled near Tangent in Linn County in an early day. He died when I was about a year old and I do not remember him or know much about him.

"My mother was Elizabeth McBee. Her father, William McBee, settled in Benton County in 1852 or 1853. The McBee donation land claim is in the Peoria Ferry region, about nine or ten miles from Corvallis. William McBee's children were John, George, William Henry, Joseph, James, Nancy, and my mother. Aunt Nancy married Terry Smith, brother of Green Berry Smith who was one of the big landholders of this region in the early days. One of Nancy's children is Judd Smith, who still lives in the old neighborhood about five miles from here. All the children got a part of grandfather's farm.

"I went to school first at the Buchanan school, in what is now the Greenberry district. The Buchanan and Foster children went there. I do not remember the teachers. One was a man named Moreland. Part of the time the various families of the McBee children and the Friedley children had private teachers. One of these was a Mr. Galbreath (or Calbreath). Then I was two years at Philomath College, when Ezra Wyatt and Mr. & Mrs. Biddle taught there. Philomath College was a big school and a good school then, and everybody had a good time.

"I had one sister, Virginia, who married Charles Dannick. James McBee, a nephew of mine, lives by Philomath.

"I married George W. Davis. Our children are Leslie and Charles Davis. One of them is at home with us and the other is farming just west of here not far from the Independent School."

[Oregon Pioneer Remembrances Vol 1]

Children of Andrew Linebarger and Elizabeth McBee:

3-5-i. Nancy Virginia Linebarger (1859-1935)

3-5-ii. Mary Josephine Linebarger (1860-1960)

3-6. William Henry McBee [Pioneer of 1852]

b. 01 Oct 1839 Ray County, Missouri

d. 30 Jan 1924 Benton County, Oregon

buried [Crystal Lake Cemetery](#), Corvallis, Benton County, Oregon

m. 27 Jun 1869 Benton County, Oregon

Anna Louisa Vannoy

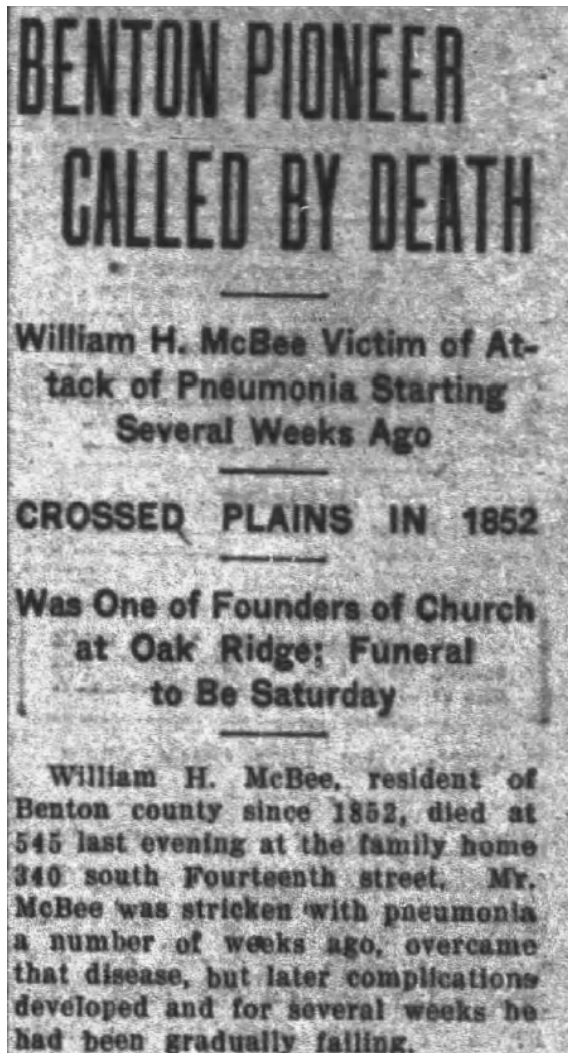
b. 24 Jan 1851 Missouri

d. 13/18 Dec 1917 Benton County, Oregon

buried [Crystal Lake Cemetery](#), Corvallis, Benton County, Oregon

1850: District 75, Ray County, Missouri, October 16, 1850; William McBee, 48, farmer, \$100, MD; Elizabeth, 40, PA; Rachel, 20, OH; John, 18, farmer, OH; Thomas, 16, farmer, OH; George, 14, OH; Elizabeth, 13, OH; William H., 11, MO; Joseph, 10, MO; [David, 7, MO] James, 4, MO; Nancy, 2, MO; Rachel, 80, MD

1860: Butte Pct, Benton County, Oregon, June 26, 1860; William McBee, 58, farmer, \$1440 \$1977, MD; Elizabeth, 53, PA; William H., 20, farm laborer, \$0 \$500, MO, Joseph, 18, farm laborer, MO; David, 16, MO; James, 14, MO; Nancy J., 12, MO; John T., 27, farmer, \$0 \$1000, OH

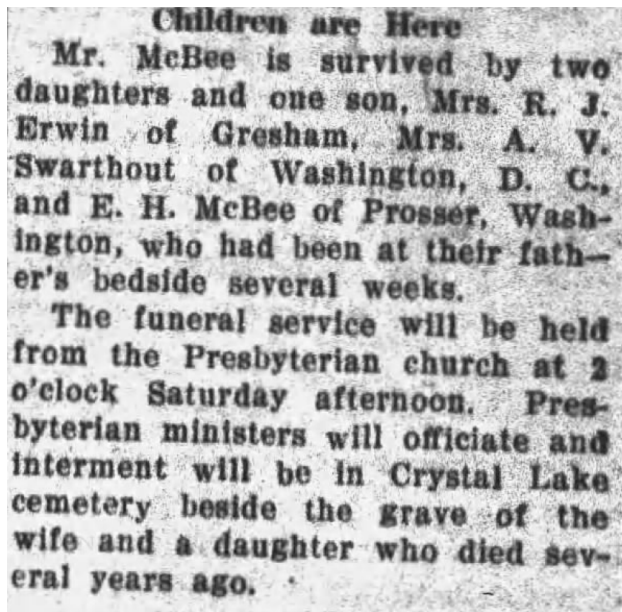


Mr. McBee was born October 1, 1839, in Ray county, Missouri, and was the son of William and Elizabeth McBee with whom he crossed the plains to Oregon in 1852, when 13 years of age. He had spent the greater part of 55 years on the McBee farm south of Corvallis, residing there with his parents and in later years following his marriage to Annie L. Vannoy, a wedding that took place June 29, 1869, in the old Presbyterian church, until recent years an old landmark standing on the present site of the John Swick home at Fourth and Jefferson street.

Founded Oak Ridge Church

During his farming years Mr. McBee was one of the promoters and founders of the Presbyterian church at Oak Ridge where he served 35 years as superintendent of the Sunday school and was one of the prominent members of the church.

In 1909 Mr. McBee and his family moved from the farm to Corvallis and Mr. McBee had been actively interested in the local Presbyterian church and keenly alert to the progress and growth of his home city. Mrs. McBee passed away December 18 of 1917 and Mr. McBee had since lived quietly alone and until recent weeks had been a wonderful example of alert manhood, despite advanced years. He was aged 84 years and four months.



[Corvallis Gazette Times, Corvallis, Oregon, Thursday, January 31, 1924 p.1]

Children of William McBee and Anna Vannoy:

3-6-i. Irena May McBee (1870-1921)

3-6-ii. Edwin Elmer McBee (1874-1931)

3-6-iii. Minnie McBee (1878-1880)

3-6-iv. Maude Evelyn McBee (1882-1965)

3-6-v. Gertrude Alice McBee (1888-1983)

3-7. Joseph McBee [Pioneer of 1852]

b. 19 Sep 1842 Ray County, Missouri

d. 22 Dec 1920 Benton County, Oregon

buried [Crystal Lake Cemetery](#), Corvallis, Benton County, Oregon

m. 23 Jun 1875 Corvallis, Benton County, Oregon

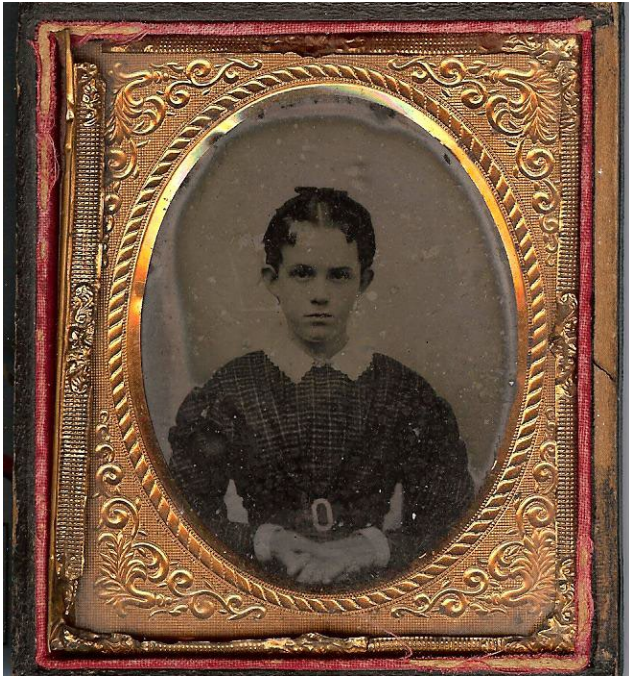
Frances Jane Irwin

b. 11 Jun 1851 Corvallis, Benton County, Oregon

d. 31 May 1903 Corvallis, Benton County, Oregon

buried [Crystal Lake Cemetery](#), Corvallis, Benton County, Oregon

d/o Richard Stewart Irwin and Louisa Kompp



[Francis Irwin McBee contributed by Patti Waltman-Ingebretsen]



[Joseph and Francis McBee contributed by Patti Waltman-Ingebretsen]



[Joseph and Francis McBee wedding contributed by Patti Waltman-Ingebretsen]

1850: District 75, Ray County, Missouri, October 16, 1850; William McBee, 48, farmer, \$100, MD; Elizabeth, 40, PA; Rachel, 20, OH; John, 18, farmer, OH; Thomas, 16, farmer, OH; George, 14, OH; Elizabeth, 13, OH; William H., 11, MO; Joseph, 10, MO; [David, 7, MO] James, 4, MO; Nancy, 2, MO; Rachel, 80, MD

1860: Butte Pct, Benton County, Oregon, June 26, 1860; William McBee, 58, farmer, \$1440 \$1977, MD; Elizabeth, 53, PA; William H., 20, farm laborer, \$0 \$500, MO, Joseph, 18, farm laborer, MO; David, 16, MO; James, 14, MO; Nancy J., 12, MO; John T., 27, farmer, \$0 \$1000, OH

IN THE GRAVE.

Death and Burial of Mrs. Joseph McBee—She Died Sunday.

Mrs. Joseph McBee, a sister of Commissioner Erwin and James Erwin was buried at three o'clock yesterday afternoon in the private burial ground on the farm of Mrs. Richard Erwin, at the Buttes. She died at the family home south of Corvallis, at eight o'clock Sunday night, of diabetes. She was not confined to her room with illness until last Saturday morning, 36 hours before her death, though she had been ailing for two or three months. So sudden was her death that it was a great shock to her family and friends. She was about 53 years of age.

The funeral services were conducted by Rev. Carrick of the Presbyterian church. They occurred at the home of Mrs. Erwin mother of the deceased at the Buttes, which was also the childhood home of the departed. Friends from all over southern Benton were present to pay a last tribute of respect.

Mrs. McBee was Miss Fannie Erwin. She was the eldest and only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Erwin, who crossed the plains in 1850 and settled in Portland, where Mr. Erwin engaged in business. There Fannie Erwin was born. In September 1851, the family came to Corvallis, where Mr. Erwin opened a store, but a short time afterward, removed to the Buttes, where Mr. Erwin settled on 640 acres of land, still owned by the family. There Fannie Erwin grew to womanhood, when she was united in marriage to Joseph McBee. She was a widely known and popular woman. She is survived by the husband and seven children.

JOSEPH McBEE, 70 YEARS OF AGE, DIES TODAY

Joseph McBee, pioneer of Benton county who came to this section when a lad 11 years of age, breathed his last at the Corvallis hospital at 8 o'clock this morning, his death following a short illness from heart disease and general debility. The funeral arrangements are not complete, but the service will be held some time Friday, with interment in Crystal Lake cemetery. Rev. J. E. Snyder will officiate.

Mr. McBee was born in Ray county, Missouri, September 19, 1841, and when 11 years of age came by ox team with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William McBee, to the western country. The family wintered near Salem, in Marion county, and in the Spring of 1853 came to Benton county, the elder Mr. McBee taking up a donation land claim about eight miles south of this city. In June of 1875 Mr. McBee was united in marriage to Frances Irwin who died May 31, 1903. Seven children were born to the couple and these survive their father. They are Richard C., Mrs. Arthur Lilly and George I. McBee, of Corvallis; Edwin J. of Ashton, Idaho, Mrs. C. V. Musgrave and Mrs. George I. Baum of Portland, and Mrs. R. H. Hawley of Blodgett, all of whom were at the bedside when the end came. Two brothers, David McBee of Eugene and W. H. McBee of Corvallis, also survive.

Mr. McBee had spent practically all of his life on the farm south of Corvallis, was an industrious farmer, actively engaged until late years in which he had enjoyed a generous return from the fruits of his labor. He was widely known throughout this section and scores of friends and neighbors will regret the passing of Joseph McBee.

Children of Joseph McBee and Francis Irwin:

3-7-i. Richard Casper McBee (1876-1937)

3-7-ii. Will McBee (1880-1880)

3-7-iii. Joseph Edwin McBee (1881-1929)

3-7-iv. Leela Anna McBee (1885-1933)

3-7-v. Leora Dell McBee (1889-1964)

3-7-vi. Elizabeth Ann McBee (1891-1975)

3-7-vii. George Irwin McBee (1894-1955)

3-7-viii. Ida Josephine McBee (1895-1959)

JOSEPH McBEE. A very popular and resourceful man was William McBee, who came to Benton county in 1852 and established the family whose very worthy representative is Joseph McBee, a successful farmer near Corvallis. Born in Ohio in 1801, the father moved to Missouri with his parents when he was a boy, and was there reared on a farm, securing such education at the public schools as the times and his arduous home duties permitted. After his marriage with Elizabeth Milligan, of Ohio, he moved onto another farm, where he prospered, but at the same time desired to further improve his condition. The result of his discontent was that he sold his land in 1852, when he started across the plains with ox-teams, accompanied by his wife and children and his mother. On the way the mother died of cholera, but otherwise the journey was an uneventful one, and the home-seekers arrived at their destination less discouraged than most emigrants in the early days. The first winter being spent in Marion county, they settled the next spring on a claim seven miles south of Corvallis, Benton county, which claim is still in the possession of his heirs. Mr. McBee made many improvements on his farm, and in its management exercised business judgment and the greatest frugality. He had an interesting personality, and succeeded in making

friends with all with whom he came in contact. Somewhat of a politician, he took a keen interest in the local undertakings of his party, although he never aspired to office. Nine children were born to himself and wife, of whom W. H. is a farmer near Corvallis; David lives in Smithville; and Joseph is the subject of this sketch.

Trained to farming on the paternal ranch, Joseph McBee remained at home until he was twenty-one, and then went to the gold fields on the Salmon river. After mining and prospecting for a short time he returned to Benton county and took up farming, and in 1875 married Fannie Irwin, who was born in Corvallis, and with whom he went to housekeeping on a claim eight miles southeast of Corvallis. In 1879 he bought two hundred and seventy-three acres of land constituting a portion of the old J. Gage donation claim, and where he is engaged in stock-raising and general farming. He is a Republican in politics, and has been a school director for many years. Mrs. McBee, who was a daughter of Richard and Louisa Irwin, the former of whom is deceased, crossed the plains with her parents in 1850, and was reared in Oregon. She was the mother of the following children: Richard C.; Joseph E.; Lela; Leora; Lizzie; Georgia; Ida; and Willie, deceased in infancy. Mrs. McBee died at the home farm May 31, 1903, a devoted wife and a kind and loving mother. Mr. McBee is prominent in his locality, has a fine farm and fine Durham cattle, and in all his undertakings evidences thrifty and progressive ideas.

[Portrait and Biographical Record of the Willamette Valley p. 1270-3]



[Leela Anna McBee contributed by Patti Waltman-Ingebretsen]

3-8. David Eugene McBee [Pioneer of 1852]

b. 16 Oct 1843 Ray County, Missouri

d. 24 Mar 1930 Lane County, Oregon

buried [Inman Cemetery](#), Elmira, Lane County, Oregon

m. 22 Apr 1868 Benton County, Oregon

Sarah Jane Grimsley

b. 15 Sep 1852 Oregon

d. 20 May 1915 Lane County, Oregon

buried [Inman Cemetery](#), Elmira, Lane County, Oregon

1850: District 75, Ray County, Missouri, October 16, 1850; William McBee, 48, farmer, \$100, MD; Elizabeth, 40, PA; Rachel, 20, OH; John, 18, farmer, OH; Thomas, 16, farmer, OH; George, 14, OH; Elizabeth, 13, OH; William H., 11, MO; Joseph, 10, MO; [David, 7, MO] James, 4, MO; Nancy, 2, MO; Rachel, 80, MD

1860: Butte Pct, Benton County, Oregon, June 26, 1860; William McBee, 58, farmer, \$1440 \$1977, MD; Elizabeth, 53, PA; William H., 20, farm laborer, \$0 \$500, MO; Joseph, 18, farm laborer, MO; David, 16, MO; James, 14, MO; Nancy J., 12, MO; John T., 27, farmer, \$0 \$1000, OH

Pioneer Dies — David McBee, 87, a resident of Franklin, Lane county since leaving Benton county, died at the Pacific hospital in Eugene on Monday. The funeral will be held in that vicinity. Mr. McBee, who was a pioneer of the Willamette valley, was born in Missouri in 1843 and crossed the plains to Oregon in 1851. The family settled on a donation land claim south of Corvallis where Mr. McBee resided until 1881. He owned and operated four different wheat farms in the Corvallis district. Selling out in Benton county, he moved to Lane county and bought a farm three miles from Junction City. Later he purchased three places of about 500 acres near Franklin. He resided on one of these farms until his death. Mr. McBee was married in 1870 to Miss Sarah Jane Grimsley at Corvallis. Six children were born to the couple and five of them are living. They are Robert Lee, Lulu Ellen, Clyde Norman, Cecil Lola and Chauncey Delone. Relatives of Mr. McBee still reside in this vicinity.

[Corvallis Gazette Times, Wednesday, March 26, 1930 p.1]

Children of David McBee and Sarah Grimsley:

3-8-i. Robert E. Lee McBee (1970-1944)

3-8-ii. Evelina McBee (1974-)

3-8-iii. Lula Ellen McBee (1877-1950)

3-8-iv. Clyde Norman McBee (1880-1947)

3-8-v. Cecile Lola McBee (1882-1932)

3-8-vi. Chauncy Duane McBee (1885-1934)

3-9. James P. "Doc" McBee [Pioneer of 1852]

b. 12 Sep 1846/1847 Ray County, Missouri

d. 13 Jul 1906 Benton County, Oregon

buried [Mount Union Cemetery](#), Philomath, Benton County, Oregon

m. 1896 Oregon

Iva May Strow

b. 07 May 1880 Alsea, Benton County, Oregon

d. 26 May 1944 Corvallis, Benton County, Oregon

buried [Mount Union Cemetery](#), Philomath, Benton County, Oregon

m2. Robert Lewis Castro

1850: District 75, Ray County, Missouri, October 16, 1850; William McBee, 48, farmer, \$100, MD; Elizabeth, 40, PA; Rachel, 20, OH; John, 18, farmer, OH; Thomas, 16, farmer, OH; George, 14, OH; Elizabeth, 13, OH; William H., 11, MO; Joseph, 10, MO; [David, 7, MO] James, 4, MO; Nancy, 2, MO; Rachel, 80, MD

1860: Butte Pct, Benton County, Oregon, June 26, 1860; William McBee, 58, farmer, \$1440 \$1977, MD; Elizabeth, 53, PA; William H., 20, farm laborer, \$0 \$500, MO, Joseph, 18, farm laborer, MO; David, 16, MO; James, 14, MO; Nancy J., 12, MO; John T., 27, farmer, \$0 \$1000, OH

LIFTED A STONE.

And Blood vessel Burst in
Brain—Passing of J. P.
McBee—Another
Pioneer.

The funeral of the late J. P. McBee, one of the substantial citizens of Benton county, occurred from the family residence near Independence school house Sunday. The interment was in Newton's cemetery, and was attended by a large concourse of relatives and friends. The funeral service was conducted by Rev. M. S. Bush. Mr. McBee died Saturday morning, after an illness of only a few days. The cause of death was an abscess on the brain, and is believed to have been caused by the rupture of a blood vessel sustained while Mr. McBee was lifting heavily during the removal of a woodshed. He was about his duties as usual after that, but a week before his death he became violently ill and in spite of medical aid, finally succumbed. A short time before the end he became partially paralyzed.

Mr. McBee was a thrifty farmer, and was one of the biggest land owners in the county. He was born in Ray county, Missouri, September, 1 1849. He came to Oregon with his parents, traveling by ox team across the plains in 1852, and settled on the old donation claim in the Willamette river bottom, a dozen miles south of Corvallis. About 1870 he moved on his own home place on the prairie, where he resided until his recent occupancy of the farm home near Beulah church. He was a brother of Joseph and W. H. McBee and of David McBee, of Lane county, and a sister of Mrs. T. W. B. Smith of Benton. The surviving members of the family are, besides the widow, Edna and Elsie, daughters, and James and William, sons. Mr. McBee was an excellent citizen and an honorable man.

[The Weekly Gazette Times, Corvallis, Oregon, Tuesday, July 17, 1906 p.2]

Mrs. Ida Castro Dies Early This Morning

Following an illness of several weeks, Mrs. Ida M. Castro, a member of one of Benton county's early families, died here at 3:25 this morning.

Daughter of Alexander and Margaret Jane Greer Strow, she was born at Alsea May 7, 1880. She grew to womanhood in Benton county and had since lived in California and Oregon.

Surviving are three daughters, Miss Elsie McBee, route three, Corvallis; Mrs. Edna Coyne, Oakland, California, and Mrs. Roberta McDonough, Sacramento, California; two sons, James McBee of Lebanon, and William, of Eugene, and four sisters, Mrs. Mary Moore, Corvallis; Mrs. Frances Risen, San Carlos, California; Mrs. W. W. Smith, route three, Corvallis, and Mrs. Myrtle Walker, Alsea. There are six grandchildren.

The funeral service is to be held in the Keeney Funeral chapel at 10:30 Monday morning. Dr. Jesse W. Bunch will officiate and interment will be in Mt. Union cemetery.

[Corvallis Gazette Times, Corvallis, Oregon, Friday, May 26, 1944 p.6]

Children of James McBee and Iva May Strow:

3-9-i. Elsie May McBee (1897-1996)

3-9-ii. James Shelley McBee (1898-1983)

3-9-iii. William Dewey McBee (1900-1969)

3-9-iv. Edna Lola McBee (1903-1991)

3-10. Nancy Jane McBee [Pioneer of 1852]

b. 23 Mar 1849 Ray County, Missouri

d. 29 Sep 1916 Corvallis, Benton County, Oregon

buried [Crystal Lake Cemetery](#), Corvallis, Benton County, Oregon

m. 18 May 1864 Benton County, Oregon

Tyra Washington Bray Smith

b. 23 Jan 1840 St. Joseph County, Indiana

d. 25 Nov 1914 Benton County, Oregon

buried [Crystal Lake Cemetery](#), Corvallis, Benton County, Oregon

1850: District 75, Ray County, Missouri, October 16, 1850; William McBee, 48, farmer, \$100, MD; Elizabeth, 40, PA; Rachel, 20, OH; John, 18, farmer, OH; Thomas, 16, farmer, OH; George, 14, OH; Elizabeth, 13, OH; William H., 11, MO; Joseph, 10, MO; [David, 7, MO] James, 4, MO; Nancy, 2, MO; Rachel, 80, MD

1860: Butte Pct, Benton County, Oregon, June 26, 1860; William McBee, 58, farmer, \$1440 \$1977, MD; Elizabeth, 53, PA; William H., 20, farm laborer, \$0 \$500, MO, Joseph, 18, farm laborer, MO; David, 16, MO; James, 14, MO; Nancy J., 12, MO; John T., 27, farmer, \$0 \$1000, OH

Funeral services over the remains of the late Tyra W. B. Smith, Benton county pioneer, was held from the residence of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Smith, 461 Jefferson street, at 2 o'clock this afternoon, Dr. J. R. N. Bell officiating. Services at the grave in Crystal Lake cemetery were under the auspices of the Masonic lodge. A large company of friends from Corvallis and Benton county, many of them friends of the deceased since the early history of Benton, were present to pay their last tribute of respect to a departed neighbor, and the floral offerings were profuse and beautiful. The bereaved widow and children have the sincere sympathy of all in their hour of sorrow.

[The Weekly Gazette Times, Corvallis, Oregon, Friday, December 4, 1914 p.3]

Nancy J. Smith Passes

Mrs. Nancy J. Smith, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. William McBee, pioneers of Benton county, and widow of the late T. W. B. Smith, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. J. R. Smith, 461 Jefferson street shortly after 8 o'clock last evening. Though she had been ailing a week or more, Mrs. Smith's condition was not considered critical. Heart trouble resultant from a complicated illness, resulted in her death. Nancy J. McBee was born in Ray county, Missouri in 1849, and when but four or five years of age crossed the plains with her parents, brothers and sisters, coming to Benton county and locating on the McBee homestead south of this city. She married T. W. B. Smith in this county and to this union six children were born. These include two daughters, Mrs. J. R. Smith, of Corvallis, and Mrs. Chester Avery, of Klamath Falls, and four sons, Judd, Walter, Dick and Ed. Smith, all of Corvallis and Benton county.. Three brothers also survive, W. H. and Joseph McBee, of Lane county. Her parents, four brothers and a sister preceded her to the unknown. Funeral services will be held from the residence of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Smith, 461 Jefferson street, at 2:30 o'clock Sunday afternoon. Dr. J. R. N. Bell will officiate and burial will be made in the family burial plot in Crystal Lake cemetery.

[Corvallis Gazette Times, Corvallis, Oregon, Saturday, September 30, 1916 p.1]

Children of Tyra Smith and Nancy McBee:

3-10-i. Olive Jane Smith (1865-1957)

3-10-ii. William Walter Smith (1866-1946)

3-10-iii. Judson George Smith (1868-1945)

3-10-iv. Elmer Hamilton Smith (1869-1926)

3-10-v. Adda Smith (1971-1953)

3-10-vi. Edgar Darwood Smith (1873-1929)

4. Thomas L. McBee [died prior to emigration]

b. 1803 Frederick County, Maryland

d. c1850 Missouri [died prior to 1850 census] or 1852 Oregon Trail (??)

m. 01 Apr 1832 Stark County, Ohio

Susannah Milligan [Pioneer of 1852]

b. 1820

d. 25 Sep 1889 Douglas County, Oregon

buried [Civil Bend Cemetery](#), Winston, Douglas County, Oregon

d/o John Milligan

m2. 15 Jan 1857 Benton County, Oregon Alanson L. Miller (1807-1877)

1850: District 75, Ray County, Missouri, October 15, 1850; Susan McBee, 35, OH; John, 17, laborer, OH; William, 13, OH; Sarah, 10, MO; Thomas, 6, MO

ODLC: #457 Benton; Susannah McBee; b. 1815 OH; arr 22 Oct 1852; sc 21 Feb 1855; m'd Thomas McBee 01 Apr 1833 OH; husband d. 1851 MO

1854: Benton Co Census; Susan McBee, 2 males 10-21, 1 male -10, 1 female +18, 1 female -10

File: McBee; m1. 01 Apr 1832 Stark Co, OH Thomas McBee; m2. 15 Jan 1857 Benton Co, OR Alanson L. Miller

Children of Thomas McBee and Susannah Milligan:

4-1. John T. McBee [Pioneer of 1852]

b. 03 Feb 1833 Stark County, Ohio

d. 19 May 1927 Douglas County, Oregon

buried [Civil Bend Cemetery](#), Winston, Douglas County, Oregon

m. aft 1870 Douglas County, Oregon

Lucinda "Lucy" Emeline Searles

b. 04 Oct 1848 Illinois

d. 16 Jan 1922 Douglas County, Oregon

buried [Civil Bend Cemetery](#), Winston, Douglas County, Oregon

d/o David Searles and Myra Stuart

1850: District 75, Ray County, Missouri, October 15, 1850; Susan McBee, 35, OH; John, 17, laborer, OH; William, 13, OH; Sarah, 10, MO; Thomas, 6, MO

1860: Butte Pct, Benton County, Oregon, June 26, 1860; William McBee, 58, farmer, \$1440 \$1977, MD; Elizabeth, 53, PA; William H., 20, farm laborer, \$0 \$500, MO; Joseph, 18, farm laborer, MO; David, 16, MO; James, 14, MO; Nancy J., 12, MO; John T., 27, farmer, \$0 \$1000, OH

Mrs. Lucy E. McBee.

Mrs. Lucy E. McBee, wife of John T. McBee, died January 16 at the family home after an illness of many weeks. She was 74 years old and a pioneer resident of Oregon, having



crossed the plains with her parents in 1852.

The family first settled at Butteville, in Marion county, and later moved to Douglas county.

Besides her widower, Mrs. McBee is survived by five children. They are Walter, Sherman and Alice McBee of Brockway, Josie McBee of Seattle, and Mrs. Laura Parker of Dillard.

Mrs. McBee was a member of the Baptist church of Dillard. Funeral services were held at Brockway with burial at the Civil Bend cemetery.

Mrs. John T. McBee Passes Away

Mrs. John T. McBee passed away at the family home yesterday, January 16th, after an illness of many weeks. Mrs. McBee was 74 years, 8 months and 12 days of age.

Lucy E. Searls McBee was born in Pike county, Ill., October 4, 1847. She crossed the plains in 1852 and settled near Butteville, Oregon. In 1869 she moved to Douglas county and on December 18, 1870 was married to John T. McBee. To this union six children were born all of whom are living with the exception of one.

Left to mourn her death is her husband, John T. McBee, and five children, Walter, Sherman, and Josie McBee of Brockway, Addie McBee, Seattle, and Laura Parker, Dillard. and three grandchildren, Ruth, Donald and Darrell Parker. One sister, Mrs. Julia Arrington of Crescent City, also survives. These relatives were at her bed side till the end. She leaves one step-sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Iler of Sherwood, Oregon, and a host of friends and neighbors.

Mrs. McBee was a member of the Baptist church at Dillard.

Funeral services will be held at the home at Brockway, January 18, at 2 p. m., and burial will follow in the Civil Bend cemetery.

[The News-Review, Roseburg, Oregon, Tuesday, January 17, 1922 p.1]

JOHN T. M'BEE BROCKWAY PIONEER DIES AT AGE OF 94

John T. McBee, one of the best known pioneer residents of the Brockway vicinity, died at his home last night. Mr. McBee came across the plains to Oregon in 1852 and since that time had been a resident of the state.

He was born in Stark county, Ohio, February 3, 1833 and moved from that state to Missouri where he joined a wagon train to the coast in the spring of '52, reaching Portland by way of The Dalles, in the fall of that year. He settled in the Willamette valley and remained there for ten years and then came to Douglas county and took up a claim at Brockway where he resided until the time of his death. His wife passed away about five years ago.

He is survived by five children, Walter and Josie of Brockway, Addie of Seattle, Sherman, and Mrs. Laura Parker of Brockway. He also leaves a brother, Thomas, of Bridge.

During his life he was a very active man in community life, taking a leading part in any movement for the benefit or improvement of the community.

The funeral services are to be held at the family home Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock, conducted by M. E. Ritter, funeral director of the Roseburg Undertaking company. Rev. H. E. Mow, pastor of the Christian church at Roseburg, will officiate. Interment will take place in the Civil Bend cemetery.

[The News-Review, Roseburg, Oregon, Friday, May 20, 1927 p.3]

Children of John McBee and Susannah Milligan:

4-1-i. Walter McBee (1871-1937)

4-1-ii. Josephine McBee (1873-1956)

4-1-iii. Addie McBee (1875-1956)

4-1-iv. Sammy McBee (1878-1879)

4-1-v. Sherman McBee (1880-1959)

4-1-vi. Laura J. McBee (1882-1940)

4-2. Sarah J. McBee [Pioneer of 1852]

b. 1840 Ray County, Missouri

d. 1899 Douglas County, Oregon

buried [Civil Bend Cemetery](#), Winston, Douglas County, Oregon

m. 1865 Oregon

James Allen Velzian

b. 1836

d. 1926 Oregon

buried [Civil Bend Cemetery](#), Winston, Douglas County, Oregon

1850: District 75, Ray County, Missouri, October 15, 1850; Susan McBee, 35, OH; John, 17, laborer, OH; William, 13, OH; Sarah, 10, MO; Thomas, 6, MO

Children of James Velzian and Sarah McBee:

4-2-i. Maggie Velzian (1866-)

4-2-ii. Susan Velzian (1868-)

4-2-iii. Howard Velzian (1870-1954)

4-2-iv. Ida Velzian (1873-)

4-2-v. Ernest Velzian (1874-)

4-2-vi. Jesse Belle Velzian (1877-1954)

4-2-vii. Metz Velzian (1879-)

4-2-viii. Bert Velzian (1890-)

4-3. William H. McBee [Pioneer of 1852]

b. 11 Sep 1842 Ray County, Missouri

d. 09 Jan 1907 Coos County, Oregon

burial location unknown

m. 07 Jul 1880 Oregon

Caroline Augusta Rose

b. 1850 New York

d. 20 Feb 1929 Multnomah County, Oregon

burial location unknown

1850: District 75, Ray County, Missouri, October 15, 1850; Susan McBee, 35, OH; John, 17, laborer, OH; William, 13, OH; Sarah, 10, MO; Thomas, 6, MO

“William McBee: lives six miles south of Roseburg on South Umpqua; is a farmer; was born September 11, 1842, in Ray county, Missouri; came to coast in 1852 and to county in 1857; married July 7, 1880, to Caroline A. Rose.” [History of Southern Oregon by Albert G. Walling p.514]

Note: may be buried in Enchanted Prairie Cemetery, Coos County, Oregon. No listing found for them in findagrave.

4-4. Thomas James McBee [Pioneer of 1852]

b. 30 Sep 1844/47 Ray County, Missouri

d. 09 Jan 1929 Myrtle Point, Coos County, Oregon
buried [Enchanted Prairie Cemetery](#), Coos County, Oregon

m1. 1867

Sarah Jane Ingram

b. 1851 Oregon

d. 05 Nov 1868 Douglas County, Oregon

buried [Civil Bend Cemetery](#), Winston, Douglas County, Oregon

m2. 29 Oct 1869

America Catherine Belieu

b. 18 Mar 1851 Winston, Douglas County, Oregon

d. 23 Jul 1939 Coos County, Oregon

buried [Enchanted Prairie Cemetery](#), Coos County, Oregon

d/o Michael Belieu and Eliza Jane Hill

1850: District 75, Ray County, Missouri, October 15, 1850; Susan McBee, 35, OH; John, 17, laborer, OH; William, 13, OH; Sarah, 10, MO; Thomas, 6, MO

**M'BEE FUNERAL
HELD WEDNESDAY**

(Special to Coos Bay Times)
MYRTLE POINT, Jan. 15 —
Thomas James McBee who was
familiarily known as "Uncle Tom"
McBee who died last Wednesday
at his home three miles east of
Bridge was one of the older pion-
eers of Coos and Douglas counties.
He was born in Ray county,
Missouri, September 30, 1847. He
made the trip across the plains
with his mother in 1852, his father
dying while crossing the plains,
leaving his wife with her family
of children to finish the journey.
Mrs. McBee with her family ar-
rived in Portland when her baby,
Tom, was only four years of age.

To Douglas County

Mr. McBee's mother moved from Portland to Douglas county where for many years the family made a home. In March 1867 Mr. McBee was married to America Belieu at Vancouver, Wash. When the couple came to Coos county there was only a narrow pack trail over which provisions had to be packed in from Roseburg. Mr. McBee hauled freight from Roseburg to Fort Klamath at the time of the Indian war and in early days drove the stages.

The pioneer was very active and often walked three miles to Remote and cared for cows and chickens on his ranch up to within four days of his death.

He is survived by his wife and sons Richard, Bandon; Dow, Clyde, Delbert, Bridge, Ore; daughter Millie Bryant, Bridge and twelve grandchildren. Three other children passed away several years ago.

The funeral was held at 2 o'clock Friday afternoon at Myrtle Point with interment at the Enchanted Cemetery with Rev. Wiley in charge of the service. The funeral was a large one, many friends gathering to pay last respects to the aged man.

[The World, Coos County, Oregon, Tuesday, January 15, 1929 p.3]

Children of Thomas McBee and America Belieu:

- 4-4-i. Richard J. McBee (1869-1963)
- 4-4-ii. William McBee (1871-1907)
- 4-4-iii. Lorenzo Dow McBee (1877-1954)
- 4-4-iv. Clyde McBee (1881-1959)
- 4-4-v. Delbert L. McBee (1885-1968)
- 4-4-vi. Mildred A. McBee (1891-1957)

5 James Riley McBee [did not emigrate]

b. 03 Dec 1809 Frederick County, Maryland

d. 26 Jan 1863 Ray County, Missouri

buried [Tinney Grove Cemetery](#), Tinney Grove, Ray County, Missouri

m. 1831
Elizabeth Houston
b. 25 Feb 1814
d. 06 Mar 1893 Missouri
buried [McBee Chapel Cemetery](#), Carroll County, Missouri

6. Levi McBee [pioneer of 1852]
b. 25 Apr 1811 Frederick County, Maryland
d. May 1852 on Oregon Trail near Ft. Kearney, Nebraska of cholera
[burial location unknown](#)

m. 31 Jan 1833 Stark County, Ohio
Elizabeth Barbara Ream
b. 15 May 1815 Stark County, Ohio
d. May 1852 Ash Hollow, Nebraska of cholera
[burial location unknown](#)
d/o Peter Ream and Barbara Ann Smith

1850: District 75, Ray County, Missouri, October 16, 1850; Levi McBee, 35, farmer. \$600, IN; Elizabeth, 34, OH; Barbary, 13, OH; Isaiah, 10, MO; Caroline, 9, MO; Mary, 7, MO; Rebecca, 4, MO; Henry, 2, MO

“On April 1, 1852 Levi and Barbara McBee and their six children set off on the Oregon Trail for a better life in far off Oregon. There were about fifteen ox teams in the wagon train from Ray County, Missouri, most of them owned by their immediate relatives. The day after they crossed the Missouri River a council was called and Levi was elected Captain of the train. While the election was being held, the horses had wandered around a bend in the river and when the men went to look for them they discovered they had been stolen by the Indians.

===

After crossing the Platte River, Levi McBee took the cholera and died that same day. He was buried at Fort Kearney. His wife, Barbara, contracted cholera several days later and died at Ash Hollow on the North Platte River. She had shortly before delivered a baby and both the baby and three year old Henry McBee died soon after their mother.” [Gwen Boyer Bjorkman, "Five Orphans Of The Oregon Trail" Seattle Genealogical Society Bulletin (Winter 1997) pp. 65-68. per findagrave.com]

Notes Elizabeth McBee; gave birth on trail, she died of cholera near Ash Hollow, NE and infant died also

Children of Levi McBee and Barbara Ream:

6-1. William Ream McBee
b. 09 Feb 1834 Stark County, Ohio
d. 09 Aug 1834 Stark County, Ohio

6-2. Susan McBee
b. 21 May 1835 Stark County, Ohio
d. 20 Aug 1838 Ray County, Missouri

6-3. Barbara Ann McBee [Pioneer of 1852]
b. 14 Sep 1837 Ray County, Missouri
d. 15 Apr 1927 Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon
buried [Rose City Cemetery](#), Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon

m. 13 Dec 1852 Washington County, Oregon

Edouard Emanuel Chambreau

b. 12 Jan 1821 France

d. 20 Feb 1902 Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon

buried [Rose City Cemetery](#), Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon

1850: District 75, Ray County, Missouri, October 16, 1850; Levi McBee, 35, farmer. \$600, IN; Elizabeth, 34, OH; Barbary, 13, OH; Isaiah, 10, MO; Caroline, 9, MO; Mary, 7, MO; Rebecca, 4, MO; Henry, 2, MO

CHAMBREAU—In this city, April 15, 1927, Barbara Ann Chambreau, mother of Mrs. Helen C. Watkins, C. H. and L. A. Chambreau of Portland, J. J. Chambreau of Glendale, Cal., and W. W. Chambreau of Des Moines, Ia. Friends are invited to attend the funeral services Monday, April 18, 1927, at 1:30 P. M. at the chapel of Edward Holman & Son, Hawthorne ave. at 27th st. Interment Rose City cemetery, Des Moines, Ia., San Francisco and Los Angeles, Cal., papers please copy.

[Oregonian, Portland, Oregon, April 15, 1927 p. 6]

DEATH OF CAPT. CHAMBREAU

Noted Indian Fighter Dies at St. Vincent's Hospital.

Captain Edward Chambréau, 81 years old, one of the best-known Indian scouts and fighters of the Pacific coast, died early this morning at St. Vincent's Hospital from kidney trouble. He was born in the Department of the Moselle, France, January 12, 1821, and when he was a mere boy his father became involved in political trouble and moved with his family to Montreal, Quebec. Here Edward Chambréau lived until he was about 16 years old, and then he was filled with a desire to see a bit of the world for himself. Naturally fond of horses, he joined Sable Bros.' circus, and toured the Atlantic States with the show, as clown and chief merry-maker. He went up the Mississippi River with the show, and had reached St. Louis, Mo., in 1846, when he saw men enlisting for the Mexican War. "Come along, boys; let's go to war," he said to a few friends, and they enlisted.

After returning to St. Louis to be mustered out in 1847, he met a party of pioneers who wished an experienced guide to conduct them across the plains, and he agreed to lead the party. They landed at The Dalles, and Chambréau celebrated

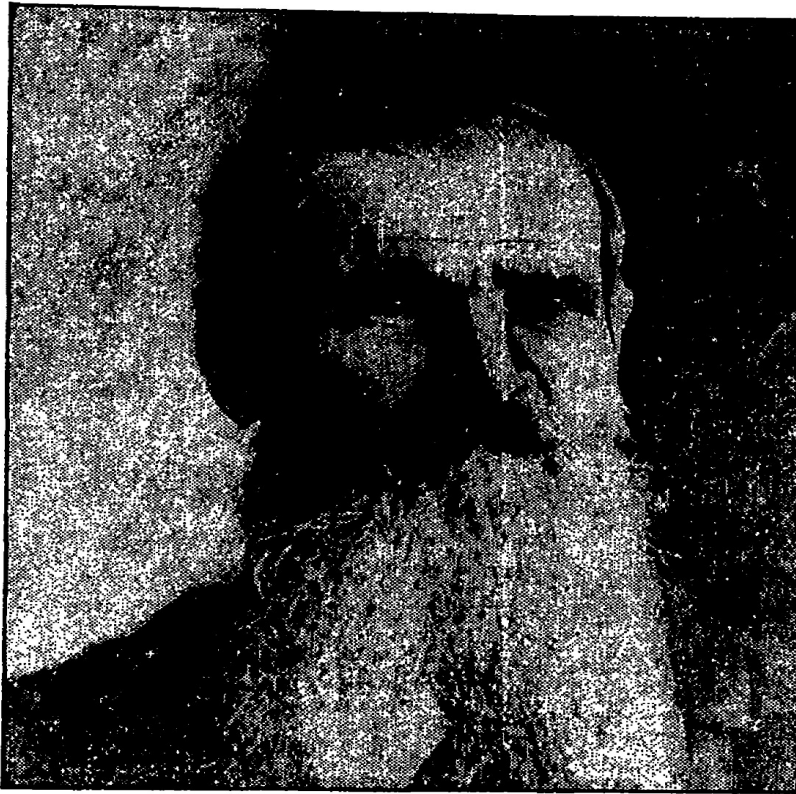
his arrival in Oregon by serving as one of the rescuers appointed by Governor Ogden to bring to a place of safety the survivors of the Whitman massacre. He afterward entered the employment of the Hudson's Bay Company, at Vancouver, Wash., but caught the gold fever prevailing in California, and went South to become a 'digger. In 1852 he married Miss Barbara Ann McRee, at Forest Grove, and she survives him. Their home was in Portland, where he was engaged in business. Then he bought a farm near Vancouver, where he was busy at work until the Indian War of 1855 broke upon Oregon. He served with distinction throughout the campaign, and then he moved to The Dalles, and afterward to Tygh Valley, where he established a trading post, which he conducted with success until 1862, and was in addition Justice of the Peace for the district. He also had a post at Barlow's Gate, but he moved to this city again, and started in the furniture business, being a sufferer in the great fire which swept Portland shortly afterward, when 14 blocks were burned to the ground.

When the Indian War of 1875 broke out, Chambréau was one of the first men to offer his services to the Government, and he was appointed interpreter and scout by General O. O. Howard. In his dealings with the Indians he was very successful, and was noted for his bravery, endurance and tact. It is said that it was largely through his efforts and the confidence he inspired among the Indians that peace was brought about sooner than the Indians wished. In 1880 he engaged in the grocery business at the northeast corner of Fifth and Morrison streets, and then he bought a farm near Portland Heights, about four miles from the city. In 1888 he moved to San Francisco, where he was appointed aid to General O. O. Howard, Department Commander, and occupied that position until 1890. Then he returned to Portland, when he retired from an active business life and sought a well-earned rest. His health was poor, but he never gave in, and insisted on out-door exercise. About one month ago his malady had increased to such an extent that his removal was ordered to St. Vincent's Hospital, where he died this morning.

Captain Chambréau was a member of the Indian War Veterans' Association, the Pioneers' Association, Red Men, Exempt Firemen's Association, and Multnomah Engine Company, No. 2, Benevolent Association. He is survived by his widow and four sons, Joseph J., Charles H., Luck A., and William W., and by two married daughters, Mrs. Frank Watkins, of this city, and Dr. Belle J. MacDonald, of New York City. Captain Chambréau's sturdy personality and genial qualities endeared him to a host of friends throughout the Oregon country.

[Oregonian, Portland Oregon, February 20, 1902 p.2]

**FUNERAL OF LATE CAPTAIN EDWARD CHAMBREAU
SATURDAY.**



**INDIAN WAR VETERANS WILL PAY LAST TRIBUTE TO HIS MEM-
ORY.**

The funeral of the late Captain Edward Chambeau, pioneer citizen and noted Indian fighter, will be held at 2:30 P. M. Saturday from the Calvary Presbyterian Church. The Indian War Veterans, of which deceased was a prominent member, will assemble at 2 o'clock at the undertaking rooms of Finley & Son, for the purpose of attending the services in a body, an order to that effect having been issued by Grand Commander T. A. Wood. The accompanying picture is an excellent likeness of Captain Chambeau. The funeral will probably be one of the largest held in this city for some time, and many persons will take this opportunity of paying their last respects to a brave and intrepid soldier, who was as earnest and effectual in peace as in war, and who played his part in the developing and upbuilding of Portland and of Oregon.

[Oregonian, Friday, February 21, 1902]

PIONEER OF 1852

Mrs. Barbara Ann Chambreau
of Portland, Oregon.

Mrs. Barbara Ann Chambreau, nee McBee, (widow of Edward Chambreau, pionser of 1846,) was born at Greentown, Ohio, September 14, 1837, the daughter of Levi McBee and Elizabeth Ream McBee. Her father was a contracting carpenter.

In the year 1839 her father moved his family, consisting of wife and daughter Barbara Ann, to Millville, Missouri. In the year 1843 the family moved again to a farm about four miles east of Millville and about twelve miles from Richmond, the county seat of Ray County, Missouri. Then in the year 1847 he moved to another farm about eight miles farther east, where he lived until the spring of 1852. From a high point on this farm, on a clear day, the town of Lexington, Missouri could be seen about eighteen miles distant. There were now seven children in the family and Barbara Ann, the eldest, was fourteen years old when the journey to the then Great and Mystic, Unknown Oregon Country, 3000 miles away, began. The year 1852 was the year of the great emigration to Oregon. It was also the year in which the emigrants suffered perhaps the most trying and devastating hardships of any previous year or subsequent thereto. An epidemic of Cholera broke out among the thousands who were making the trip that year and this added to the natural hardships and obstacles to be overcome, reduced the number who succeeded in reaching Oregon by wagon train that year to a very limited number compared with the great throng that originally set out to make the trip.

After barely three weeks of preparation, the trip apparently not previously having been thought of, Levi McBee, the father of Barbara Ann with his immediate family, near relatives, a few neighbors

neighbors and friends making up their traveling party, set out in April 1853 for Oregon.

The personnel of this party may be usefully recorded here for the information of surviving children, descendants of some of the members of the party.

Levi McBee, wife and seven children. The names of the children are: Barbara Ann, Caroline, Mary and Rebecca, daughters, Isaiah, Levi and Arthur, sons. The latter son was a baby in arms.

Susan McBee, nee Milligan, widow of Thomas McBee, and her children, one girl - Sarah, and three boys, John, Thomas and George.

Rachel McBee mother of Levi McBee.

John McBee, wife and two children, George, a son and Alice, a daughter. Wm. McBee, wife and nine children, John, Thomas, William, Henry, Joe and George, sons and Elizabeth, Nancy and Jane, daughters, also a Mr. Adams, husband of one of Wm McBee's daughters.

Sam Mathena with three sisters and one brother.

Polly Ringer and her four children, George and Moses, sons, and Elizabeth and Susan, daughters.

When what was left of the party reached Bear River where the trail branched off to California, Polly Ringer took the California route.

Note the equipment prepared and hurriedly assembled by Levi McBee for this long journey. Two wagons heavily loaded, drawn by oxen and cows. These wagons were also expected to accomodate, when riding, most of his family and the family of Susan McBee, fifteen in all. A few extra cows, several high grade brood mares, in all twenty-five head of cattle. This was considered a well

organized party and in April 1852 the start was made for Oregon.

Along the way, cattle were lost or stolen by the Indians, sickness overtook the party and death robbed them of many of even the strongest men and women. Barbara Ann's father, mother, grandmother and one brother died while enroute and before Fort Hall was reached. This left Barbara Ann the eldest of six children and she only fourteen years of age. ~~Her Aunt Susy McBee took charge of the orphan children and with the remaining members of the party they continued on their way to Oregon.~~

The death of an oxen which occurred near the John Day River, just a short distance from the Unitalla River in Oregon, compelled the party to leave its last wagon at that point with all its contents. There then remained but one poor foot sore oxen out of an original herd of twenty-five cattle. No wagons, no farm equipment, no camp equipment and only such food as could be carried on their backs in a pack, such was the condition of the party when they reached the Dalles, Oregon in the month of October 1852. Because of the rough ground over which they traveled, the snail like pace of the wagon and the inability of all to find room in the wagons to ride, even when wagons were still a part of the outfit many virtually walked the entire distance of 3000 miles from Missouri to Oregon. Today we can hardly realize the untold suffering and hardships that these sturdy children and pioneers went through.

From the Dalles to Portland the greatly reduced party went by flat boat, a slow and dangerous journey owing to the magnitude of the majestic Columbia River and the numerous rapids and portages encountered enroute. The McBee children, Barbara Ann the eldest now being fifteen years old, ~~in charge of their Aunt Susy.~~

++ The only rapids below the Dalles is at the Cascades.

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PORTLAND, OREGON

Insert on page 3 at xxx while travelling along
the Platte river, the dreaded Cholera made
its appearance among the party. Of Barbara
Aunt's immediate relatives, her grandmother was
the first to die, in a few days her mother,
then the baby Arthur, finally about a week
after the grandmother's death, the Father died.
When a death occurred during the day, the
wagon train did not stop, but just enough men
remained behind to bury the body, then they would
hurry to catch up with those who had gone ahead.
On account of the number of deaths that had
occurred up to this time, no doubt the party
was becoming panicky, because at a conference
held at the death of Barbara Aunt's Father it was
suggested that the children be left there on the
plains, with the two wagons which could not
be taken, account of no drivers. Finally
one never to be forgotten young man spoke up
and said, that the children might follow him

COLUMBIA VALLEY TRUST CO.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUILDING

PORTLAND, OREGON

(2)

wagon, and he would see that they did not starve. This young man was Sam Mathena and was 18 years old at that time. Thus this band of little children began the long walk to the Oregon Country. One might ask why some one did not give them a ride? Every wagon was loaded to the limit. Before long the boy Levi died, being too young to stand the continual walking. The remaining children were glad when they reached the mountains, as most of the people were afraid to ride down the steep hills, so as soon some one would get out, the children would climb on in order to rest their tired feet for a short time.

At Portland one might say
the children were farmed out.
The boy Isaiah went to work for
his board with E. J. Jeffrey who at
that time had a laundry near
where the Multnomah Club now
stands. in Portland. Barbara
Ann got the job working at
Clark's near Forest Grove.

Caroline cried to stay behind
at the Dalles, having made friends
with a lady living there, who
had a small baby. So there were
only three girls and one boy that
reached Portland. Barbara Ann
did not see Caroline again for
68 years

made the trip in this manner to Portland. ~~Here the children were~~
~~soon taken in hand by friends and other relatives who had come to~~
~~Oregon in previous years and they soon found comfortable homes.~~
Later to become useful citizens and themselves fathers and mothers
of a new and rising generation. It was these pioneers and their
children who carved out the ground State of Oregon from the forests
and the wilderness, who braved the hostile savages and made it
possible for the march of civilization and development to continue
its course.

The trials of the trip and the virtual duties of a young
mother thrust upon Barbara Ann through the death of her parents,
made of her a woman quite beyond her years in experience, though
very youthful in appearance. ~~She was kindly and lovingly invited~~
~~to stop with a family by the name of Clark who lived on the Tualatin~~
~~Plains near Forest Grove, Oregon. These people had been close friends~~
~~with her parents in Missouri for several years. Taking leave of~~
~~her Aunt Susy and bidding goodbye to her brothers and sisters she~~
accompanied the Clarks' to their home. That was about November 1,
1853.

A romance was soon to enter the life of Barbara Ann. At
that time marriagable young girls were very scarce in Oregon and it
was soon known far and wide that there was a young woman of unusual
beauty, refined and dignified stopping with the Clarks near Forest
Grove. Many were the excuses and devices used for explaining un-
expected and unsolicited calls on the Clarks by men both young and
middle aged. The new arrival was of course the principal point of
interest but all such approaches were successfully resisted, however
not for long.

On one of Mr. Clark's business trips to Portland the latter
part of November or early in December 1853 he met while there a friend,

The trip for the ladies with her.
Planning their journey with
those young girls, but there was nothing
else to be done. To add to Barbara Ann's
(OVER)

troubles, she had to repulse the amorous
advances of this Mr Clark. This partly
explains why she consented to marry
Mr Chamberlain on a two weeks acquaintance

of a number of years acquaintance, and a resident of Portland, by the name of Edward Chambreau, known to Pioneers as Ned Chambreau, Government Scout and Messenger also Indian interpreter, himself a pioneer of 1846. Says Clark to Mr. Chambreau, "Ned there is a fine girl out at my house. She would make a good wife for you. Don't you think you had better settle down and get married?" Thus began a romance and after a very brief courtship they were united in marriage at Mr. Clark's home on December 12, 1852. Eleven children were born to Mrs. Chambreau of this wedlock and had the death of Mr. Chambreau in February of ~~1858~~¹⁹⁰² been delayed to December ~~1852~~¹⁹⁰² they would have completed fifty years of happy married life. Truly an object lesson for the present generation.

Volumes could be written of the thrilling and interesting experiences of pioneer life through which Mrs. Chambreau passed from 1852 until 1860, made doubly hazardous and exacting because of the frontier life which her husband followed as keeper of trading-posts far from the settlements. Only a few of the outstanding incidents will be related. After living in Portland about one year they moved to Vancouver, Washington. Here the great and well known Hudson Bay Company had a large depot and trading post which they had maintained for many years. Here the Indians lived in large numbers and many more Indians came and went in the course of their tradings with the Hudson Bay Company. A large block house and stockade formed a place of refuge in time of threatened Indian attacks for the citizens who lived in Vancouver not connected with the Hudson Bay Company. The H. B. Company maintained a similar stockade and fort to protect its staff and employees.

On one of these Indian 'scares' in the year 1856 Mrs. Chambreau while in the Block House gave birth to a son. This son Joseph J. Chambreau is still living and resides in Los Angeles, California.

Later in the year 1856 Mrs. Chambreau moved to The Dalles, Oregon and from there to a trading post built and established by Mr. Chambreau on Tygh Valley, forty miles south of The Dalles, at the crossing of emigrant roads or trails. Here the nearest white neighbors were twelve miles away and the Indians in large numbers were camped not far distant. Here the young wife with two or three small children was to make her home for a number of years, to be with her husband, to assist in carrying on his business of trading with the emigrants, settlers and Indians who happened to pass that way.

Occasionally Mr. Chambreau had to be away from home a week or more at a time on business, at such times Mrs. Chambreau with the aid of a trusted employee carried on the business besides taking care of her family of several small children. This was no easy task and furthermore it required extraordinary courage and bravery to remain there as she was the only white woman within a radius of twelve miles.

On one or two occasions she had to assert her rights and authority to command the continued respect of the Indians who were attempting to rob the store or to intimidate her.

Tell about the stolen hat, the syrup kegs and tell about the time the Indians came at night on the pretext that they had a letter from her husband. They wanted whiskey. Tell how she got them out of the house, then their threats, etc. Tell how when Mr. Chambreau returned he made the chief send the Indians to do this to his house to apologize.

In 1863 trading post was moved to Barlow's Gate at the foot of the Cascade Mountains on the eastern slope.

In 1868 or 1869 sold the trading post and moved to Salem, Oregon. In 1870 moved to Portland. Remained in Portland until 1885 then moved to San Francisco, California. Moved back to Portland in 1889 where she has since made her home. For many years Mr. & Mrs. Chambreau has spent her summers at Long Beach, Washington, where she is widely and lovingly known and affectionately addressed by her many friends as "Grandma Chambreau".

During the past several years and since she had reached the advanced age of eighty years Mrs. Chambreau has made several trips across the continent to New York to visit her daughter, Dr. Belle J. Macdonald now deceased. Only two years ago Mrs. Chambreau visited her son Mr. W. W. Chambreau in Des Moines, Iowa and while there jokingly remarked to some friends that she would be back again some time if her son remained in Des Moines. Her courage and determination have always been remarkable and these long trips at her age indicate that she still is full of vitality and loves to be active.

Mrs. Chambreau has always been a devout Christian woman and for many years has been an active member of the Calvary Presbyterian Church in Portland, Oregon. In her younger days she was active in Church work and carried good cheer and comfort to many a sick room. Even with the care of her own large family she never failed to answer a call for help from a neighbor or transient stranger.

Mrs. Chambreau is a member of the Oregon Historical Society, the Indian War Veterans Association and the Oregon Pioneers Association, being a pioneer of 1852.

Only five of Mrs. Chambreau's eleven children are now living, they are

Joseph J. Chambreau of Los Angeles, California
Charles H. Chambreau
Luck A. Chambreau and
Mrs. Helen C. Watkins of Portland, Oregon and
William W. Chambreau of Des Moines, Iowa.

Children of Edward Chambreau and Barbara McBee:

6-3-i. Edward Emanuel Chambreau (1854-1875)

6-3-ii Bell Joan Chambreau (1856-1923)

6-3-iii. Joseph Julian Chambrea (1858-1952)

- 6-3-iv. Mary Elizabeth Chambreau (1859-1860)
- 6-3-v. Caroline Davis Chambreau (1863-1892)
- 6-3-vi. Carrie Chambreau (1865-1892)
- 6-3-vii.. Levi Chambreau (1866-1871)
- 6-3-viii.. Charles Henry Chambreau (1867-1931)
- 6-3-ix. Abraham Luck Chambreau (1868-1937))
- 6-3-x.. Georgia Maude Chambreau (1871-1902)
- 6-3-xi. William Wadham Chambreau (1875-1954)
- 6-3-xii. Helen C. Chambreau (1878-1979)

6-4. Isaiah L. McBee [Pioneer of 1852]

b. 09 Feb 1840 Ray County, Missouri

d. 05 Apr 1915 Deer Island, Columbia County, Oregon

buried [Kinder Cemetery](#), Deer Island, Columbia County, Oregon

1850: District 75, Ray County, Missouri, October 16, 1850; Levi McBee, 35, farmer. \$600, IN; Elizabeth, 34, OH; Barbary, 13, OH; Isaiah, 10, MO; Caroline, 9, MO; Mary, 7, MO; Rebecca, 4, MO; Henry, 2, MO

I. L. M'BEE KNOWN HERE

Death of Pioneer of 1852 Ends Active Career in West.

Isaiah L. McBee, who died on his farm near St. Helens last week, was well known in Portland, where he had lived for many years. Mr. McBee was a pioneer of 1852, and was 78 years old at the time of his death. He came to Portland from Missouri and first found employment at King's Tannery, along Tanner's Creek. He later went to Vancouver, Wash., and from there into Eastern Oregon.

After a year's residence in the country Mr. McBee removed to a big ranch in Klickitat, near Goldendale. He lived there for nearly 30 years, and then came to Portland again. About two years ago he left this city for his farm near St. Helens.

Mr. McBee was engaged as a blacksmith during the time he lived near Goldendale, but was primarily interested in wheat farming. His property in Oregon and Washington, including some residence property in Portland, is valued around \$150,000. He never married. Mrs. B. A. Chambreau, of Long Beach, Wash., mother of C. H. Chambreau, of Portland, was a sister of Mr. McBee.

[Oregonian, April 11, 1915 Sec 3 p.9]

6-5. Caroline McBee [Pioneer of 1852]

b. 19 Feb 1842 Ray County, Missouri

d. 11 Jun 1935 Okanogan County, Washington

buried [Mountain View Cemetery](#), Loomis, Okanogan County, Washington

m. 24 Feb 1856 Douglas County, Oregon

Rufus Horatio Beeman [Pioneer of 1852]

b. 03 Aug 1832/3 Warren County, Pennsylvania

d. 11 Feb 1924 Okanogan County, Washington

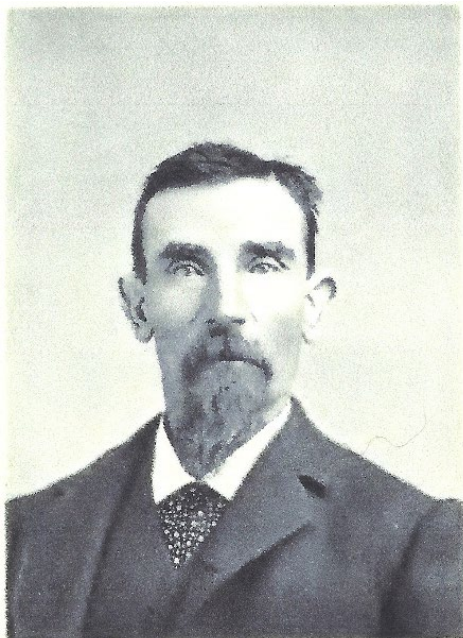
buried [Mountain View Cemetery](#), Loomis, Okanogan County, Washington

1850: District 75, Ray County, Missouri, October 16, 1850; Levi McBee, 35, farmer. \$600, IN; Elizabeth, 34, OH; Barbary, 13, OH; Isaiah, 10, MO; Caroline, 9, MO; Mary, 7, MO; Rebecca, 4, MO; Henry, 2, MO

Mrs. Caroline M. Beeman, of Tonasket, Okanogan County, Wash., a pioneer of 1852, was in Portland a few days ago for the first time in more than 50 years. Her parents, grandmother and two brothers died while following the Oregon trail to Portland. The remaining children of her family were taken care of by other immigrant families and brought through to Oregon. An older sister, Mrs. Edward Chambreau, now living at Long Beach, Wash., and for many years a resident of Portland, had

Mrs. Beeman as her guest a few days ago. The meeting of the two sisters was the first since they crossed the plains.

[Oregonian, Portland, Oregon, Sunday, September 10, 1916 Sec 1 p.13]



RUFUS H. BEEMAN.

RUFUS H. BEEMAN. President Roosevelt is said to admire men who "do things." We feel sure that had he had the opportunity of knowing the subject of this article, he would, for that reason, be well impressed with him. A doughty pioneer, an intrepid Indian fighter, a sociable and generous man, a patriotic citizen, Mr. Beeman is one among a thousand and a brief review of his intensely interesting career will be profitable and interesting reading for the history of Nez Perces county.

Rufus H. Beeman was born in McKean, Pennsylvania, on August 3, 1832. His father was a lumberman and a native of Connecticut, and his family had been residents of New England for many generations. The mother of our subject was a native of Pennsylvania, and three years after the death of Mr. Beeman she married Mr. McIntosh, a native of Scotland. Shortly after this, the family removed to Potosi, Wisconsin, and there Mr. McIntosh mined and later discovered a very valuable lead mine. When twelve, Rufus left home and resided with Mr. Parker, a miner, where he attended school a part of each year and worked in the mines the balance of the time for six years. In 1852 he came to the Cascades, Oregon, herded cattle, cleared land and boated on the Columbia. In 1854, we see him in Roseburg and from then until 1861, he had a freight train from there to Jacksonville, Oregon. During the Rogue river Indian war in 1855 and 1856, he fought the savages and participated in the battle of Hungry Hill, said to be the bloodiest battle ever fought on the coast. He was about to be killed, while assisting a wounded comrade, but managed to escape without a scratch. He was in Company C, Ninth Regiment, under Captain Rynearson and Colonel John E. Ross. He came to Walla Walla in 1861 and there freighted and farmed until 1872. In 1874 Mr. Beeman removed to Genesee valley and bought five hundred and sixty acres of land. He cultivated it to the cereals and while there ran for sheriff and was defeated by one vote. Seventeen years were spent there and part of that time he operated a general store, but while trade was good his collections were poor and therefore he was obliged to withdraw from the field. He then bought a half section in the Potlach country near Juliaetta and about a year before the opening of the reservation, he sold it and bought cattle. When the reservation opened he came hither and rented land from the Indians, one section in one place and two hundred and forty acres in Garden Gulch. His daughter, Clara B., filed on a quarter and that with other rented land, was cultivated to oats and flax, having nearly five hundred acres all told. Mr. Beeman is one of the largest farmers in this portion of the county and is abundantly prospered.

On February 19, 1856, at Roseburgh, Oregon, Mr. Beeman married Miss Caroline, daughter of Levi and Elizabeth (Ream) McBee, natives of Ohio and Maryland, respectively; both died while crossing the plains in 1852. Mrs. Beeman was born in Missouri, on February 19, 1842, was with relatives at the Cascades, Oregon, for a time and then lived with E. F. McNall at Roseburg until she was married. She has one brother, Isaiah, a blacksmith and farmer, near Goldendale, Washington. Mr. Beeman has one sister, Sarah, wife of Abraham Anderson, in Lafayette, Pennsylvania. Mrs. Beeman also has two sisters, Barbara A., wife of Edward Chambreau, at Portland; Rebecca, wife of Isaac Knighton, a farmer in Morrow county, Oregon. To Mr. and Mrs. Beeman, twelve children have been born, named as follows: Henry, in Wallowa county, Oregon; Francis M., a herder, in Okanogan county, Washington; Frederick S., William Charles, all stockmen in the same place; Egbert, at home; Leroy, also at home; Mary E., wife of Joseph Henry, a freighter, near Milton, Oregon; Rosella, wife of Lewis Taber, a farmer near Ellensburg, Washington; Lura, wife of Jack Johnson, a farmer in Okanogan county; Adelia, at home; Anna, born August 5, 1864 and died October 16, 1883, and was the wife of Albert Fansler, a native of Virginia, and she left one child, Iris, who died aged fourteen; Arabelle A., died June 22, 1896, aged twenty-three years, three months and two days. Mr. Beeman was an active Democrat in earlier days, but is not so much so now. He is a respected and prominent man in this community.

[An illustrated history of north Idaho: embracing Nez Perces, Idaho, Latah, Kootenai and Shoshone counties, state of Idaho, Published 1903, p. 256]

Subject: Re: Oregon Pioneers
From: c/o Karen Snyder <kabob@willapabay.org>
Date: Wed, 20 Nov 2002 21:31:29 -0800
To: "Stephenie Flora" <sflora@teleport.com>

Stephenie,

I would love to be in touch with the others who are researching the McBees in 1852. As you'll see from the story, the wagon train was made up of Caroline's aunts and uncles, so there's a strong likelihood they may be related. Here's the story:

This story was dictated to my Uncle Victor Wellington Snyder by Caroline McBee Beeman for a school assignment that he did in the early 1930's.

CROSSING THE PLAINS IN 1852

The following are some of the experiences of Mrs. Caroline Beeman while crossing the Plains in 1852 and after arriving on this side.

"We started on April 1 in the year of 1852 from Ray County, Missouri. There were about fifteen ox teams in the train, most of them being owned by my immediate relatives. Most of the people in the train were my cousins, aunts, uncles, etc. My father owned two of the teams and my uncles owned one or two teams each.

It was but a few days journey until we reached the Missouri River. It was there that I saw the first Indians that I had ever seen and there was one little girl that didn't get much sleep that night because she was afraid of being scalped by the red-skins.

The day after we crossed the Missouri a council was called to elect a captain of the train. My father, Levi McBee, was elected captain. While the election was being held the horses we had brought with us had wandered around a bend in the river and when the men went to look for them they discovered that they had been stolen by the Indians. After this slight experience with the Indians they did not bother us much because the Cavalry was out on the Plains most of the summer and the Indians were somewhat afraid of them.

The next important river we crossed was the Platte. It was shortly after we crossed this river that Father took the cholera and died of it. It was noon and we had stopped for dinner that Father for the first time began to complain about being sick. He kept complaining all the rest of the afternoon and that night he became very sick and died. The next day he was buried on the Plains much in the same manner that the other unlucky ones were buried who died while crossing the Plains.

Several times on the way over we had to make "dry camp" because of the scarcity of water to camp by and sometimes the water supply that we had with us was so low that part of the men would have to go on ahead and hunt for water. This water was usually gotten for the stock and horses. One time several of us girls went with the men to get the water and when we returned there were quite a number of foot-sore girls in the party because of the lack of shoes and we had to walk about twelve miles through the hot sun.

We hardly ever had any trouble about getting wood for the fires as there was usually plenty of sage brush on the Plains and in the more arid sections. Along the rivers and the streams we could find plenty of willows and cottonwood trees. If neither of these were available we could always find "buffalo chips" which were plentiful on the Plains at that time although we saw very few herds of buffalo. There were many large herds of Indian ponies on the Plains. Some of us children thought they were about the most beautiful animals we had ever seen.

We came by way of Fort Boise and from there to the Cascades taking about six months to reach the

Cascades from Missouri. My aunt was in charge of us children since Father's death. When we got to the Cascades we had a chance to stay with some folks just on the other side of the mountains and we decided to stay there awhile. The rest of my relatives went on and settled around Forest Grove, Portland and Corvallis, Oregon Territory.

Early in the Spring of 1853 we went on to the Columbia River and we planned to go to Portland by way of boat. At that time there was only one steamboat in this part of the country. We had to carry our packs of personal belongings over a pack trail about five miles long. We reached the boat landing just after the boat had left for its trip to Portland.

When we reached the boat landing we discovered that the boat only made the trip twice a week. For a time we were at a loss as to what we were going to do or where we were going to stay until the boat should come back again. Finally a man came up to us and told us that we had better go to a hotel about a quarter of a mile away. Another man standing nearby invited us to come and stay with him; he said the hotel was probably full anyway.

When time came to continue on with the trip, Mr. McNall asked me to stay with him and this I did, partly because he had potatoes which he cooked with "the skins on," (this was the first time I had eaten any potatoes since we had left Missouri and they were very appetizing) and partly because they had a little baby of which I was very fond.

Mr. Wells, the captain of the boat, had sent for his wife to come out to Oregon. At the last of the journey she became sick. Her husband, hearing of this, sent McNall to meet her and to see that she arrived safely. When Mrs. Wells arrived she persuaded me to go on to Oregon City and live there with her. On my arrival in Portland I saw one of my brothers-in-law on the street and he took me up to the house to see my sister Mrs. Chambreau. She coaxed me to stay with her and go to school instead of going on to Oregon City with Mrs. Wells.

In the Spring of 1853 Portland was a typical frontier town. It had one main street that ran along the Willamette River. It had a few stores, and plenty of saloons and gambling halls. There was one church and one schoolhouse; the church was Catholic. The school was a little one-room building. The timber grew very near the water's edge and as soon as a little space was cleared off a new house would go up in this spot.

As stated before the schoolhouse was a small one-room structure. It wasn't very much to brag about although it was of frame structure and it served the purpose very well. We had a woman teacher and as for knowledge it would not have taken a very smart person to be as intelligent as she. We used the much-famed slates that you hear some of the old-timers telling about. For desks we had some wide boards with legs nailed on them. We sometimes thought that the wood the seats were made of was mighty hard. Portland had the total enrollment of thirty in their public schools at that time.

In the late Spring after school was out I got in a quarrel with my sister's husband, Mr. Chambreau, because he said that I did not wash the water bucket as clean as I should have. When Mr. McNall came along later in the day and asked me if I wanted to go home with him, I gladly accepted. I told him that I would be ready in the morning. That night Mr. Chambreau said I couldn't go. I was very determined and when Mr. McNall came the next morning before the rest of the family was awake, I left without even taking any extra clothes with me. I sent for them later.

In 1855 Mr. McNall moved to Douglas County, Oregon and I went there with him. A year later I married a Mr. Rufus Beeman."

Children of Rufus Beeman and Caroline McBee:

- 6-5-i Mary Algenora Beeman (1857-1942)
- 6-5-ii. Richard Henry Beeman (1858-1926)
- 6-5-iii. Rosella Winetta Beeman (1861-1934)
- 6-5-iv. Anna Laura Beeman (1864-1883)
- 6-5-v. Francis Marion Beeman (1866-1956)
- 6-5-vi. Frederick Seymore Beeman (1868-1957)
- 6-5-vii. William Edwin Beeman (1870-1955)
- 6-5-viii. Arabelle A. Beeman (1873-1896)
- 6-5-ix. Charles Augustus Beeman (1875-1955)

6-5-x. Egbert Garrett Beeman (1878-1964)

6-5-xii. Lura Beeman (1880-1966)

6-5-xii. Adelia Beeman (1883-1978)

6-5-xiii. Leroy Beeman (1886-1959)

6-6. Mary Pauline McBee [Pioneer of 1852]

b. 10 Feb 1844 Ray County, Missouri

d. 22 Aug 1896 Goldendale, Klickitat County, Washington

buried [IOOF Mountain View Cemetery](#), Goldendale, Klickitat County, Washington

m1. 24 Dec 1857 Washington County, Oregon

George Washington Wilkes

b. Apr 1834 Hendricks County, Indiana

d. 1866 Washington County, Oregon

buried [Union Point Cemetery](#), Banks, Washington County, Oregon

m2. 1867

William R. Radcliff

b. 1834

d. 21 May 1897

buried [IOOF Mountain View Cemetery](#), Goldendale, Klickitat County, Washington

Children of George Wilkes and Mary McBee:

6-6-i. Dena Edna Wilkes (1859-1919)

6-6-ii. Clara June Wilkes (1864-1903)

Children of William Radcliff and Mary McBee:

6-6-i. Charlotte A. Radcliff (1868-1952)

6-6-ii. Emma Alice Radcliff (1870 -1917)

6-6-iii. Edwin Ansley Radcliff (1873-1940)

6-6-iv. Mary Catherine Radcliff (1875-1943)

6-6-v. Francis Marion Radcliff (1877-1949)

6-6-vi. Emmett Isaiah Radcliff (1879-1933)

1850: District 75, Ray County, Missouri, October 16, 1850; Levi McBee, 35, farmer. \$600, IN; Elizabeth, 34, OH; Barbary, 13, OH; Isaiah, 10, MO; Caroline, 9, MO; Mary, 7, MO; Rebecca, 4, MO; Henry, 2, MO

6-7. Rebecca McBee [Pioneer of 1852]

b. 26 Dec 1847 Ray County, Missouri [family bible]

d. 04 Jul 1923 Morrow County, Oregon

buried [Hardman IOOF Cemetery](#), Heppner, Morrow County, Oregon

m. 03 Jan 1861 Washington County, Oregon

Isaac Knighten/Knighton (pioneer of 1847)

b. 31 May 1832/1834

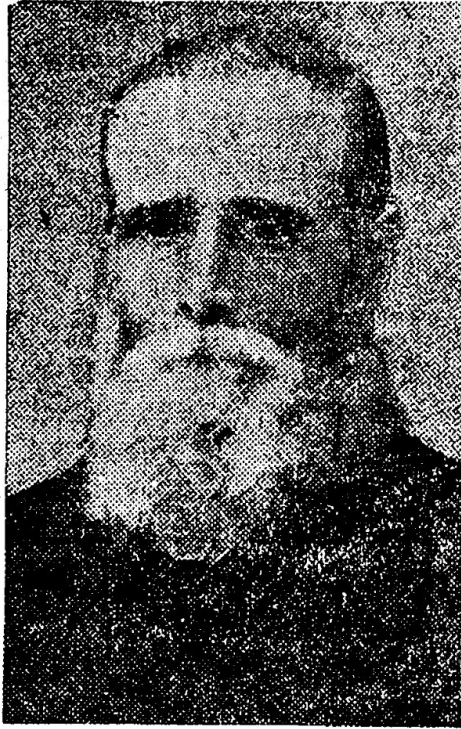
d. 16 Oct 1917 Morrow County, Oregon

buried [Hardman IOOF Cemetery](#), Heppner, Morrow County, Oregon

s/o Ammon Knighton and Fannie Cox

1850: District 75, Ray County, Missouri, October 16, 1850; Levi McBee, 35, farmer. \$600, IN; Elizabeth, 34, OH; Barbary, 13, OH; Isaiah, 10, MO; Caroline, 9, MO; Mary, 7, MO; Rebecca, 4, MO; Henry, 2, MO

**PORTLAND PIONEER OF 1847.
DIES NEAR HARDMAN, OR.**



Isaac Knighten.

HARDMAN, Or., Nov. 10.—
(Special.)—Isaac Knighten, pioneer resident of the Eightmile country, died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. A. E. Wright, three miles north of Hardman, October 16. He was born near St. Louis, Mo., May 31, 1832, and crossed the plains by ox team in 1847, the family settling on the site where the city of Portland now stands.

January 3, 1861, he was married to Rebecca McBee, near Forest Grove.

Eleven children were born to this union, nine of whom are living: Mrs. Ella Bellingbroke, Rhea Creek; Mrs. Ida Wright, Robert, Louis and Edgar Knighten, Hardman; Charles Knighten, Eightmile; James Knighten, Heppner; Fred Knighten, Pendleton, and Mrs. Alice Warren, of Kennewick. Twenty-one grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, his widow and one brother, Wylie Knighten, of Eagle Point, Or., also survive him.

Children of Issac Knighten and Rachel McBee:

- 6-7-i. Mary Ella Knighten (1863-1936)
- 6-7-ii. Robert Alden Knighten (1865-1930)
- 6-7-iii. Emma Lucretia Knighten
- 6-7-iv. Ida Jane Knighten (1866-1925)
- 6-7-v. Anna Belle Knighten
- 6-7-vi. Frederick Clarence Knighten (1873-)
- 6-7-v. James A. Knighten (1875-1936)
- 6-7-vi. Charles Wesley Knighten (1879-1947)
- 6-7-vii. Lewis Edward Knighten (1880-1940)
- 6-7-viii. Alice May Knighten (1881-1950)
- 6-7-ix. Edward Edgar Knighten (1884-1951)

6-8. Henry McBee

b. 30 Jun 1849 Ray County, Missouri [family bible]

d. 1852 Oregon Trail

burial location unknown

1850: District 75, Ray County, Missouri, October 16, 1850; Levi McBee, 35, farmer. \$600, IN; Elizabeth, 34, OH; Barbary, 13, OH; Isaiah, 10, MO; Caroline, 9, MO; Mary, 7, MO; Rebecca, 4, MO; Henry, 2, MO

6-9. Infant McBee

b. 1852 Oregon Trail

d. 1852 Oregon Trail

[burial location unknown](#)

7. David McBee [did not emigrate]

b. 17 Nov 1814 Stark County, Ohio

d. 19 Mar 1863 Caldwell County, Missouri

[burial location unknown](#)

m. Catherine Benner 19 Jun 1834 Stark County, Ohio

8. John McBee [Pioneer of 1852]

b. 06 Mar 1819 Stark County, Ohio

d. 28 Jul 1865 Marion County, Oregon

buried [Salem Pioneer Cemetery](#), Salem, Marion County, Oregon

m. 13 Jul 1845/1846 Ray County, Missouri

Sarah Matheny [Pioneer of 1852]

b. 23 May 1825/1826 Kentucky

d. 13 Jan 1864 Salem, Marion County, Oregon

buried [Salem Pioneer Cemetery](#), Salem, Marion County, Oregon

d/o Permit and Mary Matheny

1850: District 75, Ray County, Missouri, September 9, 1850; John McBee, 31, farmer, \$1100, OH; Sarah, 25, KY; George W., 3, MO; Frances, 2, MO; John, 6/12, MO

ODLC: #1224 Marion; John McBee b. 1819 Stark Co, OH; arr 01 Oct 1852; sc 08 Feb 1853; m'd Sarah 13 Jul 1845/46 Ray Co, MO

1860: Santiam Pct, Salem PO, Marion County, Oregon, August 12, 1860; J. McBee, 40, farmer, \$600 \$800, OH; S., 33, KY; G.W., 13, m, MO; F., 12, f, MO; J.E., 8, f, OR; A., 4, f, OR; E., 1, f, OR

“John McBee, File #326. Intestate. Adm: Francis M. Rice, 22 Jan 1866. George W. McBee received share of estate.” [Marion County Oregon Probate Records Vol 2 p. 158]

“McBee Minors, File #326. Guardianship of minor heirs of John McBee who died 1865. Gdns: Francis M. Rice, 09 Jan 1868; Leonard H. Judson, uncle, May 1872. Sarah Alice McBee, 12 & Emma M. McBee, 9. Also names George W. McBee, 21.” [Marion County Oregon Probate Records Vol 2 p. 158]

Children of John McBee and Sarah Matheny:

8-1. George Washington McBee [Pioneer of 1852]

b. 08 Nov 1846 Ray County, Missouri

d. 18 Jan 1933 Polk County, Oregon

buried [Dallas Cemetery](#), Dallas, Polk County, Oregon

m. 27 May 1868 Marion County, Oregon

Unicy Mary Jane Leabo

b. 08 Dec 1849 Atchison County, Missouri

d. 15 Aug 1942 Dallas, Polk County, Oregon

buried [Dallas Cemetery](#), Dallas, Polk County, Oregon

1850: District 75, Ray County, Missouri, September 9, 1850; John McBee, 31, farmer, \$1100, OH; Sarah, 25, KY; George W., 3, MO; Frances, 2, MO; John, 6/12, MO

1860: Santiam Pct, Salem PO, Marion County, Oregon, August 12, 1860; J. McBee, 40, farmer, \$600 \$800, OH; S., 33, KY; G.W., 13, m, MO; F., 12, f, MO; J.E., 8, f, OR; A., 4, f, OR; E., 1, f, OR

“Geo. W. McBee & Venicie M. Leabo, m. 27 May 1868 at house of Noah Leabo; Charles Ruge, J.P. Wit: Isaac & Noah Leabo. #1061 p. 397” [Marion County Marriage Records by Jean Custer & Daraleen Wade 1871-1874 p.69]

Monmouth writer finds plenty of inspiration in family tree

■ Dorothy McRae shares her love of history through her work for Polk County.

By Jill Newsom
The Statesman Journal

MONMOUTH — Dorothy McRae's feet are planted firmly in Oregon soil.

McRae has been a lifelong resident of the state, following in the footsteps of most of her ancestors.

"All of my ancestors came over the Oregon Trail except one grandma who was born in Polk County," McRae said.

Her grandfather, George Washington McBee, traveled west from Missouri when he was 5 years old.

"He came with lots of relatives in a wagon train," McRae said.

A cholera epidemic killed many in the group, including McBee's grandmother.

She died in the Black Hills of South Dakota and was buried there with the family Bible. The pioneers were afraid that the book was contaminated with cholera, so they didn't dare carry it to Oregon, McRae said.

Family members later discovered that they stood to inherit a fortune from relatives in Ireland if they could prove who they were by producing the Bible. But they never could find the grave.

McRae's grandmother, Unicy Mary Jane Leabo, traveled the Oregon Trail in 1849 at age 12. She drove oxen across the Plains.

Unicy's father, Josiah, had traveled to Oregon once before bringing his family west.

He had worked in the California gold fields, and he bought new boots and a horse in Portland with some of his treasure.

On his way home, however, he was robbed, and the thief took



Bruce Thorson/Statesman Journal

Dorothy McRae displays the fruits of her labor in collecting and recounting Polk County history.

Profile

Name: Dorothy McRae.

Address: Monmouth.

Born: July 28, 1915.

Occupation: Retired telephone operator and farmer.

Family: One son; two daughters; four grandchildren; two great-grandchildren.

Hobbies: Researching Oregon and Polk County history, writing, baking, gardening and working with youth groups.

Of interest: McRae wrote the first "Historically Speaking," a regularly published chronicle of Polk County history.

with the Joseph Watt wagon train, which brought the first purebred Merino sheep to Oregon.

"The sheep sold like hotcakes when they got here," McRae said. The animals were considered to be a precious commodity, providing meat for food and wool for clothing.

McRae has written down many of the stories she remembers about her ancestors to pass on to her descendants.

She also has been involved in producing *Historically Speaking*, a chronicle of Polk County history.

It is a thrill to have such a rich heritage, McRae said.

She joined in a February celebration of the Oregon Trail honoring those whose grandparents crossed the historic trail.

his boots — which held the rest of his gold — and the horse.

William Felix and Nancy Riggs McKinney, McRae's maternal great-grandparents, traveled

McBEE QUARTET LIVING PROOF THAT LIFE BEGINS AT 80

From an article in the --
(Itemizer-Observer, Sept. 22, 1955)

You COULD CALL Them the Octogenarian quartet - the three **McBee** brothers who live in and near Dallas and their sister, Mrs. Morris Hughes. All but Mrs. **Hughes** are over 80 and she is pressing close at 78.

Their ages total 326 years, a rather unique distinction for a brother and sister combination, but their lives hold much more of interest than this mere statistic. Their part in agriculture and local affairs is so interwoven with the history and development of Polk County that they are symbolic of the area.

The four revisited their old home place in the Liberty district the other day and had a great time pointing out old landmarks and recalling incidents of childhood. John at 86 is the eldest and Leonard is next at 82. G.F. (Tude) **McBee** is a comparatively young sprout, having just turned 80 earlier this year, and Mrs. **Hughes** is the baby of the foursome at 78.

One brother, Isaac Garland **McBee**, died about four years ago at the age of 79. He lived on the James Howe Road. A fifth brother, William Pearl **McBee**, 71, is now living at Yuma, Arizona. He formerly lived near Toledo, was a Lincoln County deputy sheriff and also served on the Lincoln County Fair Board.

All remarkably active today, the **McBees** have always been that way. The all seem to have the same tough and enduring fiber but yet are kindly and disposed to see the humorous side of things, too.

Leonard (L.H.) gained considerable distinction as chairman of the Polk County Fair Board, a position he held for 29 years.

John was manager of the California Packing Company here for years. Tude has gained hundreds of friends on the job as custodian of the courthouse, and he still gets up every day but Sunday at 5 a.m. to be one the job in time at 7. Mrs. Hughes has lived for years with her husband on a farm in the Liberty district.

The **McBees** are of pioneer stock. The father, George Washington **McBee**, came from Ray County, Missouri, to Oregon in 1852. The mother was Unicy M. **Leabo**, who was born in Atchinson County, Missouri, December 8, 1949. As a girl of 12, she helped drive a wagon train across the plains to Oregon, and her family settled in the Grand Ronde valley of Union County. Later they moved to Clackamas County, then to Elk City and finally to Marion County where she met and married George **McBee** in May, 1868.

Mr. **McBee** worked as a finisher in the woolen mills in Salem, Ashland and Brownsville before the family came to the farm in the Liberty district, southwest of Dallas in 1875.

Garland, John and Leonard were all born in Salem, but Tude, Pearl and Daisy (Mrs. **Hughes**) were born on the home place here. The old home burned a few years ago, but the original barn still stands on the hillside across from the Joe DeWitt home. Joe bought the **McBee** place from John **McBee** some years ago.

The quartet can point out the location of the old spring, center of many memories, particularly of the time that Len fell in while sitting beside it in his little rocking chair. The older children went over the hill and through the woods to school at

Oakdale, heedless of the animals, which frequented the area in greater abundance in those days. Tude attended Oakdale School for a short time, but most of his and Mrs. **Hughes'** memories have to do with the Liberty school, just down the road to the north from the home place. The also went to church in the school building and Daisy was known for her lovely singing voice in the Baptist services.

The parents moved to town in 1909 and John took over 20 acres of the home place. His first wife was Cora **Shewey**, who is deceased. Later he married Mrs. Louisa **Shelton** whose husband had died. She and Mrs. G.F. **McBee** are sisters, their maiden names being Louisa and Alice **Sellers**.

Before acquiring the home place, John located on the Lucklamute, then came to Dallas to take the job with the packing plant. He went to California for three years, still with Cal-Pack, and then returned to take the home place. After selling to **DeWitt**, he took a home in town.

John served a term on the city council and also was on the Liberty district school board. He has two children, Albert of Roseburg, and Mrs. Hazel Krager of Valley Junction. Two are dead. Alice died at the age of three and Effie at the age of 23.

Leonard Herbert McBee never left the Liberty district, and still owns two places there, the upper place, which adjoins the home place, and the place where he is living now, just below the Liberty school.

As a young man, Len was a printer, working for a time in both the *Itemizer* and Observer offices in Dallas in the days when all type was set by hand. Then he turned back to farming and has stuck with it since.

Keenly interested in all county affairs, Len made a big contribution with his service on the fair board and last year at

the time of the county fair was given a medal to mark his long service. It was towards the end of his time on the board that the new Rickreall grounds were acquired and new vistas opened for the fair.

Active in farmer organizations, he was president of the Liberty local of the Farmers Union and also served as secretary. For two years, L.H. **McBee** was president of the State Farmers Union. He has also long been an active member of the Pomona Grange.

Len married May **Jones** of Perrydale about 1900, and they had three children, Gilbert, Herbert and Dorothy. Gilbert became a prominent doctor at Pendleton and his death at the age of 45 late in 1947 was a shock to the area, which he served. Herbert R. **McBee** started as a schoolteacher but later decided to follow his father's footsteps and is now farming on the Dallas-Falls City highway. Dorothy is now Mrs. Kenneth **McCrae** of near Monmouth.

Len is still actively farming his place, and he has a respected and experienced voice in farm affairs. In the early days he raised hops, but during World War I, he and Tude were not allowed to harvest the crops because they were considered luxuries and they turned to other things. Prunes have been one of his mainstays, and he also has done some grain farming. Now he is turning towards filberts on his place in the valley off the Liberty Road.

George Frederick (Tude) **McBee**, who is as steady as the sunrise and sunset, has been faithfully on the job at the courthouse since 1931. Until the past few months, he has put in about a 12-hour day, going to work at 6 a.m. and quitting at 6 p. m. recently, however, he decided that it was necessary to take it easy and he

doesn't get on the job until 7 a.m.

Among his former duties was stacking and handling the some 125 cords of cordwood that were obtained every year to feed the courthouse furnace. Fortunately this day passed with the conversion to an oil furnace.

Tude has served under four county judges - Judge G.L. **Hawkins**, who was in office when Tude started work, Herman **Van Well**, C.F. (Jack) **Hayes**, and the present judge, Cal M. **Barnhart**.

Always small, Tude was once known as *Cricket* but says that he adopted the nickname *Tude* by his own choosing. As a boy, he never got a licking but now says that he needed a lot of them.

In 1898, the year that he married Alice I. **Sellers** in the home of the pastor, Rev. T. V.B. **Embree**, he bought a farm in the Liberty district. This is located beside the present farm of Len's. After remaining on the place for 33 years, Tude took a place by the city reservoir and lived there six months.

Then he bought his present place on Rickreall Creek, at the east end of Academy Street, August 10, 1932. This was six months after he started his courthouse job.

Always a man with a green thumb, Tude is known for his fine gardens and he does a little experimenting on the side. He has even raised cotton on his place. And in the well-kept flowerbeds of the courthouse, it hasn't been uncommon to find an occasional stalk of corn, some tomatoes, or a squash vine climbing up the ivy on the native stonewall. These have been the source of some good-natured practical jokes to brighten the working day of the official courthouse family. One squash was found 10 feet up the courthouse wall.

Tude has always enjoyed working with the county officials. He once got the bug to try for office himself and ran against Ed Dunn for assessor.

"*Ed beat me bad,*" said the white-haired man, "*and I'm glad of it, too.*"

When Tude began work, T.B. **Hooker** was sheriff, Josiah **Wills** was county school superintendent, G.L. **Hawkins** was judge, and E.B. **Hamilton** was treasurer. Frank **Farmer** and Chet **Gardner** were commissioners.

His good friend, Circuit Judge Arlie **Walker**, took the bench two years before Tude came.

Tude had become familiar with the courthouse on many calls to jury duty in earlier years. His first time on the jury was in 1898 when George **Burnett** was judge. Judge **Burnett** was an uncle of the late Harry **Belt**, chief justice of the Oregon Supreme Court. Judge **Belt** was a good friend of Tude's.

The courthouse custodian has always enjoyed good relations with the county officials. "*I always got along with the commissioners,*" he states. Commissioners under whom he has worked include Chester **Gardner**, Frank **Farmer**, Fred **Gibson**, Harrison **Brant**, W.E. **Knower**, C.L. **Burbank** and Gay **Rempel**.

During the time Tude has been in the courthouse, there have been many famous court cases - The Empire Holding Company case, the Goon trials with Al **Rosser**, the **Layton** trial for murder, and the **Sooter** trial, also for murder. **Rosser** was sentenced to five years, **Layton** was executed in the death chamber and **Sooter** was acquitted.

The McBee Quartet.... will be
continued in a future issue of the Polk Poker.

McBEE QUARTET LIVING PROOF THAT LIFE BEGINS AT 80

From an article in the —
(Itemizer-Observer, Sept. 22, 1955)

Continued from the Previous Issue...

Sooter, who admitted that he shot and killed a man named **Baley** but was acquitted by the jury by reason of insanity, turned himself over to Tude. **Sooter** was on the back courthouse steps one morning when the custodian came to work and said that he had killed a man.

Tude's day at the courthouse begins with turning on the lights and unlocking the doors. Then he gets out a mop bucket and mops the floors. Some he does before the hustle and bustle of the day starts, and other floors are mopped at the end of the day, but all floors are covered each day.

He never puts off a task, and that way keeps the courthouse spic and span. John helped him for several years until recently, but the older brother is now unable to do the work, and Tude has another helper.

Until electric mechanism was installed, one of the custodian's jobs was to wind the clock in the courthouse tower. One weight, that which gave the pull to the striker, weighed 750 pounds. The weight on the clock mechanism itself weighed about 100 pounds. The 10-minute job had to be done twice each week, but Tude never let it run down.

The big tower clock stopped once when a screw came loose, and Tony Proal scaled the tower to put it back in place.

Taking care of the courthouse occasionally brings brushes with wildlife, too. Tude fought a long battle to drive pigeons from the tower, but it wasn't until

screens were installed over the triangular-shaped openings that the birds would admit defeat. Even then, they cooed on the outside for days, waiting for a chance to get back into their former happy home.

Then there was the case of the bullfrog that **McBee** found on the courthouse lawn. It was a good eight inches long and became quite a pet until it disappeared. The county court even challenged Calaveras County, California, to a frog-jumping contest on the strength of it.

"Oh, no one ever lived who enjoys life more than I," declares Tude. "I've always tried to look at the bright side."

Mr. and Mrs. G.F. **McBee** have one daughter, Mrs. Vayne **Hughes** of Portland. Three granddaughters are Mrs. Corrine **Woods**, Mrs. Beverly **Winostek**, and Mrs. Marvely **Hawkins**, all of Portland, and a grandson is DeWayne **Hughes**.

Mrs. **McBee** suffered a stroke in December of 1954, and has been confined to bed since that time. After leaving his day's work at the courthouse, Tude goes home and devotedly cares for his wife. Her condition at the present is not encouraging.

Through his 24 years at the courthouse, Tude has been off on account of illness only once for any length of time. About six years ago, he became ill and was confined at home for three weeks. His normally spare frame became thin as a rail, but he showed his tough fiber and came back strong to start his old routine again.

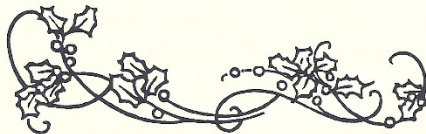
He hasn't taken a vacation in two years, and says that he doesn't think he can because he can't find anyone to take his place that long.

Tude served on the school board in the Liberty district and was also clerk there. He was president of the Liberty Farmers Union for four years and was chairman of the Telephone Mutual, a farmer line, years ago.

Isaac Garland **McBee**, the brother who is dead, lived on a place in the Liberty district south of the home place before going to the place on the James **Howe** Road where he lived until his death. He operated a grader for the county for years. His wife, also deceased, was the former Alta **Waddell**. They had no children, but raised Letita **Shewey**, now Mrs. Roy L. **Blanchard** who lives on the home place on James Howe Road.

Mrs. **Hughes** and her husband lived south of the home place before moving to their present place nearer town in the Liberty district. They raise prunes and engage in general farming. The couple has no children. Tude and his sister have always been great pals.

William Pearl **McBee**, like Tude and Len, was in the Farmers Union at Liberty before he sold his place and went to Toledo about 32 years ago. He served as Lincoln County deputy sheriff for four years and was on the county fair board there. About one and one-half years ago he moved to Yuma, Arizona. Pearl has one son, Marion **McBee** of Toledo, and a daughter, Mrs. Lamar (Mary) **Newkirk** of Portland. ■



Children of George McBee and Unicy Leabo:

8-1-i. John Josiah McBee (1869-1964)

8-1-ii. Isaac Gorland McBee (1870-1950)

8-1-iii. Leonard Hebert McBee (1873-1967)

8-1-iv. George Frederick McBee (1875-1960)

8-1-v. Daisy May McBee (1877-1973)

8-1-vi. William Pearl McBee (1884-1979)

8-2. Frances F. McBee [Pioneer of 1852]

b. 14 May 1848 Ray County, Missouri

d. 23 Apr 1863 Salem, Marion County, Oregon

buried [Salem Pioneer Cemetery](#), Salem, Marion County, Oregon

1850: District 75, Ray County, Missouri, September 9, 1850; John McBee, 31, farmer, \$1100, OH; Sarah, 25, KY; George W., 3, MO; Frances, 2, MO; John, 6/12, MO

1860: Santiam Pct, Salem PO, Marion County, Oregon, August 12, 1860; J. McBee, 40, farmer, \$600 \$800, OH; S., 33, KY; G.W., 13, m, MO; F., 12, f, MO; J.E., 8, f, OR; A., 4, f, OR; E., 1, f, OR

8-3. John Clay McBee [Pioneer of 1852]

b. 08 Nov 1849 Ray County, Missouri

d. 25 Oct 1852 after arrival in Oregon Territory

buried [Salem Pioneer Cemetery](#), Salem, Marion County, Oregon

1850: District 75, Ray County, Missouri, September 9, 1850; John McBee, 31, farmer, \$1100, OH; Sarah, 25, KY; George W., 3, MO; Frances, 2, MO; John, 6/12, MO

8-4. Mary Ellen McBee [Pioneer of 1852]

b. 11 Nov 1851 Ray County, Missouri

d. 25 Sep 1852 on Oregon Trail, Umatilla County, Oregon Territory

buried [Salem Pioneer Cemetery](#), Salem, Marion County, Oregon

8-5. Elizabeth Jane McBee

b. 20 Sep 1853 Salem, Marion County, Oregon

d. 27 Jun 1861 Salem, Marion County, Oregon

buried [Salem Pioneer Cemetery](#), Salem, Marion County, Oregon

1860: Santiam Pct, Salem PO, Marion County, Oregon, August 12, 1860; J. McBee, 40, farmer, \$600 \$800, OH; S., 33, KY; G.W., 13, m, MO; F., 12, f, MO; J.E., 8, f, OR; A., 4, f, OR; E., 1, f, OR

8-6. Sarah Alice McBee

b. 02 Nov 1855 Salem, Marion County, Oregon

d. 30 Dec 1934 Salem, Marion County, Oregon

buried [City View Cemetery](#), Salem, Marion County, Oregon

m. 01 Jan 1874 Salem, Marion County, Oregon

Robert Thomas Judson

b. 12 Apr 1848 Salem, Marion County, Oregon

d. 24 Feb 1904 Salem, Marion County, Oregon

buried [City View Cemetery](#), Salem, Marion County, Oregon

1860: Santiam Pct, Salem PO, Marion County, Oregon, August 12, 1860; J. McBee, 40, farmer, \$600 \$800, OH; S., 33, KY; G.W., 13, m, MO; F., 12, f, MO; J.E., 8, f, OR; A., 4, f, OR; E., 1, f, OR

“Robert F. (T.) Judson & Sarah A. McBee, m. 18 Jan 1874. Lic. Dated 27 Dec 1873. At house of L.B. Judson, E.J. Dawne, M.G. Wit: J.B. McClane and Helen McClane. #1635 p. 87 & Bk 1 p. 149 [Marion County Marriage Records by Jean Custer & Daraleen Wade 1871-1874 p. 20]

Judson—Sarah A. Judson, at the residence, Perrydale, Ore., December 30. Survived by children: Anna J. French and Toals Judson of Salem, George A. Judson of Oretown, Robert L. Judson of Amity, and Alice French of Salem. Funeral services will be held Wednesday, Jan. 2, at 1:30 p.m. from the chapel of W. T. Rigdon company, Interment Cityview cemetery.

[The Capital Journal, Salem, Oregon, Monday, December 31, 1934 p.7]

SALEM'S FIRST BORN

**Robert T. Judson Died
Sunday After-
noon**

**Born in 1842 and the First
White Child Born in
Present Limits
of Salem**

Robert L. Judson, one of the most respected citizens of Marion county, and who has lived in and near this city all of his life of over two-thirds of a century, died at his farm home south of Salem at 5:12 p. m. yesterday, after an illness of but a few days, of stomach trouble, aged 61 years, 10 months and 9 days.

Mr. Judson's parents came around the horn in 1839, arriving in Oregon in June, 1840, with the missionary party headed by the late Father Waller and J. L. Parrish, and settled in Marion county. Mr. Judson was born April 12, 1842, being the first white child born inside of the corporate limits of Salem, and he lived here or near here all his life, except seven years, which were spent in Clatsop county.

January 1, 1874, he married Miss Sarah Alice McBee, who survives him. The fruits of this union were three daughters and four sons, all but the one married daughter being now residents of this city. They are: Mrs. J. M. Card, Anna Judson and Alice, L. E., G. A., R. T. and Leonard. The funeral will be held from the Leslie M. E. church, in South Salem, at 2 p. m. tomorrow.

Mr. Judson was not a member of any church, but was a regular attendant at the South Salem church. He was greatly beloved for his many acts of kindness and charity, and his death will be sincerely and genuinely mourned by a large circle of warm and devoted friends.

[The Capital Journal, Salem, Oregon, Monday, February 22, 1904 p.5]

**Sarah A. Judson, widow
of the first white boy
born on the site of Salem:**

On December 30, the last day but one of the old year, 1934, Sarah A. Judson passed to her rest.

She was the widow of the first white boy and the third white child born on the site of the city of Salem, and that boy first saw the light of day in the first residence built for whites on Salem's site, the Jason Lee house, still standing, at 960 Broadway.

He was Robert Thomas Judson, whose father, Rev. L. H. Judson, came in 1840 on the Lausanne. The first white child born on the site of Salem was Maria Campbell, Oct. 25, 1841; second, Lucy A. M. Lee, Feb. 28, 1842, and the date of Robert T. Judson's birth was April 12, 1842.

Four families lived then in the Jason Lee home, the Judson family in the north half of the second floor. Jason Lee had the north half of the first floor.

The wedding of Sarah A. Mc-Bee and Robert T. Judson took place January 1, 1874, at the Leonard B. Judson home four miles above Independence, on the Marion county side. There came to bless the union four sons and three daughters, as it had been with the father and mother of Salem's first born white boy.

They are Lewis E. and Leonard Judson of Salem; Robert T. of Amity; R. F. D. (Broadmead), where the mother passed away; Geo. A. of Oretown; Anna J. French of Salem, Rt. 1, and Alice French of Salem. There are 24 grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

The funeral was held at the Leslie Methodist church, the services under the direction of Rev. J. H. McDonald, pastor.

• • •

After their wedding, Robt. T. Judson and wife began house-keeping at what is now South Summer and Judson streets, in the southeastern section of Salem.

They bought their first five acres of land there of David Leslie, from his donation land claim, Mrs. Leslie being an aunt of Mr. Judson, for \$15 an acre. They later bought an adjoining 10 acres from Fabritus Smith at \$35 an acre, and an acre and three-quarters from Smith at \$100 an acre. That land was then all in heavy timber, and they cleared it and made it fruitful. Excepting about two and a half acres, it still is in the Judson family. Other acreage has been added.

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Sarah A. McBee was born on her father's place near what became Hall's ferry, on Nov. 2, 1855. She would have reached her 80th year next November. Her parents moved from that place soon thereafter to Linn county, then bought school land north of the Thomas Jory place; now a part of the Oscar Dencer farm in the Liberty district. After that, the McBee family moved to Salem and had their home near the pioneer woolen mill on Broadway, near where the Larmer warehouse is now; thence to their last home which they owned, at the southeast corner of Trade and Church streets. Mr. McBee died there in 1884, his wife having preceded him from the same home two years before.

Mrs. Judson's father was John McBee, the youngest of seven sons. He was a captain of militia in pioneer Missouri during the Mormon troubles. He left Missouri on account of slavery.

The people of the mother of Mrs. Judson's mother had left Virginia on account of slavery and tobacco. They moved to Kentucky, and left that state on account of slavery, tobacco, whiskey and horse racing.

Mrs. Judson's father and mother met in Indiana. Later he (John McBee) married her (Sarah Matheny) in Missouri.

Four McBees, brothers, start-
for Oregon with the great cov-
ered wagon immigration of 1852.
Two of them, Levi and Thomas,
both died on the plains and
Levi's wife also. That was the
year when the "cholera" was the
worst; 6000 died, and 50,000 got
through.

Sam Matheny, a boy of 18,
brother-in-law of John McBee,
drove the ox team of Levi Mc-
Bee the rest of the way across
the plains. There were seven
daughters of Levi. One of them,
Barbara, married Mr. Sham-
braugh, a Portland capitalist, and
their son became a banker there.

The widow of Thomas, with
her three children, went on to
Douglas county, and they became
prominent southern Oregon pio-
neers.

Of the three brothers and two
sisters who remained in the east,
Elizabeth married a minister
named Dickerhoof, Henry did not
marry, and David married and
reared a family.

John McBee started with four
children. The two youngest, John
and Mary, died just a month
apart, both on the Snake river,
of "cholera." Francis died at 16,
and Geo. W. McBee, the other
child, became a prominent citi-
zen of Dallas; was county com-
missioner of Polk county, and
held numerous places of trust.
He died about two years ago,
aged 86.

Three McBee children were
born in Oregon, of which Sarah
A., who became Mrs. Judson, was
the second. The first, Elizabeth,
died at 7. The third, Emma, mar-
ried Selby Ireland and died in
August, 1880, a year after her
marriage.

When John McBee started
across the plains, he put \$5000
into his outfit; had 16 yoke of
oxen and four wagons.

So many men of John McBee's company started across the plains poorly equipped, or suffered losses on the way that, out of the 16 yoke of good oxen and four large, fine wagons with which he started, when he arrived at The Dalles he had two wagons and only two yoke of oxen.

He did not have the heart to refuse aid to unfortunate fellow travelers on the way, even though impoverishing himself.

At The Dalles, he traded a yoke of oxen and \$10 in money for a sack of flour.

The whole company unloaded the heavier freight and took it down the Columbia on a raft.

The raft struck a rock in the stream and the jar threw out part of the freight. In this way, the McBees lost a chest that contained the family records.

The rest of the company came by way of the Barlow road over the Cascades and into the Willamette valley.

Besides Sam Matheny, and his brother Calvin, came three of their sisters, Margaret, Martha and Lucy.

Calvin died on the Sandy river, on the Barlow road, on the last leg of the long trek. Martha lived only a month after arrival in the Willamette valley. Lucy died the next spring. The "cholera" or what was called the cholera, from which so many people died on the plains, if it did not cause death quickly, as generally happened, it left those who suffered from its ravages very much debilitated for weeks and even for many months. The estimated number of deaths from it in all the covered wagon days was as high as 32,000, and the largest number for a year, which was in 1852, was 6000.

Margaret Matheny was married to Leonard Judson; so Leonard's wife was an aunt to Sarah A. Judson, wife of Robert T. Judson.

The original Judson claim was south of and near to that of John McBees, which, as said before, was near what became Hall's ferry.

Later Leonard Judson traded his first claim to a neighbor for land further south. He thus acquired land at the point where was kept the pioneer Humphrey ferry, one of the earliest ferries across the Willamette—about five miles below the Buena Vista ferry.

Leonard Judson had in his new place 540 acres of land. While he was active there, it was known as Judson's landing, and he ran the ferry. He ran it during the Civil war, and many a battle of that great conflict was rehearsed while passengers, sometimes on the rebel side and sometimes on the side of the Union, were taken across the stream—to say nothing of hot arguments, the ferryman being for the cause led by Abraham Lincoln.

In the old days, one of the first roads going south from Salem led that way, over the Skyline orchard hill—and, though fenced up, has never been abandoned as a public road. It was the road that ran past the "governor's mansion," on the donation land claim of Territorial Governor John P. Gaines, the main part of which house ("governor's mansion") still stands, about seven miles south of Salem.

Bishop Matthew Simpson, the greatest orator of his time, passed over that road in his famous trip to the Belknap settlement in 1854, and mentioned in his diary both

the governor's mansion and the Humphrey ferry.

■ ■ ■

That land of Leonard Judson is still in the family—belongs to Mrs. Ida H. Canos, who has the Alona apartments at 645 Ferry street, Salem.

■ ■ ■

Not many relics of John McBee are known to be left. His grandson, Lewis E. Judson, has his razor, and keeps it in use, as he has done ever since he needed a razor.

■ ■ ■

Mrs. Robert T. Judson belonged to and attended Leslie Methodist church for 45 years. In her young motherhood she carried her children to church. In the past several years of her life, when she had become feeble, one of them, Lewis E., often carried her into the church.

The spirit of Christian devotion, even as it existed in the mission days, prevailed and persisted in the Judson home.

The children when they were growing up knew no other way than to have evening prayers as they retired. They would not have understood how to conduct themselves otherwise.

If all children had that training, there would be no need for prisons and jails, and little use for asylums and other institutions for the care of unsocial human wreckage.

The reader was told that four McBee brothers started from Missouri to Oregon with the 1852 covered wagon immigration; that two, Levi and Thomas, died on the plains, and that John came through and became a prominent pioneer here, etc.

The other brother was William. He spent the first winter in Marion county and settled in Benton county, seven miles south of Corvallis. He had married Elizabeth Milligan of Ohio, where the McBee family had resided for a time. William brought his wife and his mother from Missouri, but the mother died from cholera on the plains. Nine children were born into that family, and several of them became prominent there, in the neighborhood of the original claim, the title to which, up to a few years ago, was in members of the clan.

[Oregon Statesman, Salem, Oregon, "Bits For Breakfast" by R.J. Hendricks, Thursday January 16 & Friday, January 17, 1935 p.4

Children of Robert Judson and Sarah McBee:

- 8-6-i. Anna Josephine Judson (1874-1958)
- 8-6-ii. Effie Margaret Judson (1876-1932)
- 8-6-iii. Lewis Edward Judson (1878-1973)
- 8-6-iv. George Alfred Judson (1880-1966)
- 8-6-v. Robert Thomas Judson (1885-1950)
- 8-6-vi. Sarah Alice Judson (1887-1981)
- 8-6-vii. Leonard Burch Judson (1891-1978)

8-7. Emma Missouri McBee

b. 21 Jan 1859 Salem, Marion County, Oregon

d. 24 Jul 1881 Monmouth, Polk County, Oregon

buried [Salem Pioneer Cemetery](#), Salem, Marion County, Oregon

m. 30 Oct 1880 Polk County, Oregon

James Selby Ireland

b. 09 Jun 1856 Lucas County, Iowa

d. 31 Aug 1931 Lebanon, Linn County, Oregon age 75y2m22d

buried [IOOF Cemetery](#), Lebanon, Linn County, Oregon

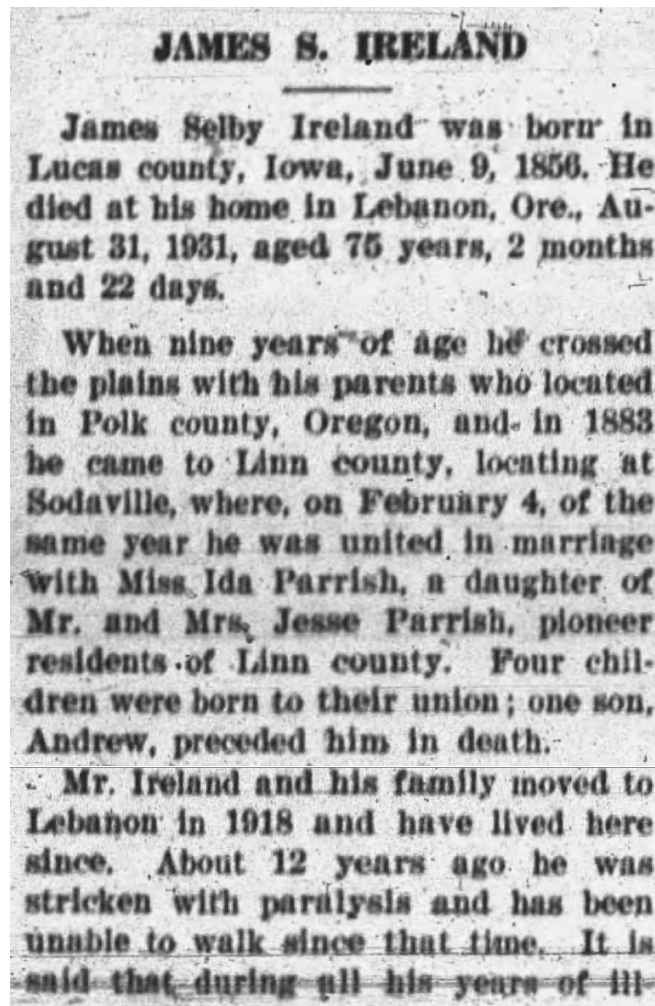
s/o David Ireland and Mary Ann Sanderson

m1. Mary Susan Ward (1858-1878) 1876 Polk County, Oregon

m2. Emma Missouri McBee (1859-1881) 30 Oct 1880 Polk County, Oregon

m3. Ida Mae Parrish (1864-1955) 1883 Polk County, Oregon

1860: Santiam Pct, Salem PO, Marion County, Oregon, August 12, 1860; J. McBee, 40, farmer, \$600 \$800, OH; S., 33, KY; G.W., 13, m, MO; F., 12, f, MO; J.E., 8, f, OR; A., 4, f, OR; E., 1, f, OR



ness he was never heard to complain.

Surviving members of his family are his widow, Mrs. Ida Ireland, of Lebanon, three sons, Ben Ireland, a son by a former marriage, Hood River, Ora L. Ireland of Albany, Theo Ireland of Los Angeles; one daughter, Mrs. Oma Jacobson of Sweet Home; thirteen grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted by Elder George Simons at the Church of Christ at 2 p. m. Tuesday in the presence of a large group of relatives and friends. There was a profuse offering of flowers. Burial was in the Odd Fellows cemetery.

[The Lebanon Express, Lebanon, Oregon, Thursday, September 3, 1931 p.6]