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McCLURE FAMILY RECORDS.

An Account of the First American Settlers
and Colonial Families of the Name of
McClure, and Other Genealogical and
Historical Data, Mostly New and
Original Material Including
Early Wills and Marriages
Heretofore Unpublished.

BY

WILLIAM M. CLEMENS

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McCLURE FAMILY RECORDS

CONTAINING

- Ancient Scottish Families.
- Early New England Colonists.
- Pennsylvania McClures.
- Alexander K. McClure.
- McClures in Vermont.
- The Kentucky Family.
- Pennsylvania Muster Rolls.
- Early Virginia Marriages.
- Virginia Wills.
- New York in the Revolution.

McClure Family
Records
1914 a

THE MCCLURE FAMILY.

Originally the family name was probably spelled Mac Lure. Lura means harp in Greek, argues one of the family historians, and McLura—sons of the harp—was perhaps the original form of the name. There is more reason to believe that McClure and McLure share a common origin from Mac Lobhair, which was pronounced by the Scotch Mac Lo-air. Lobhair was a not unusual first name among Gaelic people.

The McClures were prominent Presbyterians at the time of the Revolution in the Seventeenth Century, when James II fled to France, and they settled in the north of Ireland at about that time. Under William III they fought at the battle of the Boyne. Their descendants are now living at the family estates in Belmont, near Belfast.

The arms of the McClures are blazoned: Argent, a dexter hand erased fesseways gules holding a dagger point downwards, azure in chief three crescents sable. The crest is a domed tower, from the top a flag proper.

Although not a large family in the United States, their establishment in the new world was the accomplishment of numerous migrations that took place during the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries. New Hampshire and Pennsylvania

were the havens which first attracted them, although they soon spread to other States of the Union.

David McClure was born somewhere in Scotland in the early part of the Eighteenth Century. In 1720 he migrated to Boston. There he married Matilda Glenn and had a large family. He moved to Candia, N. H., where he built a log cabin, still standing. He died from exposure in a snowstorm.

His eldest son, David, like himself, married a Miss Dinsmore, and moved to Deering, N. H. Their son, David, of Antrim, N. H., married Martha Wilson. They had eleven children, who spread the name throughout New England.

The daughter of David McClure, the first, of Boston and Candia, married Alexander McClure in 1761. This Alexander was one of the early settlers of Raymond, N. H., and besides being a friend of David, was also probably a kin. He was born in Scotland in 1734. Of his eleven children one son only lived to have children. This was his namesake, Alexander, who married first Sarah Nay and then Martha Varnum.

One of the earliest McClures in Pennsylvania was David, who came from the parish of Dapho, County Donegal, Ireland. In 1720 he went to Chester, now Lancaster county, Pennsylvania,

where, in 1738, he married one Margaret. He took out a patent about this time for 400 acres of land at the mouth of Coney creek. He died in 1749, leaving a widow, three daughters and five sons. William, the eldest, received 100 acres of his father's estate, which he sold to an Indian trader. He died in his minority. Randall, another son, also had a hundred acres, which he sold. He married Ann, and had John, Alexander, James and three daughters. David, the third son, sold his 100-acre share, removed to Baltimore, and there entered into mercantile business. John and Alexander, the other two sons, also went to Baltimore, where they joined their brother in business.

It was James McClure, of Lancaster county, Pa., probably some relative of the preceding family, who settled in Bloomsbury, Pa., in 1772, on a patent of land from William Penn for two hundred seventy-eight and one-half acres, known as "McClure Choice," or more formally as Beauchamp. His youngest son, Col. James McClure, born in 1774, was the first white child to see the light in that part of the State. In 1750 James, the elder, died in the family homestead.

Another family of McClures was settled in West Pennsboro, Columbia county, Pa., whose relation to the other Pennsylvania branches seems obvious, but is unknown. This was founded by William

and Robert. The latter was born in 1734, and sometime before 1759 he married Margaret Douglas. Besides five daughters, he had three sons, William, Alexander and Robert. The eldest, William, born in 1759, married Agnes McKeehan. Their sons were John, who settled in Ohio; Robert, Alexander and William, whose son, Robert, was curator of the United States Mint at Philadelphia. By his second wife, also named McKeehan, and a cousin of Agnes, William had James, Samuel and Joseph.

Alexander, son of William, and his first wife, who was born in 1796, married Isabella Anderson, and had a son, Alexander Kelly McClure, the famous editor of Philadelphia. He was born in Perry county, Pa., among the mountains, near the of the Juniata River, Jan. 9, 1828. He came of Scotch-Irish stock, and was an apprentice to a tanner and currier. In 1850 he was made one of the enumerators of the census. Dec. 9, 1846, he began the publication of the Juniata "Sentinel," at Mifflin, which he continued until 1852, when he bought the "Franklin Repository," published at Chambersburg, Pa. While he published the "Repository," it was universally conceded to be the best local paper in Pennsylvania. In 1853, when only twenty-five, he was nominated on the Whig ticket for Auditor-General, but he was defeated by the Democratic nominee, Ephraim Banks. In

1855 he was appointed by Gov. Pollock superintendent of public printing, but resigned the position after having served eight months. The same year, having studied law with William McLellan, of Chambersburg, he was admitted to the bar. In 1856 he was appointed by Gov. Pollock superintendent of the Erie and Northeast Railroad.

The McClures who settled in Carlisle, Pa., are known to have come from the north of Ireland, but their relation to other settlers of the name although probable, has not been determined. Other north of Ireland McClures settled in Paxton and Hanover, Pa., previous to 1730.

The brothers, John, James and Thomas McClure, came to Vermont in 1779. They were born about 1750. They were soldiers in the Revolution in Vermont regiments, but none of their children were of possible age to render military service in the Revolution. James and Thomas settled in Ira, Vt., and there took the freeman's oath, May 31, 1779. Middletown was not an original grant; it was made up of a part of four towns, including a part of Ira and the homesteads of James and Thomas McClure, and incorporated in 1784. James, who was older than Thomas McClure, died

in Middletown, Feb. 22, 1815, aged sixty-seven years. Samuel McClure, another soldier in the Revolution, lived in or near Newbury, Vt.

Jane McClure, of Chester, was married to Pattie Simpson, who was born in Nottingham, 1737, and died in 1807. He was a soldier in the Revolution and signed the Association Test, June, 1776. They were married in 1763.

McClure is a big name in Kentucky. The family there was founded by settlers from Virginia Valley. The name is found among soldiers and officers from Kentucky, who fought bravely. Several of them were killed by the savages, and two were the most daring Indian fighters of their times, the brothers, William and Captain Robert, whose sister, Jane, married John Logan.

The family of which S. S. McClure, the magazine editor, is a member, is another late arrival in this country. It was established here by the latter's father, who came with his family from County Antrim, Ireland.

Alexander Wilson McClure, A.M., D.D., son of Thomas and Mary (Wilson) McClure, was born in Boston, Mass., May 8, 1808; fitted for college at the Latin School in Boston; Yale College, 1825.

He was ordained in the Presbyterian Church, Dec. 19, 1832, at Malden, and editor of the "Christian Observatory," 1850, and was assistant editor of the "Puritan Recorder," at the same time.

The Pennsylvania Muster Rolls, of 1776-1783 contain the following McClures:

James McClure, May 8, 1777, private.

John McClure, 1778, Washington Co., private.

Andrew McClure, 1778, Washington Co., private.

Samuel McClure, 1781, Northumberland Co., private.

James McClure, 1781, Northumberland Co., private.

John McClure, 1781, Cumberland Co., private.

William McClure, 1781, Cumberland Co., private.

Early Virginia marriages of the McClures, now first published, were as follows:

McCLURE, Agnes & William Douglas, Dec. 29, 1803, Rockbridge Co., Va.

McCLURE, Alex. & Betsy Paxton, Nov. 17, 1808, Rockbridge Co., Va.

McCLURE, Alex D. & Martha Elliott, by Rev. John Brown, Sept. 4, 1795, Rockbridge Co. Va.

- McCLURE, Arthur & Nancy Edmondson, January 5, 1798, Rockbridge Co., Va.
- McCLURE, Catharine & Samuel McCorkle, April 26, 1804, Rockbridge Co., Va.
- McCLURE, Catharine & James Taylor, Feb. 11, 1808, Rockbridge Co., Va.
- McCLURE, David & Rhoda Jones, Nov. 25, 1819, Rockbridge Co., Va.
- McCLURE, Eliz. & Malcolm McClure, Dec. 14, 1786, Rockbridge Co., Va.
- McCLURE, Elizabeth & Jacob Morgan, Jan. 1, 1807, Rockbridge Co., Va.
- McCLURE, Fanny & Flamin Byers, Jan. 26, 1804, Rockbridge Co., Va.
- McCLURE, Isabella & Andrew Hall, May 20, 1799, Rockbridge Co., Va.
- McCLURE, Jane & Archibald Alexander, 1757, Augusta Co., Va.
- McCLURE, Jane & Jos. Paxton, Nov. 22, 1792, Rockbridge Co., Va.
- McCLURE, Jenny & John McClure, June 2, 1808, Rockbridge Co., Va.
- McCLURE, John & Isabella Hall, Nov. 28, 1799, Rockbridge Co., Va.
- McCLURE, John & Ann McFall, April 9, 1801, Rockbridge Co., Va.
- McCLURE, John & Jenny McClure, June 2, 1808, Rockbridge Co., Va.

- McCLURE, John & Nancy Cunningham, Nov. 11,
1824, Rockbridge Co., Va.
- McCLURE, John E. & Martha Parry, Sept. 3,
1823, Rockbridge Co., Va.
- McCLURE, Malcolm & Eliz. McClure, Dec. 14,
1786, Rockbridge Co., Va.
- McCLURE, Martha & John Jamison, Feb. 27,
1800, Rockbridge Co., Va.
- McCLURE, Mary & Nathan Dryden, Aug. 30,
1785, Rockbridge Co., Va.
- McCLURE, Mary & David Templeton, May 10,
1791, Rockbridge Co., Va.
- McCLURE, Moses & Elizabeth Jones, Feb. 18,
1812, Rockbridge Co., Va.
- McCLURE, Nancy & James H. Alexander, April
13, 1820, Rockbridge Co., Va.
- McCLURE, Nathaniel & Jane Porter, Sept. 17,
1795, Rockbridge Co., Va.
- McCLURE, Robert & Sophia Campbell, Dec. 18,
1815, Rockbridge Co., Va.
- McCLURE, Salley & Wm. Grigsby, Jan. 7, 1790,
Rockbridge Co., Va.
- McCLURE, Susanna & Jos. Stephenson, Aug. 19,
1794, Rockbridge Co., Va.
- McCLURE, Sally & William McClure, Nov. 12,
1823, Rockbridge Co., Va.
- McCLURE, William & Sally McClure, Nov. 12,
1823, Rockbridge Co., Va.

Early Virginia wills of the McClure family were as follows:

McCLURE, ALEXANDER.

- Rockbridge Co., Va. Will filed Feb. 2, 1790.
 wife Martha.
 s. Halbert McClure.
 s. James McClure.
 s. Nathaniel McClure.
 s. Alexander McClure.
 s. Samuel McClure.
 s. John McClure.
 d. Martha McClure.
 d. Susanna McClure.

McCLURE, SAMUEL.

- Rockbridge Co., Va., Will filed May 4, 1779.
 wife Mary.
 s. Samuel McClure.
 s. Alexander McClure.
 s. William McClure.
 d. Elizabeth McClure.
 d. Ann McClure.
 d. Hannah McClure.
 d. Mary Ratliff.
 d. Jean Elliott.
 d. Agnes Campbell.

McCLURE, WILLIAM.

- Rockbridge Co., Va. Will filed Nov. 1, 1785.
 wife Jean.

- s. Alexander McClure.
 - s. James McClure.
 - s. William McClure.
 - s. Samuel McClure.
 - d. Agnes McClure.
 - d. Sarah McClure.
 - d. Mary McClure.
-

New York McClures in the Revolution were the following:

- Moses McClure, Continental line, 1st Reg.
 - Moses McClure, Continental line, 2nd Reg.
 - William McClure, Continental line, 2nd Reg.
 - William McClure, Pawling's Reg.
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