

## **J45 James McAlister and Family**

### **FOREWORD**

The J45 McCallisters, until this century, left little in the way of a paper trail to follow. Along with that, are lots of inconsistencies, even mysteries: siblings that didn't talk to each other in adult life, or didn't stay in touch; no one asking about family history and the older ones guarding carefully and not sharing the knowledge they did have.

While I have always had an interest in the family history, few in my family knew very much. My grandmother, Julia Whitfield McCallister, chronicled her lineage as best she knew, and maintained records of her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. I still use her handwritten scraps of paper for reference. But when queried about the McCallisters, she would always ask: "Well, why do you want to know that? There were Dillingers back there. You might find out our kin were horse thieves." Then she would roll her eyes. Actually, she did know a few things and from her, I was able to ferret out some oral family lore. My search, however, really began after her death, starting with two note fragments, one dated September 26, 1937 and is in her hand. There evidently was a question about some inheritance from the estate of my Great-grandfather's grandfather (Michael Stroup). This first fragment takes the form of an Affidavit almost, outlining as much as Charles Abell McCallister knew of his ancestry. There was no mention of places however. The second note fragment was torn from a letter of Mary McCallister Bartley to Julia Whitfield McCallister. It gave some general background, though not much. But it does confirm that Jane Dellinger was the mother of Charles Abell McCallister.

### **THE BEGINNINGS**

James McAlister married Jane Dellinger on or about August 20, 1843 in Lincoln County NC.<sup>1</sup> This is the date for their Marriage Bond. The issuing official, or Justice of the Peace, was one Eli Hoyle. Guaranteeing the bond was Jacob Stroup, possibly Jane's great uncle, and brother of her grandfather, Michael Stroup. The location of the wedding within Lincoln County, is unknown. However, it is my belief that our McAlisters lived southeast of Lincolnton, the county seat, close to today's county line between Lincoln and Gaston counties at a little town called Iron Station NC. In this area is the Dellinger

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<sup>1</sup> Information from the Marriage Bond, on file, State Archives, Raleigh North Carolina, accessed 1999.

Branch of Leeper's Creek, and a little to the west, Hoyle Creek, site of Eli Hoyle's home place.<sup>2</sup> James McAlister signed the bond in his own hand, as did Jacob Stroup, although Stroup's writing is very shakey, quill and ink not withstanding. Compared to Eli Hoyle's handwriting however, it appears neither McAlister nor Stroup were very adept at writing.

Earlier that same year, 25 February, 1843, James McAlister signed a marriage bond as Guarantor of the bond, for a William S. McAlister. William S. McAlister married a Susan McAlister on or about that date. The Justice of the Peace was again Eli Hoyle.<sup>3</sup> William S. McAlister signed with his mark, whereas James McAlister penned his own signature. Comparing the signatures of James McAlister on the Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> document and the August 20 document, it appears they are one and the same, although by the August signature, James had improved his penmanship somewhat. Both signatures show gaps between nearly every letter however. Writing for him must have been a laborious task.

To the union of James McAlister and Jane Dellinger were born several children (note: oral tradition says seven).<sup>4</sup> The following names and dates are confirmed: Moses Elijah (or M.) McCallister,<sup>5</sup> born 11 July 1844; Charles Abell McCallister (the third born)<sup>6</sup> born 11 September, 1848; Lucinda I. McCallister, born in Charlotte NC in 1851.<sup>7</sup> Alexander A. (Alec) McCallister, born in 1854; and Sarah Caladona McCallister, born 1860. There is also Jesse, Jess or J.S., a male child who lived to adulthood, but other than name, nothing is known as yet.<sup>8</sup> The identity of the seventh

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<sup>2</sup> Jane Dellinger's father was Moses Nathaniel Dellinger. It is believed he is from the Leeper's Creek branch of the Dellinger family, rather than the Indian Creek branch. Likewise, just north of the aforementioned locations was Goodsonville, now called Boger City, and the Goodson Road. Jane Dellinger's grandmother was a Goodson. Please note however, that by the 1840's, the Dellingers, Stroups, Goodsons, and Hoyles had been inhabitants of the county for nearly 75 years, and representatives of their respective families were living all over the county, spilling over into Cleveland County to the west and York County SC to the south.

<sup>3</sup> Information from the Marriage Bond on file, State Archives, Raleigh North Carolina, accessed 1999. A note about marriage bonds in NC: At that time, marriage bonds, rather than marriage licenses were required. Marriage bonds could be issued by any county official or by a Justice of the Peace, and because of distance, it was not required that they be issued at the county seat. The Bond was a pre-printed form, and the issuing official would write in the name of the county, as well as the name of the groom, the name of the person guaranteeing the bond, and the date. Farther down, the issuing official would write in the name of the bride. Then the issuing official, the groom, and the bond guarantor would sign the bond. Typically, but certainly not always, the guarantor was a member of the bride's family rather than the groom's. In fact, any male knowing the couple could sign. According to the Bond form, the amount of the bond was 500 Pounds, which the guarantor would have to pay the groom should it be later determined that there was some reason the bride had an impediment that would preclude a good marriage.

<sup>4</sup> From Julia Whitfield McCallister.

<sup>5</sup> The Death Certificate for Moses McCallister lists his middle name as Elijah, and it may be. He however signed his name at other times as Moses M. McCallister. The death certificate is incorrect in several areas, and this middle name issue may be one of them. However for the sake of the document, at this point, Elijah is the preferred middle name.

<sup>6</sup> The note of 1937.

<sup>7</sup> Documentation of place was determined by Sybil Hearron, who researched the McCallister line for the Hearrons some years ago. As for which middle initial, the Hearron family has her middle name as Isabelle and they also pronounce and spell her first name as Lucindy. The Bullitt County KY Book of Marriage Bonds however, gives the middle initial as A, and spells her first name as Lucinda. Information by Milburn Lawson of CA.

<sup>8</sup> Oral tradition within the Charles A. McCallister line.

child, presumably female, is not known. The places the family lived when each child was born remain a mystery to date, and thus a clear migratory pattern cannot be established with any certainty yet.

Before we go any farther forward, let's take a few steps back and look at James McAlister's and Jane Dellinger's ancestry.

According to the 1937 note, one Michael Stroup was the father of Mary Magdaline Stroup. According to some Stroup genealogists, this Michael was born about 1772 in Baltimore County MD. He married Jane or Jean Goodson 29 March 1800 in Lincoln County NC. Jane Goodson was born about 1777 in North Carolina. Jane Goodson was one of nine children of William Goodson and Mary Patton.

Michael Stroup was one of 10 children. His parents appear to have been Adam Stroup and Catherine Alexander or Reel who were married in 1770 at York PA. Adam's dates are: born 1746 in Baltimore County MD; died 1835 in Lincoln County NC. Catherine's dates appear to be: born 1747 Baltimore County MD; died after 1811 in Lincoln County NC. This Micheal then, would be the great great grandson of Matthias Stroope, who immigrated to North America from Germany in 1684, settling in SE Pennsylvania and northern Maryland. Michael's grandfather Jacob Stroup (1723-1804) came to NC from Frederick MD. His royal land grant of 1770 was for acreage on Houle's (Hoyle's) Creek.<sup>9</sup>

Within a number of Stroup Family Genealogies, Mary Magdaline Stroup is listed as the daughter of another Jacob Stroup, brother of Michael. This is incorrect. This Jacob married three times and did indeed have a daughter named Mary by his first wife, Betsy (Elizabeth) Dellinger. However this Mary was born a number of years prior to Mary Magdaline and this Mary later became the wife of John White, settling in York Co. SC. They had eleven children.

Partly causing this confusion perhaps, may have been the perceived close association of Jacob Stroup with Moses N. Dellinger, who married Mary Magdaline Stroup. They both sprang from the same area of Lincoln County NC, and both ended up living as neighbors on Stamp Creek in Cass, now Bartow, County GA. One Jacob Stroup did indeed sign Jane Dellinger's Marriage Bond in 1843 and for a long time, I surmised that Uncle Jacob returned from Georgia to perform this service. However, comparing the signature of Jacob Stroup on the 1843 bond to a known signature of this Jacob Stroup from 1820, they appear to be two completely different individuals: with both the capital J and the capital S appearing substantially different.

The paths that the Jacob Stroup family and the Moses Dellinger family took to Cass County Georgia are quite different. Subsequent research has invalidated an earlier assertion I made about them moving en-masse, and together. By 1830, Jacob Stroup and family had made their way to Habersham County Georgia, while Moses N. Dellinger was still living around Iron Station North Carolina. Moses, in fact, is listed on the poll tax rolls of 1836 in North Carolina (as owning no real estate nor slaves), and again on the 1840 census. He appears to have moved to Cass County after 1840.

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<sup>9</sup> Information from Stroup Genealogy Web Site <http://home.earthlink.net/~wmson27/stroup.htm>

It is important to mention here another wrinkle in this family fabric. According to Rita Kubinski, granddaughter of Mary McCallister Bartley, Charles Abell McCallister actively pursued the estate of Michael Stroup for some funding or inheritance that would provide care for his mother, Jane Dellinger, who was destitute. Rita states that she understands this Michael Stroup was Jewish and owned an entire city block in Manhattan, New York City. This Michael Stroup, when his daughter Mary Magdaline Stroup married Moses Dellinger, declared her dead, since she had married a gentile, and as such, her off-spring Jane would receive no inheritance from the estate.<sup>10</sup> The attorney for the estate repeatedly told Charles Abell that too much time had passed and nothing could be done. If it appears that this theory contradicts my earlier outline of the parentage for Mary Magdaline Stroup, it does. Only more research and documentation will determine the appropriate ancestry.

The 1937 Note lists the father of Jane Dellinger McAlister as Moses M. Dillinger, and Moses' mother as Katie. No mention is made of the father. Moses N. Dellinger and Mary Stroup were married on or about 4 September 1820 in Lincoln County NC.<sup>12</sup> To this couple was born a child, Jane, born 8 September 1821.

Some Dellinger researchers have placed Moses N. Dellinger as being the child of Phillip Dellinger 1766-1820 and his wife Catharine Stroup. This is incorrect. Phillip and Catharine did indeed have a son named Moses Dellinger, but that person is not the same as Moses Nathaniel Dellinger. Phillip, Catharine and family had moved prior to 1820 to Wayne County Missouri, and never returned to North Carolina. Phillip died there 22 July 1820. Phillip Dellinger's son Moses married Hannah Crites, not Jane Dellinger.

Mary Magdaline Stroup, mother of Jane and the first wife of Moses N. Dellinger was born about 1802 in Lincoln County NC. She died 17 September 1821, nine days after giving birth to Jane Dellinger.<sup>19</sup> Moses N. Dellinger then on 3 July 1822 took Manerva Copeland as his second wife. She was the daughter of Reuben Copeland. Sometime shortly after 1840, Moses N. Dellinger and his family moved to Cass County Georgia, where it appears he entered into a business partnership with the "Iron-master" Jacob Stroup. Moses N. Dellinger, who The Dellinger Family in Georgia says was indentured to Jacob and Moses Stroup, was also an ironworker and a millwright.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> A good genealogist, even a rank amateur like I, rarely discounts family lore. But neither should family lore always be taken at face value, without complete and adequate documentation and a great deal of common sense. There appears no question that Charles Abell McCallister pursued the estate of Michael Stroup for some inheritance. Indeed, that answers the question of tone in the almost affidavit-like format of the 1937 Note. However, this last note is dated 1937, and Jane Dellinger McAlister would have long been deceased, so the earlier stated motivation would have no longer been operative.

The Michael Stroup of Lincoln County NC that I purport to be the father of Mary Magdaline Stroup was Lutheran (as was Mary Magdaline), and appears in the 1810, 1820, and 1830 censuses for Lincoln County. There is no indication that this Michael Stroup ever lived in New York State. If indeed there was a falling-out between father and daughter, with the result that the daughter and offspring were disinherited, I would suggest that it was because Moses N. Dellinger was fatherless and not strictly a religious issue.

<sup>12</sup> Information from the Marriage Bond, on file, State Archives, Raleigh NC, accessed 2000.

<sup>19</sup> The note of 1937.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid., footnote #13 above, page 5.

The original Stroup/Dellinger ironworks mill and furnace was located at the confluence of Stamp Creek and the Etowah River. It was purchased from them by Mark Cooper in either 1842 or 1844. The furnace, site of a Civil War battle, still stands, somewhat restored, although the town of Etowah that grew up adjacent to it, was burned during that Civil War battle (part of the Chattanooga-to-Atlanta campaign of late spring 1864). The site of the town is now covered by Allatoona Lake. Moses N. Dellinger's "home place" was on Stamp Creek, about 8 miles east of Cartersville GA, but it too, is now covered by Lake Allatoona. Regardless of his humble beginnings, Moses Nathaniel Dellinger lived to a ripe old age, dying on 2 February 1872. He fathered 10 more children by Manerva Copeland, and seemingly left a legacy of civic service as well. There is still a very large park at Cartersville GA named in his honor.

Tracing the Stroups and Dellingers has taken some effort, but that search appears small when faced with the enormity of tracing the McCallisters.

Of Jane Dellinger's husband, James McAlister (J45), we know only two confirmed things: he was married about 20 August 1843 in Lincoln County NC and that he also signed the Marriage Bond for Susan McAlister and William S. McAlister in February that same year. We don't know when he was born, nor where. We don't know who his parents were, nor if he had any brothers and sisters. We don't know when nor where he died. Since he is the earliest we do know, we have been assigned the Line name of J45 in the Clan McAlister (The 45'th entry of a progenitor with the first name starting with J).

It is curious that within Lincoln County NC, at this same time, was another McAlister family, and a rather large one. That line was named as J26, named for its progenitor, one James McAlister 1770-1830. This James McAlister was married twice, the second time to Tabitha Regan, and was the father of five known children between 1795 and 1824. The Susan McAlister for whom our James McAlister (J45) signed the Marriage Bond on 25 February 1843, was the granddaughter of this earlier James. A blood relationship between the two family groups is tenuous at best, and although the descendants of James McAlister (1770-1830) make no claim that their list is complete, it cannot be proven that our line is related to theirs.

Presuming however, that our James McAlister (J45) was indeed a son of James McAllister (J26), he would have had to be born at least by 1810 or shortly thereafter. When James (J26) died, the sheriff of Lincoln County was ordered in 1831 to bring to the next County Court, Elisha and David McCallister (b. 1820 & 1824 respectively) to be bound out, since they were orphans.<sup>22</sup> Had our James (J45) been born much later than 1810, he too would have been bound out at the same time.

Our James McAlister's birthdate remains speculation, as does his death date. We do know that he was probably dead by 1869. The Dellinger Family in Georgia booklet contains an odd fact: that Moses N. Dellinger's daughter Jane died November 20, 1864<sup>23</sup>. We know this is not correct, inasmuch as Jane gave permission for her daughter

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<sup>22</sup> Lincoln County North Carolina, County Court Minutes, July Sessions, 1831.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid. Footnote #13 above. Page 5.

Lucinda to be married in 1869 in Bullitt County KY. Further, she appears on the 1880 Union County Kentucky Census, living with her son Charles Abell McCallister. It is my contention that it was James McAlister who died 20<sup>th</sup> November 1864, not Jane McAlister.

To round out our past, one other thing of note regarding the McAlister ancestry comes in the letter fragment from Mary McCallister Bartley to Julia Whitfield McCallister, date unknown. That fragment states: "His ancestors came from Scotland, then Ireland, and then to the United States".

## **PART 2 THE MIGRATIONS**

It appears that the McAlisters were probably poor. I base that conclusion on a number of things: the lack of any ownership of land in North Carolina (although the search has not been exhaustive); the lack of a will (there are no Lincoln County Wills filed under the name of McAlister, nor any of its variant spellings) between 1779 and 1910.); the fact that Charles Abell McCallister was bow-legged, indicating some malnutrition at an early age; the fact that Charles Abell was working as a live-in farm hand on another person's farm in 1870; and finally, Rita Kubinski's assertion that Jane Dellinger McAlister was destitute in later life.

Not being landowners, it was somewhat easier for the family to move to another area to support themselves. Not being landowners also negates being able to place them in any particular area in any particular year.

After James and Jane were married in 1843, Moses McCallister was their first born in 1844. Moses always maintained that he was born in Georgia, and he steadfastly held this except once: on the marriage bond to his first wife, Isabelle Olinger, wherein he claimed he was born in North Carolina. Moses' death certificate lists his birthplace as Habersham County Georgia. Arnie Dowdy, within Moses' line, says that old-timers of the line would talk about originating "down around Macon". After some years, and many dead-ends in Macon Georgia, Arnie has determined that "down around Macon" probably meant Macon County North Carolina, some miles west of Lincoln County. Charles Abell McCallister, the third born, steadfastly listed his birthplace as North Carolina in 1848. Lucinda's birthplace, the next child, has been placed at Charlotte North Carolina in 1851. Alexander A. McCallister, born in 1854, likewise places his birth state as North Carolina. Only Sarah C. McCallister, seemingly the last born, on the 1880 census and on her marriage license, credits Georgia as her birthplace.

Presuming then, that Moses was really born in North Carolina, it can be surmised that the McAlisters lived in North Carolina, maybe in various places, until moving to Georgia between 1854 and 1860. I had thought that perhaps James and Jane had moved to Cass County Georgia to remain close to Jane's father Moses. There is nothing to support this however.

While the ravages of the War between the States in southwestern North Carolina were slight, the effects of that war were not. But, much harder hit was northern Georgia. The march to Atlanta from Chattanooga began in earnest in the fall of 1863. Winter halted the advance, but in the spring of 1864 it began again with an irrepressible fury. Northwestern Georgia was devastated: whole towns burnt; farms ruined. What civilian folk that escaped uninjured soon took their place on the edge of starvation. Salt, the major food preservative as well as a necessity for life itself was non-existent. If a family still had a smoke house, they would often shovel up the earthen floor and boil the dirt down to extract whatever salt had dripped onto the ground during previous curings. Housing itself was lacking for much of the population. The poorer folk took more of the brunt than most. The savagery of the opposing armies against each other was incredible, gentlemanly conduct notwithstanding. Sometimes even more brutal however were elements of the Home Guard and bands of deserted army men or renegade posses, with their own particular brand of ferocity aimed at their own people. While we don't know for sure if the McAlisters were residents of Georgia at this time, if they were, they would certainly have had little inclination to remain there.

The Civil War, and the post war period seems to have been an uprooting time for the McAlister family, and it ended with them being located in Bullitt County Kentucky by 1869. James McAlister, if he were indeed born in 1810 or later, would have been eligible for service with the Confederate forces. His son Moses likewise would have been eligible from about 1862 onward. Charles Abell could possibly have seen duty too, despite his age. Yet, neither Mose nor Charles Abell seemed to have served. There, likewise, is no record of James (J45) having served either for the Confederacy or the Union.

Within the Mose McCallister branch of the family, family lore has it that the McAlister boys came to Kentucky to avoid capture by Union Army soldiers who were out to kill them. At one point, they were required to hide themselves in the midst of a blackberry bramble to avoid detection, while their pursuers passed so closely that their conversations could be plainly heard. It appears to me that this explanation should be believed only reluctantly, primarily because Kentucky, especially in the later years of the war was a secure Union territory, ruled by a military governor. The area in and around Louisville, and this includes Bullitt County, was rife with military. The main rail line to Nashville and thence to Chattanooga and further points south was centered in this area. Special concentrations of troops were always on hand to assure its integrity. If indeed they were on the lam from Union troops, why would they have settled in an area especially rife with the very men they were avoiding?

Another folklore within the Mose McCallister family was that the McAlister boys were all going to move to Texas, and that they stopped in Kentucky on the way, liked what they saw and remained. Again, some thought should be given this interpretation as well. The path from Georgia or North Carolina to Texas came nowhere near north central Kentucky. The normal travel route at this time might have brought them as far north as Nashville before heading west, especially if they were taking the train, but to detour to the north and east again to Bullitt County, remains unthinkable.

About this same time, it appears that the children in the family changed the spelling of their surname for good; from McAlister to McCallister, although Jane Dellinger McAlister seems to have retained the older spelling. Again within the Mose McCallister line, old-timers are quoted as saying that the name was changed so that they could not be traced.<sup>1</sup> If this is so, what happened during this time that caused them to relocate to Kentucky? What happened to make them change the spelling of their name? And finally, what happened to James McAlister?

Regardless of those questions, by 12 August 1869, the family was living in Bullitt County Kentucky where Lucinda I. McAlister<sup>2</sup> was married to James Jefferson Herron, a widower, at “Pine Tavern”. The Presider was one James Carpenter. Lucinda was nearly eighteen years old, and was approved to be married by her mother, Jane McAlister. This then refutes the Dellinger history that she had died in 1864. Pine Tavern, it turns out, was neither a tavern nor a town, but rather a Magisterial District in south central Bullitt County Kentucky.

James Jefferson Herron was the son of one Delaney Herron or Herrin, born in Scotland in 1796, and is thought to be the first born. Delaney Herron was the father of one female and ten male children. Five of the boys fought for the Union in the Civil War, with the remaining five fighting for the Confederacy. After the war, the “northern” children changed the spelling of their name to Herron, and completely disassociated themselves from the “southern” branch. James Jefferson Herron had first married Elizabeth Smith around 1858. Together, they parented two children: George Washington Herron, born 17 July, 1859; and Millie Herron, born 1861; both in Jefferson County Kentucky.<sup>3</sup> It is not known when Herron’s first wife died. The 1870 Census for Bullitt County spells his name as Heron, and lists his occupation as that of “Coal Burner”.

Shortly after the 1870 census, the Herron family moved into Jefferson County Kentucky where five children were born between then and 1884. They are:  
Josephus Lonzo Herron, born 14 October 1870. He married Edie Hicks.  
Mary Caldonia Herron, born 1874. She married Drew Cass Choate.  
Nancy Isabelle Herron, born 1878. She married William Sisk.  
William Arthur Herron, born 28 August 1882. He married Celestia Jane Colleps.  
and Lilly M. Herron, born July 1884.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> It is curious that the J26, James McAlister, line of Lincoln County North Carolina also by and large changed the spelling of their last name about this same time. They adopted the spelling McAllister.

<sup>2</sup> The Marriage Bond lists Lucinda’s name as Lucinda A. McAlister. The Herron family however states her middle name was Isabelle. In a related matter, they both write and pronounce her first name as Lucindy.

<sup>3</sup> This information, kindly supplied by Milburn Lawson of California, was compiled earlier in the 20’th century by Sybil Herron.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid. #3 above.

On 30 October, 1870, Moses E. McCallister was married to Isabelle Olinger, aged 22 and a widow, at Belmont in Bullitt County Kentucky. The presider again was one James Carpenter.<sup>5</sup> While Moses McCallister was not tall man, his wife Isabelle evidently was very short. She could walk upright under Moses' arm when he held it outstretched. It is also told that Isabelle could make a kitchen table start to shake and move across the floor with no visible means of doing it. Moses was said to have asked how she was doing that and she replied that it was the work of an evil spirit and he didn't need to know.<sup>6</sup>

While Jane Dellinger McAlister and daughter Sarah C. are not listed on the 1870 Bullitt County census, Charles Abell McCallister, then 21 years old, is. He is listed as a boarding farm hand, living with a 30-year-old farmer from Kentucky, a Mr. I. Q. Head and his wife Martha.<sup>7</sup>

The next we see of this family is 1880, and they had all moved again. By this time, Lucinda and family were living in Jefferson County KY, as we have seen. Alexander A. McCallister had moved to Uniontown, Union County Kentucky, where he was married in 1878 to Anna Elizabeth Woeflin at St. Agnes Catholic Church.<sup>8</sup> Charles Abell McCallister was also living in Union County, along with his mother Jane, his youngest sister Sarah C., and a farm worker George D. Watson, age 19, born in Tennessee.<sup>9</sup> The entry for Charles Abell is on a farm, just a couple of entries away from the household of Mr. Louis P. Mills, whose daughter Lucy Ellen he later married. Jane Dellinger McCallister's appearance on this 1880 census further refutes the Dellinger claim that she died in 1864.

In the decade between 1870 and 1880, Mose and Isabelle had moved to Henderson County Kentucky, probably living on a rented farm. The Corydon district where Moses and family settled, is no more than 15 miles as the crow flies, from Uniontown where Charles Abell, Jane, Sarah and Alexander were now located, although the roads added some miles to the journey.

By 1880, Moses and Isabelle had the following children, all born near Corydon Kentucky:

Mattie E. McCallister, born 10 January 1872. She died in 1874 of a fever.

James McCallister, born 19 October 1873. He married Nora ?

Henry Thomas (Tom) McCallister, born 18 February 1877.

Andrew Jackson (Jack) McCallister, born 12 September 1878. He married Etta Griffin.  
and Ollie B. T. McCallister, born 1 April 1880, died 1880.

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<sup>5</sup> Bullitt County Book of Marriage Bonds.

<sup>6</sup> From a letter by Oran McCallister to Arnold Dowdy Jr., 14 December 1993. Oran McCallister was the child of James McCallister, firstborn of Moses McCallister and Isabelle Olinger McCallister.

<sup>7</sup> 1870 Federal Census for Bullitt County KY.

<sup>8</sup> Wedding Registry, St. Agnes Church, Uniontown.

<sup>9</sup> 1880 Census for Union County, Uniontown District. Note: there were also three other McAlister families in residence in Union County at this time as well, Alexander McCallister being one. The other two families are unrelated, one African-American.

Isabelle Olinger McCallister either died in childbirth having this last child, or within a few days thereafter. The 1880 Census for Henderson County Kentucky, Corydon District has two listings for Moses and family which indicates that they moved between listings. The first one lists Ollie as "Son". Ollie, in fact, was female, but died within a month of her birth. Isabelle, too, had already passed. The second listing has Moses living, along with his three boys, with his brother-in-law W. D. Evans, aged 22; sister-in-law Bettie Evans, aged 19; and their child, John Evans aged 1. Moses' occupation is noted as working on a farm on the first listing and as Farmer on the second listing.<sup>10</sup> Moses' surname on both entries is spelled McCalester.

On 28 April 1881, Sarah Caladona McCallister was married to William Clarkson Hawkins at the home of Thomas Hoskins where she was boarding. The presider was Justice of the Peace, Peter Abell. Besides Moses McCallister, those also in attendance were Thomas Hoskins and William Hall. No mention is made of women that may have been in attendance. Mr. Hawkins' occupation on the license is that of "engineer". Moses signed the Marriage Bond for Sarah as Moses M. McCallister. On the Marriage Bond, Moses had specified that Sarah C. McCallister, as well as her parents were born in Bullitt County Kentucky,<sup>11</sup> although her marriage license recorded her birthplace as Georgia. Thomas Hoskins' home was located on the Henderson County side of Highland Creek, which divides Henderson from Union County KY., near King Mills, just north of where present day US 60 crosses.

There appears to be no information as to where Sarah C. McCallister and William C. Hawkins lived after their marriage. However, on 7 January 1895 they were in Windom, Fannin County TX, where their daughter Laura Dena Hawkins was born. Other children born to Sarah C. and William C Hawkins were:  
Myrtle, who married a Smith. She later married Joe Chapin;  
Hallie, who married a Best;  
Forrest, who married a Gilmore;  
and an unknown sister, called Sister, who also married a Gilmore.  
Laura Dena Hawkins married Jerimiah Jones.

The Hawkins family was in Windom very briefly, probably just long enough to have Laura Dena. From there, via Conestoga Wagon, they moved to Craighead County Arkansas, through the Indian Territory of Oklahoma. While traveling through Oklahoma, family lore has it that they were attacked by Indians who were after the Hawkins' cattle and horses. Mr. Hawkins rode in the rear of the wagon to fend off the Indians with his gun. Perhaps another man or Sarah herself drove the wagon. The family eventually settled in Egypt, Craighead County Arkansas, in the northeast portion of that state. Mr.

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<sup>10</sup> Federal Census of 1880 for Henderson County Kentucky, Corydon District.

<sup>11</sup> Surety Book #16, of Henderson County KY. NOTE: I puzzled over this Bullitt County reference for some time, not having any previous knowledge that our family ever lived in Bullitt County. Then one day, I checked out the Bullitt County section at the local library, and found our family there as recorded above. I have no idea why Moses misrepresented Sarah's place of birth, but I am glad he did, inasmuch as it eventually pointed me there.

Hawkins found work at a logging camp, where he supposedly died by drowning, although the body was never found. Sarah C. McCallister Hawkins is thought to have died in Egypt Arkansas about 1911.<sup>12</sup>

Between 1884 and 1888, the Hearron family moved from Jefferson County Kentucky to the town of Ellsworth, Logan County Arkansas, near Fort Smith. There the following children were born:

Twin sons: James Monroe Hearron and Thomas Jefferson Hearron, born 24 November 1888;

Maggie Hearron, born 1890  
and Bertha Hearron, born 1891.

About 1897, the Hearrons moved again. This time to Musgokee County OK, which was still Indian Territory. They settled in the Porum/Briartown area of that county. James Jefferson Hearron died there in 1897. Lucinda is listed on the 1900 Census of Indian Territory as the head of the household and a farmer. She had six children still living with her at the time. She died in 1907 and is buried at Porum OK.

The Hearron family thereafter appears to have lived in a number of towns slung along the southern side of Oklahoma. However, during the dust bowl years of the 20'th century, a number of this line moved to California, as so many did, settling in Kern County primarily.<sup>13</sup>

Alexander A. McCallister as a farmer, didn't tarry long in Union County Kentucky after his marriage. Within in a few years, he moved with his family to Louisville KY to work for the K&A Railroad. In 1928 or 1929 however, his legs were amputated in a rail-yard switching accident: one above the knee and the other below the knee. He did have children, though I know of only four: Christine Agnes, Ernest, Martha Agnes, Casper, Archibald and Bertie (a female).

My father, Charles Clarence McCallister, remembers him coming back yearly in the summer to visit Union County, using a free pass from the railroad. And Alexander (Uncle Alec) must have been quite old since my father was born in 1918 and Alexander in 1854. At any rate, when he did come to town, Alexander did not stay with his brother, Charles Abell McCallister, but with his nephew George Nicholas McCallister. (Another of those little mysteries. The Nick McCallister house was certainly no larger than his father's, and had lots of kids crammed into it.) Always wearing a black suit, white shirt and tie, even on the hottest days, he would sit for hours under a huge oak at my grandfather's house, close to the road, watching whatever traffic, whether vehicular or horse-drawn passed by on the dusty country road. His daughter Christine accompanied him on these trips. He had a couple of pseudo-prostheses replacing his amputated legs, but still needed help to walk. Christine, unmarried, later in life was a housekeeper for a priest at a church in Lafayette IN and Peoria IL. She died in 1983 at the Little Sisters of

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<sup>12</sup> Information from Liz Walsh of St. Louis Missouri, as told to her by her aunt Estelle Jones. Emails/other of June 2000.

<sup>13</sup> Information from Milburn Lawson of California.

the Poor home in Evansville IN. Alexander died in a Franciscan run home in Lafayette Indiana in the spring of 1932. His wife, died in 1916.

On 6 April, 1884, Mose McCallister married for the second time, taking Mary Jane Underhill of Perry County Indiana as his wife. Mary Jane was born in 1863, nearly 20 years Moses' junior. She died in 1955, 20 years later than Mose. Still living around Corydon Kentucky, Mose and Mary Jane had the following children:

Fannie McCallister, born 13 July 1885. She married Balaam Pettey.

Lewis Monroe McCallister, born 7 October, 1886. He married Valteena McMahel, who like his mother was from Perry County Indiana. According to Sybil McCallister Dowdy, this Valteena McMahel was somehow related to Mary Jane Underhill, but she adds that the children turned out OK.

William Edward McCallister, born 10 May 1888. He married Ethel Mae Cavanaugh.

Benjamin Franklin McCallister, born 23 December 1890. He married Minnie Bailey.

Mary Magdaline (Mamie) McCallister, born 2 September 1894. She married Noah Rogers.

Naomi Lillian (Oma) McCallister, born 15 September 1900. She married Charles Lee.

About 1895, Mose and Mary Jane moved their family from Henderson County Kentucky to Carlisle County Kentucky, settling on Yellow Dog Road, just inside Carlisle County's northern border. This farmland is very low, and it is said that Mose got a very good deal on the property, since it was ill suited for farming. However, it appears that deep drainage ditches made the wetland acreage arable. Moses and family prospered there. As of August 1999, of the Mose McCallister home place on Yellow Dog Road, only the "stock" barn and the tenant house next door remained, and both were in bad condition.

Sybil Evelyn McCallister Dowdy, granddaughter of Mose and Mary Jane, remembers her grandfather as a kindly man. After the 1929 bank-crash, Sybil remembers accompanying her grandfather to the bank, where she heard him say: "Only 10 cents on the dollar?"<sup>14</sup>

Moses died in 1935 and although a member of the Disciples of Christ faith, was buried in the Palestine Methodist Church Cemetery in Carlisle County, close to his home. According to the death certificate, he died from dementia brought on by senility. He was completely blind at the time of his death. Moses' wife, Mary Jane Underhill, and some of Moses' children along with their spouses, are buried in the same cemetery along the back (east) end.

Charles Abell McCallister finally got around to getting married in 1886 at the age of 38. By then a Catholic, he wed Lucy Ellen Mills at St. Agnes Church, Uniontown, Union County Kentucky. Lucy Ellen Mills was one of nine children from the marriage of Mr. Louis P. Mills, originally of Marion County KY and Mary Elizabeth Beaven. Lucy was born in 1860 in Union County Kentucky and died there 12 September 1934. She spent the last several years of her life with an illness that left her mostly incapacitated. She was

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<sup>14</sup> Interview with Sybil Evelyn McCallister Dowdy, August 1999.

cared for during this period by her daughter, Mary McCallister Bartley. By her symptoms, it appears she had a form of cancer.<sup>16</sup> According to the Julia Whitfield McCallister diary, Lucy was sick in bed for 5 weeks and 2 days prior to her death. My father also remembers her as having bunions, which in addition to everything else, made it very painful for her to walk. On a less morose note, Charlotte Ann McCallister Siegel, remembers Lucy Ellen McCallister for her homemade biscuits, which were large and fluffy. Lucy could be counted on to whip up a batch of biscuits to feed the grandchildren whenever they visited, which was nearly every afternoon.

As a mature adult, Charles Abell McCallister was about 5'-9" tall, and barrel-chested although not fat. Several earlier photos do show him somewhat trimmer. He had a rather high hairline, a bushy mustache, and wore glasses most of his life. He was bow-legged<sup>17</sup> and a tobacco user, rolling his own cigarettes until later in life when he could purchase them already fabricated.

Starting in 1880, when Charles Abell McCallister was listed on the census as not having an occupation,<sup>18</sup> he eventually became an established citizen of Uniontown Kentucky. Later census data lists his occupations variously as a saddler, harness maker, and carpenter. He had a house, owned without mortgage, with 5 acres at the "home place", on a hill outside Uniontown on the Uniontown/Morganfield Road.<sup>19</sup> The topography at the home place was so hilly that the family could not even maintain a vegetable garden on it. My father called it "poor ground". The yard was enclosed by a picket fence, made up of pieces of wood, random length width and thickness, gathered from wherever possible. While a gate was a later installation, initial access to the yard and house was over a stile, a rude set of steps without railing that bridged the fence. Behind the house was a grape arbor that shaded a path at the end of which was the outhouse. Prominent within the house's parlor was a reed pump organ.

Charles Abell also owned a plot of land of about 40 acres on the opposite side of the road, some in pasture and some in woods. He leased-out this land. He maintained a leathercraft shop in town (Uniontown), making saddles, bridles, and other harness needed on area farms. By oral tradition, his tools to a large extent came from his father James.<sup>20</sup> Many of these same tools were passed to his son George Nicholas McCallister and thence to his son Noel McCallister.

As a lad growing up in southern Indiana, I used to think that Kentucky people talked with a funny accent. So I once asked my father, Charles C. McCallister, and named after Charles Abell, if his grandfather had a Kentucky Accent. Dad told me that no, he didn't: that he talked just like the rest of us. However, my father does remember asking his grandfather where he had come from. The response from Charles Abell was "Co-WELL" County, with the accent on the last syllable. Again though, no mention of State or town or his parents. As near as I can find, there is no such county nor ever has been

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<sup>16</sup> Information provided by Rita Kubinski,, 2000.

<sup>17</sup> Charlotte Ann McCallister Siegel

<sup>18</sup> 1880 Federal Census for Union County KY, Uniontown District

<sup>19</sup> Not where he was living on the 1880 Census. The road has since changed its route somewhat and the house is no longer standing.

<sup>20</sup> Nick McCallister

nor even one that sounds close to that in all the Carolinas, Georgia, or Kentucky. So Charles Abell was not much help to us in tracing his roots.

As to the spelling of the family name, Charles Abell took great pains to assure that it was always spelled “right”: which is to say, with two C’s, the first being small and the second capitalized, and two L’s. He signed his name with two little hash marks under the small c ( // ). His son and grandson both made a small horizontal line under the small c. Nevertheless, all have insisted that the name is EXACTLY as they have spelled it and no other variant. My grandfather Nick once told me that if a McCallister spelled the last name differently than that, they sure were not related to us. Censuses and other documents of course, spell the name variously as McAllister, and McAlister, with McAlister appearing most often. Now, it is curious to me that they could ignore or forget all kinds of things relevant to family history, including knowing the names of their sisters or where their sisters and brothers were living, but know exactly and adamantly how the last name was to be spelled. All the children adopted this spelling. So what were they trying to hide? Another little mystery!

The union of Charles Abell McCallister and Lucy Ellen Mills brought forth the following seven children:

Charles Herman McCallister, born 1886 and died 1896;

Mary Catherine McCallister, born 14 December 1888. She married John Kenneth Bartley, a widower;

James Louis McCallister, born 31 December 1890 who was named after both his grandfathers. He never married;

George Nicholas (Nick) McCallister, born 10 September 1893. He married Julia Josephine Whitfield;

Phillip Edward McCallister, born 1896. He married Helena (Lena) Howard;

Joseph R. Abell McCallister, born 1899. He died in 1900;

and Thomas Earl McCallister, born and died 1902.

As noted above, Lucy Ellen Mills preceded her husband, Charles Abell McCallister, in death. Charles Abell McCallister died 20 August 1939 in Uniontown Kentucky. Below is an excerpt from the Obituary as printed in the local paper.

**C.A. MCCALLISTER  
DIES OF INFIRMITIES  
OF AGE HERE SUNDAY  
Death Came Peacefully To Retired  
Business Man Sunday Afternoon.  
One Daughter, 3 Sons Survive.**

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Charles Abell McCallister, 91, died at his home near Uniontown at 4:00 o'clock Sunday afternoon following a long illness due principally to old age. Funeral services were held from St. Agnes church at 10 o'clock Monday morning. Burial was in the Catholic cemetery. The pallbearers were six of his grandsons: Clarence, Noel and Earl McCallister, sons of Nick McCallsiter(sic); Charles, George Louis, and Robert Bartley, sons of J.K. Bartley.

He came to Union County more than 50 years ago and spent the greater part of his long and useful life in and near Uniontown. He married Lucy Ellen Mills who died four years ago. He is survived by four children – Mrs. J.K. Bartley, Little Union; James, Nick and Phil McCallister, Uniontown.

For many years and until his retirement on account of old age, Mr. McCallister operated a harness shop in Uniontown and in that business served the public faithfully and well.

Charles McCallister was a good citizen and a christian gentleman and leaves behind him as a proud heritage to his children a splendid record.

He had been an invalid for a long time but was seriously ill for the past two weeks and

His death, quiet and peaceful, was not unexpected by the members of his family and close friends.<sup>22</sup>

His sons wasted little time however in settling the estate. A clipping from the local newspaper advertises an auction to be held on September 30, 1939, beginning at 1:30 p.m. Among the items to be sold were: 1 white-faced milk cow; 1 three-horse sulky plow; 1 lot horse collars; 1 gentle family horse; 1 large desk; 1 sewing machine; 3 bedsteads; 2 iron kettles; 1 set harness shop tools; 1 old-time bureau, real antique; and 1 antique whatnot.

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<sup>22</sup> From a xeroxed clipping provided by Rita Kubinski.

Charles Abell McCallister was the last surviving child of James McAlister and Jane Dellinger McAlister. When he passed, many of the answers to questions we might ask today went with him. With him too, a saga of life that began nearly a hundred years before in North Carolina, moved through Georgia, into central and western Kentucky and then into Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas, also came to an end.

POSTSCRIPT:

**Re:** James McAlister: “her father was a minister and wouldn’t own slaves.”<sup>23</sup>

**Re:** Grandmother of Sarah C. McCallister: “Mama’s grandmother was Irish and French & was a horse woman.”<sup>24</sup>

**Re:** Jesse, Jess or J.S.: there is an even chance that this missing brother is one Joseph Smith McAlister (J.S.), Line J39, who settled in Windom, Fannin County Texas.<sup>25</sup> This J.S.McAlister was born in North Carolina on the same date as Charles Abell McCallister, (was Great Grandpa a twin?), lived in Bullitt County Kentucky at the same time as my J45 family, where he married. And he lived in the same little town in Texas that Sarah McCallister Hawkins went to when she had one of her children. If there is indeed no relationship between J45 and J39, then the place/time correlations have to be hugely coincidental.

2004 Note: 12 and 25 marker DNA analysis show identical genetic distribution for the J26, J39 and J45 Lines. We are all one family. Only the when and who is unknown now.

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Evansville IN.**

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<sup>23</sup> From a short note written by Laura Dena Hawkins, speaking of her mother, Sarah C. McCallister. This might explain why the McAlisters moved a lot and never bought property.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid. 23. The Grandmother in this case had to be McAlister. Mary M. Stroup was neither Irish nor French, in any ancestry.