

David McConnaughey

Revised version of the David McConnaughey Clan.

David McConnaughey.Sr, arrived in America in 1750 and this date was confirmed through two other branches of the family, James McConnaughey, a Revolutionary soldier, and that of his younger brother, David McConnaughey Jr, who died in the 1812 war.

Like many other Scottish/Irish emigrants, it was the treatment by the English government that drove them to emigrate from Ulster to America. Ulster had become too prosperous for the English liking, as the Irish were able to produce better and cheaper goods and cattle than England could. The Irish were forbidden to trade with England's colonies and this led to the Irish seaports being ruined. This in turn led to land values dropping and tenants becoming impoverished.

Fortunately for the McConnaugheys, Ulster, being a more prosperous region, has a system where a tenant on his departure from a holding had the customary right to receive compensation for any improvements he had made. This system encouraged improvements, increased profits and made the Ulster agriculturist more progressive than the southerners. This right to compensation for improvement furnished many emigrants with a small capital making it possible for them to emigrate to America. It is possible that this provided the passage money to America for our branch of the McConnaughey family.

David McConnaughey settled in Path Valley, now in Franklin County, PA. In about 1790, two, perhaps three, of his children moved up into Venango County, Pa and then later moving southwest into Beaver County, Pa. The remaining children and their families, together with the David Sr.and his wife Jane Platt emigrated into Westmoreland County, Pa. in about 1800. Some settling near Homer City on Two Lick Creek, while others settle in Indiana County, Pa. A generation later both groups had lost all contact and knowledge of each other.

The compilation of this genealogy is possible because of the historical sense of the late Elizabeth (*McConnaughey*) West, who preserved the documents and traditions of her grandfather, David McConnaughey, Jr., of Beaver County, Pa., and to Edward L. McConaughy of LaGrange, Ill., who preserved, as clippings, the writings of Dr. Francis M. McConnaughey, grandson of the Revolutionary soldier, James McConnaughey, oldest son of the emigrant ancestor, of Indiana County, Pa.

*Special thanks to the many clan members from the USA who have contributed the information contained in this tree especially **Susan Hedeem & John McConnaughey.***