

IMPORTANT: MEMBERS WHO HAVE NOT PAID THROUGH 1988 WILL BE REMOVED FROM OUR LIST AFTER THIS ISSUE. PLEASE CHECK YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARDS!!

Oct. 1989
Save For Kids
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McConnaughey Society
of
America

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Aug./Sept., 1989 'Disa & Data' Letter

Susan McConnaughey Hedeem, Chantilly, VA sent a nice and welcome letter recently. She had called me about it earlier. Susan is a daughter of Harlow McConnaughey, who is our favorite Silver-mine owner in Idaho --- Sandpoint, I think. Every time she visits him, she does some digging and this time she found a gem -- worth more to us than silver! Background needed ---- a number of years ago Bayard McConnaughey (who is Harlow's brother or cousin, as I remember it) sent a booklet that had been prepared by his aunt Eliz. McConnaughey West, about the descendants of her father, David Platt McConnaughey, grandson of David McConnaughey and Jane Platt. I copied and returned it. Several years later Del McConaha in Michigan met a certain widow McConnaughey who had a copy of said booklet. Mrs. McConnaughey gave it to Mrs. McConaha because she had no one to leave it to; so Del McConaha sent it to us and we now have one of the original copies. Some of them were written as David PRATT McConnaughey in silver on the brown construction paper cover; but it was obvious from the content that that was an error made by someone who did the silver writing. Susan found a letter in her father's copy of the booklet entitled "The McConnaughey Family Booklet Continued." Further --- "When the little booklet of the family was written, we did not have photographs of my mother to go with fathers, much to my regret. However, since that time I have had copied an old one. It enlarged a bit. I am sure you will see in this strong old face and fine large head something of the character that made her life a strong tower, not only to her immediate family, but to the world she served so lovingly through her long life. Also, added to this sending of my mother's picture are things of interest copied from an old letter of my brother Dr. David McConnaughey, to my daughter, Katharine West Kelly -- (A letter we could not find at the time of writing the booklet.) which gives us a little more data on the time of coming to this country * of the McConnaugheys-- so I quote from that letter, relative to this matter. Quote-- 'Fathers initials were D. P. (David Platt) his middle name being his grandmothers surname who came with his grandfather from the north of Ireland during the troubles with the Irish who being Catholic, resented the Scotch people who had made settlement in Ulster, North Ireland. Going back in the history of those times we find that at many times as far back as the early days of the 13 Century, the Scotch ingad4rs made settlement in the north of Ireland, and had plenty of troubles with their Irish neighbors. However, when the war of the revolution made it certain that this country was to be the home of the free, these same Scotch-Irish people flocked to this country, where they would not be harrassed by enemies at home or the Government of England. Now memory is not as good as it ought to be, but I think it was at the close of the revolutionary war * that father's grandfather made advent to this country.

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'My father's father was also David McConnaughey and had two brothers James and William of whom we know nothing.** Father was an only son, the youngest of the family. Born in 1805 and 7 years old when his father went out in the War of 1812 and died some place on the Great Lakes during that war. You probably do not know much about your grandmother, our dear sainted mother. She also was the daughter of a soldier of the War with England of 1812. She was the oldest daughter of Captain Alexander Thompson and Catharine Smith Thompson. They also were Scotch-Irish, coming to this country at a little later date than the McConnaugheys. Grandfather Thompson (Cap Alexander) raised a company of soldiers among his neighbors in Western Pa near the Ohio line, the pioneer country of the west of that time. Many times I have listened to my Mother telling of the hardships of those early times, in a home among those huge forest trees.' Unquote.--the foregoing from my brother Dr. David McConnaughey's letter to my daughter, Katharine West Kelly -- gives a glimpse of the when and where of the forefathers."

* We can prove by records that 1750 was a more realistic date, I think.

** Although this says father's father had two brothers, James & William, those of us who have studied the line AND the letter, think he was referring to the two brothers who came WITH the first David. David, Jr. had many more than two brothers and also had sisters.

This brings up several things we've mulled over many times, like who's a brother of whom? A William???? Williams are scarce in the 1700's in OUR family and I had one! Notice the War of 1812 and the War of the Revolution are the only things to date this letter in any way. I remember that the David who died in the War of 1812 was supposed to have died in 1814; so if David III was 7 at the time, he was born in 1807 and a date of 1805 isn't so far off, really. In the Punxsutawney line they tell of an Uncle David McConnaughey who died in the War of 1812 and I have hoped for years to use these two stories to get the two lines together. So far, no dice. I keep hoping someone will explore and FIND more about the War of 1812 David and get them connected. To somewhat date the letters I checked and found Dr. David Smith McConnaughey was born 1837 and died in 1920. Elizabeth McConnaughey West was born in 1849 and died in 1946; so Dr. David's letter was written before 1920 and Eliz. West's letter was written before 1946. I would dearly love to SEE Dr. David McConnaughey's letter! I can make myself have a headache thinking about this, especially when you remember that David McConnaughey (my line) b. 1776 m. Prudence Thompson; David McConnaughey (Ligonier line) b. ca 1805-7 m. Catharine Thompson; David McConnaughey (Punxsutawney line & can't remember his exact birthdate) m. Sarah Thompson; Robert McConaughy m. Jane Thomson; Samuel McConaughy m. Margaret Thompson and that's enough of that or YOU, too will have a headache.

On the lighter side -- Ivan Benedict sent "Scotch Neat Flavoring for Food" from the newspaper. It's really neat, too, but I think I'll save most of it for the Bulletin; so here's one shortie: "LOIN OF PORK: Baste a pork loin with Scotch while cooking and make gravy from the drippings." Which reminds me --- Ruth Cummins was preparing to make some of the 'Scottish Muesli' when she wrote one day; so I'm waiting to see how it came out.

See you all tomorrow!! Since I'm on page 8, I'm committed to do 8 more; so hold on --- it will take a while, you know.

Aug. 16, 1989, Wednesday: This one started off with a flash! We've been trying to hire an accountant and we have offered the position to one person, but no answer yet; so that's 'pending'. John's assistant has only been here about a month, and, although not 100%, we thought it would work out. This a.m. SHE quit; so I made a mad dash for the office (I wasn't there when I talked to her on the phone) and Kate left for the State Fair because Joe is in the bank! It's been some day, believe me!!