

History of the McEntire Family

The name McEntire originated in Scotland according to Harry Russell who visited England and Scotland hunting records of the family. He gave this account of how it came about.

There was a man who would not read or write, and in transacting his business he signed his name Mc. In Scotland a ring or circle was called a tire, or so the story goes. This man had four sons who had received some education and wanted to spell the name. The first son wanted to spell it McEntire. The second son said he would write McEntyre. The third son said, "No, it must be McIntire". The fourth son said, "We will spell it McIntyre." Hence the name Mc In A Tire was spelled four ways.

The name McEntire of America seems to have come from these people, as I have found all four ways used.

The first one I have any traditional record of was Jerry McEntire. My father, William Fredrick McEntire said Jerry was his great, great grandfather, who lived in Halifax County, Virginia. He said he had two sons, ^(We have no name of the Mother.) John Henry. One son was called William the other John Henry. He was born in Halifax County, Virginia. No date of his birth is known, but it would be about 1770. He married Mary or Molly Selmond who was born July 16, 1772.. John and Mary (or Molly) had two children, John Alexander who was born July 26, 1792 in Halifax County, and Elizabeth who was born March 17, 1794 in Halifax County, Virginia. There was a son Jerry, born to a second wife about 1798.

John Henry lived in Rich Valley, Halifax County until he married the girl, Mary or Molly Salmond. After her death and his second marriage he took his family and moved into Pennsylvania or West Virginia. He was gone for a few years and then came to Halifax County again. It was upon his return that the Salmond family learned John Henry's second wife was mean to the first wife's children. Elisha Luge Salmond went to Grandfather and demanded that he (John Henry) give the Salmond's women's children to the Salmonds to raise. John Henry refused and a fight ensued. The Salmonds licked the McEntires and took the two children and raised them. Grandfather John Alexander carried marks on his ears from fire tongs used in the fire place, which John Henry's second wife used to lead him around the place when she wanted to punish him. John Henry was very angry when they took the children away from him and he said he would not live in a corrupt neighborhood. He then made him a cart by sawing two rounds off a hickory tree; he burnt holes in the center of the rounds and put an axel between the wheels to hold them together. He attached shaves and made a box to put on it. He then loaded his second wife and children in it and moved to South Carolina. This was the last that was heard of him.

When my brother Eli was in the Virginias on a Mission he said there was a man by the name of Jerry McEntire lived near the Halifax Court House and he thought it may have been John Henry McEntire's son, Jerry, by the second wife, but he did not go to see him.

John Alexander McEntire acquired some land in Halifax County near where my Mother's people lived. He married Elizabeth Morning Dean. They had nine children. Elizabeth Dean was born January 23, 1810.

John Alexander stayed in Virginia until 1869. Then he and Grandmother migrated to Utah, Weber County, Harrisville Ward. He became quite feeble and heart sick to go home. In the summer of 1870 the grasshoppers ate all his gardens and some tobacco he had planted and some of his other crops, and he just surrendered and in November of that year he died. Six months later Father had buried Grandmother, Uncle Henry and Aunt Martha, all in Plat B, Ogden Cemetary. Uncle Henry was the father of the late Marthy Bates of Payson, Utah.

William Fredrick McEntire came to Utah in 1868. He was born in Smith or Smyth County Virginia, the son of John Alexander McEntire and Elizabeth Morning Dean McIntire. He was born on the night the stars fell and everyone thought the world was coming to an end. October 31, 1833 he married Sarah Bryant Pritchett, in Smyth or Smith County, Virginia. Absodine Young was the man who married them. He was baptized May 20th, 1868 by Henry G. Boyle, in Berks Garden, Virginia, and endowed April 10, 1878.

William F. and Sarah came to Utah by team to Council Bluffs, then sold four head of mules and equipment and took the train to Laramie, Wyoming, where William Decable Pritchett, mother's brother met them. He brought them on to Harrisville. Father had homesteaded a tract of land, which he had to buy again. He moved into Ogden City and worked at the Z. C. M. I. part time, all together 25 years under Searies, Peery and Watson as managers.

He lived on a farm part time and did some saw mill work., in Wheeler's Canyon, south of Pine View Dam. He built a house in 1868. Christmas Day he had only half of the roof on it. He hung a carpet from the beam pole to keep out the storm. When he woke up on Christmas day morning, there was four inches of snow on all the floor, where the carpet did not cover. (It was a dirt floor). There was James, Nepolian, Thomas, Eli, Nancy, and Father and Mother behind the carpet.

Dudley Chase, Danial Rawson, Auther Lawson and Thomas Brown came to help and by noon had the slabs and bottom on and covered by putting direct on to of them. Chinking in the cracks between the logs had to be done later. By noon, Christmas day they were under cover. They lived in this house until about 1878, and in Sept. of that year he bought a home in 35 Township Seon. Range 2 west of S. L. M. near to the school and church. Here he made his home until he died November 30, 1897. He was buried December 3, 1897, in the Ogden Cemetary.

Father served four years as a Confederate Soldier and cave man who took clay from the mines to make Salt Peter to use in making gun powder. He was at the Salt Works in Virginia where a bloody battle had raged for three days. There were Negro Soldiers fighting with their masters. He said many wounded negros would beg for water and their masters would put their foot on the negro's chin and the foot would open their mouths. Then they would put a hand full of salt into their mouths saying, this will quench your thirst for freedom, and they would then leave them to die. This was the day Lee surrendered to Grant.

After William Frederick McEntire came to Utah he led a quiet life doing good to all acquaintances. I never knew of him ever using any profane language. Never did he smoke or drink or chew tobacco. I never heard him say "Hell" but once in my life and he never drank liquor. He was always able to find some good quality in any one who was attacked by gossip. He became quite active in civil and church affairs. He was put in the superintendancy of Western Harrisville Ward Sunday School as first counselor to the late Wm. J. Larkins, November, 1879 and remained there until July 3, 1892. He led the singing most of the time. He was ordained a seventy by Wm. R. Stowell on January 27, 1884. (See book C No. 140 of Sevens records.

He was a justice of the peace for years and married several people. After leaving the Sunday School Superintendancy he was ordained a High Priest and a Bishop of Farr West Ward by Apostle Franklin D. Richards on July 3, 1892, with Jacob Thomas and James Martin as counselors. He was the second Bishop of their ward. William Andrew Taylor was the first.

Father remained Biship until the time of his death, November 30, 1897.