

**THE JOHN
MCCLENAHAN
FOLK**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649749058

The John McClenahan Folk by John McClenahan Henderson

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

JOHN MCCLENAHAN HENDERSON

**THE JOHN
MCCLENAHAN
FOLK**

THE
John McClenahan Folk

7/19/66

BY
JOHN McCLENAHAN HENDERSON



PUBLISHED BY
THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN BOARD OF
PUBLICATION
PITTSBURGH, PA.

1912

PREFACE

Not until some time after the last of the thirteen children of that doughty Irish immigrant couple, John and Mary McClenahan, had passed away, at a very advanced age, as also the last of those who had married into the family, did it seem to occur to any of their posterity that a plain record of the plain folk should be put in plain form for permanent use. Gradually those ancestors grew on us in their old age and after their going. There was a general agreement that there was more to them than we had supposed, and the desire to know more about them was increasingly expressed here and there. At length the writer was requested by his cousin, Mrs. Anna Anderson Fisher, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, to undertake the work. Effort was made to induce some other member of the clan to undertake it, partly for permanent and essential reasons, and partly because of the writer being now a traveling fill-in man in the ministry, without the conveniences of a fixed abode; but eventually it came back, and he promised that, though limited in time, strength and convenience, he at least would try to gather material.

This gathering of material has been an immeasurably greater task than it would have been a dozen or fifteen

years ago, when some of the second generation—counting the immigrant couple as the first—were still living. Some of them could have told everything. Uncle Robert McClenahan was especially rich in ancestral lore. But aside from some memoranda jotted down from his lips by kindred for private use, his knowledge, like that of all the others, was buried with him. Back of the later '40's, to which my early childhood memory extended, of real knowledge I had next to none, only a few misty traditions of old-time chat. And the same was true of the other kindred generally. But by gathering little bits here and there from Bible family records, from memory of kindred as to what the fathers and mothers had said, in some cases from direct knowledge of the older cousins, as also from a few others, and by following revelations from clue to clue, perhaps there is success in framing a somewhat correct history. Only somewhat, for even approximate infallibility is disclaimed.

It is not the aim to glorify the prominent ones of the kinship to the neglect of the others. A number have become distinguished in high service. But they, and their pictures, too, as reproduced often in the public prints, have become quite familiar, and there is the less occasion for dwelling on their record. Others not less worthy have lived and died in comparative obscurity, the gold of their character revealed to those nearest them by the fire of their trials. One case illustrates. In a windswept cemetery far out in Kansas, in a narrow house marked by plain though substantial headstone, sleeps all that is mortal of one, Mrs. Nancy E. McClenahan Blackwood, who, in the wifehood and motherhood of pioneer struggle, adorned with high purpose and en-

deavor her humble sphere, and has left with family and neighbors a name as of ointment poured forth. She and such as she have been more representative of our folk and not less entitled to our homage than have been the most distinguished, as those most distinguished would be the foremost to recognize.

There is no regret at what some would regard as the unfavorable surroundings in which our work has been done, not in fully equipped "study," but mainly in country homes in the midst of family circles. It was not a misfortune but a blessing that much of it was in a beloved Kansas farm home, in dining-room, with mainly a deep windowsill of the stone house for writing desk, and, for company, delightful Edith, of two and a half, on knee, and eager schoolboy Herbert, happily far from silent at his lessons, at my side. For of such was the kingdom whose reproduction was attempted, except that in our ancestral homes there were whole rooms full of children instead of only two.

Thanks are due to the many who have kindly helped, encouraged and been patient. Mainly they were of the clan, but not wholly so. Of course, Rev. Dr. A. G. Wallace, the all-'round urbane helper, was looked to for help, and, of course, not in vain. Mrs. Bernice B. McIlhinny, previously unknown to me, of Germantown, Pa., only survivor, with possibly one exception, of grandmother McClenahan's collateral kindred of second generation, gave most cordial and valuable help, as did also Henry McCreary, M. D., of New Concord, Ohio, the latter mainly by furnishing some priceless letters nearly seventy-four years old. These letters, be it added, not only threw light on an important period of our history,

but unconsciously revealed an ideal integrity and dignity of Christian character on the part of the ancestral McCrearys in connection with some estate and other matters.

While the write-up of the old set was the main thing in view, it has been attempted to record statistics of all the posterity, so far as possible, down to the last baby. And, believing in the oneness of husband and wife, the record is given not only of those born into the stock but of those who have married into it and thus have contributed to its life.

Many have been the delays postponing the publication far beyond all thought. These delays have come from personal limitations, kinship sickness and bereavement, difficulty in some cases in securing data, and other causes. The regret at such delay is accentuated by the fact that since the first draft of the genealogical tables six mentioned therein have passed away.* And some of them had greatly desired to see the record. How many more will pass away before the book is issued?

For manifest and abounding imperfections, the large forbearance thus far freely given is joyously and gratefully anticipated.

Tracy, Iowa, Feb., 1911.

* Since increased to nine. See postscript.

CONTENTS

	PAGE
HISTORY AND COMMENTS	I
GENEALOGY	74
APPENDIX A. SOUVENIRS	108
B. SCATTERING OF CLAN	109
C. CHANGES IN NAMES	110
D. THE URIE LINE	111
E. THE WALLACES	113
F. RACE OR RACES REPRESENTED	115
POSTSCRIPT	119

