

**THE MCGAVOCK FAMILY. A
GENEALOGICAL HISTORY OF
JAMES MCGAVOCK AND HIS
DESCENDANTS FROM 1760 TO
1903**

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The McGavock Family. A Genealogical History of James McGavock and His Descendants from 1760 to 1903 by Robert Gray

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ROBERT GRAY

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A GENEALOGICAL HISTORY

OF

JAMES MCGAVOCK

AND

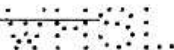
HIS DESCENDANTS

FROM 1760 TO 1903,

BY

REV. ROBERT GRAY.

"This shall be written for the generations to come."—*Pslm. cii, 18.*



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PREFACE.

"There is a deep significance and a profound philosophy in that Divine economy enjoined upon the ancient Israelites to preserve their ancient pedigrees, and to hold in sacred veneration the memory of their forefathers; and so it was that when the CHILD JESUS was born of this race, though of humble and obscure family, *Matthew* was able to give his paternal pedigree, as the son of *Joseph*, back through forty-two generations to *Abraham*; and *Luke*, his maternal pedigree, as the son of *Mary*, through seventy-six generations to *Adam*.

"Nothing, at first sight, seems less interesting or less instructive than a genealogical table—a mere register of names and dates. But, each of these names is the memorial of a human heart that once lived and died—a heart that kept its steady pulsations through some certain period of time, and then ceased to beat, and mouldered into dust. Each of these names is a memorial of an individual human life that had its joys and sorrows; its cares and burdens; its affections and hopes; its conflicts and achievements; its opportunities wasted or improved, and its hour of death. Each of these dates of birth, marriage and death! Oh! how significant! What a day was each of these to some human family, or to some circle of loving human hearts."

Daniel Webster once said: "The man who feels no sentiment of veneration for the memory of his forefathers; who has no natural regard for his ancestors or his kindred, is himself unworthy of kindred, regard or remembrance."

The name McGavock is *Scotch* or *Scotch-Irish*, and if there is any family of the same name in the United States, other than the one of whom this work treats, after long and careful search, I have failed to learn of it. No descendant of James McGavock, Sr., who has been heard from, has been omitted from this history; and if there are any left out, the reason is that repeated enquiries have not been responded to.

Wherever the McGavock blood has flowed I have endeavored to trace it, and have given it a place here; because, "While the male line alone perpetuates the mere family name, both male and female lines, alike, and in equal degree, perpetuate the blood, whatever names they or their descendants, to the remotest generation, may chance to bear. They are equal heirs in blood, and equal heirs in law."

To the Hon. Nathaniel Morgan, of Hartford, Conn., I am indebted for the plan of this work, and the larger part of this preface, he having generously given me the privilege of using a work of his, *James Harris and His Descendants*, as it pleased me.

To all who responded to my enquiries, by letter or otherwise, I return thanks for the information afforded me. That information has been obtained by correspondence and personal interviews with many individuals in a dozen of these United States, by visiting cemeteries and inspecting family records, and is submitted to the living descendants of James McGavock with the hope that it may both profit and please every one of them.

EXPLANATION.

Each generation is given separately and in regular order of succession.

Each name has its fixed catalogue number in the margin, and if carried forward for further history retains its fixed number.

To trace backward, take the name and number of any particular one in the margin; the name and number of that one's parent will be seen at the head of this particular table; the name and number of this parent is to be found in the margin of the preceding generation, while the name and number at the head of this table show the grandparent, and so through each generation the entire line is shown upward to the original ancestor. One example will suffice. Take David Gray Langhorne, No. 1243, son of Maurice D. Langhorne, No. 699, son of John A. Langhorne, who married Margaret L. Kent, No. 242, daughter of Jacob Kent, No. 55, son of Col. Joseph Kent, who married Margaret McGavock, No. 6, daughter of James McGavock, No. 1, and common ancestor.

To trace downward, reverse the process.

The relationship between any two of the family may be found by tracing both lines upward until they unite in a common ancestor, and then noting in a third column the several degrees of kinship from that common ancestor downward, arranging them with the highest numbers at the bottom. For example: What is the degree of kinship between Annie D. McGavock, No. 1026, and Spence McGavock, No. 1176?

Gen. I. James McGavock, common ancestor.

Gen. II. Hugh McGavock, No. 2. David McGavock, No. 3. Brothers.

Gen. III. Robert McGavock, No. 17. Francis McGavock, No. 26. First cousins.

- Gen. IV. Randal H. McGavock, No. 110. David H. McGavock, No. 169. Second cousins.
 Gen. V. Thomas E. McGavock, No. 375. Frank O. McGavock, No. 558. Third cousins.
 Gen. VI. Annie D. McGavock, No. 1026. Spence McGavock, No. 1176. Fourth cousins.

The lineage upward, of the following names, is found in the same manner to meet in David McGavock, No. 3.

Lucie Harris, 536, *dau.* of Lucinda McGavock, 157, *dau.* of James McGavock, 24.

Kitty McFerrin, 546, *dau.* of Tennessee McGavock, 165, *dau.* of John McGavock, 25.

Myra L. McGavock, 556, *dau.* of David S. McGavock, 178, son of Randal McGavock, 27.

Bettie Hays, 604, *dau.* of Emily McGavock, 190, *dau.* of Lysander McGavock, 30.

Second cousins.

First cousins.

Brothers.

The first date after the name is the date of birth, the second that of marriage, the third that of death; these are generally abbreviated thus, *b.*, *m.*, *d.* Son, daughter, grandson, granddaughter, etc., are sometimes abbreviated, *s.*, *dau.*, *gr. s.*, *g. gr. s.*, etc. *Rem.* stands for removed, *res.* for resides, *unm.* for unmarried.

Where names are abbreviated and dates omitted, the full name and the dates will be found in the next generation, where the number is carried forward, whenever it has been possible.

THE MCGAVOCK FAMILY.

GENERATION I.

"Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations: ask thy father, and he will show thee; thy elders, and they will tell thee."—*Deut.*, xxxii, 7.

JAMES MCGAVOCK, Sen., 1, was born 1728, in the county of *Antrim, Ireland*, near Glenarm, and emigrated in early life to America, leaving a widowed mother and an only brother, *Randal*, at the homestead, called *Carnton*. He landed at Philadelphia, and soon sought employment in the business he had been accustomed to, viz: that of farming. Tradition says, that, having acquired the means, he purchased a wagon and team, and for a time was engaged in carrying provisions for the army under Gen. Braddock. He must, therefore, have come to America about 1754-55. He came to that part of Augusta county, Va., which is now Rockbridge county, previous to or in the early part of 1757, as there is a land indenture endorsed, "from Samuel McDowell and Mary, his wife, to James McGavock, and proven in open court, 17 March, 1757; signed, John Madison, Cl'k." This paper is among the old papers at Fort Chiswell.

In the year 1760, he married MARY CLOYD, daughter of David Cloyd, Sr., and Margaret Campbell, and sister to Elizabeth Cloyd, wife of James McDowell, who was the father of James McDowell, who married Sarah Preston, and these last were the parents of the late Hon. James McDowell, Governor of Virginia. From Rockbridge he removed to what was then Fincastle county, Va., now Wythe, and settled at *Fort Chiswell*, which was embraced in a large body of land purchased by him, and is still in the possession of some of his descendants.

"Mr. McGavock came of that remarkable people, the Scotch-Irish, who have done so much for the liberties of this country, and for education generally, and the dissemination of Presbyterian principles, especially in Pennsylvania, Virginia, North Carolina and Tennessee. As an Old-Countryman he understood the solid value of land. Like an Old-Countryman, also, he wished to found a family with landed estates. In this he was eminently successful," acquiring by his aptitude for business and his industry and energy, large and valuable bodies of land.

With credit to himself, and general satisfaction to the public, he filled several important offices of honor and trust.

He was a magistrate when that office was entrusted only to men fitted for the responsible duties of the place. He must have held the office of commissary, being entrusted with the disposal of provisions for the Continental army, as the following receipt, now in the possession of his descendants at Fort Chiswell, will show:

Fort Chiswell, Sept. 13, 1776.

Received of James McGavock six bushels of Corn out of the public Magazine, for the use of three Wagons under my care on the Cherokee Expedition.

JOHN BOWNAN.

He was one of the committee of fifteen, consisting of such men as Rev. Charles Cummings, William Campbell, Colonel William Preston, Captain Stephen Trigg, Major Arthur Campbell, and others, appointed by the citizens of Fincastle county, Va., to draft resolutions expressive of the privileges and rights they as free men possessed; and declaring their determination "never to surrender those rights to any power on earth but at the expense of their lives." These resolutions were adopted January 20, 1775, four months before the Mecklenburg, N. C., declaration. They were forwarded to the Continental Congress, at Philadelphia, and can be seen in the Congressional Library, at Washington, D. C., and the State Library, Richmond, Va. He was an affectionate husband, kind father, social companion, and generous benefactor. An instance of his noble generosity is to this effect: