

**OHIO VALLEY HISTORICAL SERIES,
NUMBER FOUR. MCBRIDE'S PIONEER
BIOGRAPHY; VOL. II:
PIONEER BIOGRAPHY SKETCHES OF THE
LIVES OF SOME OF THE EARLY SETTLERS
OF BUTLER COUNTY, OHIO**

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JAMES MCBRIDE

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VOL. II.

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PREFATORY.

IN issuing the concluding volume of these *Biographical Sketches*, we have little to add to what we prefaced to the first volume.

A number of the sketches are of comparatively little importance, historically, containing as they do not much else than private family details; and, while an apology may be due for admitting them into a *Historical Series*, yet, they have a certain value as records of some of the oldest pioneer families, which may sufficiently justify their publication. We are not without hope, too, that some Genealogical Society in this Ohio Valley may yet be grateful to us for preserving what we have been tempted to reject. So, trusting in this hope, and not on present appreciation, we give all the sketches which Mr. McBRIDE selected for publication, even though some of them are only of local and personal interest.

In one case only—the sketch of CAPTAIN JOHN CLEVES SYMMES—have we deemed it proper to omit any considerable portion of Mr. McBRIDE's manuscript. He was a firm believer in the "*Theory of Concentric Spheres*," and most of his sketch was taken up with an argument in its defense. This we have thought entirely unnecessary at this day, and it has therefore

been omitted. The genealogy of the SYMMES family has been corrected with the assistance of Rev. FRANCIS M. SYMMES, of Lebanon, Indiana, and some details added. The account of the Captain's own family has been considerably extended with the aid of his son AMERICUS SYMMES.

We desire to express our obligations also to Mr. JOHN W. ERWIN and Mr. THOMAS MILLIKIN, of Hamilton, for their ever-ready assistance in supplying dates, names, etc., left blank in the manuscript.

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PIONEER BIOGRAPHY.

VIII.

*Robert McClellan.**

WILLIAM, ROBERT and JOHN McCLELLAN were sons of a pioneer farmer, who, at the time of the Revolutionary War, lived in a part of Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, which is now embraced in Franklin county, at the base of the Cove or North mountain, near where the town of Mercersburgh now is. Here the boys were schooled in all the arts of woodcraft and inured to all the hardships of frontier life.

On reaching a suitable age—an early one, as backwoods boys are precocious in such matters—the boys obtained employment as pack-horse men. The settlement of the country on the Monongahela and in the neighborhood of Pittsburgh (a region known as the “Backwoods” of Pennsylvania), had been but recently commenced. There were no iron-works at that time

*The family always wrote their name McClellan. Washington Irving in his *Astoria* erroneously gives it M'Lellan, and John McDonald, in his *Biographical Sketches*, McLelland.