

A CIVIL WAR EXPERIENCE
as told by
Elizabeth Carrington McCoun of Hendricks County, Indiana

In the early years of the War of the Rebellion, Elizabeth, then single, was living at the home of Jeremy Anderson on East New York St. in Indianapolis. Jeremy at the time was in central Missouri where his wife's people lived--the McCouns--.

Jeremy, being favorably impressed by the prosperous community he wrote to relatives in Indiana of the good crops, good farm land and also that women made good wages rolling cigars. He insisted that some of his relatives would do well there, urged them to come. Lewis E. Anderson, Jeremy's cousin was persuaded to go. It is quite probable that Jeremy had made investments there in land. Lewis with his wife and three small children from Hendricks Co. Ind. made the trip in a covered wagon in the spring of 1863. /Lizzie born in April.??/ Jeremy's wife Eliza with Elizabeth Carrington made the trip by train. probably the Vandalia R.R. They all lived in the vicinity of Eliza's relatives mentioned previously.

One thing in the new home that was strange to the new comers--Some of their neighbors owned slaves. Everything was prosperous and all went well for a time.

After harvest in the late summer the Anderson group and Missouri kin went for a day of picnicking and fishing "down on the river". About mid day one of the ladies saw away over on a wooded hillside something glistening and moving about in the sunshine. Calling the men's attention to it they said at once "Bushwhackers". "Bushwhackers drilling". It will be trouble "you'll see!" they exclaimed.

The party broke up at once and all hurried to their homes. Not many days following there was a battle not far away. Too close for comfort, they said. They also witnessed some of the grim realities of war.

The wounded and dead were hauled in wagons past the Anderson homes, stopping by for water for the wounded while blood dripped from the wagons--and groans heard.

Just who attacked whom was never made clear in the telling of this story but Missouri history of that period tells of many similar outbreaks. It is possible federal troops were engaged in this. (See W.T. Carrington's discussion in Carrington history of guerrilla warfare). The gorillas must have been victors. They declared following this battle that every Union sympathizer in that section of the state would be shot.

A brother-in-law of Jeremy Anderson passed the word secretly to L. E. Anderson. They packed their wagon and left that night; Elizabeth Carrington with them.

Waiting till dark, the windows and doors were covered with heavy comforts to shut out the light and while Uncle Lewis made the wagon and team ready the ladies packed the necessities for travel. Their biggest problem was a Home Guard Uniform that Uncle Lewis had taken with him from Indiana--more dangerous than fire arms just then. The two ladies buried it in the dirt floor of the smoke house.

Driving cautiously they traveled all night toward the nearest state line. In the early morning hours they passed a farm house where a man lay dead across the door step. Their immediate destination was McDonough County, Illinois where relatives lived--The Jacksons. There they spent a week end before going on to Indiana. (See Anderson History).

Ft Madison was a likely place to cross the Mississippi River where the thousands "going west had crossed in previous years. The uncle, L. E. Anderson was well acquainted with that part of our country.

Note: The above transcribed by Randy McClung in April 1987 from the hand written copy of Eva Peabworth, now in the hands of John Robert Williams. Elizabeth Carrington McCoun died in Hendricks Co. and is buried in East Cemetery at Danville, IN.

A. C. Cherry
Thomson

ORIGIN OF THE McCLUNG RACE and NAME

The McClung Genealogy says: "The earliest known record of the McClung family locates them in Galloway, Scotland. The name clearly indicates their Highland Scotch origin. Tradition says that three McClung brothers named James, John and Robert left Scotland on account of religious persecution and settled in the Province of Ulster, Ireland about 1690. They were Presbyterians of the 'True Blue' type". (see McClung Genealogy pp 8-9).

I doubt this THREE BROTHER STORY because the same story is common in many family genealogies, including another of my Genealogical lines. As in this story, usually one brother settled in the north, one in the middle states and one in the south, thus accounting for the name being found throughout the nation. If three McClung brothers did leave Scotland about 1690 and settle in Ulster as this book says, they were not the first McClungs to migrate to Northern Ireland.

One of our researchers, Richard S. Chaney, found a George McClung in Barony Strabane in County Tyrone in 1631 and in 1681 found a James McClung at the same place. He also found James, David and William McClung in Belfast in 1666 and 1669. (Source; Presbyterian Historical Society in Belfast).

Another researcher, Robert McClung of Belfast Northern Ireland searched Irish Hearth Rolls (taxpayer lists) of 1669 found McClungs in 11 towns in Northern Ireland in an area northwest of Belfast. That is 21 years before the so called 1690 migration of 3 brothers. For more details about this see the McCLUNG FAMILY ASSOCIATION JOURNAL #22, pp 9 - 11. There is also some additional research reported in Journal #19, pp 11-13. This information was of a slightly later period but shows numerous McClung families scattered widely.

I think a more likely account that fits the few known facts is as follows: King James I was King of Scotland and England (at the same time) in the period of 1604 - 1626. King James did lots of unusual things including writing a new version of the Bible (or authorized it being done). At this time Ireland was sparsely settled, similar to America when the Pilgrims arrived. He moved many Scots, English & Welsh families into Ireland, either to settle the land or to have population there that was loyal to him. (They called this process "planting" and thus the term plantation originated.) This migration virtually stopped by 1640. It is my theory that a few McClungs colonized Northern Ireland in the 1604-1640 time period and by 1669 they had multiplied into several families, including the 11 we found here and the ones in Belfast and many other places.

There is little doubt that the McClung name originated in Scotland, probably Galloway. Galloway is in the lowlands, and is in the southwest part of Scotland, nearest to the coast of Northern Ireland. In the book "The Scotch Irish" by Charles A Hanna (2 Volume work, published 1902) Vol. II, page 439 it states "In his History of Lands and their Owners in Galloway, Mr. P.H. Mackerlie states that many of the surnames in Galloway are peculiar to that district; some again have an apparent Irish Origin while others are to be found in the Highlands. He gives a list of these names, so far as he has been able to collect them. Included in the list of about 100 with prefix "Mac" are the spelling, MacClung and Maclung, which is the Scotch spelling, not the Irish.

by H. Randy McClung

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McClung Family