

Biog. McAllister.

Cataloged

SKETCH

OF

Captain Thompson McAllister,

CITIZEN, SOLDIER,

CHRISTIAN.

BY

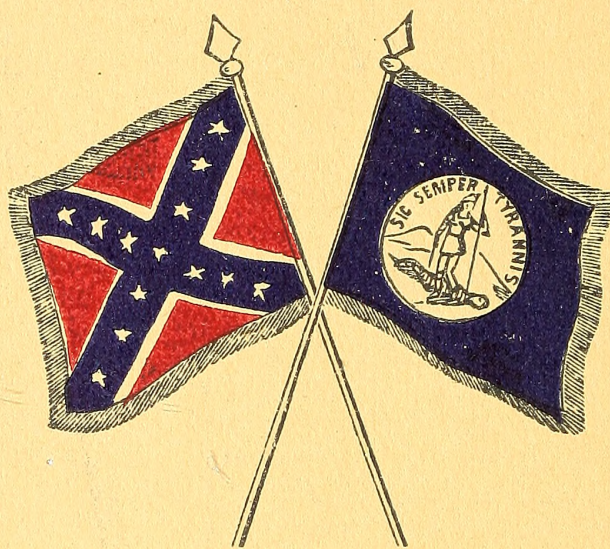
J. GRAY McALLISTER.

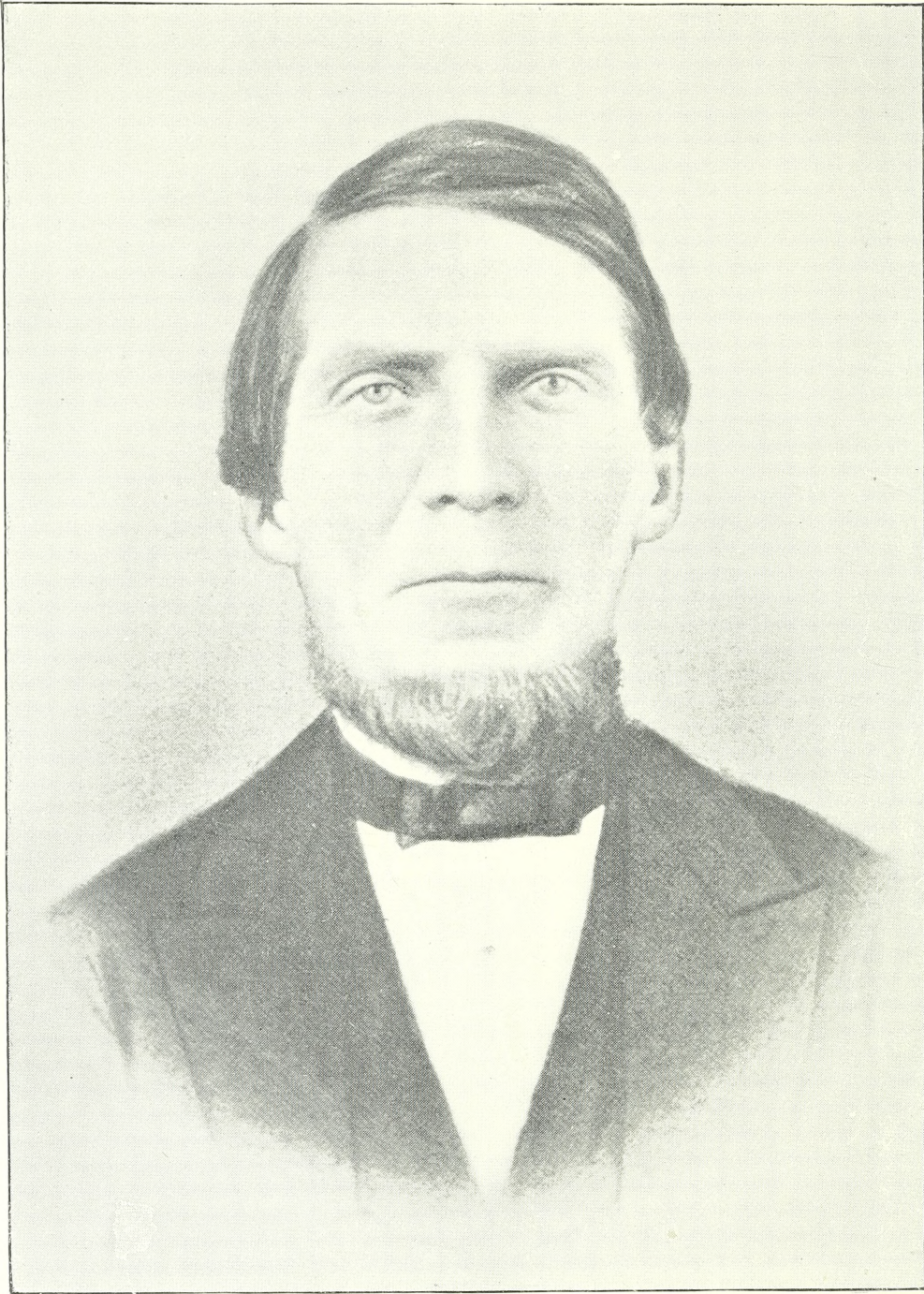
---

1896.

Pamphlet Collection

Pamphlet Collection  
Duke University Library





*J. McAllister*

SKETCH  
OF  
Captain Thompson McAllister,

CO. A, 27TH VIRGINIA REGIMENT.

BY  
J. GRAY McALLISTER.

---

"I AM GLAD TO KNOW YOU ARE GOING TO PUBLISH A MEMOIR OF CAPTAIN  
McALLISTER, FOR HE WAS A BRAVE MAN AND DESERVES  
COMMEMORATION."—*U. S. Senator John W. Daniel.*

---

FOR PRIVATE DISTRIBUTION.

---

PETERSBURG, VA. :  
FENN & OWEN, PRINTERS AND BINDERS.  
1896.

TO HIS WIFE,

MRS. LYDIA MILLER (ADDAMS) McALLISTER,

*who, at nearly four-score, graces a Christian character by genuine  
young-heartedness and loving sympathy.*

## P R E F A C E .

---

TO THOSE who knew Captain McAllister, personally and by report, no apology is needed for the presentation of this sketch, and since for these it was written, further explanation is wholly superfluous. Of the authorities freely used in preparation may be mentioned Pennsylvania Archives, Second Series, Edition of 1887, Vol. XIV, pp. 375 and 452; Bancroft, Vol. III, pp. 205-6; and "McAllister Memoranda," compiled (1844) by Hon. Hugh Nelson McAllister. These were furnished by Mrs. J. H. Baldwin, (nee McAllister), of Edgewood Park, Pa., who rendered other valuable assistance, as did in like manner her sister, Mrs. Wilson Lloyd, of Oakland Mills, Pa. The chief source of information was the large batch of war-papers which the writer found at "Rose Dale" in December, 1894, and wherever possible this written testimony is made its own spokesman.

Prominence has been given to these writings for the reason that Captain McAllister was a pronounced military man by both taste and training, and further because the records of this period were more accessible and full.

Especial mention is gratefully made of the services of Mr. Hugh M. McAllister, of Covington, Va., and the liberal pecuniary assistance of Mr. Wm. M. McAllister, of Warm Springs, Va. The unanimity of response on the part of all is indeed most gratifying, and suggests the question whether we are not now ready to publish a comprehensive history of the family. The

collection of records in the possession of Mrs. Baldwin, compiled by her at the expense of much time and effort, can, I feel certain, be secured if the necessary funds be raised for their publication. And no one is so well fitted as herself to collate and publish them.

The engraved Frontispiece, though not as clear-cut as desired, was yet the best that could be secured, there being extant no recent photograph from which a good engraving could be made.

The accompanying sketch has been struck off in hours snatched from a busy life. It makes pretensions to no literary merit and its purpose shall have been compassed if loyalty to truth be maintained and a faithful portraiture of one whose memory is blessed be given those for whom it is prepared.

J. GRAY McALLISTER.

RICHMOND, VA., May, 1896.

# THOMPSON McALLISTER.

BY J. GRAY McALLISTER.

AMONG the Scotch Protestants seeking a temporary shelter in Ireland in the first half of the 18th century was one Hugh McAllister, the progenitor of the subject of this sketch. For the further and unhampered exercise of liberty, religious and civil, for which all possessions save honor had been laid down, he, with others of like faith, emigrated to America about the year 1730, settling in Lancaster county, Pa. Here six years later his second son, Hugh, was born. The latter was but 22 years of age when as private in Captain Forbes' company he went out to help capture Fort Du Quesne. He was under Washington at that time and hence must have been one of the picked men of the advance guard. In 1763 Pontiac's war began and young Hugh marched as a volunteer in a company of one hundred men. In 1776 we find him one of the sergeants in Captain James Gibson's company of militia of the Fourth Battalion of Cumberland county. In December, 1776, he enlisted the first man in Captain John Hamilton's company, formed for re-enforcing the disheartened army of Washington. The company reached headquarters one day after the capture of the Hessians at Trenton. In 1777 the young soldier held a lieutenant's commission and on his return was elected captain. Towards the close of the war he was in command of forces stationed at Potter's Fort, Centre county, and commanded an expedition sent to punish the Indians for depredations committed near the Great Island, where the City of Lock Haven now stands, and May 1st, 1783, he was commissioned Major of the 7th Battalion of militia in the county of Cumberland. The war over, he retired to the farm, lying in Lost Creek Valley, which he had purchased in 1756. His fourth son, William, was born in 1774, served in the war of 1812, was appointed one of the two associate judges of Juniata county



March 4th, 1842, and died December 21st, 1847. The wife of the first Hugh was a Miss Harbison; of Major Hugh, Sarah Nelson; and of Judge William McAllister, Sarah Thompson.

The second son and third child of the last two named was **Thompson McAllister**, who was born August 30th, 1811, at the homestead of his fathers. Here, under the healthful exactions of farm life, which in those days were more onerous than now, and with such schooling as conditions admitted, he grew into early maturity of mind and physique, building slowly and well the character which late in life was to stand firm amidst tests the most arduous and harassing. Letters and recollections of associates give us glimpses of this period.

Money on the farm was by no means plentiful and collegiate education for all the sons seemed out of the question. The father appreciated the need of thorough instruction, however, and the neighboring school was used and training given by the Rev. John Hutchinson, the pastor of their church (the Presbyterian) and a noted minister of the county. The oldest son, Nelson, was being trained for the law and upon the younger boys the duty devolved of defraying the expenses. The intense personal attachment between Thompson and Robert made them one in their work in the field, class-room and study-hour, and the aptitude for study on the part of each found aid in an inherent fondness for the best books of the time and led them to make constant use of the good library of their father. Far into the night, when the lights of other rooms were only the flickering hearth-flames thrown upon sleeping occupants, the candle in the study-room was keeping vigil over these two brothers, resolute upon the acquisition of practical learning. This, though the day's labor might have been heavy and the morrow's duties would begin before day break and on rigid schedule time.

The two boys were leaders likewise in all work on the farm, their father being three-score when Thompson reached his majority. An interesting reform occurred about this time and the fact is given as evidencing the sterling and aggressive principles of the two young men. Whiskey in harvest time was deemed as unquestionably appropriate as the harvest moon itself. But the great Washingtonian wave of temperance had just swept over the country and carried with it the sympathies of the brothers, and it became their mission to banish brandy from the farm.

Their father indulged himself "the gentleman's morning dram" and had not become a convert to teetotalism. The rest of the household linked shields with the boys. Five cents per day extra was allowed each laborer as compensation for the loss of his bracer. Neighbors predicted that the wheat would rot in the field for the want of harvesters. Not so. The harvest went smoothly on and "hands" were to be had in abundance. Right principles had prevailed, and best of all the father, with just pride in his sons, and convinced of the efficiency of the reform which they had successfully carried through, became a total abstainer for the remainder of his days.

The lapse of time served only to develop these principles of temperance, which each upheld rigidly in the subsequent pursuits of peace and war. A correspondent from Juniata county writes: "I can see to this day the advantage that their stand on temperance has been to this country."

The following letter, written by Judge William McAllister to Nelson, his oldest son, who was then away at college, is illustrative of some facts just mentioned and serves further to show the uncompromising opinions which His Honor held:

"LOST CREEK VALLEY, 14th October, 1834.

DEAR SON:

I enclose in the within letter seventy dollars, which is all that I can raise and more than I can spare. \* \* \* As to your going to Carlisle, you may do as you please. The only thing I have against it is the want of money and another thing is its being a Methodist institution, an institution which I never want any of my children taught in. \* \* \* I am, with respect, your sincere well wisher,

WM. McALISTER."

The cares of the farm were not so irksome, however, as to preclude social enjoyment, to which the boys took an early liking. We find Thompson twitting Nelson about the "future Mrs. McAllister," and pledging her "all the politeness of which we are masters" upon the happy consummation. Politics (of another kind) likewise engaged the attention of the boys, and the debating society of the neighborhood gave frequent opportunity for the development and acquisition desired. Thompson writes thus to Nelson under date of February 23rd, 1835:

"Mr. J. D. W. has, contrary to my expectation and contrary to his own, acquired no inconsiderable celebrity in the art of speech-making. He is a member of our club, which is of no small reputation. The club has

been in active operation, meeting once a fortnight, all winter. We discussed the question 'should capital punishment be abolished?' It was decided in the affirmative. We met on Friday evening to discuss the reprisal and French war question."

A facility of expression, in both composition and delivery, was here learned by the young man, who, twenty-five years afterward, made good use of it in his country's cause.

But that which proved most inviting to the brothers seems to have been the military enterprise of the community, and in this, as in quite all things else, they were the acknowledged leaders. General Robert McAllister, in a letter embodied in his "Sketch," writes thus:

"My brother Thompson and I spent a great deal of time together, studying military tactics, were always connected with military companies, and were both fond of drilling. Little did either of us then think that the time was coming when our swords would be drawn against each other in a contest that threatened the destruction of our country and government. But such was the fact. Before the war I was promoted from a Lieutenant to a Captain, then to Lieutenant-Colonel."

At an early age Thompson formed an artillery company of about fifty men and drill was held four times a year in an old still-house at Oakland Mills, near by. From its place of meeting the company was called the "still-house artillery." Its iron cannon was housed in the homestead carriage-house, and only one man of the fifteen hired on the farm could move the piece. Thompson was Captain of this company, and upon his removal to Franklin county Robert was elected in his stead. The latter soon formed a cavalry company in which there were seventeen men by the name of Thompson, all finely mounted and all cousins of the Captain. A daughter of General McAllister writes:

"When father was lying wounded after the Gettysburg fight he talked by the hours of those days and of his brother Thompson. Their devotion to each other was intense."

In November 1835, Elizabeth, the youngest daughter of the family, died at the age of twenty years, having been married but a few months more than one year to David W. Stewart. In her prolonged sickness she was tenderly nursed by Robert and Thompson, whose devotion to her was as strong as the affection existing between themselves. Her fame as a horse-woman extended throughout the whole valley and county, and her lovable traits of character and person added much to the poignancy of

grief over her early death. February 14th, 1839, Thompson was united in marriage with Miss Lydia Miller Addams, daughter of Abraham Addams, Esq., of Millerstown, Pa., a union which has been fruitful and happy. The young couple began their wedded life in Franklin county, near Chambersburg, Pa., upon a farm, "Spring Dale," afterwards deeded to them by Thompson's father, and here were born the four older children, Clara, Addams, William and Edgar.

Captain McAllister's removal from Juniata county caused no abatement of his interest in military affairs, as the next paragraph will prove. Two winters ago the writer found among the former's papers a large poster, yellow and worn with age and reading thus:

"War!! War!! Artillerists, attention! In pursuance of General Orders you are ordered to parade at the Armory, in full winter uniform, on Thursday, the 26th instant, at 1 o'clock, for the purpose of electing officers and reporting the artillery ready for service. Some recruits wanted to fill the Company to the complement of 94 men. P. S.—Those persons who volunteered their services in May last, as well as recruits, will appear on parade in Citizen's Dress.

THOMPSON McALLISTER, Captain.

St. Thomas, November 24th, 1846.

Six volunteer companies were called for by the Government, and by the merest accident—the delay in getting a trunk-strap—Thompson's company, whose services had been tendered, reached the enrolling quarters thirty minutes after the sixth had been accepted. Robert was likewise ready to enter the Mexican War, but Providence had in view more stirring sequels still. Thompson was in 1847 elected a member of the Pennsylvania Legislature, serving one term, and in December, 1849, he removed to Virginia, having purchased a tract of 2,200 acres at Covington in that State. The greater portion of this remains in possession of the several branches of the family, the brick home, "Rose Dale," which he built, being now occupied by his widow. With his accustomed energy and good judgment he soon placed the farm in an excellent condition of productiveness and increasing valuation. What by successive improvements are now the Covington Flouring Mills were likewise included in his purchase and were under his prudent supervision.

The public spirit of Captain McAllister is well shown in the records of this time. He strongly advocated the construction of

the Covington & Ohio railway so as to connect with the extension of the canal to that town, and thus bring the mountains in living connection with the Tidewater district of the State. His views are set forth in a paper written by him at this time, and extracts are given from it to show the striking similarity of his predictions with the present status, 1896:

“Who that is at all acquainted with the history of the iron and coal trade of Pennsylvania, whose iron now exceeds in amount the manufacture of England, can call into question the ability of this region in its iron alone to furnish tonnage to an incalculable amount? and this, too, with the more certainty when we consider the greater richness of our ore, the superior quality of our metal, and the ease with which it is mined. \* \* \* Covington is in the centre of the county of Alleghany; all the principal water courses, two of which are navigable, and all the turn-pikes and county roads, converge to this point. The water power in the vicinity is immense. It is in the heart of the iron region of central Virginia. It has been estimated by those who have the best opportunity of information that there is iron enough within ten miles of Covington to lay all the railroads in the United States, and it is of very superior excellence. That now manufacturing commands a higher price than any sold in the market. The mountains will supply fuel for its extensive manufacture until the completion of the Covington & Ohio road, which will then furnish a supply of coal for time to come. The lumber of Alleghany must have a cheap mode of transit or remain undisturbed for many years, and limestone and hydraulic cement abound with wood and water sufficient to make them useful.” \* \* \*

He was largely instrumental likewise in having the Central railroad extended to Covington, and was one of four who subscribed to ten shares for the necessary construction. The Covington & Ohio and the Virginia Central railroads joined steel at Covington and the lines are now part of the Chesapeake & Ohio system. Together with his brother Robert he was engaged in construction on the Covington & Ohio when Virginia seceded.

In religious affairs Captain McAllister was none the less active and progressive. He had early espoused the faith of his fathers and soon after his removal to Virginia was ordained one of the ruling elders of the Covington Church, a position which he faithfully filled until his death. By continuous effort and by expenditure proportioned to a liberal purse, he came soon to be regarded as the strongest supporter of the church's work, and the systematic diligence applied to secular affairs as thoroughly characterized his labors for the Master. Intimately associated

with this line of effort were his affiliations with various temperance organizations of the county. In 1855 we find him Treasurer of the "Cadets of Temperance," in 1860, Deputy Grand Worthy Patriarch of the "Sons of Temperance," and as late as April, 1870, he was one of two District delegates to the convention of the "Friends of Temperance," held in Waynesboro, being at that time Vice-President of Covington District, which embraced the counties of Bath and Alleghany. The great executive ability of the man becomes pre-eminent when we consider that besides all this, he was managing his more than two thousand acres, equipping his farm with the most modern of improvements, and finding time beside to actively engage in the exciting political canvasses of the day. Small wonder, then, that at sixty he declares himself "an old man, broken down with labor and care."

## CHAPTER II.

UNTIL the beginning of the war, Captain McAllister was an "Old-Line Whig" in political affiliation, and in 1860 he worked and voted for the "American" candidates, Bell and Everett, for President and Vice-President, and for Colonel Thomas Sitlington, of Bath county, a successful Union candidate, for the State Convention.

To point out, even briefly, the causes of the great war which soon followed does not lie within the limits or purpose of this sketch. In passing it may be remarked, however, that slavery was the cause of the struggle only in that it furnished the occasion for denial of guaranteed rights and for coercion arbitrary and unconstitutional. As independent sovereignties the States had given assent to the compact designed to unite them against foreign invasion and in so doing they made no surrender of original rights, at the very bottom of which lay the right of seceding when forbearance should cease to be a virtue. The wisdom of this policy is an open question, but the *fact* of its existence remains forever impregnable.

"Davis in irons flung down the gauntlet to Chase in the seat of power. The glove lies to-day unlifted. Lodge and Seeley, sturdy scholars of constitutional history, conceded that the South stood four square and stout in truth on the great document of freedom. If three millions of the subjects of a monarchy got to themselves unfading glory of resisting a king, were five millions of their sons rebels for repelling the assaults of copartners in a republic where coercion contradicts their creed of liberty and surrenders Washington to the halter of George IV?"

Aside from this, the extension of slavery was neither designed nor desired by the Confederacy. Its constitution expressly forbade the re-opening of the slave trade and "while that constitution gave slave-holders the express right to carry their slaves into any territory belonging to the Confederacy, it also provided that when that territory became a State it should be slave-holding or free, according to the will of its citizens."

These unanswerable facts are pertinent to what follows.

In March, 1861, Captain McAllister raised, and at his own expense largely equipped, the first volunteer company, for the war, in Alleghany and in that section of the State. This was the "Alleghany Light Infantry," by some of their own members nicknamed "The Alleghany Roughs." The company was organized and disciplined for the purpose of being placed at the disposal of the Governor of Virginia whenever the convention then in session should determine the side Virginia was to espouse. The ordinance of secession was passed the night of April 17th, and Captain McAllister immediately made tender of the company's services to the Governor, arriving on the evening of April 22nd at Staunton, the military rendezvous. The company returned to Covington a few days later and after rigid drill by the Captain, was ordered to Harper's Ferry. One or two temporary assignments preceded the permanent assignment of the command as Company A, 27th Virginia. This was one of the five regiments constituting Jackson's original "Stonewall Brigade." After remaining at Harper's Ferry picketing and drilling, the army was ordered up the valley toward Winchester.

The first engagement, after a forced march, was at immortal Manassas, July 21st, 1861. In this battle Captain McAllister reorganized and led his broken regiment in their daring second charge, which in General Jackson's opinion contributed largely to the ultimate and successful advance movement and rout of the enemy. In the *Century* of November, 1894, General Beauregard presents a masterly description of this battle as viewed in its general plan and execution. After detailing the first of the two decisive charges of the day (July 21st) he continues:

"I determined to make another effort for the recovery of the plateau, and ordered a charge of the entire line of battle including the reserves, which at this crisis I myself led into action. The movement of the several commands was made with such keeping and dash that the whole surface of the plateau was swept clear of the enemy, who were driven down the slope and across the turnpike on our right and the valley of Young's Branch on our left, leaving in our final possession the Robinson and Henry houses, with most of Rickett's and Griffin's batteries, the men of which were mostly shot down where they bravely stood by their guns."

It is a point worthy of notice that General Beauregard indicates the relative position of the troops placed at this strategic and perilous situation with reference to the 'Stonewall' Brigade,



which had won its immortal soubriquet at the same spot a short while before the two onsets above referred to were made. The events of the day amply justified the distinction. Of the regiments composing the brigade the 33rd Virginia was placed at the extreme left of the army and throughout the action was subjected to an enfiladed fire from the enemy, who were making a flank movement. The 27th Virginia was immediately to the right of the 33rd. After going into camp at Centerville much empty boasting was indulged in by officers and privates of some of the companies and regiments as to the conspicuous part they had played in the sanguinary drama just enacted. In order to reduce these pretensions to the sphere of facts Captain McAllister prepared the following carefully written statement, which was found among his large collection of papers. It is given verbatim:

“MANASSAS.”

“Between 1 and 2 o'clock on the 18th the 27th Regiment left Winchester for Manassas and by a forced march and by railroad reached Manassas the evening of the 19th. Saturday, the 20th, was spent in awaiting an attack. Early in the morning of the 21st booming of artillery warned us of the approach of the enemy. Four regiments of Jackson's Brigade were kept in reserve until the enemy's movements could be more fully demonstrated. About 12 o'clock the Brigade was placed in the rear of our artillery near the Henry House, to which place our forces had retreated before the advancing enemy—the distance of a mile. Flat upon the ground for two and one-half hours we maintained our position without firing a gun—cannon-balls flying thick over our heads, and minnie-balls killing and wounding our men from the left. At half-past two Preston and Echols charged forward, whilst Allen and Cummings charged on our left flank, and the artillery retired, leaving the contest to the infantry.

“Sixty-six men crossed over. Blank remained at Manassas. My command numbered sixty-three men. In coming forward by regiment our lines became broken. I enquired of the Colonel the order of attack, to which he immediately replied, ‘By company.’ Facing my men by flank, they were brought [revised from ‘I brought them’] to within gunshot and then into company,—fired and ordered to load and fire at will,—aim well,—when each man lay flat on the ground or took to a shelter. After some four to six fires, finding the other forces did not come up and that the fire of the enemy, greatly superior in number, was drawn to us, I ordered my men to fall back and rally, which order was promptly obeyed. Some eight or ten of my men, having moved to the right some distance, did not hear the order to fall back nor observe our movement, and continued to engage the enemy with good effect. Every other man except the wounded and their attendants rallied immediately some one

hundred and fifty yards in the rear, at which point I expected to find the regiment, but in this I was disappointed.

“The field officers not being present and the companies scattered, several officers with a few of their men formed on my company preparatory to a second charge. The number of men willing to join me was quite inconsiderable, although hundreds in our rear standing idle were appealed to by me with all the entreaties and urgent appeals of which I was capable,—telling them with their aid the field would be ours in ten minutes. At this instant an officer rode near by whom I addressed thus: ‘Can you aid us in charging the enemy? I do not know where my field-officers are and I am but a captain. With an increased force we can drive the enemy. Bring your force and I will fight under you.’ With a promise to re-enforce me, he rode toward the left twenty or thirty paces and was seen by some of my men to fall from his horse, yet I was not aware of this fact until the battle was over, but supposed his forces were too much scattered, or engaged with the enemy elsewhere. This officer was doubtless Colonel Bartow, as the time and place of his fall are identical.

“During this time every effort was made by myself and other officers to rally to our aid the men in the rear, with but little success. With a prospect of being re-inforced from these two sources, but not having informed my men nor officers of it, and whilst I was urging the men in our rear, at some twenty-five or more yards distant, a forward movement was commenced and it became necessary for me to hasten forward to share the honor and the danger with them of one of the most daring and successful charges of that memorable day.

“To the cowardice of those in our rear is to be attributed the loss of so many men. We met the enemy five to one and after desperate resistance drove them from the field. Of those at the cannon the officers and gunners fell before our marksmen and when they were hitching to take off the artillery their last horses were shot down, and those who remained retreated, leaving three pieces of artillery on the field, one of which they had captured in the morning from Captain Imboden. The colors of the 1st Michigan regiment were captured and the bearer made a prisoner by James Glenn, private of my company. Our prisoners were at first handed over to those who would take charge of them, my men having other duties to perform. At the close of the action I pressed as a guard a sergeant and two privates in whose charge I put three prisoners, who were taken to Manassas.”

In giving the list of the men who were in the charge Captain McAllister adds: “Blank was at the Junction and ought to have been in the fight. P. J. received a slight wound and was seen no more.”

A personal letter to the writer from U. S. Senator John W. Daniel corroborates the above and furnishes added testimony respecting the charge first made:

"I was attached to Company C, 27th Regiment. \* \* \* We were placed in position on the battle-field with the 4th Regiment in front, commanded by Colonel James Preston, and the 27th close behind it, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel John Echols. \* \* \* For an hour or so we lay upon the ground receiving a hot fire, but with no opportunity to reply. After we had been in this position some hours General T. J. Jackson rode to the right of our line and calling for Colonel Preston of the 4th Regiment exclaimed, "Order the men to stand up." Both lines—the 4th and the 27th—arose, and he exclaimed, "We'll charge them now and drive them to Washington." We advanced rapidly, moving obliquely to the left to clear our own guns. The men of the two regiments were soon bunched and at a double quick went over the hill in front under a heavy fire from the enemy's batteries, which opened upon us. We carried the battery stationed at the Henry House, and it was there that I saw your grandfather, Captain Thompson McAllister, passing by the enemy's guns, sword in hand, and his son William at his side. They were to the right of our regiment, which was now much scattered, no line being preserved. At about this time our colors fell and I ran to them, and was shot in the right breast and in the left hip. I did not see Captain McAllister again. He was very near the Henry House when I saw him and was evidently doing his duty bravely as was his son by his side. I was well to the front, as was Captain McAllister, with perhaps not six men of the regiment closer to the enemy."

The eight or ten members spoken of as detached from the company pressed on to the Henry House, so I have it from one of them, took shelter behind it, and picked off several skirmishers from the advance line of the enemy. It was at this time that "Jackson's brigade pierced the enemy's centre," to use the words of General Beauregard. A glance at the first letter will reveal the daring displayed by the "command which numbered sixty-three men." Rallying to a man, it became the nucleus for other commands and was with its complement in the forefront of the second and permanently successful charge and maintained, as few companies were able to do, a compact unity throughout the crisis then ensuing. Six of the sixty-three were killed and a number wounded. One was pierced with five buck-shot and still lives. The captain received a slight leg wound.—"The other duties to perform" were further pursuit and capture of the retreating forces. For the conspicuous service rendered on that day the company was made Jackson's favorite artillery force and was known throughout the war as "Carpenter's Battery," taking its name from the captain succeeding McAllister.

Strange the fortunes of war. In this battle Robert McAllis-

ter, the comrade-brother of Thompson, commanded one of the two regiments that attempted to check the stampede which the latter's regiment had been, as we have just seen, so largely instrumental in producing. Another striking coincidence lies in Stonewall Jackson's remark that the First New Jersey (Robert McAllister's) regiment "was the finest body of troops" at First Manassas "he ever saw." The brothers, so closely associated in youth, were now pitted each patriotically against the other. This fact, together with the intrinsic interest of the description itself, renders opportune and appropriate an extract from "New Jersey and the Rebellion," defining the position of Robert McAllister in this battle:

"Robert McAllister was Lieutenant-Colonel of the First Regiment, New Jersey Volunteers, enlisted for three years' service. They left Trenton, New Jersey, June 28th, 1861, and reported to General Scott at Washington on June 29th, 1861.

"The regiment formed part of General Runyon's Division of Reserves in the battle of Bull Run, July 21st, 1861, and aided materially in assisting the retreat of our forces on that fateful day.

"The First and Second New Jersey Regiments were on the morning of July 21st encamped at Vienna, *Lieutenant-Colonel McAllister in command of the former*. Three of the companies of the First New Jersey were absent on a reconnaissance when orders came for an advance of the two regiments to Centreville. This order was promptly obeyed, the regiments hurrying forward with all possible haste, encountering now and then a civilian anxious to get beyond the reach of possible harm, but unable to gather any satisfactory information as to the progress of the conflict. Presently, as they approached Centreville, the guns whose sullen roar had filled all the morning suddenly ceased firing, and then, for the first time, these New Jersey troops, marching steadily forward, knew that the battle was decided. The answer as to how it was decided was soon given by the confused masses of the retreating army, drifting down by every available channel from the disastrous field. It was a sad and bitter awakening to the advancing troops, but they did not falter in their duty. The commandants of the regiments (First New Jersey and Second New Jersey) determined at once to employ all the means at their disposal to arrest the stampede, and throwing their columns across the road, sought to stay the fugitives, appealing to their patriotism, their honor, their sense of duty, to gather once more in line and make another effort to save the day. But for a time so great was the panic that no attention was paid to these urgent appeals. Then it being apparent that more vigorous persuasion was required, the regiments charged with fixed bayonets upon the bewildered mass and soon effectually arrested the retreat, permitting only the wounded to pass through the lines. The First Regiment alone turned into its ranks some five hundred of the fugitives,

marching straight through their retreating columns. In some cases the officers drew their swords and pistols on men and officers who refused, upon appeals to a sense of honor, to turn back. As the regiments advanced cheer upon cheer greeted them from the fugitives who, as they saw help in sight, grew more calm and courageous. Many fell in line while others encouraged the advancing Jersey men with applauding words. It was now nearly five o'clock in the afternoon, and the stampede was stopped, the road had been cleared and regulated, the army wagons halted, still in line, on one side of the pike, and order had come out of chaos, solely through the efforts of two New Jersey regiments. By this time the First New Jersey Regiment had reached the heights of Centerville, and by sun-down the greater part of the retreating troops had found shelter behind the ridge. \* \* \* The First New Jersey Regiment advanced to a point beyond Centerville where it took up position on the hill, with its right resting on the road by which it would be necessary for the enemy to advance. \* \* \* Finally, during the night, the First New Jersey Regiment being left alone on the field, it was decided that there was no alternative but to fall back, and directions accordingly were at once given."

It is pertinent to give just here the answer which Captain McAllister makes to the complaints of a few of his men ambitious to usurp office. These complaints were preferred *before* the battle and asked to be withdrawn the morning *after* it. True dignity and force rings in these sentences, written after the withdrawal was asked for:

"My men may consider me, as I certainly am, *more strict than any other Captain in the 27th.* \* \* \* In all the essential qualities of a commander of a company, I do not feel myself inferior to any captain in the regiment. \* \* \* Having discharged my duty conscientiously, faithfully, and I believe efficiently, without effort to gain favor or to publish even to the men what I had done for the purpose of gaining their favor; having gone into the service at a great sacrifice and loss in my business; having contributed in means more than all the members put together, loans still unpaid and unsecured, a due self-respect forbids that I should yield to such influence and resign my commission, however unpleasant it might be to hold it."

Immediately following this incident, however, Captain McAllister was attacked with camp fever in quarters at Centerville. The wearisome marches and exposure just preceding the fight were borne by him at fifty years with such unflinching fortitude as to be remarked upon by his men. This but hastened the reaction, and the cares of large and unsettled business interests, which at great sacrifice he had abruptly left behind, further accentuated the progress of his illness and rendered his presence

at home doubly necessary. He therefore applied for a furlough, which so anxious was General Jackson to have granted that, after the first application had been refused by General Johnston, he came to Captain McAllister's tent and urged him to renew his application, promising his "special recommendation" for approval by Generals Beauregard and Johnston. This application was likewise returned "disapproved," necessitating, on August 8th, the employment of the alternative, resignation of command. During and prior to his illness a strong personal attachment, based upon the recognition by each of true bravery in the other, had been cemented between General Jackson and himself, and even after the latter's return home upon the acceptance of his resignation, August 20th, warm wishes and messages from the great chieftain followed him in his further and separated service.

Neither sickness nor business, as the preceding paragraph anticipated, was made a reason for inactivity. His health recovered, Captain McAllister was anxious to be again in the field. He writes thus to a friend under date of October 26th, 1861:

"As time passes and I see the importance of an early and vigorous effort on our part to repel the invaders of our soil, do I feel there is yet something for me to do in aid of my country, in disciplining, and, if need be, leading, our soldiers to the conflict. In my last interview with you, and afterwards in a conversation with Mr. Rosser, I doubtless made the impression that I would not be likely to take a position that would take me out of the State. On more mature reflection I conclude it is not for me to choose the scene of my future action, but rather to enquire *where I can afford the most efficient service*. Having transacted the most important of my business, I feel that I ought to return to the service."

Words characteristic of the man!

In accordance with this declaration he was, before the year closed, placed in command of all the home-guards and reserves in the Alleghany section, a territory in which invasions of the enemy were frequent and precipitate. He continued in command of these border forces until the close of the war, and his carefully-kept records of this time throw light no less upon the dangers which this service entailed than unconsciously upon the principles of the man himself. Among other organizations a company of Mounted Riflemen, to serve without pay, was raised for the defense of the Greenbrier District, and Captain McAllister chosen as its commander. Contributions for clothing and equipping the company were "to be paid in over-coats, blankets,

socks, &c., at a fair valuation, or in the use of horses at government rates, in lieu of money, so far as the subscribers shall offer to do so."

In March, 1862, resolutions presented by Captain McAllister were passed by the citizens requiring all slaves to be in their cabins by 9:30 P. M., and November 17th, of the same year, a public meeting was held at the court-house in Covington, the object being to "provide means for the support of soldiers' families; to regulate the price of grain and of all manufactured and other articles for sale in the county," and to provide clothing and blankets for the indigent soldiery. The prices tell between the lines: Wheat, per bushel, \$3; corn, \$2; rye, \$2; bacon, per hundred, \$35.00; calf-skin boots, \$20.00; jeans, first quality, \$4; salt, 10 cents per pound, and flour, \$15 per barrel, are but a few random examples of the general stringency. The writer has another illustration of this in the shape of a muddy-brown envelope bearing stamps on both sides of the address sheet. The habit of turning the envelope wrong side out for a second use became more and more fixed with the scarcity of paper and funds.

Company A of the "Alleghany Home Guards" was organized the 17th of August, 1863, and Captain McAllister was elected commander of this organization also and was commissioned as such by the Governor the 14th of the following month. What this company became the means of accomplishing and what the dangers were, is set forth in the following stirring appeal, written and issued by Captain McAllister, chairman of the committee for the purpose:

*"To the men of Alleghany not under arms:*

In the name of God and our country we admonish you to organize, that you may be ready to repel the invader at his coming. As members of the Home Guard at Covington we address you, and hesitate not to claim for our company the credit of saving Alleghany (except the Callaghan road) from devastation. This was effected by watching the movements of the enemy and in giving timely notice to our army and the Home Guards of adjacent counties, which brought them to our relief. May we not reasonably expect other companies of the county to co-operate with us should there be other raids?

The country does not expect of you impossibilities. To dispute the pass with fifty times your number would be rash and ineffectual. The duties of Home Defenders are:

- 1st, To ascertain our danger.
- 2nd, To remove property and protect it.

3rd, To unite with the army and other Home Guards in resisting the invaders.

These duties are plain, simple and within the power of every man who has health and strength enough to perform any kind of manual labor. There is yet but one company in the county, while there is material for four or five. Botetourt, Rockbrige and Augusta have each a regiment, leaving scarcely a man behind, and these few are pointed at either as cowards or against us. We know well that neither opposition nor cowardice controls your action in this matter. Why, then, stand you idle? Your country demands your help. Strike as you have opportunity and let your action be united, vigorous, timely. Organize without delay. Excellent arms and ammunition for one company are waiting for you. Let it not be said they shall be sent back for want of men to use them.

Your services, like ours, are indispensable at home, alike to your families and to your country. Let us now assure the army and the country that we are no less patriotic than those in the field. Let us swear by the precious memory of those who have fallen in our cause, that by united and vigorous effort we will ward off the blow which would otherwise fall upon others whilst we are guarding our own hearths from desecration; and to this end we pledge our lives, our fortune and our sacred honor.

Posterity will point the finger of scorn at the man, physically able, who fails to aid in this gigantic, this glorious struggle for liberty and national existence. Is there a man in Alleghany who will thus refuse? If so let his name be recorded that posterity may deal with him and his memory according to his deserts. Signed on behalf of the company,

T. McALLISTER, *Captain.*

A. B. PERSINGER, *1st Lieutenant.*

J. H. BEARD, *2nd Lieutenant.*"

November 24th, 1863.

But darker days still were ahead for the Confederacy, and no doubt it was a sorrowing assembly that gathered in the Covington Court-house the 22nd of February, 1865. Yet all hope had not fled and the resolve to yet more determined resistance nerved the heart and arm of these Alleghany patriots. On that occasion Captain McAllister made the following remarks:

"We have met together this evening for the purpose of doing honor to our country's brave defenders. All those who have stood under the flag of our country, those who have been honorably discharged, as well as those who are listed to still further battle with the foe, are most cordially invited to come. If there be any present who have deserted our country in the hour of her need, such are out of place. But I trust none such are here and certainly none such are desired except as repentant offenders returning to the allegiance of their country.

"I am proud of my own sons. I am proud of the sons of Alleghany. I am proud of the sons of Virginia, who have battled so nobly in our country's cause. Contrary to the expectation of the Northern people,



Virginia, at the commencement of this war, impelled by a sense of duty, declared herself through the ballot-box to be a free and independent State, and her people have made good that declaration on every battlefield. \* \* \*

“Our own county furnished, at the commencement of the war, more men voluntarily than any other county; it has from time to time contributed liberally of those that remained, and from First Manassas, where many of our boys poured out their life's blood, to the close of the campaign of 1864, no better soldiers have fought through this war than have gone from our midst, and, except for the Western hordes, the moral atmosphere is so pure that in it *no deserter can live*. Our soldiers are worthy and our people desire to bestow gratitude with a liberal hand. The soldiers in the field know but little of the estimation in which their services are held by the people at home, and it is for the purpose of assuring you of their appreciation that we have asked you to meet us here to-day.

“We know well that if you and your compatriots in arms fail in duty but one day, the iron heel of Abe Lincoln will be upon our necks; liberty will wing her flight from this land; our men who escape with their lives will be incarcerated in Northern prisons, our property destroyed or confiscated and our country reduced to worse than colonial vassalage. But this you will not do! Gird yourselves, then, for the coming contest! Swear by the God that liveth, your country *shall be free!* \* \* \* Be you the honored instruments in His hands in securing so great a boon, and your children's children will refer with pleasure and delight to the fact that their ancestors bore a noble part in this matchless struggle, whilst the present generation will hail you as the deliverers of our country!”

In the light of present evidence we know that some of these apprehensions were unfounded. They were, however, none the less entertained in that time of uncertainty and thick-flying rumors. Six weeks later came the surrender at Appomattox.

The state of military pre-emption succeeding the war is too ignominiously known to need comment. We are fortunate, however, in possessing a letter written by Captain McAllister in August, 1865, to one of his brothers at the North, and the following extracts are given therefrom:

What better can we expect of the masses after the deliverances made by the late General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, more hateful dogmas than which have never been uttered by the Romish Church in the times of her power? If the North rules in the State, they cannot control the conscience, and whilst they exclude us, it is all they *can do*, —ecclesiastically.

“‘Forfeited all our rights’ is a dogma to which I cannot accede. These rights were in abeyance during the war, and with peace every right we ever possessed returns, and the withholding of any is an unwarranted despotism. We have nearly all taken the oath of allegiance, yielded our

rights from necessity and re-established our government under Pierpont, and now within the last few days comes on the batch of blue-coats to keep us in subjection where no manifestation of resistance has been shown since the surrender. Were they so disposed the young men in our county could in a single day make an end of them, but such is not the purpose of the young men nor the counsel of the old. Submission, unconditional submission; yet the time may come when endurance will cease to be a virtue and men will choose death rather than suffer wrong.

"Might never did and never can make right. I feel a conscious pride in having done my whole duty to my country in a noble cause, and so has done every member of my family, both male and female, for which I have just cause to rejoice. \* \* \* I will only say that if a despot's heel bases upon us beyond endurance, we will find means to obtain a home in some land beyond his control.

"In justice to myself I must here say I was not a secessionist and contended with all the might I possessed against it until President Lincoln called for 75,000 men to whip the South. Then commenced my career with the extreme Southern men. That our leaders committed errors we admit. Yet of the justness of our cause I never entertained a doubt, nor do I now, though overpowered, a result which the North never could have accomplished but for foreign aid.

"I have not held a military office above a captaincy and held no civil office, am in possession of taxable property worth over \$20,000, which alone puts me in the excepted class. I have taken the amnesty oath and have my petition ready. The Governor says there is no need of employing lawyers or special agents, which suits my case well, as I have no money to pay them. I drew up my own petition and now can aid others. I have not received as much money since our currency failed as I used to get for ordinary sales in one day and not a dollar can be collected. I want to educate my children. \* \* \* The war has had a crushing effect on the education of our young men."

How true that last sentence is those only know whom adversity and stern labor have builded into strong manhood.

A characteristic though amusing incident, showing the scarcity of money even upon a place worth many thousands, had occurred in May of this year, 1865. The oldest son was to be married and certain pecuniary preparations therefor have to be made, it is said. Accordingly a collection was taken up, even the negroes on the farm contributing. The sum total of cash that could be secured was \$1.15. It is proper to add that there was no postponement of the nuptials.

These multiplied troubles, though pressing heavy, did not bring despair with them. The boys assisting, the farm work was re-organized and substantial improvements planned and executed. It was at this time of widespread want that Captain McAl-

lister gave another evidence of his charity and public spirit in furnishing gratuitously a car-load of flour to the families of needy soldiers. This is but one conspicuous instance of his many smaller charities in behalf of the destitute poor. In politics he still took an aggressive interest, uniting with the "Conservatives," of which the Democratic party in Virginia is to-day the offspring.

The strong affection between Captain McAllister and his brother Robert has before been touched upon. In view of it the following letter, written to the latter but never sent, will prove of interest:

"SWEET CHALYBEATE SPRINGS, July 9th, 1870.

*My Very Dear Brother:*

Such I have ever regarded you and until I have further knowledge, must still regard you, although the long silence would indicate anything else. The years spent in deadly combat in which you and I were actors on opposite sides explains itself, but that five years should have elapsed since the close of the war without any communication between us is astonishing indeed.

Out of this contest you came victorious; we lost everything but our land and our honor, the former of which, for a time at least, we held by an uncertain tenure, but the last was as enduring as life itself. To have opened a correspondence with you under the circumstances [the views which General McAllister held as to the South] was a compromise of honor which I did not feel at liberty to make. Now that your long-looked-for letter has come I would not have delayed answering it a single day but for physical disability.

At the age of fifty-nine I am an old man, broken down with labor and care. Last summer I failed in hot weather but revived when it was over. This summer I failed far more markedly. The doctor advises rest for body and mind. I thought to spend a part of the summer in Juniata when I wrote sister, but have become too feeble to travel." \* \* \*

This brother, whose life and services have been admirably portrayed by General John Watts DePeyster, was one of the most loyal of men and incorruptible of patriots. "Actors on opposing sides," yet each battling for principles dearer to him than life or fortune and commensurate alone with sacred honor. Unquestioned sincerity of North and South is the one safe interpreter of this fratricidal struggle and posterity must pass upon its merits by that criterion or forever do injustice to its consummate bravery and fortitude.

Soon after this there was a meeting of the three brothers, Nelson, Robert and Thompson, in New York, whither the last had

gone for medical consultation. The eminent physicians who attended him pronounced his disease incurable and when Thompson left for home all three knew it was the last parting this side of the grave. "He was," says one, "by far more calm than they. \* \* \* I remember his letters shortly before his death and how much he emphasized his entire dependence on Christ for salvation." The 13th of March, 1871, he passed peacefully to the rest that remaineth for the people of God.

One of the many tributes to his memory was that unanimously presented by the "Friends of Temperance." It faithfully sums up the virtues of the man and the high esteem in which he was universally held by the community:

"At a called meeting of the Friends of Temperance of this place, March 13th, 1871, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted by the Council in memory of our worthy and much loved brother, Thompson McAllister, who died on the night of the 12th inst.

"*Resolved*, That in the death of Captain McAllister the community has lost a valuable and worthy citizen, the church a zealous and devoted member, this society one whose zeal and example cannot be supplied, the wife a kind and affectionate husband, his children an indulgent and devoted father, society one of its main pillars, and the State a citizen who was as brave and gallant in war as he was courteous and gentle in peace; and that we attend his funeral in a body to-morrow.

"*Resolved*, That we extend to the family of the deceased brother our sympathies in this the hour of their bereavement, and that we wear the badges of mourning prescribed by our Order.

"*Resolved*, That a copy of these resolutions be furnished the family of our deceased brother and forwarded to the *Staunton Spectator* and *Central Presbyterian* for publication. COMMITTEE."

The memory of such men may die with the generation of which they were a part, but "their works do follow them." The life they lived has become embodied in human interests, which do not die, and in human character, which is immortal. The dominant principle in the life which these pages have attempted to portray was that of duty, and to our progenitor the discharge of duty was but Christianity in action. He unswervingly placed family above self and country above both self and family. His early letters to his father and his respectful regard for him foretold this and his later services and sacrifices are the ample proofs of this regnant characteristic.

As a citizen Captain McAllister was ever public-spirited and just; as a soldier, brave, honorable and uncompromising in a

righteous cause; as a Christian, one who by patient continuance in well-doing entered before death upon life eternal. Sprung from an honorable ancestry, he yet further illumined it by an upright and purposeful life, for which we, his descendants, are laid under lasting obligation and gratitude. It was his part on the field of war and amid stirring times to illustrate hereditary virtues. It is ours to live them in pursuits upon which Heaven has pressed the crown of peace.

THE END.

# NOTES

## GENEALOGICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE.

---

I N THE PREPARATION of these brief notes the compiler has used to some extent "The Thompson Family," but most of the information not otherwise credited has been secured by correspondence and from the several family Bibles. The outline of Major Hugh McAllister was briefed in the main from "McAllister Memoranda" and that of Hon. H. N. McAllister from "McAllister Memorial," published in 1873 by order of the Pennsylvania Constitutional Convention.

The name McAllister was originally spelled with one *l*, as the signatures of Major Hugh and Judge William McAllister attest. The cut of the first signature, a fac simile of the one autograph known at present to be extant, was written on the fly leaf of "Letters to a Gentleman" (1792). Our early records were destroyed years ago by the burning of the church in which they were stored.

An examination of the memoranda reveals in our ancestry a strong predilection for the religious as well as the military. Scotch ancestry is itself a heritage.

The family burying-ground is near McAllisterville, Pa., and a short distance from the homestead. The dead of the Virginia branch are interred in Cedar Hill Cemetery, Covington, Va. Commendable efforts are being made for the improvement and continued preservation of the former burying-ground. They merit our unstinted support.

The first generation is indicated by large capitals, the fourth by small capitals, and the fifth by italics, in the notes which follow.

## GENEALOGICAL DATA.

---

I. 1.—HUGH McALLISTER, Scotch Protestant who emigrated from Ireland to America about the year 1730, settling in Lancaster county, Pa. He married a Miss Harbison. Issue: John, HUGH and William. The first settled in Sherman's Valley and the last two, who were both prominent in the Indian and Revolutionary wars, in Lost Creek Valley, Pa.

II. 2.—*Hugh McAllister* ("Major Hugh").  
Born 1736 in Little Britain Township, Lancaster county, Pa. Enlisted in the French and Indian War at the age of 22. He went under Washington and in Captain Forbes' company in 1755 to Fort Du Quesne. Afterwards married *Sarah Nelson*, of Lancaster county, who had emigrated from Ireland in infancy with her father and mother, both of whom died on the voyage. After their marriage they settled upon a small farm which he purchased, situated upon Buffalo Creek in Sherman's Valley, near what is now called Ickesburg, in Cumberland, now Perry, county. This farm he afterwards sold to his brother John for £45 and in the fall of 1760 or 1761 purchased from a certain John Irwin for £40 his improvement right (acquired by the deadening of a few trees) to the tract of land on which he afterwards lived and died, situated in Lost Creek Valley, Cumberland, now Juniata, county. He returned to his residence in Sherman's Valley to spend the winter and whilst absent with his family on a friendly visit to a neighbor, his house took fire and on their return they found it, with all its contents, a heap of ruins. On the 16th of March following he moved with his family to his new farm. Indians were his neighbors and with them he lived on terms of intimacy and friendship. Just before harvest of the next year a friendly Indian came to him with the information that war was at hand and that if he would save his own life and the lives of his family, they must fly before they slept. The household furniture and farming utensils were immediately buried and the family


set off for Patterson's Fort, now Mexico, seven miles distant, and the next day they left for Yellow Breeches Creek, south of Carlisle. He suffered his crop to rot. Others who returned to cut their crops were either killed or taken prisoners.

The next spring he rented a farm at Hagerstown, in Cumberland county, and during the summer (1763) he volunteered for Pontiac's War. The spring following he returned to his farm in Lost Creek Valley, which he continued to improve and cultivate without further interruption from the Indians. At this stage of comparative ease and comfort in the pioneer life, his services were again volunteered for defence, this time against the British. In 1775-6 he was Sergeant in Captain James Gibson's company of militia, Fourth Battalion, Cumberland county. December, 1776, found Boston, New York, Forts Washington and Lee in the hands of the British. The American army under Washington, shattered, disheartened and daily decreasing, were making a precipitate retreat across the Jerseys into Pennsylvania before the victorious British army, under Lord Cornwallis. In this gloomiest hour of the American Revolution, a meeting of citizens was held at the farm-house of Wm. Sharon—within a mile of McAllister's—to consult as to what they might do towards reinforcing Washington. A large meeting assembled. It was unanimously resolved that a company be raised to march forthwith. But how? Who would go?

McAllister stepped out as a volunteer and for some time stood alone. At length one and another stepped out. The company was filled and John Hamilton elected Captain. The company was composed of the officers and fifty privates, a troop of horse. It reached camp the day after the Hessians were taken prisoners at Trenton. McAllister held a subordinate office. The company, after having served the time for which they were volunteered, returned home. The next year McAllister was drafted, and spent the winter at Valley Forge, holding a Lieutenant's commission. On his return home he was elected Captain and in that capacity was sent with his company to Potter's Fort. Several expeditions against the Indians preceded his return to his family. After his return, the family of Jacob Styers were killed by the Indians at Beaver Dams, now Union county. McAllister summoned his company and went in pursuit, but finding it impossible to overtake the Indians, after burying the dead they returned. McAllister was then (May 1st, 1783,) commissioned Major of the Seventh Battalion of Militia, in Cumberland county (writer has the original commission). Hugh McAllister,



some years previous, with others began to build a church two miles from Mifflintown upon a spot now marked by a cemetery. Indians interrupted the work, which was completed two years later, and a church 30 by 40 feet erected. Hugh McAllister was a Presbyterian and is reputed to have been a man of strong religious convictions. The records prove him a man of business tact, progressiveness and large public spirit. He died September 22nd, 1810, having by will given the homestead to his son WILLIAM. His wife had died July 7th, 1802. Issue: Robert, Hugh, John, Nancy, Polly, and WILLIAM.

- III 6.—  ("Judge William"). Born August, 1775. Married, November 2nd, 1802, *Sarah Thompson*. She (1783-1862) was daughter of William Thompson, Sr., (1754-1813) who participated in the battles of Brandywine and Germantown and whose wife was Jane Mitchell. William Thompson's father, John Thompson, Sr., (I. 1.) originally a Scotch Covenanter, emigrated from Ireland, about 1730, to Chester county, Pa., married three times and William was by first wife, Miss Greenlee. (See "The Thompson Family"). William McAllister served in the war of 1812, and March 4th, 1842, was appointed one of the two associate judges of Juniata county. He died December 21st, 1847, and his wife March 7th, 1862. He was a man of great business capacity, full of energy and industry; prominent in church work; noted for his hospitality and uncompromising in principle and opinions. Issue:
- IV. 1.—JANE THOMPSON MCALLISTER (December 27th, 1803—July 29th, 1880). Wed Judge David Banks April 10th, 1827. She was the mother of seven sons, four of whom are living. Issue:
- V. 1.—*James A. Banks*. Born January 17th, 1828. Killed by Indians in Nevada August 1st, 1867. Went to California in 1853 and became very prominent. Served in the Legislature of that State two terms and in the State Senate one term. He came within one vote of being elected United States Senator. At the time of his death was managing mining interests in Nevada.
- V. 2.—*William Banks*. Born March 12th, 1830. Lived at the homestead until 1886; since then at Mifflintown, Pa. Wed Jane Elizabeth Hamlin October 1st, 1861. These two, with their children, early became members of the Presbyterian church. Issue:
- VI. 1.—William H. Banks. Born November 16th, 1862. Wed Bessie Parker, of Mifflintown, October 27th, 1892, and is a practicing physician there. Issue:

- VII. 1.—Robert Parker Banks. Born October 18th, 1893.
- VII. 2.—Jane Banks. Born November 15th, 1894.
- VI. 2.—James A. Banks. Born October 15th, 1864. Druggist with Dr. Lucien Banks, Mifflintown.
- VI. 3.—Andrew Banks. Born March 21st, 1866. Graduated at Princeton College and is a successful lawyer at Greensburg, Pa.
- VI. 4.—Ella Kate Banks. Born May 6th, 1868. Wed J. Howard Neely, lawyer of Mifflintown, December 31st, 1891. Issue:
- VII. 1.—Lucien Banks Neely. (March 3rd, 1893—November 30th, 1893.)
- VII. 2.—John Howard Neely. Born November 22nd, 1894.
- VII. 3.—William Hamlin Neely. Born February 2nd, 1896.
- VI. 5.—Philo Hamlin Banks. Born September 30th, 1870.
- VI. 6.—R. Jennie Banks. Born July 18th, 1872.
- VI. 7.—Annie May Banks. Born July 14th, 1879; died May 10th, 1880.
- V. 3.—*David Stewart Banks, D. D.* Born January 10th, 1832. Has a charge in Santa Cruz, Cal. Is not married.
- V. 4.—*John Edward Banks.* Died in infancy.
- V. 5.—*Robert Edwin Banks.* Born June 29th, 1837. Died of typhoid fever at Jefferson College April 17th, 1858.
- V. 6.—*John Nelson Banks.* Born May 3rd, 1839. He stands high in the legal profession at Indiana, Pa. He has two children.
- V. 7.—*Lucien Banks.* Born January 13th, 1841. A physician in high standing in Mifflintown. Chairman of Democratic party in his county and has served one term in the Legislature.
- IV. 2.—NANCY. (January 17th, 1807—September 28th, 1807.)
- IV. 3.—HUGH NELSON McALLISTER. Born June 28th, 1809. Graduated from Jefferson College 1833. Admitted to bar of Centre county, Pa., November 25th, 1835, and at once became full partner of Hon. W. W. Potter. In 1859, Mr. Potter having been dead some years, Mr. McAllister associated with him Hon. James A. Beaver under the firm-name of McAllister & Beaver. He first wed Henrietta Ashman Orbison, of Huntingdon, Pa., by whom he had seven children, four of whom died in infancy. The first Mrs. McAllister died April 12th, 1857, and on September 12th, 1859, he married Margaret Hamilton, of Harrisburg, a granddaughter of Captain John Hamilton, under whom his grandfather served in the Revolution. During the war of 1861-5 Mr. McAllister did more than any one man to raise and organize the many companies which left Centre county. He finally raised a full company (Co. F, 23rd Pa. militia), was elected its Captain and went with it to the field, serving faithfully until his place could be filled by a younger man. He was one of the projectors and constant supporters of the (now) State College; kept the county agricultural society in existence for a long time almost unaided, and for many years headed the temperance organi-

zations of the county. He was a ruling elder in the Bellefonte church and was one of the most learned of the fourteen delegates at large of the Pennsylvania State Constitutional Convention. He died as a member of that body May 5th, 1873. Issue by first marriage:

- V. 1.—*Ellen E. McAllister*. (1846—1866.)
- V. 2.—*Mary McAllister*. Wed, December 26th, 1865, James A. Beaver, Bellefonte, Pa., Brigadier-General Civil war; Governor of Pennsylvania 1887-9, and now (1896) on the Supreme Bench of Pennsylvania. Issue:
- VI. 1.—Nelson McAllister Beaver. (November 11th, 1866—January 8th, 1867).
- VI. 2.—Gilbert Addams Beaver. Born January 1st, 1869. Wed Miss Anne Simonton May 12th, 1896. Engaged in International Y. M. C. A. work (1896).
- VI. 3.—Hugh McAllister Beaver. Born March 29th, 1873. College Secretary Y. M. C. A. (1896).
- VI. 4.—Thomas Beaver. Born April 8th, 1875.
- VI. 5.—James Addams Beaver, Jr. (December 26th, 1883—January 22nd, 1887).
- V. 3.—*Sarah McAllister*. Wed Dr. Thomas R. Hays, Bellefonte, Pa., 1883. They still reside there.
- IV. 4.—THOMPSON McALLISTER (August 30th, 1811—March 13th, 1871). Wed, February 14th, 1839, Lydia Miller Addams (February 11th, 1819), daughter of Abraham Addams, Esq. Moved to Covington, Va., 1849. Captain in C. S. A. 1861-'65. (See "Sketch.") Issue:
- V. 1.—*Clara Biddle McAllister*. (December 8th, 1839—May 28th, 1869). Wed Dr. Gabriel McDonald, Surgeon in C. S. Army, September 29th, 1859. Issue:
- VI. 1.—Mary Jordan McDonald. (November 18th, 1860—February 15th, 1862).
- VI. 2.—Willie May McDonald. Born September 19th, 1864.
- VI. 3.—James Addams McDonald. (September 22nd, 1867—August 6th, 1868).
- VI. 4.—Clara Gabriella McDonald. Born May 11th, 1869. Wed T. E. Buck, East Radford, Va., November 2nd, 1892. Issue:
- VII. 1.—William McDonald Buck. Born August 14th, 1893.
- VII. 2.—Evred Johnson Buck. Born June 11th, 1895.
- VII. 3.—Frank Speed Buck. Born June 11th, 1895.
- V. 2.—*Abraham Addams McAllister*. Born August 25th, 1841. March, 1862, enlisted in Bryan's Battery, in which he was Sergeant till the surrender. Wed Julia Ellen Stratton May 10th, 1865, and managed estate until 1876. Began merchandising with G. G. Gooch 1875, and for self 1880. Senior partner of milling firm of McAllister & Bell, Covington,

Va. Is a successful and scientific farmer and owns a controlling interest in a number of enterprises in Covington and at other points in the county. Is a ruling elder in the Covington church. Issue:

- VI. 1.—Joseph Thompson McAllister. Born February 27th, 1866. Wed Virginia Richards Anderson April 18th, 1893. Attorney-at-law of the firm of Wm. M. & J. T. McAllister, Warm Springs, Va. Issue:
- VII. 1.—Joseph Thompson McAllister, Jr. Born March 24th, 1894.
- VI. 2.—Mary Lydia McAllister. Born September 1st, 1868. Wed F. H. Hammond, November 29th, 1887; died October 9th, 1888. Issue: Baby, still-born.
- VI. 3.—William McDonald McAllister. Born January 15th, 1871. Wed Virginia Harlow, September 25th, 1895. He is the McAllister Hardware Co., Covington, Va.
- VI. 4.—James Gray McAllister. Born November 27th, 1872. Business Manager *Central Presbyterian*, Richmond Va. (1896).
- VI. 5.—Addams Stratton McAllister. Born February 24th, 1875.
- VI. 6.—Clara Annie McAllister. Born March 17th, 1877.
- VI. 7.—Hugh Maffitt McAllister. Born April 7th, 1879.
- VI. 8.—Julian Robert McAllister. Born November 21st, 1881.
- V. 3.—*William Miller McAllister*. Born March 6, 1843. Enlisted April, 1861, as youngest in his father's company, the famous "Carpenter Battery," serving until the close of the war. Wed Maggie A. Erwin October 27th, 1869. Senior member of the law firm of Wm. M. & J. T. McAllister, Warm Springs, Va., and special attorney for the U. S. Government, War Claims' Department, headquarters Tennessee. Active and deservedly prominent in Virginia political affairs. Is Commander Bath Camp C. V., and a ruling elder of Warm Springs church.
- V. 4.—*Edgar Thompson McAllister*. Born October 30th, 1848. Wed Alice C. Mann October 20th, 1874, who died October 18th, 1895. Issue:
- VI. 1.—Alice Miller McAllister. Born April 16th, 1877.
- VI. 2.—William Addams McAllister. Born May 16th, 1879.
- V. 5.—*Annie Elizabeth McAllister*. Born June 6th, 1851. Wed Dr. J. R. England December 17th 1873. Live at home-place. Issue:
- VI. 1.—Lydia Miller England. Born June 21st, 1875.
- VI. 2.—Harriet Elizabeth England. Born September 8th, 1876.
- VI. 3.—Charles Thompson England. Born April 1st, 1878.
- VI. 4.—William McAllister England. Born April 3rd, 1880.
- VI. 5.—Clarence McDonald England. Born March 19th, 1882. (A sister was born and died that date),

VI. 6.—Frank Addams England. Born April 18th, 1884.

VI. 7.—Mary Kyle England. Born July 16th, 1886.

IV. 5.—ROBERT McALLISTER. (June 1st, 1813—February 23rd, 1891).  
Wed Ellen Wilson November 9th, 1841. In the Civil War he first commanded the First New Jersey Regiment and June 30th, 1862, was commissioned Colonel of the Eleventh New Jersey Volunteers. "Was one of the very few men who went through the war from its inception to its close, being present at Bull Run and Appomattox, respectively, without missing any of the pitched battles (except South Mountain and Antietam) of the Army of the Potomac, to which he was attached from first to last. \* \* \* Brevetted Brigadier-General for his glorious behavior at Boydton Plank-Road, 27th October, 1864, and Major-General for meritorious conduct throughout the war." General DeTrobriand says of him: "As punctual in his religious habits as he was sincere in his belief, he had Protestant religious services regularly on Sunday at his headquarters. The most pleasant attention we could pay him on that day was to listen to the sermon of his Chaplain." Monument to his command at Gettysburg, where General McAllister had two horses shot from under him. (See "Sketch" by General John Watts DePeyster.) Issue:

V. 1.—*Sarah Elizabeth McAllister*. Wed Wilson Lloyd, Philadelphia, August 13th, 1863. Live at "Hugh's Fancy," near home-  
stead. Issue:

VI. 1.—Robert McAllister Lloyd. Born June 14th, 1864. President of  
Plaute Electric Storage Battery Co., N. Y. (1896).

VI. 2.—Elizabeth Spackman Lloyd. Born November 27th, 1866.

VI. 3.—Thomas Wilson Lloyd. Born June 16th, 1869. With import-  
ing house of J. H. Tilge & B., N. Y.

VI. 4.—Nelson McAllister Lloyd. Born December, 1872. Assistant  
City Editor *Evening Sun*, N. Y. (1896).

VI. 5.—William Henry Lloyd. Born June 16th, 1877.

V. 2.—*Henrietta Graham McAllister*. Wed Johnston H. Baldwin,  
Pittsburg, October 30th, 1873. Issue:

VI. 1.—Eleanor McAllister Baldwin. Born August 13th, 1874.

VI. 2.—Jane Hewitt Baldwin. Born July 23rd, 1876.

VI. 3.—Robert McAllister Baldwin. (September 13th, 1877—May 31st,  
1892.)

VI. 4.—Henrietta Baldwin. Born November 22nd, 1885.

IV. 6.—ELIZABETH McALLISTER. Born January 7th, 1815. Wed  
David Stewart June 3rd, 1834. Died November 21st, 1835.

IV. 7.—WILLIAM McALLISTER. (July 5th, 1818—August 6th, 1822).

- IV. 8.—SON born October 10th, 1820. Died unnamed.
- IV. 9.—GEORGE WASHINGTON McALLISTER. Born February 9th, 1823. Wed Mary Myers January 15th, 1850. Lives at the homestead. Issue:
- V. 1.—*Laura Jean McAllister*. Born October 26th, 1855.
- V. 2.—*Banks Clayton McAllister*. Born October 5th, 1859. Wed Emma Ewing, Culpeper, Va., April 18th, 1889. Issue:
- VI. 1.—George Irvine McAllister. Born September 28th, 1890.