

McClurken Faimily in America

A letter from Lois C Meyer about herself and the early McClurken families. Courtesy of Mildred Boyett.

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Courtesy of Mrs. Mildred Boyett, Sulligent, AL

McClurken Family in America

My father, Mr. William H. Meyer, began the hobby of family records by making a record of the Meyer family for a reunion. He found it to be so much fun, that following the death of my Mother in the Fall of 1940, he began building the records of the McClurken family. My mother's maiden name was McClurken. The purpose of the hobby was that we might have a reason to travel, and have an interest in common, as I was an only child. We found this to be such a fascinating hobby, that we began to build a record of the entire McClurken family in America, in addition to my own direct ancestry. I am a descendant of Thomas McClurken, a son in the early family below. This hobby gave us the opportunity to meet and make friends in all sections of the United States. Unfortunately, my father did not live to complete this hobby, as he died in 1944. It was his request that I carry on the hobby, and complete the records, where possible. I am endeavoring to comply with his request.

James McClurken brought a family of ten children to America from County Antrim, Ireland, on the Ship "Don Luce" in 1772. He received land in Chester County, South Carolina in 1773. The family is originally Scotch, but I cannot trace the family into Scotland, at present, but perhaps, a trip to Ireland may reveal records that I may be able to trace the family into Scotland. James McClurken and his family lived in South Carolina until his death in 1795. He left a Will that named his children, which is on file in the Court House in the town of Chester, S.C. After 1800, the descendants began migrating to other sections of the United States.

Your ancestry traces back to this same family. Among the children named in the Will was a deceased son, James, who died in 1784, in S.C., who is your ancestor. The elder James McClurken says in his Will "to the children of my deceased son, James McClurken." There was only one widow in the 1790 census, James McClurken, living in Spartanburg County, S.C. She had five daughters and one son, all young in the 1790 census. Since there were no other McClurkens in the entire United States at that time, it seems logical this Jane must have been the widow of the deceased son, James. This Jane took land in her own name in May of 1785, thus the reason for thinking her husband's death year must have been 1784. She sold her land in S.C. in November 1799, and moved to Rutherford County, North Carolina. There is no trace of the son in the 1800 census, thus it is supposed he died young between 1790 and 1800. Thus the name McClurken immediately dies out with the five daughters.

The Will of Jane McClurken is on file in the Court house at Birmingham, Alabama. She migrated from North Carolina to Jefferson County, Alabama, about 1818, according to deeds, of her land grants. The Will was written Dec. 5, 1821, and probated May 25, 1822. Thus she died in the Spring of 1822. She names her five daughters as follows:

1. To my eldest daughter, Elizabeth, wife of Micajah Lindsey. This family moved to Tishomingo County, Mississippi.
2. To my daughter, Nancy, wife of Robert Waldrop. They stayed in Alabama.
3. To my daughter, Jane, who died in Jefferson County, Alabama in 1864, Single.
4. To my daughter, Hester, wife of Zachariah Waldrop. This family also stayed in Jefferson County, Alabama. The above Robert and Zachariah are brothers.
5. To my daughter, Vesta, who was single when the mother died, later married in 1825, Isaac Barger, but left no descendants.

Thus there are three groups to trace of the five daughters.

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