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Copy of a letter written to W.J. McClurken, son of Arch. McClurken, by Rev. J.J. McClurken to

New Alexandria, Pa.

June 29, 1896.

Dear Nephew;

Yours of May 2nd, 1896, was received in due time; & I now proceed to give you what information I can, respecting your & my ancestry.

Thos. McClurken, my g-father & your g-g-mother was about 16 yrs old, the time of the Rev. War. This I have from his own mouth. He said "his father had a farm well stocked (in So. Car) with cattle & horses, in Chester Dist. (They called the Counties, districts). The Eng. camping near by took all." Grandfather being young & inexperienced, hearing they were about to move their camp, went to the chief officer to ask some pay for the cattle, but behold you, his response was "Get out of this place you dog." And stamped his foot at him, & let down his brows. Grandfather said "he never was as glad in his life, to get away." Had the officer said the word, he would have been shot on the spot. In those days there were many loyal to King Geo. They were called Tories. These helped the English to select a suitable place for encampment & in many other ways encouraged them.

I never saw g-father's father or mother. I do not know whether they had moved to So. Car. before g-father was born or not. It is evident they were of Scotch origin, as the name McClurkin indicates.

Of the cemetery you speak of, that my son John saw in Ire. I have no knowledge. I will send him your letter & he can inform you what he knows about it.

G-father owned 4 negroes; viz, Adam & his wife, Tine, & 2 sons, Isaac & Jacob. When g-father joined the Cov. Church, he set them free. Our church never believed in slavery, always testified against it, & afterwards, the law of the State was so changed that no one could set his negroes free, however anxious to set them free, they might be. This was the condition of affairs when we moved from So. Car. in Dec. 1833; According to this date we landed at Arch. Hood's place after spending 6 weeks on the road, in a wagon with 4 horses, & another 1 horse carriage for g-mother & g-father & their only dau. Nancy McClurken, my Aunt Nancy. We were the last of the McClurkens that moved away from So. Car. the others had moved before us,

My g-mother was Smith, sister of old David Smith of Bloomington, Ind. No doubt your mother may have seen him when she was very young, at least she had heard of him. At all events your mother knows the family of Smiths about Bloomington. My g-mother was Smith, sister of David Smith, John Smith, & Jas Smith, & also a sister of Mrs. Donnelly, the wife of Rev. Thos. Donnelly, who was a preacher. These Smith's were born & educated in the principles of the Covenant Church in Scot. & Ire. I remember of seeing my g-g-mother Smith when she was 101 yrs of age, she lived with a dau. Mrs. Donnelly. My g-mother McClurken being so well indoctrinated in the principles of our church, no doubt helped g-father to see the evil of slavery & join the Cov. Church. Because he did so, he incurred the displeasure of his neighbors. Evidence of this we have in the way he was persecuted. 4 times in succession, thru spite work, he was subpoenaed to sit in court as a jurymen, this they knew he could not do, consistently with the position he had just professed as a Cov., consequently he paid his fine, which was \$20. & 4 times this is \$80, which they took out of his pocket, because he did not join some of the slave-holding churches; such as the Secession Church or the Asso. Ref. or Presby. These churches were many, if not all, originally from Ire. & Scot. & all opposed slavery at first, but fell in with slavery because the Constitution allowed it.

Grandfathers' family consisted of the following children; viz, John my father the oldest, Arch, Jas, Thos, David, & Nancy. All are now dead & buried in the same graveyard near Oakdale Ill. which used to be called Elkhorn Cemetery. My father & mother died in 1874, only 3 or 4 days between deaths. I ought to exempt Uncle Arch. McClurken, for I remember that he was buried in Pinkneyville Ill. near Chester Ill. I suppose all his family that is now dead are buried there. All these deaths remind me that I am the oldest McClurken now living of which I have any knowledge.

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Mathew McClurken, a brother of Thos. my g-father, moved from So. Car. before I was born. He raised a large family in Ohio, in the New Light Covenanter Church, some of whom moved to Iowa, near Morning Sun, & others went to Princeton Ind.

G-father had 4 Or 5 sisters or more, Mrs McClure, & Mrs Blair whom I have seen. The Blair family lives near Adamsville, in Mercer Co, Pa. The McClure family has moved to Iowa, near Morning Sun.

I am living a retired life, being put on the retired list of old super-annuated ministers. I am 84 yrs. old. I am trying like Moses to ascend Mt. Pisgah to see the heavenly Caanon, or like the worthies in Hebrews 11th chapter, I am a stranger & pilgrim seeking a better country,

Mrs McClurken joins me in sending her regards to you all. Your mother knows that her maiden name was Ewing, dau. of Robt. Ewing. Please answer me.

J. J. McClurken.