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Winter 1977

**James McIntire**

Mark Tarver

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From *The Savannah Biographies*, Volume 8. Lane  
Library, Armstrong Atlantic State University,  
Savannah, Georgia 31410-1997

James McIntire

Mark Tarver  
247-86-6885  
History 300

James McIntire entered the United States in 1837 from Donagel County Ireland. A grocer by trade McIntire was a successful businessman. He married Francis Norris, an English emigrant, and they brought up their family of eleven children in Savannah. In 1862 he died and was buried in Laurel Grove Cemetery.

This biography of James McIntire is based on primary sources of information, interviews with descendents of James McIntire, and the imagination of the author. Information gathered from primary sources will be documented in this paper and are as correct as can be expected considering the significance of the man and the time span involved between the writing of this paper and the time of the actual events. Gaps in information from primary sources have been filled with information gathered from descendents of James McIntire and should be taken as such. In these cases I will footnote the information by listing only the name of the person from whom I obtained the information and the date of the interview. All other gaps will be filled by conjecture on my part or left as gaps. In this case there will be no footnotes.

The McIntire family was originally Scotch (Presbyterian). In the 17th century in order to bring the Catholic population of Ireland under his control, the King of England offered land grants in Ireland to protestants who would settle on the land. This particular branch of the McIntire family took advantage of this situation and settled in Donagel County, Ireland. <sup>1</sup> In Ireland the McIntire family appears to have done fairly well for a couple of centuries. By 1837, before the potato famine struck Ireland, parts of the McIntire family had immigrated to the United States. <sup>2</sup>

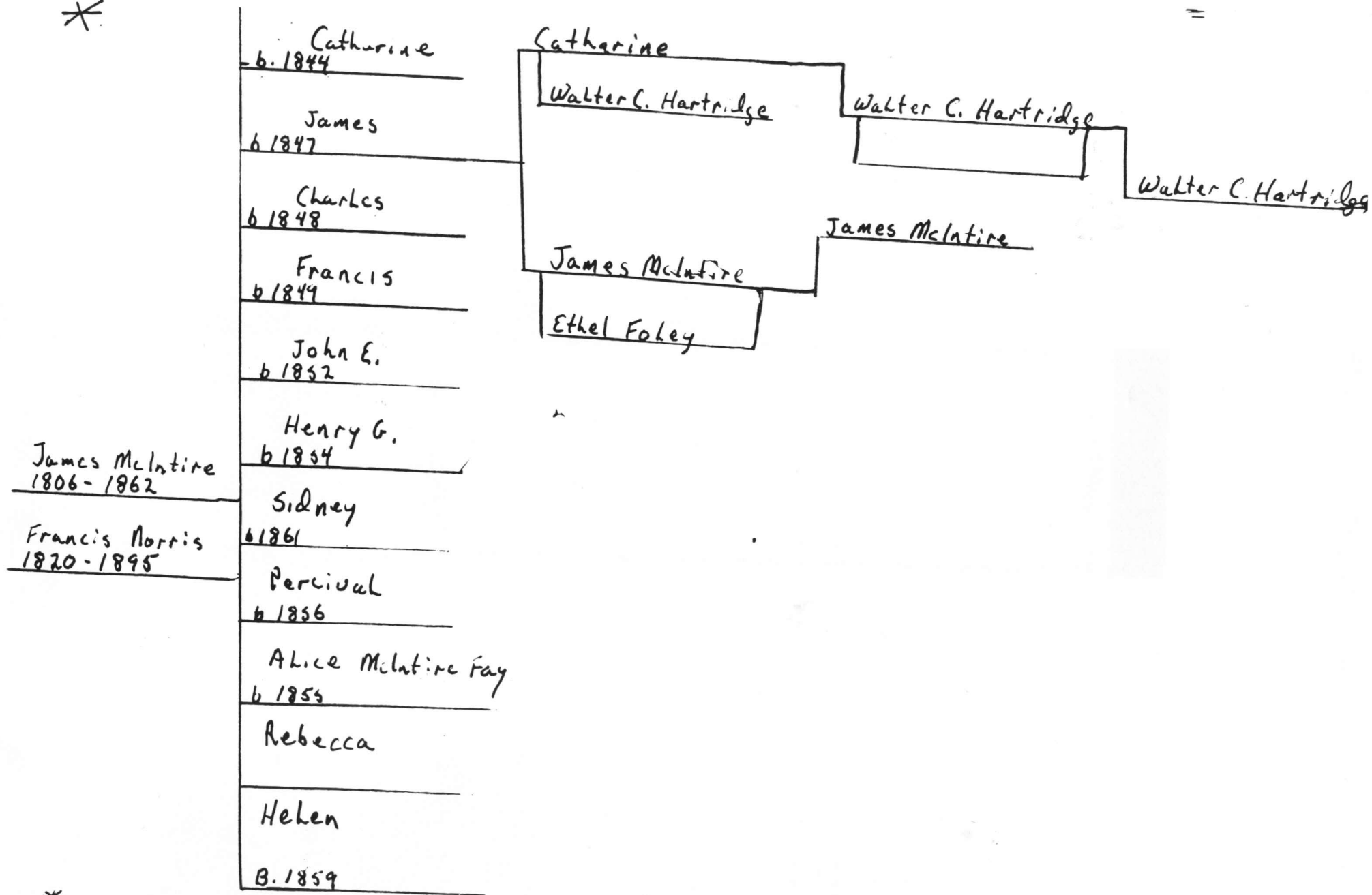
Whether the McIntire family came to the United States as a unit or whether they came one by one is unknown, but by 1840 James McIntire, his mother Catherine, and his brothers, Robert and William were all living in Savannah.<sup>3</sup> In 1840 James was associated with Andrew McIntire (relationship unknown), a long time resident of Savannah, in his grocers business. Although this partnership between James McIntire and Andrew McIntire was short lived, it was the start of James McIntire's life work in the United States. By the end of May 1841, the partnership between James and Andrew McIntire was dissolved and shortly thereafter James opened his own grocers business.<sup>4</sup>

The dissolution of his partnership and initiation of his own business was probably taken in preparation for his upcoming marriage to Francis Norris, an English emigrant. Although details of the marriage are supposedly in the Walter Hartridge collection at the Georgia Historical Society and are unavailable to the public at present, I have ascertained that Francis was a mail order bride. It seems that during the correspondence arranging the marriage, James was alledged to have written that he didn't particularly care what the woman looked like, just send him a woman with good teeth and he would be happy.<sup>5</sup> On June 14, 1841, James McIntire and Francis Norris were married.<sup>6</sup>

Within three years of the marriage their first child

was born, thus starting the task of raising a family. In the case of James and Francis McIntire this task must have been bittersweet. Their first child, Catherine, born in 1844,<sup>7</sup> died between the years of 1850 and 1860. Of the eleven children they were to have in their twenty one years of marriage three were to die as children. The next two McIntire children to be born were James (b 1847), and Charles (b 1848)<sup>8</sup>. Of all of the McIntire children these were the only two who reached maturity and lived in Savannah for most of their lives.<sup>9</sup> James was the only child of James and Francis McIntire to fight in the civil war.<sup>10</sup> At age seventeen (1864) he left home to join the Chatham Artillery.<sup>11</sup> James was later to become a prominent lawyer in Savannah. He died in 1925 at the age of seventy nine.<sup>12</sup> Charles, who spent most of his 89 years in Savannah was a successful realtor.<sup>13</sup> The rest of the McIntire children left Savannah and little information can be obtained locally. Francis, born 1849,<sup>14</sup> John, born 1852,<sup>15</sup> Henry, born 1854,<sup>16</sup> and Sidney, born 1861,<sup>17</sup> had all migrated to Helena, Montana by the time of their mothers death in 1895.<sup>18</sup> Percival, born 1856,<sup>19</sup> became a Presbyterian minister and along with Alice, born 1855,<sup>20</sup> resided in Chicago in 1895.<sup>21</sup> Two other children, Helen and Rebecca, died as infants.<sup>22</sup> Very few details can be found of actual events concerning the family as a whole but the McIntire children who stayed in Savannah and descendents of these children have through the years lost touch with the

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\*  
 Genological Chart compiled from 1850, 1860, Chatham Census, Laurel Grove and Catholic Cemetery Records, Savannah City Directories and interviews with descendents of James McIntire and Francis Norris.

members of the family that left the city.

If material gain and success in life are any indication of the happiness of this family, the McIntires were probably very happy. When James first arrived in the United States in 1837, the only tax he payed was a poll tax. <sup>24</sup> While an associate of Andrew McIntire this remained the only tax payed by James McIntire. Late in 1841 or early in 1842, James <sup>25</sup> McIntire had opened his own grocers business. The same year he became a citizen of the United States. <sup>26</sup> The grocer business was McIntire's main occupation in life, but he was involving himself in various other business ventures. Although he was a frequent borrower and lender of money, I could never ascertain what dealings he took part in other than land speculation. In 1846, he borrowed \$2,200 from the Estate of <sup>27</sup> Joseph Tillman and the same year bought Lot 7, Tower Tything and Lot 25 Franklin Ward. <sup>28</sup> He repaid the borrowed money and often used these properties as collateral to borrow other money. Other properties purchased by McIntire include Lots 3, <sup>29</sup> 5 and 6, Trust Lot, Letter I, Decker Ward. On all the loans obtained by McIntire, he was able to repay them within the <sup>30</sup> allotted time. When James McIntire loaned money he always insisted that the borrower have good collateral. His idea <sup>31</sup> of good collateral ranged from slaves, <sup>32</sup> to stocks, to the furnishings of boarding houses. <sup>33</sup> The only instance of non-cancellation of a loan made by McIntire was a loan of



1622 to Hugh Cassidy. Cassidy had put seven slaves up as collateral and whether McIntire kept the slaves, sold them, or made other arrangements is unknown. In addition to his grocers business and land speculation, McIntire also owned stock in the Timber Cutters Bank<sup>35</sup> and the Mutual Loan Association.<sup>36</sup> From a man who payed only poll taxes in 1838, McIntire, by 1860, had accumulated approximately \$60,000<sup>37</sup> worth of real estate and \$20,000 in personal wealth.

The best indication of the farsightedness and business-like mind of James McIntire can be found in his will. Although not terribly rich, McIntire in his will provided for future generations by putting all of his assets in a trust fund of which the profits were to be divided equally among his wife and children. In the case of the death of one of his children, the share of his inheritance would be divided among his grandchildren. Thus as he was successful in providing for his family while he lived, he also provided for his family after his death.<sup>38</sup> In February of 1862, James McIntire<sup>39</sup> died and was buried with his deceased children in Laurel Grove Cemetery.<sup>40</sup>

More detailed information on James McIntire and his family can be found at a later date in the Walter C. Hartridge collection at the Georgia Historical Society. In interviews with descendents of James McIntire I was unable to obtain personal family documents and memorandums because most of these documents were compiled into the Hartridge collection and until they are catalogued by the Historical Society are unavailable to the public. This resulted in the lack of insight into the personality of James McIntire in this paper.

1. Interview, James McIntire, Walter Hartridge, January 31, 1977.
2. Savannah Morning News, February 10, 1862, p. 4. C.3.
3. Chatham County Census, 1840.
4. Daily Georgian, May 26, 1841, p. 3, C.2.
5. Interview, James McIntire, January 31, 1977.
6. Marriage Licences, Chatham County Courthouse.
7. Chatham County Census, 1850.
8. Chatham County Census, 1850.
9. Savannah City Directories, 1867 thru 1937.
10. Chatham Artillery Muster Roll, 1864, Georgia Historical Society.
11. Savannah City Directory, 1900.
12. Laurel Grove Cemetery Records.
13. Savannah City Directory, 1900.
14. Chatham County Census, 1850.
15. Chatham County Census, 1860.
16. Chatham County Census, 1860.
17. Chatham County Census, 1870.
18. Savannah Morning News, June 6, 1895, p.4, C.3.
19. Chatham County Census, 1860.
20. Chatham County Census, 1860.
21. Savannah Morning News, June 6, 1845, p.4, C.3.
22. Laurel Grove Cemetery Records.
23. Interview, James McIntire, January 31, 1977.
24. Chatham County Tax Digest, 1837.
25. Chatham County Tax Digest, 1842, and Daily Georgian, May 26, 1841, p.3, C.2.
26. Interview, James McIntire, January 31, 1977.
27. Deed Book, Chatham County Courthouse, Book EEE, p.70.

28. Deed Book, Chatham County Courthouse, Book DDD, p. 214.
29. Deed Book, Chatham County Courthouse, Book LLL, p. 524.
30. Deed Book, Chatham County Courthouse, Books YY, p. 237, DDD, p. 212, EEE, p. 70, MMM, P. 185, SSS, p. 370, NNN, p. 525.
31. Deed Book, Chatham County Courthouse, Book GGG, p. 184.
32. Deed Book, Chatham County Courthouse, Book SSS, p. 448.
33. Deed Book, Chatham County Courthouse, Book SSS, p. 142.
34. Deed Book, Chatham County Courthouse, Book GGG, p. 184.
35. Daily Georgian, May 24, 1860, p.3, C.4.
36. Deed Book, Chatham County Courthouse, Book MMM, p. 185.
37. Chatham County Census, 1860.
38. Will of James McIntire, Chatham County Courthouse, File Number 392.
39. Savannah Morning News, February 10, 1862, p.4. C.3.
40. Laurel Grove Cemetery Records.

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Chatham Artillery Muster Roll, 1864, Georgia Historical Society.

Chatham County Census, 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870.

Chatham County Tax Digest, 1837-1865.

Daily Georgian, September 16, 1840, May 26, 1841, July 3, 1843, July 4, 1843.

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Savannah Morning News, March 21, 1859, May 24, 1860, January 24, 1860, November 6, 1861, February 10, 1862, May 9, 1862, May 27, 1862.