
Louisa Howard-parents unknown born 20 March 1764 Dutchess Co., New York Died 29 Nov 1847

James McEvers was soldier in the Revolutionary War. Dept. Of Army records state that he served as a private in Capt. Thomas Prichards Co. Of the 3rd Mass. Regiment, commanded by Co. John Greaton. He appeared on the muster roles dated April 1782 and 20 May 1782. He was in no battles and was honorably discharged at West Point the first part of Aug. 1783. We believed he also served earlier in the New York State Militia. He probably served in the First Regiment of Dutchess Co. Militia.

One family tradition about James McEvers has been printed, but we feel that it lacks verification of any kind. This tells of his inheritance in Scotland, his being the son of a wealthy farmer. His mother and father both died leaving large estates just before and during the revolution. Because he sided with the American cause he lost his inheritance. Yet the tradition says he contributed $20,000 through his friend, Ethan Allen, with whom he sailed to America in the summer of 1772. Extensive research in Scotland for this period fails to show any record of a McEvers family estate being probated. Many other parts of the tradition are also suspect as to probability. Until at least some part of the tradition is verified, we feel the entire story is fiction.

Much of the history of James McEvers is found in documents in his pension file. We can find no record of him prior to his marriage. This information is found in a deposition by Sylvia Spencer, sister of his wife, Louisa Howard McEvers. “Louisa, now widow of James lived at home (Hillsdale, Columbia, N. Y.) When he was married to the said James McEvers. Which deponent well recollects the time and circumstances but cannot recollect the month nor the day, but it was in cold weather or winter, and from circumstances recollected, in Dec. 1778 or later in 1779. They were married by Lawrence Hogaboom, Esq., then living in the Town of Claverich, Columbia, New York. We have 4 different records of the family of James & Louisa as to the dates and places of birth, etc., of their children. All 4 are family records kept by families of 4 of their children. No 2 agree completely as to dates and places. In our research of the family we have determined from other records what we believe to be the most accurate record of birthdates and places of birth as we have them at the present time.

James McEvers lived at Hillsdale, Columbia, New York, when the first US Census was taken in 1790. His family consisted of one male over 16, 2 under 16, and 4 females. James took the Freeman’s oath in Franklin Co., Vt. 3 Sep. 1793. He participated in the annual meetings as late as 1811. (Town meetings minutes, Vineyard, Isle of Motte, Vt.)

The second US Census taken in 1800 shows James living in Clinton Co., New York. By the 1810 Census, James and his son, Charles were living side by side on the Isle of Motte at
Vineyard. This Isle is in Lake Champlain near the New York town of Plattsburg, but by this time was a part of Vt. Charles McEvers sold his land at Vineyard 29 Jan. 1811. He had a son born in “Canada West” in 1812, and assuming both families traveled together, which was their migration pattern, this must have been their timing in their move from Vermont to their new home in Ohio. James and Charles bought land together in Athens Co., Ohio in 1816. (Athens Co., Ohio deeds 4-415, 416)

James McEvers was allowed a pension following his application on 15 May 1818, in Ames TWP. Athens Co., Iowa, #11611. In a sworn statement dated 5 Day May 1821, he says in part, “I have not nor has any person in trust for me, any property, other than which is contained in the schedule hereto annexed—.

50 Acres of land, 3rd rate, Ames TWP. In said County with.
15 Acres cleared, Value $50.00
1 ox chain 4.00
8 swine of the value of 10.00
1 axe and 2 hoes 3.00
1 walnut table and one chest 4.00
7 harrow teeth 4.00
1 bake kettle $1.50 few books $4.00 5.50
7 chairs, 1 iron pot, broken 6.00 Total $86.50

My title for my land is considered as doubtful, being of Sheriff’s sale for taxes,—my occupation is that of farmer, my age is 66—my wife is 58 years is feeble. The last sale of his land in Ohio was a deed dated 13 April 1827, the last semi-annual payment of his pension made in Ohio was made 4 March 1827.

Most of his family had moved from Vermont to Ohio with him as did most of the family of Abraham Knapp, Jr. Two of James sons married 2 of the Knapp daughters and the 2 families seemed to stay together until part of the McEvers families moved to Mississippi and Louisiana beginning about 1822.

On 13 Oct. 1827 Greene Co. Ill. James asked for his pension to be transferred to Illinois. About 2 years later, he must have moved to Glasgow, Scott Co. The first school house in Glasgow was a log house about half mile south of town. James McEvers family had lived in it, but had built another near it. James died 24 Jan 1829. The exact location of his grave had never been located. The graveyard at Glasgow was on a hill overlooking the Seneca McEvers farm house. In 1935 the McEvers family together with the American Legion Auxiliary and the DAR placed a memorial marker on the cemetery lot of Byron McEvers, his grandson & a Civil War Veteran. The memorial was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies 13 Oct 1935. Louisa died 29 Nov. 1847 according to official Gov. Records. The McDougal Bible gives death 20 Dec. 1848.

Typed by Kathleen Jardine Woolf 2002 There is a book by Harry B. Zabriskie

James McEvers 1755-1829
Abraham Knapp 1759-1809

Many histories and information are given. Very thoroughly done. It is a book worth looking into.
They cover many couples and children.