

Affidavit of

John Augustus McNeill

cto. 19. East 31<sup>st</sup> Street

City of New York

State of New York

McNeill / McNeill

State of New York  
City and County of New York } 49.

Virginia McNeill being duly sworn deposed and says as follows: That I reside at No 19, East 31<sup>st</sup> Street in the City of New York, State of New York and am the widow of Ralph McNeill late of the Village of Grahamville, Beaufort County (formerly District) State of South Carolina, deceased. My maiden name was Virginia McNeill and am the daughter of Henry McNeill and Jane McNeill his wife (whose maiden name was Jane Dupont) who were of St. Luke's Parish in said County (formerly District) and State of South Carolina, both of whom are now deceased. I was born on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of July A.D. 1808. at my said Father's Plantation called "Republican Hall" which was near Broad River in said County (formerly District) and State: I was married on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of March A.D. 1830. to the said Ralph McNeill (now deceased) in the said Village of Grahamville at the residence of my brother-in-law Dr. Thomas Edward Screws (now deceased) by the Rev. Thomas Jony and the announcement of our said marriage is contained in the issue of the Charleston Courier (of the City of Charleston, State of South Carolina) of Friday April 9<sup>th</sup> 1830. and about a year after our said marriage my said husband gave me an issue of said Courier of said date containing the announcement of our said marriage with a memorandum of our said marriage written by him thereon which he so told me, which said issue of said paper and so written on by my said husband as aforesaid I have always kept and still have the same in my possession: The evening of the day preceding the day of my marriage to the said Ralph.

McNeill, the said Ralph McNeill gave me a Coat of Arms  
which he told me was his family coat of Arms and also at  
the same time gave me a pair of silver knee buckles, and also  
me also at the same time that the said Coat of Arms and  
silver knee buckles had been sent him by his Uncle Archibald  
<sup>Capt. R. & Co. of the 1st Regt. of the 1st Div. of the 1st Army</sup>  
McNeill, all of which I have now kept and have the same  
now in my possession. After my said marriage my said  
husband and myself lived on his Plantation, called Wilder's  
Plantation near Cooswohatchie, in said County (formerly British  
and State of Georgia), which adjoined The Grimbald and Drayton  
Settles, about two weeks or more after my said marriage.  
The said Ralph McNeill and myself went to the City of Charleston  
and engaged passage therefrom on the Ship "Dove in Bloom"  
for the purpose of visiting the relations of my said husband who  
lived in Ireland and England, but I having a dislike to the  
sea thought best not to go and hence we both gave up the  
Voyage. The said ship was burnt at sea a few days after  
leaving said port of Charleston. I might also say that during  
a qualification time in South Carolina about the Year 1832 my  
said husband became uneasy and desired to return to his home  
abroad but I finally persuaded him, and also with the  
persuasions of my sister in law Dr. Thomas Edward Sweeney, my  
said husband concluded to remain in this country. Three children  
were born of my said marriage with the said Ralph McNeill:  
Sarah Partimon McNeill, who was born on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of  
February A.D. 1831, at said "Wilder's" Plantation. Thomas Edward  
McNeill on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of April 1833, in the said Village of  
Grahamville, and Virginia Anselmy McNeill on the 15<sup>th</sup> day  
~~of August A.D. 1835. The last named of whom died on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day~~  
of August A.D. 1835. The last named of whom died on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day  
of December A.D. 1875, in the City of Philadelphia, State of  
Pennsylvania unmarried and without issue. The said three named  
children being the only children born to us of my said marriage.  
The first wife of my said husband Ralph McNeill was a lady,  
from the said State of South Carolina whose maiden name was  
Charlotte McNeill, she afterwards married Walter Griffith of  
said State (by whom she had several children), after her

said husband concluded to remain in  
were born of my said marriage with the said Ralph McKill's  
Sarah Parterson McKill, who was born on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of  
February A.D. 1831, at said "Water's" Plantation; Thomas Edward  
McKill on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of April 1833, in the said Village of  
Grahamville, and Virginia Anselmy McKill on the 15<sup>th</sup> day

of August A.D. 1835, the last named of whom died on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day  
of December A.D. 1875, in the City of Philadelphia, State of  
Pennsylvania unmarried and without issue, the said three named  
children being the only children born to us of our said marriage.

The first wife of my said husband Ralph McKill was a lady  
from the said State of South Carolina whose maiden name was  
Catherine Childs, she afterwards married a Mr Griffith from  
said State by whom she had several children, after Mr  
Griffith's decease she married one John McKill, a cousin  
of my said husband Ralph McKill. These were the children  
by said marriage with John McKill, and after the death of  
said John McKill, his widow married said Ralph McKill  
afterward my said husband. I know <sup>there were</sup> no children  
by said last mentioned marriage. All of my said children  
were christened by the said Thomas Tomp, and I have a certified  
copy of my said marriage with the christenings of my said  
children (except not the deceased one which was lost during  
the late War) taken from the Church records in said Beaufort  
County. My said husband Ralph McKill was a member  
and Vestryman of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the "Holy  
Trinity" at said Village of Grahamville (Rev. Thomas Tomp,  
Rector) until the time of his death which occurred at our  
residence in the said Village of Grahamville on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of  
July A.D. 1875 and he was buried in the burial ground  
of said Church in said Village. My said husband left a piece  
which is preserved and secured among the records at Gillisville  
in said Beaufort County. My said husband Ralph McKill  
has frequently told me during his life time the following

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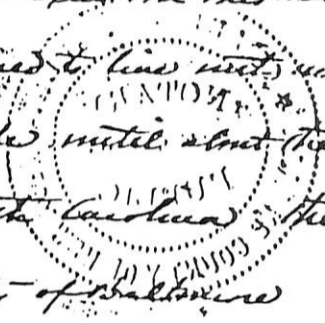
particulars relating to himself and relatives; that he was born  
in the Town of Killybeggs, County Down, Ireland, and that his Father,  
was a Scotchman whose name was either Daniel or John McKee,  
and who was Collector of the Port of Killybeggs. His Mother was an  
Englishwoman whose maiden name was Sarah Parkinson, my  
said husband had three brothers, named Daniel, John and Thomas  
McKee, respectively, Daniel was a wine merchant in London  
England, John came to America and died of Yellow Fever in the  
City of Philadelphia, State of Pennsylvania, unmarried and without  
issue, while riding with my said <sup>husband</sup> <sup>me</sup> <sup>day</sup> <sup>after</sup> <sup>our</sup> <sup>marriage</sup> in my  
carriage near Saltketchie in said Beaufort County, on  
passing the churchyard, my husband remarked that his brother  
Thomas lay buried there (pointing to his grave) and also told me  
that his said brother Thomas had died unmarried and without issue.  
He told me that his brother Daniel McKee aforesaid was  
married but had no children and was a very rich man; my  
said husband had left his home when very young, about 15-  
14 years of age chiefly owing to some difficulty he had with  
his father's housekeeper; he then went to his said brother Daniel  
in London and said Daniel placed him on board a British  
Man of War as a midshipman. The name of the vessel was the  
St Albans to the best of my recollection, he left the Navy  
afterward and after travelling all over the world, landed in the  
City of Charleston State of South Carolina some time during  
The Year 1784. he was about that time about 18 or 19 years  
of age, and lived in said State the rest of his life. He frequently  
spoke with much affection of his County Down, and also of his  
Ancestors and of his Cousins the McKees of Barra, also of his

Amos Dally. At the time of my birth of my eldest child, the  
said Sarah Parkinson McKee, my said husband said that  
he wanted the said child named after his Mother i.e. Sarah Parkinson  
which was done and he often told me that he frequently heard  
from said relatives abroad. This I know as a fact as he was said to

City of Charleston State of South Carolina some time during  
the year 1784. he was about that time about 18 or 19 years  
of age. and lived in said State the rest of his life. he frequently  
spoke with much affection of his Cousins Hugh. and also of his Uncle  
Archibald and of his Cousin the Archibald of Barra, also of his

START

Amos Dally. At the time of my birth of my eldest child. The  
said Sarah Patterson Archibald. my said husband said that he  
wanted the said child named after his Mother i.e. Sarah Patterson  
which was done and he often told me that he frequently heard  
from said relations abroad. This I knew as a fact after my said name.  
After my said husband's death I continued to live with my  
children in the said Village of Georgetown until about the  
Year 1852: then moved to Charleston South Carolina then  
to said City of Philadelphia: then to the City of Baltimore  
State of Maryland and lived in said last named City at number  
124 S Paul Street: then moved back to said City of Philadelphia  
and lived first on Pine Street and then at No 1829 S Laurel Place:  
then went South with my children in the Year 1861. (at the  
time of the breaking out of the late civil War) and remained in  
South all during said War: after the War returned North:  
then went to said City of Baltimore and afterwards came to  
the City of New York: I have lived at No 20 West 17<sup>th</sup> in said  
last named City and do reside at present at No 14 East  
31<sup>st</sup> Street in said City. where my said children Sarah Patterson  
Archibald and Thomas Edward Archibald also reside. I have  
known my Cousin Elizabeth <sup>Hayden</sup> Hunter all my life. She now resides  
at No 24 East 20<sup>th</sup> Street in said City of New York and I have had  
my Cousin the said Elizabeth Isabella Hunter make an  
affidavit verifying some of the facts herein set forth relating  
to my said husband and his relations abroad. My said Cousin  
knew my said husband well. and she was frequently a guest of my  
said husband <sup>in his lifetime</sup> and myself when we lived in said New York City  
as aforesaid. I know S Martin Delight very well. he resides



at number 31 West 24<sup>th</sup> Street in the said City of New York  
that he has acted off and on for the past 12 to 14 years  
as a physician to unrefined family and have had  
him make an affidavit that I was a person of some  
mind and body. I also intend having my said children  
Sarah Parkinson Cheville and Thomas Edward Cheville  
make affidavits relating to their recollections of their  
said father and all that he said relating to himself  
and his relations abroad. I might say that my  
recollection is that my said husband and my family lived  
at or near Stamford in the County Down Ireland till  
afterwards moved to the said Town of Killybegs. I have  
often heard my said husband say that the Borough  
Killybegs in said County Down was a better harbor  
for the smugglers than said Stamford and for that reason  
my said husband's father and himself would have  
Killybegs rather than said Stamford and for that reason  
to more easily detect the said smugglers.

Subscribed and sworn to

before me this 2<sup>nd</sup>

of February A.D. 1850

Charles F. Force

Attorney Public

City of New York

Virginia McNeill

