

Allendale, South Carolina  
July 18, 1972

Dear Bob:

When Mother published her book she reprinted an article that I'd written about the battle at Wiggins Hill, in which Captain Nathan Johnston and Captain James McKay or McKoy distinguished themselves. My references included McCrady, Gibbes, Coy Johnston's book, Tarleton Brown's pension record, etc.

Recently Coy Johnston wrote me stating that he said in his book that Captain McKoy or McKay was Henry, not James, and that he was the father of Gertrude Elizabeth "Elizabeth" McKoy, who married 1st Jesse Peeples and next Captain Nathan Johnston.

In rechecking my references I note that where any of them give a first name for McKoy or McKay, it was always James, not Henry. Have you ever done any research on the parentage of Eliza? Some day I hope to rework Mother's book and I'd very much like to have this point straight.

Coy states that Eliza married Jesse Peeples in Savannah on Feb. 22, 1808, but apparently he has no proof of her parentage except traditional family information.

If you can clear this point for me I'd be grateful.

The reunion was certainly a delightful affair, and we look forward already to Atlanta.

Bess joins me in all good wishes for you and Cora.

Cordially,





Rt 2 Box 420  
Hilton Head Is., S. C. 29928  
27 July 1972

Dear Tom,

Many thanks for your letter. Theologically it is said that every lie bears witness to the truth, first by declaring that Truth exists and then (falsely) declaring that it is Truth. Several writers reporting the Revolutionary era say, I believe, that they were not certain whether it was McKay or McKoy. Now it seems to me that there were two Revolutionary War officers, McKay and McCoy (McKoy):

GIBBES, Vol. 3, p. 58 shows LIEUT. JAMES MCKAY who on 23 April 1781 was Commandant at Fort Watson.

GIBBES, Vol. 3, p. 54 has Col. (William) Harden reporting to Gen. (Francis) Marion 15 April 1781 that he has just "sent a party up the Savannah River with Captain(s) Barton and (Henry) McKoy in pursuit of seven boats going to Augusta....(and) if McKoy takes those boats, I can supply you with a good deal (of powder). I have not heard from General Pickens as yet, but expect to hear by McKoy when I will send to him."

\* Thus we know that James McKay was a Lieut. on one side of the state while McKoy (Henry) was a Captain on the other side.

Tradition in family is that Henry McCoy landed in Virginia from Ireland and rode horseback to Savannah, Georgia; married Esther Lynn.

30 May 1775 Map of R. Sayre and J. Bennett has plantation marked "McKoy" bordering on Savannah River (SC side) bordering on south of Purysburg, across from Abercorn, Ga.

Annals of Ga. Vol. I, p. 181: " 21 July 1789 The State of Georgia, Quartermaster Department, agreeable to his certificate and the resolve of the Assembly last... L29/7/8" (Evidence of Service of Henry McKoy in Georgia.)

Mortuary Records, City Hall, Savannah, Ga.: "Henry McCoy, age 60, Constable" died 21 September 1820.

Therefore: Henry McKoy (1760-1820)

There is evidence that Henry McKoy was at one time overseer for Georgia Planter Joseph Clay, Esq.

Will of Henry McKoy, Proved 8 Aug. 1821 Chatham Co., Ga. mentions 2 sons: Joseph and John William. Executor: "my good friend, William Harrison"(father of Rebecca Catherine Harrison who was married at Savannah, Ga. by Rev. William Henry Brisbane (our great-great-uncle) to Jesse Williamson Peeples, son of Jesse and Gertrude Eliza Eliza (McCoy) Peeples.)

Gertrude Eliza McCoy (1788-1860) married (1) 22 Feb. 1808 by P. McKenty, J.P. (Chatham County Marriage Records 1805-1852, license issued 13 Feb. 1808) to Jesse Peeples (1786-1813) who had a job at the Chatham County Court House but was killed while hunting on his father's property at Sand Hill, S. C., killed by a large black horse with white feet after a heavy snow (imagine!) and was buried in the Isham Peeples (his great uncle) Cemetery beside his father, Rev. Lt. John Peeples. Jesse's grave has since been marked but John's has not.

As far as I know, Tom, this is all that is known about Henry McCoy (McKoy) other than the Wiggins Hill references. Mrs. Perry Brannen (Betty Peeples), Camuse Point, Talahi Island, Savannah, Georgia has collected information about Henry also and may have acquired something which I do not have. If you have time, you might write to her; she is a great person - I know she has some relics of Jesse Williamson and Rebecca Catherine(Harrison) Peeples.

(over)



Traditions And Reminiscences of The American Revolution.

By Joseph Johnson, M.D. of Charleston - Char. 1851

p. 28 John Lawton listed as one who first met at Liberty tree in fall of 1766 to hear Gen. Christopher Gadsden speak for independence.

p. 34 "John Lawton was an Englishman by birth, uncle of Winburn Lawton. He became a planter, near the Savannah river, at Black Swamp, and left a very respectable family."

Henry McCoy m. Esther Lynn  
1766-1820

Capt. Rev. War. - Wiggins Hill, S.C.

landed in Va. from Ireland, thereafter to Savannah

son. [Chatham Co marriage records 1805-1852]

13 Feb 1808 agreement - 22 Feb. 1808 by P. Mc

Gertrude Eliz - 11<sup>th</sup> Jesse Poyler (1786-1813) - Sand Hill; ~~son~~ <sup>son</sup> of Jesse Poyler Can. brides his father, John

1788-1860

worked in Chatham Co. Court House

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Callahan 21 Feb. 1833 of Sav. by Rev. Wm Henry Brisbane

30 May 1775 map by R. Sayre + J. Bennett

Land on old road from Sav. to Purysburg, S.C. across from Abercorn, Ga.  
marked McCoy - bordered on Purysburg on North, Sav. Riv. on West

Lieut. James McKay, in Capt. Patrick's Harms, Foot belonging to the Legion  
23 Apr. 1781 Gibbes - Vol. 3 p. 58 Commandant at Fort Watson

p. 54 Col. Hardin <sup>agrees to Gen. Marion, the</sup> 18 Apr. 1781 "sent a party up the Sav. River with Captain(s) Barton and McKay in pursuit of seven boats going to Augusta, . . . if McKay takes those boats, I can supply you with a good deal (of powder). I have not heard from Gen. Pickens as yet, but expect to hear by McKay when I will send to him."