

Fathers, brothers, cousins, uncles and others could sign as a witness, but not sons & daughters. It was a custom so strongly enforced, that in the forty-five years that I have been assiduously researching the McNabbs (and seven other families), I have not yet found an exception.

In the 1770's, shortly after William, Baptiste and Baptiste's family moved from Augusta County, Virginia to Washington County, NC/Tenn., Baptiste McNabb, Senior, built the first grist mill in Tennessee. Shortly thereafter, William McNabb, Junior, was elected to the Washington County, NC/Tenn Court system. It does not seem likely that the local citizens would have supported such an election, if the person so elected was in his late teens or early twenties. Which would have been the case, if there had been a son of Baptiste named William. Rather, such an election is understandable if the person, even one relatively new to the area, was of some maturity and probably had been well known elsewhere---in this case Augusta County, Virginia, whence many of these local to Washington County, NC/Tenn., people came.

An early McNabb family researcher, Daniel T. Brennan, shows William McNabb, Junior, as having died in Watauga(h) County, NC/Tenn in 1784, which is now in North Carolina. Another account has him dying in what is now Carter Co., Tenn., and being buried in the "Watauga Old Fields", which is another name for the fields where crops were grown by the native Indian tribes.

Like so much of our clan history, more research needs to be done and without a lucky break, here and there, we will never quite finish; however, at least we know that Baptiste McNabb, Senior, did not have a son named William.

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