

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 Wautauga(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.



P. 5—Will of Adam Broyles.

April 19, 1782. Eldest son, Moses; ss. Aaron and Joshua; d. Milla Panther; Mima Broyles. Negroes and Kentucky lands; d—Anne Brown; Friends Joseph Brown, Moses Broyles and William Moore.

Teste: John X Waddle, Coontrod Willpightle, Mathias Broyles.

May Sessions, 1782.

P. 6—Will of John Nodding, Nov. 6, 1782:

Wife, Priscilla—Slaves and land.

Teste: Samuel Wood, James Scott.

February Sessions, 1783.

P. 6—Will of Peter Kuykendall, Feb. 17, 1783:

Son, Jesse slave and land; d. Jane; s. Adam; d. Elizabeth; s. Matthew; s. Peter; ch. Mary, Ruthy, Rebecca, Offay.

Brother, Abraham, executor.

Teste: Andrew Thompson, John Kuykendall, Robert Irwin.

May Sessions, 1783.

P. 7—Will of Baptist McNabb:

Jan. 4, 1784, "Washington County, North Carolina." d. Isabella McNabb; ss. John, David, Jonathan; ds. Mary, Margaret, Jane, Ketrin. Sons John and David, executors.

Teste: Wm. McNabb, Agness Campbell, John Campbell.

May Sessions, 1784.

P. 8—Will of Thomas Mitchell:

North Carolina, Washington County, June 14, 1784.

d. Margaret McAdow; s. James; d. Elizabeth Thompson; s. Thomas;

d. Sarah Mitchell.

Teste: Robert Irwin, Mary Irwin.

August Sessions, 1784.

P. 9—Will of Randolph Crecelias:

Jan. 7, 1787. Wife, Elizabeth; ss. Isaac, John, Jacob. Ch. John, Elizabeth, Barberry, Catherine, Isaac, Dolly, Margaret, Jacob.

Teste: James Cash, Abraham Riffe, Philip X Coussichs.

November Sessions, 1787.

P. 10—Will of Andrew Taylor:

May 22nd, 1787, "ch. Washington County, State of North Carolina."

Wife, Ann; sons Isaac, David McNabb, Andrew Taylor, Nathaniel

BAPTIST MCNABB WILL

In the name of God Amen. This fourth day of January in the year of our Lord Christ one thousand Seven hundred and eighty four I Baptist McNabb of the County of Washington and State of North Carolina being sick & weak in body but of perfect mind and memory calling to mind the mortality of this my state and that it is appointed for all men once to die do make and order this to be my last will and testament that is to say principally and first of all I recomend my soul to God who gave it and my body to the earth to be buried in a decent and Christanable manner at the desonation of my executors and further such worldly good where with it pleased God to bless me with I give and dispose of in manner as followth - First of all I order & it is my will that all my just and lawful debts and funeral charges be paid of by my executors - I do give and bequeath unto my daughter Isabella McNabb my two mares and colts and a bed and furniture one cow and calf Such as now got two more her choice of the stock at my decease & all & every part of my household furniture - I do likewise order that my executors make a wright to the tract of land that I gave to my son John McNabb & likewise to the tract of land that I gave to my son David McNabb, the other part where I now live on I do give unto my son Jonethan McNabb and his heirs with its improvements upon condition that it be valued by three indifferent persons to be chosen by the legatees he having two legatees parts the other parts to be paid in manner following - In one year after my decease that is to say to Wm McNabb John McNabb David McNabb & Isabella McNabb and in case that he should refuse to take said land on these conditions that it be sold and the money arising therefrom be

Taylor; Matthew; "till youngest child Rhoda comes of age." d. Rebecca,
slaves to each child.

Teste: John Hyder, William English.
November Session, 1787.

P. 12—Will of John Fain:
July 15, 1788. Wife, Agnes, sons to share equally. d. Ruth Fain
negro "Punch."

g.e. - 1
Teste: Rosannah X Fain.
November Sessions, 17S8.

P. 12—Will of John Bullard:
Oct. 15, 1780, wife, Mary Bullard.
Teste: Joseph X Nation, Elinor X
November Sessions 1780.

P. 13. Will of John Cox:
Oct. 19, 1777. sons, Abraham and William two negroes; ds. Jane
and Agnes; "slaves I should have had from my father's estate." Abraham
and William Cox and John Sevier, Exs.

Teste: John Carter, Christopher Cunningham, Emanuel Carter.
No date of probate.

B. 13.—Will of Christopher Cunningham:

P. 13—Will of Christopher Cunningham.
Nov. 10, 1782. Wife Mary; my fifteen children: Elizabeth Gatril, Susannah Robertson, Lyddia Cunningham, John Cunningham, Mary Job, Ann Orr, Sarah Cunningham, Jane Cunningham, Jacob, Joseph, Matthew, Moses, Aaron, Elinor, David.

Ds. Elizabeth Gatril and Susannah Robertson to have no part in legacy
that John Musgrave left Mary, my wife. "Till youngest child come
of age."

Mathew Talbot and Joseph Tipton, Exs.

Teste: Robert Orr, Isaac Taylor.

Teste. Robert St.
May Sessions, 1783.

P. 15—Will of Robert Fowler:

Sept. 22, 1784. Mother, Ann Fowler; child Esther Fowler.

Sept. 22, 1784. Mother, FANN DOWNEY,
Exs. William Fowler and Wife Agnes Fowler.

Exs. William Fowler and wife Fugitive Fowles.
Testa: Abed'a Inman, Adam Willson, Molly Inman.

Teste: Abed O. Minal
August Sessions, 1785.

B. 15.—Will of Thomas Dillard:

May 13, 1784. Wife one half of slaves. Ch. Benjamin, Winnesophie.

divided amongst the legatees in manner aforesaid - / and that all
the stock and moveables not otherwise devided be sold and equally
divided between amongst the legatees and in case Isabella McNabb
should die in her non age that her part should be divided the
other legatees aforesaid - and I do leave and bequeath unto my
daughters Mary McNabb Margaret McNabb Jane McNabb and Katrin
McNabb five shillings to be paid to them one year after my
decease by the other legatees - and I constitute my sons John
McNabb and David McNabb to be sole executors of this my last
will & testament and I do hereby revoke and disanull and make
void all other wills and testaments by me heretofore made
and constitute by confirming approving this and
no other to be my last will and testament Syned and published
and proclaimed in the presence of us.

his
Baptist B McNabb
mark



Wm McNabb)
Agnus Campbell)
John Campbell)

The foregoing will was proven in court
by the Oathes of Wm McNabb and John
Campbell two of the subscribing witnesses
thereto at May Session 1784 and recorded
at length.

May 18, 1784 Will Proven

Typescript by:
Doris L. Davidson
10 December 1988

Baptist Mc Tabb's Will 4 Jan. 1784
Proved May Sessions 1784

In the name of god amen this fourth day of January
In the year of our Lord Christ one thousand seven hundred
and Eighty four I Baptist Mc Tabb of the County of
Washington County and state of North Carolina a being
weak and weak in body but of perfect mind and memory
Calling to mind the Mortality of this my self and
that it is appointed for all men once to die do make
and order this to be my last will and Testament first
to say I nowably and first of all I recommend my
soul to god who gave it and my body to the earth to
be buried in a decent and Christian like manner at the
Discretion of my executors and further such worldly good
where with it pleased god to bless me with I give and dispose
of in manner as followeth

First of all I order and it is my will that all my just and
lawfull debts be paid and funeral charges be paid of by my
executors

I do give and bequeath unto my daughter Isabella Mc Tabb
my live Marco and Cott and a bed and furniture one cow
and Calf which he now got less more then choice of his stock at
my decease and all and every part of my household furniture
I do likewise order that my executors make a right to the land
of land that I gave to my son John Mc Tabb and likewise
to that tract I gave my son David Mc Tabb the other part
which he now live on I do give unto my son James Mc Tabb
and his heirs with its improvements upon condition that it be valued by

three indifferent persons to be chosen by the Legatees the
having his legatees grants the other ^{part} to be paid in summe
following from one year after my decease that is to say to
Mrs M'Nab & Johnell McTabb David McTabb and
Isabella McTabb and in case that he should happen to
take said land on those conditions that it be sold and
the money arising therefrom to be divided amongst the
legatees in manner aforesaid

And that all the stock and moveables not otherwise provided
be sold and equally divided between amongst the legatees and
in case Isabella McTabb should die in her then age that her
Land should be divided amongst the other legatees aforesaid +
and Do leave and bequeath unto my Daughters Mary McTabb
Agnes Campbell McTabb and Elizabeth McTabb

Five shillings a week to be paid to them one year after my
decease by the other legatees

And I constitute my son Johnell McTabb and David McTabb
to be sole executors of this my last will and Testament and
Do hereby revoke and disannule and make void all other
wills and Testaments by me heretofore made and constituted
concerning Appointing this and no other to be my last
will and Testament signed sealed published and witnessed
in presence of us

Witness
M. McTabb
Agnes Campbell
Jacob Campbell

Agnes ^{his} D. McTabb
mark

divided amongst the legatees in manner aforesaid - / and that all the stock and moveables not otherwise devided be sold and equally divided between amongst the legatees and in case Isabella McNabb should die in her non age that her part should be divided the other legatees aforesaid - and I do leave and bequeath unto my daughters Mary McNabb Margaret McNabb Jane McNabb and Katrin McNabb five shillings to be paid to them one year after my decease by the other legatees - and I constitute my sons John McNabb and David McNabb to be sole executors of this my last will & testament and I do hereby revoke and disanull and make void all other wills and testaments by me heretofore made and constitute by confirming approving this and no other to be my last will and testament Syned and published and proclaimed in the presence of us.

his
Baptist B McNabb
mark



Wm McNabb)
Agnus Campbell)
John Campbell)

The foregoing will was proven in court by the Oathes of Wm McNabb and John Campbell two of the subscribing witnesses thereto at May Session 1784 and recorded at length.

May 18, 1784 Will Proven

Typescript by:
Doris L. Davidson
10 December 1988

The Wm McNABB who witnessed the Will is the father of Baptist. Wm McNabb d. in 1784. The Wm, who was Baptists' son, as a beneficiary of the will, was not eligible to witness it.

IN SEARCH OF WILLIAM MCNABB-----by Walter Craig Davidson

First, I should like to point out that after 45 years of researching the McNabb clan, I have never found even the slightest shred of evidence or documentation that Wm. McNabb, father of Baptiste & the other children, came from Scotland or, indeed, had anything whatsoever to do with Scotland. Further, I have not seen even a pretense to such documentation in the research results written by anyone else. Thus, before one disagrees with the following account of Wm. McNabb's history, let them present a better documented research result.

The account of Wm. McNabb living, marrying and moving from Glendochart, Scotland to Virginia ca. 1740's has never seemed valid to me.(WCD) If he had left the children and emmigrated alone, it would have made more sense, as he could have always sent for them or gone back after them. But to take off to the Colonies with five children ranging in ages from 5 or 6 to 12 or 13, just never seemed to me to be what a prudent Scot would do; especially just after the death of his wife, Betty Aiken, or Aken, McNabb. I have evidence, presented in the following pages, that there is more than a possibility that Wm. McNabb, he of the 1749 land deed in Augusta Co., Virginia, came from Dansbury(Now Stroudsburg) Monroe Co., Penn., where his father Wm. McNabb, Senior, was a blacksmith*ca. 1720's. Also in the Lower Smithfield Township of Dansbury, Delaware Valley, Shawnee,(Bethlehem), and Wind Gap, was Gideon van Aken, who lived in Wind Gap and was probably the father of the first wife of Wm. McNabb, Junior, Betty Aiken or Aken.

Possibly, the McNabbs of Dansbury, Penn.(Now Stroudsburg) descend from James Micknab (McNabb) who sailed from Downes, England December 8, 1651, aboard the "John & Sarah"--Master John Greene and landed in Boston, Mass., before 24 February 1652. James went to work for the Lynn Iron Works. Keep in mind that under the Guild system, the McNabb Clan had a long history as armorers** This at a time in history when the occupation of the father fairly well determined the occupation of the sons; however, not exclusively so. In any case, 70 years after James McNabb went to work in the iron works, Wm. McNabb, Senior, was a blacksmith, in Monroe County, Penn..

**I am indebted to Carol Fortenbacher, Nunica, Mi., whose research established the fact of the McNabb Clan as armorers, in Scotland.

At a time when it was necessary to execute an Oath of Importation in Orange County, Virginia, in order to obtain a grant of land in Virginia, not one but several exhaustive searches of the records of Orange County, Va. failed to provide the researcher with any evidence that Wm. McNabb had ever made such an oath. Yet, he received a grant in 1749 in Augusta Co., Virginia. Thus there is reason to believe that he was born in the Colonies, was a white male citizen, and did not need an Oath, in order to receive a grant. There are records of Oaths given by immigrants, dated both before and after the 1749 date of Wm. McNabb's grant but none for him.

/.

Does anyone really believe that Wm. McNabb embarked for the Colonies with five children having an age spread of from about 5 or 6 to 12 or 13? This at a time when passengers furnished their own food, water and sanitary items. If he did, it seems more than likely that his name and the names of his children would be listed in three places; one, on the list of those embarking at the port be it England, Scotland Ireland or whereever; two, on the passenger list of the ship itself; three, as a new arrival at some port in the Colonies. With literally hundreds of researchers seeking such information, over the years, if any list, or partial list existed, it would have been found long before now. And the reason such information has not been found is because all of the persons we are seeking were born in or near Monroe County, Penn.

Another factor to be considered: Baptiste'--Does it seem even possible that a Scotsman in Scotland would name his first born son Baptist, a name usually reserved for a religious group. While one cannot be absolutely certain, Baptiste', would be a name that comes from the common Latin spoken by the Roman soldiers in France, Spain, Portugal, Austria & Italy. It was probably the first name of a Moravian missionary who was admired by Wm. McNabb and his wife, Betty Aiken. The entire Moravian Missionary Diaries is available to one at the Monroe County, Penn., Historical Society or at the Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia. The latter being a copy that I donated to the State Library. The few pages that are included with this article, I have extracted for the purpose of identification of both McNabb and his occupation, i.e., smith.

I do not know about right now but I do know that from about 1675 to 1775 there were no persons named Aiken within 200 miles of Glendochart. OR if there were persons of that name, they were amazingly adept at escaping the written record of such name. I have been unable to find a sept with a name even close to Aiken, in all of Scotland. However, on extract page 68, a list of the inhabitants of Wind Gap (Penn.), shows Gideon van Aken living a few miles from Wm. McNabb. And as most genealogists come to realize, slight differences in the spelling of names is more the norm than otherwise. One can imagine all sorts of scenarios about Wm. McNabb finding Betty elsewhere and marrying her; however, where are the records of not only such an event but the births of the children seem to be also unrecorded. Finally, why is there no record of the death and burial of Betty Aiken, in Scotland?

Having taught Advanced Research Techniques as a graduate school professor, at the University of Colorado in Boulder, I am well acquainted with the maxim "One can draw no inference from silence." With that in mind concerning the above observations about the absence of Wm. McNabb & family records in Scotland, let us examine the evidence for such residence in Monroe County, Penn. circa 1700 to 1747-48.

"July 18. The text of yesterday impelled me to visit several homes, and it comforted me. At Francis Jones' it was notable for me to hear that his youngest daughter, who is six weeks old, before Br. Pyrlaeus baptized her, had always been restless and cranky, afterwards would always lie cheerfully and quietly by herself. For John McMichael's house I wished peace and blessings, and the footsteps of the Brethren Martin Mack and others, who had formerly been there, refreshed me. At John Hillman's I felt good also. Here a bridge has been built for Br. Joseph's sake, when they heard that he was coming. At Joseph Hayn's(Haines) I couldn't do much. Then I went home and read homilies, in preparation for Walpack.

July 19. Early in the morning, I went from "Sideburn" (Br. Burnside's little cabin in Dansbury,) to Walpack. (Walpack is an Indian word signifying "a good fat land.") On the way I reflected on the Trinity, that they might make me capable as a herald of the Gospel. It was very impressive for me that the Atonement had been for such poor sinners. I visited the smith, William McNab, but I could talk to him only about the harvest. Afterwards I visited at McDowell's and Susanna Ray's, and after some discourse on external matters, I could easily say something about the rest and peace in Jesus. Most of the way today was occupied with the Saviour only, and my marriage, and the Brethren who had moistened this route with their sweat and sown it with prayer.....I went to my lodging a mile away, after I announced the preaching service at Pawlin's Kill, through a traveler at the ferry. I swept out the church and sleeping place, and was very happy in contemplation. The eldest son,-Abraham- of Benjamin Smith's brother, John, from Virginia, came to me. He is 23 years old, and lives at Shannadoe, (Shenandoah, Va.) in the Irish settlement. His father is captain of the militia there. They have never seen one of the Brethren, but have heard many bad reports about them. He will return in a week or two. It is far beyond the Potomac."

The above quote is from page 3 of the Moravian Missionary Diaries, an unpublished MSS, written circa 1730 to 1750. I am responsible for the underlining.

First, has been identified a William McNab as a smith, living in Dansbury, Monroe County, Penn.

Second. This McDowell is quite likely to be either the person himself or a relative of the Capt. McDowell of Augusta County, Virginia in whose company of militia, James McNabb, son of William McNabb, served as a Cadet circa 1745. This information is contained on a receipt for service rendered given to Wm. McNabb for his son and is a matter of record in the Draper files.

Third. Abraham Smith's apparently permanent move from Dansbury to Shenandoah valley is a clear indication of a social connection between the two populated areas.

Fourth. Irish settlement. This term was used extensively to denote both Scottish and Scots-Irish individuals and/or families.

Fifth. Additional references are made to Wm. McNab on pages 12,30,& 33 of the MSS. Said Moravian Missionary MSS is available from the Monroe County Historical Association, 900 Main St., Stroudsburg, PA 18360--phone 717/421 7703, with some charge for making the some 100 plus pages of the entire MSS.

We know there were two William McNabbs in 1755. One of them in Augusta County, Virginia and the other, probably his father, in the Lower Smithfield Township, Monroe County, Penn. as shown on A List of Inhabitants Lower Smithfield Township 1750-1755. Also on this List is Gideon van Aken, whom, I believe, is the father of Betty Aiken, the first wife of the William McNabb of Augusta County, Virginia and who should be designated as Junior. The following three pages contain a list of these inhabitants.

I have included one page from The Indian Forts of the Blue Mountains, which shows that William McNab, Senior, was still living in the area in 1758.

Now What?? It seems to me that there is a possibility that James Micknab (McNabb) of Boston was the father of Wm. McNabb, Senior, who was the father of Wm. McNabb, Junior; he of the 1749 Augusta Co., Virginia grant of land; however, a great deal of research needs to be done to document the whole story to the extent that we really know without speculation, the exact history. Perhaps some clan researcher will proceed with such a project. If so, not only is there more to be learned from the files of the Monroe County Historical Association but just across the Delaware River from Stroudsburg (the new name for Dansbury) is Sussex County, New Jersey. Their Historical Society is addressed at Box 913, Newton, NJ 07860.

At one time here in Texas, there was an attractive brunette who, on TV, in an ad for Western Oilwell Service Company, said "If you don't have an oil well, then get one. You will love doing business with Western." Thus if you do not care for my theory of McNabb lineage, and, its admittedly sparse documentation, then produce a better one. I will be the first to offer my congratulations. Walter Craig Davidson.

M < N A B B

Information

Old Dansbury
(now Stroudsburg, Penna.)

and

The Moravian Mission

by

RALF RIDGWAY HILLMAN

An address before the Monroe County Historical Society,
Stroudsburg, Penna., May 17, 1932, before the Moravian
Historical Society, Nazareth, Penna., October 20, 1932,
and before the Wyoming Historical & Geological Society,
Wilkes-Barre, Penna., January 20, 1933.

537 Ann St
Stroudsburg, Penn

18360

717/421

7703

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A LIST OF INHABITANTS
LOWER SMITHFIELD TOWNSHIP
1750 - 1755

(As recorded in petitions, reports, warrants, surveys, patents, etc.
These were not all recorded as land-owners, and some
may have been employed by others.)

Dansbury

Allison, Robert
Baker, John
Barber, Jonathan
Barber, Joseph
Brewster, David
Brodhead, Daniel
Clark, William
Countryman, Henry
Countryman, William
Culver, Ephraim
Drake, John
Gaber, Daniel
Gaber, Henry
Goodrich, Samuel
Haines, Joseph
Hartman, Abraham
Hillman, James
Hillman, John
Halley, Edward
Johnson, Elisha
Jones, Francis
McMichael, John
McNab, William
Miner, Jacob
Parker, Joshua
Parks, Robert
Pierce, John
Reser, Denis
Roe (Rowe), Matthew
Salade, George
Shoemaker, Daniel
Shoemaker, Garret

Shoemaker, Jochem
Shouer, Michael
Wheeler, Joseph
Williamson, John

Delaware Valley

Fish, John
Gunsolus, Manuel
Hannah, Robert
Hyndshaw, James
Jayne, William, Sr.
Jayne, William, Jr.
Longshore, Robert
Sawin, Joseph
Seely, Joseph
Van Etten, John

Shawnee

DeLong, Francis
Dupuis, Aaron
Dupuis, Samuel
Freeland, Enoch

(Bethlehem)

Jennings, Solomon



Wind Gap

Garlinghouse, James
Garlinghouse, J. G.
Levers, Robert

This could be the ³⁵ father of Wm M = Wlf
who was in Augusta Co. VA = 1749, with his
several sons + 1 da.

The Wm shown in Dansbury was a blacksmith
+ well known through the area.

Steward Mackee	James van Bunschoten
Francis M'Gee	Patrick Nixon
Neil Maginly	Richard Pigot
John Cornelius	William Battey
James McConcl	William Wright
John Hide	— Congrine
John Gavens	James Molen
Gideon van Aken	Thomas Quick*
Benjamin Cortright	Jeremiah Kittle
Benony Heath	

Together with a runaway servant, Charles McLean.

NOTE—*This name scratched off. Killed by Indians in February, 1756.
McLean's name was also scratched off, —for ob. or reasons.

A number of the above names were well-known in Lower Smithfield Township, in the vicinity of present Shawnee. It would seem from a study of the list that Captain Van Etten recruited his company from the entire section known as "The Forks of the Delaware."

X Could this be a relative of
Betty Bitten, 1st wife of
Wm. Knobell?
Probably her father —

68.