

# Family Group Record

Husband **Jacob McGavock**

Wife **Louisa Caroline Grundy**

## Notes

CHILD 8 - Dr. Felix Grundy McGavock (Continued)

House, in Memphis, the day the Federal gun-boats were fighting in front of that city. He was at her bedside when he was made prisoner, but was given permission to attend his dead. He took his two little daughters to Nashville, after which he returned to his plantation. About this time the people of the vicinity organized what was known as the Shawnee Legal Association, to protect themselves against outlaws and guerrillas. The Doctor was made leader and judge, and received the endorsement of [p.530] Gen. Stephen A. Hurlbut, in command of the Sixteenth Army Corps, at Memphis, and also of the Confederate general, Sterling Price. Vested with this authority the Doctor compelled every man to either join the conclave or get out of the neighborhood. Where a capital offense was committed the culprit was secured and turned over to either the Confederate or Federal authorities, according to circumstances. For theft or other petty offenses, horsewhipping and an order to leave the county were deemed sufficient. If the culprit failed to leave, however, it generally went hard with him when caught again. During the war Dr. McGavock demonstrated the fact that cotton could be successfully cultivated with white labor, and that even delicate women could be brought from an entirely different climate to successfully work in the cotton-field without injury to their health. The negroes were freed and scattered; white men would be conscripted by the Confederate troops; cotton was in demand and brought from 70 to 90 cents per pound. The Doctor went to New York, where he engaged sixty-five Irish girls at Castle Garden, from fourteen to forty-five years of age, and with these made a contract for one year at \$20 per month each, and board. Without experience, but with a little showing, these girls made a crop for the Doctor on which he cleared \$45,000, after paying all expenses, and allowing rent for the land. He was watchful in regard to their health and comfort, and the large dining-room was presided over by a corps of waiters who served meals prepared by the best skilled cooks and bakers to be found. A barrel of whisky, in which a few ounces of quinine were dissolved, was issued to them at the rate of three drinks of two drams each, at intervals during the day. The Doctor always had a hospital with a skilled nurse, but it was very seldom used, as very little sickness prevailed during the two years of their stay, and but one death occurred. These girls worked on the Pecan Point plantation, and during this time the Doctor paid the expenses of a Catholic priest to come and attend to their spiritual welfare, all being members of that church. A few years later he secured fifty-five German men from Castle Garden, and employed them successfully for one year on his Nodena plantation; but the best hands he ever worked were eighteen Chinamen, just from China, whom he secured in Chicago. These he employed on the Shawnee Village place, but they, like the others he imported, were enticed away by ill-advisers or friends. In 1879 Dr. McGavock moved to his present place, known as "McGavock" (the governor having so named the postoffice), which at that time was but a wilderness. It is now one of the finest plantations in the county, with about 640 acres under cultivation. Here the Doctor used both white and colored labor, and thinks the white can stand the climate and work as well as the negro. Since moving to McGavock the Doctor has abandoned the practice of medicine, which at one time was very extensive. He goes now only when called by another physician in consultation. When first coming to Mississippi County he established a nursery for the culture of fruits and flowers, experimenting with almost all the varieties from the leading nurseries of the East and North. He has successfully raised apples, peaches, plums, pears, apricots, nectarines, cherries, figs, almonds, English walnuts, filberts, and small fruits, and grapes of every known variety. For bees he thinks this is a perfect paradise, as all the flora of the woods are honey-bearing. He has raised within the county the following crops: Grass and vegetables, oats, rye, wheat, millet, buck- wheat, tobacco, peanuts, white and sweet potatoes, clover, timothy, and all garden produce, with perfect success. The Doctor is now interesting himself in the improvement of the cattle of his district, having recently imported a fine Jersey bull from England, and now has about 100 head of the finest Jersey cows in the State. His daughter, Monoah, is the wife of William S. Bransford, of Nashville, Tenn., where they now reside. Mrs. Bransford is the owner of the Shawnee Village plantation. They have two bright little girls—Bessie and Louise. In 1881 Dr. McGavock was elected to represent the county in the State legislature, which he did to the satisfaction of his constituents and the State, but, owing to his home interests, he refused to accept the second term. He is a member of the Odd Fellows [p.531] and of the Masons; also of the Knights of Honor, of Frenchman's Bayou, where McGavock Lodge was named in his honor. He is a man who has made fortunes, at one time being worth as much as \$1,000,000. But wealth to him is but a means, and not an end, so he lavishes it as freely as he makes it. His hospitality is unbounded; all are welcome. To his equals he is courteous, to his

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## Notes

CHILD 8 - Dr. Felix Grundy McGavock (Continued)

inferiors kind, and all receive that consideration due their station. Being a man of decided views and of an active temperament, he often shows his roughest side out, while those who know him best are his best friends. As he is probably better known than any man in the county, he has a host of friends, and can be classed as the most remarkable man in Mississippi County.

CHILD 11 - Mary Louise McGavock

Mary Louise McGavock Todd is documented in "The McGavock Family" by Rev. Robert Gray, 1903, pg. 49, individual #107.



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Husband **James McGavock**

Wife **Mary (Sallie) Cloyd**

## Notes

**HUSBAND- James McGavock (Continued)**

one which was eighteen feet long and the other twelve feet long. When David moved his family to Nashville, TN., James and Mary moved into the cabin where they remained until their deaths in the early 1800's. In 1990 the log house was dismantled to be shipped to the Ulster American Folk Park in County of Omagh, Northern Ireland. As of 2010 it has not been reassembled according to the UAFP website. -- In June, 2011, H. Don & Mary Jo Crawford learned from a McGavock descendant that he is going to try to purchase the log house from the UAFP and have it returned to its original location in Max Meadows, VA.

From a Special Edition of an early Wythe Co., VA, newspaper:

A traditional story about James' arrival at Philadelphia has it that he gave all of his means except one pound to pay the passage of four young Irishmen who were to be sold into bondage to pay the cost of passage. The first record finds him in Braddock's army with a team used for transporting prisoners and provisions. In 1757 he was Captain of a company of volunteers on the expedition against the Shawnees, and by Sept. 1758 he was serving in the Augusta County Militia. A receipt dated October 12, 1759 indicates that he was still in the business of supplying provisions. He drifted down the Valley of Virginia and located in Rockbridge County near the Natural Bridge on land adjoining Thomas Jefferson's. When Botetourt County was organized in 1770 he was one of the justices and also a deputy sheriff. He was given the contract for building a log cabin twenty by sixteen feet which was to serve as a goal.

Among the Fort Chiswell papers at William and Mary College is one dated March 10th, 1772 showing that James McGavock was paying John Esdale one hundreds pounds of current money as part of the price of Fort Chiswell with William Preston as his attorney. It is presumed that he came to this section to live at that time. In 1772 Fincastle [County] was formed with the Lead Mines as the county seat. In this new county James McGavock was again made justice. It was at Fort Chiswell, the place that played such an important part before, during and after the Revolution, that James McGavock was to spend the remainder of his life and take an active part in all affairs of the state.

On January 20th, 1775, James McGavock was one of thirteen elected representatives of Fincastle County, Colony of Virginia to sign the Fincastle Resolutions. The Fincastle Resolutions were the first adopted statement by the colonist which promised resistance to the death to the British crown to preserve political liberties. The representatives adopted the resolutions at Lead Mines, which was then the county seat.

## CHILD 1 - Hugh McGavock

Hugh McGavock married first to a Miss Campbell, who died within a short time of their marriage. No children were born to this marriage.

There is an article written by Mary B. Kegley & guest columnist, Jacob McGavock, along with a picture of his home and Revolutionary Soldier plaque on his tombstone in the Bateman - McGavock binder compiled by Mary Jo Crawford.

In the booklet "Word Sketches of some of Her Relatives", by Mary Cloyd Kent Withers, 1951: "Many of the Tennessee kin were accustomed to come to Randal McGavock's Max Meadows home, a gathering place for the clan." This is a large white house on Pepper's Ferry Rd. that we refer to as the "Hugh McGavock house", Max Meadows, VA., that we have pictures of. (taken 2010 by H. Don Crawford. Also, a picture taken about 1971 from the Kegley Library, Wytheville Community College, Wytheville, VA)

## CHILD 2 - David McGavock

The following is from an article in the Williamson Co., Historical Society Journal [date unknown] "The McGavocks of Midway" by Ridley Wills, II:

In 1786, 23 year old David McGavock, having heard of the fertile lands along the Cumberland and Kentucky rivers in Tennessee, decided to go there. He went armed with money from his father to buy some



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## Notes

CHILD 2 - David McGavock (Continued)

of the best land available. Trained as a surveyor, David bought 2,240 acres in what is now North and Northeast Nashville, 640 in his own name and 1,600 in his father's. He also drew a map of some of the principal plantations along the Cumberland river. It is our oldest surviving map of Nashville.

David built a cabin at Freeland's Station in the middle of his father's 960 acre tract and settled there, raising corn as his cash crop. In time, the site became known as McGavock's Spring. In 1789, on one of his annual visits to Max Meadows, he married Elizabeth McDowell, his first cousin. David did not bring her to Nashville, however, until 1795 when the Indian wars had abated. By then, they had three young children.

In anticipation of his family's arrival, David had erected a palatial, frame house with glass windows and wide porches -- a house thought by many to be a great extravagance. This structure was later replaced with a large brick house.

David McGavock inherited many of his father's good characteristics - great physical strength, energy, good judgment, and an indomitable will. These traits brought him both prosperity and a leadership role in Nashville. Over time, he acquired large tracts of land in Davidson and Williamson Counties and, in 1806, was elected Register of the Davidson County Land Office. The next year, his wife, Elizabeth died, leaving seven children - James, John, Francis, Randal, Lysander, Hugh, and Sally.

David next married Elizabeth Hubble, a North Carolina native, in 1812. Two sons, David T. and Albert, were born to this union which lasted until her death in 1834. All but one of David's children grew up to live out their lives in Davidson or Williamson Counties.

David's son, Francis, was educated at the University of Nashville, and was clerk of the Chancery Court for a number of years. Francis' son, David H., built Two Rivers, one of three historic McGavock homes that survive. It is currently owned by the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County.

David's son, Lysander, married Elizabeth "Betsy" Crockett. During their marriage they built a home on property that Betsy's father had bequeathed to her. Midway, the house they built, got its name from the fact that it was equidistant between Nashville and Franklin. Midway is presently the club house at the Brentwood Country Club. The cemetery this family is buried in is near the swimming pool.

David & Elizabeth were first cousins, their mothers being sisters.

The following is from The McGavock Family, by the Rev. Robert Gray, 1903:

"David McGavock was one of the early settlers of Nashville, In 1786 he had located in and around the settlement, in the names of his father and himself, 2,240 acres of the best land he could find, including a tract of several hundred acres around Freeland's station. He came to Tennessee a surveyor, for which he was fitted by a liberal education and great physical power of endurance. His good judgment is yet apparent in the location of lands taken up and purchased by him in Davidson and Williamson counties, Tennessee. He inherited in a large measure the energy, indomitable will, and integrity of his honored father -- traits of character ensuring success, and qualifying him to be a prominent and safe leader in a newly settled country. He made Nashville his permanent residence in 1795. In 1806, he was elected by the legislature of Tennessee, Register of the Land Office, and was the incumbent thereof until his death, which occurred 7 August, 1838.

His second wife was the widow Mary (Turner) Hubble whom he married in 1812. She was born in North Carolina and died in Nashville, 1834. By her he had two sons. By his first wife he had nine children, in all eleven."