

Submitted by Robert L. McConn

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Assumptions and Conclusions re Ancestors
Of his Great Grandfather, Thomas J. McConn
Born January, 1828

Born: Virginia (WV) January 1828

Married: Elizabeth Barr (b. Nov. 8, 1831 in Ohio) on April 13, 1848 in West Alexander, PA before John Sutherland, Justice of the Peace.

I have had no success finding a direct link to the parents of this Thomas J. McConn.

I have therefore made a rather extensive study of the U.S. Census records in my attempt to determine just who his father, grandfather etc. might be.

By analyzing all U.S. Census records from 1790 thru 1800, I find the following McCon(n)s listed:

- 1790: Alexr McConn – Ridley Twp., Delaware Co., PA
Arthur McConn – E. Marlborough Twp., Chester Co., PA
Andrew McConn – Harford Co., MD
Samuel McConn – Suffolk Co., NY
- 1800: James McConn – Queens Co. Oyster Bay, N.Y.
Jacob McConn (Same)
Jerusha McConn (Same)
Gilbert McConn (Same)
William McConn (Same)

Note: None of these McConn's are living in the area around West Alexander, PA, Triadelphia, PA, Dalles, WV.

Our Thomas was born in VA(WV) in 1828, married in West Alexander, PA in 1848 and was definitely living in Marshall Co., WV at the time of the 1850 Census with his spouse, Elizabeth Barr and next door to her parents, the Alexander Barr's. The first McCon(n)'s that we find in the Census

records for these areas are all found living in close proximity to each other in Ohio Co., Virginia (WV).

Thomas McCon	1810 Census
Thomas McCon	1820 Census
Thomas McCon	1830 Census (Head of Household)
Rachael McCon	(Head of Household)
Joseph McCon	(Head of Household)
William McCon	(Head of Household)
Thomas McCon	(Head of Household)
Thomas McConn	1840 Census(Head of Household)
Joseph McConn	(Head of Household)
Rachel McConn	(Head of Household)
William McConn	(Head of Household)
Thomas McConn	(Head of Household)

From an analysis of their neighbors, ages of the heads of households etc. it becomes apparent that this is all one family living either next door to or in close proximity to each other, and the only ones in this geographic area of the U.S. I have prepared an Excel file of this analysis on my computer entitled "Census Analysis of Ohio Co., VA McCon(n)'s and neighbors", and will be happy to provide it to anyone interested.

There is a strong possibility that the patriarch of this family was Thomas McCon whom we find on the following Passenger and Immigration Lists: Philadelphia:

Thomas McCon found in:
Passenger and Immigration Lists: Philadelphia, 1800-1850
Gender: Unknown
Ship Name: Ship Raleigh
Port of Departure: Londonderry
Port of Arrival: Philadelphia
Arrival Date: May 24, 1808
Nat'l Archives Series No.: 425
Microfilm Number: 14
List Number: 74

Thus, he would appear to have arrived in Philadelphia May 24, 1808 and made his way west to the then frontier in Ohio Co., VA., where he settled and raised his family.

Sometime between the 1830 Census and the 1840 Census they all changed the spelling of their names by adding the second "n". In all probability, the first Thomas listed in each of the Census above, beginning in 1810, was the patriarch and the others were his sons with the exception of Rachel who probably was the widow of a deceased son. She had numerous children in each Census.

In reviewing the numbers and ages of the children of each family, as only the names of the head of the household were listed prior to the 1850 Census, there are only four possibilities for our Thomas who was born in 1828. There is one son for each of the children of the patriarch, Thomas, who falls in this age group. The 1850 Census (the first to list the names of all members of each household) shows that the younger Thomas of this group did not have a son named Thomas. This leaves only the other three children of the patriarch, Thomas, as the possible parent of our "Thomas" and thus, there is a strong possibility that our Thomas was the grandson of the patriarch of the family, making him my great, great, great grandfather.

As noted above, the man whom I refer to as the patriarch, arrived in Philadelphia from Londonderry in Ulster aboard the SS Raleigh on May 24, 1808. I have concluded that this man is the McCon(n) immigrant and the root of most, if not all, of the McConn's currently and formerly living in this area of West Virginia and western Pennsylvania. I conclude this based on the following:

1. He settled in the very area from which our Thomas J. is from which includes Marshall County WV where in the 1850 U.S. Census our man and his wife were living next to her parents (Alexander Barr), Triadelphia, PA and West Alexander, PA (where our Thomas J. was married). The McConn's found in the earlier Census (1790 and 1800) are not found in that vicinity.
2. It is possible to trace this Thomas McCon and his family through the 1810, 1820, 1830 and 1840 U.S. Census living in this same area all of that time. Our Thomas J. was born in WV in 1828. As noted above, analyzing

this family shows that there are only three families, all living next to the immigrant, Thomas McCon who have sons who would qualify by age to be our Thomas J. That being the case, although I have no way to determine which one was the father of our man, I must assume that in any case, the elder Thomas McCon was his grandfather.

3. Again, based upon the U.S. Census data, sometime between 1830 and 1840 all of these families added another “n” to the spelling of their surnames. They all continued to live in close proximity to each other with the same families as neighbors.

4. Thus, I conclude that it is this Thomas McCon who boarded the Raleigh in Londonderry, NI and arrived in the Port of Philadelphia on May 24, 1808, who is my great, great, great grandfather.

5. It should be noted that in all records that I have found, our Thomas J. lists Virginia (WV) as the birth place of Thomas except the 1850 Census which lists it as PA. I believe this latter to be in error.

6. From the immigration record, I do not know how many children he may have brought with him. A female, Sarah McCon and an Armor McCon are listed as arriving on the same vessel. I assume the Sarah was Thomas’ wife. Thomas is listed as the “Primary Immigrant” whatever that means. We have no way of knowing whether or not he brought children with him but if we have the right man, he brought several.

Thus, it appears to me that this Thomas McCon could well have been the beginning of the McConn’s in this area of WV and PA. Note again, that sometime between 1830 and 1840 they all changed the spelling of their names to add the additional “n”.

Thomas McCon – Immigration Record

Thomas McCon found in:

Passenger and Immigration Index, 1500s-1900s

Place: Philadelphia **Year:** 1808

Primary immigrant: McCon, Thomas

Permanent entry number: 285039

Source publication code: 6466.4

Source publication page number: 463

Source publication: PASSENGER ARRIVALS AT THE PORT OF PHILADELPHIA, 1800-1819. Michael Tepper, general editor; Elizabeth P. Bentley, transcriber. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1986. 913p.

Source annotation: Date and port of arrival. Much of the information was extracted from the Port of Philadelphia Baggage Lists, which were maintained by officials from 1800 to 1820, and National Archives Microfilm Publication M425, Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at Philadelphia, 1800-1882, Records of the Bureau of Customs, Record Group 36. These records are located at Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies, Center for Immigration Research, Philadelphia. Name of ship is also provided.

[1 Data Introduction](#)

Perhaps someone with access to the above record would be able to determine whether or not additional information is available concerning this individual.

It is also believed that these persons were probably all Presbyterians and anyone with access to the old church records for this area might be able to learn a great deal more about the individual families.

I now intend to move on to Ulster in Northern Ireland to see if I can learn more about this immigrant.

**Robert L. McConn
February 28, 2007**