### MOSES AND CLARISSA MCNEW

Moses Cawood MCNEW, fifth child of William and Elizabeth, was born in Scott County, Virginia, probably in 1820. When the 1840 Census was taken, he was still living at his mother's home. At some time between 1840 and 1844, he went to Morgan County in Kentucky, apparently for some kind of study. (See note to Moses from David COTTLE, 2-13.) There, he met Clarissa Jane (Cole) Jones, young daughter of Sarah and step-daughter of John Jones.

Moses and Clarissa were married in West Liberty, Kentucky, on the 17th of November 1844, the day before her 15th birthday. According to the county marriage records, a license was obtained (and fee paid) on the 16th, followed by a notation that the ceremony took place on the 17th, signed by W. Cottle.

The young couple remained in Morgan County, probably near West Liberty, for the next two and a half years. Their first child, William Newton MCNEW was born there in October 1845. In 1847, Moses took his family back to his mother's farm at Rye Cove in Scott County, Virginia. The 1850 Census shows Moses working as a farmer, and his mother (Elizabeth CAWOOD MCNEW) living with his family. Three daughters, Sarah, Mollie and Nancy, were born to them in Virginia.

In 1853, Moses and Clarissa with their four children moved west again, back to Kentucky, this time to Booneville in Owsley County. Moses placed the following advertisement in the Booneville newspaper:

### MOSES C. McNEW, M. D.,

Would respectfully inform the citizens of OWSLEY COUNTY, that he will practice in the SCIENCE OF MEDICINE, in its various branches, and will rvisit patients in any portion of the County at a FAIR and REASONABLE RATE. He may be found at his residence in BOONVILLE, unless professionally April 1, 1853.

Moses first appeared on the Owsley County Tax Lists in 1854. He is shown as owning one town lot worth \$394, 1 horse valued at \$100 and one cow. He did not own any slaves. (In fact, of the forty-six households on his page of the tax list, forty-four had no slaves and the other two reported only one slave each. Perhaps this is why so many in this part of Kentucky sided with the North in the Civil War.)

Their fifth child and second son, Joseph B., was born in Booneville in 1853, followed by Martha Jane in 1856, and Esther Margaret in 1859.2

<sup>1</sup> MARRIAGE RECORDS OF MORGAN COUNTY, KENTUCKY, p. 69.

MC NEW (m)

b. 29 Oct 1853 M. C. MC NEW

Clarissa JONES

MC NEW (f)

b. 3 Aug 1856 M. C. MC NEW

Clercy JONES

MCNEW, Easter (f) b. 1 Apr 1859 Moses MCNEW

C. J. JONES

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> INTERNATIONAL GENEALOGICAL INDEX (1988 Edition) lists the following births in Owsley Co., KY:

Everything seemed to be going well, until May, 1860, when Moses contracted typhoid fever. He was ill for 21 days, and died on the 3rd of June. He was 40 years old.

The 1860 Census was taken later that same month, and it showed Clarissa as a 30-year-old widow with seven children, living in an area called Travelers Rest. Also listed within one page of Clarissa were Moses' brothers, John and Joseph and their families. Either they were living nearby, or were visiting because of Moses' illness and death.

Clarissa remained in Booneville, supporting her growing family as a farmer. The family really was growing, as Clarissa was pregnant (although she may not have known it yet) when she was widowed. She gave birth to Emily Josephine early in 1861, just before the beginning of the Civil War. A family story is that William, her oldest son, wanted to enlist in the Union Army when he was 16, but she would not give her permission. They all survived the ups and downs of the War, and the beginning of Reconstruction.

Meanwhile, in 1862, Congress passed the Homestead Act, in order to encourage the settlement of the West by making land available to those who had ambition but little money. At the time it was passed, it was overshadowed by the Civil War, but after the War, word spread quickly about this opportunity for a new start.

In 1873, Clarissa gathered all the family, including Sarah, her married daughter, with her husband and child, and they headed west to Nebraska where there was homestead land. Clarissa and William took up homesteads in Harlan County, while Sarah and John Mints settled north of there in Phelps County. Both Martha and Mollie married local farmers in 1875.

Their first years in Nebraska did not go well. According to William, in three years out of the first four, the crops failed.<sup>2</sup> In September of 1876, William and Nancy Belle, along with Martha and Eli Ewell, went further west to California, settling in the San Francisco area. The Ewells stayed only until the following year, and then returned to Nebraska. Nancy Belle was married in California and remained there. William eventually went back to Nebraska, but only in time to help his mother pack up and leave.

After too many grasshoppers and too many drought years, Clarissa gave up on Nebraska in 1882, and headed for Washington Territory, with William again her right-hand man. The married daughters, Sarah Mints, Mollie Hansen and Martha Ewell, with their husbands and children, also joined the covered wagon caravan and headed for the Northwest. Apparently, they went only as far as Boise, Idaho, before winter set in, and the rest of the journey was completed in the spring of 1883. They purchased railroad land in Lincoln County, in the Larene township north of Davenport, WAshington. (That area was sometimes called Little Egypt.)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 1860 U.S. CENSUS, MORTALITY SCHEDULE, Owsley Co, KY, p. 1

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See letter of William on page 4 - 7.

When William, at the age of 49, married Unicy PHAR in 1895, his mother lived with him and his bride. Clarissa had been the matriarch for too long, and the strength at the center of the whole family. Now she was not about to consider her young daughter-in-law (who was the age of her grand-children) as mistress of the home. Unicy was treated like a child or a servant until she put her foot down and said she wouldn't stay in the same house with Clarissa. Sarah then took her mother into her home, and Clarissa stayed with the Mints family until her death on 2 May 1903, at the age of 73.

Clarissa Jane Cole Jones MCNEW was the quintessential pioneer woman. She crossed the entire United States, from Virginia to Washington, using only animal power. She was obviously a strong, unifying force in her family, as her grown children and their families followed where she led. She smoked a pipe, and missed her tobacco when it was hard to get. (See letter from her brother, Francis Marion, in Chapter 12.)

The following obituary appeared in The Davenport Tribune on May 7, 1903:1

#### Clarissa Jane McNew

Clarissa Jane McNew was born in West Liberty, Kentucky, November 18, 1829. She departed life May 2, 1903, being 73 years 5 months and 12 days old. She was married to Moses S.<sup>2</sup> McNew in 1844, from which union there was born eight children, six of whom survive her: William N. McNew, of Davenport, Sarah E. Mints of Larene, Belle Turpin, San Francisco, J. B. McNew of Oxford, Nebraska, Martha J. Ewell of Stites, Idaho, and Josie Russell of Boise, Idaho, all of whom were at her bedside except Mrs. Belle Turpin and Josie Russell; Mollie Hansen and Esther Ewell having proceeded (sic) her in her long rest.

Her husband Moses McNew died in 1861. In 1873, she, with her family, left her native state of Kentucky and turned their faces westward to the open plains of Nebraska, where she resided until 1882, when again she journeyed to the more interesting and promising land of Washington arriving in 1883 and located near Larene, Lincoln county, Washington, where she has continued to reside until the messenger on the pale horse came and said it is finished, come up higher.

(continued)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> DAVENPORT TRIBUNE, Vol. 3, No. 38.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> His middle initial was really "C" for Cawood, and he died in 1860, not 1861.

The immediate cause of her death was cancer of the abdomen. She was a believer in, and a lifelong follower of Him who said: "He that believeth in me hath everlasting life." Funeral services were conducted in Larene church by the Rev J. A. Rogers, of Davenport.

Yet lives she at the close.

And breathed the long, night away
In statue like repose.

But when the sun in all his state,
Illumed the eastern skies,
She passed through glory's gate
And waked in Paradise."

Clarissa was buried in Larene Cemetary, which is now overgrown. No grave markers remain.

### Children of Moses and Clarissa MCNEW:

- a William Newton, b. 23 Oct 1845, Morgan Co, KY;
  - m. Unicy Margaret PHAR, 31 Mar 1895, WA;
  - d. 5 Mar 1925, Elk River, ID;
- b Sarah E, b. Jan 1848, Scott Co, VA;
  - m. John Wilburn MINTS, Oct 1869, Owsley Co, KY;
  - d. 26 Nov 1923, Otis Orchards, WA;
- c Mary Ann (Mollie, Polly), b. 3 May 1850, Scott Co, VA;
  - m. Albert Christian HANSEN, 6 Oct 1875, NE;
  - d. 8 Apr 1895, Lincoln Co, WA;
- d Anne Isabelle (Nancy, Belle), b. 1852, Scott Co, VA;
  - m. Frederick TURPIN, 1877, CA;
  - d. ? between 1910 and 1920, CA;
- e Joseph B, b. 29 Oct 1853, Owsley Co, KY;
  - m. Eva CRESS, 1 Jan 1879, Harlan Co, NE;
  - d. 3 Sep 1925, Spokane, WA;
- f Martha Jane, b. 3 Aug 1856, Owsley Co, KY;
  - m1. Eli EWELL, 1875, NE; (div),
  - m2. Martin VAN DER LUGT;
  - d. 8 Oct 1930, Seattle, WA;
- g Esther Margaret, b. 1 Apr 1859, Owsley Co, KY;
  - m. ? EWELL;
  - d. before 1903;
- h Emily Josephine (Josie), b. 1861, Owsley Co, KY;
  - m. William A. Russell, 30 Oct 1883, Boise, ID;
  - d. 19 Sep 1925, Boise, ID

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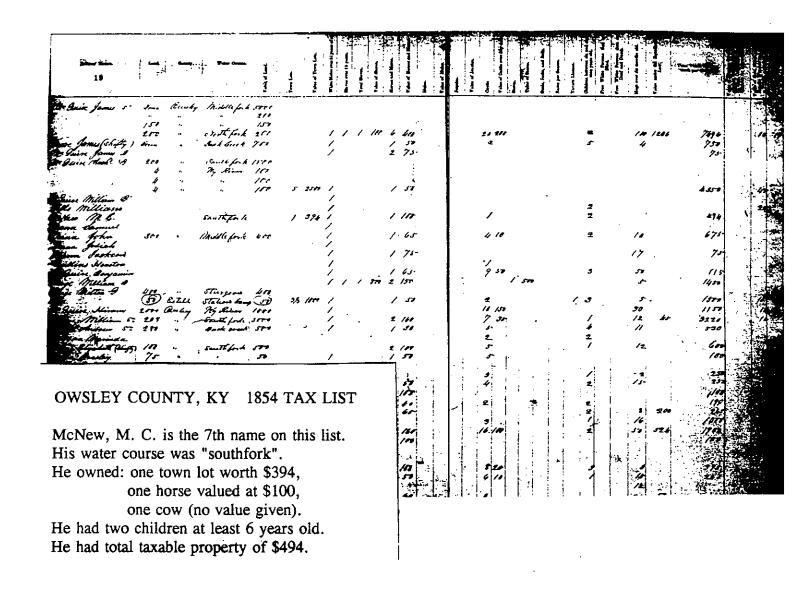
# MARRIAGE RECORDS - MORGAN COUNTY, KENTUCKY (top half of page 69)

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	Clarissa Jones	-ony Mr Moses C. McNew to Miss
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		Wm Cottle JPME

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> In the third item on this page, also written by Wm. Cottle, the last two words are "by me".

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Do" means ditto.
 Value of Real Estate.
 Note special character used for a double s. Clarissa was actually 20 years old at this time.



Land
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Water Course
Value of Land
Town Lots
Val. of Town Lots
White Males 21+
Slaves 16+
Total Slaves

Value of Slaves
Horses & Mares
Val. of Horses & Mares
Mules
Value of Mules
Jennies
Value of Jennies
Cattle
Value of Cattle
(other headings unreadable)

Stores
Value of Stores
Studs, Jacks, Bulls
Rates per season
Tavern Licenses
Children 6-18
Blind (white)
Deaf, Dumb (white)
Hogs 6 mo. +

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Line 2, Moses C. McNew, 40, M(ale), M(arried), VA, June, Physician, Typhoid Fever, 21 days

This list includes all who died within the year before the Census was taken - not just those who had died before June 1st. Clarissa's family was enumerated on June 14, eleven days after Moses'death, which is when this entry would have been made.

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## 1860 CENSUS, OWSLEY COUNTY, KY

Enumerated on Ju	ine 14 Tra	velei	s Rest,	page 104			
Line 11	Clarissa McNew	33		Widow Farmer	\$600	\$400	KY
12	William N.	14	m				KY
13	Sarah E.	12	f				VA
14	Mary A.	11	f				VA
15	Nancy E.	9	f				VA
16	Joseph B.	6	m				KY
17	Martha J.	4	f				KY
18	Esther C.	1	f				KY

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A LETTER FROM CLARISSA IN HARLAN CO, NEBRASKA TO WILLIAM AND BELLE IN CALIFORNIA, DATED 18 APRIL 1879

Springe harlow ev sel uprile 10 tenth

Dear childenn I wright you ofen lians. To let you know That we ar all well at the presant haping those few lians will come supe to hand and finde you all well and doing well I reserved your letter last mail was glad to hear from, you and to hear that you was well I was proude of my golde dollar you sent mee it is they first peace of golde I ever hade of my one I have nothing new to wright that I know of I have wrote two letters to you latey but it seems like you have not get them I will try to tell you sonthing about josephs that thouse they was finde 25 dollars apeace and they was finde 25 dollars apeace and They cost they taken unapell in they iven thout they swone pine blank lyes against Them They swore That joseph helped to moore them off and he was not their and they som swore to another man that was not their of corse joseph new wha to they was going to down but colde not hele for it if he hade atrijde They was deturned on devoiry somthing I hade unidy that The y was going to down somthing ande Tryde to keepe it down but colde not you sed that you suspected that joseph hade not went acording to law with his clame but he has he premted it and bill aho was on it and was in it before they 30 days was out he got his papers on it first and has him living on it even since the gorden contested it and they Toyel coms off 22 second of this month

I have now doubet but what he will had de it if they is eny jestis in law but the it is going to jost him agrode deel of money lefone it is done with if they hade let him woone he rosulde have him all wright he hade went and got they advice of always always and imployed him to atende to they ase but in afew days he was put off so I don't know house it will go with them I can't telle they Lete story it is two tedious and a line of Thinge with mutch sence in it as you will see wheth is done soing wheet he has got got to achors are wheel I am not going to give up trying to live I am going to rais every thing I can I and josey is all alone & 38 ther is at henry and possy is westing to your offer to work and your and the is lying own they bed powling while I am writing you spoke like you thought it was neglect they need on I lost my my ow she did not get it at home she was nuring owt and I Supose She got it wheen some one was soing wheet but I don't know sphear I begain to think your ar coming home before one longe I think if you un coming home you uight to come before all they land is you and if you down that you will have to com soon they ar coming in every day by the

18 April 1879

Dear children I wright you afew lians to let you know that we ar all well at the presant hoping those few lians will come safe to hand and finde you all well and doing well I reseived your letter last mail was glad to hear from you and to hear that you was well I was proude of my golde dollar you sent me it is they first peace of golde I ever hade of my one I have nothing new to wright that I know of I have wrote two letters to you latly but it seems like you have not got them I will try to tell you somthing about Josephs troubels they was finde 25 dollars apeace and they cost they taken unapell in they circut cort they swore pine blank lyes against them they swore that Joseph helped to moove them off and he was not their and they swore to another man that was not their of corse Joseph new what they was going to dwo but colde not helpe it if he hade atryde they was deturned on dwoing somthing I hade unidy that they was going to dwo somthing ande tryde to keepe it down but colde not you sed that you suspected that Joseph hade not went acording to law with his clame but he has he premted it and bilt ahows on it and was in it before they 30 days was out he got his papers on it first and has bin living on it ever since gorden contested it and they tryel coms off the 22 second of this month I have now doubet but what he will holde it if they is eny jestis in law but it is going to cost him agoode deel of money before it is done with if they had let him alone he woulde have bin all wright he hade went and got they advice of allowyar and imployed him to atende to they case but in afew days he was put off .. so I dont know how it well go with them I cant tell they hole story it is two tedious and I have not got minde anough to wright eny thinge with mutch sence in it as you will see Joseph is don soing wheet he has got got 40 achors in wheet I am not going to give up trying to live I am going to rais every thing I can I and josey is all alone Esther is at kerny and josey is wanting to gow off to work and leeve mee all alone and I wont let her gow and she is lying own they bed powting while I am writing you spoke like you thought it was neglect they reeson I lost my cow she did not get it at home she was runing owt and I supose she got it whear some one was soing wheet but I dont know whear I begain to think your ar coming home before longe I think if you ar coming home you ought to come before all they land is gon and if you dwo that you will have to com soon they ar coming in every day by they dosen I never saw they like in my life they ar coming from indiana have colin us they ar well pleased with they cuntry. Bell, I was glad to reede aletter from you ymust not think harde that I do not wright aseprate letter for I have tolde all that can in this and you know how I am about writing So this must dwo for you all I got aletter from your grandma last week they was all well and your greate grand Ma is still living she is some whear in ninty she is well and harty for hur age your unkle Marien Jones talks like coming to neb you and fred must come to neb and get you ahome of your one before thy land is all gon wright soon and often if eny thing strange ocurs I will let you know they conection is all well except Mollie and she is mending I will have to stop and go to they offis dyrect to rock falls from your mother Clarisa Mc New

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Kearney, Nebraska

my life they ar coming from indiana hool colin as they ar well pleased with they cuntry Bell I was glad to neede aletter from you ymust slot Think harde that I do not wright aseprate letter for I have tolde all that can in this and you know how I am about writing so this must due for you all I got aletter from your grand ma last week they was all well and your greate grand sea is still living she is some whear in ninty she is well Marien jones talks like coming to nel you and fred must come to neb and get you ahome of your one before thy land is all gon strange occurs I will let you know They conection is all well except Mollie and she is mending I will have to stop and go to they oppis dynect to nock falls from your Nother

Clarisa Mc vew

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## 1880 CENSUS, HARLAN COUNTY, NE

Enumera	ated o	on June 18 and 21.				Spring	Creek, page 412
line	28	McNew Joseph B	W	M	23	Farmer	KY
	29	Eva	W	F	23 wife	HouseKeeper	IL
	30	Floyd	W	M	7/12 son		NE
line	36	McNew Clarissa	W	F	50	Running a Farm	KY
	37	Josie	W	F	18 dau.	Teaching School	KY
	38	Ewell Gebbus	W	M	67	Farmer	NY
	39	Eliza	W	F	65	HouseKeeping	NY

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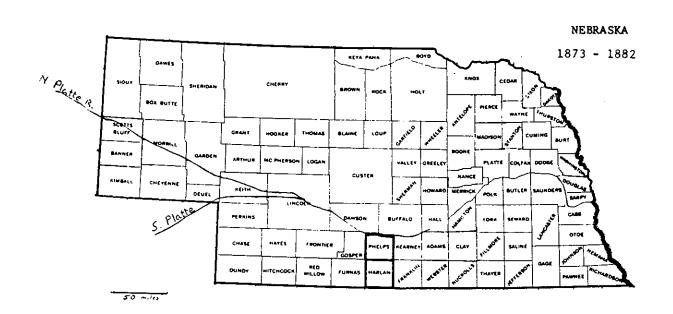


## THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

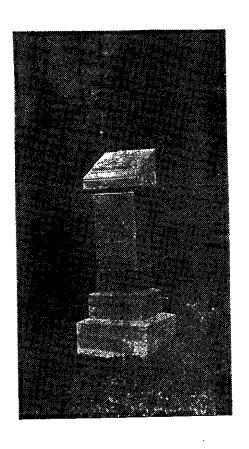
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And the Official Plat of the survey of the said Land, estimated to the General Land Office by the Surveyor General:  Now know ve, That there is, therefore, granted by the Writed States and the said Charles to Alexander
thereof, unto the said Clare thing of Section of Sand above described. TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said tract of Land, with the opportunances
An instimony whereof, I Willial ford of the Sand Office to be housened of the Quiet States of Sancies, have creed these belies to be made
Given words may hand, at the Ging of Washington, the Leartifu day of February
BY THE PRESIDENT: ARKeight By Arthur , Secretary.  Becorded, Vol 1. Page 62.  Recorded Vol 1. Page 62.
2/ 4/ ).

## HOMESTEAD CERTIFICATE - ISSUED 10 FEBRUARY 1881





CLARISSA MCNEW (about 1880)



TOMBSTONE OF MOSES McNEW Booneville, KY

"Moses C. McNew Born June 3, 1819 Died June 3, 1861

He is not dead but sleepeth Resting in hope"