

**MOSES AND CLARISSA McNEW
1820 - 1903**

THEIR ANCESTORS AND DESCENDANTS

Compiled by

Marjorie Molloy Jansen

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Chapter 1 - EARLY HISTORY OF THE CAWOOD - MCNEW FAMILIES
- Chapter 2 - EARLY HISTORY OF THE MONTGOMERY - COLE - JONES
FAMILIES
- Chapter 3 - MOSES AND CLARISSA MCNEW
- Chapter 4 - WILLIAM NEWTON MCNEW
- Chapter 5 - SARAH E. MCNEW MINTS
- Chapter 6 - MARY ANN (MOLLIE) MCNEW HANSEN
- Chapter 7 - ANNE ISABELLE (BELLE) MCNEW TURPIN
- Chapter 8 - JOSEPH B. MCNEW
- Chapter 9 - MARTHA JANE MCNEW EWELL VAN DER LUGT
- Chapter 10 - ESTHER MARGARET MCNEW EWELL
- Chapter 11 - EMILY JOSEPHINE (JOSIE) MCNEW RUSSELL
- Chapter 12 - OTHER RELATIVES OF MOSES AND CLARISSA
- BIBLIOGRAPHY
- INDEX

"Not to know what has been transacted in former times is to be always a child."
Cicero

"The history of every country begins in the heart of a man or a woman".
Willa Cather

"There is properly no history, only biography."
Ralph W. Emerson

INTRODUCTION

There are several different ways in which a family history can be arranged. I have chosen to take Moses and Clarissa McNew as the central couple. The first chapter details what I have been able to learn about his ancestors, primarily McNews and Cawoods. The second chapter lists her ancestors, primarily Montgomerys.

Each chapter following the story of Moses and Clarissa deals with one of their eight children, and that person's descendants. A letter code (a...h) has been assigned each of the eight in birth order, and everyone in that person's family will have a code beginning with the same letter. Example: William McNew = a; his fifth child, Lois = ae; Lois' daughter, Leota = aea. Thus, by looking at the code, you can tell that person's branch of the family and how many generations down from Moses and Clarissa.

Each chapter has pages numbered separately, so that if more information is made available in the future, it can be inserted without disrupting the numbering of the whole book.

Many people were illiterate in previous centuries, and the spelling of proper names was often left up to the imagination of the writer. Thus records show: Macknew, Mackneugh, MacNew as well as McNew; also Caywood, Kaywood, Keywood, Keewood and Cawood. Even given names were spelled variously within a family (Bible entries, personal letters, etc), so I have tried to choose the spelling either used most often or, where known, that favored by the person in question. (Ex: Isobel, Isabel, Isabell, Isabelle).

Dates recorded for events such as birth and death were not always accurate. Where two different dates appear in records, I have tried to use the more logical one. (Ex. Moses' tombstone has a death date of 1861, but he had already died when the 1860 Census was taken. Another source indicated 1859, but his last child was born early in 1861. Therefore, I chose 1860 as the year of death.) I have used "?" or "c" before a date to indicate approximation.

Until mid-eighteenth century, England (and her colonies) used a calender in which the year began in March. When an event occurred during January or February, they would use the earlier year. Where known, I have entered the year which reflects our present usage.

Those who answered Census questions didn't always know the correct ages of household members (and sometimes they didn't tell the truth). Between one census and the next, Clarissa's daughters rarely aged ten years. Several also switched to middle names at some point in their lives, adding yet another difficulty to the family research. I have included photocopies of Census records, where possible, but many were too dark to print. Microfilm of the original records can be viewed at branches of the U. S. Archives and at most central Public Libraries.

Don't be confused by the great number of counties mentioned in the early records. Our ancestors were moving into western Virginia, North Carolina and Kentucky in the forefront of a huge wave of settlers. Consequently, counties as originally set out were divided and subdivided as the populaton rapidly grew. One spot in Virginia where some of our family lived was originally in Fincastle County, then Washington, then Russell and finally Scott.

In dealing with the early years of our family in America, the term "indenture" is often used. A person could indenture himself (become a servant or an apprentice) to get out of debt, or indenture his children to enable them to learn a trade, (and perhaps at the same time let someone else have the expense of raising them). An indenture was always made for a specified number of years, but during that time, the person involved had very few rights. For example, marriage could not be contracted without permission of the master, so weddings rarely occurred during the term of an indenture.

Because of geographical constraints, my research has been confined to libraries and letter-writing, so I have been totally dependant upon all those who discovered and copied original records. Particularly I have benefited from the research done by our distant cousins: Jack Hockett, (descendant of the first William McNew) whose research tied together the McNew families of Maryland and Virginia; Marian Ledgerwood (descendant of Isabell Montgomery), researcher of the Montgomerys; and Homer C. McNew (descendant of the second William McNew) who collected the notes of earlier generations and first introduced me to the Cawood line. My thanks to them and to all my other cousins who have provided the data on more recent generations. My apologies for any errors appearing in this work.

This account of our immigrant ancestors and the westward movement of their families as the nation expanded may encourage you to read more about the history of those times and places. Here are a few suggestions:

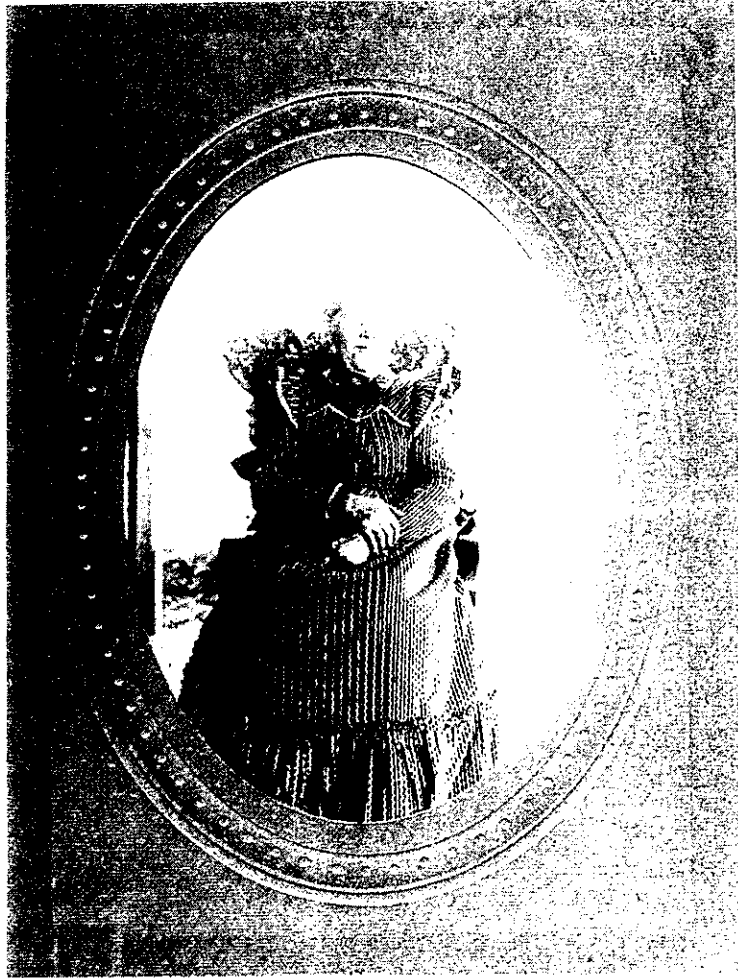
THE LONG HUNTER, Lawrence Elliott,
(Daniel Boone)
A SHORT HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, James L.
Stokesbury
THE PIONEER AND THE PRAIRIE LAWYER, Willard Mounts,
Ginwill Publishing Co, Denver, 1991
(Lincoln and Boone families)

The following are historical fiction, well-researched, easy reading:

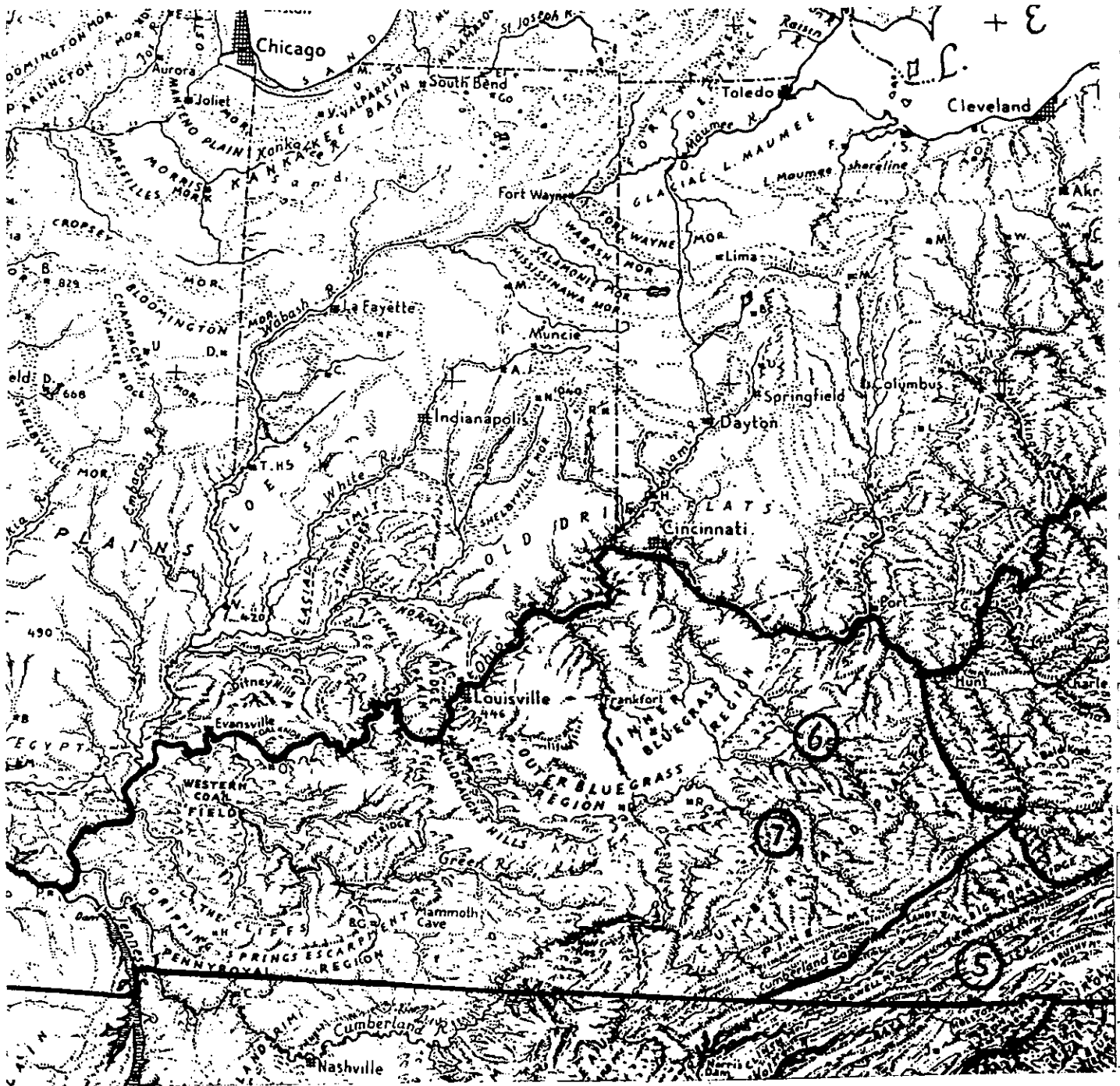
THE TREE OF LIBERTY, Elizabeth Page,
(Virginia, 1750-1800)
FOLLOW THE RIVER, James A. Thom,
(Draper's Meadows Massacre, 1755)
PANTHER IN THE SKY, James A. Thom,
(Tecumsah, 1768-1813)
FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA, James A. Thom,
(Clark Family of Virginia, Lewis & Clark)

There are so many books available on the Great Plains and on the Oregon Trail (which Clarissa followed from Nebraska to Oregon) that I will simply recommend that you ask your local librarians what they have.

Marjorie Molloy Jansen



CLARISSA COLE JONES MCNEW

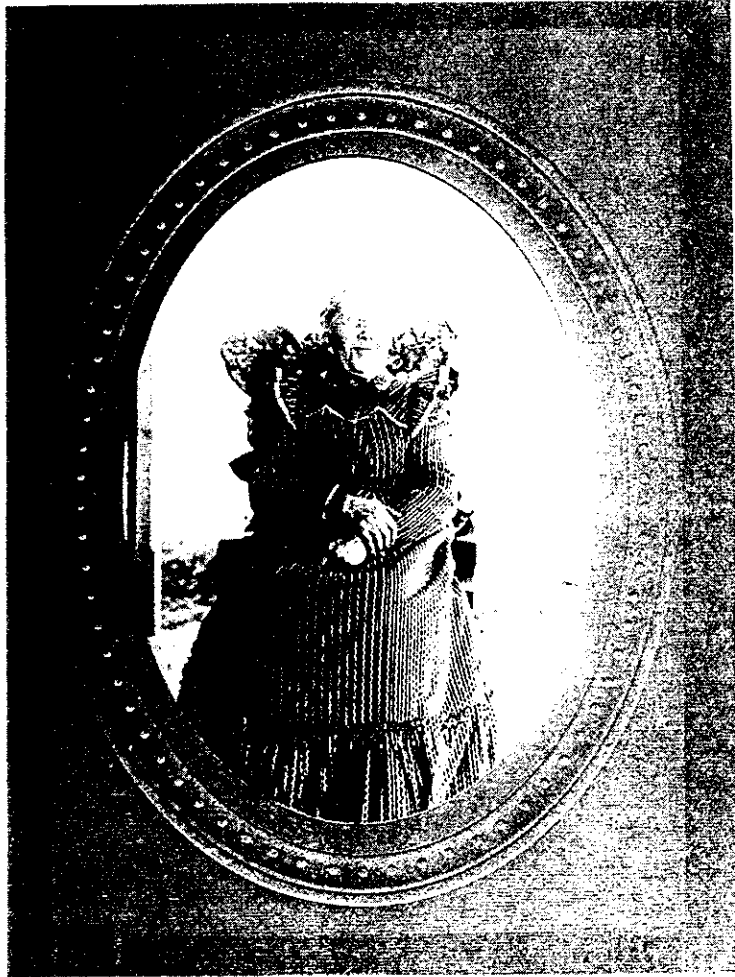


PHYSIOGRAPHIC MAP OF MARYLAND, VIRGINIA AND KENTUCKY

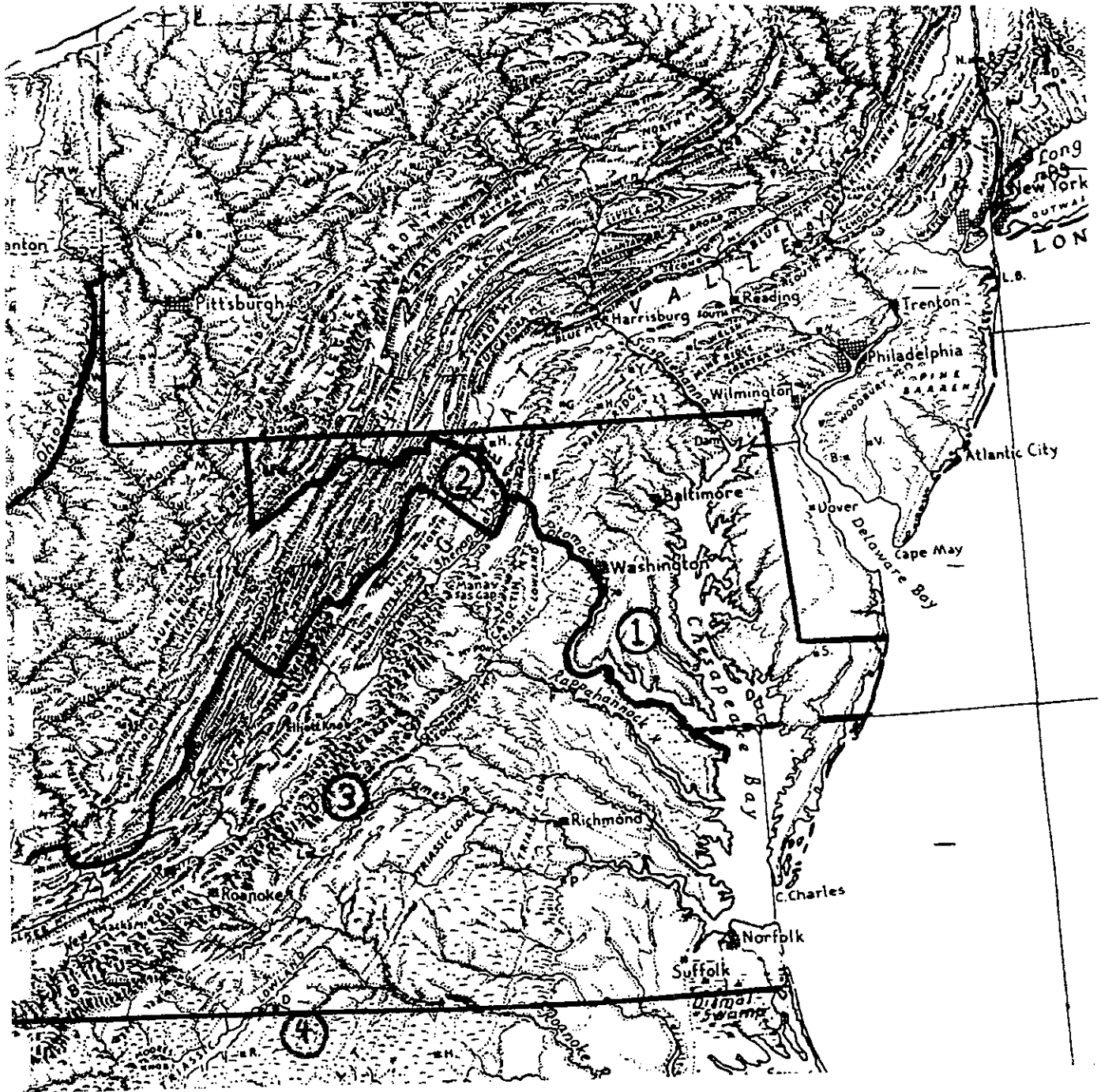
Counties in which our family lived are indicated by numbers:

- 1 = Charles/St Marys/Prince Georges, MD;
- 2 = Frederick, VA (Berkeley, WV);
- 3 = Albemarle/Amherst/Nelson, VA;

- 4 = Orange/Caswell, NC;
- 5 = Washington/Russell/Scott, VA;
- 6 = Morgan, KY;
- 7 = Owsley, KY



CLARISSA COLE JONES MCNEW



Virginia-Maryland
Original states

Kentucky
1792

West Virginia
1863

