

FAMILY HISTORY - CYRIL AND MARY KEARL  
Chapter Eight - The McMinns Ancestry

Mary's ancestors were from Holland, France, England, Wales and Scotland. Many of them came to the United States before the Revolutionary War.



Mary's Great Great Great Grandfather Thomas Turner's  
log cabin in Columbia, Missouri.

The McMinns, Turners, and related families came to the original 13 Atlantic Coast Colonies and followed Daniel Boone (they were probably good friends of his) through the Cumberland Gap across Tenn, Kentucky, Missouri, Texas and Oklahoma. They were at the front of the pioneer movement to the west.

My great grandfather, Robert McMinn, was living in Missouri when he joined the army to serve in the Mexican War. While he was on his way to Mexico, he died in New Mexico of the measles, and was buried in the Glorietta Mountains. He left his wife, my great grandmother, now a widow with several small children including my grandfather, Robert Edward who was 2 years old. When he died, Elizabeth, received a pension for many years. We

have copies of all of his army records.



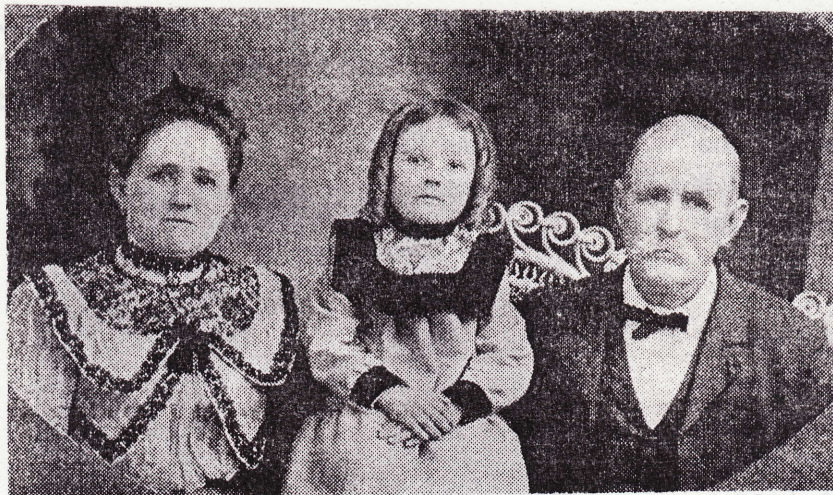
My Grandfather, Robert Edward McMinn  
when he was a young man.

- 8 James MCMINN-----  
 B: Abt 1778/1780  
 P: ,Buncombe,NC  
 M: Abt 1802  
 17 Jane KUYKENDALL-----
- 4 Robert MCMINN-----  
 B: Abt 1804  
 P: ,Buncombe,N.C.  
 M: 2 Nov 1826  
 P: Shelbyville,B,Tennessee  
 D: 15 Aug 1847  
 P: Santa Fe Trail,New Mexico  
 9 Elizabeth WOODFIN-----  
 B: Abt 1786  
 P: ,Buncombe,N.C.  
 D: 7 Jul 1873  
 P: ,Dickson,TN  
 20 Jesse CHAFFIN-----
- 2 Robert Edward MCMINN-----  
 B: 21 Nov 1846  
 P: ,St. Clair,Missouri  
 M: 12 Oct 1880  
 P: Columbia,,MO  
 D: 27 Feb 1925  
 P: Los Angeles,L,California  
 10 Archibald Archer CHAFFIN-----  
 B: Abt 1786  
 P: ,of Charlotte,Virginia  
 M: 19 Dec 1810  
 P: ,Charlotte,Virginia  
 21 Phoebe HATCHETT-----
- 5 Elizabeth Pernetta CHAFFIN-----  
 B: 19 Sep 1811  
 P: Richmond,I,Virginia  
 D: 12 Apr 1900  
 P: Stockton,Cedar,Missouri  
 11 Frances FEARS-----  
 B:  
 P: ,of Charlotte,Virginia  
 D:  
 P:  
 22 William FEARS-----  
 23 Mrs. FEARS-----
- 1 Sarah Ruth MCMINN-----  
 B: 17 Sep 1896  
 P: Marfa,Presidio,Texas  
 M: 28 Oct 1921  
 P: Buffalo,Harper,Oklahoma  
 D: 24 Dec 1980  
 P: Salt Lake City,S,Utah  
 Francis Edward WALKER-----  
 Spouse  
 12 James TURNER-----  
 B: Abt 1810  
 P: ,Madison,Kentucky  
 M: 2 May 1833  
 P: ,Boone,Missouri  
 D: 19 Apr 1850  
 P: Columbia TWP,B,Missouri  
 24 Thomas TURNER-----  
 25 Elizabeth NEWLAND-----
- 6 George Washington TURNER-----  
 B: 12 Apr 1838  
 P: Columbia TWP,B,Missouri  
 M: 19 Oct 1858  
 P: Martinsburg,A,Missouri  
 D: 27 Nov 1893  
 P: Harg,Boone,Missouri  
 13 Sarah Ann CONNELLY-----  
 B: Abt 1817  
 P: ,Madison,Kentucky  
 D: 17 Jul 1855  
 P: Columbia TWP,B,Missouri  
 26 John CONNELLY-----  
 27 Elizabeth TURNER-----
- 3 Margaret WRIGHT TURNER-----  
 B: 7 Mar 1861  
 P: Columbia TWP,B,Missouri  
 D: 7 May 1917  
 P: Witchita,Sedgwick,Kansas  
 14 William R. MARTIN-----  
 B: 5 Jan 1802  
 P: ,,Kentucky  
 M: 25 Sep 1826  
 P: ,,Kentucky  
 D: 22 Feb 1867  
 P: Martinsburg,A,Missouri  
 28 Russell MARTIN-----  
 29 Margaret VAUGHN-----
- 7 Elizabeth J. MARTIN-----  
 B: 10 May 1839  
 P: Martinsburg,A,Missouri  
 D: 20 Dec 1928  
 P: Oklahoma City,,Oklahoma  
 15 Margaret P. WRIGHT-----  
 B:  
 P: ,,Kentucky  
 D: 16 Oct 1845  
 P:  
 30 Winfield WRIGHT-----  
 31 Judith TINSLEY-----

Name and address of submitter:

Phone:

My Grandfather, Robert Edward McMinn, moved from Missouri to Brownsville, Texas where he operated a store with his brother John. Sometime after he was married he moved to Marfa, Texas where he owned a cattle ranch which he sold to a nephew, Charles C. Brite. It became one of the largest cattle ranches in Texas.



My Grandmother Margaret Wright, My Mother Sarah Ruth when she was a child, and My Grandfather Robert Edward McMinn.

My mother, Sarah Ruth, was the youngest of the eight children born to Robert and Margaret. She was born in 1896 in Marfa. Oklahoma became a territory in 1890 and finally a state in 1907. After selling his ranch in Marfa he moved to Buffalo (near the panhandle), Oklahoma in about 1901 when my mother, Sarah Ruth, was five. He grew wheat on several hundred acres of farm land there. Aunt Ethel, one of my mother's older sisters, says that when they moved to Buffalo you couldn't see a tree anywhere.

Times were difficult then. Mothers oldest sister, Linnie had married Lloyd Hoy and they lived on a small farm near Buffalo. She had seven children but none of the modern conveniences we are famil-

iar with. They finally gave up farming and in the 1930's moved to California as did many others from Oklahoma.

It seemed like there was no end to troubles in those days. Her oldest brother, George, left home when he was young and never came back. When people disappeared the saying was that, "He had gone west." George showed up in California many years later after he had retired from the railroad. Another brother, Barney, lost a leg and in his depression committed suicide. Brother Reo served in WW I, and was one of the 22,000 desperate, jobless veterans who marched on Washington in 1932 asking for an early payment of the bonus that Congress had promised for 1945. He had a hard time during the Depression and finally come to Salt Lake City and worked for my father. My Aunt Ethel married Eldon Dick who was a lawyer and had come through Buffalo. Her one son, Newton, was a pilot and early in WW II died in an Airplane crash. Her husband divorced her so she came to Utah to live with us. She also worked for my father in the insurance office. My Uncle Charles accidentally shot and killed himself in a hunting accident in 1933 and his 3 older orphaned children lived with us for several years.

Mother said that when she was young children were not given allowances to spend but her father was always generous with his money. When they went to town he saw that they had candy, (horehounds or stick candy). They went to the nearby town of Kitty and bought most of their groceries at the general store there. This was a great occasion. Grandfather McMinn drove 45 miles to Woodward or Ashland in his buggy to buy the larger quantities of staples such as flour that were purchased once or twice a year.

They had a large storeroom on the farm. They cured their own hams, canned fruit and stored vegetables for the winter in a root cellar.

Their home on the ranch had no electricity or indoor plumbing. It did have a good source of water and travelers almost always stopped to water their stock and get rested and refreshed. Mother said that the traveler was always welcomed and often she and her brothers and sisters would find that during the night her parents had moved them to a pallet on the floor to provide a bed for the stranger.

When mother was a young girl one of her jobs was to catch chickens, no easy job. She then had to kill and clean them for her mother to fry. Her Mother was a very good cook. Mother, Aunt Linnie, and Aunt Ethel used to help Grandmother feed the harvest hands. They always had a large garden. They had no refrigerator but the cellar was cool and they kept milk and fruit there.

Mother didn't do much of the hard farm work but she gathered eggs, fed the chickens and did the sort of things that little girls did on a farm. They had horses on the farm and traveled everywhere in a wagon or on horseback. Friends would stop or gather at their house to visit, play and eat snacks. The popular games children played in those days were "Cameron", run-sheep-run, mumble peg. They also played in the hay in the barn.

Cyclones were common in that part of Oklahoma and they had a cellar on the farm to protect them from these storms. Often they would get up in the middle of the night and spend the rest of the night

in the cellar. Grandfather usually refused to leave his bed and go into the cellar.

Mother's family were members of the Christian Church (The Disciples of Christ). My father had been a Presbyterian but he joined the Christian Church after he and my mother were married. Mother, after she was a grown woman, always taught in Sunday School. They usually didn't have a chapel when mother was a child and met in a rented hall of some kind.



Mother when she was a young lady.

Most of mother's early life was spent on the farm. While she was on the farm she walked five miles to school in Buffalo and took the usual courses in school, english, history, spelling and in high school, algebra and latin. Aunt Fannie, who was her Mother's Sister was one of the teachers during those years. Mc Guffy readers were used in her school. She went to school through the eighth grade in Buffalo and then lived with her Aunt Maude, another of her Mother's Sisters, in Oklahoma City (about 300 miles away) where she finished high school.

Her Father also owned a bank in Buffalo but they lived on the farm until her Mother died in 1917 and then they moved into a house in Buffalo which had electricity, and indoor plumbing. She had gone to Alva and lived with her Aunt Fannie while she attended and graduated from the State Teachers College there. Mother taught school in a one room schoolhouse for seven months. She didn't like teaching very much and so she started working in her fathers bank. Her brothers Charles and Reo were also working there.

During WW I food was rationed. There weren't many shortages or privations during the war but Mother remembers using parched corn as a substitute for coffee.

The first president Mother voted for was Calvin Coolidge. He, Harding, and Hoover were not very popular presidents in Oklahoma. It wasn't until Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected that there was a president whom people respected and had confidence in. There wasn't much world or national news available in those days. (No Global Television). Most of the news they heard was local news.

Girls in those days married at an early age. Aunt Ethel was married at 16. Mother was 25, almost an old maid when my Father and she were married. My Dad's Father, Lewis Edward Walker, built railroads and was in Buffalo for a time. Mother worked for him some. My Dad used to come to Buffalo in the summers and help his Father and when he finished at the University of Texas he came to Buffalo to work in the "other" bank in town.



My Father, when he was courting my Mother.

My Father and Mother, while dating, would go 10 or 12 miles in his car at night to a dance. Since my parents went several miles away on dates, sometimes their friends weren't aware that they were considering marriage. My parents surprised everyone when they got married in October of 1921. When their friends found out about the marriage they dressed them up in funny clothes. They made a veil for my Mother out of old curtains and made her wear funny shoes. They dressed my Father in a checkered suit. They were paraded through town in an old buggy and tied to a post for several hours that night. This was what they called a chivaree. They didn't have a fancy wedding but friends gave them a shower and they received many nice gifts.



Me when I was 6 months old.

I was born in December of 1922. Mother had an infection of some sort when I was born and almost died and she never had any other children. My Great Aunt Fannie Miller, Aunt Linnie, and my Grandmother Walker helped out for 2 months after I was born.

They didn't have many very competent doctors in those days. However, my Great Aunt Fanny Miller and Aunt Linnie were very competent mid-wives and nurses. They would travel on horseback many miles to deliver a child and then tend the mother after the birth carrying all of their supplies with them. They might stay several days until the mother and child were well. My Grandmother McMinn was also a midwife.

Mother quit her job at the bank after I was born. They bought a house in Buffalo and lived there until I was one year old when they moved to Oklahoma City.