

Ottumwa, Iowa,  
October 23rd, 1873.

Mrs. Esther K. McElroy,  
Greenfield, O,

Dear Mother:

You remember asking me to give you a copy of the names &c of our ancestors on your side of the house, and as I just came across it I will send you a copy at once.

The Kerrs, as all the rest of my ancestors, were of Scotch-Irish descent, and the farthest back I have any knowledge of they were living in County Derry, Ireland.

I. The first is Alexander J. Kerr who had three sons, Robert, Alex and William, and six girls. James Watt Jr's grandmother was one of the girls.

II. His Oldest Son, Robert, my great grandfather, came to America in the first ship that sailed after the Revolution in America. He had eight boys and four girls. There were John, Alex, James, William, Robert, Andrew, Joseph and Thomas and Nancy (Simison), Betsy, Esther (Ross) and Martha.

III. The next in line was his son, James, your father and my grandfather.

On your mother's side we can trace our ancestry back about two hundred years. They came from the Highlands of Scotland sometime previous to 1688.

I. The first whose name we have was James Ross, born in the Province of Wooster and County of Denegall, Ireland, and was saved from death while a child at the hand of the French and Irish, by his stepmother hiding him under a gooseberry bush, and she afterwards said the pursuit was so close that the sabers of her pursuers almost touched her clothes as they were plunged into the bushes hunting her. This was in 1690, on her flight to Londonderry. James Ross was married twice and had several children by both wives. Two of the sons were named John and Samuel.

II. Our next ancestor, Samuel Ross, your great grandfather, was born in 1723 and lived 97 years to 1816, the year that your father and mother were married. Samuel had several children, among whom were his son Samuel who was a doctor, and died in the East Indies, John who died near Pisgah and had a son who went to California but never heard from, Andrew who also died near Pisgah who was the father of Uncle Andrew Ross and Robert your grandfather.

III. The next ancestor in line was your grandfather, Robert Ross. He had one son and six daughters. The son died an old bachelor, the daughters all married: four of the girls were named Becky, Hannah, Peggy, and Nancy. Hannah's children live in Iowa. Peggy married a Hixon, and Nancy, your mother, married a Kerr. They (our ancestors) came to America in 1795 and were six weeks on sea. Three daughters and two sons came together.

This history is gathered from a few notes I took while in a conversation with grandmother Kerr last summer.

Your son,  
E. E. McElroy

THE KERRS, by Rev. John M. McElroy

The name is prominent in early Scottish History. They were of Celtic origin and constituted a regular clan, having their own distinguishing tartan. The earliest name we have is that of John Kerr of the Forest of Selkirk living in the year A.D. 1257. He had a son Henry<sup>2</sup> and a grandson Robert<sup>3</sup>, of Auldtownburn. Robert had a son Andrew<sup>4</sup> and three grandsons, Andrew<sup>5</sup>, Thomas<sup>5</sup>, and James<sup>5</sup>. Names that followed were Walter<sup>6</sup>, Robert<sup>7</sup>, Mark<sup>7</sup>, George<sup>8</sup> and Sir Andrew<sup>8</sup>.

Sir Walter<sup>9</sup>, Mark<sup>9</sup>, Thomas<sup>9</sup>.

Robert Kerr<sup>11</sup> (Earl of Roxburg) 1616.

William<sup>12</sup> (Lord Kerr) so they kept on, Earls, Baronets, Dukes, Abbots and Lords and common folks and the prominent names among them continued to be Robert, Andrew, Thomas, James, John and William. Some of the titled Kerrs are still found among the nobility of Scotland.

The above I get from a book entitled "Scottish clans and their Tartans" published in Edinburgh and London.

The Kerrs were among the Protestants and Covenanters who were driven by persecution to North Ireland. At what time they came to America, and their names, and where they first settled I am not informed. They were and are very numerous. The ministry of the Presbyterian Church and also of the Seceder and Covenanter churches of the United Presbyterian Churches have included many of that name.

Grandfather James E. Kerr came to Greenfield from Path Valley, Franklin Co., Pa. The E in his name stood for Elder, a name that belonged to some others of the Ohio Kerrs.

Among the early Scotch-Irish settlers near Harrisburg, Pa. was Robert Elder born in Scotland about 1679, came to America from county Antisan, N. Ireland about 1730. He died July 28, 1746. He had five sons, viz: Robert, John, Thomas, David and James.

Of these John Elder became a Presbyterian minister and was pastor of the Paxton (or Paxtang) church for 56 years, and died in his 87th year. The youngest of these five brothers James Elder settled in Franklin Co. He was born in A.D. 1712. Grandfather James E. Kerr was, doubtless, named for this James Elder who was likely a kinsman, possibly his grandfather.

See "Pennsylvania Genealogies" by Wm. H. Egle, M.D. Harrisburg, Pa.

Written by Rev. John M. McElroy of Ottumwa, Iowa to Mary McElroy Duncan Sept. 25, 1901.

FAMILY RECORD OF THE THOMAS & JUDITH BONNER GHORMLEY FAMILY

	<b>Born</b>	<b>Died</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
Thomas Ghormley	Oct. 16, 1766	May 17, 1840	
Judith Bonner Ghormley	Dec. 6, 1770	June 3, 1839	(My grandparents of (Rev. John M. McElroy
Sarah Ghormley McElroy	Mar. 29, 1788	April 20, 1871	Mother of Rev. J.M. McElroy
Hugh Ghormley	July 7, 1790	Nov. 10, 1854	
Jane Ghormley (Bomer) <sup>1</sup>	June 10, 1792	Aug 1, 1870	
David Ghormley	Feb. 21, 1796	July 18, 1857	
Margaret Ghormley (Bigham)	Feb. 22, 1798	May 18, 1827	
Eleanor Ghormley (Dickey)	Mar. 10, 1803	Jan. 3, 1870	
George R. Bigham	Jan. 31, 1791	Oct. 14, 1852	Husband of Margaret
Wm. Logan Ghormley	Dec. 16, 1808	April 15, 1886	
Nancy Stewart Ghormley	Oct. 31, 1795	April 15, 1867	(Wife of Hugh (Ghormley
Margaret Beatty Ghormley	Oct. 19, 1798	May 12, 1856	Wife of Uncle David
Rev. Saml. Crothers D.D.	Oct. 22, 1783	July 20, 1856	Our Old Pastor
Rev. Wm. Dickey	Dec. 6, 1774	Dec. 5, 1857	(husband of Aunt (Eleanor
John McConnell McElroy	Jan. 21, 1830	Feb. 20, 1908	
Joseph McElroy	Dec. 19, 1883	May 4, 1834	
Agnes Greer McElroy, wife of John	Feb. 20, 1829	Nov. 11, 1923	(Father's brother
Alexander McElroy	Mar. 6, 1784	, 1876 -	-(unmarried, left (\$30,000 to Bible (Fund, W. P. Church
Joseph McElroy, D. D.	Dec. 29, 1792	Sept. 16, 1875	
Patrick Greer		Jan. 7, 1857	Aged 93
Elizabeth Wilson Greer		April , 1855	" 86
Joseph Collins		April 13, 1814	" 52
Abigail Byram Collins		Nov. 23, 1856	" 86
Hugh McElroy, born in Scotland and emigrated to Co. Down, Ireland time of the persecutions. Probably between 1680-1690 two of his brothers came with him.			
John McElroy, born probably about 1712. Died probably between 1780-1790			
Ann Scroggs McElroy, born in Scotland, 1743		, 1811	(Parents of Eb-
Hugh McElroy	Feb. 16, 1738	Mar. 2, 1813	(nezer Erskine (McElroy.
James Elder Kerr	Nov. 4, 1786	, 1871	(Parents of Robert,
Nancy Cunningham Kerr	Dec. 27, 1798	Jan. 14, 1881	(Martha and Esther (Kerr--Ancestors of (Walter H. McElroy

\*1 This is the way it is spelled in the original

I have kept the original format as much as possible!

## McELROY GENEALOGY

“Three brothers came over from Scotland, near Glasgow and settled in County Down Ireland. Some of the family still reside at Kate’s Bridge and attend the Ballyrone Presbyterian Church where in the church yard nearby, four or five generations are buried.”

Extract from letter written to Rev. J. M. McElroy, Ottumwa, Iowa, in 1884 by John McElroy of Leitrim County, Down, Ireland.

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### 1st Generation

Hugh, first probably in our line, but no other information

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### 2nd Generation

John, born 1710 probably died near the close of the century. He had a least three sons, no information as to daughters.

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### 3rd Generation

Hugh, born in Ireland Feb. 16, 1738, died Mar. 2, 1813. Came to America at the age of 22, about 1760. He first settled in Cumberland Co., Penn., near Big Spring, & not far from Newville, where he married Ann Scroggs, about the year 1783, daughter of Alex Scroggs.

Ann Scroggs was born in Scotland 1743 and died near Mexico, Penn. 1811.

About 1777, Hugh moved in Lost Creek Valley near Mifflintown, where he lived a number of years, then moved five or six miles to the vicinity of Mexico, Juanita County, where the remainder of his life was spent.

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### 4th Generation

Prudence (Robinson) Born Mar. 6, 1784

Ann (unmarried)

John, died young,

Hugh, died young.

Ebnezer Erskine born Dec. 22, 1781\*

Two daughters who died young.

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### 4th Generation

Ebeneser Erskine born Dec. 22, 1791\*, died Mar. 31, 1845

Married Sarah Ghormley near Mexico, Penn. April 13, 1813

She was born Mar. 29, 1789, died April 20, 1871

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### 5th Generation

Judith Ann - born June 4, 1815, died at Hubbel, Neb. July 23, 1892

Married James B. Curran, 1834.

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Jane born 1817, died at Ames, Iowa, April 27, 1896.

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Hugh, born 1820, died at Newton, Iowa.

Married first, Martha Kerr, 1845

Married second, Mrs. Rosanna Wright, 1881

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Margaret born Mar. 10, 1823, died at Greenfield, Ohio, Jan. 6. 1898

Married Robert Kerr.

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\*disparity in dates in original document!!!

Thomas Ghormley born May 29, 1827, died at Leesburg, Ohio, Feb. 4, 1865.  
Married Esther Kerr, 1848.

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John McConnell born Jan. 21, 1830, died at Ottumwa, Iowa, Feb. 20, 1908.  
Married Agnes Greer, Sept. 11, 1855.

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Joseph, born Dec. 9, 1833, died May 4, 1834.

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#### 5th Generation

Thomas Ghormley McElroy<sup>5</sup> (Ebenezer<sup>4</sup> Hugh<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2</sup> Hugh<sup>1</sup>)  
born May 27, 1827, died at Leesburg, Ohio, (R.R. accident) Feb. 2, 1865.  
Married Esther Kerr, 1848, near Greenfield, Ohio.  
Esther Kerr McElroy was born Aug. 31, 1830, died at Ottumwa, Ia., Jan. 31, 1906.  
(Parents of Esther Kerr McElroy, )  
(James Elder Kerr, born Nov. 4, 1786, died 1871 )  
(Nancy Cunningham Kerr born Dec. 27, 1798, died Jan. 14, 1881. )

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#### 6th Generation.

Ebenezer Erskine born  
Isabella Hamilton McElroy born Sept. 24, 1849.  
Elizabeth Miliner McElroy born Sept. 4, 1854.

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James Finney born at Greenfield, Ohio, Nov. 25, 1852  
Married Susie Hale, July 9, 1870 at Newbury, Vt.

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Robert Newton, born October 2, 1850 at Greenfield, Ohio, died Aug. 8, 1903.  
Married Almenia (sp???) Mead, Dec. 23, 1874.

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Mary, born at Greenfield, Ohio, Oct. 10, 1854, died May 5, 1925.  
Married Oscar Duncan, Dec. 18 (or 13?), 1881.

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Hugh Nevin born at Greenfield, Ohio, born Jan. 26, 1860.  
Married Emma Duncan at Greenfield, Ohio, 1882.

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#### 6th Generation

Ebenezer Erskine (Thomas<sup>5</sup> Ebenezer<sup>4</sup> Hugh<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2</sup> Hugh<sup>1</sup>)  
born at Greenfield, Ohio, Feb. 16, 1849, died Sept. 7, 1905.  
Married first, Belle Hamilton of South Salem, Ohio, July 2, 1873.  
Married second, Elisabeth Miliner of Grimes, Iowa, Sept 4, 1854.

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#### 7th Generation

Thomas Clifford born at Ottumwa, Iowa, April 6, 1874.  
Married first, Jean Smith, at Lounsberry, N. Y.  
Married second, Sayde \_\_\_\_\_, Minneapolis, Minn.

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Carl E., born at Ottumwa, Iowa, June 26, 1876  
Married Florence Lee Sept. 7, 1904.

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Walter H. born at Ottumwa, Iowa, Aug. 15, 1878  
Married Lucile Hope Wycoff at Cedar Rapids, Oct. 5, 1904.

Ralph T., born at Ottumwa, Iowa, April 26, 1880.  
Married Maud B. Heald Oct. 11, 1911.

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Evalyn, born at Ottumwa, Iowa, Sept. 1881.  
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Children of Ebenezer E. and Elizabeth McElroy.

Edna, born at Ottumwa, Iowa, Aug. 30, 1885.  
Married C. Ernest LeCompte at Ottumwa, Iowa, Aug. 14, 1906.

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Edith, born at Ottumwa, Iowa, Sept. 18, 1889.  
Married Madara D. Fezler Sept. 11, 1912 at Minneapolis, Minn.  
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7th Generation.

Walter Hamilton<sup>7</sup> (Ebenezer<sup>6</sup> Thomas<sup>5</sup> Ebenezer<sup>4</sup> Hugh<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2</sup> Hugh<sup>1</sup>)  
born at Ottumwa, Iowa, Aug. 15, 1878.  
Married Lucile Hope Wycoff at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Oct. 5, 1904.  
Lucile Hope McElroy born at Nov. 2, 1882  
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8th Generation.

Dorothy Alice McElroy, born at Ottumwa, Iowa, Oct. 6, 1906.  
Robert H. McElroy born at Ottumwa, Iowa, June 28, 1910.  
John Wycoff McElroy born at Ottumwa, Iowa, June 17, 1913, died April 19, 1914.  
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8th Generation

Dorothy Alice<sup>8</sup> (Walter<sup>7</sup> Ebenezer<sup>6</sup> Thomas<sup>5</sup> Ebenezer<sup>4</sup> Hugh<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2</sup> Hugh<sup>1</sup>)  
born at Ottumwa, Iowa, Oct. 6, 1916  
Married Andrew Fluetsch Jr., at Ottumwa, Iowa, Dec. 29, 1925.  
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9th Generation

Andrew McElroy Fluetsch III<sup>9</sup> (Dorothy<sup>8</sup> Walter<sup>7</sup> Ebenezer<sup>6</sup> Thomas<sup>5</sup> Ebenezer<sup>4</sup> Hugh<sup>3</sup> John<sup>2</sup> Hugh<sup>1</sup>)  
born at Dubuque, Iowa, April 24, 1928  
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REFERENCES:

“Scotch-Irish McElroy’s in America” by Rev. John M. McElroy, D.D. Ottumwa, Iowa, published by  
Brandon Printing Co., Albany, New York, 1901.  
“The Old Family Scrap Book” compiled by Rev. J. M. McElroy, D.D.  
Letters from John McElroy, Leitrim, Ireland and Richard McElroy, near Leitrim County, Down, Ireland.  
Family Bible of E. E. McElroy.  
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State of Iowa, ::  
Wapello County. :: SS

I, Abbie McElroy, daughter of the Rev. J. M. McElroy being duty sworn on oath, depose and say that I  
have compiled the above McElroy genealogy from the records and references above shown, and which records  
were in my possession, and which records were personally known to me to be originals, and I further state that  
the above has been carefully compared by me and is a true copy of the facts as shown by said records.

Dated, Ottumwa, Iowa, this August 15th, 1929

SGD Abby McElroy

Subscribed and sworn to before the undersigned, a Notary Public this August 15th, 1929

SGD Gladys W. Whisler

Notary Public in and for said county

March 1977

John Mercer McElroy born in Greenfield, Ohio, Apr 6, 1857, Died 12/1/1917 Ottumwa, Iowa  
Married Mary Ellen Milner, Greenfield, Ohio (married 2/22/1882 Greenfield, Ohio)  
born 8/13/1863 - died 2/9/49 Ottumwa, IA

7 Children

Mayna Kate McElroy - born Nov 24, 1882, Greenfield, Ohio, died 7/29/56 Center, Colorado  
Married Weldon S. Maurice 2/22/06, Ottumwa, Ia (died 1/26/60) Center, Colorado

Robert Owen McElroy - born 2/23/84 (something, IA) died 10/3/73 ???  
Married Adda C. Cain - Born 10/26/93, Chicago, IL 2/22/1921  
born 10/26/93 - living

Nellie Fern McElroy - born Ottumwa, IA 4/21/86, - died 9/12/63 Ottumwa, IL  
Married Hervey Hite — Ottumwa, IA 2/17/04, - died 3/12/(the rest is cut off)

Esther Priscilla McElroy - born 12/1/88 Ottumwa, IA, - died Keosauqua, IA 7/6/76  
Married George W. Mudge, Ottumwa IA 11/16/10 - died in Missouri, 3/26/20

Fred Mercer McElroy - born 2/18/93 Ottumwa, IA, (Fred died Apr 1977  
Married Gertie May (???) Johnston 2/17/32 Galesburg, IL

Mary Ellen McElroy - born 11/13/94, Ottumwa, IA  
Married Harry C. Sitan 7/8/22, Ottumwa, IA - died in Seattle, WA 5/1/6???

Ruth Alice McElroy born 10-18-97 Ottumwa, IA  
(I use Ruth M)  
Married William E. Gleason 1/21/67, Grosse Ile, Mich

John's Mother

Esther Kerr McElroy - Born Aug 31, 1830 - Jan 31, 1906  
Thomas Ghormley McElroy  
b 5-27-1827  
Married 1848  
Died at age of 37 1865 died

These notes were faintly written in a tiny script running off of the right side of the page. Every effort has been made to transcribe them correctly even to blowing up the page in size. Some of it does not make sense, but you get what was on the page.

ke

March 1977

great  
great  
grandfather

John Mercer McElroy born in Greenfield, Ohio, Apr 6, 1857. Died <sup>12/1/17</sup> Ottumwa, Ia

in Ottumwa, Iowa Dec 1, 1917  
married Mary Ellen Milner <sup>(Greenfield Ohio) (married 2/22/1882 Greenfield Ohio)</sup> born 8/13/63 - died 4/9/49 Ottumwa, Ia

great  
great  
grandmother

7 children

Mayna Kate McElroy - born Nov 24, 1852 <sup>Greenfield Ohio</sup> died 7/29/56 Center Colo  
married Weldon Maurice 2/22/06, Ottumwa, Ia (died 1/26/60) Center, Colo

Robert Owen McElroy - born 2/23/84 <sup>Greenfield Ohio</sup> died 10/3/73 Toledo, Ia  
married Adda C. Cain - born 10/26/93 - married Chicago Ill 2/22/21  
born 10/26/93 - living

Hellie Fern McElroy <sup>McElroy</sup> born 4/21/86 <sup>Ottumwa Ia</sup> - died 9/12/63 Ottumwa, Ia  
married Hervey Hite <sup>Hite</sup> Ottumwa, Ia 2/17/04 - born - died 3/24/52

great  
grandmother

Esther Priscilla McElroy - born 12/1/88 <sup>(1888)</sup> Ottumwa Ia - died Knoxville Ia 7/6/76 <sup>(1976)</sup>  
married George W. Mudge Ottumwa Ia 11/16/10 <sup>(1910)</sup> - died Missouri 3/26/20 <sup>(1920)</sup>

Fred Mercer McElroy - born 2/18/93 Ottumwa Ia (Fred died Apr 1977)  
married Berty May (Dot) Johnston 2/17/32, Leesburg, Ill.

Mary Ellen McElroy - born 11/13/94 Ottumwa Ia  
married Harry C. Ditan 7/3/22, Ottumwa, Ia - died in  
Leesburg, Wash 5/3/68

Ruth McElroy - born 10/18/97 Ottumwa Ia  
<sup>alias</sup>  
Guss Ruth (A)  
married William E. Blason 1/21/67, Susan, Ia, Mich

great-great-great  
grandmother  
John's mother

Esther Kerr McElroy - Born Aug 31, 1830 -  
Jan 31, 1906 - died  
at Ottumwa,  
Iowa

husband Thomas Ghanley McElroy -  
born 5-27-1827

died ~~married~~ 1848  
at age of 37 1865 died

died at Leesburg, Ohio  
Feb 4, 1865

near  
Greenfield, Ohio

1976  
1888  
1888

DIED, April 15th, 1959, near Pisgah, Ross County, at the residence of her son-in-law, Daniel Hughes, Mrs. Agnes Elder Kerr, in the ninety-seventh year of her age.

The deceased was born March 17th, 1763, in what was then called Shipinsburg Station, Franklin County, Pa. In 1784 she was married, and united with the Upper Path Valley Presbyterian Church, then under the pastoral care of Rev. Mr. Dougle. So she was connected with the church militant nearly 75 years.

But few disciples have so long a pilgrimage through this world of sorrow. Her parents both lived to be over one hundred years of age. Her husband died in 1817 leaving her a widow with twelve children, six of whom, together with 56 grandchildren and one hundred twelve great grandchildren, still survive.

She and some of her children came to Ohio in 1826, and settled in Ross County where she spent the remnant of her days in connection with Pisgah Church, in the faithful discharge of those domestic, social, and religious duties which belonged to her station. And her faithful precepts and example of devoted and consistent piety are worthy to be remembered and regarded by her numerous descendants and surviving friends. "Be ye also ready".

A. R. Naylor

