

during WW II, Wallace Walker was a member of the Cavalry, Cyrus McRaven was a medic in WW I, Joseph McRaven (Navy) served in Vietnam, Matthew (Marine) served in Afghanistan and generations prior to them also served.

5. Agriculture has also played a big role in the Walker/McRaven legacy in at least four generations on both sides of the family in McDonough and Warren Counties. The McRaven/Dixon farm of Warren County goes back as far as Eli and Myrtle Dixon and the Walker farm of McDonough County managed or farmed by Theophilus Walker, Wallace Walker, Alan Walker and the Walker children - Laura, Barbara, Julia and Ruth. The original home still stands.

6. Relatives have also had a strong religious background. Ancestors have been ministers, missionaries, church officers and volunteers, most often in the Presbyterian faith.

7. Community service has been evident as well. J. Dixon was honored as Citizen of the Year, Wallace was one of the founding members of Kiwanis, some served as School Board Members, Library Board Members, YMCA Board Members, Board Members of the Historical Society, PTO Board Members, Salvation Board Members, WIU Foundation Members and countless other volunteer positions.

The McRaven/Walker heritage is full of rich McDonough County history. Of special importance has been the legal profession, education, medicine, military service, agriculture, religion, community and, of course, family. That family is grateful that Cyrus McRaven and Wallace Walker introduced their children, J. Dixon and Doris to each other. *Submitted by Linda McRaven Engel.*

MCSPELLITT – Our ancestor Barney McSpirit first immigrated to the United States sometime in the 1840s from Enniskillen, Fermanagh County, Ireland. Verbal family history states that he came over because of the Potato Famine in Ireland and while the trip here was under horrible conditions for his family he was optimistic about a better life for his family here in this country. Barney, his wife, Mary and his seven children are first seen in the 1850 census in Emmet Township, McDonough County, IL. Susan, the youngest of his children born 1841, married Edward Lynch and later moved out west to South Dakota. His youngest son, Terrence Thomas born 1838, married Nancy Agnes Fitch and moves to Kansas, Missouri and finally to Clinton County, IL. The middle son, Barney E. born 1836, married Francis Belle Bowen, remains in McDonough County until his death in 1897. His wife remarried and moves with his two children to Arizona territory. Middle daughter, Rose Anna born 1834, married John Feehey and remains in McDonough County and is in Bushnell in the 1910 census. Frances, the second eldest son, joins the union Army during the Civil War and according to the report of the adjutant general of the state of Kansas, he survived the war but no other information has been found to this date. The eldest daughter, Ann born 1831, marries Lewis Wil-

liam Hoopes and they move to Missouri with their children. The oldest son, James born in 1826, is 22 years old on the 1850 census and first is married to Mary Burns and has five children: Barney, born in 1856; Rose Ann, born 1858, who married Michael Mallon; John Patrick, born 1860 and my ancestor in which I will refer to later; Edward, born 1867 and Susan, born 1867, who married Daniel McGinnis. After the death of the first wife, Mary Burns, in 1868, James marries Mary A. Campbell in 1871 in McDonough County, IL. To this union were born four children: Mary B., born 1872, who marries Edward S. Riley; James, born 1874; Jenny, born 1875, who marries George Quigley and Frances Gertrude, born 1883, who married Henry Allen.

John Patrick McSperritt born 1860 (my great, great grandfather) married Sarah Francis Atkinson, the widow of William Vawter who had one child, Viola, who married George Burton. Sarah was the granddaughter of Simon Atkinson and Francis Chorley Yard through their son, Lewis Atkinson, who married Maria Jane Martin. John and Sarah had several children that died in infancy and then my great-grandfather, John Patrick McSperritt born 1902, who married Rowena Oca Powell, daughter of Charles E. Powell and Maud Alice Smith. John Patrick and Rowena McSperritt lived in Macomb in the family home on Jefferson Street and to this union were born 10 children: Betty Louise, born 1924, who married Henry Edwin Smith, my grandparents who are also mentioned in this book through Henry's father, Carlton Frederick Smith. Dorothy, born 1926, married Eldon Walters and lived in Adair, later moving to Macomb after the death of her husband. Robert Eugene, born 1928, married Wanda Harding and lived in Macomb. William Andrew, born 1930, married Twyla Louise Green. John Franklin, born 1933, married Ona Hughes and lived in Macomb. Joseph, born 1935. Donald, born 1936. Eldon, born 1941. James Leon, born 1943 and Linda, who married Mr. Duncan - all of whom lived in Macomb. *Written by Jeanna Long.*

MEASELY – William, "Bill" or "Butch," was the only son of Charles and Nettie Frakes Measeley, born on February 4, 1915, died April 6, 1999. Harriett was the oldest daughter of Vilasco and Nell Creasey, born on April 22, 1915, died October 31, 1996. They were married January 1, 1937 in Macomb, Illinois by Rev. C.J. Roberts.



William and Harriett Measeley

They lived their entire lives in rural Colchester area where they farmed. In the early years of their marriage and before their marriage, Bill also worked in Colmar oil fields.

Bill was drafted into the Army in August of 1943. He served in the European Theater,

participating in construction and operation of 3,630 miles of pipelines across Europe to supply fuel for General Patton's tanks. Harvey "Bum" Bright, a former owner of Dallas Cowboys football team and a graduate of Texas A&M, was Bill's lieutenant during his military service. Because of Bill's experience in the Colmar oil fields, he was placed in a unit made up of men who had worked in Texas oil fields.

Harriett worked at Klines, a department store in Macomb, while Bill was in the military. After his return from the Army she became a homemaker. She served as a treasurer for the Colmar Church. She was lovingly known as "Aunt Sissy" by her nieces and nephews.

MELLING - Robert Thomas Melling was born in Lancashire, England on June 6, 1859. He first came to this country from England with some horses that he bought from C.G. Chandler. Afterwards he made several trips back and forth. In 1877 he settled in Plymouth, Illinois and in 1886 he came to Macomb, Illinois. This is where he resided until his death on March 1, 1917. He married Hannah Hankins on October 10, 1886. She was born on Feb. 24, 1857 in Ripley, Illinois. She died December 9, 1944 in Joliet, Illinois. Both are buried in the Oakwood Cemetery in Macomb.

Robert was naturalized October 18, 1888 in Carthage, Illinois. He was employed at the Sewer Pipe Works.

Their children were Marvel Melling, born November 13, 1889 in Colchester, Illinois and died January 15, 1965 in Colchester.

Clyde V. Melling, born Aug. 24, 1891 in Macomb and died Nov. 4, 1968 in Joliet, Illinois. He married Hannah Hish May 14, 1910.

Robert Roscoe Melling, born August 1, 1896 in Colchester and died December 5, 1967 in Plainfield, Illinois. He was married to Bessie Purden.

Evelyn Consuella Melling, born in or about 1900 in Macomb, Illinois and died Jan. 31, 1932 in Lincoln, Illinois. She married Smith Shirkey Aug. 5, 1925 in Macomb. Son of John Shirkey and Catherine Culler. He was born May 22, 1868 in Golden, Illinois. He died Oct. 22, 1938. Both are buried in the Development Center Cemetery in Lincoln. Evelyn is buried under the name of Sharkey. Their children are as follows. Robert Shirkey, born about 1926-27. Leroy Shirkey, born March 16, 1928 in Canton, Illinois. Died June 1, 1992, buried Beardstown City Cemetery. George Arthur Shirkey, born Aug. 30, 1929 In Beardstown Illinois.

Margaret Catherine Shirkey, born on November 2, 1930 in Meredosia, Illinois and died May 30, 2004. She married her second husband, Jesse Spears on July 15, 1973 at St. John's Lutheran Church, Beardstown. He was born August 20 1914 in Arkansas. He was the son of John Spears and Dolly Gunn. He died July 24, 1983 in Beardstown. Margaret and Jesse are buried at the 6th Street Lutheran Cemetery.

Margaret had two daughters: Janell Shirkey Gustafson, husband Steven of Beardstown and Debra Shirkey Stevens, husband Danny of Chandlerville. She has a grand-