

McRae

Compiled from the records of the late Stanley N. Carroll and *Fannin County Folks and Facts, Fannin County, Texas; a collection of historical sketches and family histories written by the families and friends of Fannin County.*

Hugh Bain McRae, who was born in Scotland, and Nancy McDuffie (believed to have been born in South Carolina) were married sometime in the very early 1800s or late 1700s. We do not know who the parents of Hugh Bain McRae were. It has been reported (without proof) that Nancy McDuffie's parents were Daniel and Margaret McDuffie.

Hugh Bain and Nancy McDuffie McRae had five known children: Daniel, Margaret, William J., Malcolm Alexander, and Hugh James. Some accounts show more children in this family. However, the 1810 South Carolina census records show only four children then and they match the ages of the first four children listed above. In addition, Malcolm Alexander McRae stated in his account of their early Texas days that there were only five children.

According to Malcolm Alexander McRae's family records, Hugh Bain and Nancy McDuffie McRae went to North Carolina in 1814, and then into the Hiawassee Purchase in 1820. The Hiawassee Purchase was land obtained in the eastern part of what is now the state of Tennessee from the Cherokee Nation.

While in Tennessee, Margaret McRae met and married James Blanton McAllister. James McAllister was listed on the 1830 census records in Monroe County, Tennessee, with a wife and four children, the oldest being five years of age.

Margaret's father, Hugh Bain McRae, along with her four brothers, had already left Tennessee and moved to Carroll County, Georgia. James and Margaret McRae McAllister followed them to Georgia about 1832 and settled in Carroll County, somewhere around the Hickory Level area.

James and Margaret McRae McAllister lived the remainder of their lives in Carroll County. James died in 1860 and Margaret died in 1870. Margaret's brother, William McRae, was the only other sibling who remained in Georgia, and was living in the Temple area when he died. Their father, Hugh Bain McRae, died about 1853 but it is unclear where he lived at the time of his death. He was enumerated with William on the 1850 Carroll County census records but some reports show that he died in Polk County. We do not have any information on where their mother, Nancy McDuffie McRae, died.

Margaret's other brothers—Daniel, Malcolm Alexander, and Hugh—went to Arkansas and Missouri shortly after 1840, looking for better land. The families stayed for three or four years and then returned to Carroll County for a few years.

Around 1849, approximately 500 people, mostly McRaes and Whisenhunts, formed a wagon train and headed west. Malcolm Alexander McRae and his family were among those who made this long trek. Malcolm settled in Pike County, Arkansas, and later in 1856 moved to Fannin County, Texas, where he purchased 444 acres of land near Elwood, Texas. He remained there for the rest of his life. The Fannin County community of McRae is named for the Malcolm McRae family.