

Peter McCormack Family Graveyard

By Dave Hallemann



This family cemetery is located in T39 R6 S6 Survey 411.

38° 9' 59" N / 90° 24' 39" W

This cemetery was visited 21st February 2005 by Dave Hallemann and Jerry McKee.

This tract was an original land grant confirmed to John Violeny for 500 arpents or 425 acres on Platin Creek.

I could not locate a document transferring the property from John Violeny to Jacob Strickland. The very early records for Jefferson County may be located in the land office at St. Louis and this transaction may be there.

However recorded in Book C Page 233, on 12th August 1831, Ezekiel Dugan Administrator for the estate of Jacob Strickland, desc., sells part of the survey to James McCormack, "...on Platin Creek containing 425.³⁵ acres and in the tract confirmed to John Violeny...sell as much as needed to pay debts...appraised 200 acres being the South end of the tract...for \$200.⁰⁰.

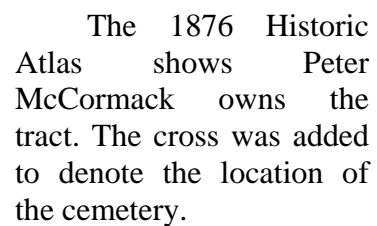
About 9 months later on 12th April 1832 James McCormack and his wife Margaret sell to their son Peter McCormack for \$1 and love and affection, "...S part of as tract of land situated on Platin Creek confirmed to one John Violeny...200 acres...", recorded in Book C Page 281.

Probate record #1211 reveals the last will of Peter McCormack died before December 31, 1875, leaving as heirs; his wife Emily who was to received the Mansion house and 1/3 of the cleared land and a life estate, sons Wm. S. McCormack; George W. McCormack; daughter Jane Caroline Greasy; and son Dewitt Clinton. In the will Peter leaves his wife's interest after her death to Peter C., Thomas, Sarah Catharine, and Dewitt. The will is dated July 1869 however Lottie states in her history below that she died in 1868, before the will was written.

In deed dated 4th January 1890 D. C. McCormack quit claims to T. L. McCormack for \$500.⁰⁰ the "...North part of a 200 acre tract off the South end of Survey 411...containing 106.⁷² acres" as recorded in Quit Claim Book 1 Page 168.

Finally on 5th March 1900 D. C. McCormack (*Dewitt Clinton*) and his wife Hattie sell the land to John Tullock for \$3500.⁰⁰, "...93.⁶² acres...excepting and reserving 40 feet square as a graveyard where Peter McCormack and family is buried."

With this deed "excepting out" this cemetery, we can "officially" name this cemetery ***Peter McCormack Family Graveyard.***



This historical map depicts land parcels in Illinois, primarily owned by the McCormick family. The map features several labeled sections with their respective acreages:

- E.W. Cole**: 170 acres
- F. Beck**: 20 acres
- Ketchum**: 25 acres
- T.L. McCormick**: 100 acres
- D.C. McCormick**: 100 acres
- Berry & Wagg**: 53,95 and 44,83 acres
- M. McCormick**: 70 acres
- B. Holmes**: 80 acres

The map also shows a railroad line running diagonally across the parcels, with a station labeled "McMach". A decorative border is visible on the left side of the map.

The following two monuments were all that was located in this cemetery;



**P. McC.
E. McC.**

This monument is believed to
be for

Peter McCormack
Born August 26, 1809 Died per
Obituary December 23, 1875 Aged
66 Years
Emily McCormack
his wife

D. C. McCormack

1855 - 1933

*D. C. was a son of Peter and Emily who
"excepted out" the family graveyard*





Sarah C.

Wife of
**Emmit S.
McClain**

Born
Dec. 28, 1852
Died
Jan 31, 1891
Aged
38 Ys. 1M. 3Ds.

Sarah Catharine was a daughter of Peter and Emily and sister of D. C.

Emmit S. McClain

Born
Dec. 23, 1849
Died
Dec. 21, 1909

Husband of Sarah Catharine





Peter McCormack Homestead, Plattin, MO. 1970s

THE OLD HOUSE

By Lottie McCormack

Granddaughter of Peter McCormack,
daughter of Thomas McCormack, and niece
of Clinton McCormack
Feb 9, 1972

James McCormack, who lived in the big brick house across the Plattin Creek in the early 1800's (*Red Brick Plantation House*) owned many acres of land in the Plattin Valley on both sides of the creek.

He had a large family and he gave his oldest son Peter McCormack (my Grandfather) 215 acres of land, now known as the Victor Wagner and Wesley McCormack farms. When he married in 1834 he brought his bride to live where the old Wagner house still stands. But then he had only built two log rooms, what is now the kitchen, bath and utility rooms. Peter McCormack (my Grandfather) had the two log rooms when he married. And the window over the sink was always a door. And out In that north west side of the yard he built another big log room with a wide roof overhang in front. That was where they cooked and ate. Later, as the family grew to 5 boys and 2 girls Grampa added the two front rooms. Then they used that big north-west room mostly in hot weather, to keep the cooking heat out of the rest of the house. And in winter to keep their meat in cold storage. Later, when my Mother, Father (Thomas) and Uncle Clinton were there, they called it the "smoke House" where they kept their smoked meat, kegs of potatoes, apples, molasses and maple syrup and canned fruits and vegetables. Their mean was "cured". Most of their living was stored there. They had a lot of dried beans and fruits especially apples. I think Howard McCormack tore the old room down when he got the farm and brought his Father and Mother back, and he did so much improving. In winter that north door in the kitchen was his Mothers' refrigerator. Between a heavy screen door and the door proper, she



had shelves, and kept everything from “soup to nuts” cold in there...just like a General Electric!!!!

Every year in February and March, Thomas and Clinton made gallons of maple syrup to sell and keep too. Their sugar camp was at the creek where your picnic ground is now.



Peter McCormack, my Grandfather had seven children and as his family grew, he built two more rooms across the front. His wife died in 1868 and he passed away in 1875 leaving the 215 acres to his two youngest sons, Thomas and Clinton. My Father, Thomas married in 1876 and the two brothers lived in the homestead together for 15 years and farmed the land. They enlarged the old house again by adding two front rooms upstairs, built a front porch and back porch and enlarged the fireplace chimneys. And then weather boarded over all the original logs. And dug a

cistern which was quite a luxury then, so they did not have to carry all the water they used from a well down by the road, near the barn. In 1890 they divided the farm right straight down the middle giving each an equal amount of land. In 1890 Thomas moved to the north end of the farm and Clinton married and lived on in the Old House. Some years later he sold his 115 acres with the old homestead to Mr. Tullock. He was old and nothing much changed for several years. He did build a huge L-shaped porch in the back and cut down all the beautiful big oak trees in the yard, from which the place never recovered its God given beauty. The Natives all wanted to mob him – but didn’t! And eventually sold to Mr. Breckenridge, a farmer from Big River. He farmed the land, but did not live here. The Old House was silent for sometime.

Then, in 1922 Clinton’s oldest son Howard bought the farm back and his Dad and Mother came to the Old House. It was in bad shape then, and Howard built a new front porch upstairs and down, tore away the huge thing in the back, re-roofed the house, repaired the chimneys, lavished paint everywhere and changed the stairs. The originally went up in both front rooms and he changed to the one staircase in the living room....much to the delight of his Mother, who called them her “winging stairs”. Sometime later, Clinton died. Howard married and moved to California, leaving his Mother the farm. She lived on there until she died in 1946. And their youngest son Bryant fell



heir to the farm. He then started repairs again on the Old House. He repaired the rock foundation and the front porch, built the present back porch, closed the fireplaces and had stoves, but repaired the chimneys because he thought they were

A work of art and complimented the house. He converted the old dining room into the present kitchen, drilled a well in the yard and brought water into the house for the first time. Bryant sold the farm to Mr. Aloys Wagner in the early 1950's. Mr. Wagner installed a furnace and made many more improvements. I cannot remember if he or Bryant converted the old kitchen into a bath and utility room.

Lisa Gendron supplied the following genealogical information from her files;

D.C. (DeWitt Clinton) is the son of Peter and Emily McCormack.

Sarah C. McClain (Sarah Catharine) wife of Emmett Smith McClain is the daughter of Peter & Emily McCormack.

Peter Columbus McCormack, who married Sophiann is also the son of Peter & Emily.

Peter, the father, was born August 26, 1809 (the recording on the internet says 1804) However, his obituary says he died Dec. 23d, 1875, in the 66th year of his age.

The Sophiann that died Jan 4, 1884 was the first wife of the son, Peter Columbus McCormack. (not the father, who was married to Emily)

Peter, the father, that married Emily, is the grandson of Peter Patrick McCormack who was one of the first settlers in Jefferson County.

I would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Victor Wagner for supplying information for this article.

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