

Joe-  
re your phone  
call this A.M.  
HJM

## SYNOPSIS

### JAMES MCKAY AND CECELIA (LAWSON) MCKAY

James McKay was born in Belfast, Ireland on April 15, 1818.

When James McKay was one year old the family moved to Glasgow, Scotland where he grew up and was educated. On June 14, 1841 he married Cecelia Lawson, 19, of Broughty Ferry, Scotland.

James McKay was working as a foreman in one of Cecelia Lawson's father's manufacturing plants in Dundee, Scotland at the time.

The James McKays came to the United States in 1841 and lived for a time in Albany, New York and Joliet, Illinois before crossing the plains to Oregon in 1847. They left Joliet, Illinois in the spring of 1847 and arrived in the Willamette Valley in early October 1847. On their trip across they encountered a herd of 100,000 buffaloes, visited with Dr. and Mrs. Whitman about two months before the Whitman Massacre and lost their two young sons who died from the measles near The Dalles, Oregon. At the Dalles they built a raft and floated themselves and their supplies down the Columbia River. After arriving they went to the St. Paul Mission where James McKay got a job in the mission mills. On January 28, 1848 James McKay purchased the mission flour and sawmills from the mission for \$8,000 on credit. The mills had been built by the Hudson Bay Company and had been sold to the St. Paul Mission in 1845. They were located about three miles east of present day St. Paul on Champeog Creek.

In late May or early June 1848 Mr. and Mrs. James McKay left for the California gold mines with two of their neighbors, Hugh Coswith Grove and John Kennedy, whom they had crossed the plains a year earlier. After arriving in Sacramento the McKays opened a com-

ination store and tavern on John Sutter's property near Sacramento. In addition Mrs. McKay wrote letters for illiterate miners and was paid in gold nuggets or gold dust. The McKays made in excess of \$10,000 in six months and returned to their mill property in December 1848. They paid Father Blanchet the \$8,000 they owed on the mills. The flour mill was a one bur mill capable of producing 100 barrels of flour a day. Flour was in great demand because of the California, Jacksonville, Oregon and Eastern Oregon and Idaho gold strikes so the mill was operated at maximum capacity. In 1861 the flour mill was renovated and converted into a two bur mill. This made it one of the two largest flour mills in Marion County. William McKay, the McKay's oldest son, drove flour to Salem with a gentle team of horses when he was ten years old. He and his brother John took flour to Jacksonville and Eastern Oregon by mule team while in their teens. James McKays original land claim was eventually expanded to 1,400 acres under cultivation in the St. Paul area.

In 1865 James McKay purchased the southwest corner of Third and Stark Streets in Portland, Oregon from Ladd and Tilton. Mrs. McKay passed away in 1870 when 42. In 1886 James McKay retired and moved to Portland where he lived in The Old Revere House which was located on his Third and Stark Streets property. In 1892 he built the modern five story McKay Building on that property. He died at age 80 in 1898.

The McKays son, William McKay, was the oldest native born son of American immigrants in Oregon when he died in 1950 when 100 years of age. He and his brother John each had a farm of approximately 640 acres. They were two of the finest farms in the St. Paul area.

JAMES M. CKAY AND CECILIA (LAWSON) MCKAY

COTTON CONTENT

[Faint, illegible text, likely a ledger or record of cotton content]

MILLERS HALLS  
EZEASE

Joe-  
re your phone  
call this A.M.  
HJM

## SYNOPSIS

### JAMES MCKAY AND CECELIA (LAWSON) MCKAY

James McKay was born in Belfast, Ireland on April 15, 1818. When James McKay was one year old the family moved to Glasgow, Scotland where he grew up and was educated. On June 14, 1841 he married Cecelia Lawson, 19, of Broughty Ferry, Scotland. James McKay was working as a foreman in one of Cecelia Lawson's father's manufacturing plants in Dundee, Scotland at the time.

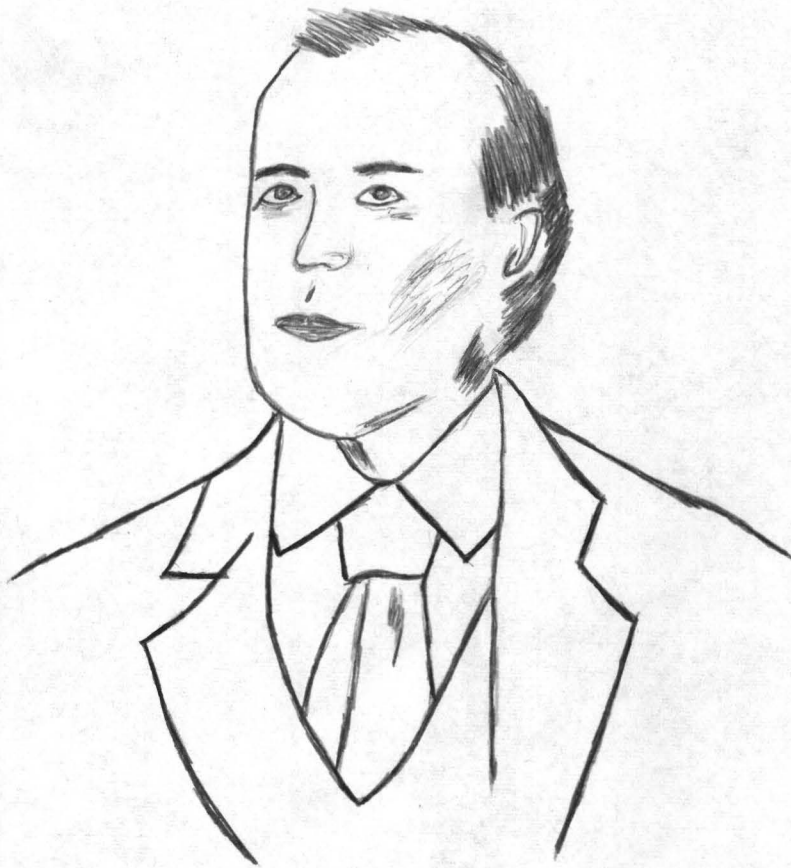
The James McKays came to the United States in 1841 and lived for a time in Albany, New York and Joliet, Illinois before crossing the plains to Oregon in 1847. They left Joliet, Illinois in the spring of 1847 and arrived in the Willamette Valley in early October 1847. On their trip across they encountered a herd of 100,000 buffaloes, visited with Dr. and Mrs. Whitman about two months before the Whitman Massacre and lost their two young sons who died from the measles near The Dalles, Oregon. At the Dalles they built a raft and floated themselves and their supplies down the Columbia River. After arriving they went to the St. Paul Mission where James McKay got a job in the mission mills. On January 28, 1848 James McKay purchased the mission flour and sawmills from the mission for \$8,000 on credit. The mills had been built by the Hudson Bay Company and had been sold to the St. Paul Mission in 1845. They were located about three miles east of present day St. Paul on Champoeg Creek.

In late May or early June 1848 Mr. and Mrs. James McKay left for the California gold mines with two of their neighbors, Hugh Coswith Grove and John Kennedy, whom they had crossed the plains a year earlier. After arriving in Sacramento the McKays opened a com-

bination store and tavern on John Sutter's property near Sacramento. In addition Mrs. McKay wrote letters for illiterate miners and was paid in gold nuggets or gold dust. The McKays made in excess of \$10,000 in six months and returned to their mill property in December 1848. They paid Father Blanchet the \$8,000 they owed on the mills. The flour mill was a one bur mill capable of producing 100 barrels of flour a day. Flour was in great demand because of the California, Jacksonville, Oregon and Eastern Oregon and Idaho gold strikes so the mill was operated at maximum capacity. In 1861 the flour mill was renovated and converted into a two bur mill. This made it one of the two largest flour mills in Marion County. William McKay, the McKay's oldest son, drove flour to Salem with a gentle team of horses when he was ten years old. He and his brother John took flour to Jacksonville and Eastern Oregon by mule team while in their teens. James McKays original land claim was eventually expanded to 1,400 acres under cultivation in the St. Paul area.

In 1865 James McKay purchased the southwest corner of Third and Stark Streets in Portland, Oregon from Ladd and Tilton. Mrs. McKay passed away in 1870 when 42. In 1886 James McKay retired and moved to Portland where he lived in The Old Revere House which was located on his Third and Stark Streets property. In 1892 he built the modern five story McKay Building on that property. He died at age 80 in 1898.

The McKays son, William McKay, was the oldest native born son of American immigrants <sup>in Oregon</sup> when he died in 1950 when 100 years of age. He and his brother John each had a farm of approximately 640 acres. They were two of the finest farms in the St. Paul area.



*James McKay*

## JAMES MCKAY--HIS LIFE AND WORK

Among the early pioneers of Oregon were my great grandparents, James and Cecilia McKay, who had ten children and now have 250 descendants. Among them was his son, John N. McKay, my grandfather, who married Caroline Bochsler.

James McKay was born near Belfast Ireland in 1818. Shortly after his marriage to Cecilia Lawson, he came to Albany N. Y. After a short stay there, he decided to cast his lot with the vanguard of civilization in the northwest. With an ox-team and various necessities, he crossed the plains and arrived in Oregon in 1847. While traveling down the Columbia, James and Cecilia McKay experienced their first sorrow. Two of their children died of measles and were buried in the Columbia so that the Indians could not find their graves.

After locating his wife and son in St. Paul on a 640 acre Donation Land Claim, he went to California where he accumulated a fortune in gold mining.

Upon returning to Oregon, he followed the work of his childhood training. After purchasing a saw mill and a grist mill, he entered upon a industrial prosecution of his milling interests, in which occupation he remained for many years.

His earnest application and persevering efforts earned for James McKay before his death on August 29, 1898, three farms, the McKay Building in Portland, and business property at the Dalles.

The last paragraph of his will gives an incite to the Christian character of this man:

As a last token of love and gratitude towards me and my beloved wife, now deceased, their mother I earnestly entreat and beg of my children to serve God faithfully, to cherish our memory and pray for our final happiness, and always to remain united in true affection for each other.

In witness, whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 23rd day of February, 1898.

James McKay

Charlene Anne Kirk