

**MC LAIN, JAMES WILLIAM**

Birth

May 3, 1827 in Uniontown,  
Fayette Co., Pennsylvania



Death

December 21, 1890 in Linn  
Twp., Warren Co., Iowa

Cause of Death

Heart Disease

Cemetery Lot

Buried on Lot 67  
Lot was sold to James  
McLain on June 16, 1880



Father

William McClean

Mother

Nancy McLaughlin

Marriage

James McLain to Caroline VanHyning on January 1, 1851

Census

1830 –  
1840 –  
1850 –

1860 – Linn Twp., Warren Co., IA; Page 821; July 13, 1860  
Dwelling 1116; Family 1071

McLean, James	33	farmer	PA
Caroline	28		OH
Thomas J.	04		IA
Tearsey J.	03		IA

Nancy	01	IA
Eldora D.	4/12	IA

1870 – Linn Twp., Warren Co., IA; Page 372; August 12, 1870; Post Office, Norwalk, Iowa  
Dwelling 27; Family 28

<b>McClair, James</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>farmer</b>	<b>PA</b>
Caroline	39		OH
Thomas	15		IA
Tearsey	13		IA
Nancy	11		IA
Eldora	09		IA
Affa	07		IA
Jessie	05		IA
Alice	03		IA
John	02		IA
Albert	10/12		IA

1880 – Linn Twp., Warren Co., IA; ED 228; Page 32; July 16, 1880  
Dwelling 291; Family 296

<b>McLain, James</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>farmer</b>	<b>PA</b>	<b>PA</b>	<b>PA</b>
Caroline	50		OH	OH	NY
Eldora	20		IA	PA	OH
Affaette	18		IA	PA	OH
Jessie	16		IA	PA	OH
John	12		IA	PA	OH
Alice	14		IA	PA	OH
Arthur	06		IA	PA	OH
Katie	04		IA	PA	OH

1885 – There was no census for Warren Co., Iowa in 1885

U.S. Civil War Draft Registration  
No 147

James McLain  
Age on July 1, 1863: 36  
Place of birth: Pennsylvania  
Residence: Linn Twp., Warren Co., Iowa  
Farmer  
Congressional District 5<sup>th</sup>  
Class: 2

The following was an article that was on Ancestry

A native of Uniontown, Pennsylvania, where he was born in 1826, and was left an orphan when but five or six weeks old. He was reared by an uncle and aunt, Ebenezer Herring and wife. They

removed to Lee county, Iowa, when he was a young man and here he grew up to manhood and married Caroline VanHyning, who was born in Ohio in 1832. In 1853 or 1854, they started on an overland trip to California, but after going a long way towards their destination they turned around and came back as far as Warren county, Iowa, where they purchased eighty acres of wild land (section 4, Linn township, known as Pioneer Farm). This Mr. McLain improved and made his home until the time of his death, which occurred in 1890. His widow survived him for about five years and passed away in 1895. Mr. McLain was a successful farmer and a public-spirited citizen, giving freely of his support, both moral and financial, to any movement that was calculated to advance to interests of the community. He was a member and active worker in the Presbyterian church. In politics he was a republican and held minor township offices. Unto Mr. and Mrs. McLain were born twelve children, namely: Thomas J. of San Jose, California; Tearsey Jane, wife of R. W. Dickey of Linn township; Nancy, wife of J. B. McClane, of California; Eldora, wife of D. J. Knouf, a farmer of Linn township; Atha, wife of W. H. White, of Kansas City; Jessie, wife of W. A. Thomson, of Des Moines; Alice, who lived at home with her brother, John; Arthur, a farmer of Polk county; Katie, the wife of F. L. True, of Los Angeles, California; Albert and Bertha, both of whom died in childhood.

Death Record; Clerk’s Office, Indianola, Warren Co., Iowa

Book 1; Register of Death and Stillbirth; July 1880 – February 1897

McClain, James; age 61 years; was in Iowa 40 years; died December 21, 1890 in Linn Twp., Warren Co., Iowa of what was supposed to be heart disease; he dropped dead in the feed lot; no autopsy; married; buried December 23, 1890 in Pleasant Ridge Cemetery, Orillia, Linn Twp., Warren Co., Iowa; physician was E. Welty.

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History of Warren Co., Iowa – 1879; Linn Twp.; Page 740

McClain, James, farmer, Sec. 4; P. O. Des Moines.

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History of WarrenCounty, Iowa – 1908; Linn Twp.; Page 332

Orillia, a station on the Chicago Great Western Railway, was laid out in 1887, on land belonging to James McLain, who was one of the early settlers of LinnTownship, locating there in 1852, on government land.

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Obituary

[Indianola Weekly Herald, Thursday, January 1, 1891, Page 3]  
Cumming News Items

On Sunday morning December 21<sup>st</sup> 1890 Mr. McClain who lives just across the road from the Ridge church, fell dead in a hog pen while helping one of his boys do the chores. He was one of the first settlers in this part of the county and was always very highly respected by all.

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[Indianola Weekly Herald, Thursday January 1, 1891, Page 3]

## Norwalk News Items

James McClain died very suddenly Sunday Morning December 21. He arose in good health, read a chapter in the Bible and had family prayer, ate his breakfast, went out to feed his stock and dropped dead. His son saw him fall and was soon by his side. He said to his son I am dying. Were the only words he spoke. Mr. McClain settled at which is now called Orillia on the Diagonal R. R. at an early day. Having settled here in 1854, he has experienced and endured a full share of frontier life. But by industry, economy and hard toil, he provided a nice comfortable home for her who stood by his side in all the battles of life. He was a member of the U. P. Church, a good man, a good neighbor, a good husband and father. One who was esteemed and respected by all his acquaintances. In the church, the SabbathSchool and the neighborhood, there is a vacant place that will not be easily filled. But in the event of time all these vacancies may be filled. But there is a vacancy that never will be filled. There is an aching void in the hearts of the bereaved ones. There is the empty chair. There is a vacant seat in the family circle around the family altar that never will be filled. The candle of life with neighbor McClain went out in a twinkle of an eye, in a moment's time. No warning was given him; no admonition to meet his God. What anxiety often fills the breasts of the bereaved ones at such times and under such circumstances? Was he prepared to die? What was the dying testimony? How anxious to catch the last faint word, the last faint whisper, meet me in Heaven. In the death of James McClain, no word was spoken. He did not have an opportunity of calling his loved ones around his dying bed and give them his dying blessing and tell of the hope he had of a better life in the great beyond. He left no dying testimony. But there is that which speaks louder than words and in language not to be mistake. There is a long life spent in the service of the Master. In the service of him who said "I go to prepare a place for you." Near a half century, from early boyhood to old age, spent in the church. SabbathSchool, in acts of kindness, charity and liberality to the poor! By such a life a treasure is laid up in Heaven that all earth's gold cannot buy. When death invades the home and the family circle is broken, when the last view is taken of the face of a loved one, when the coffin lid is fastened for the last time and the clouds of the valley hide from view all that is near and dear how sad the day! These are waters of deepest affliction; they are dark and gloomy days. Dark clouds hover over the head, but the cloud, though dark, has a silver lining that betokens a clear day-a fairer day in a clime where the sun is never obscured by dark clouds. How precious in such dark hours is the hope of meeting again. It buoys up the sad heart and with renewed vigor presses through the dark gloom and hand of loved ones are clasped where no separations ever take place and the bitter, sad farewell tear is never shed. The sympathy of the entire neighborhood, along with a circle of relatives, go freely to her who has lost such a help mate from her side.

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### Probate Notice

[Indianola Weekly Herald, Thursday, January 29, 1891, Page 3]

[Thursday, February 5, 1891, page 4; Thursday, February 12, 1891, Page 2]

In matters of the Estate of James McLain, Deceased.  
Proof of Will.

To whom it may concern: you are hereby notified that there is now on file in the office of the Clerk of the District Court of Warren County, Iowa, an instrument in writing purporting to be

the last Will and Testament of James McLain, deceased, and that the same will be for hearing and proof at the March term of said Court on the second day thereof, it being the 1<sup>st</sup> day of April, 1891, at which time you may appear and show cause, if any you have, why said will should not be approved and admitted to probate.

Witness my hand and official seal this 24<sup>th</sup> day of January, A.D. 1891. J. H. Deebough,  
Clerk of said Court.

Estate and Will

James McLain  
Filing Date: December 27, 1890  
Box No 86  
Case No. 1167

I James McLain of Linn Township, Warren County Iowa, knowing the uncertainty of life do hereby make and ordain this as my last will and testament.

First – I give and bequeath to my wife Caroline M. McLain, all my real estate and personal property for her use and benefit so long as she remains a widow. And after that I order it equally divided among my children. I wish all my debts and necessary charges to be paid as soon after my death as it can conveniently be done. I hereby appoint my wife Caroline M. McLain executing of this my last will and testament with full power to sell any of my personal property as she may think best. I wish her to be exempt from giving bonds or security as executioner of this my last will and testament

Done at Linn Township this 27<sup>th</sup> day of February 1884.

James McLain

In presence of Thomas Barkley and B. F. Perkins

Opened read and filed December 27, 1890 and January 27, 1891 set for Proof and Probate  
J. W. Derrough, Clerk

Orillia, Iowa – May 14, 1891

List of property of James McLain on January 1

Horses – Five head

Colts – Three head

Cows – Four head

Steers – Three head

Calves – Four head

Hogs – Twenty head

This is correct list of all the stock on the place and oblige yours Truly – John McLain

Cash on hand at time of decease

1 - Work horse about 13 years old

1 - Work horse about 10 years old

1 – Bay mare 3 years old

1 – Break horse 3 years old

1 - Two year old colt horse

- 2 - Yearling colts
- 20 - Hogs average about 100 pounds
- 3 - Milk cows
- 4 - Two year old steers
- 2 - Yearlingsteers
- 2 - Yearlingheifers
- 1 - farm wagon
- 1 - Spring wagon
- 1 - Top buggy
- 1 - Stirring plow
- 1 - Stirring plow (riding)
- 2 - Corn cultivators
- 1 - harrow
- 1 - mowing machine
- 1 - Lot of household furniture
- 1 - Lot of kitchen furniture

Final report filed September 14, 1892  
J. W. Derrough, Clerk