

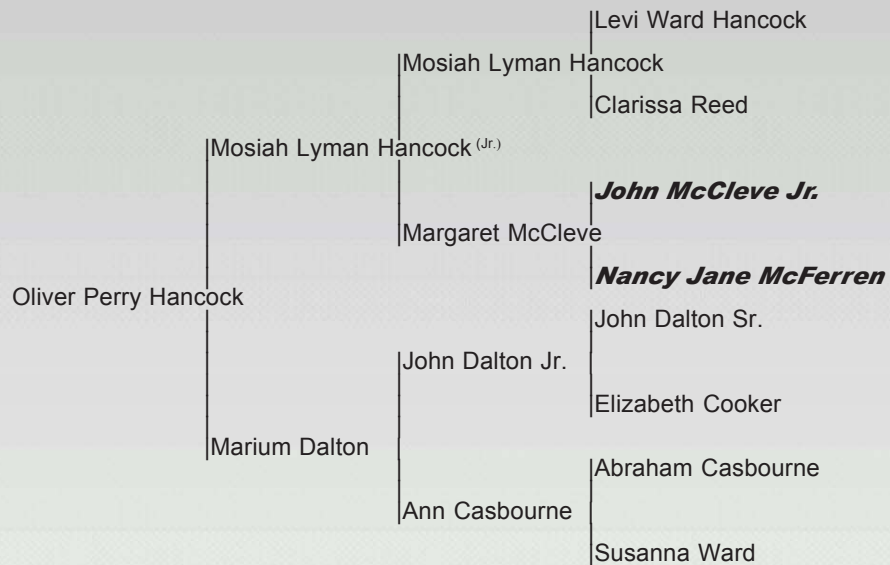
Excerpt taken from: *Perry & Lora; Their Roots & Branches* by Dixie H. Krauss

The author based her conclusions on research and interesting tales passed down in the family. She made a dedicated effort to present accurate information but recommends independent verification before accepting the material as fact or using the data for genealogical purposes.

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## Fourth Generation Ancestors



John McCleve Jr.  
 Born: 1807 Ireland



Nancy Jane McFerren  
 Born: 1815 Ireland



# John McCleve Jr. & Nancy Jane McFerren

**John McCleve Jr.**, son of John McCleve Sr. and Catherine Lamb, was born on 18 Aug 1807 in Ballymoney, Antrim, Ireland. He died on 24 Sep 1856 in Echo Canyon, Summit, Utah.

John married **Nancy Jane McFerren**, daughter of William McFerren and Margaret McHarry, on 27 Jun 1833 in County Down, Ireland. Nancy was born on 1 May 1815 in Crawfordsburn, Down, Ireland. She died on 24 Apr 1879 in Toquerville, Washington, Utah.

They had the following children...

Sarah McCleve	29 Oct 1834	Crawfordsburn, Down, Ireland
Catherine McCleve	17 Sep 1836	Belfast, Down, Ireland
Margaret McCleve	17 Sep 1838	Belfast, Down, Ireland
Mary Jane McCleve	21 Aug 1840	Belfast, Down, Ireland
Isabel Wilkins McCleve	29 Jan 1843	Crawfordsburn, Down, Ireland
John T. McCleve	27 Mar 1845	Belfast, Down, Ireland
Joseph Smith McCleve	29 Jul 1847	Bangermoss, Down, Ireland
Eliza Roxie McCleve	3 May 1849	Belfast, Down, Ireland
Daniel Bell McCleve	22 Aug 1851	Belfast, Down, Ireland
Alexander Gilmore McCleve	24 Feb 1854	Belfast, Down, Ireland

Nancy also married (2) David Ellsworth on 28 Mar 1857 in Payson, Utah, Utah.



# Life Sketch of John & Nancy Jane

**John McCleve Jr.**

1807 Ireland - 1856 Utah Territory

**Nancy Jane McFerren**

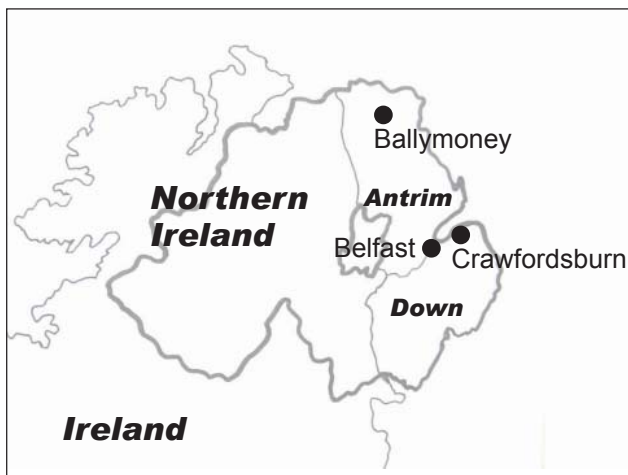
1815 Ireland - 1879 Utah Territory

## **John's childhood...**

At the close of the eighteenth century, Northern Ireland was ruled by England and heavily taxed. In 1798 the town of Ballymoney, Antrim, Northern Ireland, was burned to the ground as exemplary punishment to quell Irish rebels that wanted freedom from English rule. John McCleve Jr. was born on August 18, 1807, to John McCleve Sr. and Catherine Lamb. He was born in Ballymoney as were his parents. He was named after his father.

## **Nancy Jane's childhood...**

Nancy Jane McFerren was born to William McFerren and Margaret McHarry on May 1, 1815, in Crawfordsburn, Down, Northern Ireland. Nancy Jane's father died when she was two, making her the only child of her parents. Her widowed mother moved back home. Nancy Jane grew to womanhood in the home of her grandmother, Mary Wilson McHarry, who was also a widow. Nancy Jane was a favorite and greatly loved among her McHarry kinsfolk and was gracious and kind to all.



Early homes of John McCleve Jr. and Nancy Jane McFerren.



John McCleve Jr. and Nancy Jane McFerren left their native Ireland for religious freedom on the ship *Samuel Curling*. A model of a passenger ship in the Museum of Church History and Art in Salt Lake City.

## **Marriage and family...**

John and Nancy Jane married June 27, 1833. John was twenty-five and a shoemaker, and Nancy Jane was eighteen and an expert at needlework. She made many beautiful things. They became the parents of ten children born near Belfast and vicinity. Their first was born at the old McHarry home in Crawfordsburn where Nancy Jane grew up. In the years that followed, John and Nancy Jane and their children delighted in their visits to Crawfordsburn to see the McHarry relatives.

## **A new religion, a new land...**

John and Nancy joined the Church in Ireland on June 1, 1841, when the Church was in its infancy. John's parents had little to do with him after that, but Nancy Jane's people loved her and her family just the same.

John lost his mother in 1846, and Nancy Jane lost her mother in 1841. Nancy Jane's grandmother, Mary Wilson—who helped raise Nancy Jane—grieved at the loss of her daughter, Margaret McHarry, and wrote to a loved one, "Nancy Jane joined the Church and will be leaving with the Saints for Utah, and I am afraid there will be none of my loved ones near me to close my eyes when I pass away." It is comforting to note that Nancy Jane was still in Northern Ireland when this dear grandmother died in 1846.

Death claimed yet another life in 1852 when John and Nancy Jane lost their ninth child who was the baby at the time. Happily, one more baby would bless their home.

They lived in Ireland during the disastrous potato famine of 1845-47 when thousands died of starvation. Fortunately, John was overseer on a plantation for an Irish Lord who was a very fine man and kind and gracious to them. In 1854 John and Nancy Jane named their last baby after him, Alexander Gilmore. This pleased the Irish Lord greatly, and he gave the baby many fine presents including a velvet suit.

The family heard the call to come to Zion and left their native Ireland for America. The two eldest daughters sailed on the ship *Falcon* on March 28, 1853, which arrived in New Orleans, Louisiana, on May 18, 1853. The remainder of the family sailed on the ship *Samuel Curling*. It departed on April 19, 1856, from Wellington Dock, Liverpool, England, and landed in Boston, Massachusetts, on May 23, 1856.

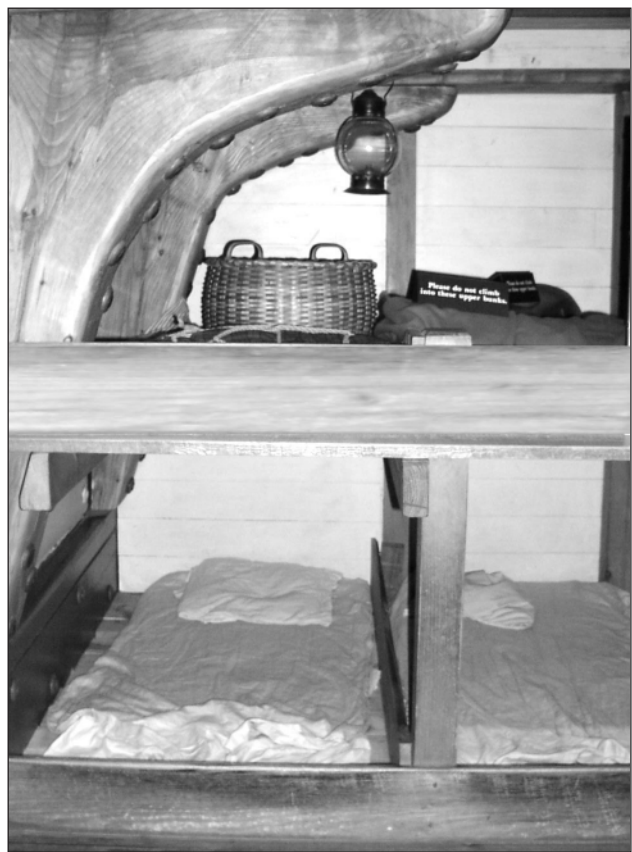
The ship was crowded, unsanitary, and deplorable. The 707 Saints on board took every precaution to prevent disease. They were divided into eleven wards

**I**n the 1850s the bunks on the ships were six by three feet and were shared by both parents and small children. At night the passengers tied down their belongings. During the day the bunks became storage areas.

While on board the passengers ate cured meats, fish, beans, potatoes, prunes, rye bread, and hardtack.

—Museum of Church History and Art

and had prayers, meals, and clean up at scheduled times. The favorable winds turned to storm and almost destroyed the ship while at sea. Boxes broke loose from their lashing, and two sails were cast into the sea along with Nancy Jane's two barrels of lovely down pillows and Irish linens. Several passengers, including children, died during the voyage. Little two-year-old Alexander Gilmore was ill the entire trip, and John and Nancy Jane feared they would have to bury him at sea.



Ship bunk made to scale on display at the Museum of Church History and Art in Salt Lake City.

### **Handcart pioneers...**

After landing, the family traveled by rail to Iowa City, Iowa, and lost much of their remaining luggage on the crowded cars. At Iowa City they joined the second handcart company of the Church led by Captain Daniel D. McArthur, numbering forty-eight handcarts, four wagons, and 220 souls. It left Iowa City on June 11, 1856, with the Saints in good spirits and singing the handcart song. They passed many friendly Indians along the way.

The Saints pushed their handcarts containing their few worldly possessions across the plains, through deep sands, then mud, over mountains, rivers, and many small streams for thirteen hundred miles. They traveled ten to fifteen miles per day, then twenty, and finally twenty-five to thirty-two. Women and even grown men fainted under the load. The sick got but a few moments of rest on the wagons, then walked on. Children cried with hunger and fatigue. Some children died, two got lost along the trail—one was found. A few families gave out. In Iowa it was hot and windy. Dust blew so thick the Saints could barely see each other. Then followed raging rain storms that blew up their tents at night and soaked their clothes. When it rained the Buffalo chips got wet making it impossible to cook. The Indian corn diet made their stomachs ache.





Handcart Pioneer Monument on Temple Square in Salt Lake City stands as a tribute to the thousands who walked across the rugged plains pulling and pushing handcarts. John McCleve Jr. and Nancy Jane McFerren and their children were among them.

There were days when they started without breakfast, had no water, and were too exhausted to cook supper. It was almost beyond human endurance, but John and Nancy Jane were sustained by the hope of reaching Zion and seeing their two daughters once again.

Then in September, John was injured when he tried to keep his handcart from going over a cliff. He died the next morning on September 24, 1856, in Echo Canyon. He was forty-nine years old. His body was carried to the evening campsite on the Weber River for burial. The bereaved family and handcart company camped in sight of the grave. Nancy Jane was left a widow in a strange land. Two days later the company reached the Salt Lake Valley.

The first and second handcart companies arrived on the same day, on the morning of September 26, 1856. They were met by the First Presidency of the Church, a brass band, and a large concourse of citizens, and were escorted into the city where they received a royal welcome.

### **Without John...**

On March 28, 1857, Nancy Jane married David Ellsworth and went to live in Payson, Utah. By this marriage she had two more children. As soon as the St. George Temple opened in 1877, Nancy Jane was sealed to her first husband, John McCleve Jr., and she performed work for many of her kindred dead—including her mother, Margaret McHarry; and her dear grandmother, Mary Wilson, who helped raise her.

Nancy Jane died on April 24, 1879, in Toquerville, Utah, one week before her sixty-fourth birthday.

### **Tribute to John...**

John was a craftsman and a conscientious provider. He stayed true to his faith amidst persecution in Ireland. He gave his posterity a priceless heritage by joining the Church and bringing his family to Zion where they could dwell with the people of God. He literally gave his life for his family and his Church while crossing the plains. His sacrifice lives on in the hearts of his descendants.

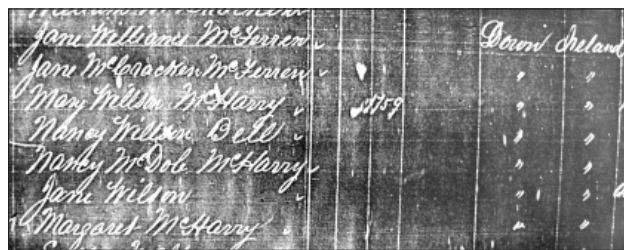
### **Tribute to Nancy Jane...**

“As Nancy Jane stood by the side of her husband’s grave, she gazed into the tear-stained faces of their [seven] children. Their eyes were heavy and dark because of hunger, and their little bodies were thin and wasted. Their weary feet had walked that long, long trail. . . .

“She did not know that by now she had . . . [grandchildren in Salt Lake City including] . . . John McCleve Young, who was destined to be an ambassador of the Gospel who would carry the truth to England and Australia—and who would live to be mayor of [Salt Lake,] the city of his birth.

“She could not look into the future and see her sons as stalwart men breaking down barriers, pioneering still further into the West; and her daughters in maturity as modern Florence Nightingales or angels of mercy caring always for the sick and weary and those in need, yet raising strong, robust families of their own.

“She did not dream . . . that [hundreds of] her descendants would . . . [preach] this Gospel for which she had sacrificed so much; that many would hold positions of honor and trust in the Church and civic affairs. . . . This day her heart was filled with sorrow. Kneeling, she gathered her babies around her and thanked God for the Gospel, and for this land of



St. George Temple record of Nancy Jane McFerren being baptized for her great grandmother, Jane Williams; her grandmothers, Jane McCracken and Mary Wilson; and her mother, Margaret McHarry.

promise, and prayed for health and strength to carry on. She gave a last look at the newly made grave; then putting Alexander, her baby boy, on the handcart beside six year old Eliza, she picked up the shafts of her handcart; and with faith, courage, and determination, she faced the future.”

—Eliza M. Wakefield, granddaughter

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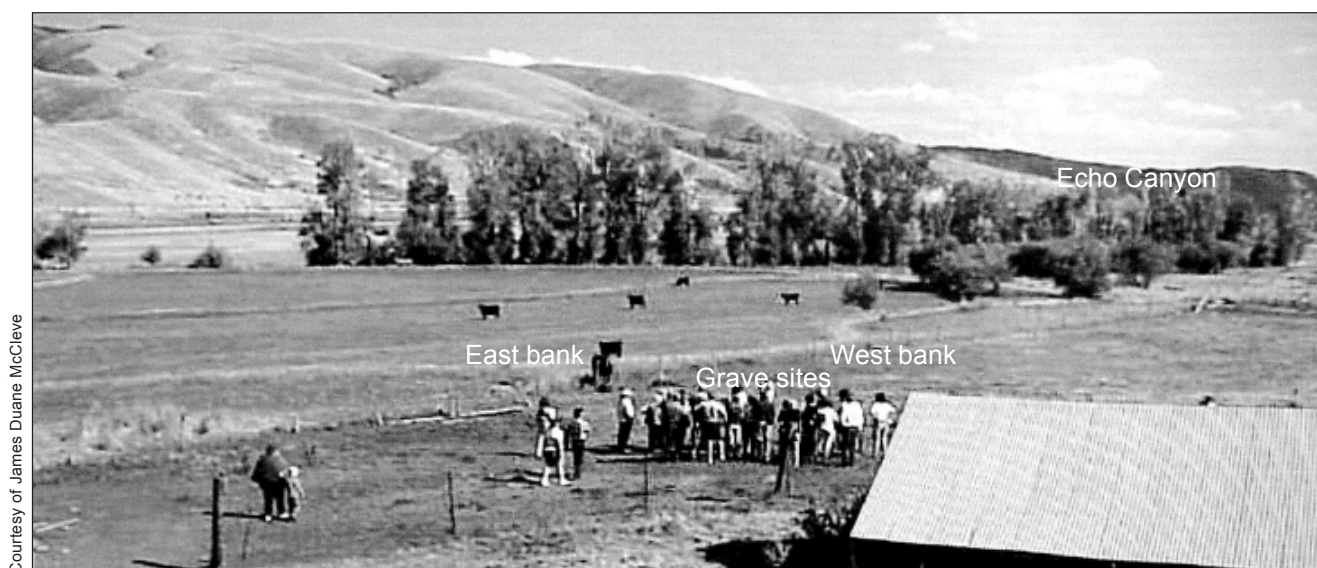
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The children of John McCleve Jr. and Nancy Jane McFerren who were handcart pioneers...

Margaret McCleve	17
Mary Jane McCleve	15
Isabel Wilkins McCleve	13
John T. McCleve	11
Joseph Smith McCleve	8
Eliza Roxie McCleve	6
Alexander Gilmore McCleve	2

## Travel log of Second Handcart Company

Iowa City .....	11 Jun 1856
Elk Creek .....	19 Jun 1856
N. Coon River .....	25 Jun 1856
Turkey Grove .....	30 Jun 1856
Silver Creek .....	4 Jul 1856
Winter Quarters .....	8 Jul 1856
Elkhorn River .....	25 Jul 1856
Platte River .....	26 Jul 1856
Chimney Rock .....	24 Aug 1856
Ft. Laramie .....	28 Aug 1856
Muddy Creek .....	4 Sep 1856
Ft. Bridger .....	20 Sep 1856
Echo Canyon .....	24 Sep 1856
Salt Lake City .....	26 Sep 1856



Courtesy of James Duane McCleve

Weber River crossing of second handcart company. The river now runs along the trees. There are twenty-one pioneer graves at this site. John McCleve Jr. was buried on the bank of this river possibly in one of these graves.





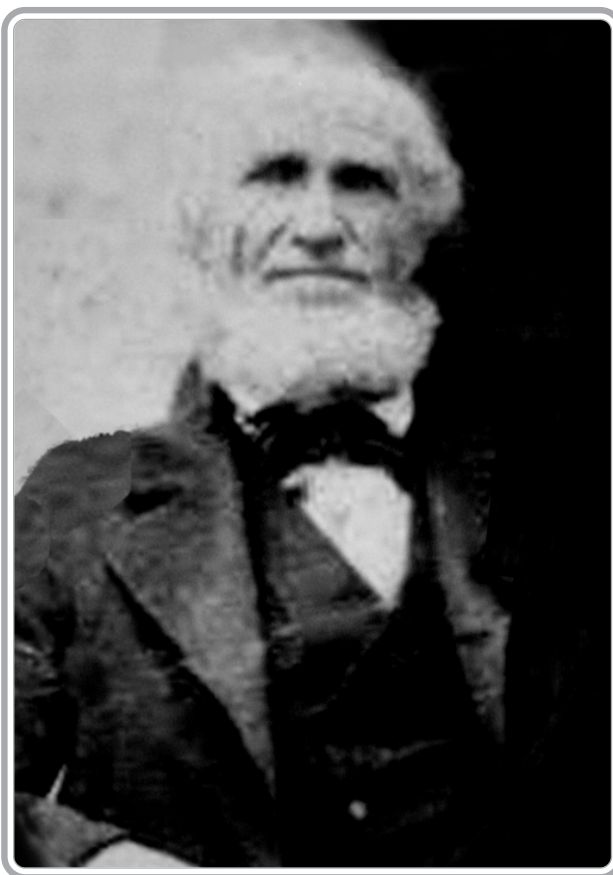
Headstone that marks the grave of Nancy Jane McFerren at cemetery in Toquerville, Utah.



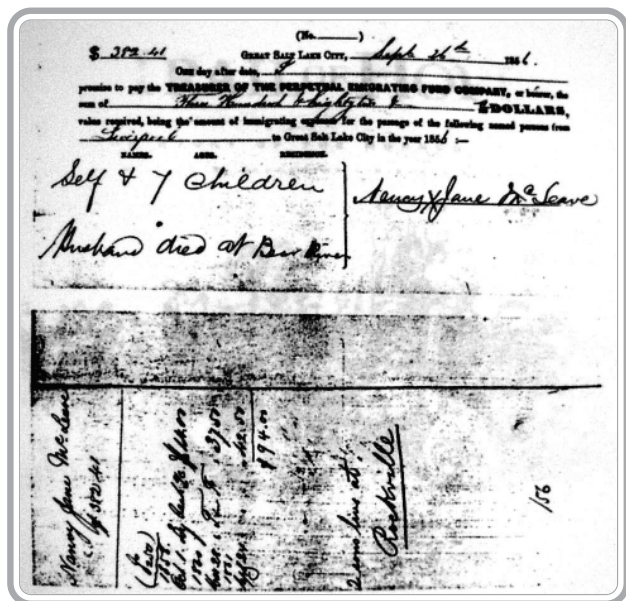
Nancy Jane McFerren



Headstone of John McCleve Jr. on Block 3, Lot 9a, in cemetery at Henefer, Utah, the approximate location of his grave.



John McCleve Jr.



Left: Perpetual Emigration Fund promissory note of Nancy Jane McFerren. Note that Nancy Jane marked an X. Perhaps this document is the reason why some list Bear River as the death place of John McCleve. However, this cannot be the correct river as it was “two or three days travel behind them in Wyoming or 75 miles to the north in Utah which they never crossed.”

—Robert McCleve





*Nancy Jane McFerren*