

Samuel Riley McDowell (1931-2007)

By Jerry Long
Kentucky Room, Daviess County Public Library, Owensboro, KY



The Bulletin, West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association, Owensboro, KY (McDowell Publications, Utica, KY), Vol. 39, Summer 2007, pp13-15 and Ancestral News, (Ancestral Trails Historical Society, Vine Grove, KY), Vol. 32, No.2, Summer 2007, pp81-83:

Samuel "Sam" R. McDowell died 28 April 2007 at the age of 76. He was born at McHenry in Ohio County. For the past 30 years he was the owner and operator of the publishing company, McDowell Publications, at Hartford, Owensboro and for the last 24 years in Ohio County in the former school building at Pleasant Ridge. He died of a heart attack suffered at his shop after playing a game of basketball.

Mr. McDowell was a landmark in the genealogy community of Kentucky to which he has made many noteworthy contributions. I first met him when I became interested in family history and published my first book in 1979. He has since published several books for me. I worked for Mr. McDowell during 1987-1990. By this time he had located his business at Pleasant Ridge. During the period that I was an employee he had opened a second store in downtown Owensboro at 101 East 2nd Street. I maintained this store for him. My other responsibilities included working as a professional genealogists answering any enquiries and compiling the periodical "Kentucky Pioneer

Genealogy and Records". I did the last four volumes of this publication (volumes 7, 8, 9 & 10). He began publishing this quarterly in 1979, at the time the largest independent one in KY. After the formation of the organization, Society of Kentucky Pioneers, in 1982 the quarterly became their official publication. Requirements for the Society of Kentucky Pioneers were having an ancestor who resided in Kentucky by 1800. Applicants had to provide documentation and data about that ancestor. This was a good idea. In fact the Kentucky Historical Society beginning in 1988 published a regular series in their quarterly based on the same premise and format, entitled "Roster of First Kentucky Ancestors". The Society of Kentucky Pioneers and the quarterly were not continued after 1990. The society had a membership in excess of 700 and the membership files are still in Mr. McDowell's library.

Mr. McDowell had an intense love of history and interest in any project that furthered its preservation. He was tremendously generous with his time and resources. His knowledge about history and contacts and resources related to it were vast. His enthusiasm for his work and interests were contagious because of his skill as a communicator. For these reasons I thoroughly enjoyed all of our conversations. He would rank in my top ten list of the most respected people I have met. His work was truly a labor of love. He had an extensive personal library that was open upon request to anyone.

I believe very few realized Sam McDowell's tremendous contributions to genealogy and history. He was a member of the Kentucky Historical Society, the Filson Club, Society of Kentucky Pioneers (one of its co-founders, served as its president & on its board), Ancestral Trails Historical Society (co-founder), West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association (president 1978-1980 & voted a life member), Ohio County Historical Society (president in the late 1970's) and Forrest's Orphan Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. While an employee of Fort Knox he became interested in the documentation and preservation of the many cemeteries located on the military base. He visited and cataloged cemeteries there and compiled additional research on the pioneer families buried there. In 1973 he published the book, "Fort Knox Cemeteries in Bullitt, Hardin & Meade Counties, Kentucky". The book stimulated interest in the area and led to the formation in 1975 of the Ancestral Trails Historical Society in Hardin County. Mr. McDowell was one its co-founders and was elected its first vice-president and served as its printer. During his term as president of West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association he was instrumental in the group's ambitious project of the microfilming the Ohio County Circuit Court suits (52 microfilm reels). While president of the Ohio County Historical Society he cataloged and registered many of the cemeteries of that county. He frequently gave lectures on history, research and publishing to groups. He was also an activist for cemetery and historical records preservation. Articles about his work appeared in the Owensboro "Messenger-Inquirer" on 12 May 1978, 17 June 1982, 29 July 1984 & 12 May 1998.

Upon his retirement from the US Air Force he endeavored to further his education and in 1977 received a BA degree from the University of Kentucky. He initially entertained the idea of pursuing a law career and had been accepted to the law schools at

both the University of Kentucky and University of Louisville. His interests in family history, however, lead instead to his second career as a printer who specialized in historical & genealogical materials. In 1977 Sam moved back to his native county, Ohio County, and opened McDowell Publications at 700 Griffin Street in Hartford. In 1979 he relocated in Owensboro, opening a store at 719 East 6th Street. During part of 1977-1979 he was a partner with the late Michael Cook. The business moved to 1233 Sweeney in Owensboro during 1981. And in 1982 he purchased the former school at Pleasant Ridge and moved there.

During the 30 years of McDowell Publications the company published several thousand historical & genealogical resource books, including over 500 family histories. One of his recent catalogs included materials on 22 states. In addition to the uncountable print orders (for books, periodicals, pamphlets, etc.) by individuals and organizations Mr. McDowell compiled books of original source material, including ones on the Index to 1850 Kentucky Federal census, Who's Who In Kentucky Genealogy (2 volumes), Kentucky Genealogical Sources, Ohio County, KY 1890 Tax List, "Society of Kentucky Pioneers 1983 Yearbook" based on the applications and data submitted by the society's members, "Kentucky Pioneer Genealogy and Records" (10 volumes) and numerous genealogical articles in various periodicals.

He also republished several hundred old and out of print books, whose copyrights had long expired and could be found only in a few of the larger historical repositories & libraries. The majority of these were over 100 hundred years old. Many were not indexed and Mr. McDowell created indexes for them. These reprinted volumes have made accessible an unbelievable amount of historical and genealogical data, copies that could be acquired as their own. These sources are now cornerstones of research on Kentucky & other localities. One of his largest non-commissioned jobs was the indexing and publishing of "The Report of the Adjutant General for the State of Kentucky", a roster of the Federal & Confederate Kentucky troops in the Civil War (4 volumes). This massive resource had never been indexed and it took several years to complete the job. A few of the other outstanding resources that he has brought to the doorway of researchers are the History of Daviess County, KY (1883), Historical Atlas of Daviess County, KY (1876), The Centenary of Catholicity in Kentucky (1884), Memorial Record of Western Kentucky (1904), The Partisan Rangers (1904), Calendar to the Draper Manuscripts, Goodspeed's History of East Tennessee (1886) and on and on.

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Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 1 May 2007, p2B:



Samuel Riley McDowell Jr. of Pleasant Ridge died Saturday, April 28, 2007, at Owensboro Medical Health System. He was born in McHenry and was a member of Living Faith Baptist Church. He retired from the Air Force and was owner-operator of McDowell Publishing in Pleasant Ridge.

Survivors include two children, Kelly Ruiz of Cheyenne, Wyo., and Samantha McDowell; two grandchildren; and a brother, Richard McDowell of Hatfield, Ind.

Services are at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Cecil Funeral Home in Whitesville, with burial in Old Bethel Cemetery in Ohio County. Visitation is from 3 to 8 p.m. today and after 9:30 a.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

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Cecil Funeral Home, Whitesville, KY, 2 May 2007:

Yesterday learned that Sam McDowell had died. Today went to his visitation. Talked to Mary Whittaker, long time employee of Sam's, Dot Smithson of WCK:FRA, and Ann Sipes of Ancestral Trails Historical Society.

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Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 9 May 2007, p3 Community:

Friend's last words are what we should live by

By Joe Ford

My weekly Messenger-Inquirer column is supposed to be mostly nature news or local history, but I know of no topic more natural than life or death. We simply avoid such subjects because we consider them unpleasant. I'm going to mention death this time, because the person who passed on was such a special, Christian man. His name is Sam McDowell Jr., and he operated a small publishing business in Pleasant Ridge.

Sam died as he was playing basketball with friends last Saturday. One of the reasons I'm mentioning his death is because a few weeks ago I took my sixth book to him to publish. As I was leaving, I made some flippant comment that I might not be back to pick up my printed book. (I'm 82 years old.) Sam replied that none of us know when the end may come, but "to live each day as though it may be our last." He practiced that rule himself. I'll try to follow his example in the future.

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Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 19 May 2007, p7A Readers Write:

McDowell's contributions to genealogy were enormous

Sam McDowell died on April 28. For the past 30 years he was the owner and operator of the publishing company, McDowell Publications, at Hartford, Owensboro and for the last 24 years in Ohio County in the former school building at Pleasant Ridge. Mr. McDowell was a landmark in the genealogy community to which he has made many noteworthy contributions. He had an intense love of history and interest in any project that furthered its preservation. He was tremendously generous with his time and resources. His knowledge about history and contacts and resources related to it were vast. His enthusiasm for his work and interests were contagious because of his skill as a communicator. His work was truly a labor of love.

Few realized his tremendous contributions. He had been a member and officer of several genealogical and historical societies. He was co-founder of the Ancestral Trails Historical Society and Society of Kentucky Pioneers. He published the periodical, Kentucky Pioneer Genealogy & Records, the largest independent genealogy quarterly in Kentucky, and compiled several books on genealogical records. He was an activist for cemetery and historical records preservation. He frequently gave lectures on history, research and publishing. He published several thousand books related to history and genealogy, including more than 500 family histories. He also published several hundred old and out-of-print books that could be found only in a few libraries, and many had never been indexed before. He has made accessible a tremendous amount of historical data. These sources on Kentucky and the Midwest are now the cornerstones of research on our area and can be found in almost all major historical collections throughout the country.

Jerry Long
Kentucky Room, Daviess County Public Library

[Same letter was published under heading of “Letter To Editor: Death of Pleasant Ridge book publisher a loss to community” in the Ohio County Times-News, Hartford, KY, on Thursday, 17 May 2007, p5A (editorial page).]

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Ancestral News, (Ancestral Trails Historical Society, Vine Grove, KY), Vol. 32, No.2, Summer 2007, pp81-83:

SAMUEL RILEY MCDOWELL, Jr. (1931-2007)

On the first of May we received the shocking news of Sam McDowell's death. Many of us had just seen and visited with him the week before at our annual book fair. Sam and his two employees, Mary Whittaker and Cathy Benningfield, had brought a large selection of books to sell. The editors would like to begin this tribute to Sam with the article written by Jerry Long, of the Kentucky Room, Daviess County Public Library, Owensboro, Kentucky. Jerry's words aptly describe Sam's contributions to the genealogy and history community in Kentucky and surrounding states. ... [Jerry Long same as in The Bulletin]...

Editor's Note: I met Jerry Long again at the visitation for Sam at the Cecil Funeral Home in Whitesville on May 1, 2007. After he described to me his friendship with Sam I asked him if he could share his knowledge of Sam's work in the field of genealogy and history. The above paragraphs told me many things I had not known about Sam. Following is one of the articles that Jerry mentioned that had appeared in the Messenger-Inquirer. Our long time former editor, Paul Urbahns, had already suggested that I reprint this same article that Paul had run in the Summer, 2003 issue of Ancestral News. The reporter, Lora Wimsatt, captured Sam's personality so well, in the May 12, 1998 issue of the Messenger-Inquirer. Her story will recall similar conversations our members have had with Sam over the years.

A LIFE OF HISTORY

Sam McDowell is literally surrounded by history. He makes his home in the former Pleasant Ridge High School, which was built in 1929 and purchased by McDowell in 1981. "It's kinda nice to have a basketball court in your living room." He gestures through an open door at an empty gymnasium as he threads his way through quiet hallways once filled with jostling students.

If the school itself doesn't represent enough history McDowell, 67, has filled the building with histories of communities and families. He operates a small publishing business, specializing in preserving genealogical histories in book form.

Many of the books on his shelves are collections of old records such as census figures, marriage registers and cemetery records, which McDowell has compiled or printed. He runs a fingertip along the spines of several volumes, providing a narrative of the books' contents as he goes. "We have a lot of Daviess County census information," he said, "We have every soldier who served on either side of the Civil War. This book an 1876 Atlas of Daviess County, shows all the landowners in Daviess County with maps of land plats and lots of illustrations. This information dates from the 1880's, a nine volume set of biographical sketches of people in various counties of Kentucky (probably speaking of Battle's and Perrin's Biographies-ats). "St. Lawrence Baptismal records in Daviess County the oldest Catholic church in Davless County," he observes. "Green up County Cemeteries, Hancock County Marriage Register and 1860 Census."

Large high-speed copy machines provide most of the printing of McDowell's books, but when more than 400 copies are required, the work moves to another room. McDowell leads the way across worn linoleum and hardwood floors. A chalkboard covers the wall of a former classroom where desks and chairs once stood McDowell has installed a small printing press. A large table is covered with stacks of papers-pages of the first 500 copies of a genealogical book he is printing for a customer who has ordered 1000 copies.

How does he possibly keep all those pages in order: McDowell laughs. "Very carefully," he replies. "It's difficult to keep it all straight We constantly check ourselves. It's very easy to have blank pages, missing pages, upside-down pages; but we guarantee quality work"

McDowell is often asked how much it costs to have a book published Smiling, he says, "That kind of like asking how long is a piece of string?" "it depends. How many pages? What size paper? How is it going to be bound? Is it camera-ready? What quality of paper? A lot of people, they get ready to publish a book, they really don't know a lot about it. We're here to help them any way we can. "

McDowell finds many opportunities to be helpful, begrudging none of them. He opens the door to his "manuscript room." One side of the room is filled with loose sheets of paper; the manuscripts of every book he has ever printed, all ready to go in case anyone should order a reprint. The other side of the room is lined with tall shelves. This is the library housing bound copies of every book he has printed. "There're probably a couple of

thousand," McDowell says. "It's kind of out of order now; I carry a load out there for people who want to look at them, and then every year or two I try to straighten it out."

He freely allows interested people to come by to see-or read- his books, whether they purchase any or not "Most genealogists are honest," he observes. In the few cases in which someone has ordered a printing and then reneged on payment he has a simple policy. "The Lord collects my bills," he says. "If they don't want to pay me, they can pay Him,"

McDowell became interested in genealogy about 20 years ago (about 1978?) when he discovered some old family letters and papers. "But I haven't had the time to do anything with it," he admits. His family has roots in Ohio County, "But we moved around a lot," McDowell says, "moved every time the rent came due."

Nor has he researched the history of the old Pleasant Ridge High School; "but I was in the first grade at Victory School when it closed in 1937. It was close to Hell's Neck, near to where Hartford is now."

Nevertheless, "there's something about genealogy," he says, "When you study your family history, it makes you want to be a better person." Although he has never formally recorded his family history, McDowell recalls with pleasure the days when it was passed down from generation to generation. "I remember when I was kid, we'd sit around the fireplace, or on the porch in the summer and listen to the old folks talk. Talk about the old days in Tennessee, who married who- we've lost something these days. There doesn't seem to be any sense of connection anymore. We just seem to be adrift." But recording a family history is a worthwhile venture McDowell says. "That's a pretty good monument," he says. "Better than granite or marble."

His involvement in the hobby has brought him to an interesting conclusion. "One thing about this business that is really amazing is the number of people I talk to who I'm related to. A man called me from Arizona, wanted some information about the Haynes family. Turned out to be a fifth cousin. A lady in Florida called and dropped a name of Hayworth in South Carolina. I said, 'Well, I've got a Hayworth in South Carolina. Turned out to be the same family. The more you get into it, the more you find you're related to everybody."

In fact there are at least two family histories on his shelves in which the writers purport to have traced their family trees back to Adam and Eve. "I don't know how," he confides, "Of course, nobody believes it's true."

But McDowell does believe in the Bible.

Asked what he would like his great, great, great, great grandchildren to discover about him if they should ever investigate their family tree, McDowell has one wish. "I think the most important thing is that I was a Christian," he says. "If you can't tell I'm a Christian, it's not your fault."

Sam McDowell Takes on the Military Establishment

Recently, the editor discovered that Sam has a cousin in Vine Grove, Hardin County, Kentucky. She is Ruth Taylor Emerine. Actually, Ruth is a first cousin to Sam's own mother through their MAIN family connection in Ohio County, Kentucky. Ruth has helped me to develop a pedigree chart for Sam. He never submitted one for our files. Ruth has kept an archive of clippings describing Sam's transcriptions of the cemeteries on post. She made copies of some family information she has collected over the years as well as clippings that followed Sam's work with the cemeteries on Fort Knox.

Sam began his work in the Fort Knox cemeteries sometime in the early 1970's. These stories also described his crusade to convince military officials to follow their own regulations regarding the maintenance of the one hundred plus family cemeteries the government took over as the Army began to acquire the land for training purposes. One of the earliest such stories appeared in the Louisville Courier Journal on 24 November 1973. It was reprinted in the Ohio County News on 6 December 1973. Sam began to copy the cemeteries in the spring of 1973, "copying down the names of 2500 persons buried in eighty-five of what he contends are more than one hundred and fifteen cemeteries." At the time of the article's publication, there were "by official count at least 54 cemeteries within the post's Range Impact Area. McDowell claims that at least two of these cemeteries, named after the French family of Radcliffe [sic], have totally disappeared." "At the end of the summer (1973), McDowell wrote to U.S. Sen. Walter (Dee) Huddleston, saying that he was 'shocked and appalled at the appearance (and sometimes disappearance!) of cemeteries—many of our pioneer ancestors are buried here," he wrote Huddleston," as are soldiers from all our wars."

Eventually Sam took the afternoon off from his civilian communications job on the post to meet with post officials, to show them an example of what he considered incriminating evidence, and to ask them what the Army could do to take better care of the civilian cemeteries on its land." After touring the devastated Phillips cemetery the group met at the post's engineering headquarters with Ft. Knox's director of facilities engineering, Col. E.D. H. Berry, and agronomist Homer Knight. Col. Berry agreed with McDowell that Army regulations require the maintenance of the grave sites."

In a later article published January 15, 1974 and written by Clay Ryce for the Louisville Times, it was noted that the earlier publicity "led Fort Knox officials to face up to their obligations." John R. Allison, deputy post engineer, said that according to regulations the Army must take care of these cemeteries. He explained that because of other priorities for the engineers, a lack of men and the absence of complaints, the majority of them (cemeteries) were not taken care of. Work orders went out to clean up and repair 93 cemeteries. At that time, military firing would continue in the impact areas where forty-two cemeteries remained at risk.

The result of Sam's endeavors is that on every Memorial Day the firing on Fort Knox comes to a halt and all the cemeteries are open for descendants to visit. Gary Kempf observed that he has visited every one of these cemeteries (plus a dozen more found since

Sam's recording) and found them in great condition thanks to Sam's efforts. In 1975, Sam published his landmark book of Fort Knox Cemeteries in Bullitt, Hardin and Meade Counties, Kentucky. In the introduction of the book Sam describes this odyssey in these words: "Each Memorial Day the public is permitted to visit these old cemeteries to decorate the graves of those they left buried here when they moved from this land. For many of these, this is a nostalgic visit 'home'. They renew old acquaintances and reminisce of other times when these "hills and hollers" were home. This pilgrimage is expected to continue into the foreseeable future." I believe this book is still available through Sam's publishing plant at Pleasant Ridge, which remains open to his mission.

Most all the sixty-two charter members of AHS had connections to people buried in those cemeteries. He helped inspire this writer to explore the St. Patrick's cemetery there for my mother-in-law's ancestors and to put in writing their history. I feel he was a mentor to hundreds of our members to explore and record their family history. He has left a wonderful legacy to his family and friends. And of his wish for his grandchildren? Judy Nacke reported that the preacher at Sam's funeral spoke of Sam's having transcribed the entire Bible by hand and then typing it three times over in the computer.

This writer knows from experience that Sam could quote something from the Bible for every occasion of conversation. I know our readers will join us in deepest sympathy to Sam's family, daughters Kelly Lynn Ruiz, her boys, daughter Samantha McDowell, brother, John R. McDowell, nieces and nephews and to his two workers, Mary Whittaker and Cathy Benningfield. He will be deeply missed. McDowell Publications will continue to print our quarterly, hopefully for the rest of this year.

Sam cousin, Ruth Taylor Emerine, of Vine Grove has given help to me to develop a pedigree chart and ahnentafel for Sam's family tree will appear in the Fall issue.

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Ancestral News, (Ancestral Trails Historical Society, Vine Grove, KY), Vol. 32, No.3, Fall 2007, pp138-141:

ANCESTORS OF SAMUEL RILEY MCDOWELL
CHARTER MEMBER #35

Editor's note: Sam's friend, Jerry Long, sent a pedigree chart that Sam had begun many years ago. We did not have one in his file at Ancestral Trails Research library. Sam's cousins, Ruth Emerine (related on the Main side of the family) of Vine Grove and Phillis Crabtree (related on the Mitchell side of the family), of Owensboro, Kentucky, helped me to fill out more of Sam pedigree resulting in this ahnentafel Anyone interested in the notes, please write to the editor in care of the P.O. Box and it will be provided to you. Also, many newspaper stories provided by Jerry Long will eventually be placed in Sam's file at the library. Phillis wrote "Not a day goes by that I don't think of "Riley" (that is what I called Sam). We had talked a few weeks before he died about us taking all of the information I had collected and doing a book about our Mitchell family."

1. Samuel Riley McDowell, Jr., born 25 Jan 1931 in McHenry, Ohio Co., KY; died 28 Apr 2007 in Pleasant Ridge, Ohio Co., KY, buried at Old Bethel Cemetery, Ohio County, KY. He was the son of **2. Samuel Riley McDowell** and **3. Lena Lucille Mitchell**. He married (1) Unknown.

Notes for Samuel Riley McDowell, Jr.:

Sam died suddenly while playing basketball with friends in the gym of his home and business in Pleasant Ridge, Ohio County, Kentucky. One of those friends was also the man who "preached" at his funeral in the Cecil Funeral Home in Whitesville, Davies County, Kentucky. Sam had been at AHS Book Fair the very Saturday before his death. He had a great time visiting with many old friends amongst the vendors and the visitors that day.

He had just completed printing four new books for Ancestral Trails and several members had gone down to Pleasant Ridge before the book-fair to pick up those and other needed issues for the sale. Amongst those who went were Gary Kempf, Richard Briggs, and Rosa O'Bryant. That same day he gave the Society four boxes of books for our library at the Hardin County History Museum in Elizabethtown.

2. Samuel Riley McDowell, born 11 Sep 1894; died 1978 in Ohio Co., KY, Buried in Old Bethel Cemetery. He was the son of **4. Richard Howard McDowell** and **5. Juda Ann Felix**. He married **3. Lena Lucille Mitchell**.

3. Lena Lucille Mitchell, born 18 Apr 1906 in Ohio County, KY; died 21 Mar 1989 in Ohio Co., KY, Buried in Old Bethel Cemetery. She was the daughter of **6. James Francis Mitchell** and **7. Jeannette Main**.

Notes for Samuel Riley McDowell:

John McDowell, Sam Riley McDowell, Jr.'s brother, told Ann Sipes that his and Sam's father was a coal miner. The old Main Cemetery where his grandparents are buried is surrounded by a coal mine according to the Emerines. Ruth Emerine is a first cousin to Sam and John's mother, Lucille Mitchell McDowell.

Children of Samuel McDowell and Lena Mitchell are:

- i. John Richard McDowell, born 01 Nov 1929 in McHenry, Ohio Co., KY; married Unknown. Notes for John Richard McDowell: John, known to some friends and family as Richie, lives in Indiana, across the river from Owensboro. He has some powers of observation that his brother, Sam, told him he inherited from their mother, Lucille. His two sons, John and Bob, live with their father in their home which is next door to where they were born.
- ii. Samuel Riley McDowell, born 25 Jan 1931 in McHenry, Ohio Co., KY; died 28 Apr 2007 in Pleasant Ridge, Ohio Co., KY, buried at Old Bethel Cemetery, Ohio County, KY; married Unknown.
- iii. Nancy Marie McDowell, born 31 Aug 1932 in McHenry, Ohio Co., KY; died 17 Aug 2002.

4. Richard Howard McDowell, born 29 Oct 1853 in New Market, Tennessee; died 21 Mar 1938 in Hartford, Ohio County, KY. He was the son of S. Samuel Ruble_McDowell and 9. Naomi Tucker. He married **5. Juda Ann Felix** 12 Jan 1892.

5. Juda Ann Felix, born 28 Nov 1859 in Ohio County, KY; died 16 Nov 1930 in Ohio County, KY. She was the daughter of **10. James Riley Felix** and **11. Margaret Ann Black**.

6. James Francis Mitchell, born 21 Aug 1887 in Ohio Co., KY; died 23 Mar 1942 in Ohio Co., KY. He was the son of **12. James Leonard Mitchell** and **13. Nora S. Hill** He married **7. Jeannette Main** 13 May 1903 in Island, McLean Co., KY.

7. Jeannette Main, born 31 Aug 1888; died 08 Dec 1936 in Ohio Co., KY. She was the daughter of **14. John Thomas Main** and **15. Margaret Baker**.

8. Samuel Ruble McDowell, born 04 Jul 1819 in New Market, Tennessee; died 1879 in Hartford, Ohio County, KY. He was the son of **16. William B. McDowell** and **17. Polly Pearson**. He married **9. Naomi Tucker** 01 Nov 1849.

9. Naomi Tucker, born 08 Dec 1825 in New Market, Tennessee; died 09 Jan 1905 in Hartford, Ohio County, KY. She was the daughter of **18. John Tucker** and **19. Sarah Unknown**.

10. James Riley Felix, born 17 Nov 1834; died 09 Jan 1905 in Hartford, Ohio County, KY. He was the son of **20. Philip Felix** and **21. Judith Haynes**. He married **11. Margaret Ann Black**.

11. Margaret Ann Black She was the daughter of **22. Francis Black** and **23. Unknown Thompson**.

12. James Leonard Mitchell, born 23 May 1860 in Derby, Perry Co., Indiana; died 26 Apr 1926 in Island, McLean Co., KY. He was the son of **24. William Mitchell** and **25. Elizabeth Rebecca Cassidy**. He married **13. Nora S. Hill**.

13. Nora S. Hill, born 24 Oct 1866; died May 1902.

14. John Thomas Main 2, born 22 Jul 1861; died 16 Dec 1947 in McHenry, Ohio Co., KY, Buried in Old Bethel Cemetery. He was the son of **28. John Thomas Main** and **29. Jeannett Thompson Pollock**. He married **15. Margaret Baker** 29 Mar 1887.

15. Margaret Baker, born 25 Sep 1866 in Tennessee; died 25 Jun 1949 in McHenry, Ohio Co., KY, Buried in Old Bethel Cemetery. She was the daughter of **30. Gambrel Baker** and **31. Eva Craddick**.

Children of John Main and Margaret Baker are:

- i. Jeannette Main, born 31 Aug 1888; died 08 Dec 1936 in Ohio Co., KY; married James Francis Mitchell 13 May 1903 in Island, McLean Co., KY.

- ii. ii. Mary Main, married Unknown Taylor. Notes for Mary Main: Mary Main married Unknown Taylor, and was Ruth Taylor Emerine's mother. Ruth is married to Keith Emerine of Vine Grove, KY They met in college at Western in Bowling Green.

16. William B. McDowell, born Abt. 24 Jan 1790. He married **17. Polly Pearson**.

17. Polly Pearson

18. John Tucker, born 11 Apr 1795. He married **19. Sarah Unknown** 16 Feb 1816.

19. Sarah Unknown, born 21 Feb 1795.

20. Philip Felix, born 05 Mar 1802; died 18 Jan 1866 He married **21. Judith Haynes** 11 Apr 1824.

21. Judith Haynes, born 18 Nov 1806.

22. Francis Black He married **23. Unknown Thompson**.

23. Unknown Thompson.

24. William Mitchell, born 22 Feb 1815 in Derby, Perry Co., Indiana; died 29 Jul 1870. He was the son of **48. William Mitchell** and **49. Mary Ann Bruner**. He married **25. Elizabeth Rebecca Cassidy**.

25. Elizabeth Rebecca Cassidy, born 19 May 1819 in Indiana; died 11 May 1881. She was the daughter of **50. John Cassidy**.

28. John Thomas Main, born 20 Nov 1825 in Scotland; died 16 Oct 1882 in Barren Co., KY. He married **29. Jeannett Thompson Pollock** 14 Jun 1853.

29. Jeannett Thompson Pollock, born 07 Jul 1835 in Glasgow, Scotland; died 08 Aug 1887 in McHenry, Ohio Co., KY. She was the daughter of **58. Archibald Alexander Pollock** and **59. Mary Morrison**.

30. Gambrel Baker He married **31. Eva Craddick**.

31. Eva Craddick.

48. William Mitchell, born 20 Feb 1777 in Frederick Co., MD; died 22 Dec 1856 in Derby, Perry Co., Indiana. He married **49. Mary Ann Bruner** 10 Sep 1802.

49. Mary Ann Bruner, born 11 Apr 1780 in PA; died 21 Nov 1854 in Derby, Perry Co., Indiana.

Notes for William Mitchell:

William Mitchell founded the third town in Perry County, Section 33, Township 5, south Range 2, West, where he had taken up in 1818, after coming from Virginia through Kentucky, with his wife Mary Bruner and several children. On November 4, 1835, John Cassidy then conducting a store at the mouth of Oil Creek (but who had been County Surveyor in 1819) laid out the town site for William Mitchell; a site comprising 21 lots, 90 feet by 60 feet in dimensions, with a 50 foot street (Water Street) along the river front and Second Street. Recorded December 4, 1835 on page 18 of Deed Book B, by Samual Frisbie. William Mitchell opened a distillery. After 12 years the building was turned into the first chair factory in Perry County. William and Mary Bruner Mitchell's son, William Mitchell, Jr. married John Cassidy's daughter, Elizabeth Rebecca Cassidy. One of their sons, James Leonard Mitchell, married Nora Hill in Henderson County, Kentucky. They were the parents of Joseph Allen Mitchell, Sr.

50. John Cassidy

58. Archibald Alexander Pollock, died Aft. 15 Mar 1857. He married **59. Mary Morrison** 1818.

59. Mary Morrison, born 1801; died 24 Dec 1887.

ENDNOTES

1. Pedigree Chart for Samuel Riley McDowell in records of Jerry Long of Owensboro, KY. Many newspaper stories about Sam were sent to the copy editor after Sam's death. The packet included a pedigree chart filled out by Sam. The information about the McDowell side of the family to include ahnentafel numbers 8 through 23 on Sam's father's side of the chart were filled in by Sam himself. On his mother's side of the house he knew the names only through no. 15. This pedigree will become part of Sam's file in the Ancestral Trail's library. The additional ahnentafel information was provided by his cousin, Phillis Crabtree,

2. Ruth Taylor Emerine, Personal information shared with Ann Sipes.

3. History of Perry County, Indiana, pp. 26, 81, 82. Notes provided by Sam McDowell's cousin, Phillis Crabtree, 430 Catalina Dr., Owensboro, KY 42303-6228.

Editors Note: I received a letter from Gary Beshears of the Evansville Bindery before publication last time. At some point this letter was included in that tribute, but I left it out of the final copy, Here is Gary's letter now.

"Easy-going Sam." That's what I nicknamed Sam McDowell. I had a business relationship with him for 27 years. He would print the genealogies, and I would bind his books. But what was even more important, I had the privilege of calling this gregarious man my friend

I was with Sam three days before he passed. We were total opposites. I worry about everything, but Sam had a very optimistic personality. He didn't worry about the small things. If you were to ask him about his business or his health, he would always reply, "Everything fine," even if it wasn't. H was the personification of his motto - "live your

life like every day is your last" It is only fitting that he enjoyed his last day doing what he loved, playing basketball. His passions included genealogy, of course, horses, baseball, and basketball.

Sam McDowell now becomes a part of our history. His passing will be mourned by the genealogy community, his friends and associates; but it won't be in vain if we try to model Sam's philosophy of life and continue his passion for investigating, preserving, and learning from the past" Gary Beshears, President of Evansville Bindery, Inc.

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Bluegrass Roots, Quarterly of the Kentucky Genealogical Society, Frankfort, KY, Summer 2007, p76:

Samuel Riley McDowell, Jr.
1931-2007

Sam McDowell died 28 April 2007 at the age of 76. He was born at McHenry in Ohio County. For the past 30 years he was the owner and operator of . . . McDowell Publications, at Hartford, Owensboro, and for the last 24 years in Ohio County in the former school building at Pleasant Ridge. He died of a heart attack suffered at his shop after playing a game of basketball.

Mr. McDowell was a landmark in the genealogy community of Kentucky to which he has made many noteworthy contributions... [and] had an intense love and interest in any project that furthered its preservation. He was tremendously generous with his time and resources. His knowledge about history and contacts and resources related to it were vast. His enthusiasm for his work and interests were contagious because of his skill as a communicator.. .very few realized Sam's tremendous contributions to genealogy and history. He was a member of the Kentucky Historical Society, The Filson Historical Society, Society of Kentucky Pioneers—one of the co-founders and served on the board and as president, Ancestral Trails Historical Society co-founder, West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association life member and former president, and Forrest's Orphan Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

While an employee at Fort Knox he became interested in the documentation and preservation of the many cemeteries located on the military base. He visited and cataloged cemeteries there and compiled additional research on the pioneer families buried there. In 1973 he published the book, Fort Knox Cemeteries in Bullitt, Hardin, and Meade Counties, KY. The book stimulated interest in the area and led to the formation in 1975 of the Ancestral Trails Historical Society in Hardin County...

He was also an activist for cemetery and historical records preservation.... During the 30 years of McDowell Publications, the company published several thousand historical and genealogical resource books, including over 500 family histories...

One of his largest non-commissioned jobs was the indexing and publishing of The Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Kentucky, a roster of the Federal and Confederate Kentucky troops in the Civil War—four volumes. This massive resource had never been indexed and it took several years to complete the job...

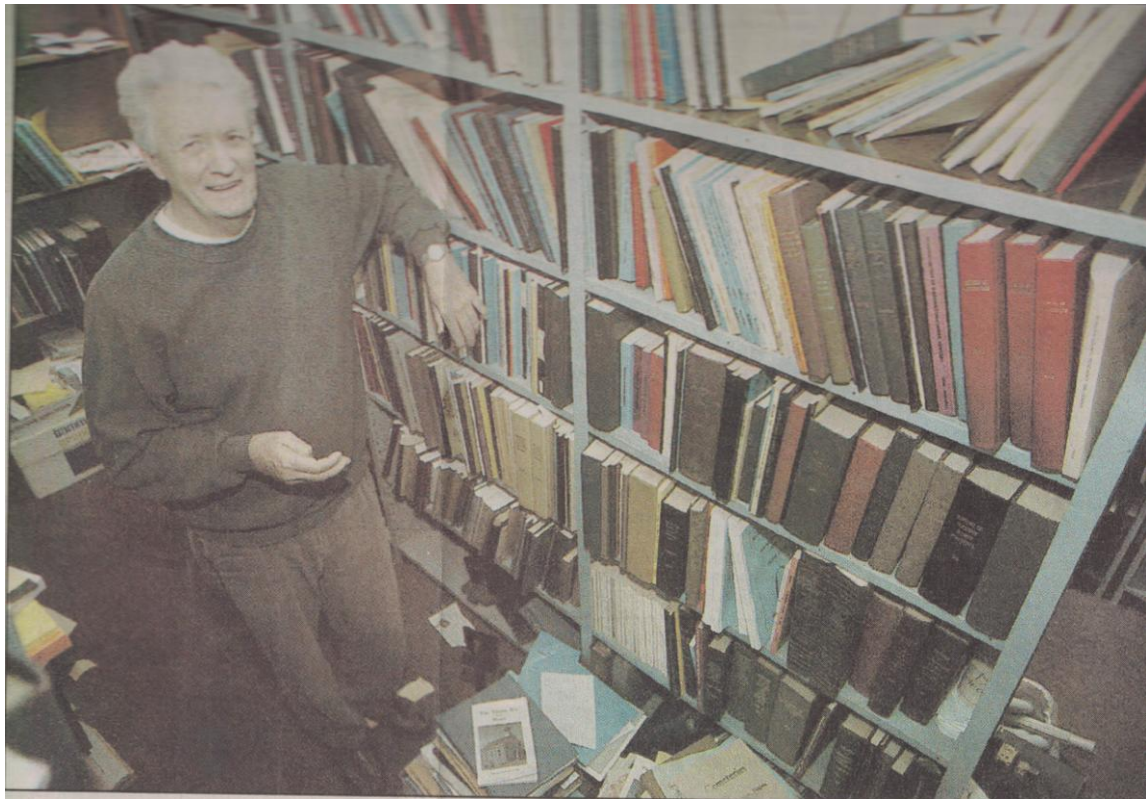
This article was excerpted from a longer one of the same title written in part by Jerry Long, Kentucky Room, Daviess County Public Library, Owensboro, KY that appeared in the Summer 2007 issue of Ancestral Trail Historical Society's quarterly publication, Ancestral News.

Many of us knew Sam McDowell for years. We enjoyed his wit and humor, and benefited from his vast knowledge. I well remember the phone calls he would make to ask me if I had another manuscript ready for him; that he was between big jobs and could work me in. We shall all miss him! [Mike Watson]

.....

Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday 12 May 1998, p1D:

Sam McDowell: A Life of History
By Lora Wimsatt, Messenger-Inquirer



Standing in the library of his printing company, Sam McDowell says there are "probably thousands" of books that he has printed for authors. Nearly all of them are family trees and other genealogical records. Cathy Clarke, Messenger-Inquirer

Sam McDowell is literally surrounded by history. He makes his home in the former Pleasant Ridge High School, which was built in 1929 and purchased by McDowell in 1981.

"It's kinda nice to have a basketball court in your living room," he says, gesturing through an open door at an empty gymnasium as he threads his way through quiet hallways once filled with jostling students.

If the school itself doesn't represent enough history, McDowell, 67, has filled the building with histories of communities and families.

He operates a small publishing business, specializing in preserving genealogical histories in book form.

Many of the books on his shelves are collections of old records, such as census figures, marriage registers and cemetery records, which McDowell has compiled and reprinted.

He runs a fingertip along the spines of several volumes, providing a narrative of the books' contents as he goes.

"We have a lot of Daviess County census information," he said. "We have every soldier who served on either side of the Civil War. This book, an 1876 atlas of Daviess County, shows all of the landowners in Daviess County, with maps of land plats and lots of illustrations. This information dates from the 1880s, a nine-volume set of biographical sketches of people in various counties of Kentucky.

"St. Lawrence baptismal records in Daviess County - the oldest Catholic church in Daviess County," he observes. "Greenup County cemeteries. Hancock County marriage register and 1860 census." Large high-speed copy machines provide most of the printing of McDowell's book, but when more than 400 copies are required, the work moves to another room.

McDowell leads the way across worn linoleum and hardwood floors.

A chalkboard covers the wall of a former classroom. Where desks and chairs once stood, McDowell has installed a small printing press. A large table is covered with stacks and stacks of papers - pages of the first 500 copies of a genealogical book he is printing for a customer who has ordered 1,000 copies.

How does he possibly keep all those pages in order? McDowell laughs.

"Very carefully," he replies. "It's difficult to keep it all straight. We constantly check ourselves. It's very easy to have blank pages, missing pages, upside-down pages. But we guarantee quality work." McDowell is often asked how much it costs to have a book published.

Smiling, he says, "That's kind of like asking, 'How long is a piece of string?' It depends. How many pages? What size paper? How is it going to be bound? Is it camera-ready? What quality of paper? A lot of people, they get ready to publish a book, they really don't know a lot about it. We're here to help them any way we can." McDowell finds many opportunities to be helpful, begrudging none of them.

He opens the door to his "manuscript room." One side of the room is filled with numbered boxes of loose sheets of paper: the manuscripts of every book he has ever printed, all ready to go in case anyone should ever order a reprint.

The other side of the room is lined with tall shelves. This is the library, housing bound copies of every book he has printed. "There's probably a couple of thousand," McDowell says. "It's kind of out of order right now; I carry a load out there for people

who want to look at them, and then every year or two I try to straighten it out." He freely allows interested people to come by to see - or read - his books, whether they purchase any or not.

"Most genealogists are honest," he observes.

In the few cases in which someone has ordered a printing and then reneged on payment, he has a simple policy.

"The Lord collects my bills," he says. "If they don't want to pay me, they can pay Him." McDowell became interested in studying genealogy about 20 years ago when he discovered some old family letters and papers.

"But I haven't had time to do anything with it," he admits.

His family has roots in Ohio County, "but we moved around a lot," McDowell says. "Moved every time the rent came due." Nor has he researched the history of the old Pleasant Ridge High School.

"But I was in the first grade at Victory School when it closed in 1937. It was close to Hell's Neck, near to where Hartford is now." Nevertheless, "there's something about genealogy," he says. "When you study your family history, it makes you want to be a better person." Although he has never formally recorded his family history, McDowell recalls with pleasure the days when it was passed down from generation to generation.

"I remember when I was a kid, we'd sit around the fireplace, or on the porch in the summer, and listen to the old folks talk. Talk about the old days in Tennessee, who married who . . . We've lost something these days. There doesn't seem to be any sense of connection anymore. We just seem to be adrift." But recording a family history is a worthwhile venture, McDowell says.

"That's a pretty good monument," he says. "Better than granite or marble." His involvement in the hobby has brought him to an interesting conclusion, McDowell says.

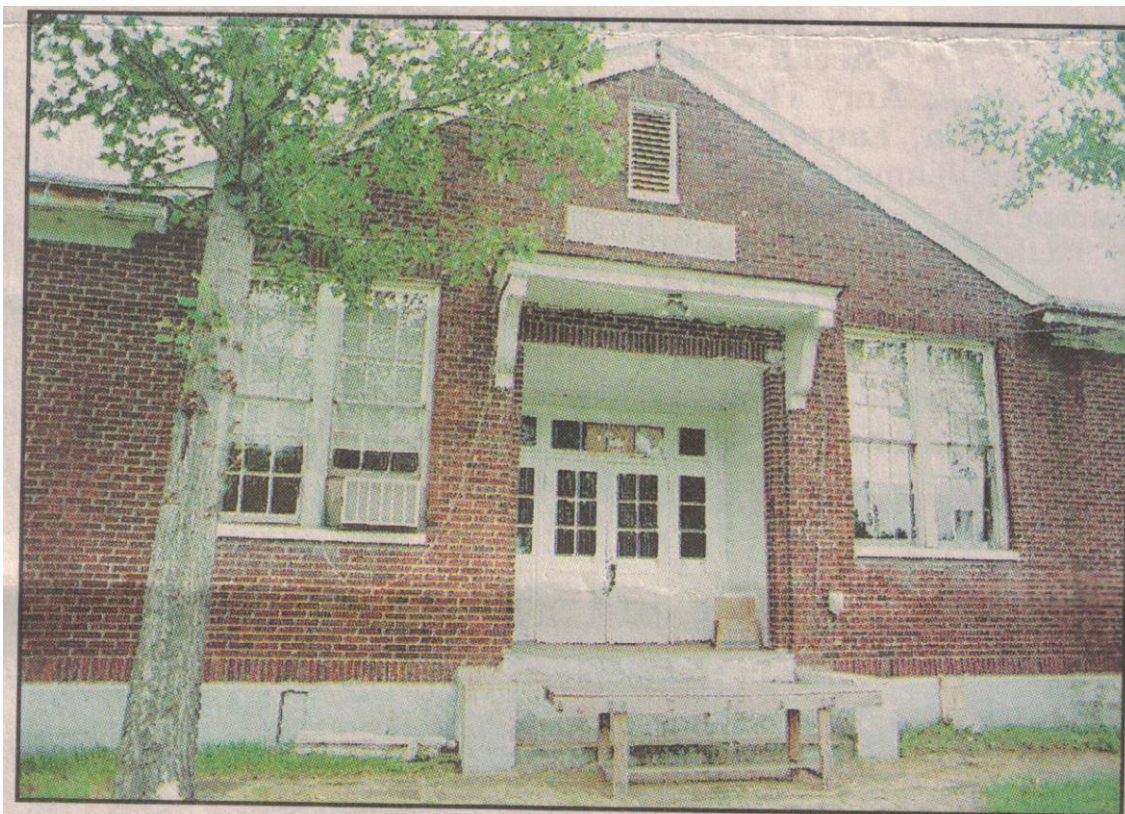
"One thing about this business that is really amazing is the number of people I talk to who I'm related to. A man called me from Arizona, wanted some information about the Haynes family; turned out to be a fifth cousin. A lady in Florida called and dropped a name of Hayworth in South Carolina; I said, 'Well, I've got a Hayworth in South Carolina.' Turned out to be the same family. The more you get into it, the more you find you're related to everybody." In fact, there are at least two family histories on his shelves in which the writers purport to have traced their family trees back to Adam and Eve.

"I don't know how," he confides. "Of course, nobody believes it's true." But McDowell does believe in the Bible.

Asked what he would like his great-great-great-great-grandchildren to discover about him if they should ever investigate their family tree, McDowell has one wish.

"I think the most important thing is that I was a Christian, he says. If you can't tell I'm a Christian, it's not your fault."

Caption: Cathy Clarke Standing in the library of his printing company, Sam McDowell says there are probably thousands of books that he has printed for authors. Nearly all of them are family trees and genealogical records. The former Pleasant Ridge High School is home to Sam McDowell and his printing company.



Cathy Clarke, Messenger-Inquirer

The former Pleasant Ridge High School is home to Sam McDowell and his printing company.

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Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Saturday, 9 September 1995, p9A:

Reader's Write:

Trust betrayed when church moves cemetery

In the last century a community southeast of Owensboro buried their loved ones in the cemetery of the church they had built. They felt confident this church would protect their final resting place. None suspected that their trust would be betrayed. Later their descendants placed their trust in a group of elected officials. The public will decide if this trust also was betrayed.

The fiscal court granted a permit to Macedonia Baptist Church to relocate these "final" resting places, accepting the church's "evidence" of abandonment without question. If the church has responsibility for the cemetery, how can it be abandoned by anyone but them? By their own testimony, they know it's been abandoned because they've been taking care of it! The church implied that no one had visited the cemetery because no one had seen them. No evidence has been presented that fits any reasonable definition of abandonment.

Emotional abandonment occurs before physical abandonment. It is obvious from protesting outcries that this cemetery has not been emotionally abandoned. This proposed

action sets a precedent that will endanger every cemetery in Kentucky. It may divide their church. The name of Macedonia will become a byword, synonymous with cemetery destruction. Usually when something doesn't make sense it's because you aren't hearing the truth. When you aren't hearing the truth, it's usually because someone knows you aren't going to like it. Is the Good Old Boy Network alive and well in Daviess County?

Sam McDowell 11129 Pleasant Ridge Road, Utica

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Ancestral News, Ancestral Trails Historical Society, Vine Grove, KY, McDowell Publications, Summer 1993, p76:

SAM MCDOWELL HONORED

Sam McDowell was presented the "Ambassador of Tourism" award by Sandy Urbahns during the May meeting of The Ancestral Trails Historical Society. The award was in recognition of McDowell's efforts to help preserve the history and heritage of our area.

Sam McDowell was a Ft. Knox employee 1974-75 when he started compiling information on Ft. Knox Cemeteries which was eventually published in a 368 page book. This information on the individuals buried on Ft. Knox is a basic reference tool concerning the history of the area prior to the establishment of the military post. In fact, when a post wide survey was conducted in 1992, McDowell's 18 year old book was the heart of the final report.

During this time, McDowell became aware of the number of current residents in the Vine Grove, Radcliff, West Point, Shepherdsville and Meade County area who were descendants of the families displaced by the establishment of Ft. Knox. Many of these people expressed interest in the history of the region, and in genealogy. In association with June Ayers, a wife of a military man stationed at Ft. Knox, announcements were placed in the local newspapers, and McDowell contacted people who had assisted in his research for the book.

An organizational meeting was held at the old Radcliff City Hall, (now the Elmer Hargan Building). It was decided to form a historical society, and June Ayers was elected President, Sam McDowell Vice President, Elmer Hargan Treasurer, and Richard Briggs of West Point Editor of the quarterly, Ancestral News.

The Societies first publications, such as the Ancestral News and early books were reproduced on a mimeograph at Sam McDowell's home in Vine Grove. Sam was always there, and it is also noted that Sam typed the first issue of Ancestral News since, "he owned a typewriter". When Sam McDowell moved to the Owensboro area and opened his own business, he began publishing books for the society. Today, McDowell Publications continues to serve the societies printing needs and produces four issues of Ancestral News and an average of three books per year. Sam also lectures nationwide on history and publishing.

From the original group of 62 members, the society has grown to a current total membership (past & present) of 1400 families, with an average of 500 active families worldwide. Though Sam McDowell is no longer a resident of Vine Grove, he has left a positive impression on the nation in relation to Vine Grove, KY.

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Who's Who In Kentucky Genealogy: A Biographical and Professional Profile of 595 Prominent Researchers in Kentucky Genealogy, With Over 6550 Surnames in Which They Are Particularly Interested, Michael L. Cook, editor, 1985, p158:

McDOWELL, SAM Utica, Kentucky

b. January 25, 1931, Ohio County, Kentucky, son of Samuel Riley McDowell, Sr. and Lena Lucille Mitchell; divorced; children, Kelly Lynn McDowell, Samantha Leigh McDowell; education, LA., University of Kentucky 1977; home address, Rural Route 4, Box 314, Utica, Kentucky 42376.

Genealogical Publisher (McDowell Publications)

Personal family research, 13 years

Memberships and honors: Kentucky Historical Society; The Filson Club; Society of Kentucky Pioneers (Co-Founder, Executive Secretary 1982, President 1984- , Board Member); West-Central Kentucky Family Research Association (var. offices, Life Member)

Speaking engagements: on Preparing Genealogy or History Books for Printing, Kentucky Genealogical Research; exhibits books of McDowell Publications at seminars

Publications: FORT KNOX CEMETERIES IN BULLITT, HARDIN AND MEADE COUNTIES, KENTUCKY; SURNAME INDEX 1850 CENSUS (for a number of counties); OHIO COUNTY, KENTUCKY 1890 TAX LIST; GUIDEBOOK AND SUGGESTIONS FOR AN ACTIVE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY (co-author, M.L.Cook); KENTUCKY GENEALOGICAL SOURCES (co-author, M.L.Cook); WHO'S WHO IN KENTUCKY GENEALOGY (Associate EDITOR, 1982, 1985 Edns.); Editor and publisher. Kentucky Pioneer Genealogy & Records (quarterly); YOU ARE THE AUTHOR; numerous genealogical articles and records in genealogical periodicals

Surnames of interest: Felix, Mitchell, Main, Pierson, Black, Thomson, Haynes, Baker, Tucker, Ruble, Pollock, Cassidy

.....

See also:

Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 29 July 1984, p1D, “Published helps families trace roots”, by Ron Hawkins.

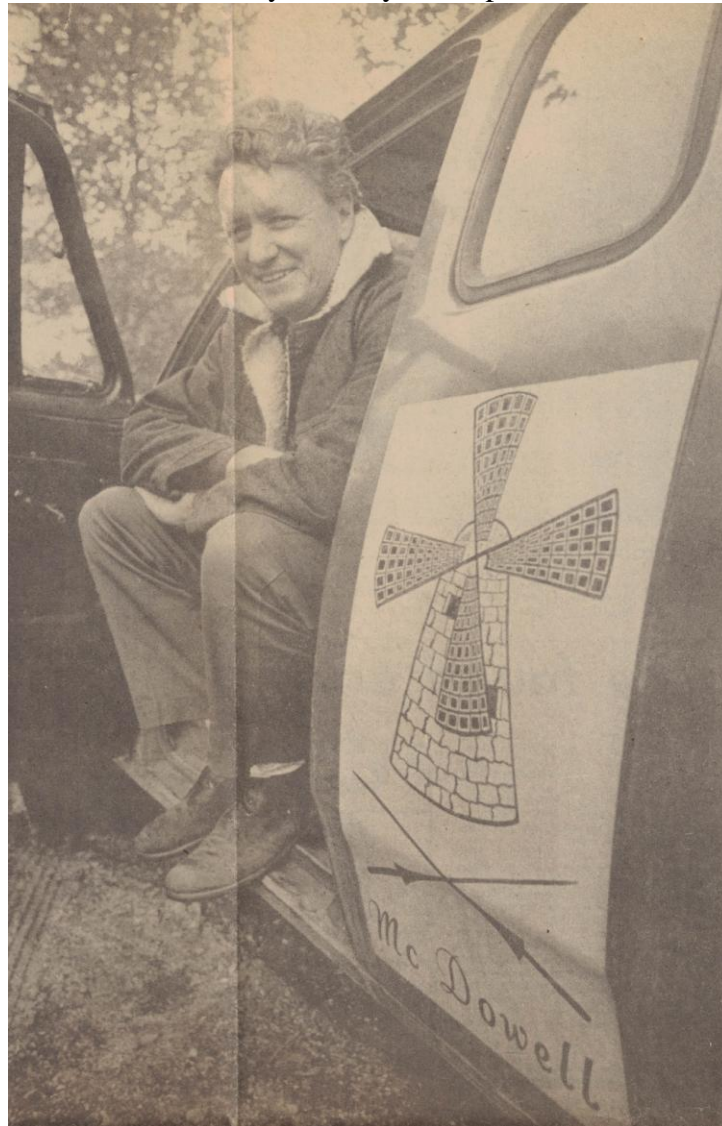
Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 17 June 1982, p, “They’ll still study history at old Pleasant Ridge school”, by Karen Owen.

Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 12 May 1978, p1C, “Sam McDowell: He’s both activist and genealogist”, by Sandra Skowron.

Oral history interview of Sam McDowell, 1978, “Scholar Works @ Morehead State University, Internet - <https://scholarworks.moreheadstate.edu>

.....

Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY,
Friday, 12 May 1978, p1C



Correspondence of Jerry Long:

e-mail : From Ann Sipes (atsgene2002@yahoo.com) to Jerry Long, 3 May 2007:

Hi Jerry,

It was so good to meet you again, but I'm sorry for the circumstances. But we want to honor Sam in a tribute in our summer issue. I had started to gather and to edit Ancestral News on Monday, I have gotten nowhere since then. I help my mom with appt.s errands, and also we had reservations to go to a musical on Sam's funeral Day. This has been a full week.

I hope that you can send me your memories of Sam,

Tell me again about your working for him, was this in Owensboro, when he first set up shop? Was he by himself then? I know that for a while he worked with Michael and Betty Cook. I hope Betty has heard about Sam. Is she still in Evansville? Also I just thought of the man at the Evansville, Bindery, but then I am sure Mary Whittaker or Cathy Bennignfield must have let them know, since they have done so much work for Sam in binding books. I know they spent all day on Monday calling people and then into Tuesday am. I've tried myself to get the word out up this way, but I keep thinking of others I need to tell.

And then can you tell me his history with the folks in West Central Ky Family Research Association. He published their things too didn't he? And the KY Pioneers Is this org. still active?.

What will we do without Sam, Jerry? A long and faithful service he has given to genealogy and the preservation of so many records. He was so affirming and so encouraging to so many, many people. My husband and I had just talked to him about publishing my second volume of the Ray Book, it's nowhere near ready, but I thought of Sam to do this second one when I was ready.

I'm going to copy the last thing he gave me, about Evil, for you. did you get to go to his funeral? I understand his good friend preached his funeral and told about his copying the entire Bible by hand and then he was on his third time of typing it into the computer.

I hope to see you sometime this summer when another friend and co-editor, Carol Cox, and I will come down to study one day.

But if you can get your thoughts together about Sam and send ASAP, I sure would appreciate it.

Also, if you have any news or announcements of interest to people in our area, send to me to put in the quarterly.

Did you ever meet Ed Greif? Sam had just called me the week of our book fair to tell me of Ed's death. My husband was about a fourth cousin on the Sipes side of the family to Ed. Their g grandparents were half-siblings, had the same Sipes dad but different mothers.

Very sincerely,
Ann Sipes

e-mail : To Ann Sipes (atsgene2002@yahoo.com) from Jerry Long, 7 May 2007:

Ann,

Sorry it has taken me awhile to reply. I started writing down a few things last Friday but something kept coming up and I could not finish until today. I have attached a couple of pages about Mr. McDowell. I thought I would send the same to the editor of the Ohio County and Owensboro newspapers in hopes they may include something about Mr. McDowell's noteworthy accomplishments. If you notice any errors please let me know.

Tomorrow I will put into the mail copies of several articles about Mr. McDowell that I have saved over the years.

Betty Cook still lives in Evansville, IN and is very active in the Tri-State Genealogy Society there. Yes I you Ed Grief. He was a frequent visitor to our library. He was a very positive and enthusiastic about everything. The Kentucky Room within the last couple of months has lost four cornerstone-patrons. I attempted to answer some of your other questions in the attached document.

Best wishes, Jerry Long, Kentucky Room, Daviess County Public Library

e-mail : To Margaret Alford (msalford@mindspring.com) from Jerry Long, 7 May 2007:

Mrs. Alford: I have attached some notes about Sam McDowell in case you need something more for the "Bulletin". I will certainly miss him. If you have any trouble opening the attachment please let me know. Best wishes, Jerry Long

e-mail : To Dot Smithson (dot1927@adelphia.net) from Jerry Long, 7 May 2007:

I have attached a couple of pages of notes on Sam McDowell. I have also e-mailed them to Mrs. Alford in case she needs something more for the "Bulletin" and also to the editors of the Ohio County and Owensboro newspapers. If you have any trouble opening the doc please let me know. Best wishes, Jerry Long

e-mail : To editor (editor@octimesnews.com) of Ohio County Times-News, Hartford, KY from Jerry Long, 7 May 2007:

Dear Editor:

A few days ago Samuel R. McDowell an Ohio County native and widely known businessman of Pleasant Ridge passed away. I was wondering if some small item could be included in your newspaper about him. I believe his accomplishments are noteworthy as I hope you will agree. He is one of the most widely known residents of your county.

I have attached below some notes about Mr. McDowell and his accomplishments for your consideration. If a separate item cannot be included in the paper could any of the following be included as a "Letter to the Editor"?

Thank you,

Jerry Long

Owensboro, KY

Phone 270-684-6299 or 270-684-0211 ext. 5

e-mail : To Dan Heckel (dheckel@messenger-inquirer.com), editor of the Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer, from Jerry Long, 7 May 2007:

Dear Editor:

A few days ago Samuel R. McDowell a widely known local businessman passed away. I was wondering if some small item could be included in your newspaper about him. I believe his accomplishments are indeed noteworthy of some passing reference as I hope you will agree. He had made very significant contributions to historical preservation and research.

I have attached below some notes about Mr. McDowell and his accomplishments for your consideration. If you feel that a separate item is not warranted could any of the following be edited and included as a "Letter to the Editor"?

Thank you,

Jerry Long

Owensboro, KY

Phone 270-684-6299 or 270-684-0211 ext. 5

e-mail : From Ann Sipes (atsgene2002@yahoo.com) to Jerry Long, 8 May 2007:

Jerry,

I asked the exactly right person to tell me about Sam's accomplishments in history and genealogy.. I had heard him speak of a lot of these affiliations, but some of them I did not know. I once heard about Sam's thoughts to go to law school, but had forgotten that, didn't know he had a college degree.

This will be the foundation of our tribute. I have the article from the Messenger-Inquirer done in 1996, I think, Paul Urbahns published it in 2003 in Ancestral News. It really captures Sam's sense of humor and his enthusiasm from his conversation with the reporter.

I'm so glad that you are going to submit your story to the Owensboro paper, and I hope it can go out to other historical societies when our issue gets out in June.

I may have some questions for you later today when I've read it again, but wanted you to know my appreciation first thing today. I have library duty today from 10-2 and then have an "appointment" of sorts with Sam's cousin, Ruth Emerine, and her husband, Keith.

Thanks again,

Ann Sipes

e-mail : From Don Wilkins (editor@octimesnews.com), editor of Ohio County Times-News, Hartford, KY, from Jerry Long, 8 May 2007:

Do you know if his family requested an obituary to be sent to us from the funeral home? Our policy is that obits have to come from the funeral home.

e-mail : To Dot Smithson (dot1927@adelphia.net) from Jerry Long, 8 May 2007:

Hi Jerry, That is a great article. I had no idea Sam had accomplished so much. Margaret has already E-mailed me that she will use the article in the Bulletin. Thanks a lot. Dot

e-mail : To Don Wilkins (editor@octimesnews.com), editor of Ohio County Times-News, Hartford, KY, from Jerry Long, 8 May 2007:

Yes, I believe the family did request that the obituary be sent to your paper. However, the obit only listed survivors and funeral data. It said nothing about his many noteworthy accomplishments. I thought since he was a native and resident of Ohio County your readers may be interested. A few words would also be a way of honoring one of your own who is well known far beyond your boundaries. Thanks for your time, Jerry Long

e-mail : From Margaret Alford (msalford@mindspring.com) to Jerry Long, 9 May 2007:

Thank you, Jerry, for the write-up about Sam. It was well written - even though I have not seen him much since we moved over here, I will miss him too. He did so much in every phase of genealogy. I will use the article in the next Bulletin. Margaret Alford

e-mail : From Dan Heckel (dheckel@messenger-inquirer.com), editor of the Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer, from Jerry Long, 10 May 2007:

Jerry,
Sorry it took me so long to get back to you, I was awaiting word on whether a reporter was going to do anything, but I think at this point it's best to try to turn it into a letter. I've forwarded it to Suzi Bartholomy.

Dan Heckel
Editor
Messenger-Inquirer
Owensboro, KY
(270) 691-7292
dheckel@messenger-inquirer.com

Phone call : From Suzi Bartholomy, Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, to Jerry Long, 14 May 2007:

She said I could run an item in the newspaper about Sam McDowell by writing it in a Letter to the Editor. Limit under 270 words.

e-mail : To Suzi Bartholomy (Bartholomy@Messenger-Inquirer.com), Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, from Jerry Long, 14 May 2007:

Suzi: I have attached the Letter to the Editor regarding Sam McDowell. Thank you for your time, Jerry Long -

Sam McDowell died on April 28th. For the past 30 years he was the owner and operator of the publishing company, McDowell Publications, at Hartford, Owensboro and for the last 24 years in Ohio County in the former school building at Pleasant Ridge. Mr.

McDowell was a landmark in the genealogy community to which he has made many noteworthy contributions. He had an intense love of history and interest in any project that furthered its preservation. He was tremendously generous with his time and resources. His knowledge about history and contacts and resources related to it were vast. His enthusiasm for his work and interests were contagious because of his skill as a communicator. His work was truly a labor of love.

Few realized his tremendous contributions. He had been a member and officer of several genealogical & historical societies. He was co-founder of the Ancestral Trails Historical Society and Society of Kentucky Pioneers. Published the periodical, "Kentucky Pioneer Genealogy & Records", the largest independent genealogy quarterly in KY and compiled several books on genealogical records. He was an activist for cemetery and historical records preservation. He frequently gave lectures on history, research and publishing. He published several thousand books related to history & genealogy, including over 500 family histories. He also published several hundred old and out of print books that could be found only in a few libraries and many had never been indexed before. He has made accessible a tremendous amount of historical data. These sources on Kentucky and the Mid-West are now the cornerstones of research on our area and can be found in almost all major historical collections throughout the country.

e-mail : To Don Wilkins (editor@octimesnews.com), editor of Ohio County Times-News, Hartford, KY, from Jerry Long, 15 May 2007:

Would you please use the following as a "Letter to the Editor":

Sam McDowell died on April 28th. For the past 30 years he was the owner and operator of the publishing company, McDowell Publications, at Hartford, Owensboro and for the last 24 years in Ohio County in the former school building at Pleasant Ridge. Mr. McDowell was a landmark in the genealogy community to which he has made many noteworthy contributions. He had an intense love of history and interest in any project that furthered its preservation. He was tremendously generous with his time and resources. His knowledge about history and contacts and resources related to it were vast. His enthusiasm for his work and interests were contagious because of his skill as a communicator. His work was truly a labor of love.

Few realized his tremendous contributions. He had been a member and officer of several genealogical & historical societies. He was co-founder of the Ancestral Trails Historical Society and Society of Kentucky Pioneers. Published the periodical, "Kentucky Pioneer Genealogy & Records", the largest independent genealogy quarterly in KY and compiled several books on genealogical records. He published several thousand books related to history & genealogy, including over 500 family histories. He also published several hundred old and out of print books that could be found only in a few libraries and many had never been indexed before. He has made accessible a tremendous amount of historical data. These sources on Kentucky and the Mid-West are now the cornerstones of research on our area and can be found in almost all major historical collections throughout the country.

Thank you for your time,

Jerry Long

Phone 684-6299 or 684-0211 ext. 5

e-mail : From Suzi Bartholomy (Bartholomy@Messenger-Inquirer.com), Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, to Jerry Long, 16 May 2007:

Jerry: I got your letter Tuesday and replied but my e-mail was undeliverable. You did a find job of condensing your submission. We'll publish your letter as soon as possible. Thanks, Suzi

e-mail : From Don Wilkins (editor@octimesnews.com), editor of Ohio County Times-News, Hartford, KY, to Jerry Long, 16 May 2007:

Mr. Long, Thanks for the letter. I will include this on our opinion page. However, I never received any death notice from the family or a funeral home. I did not now your friend but it sounds like he was into many things. I wish I had a chance to interview him because he sounded like a very interesting person.

e-mail : To Jim Prichard (jim.prichard@ky.gov), Kentucky Department of Libraries & Archives, from Jerry long, 15 June 2007:

Mr. Prichard:

I have attached an article about Sam McDowell that I wrote for our local genealogy society. Shelia was telling me that you had not heard about his death.

Best wishes,
Jerry Long
Kentucky Room
Daviess County Public Library
Owensboro, KY

e-mail : From Jim Prichard (jim.prichard@ky.gov), Kentucky Department of Libraries & Archives, to Jerry Long, 18 June 2007:

Dear Jerry,

Many thanks for sharing this. What a tremendous loss not only to the heritage minded community within Kentucky but all the researchers around the country who benefited from his works.

Best Regards,
Jim

.....



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