

McCreery – Crow Cemetery

Hartford, Ohio County, KY

By Jerry Long

Ohio County, Kentucky Cemetery Records, Volume III, Ohio County Historical Society, McDowell Publications, Owensboro, KY, 1982, p84:

McCreery Cemetery

A small family cemetery located in Hartford at the end of McCreery Court (The Street was incorrectly spelled). Here lies the family of Dr. Charles McCreery, born near Winchester, Kentucky studied medicine under Dr. Goodlet of Bardstown, then moved to Hartford, where, in 1811, he married Ann Wayman Crowe.

Dr. McCreery's brother, Robert, was the father of U. S. Senator Thomas Clay McCreery of Daviess County and the Doctor's brother, James, was the grandfather of the Kentucky Governor and U. S. Senator James B. McCreery (spelling as used).

Dr. McCreery performed in Hartford, an operation in 1813, the first known successful operation of its kind, the excision of the clavicle or the removal of the entire collarbone, on a boy of 14 from Muhlenberg County.

His surgical instruments were made under his own supervision by an expert silversmith in Hartford. (From OHIO COUNTY IN THE OLDEN DAYS).

A Kentucky Highway historic marker honors Dr. McCreery which is located in front of the Ohio County Library, U. S. 231 in Hartford.

A large stone marker is in the center of the family plot for the family

Dr. Charles McCreery	Anna W., his wife
June 13 1785 Aug 26 1826	Dec 7 1792 June 4 1869
"Reunited with those already gone She hath lived, she hath loved, her task is done"	

Charles McCreery, born in Hartford Mar 9 1825 died in Louisville Jan 11 1850

Ada B. Crowe,	Our Sister	Feb 22 1840	Dec 27 1860
Cynthia Crow,	Our Mother	Sept 11 1798	Nov 11 1860
John W. Crow,	Our Father	Dec 13 1794	Sept 6 1860
Martha Ann, wife of W C. Chapman		Feb 10 1824	May 31 1803 (Marker has dove)
Major Joshua Crow		Apr 18 1720	Apr 20 1890
Harriet W., wife of W. C. Chapman		June 25 1833	Nov 28 1858
Nancy McCreery	(Marker broken so badly couldn't read dates)		

Three small markers, no inscriptions

Copied in September, 1981 by Mrs. D. C. (Pearl) Ferguson, Chairman of the Ohio County Cemetery Records Committee for the Ohio County Historical Society. Three pictures were furnished by Dee Cee Ferguson on file at the Ohio County Museum.

[Note: The preceding transcription contained at least two mistakes – Major Joshua Crow died in 1830 and Martha Ann Chapman died in 1869. Additional data on the McCreery – Crow Cemetery is found on the Internet site, Findagrave.com. Also see entries on Dr. Charles McCreery in the book, Fogle's Papers: A History of Ohio County, Kentucky, by McDowell A. Fogle, McDowell Publications, Utica, Ky., 1981.]



Ann Wayman Crow McCreery (1792-1869)



Name of Town, city, or County.	Names of Heads of Families	Free white Males					Free white Females			
		Under 10	10 to 16	16 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 45	Under 10	10 to 16	16 to 20	20 to 45
Hartford	Joshua Crow	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
do	John B. Rogers	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
do	Aquila Field	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
do	James Griffith	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
do	Nancy Williams	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
do	James Rogers	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
do	Moses Summins	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
do	Charles Henderson	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
do	Charles McCreery	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

Listing of Dr. Charles McCreery in the 1810 Federal Census of Ohio County, KY
 Joshua Crow, father-in-law, of Dr. McCreery, is listed at the top



Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, 19 July 1893, p3:

A fine granite monument is to be erected here soon at the graves of Dr. Charles McCreery, wife and son, who died and were buried in the McCreery burying grounds here about 1826. This is the third time the relatives of the deceased have remembered them. The first was made of sandstone, the second of fine marble, which now marks their last resting places. The fine granite monument is to take the place of the marble slabs. The monument is being erected at the expense of Judge Thomson, of St. Louis, Missouri, who is a son-in-law of the deceased. Dr. McCreery was a near relative of ex-Governor McCreery. The complete monument arrived at Beaver Dam last Thursday and was brought to Hartford Friday, when a telegram was received by the contractor, from Judge Thomson, saying to him not to begin putting up the monument until he reached Hartford and selected the exact location. The McCreery burying grounds are on the premises of Mr. E. P. Thomas, who bought of W. C. Chapman, now deceased.





No. 27 on map marks the site of the McCreery – Crow Cemetery. The burial plot is fenced around and located on an upland area not far from the apartment complex at the end of McCreery Court in Hartford.



Kentucky Highway Historical Marker number #1267 was erected in 1969 by the Kentucky Historical Society and Kentucky Department of Highways.

Inscription: Early Surgery - The first known successful removal of an entire collarbone, performed in 1813, by Dr. Charles McCreery. The patient, a 14-year-old boy, "made a complete recovery with perfect use of his arm, living past middle age." Dr. McCreery was born, 1785, trained under Dr. John Goodlett of Bardstown, settled in Hartford about 1807, the area's first real doctor. He died in 1826.

Location. 37° 26.953' N, 86° 54.508' W. Marker is in front of the Ohio County Historical Society Museum, 415 Mulberry Street, Hartford, KY, just south of West Washington Street, on the right when traveling north.



Ohio County, Kentucky, in the Olden Days, by Harrison D. Taylor, Louisville, KY, John P. Morton & Company, 1926, pp15-18:

THREE EARLY PHYSICIANS
DOCTORS CHARLES MCCREERY, BENJAMIN SMITH,
AND SAMUEL O. PEYTON

There is no tradition of our having a regular doctor of medicine among the earliest settlers of the county. The people seemed to have had very little use for a professional doctor of medicine. Every neighborhood, however, had its own old lady or gentleman who was always ready, without fee or reward, to prescribe the proper compound of roots and barks for any disease. Wild ipecac tea was the principal emetic, and white walnut and may-apple pills were the usual cathartics of pioneer times. The first man, according to tradition, who was dubbed "Doctor" was a "Dutch Root Doctor named Houseman The first real physician was Dr. Charles McCreery.

Dr. Charles McCreery settled in Hartford as early, perhaps, as 1807 or 1808 He was a young man of fine personal appearance, of social and convivial habits, volatile in his manners, also energetic, and frequently original in his ideas and notions of matters and things. He enjoyed a very high reputation, not only as a physician, but also as a fine surgeon as well, having performed several bold—and then considered hazardous—operations many years ahead of the surgical science of the times. His practice extended into the territory that now embraces Muhlenberg, McLean, Daviess, and parts of Breckinridge, Grayson, and Butler counties.

It is a credit to his memory that he never neglected his poor patients, but visited them as readily as the rich or more influential ones. He was always revered for his kind heart and wise counsel. He was a remarkably interesting fireside companion, conversing logically on all matters, as well as those pertaining to his own domain of science. He was keenly alive to all wit and nonsense, but did not enjoy a practical joke upon himself.

His friend Judge John Calhoun esteemed the good doctor highly, but at the same time was ever ready to play a prank on him, as the following story will illustrate: It happened that the doctor and the judge were out together one day, and Dr. McCreery was descanting on the lack of general knowledge in the community of the principles of surgery and medicine. He stated, by way of illustration, that a man might be riding along and be thrown from his horse and have his neck dislocated, but not broken, and that the presence of an expert might save his life. Almost at this time the doctor's horse became frightened and jumped so violently that the rider was thrown full-length in the road. Calhoun, who was then young, dismounted, seized the doctor by the hair of his

head before he had time to rise, placed his foot on his shoulder, and kept pulling with all his strength until the doctor fairly roared with pain. Then the expert "neck setter" helped him up and congratulated himself on having saved his friend's life. The doctor remounted and slowly rode along for several minutes, whilst Calhoun was convulsed with laughter to which he dare not give vent. Suddenly checking his horse, the doctor rose in his stirrups and with uplifted hand exclaimed: "John Calhoun, if you ever tell anyone of this affair, may I be _" using a tremendous oath—"if I do not make it a personal matter with you." Of course Calhoun never could have kept so good a joke to himself. He told it often, but no one dared repeat it in the presence of the doctor.

Dr. McCreery died in middle age, in 1826, on August 26th. He had been to Shelbyville to bring home his eldest daughter from Mrs. Julia A. Tevis's school—Science Hill. He was taken sick and died at a house on the road between Shepherdsville and Key's Ferry on Salt River. His remains were afterwards brought to his old home for burial. His wife, who was a daughter of Joshua Crowe, lived many years a citizen of Hartford, where she was universally beloved and esteemed. She reared a large family of children and with them removed to St. Louis. [She died in St. Louis, and her remains were brought to Hartford and placed by the side of her husband.

Two pages are devoted to Dr. McCreery in *A Report on Kentucky Surgery*, by Dr. S. A. Gross, published in Louisville in 1853, and one page in *A Cyclopaedia of American Medical Biography*, compiled by Dr. Howard A. Kelly, published in Philadelphia in 1912. The latter—in a sketch contributed by Dr. August Schachner of Louisville—gives a brief biography of Dr. McCreery, stating among other things that he was born in 1785 near Winchester, Kentucky, studied medicine under Dr. Goodlet of Bardstown, then moved to Hartford, where, in 1811, he married Ann Wayman Crowe. Dr. Schachner adds that Dr. McCreery's brother Robert was the father of United States Senator Thomas Clay McCreery of Daviess County, and that the Doctor's brother James was the grandfather of the Kentucky Governor and United States Senator James B. McCreery. Both books referred to give a brief history of an operation Dr. McCreery performed in Hartford in 1813 on a boy of fourteen, named Irvin, by the excision of the clavicle, or the removal of the entire collarbone—the first known successful operation of its kind. Irvin lived in Muhlenberg County, where he died in 1849. In 1828 two years after Dr. McCreery's death, Dr. Valentine Mott of New York performed the same operation, and believing he was the first to do so, proclaimed his success to the world. When Charles Fox Wing of Greenville, Kentucky, heard of this claim, he came to the defense of his friend the late Dr. McCreery and called attention to the fact that Dr. McCreery had performed the operation successfully fifteen years before Dr. Mott, citing the ease of Irvin. "Notwithstanding Dr. McCreery's large practice in Ohio and adjoining counties," continues Dr. Schachner, "he found time to deliver lectures regularly in his home to his own as well as to other students. His surgical instruments were made under his own supervision by an expert silversmith in Hartford."

[Part of the preceding article was published in the article "Fragments of the Early History of Ohio County", by H. D. Taylor, published in the Hartford Herald, 12 September 1877, p.1.]



Dictionary of American Biography, McCrady – Millington, Volume XII, Dumas Malone, Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, NY, 1933, pp.3-4:

McCreery, Charles (June 13, 1785 – Aug. 27, 1826, pioneer Kentucky physician, was born near Winchester, Clark County, Ky., to Robert and Mary (McClanahan) McCreery, both of Scotch-Irish descent, who had moved to Kentucky from Maryland. After such an education as he could

obtain in the local schools he studied medicine under Dr. Goodlet of Bardstown and in 1810 he settled in Hartford, Ohio County, for the practice of his profession. The remainder of his life was spent in this community where he covered an area of several counties, mostly on horseback. He built up a large practice among a clientele that was devoted to him. No distance was too long nor pains too great for him to respond to a call. From the beginning of his career he had a bent for surgery. In 1813, his third year of practice, at the age of twenty-seven, he performed the operation upon which rests his greatest claim to remembrance. It involved the complete extirpation of the clavicle, the first operation of its kind performed in the United States. The patient, a boy of fourteen, had been suffering for a long time from a tubercular infection of the right collar bone. Not only was the condition relieved, but the loss of the clavicle did not seriously impair the function of the corresponding arm. It was not until a similar operation performed by Valentine Mott of New York in 1828 attracted country-wide attention that the brilliant surgical feat of McCreery was made generally known. The technique of Mott was practically the same as that of McCreery and the operation still follows much the same procedure. (McCreery's case is reported by James H. Johnson in the *New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal*, January 1850.)

In the midst of an exacting practice McCreery found time for lectures to his own students, and to those of others. He was a ready speaker and a good instructor. By diligent reading he developed from a meagerly educated youth to a scholarly man. He is described as being a tall, well-formed, handsome man with dark hair and fine dark eyes. He married in 1811, Ann Wayman Crowe of Hartford whose parents were from Maryland. They had seven children. McCreery died at the early age of forty-one of cardiac dropsy at West Point, Ky. He is buried at Hartford.

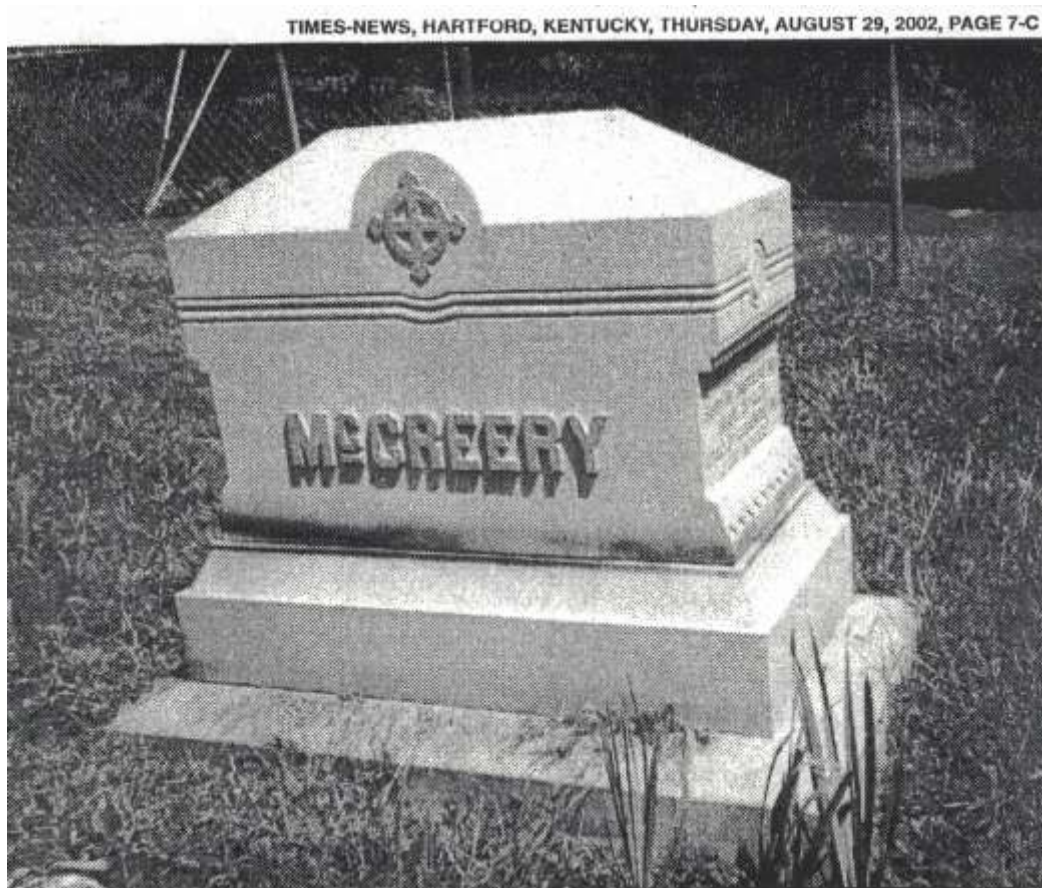
[See the *Am. Practitioner and News* (Louisville), July 1, 1901; H. A. Kelly and W. L. Burrage, *Am. Medic. Biogs.* (1920.) J.M.P.]



American Medical Biographies, Howard A. Kelly & Walter L. Burrage, The Norman Remington Company, Baltimore, MD, 1920, pp734-735:

McCreery, Charles (1785-1826) – The following extract is from a letter of Miss Tula Clay Daniel of Hardinsburg, Kentucky, a granddaughter of Dr. Charles McCreery. Dr. Charles McCreery. She writes: Family records show Dr. McCreery to have been of Scotch-Irish descent. His grandfather moved to this country and settled in Maryland in 1730. His father married Mary McClanahan, and Charles, the seventh son, the youngest of nine children, was born June 13, 1785, near Winchester, Clark County, Kentucky. His brother Robert was father of Thomas Clay McCreery, the noted Senator, lawyer, orator from Daviess County, and his brother James the grandfather of Senator James B. McCreery. Dr. McCreery studied medicine under Dr. Goodlet of Bardstown, moved to Hartford, Ohio County, Kentucky, in 1810. In 1811 he married Ann Wayman Crowe, whose parents came from Maryland with their relations, the Tevis family. In Hartford a family of seven children were born to them. Dr. McCreery did a large practice in Ohio and adjoining counties, making extended rides on horseback and yet found time to deliver lectures regularly in his home to his own as well as other students. His surgical instruments were made under his own supervision by an expert silversmith in Hartford. His chief operation, the one that makes his fame enduring, was the extirpation of the entire collar bone in 1813, the first on record {"New Orleans Medical and Surgical Journal, January, 1850). This operation, done upon a young man, though the bone was said to be scrofulous, was a decided success, the patient making a complete recovery, with perfect use of the arm and living past middle life. "This bold, delicate and

extraordinary operation was executed for the first time in America in 1813 by the late Charles McCreery of Hartford, in this State. The subject of the case, as I learn from Charles F. Wing, Esq., of Greenville, who was intimately acquainted both with the patient and his surgeon, was a youth of the name of Irvin, fourteen years of age, laboring under a scrofulous affection of the right collar bone. A disease of a similar kind existed at the period of the operation in the right leg, from which several pieces of bone were subsequently removed, and which became so much curved and shrunk as to be upwards of two inches shorter than the other. By degrees the part got well, but the disease recurred two or three times afterwards, though it was always amenable to treatment. The loss of the bone did not impair the function of the corresponding limb" (Gross). The case of Dr. Valentine Mott of New York, performed in 1828, which Dr. Mott supposed was the first operation of the kind done in the United States, and about the wonders of which surgical writers at the time said much, was not a complete removal, for about one inch of the acromial end of the clavicle was left. Dr. McCreery was a fine historian, a great reader, eloquent speaker, ready writer and close student. The love of his patients for him bordered on idolatry, his name being to them a synonym of kindest sympathy and readiest helpfulness. His home life was characterized by unusual sweetness and tenderness and an intense appreciation of child nature. He was a well formed, handsome man with fine dark eyes. Dr. McCreery died of cardiac dropsy, August 26, 1826, at West Point on his return from Shelbyville, where he had gone to bring his two oldest daughters home from Science Hill Academy. August Schachner. President's Annual Address, Kentucky State Medical Society, forty-sixth meeting, James H. Letcher.



McCreery Cemetery needs fence

Before construction was finished on the apartment complex at the end of McCreery Court in Hartford (incorrectly named Mulberry Apartments) requests were made for a fence around the historic McCreery cemetery to insure proper protection and care for the graves of Dr. Charles McCreery and family.

McCreery Court was so named by the City of Hartford in November, 1934 in honor of the doctor's achievements in medicine and surgery.

Two pages are devoted to Dr. McCreery in *A Report on Kentucky Surgery*, by Dr. S.A. Gross, published in Louisville in 1853, and one page in *A Cyclopedia of American Medical Biography*, compiled by Dr. Howard Kelly, published in Philadelphia in 1912.

The latter – in a sketch contributed by Dr. August Schachner of Louisville – gave a brief biography of Dr. McCreery, stating among other things that he was born in 1785 near Winchester, Kentucky, studied medicine at Bardstown, then moved to Hartford, where, in 1811, he married Ann Wayman Crowe. Dr. Schachner added that Dr. McCreery's brother, Robert, was the father of United States Senator Thomas Clay McCreery, of Daviess County, and that the doctor's brother, James, was the grandfather of the Kentucky Governor and U.S. Senator James B. McCreery (different spelling).

Both books referred to give a brief history of an operation Dr. McCreery performed in Hartford in 1813 on a boy of 14, named Irvin, by the excision of the clavicle, or the removal of the entire collarbone – the first

known successful operation of its kind.

Irvin lived in Muhlenberg County, where he died in 1849.

McCreery's surgical instruments were made under his own supervision by an expert silversmith in Hartford.

The operation performed by Dr. McCreery was also mentioned in a recent issue of the *British Medical Journal*, according to Dr. Kerwin Fischer of Louisville.

A Highway Historic Marker in front of the Ohio County Library honors Dr. McCreery.

Dr. McCreery's home was situated on a plot adjacent to the old fort in Hartford and very near the spring enclosed in the fort, according to a book *Ohio County in the Olden Days* by Harrison D. Taylor.

Several months ago, Mrs. D.C. Ferguson, a resident of the apartments near the historic cemetery, assumed chairmanship of a project to collect funds to erect an ornamental iron fence with gate, around the small cemetery. Some offered to assist in the project, but many

others are needed to help.

Anyone who would like to make a contribution should send a check to her, specified McCreery Cemetery, and mail to her, Mulberry Apartments, McCreery Court, Hartford, Kentucky 42347.

The project has been forsaken too long.