



1860 in Alpha, Henry County, Illinois, and died September 09, 1925 in Burchard Cemetery, Burchard, Pawnee County, Nebraska. He was the son of James S. Stitt and Elizabeth Hammond.

Anna Costello's sister Mary married Jerry Sullivan and lived in Galesburg, Illinois. Margaret Costello (Mrs. Samuel C. Samuel) was born on 15 Jul 1858 in Malden, Bureau Co., Ill. and died in Chicago, Cook Co., Ill. on 28 Jan. 1910. Her husband Samuel C. Samuel was born on 26 Mar. 1848, in Barbados, British West Indies, and died in Chicago, Ill. on 24 Feb. 1927. Both are buried in Cedar Park Cemetery in Chicago. William, who was the youngest child of Thomas and Mary, married Margaret Doyle, and his children relocated to Fairbury, Jefferson County, Nebraska. William spent the last 7 years of his life in a deranged condition, the result of a railroad accident at Rock Island R.R., between Belleville, KS and Fairbury, NE. He was the engineer. No further information on the accident is on file at this time.

Family tradition holds that the three Costello sons were killed in railroad accidents, probably in Illinois although the death dates are not known. While we know about the fate of William, there is no certain information about the other brothers.

My father Lowell Cooper is the great-grandson of Thomas Costello and Mary McDermott Fanning, who emigrated from Ireland during the great potato famine of the last century.

Part 5: Our McNUTT Family History

Maud Classick who married William Gray Cooper was the daughter of William J. McNutt. William was the son of Oliver McNutt, and the grandson of Lieutenant James McNutt, husband of Sidney Ewing and a veteran of the Revolutionary War in Virginia who was awarded a substantial land bounty in Ohio following the war. James

was the son of Francis McNutt, who was believed to have been a Scots-Irish emigrant in the mid-1700s and who finally settled in what is present-day Monroe County, West Virginia.

James was either a brother or an Uncle to John W. McNutt, who married Ruth Legg in Monroe County, Virginia [now West Virginia]. All three known McNutts -- Francis, James and John, were listed in a Tax List in Greenbrier County, Virginia in 1786. An earlier recorded land transaction may account for the property ownership: [Early land conveyance in Monroe County, Virginia, in Monroe County History Page 98]: Grantee: McNutt Francis & John; Grantor: James Burnside; 300 acres, 70 pounds; location - Indian; 1783. Francis McNutt with James Ewing jointly owned 380 acres of land in today's Monroe Co that they occupied before June 1782. Presumably they are the fathers of Lieutenant James McNutt and his wife Sidney [Ewing], respectively. Much more is known about Francis' son James than of Francis himself. James' marriage to Sidney Ewing is recorded in Greenbrier County on 6 February 1781 [her surname is misrecorded as "Evens"], and according to an E-Mail from Lorna Marks doing a Greenbrier County, West Virginia lookup on James McNutt, there are a couple of early Greenbrier land transactions showing the names of both James McNutt and his wife, Sidney.

Little is certain about our McNutt ancestors who came before Francis McNutt, the parent of James McNutt who married Sidney Ewing. One source of family legend [through James' daughter Nancy] holds that James himself was of Scottish origin, but was himself born in Ireland and emigrated to America with his father and perhaps other siblings, including probably a brother named John W. McNutt. Regardless whether that James or his father was the emigrant, the most likely ancestral connection for our McNutts is through the Ulster Scot McNutts who settled in Laggan, Ireland following British religious persecution of Protestant Scots. That same branch of the Clan also became the progenitor of the other Virginia McNutt families, including a well-known family that settled in Augusta, Virginia.

Although no definitive connection to the Augusta, Virginia McNutts listed in Chalkley's Chronicles has been established, there is one connection that is hard to ignore: CHALKLEY'S CHRONICLES OF AUGUSTA COUNTY, VIRGINIA; Vol 3, pp 30 - 49: "Thos. Beard, administrator. Paid to Robt. Alexander, for schooling James and Robert McNutt. Paid to James Dobbins, for schooling Alex. McNutt. Paid one new Bible, for Alex. McNutt. Paid one new Testament, for James McNutt. Paid one new spelling book, for the children," Also, Page 516.--15th August, 1753. John Brownlee's bond as guardian (appointed) to Alexander McNutt, orphan of James McNutt, with sureties Samuel Doake and Arthur Hamilton [15 August 1753]. Thomas Beard appears to have been appointed administrator of the Estate of James McNutt, who left three orphan boys [James, Robert, and Alexander]. These records were created in 1753. At that time, there was a Thomas Beard, who was the husband of Jean McNutt, and his grandson Joseph Beard married Sidney Sprowl, daughter of William Sprowl and Susannah Ewing -- sister of Sidney Ewing -- wife of our Lieutenant James McNutt! Thus, our index of suspicion is high that there is some sort of connection between our Francis, James & John McNutt and the Augusta County McNutt clan.

Several sources have confused Lieutenant James McNutt with the James McNutt who was the grandson of Alexander McNutt through his son Alexander; the son Alexander also settled in Augusta County, Virginia. The latter James McNutt has no apparent Revolutionary War service record; he was born in 1740 to Alexander (a brother of another James), married Margaret McElroy in 1768, and died in Augusta County, Virginia on 6 September 1811. Lieutenant James McNutt was also probably born in 1740, but married Sidney Ewing in Greenbrier County, Virginia on 6 February 1781, and then removed with his family to Bourbon County, Kentucky and then Franklin County, Ohio before 1806. He died 30 November 1809 in Franklin County, Ohio.

