

In tracing the ancestors of David McCune I must rely on what Myrtie Magrath wrote in the *"The Tracy-M'Cune Genealogical Record"* August 6, 1900, a copy of which is at the Alden Library, University of Ohio at Athens, Ohio. Portions of her record are as follows:

"Now we will follow the McCunes up to the same date.

"Martin McCune died in the city of Londonderry, Ireland. His son Archibald married his wife in Pennsylvania at a place called Cherry Valley. Her name was Jane (last name, not given), and she had the misfortune to be taken prisoner by the Indians at the Cherry Valley massacre, and remained with them three years. The alarm of Indians had been given and all residents of the vicinity had gone to the block house. Jane McCune and one other woman and two men were out in the field pulling flax. The Indians not appearing as expected, they concluded all were gone, and these four returned to take care of the flax, and were surprised and captured. The married man was killed in the field, and, the babe belonging to the other woman, was taken from her on the march and its brains dashed out against a tree. The mother refused go away from it, and she was either killed or left there to die of grief, as Jane McCune and the other man were hurried away. One night Mrs. McCune, finding her hands unbound, she untied her feet and stole to the young man and cut the bonds on his hands and feet, and stealing a gun for him to carry with him, started him on a journey homeward, where he eventually arrived, and informed her friends of her fate. For this she was compelled to carry wood for a whole day to roast herself alive, but at the last minute, when she was just ready to be bound to the tree around which the wood was piled, an old squaw of a chief bought her for a slave from her captor (consequently owner) by giving a blanket for her. She was treated much better afterwards, and after peace was declared the agent found her among the prisoners to be exchanged, and returned her to her home. As Colonel Durkee, an old friend of hers, rode down the line looking at the prisoners, he recognized her and said: "My God! Is that you Jane?" She answered: "All that is left of me" She was in Canada when exchanged. The above information came from my grandfather Samuel McCune, son of John McCune and grandchild of Jane McCune, the subject of this sketch. He also said her husband, Archibald, was out as a soldier fighting Indians."

I have tried to find this Cherry Valley referenced in other sources and have not been able to find anything about a massacre. Nor could I find a Cherry Valley in Huntingdon County. All references I have found concerning Col Durkee refer to his involvement in the Susquahanna Co., where families from Connecticut displaced resident Pennsylvanians in the Wyoming Valley. There were a number of indian attacks and massacres at that time, notably the massacre near Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania in which ancestors of Zippora Wickiser, David McCune's wife, were killed. Samuel, John and William McCune are all listed in the 1790 census of Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania. Also, according to the Pennsylvania Archives series 6 Vol 3 pg 344, John and Thomas McCune were assigned to the Frankstown township, Huntingdon County, Pa. Ready Militia Company 103 in 1788 under Capt. John Holiday.

"Jane McCune had two children before her capture by the Indians. She was with the Indians three years before the war closed and prisoners were exchanged.

"Her two children saved in the block house were Nancy and William, and after her return she had 5 more, John, Thomas, Samuel, Jane, and Elizabeth, or "Betsy", as she was called.

"Nancy married John Royster and moved to Ohio, and from there to Kentucky, where she died.

"William McCune was thrown from a horse in Pennsylvania and instantly killed.

"Thomas McCune, son of Archibald and Jane married Rachael Hardin, from Pennsylvania, and settled near Amesville, Athens county, Ohio. He Volunteered in the war of 1812, and died in Detroit in 1814, after Hull had surrendered to the British."

Nancy McCune was married 25 December, 1782 at the Upper West Conococheague Presbyterian Church, Mercersburg, Franklin, Pennsylvania.

"Samuel McCune, son of Archibald and Jane, married a sister of Jacob, David and Peter Boyles, the

father and uncle of his brother John's wife. Her name was Mary, but went by the nickname "Betsey".

"Jane McCune, daughter of Archibald and Jane married David Boyles, another of the three Boyles brothers, and she lived and died in Ames township.

"Elizabeth or "Betsey" McCune, married Joseph Ingard. Both husband and wife died in Pennsylvania."

"Now, while the Boyles and McCunes were so intermarried, it is best that an account be given of them. These three brothers, Jacob, David and Peter, and their sister Betsey were early settlers in Athens county, and near the first homestead of the McCune family. As John McCune first owned land where the Canaanville depot stands now, and was in close proximity to what afterwards became Nehemiah Warren's farm, or "Jockey" Warren, as he is generally called.

"Their mother, Charity Boyles, born Armstrong, was a widow, and came from Germany. She died at Cherry Valley at the age of 102 years and 3 months. I do not know which Cherry Valley they were from, as there are four in Pennsylvania, but I think the Boyles family went from Bedford county.

"Jacob Boyles was born in Germany, and it was supposed that all of Charity Boyles children were born there. His wife was Nancy Wilgus, whom he married in Hackettstown, New Jersey, and they lived there eight years before going West. They had a daughter named Mary, who became the wife of John McCune, from whom almost all Athens county McCunes are descended.

"Jacob Boyles and his wife Nancy Wilgus had also two sons, Martin and John.

"Martin Boyles married Judith Davis, from Sugar creek, Athens county, Ohio, and they had five boys and one girl, who was named for her mother, Judith. Martin died near Nelsonville, and his wife died in Illinois.

"John Boyles, brother of Mary Boyles McCune and Martin Boyles, married Nancy Miller, daughter of John Miller. The marriage occurred near Amseville, John Miller's residence occupying the site of what was known to children my age as "The Judge Wright" house, long since destroyed, near the large rock called "Sportsman's Hall", where stolen chickens and sweet potato remains were often discovered.

"John Boyles and Nancy Miller Boyles' children were John, Absolom, Wallace, Sarah and Lois. Absolom married Lucinda Owens. Their children were Julia, Oscar, Emma, Addie, Charles and Marion. Charles married Thurza Corns. Their children were Morgan and George. John married Amanda Howard and had one son, John May. The second wife was Jane Smith.

"Wallace married Jennie Haines. Lois married John Black. Sarah never married. All of these Boyles brothers and sisters moved to Illinois after they sold their farm to Samuel and Almira McCune. Lois was married there and had one child named Nancy, for her mother. Not having their address I could not write to them.

"Jacob Boyles married twice. The last wife was Lois Decker. She had one son, Absolom. At his death Jacob willed all his money and real estate to his second wife, leaving out Martin, Mary and John, his first wife's children, who had done the hard work in their younger days to place their father in comfortable circumstances. At the death of Lois, she willed everything to her son, Absolom, and at his death the property went from Nancy, his wife, to Abel Glaizer, a nephew of Nancy's, on a contract to support and provide for her until death. He afterwards sold it to Henry Curtis with the same proviso.

"This state of affairs caused an estrangement among the first children and the father, and his second wife and son, that was never wholly overlooked or forgotten.

"Jane McCune, daughter of Archibald and Jane McCune, married David Boyles.

"That made Samuel McCune and Jane McCune, brother and sister, marry Betsey Boyles and David Boyles, brother and sister, and the third brother Jacob Boyles' daughter, married John, who was the older McCune boy, and brother of Samuel and Jane.

"You may study this puzzle for yourself, for I have tried in vain to decipher the relationship.

"Mary Boyles was married to John McCune in Pennsylvania about 1798, and removed with her parents and brothers to Ohio, and settled with six other families on a school lot near Willow creek, or Canaanville.

"The father, John, died in 1814, aged 50 years, and Mary died in 1832, leaving the family in charge of Samuel, the oldest son. He was born August 9, 1799, died January 20, 1885.

"He married Almira Tracy, October 13, 1824, and ended his life on the next farm to the one where his father moved when he was but two years old. The farm his father owned was the side of the hill in front of Amseville, and part of the George Dean and Nathan Dean farm. The house was near the bank of Federal creek, just opposite the town of Amseville, and the site was marked for many years by an old orchard and John McCune's mill-dam, across Federal creek. His sisters and brothers were all married there, except Polly and Sylvester. But they, too, were married from Samuel's house on a farm bought from Harry Hatch, and the father's farm was sold to Nathan Dean, the father of George Dean and Nathan, second, who still own most of the land. The farm he bought of Hatch is now known as the Broadwell farm.

"About the year 1865 he bought the farm of John Boyles, his uncle, and afterwards disposed of it to his youngest son, Samuel Reed, who remained on the farm to take charge of it and his parents, until both of them died at their own home.

"Many descendants of Samuel and Martin McCune lived in Athens county. Samuel McCune, one of the first brothers, had a son, Martin, who was the first man buried in the Amseville graveyard.

"Many of the descendants of Samuel and Martin live near the towns of Nelsonville and McCuneville.

"There was one branch of the family living in Chauncy, Ohio, in 1845.

"Matthew McCune, son of Samuel, who was son of Archibald and Jane, married Myrum Mansfield, of Athens county. They had two girls, Myrum and Alice. Myrum married William Sheffield of Athens county, and had two children, Matthew and Augusta. Both went West to live.

"Mrs. Sheffield moved to Alum creek, near Columbus, Ohio, then to the West. Alice, daughter of Matthew McCune, married Rufus White, of Hocking county.

"Matthew McCune died on his farm in Falls township, Hocking county. He willed his farm to his daughter Myrum, and to this daughter Alice he willed a farm on Monday creek.

"Mrs. McCune died on his farm in Falls township about two years after leaving Chauncy. They moved from Athens county to Hocking county in 1849.

"Mr. McCune had a brother Allen, also son of Samuel and Mary, who lived on Monday creek. My correspondent informed me that Matthew McCune was "honest, truthful, and his word was as good as his bond. He was in very comfortable circumstances, did no manual labor, simply managed his estate, and likewise was generous to the members of his family, and he was loved and respected by his friends and employees." As he is the same type as the McCunes of John McCune's descendants, he must have been a cousin of theirs from Martin or Samuel.

"Since compiling this record I found that Matthew and Allen were sons of Samuel, the second son of Jane and Archibald McCune.

"Samuel was born August 23, 1772. He married March 25, 1811, "Betsey" Boyles, born June 5, 1785."

The marriage date is an obvious error, and is in fact the marriage date of his second wife, Polly Dixon.

"Their children were: Polly McCune, born December 27, 1791; Elizabeth and Charity (twins), born February 10, 1793; both died same day; John McCune, born April 25, 1794; Anna McCune, born January 7, 1796; Samuel McCune, born August 22, 1797; Susanna McCune, born March 29, 1799; Martin McCune, born October 4, 1801; Matthew McCune, born May 11, 1803; Emma McCune, born October 6, 1804; James McCune, born January 17, 1806; Allen McCune, born October 19, 1807.

"Samuel McCune married his second wife, Polly Dixon, born June 5, 1785; married March 25, 1811."

Another obvious error in the birth dates of Samuel's wives, both on the same day. I expect Polly Dixon's is correct since it agrees with her tombstone inscription, and Betsey's is wrong, especially since the date of her first child's birth is given as 27 December, 1791.

"Samuel's children by second wife: Elizabeth, born February 17, 1812; Nelson, born May 19, 1814; Samuel, one of the first children, died April 26, 1818; John, one of the first children, died August 4, 1801;"

I think the above statement "Samuel, one of the first children, died April 26, 1818" is an error. The Mudsock cemetery inscriptions taken in the early 1900s, list "McCune, Samuel birth, unreadable death, 26 April 1818 age 47Y". This would make the death date cited by Mrs. Magrath as the one for the elder Samuel, not the son. When we were at the cemetery in 2005 the headstone was weathered to the point of being unreadable. I have not found anything further on the younger Samuel. Before Samuel, David McCune's grandfather, married his second wife Polly Dixon, he apparently set a dowry promising her title to 100 acres of his land upon his death. This is supported by documents on file at the Alden Library. These documents as well as records of the inventory and sale of other property after his death in 1818, are shown in later pages, along with Polly Dixon McCune's will. The 1820 Federal Census of Ames Twp., Athens County, Ohio shows Polly McCune as head of a household: one female 26-45; one female 10-16; one female under 10; three males 16-26; two males 16-18; two males 10-16; one male under 10. (Probably Polly, Emma, James, Allen, Mathew, Martin, Samuel, Elizabeth, Nelson). In reading Polly's will dated 1 Nov 1824 she bequeaths, upon her death, all property to be divided among her three children, specifying two daughters and a son. The two children listed in the "*Tracy M'Cune Genealogical Record*" are Elisabeth (Betsy) and Nelson. The third one is not named in either the Polly's will or the "*Tracy M'Cune Genealogical Record*". I have never found any other reference to this third child. Something else that is curious, is the date of the will, 1 November 1824. Polly's tombstone reads "Mary Wife of Samuel McCune died Sep. 1824 in her 40th year". (The names Mary and Polly were interchangeable back then).

Emma, of the first list, married Samuel Butts, address, Shawnee, Perry county Ohio; Mrs. Cassius Dew (formerly Demie Poston), granddaughter of Emma and Samuel Butts."

"Ashton Poston's second wife was M.C. Butt. Children: Maggie, wife of William Hatch; Demie, Widow of Cassius Dew; and Emma May.

"Nelson married Lucy Blakely, born October 13 1824; married 1842. Children: Bleakley, Lucinda, Augustus, Frank, and Ella. Bleakley died in manhood. Lucinda married Loren Hill, address Amesville, Ohio; Augustus married Flora Henry, daughter of James Henry, and lives in California; Frank married Cora Wyatt, daughter of Charles Wyatt and Harriet Henry Wyatt. They live in the west.

"Ella is also married and lives West. I did not learn her wedded name.

"Elizabeth McCune, sister of Nelson, married Henry Brawley. Their children were Maria, Edward, Katherine and John. Maria never married. Edward married and lives on a near farm to the old homestead, and has a family. Katherine (or Kate, as she was called) died in early womanhood. She was very bright and intelligent, and every one loved her for her social qualities and merry, genial ways. She was greatly missed by all who knew her.

"Now that we have taken in the old class and have arrived at Jonas Tracy again and Samuel McCune and Almira Tracy."

Additional tales of the McCunes/Boyles of Athens county is given in the "*History of Athens County Ohio*" pgs 373-375:

"In the year 1798 Samuel, John, and Thos. McCune, three brothers, and David, Jacob and Peter Boyles, came from Pennsylvania and settled temporarily on the Hocking, on what is now N.O. Warren's farm, where they remained till 1802 when they removed to the township of Ames and settled within half a mile of the present village of Amesville. George Ewing Jr., brother of Thomas Ewing, married a daughter of this David Boyles. The three McCune brothers, as also two of the Boyles brothers, were strong, athletic men, and great hunters, sometime killing, it is said, twelve or fourteen deer and three or four bears in a day. John McCune was something of a mechanic, and used to repair the guns of his neighbors. On one occasion a man brought his gun to be mended and borrowed McCune's gun to use in the meantime. Before repairing the gun, McCune went out with it to kill some game. Coming unexpectedly on a bear, he tried to shoot it, but the gun failed to go off, when the bear, as if seeing his advantage, made for the hunter. McCune, unlike his gun, went off. He ran as fast as he could for some distance, the bear closely pursuing, and McCune trying every few rods to fire his gun, which, however seemed to like the situation, and refused to be discharged. After running about half a mile, a neighbor's dogs came to his assistance, and Bruin was driven off but not killed. Wolves were, of course, very abundant at that time, and killing a wolf was a common occurrence. The wife of John McCune seeing

something pass the door of their cabin one evening which she took for a dog, set their own dog upon it, and, at the same time stepping out the door, found it was a large black wolf. Arming herself with a pitchfork that stood within reach, she and the dog kept up a running fight of several rods and finally killed the wolf.

John Boyles and John McCune, while hunting one day, came upon a mother bear and two cubs. Boyles fired at it and wounded the old bear, and then, wishing to see his dog kill one of the cubs, laid down his gun and hissed his dog on to attack the cub-the old bear and other cub beating a retreat. Boyles, becoming interested in the fight between his dog and the cub, had approached near them, when he was disagreeably startled by seeing the old bear return, brought by the cries of the cub, and place herself between him and his gun. He was preparing to make the best battle he could with his with his hunting knife, when McCune, hearing his call for help, hastened to the spot and dispatched the bear by a bullet from his rifle. The sons of the McCune brothers still live in the county, and like their fathers before them, have been famous hunters and contributed much toward ridding the settlement and eastern part of the county of the wild game and "vermin" that so annoyed the early settlers. Jacob McCune, one of the sons of John McCune, a few years since, on the occasion of a squirrel hunt, killed in one day one hundred and three grey squirrels, and Samuel McCune, his brother, killed eighty-three."

Of Samuel McCune's children by his first wife Mary(Betsy) Boyles: Polly married Rueben Davis January 27, 1811 in Athens, Ohio. She died in Athens, Ohio in 1818; Anna married Joseph Butt December 25, 1816 in Athens, Ohio. She died in 1852 in Athens, Ohio; Matthew married Myrum Mansfield; Emma married Samuel Butt in Perry county, Ohio. She died May 11, 1861 in Nelsonville, Ohio, and is buried in Fort Street cemetery; James, David McCune's father married Sarah Case February 01, 1827 in Athens, Ohio; Allen married Elsia Connet November 15, 1827 in Athens, Ohio.

It is worth noting the service of two of David McCune's cousins who were killed during the Civil War. George Washington Butt was the son of Emma McCune Butt, and Edward McCune was the son of Allen McCune. The first article comes from a Tom Davis:

"Butt and McCune

"Twenty-four years after our country gained its independence, the nineteenth century began. At that time in SE Ohio my great great great grandparents were born. Little more is known about them other than their names--Joseph Butt and Anne McCune. They were both natives of Ohio with Joseph being born in Tuscarawas County, Ohio and Anne believed to be from Athens County. They were married and daughter, Charity Butt, my gg grandmother was born on February 22, 1830 in Athens county, Ohio. I am assuming she had a brother named George W. Butt who was born in Tuscarawas County in 1843. George and Charity had a cousin on their mothers side named Edward J McCune. Edward as born in 1839 in Athens County.

"In the Fall of 1861 as the country was in full realization of the Civil War, these two young men joined the Ohio Volunteers as a newly formed company in Nelsonville, Ohio. This company became Co. G, 18th Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and a member of the Army of the Cumberland.

"Edward was then 22 years old and a farmer. He was dark complexioned, 5' 10 1/2" tall with Hazel eyes and brown hair. His cousin George Butt was a shoemaker, 5' 6 7/8" tall with light complexion, blue eyes and brown hair. George was 18 years old when he volunteered on October 2, 1861. Edward volunteered 18 days later and both men were "muster-in" the Army on October 24th at Camp Dennison, Ohio. The company then met roll call in Cincinnati on November 5th where they would join similar companies of men from around the state of Ohio to form the 18th Regiment. an interesting side note here is that when they crossed the Ohio River into Kentucky to begin their war, if they had crossed at the big bend east of Cincinnati, they would have crossed my birthplace, Dayton, Kentucky. (Some 68 years before my birth, Dayton played a role in the Civil War as part of the under-ground railroad from Rectine Hill.).....

".....So George and Edward would cross the Ohio River at Cincinnati and head into war with very little training. But nevertheless they were no better or worse trained than most of the Union Army or the enemy. These two would cross the river back into Ohio one more time each. George Butt would return home on leave March 18, 1862 because he was sick. Ed McCune would return home in the summer of 1862 after being released from a Confederate prison.

"After they rejoined Co. G, they would never see Ohio again. The Butt and McCune families back in Athens County would learn their sons had given their lives "to save the Union". Both would fight on the same red clayed earth of northern Georgia at a battle called Chickamauga. On Sunday, September 20, 1863 as their parents prayed in churches, both George and Edward would be wounded. Corporal George Butt died that day from a wound through his body. Private Edward McCune died from a wound in his left leg between the knee and ankle in Chattanooga 24 days later.

"From their records, these two men had Army careers which began and ended together, but were actually very different:

"George got sick some four months after joining. The word "sick" is all that is recorded, it could have been one of many medical problems. Since all these men came from the same county maybe the Company Commander sent George home as being "homesick". He was on leave for the April roll call, but was present in May 1862.

"Not much is known except by then Company G had engaged the enemy. Edward was captured on May 1, 1862 by Scotts Cavalry at Athens, Alabama and became a Confederate prisoner of war and confined at Richmond, Virginia. God's Grace is with all of us and this young Irish lad got a big helping as he got out of there 15 days later. On May 16th he was paroled in a prisoner exchange and was sent back to Ohio where he reported to Camp Chase, Ohio on August 12th. He was present at CCO August 27, 1862. Then began more trouble for Edward> As it turned out it must have been a gross lack of communication or a very forgiving Company Commander. Because on the next report Edward was absent from Camp Wallace, Ohio as a deserter on November 1, 1862 On the company muster roll it noted from September to December he was paroled as a prisoner of war and was now home in Ohio. On company muster roll for January and February 1863 he was noted as being absent without leave. Being classified as a deserter and AWOL is serious business in any army, so one wonders what went on for nearly eight months. Was Ed back home declaring that was enough? Did his dad or someone else persuade him to return? Or was the whole eight months a mistake of bad communications? Or was the Company Commander a very forgiving man or a relative? Anyway, on April 10th, a good day for a lucky Irishman, Edward was present at company roll and then noted by Special Order # 48 he was restored without loss of pay.

"Meanwhile George Butt was attending to his military duties and was promoted to Corporal on January 11, 1863, while cousin Edward was floating around Ohio for eight months.

"About the time Edward was reinstated in April, Rosecrans's Army of the Cumberland met Bragg's Army of Tennessee at Murfreesburg. There, the two forces lay inactive for six months less than 40 miles apart. Then Rosecrans' Army slipped around Bragg's flank and forced the Confederates out of Tennessee with out a fight. Bragg retreated 12 miles into Georgia to await reinforcements from Virginia. While fumbling for each other in the mountain terrain, the two armies collided at Chickamauga Creek, on September 19, 1863. The next day at 9 AM Sunday morning the Confederate Armies led by General Bragg, Polk and Longstreet attack a protruding line of Union troops led by General George Thomas. After repelling the Confederate early attacks, Longstreet breaks through the Union's right flank and starts to over run the Union forces. There are two things to note here. Gen. Thomas' lightly defended right flank stops Longstreet at Snodgrass Hill enabling the rest of the army to retreat from a potential slaughter, thus earning him the nickname "The Rock of Chickamauga". Point two, this was the exact spot where Co. G, 18th Regiment was located and where the red blood of two boys from Nelsonville would meet the red clay of Georgia.

*"Among all the noise, confusion and intensity of the battle, a comrade reported that Corporal Butt had been wounded and was lying in a field nearby. Captain Cable detailed Sergeant Launcelot L. Scott and Jack Figgins to find him. These two intercepted two other Union soldiers as they were carrying Butt in a blanket. Scott and Figgins relieved them and they carried Corporal Butt to a spot under a white oak tree near the Snodgrass house which was now a field hospital. The house and surrounding yard was full of wounded needing medical attention. Corporal Butt asked for some coffee and complained he was cold. So his comrades wrapped him in blankets and made him some coffee, but he was unable to drink due to his mortal condition. Sgt Scott first heard the enemy advancing toward them and then noted the area was being over run with Confederate troops. He then realized his army had retreated back to Roseville Road leading back to Chattanooga. To avoid being captured, Scott and Figgins left Corporal Butt to the care of James C. Chapman, who was also wounded. Both men became missing in action and it is believed that Corporal Butt died that day. Chapman died in a Confederate prison in Danville, Virginia (Chapman, James C, d. 03/26/1864, PVT CO B 18 OHIO INF, Plot: C 483, *) George W. Butt died as a prisoner of war, but was never recorded as dead and no burial place noted. Thus he was recorded as missing in action.*

"Private Edward McCune with a wounded left leg was able to retreat with the mass of the Army of the Cumberland back to Chattanooga, where they were able to fight another major battle of the war. Grant took over from Rosecrans and the war went on. Edward McCune avoided being captured a second time and was placed in a hospital in Chattanooga. On October 24, 1863 the second anniversary of his "muster in" at camp Dennison, he died. Nothing is known about his wound, but speculation is that like many others, the leg was amputated and then gangrene set in. He is buried under stone # 1203 in the military cemetery at Chattanooga.

"A year later in the fall of 1864 these two men from Nelsonville were given their official discharges. On October 30th, George W. Butt was noted he had received in advanced \$50.00 for uniforms. George had paid this and his discharge noted that a bounty of \$100 was due him. On the other hand, Edward J. McCune received his discharge on November 9th, and he had received \$36.14 for clothing which was noted, "his clothing account had never been settled since the organization of the company". Both men had last been paid on June 3, 1863 and were thus due four months pay. Corporal Butt's family should have received that four months pay plus the \$100 bounty. Private McCune's family should have received that four months pay, and obviously, minus the \$36.14.

*Tom Davis
1/31/94*

Sources: National Archives, "The American Heritage Picture History of the Civil War", and a article from an unknown newspaper by L. I. Scott (supplied by Betty Renshaw and Cousin Addie la France)

NOTE:

Ohio Civil War records show George as wounded and missing in action on 20 September 1863, and Edward as being wounded on 20 September 1863 and his death on 11 October 1863. (ancestry.com)"

The government did pay George Butt's bounty \$118.20 on January 20, 1866, and is included on Emma's Butt's estate letter. His grave has still not been located. The sources for the following bios are unknown.

Biography of George W. Butt, Co G

"Not much is known about George Butt's early life. From the age at the time of his enlistment, it is assumed he was born in 1843 in Tuscarawas County, Ohio. His parents were Joseph Butt and Ann McCune. George and his sister, Charity Butt, had a cousin named Edward McCune who also enlisted in the 18th Ohio. On his enlistment papers, George is described as being 5 foot 6 7/8 inches tall with light complexion, blue eyes and brown hair. It is felt that the mood and enthusiasm in the country to take up arms must have been a strong

inducement to join Company G.

"Moving into Kentucky with the Regiment in early November, the winter of 1861-1862 would prove to be a hard one for many of the young soldiers. At Bacon Creek, Kentucky, the doctors would work around the clock tending to the many cases of measles, mumps, rubella, and smallpox. Another soldier described the conditions of the makeshift hospital which consisted of an old house where one person did the cooking and not much of that was done. Another said it was not much better than a hog shed where the cold wind blew through every time the door was opened. George was given leave to return home on March 18, 1862, but returned to the company in May of 1862.

"It is assumed that he was with the unit throughout the summer and fall of 1862 when the Regiment was marching and countermarching all over Tennessee and Alabama. When cold weather arrived in the fall of 1862, the new leader of the Army of the Cumberland, General William Rosecrans, led the offensive against Bragg at the town of Murfreesboro. The Battle of Stones River took place on the icy morning of December 31, 1862. At some point during the battle, George was wounded. His name was recorded by the Regimental Surgeon, Dr. William Parker Johnson in a letter home to be published in the Athens Messenger.

"Having several months to recover, George was still with the 18th into the spring and summer of 1863 when Rosecrans' army was again on the march. The fateful battle took place on September 19 and 20. The 20th proved to be particularly bad for the Regiment as they made a desperate charge at the Horseshoe Ridge to push back the numerically superior Confederates. During the engagement, George was wounded and it was believed to be mortal. Sgt. Launcelot Scott and Jack Figgins were sent to the Snodgrass Cabin to lend assistance and to carry the wounded George Butt who was reported to be still lying on the battlefield. Finding him in particular bad shape and requesting coffee, Scott and Figgins set about making it only to have George be unable to drink it. Realizing the Union army was in retreat and about to be captured, Scott made the decision to leave George and the other wounded and try to make it back to the Federal lines. James Chapman, also wounded and from Company B, said he would stay with George. Nothing more is known of the fate of George Butt. He is listed as missing, but was most probably buried in an unmarked grave somewhere on the battlefield. If wounded as severe as Scott believed, he would not have survived with the inadequate care reported by other survivors who suffered the same fate. The search for George Butt's final resting place is an ongoing project and it is hoped that Confederate records or letters may shed some light on what happened to him."

Biography of Edward J. McCune, Co G

"Edward J. McCune was born in Athens County, Ohio in 1839. In the fall of 1861, Edward was 22 years old and making a living as a farmer. At the time of his enlistment in the 18th Ohio Volunteers, he is described as being 5' 10 1/2" with hazel eyes and brown hair. His complexion was described as dark. On the 20th of October, 1861, Edward volunteered for service and was mustered into the Federal Service on the 24th of October, 1861 at Camp Dennison, Ohio. His cousin, George Butt entered the service at the same time.

"Moving into Kentucky with the Regiment, Edward was on board the steamship, "Jacob Strader". The voyage down the Ohio River was described as uneventful, except for the practical jokes the soldiers were constantly playing upon each other. Surviving the winter sicknesses of Camp Haycraft outside Bacon Creek, Edward was with the Regiment throughout the early spring campaign. Unfortunately, Edward was one of the men who was captured at Athens, Alabama when Col. Scott and the 1st Louisiana Cavalry forced the Regiment to make a hasty retreat from that place. After spending time as an unintended guest of the Confederate government, he was released in the summer of 1862 and was allowed to come back to Ohio. Rejoining his unit in Tennessee in January of 1863, he missed the fight at Stones River.

"When the Union Army was once again on the march in June of 1863, Edward was with them and remained until early September. At the Battle of Chickamauga, Edward McCune was wounded in the left leg but

managed to retreat with the rest of Rosecrans' army toward Rossville and eventually back to Chattanooga. It is not known as to the cause of his death, but having his wound become septic and gangrenous was the most likely reason. In any event, almost a month after the Battle of Chickamauga, he died and was buried in the Chattanooga National Cemetery at Chattanooga Tennessee. His grave plot number is reported to be #1208 in Section C."



Chattanooga National Cemetery
McCune, Edward, PVT G 18 OHIO INF CIVIL WAR, Plot: C 1208