

# Some McNeill Ancestors

by

Dave Tolle

March 30, 2019

## Where I fit into the family tree

- Today's reunion is mostly of descendants of William Theodore Proctor and Lela Alice Mickler
- They had
  - 8 children (2 died young, but 6 grew up and got married and had children in Tallahassee ...)
  - 17 grandchildren
  - 53 great-grandchildren
  - A bunch of great-great-grandchildren (so far)
- I am one of the 53 great-grandchildren.

# This talk is about my grandfather---Malcolm McNeill--- and his parents and his grandparents

His McNeill grandparents



His father



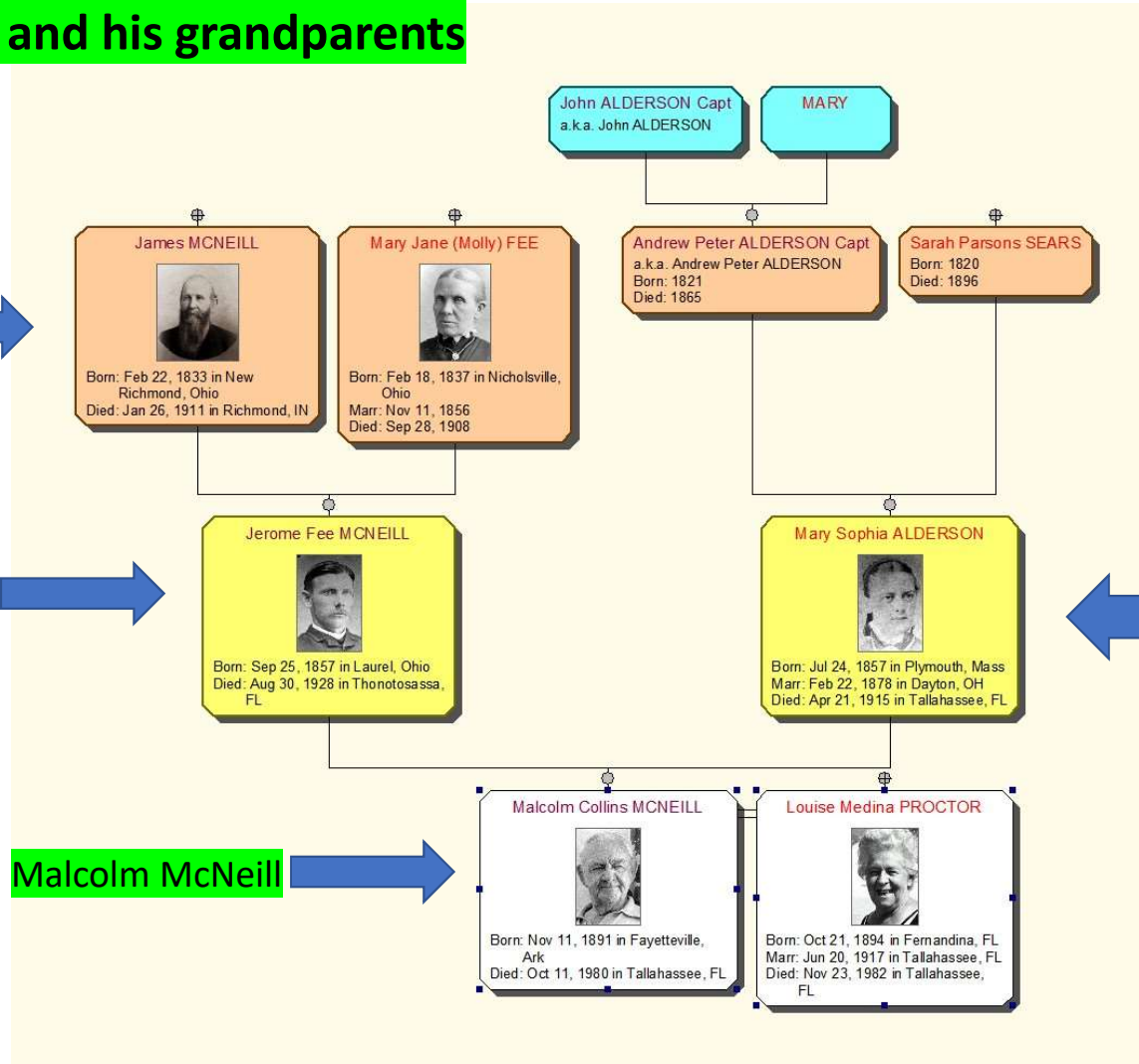
Malcolm McNeill

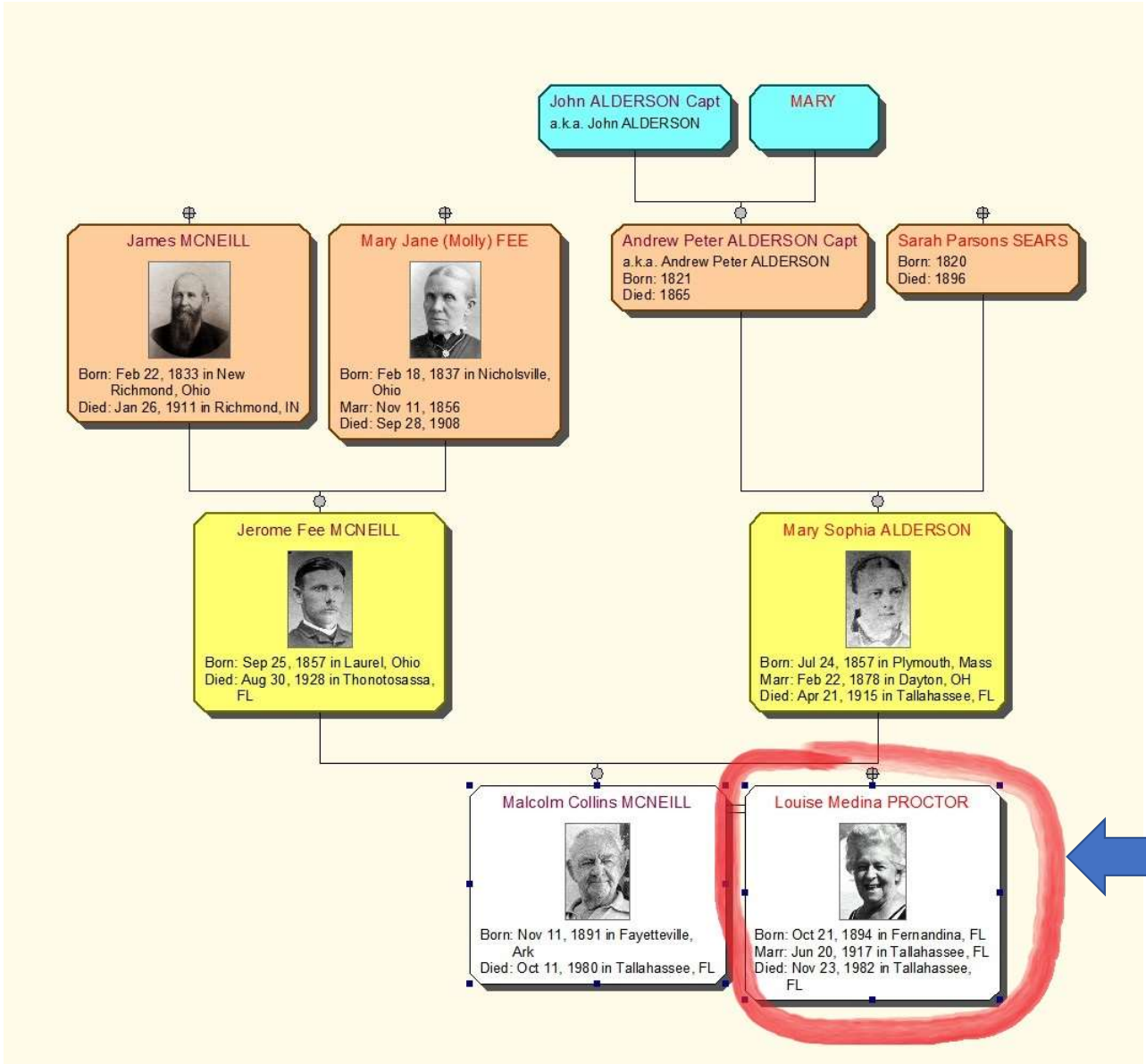


His Alderson grandparents



His mother





But first, his wife:  
my grandmother!



## My grandmother: Louise Medina Proctor (1894-1982)



- Loving, kind, a great story-teller.
- Told lots of tales about her ancestors
- Moved to Tallahassee with her mother and siblings at age 12, after her father died at age 48 in Fernandina
- She nearly died of Spanish Flu while pregnant with my mother
- Five children, fourteen grandchildren
- Many of you in this room knew and loved her
- I wish you all could have known her



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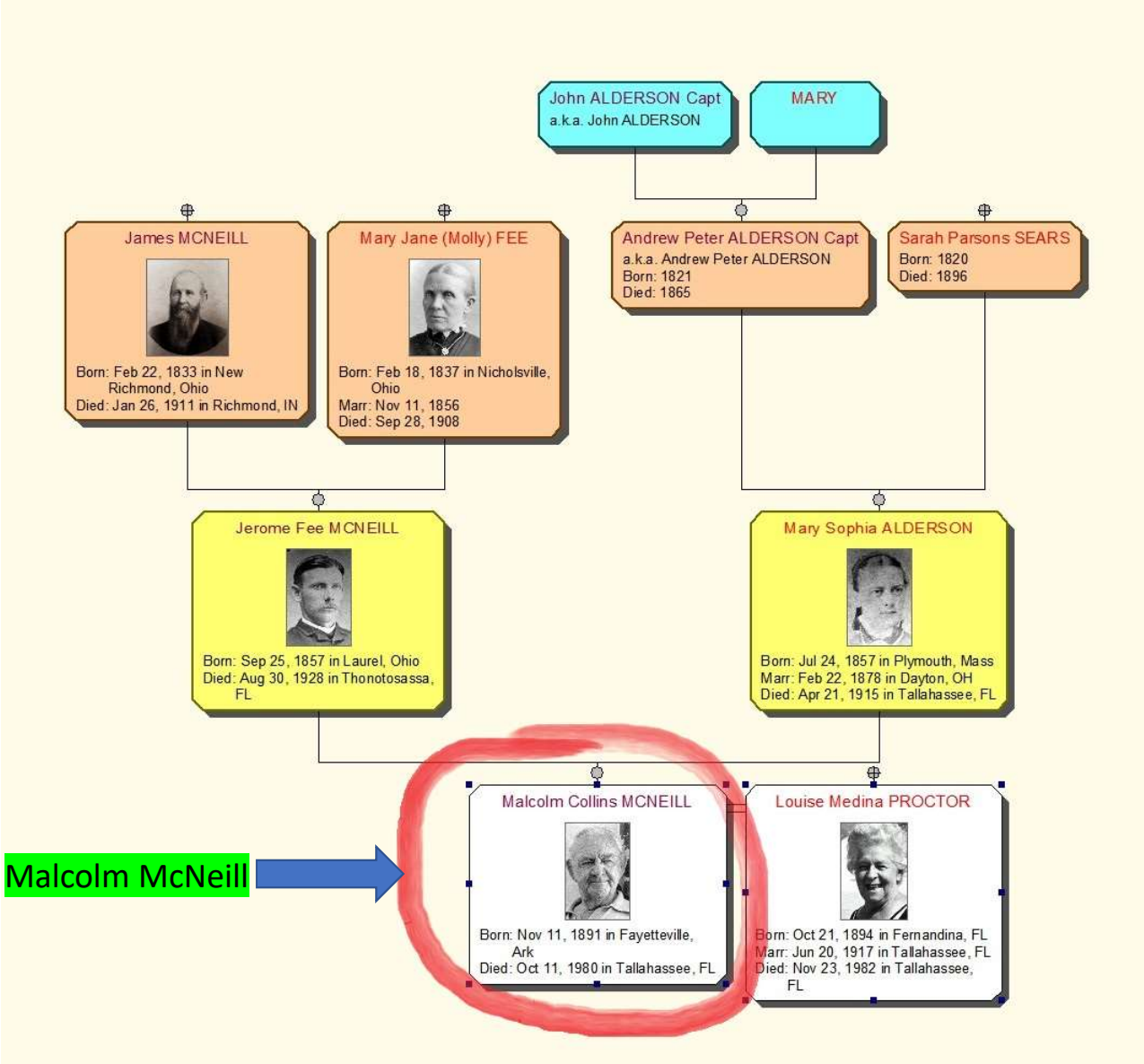
Her children and (most of) her grandchildren



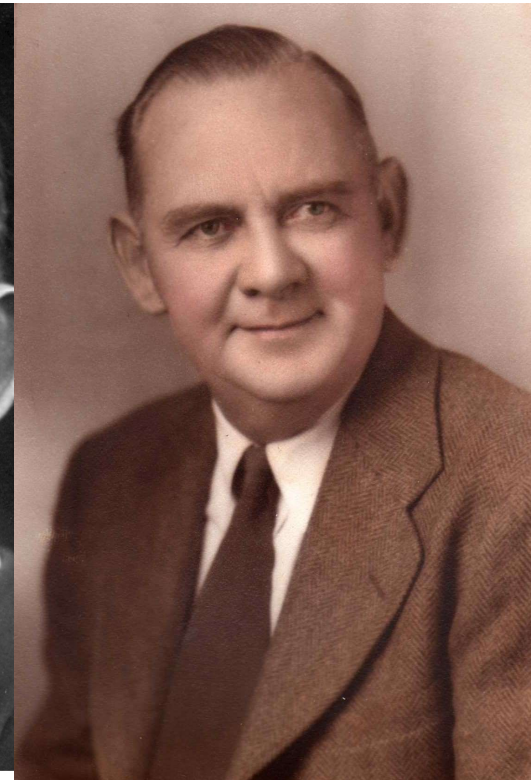
Lots of fun at Mexico Beach

Family  
gathered in  
1982, for her  
funeral



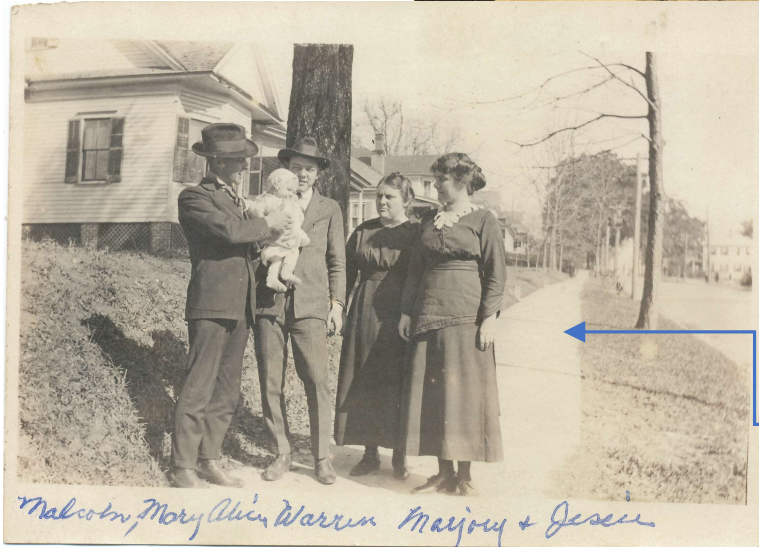


## My grandfather: Malcolm Collins McNeill (1891-1980)



Malcolm Collins McNeill (1891-1980).  
Father of Mary Alice McNeill Tolle.  
Detail of a photograph taken in 1914 by Hoover Bros., Starke, Florida,  
for the University of Florida Yearbook  
(which was then known as "The Seminole").

- Kind-hearted, easy-going, inventive, and wise
- A wry, gentle sense of humor
- Came to Tallahassee with his parents and some siblings, about 1904, at age 12 or so
- Civil engineering degree at U. of Florida, 1914
- The most even-tempered man I've ever known



McNeill house H16A Jessie's house E College Ave.

- The McNeill house on College Avenue
- He and brother Warren grew up there
- Sisters Jessie and Marjorie lived there the rest of their lives



- Standing, 2<sup>nd</sup> from the left
- He served in WWI



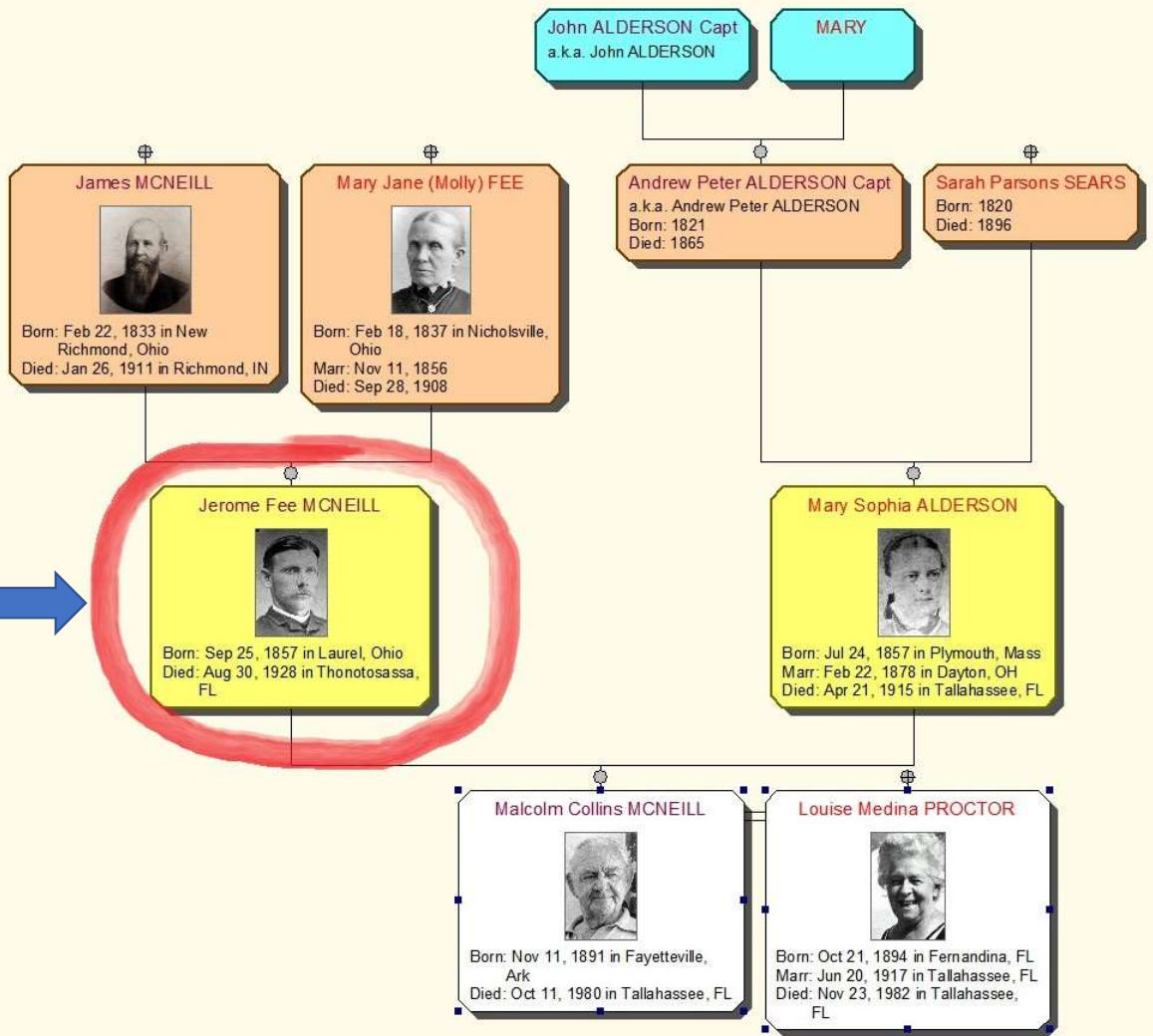
He owned some automotive businesses



From age 57 to 77: Deputy State Fire Marshall, investigating arson.

Many of you knew him and loved him. I wish you all could have known him.

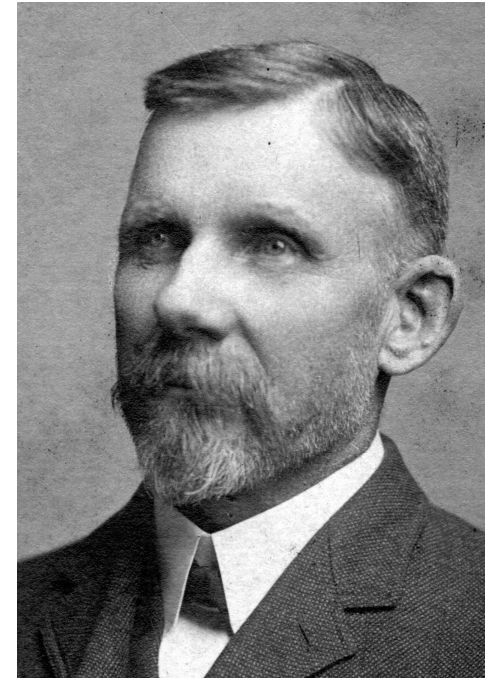
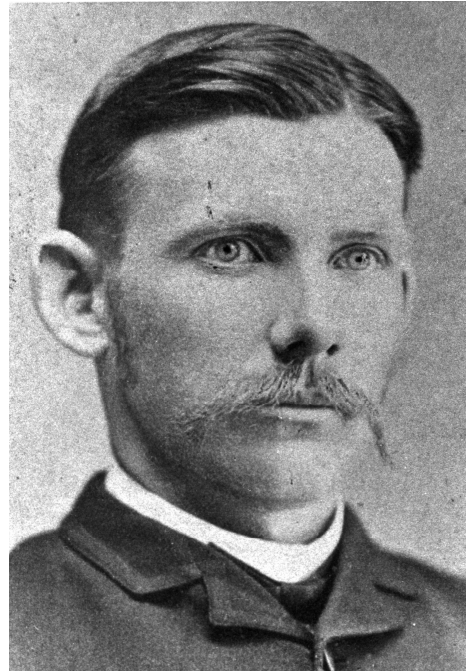




Jerome Fee McNeill



## My great-grandfather: Jerome Fee McNeill (1857-1928)

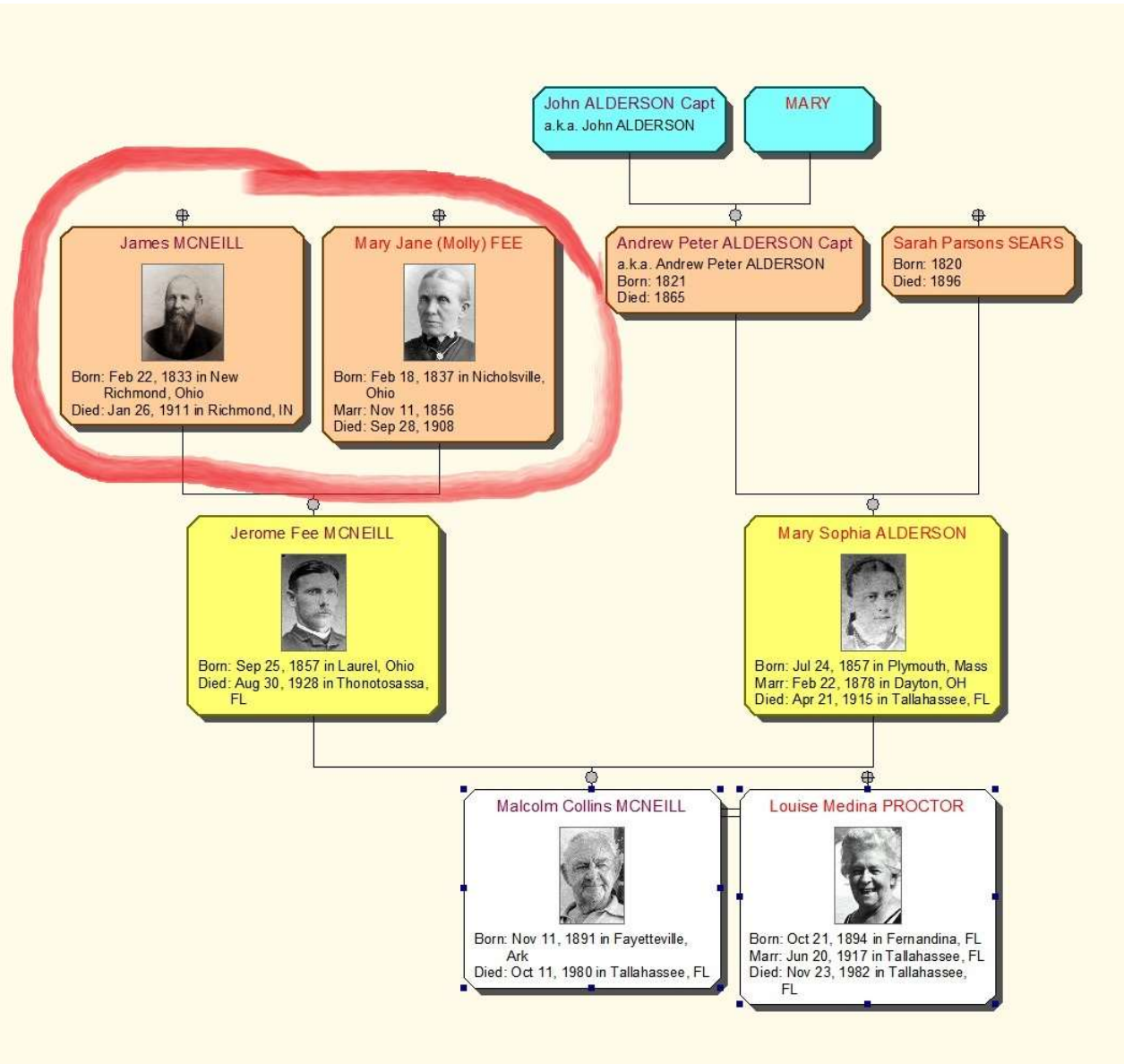


- Moved to Tallahassee in about 1904 as a biology professor at what is now known as Florida State University
- Built that house on College Avenue, near FSU. Still standing.
- Retired when he got profoundly deaf
- Re-married a few years after his first wife died, to Dr. Laura Gano
- Moved to orange grove in Thonotosassa with Laura
- Died there in 1928

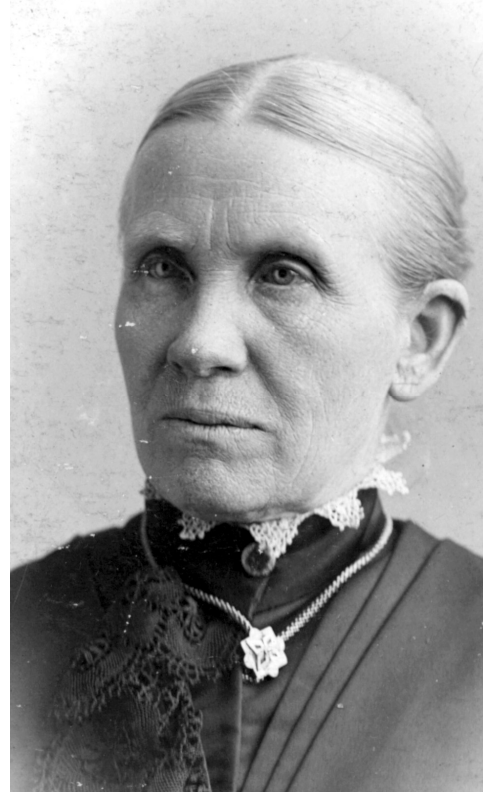


Front: Terry Tolle, Laura Gano McNeill  
Back: Mary Alice McNeill Tolle, Dave Tolle, Louise Tolle  
In Laura's house at her orange grove in  
Thonotosassa, Florida. Circa 1960.

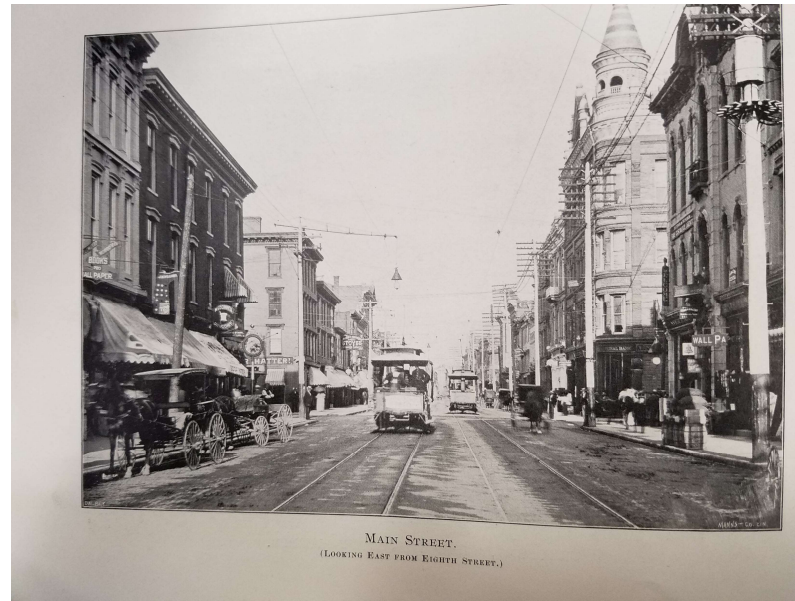
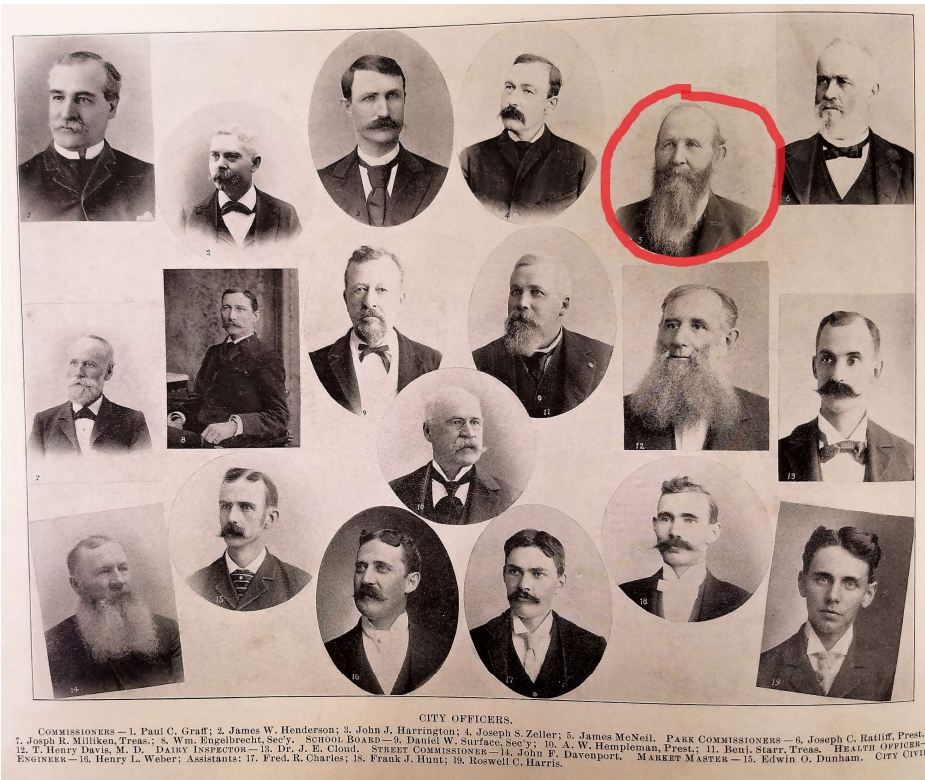
James McNeill and  
Mary Jane Fee



My great-great grandparents: James McNeill (1833-1911) and Mary Jane Fee (1837-1908)



- James McNeill and Mary Jane Fee McNeill lived in this house (which he built) in Richmond, Indiana, for nearly 40 years, until their deaths.
- He was a “Forty-niner” at age 16; a teacher, a professor of Latin and Greek, a school superintendent, a real estate developer (built about 500 houses in Richmond)
- She was active in the social and intellectual life of the city, President of the Occult Society



Downtown Richmond in about 1900.

James was once injured by a streetcar in Richmond.

Their gravestone:



James McNeill was also a city commissioner.

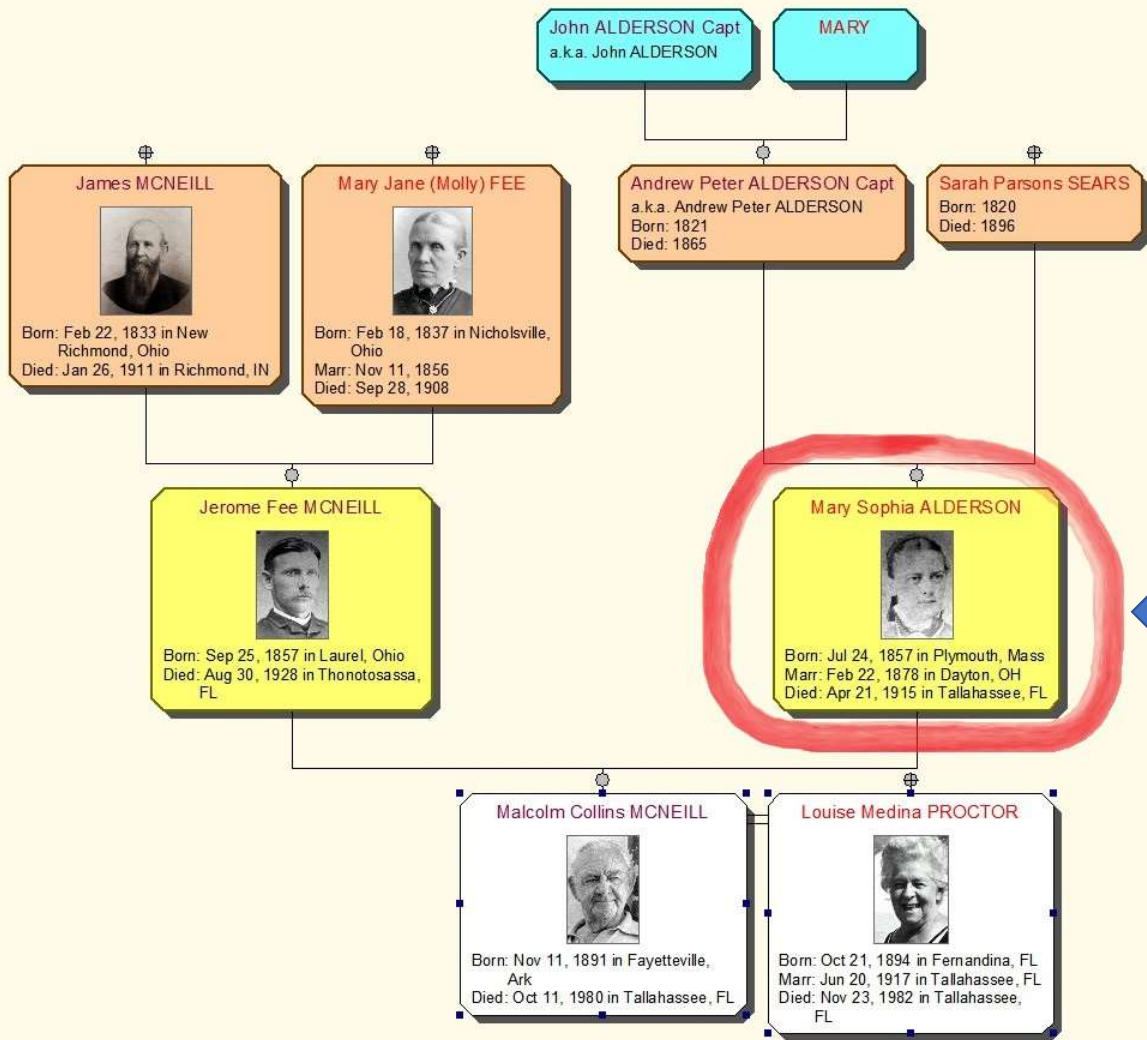
Trivia: **The Wright Brothers**, in their teens, from 1881-1884, lived in Richmond, about a quarter of a mile away from the McNeills. Did they know each other? Their father, Milton Wright, was a well-known clergyman and James McNeill certainly well-known in Richmond. Who knows?

Malcolm was born in Fayetteville, Arkansas. He lived in Tallahassee from age 12 or so. Did Malcolm ever know his McNeill grandparents?

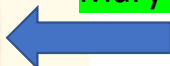
Yes! He lived with them! Here is a snippet from the 1900 US census of Richmond, Indiana. Malcolm and his parents and siblings were living with his McNeill grandparents!

James	59	South Tenth	22	18	18	Mc Neill James	Head	W	M	Feb	1833	67	M	46	
Mary Jane	60					- Mary J.	Wife	W	F	Feb	1836	64	M	46	7
Jerome	61		22	18	19	Mc Neill Jerome	Head	W	M	Sept	1857	42	M	22	
Mary	62					- Mary	Wife	W	F	July	1857	42	M	22	6
Dane	63					- David	Son	W	M	Nov	1878	21	J		
Leslie	64					- Leslie	Son	W	M	Jan	1887	19	J		
Jessie	65					- Jessie	Daughter	W	F	Jan	1883	17	J		
Marjorie	66					- Mary J	Daughter	W	F	Nov	1886	13	J		
Malcolm	67					- Malcolm	Son	W	M	Nov	1891	8	J		
Warren	68					- Arthur	Son	W	M	May	1900	9	J		

("David" is actually Dane. "Lesile" is actually Leslie. "Mary" is actually Marjorie. "Arthur" is actually Warren.)



Mary Sophia Alderson



## My great-grandmother: Mary Sophia Alderson (1857-1915)



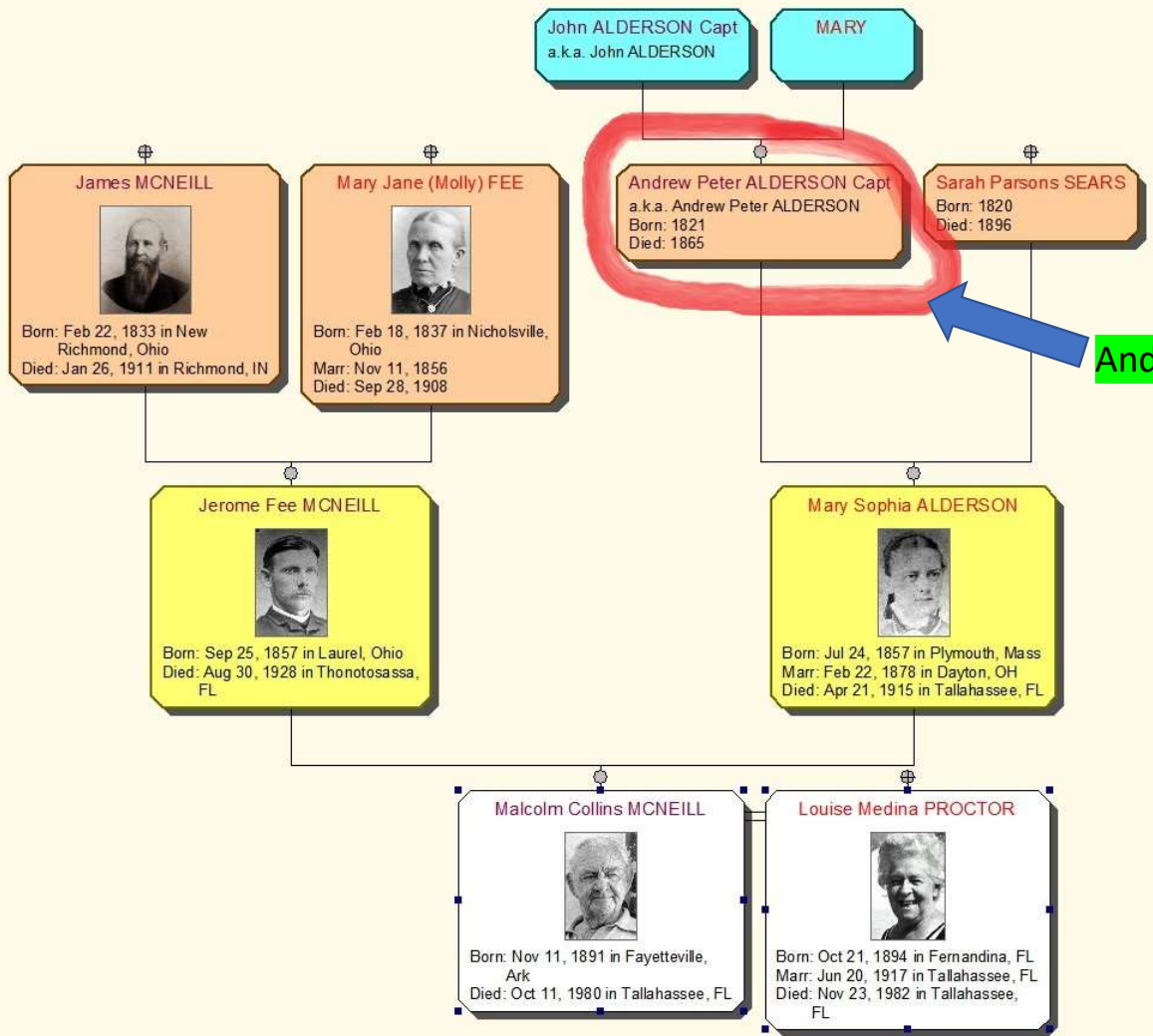
With her  
oldest  
child,  
Dane  
McNeill



- Descended from Mayflower Pilgrims through her mother
- Moved to Tallahassee in about 1904 with her husband, Jerome Fee McNeill, and four or five of their children
- A wonderful, loving mother --- Malcolm kept her photo on his dresser when I was a boy
- Died suddenly at age 57, stricken on the porch of the College Avenue home

The College Avenue house in 1915. Jessie on the porch?

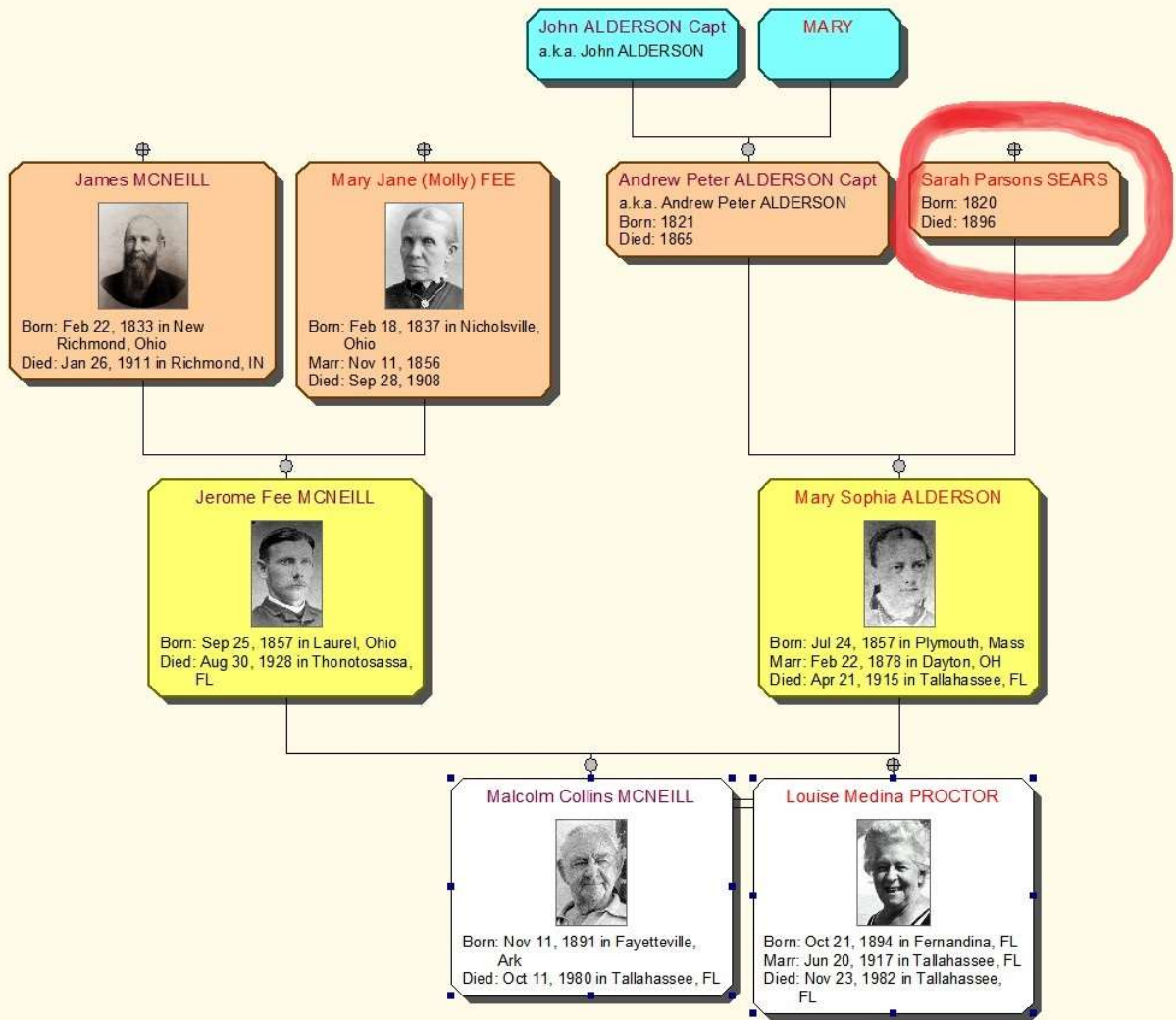




Andrew Peter Alderson

## My great-great grandfather: Andrew Peter Alderson (1821-1865)

- Mysterious at both ends of his life
- The family story passed down to us:
  - He was born in Elsinore, Denmark, on July 1, 1821.
  - Orphaned young and raised by a cruel uncle, he ran away at age 9, and stowed away on a ship bound for America.
  - Found onboard by Captain John Alderson, he was adopted by him and his wife in Plymouth.
  - He inherited their property.
  - He took to the sea when grown and became a sea captain
  - He and his ship disappeared in 1865, possibly near New Orleans.
- A mixture of probable truth and possible fiction in that story.
- Not enough time today to get into the details.

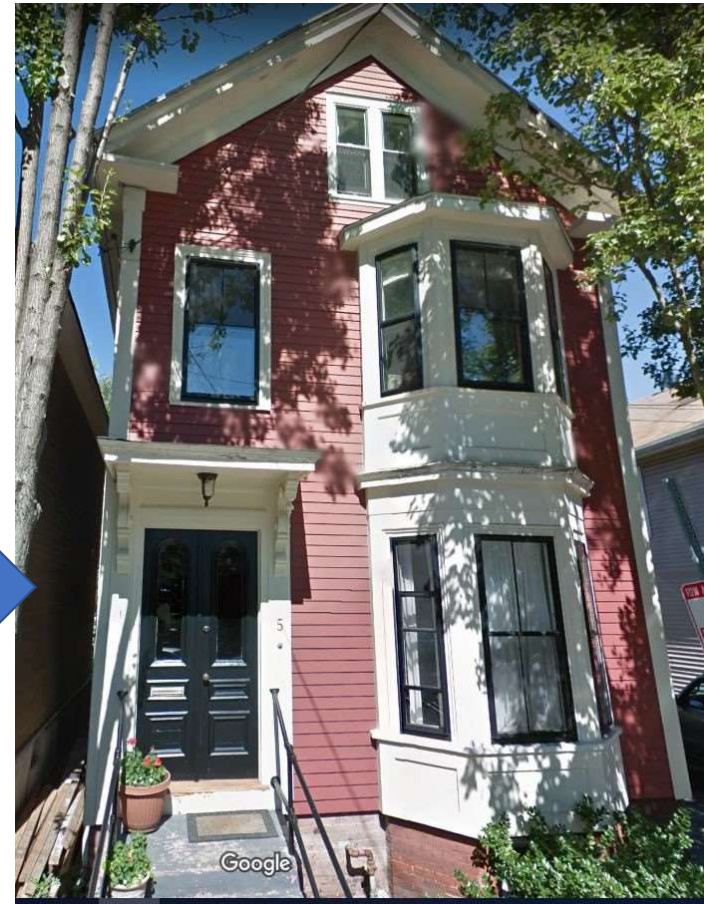


Sarah P. Sears



## My great-great grandmother: Sarah P. Sears (1820-1896)

- From Plymouth, Massachusetts
- Descended from Mayflower Pilgrims through both parents
- Married Andrew Peter Alderson in 1845, in Plymouth
- Mary Sophia Alderson McNeill was their sixth child (of 8)
- We find Sarah and her family in census records in Plymouth in 1850 and 1855.
- 1860 census: The family is in Boston.
- 1870 census: She is a widow in Boston, with 3 of the youngest children.
- 1880 census: She is in Cambridge, Mass. --- with 2 married daughters, a son-in-law, two young grandchildren, and her 18-year-old youngest child, Victor Clifton Alderson. They were all living in this house, at 5 Suffolk Street, Cambridge, MA, about a mile from Harvard University, where Victor was (or was soon to be) a student.
- 1890 U.S. census: almost entirely destroyed in a fire!



- By 1887, Sarah P. Alderson was living in Indianapolis, at 110 Broadway.
- I do not know whether her middle name was Paine or Parsons. I think probably Parsons.
- I do not know why she moved to Indiana.
- I do not know how or where her daughter Mary Sophia Alderson met Jerome Fee McNeill.
- Sarah died in Indianapolis in 1896.



Photo added by [Rev. Marie E](#)

## Sarah Paine *Sears* Alderson

<b>BIRTH</b>	28 Nov 1820 Plymouth, Plymouth County, Massachusetts, USA
<b>DEATH</b>	26 Nov 1896 (aged 75) Marion County, Indiana, USA
<b>BURIAL</b>	<u>Crown Hill Cemetery</u> Indianapolis, Marion County, Indiana, USA
<b>PLOT</b>	Sect. 40, Lot 187
<b>MEMORIAL ID</b>	16408494 · <a href="#">View Source</a>

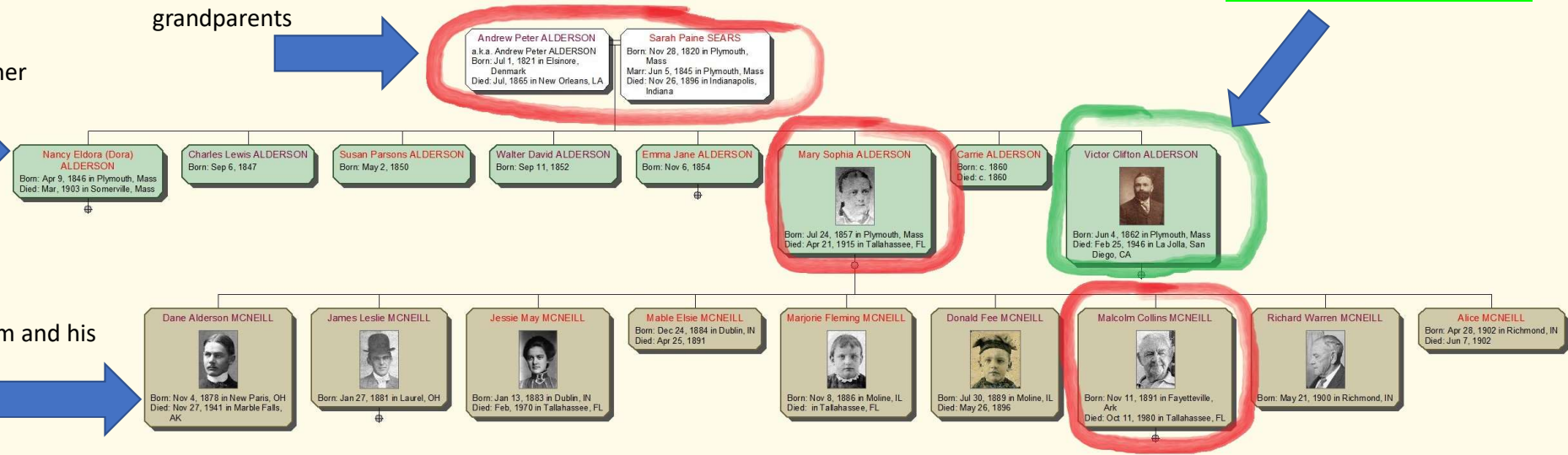
# 2 generations of descendants of Andrew Peter Alderson and Sarah P. Sears

Malcolm's mother's younger brother, Victor Clifton Alderson

Malcolm's Alderson grandparents

Malcolm's mother and her siblings

Malcolm and his siblings



Victor deserves his own page! **We have him to thank for compiling the genealogy showing his mother's Mayflower ancestry, 10 generations back from him.**

## My great-grandmother's younger brother: Victor Clifton Alderson (1862-1946)

- Malcolm McNeill's uncle: i.e., Malcolm's mother's younger brother.
- Five years younger than his sister Mary Sophia Alderson (mother of Malcolm McNeill)
- Graduated summa cum laude with A.B. degree from Harvard in 1885. A.M. in 1888.
- Superintendent of Public Schools, Dublin, Indiana, 1885-1887.
- Headmaster, Englewood High School, Chicago, from 1887.
- Professor of Mathematics and Dean of the Armour Institute of Chicago, 1893-99.
- From 1903-1913, and again from 1917-1925: president of the Colorado School of Mines (considered today the top institution in the world for mineral and mining engineering).
- Historian and deputy governor of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in Illinois.
- He traced his father's ancestry back only to his father's adoptive parents, with little detail about them.

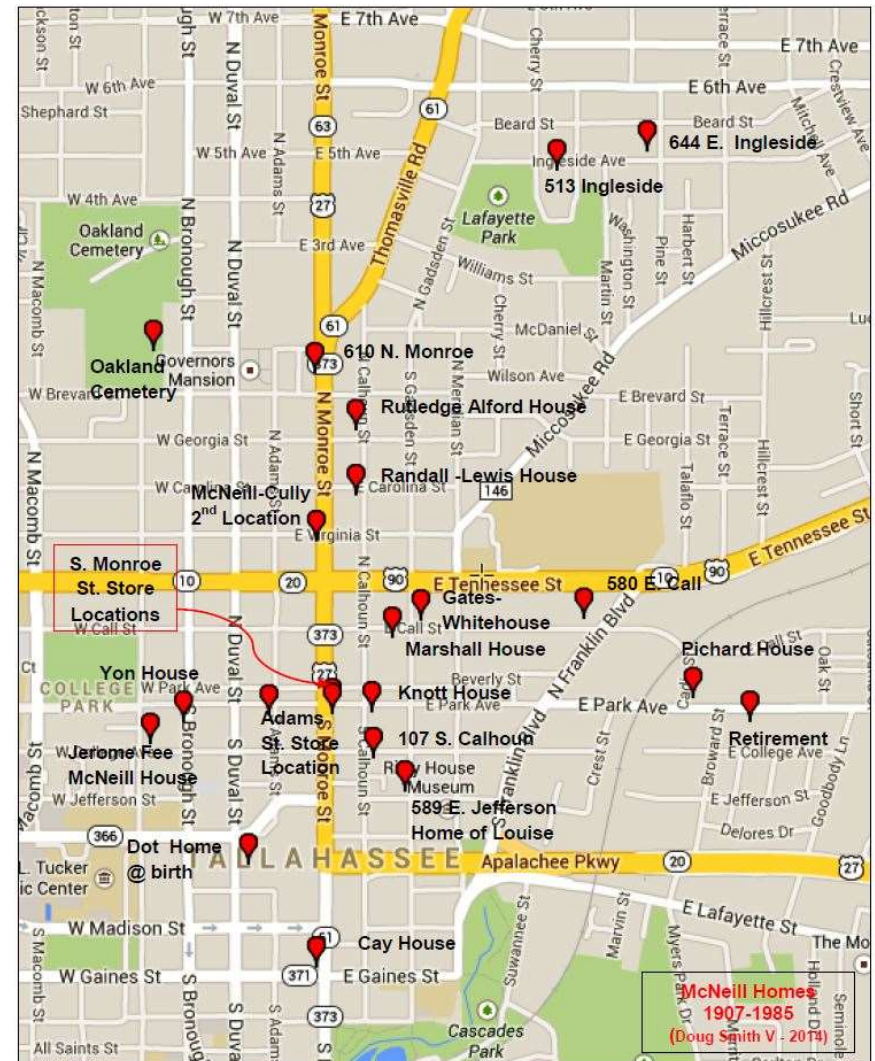


**THE FAMILY HOMES  
(and Business)  
of  
MALCOLM COLLINS MCNEILL SR.  
&  
LOUISE MEDINA PROCTOR MCNEILL  
in  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA  
1907 - 1982  
Written By:  
Doug Smith V  
August 2014  
Nov. 2014  
Revised Edition**

A remarkable 137-page tome by Doug Smith, with photographs and maps and an amazing collection of information about our **McNeill and Proctor family history in Tallahassee!** Available on my website, near the bottom of this webpage:

[http://davetolle.com/newspaper\\_clippings.html](http://davetolle.com/newspaper_clippings.html)

Tallahassee Map (2014) showing locations of McNeill homes, residences, business and cemetery mentioned and pictured in this document. For 75 years Malcolm and Louise resided in this 3.5 square mile area of Tallahassee.



# Some McNeill Ancestors

by

Dave Tolle

- See the family tree charts on the tables
- Mistakes? Let me know!
- Missing or outdated photos? Email some to me:  
[DaveTolle@acm.org](mailto:DaveTolle@acm.org)
- Everything will be posted to my website sometime soon: [www.davetolle.com](http://www.davetolle.com)
- When it's ready, I will email you and give userid and password