

Old Baptism Records

Updated by: Bro. Bill Porter & Bro. Darren Russell

To Bro. Bill Porter from Bro. Darren Russell;

I have received much of this information from different people, but the traditions the brethren have passed on is remarkably consistent with perhaps some discrepancies easily accounted for, much like what I was showing concerning Bro's Brewer and McDonald. I have dug out and researched these people with a great amount of personal effort from a wide variety of sources. I would like to think in this I was infallible, but there are errors I am sure, which as more complete information appears could change. I have numerous source documents, which prove much, and provide evidence for some conclusions I have drawn. For example, there are actually about 5 Elias Brewers (all related) which could be ours, there are especially two which fit the evidence, one of whom I feel is the right one, based on the evidence. We have so little to go on, only a name we assume is correct, an approximate time period, and general vicinity where he could have lived. Not much to go on, and of course who is to say that OUR Elias Brewer even was recorded, he may have been itinerant to the point of almost non-existence as far as the rest of the world was concerned! If you are interested, I can share with you my sources, evidences, and why I have identified them the way I have.

As to Bro. McDonald, we are on virtually certain ground, I have newspaper and other vital information that record his life, and his whereabouts. One news account out of Arkansas City dated May 3, 1876 said, "Revs. Reece and McDonald, the ministers who were to preach for us some time ago, passed the neighborhood last week, on their way to Sumner County. They said they would be back and hold a protracted meetings with us in two or three weeks. We would rather see them than to hear from them." Then on May 17 the paper records, "Revs. McDonald and Reece have arrived, and have been holding a series of meetings at the Holland school house." That these two men were indeed the ones of our faith becomes certain when a short time later the newspapers wrote this article:

RELIGIOUS INTEREST AT SALT CITY. For several weeks past one Rev. McDonald, of Chanute, Kansas has been holding religious exercises at the Salt City schoolhouse, with an interested audience. Mr. McDonald belongs to the denomination calling themselves "Followers of Christ," and believes in and preaches miracles. If our informant has told the truth, Mr. McDonald claims to be ordained to preach the gospel; has raised one person from the dead, and can cure the sick and heal the afflicted. Several persons are to be baptized by him at Salt City next Sunday.

One of the newspapers of the area, *The Winfield Courier* contained a letter written to the editor of the paper, it contained both the dates and place:

CEDAR TOWNSHIP, JAN. 31, 1878.

ED. COURIER: Thinking a line would not be amiss, I will say we had a series of meetings held by the Followers of Christ and an accession to the church of Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Osborn and Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Caldwell, who were baptized and confirmed on Monday the 28th.

This J. D Caldwell is none other than Bro. Jim Caldwell, and his wife, who was the daughter of Bro. Wood Retherford. F.M Osborn was Bro. Frank Osborn who was later ordained as an elder near Arkansas City, moved to near Guthrie, Okla. (Hennessey) and then to the Stillwater area. All four were baptized by Bro. McDonald .

For starters, the man named in the traditional lineage as John Carl McDonald was not actually named that. The Old Bro. McDonald who baptized Bro's Marion Reece, Jim Caldwell and others was actually John Carl's father JACOB McDonald. John Carl was born in Wisconsin in 1862 and died in Woodward, Oklahoma in 1917. It does not take much math to figure out he was not the Bro. McDonald who performed all those baptisms that we have record of in the 1870s. He would have been about 16 when Bro. Jim Caldwell was baptized and even younger for the others. The older traditions actually never named a first name for Bro. McDonald and only the later traditions coming out of DeWitt mention him as John Carl. I believe the later traditions confused him by name with his son. Bro. McDonald (Jacob that is) was born in Canada West (probably Southern Ontario) in 1811. His father moved to Oneida county, New York some time in the 1820s. Jacob McDonald's parents were on one record described, without names as being born in New York. The 1830 census gives his name as James McDonald. This James seems to have moved to Wisconsin as well for a short time but to have been living in Lyons, NY by 1850.

Now let's go backwards in time for a minute. There is an Elias Brewer (I) who was born in NJ in 1740 who died in Oneonta Ny in 1812. He was obviously too old to have baptized Jacob McDonald who was only about 1 year old and any way lived in Canada. Besides this Elias Brewer started out as Reformed Dutch and ended his life a staunch Presbyterian. There must have been a family friendship, if not relationship with this Elias and the McDonald family though, because his will was witnessed by a James McDonald in 1809, probably the same one, or his father another James. Also in the time period of 1810-18 a few of this Elias Brewer's children emigrated to Canada themselves, probably James as well, and that is how Jacob came to be born there. The majority of the children that left eventually returned to New York. A couple of this Elias' children also owned land in Oneida. The Presbyterian Church that Elias Brewer helped to found only lasted until about 1822 when for unknown reasons it divided and fell apart. The implied issues at hand concerned infant baptism, which the Presbyterians perform, and evidence of conversion, which they did not require. I surmise this because a few years later when the church was reorganized it was along those lines and though called Presbyterian was much closer to Baptist in outlook. So what exactly happened? Who knows exactly, but I have an idea it involved a sect called the Followers of Christ, who also in those days went by the term "Free Brethren".

In Maine there was a society of "Free Brethren", they believed house-to-house meetings and that any could participate by lead of the Spirit. Though they did not all reject medicines, most did as they believed that the workings of healings and miracles were a promise of God to be depended on, not a relict of the past. They believed in baptism, laying on of hands, lord's supper with foot washing, and in the Holy greeting to be exchanged by all. In that day the only other church with similar beliefs was the German Baptists often referred to as Dunkers, but even they performed the greeting between same sex only. This greeting which the world misunderstood was probably the grounds for one of the more well known ministers, A Jacob Cochrane, to be incarcerated for adultery and promiscuous behavior. The odd part about his situation is that his wife did not bring up those charges, but stood by her husband the entire time, and I believe he was the first American example of someone being convicted in public minds even before a trial took place. Several members of his congregation moved to Allegany , NY just a few miles from Oneida, one of the prime movers being Moses McDonald. Also the Jacob McDonald (older than ours but of the same family) that was ordained in Maine with Abner Woodsum. Also there was a man named Gupthill and another named Junkins who were also prominent among the "Free Brethren" that moved to NY. They started their migrations to that sparsely populated area of New York about the same time the division happened, and the circumstantial evidence points to them being the cause. One of the tactics used by them when they hit a new area was to first preach their doctrines in the established churches before retreating to their house meetings. When this Jacob Cochrane was released one of the first places he went was there, and it is reported that he baptized the Mormon Joseph Smith when he was about 16 years old while in New York. Either he or one of the other ministers that came from Maine, maybe even the Elder Jacob McDonald who would have known the Brewers through family connections, baptized Elias Brewer, probably in the time period 1823-27.

Now which Elias Brewer? You see Elias Brewer the First had one son by the same name, a nephew, and 2 grandsons, which were each of ages enough to be the one. Well for starters the nephew seems to have died a Quaker, and the two grandsons of the same name remained Presbyterian. That leaves the son Elias Brewer, who was born about 1780 and died in 1870 or 1871 in Michigan. he was one of the pioneers of Michigan and was buried in a "Free Church Cemetery" which indicates he did not belong to any accepted denomination, but was probably of the "Free Brethren". Also the fact that he remained in Michigan and did not migrate West with the others but yet lived long enough to be known by some of the earlier ones who did migrate West is also further evidence that he is correctly identified.

This Elias Brewer would have baptized the younger Jacob McDonald probably some time in the 1830s, likely around the time Jacob McDonald married Mary Walrath, which was about 1837. Now this Elias Brewer had a nephew by the name of Asahel Brewer who had married Eleanor Quackenbush a cousin to Mary Walrath. When Bro. Jacob McDonald moved to Burlington Wisconsin Eleanor's brother Lambert and Bro. In law Edward Boss , who married Polly Quackenbush also went. Also some of the Northrup family, Trowbridge, Ladd and Rooker families also emigrated to the same town all from the same area of New York. All these families had representatives in the faith who emigrated to Illinois, then Missouri, then Kansas and Nebraska, and some of them even into the Oklahoma Territory.

John Carl McDonald married Eva McIlvain and had 6 children, the oldest, a daughter named Ollie who married Oscar Pfister near Vici, Oklahoma. They had several children, the oldest being Arta Vonda who married Eugene Curtis McCracken. Eugene's brother Ted, also married one of the Pfister girls Lois and they lived in Olathe, Colorado. Other siblings were; Lois, Hazel, Orvil, Mable, Pat and Jeannie. Lester Pfister is one of the sons of Oscar and Ollie and lived in Cortez Colo. when he died in 2010. Isn't it interesting that Bro. Les Pfister was the grandson of John Carl McDonald, one of the earliest brethren who lived and died in Oklahoma.

So My projected Baptismal lineage, not at all absolutely proven, but highly likely is ;
History of the following individuals are as follows:

1. Jacob Cochrane (d. 1834 NY)

1a. Jacob McDonald or James McDonald (d. around 1854 NY)
(this was John Carl McDonald's father)

He baptized - -

1b. Elias Brewer (from the New England area, not England as was supposed)

1c. John Carl McDonald (Who died at Vici, OK)

1d. Jim Caldwell, and Marion Reese,

(more as you go down to the solid numbers with no letter following)

2a. - Marion Reese baptized;

Charlie Smith, (Moved to Silver Creek Valley, in Idaho, in 1900)

2b. - Charlie Smith baptized;

George White, (and several of his relatives, in Idaho)

2c. - George White baptized;

Jack Hunter, (Idaho)

2d. - Jack Hunter baptized;

Ed Jenson, (Boise, Idaho June 10, 1951)

3. - Jim Caldwell baptized;

Nathan Parasho, Tommy Parasho, Gabriel Parasho, Ed Johnson

3a. - Marion Reese baptized;

Conn Smith, Charlie Smith, (Idaho)

3b. - Tommy Parasho baptized;

Walter Marrison, Josh Collins, (1896 Elder), Jim Ratcliff, (1896 Elder)

3c. - Nathan Parisho baptized;

Henry Davis - 1903 in Missouri, and was ordained an elder in Ridgeway before moving to Parkland.

3d. - Walter Marriman baptized;
R.B. Williams, Billy Williams

3c. - Henry Davis baptized;
Albert Porter at Parkland around 1932 (my Father)

4. - Ed Johnson baptized;
Jim Hays, Wilburn Hays, Curnel Cemore Leonard
(Curnel Leonard is the one who baptized Johnny Carver, the one who established the south town church at Cortez, CO who have nothing to do with the main church now)

5. - Jim Hays baptized;
Bob McCallister, Charlie Lowe, Charlie Holman, Eli Bridges,
Will Nation, George Johnson, Henry Tomlinson, Harlan Spain and many more....

5.1a - Charlie Lowe baptized:
Pete Hayles
Pete Hayles baptized;
Winifred Bell
Winifred Bell baptized:
Larry Bruner
Larry Bruner baptized:
Lee Bosch
(the above breakdown was done for Bro. Lee Bosch)

5.a – Will Nation baptized;
Lawrence Watkins Sept. 1908. Jasper (Jap) Earnest, Claude Dobbs,
Fred Herring, Will Davis, Roy Carmichael,

5.b – Jasper (Jap) Ernest baptized;
Harvey Corter

5.c – Harvey Corter baptized;
Bill Porter, Ronnie Jackson (Feb. 11, 1956)

5.d – Bill Porter baptized;
Benny Porter, Richard Hackett, Allen Rossiter. Evert Rossiter, Trudy Wilson, Trella Carmichael, Barbara Taylor, Tawana McIntire, Kathy Hackett, Jimmy Williams, Philip Porter, Mike Porter, Raelene Porter, Nancy Rader, Peggy McGee, Darla Rader, Denise Fisher, Dorothy Gross, Lisa (Lindahl) Porter, Kris Porter, Kevin Godwin, Preston Ty Porter, Anthony Godwin, Denise Godwin, Carla (Brickey) (Porter) Sanders, Tami Tomlinson, Donna Stull, Rhonda Porter, Kristen McFerrin, Dusty McFerrin, Christy McFerrin, Samantha Hemphill, Austin Greenfield, Corey Porter

- 5a. - Eli Bridges baptized;
Farris Howard
- 5b. - Farris Howard baptized;
Dave Crank, Loyal Thompson
- 5c. – Dave Crank baptized;
Bro. Ike Taylor and family
- 6. - Lawrence Watkins baptized,
Dewey Wright, Paul Davis, Floyd Martin, Jim Carender, Bud James
- 6a. - Dewey Wright baptized,
Ulysses Wright on Mar. 23, 1943 Bobby Toland, (age 16 1945 or 46)
- 6.ab – Ulysses Wright baptized,
Howard Mannis Aug. 30, 1968
- 6.abc – Bobby Toland
Billy Hobbs 1968 and over 200 more
Darren Russell 1988
- 9. - Jim Carender
Milton "Bunk" Sloate, Johnny Sloate
- 10. - Milton "Bunk" Sloate
Bill Hooks, Glenn Davenport, Eugene Davis, Milton Outlaw, Carl Davis

This baptism record is much more completed now. Missing is my great-grandfather, Bro. Will Tibbett, one of the first Elders at Parkland, Okla. He was the father of Bro. Bob Tibbett, who was an Elder at Cushing, Okla. and very prominent in the church. He was my grandmother's brother on my father's side. I am working on this to get it completed in my lifetime. You can very easily find yourself in this lineage if you just know one prominent person up your line somewhere. If you know someone that goes under someone already listed here, it would be nice if you could fill in where they go, and send it to me.

I hope you enjoy this, and use it for the right reasons, Bro. Bill Porter