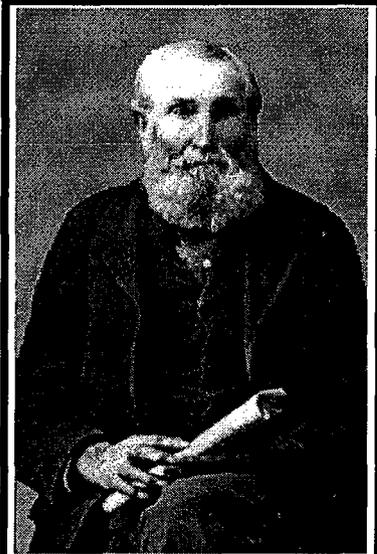


Fourth Generation - David Hannah and Sarah McClure

Two years or so after David Hannah, Jr., and his wife Margaret (Burnside) settled along the Elk River in northern Pocahontas County, a son was born. He was the fourth of eight children, and they named him David. The birth date, April 1, 1822, is known from his headstone in the Decatur City, Iowa cemetery.



David Hannah, about 1896, age 74

We have found no written record revealing anything of David's life as a young man. However, a typescript book called *Sketches of Elk* by Raymond W. Mace, published in 1990, gives a good idea of the character of the area. He mentions the Hannah family, as well as several other families who originally settled the valley beginning around 1820. The book is filled with anecdotes, customs, and beliefs of the time, thoroughly showing the flavor of life along the Elk River a century and a half ago.

David appears as a child counted with his father in the 1830 and 1840 federal censuses of Pocahontas County. However, we find no mention of him again until 1849, when he married Rebecca Moore, age 19, daughter of Isaac Moore of Edray. What happened to Rebecca is unknown to us. They were married September 29, 1849, according to Pocahontas County records, and they appeared as man and wife in the 1850 federal census. Whether they were divorced or she died from childbirth or some other cause

is unknown. As far as we can determine there were no children born of this first marriage.

On November 1, 1851 in Greenbrier County, West Virginia, David married Sarah B. McClure, daughter of Arthur McClure. The marriage was performed by Joshua Buckley, the namesake of Sarah's maternal grandfather. Sarah had appeared in the 1850 Greenbrier County federal census, living with her brother Joseph and her mother Elizabeth. She was listed as 26 years old, rather old to be unmarried for those times. The McClure families lived just a short distance south of the original Hannah plantation at Locust Creek, and were longtime neighbors, dating back to about 1782. See chapter 12 for further information on the McClure family.

In the 1860 federal census record David and Sarah were living near a post office named Academy. This places them near the Greenbrier River east of Hillsboro, West Virginia - probably living on the original Hannah plantation. David was 38 years old, Sarah was 37, Margaret Hannah was 7, James Hannah 6, Mary Hannah 4, and Joseph was "4/12" - just four months old. Joseph, the subject of chapter 8, is apparently the unnamed male whose birth was registered in the Pocahontas County records on Dec 23rd, 1859 by David and Sarah.

In 1869 David and Sarah sold the original plantation which had been home to the Hannah families for three generations - almost 100 years. They sold it to Wm. A.

McClure, probably a cousin to Sarah, for \$500 cash and \$2000 to be paid in the ensuing three years.

"Moving west" is what so many of our mid-19th-century ancestors did. The expansion of the railroads and the Homestead Act of 1862 made it relatively easy to move west and obtain land from the government - free if you were willing to file a claim, and to live on and work the land for five years. We found no homestead record for David Hannah, 3rd, but by 1870 he and Sarah and their five children had moved to Taylor County, Iowa. David's brother, Robert A. Hannah, also found his way to Iowa, and David's niece, Mary Snyder, lived close by with her husband and children. So did John McClure, who was age 23 in the 1870 census, and who was probably a relative of David's wife, Sarah. David's family settled at first in Gay Township, Taylor County, Iowa, where they are shown in the 1870 federal census records as farmers. . They valued their farm at \$2500 and their personal property at \$480. In the 1880 census they were living in Conway, a small town in nearby Marshall Township. David's occupation was shown as "drayman", which probably means he drove a wagon. He was also bedridden at that time, according to the census, but he lived another thirty years, so it couldn't have been too serious.

David and Sarah purchased and sold several pieces of land in Taylor County, but by 1885 they had moved to Woodland Township, Decatur County, Iowa, about fifty miles east. There they took up farming once again. Two children - Joseph, age 25, and Julia, age 21 - were still living at home at that time. Their farm was near the home of a widow named Nancy Jane (Woolsey) Allen. In 1886, Joseph met and married Nancy's daughter, Mary C. Allen, and later married Nancy, his mother-in-law. Nancy Jane Woolsey was the widow of James H. Allen, a Civil War veteran who died in 1879. The history of the Woolsey family is extensive, tracing back to the 1500s, and is partially narrated in Chapter 13.

Joseph's sister Julia was also married in 1886, to James Stewart. Shortly thereafter, David and Sarah moved the short distance to Decatur City, probably because they were by then about sixty-five years old, had no children at home, and were no longer able to work the farm.

On January 3, 1889, David's wife, Sarah B. (McClure) Hannah, died and was buried in the cemetery in Decatur City, Iowa.

In October of 1889 David married a third time. In the marriage record in Decatur County, Iowa, David lists his occupation as a butcher, and gives his age as sixty. His bride, Amanda (Lee) Halstead, is recorded as thirty-seven years of age. David's age was closer to sixty-seven, according to all the other records we can find. Amanda had two children by a previous marriage, and on August 20, 1890, David Roy Hannah was born to David and Amanda.

David and Amanda soon moved a little way south of Decatur City to the area near Pawnee, Harrison County, Missouri. They bought and sold property for the next twenty years in the area near Pawnee and in the small towns of Hatfield, Blythedale and Eagleville; so just where they lived at any particular time is hard to pinpoint. In 1900 they are listed in the federal census at Eagleville, and David lists his occupation as hotelkeeper.

A Hannah Family of West Virginia

David and Sarah's five children were all born in West Virginia, before the family moved to Iowa in about 1869. They were:

Margaret - of whom we have no information.

James - born July 20, 1855; died November 20, 1936; married Ada, surname unknown. The 1880 census of Taylor County, Iowa shows them with a daughter, Lettie Bowerman, so Ada was probably first married to a Bowerman. They were in Decatur County, Iowa in 1885.

Mary - born April 27, 1857. No other information.

Joseph - see chapter 8.

Julia - born about 1863. Married James Stewart on October 28, 1886, in Decatur County, Iowa. She is probably buried in Brown Cemetery (now abandoned) near Eagleville, Missouri.

David died in Eagleville, Missouri on March 8, 1910 at age 88 years and was buried with his second wife, Sarah, in Decatur City, Iowa. A very nice stone marks their graves.

