

## **THOMAS McBRIDE**

**(1830-1909)**

**Thomas McBride** was born near the town of Mansfield, in Richland County, Ohio on the seventh day of April in the year 1830. Thomas grew up in a large family with at least three older brothers (one named Alexander who served in the Civil War), two older sisters and two younger brothers. Thomas's father, **Samuel McBride**, was born in Virginia and his mother was born in Pennsylvania.

Thomas, at seventeen years of age, enrolled in the United States Army on October 2, 1847, as a volunteer for service in the Mexican War (*see following clip about the Mexican War*). He was mustered into the service of Captain R.F. Riddle's Independent Company Ohio State Volunteers on October 26th at Camp Wool, Cincinnati. Riddle's company started for the seat of war November 4, 1847. Thomas was stationed at Veracruz, Jalapa, and Puebla, Mexico through February of 1848. His duties included guarding wagon trains from Veracruz to Jalapa and from Jalapa to Puebla. He was mustered out of the Army with the rest of his company on July 17, 1848 after the war was officially declared over.

**Alexander McBride**, ten years older than Thomas, moved from Ohio to Astoria, in Fulton County, Illinois, circa 1849, and I assume Thomas must have followed him there since Thomas's Mexican War Pension application states that he married **Sarah L. Hale** in the township of Bernadotte, also of Fulton County (north of Astoria). Records indicate the date of their marriage to be October 22, 1857. They had two children, a son, **Harry**, born in 1858, and a daughter, **Lillian** (whom they called Lizzie), born in 1859.

**Sarah (Hale) McBride** died at the age of twenty-eight (28) on November 20, 1860 leaving Thomas to care for the these two toddlers.

In an affidavit written in support of Alexander's Civil War pension claim, Thomas indicates that he departed for Colorado in the spring of 1861. Family word has it that Harry and Lillian, were placed in the care of a great uncle, George Washington Bliss, living in Mineral Point, Wisconsin.

Later that same year (August of '61), Alexander enlists in Illinois's Third Calvary-'H' Company and serves eight months in the Civil War before being discharge due to a medical disability.

Thomas also states in his pension application that he resided in California sometime before meeting up with Alexander and Rebecca Jane (his sister) again in Oskaloosa, Iowa (Mahaska County) in the fall of 1866. He stayed with his brother, Alexander, who had moved there earlier that same year from a place in New Philadelphia, McDonough County, Illinois.

It was here, in Oskaloosa, that Thomas met and married his second

wife, **Rebecca Elizabeth Towne**. Harry and Lillian were most likely in attendance when their father and new step-mother were wed on January 2, 1868 by the Reverend Towne (relation uncertain). The day before the wedding, Harry received a very special memento from his uncle Bliss, a pen used by Horace Greeley to write his first editorial in the New York Tribune.

In 1869, Thomas McBride moved his family to Chetopa, (Richland township) in Labette County, Kansas where they ran a boarding house for a short time. Then, in 1871, they settled on a homestead in the town of Reuben (Richland township), in Jewell County, Kansas (near the town of Mankato). The homestead was located near Rock Creek and the Republican River Range.

Family lore has it that Harry and Lillian had several interesting experiences concerning Wild Bill Hickok and Buffalo Bill Cody while living in Reuben. Three other children were raised by Thomas and Rebecca, they were **Sadie, Florence, and George**.

Around the time George was born (circa 1877), Thomas began to suffer from rheumatism, diabetes and asthma. After ten years of increasing disability associated with these diseases, Thomas becomes so incapacitated that he could no longer perform manual labor. This was the premise for his war pension claim in March of 1887.

In 1905, after nearly 34 years on the homestead, Thomas and Rebecca sold everything and purchased a small home located at 807 N. Washington Avenue, in the town of Chanute, in Neosho County, Kansas.

Thomas was nearly 79 years old when he passed away on March 19, 1909. Sadie (McBride) Tevebaugh lived nearby, at 608 West Beach Street. She helped take care of her mother during her remaining years (Rebecca remained a widow until her death).

In January of the year 1913, Rebecca became senile due to arterial sclerosis and, as a result of complications associated with heart disease, passed away on September 24th of that same year. Rebecca E. (Towne) McBride was buried in Elmwood Cemetery in the town of Chanute along side Thomas McBride who was buried there on March 21, 1909.

## MEXICAN WAR: 1846-1848

The Mexican War was fought by the United States on three fronts:

*The Far West* - [Bear Flag Revolt] June 1846 near Sacramento, California.

*Northern Mexico* - General Zachary Taylor enters Mexico from Texas.

Defeats Santa Anna at Monterey, September, 1846.

Captured Saltillo, Victoria, Tamaulipas.

Defeated Santa Anna for the last time at Buena Vista February, 1847.

*Southeastern Mexico* - General Winfield Scott, placed in command of the Gulf campaign by President Polk, landed at Veracruz, Mexico on March 9, 1847. He began an arduous march toward Mexico City. On April 18 he drove the Mexicans back from Cerro Gordo and again on August 19th and 20th from Conteras and Churubusco. On September 8th, he won a battle at Molini Del Ray. After arriving at Mexico City, he stormed the cliffs of Chapultepec. He entered the City on September 14, 1847 effectively ending the military phase of the war.

A comprehensive Peace treaty was prepared allowing (among other concessions) the United States to buy a large portion of Mexican territory (California, Arizona, and New Mexico). The treaty was approved by the U.S. Senate on March 10, 1848, formally ending the Mexican War.

## SUMMARY

### Thomas McBride

Date of Birth: **April 7, 1830**  
Place of Birth: **Near Mansfield, Richland County, Ohio**  
Date of Death: **March 19, 1909**  
Place of Death: **Chanute, Neosho County, Kansas**

#### Military Service:

##### **Mexican War**

Enrolled: **October 2, 1847**  
Mustered In: **Camp Wool, Cincinnati, Ohio; October 26, 1847**  
Mustered Out: **Cincinnati, Ohio; July 17, 1848**  
Rank: **Private**  
Service Time: **Eight(8) months, twenty-two(22) days**  
Army Unit: **Capt. R.F. Riddle's Independent Co. Ohio Volunteers**  
Seat of War: **Southeast Mexico (Veracruz, Jalapa, Puebla)**

##### **Civil War (The Army of the Grand Republic)**

Enrolled: ?  
Mustered In: ?  
Mustered Out: ?  
Rank: ?  
Army Unit: ?  
Seat of War: ?

#### Marriage(s):

- (I) Maiden Name: **Sarah L. Hale**  
Date of Birth: **c1832**  
Place of Birth: **New York**  
Date of Marriage: **October 22, 1857**  
Place of Marriage: **Bernadotte Township, Fulton County, Illinois**  
Date of Death: **November 20, 1860**  
Place of Death: **Bernadotte Township, Fulton County, Illinois**  
Children:  
(1) Name: **Harry**  
Date of Birth: **August 29, 1858**  
Place of Birth: **Bernadotte, Fulton County, Illinois**  
(2) Name: **Lillian L.**  
Date of Birth: **September 29, 1859**  
Place of Birth: **Bernadotte, Fulton County, Illinois**
- (II) Maiden Name: **Rebecca Elizabeth Towne**  
Date of Birth: **July 22, 1841**  
Place of Birth: **Pennsylvania**  
Date of Marriage: **January 2, 1868**  
Place of Marriage: **Oskaloosa, Mahaska County, Iowa**  
Date of Death: **September 24, 1913**  
Place of Death: **Chanute, Neosho County, Kansas**  
Children:  
(1) Name: **Sadie A.**  
Date of Birth: **c1872**  
Place of Birth: **Reuben, Jewell County, Kansas**  
(2) Name: **Florence**  
Date of Birth: **c1875**  
Place of Birth: **Reuben, Jewell County, Kansas**

(3) Name: **George**  
Date of Birth: **c1877**  
Place of Birth: **Reuben, Jewell County, Kansas**