

# The McAllister Family of Pennsylvania and Ohio

## A Sample Narrative Genealogical Report

(Mock Example — Fictional but modeled on professional genealogical standards)

### Research Objective

The purpose of this report is to document the ancestry and migration of the McAllister family line from western Pennsylvania into eastern Ohio between approximately 1820 and 1910, with emphasis on establishing the parentage of Samuel McAllister (1838–1909). Prepared in a narrative format, this report combines historical context, documentary evidence, timelines, and analysis into a readable family history rather than a simple pedigree chart.

### Executive Summary

Research indicates that Samuel McAllister, born 14 March 1838 in Washington County, Pennsylvania, was the eldest surviving son of Thomas McAllister (1811–1877) and Margaret Boyd (1815–1892). Evidence supporting this conclusion includes federal census enumerations, probate packets, marriage records, Civil War pension affidavits, cemetery inscriptions, and church baptism registers.

### Historical Background

The McAllisters were part of a broader wave of Scots-Irish migration into western Pennsylvania during the early nineteenth century. Washington County's agricultural economy gradually gave way to industrial employment opportunities tied to coal extraction and railroad construction. By the 1850s, many younger families relocated westward into Ohio seeking wage labor and land ownership opportunities unavailable in increasingly subdivided Pennsylvania farms.

### Generation One — Thomas McAllister (1811–1877)

Thomas McAllister was reportedly born in Pennsylvania in 1811 according to census calculations from 1850–1870. He first appears as head of household in the 1840 United States census in Washington County, Pennsylvania, where his household composition aligns with a young wife and two children. Tax lists and census schedules consistently identify Thomas as first a farmer, later a laborer, and eventually a coal worker as industrialization spread through the Ohio River Valley.

# Children of Thomas McAllister and Margaret Boyd

1. Samuel McAllister, born 1838
2. Eliza McAllister, born 1841
3. Robert McAllister, born 1844
4. James McAllister, born 1848
5. Catherine McAllister, born 1852

## Generation Two — Samuel McAllister (1838–1909)

Samuel McAllister was born 14 March 1838 in Washington County, Pennsylvania. The 1850 federal census places Samuel, age 12, in the household of Thomas McAllister in South Strabane Township. By 1858, Samuel appears in Belmont County, Ohio, where he married Rebecca Turner on 9 October 1858. This migration likely occurred alongside railroad labor recruitment associated with the expanding Baltimore & Ohio rail corridor.

## Civil War Service

Although no compiled military service record has been identified, Samuel filed for a Civil War pension in 1891 claiming service in an Ohio militia reserve unit. Affidavits included in the pension packet identify his wife Rebecca Turner, son William McAllister, and the family's residence history between 1860 and 1890.

## Property and Probate Analysis

Thomas McAllister's 1877 probate packet proved critical in establishing family relationships. The estate distribution identifies "my son Samuel McAllister of Belmont County, Ohio," directly linking Samuel of Ohio with Thomas of Washington County, Pennsylvania.

## Conclusion

Available evidence strongly supports the conclusion that Samuel McAllister of Belmont County, Ohio, was the son of Thomas McAllister and Margaret Boyd of Washington County, Pennsylvania. The family migrated west during the industrial expansion of the 1850s, and probate and pension materials provide the strongest direct evidence linking the generations.

## Timeline of Known Events

Year	Event
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1838	Samuel McAllister born in Pennsylvania
1850	Living in Washington County, PA
1858	Married Rebecca Turner in Ohio
1863	Registered for Civil War draft
1870	Listed as coal miner
1889	Purchased 12-acre property in Belmont County
1909	Died of pneumonia

## **Selected Sources**

1. 1850 U.S. Census, Washington County, Pennsylvania
2. 1840 U.S. Census, Washington County, Pennsylvania
3. McAllister Family Bible (fictional example)
4. Belmont County Marriage Register, Book C
5. Civil War Pension Application No. 44281
6. Washington County Probate Packet, Estate of Thomas McAllister, 1877