



JAMES ALBERTO MCDOWELL

Born: 5/30/1849 Asheville
Died: 4/23/1909 McDowell County

James Alberto McDowell, son of Major William Wallace McDowell, and the grandson of Colonel James Moffitt McDowell, was born on his father's large farm. The house, known as Smith McDowell House, is located at 283 Victoria Road, Asheville, NC and is registered on the National Register of Historic Places.

James Alberto McDowell moved to the South Toe area in 1894. He came with his wife, Delilah Ann Holcombe, and their three children to run the McDowell farm. James and Delilah lived on the farm for 13 years and had three more children.

In addition to farming, James also ran a grist mill on the South Toe River. Delilah worked on the farm and cared for neighbors when they were sick or helped deliver babies. She was called a "Granny Woman." According to her daughter, Sarah Maybelle McDowell, she was called out at all hours, day or night.

James' brothers often visited from Asheville. They came regularly to see James and bring provisions. They camped under "the big tree" in the yard and hunted.

Delilah Ann Holcombe McDowell died March 5, 1907 and was buried in the Patton Cemetery at South Toe.

James' brothers moved him to Old Fort in McDowell County after Delilah died. He died there April 23, 1909. He is buried on a hill overlooking Old Fort behind Ebberman Station.



19th CENTURY GENTLEMEN — The McDowell brothers were well-dressed gentlemen of the 19th Century. Dr. Joseph Alberto McDowell (left) and Major William Wallace McDowell (center) lived in Asheville, and their brother, Dr. John Calhoun McDowell, (right) lived in Morganton. They were sons of Col. James McDowell, who fought in the Revolutionary War. The major organized the "Buncombe Riflemen" and led them into Civil War combat. He married Sarah Lucinda Smith, whose father, James McConnell Smith, built a three-story house in South Asheville about 1840. The McDowells reared nine children and lived in that house for 25 years. It still stands, the oldest brick home in Asheville.

THE FAMILY OF
JAMES ALBERTO McDOWELL

JAMES ALBERTO McDOWELL
5/30/1849-4/23/1909
m. 10/23/1893
DELILA ANN HOLCOMBE
1862-3/5/1905

LESLIE DEAN McDOWELL
11/2/1883-3/19/1970
m. 8/14/1898
ADOLPH LYDA WHETSTINE
6/12/1872-3/16/1952

BESSIE ELIZA McDOWELL
2/23/1885-5/30/1974
m. (1) WASH GIBBS d. 3/31/1900
(2) 12/16/1900
THOMAS HARRISON BALLEW
7/30/1862-2/23/1935

JAMES ALBERT (BUB) McDOWELL
2/2/1888-7/19/1977
m. 5/12/1906
ISABELL (BELLE) McPETERS
1/12/1880-4/21/1965

SARAH MAYBELLE (SIS) McDOWELL
4/24/1894-6/1/1987
m. (1) 2/25/1912 HARVEY STORIE
1892-1919
(2) 7/8/1920 DAVID WALTER SILVER
5/11/1887-12/9/1942
(3) 10/23/1956 ROSSWELL ALLEN

ANNIE KATE McDOWELL
6/30/1896-2/14/1974
m.
HORACE H. BOWEN

MARGARET LOUELLA (MAGGIE) McDOWELL
5/9/1901-12/4/1977
m.
EARL VENOY CALDWELL
5/28/1901-12/17/1964