

John and Ann (Reynolds) McFall

Chapter 5 of Weeden Families

Richard L. Kenyon

32 Almond Tree Lane, Irvine CA 92612-2230

e-mail: rlkenyon@cox.net

Sep 6, 2013

John and Anne (Reynolds) McFall are immigrants who came to California not long after the Gold Rush. They lived in San Francisco. They were the parents of Anne McFall who married John Leonard “Len” Scheu, who is included in Chapter 6 of “Koch Family” on this website.

John McFall was born in Ireland about 1833. According to family tradition, John was the son of the proprietor of Haldane McFall Publishers in Edinburgh, Scotland. John’s father wanted him to go into the family business. Instead he ran away, jumped ship, and sailed to the United States. John became a sailor who sailed on the Star of India, and was captain of several ships. There is another story that he was a harbor pilot in San Francisco.

However, the census records and San Francisco city directories back to 1865 show clearly that John McFall’s occupation in San Francisco was laborer, and that he was born in Ireland. This casts great doubt on the accuracy of the family stories of his purported maritime career. John did not appear to have a full-time employer, and worked whenever a job came along. He often worked for the Spring Valley Water Company in San Francisco. The older boys often had jobs, which must have helped the family get by.

It is uncertain when John arrived in the United States, but it was prior to the birth of his first child Stephen about 1866 in California.

About 1865, John married Ann Reynolds in San Francisco. Ann was born in Yorkshire, Leeds, England about 1835. An obituary states that:

Mrs. McFall came to California in 1849, having sailed around the Horn. . . [She] witnessed all of the history-making days of the gold rush.”

On the other hand, the 1910 census reports that she immigrated in 1854. In that year, the construction of the Panama Railroad would have made coming over the Isthmus of Panama much easier than sailing around the Horn.

John McFall died at age 74, on June 27, 1907, in an almshouse in San Francisco. His widow Ann lived with her daughter Della. Ann died at age 86 on August 20, 1921, in San Francisco.

Both John and Ann were buried in Holy Cross Cemetery, a Catholic cemetery in Colma, a suburb of San Francisco. The McFall graves are not easily located. John is buried in an old section of the cemetery, where there are no grave markers of any sort. Ann and her son Joseph are buried in a newer section, where many of the graves have monuments, but Ann’s is identified only by code letters on a small

marker. The cemetery is very well maintained today, and has good records. But it previously suffered from years of neglect, during which many stones may have been lost.



Holy Cross Cemetery, Colma, California

—Lee Kenyon photos

Left: Oldest part of the cemetery, where John McFall is buried. There are no individual stones. Right: Location of the grave of Ann McFall. There is no stone for her.

Children of John and Ann McFall

John and Ann had nine children:

1. **Stephen McFall** was born about 1866 and died of TB at about age 41 on Jan 31, 1907 in San Francisco. He was married some time after the 1900 census. His wife, whose name is unknown, survived him.

2. **Mary McFall** Was born Nov 14, 1867, in San Francisco. About 1903 she married **John Leonard "Len" Scheu**, son of Leonhard and Phillippena (Koch) Scheu. Len was born Sep 24, 1865 and died at age 67 in San Francisco on Feb 28, 1933. Mary died at age 89 in San Francisco on July 1, 1957. She was buried alongside of her husband in Cypress Lawn Memorial Park in Colma, just south of San Francisco. For complete information on the above family see Chapter 5, of "Koch Family" on this website. The chapter is titled "Leonhard and Phillippena (Koch) Scheu".

3. **Teresa McFall** was born about 1870 and is last found in the 1880 census. She could have married, but we found no information.

4. **Sarah "Sadie" McFall** was born about 1872 in San Francisco. In 1898 she married **Louis William Anderson**, who was born May 1867 in Denmark, and immigrated in 1870. As of the 1900 census, they had had only one child, who was then deceased. Sarah died in San Francisco at age 36 on Jan 3, 1908. We do not know what happened to William Anderson.

5. **Joseph McFall** Joseph was born Jul 2, 1872 in San Francisco. He first married Sophie (last name unknown) about 1899. It appears that the marriage was a disaster (see the Sources section, page 5).

A family story told by both his niece Melba Hose and his nephew Leonard Scheu, relates that somewhat late in life Joseph married "**Jennie**" (maiden name unknown), the proprietor of a candy and ice cream store on 10th Avenue in the Sunset district of San Francisco. His niece Melba Scheu and her friends liked to visit it. The story says that when Joe and Jennie divorced, *she* paid him alimony. It was claimed that this was the first such case in San Francisco history.

Joseph died at age 67 on November 4, 1939. He is buried in Holy Cross Memorial Park in Colma, California.

6. **Thomas McFall** was born March 17, 1876, the twin of Della. He died at an unknown date after the 1900 census.

7. **Della McFall** Della was born Mar 17, 1876 in San Francisco. She was the twin of Thomas. Della died at age 77 on Dec 27, 1953 in San Francisco. No details have been found of Della's first marriage, but it occurred sometime between 1900 and 1904, and there was one child who was deceased by 1910.

About 1904 Della married **Frank J. Huebsch**. Frank owned the Metropolitan Laundry in San Francisco. Frank and Della lived at 1314 7th Ave near Golden Gate Park. They did not have any children. They were divorced after 1920.

Frank was named Franz J. Huebsch Jr. by his parents. He was born Dec 13, 1872 in Wisconsin, the son of Franz and Eva (Schneider) Huebsch. About 1897, Frank married "Lulu" (maiden name unknown). They did not have children.

About 1924, after his divorce from Della, Frank married his third wife **Hope Butzbach**, who was born June 26 1895 in San Francisco She was 19 years younger than Frank. Frank died at age 71 on August 27, 1944 in San Francisco. Hope died at age 78 on September 11, 1973, in San Mateo County. Frank and Hope had three children:

1. **Leah J. Huebsch**, born about 1924 in San Francisco
2. **Frank B. Huebsch**, born about 1926 in San Francisco
3. **Lewis A. Huebsch**, born about 1932 in San Francisco

8. **Name unknown** Died in infancy sometime between 1880 and 1900.

9. **Name unknown** Died in infancy sometime between 1880 and 1900.

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to my daughter Beth Kenyon for her 1988 oral history interview of the late Leonard Scheu, which provided details that would otherwise not be known. Leonard's sister, the late Melba Hose, shared her recollections of Joseph McFall. My son, Lee Kenyon located the gravesites of John and Ann McFall at Holy Cross Cemetery in Colma, and took photographs for me. The newspaper obituaries were copied for me at the California State Library by Mary Inglis Sims and Margaret Posehn.

Sources

Abbreviations such as C1, F1, etc refer to items in the Bibliography, page 6.

John and Ann (Reynolds) McFall

Birth date of John: Sources vary:

1880 Census C1: Age 50 (b abt 1830).

1900 Census C2: b Mar 1830.

Cemetery record Cem1: Age 74; b abt 1833.

We think the two earliest records are most likely to be correct. Country of birth from census.

John's Immigration: First found in the city directory in 1865. The year 1870 from the

1900 census C2 is wrong because his oldest child Stephen was born in CA about 1866.

Marriage to Ann: N1, N2, Ce1, Ce2.

Death of John: N1, Cem1.

Occupation: Dir1, C1, C2, N1.

Birth of Ann: Sources vary greatly:

1880 Census C1: Age 34, b abt 1846

1900 census: C2: Apr 1850.

1910 census C3: Age 76, b abt 1834.

1920 census C4: Age 67 [sic], b abt 1853.

Cemetery record: Age 86. b abt 1835.

We think the cemetery record is the most reliable. Ann was illiterate, and could have

been at a disadvantage providing information to the census-taker.

Ann's maiden name: F1. The CA death index D6 for daughter Della Huebsch also gives her mother's maiden name.

Ann's immigration: 1854 from census C3. 1870 from Census C2 is wrong because the oldest child Stephen was born in CA about 1866. The country of birth is always England in the censuses.

Death of Ann: Cemetery record Cem1. Obituary N2.

Stephen McFall

Birth: Census 1880 C1, 1900 C2.

Death: Died of TB: F1. Death date and marital status from from D5, San Francisco Funeral Home Records, online at FamilySearch.org.

Mary (McFall) Scheu

See "Children of Leonard Scheu" in Chapter 6 of Koch Families on this website for full biographical detail and sources.

Teresa McFall

Birth: Census 1800 C1.

Death: Died young: F1. Not found after 1880 census.

Sarah (McFall) Anderson

Birth of Sarah: Year estimated from age in 1880 census C1.

Marriage to William Anderson: N3 and 1900 census C2.

Birth date of William Anderson: 1900 Census C2 (Sarah and the unemployed William are living with her parents).

Death of Sarah: CA death Index D2.

Death of William Anderson: The name is too common to conclusively identify him after Sarah's death.

Child of Sarah and William: One child, not living, per 1900 census C2.

Joseph McFall

Joseph's birth: 1880 Census C1, WW 1 Draft Registration card D3.

First marriage: Little is conclusively known. Joseph appears twice in the 1900 census. In C2, enumerated Jun 9, he is single and living with his parents. In C8, enumerated Jun 9, he is married to Sophie, born Jun 1882 in NY. They have been married 1 year and have no

children. In C2, enumerated Jun 8, he is single and living with his parents! His birthplace, and that of his parents, is the same in both censuses. In the 2006 draft of the present document, there is an account of this marriage that reads:

A son was born June 6, 1902. According to newspaper accounts, the marriage was a disaster. Sophie filed for divorce in June 1902, charging "cruelty". Joseph filed a cross complaint, denying that he ever treated her cruelly, and charging that she made a wreck of his life by her actions. He stated that in December 1902, when he was absent from California, she sold their household furniture and placed their two children in an institution for orphans. He claimed that when he returned and they resumed housekeeping, she so neglected her youngest child that it died. He further charged that after he went to bed, he could not sleep because of his wife's singing. At a hearing on January 27, 1904, he charged that his wife was guilty of misconduct with Special Officer Herman H. Helbush. Joseph and Sophie divorced.

I cannot find any record of the source of this story, and thus I cannot check it against the source. I am not convinced that it is accurate.

Second marriage of Joseph: Wife's first name "Jenny" from F1, F2, F3. City directories Dir2 and Dir3 show a Janet/Jeanette McFall, confectioner. Dir2, and S4 show her spouse as Joseph McFall (abbreviated "Jos" in the directories).

Jenny's candy store: F2, F3.

Visit of Melba Scheu to Candy store: F2, F3.

Death of Joseph: Cem 1.

Thomas McFall

Birth: He was the twin of Della, whose full birth date we used.

Death: Not found after the 1900 census C2.

Della McFall

Birth date of Della: CA Death Index, D6.

Death date of Della: CA Death Index D6, obituary N4.

First marriage of Della: Nothing known except that in 1910, while married to Frank Huebsch, the census C3 reports that it was her second marriage, and that she had had one child, who was not living.

Second marriage to Frank Huebsch: Census 1910 C3 and 1920 C4.

Birth of Frank Huebsch: Birth date and mother's maiden name from CA Death Index D7, and Wisconsin Birth and Death Index D8.

First marriage of Frank Huebsch: 1900 census C5.

Death of Frank's third wife: CA Death Index, Hope L. Huebsch, SSN 551-52-8494.

Third Marriage of Frank Huebsch: 1930 census C6.

Death of Hope Huebsch: CA Death Index C9.

Death of Frank Heubsch: CA Death Index D7.

Two children, names unknown: According to the 1900 census C2, Ann had had two children who were no longer living. They were born after the 1880 census C1.

Bibliography

Census Records

C1 1880 CA, San Francisco City and Co, ED 168, p 295A, family of "Jno. McFall".

C2 1900 CA, San Francisco City and Co, ED 142, p 9A, family of John McFall.

C3 1910 CA, San Francisco City and Co, ED 173, p 7A family of Frank Huebsch.

C4 1920 CA, San Francisco City and Co, ED 343 p 8A, family of Frank Huebsch.

C5 1900 CA, San Francisco City and County, ED 25, p 10b, family of Frank J. Huebsch.

C6 1930, CA, San Francisco, CA, ED 93, p 19A, Family of Frank Huebsch, spouse Hope.

C7 1940 CA, San Francisco, ED 38-330, p 67A, family of Frank J. Huebsch.

C8 1900 CA, San Francisco City and Co, ED38, p 12B

Cemetery Records

Cem1 Records of Holy Cross Cemetery, held by the Catholic Cemetery Association, Archdiocese of San Francisco.

Documents

D1 CA Death Index for Della Huebsch.

D2 CA Death Index for Sadie F. Anderson.

D3 WW1 draft registration card for Joseph McFall, online at ancestry.com.

D4 San Francisco funeral home records for John McFall, online at familysearch.com.

D5 San Francisco funeral home records for Stephen Mcfaul [sic] online at familysearch.org.

D6 CA Death Index for Della Huebsch.

D7 CA Death Index for Frank Huebsch, SSN 551-52-8494.

D8 Wisconsin Birth and Christenings Index, Franz Huebsch, online at ancestry.com.

D9 CA Death Index, Hope L. Huebsch, SSN 551-52-8494.

City Directories

Dir1 San Francisco city directories, accessed at the Sherman Library, Corona Del Mar, CA: 1865, 1869, 1871, 1875, 1885, 1880-1891, 1895 1905. Today, these should be online at ancestry.com.

Dir2 San Francisco City Directory 1923, Jos A McFall, spouse Jeanette, confectioner.

Dir3: San Francisco City Directory 1925, for Janet McFall, confectioner.

Dir4: San Francisco City Directory 1931 for Janet McFall, spouse Jos Mc Fall.

Family sources in author's collection:

F1 Oral history interview of Leonard Scheu by Beth S. Kenyon, Jan 18, 1988, taped and transcribed by her. Copy in my collection.

F2 Interview of Melba Hose by Beth and Lee Kenyon Nov 27, 1998. Copy in my collection.

F3 Interview of Melba Hose by Richard and Nancy Kenyon, Oct 25, 1998. Copy in my collection.

Newspaper articles

N1 Obituary of John McFall, *San Francisco Examiner*, Aug 1, 1907. P 6.

N2 Obituary of Ann McFall: *San Francisco Examiner*, Aug 21, 1921.

N3 "San Francisco Call Database", an online genealogical index to the *San Francisco Call*: Anderson, Louis William, married in 1898 to McFall, Sadie".

N4: Obituary of Della Huebsch, undated newspaper clipping from an unidentified paper, probably the *San Francisco Examiner*.

N5 Obituary of John McFall, *San Francisco Examiner*, Aug 1, 1907, p 6.