#### THE WILLIAM DAVID AND ARENA McCOMBS FAMILY

# By Clarence Crocker

William David McCombs, the son of William and Elizabeth Margaret Harrison McCombs, was born in North Carolina about 1810. He married a lady named Arena (Irene) and they became the parents of at least ten children. Family histories tell us that the McCombs were part Native American Indian. The 1840 census listed him as being 30 years of age with one son and one daughter under the age of 5.

# The 1850 Rutherford County/Floyd Creek, N. C. Census listed the household as;

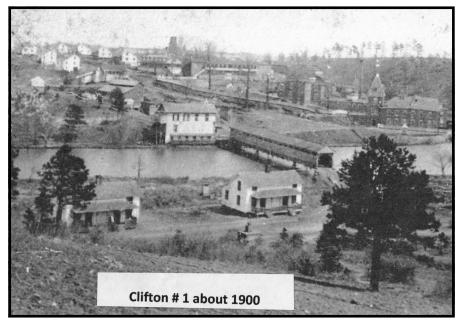
William McCombs 33, husband/farmer Wife; Arena 33

Children;

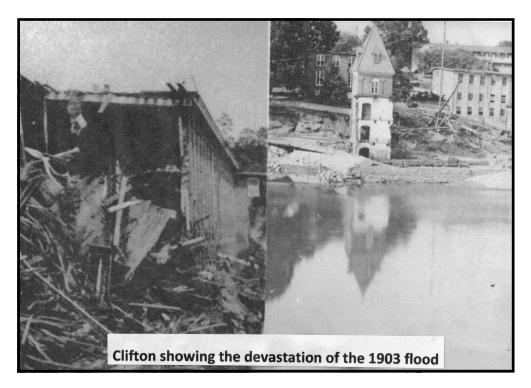
Julia 13 Lucretia 10 Benson 8 Nancy 5 Amanda 2 Caroline 1

Randy McCombs who is not listed in the 1850 census died at the age of 2 years, 2 months on July 1, 1852. Amanda McCombs died at the age of 4 years, 2 months on July 6, 1852. Both were buried in the Clifton Cemetery.

According to the census records, William and Arena McCombs and all but their two last children were born in North Carolina. In gathering family history, my brother, Paul Crocker, was told by George W. McCombs (our Grandfather) that the family moved into the Hurricane Shoals area of South Carolina where they farmed for a number of years. Hurricane Shoals was located on the Pacolet River and bore that name until the first cotton mill was built. The name is believed to have derived from the swift shoals in the river which runs through the heart of the village.



The Clifton No. 1 mill was built in 1880 in Hurricane Shoals by the D.E. Converse Co with headquarters in Glendale, S. C. and the name was changed to Clifton, S. C. It was estimated that the area had less than two hundred residents at the time. Our Grandfather George told us how he traveled by buggy into North Carolina, recruiting workers for the mill. On June 6, 1903, a terrible swift flood swept through the area claiming the lives of 60-70 residents, sweeping away dozens of homes and a large, if not the largest portion of the mills.



With the children working in the Clifton and Glendale Mills, some becoming overseers and with some marrying local residents, the McCombs family thrived in the area over the next 100 plus years.

Though names and ages vary greatly in census records, I have tried to copy them as recorded, showing grave marker names and dates for accuracy where possible. Asterisks indicate further information regarding the individual follows.

#### The 1860 Bivingsville Census listed the household as;

William McCombs 50, husband, farmer. Wife; Arena 45 Children;

\*Nancy 16 \*Benson 14 George 7 Arkansas 5
Julia McCombs Smith, 20, daughter Perry L. Smith, 20, son in-law
Lucretia (Lou) McCombs, born August 1, 1841, had already married and moved.

### The 1870 Bivingsville Census listed the household as;

William McCombs, 62, husband/farmer

Children;

George McCombs 17 Arkansas McCombs 15
Julia Ann McCombs Smith 32 Jim Bolling 24, son in-law
Nancy McCombs Bolling 24 James Allen 6, grandson.

'Wife; Arena 56

Ella Smith 8, granddaughter

# The 1880 Spartanburg County/White Plains Census listed the household as;

William McCombs 72, husband. Wife; Arena 70.

Daughter;

\*Arkansas McCombs Holland 25 John Holland 26, son in-law

Orry Holland 2, granddaughter.

Since Grandpa George never indicated that his father William ever left his farm in Hurricane Shoals/White Plains area, I can only assume that he gave his census enumeration in Bivingsville for convenience and did not indicate where he lived.

William D. McCombs died at the age of 82 on January 15, 1892 and was buried in the Clifton Cemetery.

<u>Arena (Irene) McCombs died</u> and was buried in the Clifton Cemetery. No dates available. No markers for either have been found.

Their son, George, said that they were living in a small log cabin near their daughter Lucretia and her husband, John Calvin Thompson, when they died. John H. Thompson, Lucretia's son, told my brother Paul that Arena was a small woman and that she went blind before death and William would read the Bible to her.

### The Family of Benson McCombs, son of William and Arena McCombs.

#### The 1870 Bivingsville Census listed the household as;

Benson McCombs 24, husband/cotton carder Wife; Mary 22

Children:

Ida 3 James 2 Lucretia McCombs Allen 28, sister

The 1880 Glendale Census listed the household as:

Benson McCombs 37, textile worker Wife; Mary 34

Children;

Ida 14 Emma 8 Susan 7 Mollie 4 Carrie 2

Benson had two children to die while at Glendale and they were buried in the old Glendale

Methodist Cemetery.

Laura McCombs, birth illegible, died July 3, 1870. James W. McCombs, born September 1, 1868 died May 31, 1876.

The Family of Nancy McCombs Bolling, daughter of William and Arena McCombs
The 1900 Glendale Census shows that Nancy had been married to J.R. (Jimmy) Bolling 30 years and that they were the parents of five children, four living. None were listed. They were 53 years old and J.R. was listed as a picker machine operator. (textile)

Nancy is buried in the old Glendale Cemetery at the side of the old Methodist Church.

The Family of Arkansas McCombs Holland, daughter of William and Arena McCombs

Arkansas McCombs married Julius Holland from North Carolina

The 1880 White Plains Census showed them living with her Father, William McCombs.

Julius Holland 26, husband, farmer

Wife; Arkansas 25

<u>The 1900 Rutherford County, North Carolina Census</u> showed they had been married 23 years and were the parents of 6 children, five living.

The household was listed as:

Julius A. Holland 45, born August 1853, watchman

Children:

John C. 19, born August 1880

\*Curtis P. 14, born May 1886

Wife; Mary A. 44, born May 1856

Frank O. 16, born October 1873 Cora B. 12, born May 1888

<u>The 1920 Crowder Mtn. Cleveland County Census</u> listed the household as; Julius A. Holland 66, widow, farmer living alone. (No record of death was found.)

\*Curtis P Holland became a Minster and served as Pastor of the Glendale Baptist Church. For more information click **Rev. Curtis P. Holland.** 

Histories of other William and Arena McCombs children are forthcoming.

Federal Census and Spartanburg Herald Journal obituaries, courtesy of Spartanburg Country Library.

William D. and Arena McCombs were this writer's great grandparents.

Clarence E. Crocker, July 2012