

McNicol-Galbreath Divorce

Mary Catherine Galbreath had two husbands; the first was Henry McNicol, by whom she had a daughter Claribel (in older documents Clara Belle); it was this first husband who “done her wrong.” Oct 14th 1857 GC Miller says “*Mr. H. McNichol left his wife June 5th and has acted like a demon ever since & this day his abused wife has been persuaded to try him again on his naked promise to do better which I fear will not stand good longer than spring*”¹.

By 1860 Mary Catherine was back in her mother's home with her daughter. The second husband was of course Herman Duhme; by him she had an additional four children; Charlotte, "Fritzie," Harvey, and Albert. "Fritzie" and Harvey died in childhood, and Albert never married; he died in Tiburon CA in 1958. Mary Catherine was an early feminist, attending the lectures of Lucretia Mott, Carrie Chapman Catt and so on; and she sent her daughters to the Friend's School in Rhode Island (many of the early feminists as well as early abolitionists were Quakers) but there is no reason to suppose that she actually hated men and Herman apparently footed the bill for what was almost surely a "blue-stockings" schooling. It is possible that she was merely aware of the legal and economic disabilities faced by women of her time and class. There may have been other factors, note the will of her mother Nancy Cole Galbreath.

The daughter of Mary Catherine's first marriage, Claribel McNicol, was raised by Herman Duhme as his own daughter. About 1890 she married Franklin Ives, who was the brother of Marvin Allen Ives who (of course) much later married Charlotte Duhme Eustis. They had at least two sons; Robert Franklin Ives and Howard Caleb Ives; the widow of the former was an acquaintance of Gran's, who was at her wedding. There is at least one descendant of Claribel's still living in Cincinnati.

¹Journal of George Carter Miller - manuscript in the possession of the Cincinnati Historical Society. .

ABSTRACT of Records loaned by

Charles Knighton 1-20-1985

Henry McNicoll, twin of Howell McNicol, born 28 Nov 1824 in Cincinnati, d 19 Dec 1893 in Amelia, Clermont Co, OH, buried at Spring Grove Cem, Sec 35, lot 180. m (1) on 19 Mar 1851 to Elizabeth Rice who was born ca 1831 in St Laurence Co, NY, and who died 31 Mar 1854 in Cincinnati; (2) Mary C Galbreath, born 10 Aug 1837, Cincinnati, died 29 May 1906 in Minneapolis, who married second Herman Duhme (3) 27 Jun 1889 at Covington, KY to Elizabeth Meyer Reasoner who was born 8 Jan 1840 in Campbell Co, KY and died 27 Jan 1905 at 1107 Dayton Street, Cincinnati.

Henry McNicol's children were: Henry McNicol Jr, who was born 21 June 1852 in Cincinnati and who died 3 April 1853; Clara Belle McNicol Duhme who was born ca 1857 in Cincinnati and who died Jan 1941- married Franklin Ives; William H R McNicol who was born ca 1862 in Cincinnati and who died 18 May 1893 aged 31; Margaret Catherine McNicol who was born 10 Sept 1876 in Cincinnati, was living in Amelia, Clermont Co in 1893 and who married George D Ruoff, died a widow in Santa Fe, NM, and is buried in the McNicol plot in Spring Grove Cemetery, Section 35 lot 180. It is C K's belief that this is a daughter of Elizabeth Reasoner tho the marriage was much later.

#24432 Action for Divorce filed 31 March 1863 (Henry McNicol v. Mary C McNicol) decree for defendant for divorce and alimony 19 Jun 1863 (Min 35 p 104) Cincinnati Abstract Co from the original burned in a courthouse fire 29 Mar 1884-

Henry McNicol served as a captain in Co. B, 2nd Regiment (aka Merrill's Horse)- Served from 9 Sep 1861 to 22 Jun 1862; also Co "I", 2nd Ohio Infantry Volunteers April-Aug 1861

Declaration for invalid pension on 10 Jun 1891, then a resident of Dayton, Campbell Co, KY; described as 66 years old, 5'8"; fair complexion, hair grey, eyes blue.

Suffering from rheumatism and partial deafness- occ- prop of livery stable.

Affidavit of John Nichols, age 34 (dated 7 Nov 1895) that Henry McNicol's estate is insolvent, that he is the attorney for one of the daughters of the decedent and for his executrix, that the widow will get nothing from the estate, that Henry McNicol was the owner of a life estate from his father Peter McNicol in property at the Southwest corner of 5th and Walnut Streets in Cincinnati and that said property by the terms of the latter's will went to "heirs of the body." Elizabeth was at the time of Henry McNicol's death the owner of a house & lot in Dayton, KY. Said property was heavily mortgaged and was sold to pay off those mortgages. Proceeds after payment of debts was \$200.

Elizabeth Reasoner states in her application for widow's pension that she was divorced from husband S P Reasoner in 1889, a short time before she married Henry McNicol.

Margaret Catherine McNicol Ruoff's share of her father's estate was contested by Franklin and Claribel Ives on the grounds that her parents were not married when she was born. After a long and bitter fight the court ruled that Mrs. Ruoff's legitimacy was established when her parents did marry.