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SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

THE FIGHTING McCOOKS
"The Tribe of Dan"
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Fifteen members of the McCook family served the Union forces during the Civil War. The oldest was Daniel McCook. He was born in 1798 in Cannonsburg, Pennsylvania. He moved his family to New Lisbon, Ohio in 1826. When the war started he was a sixty-three year old lawyer living with his family in Carrollton, Ohio. He had ten sons, and the eight who were still living at the start of the Civil War all volunteered for military service. Daniel's brother John McCook was an Ohio doctor who volunteered as a surgeon with the Union Army. John McCook had five sons. All five of them served as Union officers.

Daniel McCook and his eight sons were referred to as the "Tribe of Dan". John McCook and his five sons were referred to as the "Tribe of John". Four of Daniel's eight sons became generals during the war and two of John's five sons became generals.

Before the Civil War started Daniel McCook had practiced law with Lincoln's Secretary of War Edwin Stanton. During the War Daniel held the rank of major and served as a paymaster. His eldest son, Latimer A. McCook (1820 - 1869), received a medical degree from Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia. He entered the 31st Illinois Volunteers as an assistant surgeon and later became surgeon with the rank of major. He was wounded twice during the war once at Vicksburg and once during Sherman's march to the sea.

George Wythe McCook (1821-1877) the second son of Daniel McCook graduated from Ohio University and studied law with Edwin Stanton and was Stanton's law partner at one time in Steubenville, Ohio. He served in the Mexican War, and was the attorney general of the State of Ohio before the Civil War. He was offered a commission as a brigadier general in the Ohio militia, but turned it down because of poor health. But, he recruited and trained Ohio regiments. In 1871 he was the Democratic candidate for governor of Ohio but his health broke and he had to abandon the campaign.

John James McCook (1823- 1842), the third son of Daniel McCook, was educated at the United States Naval Academy. While serving as a midshipman on the United States frigate "Delaware" off the coast of South America, he became ill with the fever and died. He is buried in the English burying grounds at Rio de Janeiro.

Robert Latimer McCook (1827- 1862) the fourth son of Daniel McCook, started the war as a colonel in command of the 9th Ohio known as the German Turner regiment. He was a favorite among his men even though he spoke very little German. His unit served with General McClellan in western Virginia at the start of the war. He was wounded in the leg and had his horse shot from under him at Mill Springs, Kentucky in January, 1862. He refused to leave the field of battle for treatment and later that same day led a counter charge against the confederates. He was promoted to brigadier general. While recuperating from his wounds he commanded from an ambulance. While his escort was reconnoitering, confederate guerrillas overturned his ambulance and killed him in cold blood on August 6, 1862 near Salem, Alabama. Members of the 9th Ohio took revenge, hanging several locals and destroying their homes. General McCook's father, Major Daniel McCook, was killed in southern Ohio on July 21, 1863 at the Battle of Buffington Island leading a scouting party looking for a member of confederate Gen. John Hunt Morgan's raiding party which he had been told was responsible for the murder of his son.

Alexander McDowell McCook (1831 - 1903), the fifth son of Daniel McCook, graduated from West Point in 1852. He had been a 1st Lt. since 1858, but when the war started he was made colonel of the 1st Ohio Regiment. He served at First Bull Run, and became a brigadier general in September, 1861. He was made a major general following the Battle of Shiloh. He saw action at Corinth, Stones River, and at Chickamauga commanded the XX Corps. He continued his military career after the Civil War and retired from the regular army as a major general in 1895.

Daniel McCook, Jr. (1834 - 1864), the sixth son of Daniel McCook, was the law partner of Thomas Ewing and William T. Sherman in Leavenworth, Kansas before the war. When the war started their law office closed and all three members of the law firm became generals before the war was over. He was in the Shiloh campaign and became colonel of the 52nd Ohio Regiment in 1862. General Sherman let him led the attack on Kennesaw Mountain. He was wounded during the attack. He was promoted to brigadier general on July 16, 1864 and died from his wounds the next day.

Edwin Stanton McCook (1837 - 1873), the seventh son of Daniel McCook, graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1856. When the Civil War started he recruited a company and joined the 31st Illinois Volunteers, of which his friend John A. Logan was the colonel. He was at Vicksburg, Chattanooga, and participated in the Atlanta campaign, and marched to the sea with General Sherman. He was brevetted a brigadier general in the volunteers. He was wounded three times during the war. He was assassinated on September 11, 1873 while making a speech as the acting Governor of the Dakota Territory.

Charles Morris McCook (1843 -1861), the eight son of Daniel McCook. He was offered a commission as a first lieutenant in the army by Secretary of War Edwin Stanton, but turned it down and enlisted as a private in the 2nd Ohio Volunteers. He was killed in front of his father following the First Battle of Bull Run. He passed a field hospital and saw his father, who had volunteered as a nurse, at work among the wounded, and stopped to assist him. When he started to rejoin his company he was suddenly surrounded by an officer and several troopers of the famed Black Horse cavalry who demanded his surrender. He shot the officer and was keeping the others at bay with his bayonet. His father called to him to surrender, but he said, "I will never surrender to a rebel". A moment later he was shot down by one of the cavalrymen. His father removed his body from the field and had it returned for burial at Spring Grove Cemetery in Cincinnati, Ohio. That is the location were most of the McCook's are buried.

John J. McCook (1845 - ?) the ninth son of Daniel McCook, enlisted in the 6th Ohio Cavalry at the end of his freshmen year at Kenyon College. He was promoted to first lieutenant on September 12, 1862. He served at Stone River, Chattanooga and Chickamauga. He was with General Grant's forces in the Battle of the Wilderness. He was severely wounded at Shady Grove, Virginia. By the time the war was over he was a colonel. After the war he became a lawyer in New York City.

No family had as many members serve in the Civil War with such distinction as the "Fighting McCooks".

Holidays and other special days http://suvcw.org/ftp/PI_handbook.pdf
National, Federal and Special holidays – Days the Flag should be Flown

Independence Day – July 4 First observed on July 4, 1777

July 4, 1776 is the momentous American date when John Hancock, the President of the Continental Congress, signed the Declaration of Independence. This declaration of sovereignty was a result of many preceding incidences including the Boston Massacre, Townshend Acts, Boston Tea Party, and Battles of Lexington, Concord, and Bunker Hill between the British and the independent minded Americans. In the beginning of 1776, Thomas Paine wrote a pamphlet entitled Common Sense encouraging the independence movement.

On April 12, North Carolina became the first state to instruct its delegates to move towards independence. Other colonies followed suit helped by the strong encouragement of patriots like James Madison and Patrick Henry. In June, Richard Lee of Virginia offered a resolution to dissolve the political connection with Great Britain but it faced opposition still. Nevertheless, the Continental Congress selected a committee to draft a declaration of independence to support Lee's resolution. The committee consisted of John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Robert Livingston, and Roger Sherman. Jefferson was appointed as author.

When the Continental Congress resumed sessions on July 1st, the Declaration of Independence was complete and a test vote was taken. Nine colonies were in favor of the resolution. On July 2, the official Independence vote was taken and twelve colonies supported the notion with New York abstaining. The Declaration of Independence, as written by Jefferson, was approved by Congress on July 4th, 1777. On that same day, it was printed and signed by John Hancock, the President of the Continental Congress, and Charles Thomson, secretary. A few days later, New York cast it's vote in favor of the resolution thus making the independence movement unanimous among the thirteen colonies.

On August 2, the Declaration of Independence was signed by Congress with all but seven delegates signing the document. The remaining seven delegates did eventually sign the document as well.