

## THE WILLIAM DAVID AND ARENA McCOMBS FAMILY

By Clarence Crocker

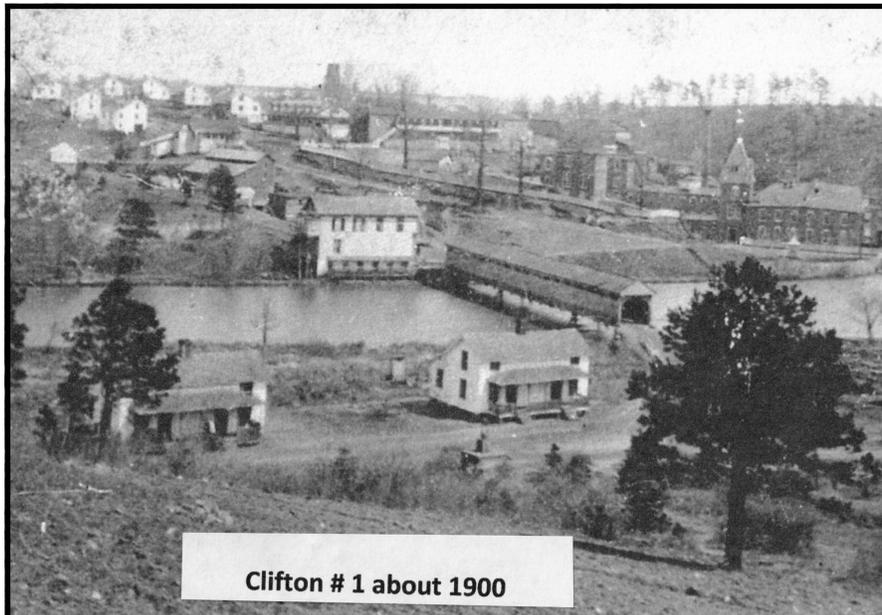
William David McCombs, the son of William and Elizabeth Margaret Harrison McCombs, was born in North Carolina about 1810. He married a lady named Arena (Irene) and they became the parents of at least ten children. Family histories tell us that the McCombs were part Native American Indian. The 1840 census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

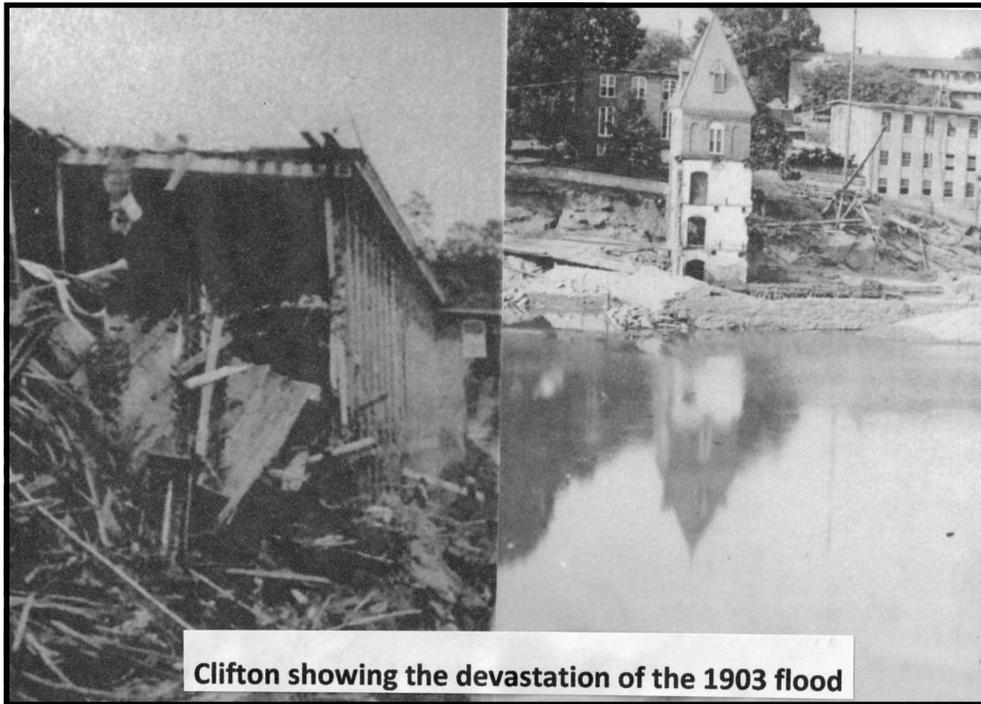
Randy McCombs who is not listed in the 1850 census died at the age of 2 years, 2 months on July 1, 1852. Amanda McCombs died at the age of 4 years, 2 months on July 6, 1852. Both were buried in the Clifton Cemetery.

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.



Clifton # 1 about 1900

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.



**Clifton showing the devastation of the 1903 flood**

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	Wife; Arena 56
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.
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.

Arena (Irene) McCombs died 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.

