

# Summary of Biographical Information

## **Matthew John McBird**

(and his children)

Version 2.2 March 2008

Charles O. Brantigan MD  
2253 Downing Street  
Denver, Colorado 80205  
(303) 830 8822

(note that this is a research document and reflects information on file at the time of its creation. Please forward comments, corrections and additions to the author)

Copyright 1996, 2002, 2008

## The McBird House

The Second Empire style of architecture is associated with Denver in the 1870's. This style was most commonly used commercial buildings and was used less commonly in some the larger residences used during this time. Only rarely was it used in smaller residences. Most examples of this style have been demolished, a fate for which the McBird House was scheduled. This small Second Empire building is dominated by a three story tower with a concave mansard roof and bracketed cornice. The lower aspect of the tower has double arch headed double hung windows with one over one lights typical of the body of the house.

The second floor of the rectangular main body of the house is mansarded with dormer windows, flanked by bracketed columns surmounted by gabled pediments. Oddly, the front facade is not mansarded but brick with a decorative cornice. Elaborate corbels provide visual continuity between the body of the house, the body of the tower with their respective mansard roofs.

An ornamental chimney with paneled sides rises through the center of the building. The door facing the street is protected by an entry porch with a balustraded deck above. Windows in the masonry of the tower and first floor show prominent keystones.

A simple flat-roofed single story brick addition, perhaps ten years newer than the house is half tucked behind the tower.

The lofty ceilings combined with tall narrow windows accentuate the verticality of the composition making it distinctive in its context as the original building on its block on Lafayette Street and eventually as the centerpoint of a block of small residences of various ages and charming styles.

The building is listed in the 1986 Historic Building Inventory Record of the Colorado Historical Society Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation and has been approved by the Landmark Commission for listing as a Denver Landmark. The building was moved to its new location at 2225 Downing Street in the summer of 1994, and has been renovated. In its new location it is complemented by the 1883 Gebhard Mansion next door, an elegant building in the Second Empire and Italianate style. The McBird House was designated a Denver Landmark by City Council on 14 June 1993.

## Matthew John McBird

Matthew McBird was a prominent architect who practiced in Denver before records were kept which associated architects with their buildings. During a long and varied career, he practiced architecture in Washington, DC between 1848 and 1858 [conflicts with Carroll County Courthouse date], in Indiana between 1858 and 1869, in the Omaha/Council Bluffs area between 1869 and 1880, and in Denver thereafter. Although details of his career are yet to be determined, traces identified so far suggest that his contributions to the field were significant and that he was a formally trained architect.

MJ McBird's father, Matthew McDonald McBird was a native of Edinburgh, Scotland, where he was educated to be a physician and surgeon, the profession of his father<sup>1</sup>. He was one of seven sons, all of whom were doctors. He came to America in 1808 and in the War of 1812 acted as assistant surgeon<sup>2</sup>. He married Elisabeth Lockwood, descendant of Theopilus Lockwood, a participant in the Revolutionary War, in 1814. They settled in Utica where he practiced medicine for 18 months and then moved to Manchester, Oneida County, New York where he continued his practice until 23 March 1820 when he died of brain fever at the age of 44 years. Matthew and Elizabeth had 3 children, Mary Ellen, who died in June 1818 at the age of 3 years and 3 months, Matthew John McBird, born 28 June 1818 in Manchester, Oneida County New York<sup>3</sup> and an infant boy who died shortly after birth and four months after his father's death.<sup>4</sup>

Shortly after the death of her husband, Elizabeth, Matthew and Elizabeth's sister Hannah Lockwood moved into part of a house owned and occupied by a family by the name of Semore<sup>5</sup>. Early in the Spring of 1822 Elizabeth married Hazen Shepard, and soon after, the new family moved into a country house near Whitestown<sup>6</sup> owned and occupied by a family by the name of Abbot. There they remained until summer of 1822.

---

<sup>1</sup>. He is an elusive character. The Medical Society of New York has no record of him. The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh can't find him and neither can the University. He is not listed in *Indexes to Warrants Issued Under Acts of 1812, 1814, and 1842* or *Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers who Served During the War of 1812*. The *Post Office Annual Directory* in the early 1800's lists T Bird, Professor of music at 7 Shakespeare Square and Mrs Bird, letting out furnished lodgings, Tivot Row. *A Medical Register for 1779-80*, Scottish section lists no Mc, Mac Bird or Bird. There is a Wm Bird listed in Essex.

<sup>2</sup>. Note that the University of Edinburgh and the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, both of whom have records that date back that far have no records of Birds or McBirds who could be members of this family. The suggestion has been made that the name may have been McBride, but there are no McBrides in that time period either. In addition no federal military records are available. Brown's book on the Medical Department of the US Army covering that time period has no listing, indicating that he was not in the regular army.

<sup>3</sup>. Matthew J McBird's death certificate says he was born in Pennsylvania and his autobiography says New York. It also gives the date of birth as 25 June and some additional conflicting information.

<sup>4</sup>. This paragraph and the next are paraphrased from MJ McBird's autobiography. It is an interesting document in two parts, both incomplete. It is written on Civil War military forms, and the two parts are in two different handwritings.

<sup>5</sup>. There is supposed to be a guardianship record in Oneida County for Matthew J Mcbird, but we have not found it. Barber's Oneida County Abstract of wills 1798-1848 doesn't list it.

<sup>6</sup>. This is all complicated geography. I began the search in Oneida County where there were no records that early. The suggestion was made that Manchester was in Ontario County. Records there are complete and there is no record of the McBirds or Hazen Shepherd. There is a record from French's 1860 Gazetteer indicating that Manchester was part of the town of Kirkland in Oneida County and that Whitestown was also in Oneida County. This led back to the Oneida County Historical Society.

The Shepards occupied the front of the house and the Abbots the rear. Elizabeth took Matthew to Sunday services at the Presbyterian Church. Matthew disliked "church confinement." Father Shepard secured a horse and wagon, packed the household goods and started on the long journey to Erie County, Pennsylvania, where he purchased land in 1823. Note that Whitestown was located on the Erie Canal.

What little exists of Matthew's autobiography is a wealth of detail, and even includes a drawing of Semore's house:

"The first that I remember was the death of my infant brother, perhaps not a day old. I was then two years of age. It was the summer of 1820. We lived in Oneida County in the State of New York where I was born. An old lady by the name of Mrs. Genis was there taking care of mother. Some of the neighboring men brought in the little coffin, placed it on the table and put the baby in. Then I remember Mrs. Genis helping me up to see the baby in the coffin. The coffin was then tied in a handkerchief and a man carried it to the grave which was in the corner of a field a short distance from the house and a woman carried me. I remember I was much addicted to running away from home and mother would tie me to the bedstead to keep me home...."

Matthew McBird stayed with his new family until at least 1830, but was not living with them in 1840.<sup>7</sup> Elizabeth and Hazen presumably had 2 daughters.<sup>8</sup> From Hazen Shepards Last Will and Testament it appears that their names were Mary Eleanor (married name not readable) and Harriet Elizabeth Middleton, both included in the 1850 census. Granddaughters are mentioned in his will but not named. When the will was signed on 2 July 1862, Matthew McBird was considered a resident of Amity Township. Further documents supporting the will list McBird as a resident of Indiana in October 1862, and he is listed in the 1860 census in Logansport, Indiana.

We have no further information about his childhood after the family moved to Pennsylvania. Nothing is known about his training as an architect. He married Mary M Noah on 2 November 1852 in Cuyahoga County, Ohio<sup>9</sup>. [She had been born in Nelson, Portage County, Ohio in 1829 and died in March 1870 according to the affidavit of Sylvia Noah 2 February 1883 or after August 1870 the month during which the census was enumerated in Council Bluffs, Iowa, or in 1879 according to the affidavit of Mary Titus in the Herian trial.] They had five children, Viola (or Laura) born in 1855 in Washington, DC<sup>10</sup>, Orville W, who died 25 February 1859 in Brownstown, Indiana<sup>11</sup>, a subdivision of Logansport<sup>12</sup>, Mary D, born August 1862, William N, born in September

---

<sup>7</sup>. Listed in 1830 census but not 1840 or 1850 census.

<sup>8</sup>. Two free white females under 10 years of age listed in 1830 census.

<sup>9</sup>. Marriage records of Cuyahoga County, Ohio. FHL film 877 913 vol 5 p 240

<sup>10</sup>. Arthington papers report she was born in Washington, D.C. Birth records were not kept there until 1874. M Bird, engineer was listed in the Washington Directory for 1855.

<sup>11</sup>. There is a newspaper death notice which appears to be from the Logansport Democrat Pharos documenting the death. News of Marion County is noted as well. The Arthington papers also contain minutes in about 1864 from the Executive Committee of something in Logansport where Mrs MJ McBird represented Brownstown. Other place names in the minutes included Bridge St, a canal, West Logan and Taberville.

<sup>12</sup>. Mary Stuart confirms the there was a Brownstown subdivision of Logansport at that time.

1864 and M Lockwood, born in 1869. Census records are consistent in reporting that all of the children except Mary were born in Indiana. Orville does not appear in the census.

Matthew McBird lived in Washington, DC from 1848-1858 and moved to the Brownstown area of Logansport, Indiana in 1858<sup>13</sup>. This is in conflict with the Carroll County Commissioners minutes which reports that he was from Logansport, Cass County, Indiana in 1855 when he contracted to build their court house. He is not in the 1850 census for Washington, D.C. under McBird or MacBird. He is also not listed in the appropriate Washington Directories unless it is the M Bird listing in 1855. It seems likely that he was associated with the Office of Supervising Architects of the Treasury, as many architects of public buildings got their start in that office.<sup>14</sup>

The McBirds lived in Indiana for at least 10 years and he was active as an architect. He exhibited architectural drawings to the enjoyment of all at the state fair in 1865<sup>15</sup>, and with most of the rest of the world submitted plans for a bridge to go from the end of 3rd St to Biddles Island in Logansport in the event that a contract could not be had for a "Howe Truss" bridge. What was eventually built there is undetermined. He advertised that his office was in Green's building above the canal in Logansport in 1855<sup>16</sup>. In 1858 McBird was in partnership with attorney Thomas J Forrest in a patent and land agency with offices over Cannon's Drug Store at 306 1/2 4th St in Logansport. It is noted that one of the two of them had been active in patents in Washington, DC but the only listing for Forrest is as the proprietor of a boot and shoe store<sup>17</sup>. This is the same year that M Bird is listed as an engineer.

### Carroll County Courthouse



Drawing of Carroll County Courthouse from Helm

He designed the second Carroll County Courthouse in Delphi, Indiana in 1855<sup>18</sup>. The first had been built in 1836<sup>19</sup>. McBird's Carroll County Courthouse was a large building with elaborate specifications. McBird's design was selected from among several submitted to the County Commissioners after a local architect had examined courthouses in surrounding counties. This suggests that he built other court houses, but if so they have not yet been identified. The building had a stone foundation but was predominantly

<sup>13</sup>. *Arthington Papers* p 3602-3 copy provided by Blanche Simmons.

<sup>14</sup>. Tony Wrenn of American Institute of Architects suggests that he may have been part of the Office of the Supervising Architects of the Treasury, as it is in this office that many builders of public buildings in the mid Nineteenth Century got their start.

<sup>15</sup>. *Logansport Journal* 30 Sep 1865 p3c2

<sup>16</sup>. *Logansport Democrat Pharos* 26 Dec 1855.

<sup>17</sup>. After a gap Thomas H Forrest is listed in 1860-1872 in the boot store, but it is Thomas H instead of Thomas J.

<sup>18</sup>. There are multiple references to his design in histories of Carroll County and in the County Commissioners minutes.

<sup>19</sup>. Rifner, *Early Architecture of Indiana*, fig 50.

brick. It had two towers in front, one of which contained a clock and a bell. The overall appearance was more like a church than a courthouse. The side elevation featured double arch headed double hung windows similar to those found on the McBird House in Denver. There were two forced air furnaces, one to heat the commons areas on the first floor and the other to heat the court room itself on the second floor. The building served the people of Carroll County well until 1916 when it was torn down to build an even larger neoclassical courthouse which is in use to the present. The size of the building, elaborateness of the design, and the process by which McBird was selected suggests that he was an accomplished architect who had designed other courthouses. (the architect who surveyed the surrounding area court houses was described in the county commissioners minutes as an accomplished architect and was paid \$35 for his efforts.)

The McBirds were active in community affairs, and were involved in farming and lumber production in addition to architecture. Mary McBird was on the Board of Directors of a community organization representing Brownstown<sup>20</sup>. Mary McBird won prizes in the Cass County Fair in 1866 including Second Best Woolen Stockings, Best Bead Work and Second Best Winter Bouquet<sup>21</sup>. In about 1859, just before Orville died, their farm, located 7 miles from Logan in Clay township was for sale. It was a 140 acre farm with an apple orchard and a hewn log house with kitchen. The 1860 Census lists Matthew J McBird, architect, in Elk Township, Cass County, Indiana. In 1864 McBird operated a steam sawmill in Adams township, and it was destroyed by fire on 2 June 1864.<sup>22</sup>

On 11 January 1867 Matthew was appointed guardian of Sylvia Noah, his wife's sister, and applied for pension benefits based on Marion Noah's Civil war service.<sup>23</sup>

While in Indiana, Matthew McBird undoubtedly met David Butler, who was to become the first Governor of Nebraska. He undoubtedly knew DJ and RD Silver well because of their contracting activities and their banking business. There seemed to be some direct conduit between Cass County Indiana and what would become Cass County, Nebraska. Even after leaving Nebraska the Silvers seemed to travel thru time with McBird. Robert D Silver died in Colorado Springs in 1899 and is said to have been a Denver Contractor. There was a mortgage on the McBird house in 1890<sup>24</sup> in the name of RD Silver.

---

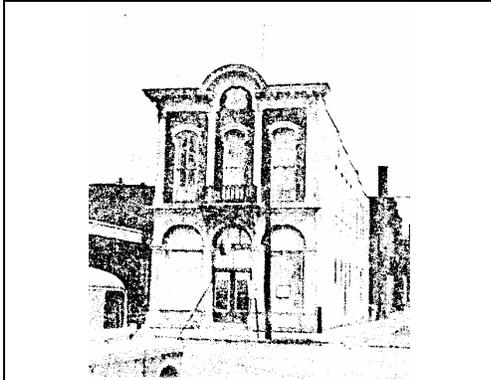
<sup>20</sup>. Arthington papers.

<sup>21</sup>. Arthington papers.

<sup>22</sup>. Arthington papers.

<sup>23</sup>. Marion Noah pension records. Marion Noah was also Mary's brother. He died of a gun shot wound in Richmond, Virginia on 18 June 1864.

<sup>24</sup>. See title document and letter from Benedict and Phelps.



Silver Bank, Logansport, Indiana.

In Logansport the Silvers were involved in banking. The Silvers came to Logansport in 1868<sup>25</sup>. According to Arthington's *History of Logansport and Cass County, Indiana*, DJ and RD Silver opened the twelfth bank in Logansport on 28 March 1868 in the Judge David Dykeman building on 4th Street opposite the courthouse. They built a bank building on the east side of Bridge, south of Market Street, at 414 S Third. This was the first building built specifically as a bank in Logansport, the others using rented facilities. DJ Silver and Son was an agent of the Republic Insurance Co of

Chicago. By October 10, 1868, Silver and son Bank had assets of \$306,785.25. The new building was opened for business on Monday November 30, 1868. The foundation, walls and stone front were solid and enduring. The front was handsomely ornamented without being gaudy. The inside finish was the best, the plastering and painting the best. The lower rooms were for business with the rear for private offices and a sitting room. The upstairs was for a dwelling and Arthington lived there for 4 years. In the rear of the banking room was a vault. It was perfectly fireproof and inaccessible to burglars. It was lined with stone slabs, each one the length of the vault and half the width. They were eight inches thick and fastened with iron dowels. Outside the lining was a thick brick wall<sup>26</sup>. The Logansport city directory for 1869 lists DJ Silver and RD Silver dba DJ Silver and Son, Bankers with a business address of Bridge opposite Barnett House. The Silver Bank Building housed the Salvation Army in 1976, but in 1995 was boarded up. Since the building is of the appropriate style it might have been designed by McBird. Mary Stuart checked for identifying information and found none. The Arthington Papers reports without date that the Silvers sold the bank to a group of local men when they moved to Nebraska, making their banking career short, as they arrived in Lincoln in 1869. (note that there is some confusion about whether it is John D Silver or DJ Silver. My best guess in March 1995 is that it is DJ)

The Silvers were contractors of note, and some of their other projects should be checked for association with McBird. (It appears that these references are Silver specific. Fr Widman reports that the Ft Wayne Catholic Cathedral was designed by Fr Benoit and built by Thomas Lau carpenter and contractor and J Silver, Brick contractor. According to Chris at the Allen Co Public Library, the court house was built by Virgilio Kimbal and Louis Wolk and Ochmig Bird. Samuel Edsel was the contractor. Ochmig Bird was a member of the school board and a merchant and seems distinct from McBird. St Paul's Lutheran church was built in 1889 for \$70 000 and is obviously too late.) Who designed the Northern Indiana Penitentiary at Michigan City and had a contract for the state building in Topeka still needs to be investigated. The Arthington Papers quote a report

<sup>25</sup>. Arthington papers.

<sup>26</sup>. Arthington, History of Logansport...

in a local paper whose source was attributed to the *Chicago Times*<sup>27</sup> announcing that the Silvers and McBird had been awarded a contract to build the first building of the University of Nebraska. This would have been of local interest as Gov Butler was originally from nearby Marion County and had made a fortune there in real estate.<sup>28</sup> The article noted that Governor Butler was to receive \$10 000 if the contract was \$150 000. The governor was to receive \$15 000 if the contract was \$125 000 and \$1 000 for each additional \$5000 above that figure. This information is identical to that noted in Butler's subsequent impeachment trial. The article goes on to confirm McBird's previous residence in Washington, and the association with TJ Forrest.

### University of Nebraska

The pioneer plainmen of Nebraska had an abiding interest in education. During the first decade of its existence (1855-65) the Territorial Legislature chartered at least 24 universities and colleges. The University of Nebraska that we know today was authorized by the Legislature on February 15, 1869, two years after admission to statehood and two years after the state capitol was moved from Omaha to Lincoln. \$100 000 was authorized for construction of the first building. The Bill was signed immediately by Governor David Butler who, with the Commissioners of Public Buildings, promptly set out to implement it. (The Commissioners of Public Buildings were Butler, Gillespie and Kennard.) Financing for the new school was to come from a tax of one mill per dollar of assessed valuation and income from rental and sale of public lands granted to the state by the federal government. There was some urgency to getting the building constructed as rapidly as possible so that the University would be opened in time to collect the 90 000 acres of land offered under the Morrill Act. This urgency led to irregularities of process which came back to haunt both the governor and the architect. The legislation clearly said that plans had to be approved by the Regents, but the Commissioners let a contract for \$128 480, \$28 000 more than had been appropriated, without prior approval, assuming popular support<sup>29</sup>. Income from sale of lots in Lincoln provided the first \$100 000 for construction. More than \$30 000 was raised on the first day, 5 June 1869 when 105 lots were sold.

David Butler recruited the prominent architect, Matthew McBird of Logansport, Indiana, to design the building and his drawings were accepted on 2 June 1869. On 16 June, 1869 RD Silver arrived from Logansport to build a brick manufacturing plant capable of 12 000 bricks per day. By August 14, *The Commonwealth* contained an editorial description of the plans for the building and noted that excavation for the basement was complete. On August 18, a contract was let to Silver and Sons (John D

---

<sup>27</sup>. I surveyed 1 month of Chicago Times ending the day before what now seems to be the most likely date and couldn't find the reference. Reading a major daily newspaper in close to impossible and there is no index. Zack Wiley, on a second occasion, read the 2 weeks surrounding the most likely date of 21 June 1869 and did not find it.

<sup>28</sup>. Messages and Proclamations of the Governors of Nebraska.

<sup>29</sup>. Manley, RN, *Centennial History* p 18. The additional expenditure was eventually approved by the legislature. See McBrdlcn.doc

Silver I and John D Silver II and Robert D Silver<sup>30</sup>), for construction of the building for \$128 000. The cornerstone for University Hall was laid September 23, 1869 with great ceremony from the Masons, Mayor DH Wheeler and a brass band imported from Omaha for the occasion. During the banquet, which lasted until 4 am, the keynote address focused on Greek and Roman education, undoubtedly subjects of great interest to the pioneers of the plains. The building was described by *The Commonwealth* as Franco-Italian architecture. Like the first Capitol, the building was constructed of primarily local materials and judged, by some, as unsafe from the day it was occupied. Although the building was completed, inspected and approved on 6 January 1871, the cry that it was unsafe was raised before the first student entered its doors. Three professional architects were hired to examine the building thoroughly. Their report on 23 June 1871 pronounced the building safe for the present and probably for years to come but recommended a few inexpensive repairs which were completed by 6 September, in time for the first class of students. Rumors that the building was unsafe were slow to die. On March 18, 1873 at a special meeting, the Board of Regents hired another set of architects to examine the building. A new foundation was ordered for the chapel, and during the demolition, supervised by Attorney General JR Webster, it was discovered that the foundation had not been built according to the contract. The stones had been laid end on end with little backing<sup>31</sup>. Four more architects were hired in 1877, and on the strength of their recommendation the Regents resolved on 6 July 1877 to tear down the building and build a new one for \$40 000. Omaha and Nebraska City quickly agreed to raise the money if the University were moved to their communities.<sup>32</sup> Cooler heads prevailed, however, and the citizens of Lincoln hired architects from Chicago and

<sup>30</sup>. Robert D Silver died on 5 November 1889 in Colorado Springs aged 46 years 8 months and 8 days and is buried at Riverside Cemetery in Denver according to a death announcement obtained from Carolyn Thompson.

<sup>31</sup>. During the renovation a new cornerstone was placed, the contents of the original having been destroyed. Contents of Cornerstone:

A letter which reads as follows:

"Lincoln, Neb, Oct 5, 1877

The contents of this box were placed within it this day

The history of this transaction is briefly the following:

On the 23d day of Sept 1869 the corner stone of the building was first laid--of brown sand stone. Both the material and the workmanship of the original foundation proved to be so defective that the Regents of the University decided in the month of August 1877 that it was necessary to build a new foundation. And in the process of that work this corner stone is this day laid..

The contents of the box originally placed here were found on opening to be entirely destroyed--it never having been sealed up. The following documents are now enclosed:

The catalogues of the University from the beginning;

The annual addresses which have been delivered;

The laws of Nebraska from 1867 downwards etc, EB Fairfield, Chancellor.

Samuel Aughy, Professor of Natural Science

Contents included:

Letter above

Chancellors reports to Regents 1873,4,6

Third biennial report of Regents 1876

Bylaws of board of regents 1876

General Statutes of Nebraska 1873

Laws of Nebraska 1875,7

Catalogs of University

*Lincoln Globe* 17 August 1877 brief article on repairs recommended to roof by architect Randall

*Daily State Journal* 4 July 1876 article CH Gere entitled "Historical sketch, Lancaster County, Nebraska, July 4, 1876"

<sup>32</sup>. McKee, *Lincoln*, p40

Dubuque who pronounced the building easily repaired. At that time foundation repairs and the like cost \$6 012 and roof repair cost \$1 625. The Silvers were hired to jack up the building and replace the foundation thus correcting some of the problems with their original construction<sup>33</sup>. Although the tower and top two floors were removed in 1925 because they were unsafe, the building remained in constant use until its demolition in 1948<sup>34</sup>, confirming the durability and safety of its design.

The difficulties were of establishing a University in this location were immense. Lincoln at the time had been in existence for only a couple of years. There were no sidewalks and no municipal water supply. The "University" was located in raw prairie on the outskirts of town. An attempt was made to use primarily local materials or what could be crafted on site because bringing in building materials was an overwhelming problem. Lincoln was located many miles from any major point of supply. Railroads had not yet reached the city, and all lumber used in the project had to be carried from Nebraska City over 65 miles of wretched roads after being taken there by rail from Chicago<sup>35</sup>. Lack of lumber caused at least one major accident during construction. Workers raising the rafters over the east wing of the building had their scaffolding held up by stringers made of 2x4 fragments which had been pieced together to span the 30 foot gap. The scaffolding collapsed sending three men to their deaths<sup>36</sup>. The Silvers paid \$10 a cord for firewood to burn the bricks and had to transport it up to 35 miles. Stone for the building's front steps was even a problem until a quarry was located fifteen miles out of town. The stone from this quarry proved a continuing problem as it was found to crumble under the weight of the building and the foundation stones had to be replaced at great expense a few years later<sup>37</sup>. A million and a half bricks were made during the spring of 1870 and the building was built. As with most major buildings built in Nebraska at the time, there were structural deficits due to the inferior quality of materials manufactured on site. The Board of Regents visited the building on January 10, 1871 and expressed their satisfaction with it. They reported that "the building appears to be well constructed and substantial...and well fitted to answer the purpose for which the same was erected."<sup>38</sup> Governor Butler was similarly impressed and reported to the Legislature that "Our University building is a source of pride to the citizens of our State, and is a model, not only for architectural beauty<sup>39</sup>....."

---

<sup>33</sup>. Reference showing that Silvers did repair work is in the records of the University of Nebraska Board of Regents in the University of Nebraska Archives.

<sup>34</sup>. University of Nebraska Facilities Management Department, *University Hall* 1991. DM Burham notes that in the current times the building would have been preserved as a part of our heritage.

<sup>35</sup>. Crawford, RP, *These Fifty Years* The description of the conditions is attributed to a Charter Day address given on February 15, 1881 by Samuel Aughey. A copy of the address is now on file.

<sup>36</sup>. See *Nebraska History* 5: 6-9 (1922) and *Nebraska Herald* 11 August 1870.

<sup>37</sup>. Artemas Roberts and John Bistater reported that sandstone in the building foundation had crush strength of 283 pounds when wet and 383 pounds when dry. This compares to sandstone at the Smithsonian at 10762 pounds, best marble at 23000 and common brick at 100-4000 pounds per square inch. See UNebraska docs.doc.

<sup>38</sup>. Manley, RN, *Centennial History*

<sup>39</sup>. Manley, RN, *Centennial History*

Enrollment in the first year included 5 freshmen, 2 sophomores, 1 junior, 12 "irregulars" and 110 students in the preparatory or Latin school.

The building was an elaborate four story building in the "Franco-Italian" style. It was built of brick with corners and foundations of brown stone. Cornices and other visible woodwork were brown. The chapel was 42 feet by 60 feet and included a gallery. There were 20 recitation rooms, a reading room, and rooms for literary societies, music and painting. There was an armory, a ladies reception room, printing office, laboratory and natural science area<sup>40</sup>. The building must have indeed been impressive to a state population, most of which lived in sod huts.

Governor Butler had enemies even within his own Republican Party. He had many enemies in Omaha, a town passed up as capitol and site for the University. With public question concerning the safety of University Hall and public concern over the additional moneys spent without legislative approval, concern was raised over Butler's management of the affairs of the University and of the state as a whole. The *Omaha Herald* reported, "We distinctly and boldly charge that for thousands and thousands of dollars of the public moneys alleged to have been disbursed for public uses, David Butler could not and did not last winter, nor can he now produce a single invoice."<sup>41</sup> In February 1871, during his third term, impeachment proceedings were initiated, alleging, among a larger catalog of transgressions, that Butler had extorted money from McBird and the Silvers. An investigating committee was appointed made up of Thomas and Sheldon from the Senate and Elam Clark, Reed and Grennell from the House<sup>42</sup>. The investigating committee took testimony which has been preserved only in fragments quoted in newspapers<sup>43, 44</sup>. An acrimonious debate followed. The *Omaha Herald* even expressed the opinion the Nebraska needed a university "about as much as a cat needed two tails."<sup>45</sup> It seems that McBird and Silver were cooperative with the initial investigating committee, leading the committee to believe that convicting Butler would not be a problem. The allegation was made that Butler had compelled MJ McBird in August 1869 to pay him \$1750 of the proceeds of a warrant for \$3750 due him for the project. This had been accomplished by not issuing the warrant until Butler had been paid. In addition McBird was to be paid an additional \$1828.26 for additional services only if Butler were to get half. As a result two warrants were issued for \$914.13 of which one was endorsed over to Butler. Neither McBird nor Silver appeared for the trial. Estabrook (**is this the same guy who appears on records in Denver??**), the prosecutor in pleading for a continuance said, "We will show that this witness has been slept with,

---

<sup>40</sup>. Manley, RN, *Centennial History*

<sup>41</sup>. Watkins p 48

<sup>42</sup>. The legislature was bicameral at that time in contrast to the present.

<sup>43</sup>. Watkins p 63.

<sup>44</sup>. The *Daily State Journal* on 27 February 1871 called attention the fact that all of the Omaha papers, the *Herald*, the *Republican* and the *Tribune* published McBird's testimony before the investigation committee in which he swore that he had to divide his 1 1/2% commission for services as architect of the state university building with the governor and secretary of state before they would pay him. Quoted in Watkins. **Need to find these references.**

<sup>45</sup>. *Omaha Herald* January 1871 quoted in Manley

as a witness, significantly, 'Stayed with'....."<sup>46</sup> The trial transcript reported that "said Mrs McBird informed this affiant that said McBird went away on Friday...and that on leaving he had told her not to be alarmed if she did not hear from him for a month or more; that she had not heard from him since, and did not know where he was; that he had told her he might visit Texas before he returned; and she farther [sic] stated that Mr Silver was there and left with him, the said McBird."<sup>47</sup> The suggestion was made that "McBird would pop in here like a small frog after a thunder shower, after this case closes." The Silver's testified at the close of the hearings and confirmed the arrangements noted above by the Arthington papers<sup>48</sup> <sup>49</sup>. In spite of this, when the smoke cleared, the Governor was cleared of wrongdoing with respect to University Hall, and any question of culpability on the part of the Silvers or McBird was cleared. Butler was convicted of other misdemeanors in conduct of his job and removed from office.

While it seems clear that McBird came to Nebraska to build the University, it is not clear why the family moved to Council Bluffs, Iowa in 1870<sup>50</sup>, across the river from Omaha. His wife, Mary, died in March 1870<sup>51</sup> after the census was taken ( Also March 1870 was before the census. Note also that in the Herian case Mary D Titus testified that her mother died in 1879 which sounds more likely). He bought 2 lots on High School Street in 1870, moved to that address in 1871 and eventually sold them in 1887.<sup>52</sup> Although his home has been replaced by others, the site afforded a spectacular view overlooking Council Bluffs and the Missouri River. He is not listed in the local biography file in the Council Bluffs Public Library<sup>53</sup>, but was listed periodically in the Council Bluffs Directory thru 1880 and in the Omaha City Directory in 1874-5 as an architect. According to the census he was a practicing architect. The McBirds were supporting

---

<sup>46</sup>. Watkins p 69.

<sup>47</sup>. *Impeachment trial of David Butler*

<sup>48</sup>. There was a discussion at the east door of the capitol before the construction contract was let during which Butler let the Silvers know that he needed to make some money from the contract. They were to meet in Chicago and did in June 1869 in Butler's room in the Sherman House. DJ Silver objected but RD Silver counted out the first \$5,000 himself. Butler gave him a promissory note and the Silvers were to return it if they got the contract. If the contract were for \$150,000 the Silvers would not only return the note but would also pay an additional \$5,000 at the conclusion. If it were less the additional payment was to be reduced proportionately until the contract sum was \$125,000. RD Silver produced a written agreement for the impeachment proceedings, which was dated 21 June 1869. Butler called Silver aside as the end of the construction was reached and suggested that he needed to do something for the Governor in the neighborhood of \$10,000. The Governor became angry when refused. The Governor, according to testimony, also suggested that the Silvers "do something" for Secretary Kennard. Silver admitted offering one member of the legislature \$1,000 if a committee examined the building but not for help getting bonds cashed. According to Silver bids were submitted by Mr Ward and Mr Richmond of Omaha on the first building. There were three other bidders on the other, presumably the Lunatic Asylum. It seems that the Silvers tried to stiff the Governor and interrogators were more concerned about this than about the payoff implied. Info from impeachment records. Note that Silver later became mayor of Lincoln for two terms.

<sup>49</sup>. *The Daily State Journal* on 27 February 1871 called attention the fact that all of the Omaha papers, the *Herald*, the *Republican* and the *Tribune* published McBird's testimony before the investigation committee in which he swore that he had to divide his 1 1/2% commission for services as architect of the state university building with the governor and secretary of state before they would pay him.

<sup>50</sup>. The census notes that their daughter, Viola, age 16, was born in Indiana and their youngest, Lockwood, age 1 was born in Indiana.

<sup>51</sup>. Affidavit Sylvia Noah 2 February 1883. However, the census was taken on 9 August 1870 and Mary was listed as keeping house. Mary Titus said she died in 1879 in an affidavit in the Herian Trial. **Need to see if she said where, I think she said Council Bluffs**

<sup>52</sup>. Council Bluffs property records.

<sup>53</sup>. Phone inquiry 5 January 1993. Visit Mar 1995

Mary's younger sister, Sylvia, at that time<sup>54</sup>. Daughter Viola married George Gibson on 25 November 1874 while in Council Bluffs<sup>55</sup>. The wedding was held at MJ McBird's house.<sup>56</sup> and Henry S DeForest of the Congregational Church presided.<sup>57</sup>

When the McBird family moved to Colorado, the Gibsons came first. Gibson bought the property on Lafayette on 19 March 1878<sup>58</sup>. The Gibsons settled in Leadville, where George, a noted phrenologist<sup>59</sup> died on 17 September according to probate records (or 26 September 1879 according to others) at the Hotel Windsor<sup>60</sup>. He had contracted chronic diarrhea while leading troops guarding the Missouri Pacific Railroad in 1865<sup>61</sup>. According to an affidavit by Dr CR Broadbent in Leadville, that was the cause of his death<sup>62</sup>. Matthew was in Leadville in 1879, as Gibson's pension benefits paid for his transportation, and he signed an administrators bond for the estate, which included 1/8 of the Buckeye Bells mining claim in Leadville, and lot 3 Block 4 in the town of Springdale in Boulder Co. Most significantly, what we know as the McBird House, straddling Schinner's addition and Gabathuler's addition with its stable was listed in the real estate inventory and crossed out. Viola moved to Denver in 1880 and settled on Lafayette Avenue<sup>63</sup> with her father, Matthew, sister Mary and brother Lockwood. Mary testified in District Court in the Herian case (49213) that she had lived in Denver since 1879. Their specific address was not given in the 1880 census, but it was on Lafayette Ave and presumably was at what is now known as the McBird House, as nothing else had been built there by then. Laura (Viola) was listed in 1880 Census in the head of household position. She died of tuberculosis on 14 June 1880 and is buried with her husband in Riverside Cemetery<sup>64</sup>.

Matthew McBird first appears in the Denver Directories beginning 1881<sup>65</sup>. He married 33 year old Harriet C Sweet<sup>66</sup> (born 25 September 1849 as Harriet Amanda Jones; she

---

<sup>54</sup>. See Civil War records. Matthew was her legal guardian.

<sup>55</sup>. Marriage records of Council Bluffs, Pottawattamie County, Iowa.

<sup>56</sup>. Affidavit of Sylvia G Noah 2 February 1883. This information is included in a Council Bluffs newspaper clipping provided without reference by Ruth Bartels of the State Historical society of Iowa 21 June 1993.

<sup>57</sup>. Gibson's marriage record.

<sup>58</sup>. The house could have been built as early as 1875 when the property sold for \$1525 or in 1877 when it sold for \$3000. See title abstract.

<sup>59</sup>. See photo of him lecturing on phrenology.

<sup>60</sup>. Riverside Cemetery Records. Affidavits from Sylvia G Noah and Willie N McBird 2 February 1883. Date also from Simmons. Note that probate records say he died on or about 17 September 1879 in Leadville, and that date is probably more correct as probate was filed on 26 September 1879. The Windsor Hotel is not to be confused with the Winsor Hotel in Denver. Leadville was organized in 1878. The Windsor Hotel burned on May 19, 1882. See Blair.

<sup>61</sup>. George Gibson pension records

<sup>62</sup>. The probate records shed some light on 19th century economics. The last 4 days board, nursing services and extras cost \$37, the undertaker in Leadville \$65, transportation of body to RR \$20, transporting the body to Denver \$18, Riverside Cemetery 1 lot \$50, A Brown undertaker Denver \$44.

<sup>63</sup>. There is a sworn affidavit from Willie N McBird reporting in 1883 that the family had been there 3 years. The people listed in the house in the 1880 census are not in the 1880 directories or before except one of the laborers who was living at another address.

<sup>64</sup>. According to the 1880 census, she had "consumption." Date of death comes from the affidavits noted above from Sylvia Noah and WN McBird. Riverside cemetery says they have the Gibsons.

<sup>65</sup>. Macbird, Matthew J. architect r 538 Lafayette

was adopted and given the name Carrie Woods <sup>67</sup>; died 11 March 1924<sup>68</sup>) on 14 November 1882<sup>69</sup>. She had come to Denver from Missouri<sup>70</sup>, presumably after the death of her husband, John T Sweet (of consumption 6 April 1879), with a her sons George W Sweet, born on 30 November 1867 and Marion Howard Sweet, born on 19 September 1869.<sup>71</sup> <sup>72</sup>. Shortly thereafter the property on Lafayette street was transferred to her name and she filed under the Homestead Act<sup>73</sup>. The marriage was a stormy one, leading to divorce in 1884<sup>74</sup>. There was antagonism between Harriet and his children. I am not sure where her children were at this point as they are not described in accounts from McBirds descendants. She would scatter her husband's architectural equipment on the front lawn and claim that Lockwood had been playing with the tools<sup>75</sup>. Harriet, as expected, characterized herself as a faithful and obedient wife and claimed that Matthew did not provide support and that he was abusive, aggravating her heart disease, endangering her life and causing her great nervous prostration. She must not have been too sickly as she lived until 1924 when she died of a stroke<sup>76</sup>. In August 1883 she locked herself into one part of the house to get away from him. (Certainly it must have been the tower where she pined away in fear for her life). She claimed that what Lockwood discovered her putting in Matthew's drinking water on 10 August 1883 was really not poison<sup>77</sup>. This may relate to Matthew's insistence that the evening meal be served properly and on time with linen table cloths and nice dishes and silver<sup>78</sup>. Matthew characterized her as a "she devil" and noted that "Hell is full of such wives." All agree that he threw her out of the house and would never let her in again. She went

---

<sup>66</sup>. Harriet Sweet was named Harriet Amanda Jones when she was born. She was adopted by George Woods of Springfield, Illinois, and became Carrie Woods. She married John T Sweet on 25 September 1866 in Sangamon County, Illinois (marriage record in pension file). He had been mustered as a recruit on 14 August 1861 and served in Company A 3rd Regiment of the Illinois Cavalry during the War of the Rebellion and served as a private until 15 September 1864 when the company was mustered out. His regiment served in the siege of Vicksburg in May 1863 and was at Memphis in August 1864. His claim that he was poisoned on May 24, 1863 and caught cold during August 1864 was not substantiated. His story was that he was carrying dispatches for General Osterhaus, tired and drank from a stagnant pool and became violently ill. The cold episode occurred when his regiment was attacked by Bedford Forest during the night. The men scattered into the woods clothed only in shirt and drawers. He applied for a pension on 21 March 1879. He died of consumption on 6 April 1879. The widows pension was filed from Decatur, Macon County, Illinois on 30 June 1879. Their children were George W Sweet born on 30 November 1867 and Marion H Sweet born on 19 September 1869.

<sup>67</sup>. John Sweet military records.

<sup>68</sup>. Carrie Sweet, death certificate.

<sup>69</sup>. Arapahoe County Marriage Records #1278; married by JH Matthews, Minister.

<sup>70</sup>. In 1880 she was a widow residing at 682 Washington St, Decatur, Macon County, Illinois, according to the census.

<sup>71</sup>. All of this is surmised from the 1900 Federal Census of Teller County Colorado. It is interesting that Lockwood's descendants do not mention Marion Howard Sweet. Howard Sweet testified in the divorce but we do not know what he said.

<sup>72</sup>. Guardianship papers for these two children were filed on 18 December 1882. "...said minors are children of John T Sweet dec, late a soldier in the Army of the United States.-of Company A, Third Regiment of Illinois Cavalry. That the estate of said minors consists of a pension from the United States Government amounting in the aggregate to twelve dollars (\$12.00) per month.--such pension dating from the 14 day of November 1882.--And the said minors have, at the date of this Petition, no other property, but have an interest in expectancy in the estate of their Grandfather, the amount and value of which is not to this Petitioner Known."

<sup>73</sup>. Grantor/Grantee Index.

<sup>74</sup>. Complaint of Harriet C McBird against Matthew J McBird filed in Superior Court of Denver asking for divorce. Also interview with Fred Lockwood MacBird 16 April 1993.

<sup>75</sup>. Fred Lockwood MacBird August 1993.

<sup>76</sup>. Death Certificate.

<sup>77</sup>. Fred Lockwood MacBird says his father related to him finding her poisoning the water.

<sup>78</sup>. Correspondence Fred Lockwood MacBird, August 1993.

to live in a rental house on the current site of Children's Hospital. According to family sources the divorce cost McBird his extensive real estate holdings on Capitol Hill, and the land that currently contains the State Capitol<sup>79</sup>. After the divorce she lived in Denver<sup>80</sup>, Cripple Creek and then in Denver until her death from a stroke in 1924<sup>81</sup>. How title to the McBird house was transferred from her is unknown. She was interred at Crown Hill Cemetery. There was an inheritance tax file upon her death, but the record has been destroyed. There was no probate.

The house at 538 Lafayette Avenue became 2023 Lafayette Street with the new street numbering system effective on 1 December 1886.

While in Denver, McBird practiced architecture and taught art<sup>82</sup>, presumably at the Brinker Institute, a religious institution whose preacher conducted the marriage between Matthew and Harriet<sup>83</sup>.

McBird was a long time resident of Lafayette Street and shared his small house with many people. Usually he had boarders, servants, and varying numbers of family members. Lists of some of these tenants is gleaned from the 1880, 1900 Federal Census, the 1885 Colorado Census and the Brantigan Edition of the 1893 Denver Directory. Matthew McBird lived at 2023 Lafayette until his death in 1903.

Determining the importance of individual Denver architects in the years before 1889 is difficult if not impossible. Even prominent structures of the time such as the Evans Mansion and the Gebhard Mansion have no identified architect. According to Brettell there were only three architects in Denver in 1879 and ten in 1880<sup>84</sup>. (Actually there were five listed in the Denver Directory in 1879, eleven in 1880, and 14 in 1881). Architects were listed in the Denver Directories in early years as "Architects and Superintendents," as indeed McBird was listed in the business section of the 1882 Directory with his partner, Judson W Read. (note that he worked with a man named Reed on the Carroll County Courthouse. I haven't seen a record of his first name or initials. Note that there is no Judson Read/Reed in the census index for Indiana in 1850 and 1860 has not been indexed by 2002) These architects and superintendents, whose careers were so important in building the City and whose names are unknown even to historical researchers, were generally not formally trained in architecture. Their role often was to supervise the construction of the building and suggest ornament to be applied. Architectural plans as we know them today were nonexistent. Presumably McBird was an architect rather than a superintendent, as he practiced architecture in

---

<sup>79</sup>. This seems unlikely since Brown owned most of Capitol Hill and donated the land for the Capitol to the State.

<sup>80</sup>. See *Denver Directory* and 1885 Census.

<sup>81</sup>. See *Denver Directory* entries and death certificate

<sup>82</sup>. Fred Lockwood MacBird and Marjorie Jackson recall artistic line drawings done by Matthew. Fred remembers that he taught art

<sup>83</sup>. See marriage records.

<sup>84</sup>. Brettell, RR, *Historic Denver*, Historic Denver, Inc, Denver, Colorado 1973 p 21.

Washington, Indiana, Nebraska and Iowa before moving to Denver. He had a remarkable longevity in the profession.

McBird's contribution to architecture in Denver is largely unknown, but must be significant. We presume that he designed his own house primarily because its classic design and solid construction suggests the work of a master. The house is designed in the same style as his previous documented buildings. He suffered the fate of many of the men who built the beautiful City of Denver and vanished almost completely from the historical record. He was at the nadir of his career before any Denver building records were preserved. The absence of any sort of building records from his period has made it impossible to attribute any of Denver's significant buildings to his hand. Search of the Denver Building Permits file between 1889 and 1893 shows only one listing, a one story brick terrace on Kensing Place. Search of the Grantor and Grantee index gives only a few references to McBird, and the only reference to an existing structure is to the house on Lafayette Street. Arapahoe District Court records note a one story cottage built for FA Langworthy. Since he did not pay the bill for the house, chicken coop and brick outhouse, the property was ordered sold at auction. The legal description was lots 9, 10 Block 6 Wolfe Place; Town of Highlands. (This is in the middle of the Valley Highway.) *Western Architect and Building News*, published between 1889 and 1892, lists no McBird commissions, but he was elderly during the entire run of this publication. By the time the Colorado Chapter of the American Institute of Architects was organized in the early 1890's he was in his 70's and probably retired.

McBird lived into the twentieth century, dying on 23 April 1903 of a stroke<sup>85</sup>. There is a death notice and burial notice in the newspapers but no obituary. Services were held from the CD Titus residence, 1061 S Eleventh Street<sup>86</sup>. He was buried without a stone at Riverside (NW 1/2 lot 33 block 1) by the Waters Mortuary on 26 April<sup>87</sup> next to Viola and Captain George Gibson, who had died in 1880 and 1879 respectively. His daughter, Mary Titus, presumably inherited the property, but the Titus family was not listed in the directories as living at that address in the years before the Herians moved in 1911 (need to see if a *MacBird* lived there). The property is not listed in CD Titus Last Will and Testament filed on his death in 1913. The title abstract for the property was no help in determining who lived there either.

## Other Family Members

**Mary McBird** was born in Logansport on 4 August 1865<sup>88</sup> and came to Denver with her father in 1879. She was educated at the Brinker Institute<sup>89</sup>. She married Joseph A. Lacey

---

<sup>85</sup>. Death certificate gives cause and date of death.

<sup>86</sup>. Rocky Mountain News 25 April 1903.

<sup>87</sup>. Information from Riverside Cemetery.

<sup>88</sup>. Ladies Relief Society of Denver, *Index to Residents of the "Old Ladies Home" 1897-1980*.

<sup>89</sup>. Denver Post obit.

(b ca 1863) on 15 March 1883, and they moved to Virginia and/or Maryland. They had two children, Sylvia Gracie born December 1886 in Maryland (this is Sylvia Lacey Skinner in CD Titus probate), and Viola born in April 1884 in E Virginia (my chart lists her as born 3 Apr 1887--need to check where that came from). *I wonder if Lacey died in Va or MD.* [Lacey died in 1902<sup>90</sup>]. It is interesting that both George Brinker and Joseph Lacey were living with William and America Wood in the 1880 census and that America, Brinker and Lacey were all born in Virginia.

She married Campbell Dickson Titus in Denver on 12 November 1890<sup>91</sup>. Although Titus was listed in the Federal Census in 1870 and 1880 as single he had been married before, but perhaps not in Colorado, as there are no other marriages listed in Arapahoe County for CD Titus between 1859 and 1901. Children of first marriage include Edward or Edmond b 1883 (Edwin Augustus Titus in 1913 probate file for CD Titus), and Gracie H Titus b 1886 Colorado (Grace Harriet Boak in 1913 probate file for CD Titus). CD Titus stated in a deposition in the Herian case (1910) that he had known the McBird family since they came to Denver. After they married, Campbell and Mary lived at Pine and Maple in the Titus addition (Maple is 1 block south of Bayaud off Tejon This needs to be figured out). (Titus is Quivas north of West Sixth, and West 13th ave between Quivas and Zuni according to Goodstein???????) They had one child, Dickson Titus born 1892. In 1893 they lived at 1061 S 11th, now obliterated by commercial developments next to the Valley Highway. The Titus Brothers Mercantile Co and the Titus Investment Co were partnerships between Augustus Titus and Campbell D Titus. Campbell D Titus, one time Denver Alderman, died in 1913. The Mercantile Co was located on Twelfth and Kalamath streets in 1918<sup>92</sup>. Mary lived well into the twentieth century, dying at the Old Ladies Home on 24 March 1949.<sup>93</sup> The Titus family, pioneers in Wisconsin, became pioneers in Colorado when they came by overland trail in 1860 to Weld County. Campbell's other siblings included William F, dead before 1918, Anna A and Augustus<sup>94</sup>. (according to Carolyn Thompson, Titus Street was renamed Water Street.)

**Matthew Lockwood McBird** had his paternal grandmother's maiden name as his middle name. He was generally listed in the Denver Directories as Lockwood or M Lockwood. Until he disappeared from the Directory in 1896 he was usually listed as a carpenter and then as an architect. His training was from his father and from an apprenticeship with a prominent architect named Duval<sup>95</sup>. (need to look in Noel's book)

---

<sup>90</sup>. Note that I can not find the source of this information and Blanche Simmons thinks it is wrong. I would not have written this without some piece of evidence.

<sup>91</sup>. Arapahoe County Marriage Records.

<sup>92</sup>. In January 1993 there is an old building on the SE corner with a new front poorly grafted on which the family identifies as the Titus Mercantile Company. All other buildings on this corner are newer. Identity or lack thereof could be established in the Directories.

<sup>93</sup>. Death Certificate, Ladies' Relief Society Index.

<sup>94</sup>. Stone, *History of Colorado* Vol III, SJ Clarke Publishing Co, Chicago p 683-4, 1918. Stone says the family came to Weld county. CD Titus III reports that this account is probably wrong and the one he sent is right since it came from Great Aunt Anna who is one of the people who migrated. See his letter of 3 October 1993.

<sup>95</sup>. This information is from Fred MacBird. I am unable to find record of Duval or anyone with a similar name.

There is no record of his ever being enrolled at the University of Colorado. University of Denver information is pending. He designed at least one set of townhouses in Denver with his father. Although heavily modified, they are still standing.<sup>96</sup>

At the turn of the century Lockwood was living in Colorado Springs or Victor. Ella Hicks was living in Canon City and came to Victor to start a business selling fancy pillows and tablecloths. Lockwood shopped at her store and thus made her acquaintance<sup>97</sup>. He married her on 12 June 1901 in Colorado Springs, but the Pastor was the Rector of St Marks Church in Victor<sup>98</sup>. She apparently did some research, now lost, which led to the conclusion that the name was actually *MacBird*. Lockwood and his descendants changed their name to that spelling. There are no other listings in Colorado Springs Directories thru 1907 (*need to find the one that is there*). He is not in the Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph index extending from 1879 to the present<sup>99</sup>. His picture appears in *Representative Men of Colorado in the Nineteenth Century* as a Colorado Springs architect. Lockwood is listed in the Victor directory in 1902-3 as an architect living in the Salida House. In 1905 he is listed as the leaser of the "Gold Coin" at 124 1/2 N 4th St. It is not clear if this is the club or the mine or when it was turned into whatever it was turned into<sup>100</sup>. In 1907 he is listed at 426 S 3rd with an advertisement "Drawings and Specifications furnished for buildings, mining constructions, mills, machinery, etc. Phone Blue 103." In 1915 he was listed in Independence, Colorado near the Copeland Smelter. Blanche Simmons' records indicate that he lived in Victor in 1910 with his wife Ella and 5 children (1910 census). William Noah MacBird (born 16 September 1914), a newspaper reporter for the Pasadena California Independent, Frederick Lockwood MacBird, a building inspector, Theodore DeTarr MacBird, an architect who practiced in California, Mary Alice MacBird (Ripole and MacCandless) acrobatic and adagio dancer with the Sunkist Beauties, and Bertha Orrin MacBird (Durand and Elterman) and Harry Dickson MacBird, an artist<sup>101</sup>. Lockwood is listed in the 1915-16 Directory as living near the Copeland Smelter in Independence. Plans for many of his buildings in Victor in 1899 are in the Western History Library Collections.

Those early years in Victor were the most prosperous and productive of his career. His experiences in the District reflected the primitive conditions there and the boom or bust economy<sup>102</sup>. His son Fred was born in the Baltimore Hotel in Victor on 29 June 1903. His Apgar score must have been low, as he was revived with a spoon of (medicinal) whiskey. At that time the family lived on South Third Street, and clothing was washed

---

<sup>96</sup>. Kensing Place as noted.

<sup>97</sup>. Letter from Marjorie Jackson and Fred Lockwood MacBird 15 August 1993.

<sup>98</sup>. Marriage Records

<sup>99</sup>. Phone call to Colorado Springs Library

<sup>100</sup>. In 1899 the Woods brothers built the Gold Coin Club in Victor for the recreation of their employees. A few months later it was leveled by the great Victor fire. It was immediately rebuilt. It was ultimately turned into a hospital and then into a private home. It was modeled after the New York Athletic Club and from the pictures in Feitz it was opulent.

<sup>101</sup>. Jackson, Marjorie Jane Durand, *The Children of Matthew Lockwood MacBird and Martha Ella (Hicks) MacBird*, Manuscript July 1993.

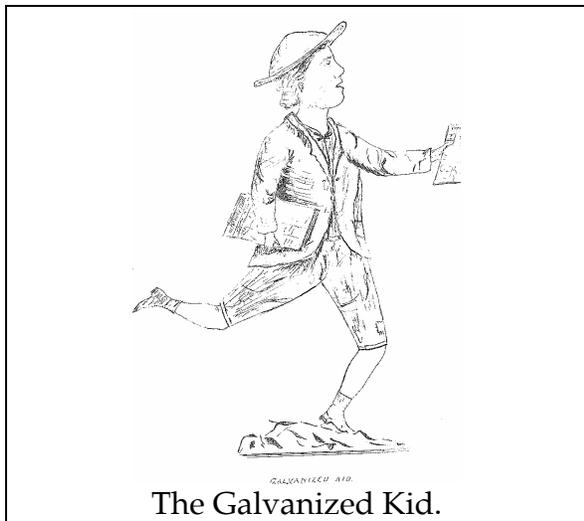
<sup>102</sup>. The personal details of the family's adventures are from Fred MacBird's autobiography.

in a boiling pot of water on the stove. They moved to 7th Street and Portland Ave where the family was quarantined due to a scarlet fever outbreak. While the family lived on 7th Street Alice was born. Mother Hicks came to live with them but couldn't stand the altitude and returned to Colorado Springs with Ella, Will and Ted. When Mother Hicks died in 1908 the family was reunited and moved into a two story house on 4th Street. Bertha was born there 14 months after Alice. The family prospered and they had a live-in "English child's nurse."<sup>103</sup> A year later they moved to a big brick house at the foot of Bull Cliff. This house had been the office of the Cripple Creek Milling Company. The house was spacious and lavishly appointed and reflected Lockwood's success as an architect and mill supervisor. As World War I approached both the McBirds and the Cripple Creek Mining district fell on hard times. Mines were closing due to lack of manpower and dynamite. The family moved to more modest accommodations in a cabin just behind the house. Lockwood had little or no income, and went to Wyoming to look for work. He left his family in the district. The family moved to Denver in about 1918. (according to Fred the family lived in Denver from 1916-1919 and his father never showed him the house he grew up in). Money was still tight and Lockwood made his living jobbing-building store front fixtures for Piggly Wiggly (CD Titus II had the Piggly Wiggly franchise) and the like. By 1920 he was living on South Cherokee Street in Denver and working as a contractor. In the early 1920's Will moved to Los Angeles. Ella, whose health was poor since being paralyzed from eating poisoned mushrooms some years before, moved with Alice to Los Angeles to live with Will. She died in 1922 and was buried in Forestlawn Cemetery in Glendale. Lockwood subsequently closed his office in Denver and moved to California where he worked building apartment houses. He died in Los Angeles on 12 February 1926 of Bubonic plague. Ella's grave was opened and his ashes inserted<sup>104</sup>. His funeral notice in the Los Angeles Times lists little information other than he was 53 at the time of his death. His death certificate reports that he died of hemorrhagic smallpox at the LA City Smallpox Hospital.

---

<sup>103</sup>. 1910 Federal Census

<sup>104</sup>. Family sources speak of bubonic plague and reopening his wife's grave. I am not sure how well authorities would try to differentiate plague from hemorrhagic smallpox in 1926. The undertaker was Garrett and Co 1237 S Flower so I suppose the grave story could be further confirmed.



Lockwood was a bit of a visionary, a dreamer and creator rather than an imitator, but was chronically short on funds and was never licensed as an architect in Colorado<sup>105</sup>. Innovations included a system of jail locks whereby all cells could be opened and locked from a central point<sup>106</sup>, and what may be the first design for a shopping mall, The Factotium.<sup>107</sup> He clearly had a large impact on Victor, Colorado. He converted the clubhouse of the Gold Coin Mine into the Cripple Creek hospital and built Elks Clubs in Cripple Creek and Victor. He built the Christian Science Church in Victor<sup>108</sup>.

Architectural plans for 24 of his designs are in the Western History Collection of the Denver Public Library. According to Lisa Bockman and Eleanor Gehres there are no records as to where the plans came from or how long they have been there. There is no attached biographical information. Wherever there is a date, the plans are from 1899. There are seven buildings in Cameron, Colorado. (Cameron is noted in the 1905 Cripple Creek Directory to be at the site of the old Grassy Settlement 2 miles from Cripple Creek by wagon road, with a population of 300.) There he built a band pavilion, school house, Pinnacle Park buildings and 3 buildings for the HE Woods Company. His work in Victor in 1899 was historically significant. Plans exist for several commercial buildings including the GE Kyner Building, home to the Victor Times. The building was topped by what Lockwood referred to as the "Galvanized Kid," a statuette of a newsboy. Lockwood McBird also built the Teller County jail and sheriff's office in 1901, a Romanesque Revival building complete with turrets and interlocking push button locks. All of the plans contained in the Western History Collection look complete and professionally done and suggest that they are the work of a trained draughtsman or architect.

---

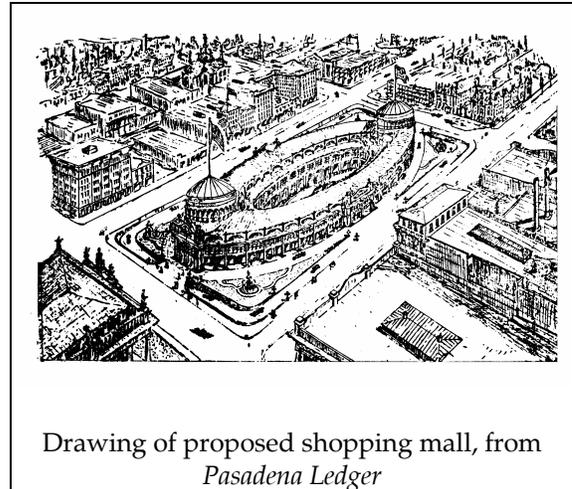
<sup>105</sup> . Phone call to Board Jan 1993. Architects were apparently first licensed in Colorado in 1903

<sup>106</sup> . Noels book on Colorado architecture to be published.

<sup>107</sup> . The Ledger, July 25, 1968. Pasadena California.

<sup>108</sup> . Fred Lockwood McBird Interview 16 April 1993. There is a good picture of the building boarded up in Feitz 1969

Lockwood's most creative idea, a shopping mall that he proposed for Denver in 1919, was never built<sup>109</sup>. The shopping mall, the Factotium, was a strikingly modern in concept and was based on the automobile. Underground parking was provided. Upon entering the mall one would pick up locker whose number corresponded to the customer's parking space. All conceivable needs could be met at the mall, and the upper floors were to contain restaurants, movie theaters, doctors and dentists offices and other consumer oriented services. Purchases would be delivered to the customer's locker and then would be loaded into the customer's car by attendants.



**William Noah McBird** born on 13 September 1863 in Logansport and was baptized at St Paul's Church in Council Bluffs on 5 June 1870<sup>110</sup>. He was educated in the high schools of Council Bluffs, Iowa. His biography in the Creede Herald reports that he came to Colorado in 1883 as a lawyer, but it is clear that he was here earlier than that. According to the Denver Directories, he made the transition from a clerk for Chain and Hardy in 1882 to a stenographer for Mason B Carpenter in 1885. This must have been an apprenticeship, as he joined Carpenter's law firm as an attorney in 1888. It is interesting that Carpenter and McBird officed in the Patterson and Thomas Block in 1888 and returned to 23-24 Tabor Block where Carpenter had officed for years before and the firm had its offices for years after. He must have been reasonably successful, as according to *Western Architect*, William gave an address on the virtues of native Colorado stone on 28 March 1890 in Longmont when he was elected secretary of the Colorado Stone Association<sup>111</sup>. He signed the bylaws of this organization during a convention on 8 May 1890<sup>112</sup>. He was involved in mining to some extent. There is a writ of attachment on the 21st of May 1886 giving him part interests in many Summit county mining claims. As a young attorney he was in practice with Mason B Carpenter, (Mason Carpenter lived in a Lang house at 1430 Vine St) with offices located in the Tabor Block in Denver between 1889 and 1902, according to the Denver Directories. He was known as a principled attorney who was a "deep student" and a fluent speaker and who identified with his community. He was elected to the Board of Alderman in 1892 in Creede, Colorado<sup>113</sup>, his first public office. He was listed in the Denver Social Directory in 1899<sup>114</sup>. Family sources report that he served public office in Denver as well, perhaps as the District

<sup>109</sup>. Bird, Bill, The Ledger.

<sup>110</sup>. See Baptismal Certificate.

<sup>111</sup>. *Western Architect and Building News* April 1890 p 24

<sup>112</sup>. *Western Architect and Building News* May 1890 p 34

<sup>113</sup>. *Creede Daily Herald* volume 1 no 21 p1.

<sup>114</sup>. Social directory 1899 p 123.

Attorney. Family sources also report that an unfortunate accident in the late 1890's in which he was kicked in the head by a horse<sup>115</sup> led to his disappearance from the Denver Directories in 1902. He never recovered from the injury. He was deemed a lunatic on 30 July 1902 with custody awarded to CD Titus, and was sent first to Sanatorium Waldheim, Waukesha, Wisconsin<sup>116</sup>, and when money ran out some years later, to the Colorado State Hospital in Pueblo on 24 May 1908<sup>117</sup>. The 1920 census locates him in the Colorado State Hospital in Pueblo. Mary Titus was his guardian. He died of pulmonary hemorrhage on 29 August 1924<sup>118</sup> at the State Hospital, where he had resided for 16 years 3 months and 5 days. He was buried on 16 Sep 1924 at Fairmount<sup>119</sup>, but no newspaper death notice or obituary was found. Interestingly some of his personal items in Carolyn Thompson's possession spell the name "MacBird" (see above).

Will was affable, and a dapper gentleman who carried a cane with a monogrammed head. He was 5' 10" and stood straight and tall. His eyes were grey-blue and had a penetrating quality. His chin was firm showing determination. His protruding brows indicated that he was a good reader of human nature, and his high cheekbones reflected the constitutional strength of his ancestry.<sup>120</sup> It is said by family sources that his picture hangs on the wall of one of the State Office Buildings just South of the Capitol half way up the marble staircase. (The building has been reused and the photo is not there.)

#### Benjamin Brinker and the Brinker Collegiate Institute

Benjamin Brinker's biography is entwined in McBird's and the details need to be worked out.

Benjamin Brinker had been appointed guardian of Joseph A and Mary L Lacey while residing in Frederick County, Virginia in 1870. After he moved to Denver he needed to establish guardianship of Joseph, then 17 years old and Mary, then 13. This was established by case #452 7 March 1880. The file states that there were funds totaling about \$4000 in the hands of Mark Bird, administrator for the estate of Henry E Lacy, deceased, in Shenandoah County, Virginia and in the hands of SS Turner in Warren County, Virginia from the estate of Joseph B Lacey, deceased. The Virginia census records list a Mark Bird in 1860 and 1870 in Woodstock, Shenandoah Co. Mark was 59 years old in 1870 and presumably was born in 1811. Clearly no relation as we have McBird in 1860 in Logansport and 1870 in Council Bluffs. The final report on the guardianship was given by Olin Brinker, nephew of Benjamin, in September 1897. He noted that Benjamin died in November 1896 and that both of the wards were also dead.

---

<sup>115</sup>. Fred Lockwood MacBird Interview 16 April 1993

<sup>116</sup>. Probate records.

<sup>117</sup>. William N McBird probate file 1902.

<sup>118</sup>. William N McBird, death certificate.

<sup>119</sup>. Fairmount Cemetery Records.

<sup>120</sup>. *Creede Herald* vol 1 no 21.

There follows some miscellaneous information about Brinker institute.

#### ANOTHER COLLEGE EDIFICE

##### The Rapid Growth of Collegiate Facilities in Denver

Denver's educational is not one which is behind her commercial programs. Last year the fine Twenty-fourth street public school house was built. Now another elegant public school building is going up in Clement's addition. The new Methodist College on Fourteenth and Arapahoe, now in process of construction, has been described by the press repeatedly. The other day The News contained an account of the recently commenced main building for St. Mary's Academy, which will double the capacity at that popular institution.

It is now the pleasure of this journal to announce the rapid progress of the Brinker Collegiate Institute at the intersection of Tremont, Broadway and Eighteenth streets. It is to be a handsome structure and will constitute an architectural as well as educational ornament to the city. The flourishing condition at the Brinker Institute is well known. All it has lacked is an adequate building. This it is now to have.

The new edifice is being erected along side of the old institute, which will continue to be used also. The basement is already completed and the walls will soon begin to go up. It is to be three stories besides the basement. It will be fifty feet wide by one hundred feet long and will cost about twenty thousand dollars. The brick walls will be ornamented with cut stone. The whole will be surmounted by a handsomely decorated dome. The basement will be used for a boiler room, laundry, kitchen and refrigerator room. The first story will contain the dining room, office and parlor. The two remaining stories will each contain some rectories and some bed rooms. The whole will be heated by steam and arranged to connect with the sewer. It is expected the building will be ready for the fall term. RMN June 29, 1880

#### BRINKER'S COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

Families settling in Denver from both the west and south are generally amazed to find in this far away western confine, that our children are one or more years further advanced in their studies than those of similar age are in their older and reputed more advanced communities. The truth of the matter is that we lead the older states in all things and our schools more particularly. A demand for the best has brought in our midst the very best talent from the parent states, and nothing is more true than that fools rarely get this far from home. These thoughts were suggested to a News reporter who has been at some pains to learn the merits of the "Brinker Collegiate Institute." The space allotted for this notice is limited and wit... as the reporter would gladly do, giving a biography of Prof. Brinker and his able corps of teachers, we proceed directly to the school, remarking, however, that they are all that could possibly be desired in moral and mental culture. The college was established in September, 1877, with limited patronage, but not many months elapsed before its fame began to go out and our best people began to learn that we had a better school at home than they were patronizing abroad, to say nothing of the advantage of educating their children in our own healthy climate. The present term shows thirty boarders and one hundred and ten matriculates. Besides a regular collegiate course, the "primary department" in charge of Mrs. J.S. Dobson, a lady of seventeen years' experience, constitutes an important branch. The commercial class of over twenty young ladies and gentlemen is a prominent feature, in which book-keeping and commercial forms are taught thoroughly and perfectly. The boarding department, under the immediate supervision of the accomplished Mrs. Brinker, is more of a home than a boarding house, where moral training and the polite accomplishments are irresistibly instilled into the youthful mind. Just such society and no other, as the most careful parent would desire, congregates at the Brinker home. We omitted to state in the proper place that the music department is also under the competent superintendence of Mrs. Brinker and is all that could be desired. Parties who contemplate giving their children the benefit of a really good school can not do better than to patronize the Brinker Collegiate Institute. Those who desire it are also taught military tactics. RMN 1 Jan 1880.;

#### BRINKER INSTITUTE

##### Opening of School on Monday Next

School opens at Brinker Collegiate Institute on Monday next and Prof. Brinker, the principal, is now completing arrangements for the ushering in of that important event. The new building, which has been in degrees of construction for several months past, is now approaching completion and promises to be one of the finest educational edifices in this country.

The departments of Brinker Institute are eight in number, and embrace facilities for pupils of all ages and degree of advancements. They are: Primary department, with four grades, requiring four years; intermediate department, with four grades, requiring four years; collegiate department, with classical and scientific courses, requiring three and four years; commercial department, with full business course, requiring one year; music department, with preparatory and advanced courses in reed and instrumental music; military department, with squad, platoon and company drill, manual of arms, guard mounting, etc.; boarding department, with good accommodations and pleasant social features; art department, with instruction in drawing and painting, embroidery and ornamental work, elocution, vocal and physical gymnasium and calisthenics.

The institute was founded in Denver by Prof. Brinker about two years and a half ago and has grown very successfully, becoming a popular place for the education of the young of both sexes. RMN 11 Sep 1880

### Jefferson School, Logansport, Indiana

This school is located on the ground upon which the 46th Indiana Regiment was recruited, rendezvoused and drilled from September 20, 1861 to December 12, 1861 when it departed to participate in the War of the Rebellion. The first school building was erected there in 1874 and Bird was the architect. We presume he came back from Nebraska to build it. Several other buildings have been built on that site since and in 1923, when the last building was constructed the name was changed from Jefferson to James Whitcomb Riley Junior High School.<sup>121</sup>

### The First Lunatic Asylum in Nebraska

There was some thought that Matthew J McBird built the first lunatic asylum in Nebraska. This is clearly not true as Prof John Winchell, of Chicago, was the architect for the first version and Wiliam H Foster, of Des Moines, for the second after the first burned down<sup>122</sup>. Kickbacks surrounding the Lunatic Asylum also figured in Butler's impeachment. Concern was expressed for the care of the insane in Nebraska as early as 1865. Originally, arrangements were made for patients to be cared for at the Mount Pleasant Hospital in Iowa, with up to fifty patients confined there. Soon after Nebraska became a state, Governor Butler and two others were appointed a commission to locate a site for a State Lunatic Asylum near Lincoln. Money was raised in the usual way be selling lots. According to McKee<sup>123</sup>, plans of Professor D Winchell of Chicago were approved (It is not clear if these are conceptual plans or architectural plans). Joseph Ward of Lincoln received the contract September 15, 1869. The building was completed at a cost of \$137,000 and accepted by the commissioners November 29, 1870<sup>124</sup>. The building was completed and the first patient was admitted on 26 November 1870.<sup>125</sup> Seventeen patients were transferred from Mount Pleasant, and four were transferred from the Pawnee County Jail. The legislature, as usual concerned about the quality of construction, appointed a committee to examine the building in March 1871<sup>126</sup>. This investigation was never completed, as on 17 April 1871 a disastrous fire destroyed the entire building. The citizens of Lincoln, fearful that the institution would be relocated, advanced funds necessary to build a temporary frame structure which served until a

---

<sup>121</sup>. See Crane 1928.

<sup>122</sup>. see Unebraska docs.doc

<sup>123</sup>. McKee, *Lincoln* p83

<sup>124</sup>. Andraes p 1048.

<sup>125</sup>. *Nebraska Blue Book*

<sup>126</sup>. McKee, *Lincoln* p84

new stone structure was built. Insurance companies paid \$72 000 on a \$96 000 policy and JD Silver, who had just completed University Hall, was hired to reconstruct the building. The building as it existed in 1873 measured 64x128 feet, was four stories high and had a Mansard roof. The roof was covered with Vermont slate of variegated colors. The building was divided into wards on the first and second floors, with superintendent's office, attendants rooms, kitchen, cooking range, and bathrooms. More violent patients were held in cells in the basement.<sup>127</sup> The building looks like a building designed by McBird.

In October 1995 Nancy Manley (719 486 0261) of Leadville searched records of property transfers for evidence of McBird or Gibson and found only evidence of mining related transfers and no property which could have been residential. There was no probate record and no entry for either in the 1879 City Directory, the earliest available. She did not search 1880 because data for that directory would have been collected in mid 1880 for fall issue and Gibson was dead by that time.

The Old Rock School was designed by Roberts and Boulanger after bond issue was passed by the voters in 1871 and opened in 1873 according to McKee.

## Sources

People: McBird family members and relations have been immensely helpful in providing information. Christopher Craven, architect, contributed to the architectural description. Search of original records was done by Hans Zeschin and Kathleen Hinckley. Kathleen Hinckley's insightful research was of particular value. Blanche Simmons provided much of the information collected outside of Denver. Phyllis Moore of the Carroll County Historical Society Museum provided the information about their court house. Carolyn Thompson provided the photographs. Fred MacBird provided insight into the family. Phyllis Moore provided Carroll County information. Cynthia Monroe Nebraska State Historical Society provided additional information about McBird's Nebraska connections. Many others are unintentionally omitted.

Allen County Public Library (Ft Wayne, Indiana) 219 424 7241 Chris researched several buildings in Spring 1996.

Alvord, WA, The Nebraska State Journal 1867-1904, MA Thesis University of Nebraska 1934. Not consulted as of March 1995. Call # Nebraska State Historical Society spec Thesis Tm Alvord WA 1934

American Institute of Architects, Tony Wrenn 1735 New York Ave NW, Washington 202 626 7300. He also notes that Theodore MacBird was not a member of AIA. The evidence that he was a member comes from a listing of members provided by AIA. Also no record of

---

<sup>127</sup>. *Lincoln Directory* 1873

Judson Reed. Judy Marks of Denver works there-sister of Sharon Elfenbein. This is embarrassing because we know that he was a member from one of their own publications.

American Medical Association, *Directory of Deceased American Physicians 1804-1929*, American Medical Association 1993. No mention of Matthew McDonald McBird.

Ames, JH, *Lincoln, the Capital of Nebraska*, State Journal Power Press Print, Lincoln, 1870.

Arapahoe County and District Court records. See Arapctmb.doc.

Andraes, AT, *History of the State of Nebraska*, Western Historical Co, Chicago 1882.

Arthington, Thomas Dean, *History of Logansport and Cass County, Indiana*

Arthington, Thomas Dean, *Arthington Papers*. This is apparently a newspaper review and summary done on 4x6 cards by a retired minister about 20 years ago. Some of it was compiled in bound volumes by the Ft Wayne Public Library in about 1986

Aughey, S, *The Ideas and the Men that Created the University of Nebraska*, an address delivered before the University of Nebraska on Charter Day February 15, 1881, Lincoln, NE, Journal company, 1881.

Baptismal certificate William McBird (Carolyn Thompson) He was born in Logansport on 13 September 1863 and baptized at St Paul's Church in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Barber, Gertrude A, *Oneida county, NY Abstracts of Wills 1798-1848* available in Salt Lake City lists no McBird, MacBird, Byrd, Bird.

Benedict and Phelps, Lawyers, letter to WN McBird concerning title to the McBird house. There was a trust deed for the use of RD Silver for \$1000. There were some other trust deeds as well. There were three outstanding tax certificates for 3 years including 1887, 1888, 1890.

Bell, JT, Hall, J, and Brown, D [name information from text. Only last names listed on front of volume as authors], *Impeachment Trial of David Butler, Governor of Nebraska*, Omaha, Tribune Steam Book and Job Printing House, 1871

Bird, Bill, Problem of parking seen even in 1919, *The Pasadena Ledger* 25 July 1968 sec 3 p 9. This is a biographical sketch of Matthew Lockwood McBird by his son Bill MacBird writing under a pen name.

Blair, Edward, *Leadville: Colorado's magic city*, Pruett Publishing Co, Boulder, CO 1980. Identifies Windsor Hotel

Brantigan, CO ed, *The 1893 Denver Directory*, Canzona Publications, Denver, Colorado 1992

Brettell, RR, *Historic Denver*, Historic Denver, Inc, Denver, Colorado 1973.

Brinker Collegiate Institute, Catalogue for session ending June 5, 1880. No mention of McBird in faculty listings.

Brown, HE. *The medical department of the United States Army from 1775-1873*, Washington DC Surgeon General's Office, 1873 No mention of Matthew McDonald McBird.

Burns, Lee, *Early architects and builders of Indiana*, Indiana Historical Society Publications 11: 179-215 (1935). No index. Brief biographies of some architects. No McBird.

Butler, David, papers in Nebraska State Historical Society. No mention of McBird

Carroll County, Indiana, Minutes of the County Commissioners 7 December 1853. (Note that there is other discussion of the courthouse during other meetings during the same time period. Included is a many page list of specifications)

The Board of Commissioners of Carroll County and M.J. McBird now make the following contract, to wit. The said Board hereby employ the said M.J. McBird to draft plans for a new court house for said county, to wit. The foundation office and court room floor, front and flank

elevations, transverse and longitudinal sections, all to be in accordance with certain plans presented by the said McBird at the early part of this session with such alterations have been this day agreed upon and specified as follows. The building to be enlarged laterally five feet and longitudinally 15 feet - the towers to remain the same size as designated on plans. The excavation for the basement under the whole building to be made two feet below the present surface of the ground. The trenches for the foundation wall to be excavated one foot below the said basement floor or to solid strata of clay or gravel. Upon the first floor a wall as marked across the clerk's and auditor's office making the rooms and the rear tower "witness" and "sheriff" rooms and throwing the remaining parts into a hall by placing the walls back. The hot air ducts to be carried into all the offices on the first floor from one furnace and the court and other rooms to be heated by ducts from another furnace similar to the first making but two furnaces in the building.

In ascending from the lower story a spiral staircase to be placed in the rear passage up to the floor of the court room, then stairways to the jury rooms above.

And as compensation for the aforesaid plans the said Board agree to pay the said McBird the sum of \$135.00 in the following manner. \$50.00 cash in hand this date and the balance when the said plans are completed and delivered into the custody of said Board in testimony whereof the said .....etc.

Cemetery Records Riverside Cemetery, Denver, Colorado

Cemetery Records, Botna Valley Genealogical Society, Pottawattamie County, Iowa  
Cemetery Records, Iowa Genealogical Society, Des Moines, Iowa, 1982. No McBird in Pottawattamie County Council Bluffs is incompletely indexed.

Cass County, Indiana Property Records 219 753 7710 computer down 15 Jun 93.

"in lot" 21 Logansport some time in 1866

Lot 196 West Logan, Cass County

"Beginning at the north east corner of a piece of land adjoining the plot of West Logan at the intersection of Wall and Attaway Streets running thence westerly along Attaway Street forty four feet, thence southerly and parallel to Wall Street one hundred and twenty nine feet thence east forty four feet to Wall Street, thence northerly along Wall Street one hundred and twenty nine feet to the place of beginning." It appears that he transferred it on 10 July 1869. There is a similar transaction of land that I can not read conveying similar land to the McBirds 25 Feb 1869.

Lot 21 in William S Browns addition to the town of Logansport to John Wilds for \$4000 on 18 January 1870.

Lot 196 in west Logan for \$600 on 3 February 1870

"commencing at the corner of Wall and Attaway streets running thence westwardly along Ottawa? street forty four feet to the place of beginning [sic] thence westwardly along the south line? of said street eighty eight feet thence southwardly and at right angles with said Ottawa street one hundred seventy nine feet, thence eastwardly parallel with said Ottawa street eighty eight feet thence northwardly and parallel with Wall Street one hundred and twenty nine feet to the place of beginning. 16 March 1870 \$425.

Census Data:

1810 Federal Census Oneida County, New York (Simmons)

p22 T Lockwood Free white males, 2 age 10-16, 2 white males age 16-26, 1 white male over 45, 1 free white female under 10, one age 10-16, two age 16-26 and 1 45 and over.

1820 Federal census index Ohio no McBird or MacBird (Hinckley)

1820 Federal census index Pennsylvania no McBird of MacBird (Hinckley)

- 1820 Federal census, Erie County, Pennsylvania, no McBird (Simmons)
- 1830 Federal census index Ohio no McBird or MacBird (Hinckley)
- 1830 Federal census index Pennsylvania no McBird of MacBird (Hinckley)
- 1830 Federal census Erie County, Amity Twp, Pennsylvania (Simmons) Note there were 2 other Shepard families.  
 p 292 Shepard, Hazen, Free white males: one age 10-15 (presumably Matthew McBird), one age 30-40, Free white females one under 5, one age 5-10, one age 40-50 Note that Elizabeth was 8 years older than Hazen.
- 1840 Federal census index Ohio no McBird or MacBird (Hinckley)
- 1840 Federal census index Pennsylvania no McBird of MacBird (Hinckley)
- 1840 Federal census Erie County, Amity Twp, Pennsylvania (Simmons)  
 p 19 Hazen Shepard with one white male age 40-50, two females age 15-20 and one age 50-60.
- 1850 Federal Census, District of Columbia, (Hinckley) no McBird, Forrest
- 1850 Federal census index Ohio no McBird or MacBird (Hinckley)(Simmons)
- 1850 Federal census index Pennsylvania no McBird of MacBird (Hinckley)
- 1850 Federal census Cass County, Indiana, no McBird (Simmons)
- 1850 Federal Census Marion County, Indiana (Hinckley)  
 John McBird incarcerated in the Indiana Hospital for the Insane, noted to be a 22 yo farmer, born in Ohio, insane. Matthew is not listed in Indiana and the institution is not listed in the 1860 census. In addition, since from his autobiography we know that Matthew had no siblings who survived childhood. This man is unrelated.
- 1850 Federal Census Washington, D.C. no listing for McBird or MacBird (Hinckley)
- 1850 Federal Census, Virginia (Hinckley) There is a Forrest and a M Bird (female) which are unlikely
- 1850 Federal Census, Maryland (Hinckley) No McBird. There are some Thomas Forrests but not good candidates
- 1850 Federal Census, Indiana (Hinckley) there is a Thomas Forrest in Tippecanoe Co who is a butcher 40 yo born in Ireland
- 1850 Federal census Erie County, Amity Twp, Pennsylvania (Simmons) p6  
 Shepard, Hazen 56 m farmer with \$1200 real estate born in Vermont  
 Shepard, Betsy E 62f born in New York  
 Middleton, Harriet 25f born in Pennsylvania  
 Middleton, George 31 m born in Ireland
- 1860 Federal Census, Baltimore, Maryland (indexed separately (Hinckley) no McBird. Forrests are unlikely
- 1860 Federal Census, Virginia (Hinckley) there are a few Forrests, none likely and a Mathew Bird who is a Mullato laborer
- 1860 Federal Census, District of Columbia (Hinckley) No McBird or Forrest. M Bird is a 21yo black woodsawyer and must not be the guy in the directory

- 1860 Federal Census, Maryland (Hinckley) no McBird or Forrest
- 1860 Federal Census, Woodstock, Shenandoah County, Virginia  
Mark Bird
- 1860 Federal Census, Logansport, Elk Township, Cass Co, Indiana  
Matthew J McBird 42 m architect b New York  
Mary 31f b Ohio  
Viola 6f b Indiana  
Sylvia Noah 10f b Ohio  
Cynthia Gates 17 f servant b Indiana
- 1870 Federal Census, Woodstock, Shenandoah County, Virginia  
Mark Bird age 59
- 1870 Federal Census, Colorado (Simmons) is said to show that Campbell Dickson  
Titus is present and single.
- 1870 Federal Census, Council Bluffs, Pottawattamie Co, Iowa  
John McBird 52m architect b Pennsylvania  
Mary 38f keeping house b Ohio  
Viola 16f b Indiana  
Mary 8f b Indiana  
William 6m b Indiana  
Lockwood 1m b Indiana  
S Noah 19f b Ohio
- 1880 Federal Census, Denver, Arapahoe County ED11 Sheet 236 (Hinckley)  
address unreadable  
Wood William, 45 M, Germ, Engl, Germ, Produce Merchant  
Wood America, 40 M, VA, VA, VA, Keeps house  
Wood Emma 18 S MO Germ, Italy, (adopted daughter)  
Nixon George J W 50 S, NY, NY, NY, Bookkeeper  
Lacey Joseph A, 17 S, VA, VA, VA, Clerk in Grocery Store  
Brinker Geo. E, 25 S, VA, VA, VA, Clerk in Grocery Store  
Crook Wm, 23 S, VA, ?, FL, Clerk in Grocery Store  
Crook Henry M, 20 S, VA, ?, FL, Clerk in Grocery Store
- 1880 Federal Census Colorado (Simmons) is said to show that Campbell Dickson  
Titus is present and single.
- 1880 Federal Census Colorado (Hinckley) no Howard, M Howard, Carrie or  
Harriet Sweet in name index
- 1880 Federal Census, Decatur, Macon county, Illinois  
Sweet, Carrie 30 yowf house keeping, born in Missouri  
Sweet, George 12 yowm "North at Pho Gallery", born in Illinois  
Sweet, Marion 10 yowm at school, born in ?Illinois?
- 1880 Federal Census, Denver, Colorado  
Laura Gibson 25 F b Indiana. Consumption  
MJ McBird 66 M architect b Pennsylvania (father b Scotland mother b  
New York)

Maie McBird 17 F sister keeping house b Indiana  
 Lockwood McBird 10 M b Indiana  
 J Brown 25 renter laborer  
 Clarence Montague 22 M renter composition p?????  
 1885 Colorado Census, unreadable address on Welton  
     Sweet, Carrie 35yo widow born in Missouri  
     Sweet, Geo W 17 male born in Illinois  
 1885 Colorado Census 22 10th ave  
     Sweet, Howard M 26 yowm telegrapher boarding with the Smith family  
 1885 Colorado Census  
     MJ McBird 62 yo carpenter  
     Lockwood 16 in school  
     Mrs P Ellis 45 yo housekeeper  
         Thomas 19  
         Emma 17  
         Agatha 14  
         Bostina 7  
         Roca 4  
     Charles Opris 32 boarder, brickmolder  
 1900 Federal Census Denver-2023 Lafayette St  
     MJ McBird 81 yo architect owner no mortgage b New York (father born  
         Scotland, mother b Connecticut)  
     Terresa Hanaberry 40f housekeeper married 17y  
     Mary Hanaberry 16 yo daughter of housekeeper  
     Abbey Eastman 62 yo single roomer, smstress  
     Isaac N Williams 49 yo roomer express drvr  
 1900 Federal Census Denver (10 Grant Ave)  
     William N McBird 35 m lodger, lawyer born Sep 1864 born Indiana father  
         born Pennsylvania mother born Ohio  
     Listed with Delia R McCarthy head of household born in Indiana and 24  
         more lodgers.  
 1900 Federal Census 1061 s 11th, Denver  
     Campbell Titus 43m dry goods  
         Mary D 43f wife  
         Viola 16f daughter  
         Edmond 16m son  
         Grace 13f daughter  
         Grace H Titus 14f daughter  
         Dixon 8m son  
     Victoria Noah 45f single domestic servant  
 1900 Federal Census Weld Co, Winburn Precinct #26 (Simmons)  
     Sylvia G Smith  
 1900 Federal Census Victor, Teller County, Colorado

M Lockwood McBird living on Victor Ave 30 yo single architect. Renting his house.

John Sherwood 41 yo single lodger

George Hoff 54 yo single lodger

1900 Federal Census Weld Co, Winburn Precinct #26 (Simmons)

Sylvia G Smith

1900 Federal Census, Cripple Creek, Teller County, Colorado (Hinckley)

312 Eaton Ave (rents house)

Sweet, Carrie, Widow b Sept 1850, MO, MO. England

Sweet Marion H son b Sept 1870, IL, IL, MO

1910 Federal Census, 644 Pearl St, Denver, Colorado

Sweet, Howard M 40 yowm born in Illinois, father born in Kentucky, mother born in Missouri,, accountant at City Hall

, Myrtle MK 36 yowf, wife born in Colorado, father born in Pennsylvania, mother born in Nebraska

, Howard M, Jr 3 mo old wm born in Colorado

1910 Federal Census Denver unable to locate McBird House (2023) or 2105 Lafayette

1910 Federal Census

Campbell D. Titus 53m dry goods merchant

Mary D 48f wife

Grace H 24f daughter

Campbell 17m son

1910 Federal Census for 409 Fourth Ave, Victor, Colorado

Matthew L McBird 39m self employed architect renting

Ella 28f wife

William 8m son

Fred 6m son

Theodore 4m son

Alice 2f daughter

Bertha 9/12f daughter

Mary Cormack 16f child's English nurse

1920 Federal Census, 140 S Cherokee St, Denver, Colorado

Matthew L MacBird 43m contractor-builder

Martha E 33f wife

William N 17m son apprentice blueprinting

Fred L 16m son errand boy blueprinting

Theodore D 7m son

Mary A 11f daughter

Bertha 10f daughter

Harry D 3 6/12m son

1920 Federal Census, 4434 Federal Blvd, rear

Sweet, Carrie, 68 yo widow born in Missouri, father born in England and mother born in Ohio.

1920 Federal Census

Martin Herian 56 owner born in Bohemia. Emigrated to US in 1880 and became a citizen in 1884. Owner of a transfer company.

Margaret 49 wife born in Bohemia Emigrated to US in 1880. Became a citizen in 1887

Anton Jr 26 yo salesman gun co

William J 22 yo lab Standard Oil

Helen R 20 yo steno rubber co

Mary 17 yo

Margaret A 14 yo

George H 11 yo

Evelyn Ruth 8 yo

Ernest Cerny 35 yo roomer born Moravia. Emigrated 1906. Citizen 1913 tailor

Frank Ruprich 31yo roomer born Moravia. Emigrated 1904. Citizen 1910 laborer for dairy

1920 Federal Census, Pueblo, Colorado

William N McBird, inmate at Colorado State Hospital 55 wm born in Indiana

*Cleveland City Directories* 1850-1860 No McBird (searched by Judith G Cetina, Cuyahoga County Archives)

*Chicago Times* is said to contain a reference to McBird's relationship with the first governor of Nebraska. Searched 20 May 1869-20 June 1869 but could easily have missed it. Best date would be 21 June 1869. Two weeks surrounding this date searched by Zack Wiley 1997-nothing found.

*Colorado Springs Gazette* index. No McBird.

*Colorado State Business Directory* 1879

Carpenters and builders, Reed, JW 290 17th

Add: JW Read-Architect and Builder, Stair building a Specialty, No 290 Seventeenth St, Next Door to Grand Central

*Colorado State Business Directory* 1882

Architects and Superintendents, Read & McBird, Denver.

*Commonwealth* predecessor journal to *Nebraska State Journal*

*Council Bluffs City Directory*

1869-70 No listing

1871 Architects..MJ McBird, architect 412 Broadway. Not recognizable in 1995.

1871 MJ McBird, architect r es Bancroft 6s Willow. Note that in 1995 Bancroft had been renamed 4th and this address was a parking lot. There are a number of 1870's houses in this neighborhood, most particularly the Grenville Dodge House (1869)

1873/4 Architects no listing

1873/4 MJ McBird architect r NS High School Ave ne Glendale

1876 MJ McBird, architect r WS High School s of Glen Av.

1876 (Browns Business Directory) architects.. MJ McBird High School Av. See property description.

1879 Architects.. Matthew J McBird architect High School Av

1879 Matthew J McBird, architect, res ws High School av so of Glen r High School (Street) s of  
Glen Av

1880/1 MJ McBird, architect, Leadville, Col res ns High School Ave, 4th W Glen Av

1880/1 Wm N McBird, clk, HE Seaman, res ns High School av, 4th W Glen Av

1880/1 architects, carpenters, builders no McBird

No directories published in 1872, 1875, 1877, 1888.

**Council Bluffs Land Records:** John Davis, researcher for Blanche Simmons, was able to find several land records at the Potawattamie County Records Office that show McBird purchased by warranty deed a large portion of lots 18 and 19 in Purple's subdivision of council Bluffs. This is the address on High School Street noted in the Council Bluffs Directories. The deed was filed in July 1870, and this suggests that he was renting when he first moved to Council Bluffs and built a house. In 1873 he obtained the rest of the interest in the property by Quitclaim Deed. The property was sold to WR Naughn on 31 March 1887, but records are incomplete. Visited in Mar 1995. There are a number of houses on this property all dating from the early 20th century. According to the platte maps the lots were subdivided before 1895. There is a commanding view overlooking Council Bluffs.

**Council Bluffs Cemetery records surveyed by John Davis, researcher for Blanche Simmons.** Walnut Hill Cemetery in Council Bluffs has no record of Mary. Records for Fairview Cemetery are maintained in the Council Bluffs Clerks office, and they have no record of Mary. These are the only two non-Catholic cemeteries. St Joseph's Cemetery has been indexed and she is not there searched. She is not listed in the index to the Prospect Hill Cemetery in Omaha. He wonders if she was shipped back to Logansport and I wonder if they were divorced.

**Council Bluffs newspaper provided by Ruth Bartels of the State Historical Society of Iowa 21 June 1993.** Married: Gibson-McBird. On the evening of Nov 25th at the house of the bride's father, Mr. MJ McBird, by Rev HS DeForest, Prof George W Gibson to Miss Viola McBird, both of this city.

**Counts, W and Dilts, J, *The Magnificent 92 Indiana Courthouses*, Rose Bud Press, Bloomington, Indiana, 1991.** Notes that McBride [sic] built the second Carroll County Courthouse, but mentions no others. JP Dilts looked thru his files (personal communication 16 August 1996) and found no further information about McBird.

**Crane, Joseph E, *Historical abridgement of essenes and antiquity of free masonry; its decadence and revival, introduction in America, its establishment in Indiana, and induction in Logansport, Cass County' Organization and history of Tipton Lodge No 33 F & AM August 25 1826 to January 6, 1928*, Longwell Cummings Co, Logansport, Indiana**

**Crawford, Robert Platt, *These Fifty Years: a history of the college of Agriculture of the University of Nebraska*, University of Nebraska College of Agriculture, Lincoln, Nebraska, 1925.**

**Creede Daily Herald vol 1 # 21**

**Death announcement:** Robert D Silver died on 5 November 1899 in Colorado Springs aged 46 years 8 months 8 days and is buried at Riverside Cemetery in Denver.

**Death Certificate Mary D Titus.** Died at Old Ladies Home, 325 Ash St at the age of 84 of myocarditis, mitral incompetence and arteriosclerosis. Buried at Fairmount.

**Death Certificate William N McBird.** Died 29 August 1924 at the State Hospital in Pueblo of pulmonary hemorrhage

**Death Certificate, Matthew John McBird.** Died of hemiplegia and jaundice on 23 April 23, 1903. His date of birth was 25 June. Born in Erie, Pa. Father born in Scotland. Mothers maiden name Lockwood. She was also born in Scotland. The undertaker was FB Waters.

Death Certificate Carrie Sweet. She lived at 4753 Quitman and had lived in Denver for 33 years. She was born on 25 September 1849 and died at home of a stroke on 11 March 1924. She was born in Missouri. Her father's name was George Woods and he had been born in England. She was buried at Crown Hill by Olinger. MH Sweet was living in Albuquerque.

Death Certificate Matthew Lockwood MacBird. Died 12 February 1926 of hemorrhagic smallpox. This was certified by Dr George M Stevens and he was buried at Forest Lawn. He had been sick 8 days and his residence was 2333 N Figueroa.

Death Certificate Martha Ellen MacBird. She died on 15 November 1922 at Methodist Hospital in Los Angeles of acute vegetative endocarditis of the mitral valve superimposed on chronic valvular heart disease.

Death Notice, Colorado Springs Gazette 6 November 1889. Silver-at Colorado Springs, Colo at 1:15 pm yesterday, Mr Robert D. Silver of Chicago. Funeral Services will be held at St Mark's Church, Denver, on Friday next at 2 pm. Chicago, Denver, Lincoln, Neb, and Santa Fe papers please copy.

Denver Assessor's Office records- Date of construction of 2023 Lafayette is recorded as 1887.

Denver Building Permits File 1889-1893 surveyed by Hans Zeschin

February 19, 1890 #284 brick terrace 8 houses, 116x37 cost 5500, fronting on alley between 16th and 17th between Ceneral and Boulder sts lots 3-7 or 5-7 block 14 Kassermans Addition, MJ McBird architect, LM McBird builder, G Johnson owner. This building is still standing, although it is covered with stucco. Current addresses are 2508, 10, 24, 26, 30. There is an identical building just uphill with addresses 2532, 34, 36, 38.

*Denver City Directory* Surveyed from 1871 to 1881 looking for Camplin, Cruchet, Flanagan and Kinkade, names obtained from title document, without help. JN Flanagan is listed on Schinner av cor 13th av in 1876, Schinner being current Downing.

*Denver Household Directory* (surveyed by Hans Zeschin) for 2023 Lafayette.

*Denver Post* 12 Mar 1913 p 7. Former alderman Campbell D Titus dies of apoplexy.

*Denver Post* 30 May 1949. (See also *Rocky Mountain News* p 48)

Mary D Titus. Funeral services for Mary D Titus, who died Sunday, will be held at 10:30 am today in Olinger Mortuary, Speer blvd, Interment will be in Fairmount Cemetery.

The daughter of Matthew J and Mary Noah MacBird [sic], Mrs Titus was born Aug 14, 1864, in Logansport, Ind. She came to Denver with her parents in 1879 and attended Brinker School, a fashionable pioneer educational institution. Her father was one of Denver's first architects.

She was married in 1890 to Campbell D. Titus, a dry goods merchant who was elected to City Council twice--in 1896 and 1910. He died in 1913.

Mrs Titus was a life member of the Old Ladies Home, where she had resided for the past seven years. She was also a member of the Christian Science Church.

She is survived by four children, C. Dickson Titus, Mrs Howard P Boak and Edwin A Titus, all of Denver, and Mrs James B Brown, Los Angeles, 10 grandchildren and nine great grandchildren. Six grandsons will be pallbearers.

Divorce proceedings of Harriet C McBird vs Matthew J McBird from Colorado State Archives 1884. (Denver Superior Court September 16, 1884 case #606) In addition to the complaint there are some shorthand notes which I can't find anyone who can read. There is no written response from the defendant. There is no final decree, but the divorce is recorded in the listing of divorces in Arapahoe County before 1901.

Douglas County Historical Society (402 451 1013), PO Box 11398, Omaha, Ne 68111. The librarian, Ann Haller, reports that there is little information about him in their files. In addition he is not listed in "An Inventory of Historic Omaha Buildings." Omaha Directories were searched

- under architects from 1868 to 1882 for McBird and Robert and John D Silver. The only McBird listing was in the 1874-5 directory.
- Edinburgh, Royal College of Surgeons, Miss AM Stevenson, assistant archivist reported on 12 October 1993 that a search of the College records and other printed sources reveals no McBird. Nicholson Street, Edinburgh, EH8 9DW.
- Edinburgh, University of. Jo Currie of special collections of the library reports on 8 November 1993 that there is no student at any time in their records named McBird. She listed a number of Birds in their student body in medicine in the nineteenth century. There are no McBirds in the *Register of Edinburgh Apprentices 1765-1800*. She thinks the name may have been McBride originally, but doesn't have any of them either. Special Collections Department, Edinburgh University Main Library, George Square, Edinburgh, EH8 9LJ.
- Feitz, Leland, *A Quick History of Victor*, Little London Press, Colorado Springs 1969.
- Field, HH and Reed, JLR, *History of Pottawattamie County Iowa*, SJ Clarke Publishing Co 1907. Contains a biography of the wrong George W Gibson.
- Fort Wayne, Indiana Catholic Cathedral, Fr Widman, archivist. Reported in Spring 1996 that articles in the Ft Wayne Sentinel and Journal Gazette of 27 November 1960 on the 100th anniversary of the cathedral noted that Fr Benoit designed the cathedral and largely paid for it. He served as the bishop for 40 years or so. Lau was the carpenter and contractor and J Silver was the brick contractor.
- Fort Wayne, Indiana City Directories searched by Chris in Spring 1996, in the 1864 and 1861-2 directories is listed DJ Silver, contractor and builder, ofs 54 Calhoun St 3rd stry, r 64 E Jefferson. There are no other contemporary listings for Silver and no listings for McBird or Bird other than Ochmig.
- French, JH, *Gazetteer of the State of New York*, R Pearsall Smith, Syracuse, NY, 1860.  
This reference notes that Manchester was a part of Kirkland in Oneida County as was Whitestown. Kirkland is the location of Hamilton College. Whitestown was also in Oneida County. Whitestown was named for Hugh White, a pioneer settler. It was formed on 7 March 1788, and originally included an indefinite amount of territory extending westward, at the present time (1860!) forming several counties. Steuben, Mexico, Paris and Westmoreland were taken off in 1792; Augusta in 1798, Utica in 1817: and New Hartford in 1827.....
- Gane, JF, *American Architects Directory*, Sponsored by American Institute of Architects published by RR Bowker Company, NY 1970 Third Edition. Gives brief sketch of Theodore Detarr MacBird and notes that he joined AIA in 1961 and lists a number of his commissions.
- Gerard, CE, Griffey MG, *A photographic portrayal of old life in a Hoosier community; the pictorial history of Carroll County*, Privately published 1978. Has some text and a number of pictures of the various Carroll County Courthouses.
- Goeldner, Paul, *Temples of justice-nineteenth century court houses in the Midwest and Texas*, PhD Thesis, Columbia University 1970, searched by Craig Leonard.
- Goode, James. Phone discussion 15 June 93. He has never heard of McBird, but suggests there were four major building projects going on the Washington DC in the 1850's, the US Capital, Post Office Building, Patent Office Building and St Elizabeth's hospital, and that he might have been involved in these
- Goodstein, Phil, *Denver streets, names, numbers, locations and logic*, Denver, New Social Publications 1994
- Grantor/Grantee Citations Denver:

2023 Lafayette - Lots numbered 21 and 22 in Block 50; said block being part in Schinners and part in Gabathuter's Addition to the City of Denver, State of Colorado.

14 June 1880 - Bk 125 Pg 85 - Trust Deed Matthew J. McBird (Grantor) to Alfred C. Phelps for Henry J. Armstrong. \$500 Promissory Note

30 July 1880 - Bk 125 Pg 129 - Trust Deed Matthew J. McBird (Grantor) to Alfred C. Phelps for Mitchell Benedict. \$200 Promissory Note

[These two trust deeds were released - Book 253, Pg 441 (did not get copy)]

12 April 1883 - Bk 189 Pg 75 - Warranty Deed Matthew J. McBird (Grantor) to Harriet C. McBird \$3000 Entered for Homestead 5 May 1883

12 July 1890 - Bk 630 Pg 103 - Warranty Deed Matthew J. McBird (Grantor) to William N. McBird and M. Lockwood McBird

29 Sep 1890 - Bk 632 Pg 232 - Deed of Trust William N. McBird and M. Lockwood McBird (Grantor) to Public Trustee for Denver Savings Bank. \$1000 Promissory Note

3 June 1903 - Bk 1578 Pg 180 - Warranty Deed M. Lockwood McBird (Grantor) of the County of Teller to Mary D. Titus [Very poor copy. It reads: An undivided one-half of lot numbered 21 in block numbered 50; partly in Gabathuler's Addition to Denver, and partly in Schinner's Addition to Denver and lot numbered 22 in Block numbered 50 in Schinner's Addition to Denver. excepting a Deed of Trust owning to the Public Trustee of Arapahoe County, now the City and County of Denver recorded in Book 632 at page 232 of records of Arapahoe County.]

Lot numbered 28 in Block numbered 1 in Park Avenue Addition to City of Denver.

13 Nov 1882 - Bk 184 Pg 267 - Deed of Trust Matthew J. McBird (Grantor) to Alfred C. Phelps for Margaret S. Harper. \$100 Promissory Note

14 Dec 1882 - Bk 179 Pg 205 - Quitclaim Deed M. J. McBird (Grantor), father and sole heir of Viola Gibson deceased who died intestate and without living children to Harriet C. McBird. \$3000

27 January 1883 - Bk 183 Pg 575 - Release of Deed of Trust Alfred C. Phelps (Trustee) for Margaret S. Harper to Matthew J. McBird Releasing Deed of Trust dated 13 November 1882

27 January 1883 - Bk 186 Pg 289 - Deed of Trust Harriet C. McBird (Grantor) to Alfred C. Phelps for Margaret S. Harper \$100 Promissory Note

2 February 1883 - Bk 172 Pg 359-360  
Affidavit of Silvia G. Noah. Filed for record at 4 o'clock PM Feby 2, 1883. W.C. Lathrop, Recorder

State of Colorado  
Arapahoe County

Sylvia G. Noel being first duly sworn doth depose and say that she is of the age of thirty one years and resides in the City of Denver County and State aforesaid and has so resided for nearly two and one half years last past; that she is the sister of the first wife of Matthew J. McBird that she well knew the daughter of said Matthew J. McBird named Viola in her life time that this affiant when of the age of eight years went to live with said Matthew J. McBird and lived with him and in his family until she was of the age of twenty eight years, that his said daughter Viola at the time she went to live with him was about the age of five years that this affiant and Viola grew up together in the family of said Matthew J. McBird and continued to live until the said Viola was about the age of twenty one years when she married Dr. George W. Gibson and subsequently the said Viola and her said husband come to Denver to live. Affiant further says the said Viola and the said Dr. Gibson were married the day before Thanksgiving at Council Bluffs Iowa in the year 1876, that the said Dr. Gibson died at Leadville Colorado in the month of September AD 1879 and is buried at Riverside

Cemetery near the City of Denver that the said Viola Gibson died at Denver Colorado the 14th day of June AD 1880 and is also buried at the side of her said husband in said Riverside Cemetery and affiant further says that the mother of said Viola Gibson died in the month of March AD 1870. Affiant further says that the said Viola Gibson and the said Dr. George W. Gibson died leaving no children surviving that they never had any children and that Matthew J. McBird the father of said Viola Gibson is her sole heir and affiant further says that the said Viola Gibson was never married but once and that was to the said Dr. Gibson.

Signed Silvia G. Noah. Subscribed and sworn to before me this 2nd day of February AD 1883. John J. Harper Notary Public (Notarie Seal).

Affidavit of W.N. McBird. Filed for record at 4 o'clock PM Feby 2, 1883. W.C. Lathrop Recorder.

State of Colorado  
Arapahoe County

Willie N. McBird being first duly sworn deposes and says that he is of the age of nineteen years that he now resides in Denver and has so resided for nearly three years last past that he is a son of Matthew J. McBird and has lived with him and in his house ever since he was born, that he knew Viola Gibson in her lifetime that she was his sister and the daughter of the said Matthew J. McBird that he knew the said Viola from the time this affiant was born and until her death which took place the 14th day of June AD 1880 that the said Viola when she was about the age of twenty one married Dr. George W. Gibson in my father's house in Council Bluffs Iowa, that subsequently the said Viola and her said husband George W. Gibson came to Colorado where they lived until they died, the said George W. Gibson dying at Leadville in the month of September AD 1890. Affiant further says that the said George W. Gibson and Viola Gibson his wife never had any children and died leaving none, that the said Matthew J. McBird was the sole heir of said Viola Gibson and inherited from her certain real estate that she had possession of and that he remained in the peaceable and quiet possession of the said real estate without any molestation or claim from anyone, that on the 9th day of December AD 1882 said Matthew J. McBird deeded lot 28 in Block one Park Avenue Addition to Harriet C. McBird who now is the owner of the same, that no person or persons whatsoever to affiants knowledge or belief has made any claim to the said property as heir at law of the said Viola Gibson and that said Harriet C. McBird is now the undisputed owner thereof. Affiant further says that said Viola Gibson was never married but once and that was to the said George W. Gibson.

Signed W.N. McBird. Subscribed and sworn to before me this 30th day of January AD 1883. John J. Harper, Notary Public. (Notarie Seal).

- 2 February 1883 - Bk 188 Pg 9 - Warranty Deed Harriet C. MacBird and Matthew J. McBird (Grantor) to John P. McMillen. \$2100
- 9 February 1883 - Bk 185 Pg 260 - Trust Deed Harriet C. McBird (Grantor) to Alfred C. Phelps for Margaret S. Harper. \$400 Promissory Note
- 3 November 1882 - Bk 172 Pg 144-145 - Levy in Attachment Judson W. Read and Matthew J. McBird, co-partners as Read & McBird, Plaintiff Erastus S. Bennett, Defendant. \$201.88 by levying upon all of Block number 74 in Case & Eberts Addition to the City of Denver. And all that strip of land lying east of said Block 74 and on the west side of Downing Avenue, the whole of the land hereby intended to be levied upon being bounded by 31st

Street, California Street, and Downing Avenue, as the property of Erastus S. Bennett. [note that in January 1993 the corner property has been demolished. Other properties are old but undistinguished]

3 November 1882 - Bk 44 Pg 636 - Mechanic's Lien Erastus S. Bennett to M.J. McBird \$171.88 for work and labor done under a contract on the structures recently built on all of the lots and fractional lots in Blocks 74 in Case and Eberts Addition to City of Denver. Released.

*The following deed reference was NOT pursued with examination, etc.: Bk 609 Pg 145 - Warranty Deed - Instrument dated 4 Aug 1888; Reception dated 10 Apr 1890. King, Mrs. Augusta J. (Grantor) to W. N. McBird (Grantee). Lots 1,2; Block 12, Irving Park Subdivision.*

1882 there is a mechanics lien against Erastus Bennet for work done by Reed and McBird on blk 74 Case and Eberts addn and a strip on Downing. There is another citation to the property as being bounded by 31st, Calif st and Downing av or Calif cor 31st is residence of Erastus Bennet. (Checked in Jan 1993-demolished).

### Grantor/Grantee Indices, Denver, Colorado (examined for surname McBird)

#### Grantee Indexes

Grantee Index No. 5 - 1870-1872

Grantee Index No. 6 - 1872-1874

Grantee Index No. 7 - 1874-1875

Grantee Index No. 8 - 1875-1877

Grantee Index No. 9 - 1877-1879

Grantee Index No. 10 - 1879-1881

Grantee Index No. 11 - May 1881 - Dec 1881

Grantee Index No. 12 - Jan 1882 - Sep 1882

Grantee Index No. 13 - Oct 1882 - Jun 1883

Grantee Index No. 28 - Sep 1889 - Nov 1889

Grantee Index No. 29 - Nov 1889 - Jan 1890

Grantee Index No. 30 - Jan 1890 - Feb 1890

Grantee Index No. 31 - Mar 1890 - May 1890

Grantee Index No. 32 - May 1890 - Jul 1890

**Grantee Index No. 33 - MISSING (Jul 1890 - Sep 1890)**

#### Grantor Indexes

Grantor Index No. 10 - 1879-1881

Grantor Index No. 13 - Oct 1882 - Jun 1883

Grantor Index No. 67 - Jul 1903 - Dec 1903

Grantor Index No. 68 - Jan 1904 - Jun 1904

Grantor Index No. 69 - Jul 1904 - Dec 1904

### Grantor/Grantee Index, Erie County, Pennsylvania (Simmons)

#### Grantee Index 870 354

Hazen Shepard bought from William Lattimore 20 September 1823 vol A p 202

Hazen Shepard of Amity Township bought from CC Emerson and wife Susan of Venango, Erie County a certain piece of land being in the Township of Amity and part of a donation tract No. 1956 containing 33 acres. 25 March 1858, vol 9 p 69

#### Grantor Index 870 342

Hazen Shepard and wife Elizabeth of Amity Township sold to George W Baldwin the tract of Donation land being a part of donation tract No 1257 containing 28 acres sold for \$113.47- 30 December 1856 vol 9 p 1253, 1254, \$100 for donation land tract no 1957 containing 9 acres.

### Grantor/Grantee Index Oneida county, New York (Simmons)

#### Grantee 364 851

Theopilus Lockwood from Daniel Perkins, Book 8 p 286 28 February 1801

Theophilus Lockwood from Joseph Nichols, Book 8 p 257 28 February 1801  
Theophilus Lockwood from David Pixley Book 37 p 41 9 October 1823  
Grantor 364 844 No McBird, No "I"s on film  
Probate Index 381 368  
wills book 56 p 392  
Letters book 19 p 340 (what does this mean?)  
Guardianship McBird 385020

Guardianship papers for George W and Marion H Sweet filed on 18 December 1882.  
"...said minors are children of John T Sweet dec, late a soldier in the Army of the United States.-of Company A, Third Regiment of Illinois Cavalry. That the estate of said minors consists of a pension from the United States Government amounting in the aggregate to twelve dollars (\$12.00) per month.--such pension dating from the 14 day of November 1882.--And the said minors have, at the date of this Petition, no other property, but have an interest in expectancy in the estate of their Grandfather, the amount and value of which is not to this Petitioner Known." It is interesting that Harriet signs her name *MacBird* but she is listed by the court as *McBird*. On the Guardian's Bond she signed as *MacBird* and he signed as *McBird*.

Hannah, JJ, *The Ideas and Plans in the Founding of the University of Nebraska*, thesis at Nebraska Historical Society, film 378.782 H19 roll 1 #5. No helpful information.

Helm, TB, *History of Carroll County, Indiana with Illustrations and biographical sketches of some of its prominent men and pioneers*, Kingman Brothers, Chicago 1882. Has a drawing of the court house and on p 131-133 has a detailed description of building of the court house quoting extensively from the minutes of the Commissioners of Carroll County.

#### Herian Legal Records:

"Order court Aug 31, 1910 In district court #49213 Pursuant to Order of Court heretofore entered on July 12, 1910 Mary Titus etc were sworn and testified.

In district court city and county of Denver 49212 court finds that the description of property intended to be or conveyed by Warranty Deed in Book 92 page 292 be reformed and corrected to read as follows: lot 21 block 50 Partly in Gabathuler's addition to Denver and partly in Schinner's Addition to Denver. Certified October 4, 1910."

Hermansen, David R, *Indiana County Court Houses of the Nineteenth Century*, Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana 1968. Reviewed by Suzanne Rollins of Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana. No McBird. Note: author is dead.

Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, 340 W Michigan St Indianapolis Indiana 46202, 317 639 4534. Susie Rollins will look into McBird and will also check Indiana State Library. She consulted a booklet *Indiana Courthouses of the Nineteenth Century*, the biography index at the State Library and an index of Indiana architects mentioned in *American Architect and Building News* January 1876-1939 and found no mention.

#### *Indexes to Warrants Issued Under Acts of 1812, 1814, and 1842 (Hinckley)*

No Bird, McBird, Matthew McBride, MacBird

#### *Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers who Served During the War of 1812 (Hinckley)*

McBird, John, 71 Reg't (May-July 1814) Ky. Mil. Private. Original filed under Bird, John  
Bird, Matthew, 2 reg't (Seward's) NJ Militia, Private.

Indexes to Warrants, Indiana State Archives: 24 February 1993 letter to Blanche Simmons from Alan F January found nothing in records for Indiana Civil War soldiers, biographical dictionaries, newspaper and biographical indices. Found him in Carroll County histories and found a reference to his building of the University of Nebraska.

Indiana Courthouses. Since McBird was said to have built another courthouse likely candidates have been investigated.

White County. According to the White County Historical Society:

First courthouse 1835-7

Second courthouse 1848-51. George Brown of Lafayette took contract

Third courthouse 1894 LaBelle and French architects of Marion, Indiana  
Monticello, Indiana: 1848-51 brick courthouse in Monticello, Indiana built by  
Geo Brown, contractor, of Lafayette. No architect. According to the  
historical society the \$8000 price included furnishings (219 583 3998).

Bluffton, Indiana: The courthouse in Bluffton built in mid 1800's was built by  
George W Webster of Marion, Indiana. This is curious as Gov Butler came  
from Marion. Craig Leonard, local historian who provided this  
information, assures me that there was no McBird courthouse in Marion.

Indiana State Historical Society, 315 W Ohio St, Indianapolis, Indiana 46202, 317 232  
1882 phone 10 June 93 no help.

Indiana State Library. Letter from John Selch to Blanche Simmons. Found death of Orville but could  
not confirm references in Arthington Papers. Not listed in WPA index of Logansport papers in  
death index or as grooms in marriage index. There were two references to his work as an  
architect. Logansport Journal and Democrat Pharos is available on microfilm.

*International Genealogical Index* (Kathleen Hinckley) lists only the marriage of Matthew J McBird  
to Mary Noah. There are no references to McBird in the surname catalog of published  
genealogies and no references in the Ancestral file at the LDS Library in Salt Lake City, Utah as of  
February 1993.

Ladies Relief Society of Denver, Index to Residents of the "Old Ladies Home" 1897-1980.  
Landmarks, Inc (402 346 1055) Anne Levenson reports by phone in February 1993 that they have no  
record of McBird

Landmarks, Inc, *An Inventory of Historic Omaha Buildings* does not list McBird

Latrobe, John HB, *Construction of the public buildings in Washington*, Maryland Historical  
Magazine 4:221-8 (1909). Really only interested in what his father did.

*Lincoln City Directory 1873-4*, JM Wolfe, compiler, JM Wolfe Publisher, Lincoln,  
Nebraska 1873. This is the first Lincoln City Directory and does not list McBird

Lincoln, Nebraska property records

WF Cullen and wife to MJ McBird 11 June 1870 lot 11 blk 161 Lincoln. Parking lot in 1995.

Quitclaim deed MM McBird to WW Wilson 19 Dec 1885 lot 11 blk 161 Lincoln

Edw Warnes to MJ McBird 12 Aug 1869 lots 7-9 blk 15 S Lincoln. Residential and old in 1995 but  
not that old.

MJ McBird to TG Humphrey 5 Oct 1874 lots 7-9 blk 15 S Lincoln

*Logansport City Directory 1869* lists DJ Silver and RD Silver as bankers

*Logansport Democrat Pharos 26 Dec 1855* p2c6 Business card: M.J. McBird, Architect, office in  
green's building, above canal, Logansport. Designs, specifications, and superintendence of  
buildings and structures of all kinds. Also, instructions in all mechanical and architectural  
drawings. All orders promptly attended to.

*Logansport Journal 30 Sep 1865* p3c2. Specimens of Architectural Drawings exhibited by MJ McBird  
are much admired

*Los Angeles Times* Sunday, February 14, 1926 Part 1 p18 col 7

MacBird [sic]. In this city, February 12, M. Lockwood MacBird, aged 53 years, late of 233 1/2 North Figueroa street.

Services will be held Monday afternoon at 3 o'clock in the chapel of the Forest Lawn Cemetery. Garrett Brothers, directors. (Denver papers please copy) [as far as I can tell they never did].

Not listed in RMN 12-17 February 1926. Other Denver papers have not been surveyed. There was no Cripple Creek paper in 1926 and no listing was found in the Colorado Springs Gazette]

Manley, RN, *Centennial history of the University of Nebraska. frontier university (1869-1919)*, University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Marriage License, Campbell d Titus and Mary D Lacey 12 November 1890.

Marriage License, Matthew J McBird and Harriet C Sweet 14 Nov 1882

Marriage Record of Matthew J and Harriet C Sweet (Marriage Record 1278, Denver County, 14 Nov 1882).

They were married by JH Matthews, Minister of the Gospel, and the witnesses were JJ Matthews and Mrs JH Matthews. The 1882 Denver Directory reports that JH Mathews [sic] is a teacher at Brinker Institute and resides at 46 Pearl and JJ Matthews [sic] is a laborer for the D&RG railroad. "Brinker Collegiate Institute" is listed at Broadway at intersection of Tremont. Under the listings for Christian Church is listed Brinker College, Broadway between Seventeenth and Eighteenth. Name of pastor is not given and this was the only listing under "Christian Church"

Marriage Record of M Lockwood McBird and Ella M Hicks (Marriage Record 1288, El Paso County, 12 June 1901. The residence of both parties is given as Colorado Springs although they were married by Jas MacLaughlin, Rector of St Mark's Church in Victor. Witnesses were MA Hicks and Alice D Hicks

Marriages of Cuyahoga County, Ohio. The State of Ohio, Cuyahoga county, ss, I hereby certify that on the 2 day of Nov A.D. 1852 I duly xxxxxxxx the marriage contract between the said JM McBird and Mary Noah. Ezra Honeywell, J.P.

Marriage Records of Pottawattamie County, Iowa, Gibson, George W and McBird, Viola 25 November 1874.

McBird, MJ, *Autobiography*. This is a handwritten document covering family history, ancestors and the first few years of his life.

MacBird, Fred Lockwood, Unpublished autobiography edited by his daughter Judy Fettig, Autumn 1992

McKee, James L, *Lincoln: the prairie capital* produced in cooperation with the Lincoln-Lancaster County Historical Society, Windsor Publications, Inc, Northridge, California

McKee, JL and Duerschner, A, *Lincoln; a photographic history*, Published in cooperation with the Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, Salt Valley Press, Lincoln, Nebraska 1976

p7 [photo] The University of Nebraska was authorized by the Legislature on February 15, 1869. After a lot sale to raise the requisite \$100 000 for construction, the cornerstone for University Hall was laid September 25, 1869. Like the first Capitol the building was constructed of primarily local materials and judged, by some, as unsafe from the day it was occupied. Although the tower and top two floors were removed in 1925, the building remained in constant use until its demolition in the early fifties. The first diploma was issued in 1873 .....

p11 [photo] By 1870 the "old stone school" at 11th and Que was completely outgrown and the voters were asked to approve a \$50 000 bond issue and chose a site.....

McBird, Fred Lockwood, interview 16 April 1993

McCloud, Melissa had an exhibit at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C. (272 2448).

She also wrote a dissertation on builders in late 19th century Washington based on a sample of the 17000 or so building permits issued. She reported that she has searched in her material for McBird and found no mention. She also called a colleague who has an extensive database on antebellum architects and builders in Washington and she found no reference.

*Medical Directory of New York*, first volume published in 1899 according to Ella Abney of the Library of the Medical Society of the State of New York.

*Medical Register 1779-80* lists no eligible people. Searched by Jo Currie Edinburgh University Library.

Military records: None can be found for Matthew J McBird or MacBird. None can be found for Theopolus Lockwood, Revolutionary War from Connecticut, Matthew McDonald McBird in the War of 1812.

Morford, C, *Biographical Index to the County Histories of Iowa*, Gateway Press, Baltimore 1979. Lists an additional GW Gibson in *History of Jackson County*. Not looked up in March 1995.

Morris, FW, *Demolition of Old University Hall*, manuscript in Nebraska Historical Society. No additional information of use.

National Archives and Records Administration, *Guide to the National Archives of the United States*, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C. 1987. p545

"Federal building outside the District of Columbia was performed by Federal agencies and, to some extent by special commissions and officers appointed by the Secretary of the Treasury until 1853 when a Construction Branch was created in the Department of the Treasury. The Branch later became the Bureau of Construction in the Office of the Supervising Architect, and that Office, in turn was transferred in 1933 to the Public Buildings Branch of the Procurement Division. The Public Buildings Administration was created in the Federal Works Agency in 1939 by consolidating the Public Buildings Branch and the National Park Services Branch of Buildings Management. The latter Branch had inherited responsibilities for Federal construction in the District of Columbia from the Office of Public Buildings and Public Parks of the National Capitol. An act of June 30, 1949 abolished the Public Buildings Administration and transferred its functions to the GSA. The Public Buildings Service was established December 11, 1949 by the Administrator of General Services to supersede the Public Buildings Administration."

*Nebraska Alumnus*, December 1925 p430ff, Why U-Hall was Wrecked.

*Nebraska Blue Book* 1902-2, compiled from official and authentic records of the State Journal, Lincoln, Nebraska

*Nebraska Herald*, 11 August 1870 p4c3. University Accident (University Hall). Details of rafter accident.

*Nebraska Hesperian* 1871 ff. (Student newspaper). First issues scanned. Yield too low to continue.

Nebraska State Historical Society, *Messages and Proclamations of the Governors of Nebraska 1854-1941*, Nebraska State Historical Society, 1941 p 259-60. Biography of Gov Butler

Nebraska State Historical Society (471 4769) reports no listing in their files for McBird. They searched their newspaper index, Omaha histories and the Historic Preservation Working files for Nebraska architects as well as their General Index. Written response 1 March 1993. Reference Library, 1500 R St Box 82554, Lincoln, Ne 68501

*Nebraska State Journal*, Lincoln, Nebraska, Volume 2, #37, Saturday, August 15, 1869.

The State University and Agricultural College, through the courtesy of M.J. McBird, Esq., the architect of this public building now in the course of construction in Lincoln, we are unable to give a more accurate and extended description of it in the short article that appeared in our last issue.

The main building is in the form of a cross, the longer arms extending from front to rear, 109 x 48 ft., the shorter arms, 108 x 62 ft. Upon each end of the shorter arms which form the south part of the building is a wing, 23 ft. front x 68 ft. deep, making the entire length of the building 125 ft. and the extreme depth 100 ft.

From side to side through the central part of the main building and the two wings run a corridor 8 ft. side with entrances at each end. From the front entrance in the center of the main building another corridor runs back to the main passage and forms a court 16 x 76 ft. in the center. The staircases, 6 ft. wide, open from the center court upon each side of the center.

The basement extends under the entire building and is 9 ft. between floors and is used for furnaces, storage, laboratories, and chemical and scientific apparatus.

The first story is 13 ft in height and is divided for professors' offices and lecture rooms. The second story is 12 ft. in the clear and has upon it reception rooms, etc. and a chapel 43 x 62 ft. and 27 ft from floor to ceiling with galleries opening on the third floor. This room will accommodate 800 persons.

The third story is 14 ft. in the clear and the portion not occupied by the chapel is designed for recitation rooms.

The fourth floor is in the French roof and comprises four large rooms well lighted and ventilated by windows in the roof. There are in all 46 rooms.

Directly opposite the front entrance under the chapel are two large rooms, each 21 x 62 ft. for library and cabinet purposes. There are six recitation rooms, 8 x 22 ft.; two society rooms, 17 x 56 ft.; 12 rooms for offices, etc., 20 x 24 ft., and two 30 x 32 ft. besides numerous others not mentioned.

The height of the main cornice is 50 ft. above the grade. The tower is 112 ft. in height. Running from the top to the bottom of the structure are four ventilation shafts, 500 in. superficial area. These are elaborately finished above the roof and will give an abundance on pure air while conveying away the noxious gases from study and recitation rooms and the fumes of chemicals from laboratories.

The furnaces are supplied with air from above the roof of the building.

The style of the building may be characterized as Franco Italian, as one of the best adapted to the modern styles of college and university buildings.

The architect has been in Lincoln for the past fortnight contemplating and arranging his plans to leave them with the Commissioners for the guidance of the contractor. The Commissioners have decided not to employ a superintendent.

*Nebraska State Journal*, Lincoln, Nebraska, Volume 2, #43, Saturday, September 25, 1869.

There is a history of the development of Lincoln which includes a description of money raising for the asylum and for the university.

*Nebraska State Journal*, Lincoln, Nebraska, Volume 2, #42, Saturday, September 18, 1869.

Nothing of significance

*Nebraska State Journal*, Lincoln, Nebraska, Volume 2, #21, June 5, 1869

The Commissioners and Board of Regents of the State University have adopted the plans of J.M. McBird, architect, of Logansport, Indiana. The bids for building the same will be opened and considered after 90 days of advertising. We will give an extended description of the building in our next issue.

*Nebraska State Journal*, Lincoln, Nebraska, Volume 2, #2, Saturday, June 12, 1869

The sales of lots last week foot up to the neighborhood of \$120,000 and of lands to \$50,000 making the sum total of about \$170,000. This will be invested in public buildings in

Lincoln. We suggest that the Commissioners make arrangements to spend \$150,000 on the State University and \$100,000 on the lunatic asylum. The amount can easily be realized within a year.  
*Nebraska State Journal*, Lincoln, Nebraska, Volume 2, #29, Saturday, June 19, 1868

Issue of June 17th is supposed to have note of the arrival of R.D. Silver. Unfortunately, there was no issue on 6/17 and the 6/19 issue has no reference that I can find.

*Nebraska State Journal*, Lincoln, Nebraska, Volume \_\_\_\_\_, Saturday, \_\_\_\_\_

The contract for building the State University was, last Wednesday, awarded to Silver and Son of Logansport, Indiana, for \$128,480. The other bidders were Joseph Ward of Lincoln, \$142,000; J.F. Richmond of Omaha, \$140,000; John Heinz of Omaha, \$130,000.

New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, *Records of the Reformed Dutch Church of Kinderhook in Kinderhook, Columbia County, New York*, 1921 p 21. Has information about the Lockwoods

Odell, JC, *History of Carroll County, Indiana*, BF Bowen and Company, Indianapolis, 1916, p78.

#### New Court House.

The increased business of the courts and county affairs, made it necessary to provide more commodious accommodations for the administration of justice, and proper preservation of public records. The board of county commissioners in June, 1855, directed Thomas C Hughes, a resident reputable architect, to examine foreign court houses, and to report to the board his information acquired. He submitted plans at the following term, and the one proposed by MJ Mc Bird, of Logansport, was accepted.....

#### *Omaha City Directory*

1874-5 MJ McBird, architect nwc 12th and Farnham, bds Jones House. City park in 1995. Vacant land.

1876-7 no listing for McBird

1868-1882 see Douglas County Historical Society.

Omaha City Planning Department, *A Comprehensive Program for Historic Preservation in Omaha*, 1980 lists McBird as an architect from 1874-5. In correspondence 22 February 1993 Lynn Meyer, administrator of the Landmarks Heritage Preservation Commission notes that Omaha architects prior to the eighteen seventies have never been researched, and the only information available about McBird is in the citation above.

#### Ontario County, New York, Department of Records, Archives, and Information

Management Services, Mary Jo Barone, searched without reference to McBird or Shepherd:

Index to Medical Licenses 1797-1880

Early Jury lists

Census of 1810

Index to Deeds, 1789-1845

Assessment rolls for Farmington 1813-1821 (Manchester was taken off the town of Farmington in 1822)

Guardianship Index 1789-1856

Surrrogate index to wills and estates 1789-1926

List of deaths abstracted from early newspapers 1807-1832 compiled by Ontario County Historian Dr Preston Pierce

Peets, Elbert, The genealogy of L'Enfant's Washington, *J Am Inst Arch* 15: 115-19, 151-54, 187-191 (1927). This article traces only Washington's European roots.

*Post Office Annual Directory* (early 1800's date unknown) lists no McBirds. Searched by Jo Currie Edinburgh University Library.

Pension records of George Gibson. (contents not detailed here)

Pension Records Marion Noah.

Declaration of Orphan Brothers and Sisters for Pension (filed at Cass County, Indiana 1867). It appears that Matthew was appointed the guardian of Sylvia Noah, born on 11 March 1853 who was the only surviving child of John and Cynthia Noah. She qualified for a pension as the sister of Marion Noah who served as a private in Co G in the 2nd Regiment of Ohio Cavalry and who died on the 18th of June 1864 in a hospital in Richmond, Va of a gun shot wound. He had no wife or children. John and Cynthia were married in Geauga County, Ohio on 1 March 1825 by Samuel Fox. Victoria Noah appeared as well as Matthew and Mary. Victoria was a resident of Cass County, although address is not given. This document is the source of signatures of Matthew and presumably of Mary McBird and Victoria. Attached to the document is a certificate confirming the marriage date and place.

Adjutant Generals Office 27 August 1869. Application for pension 148170. Marion Noah enrolled on 22 August 1861 at Plainsville, Ohio in Co G 2nd Regiment Ohio Cavalry. He was wounded in action and left in the hands of the enemy on 1 June 1864 and he died on 18 June 1864 in Richmond.

Probate Records, William N McBird #7475 30 July 1902. 6 inch thick file not read.

Probate records CD Titus I

Probate records George W Gibson 1879.

*Register of Edinburgh Apprentices 1765-1800*. No McBirds see Edinburgh, University of.

*Representative Men of Colorado in the Nineteenth Century*, New York: Rowell Art Pub Co 1902 p123

Rifner, Ben O, *Early Architecture of Indiana*, MA Thesis, Ohio State University 1942. No useful information.

Roberts, Artemas, From a Young Octogenarian Pioneer, *Nebraska History* 5: 6-9 (1922). Describes the accident which cost the lives of some of the workers and describes some of the repairs made to the building subsequently.

*Rocky Mountain News* Brinker's Collegiate Institute 1 January 1880 p22c2. Laudatory article of no substance on Brinker Institute.

*Rocky Mountain News* Another College Edifice, 29 June 1880 describes the building of the Brinker Institute but doesn't list architect.

*Rocky Mountain News* Brinker Institute 11 September 1880 p5c5. Brief article on fall semester of Brinker Institute.

*Rocky Mountain News* Apr 25, 1903 p7c1. Funeral notice: MJ McBird, aged 84 years, died April 23, 1903. Services to be held on Sunday at 2 PM from the CD Titus residence 1061 South Eleventh.

*Rocky Mountain News* Apr 26, 1903 p 13 c1. Burial Permit. Matthew McBird, 84; 2033 [sic] Laf. Hemph.

*Rocky Mountain News* McBird, H and M 5 Feb 1883 p5c1 Real estate transfer: HC and MJ McBird to John P McMillan, lot 18 blk1 Park ave addn 2,100

*Rocky Mountain News* McBird, H 13 April 1883 p6c2 Real estate transfer: MJ McBird to HC McBird lots 21 and 22 block 50 Schinner's and Gabathuler's addn

*Rocky Mountain News* McBird, M 3 Sep 1883 p3c2 Listed as calling at the News

Royal College of Surgeons Edinburgh, Miss AM Stevenson 12 October 1993 found no record of a McBird.

Sittler, Melvin, Sittler list of Surnames for which Information has been Abstracted from the [Lincoln] Nebraska State Journal May 1873-December 1899, Lancaster County Historical Society, Lincoln 1983. Note that the whole run has not been indexed.

Smith, DH, *The Office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury*, The Johns Hopkins Press, Baltimore, Maryland 1923. This is a booster type book explaining in the greatest often self evident manner the functions of this agency. There is no info concerning McBird.

Social Year Book 1899, McBird, Mr W. N. , 1422 Grant Av. Not listed in social register for 1901, 1902, 1908. Previous Blue Books not checked.

Spafford, Horatio Gates, *A gazetteer of the State of New York*, 1824.  
Gives information on Whitestown, noting that it was the original center of commerce, and was located on the Erie Canal. There were three churches.

Stewart, James Harvey, *Recollections of the Early Settlement of Carroll County, Indiana*, Printed for the author by Hitchcock and Walden, Cincinnati, 1872. Has picture of the McBird Courthouse p253.

Stone, *History of Colorado III*, SJ Clarke Publishing Co, Chicago p 683-4, 1918. Biography of CD Titus. CD Titus III reports that this account is probably wrong and the one he sent is right since it came from Great Aunt Anna who is one of the people who migrated.

Thayer, RH, *History, Organization and Function of the Office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury*, Government Printing Office, 1886. Booster piece. No useful information.

Surgeon General's Office, *Index Catalogue of the Library of the Surgeon-General's office*, US Army 1880-1928, searched by Ella Abney, Library of the Medical Society of New York, 1995

Title Abstract 2023 Lafayette St (McBird House).

Transactions of the Medical Society of the State of New York, 1807-1831, searched by Ella Abney, Library of the Medical Society of New York, 1995

Treasury Department, *A History of Public Buildings under the Control of the Treasury Department*, Washington, Government Printing Office, 1901. Pictures and brief histories of a large number of buildings. No mention of architects.

University of Colorado archives reports no record of McBird as student, faculty or architect. Phone March 1993

University of Nebraska, *First Report of the Regents of the University of Nebraska*, January 1871.

University of Nebraska, *Addresses at the inauguration of Allen R Benton as Chancellor of the University of Nebraska*, Wednesday, September 6, 1871, Statesman Power Press Job Printing, 1871.

University of Nebraska, *Third Annual Report of the Board of Regents*, 1 December 1873.  
At the meeting of the board on 18 March 1873 the board agreed to hire John McFarland of Nebraska City to replace certain portions of the foundation walls under the direction of Artemas Roberts, architect for \$7,997.23.

University of Nebraska Archives, Lynn Beideck-Porn Asst Archivist reports no information on McBird, the Silvers or William Lang other than the "Sketch" She consulted card catalogs, faculty biographical/bibliographical files, staff rosters, phone books, student record and anything under

the department of architecture, indexed campus publications Daily Nebraskan and Nebraska Alumnus. Written response 23 February 1993. 402 472 2531

University of Nebraska Board of Regents Records at the University of Nebraska Archives.

University of Nebraska Facilities Management Department, Burham, DN, Superintendent, *University Hall 1870-1948*, a collection of articles and facts about the first building to be constructed at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, unpublished manuscript, 1991

University of Nebraska Department of Public Relations, *A sketch of circumstances and events leading to the chartering on February 15, 1869 of the University of Nebraska and a report on phases of the early life of the institution*, unpublished manuscript from the archives of the University of Nebraska.

*Victor City Directory:*

1902-3 ML McBird living in Salida House, Architect

1905 McBird, ML, leaser gold coin rms 124 1/2 N 4th

1907 McBird, ML, architect, res 426 S 3rd phone Blue 102

Ad: MC McBird Specifications furnished for buildings, mining constructions, mills, machinery, etc, phone Blue 103.

1915-16 McBird ML, res near Copeland Smelter, Independence

*History of Medicine in New York, three centuries of progress, New York, National Americana Society, Inc, 1919.* Searched by Ella Abney, Library of the Medical Society of New York, 1995

*Washington, D.C. City Directories* available for:

1834

1843\*

1846\*

1850\*

1853\*

1855\* Lists M Bird, engineer.

1858\*

1860

1862-9

1870-1 (\* means checked. See Washington subfile)

*Washington, D.C. City Directories.* Bonnie Hedges of Washington D.C. Historical Society (202) 785 2068 Checked Ten Eyck's Washington and Georgetown Directory for 1855 lists a TJ Forrest boot and shoe store at 262 Pennsylvania Ave with residence at 428 9th St. Directories from 1860-1872 list Thomas H Forrest a bootfitter at various addresses, but none for Thomas J Forrest.

Washington, D.C. Public Library, Roxanna Deane, Chief, Washingtoniana Division, Martin Luther King Memorial Library, 901 G St NW room 307, Washington, D.C. 20001 202 727 1213. No references to McBird. She has had a check made of the historical data base of the Historic Preservation Office and found no McBird. Data base not complete or completely functional as of June 1993. She will send type script to SHPO.

Watkins, Albert, *History of Nebraska; from the earliest explorations to the present time with portraits, maps and tables*, Western Publishing and Engraving Co, Lincoln, 1913

*Western Architect and Building News*. The entire run of this publication was surveyed by Hans Zeschin

Western Heritage Museum in Omaha 402 444 5071 reported on 3 February 1993 that they have no record of McBird

Will of Hazen Shepard registered October 20, 1862 and found by Simmons in Will book of Erie County Pennsylvania 1856-1871 863928.

.....feeble in health sound in mind and memory....First I give and bequeath to Matthew John McBird the sum of five hundred dollars to be paid as soon as convenient after the sale of my real estate...And I do hereby nominate, constitute and appoint my wife, Elizabeth Shepard, Matthew McBird and George W Baldwin of the Township of Amity executors of this my last will and testament...signed 3 July 1862. The will was recorded on 20 October 1862 and at the same time Matthew McBird et al implemented it.

Writ of Attachment, William N McBird vs George W Dodge 26 June 1886, concerning many properties in Summit County.

### Washington Sources checked without finding a listing:

Barton, EE, *Historical and commercial sketches of Washington*, no publisher, 1884

*Biographical Cyclopaedia Maryland and the District of Columbia*, Baltimore National Biographical Publishing Co 1879. Looks like a subscription biography. No McBird.

Cook, EVM, *Guides to the records of your district of Columbia Ancestors*, Family Line Publications, Rear 63 E Main St, Westminster, MD 21157 no date.

Eyck, Ten, *Washington and Georgetown Directory with a complete congressional and department directory*, Washington D.C. Henry Polkinhorn, Printer 1855. *M Bird, Engineer 459 Va ave*

Force, WM, *The builders guide for Washington, D.C.*, 1839.

Gaither and Addison, *Washington Directory and National Register for 1846*, John Towers 1846. No Bird, McBird, MacBird Silver

Greenough, Horatio, *Aesthetics at Washington #1*, JT Towers, Washington, D.C. 1851

Henry, WW, Spofford, AR, *Eminent and representative men of Virginia and the District of Columbia of the nineteenth century*, Brant and Fuller, Milwaukee 1893. No McBird.

Historic American Building Survey, *Catalog of measured drawings and photos of the survey in the Library of Congress* 1 Mar 1941, National Park Service.

Hoagland, AK *Guide to resources for researching buildings in Washington, D.C.*, Columbia Historical Society 1981.

Hunter, A, *The Washington and Georgetown Directory, strangers guide book for Washington and Congressional and Clerks Register*, Kirkwood and McGill, Washington 1853.

Maddex, D, *Historic Buildings of Washington D.C.*; selection of records of Historic American Buildings Survey, National Park Service, US Department of the Interior, Ober Park Associates, Pittsburgh 1973.

McLoud, Melissa, *Craftsmen and entrepreneurs: builders in late nineteenth-century Washington DC*, PhD dissertation Brown University 1976. Building permits started in 1877. Studied a sample of the building permits 1700 of 17000. McBird etc not listed in her sample.

Moore, C, Personalities in Washington architecture, *Records of the Columbia Historical Society*, Washington, D.C. 37 1 (1933)

Murphy, FV, Architects and architecture in the district of Columbia, *Records of the Columbia Historical Society*, Washington, D.C. 46-7 213 (1944-5).

Overbeck, RA and McLoud, M, In a workmanlike manner, The building of residential Washington 1790-1900, Unpublished papers from an exhibit by the Preservation Trust 1987.

Procter, JC, *Washington past and present. A history*, Lewis Historical Publishing Co, New York, 1930, four volumes. History with biography like Stone. No McBird

Reiff, DD, *Washington architecture 1791-1861; problems in development*, US Commission of Fine Arts, Washington, DC 1971. No McBird.

Reintzel, *A Washington Directory and Governmental Register for 1843*, JT Towers 1843. no

Roos, FJ, Jr, *Writings on early American architecture*, Ohio State University Press 1943. Interesting list of publications about 19th century architecture. No McBird.

Security Storage Co, *Architects and sculptors of principal buildings and monuments of Washington* 1929. No McBird.

Waite, E, *Washington Directory and Congressional Executive Register for 1850*, Washington, Columbus Alexander, printer 1850

*Washington and Georgetown Directory containing a business directory, congressional and department directory and an appendix*, Henry Polkinhorn 1858.

*Washington Post, History of the city of Washington*, 1903.

