

John McBroom died in 1746 in Pennsylvania, according to his will. Due to mistakes made by Thomas Cookson, who proved his will, and another mistake concerning Elizabeth Houston McBroom's will, the subject John McBroom has become known as James McBroom, one. Was this man John McBroom, or James McBroom?

Thomas Cookson in proving John McBroom's will, made an incorrect and contradictory statement when he referred to the deceased as being James McBroom therein named. Cookson's statement is altogether wrong in that John McBroom is never once referred to as James McBroom in the will. Additionally, John's transcribed (typewritten) will, which is on file in Pennsylvania with his original will, is accurate, right down to the "I" which immediately precedes his name near the beginning of the will. The second mistake concerns Elizabeth Houston McBroom referring to her son, James, as James, third, is also wrong. (See post about Elizabeth McBroom's Will.) There is no doubt that these two mistakes have gone far to incorrectly identify this John McBroom to history. We need to change this.

There is another point concerning the subject John McBroom that needs to be addressed. There was, supposedly, a James McBroom, who married a Mary Jackson. This James and Mary, had identical children, in laws, and grand children as those named by the subject John McBroom in his will. I am interested in someone, anyone, showing proof that such a James McBroom ever existed. If this can not be done, then it is time for John McBroom to be honored in a dignified manner with his proper name, most especially, by his ancestors/researchers. Simply perpetuating hearsay, no matter how well intended, about John McBroom and his family, is not sufficient reason to have him identified by another name. Do you agree?

When does guessing stop? What is the signature on a Will worth? I do admit that John McBroom might have had a second Christian name such as James, however, the man signed his name for, perhaps, the last time on earth as, John McBroom. Maybe it's time we recognize this, and refer to his eldest son, James...as James, one.

Written Sept. 17, 2005, by James W. McBroom, Seattle, Washington
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