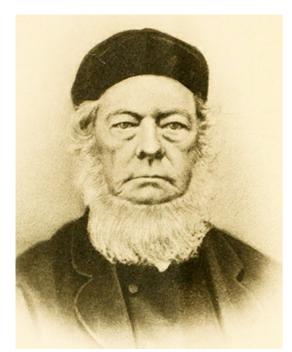
Home > McRee, James Fergus

McRee, James Fergus

McRee, James Fergus

by Jean Poole, 1991

18 Nov. 1794-9 Aug. 1869



An engraving of James Fergus McRee from

1892. Image from Archive.org.

^[2]James Fergus McRee, physician, was born at Lilliput plantation, Brunswick County [3], the son of Major Griffith John and Ann Fergus McRee and the brother of ColoneWilliam McRee [4]. He received a medical degree from the Medical College of New York in 1814 and established a practice in Wilmington about 1819. McRee also studied botany under Dr. Nathaniel Hill in Wilmington [5], specializing in medical botany. He is credited with having introduced to North Carolina such food plants as tapioca, rhubarb, cantaloupe, and artichokes, and he collaborated with Moses Ashley Curtis [6] and Hardy Bryan Croom [7] in botanical investigations.

Participating in local affairs, McRee supported the building of the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad [8] and was one of the organizers of the New Hanover County Medical Society, of which he was also president. He received high praise for his work among victims of a vellow fever [9] epidemic that struck Wilmington in 1821. McRee retired first in 1834 or 1835 and settled at Rocky Point as a planter and a student of botany. He resumed his practice in 1837, however, until a second retirement in 1846.

McRee married Mary Ashe Hill on 14 Nov. 1816. She was the daughter of William Henry Hill [10], one of President John Adams's "midnight judges" and a brother of Dr. Nathaniel Hill, under whom McRee studied botany. They were the parents of two sons: Griffith John [11], the historian, and James F., a physician and surgeon in the Confederate army. McRee was a vestryman of St. James's Church, Wilmington. He died suddenly in Wilmington at age seventy-five.

References:

William Carter Mebane, Jr., medical history in Wilmington Daily Journal, 10 Aug. 1869.

New England Historical and Genealogical Register 28 (1874).

New Hanover County Medical Auxiliary, The Lonely Road: A History of the Physics and Physicians of the Lower Cape Fear, 1735-1976 (1978).

Clyde Wilson, "Griffith John McRee: An Unromantic Historian of the Old South," North Carolina Historical Review 47 (January 1970).

Thomas F. Wood, "James Fergus McRee, M.D.: A Biographical Sketch with Portrait[12]," North Carolina Medical Journal 29 (January 1892).

Additional Resources:

Henderson, Archibald. "James Fergus McRee." *Transactions of the Medical Society of the State of North Carolina Diamond Jubilee Seventy-Fifth Annual Session Held At Pinehurst, North Carolina April 30th, and May 1st and 2nd [N.C.:1928]. 95-101. <u>https://archive.org/stream/transactions751928medi#page/94/mode/2up [13]</u>*

Wood, Thomas Fanning. *Sketch of the botanical work of the Rev. Moses A. Curtis*.Raleigh [N.C.]: Edwards, Broughton & Co., Power Printers and Binders. 1885. 12. <u>https://archive.org/stream/sketchofbotanica00wood#page/12/mode/2up [14]</u>

Image Credits:

Gutekunst, F. "James F. McRee, M.D., Born Nov. 28th, 1794, Died Aug. 9th, 1869."*North Carolina Medical Journal* 1, no. 29 (January 1892). Frontispiece. <u>https://archive.org/stream/northcarolinamed291892jack#page/n9/mode/2up</u> [2]

Subjects:

Biographies [15] Physicians, Dentists, Pharmacists, and other Medical Professionals[16] Authors: Poole, Jean [17] Origin - location: Brunswick County [18] Wilmington [19] From: Dictionary of North Carolina Biography, University of North Carolina Press.[20]

1 January 1991 | Poole, Jean

Source URL: https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/mcree-james-fergus

Links

[1] https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/mcree-james-fergus [2] https://archive.org/stream/northcarolinamed291892jack#page/n9/mode/2up [3] https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/brunswick [4] https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/mcree-william [5] https://www.ncpedia.org/wilmington [6] https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/curtis-moses-ashley [7] https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/croom-hardy-bryan [8]

https://www.ncpedia.org/wilmington-weldon-railroad [9] https://www.ncpedia.org/history/health/yellow-fever [10] https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/hillwilliam-henry [11] https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/mcree-griffith-john [12]

https://archive.org/stream/northcarolinamed291892jack#page/10/mode/2up [13]

https://archive.org/stream/transactions751928medi#page/94/mode/2up [14] https://archive.org/stream/sketchofbotanica00wood#page/12/mode/2up

[15] https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/biography-term [16] https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/physicians [17] https://www.ncpedia.org/category/authors/poole-jean [18] https://www.ncpedia.org/category/origin-location/brunswick- [19]

https://www.ncpedia.org/category/origin-location/coastal-39 [20] https://www.ncpedia.org/category/entry-source/dictionary-no