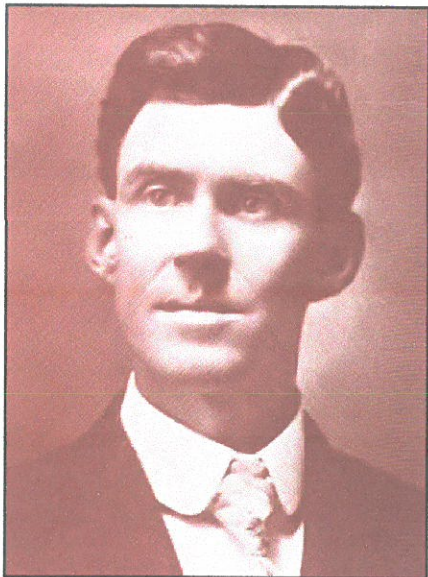
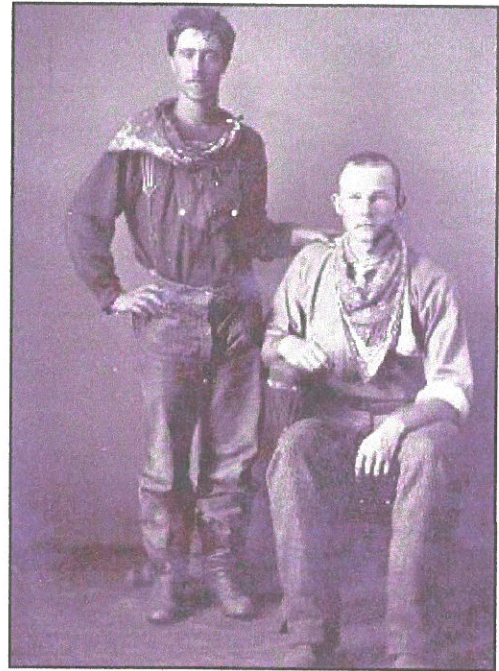
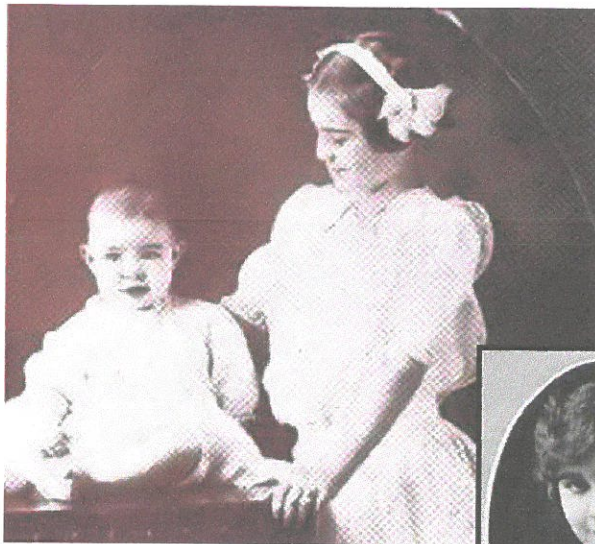


## G. Photographs

**William A. & James C. Rhea** owned the 4.86 acres on North Church Street. Around 1872 they began selling individual lots which became a full-fledged subdivision known as the Rhea Addition in 1911. In 1857, the two brothers operated a mill 10 miles northwest of McKinney which became the site of the town of Rhea Mills. William (standing) died in 1906. James died in 1925.



**James Anon McKey** was a Mississippi native who came to McKinney in 1897 to operate the Houston & Texas Central Railroad Depot. He married Anne Means in 1902. He and his wife lived with her mother Belle on Benge Street until his death due to pneumonia in 1911. He was 39 years old.



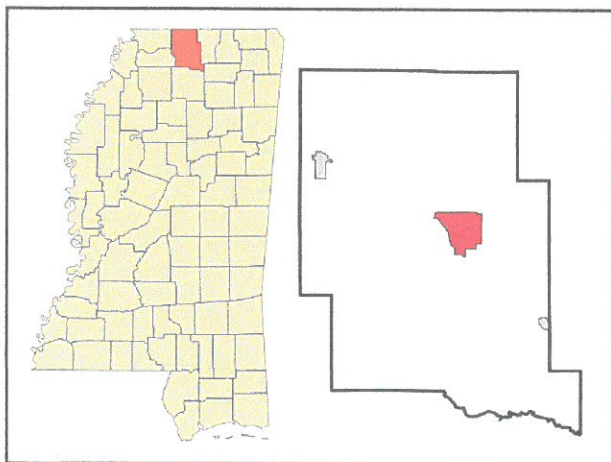
Anne and James McKey had two children, **Rosa Belle and James, Jr.** The photo at left shows the children posing for a photographer around 1911. James, Jr. died in 1912.



**Rosa Belle McKey** was born in McKinney and grew up living with her mother and grandmother on Benge Street, later on Church Street. She became a school teacher and married journalist Henry Mouzon in 1932. Following World War II, she taught in McKinney's West Ward School for a number of years.



**Henry D. Mouzon** was born in McKinney in 1902 and married Rosa Belle McKey in 1932. Henry worked as a sports writer for the McKinney Courier-Gazette while living with Rosa Belle in Anne McKey's house from 1945 until his death in 1964.



**Holly Springs, Mississippi** was the home town of several McKinney families including names like Fant, Erwin, Anderson and Matison. However, the most famous family to immigrate to McKinney from this town was the Abernathy family. Many Abernathys were lawyers and judges with significant land holdings in town and around the county. Holly Springs is in Marshal County, on the northern boarder of the state. In 1893, when Belle (Means) McWilliams left, the town's population totaled about 2,200.

**Anne McKey** worked in retail sales in McKinney department stores including the Perkins Brothers. In 1937, Anne attended a training program in Dallas that allowed her claim the title "corsetiere."



**Anne McKey** joined the First Presbyterian Church of McKinney in 1895. Her devotion to the church extended throughout her lifetime. The photo above from 1968 shows Anne (left) and Mrs. Frank Wolford accepting citations for their long-time service to the church.

*The New*

**MisSimplicity®**

New because it is lighter in weight, smoother in feel and appearance! The clever back straps lift the bust and slenderize the waistline to idealize loveliness. Model 5626A (average); B (hears); C (full hip); D (tall average); E (straight hip); F (short average).

Other New MisSimplicity® Groups.

**Anna B. McKey**  
Graduate Corsetiere In Charge

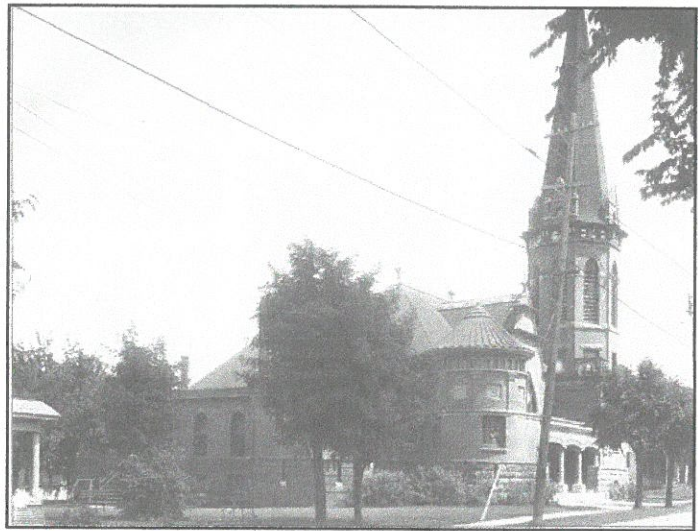
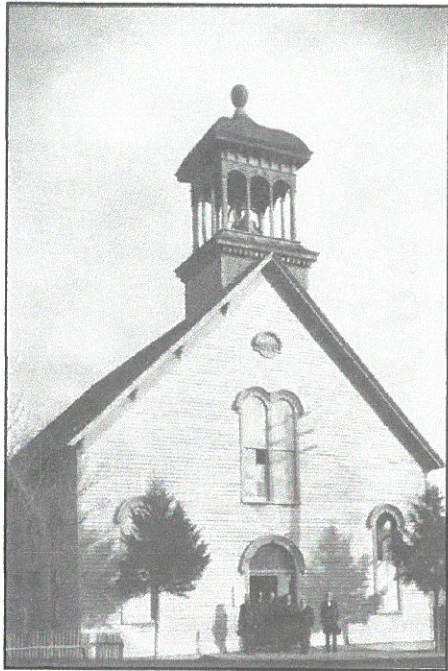
**Perkins Bro's**  
COMPANY

*The GOSSARD Line of Beauty*

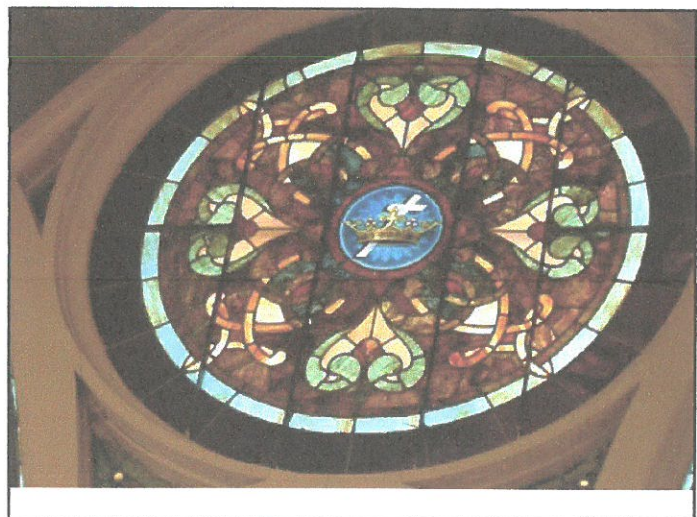
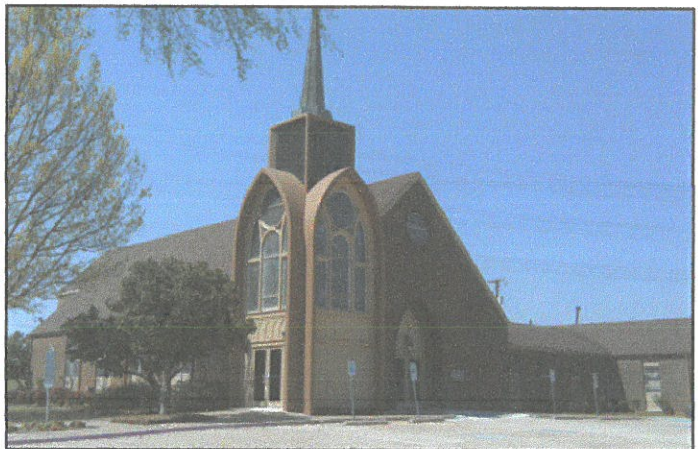


**Belle McWilliams**, who survived the collapse of the Mississippi Store building in 1913, lived with her daughter Anne throughout her time in McKinney, including 40 years at 615 N. Church Street. The photo at left is from a Denton newspaper in 1958 reporting on her being awarded a coffee maker from Allen Butane for being the company's oldest customer.

## A Brief History of the First Presbyterian Church of McKinney



*The First Presbyterian Church* was organized in 1874. Rev. W.K. Marshall was the pastor and the congregation meet at the home of drug-store owner Dr. Edwin N. McAulay. In 1876, the congregation built a wood-frame structure on the corner of Hunt and Tennessee Street. In 1899, the church was razed and a brick building was erected on a new location at North Kentucky and Lamar Street. This is the building in which Anne McWilliams and James McKey were married in 1902. Anne and her mother Belle were long-time active members of the church. Anne was instrumental in raising money for the stained glass windows for the N. Kentucky Street church. In 1967, the church moved again, this time to its current location a 2000 W. White Street. The windows of the earlier church were incorporated into the new building.



## RAKED WITH A RAZOR.

SHERIFF McWILLIAMS, OF MARSHALL COUNTY, CUT HIS THROAT.

He Was Still Alive at 2:30 This Afternoon and Doctors Have Hopes of His Recovery.

Special to the Clarion-Ledger:

HOLLY SPRINGS, Sept. 6—Sheriff McWilliams, who cut his throat yesterday just after noon, is at this hour 10 a. m., still alive, but chances decidedly against his recovery.

The particulars of his attempt on his life are as follows:

The board of supervisors had just met for their afternoon session in the chancery clerk's office when they noticed blood trickling down the east wall. They rushed upstairs to the vacant courtroom, burst open the door and found Mr. McWilliams lying in a pool of blood with the razor that had done the deadly work lying by his side and his pistol and keys on the table. He had determined to make a complete job of it. He had put shackles on his ankles, band cuffed his left hand to the leg of a desk, and with his right cut a long gash on both sides of his throat. Charley Wright stooped down and said: "He is not dead," to which Mr. McWilliams replied: "No, I am not dead, but I want to die. Give me my gun." Deputy Sheriff John B. Howard asked him why he committed the deed, to which he replied: "It had to be done."

Sheriff McWilliams had requested that his family should not be told of it, as he wanted to spare them the shock, but when it was seen that he was sinking and was unconscious, they were sent for, but he did not recognize them when they arrived. The family consists of his wife, a daughter and two sons. The wife is almost distracted with grief, and the children, who bear themselves with remarkable fortitude, are doing all they can to comfort her.

He had filed his annual settlement with the board of supervisors this morning and his books were found correct in every particular. He has been in wretched health for some time and very despondent, despairing of ever recovering. It is thought that brooding over this is what caused him to commit the rash act, and not any troubles about his books. It had been noticed by friends for some time that he was in a very unhappy state, both physically and mentally, but they did not anticipate any such unfortunate occurrence.

Capt. McWilliams served in the Confederate army in Gen. Morgan's famous rangers, and has been sheriff of Marshall county for 10 years. His popularity is very great all over the country, and expressions of grief are upon every lip. The physicians announce that as a last hope they will resort to infusion of blood to save his life as soon as he revives a little.

2:30 p. m.—It is now reported that Mr. McWilliams is a little better, and the physicians have some hope for his recovery.

*The circumstances concerning Belle (Means) McWilliam's arrival in McKinney are unclear. However, it is known that her husband William worked as deputy for his brother who was the Sheriff of Marshall County, Mississippi. In 1893, William sued his brother his salary. That is also the same year Belle arrived in McKinney. Two years later, an article appearing in the Clarion-Ledger describes an horrific incident involving the sheriff in 1895. Belle's aunt Amanda (sister of Lucy Abernathy) was married to Sheriff McWilliams. Furthermore, it is unclear what became of William and why Belle appears as a widow on the 1900, 1910 and 1920 Census even though her husband did not die until 1923.*

# The McKinney Examiner.

OFFICE OF PUBLICATION OPPOSITE COUNTY JAIL.

Vol. 27, No. 10

McKINNEY, TEXAS, THURSDAY, JAN. 30, 1913.

\$1.00 Per Year

## McKinney Shrouded in Sorrow

### COLLAPSE OF BIG DEPARTMENT STORE CRUSHES MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN--EIGHT DEAD--MANY INJURED.

## The Great Building Crumbles Instantly

### Victims, Absolutely Without Warning Have No Time to Escape--Fire Breaks Out, Adding to Horrible Scene. Sobs of Anguish Stricken Women and Children Heard While Hundreds of Men Work Frantically to Rescue Them.

## Property Loss Estimated at One Hundred Thousand Dollars

BY H. L. MARRINER

McKINNEY, TEXAS, Jan. 29.—The most appalling tragedy in the history of this city or county was enacted this afternoon in the collapse of two of the city's largest brick buildings, both filled with customers at the time.

Until the instant, which, tonight, has been completely cleared from the fatal spot, the exact loss of life was not ascertained, but it is believed tonight the death list will total about 200. A number of bodies have been taken from the ruins and no others are thought to be in the wreckage. The list of injured is thirteen.

#### STOP RESCUE WORK AT 11 O'CLOCK

At 11 o'clock tonight rescue work was stopped by City Marshal J. S. McKinnon, after a conference with the Mayor and workers. It was decided that all bodies had been removed and efforts to find more were suspended for the night.

"I believe that all bodies are now out," said the Mayor at 11 o'clock. "For a while it looked as though we would

find fifteen or twenty more bodies, but we are greatly relieved at finding many have escaped from the building and been reported safe.

"The tragedy is bad enough in all considerations, but the citizenship of McKinney is gratified to know that it was not so bad as it looked at first. This has been the greatest disaster in the history of the county, and there are many sad hearts, not only here, but all over the State.

"I always saw death work in my life. I did not think it could be so bad as this. I do not think I shall be able to prefer assistance from all over the State have been fully appreciated and go to show that when that road trouble there are real people in need of help."

#### HUNDREDS IN RESCUE WORK

The entire city and all this section of the State was shocked to a point that was almost stupefaction. Rescuing, willing hands by the hundred tore apart the smoking bricks of the fallen buildings, heaving aside smoldering and water-soaked timbers, and four hours after the collapse the mangled and crushed bodies of eight persons

had been tenderly removed by 300 workers and the forms of thirteen injured persons carried to the four hospitals of the city or to private homes after emergency medical attention.

The collapsed stores were the three-story Old Fellows building, occupied by the dry goods store of Cheeves Bros., crowded with women and children attending a white goods sale at the time, and the adjoining two-story implement store of T. J. Tuggle.

#### BOTH STORES WERE CROWDED

The dry goods store stood on the northwest corner of the public square, the other adjoining. The collapse of a wall in the implement store first set the weight of heavy timbers against the corner building, and with a noise that jarred the town to its foundations the wall gave way at 10 o'clock. A sale of white goods was on in the great three-story department store, and men, women and children thronged its counters. The implement store adjoining was doing a thriving business.

#### FIRE RAGE TO HORROR!

##### RUINS BECOME A CAETER

The crowd was dispersed only when the people in need of first aid were taken to the hospital. The scene was a horrible one of twisted iron and splintered wood, and the air was filled with the smell of smoke and the sound of the fire engines. The fire had spread rapidly, and the buildings were completely destroyed. The scene was a caeter of ruins, and the people were in a state of horror.

##### DEATHS OF WIFE AND CHILD

After a number of people were taken to the hospital, the deaths of a wife and child were reported. The woman was found in a state of unconsciousness, and the child was found dead. The scene was a horrible one, and the people were in a state of horror.

##### SLIGHTLY LATER AT 11 O'CLOCK

At 11 o'clock the rescue work was stopped.

#### THE DEAD:

- Mrs. Marie Emerson Stiff
- Miss Rosa Welch
- Miss Katie Milligan
- Miss Bessie Wade
- Russell Hight
- Miss Eva Searcy
- Norman Presley
- L. W. [Leslie] Bush

#### THE INJURED:

- Miss Anna Curtis
- Mrs. Hugh Kistler
- Mrs. Wick Graves
- John Thomas
- Mrs. Belle McWilliams
- Little Anna Graves Kistler
- Miss Lida Moreland
- Miss Jennie Barnett
- Miss Russell
- Mrs. Mort Shirley
- Miss Lula Searcy
- Vernie Graves
- Miss Cassie Deay
- Colored Porter, in the store

were injured and others were killed. The scene was a horrible one, and the people were in a state of horror.

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Belle McWilliams was working as sales clerk at the Cheeves Bros. Dept. Store when the I.O.O.F building collapsed killing eight and pinning her for hours beneath the rubble. The text on the following page tells the story.