

JOSEPH HARVEY MCEWEN AND SOPHIA ELIZABETH COLEMAN MCEWEN

Joseph Harvey McEwen a Nashville merchant and landowner was born July 18, 1796 in North Carolina. He moved with his parents John and Elizabeth Kilpatrick McEwen to Davidson County to a farm known as Locust Grove, Franklin Road four miles south from Nashville His parents and later his brother James managed the farm.

Joseph Harvey in 1820 was recorded as a merchant first in Columbia, Tennessee, where he married Sophia Elizabeth Coleman. She was a daughter of Clarissa White and Thomas Coleman, an early Maury County pioneer family. Her grandfather was William White of Williamsport, Tennessee. They moved to Nashville sometime before 1830 and operated a store and livery on the Spring Tannery Property. He began to purchase and trade in land in Nashville and Davidson County and dealing with land grants in other counties.

He also was politically active and a strong supporter of the Democratic Party. In 1841 when William Henry Harrison defeated Martin Van Buren, Van Buren came to visit Andrew Jackson. Joseph was one of the three dozen signees listed on the invitation letter for Van Buren's Democratic dinner.

Joseph Harvey served as Chairman of the Davidson County Court of Nashville on May 5, 1851 and served as a Justice of Peace in Davidson County, 1842-1845. At his death, July 6, 1855, he still owned a vast amount of land and town lots in Nashville, part of which was on the Wilson's Spring property plat including the Wilson Tannery location. (Its noted spring is now underground exiting into the Cumberland River.)

Joseph and his wife Sophia Elizabeth are buried in Lot 8, Section 27 east. A son, Dr. Joseph W. McEwen, his Aunt Elizabeth McEwen Boyd and her husband Painter John Boyd are interred there.

*Thomas B. Rawan Jr. 4-20-2015*