

Minor Notices

THE M'CORMICK FAMILY AS PIONEERS

(From a letter by M. C. Martz, of Arcadia, Ind., to Chauncey Langdon, dated May 26, 1916.)

THE history of the McCormick family can be traced back to an early period in Scotland. When the trouble arose between the Established Church and the Presbyterian Church in Scotland the McCormicks on account of persecution emigrated to the northern part of Ireland. They remained there for a while and later emigrated to America and settled in Pennsylvania and Virginia. John McCormick, Sr., a member of this family, was born near Winchester, Virginia, August 30, 1754. The records of the War Department show that he enlisted three times during the Revolutionary struggle for independence, his service continuing during the greater portion of the war. After the close of the war he moved his family to Ohio, but later to Indiana while it was yet a part of the Northwest Territory, settling where the city of Connersville now stands. His death occurred April 18, 1837. Catherine McCormick, his wife, died February 22, 1862, at the age of ninety-three years. After the death of her husband she was pensioned as the widow of a Revolutionary soldier.

John McCormick, Jr., the founder of Indianapolis, was the fourth child; his birth occurred September 15, 1791. In the year 1811 he was married to Bethiah Case, of near Hamilton, Ohio. Soon after their marriage the second war with Great Britain broke out and, like his father of Revolutionary fame, he also took up arms in defense of his country. After the close of this struggle he and his wife moved to the home of his father near Connersville, Indiana. He remained there until the year 1820, when, with the assistance of his brothers, James and Samuel McCormick, and nine men to cut the trail, he moved his family to the present site of Indianapolis and

built his cabin on the banks of White river. Before the stream could be crossed it was necessary to make a canoe or dugout, which was hastily constructed from a tree near the river. In a few weeks after settling here, Mr. McCormick built a ferry which afforded other settlers coming in an easier way of crossing. After operating the ferry for a few years he moved up the river and built a mill on the river, just opposite Crown Hill cemetery, operating the same until his death. While the men who accompanied Mr. McCormick were assisting in building a cabin the family lived in the wagons. They were kept warm by keeping huge piles of logs burning. After the cabin was completed James and Samuel McCormick with the men who accompanied them returned to Connersville, and the family remaining did not see the face of a white person until some time in March, when James McCormick returned with his family.