

There were evidently two original Bibles, now lost. What I have of them is: (1) two photostat pages of what I shall call the "JMG Bible" in the back of a black three-ring binder containing a copy, with mounted photographs, of his daughter, Harriet Anna Gay's "Memories" book; and (2) a typescript transcription of the family data from another Bible which I shall call the "JMG/Only Bible." Both were given to me by Edwin Gay Robb, a grandson of Harriet, and a great-grandson of John McKee Gay. The data in these two records is largely overlapping, non-contradictory, and probably supplied and entered by John McKee Gay himself, about 1855, so on this ground alone it deserves a great deal of credence (though a transcription error or two may have crept in).

The photostat data of the first Bible was all entered in the same hand, probably not long after the latest date, 13Jul1854, the birth date of youngest child, Ella Viola Gay; the first three marriages in the family are entered somewhat cursorily, and there are no records for the existing grandchildren.

The typescript data from the JMG/Only Bible closely resembles the format and layout of the JMG Bible, and was probably copied from it, with a few modifications and additions. And, as part of the typescript, we find this note: "(This copied from an old Bible here at [blank]. This is written in Father's handwriting. On the 27th of this March was your Grandparents 27 wedding anniversary." The two latest dates in this second record are 15Sep1855 (birthdate of Ray Only, JMG's first surviving grandson, and the son of his 2nd daughter, Mary (Gay) Only), and the 24Aug1856 (marriage date for JMG's next youngest daughter, Sarah Elizabeth). Also added after the birth record of Ray Only are the names of two later siblings, without dates.

I believe this second Bible was a present from John McKee Gay to his first grandson, on the occasion of his first birthday in the fall of 1856. His first two grandsons, the sons of his oldest daughter, Nancy (Gay) Barker, "died in infancy", and two of his own sons died at nine months of age; the gift of this Bible may have been an act of Thanksgiving. Perhaps the first Bible was a similar present from John McKee Gay to his wife, commemorating the (presumed) completion of their family. At any rate, neither seems to have caught on as a continuing family record.

Because of the importance of this record, I have transcribed it with extraordinary literality—even unto replicating the exact spacing and the underlines used in the transcript. I have, somewhere, the ratty old hard-to-read "originals" of this record, but it is my hope that this present may serve as an acceptable replacement.

John McKee Gay Bible, photostat page 1 of 2

FAMILY RECORD
[*illustration, with caption*]

DATE.	BIRTHS.	NAMES.
June 25 th 1797	John M Gay	Rockbridge Co Va
April 19 th 1807	Sarah Thomas	Champaign Co Ohio
February 11 1829	Nancy Jarne [sic] Gay	Peoria County Ill
June 18 th 1831	Mary C Gay	Peoria County Ill
October 31 st 1833	James Blair Gay	Putnam County Ill
October 31 st 1835	Thomas William Gay	Princeton Ill
Feb 5 th 1837	John Frances Gay	Princeton Ill
November 25 1839	Sarah Elizabeth Gay	Princeton Ill
September 27 th 1843	Frances Eliza Gay	Potosi Wisconsin
February 7 th 1847	Harriet Anna Gay	Clayton County Iowa
May 12 th 1849	George Frederick Gay	Clayton County Iowa
July 13 th 1854	Ella Viola Gay	Clayton County Iowa

John McKee Gay Bible, photostat page 2 of 2

FAMILY RECORD
[*illustration, with caption*]

MARRIAGE.

DATE.

NAMES.

March 27 th 1828	John M Gay & Sarah Thomas	Peoria County Ill
1847	Richard Onely & Mary C Gay	Clayton County Iowa
Dec 1847	Jedediah Barker & Nancy Jane Gay	Clayton County Iowa

John McKee Gay "Only" Bible, from the typescript

Married
 John M. Gay
 &
 Sarah Thomas
 Mar. 27th 1828
Peoria County Ills.

Jedediah Barker
 &
 Nancy Jane Gay
 Dec. 10th 1847
Clayton Co. Iowa

Richard Only
 &
 Mary Gay
 June 10th 1847
Clayton Co. Iowa

Levi Angier
 &
 Sarah E. Gay
 Aug. 24th 1856
 Garnavillo, Ia.

Frances Eliza Gay Sep 27th 1848
Potosi Wisconsin
 Harriet Anna Gay Feb 7 1847
Clayton Co Iowa. Grand Pre.
 George Frederick Gay May 12 1849
Garnavillo Iowa
 Ella Viola Gay July 13th 1854
Garnavillo Iowa
 Richard Only Oct 20 1816
Acomack Co. Va.
 Mary Jane Only, May 24th 1849
Clayton Co. Iowa
 Ray Only Sep. 15th 1855
Clayton Co. Iowa
 Frank Only
Lizzie Only

(This copied from an old bible here at This is written in Father's Handwriting. On the 27th of This March was your Grandparents 27 wedding anniversary)

Births

John M. Gay June 25th 1797
Rockbridge Co. Va

Sarah Thomas Apr 19th 1807
Champaign Co. Ohio.

Nancy Jane Gay, Feb. 11th 1829
Peoria Co. Ills.

Mary Gay June 18th 1831
Peoria Co. Ills.

James Blair Gay Oct 31st 1833
Putnam Co. Ills. Deceased Aug. 23rd 1835 | 9 mo. 23 days}

Thomas Wm. Gay Oct 31st 1835
Princeton, Ills.

John Francis Gay Feb. 5th 1837
Princeton, Ills. Deceased Nov. 1837 | 9 mo. old

Sarah E. Gay Nov. 25th 1839
Princeton, Ills.