

So, who was John "Bige" McGraw?

John "Bige" McGraw (#13321) was the great-great-great grandfather of the McCraw Family Association's president Steven A. McGraw, Sr. (#1332181212). John was an influential farmer, businessman and elected official of Wyoming County, WV, in the latter half of the 19th century. He is the patriarch of all those who celebrate their family heritage on the third Sunday of July each year at Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College in Saulsville.

According to an account of the John McGraw family published by Darrell V. and Julia Z. McGraw, in July, 1975, John bought and sold land, raised cattle and built a school in what is today McGraws, WV, and he served in the West Virginia legislature for a number of years. By an act of the West Virginia legislature in the

early 1870's, John had the family name officially changed from McCraw to McGraw.

When first elected to the West Virginia legislature in the late 1860's, John was originally denied the office because he refused to take the northern loyalty oath, but he later served in several different elected capacities. Is there any doubt that John was a "southern sympathizer" since he named one of his sons, born in 1865, Robert Lee McGraw?