

James and Winifred Craine Maclay

The trunk was found in a barn earlier this year (2014) in the town of Boiling Springs, SC. Evidently, it had been in the barn at least 25 years and had never been opened. We can find no connection between the Maclay family and the Boiling Springs area. As far as we can tell, the Mclay family lived in New York City. We have no idea how the trunk with its letters and papers wound up in a barn in Boiling Springs.

We have found a few details about James Mclay and Winifred Clarke Maclay on the Internet. They are:

Winifred Roosa Craine graduated from the University of Michigan in 1895. Married James Maclay. She went on to get a Master of Arts degree from Columbia University (College) in 1914. She died in Washington, DC on March 26, 1959.

James Maclay had a PHD and was an adjunct professor of Mathematics at Columbia University (College) in New York. He died suddenly from a stroke in 1919. An article about his death was posted in the Columbia Newsletter *Columbia Daily Spectator*, Volume XLIV, Number 57, 3 December 1919. It is as follows:

PROF. MACLAY'S DEATH MOURNED BY FACULTY

The recent death of Professor James Maclay came as a severe shock to the faculty of Columbia College, with whom he had been connected as Professor of Mathematics since 1905. He died at Glen Ridge, N. J., after a brief illness caused by the closing of an important artery of the brain. Professor Maclay received the degree of Civil Engineer from Columbia in 1888, studied two years at the University of Berlin, returning to his alma mater as instructor of Mathematics, and obtaining his Ph. D. in 1899. From this point he rose rapidly to the position of professor in 1905. As a member of the American Mathematical Society and American Society for the Advancement of Science, Prof. Maclay did much in promoting the study of Mathematics. He was also the author of articles on "Curves" and "Surfaces" in the *Encyclopedia Americana*.

*The following note was sent as a message to Maclay individuals on Face book:
I am sending you this message to folks on Facebook that have the last name "Maclay". A relative has recently found an old trunk that has several hundred letters and other personal papers of James Maclay and his wife, Winifred Craine Maclay. The letters are roughly from the period 1890 - 1920. We think these papers will be of great interest to the descendants of James and Winifred and we would love to return them to their rightful owner. You can read more details on the trunk and what little we know about James and Winifred at <http://pacoletmemories.com/Mclay.pdf>. If you think that you might be related to James and Winifred, please let me know.*