

Thomas was one of ten children, he had six brothers and three sisters. Thomas was a tall, slender man of over six feet. He had large hands which is a McClain trait that has been passed down through the generations. Thomas was a self taught veterinarian and had a great love for horses. His mail always came addressed to Dr. McClain. He became well know throughout the Exira, Iowa area and Southern Alberta for his treatment of horses. With the help of a local Pharmacist, JD Higginbotham, he made a liniment to use on horse sores. It was Black and foul Smelling. People also used the liniment when they had colds, they would rub it on their chest and neck. Thomas had a number of vet tools one of which was a special bit to widen horses mouths so that he could work on their teeth. Thomas had an excellent memory and even in his 80's would reminice about the different horses he had treated. he could remember how many hands high each horse was, if they were a race horse, drey or pacer, what their times were around the track and what he had done to treat them.