

Eugenia McSwain Martin  
Genie Martin

I was talking to Genie Martin the other day and it is very interesting that her family has followed the same lines in life in several areas.....their work, their church and even their names.

Genie's family has deep roots. Her grandfather was Dr. Daniel Lafayette McSwain. He was born in 1870. He married Eugenia Henry and they lived on the same property where Martin Realty is today, 207 E. Magnolia. He practiced medicine in Arcadia until 1933. His first surgery was on the sister-in-law of Ziba King (cattle baron). He also did the first surgery ever done by a white man on an Seminole Indian child named "Little Tiger Tail", in 1920. This surgery was done at Lee Memorial in Ft. Myers. Dr. Daniel McSwain's wife Genie started the first auxiliary at the First Presbyterian Church and was the first president of it..She was the first pianist and also started the choir. This was a tradition that has followed through the years. Lewellyn Best, who was married to Dr. Gordon McSwain, was the church organist for 50 years and Lew's daughter Genie, who is married to Dr. Calvin Martin has been the Director of Music for 45 years and still is .To go on, after Lewellyn McSwain died, her granddaughter Lew took over and played the organ for 10 years and now her daughter Genie Quave directs the Children's Choir. Genie Quave is the great great granddaughter of Dr. Daniel and Genie McSwain...Have you noticed the names...Genie,Lew,Genie Martin, then Lew and then Genie again .Dr. Daniel McSwain's wife, Genie also started the L & E Club (Literary and Embroidery) with 4 of her friends. That club is still very active today. McSwain Park across the street from the house was named in Dr. Daniel McSwain's honor.

Next generation was Dr. Gordon and Lewellyn McSwain. Dr. McSwain graduated from Davidson College in North Carolina and when he graduated, the minister of the First Presbyterian Church, Dr. J.J.Martin (no relation ) drove all the way to Davidson to see him graduate as he would have had no one there. He also graduated from Harvard Medical School. Dr. Gordon McSwain created one of the first special care (coronary) units in a small hospital, Desoto Memorial and was awarded Outstanding Community Service Award from Florida Medical Association for his efforts. He was a Fellow in the American College of Surgeons .He was a deacon and an elder of the First Presbyterian Church. Dr. McSwain built the house that is on the Magnolia Property now in 1945.

And then came Genie, daughter of Dr. Gordon and Lewellyn McSwain. She married Calvin Wallace Martin, who was born in Sebring. His father was a physician .He graduated from U. Of Fl., U. Of Ga. and his medical degree was from U. Of Tennessee. They moved to Arcadia in 1960 His first patient was Tom Hollingsworth and the first baby he delivered was Jan Daly Shoup, daughter of Adrienne and Bert Daly. Calvin was appointed to the Board of Florida Medical Association by the President of FMA and then elected by his peers for an additional 4 years. He retired from active practice in 2003 and is currently with Hospice SW Florida. Calvin is an elder of the First Presbyterian Church and their son "Mac" is also. He also holds a real estate salesman license with Martin Realty, which is owned by their son Mac. Genie has sold real estate for longer than one can remember. She is also with Martin Realty. Calvin and Genie have three children, Lew, Gordon McSwain Martin, known to all of us as "Mac" and Calvin Martin Jr. All three have followed the family's occupations. Lew is a nurse practitioner, "Mac" as said before owns Martin Realty and Calvin Jr is living in Micanopy, Florida. and practicing in Gainesville, Fl.

We do want to mention the grandchildren of Calvin and Genie. Lew has Genie, who also sells for Martin Realty and Liza. "Mac" has 2 boys, Alex, named for his great-great-great grandfather and Wallace, his grandfather's middle name. Calvin, Jr. has 2 girls, Phoebe and Ginger.

We asked Genie about special people in her life. She said, my father taught me values. One day she put a penny in the Hershey machine. This was during World War II. Normally, one Hershey drops out, but that day she got two. She did not say anything until they were almost home and then she told her Dad. He turned the car around and drove all the way back to the restaurant. It was a long way, but he made her go in and pay the penny to the cashier and explain. Genie said she never forgot that lesson. Her glee club director in high school, Helen Sears, was very special to her and her choral director of University Singers at Florida State University for their excellence in music.

A very important memory to Genie was when General James Dozier was welcomed back after he was captured by the Red Brigade. She was invited to sing and it was nationally televised.

The music goes on in the life of Genie Martin. When it is time for the Rodeo, her daughter Lew and her granddaughter Liza ride their horses out during the opening and then Lew rides to the middle of the arena and sings The Star Spangled Banner.

By Clel Shore May 9,2005