

# Kith & Kin Newsletter

Volume 4

Issue 2 *Revised and Updated*

Fall 2008

**Welcome** to this revised and updated Fall 2008 edition of the K&K Newsletter. It is always great to be in contact with family and friends and welcome new subscribers! Both Larry and I have somehow survived the trials and tribulations of swapping data to new computers and hopefully all the information has been transferred successfully. The exciting news is that you have taken the time to send pictures for future web use and to share articles for this issue resulting in our biggest and hopefully most informative K&K to date! Your efforts are greatly appreciated. With a bit of luck this is just the beginning. Please consider sharing your stuff and disprove "Reticence and non-communication seems to be a McKinnon et al trait....."

**Fall and Autumn** from Wikipedia: "During the 17th century, English immigration to North America was at its peak and the new settlers took their language with them. While the term *fall* gradually became obsolescent in Britain, it became the more common term in North America, where *autumn* is nonetheless preferred in scientific and often in literary contexts."

**Larry MacDonald** continues his genealogical quest with excellence, revising, updating and consolidating with new family links at <http://www.members.shaw.ca/larry-macdonald/index.htm>.

## Your Kith&Kin Web Site:

My daughter Laura and I (mostly Laura) continue cleaning up clutter and dead links, trying to keep up with Larry on <http://kithandkinfamilytree.com/index.html> If you find a dead link, please be sure to let us know. If you haven't added to the 1700 hits, please take a look.

## Reunion wishes for 2009:

Several have suggested some sort of a family gathering/reunion in 2009. Now all we need is someone to organize and administer the event. Ideas have included a gathering on PEI (the place of our roots), the Hamptons, NY (Martha Stewart may cringe but she isn't a real Stewart anyway), or an informal meet and greet at one of the many Highland games in Canada and the Colonies. Any interest??? I would volunteer as to assist the organizer in communication.

## Wee Scottish facts:

- The shortest scheduled flight in the world is one and a half miles long from Westray to Papa Westray in the Orkney Islands of Scotland. The journey takes 1 minute 14 seconds to complete.
- The wildcat is the quickest Scottish animal to fend for itself after birth. It faces the world at a month old and begins hunting at the age of 3 months.
- Golf has been played in St. Andrews, Scotland since the 15th Century.
- Eas Coul Aulin Waterfall in the county of Sutherland, with a sheer drop of 658 ft, four times the height of Niagara Falls, is the highest waterfall in Britain.
- The very first recorded appearance of the elusive Loch Ness Monster occurred in 565 AD, when a "water beast" attacked one of St. Columba's followers in the loch.
- The windiest place in Scotland is the Island of Tiree, which has the highest average gusts over 100 mph.
- There are 787 Scottish Islands.
- The Chapel of St. Oran on the island of Iona in the Hebrides holds the tombs of 48 kings of Scotland, 8 kings of Norway, 4 kings of Ireland and 4 kings of France.
- 7 out of every 10 Scots have blue eyes.
- Both Red and Grey hair (and male pattern baldness) are very common characteristic of the Scots.
- Seven Scotsmen were in the US 7th Cavalry with General Custer at the Battle of the Little Big Horn.
- The question of what is worn under the kilt is a source of endless speculation and tiresome attempts at humor. Many traditional Scots will tell you, "Nothing is worn under the kilt; it is all in working order!"

**Submitted Article: From Maureen Gaidosz and Mary E. McDonald:**

“Hi All! Let’s help continue this Newsletter’s success by sharing stories and experiences – and perhaps some family paths will cross. We’ll share this article to give due credit to a PEI native with Scottish heritage, and hope our McKinnon readers will keep an eye out for clues to Joseph’s maternal (McKinnon) family line.”

**Prince Edward Island Native Joseph A McDonald Leaves His Place In History**

Photo from Florida Heritage Collection (Footnote #6)



Florida vacationers will find architectural landmarks built in the late 1800’s and early 1900’s by Brae native Joseph A. McDonald i.e., Flagler College (formerly The Ponce de Leon Hotel), Flagler Museum (Whitehall, former residence of Henry M. Flagler). The book, *“Miami and Dade County, Florida”* (Footnote #1) says: “He may well be called the father of Miami, for he was not only one of the first business men of the city but his activities, from the foundation of the community, touched and affected practically every important phase of municipal expansion.” In the interest of Newsletter space, we ask you to visit the footnoted link to McDonald’s full, biography-style obituary before reading further (see Footnote #2 below). We hired a Florida researcher to locate Joseph’s obituary, and then we forwarded the obit to Gil Wilson who kindly added it to his website.

**Joseph’s PEI roots:** Joseph was born in Brae to James McDonald and Ann nee McKinnon (see McDonald line within the Kith & Kin families, Footnote #3). His father owned 65 acres of former Glebe Land on the Brae Shore (later purchased by Robert Oulton) and 83 leasehold acres later purchased by an Augustine McKinnon then Robert Oulton. Joseph’s father died in 1849 when he was about 7 years old (see Last Will at Island Register Footnote #4). We have not found a death record (or birth or marriage, or the widow’s possible remarriage) for his mother, Ann McKinnon. One possible trail leads to Grand River, Lot 14 and the book *“Past and Present, A History of Brae”* (Footnote #5) suggests this is where our Ann originated. Perhaps our Ann is the (married) daughter of Roderick McKinnon and Catherine nee Gillis as referenced in his Last Will (Roderick’s Will contains 14 children, more than earlier research uncovered). Some specific items in the book have been verified through our own research and we will continue to follow the subtle leads contained therein

**Emigration trails:** Recent research indicates that his oldest brother, John, remained in Brae, a ship carpenter, through 1869. Joseph and his brothers settled in CT, USA in the 1860’s. His sister, Isabella, was last to leave the Island, about 1881. See “Kith & Kin Newsletter” of April 2008, article by Maureen Gaidosz for their emigration to Derby, CT. There is new evidence that Joseph and his brother Augustine had ties to Norwich, CT in the late 1860’s where they likely did business with the shipyards of New London County, as have many PEI natives of that era. An early association with Henry Plant (a noted railroad & hotel builder with ties to Norwich, CT & mentioned in an obituary for Joseph’s brother, James) might have led Joseph and his new partner, James McGuire, to Florida. McGuire was a New Brunswick native. By the 1880’s McGuire & McDonald were noted builders for Henry Flagler, the Sun Oil Co & railroad tycoon (see obituary, Footnote #2). Our Connecticut research indicates that Joseph probably split his time between CT and Florida into the 1890’s. We also learned that Joseph was a highly religious man, which likely took root in PEI. Per the footnoted thesis below, (Footnote #6) “before the Catholics built a church in 1898... Sunday mass was held in McDonald’s home.” He was a member of the Knights of Columbus.

## Prince Edward Island Native Joseph A McDonald Leaves His Place In History...Continued

**Encountering other Islanders along the trail:** By expanding our genealogy research to siblings of our great grandparents we uncovered this trail to Joseph's accomplishments. By following these emigration paths other Islanders were encountered (friends, relatives). Look back to Kith & Kin family tree, descendants of Felix McKinnon, and we find George Allen McKinnon was also a member of the Knights of Columbus and built a vital career within the Flagler network in Florida. It was Larry MacDonald, descendant of Felix McKinnon, who found the elusive picture of Joseph McDonald within the website below which also, has a 3-page article (Footnote # 7). The co-writer of this article, Mary McDonald, located her own grandfather, Joseph Roderick, living in Joseph's household per Florida's 1900 census. A current McKinnon e-mail correspondent, with ties to Lot 14, places a Killian McKinnon in the same area of Florida 1900 census (possible son of Roderick McKinnon & Catherine Gillis of Grand River, Lot 14). Perhaps this trail will open other research avenues for our fellow Newsletter recipients.

**References to the research of others:** The footnotes below lead you to the picture of Joseph, obituaries, books and websites providing detailed information concerning Joseph and the development of Miami, St Augustine and West Palm Beach, Florida. Thank you for following our research story and, again, please tell us your family emigration stories, Island homestead stories, or (if you are so fortunate) your Scottish migration stories. You can contact either Maureen Gaidosz or Mary E. McDonald at [AuntMares@aol.com](mailto:AuntMares@aol.com)

### Footnotes:

1. "Miami and Dade County, Florida" by E. V. Blackman (Washington D.C.: Victor Rainbolt, 1921, pp. 122-124). The two-page article goes on to describe McDonald's enterprises beyond building Mr. Flagler's hotels.
2. "Dr. Bronson & Friends, History of St. Augustine, Florida" by Gil Wilson includes Joseph's obituary. Gil Wilson granted us permission to reference his site. Gil received permission to post the photo of Joseph from the Florida Heritage Collection. <http://www.drbronsontours.com/bronsonmcdonaldmcguire.html>
3. Family tree John & Marie McDonald accessed at Larry MacDonald's web page, with thanks to Larry MacDonald. Access to Larry's research can also be found at Kith & Kin webpage. <http://www.members.shaw.ca/larry-macdonald/mcdon1.htm> and <http://kithandkinfamilytree.com/>
4. Island Register website at <http://www.islandregister.com/> Last Will of James McDonald, Brae, Lot 9, PEI, posted at Island Register site <http://www.islandregister.com/wills/1849jamesmcdonald.html>
5. "Past and Present, A History of Brae," published by Brae Heritage Group, 1979.
6. On-line book found at JSTOR website: categorized as Church History: Vol 64 No 3 (Sept 1995) pp 412-437 "An Emerging Protestant Establishment: Religious Affiliation and Public Power on Urban Frontier in Miami, 1896-1904" by Thomas A. Tweed, pp 423-424.7. Photo & 3 page article (pages 92-95) appear in "Florida Edition" "Makers of America, An Historical and Biographical Work by an Able Corps of Writers" Volume II, published under the patronage of The Florida Historical Society, Jacksonville, FL, 1909, A. B. Caldwell, Atlanta, GA. Link to article & Photo at: [http://fulltext.fcla.edu/cgi/t/text/pageviewer-idx?c=fhp;cc=fhp;sid=8db42cac6df4ec12e79a2f371cb3916;q1=Joseph;q2=McDonald;q=Joseph%20McDonald;op2=and;rgn=works;rgn1=full%20text;rgn2=full%20text;idno=SF00000006\\_0002\\_000;a=48;view=jpg;seq=498](http://fulltext.fcla.edu/cgi/t/text/pageviewer-idx?c=fhp;cc=fhp;sid=8db42cac6df4ec12e79a2f371cb3916;q1=Joseph;q2=McDonald;q=Joseph%20McDonald;op2=and;rgn=works;rgn1=full%20text;rgn2=full%20text;idno=SF00000006_0002_000;a=48;view=jpg;seq=498) Permission to use the picture and article within this family Newsletter granted 8/28/08 by University of Florida, Special Collections. Kith & Kin recipients should note that it is not to be reproduced in the general public.
7. Whitehall, home of Henry M. Flagler, built by Joseph McDonald & James McGuire and now the Flagler Museum. [www.flagler.org](http://www.flagler.org)
8. Another source, the book "Flagler Rockefeller Partner and Florida Baron" by Edward N. Akin (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1992) says on page 165, "Persons associated with Flagler enterprises were heavily involved in politics of early Miami. Joseph A. McDonald served as the community's mayor before it was incorporated on July 28, 1896." This book contains extensive endnotes and selected bibliography.
9. "Architecture of Leisure: The Florida Resort Hotels of Henry Flagler and Henry Plant" by Susan R. Braden, Raymond Arsenault, Editor, Gary R. Mormino, Editor, University Press of Florida, November 2002
10. Book: "Miami Diary 1896" by Ann Spach Chesney, Frances G. Hunter, Harriet Stiger Liles, Ann Josberger McFadden, Elizabeth Phillips Ruden, and Larry Wiggins is a diary for the year 1896 in Miami with references to the Joseph McDonald Family.

**Rick's note:** Provenance is that my Grandfather, Raymond Alexander McKinnon, and several of his sons (Al, Ray, John and possibly Bill?) went to Miami in the "early days - during the building boom" in the early 20s or 30s? and worked as builders with someone in the McKinnon clan. I wonder if it was his brother George Allen McKinnon. Perhaps other family members have details they would like to share.

### Humor:

An American was touring PEI, and entering a hotel in one of the pretty coastal villages noticed the words "tam htab" written on the mat.

"Ah!" He said, "I suppose that's Gaelic for Welcome."

"No, sir," replied the hotel owner. That's the bath mat upside down.

**George Allen McKinnon Correction and Proper Credit given:** Here is a photo and URL for George Allen McKinnon (son of Felix) that George's grandson George Allen McKinnon III (Felix, George, Felix, Neil) found at the U of Florida site and sent to Larry a couple of years ago.

<http://fulltext.fcla.edu/cgi/t/text/pageviewer-idx?sid=5e670f8b82dcd2eecd53c553924a574c&idno=SF00000031&c=fhp&seq=361;view=image>



GEORGE ALLEN MCKINNON

“George Allen McKinnon, Miami, Florida, hotel manager, was born May 7, 1871, at Brae, P.E.I., Canada. He was educated at St. Dunstons College, 1887-89; Prince of Wales College, 1891-92; Boston University Law School, 1894. He began his business career as accountant for the Wagner Papace Car Co. and Florida East Coast Hotel Co., prior to 1902 secretary to J. A. McDonald Co., 1902-16; proprietor Seminole Paint Co., 1916-19, and manager the McKinnon Hotel, 1919-21. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus, B.P.O. Elks, Rotary Club, Woodmen of the World, and is president of the Miami Hotel and Apartment House Association. He was elected president of the Board of Public Works on its organization. He was married Mar 4, 1902 to Cecelia O'Donnell. Their children are Bernadette, Felix Allen, Cecelia and Reba. His business address is the McKinnon Hotel, Miami.”

**Also From Maureen Gaidosz:**

Here are some notations found within the St Georges Church Register amongst the baptism entries. I'm glad the priest, F. J. McDonald, took some time to reflect in between the administering of Sacraments. I'm sure some words are lost in the translation -- more accurate & thorough translations are welcome”

January 1864 pg 231: On this day mass here in St George very frosty. No stoves in the church. 7th: horses crossing on ice. Many persons died in Oct and December from a sickness considered to be a cold. It began like ordinary cold. The throat became sore sometimes a pain ..... Followed by a keen restless fever within ? ... and death.

November 1865 pg 248: On this day fine weather no frost or snow. The jubilee concludes here this evening ? Publish ? by pius the ninth P McIntyre Bishop here. President A Lincoln assassinated (sic) this year. In the western part of the Island British troop ?\_\_?. to collect rent

January 1870 pg 20 in between 2 baptismal registries: on the 3 January 1870 came in carriage from Cardigan. There is neither frost or snow on the ground or any ice on the river. To-day weather very (tolerable?). There was rain last night. The road very soft. The weather during Nov and December was of a milder temperature than usual at the same season. Two or three tried following between Christmass (sic) and New Year. From the 15th December to 30 there was hard frost but no snow - disappeared with rain and sun. There was a great snow storm from North East 31st Oct last that stopped traveling in some places. The people were compelled to ? brake ? the roads and ? brake ? onto fields to make a track. Snow on this 8th January 1870. Came from Cardigan yesterday.

Thanks again for sharing your time with all of us.

Maureen

### Genealogy tips and resources:

**The Island Register:** Many thanks to Dave Hunter for the outstanding resources available in his free email Newsletter “*The Island Register*” <http://www.islandregister.com/>. There are many diverse family trees of early and later PEI settlers available. If you haven’t subscribed yet, consider doing so. A fascinating article about Alexander McKinnon (The Wooden Priest) & Clan on their journey to PEI in 1790 on the “Queen of Greenock” is at <http://www.islandregister.com/stpatricks.html>

Also Historic Places of PEI site at: <http://www.peihistoricplaces.ca/index.php3?number=1017977&lang=E>

**Atkinson Family Tree Revised:** thanks to my cousin Tony Gagliani.

While wandering around the Atkinson family tree data (besides previously finding that my family tree didn’t branch in several instances and at least one relative was hanged as a spy or hero during the Revolutionary War depending on which side, Loyalist, Patriot you were on - (and the Atkinson family was on both sides) and another was shot by a firing squad – (not so heroic – he was executed as a profiteer), I found that among my ancestors were *two* fifth great grandmother from the Native American/Canadian Mi’kmaq/Mohican tribes. History is unclear and unfortunately names are lost as they are only listed as Micmac (Mi’kmaq) woman but may be Mohican (Mohegan). I never knew the rich history of the Mi’kmaqs on PEI, the Maritimes and the Colonies at <http://mrc.uccb.ns.ca/mikmaq.html> or Mohegan History at <http://www.accessgenealogy.com/native/tribes/algonquian/moheganhist.htm>

As my brothers Ed, Rod and I have found out on more than one occasion, this ancestry does NOT give the Atkinsons a discount or any advantage at all at their casinos.

### Clearing up or muddying up the facts – Grizzly Bears & Polar Bears & Tundra - Oh My!

Larry MacDonald sent me an email last year. Said he was going camping up country from Alberta. I jokingly replied “have a great time in the tundra - isn’t that the area where people are on both the Grizzly and Polar Bear’s menu???”



Of course Larry being a stickler for detail and accuracy had to reply: “Grizzly & Polar Bear territories don’t overlap so they don’t have the same menus. However, the Grizzly will eat people if pee’d off but the Polar Bear will actually stalk people - obviously likes the chase as well as the delicacy. They’re the ones you’ll find in the tundra - the area where the subsoil is frozen year-round (permafrost). Here (Alberta), we can’t claim to be tundra unless you consider Montana tundra as well. And that would put you (in New England) within the tundra latitudes also. We know the ice age is coming and both of our areas will be tundra but let’s not rush it - but then, I wonder how Polar Bear meat barbies up.”

You would think that cleared up the subject for me but NOOOOOOOOOO!!!!

This National Geographic News article “*Grizzly-Polar Bear Hybrid Found But What Does It Mean?*” <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2006/05/polar-bears.html> and also mentioned on their TV program, Grizzly and Polar Bear territories indeed seem to be merging as are the bears themselves. This is *possibly* due to global warming and the resulting overlapping of their territories. There are bears that are ½ Polar and ½ Grizzly both in captivity and now confirmed in the wild (proved genetically through DNA testing by anthropologists, *not* genealogists). Whether people are on their menus and what this means for bear futures has yet to be determined! In addition, they have predicted global warming *most likely* will lead to a new *ice age* - go figure! I don’t know about tundra in New England but a quote from my cousin Dan Sullivan who lives in “always sunny California” might put this in perspective. “If God wanted people to live in New England, he would have had them grow fur!” Like the new bears in the tundra???



**Mystery Picture:** Egg slicer or Musical Instrument? (Answer at end of musical section.)



**McKinnon Clan Dec 15, 1941 record:**

Although several have done due diligence, we haven't had success identifying the different fiddle tunes on this recording. Our latest plan is to simply post them on the K&K web site with whatever brief descriptions and notes we have accumulated. If you can identify any of the tunes, please send me a note. Also, if you have historic sheet music, especially from our ancestors on PEI, MP3 digitalized renditions of old recordings etc.; please consider sending them along for posting. At this point we don't know how many we can post, how much space we will require or how this will effect web viewing.

When Chris McKinnon first reviewed this record, the sound was very poor. With McKinnon tenacity and perseverance it was cleaned up and digitalized in MP3 format. The resulting sound is terrific. I can actually visualize the clan and my father in their youth fiddle playing and singing - you can actually hear the foot stomping in some of the tunes.

To put the recording date in perspective, I can imagine a reason for the gathering was similar to the emotions that many in the US experienced after horrific events of 9/11/2001 when getting together and contacting family and friends was so fundamental. On the recording date my dad was on active duty in the US Army. His original date of discharge was supposed to be Dec 11, 1941 - provenance is he may have been AWOL at the time of the recording (he is heard talking and playing the fiddle in several of the cuts). He knew full well that he wasn't getting out of the Army any time soon due to that little incident at Pearl Harbor on Dec 7, 1941... He was still a Canadian citizen who joined the US Army in 1939. He said it was either join or be deported to Canada and drafted into the Canadian Army. He actually didn't get discharged from the US Army until mid 1946. For being AWOL he was busted to buck private but promoted to Master Sergeant within 3 months. He said he always hated the color green, the color of US Army uniforms.

**Greetings & Hello from Jim Hocking:** [captainhock@comcast.net](mailto:captainhock@comcast.net)

The attached picture is of John R. Stewart. He was the son of Angus J. Stewart and Louisa Ladner. John R's (He was called John R) grandfather was John Stewart who married Elizabeth MacDonald. Elizabeth was sister of Hannah who married Neil MacKinnon.



John R. Stewart was born in the Spring of 1863, the first child of Angus J. Stewart and Louisa Ladner of West Point, Prince Edward Island. He was a teacher and loved history. The story goes that John R. was "disappointed in love" and remained a bachelor. Most of his brothers and sisters moved to various states in the United States, including Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Colorado. John found himself living with his sisters Mary and Minnie (married to Charles and John Boulter) in Colorado until he moved to New Hampshire to live with his brother Charles. His "serious" nature was not agreeable to Charles's wife Bridget (Jennie) Enman Stewart. He then moved to the Quincy, Massachusetts home of brother James A. Stewart and wife Janie Dumville Stewart. Perhaps this anecdote gives the best clue to his personality. It was told to me by Irene Stewart Reeves. Myrtle Stewart MacLeod, who was James and Janie's daughter, and Irene were in the basement doing laundry, laughing and having a good time when they heard John R. come in and slam the door. Myrtle hurried upstairs "two at a time" to prepare a dinner for him, knowing it was expected that she do so. After he finished a complete meal, which included eggs and potatoes, apple pie and tea, Myrtle asked how he enjoyed it. John R. replied, "It will do until I go out and get something more substantial."

Rev. Roy Stewart, who was a nephew of John R., wrote a poem Reveries (March 11, 1931 at Oro Manse)

He sits beside the fire in pensive mood;  
His pipe unlighted holds he in his hand;  
His mind is reaching back across the years,  
The years that so relentlessly have flown  
And turned to gray the hair once raven black.  
Before him pass the friends of early youth,  
The form of her to whom he plighted troth,  
But whom stern death snatched suddenly and left  
A broken lover to face life  
With naught but visions of what might have been  
The years of wandering he next recalls  
For life had lost its purpose. How could one  
On whom the light of love had shown, remain  
Where each familiar scene recalled to mind  
The one whom he had loved and lost. For him  
His life had no meaning, and he wandered on  
From clime to clime they called him "rolling stone",

What mattered that? He strove hard to forget,  
To grasp again the broken threads, but failed.  
He hoped that time would deaden the dull pain  
About his heart. And after many years,  
(Years eaten by the locusts some would say  
Who did not understand) he had returned  
To end his days among the peaceful scenes  
Of youth. Tonite the tears roll back,  
She seems so close. Did he not hear her call?  
Or see her beckon? Is it she that stands  
On brink of yon dark water just ahead?  
The stream looks swift but he will venture in,  
And with a yearning tender cry he calls:  
"I'm coming, love," and starts from out his chair  
Falls forward on the carpet, and the pipe  
Drops from his cold hand. The old man is dead.  
John R. died January 7. 1953

**Names:** Everyone has at least one of them, most people have a vague idea what their own names mean but few give them much more thought. The study of names is called *onomastics*, a field which touches on *linguistics, history, anthropology, psychology, sociology, philology* and much more. When people refer to the "meaning of a name," they are most likely referring to the *etymology*, the literal meaning of words.

### What's in your Surname?

**Sept:** An English word for a division of a family or a division of a clan, probably an altered form of sect. It is sometimes used to translate the word *sliocht*, meaning seed, indicating the descendants of a person. It became Anglicized as Sil.

**Related septs:** Sil was used within the context of a family or clan, all who bore the same surname, as a manner of distinguishing one group from another. All of these individual lines might further sub-divide into still more septs, which in turn sometimes led to a new surname, and/or the emergence of the family concerned as a clan in their own right. This type of sept was the norm in Scotland.

**Scottish septs:** In Scotland, a sept many times is a family absorbed into a larger Scottish clan for mutual benefit. Scottish clans usually have a number of septs, each with its own surname. Septs have rights to wear clan tartans though they often have tartans of their own. Related septs were also normal in Scotland.

**Irish septs:** Historically, the term sept was not used in Ireland until the 19th century, long after any notion of clanship had been eradicated. Related Irish septs and clans often belong to larger groups, sometimes called tribes. This would imply that Ireland possessed no formalised clan system, which is not accurate. Brehon Law, the ancient legal system of Ireland clearly defined the clan system in pre-Norman Ireland, which collapsed after the Tudor Conquest. The Gaels, when speaking of them, employed their term 'clan'. It should be noted that the words 'sept' and 'Irish' are not native to the island.

**Septs and Variant Spellings:** To help in your surname research please note that you may find there may be many different spellings of your family surname.

### What's in your first name?

It isn't only our surnames that are important to us - did you ever wonder where your first name came from???

Scottish First Names: <http://www.namenerds.com/scottish/>

Irish First Names <http://www.namenerds.com/irish/> Any First name. <http://www.behindthename.com>

### Septs & Variant Spellings of MacKinnon/McKinnon:

[http://www.scotweb.co.uk/tartan/MacKinnon-Modern-Mckinnon/41798?filter\\_searchterm=mckinnon](http://www.scotweb.co.uk/tartan/MacKinnon-Modern-Mckinnon/41798?filter_searchterm=mckinnon)

Kackinvan, Love, Macinnon, Mackinney, Mackinning, Mackinnon, Mackinven, Macmorran, Macsherrie, Morren, Sherrie, Sherry, Kinney, Kinnie, Kinnon, Maccannan, Maccannon, Macfingan, Macfingon, Macfingone, Macfinnan, Macfinnen, Macfannon, Macfyngoun, Macinvine, Mackeenan, Mackena, Mackenen, Mackeney, Mackenie, Mackenna, Mackennah, Mackennan, Mackennane, Mackennay, Mackenney, Mackinin, Mackinna, Mackinnay, Mackinnen, Mackinnie, Mackinoun, Mackiynnan, Mackmorran, Mackynnay, Mackynnie, Macmorran, Macmorane, Macmoren, Macmorin, Macmorine, Macmorrane, Macmorrin, Macmoryn, Macmoryne, Macmurrin, Macphingone, Macsherry, Macshirrie, Macshirrie, Makenone, Makfingane, Makfingoun, Makkynine, Makkynnon, Makmorane, Morin, Morran, Morrin, Murren

**Septs & Variant Spellings of MacDonald/McDonald:** There simply isn't enough space to print out all of the several hundred septs & variant spellings for MacDonald that you can check at:

[http://www.scotweb.co.uk/tartan/MacDonald-Dress-Mcdonald/30724?filter\\_searchterm=mcdonald:id=GcPM6PQA](http://www.scotweb.co.uk/tartan/MacDonald-Dress-Mcdonald/30724?filter_searchterm=mcdonald:id=GcPM6PQA)

### Music and Musical Memorabilia:

**From Christopher McKinnon** “This is a picture of Raymond Alexander McKinnon’s 12 string Round body Mandolin (the older more classic of the two current shapes). I never saw him play it and I have no provenance on it. It seems quite old and maybe hand made in PEI no brand markings except for a number 2 on the back of the neck. I had it repaired, restored and restrung in 1978 by an expert repair craftsman on the Cape near Hyannis recommended by a musician friend or acquaintance. My brother John had it awhile when I transitioned to California and one of his friends played it a few times. My Dad, John McKinnon made me a viewing case designed from oak and Plexiglas that hangs on a wall. I am not a player and haven't taken guitar/mandolin lessons yet, but still seems to be in tune.”



**Notes from Rick:** Following are pictures of family violins, both of which sadly have fallen into disrepair - happily now are under professional restoration. The one on the left is my dad Fred Atkinson’s labeled 1907. It has also been well played by his son Rick and Rick’s daughters Laura and Shae. The one on the right is one of my grandfather Raymond McKinnon’s violins labeled 1883. It has also been well played by his son in law Fred, Rick, Laura and Shae. Pictures from Shae.



### More Memorabilia:

From Rod Atkinson’s Collection. My Grandfather Ed Atkinson’s Miners Lamp, Lunch Pail and Water Bottle. He worked in several Nova Scotia mines in as a teen and lost several toes in a mining accident which ended his mining career. This is Ed Atkinson in Westville NS Abt 1918 as a trolley operator.



### **Answer to Mystery picture.**

**From Laura Atkinson:** What was that mysterious, stringed object hanging on Grandpa Fred and Grammie Elaine Atkinson's wall? Was it a wooden egg slicer? A violin for two? From as far back as I can remember, it hung in their Brant Rock home on the paneled wall behind the climbing ivy, above a red velvet chair that sat next to the electronic organ.

My own musical adventures began around 1977 with a ¼ size rental violin. I couldn't wait until my arms and fingers stretched enough to play the great grandpa's full sized violin. I played throughout grade and middle school, and even took some private lessons. What no one knew is that I couldn't read a single note of music! I played "by ear," which then led to the end of my musical adventure. In order to play in the High School orchestra, you had to pass a test – an untitled piece of sheet music was set on the stand and you had to play it. My sister Shae took up the violin as well but her natural musical abilities quickly surpassed mine.

So what was that 36 stringed, violin-like object hanging on the wall that was a constant source of curiosity? It was only after Grammie Elaine passed away that it was handed to me to care for. I discovered that it had a name! **Ukelin.** "Ukelins combine two sets of strings, one group of 16 strings tuned to the scale of C (from middle C on a piano to the C two octaves above) plus 4 groups of 4 strings, each group tuned to a chord. The instrument is placed on a table with the larger end toward the performer, and while the right hand plays the melody on the treble strings with a violin bow, accompanying chords are played on the bass strings with the left hand using either the fingers or a pick. Each string and chord group is numbered, and sheet music is provided in a special numerical system intended to simplify playing for persons unable to read standard musical notation." It is a bowed stringed musical instrument in the zither family which combines the Hawaiian ukulele (uke) with the violin (lin).

How Grammie Elaine obtained it remains a mystery. They were once offered in the Sears catalog and beginning in 1927, ukelins were generally peddled by traveling door-to-door salesmen. They would demonstrate by playing a "familiar song, a hymn, and a patriotic song" to help seal the deal on the \$35 price tag. A payment installation book was given, and the salesman was off to collect his commission. The owner generally learned a tune or two, and then the ukelin would collect dust in the attic because it was difficult to tune correctly. Antiques Roadshow values them at around \$50, because they flooded the American countryside and they see one in each town they visit. It is the most common of the "rare" instruments.

**Ricks Note:** Since none of us knew what this instrument was or had a clue as to how to tune or play it, we never actually heard this ukelin played correctly. According to web sources "The ukelin is a satisfying instrument to play, haunting to listen to and a demon to tune." It is tuned using a piano keyboard (the numbers on piano keyboard correspond to the numbers on the ukelin), unlike a violin which I can simply tune and play "by ear." If any Kith&Kin can actually tune or play the ukelin we would love to hear from you.

**PS:** Neither of my grandfathers nor my dad could read sheet music and as far as I know never took lessons on the piano, fiddle, banjo or mandolin. They learned and played songs "by ear" simply listening and practicing. Not reading sheet music didn't stop them from playing great music. My dad and mom did finally learn to read music when they bought an electric organ which my both grandfathers easily played "by ear."

### **Musical Memorabilia that you probably didn't want to know:**

#### **The Swinette:**

An old McKinnon joke that my mother and Uncle Ronald used to tell was "A Swinette is an historic Scotts musical instrument made by drawing two hairs taughtly across a pigs butt that you plucked with your teeth!" Fortunately none of us actually saw or heard this legendary instrument but the image is forever burned into our brains and naturally we perpetuate the vivid memory. There are web sites dedicated to the Swinette! If any Kith&Kin can actually tune or play the Swinette we perhaps might *not* want to hear from you.

## **Recipe from Sue & Randy Sassi: Date And Cherry Cake**

### **Recipe Provenance:**

This is an old family recipe for date (& cherry) cake that my grandmother Elizabeth “Lillie” McKinnon Hartnett made. It was one of those old recipes that wasn't written down – my grandmother just knew how much of each ingredient to add to get the proper flavor and consistency. As a young woman, my mother Anne Hartnett Van Blarcom sat with my grandmother while she made the cake, and my mother handed my grandmother measured amounts for each ingredient so she could document the exact amounts of each. The original recipe was a date cake, and my mother added her own variation to make it a date and cherry cake. We have enjoyed this cake many times over the years, and one of our family traditions has been to use this cake recipe for family wedding cakes. (My mother was also a cake decorator and she use to make many of the family wedding cakes).

We believe that this recipe originated from our great-grandmother Elizabeth McDonald McKinnon (from the Brae, PEI). I am interested in finding out if anyone else has ever heard about this recipe, or a similar one. I hope you enjoy this McKinnon treat!

### **Date Cake Recipe:**

- 1) Cut 1 8-oz package dromedary dates into quarters. Sprinkle 1 teaspoon baking soda over the dates. Pour 1 cup boiling water over all and set this aside.
- 2) Sift together: 2 cups flour  
1 teaspoon baking powder (easy)  
1 cup sugar  
1/3 teaspoon salt
- 3) Make a hole in the middle and drop an egg into the hole. Add ½ cup melted and cooled Crisco shortening.
- 4) Mix well.
- 5) Add the date mixture and 1 teaspoon orange flavoring. Mix well.
- 6) Pour batter into well greased and floured 9” cake pans.
- 7) Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes or longer

Yield: Double the recipe for 2-9” layers

### **Variations:**

For Date and Cherry cake (our family favorite), add 1 8-oz. bottle maraschino cherries without stems - sliced & drained but still moist.

For cupcakes, add 1 extra teaspoon baking powder.

### **Tips & shortcuts:**

- 1) We now purchase chopped dates, and this is a big time saver. If the dates are also pre-sugared, slightly decrease the amount of sugar you add to the recipe.
- 2) This will be a very moist cake, so when you take it out of the oven be sure it is baked completely and has pulled slightly away from the sides of the pan.
- 3) Wait 10 minutes or so before you try to remove the cake from the pan. If you do it too soon, the cake will split. If you forget and try to do it too late, the cake will stick to the pan. If it is late, put the cake back into the oven at 375 degrees for about 1 minute then take out of the oven and turn it out immediately.

**Ricks note:** Of course I will make the ultimate sacrifice and actually make, bake and taste any recipes submitted. Damn the diabetes! This is for research and posterity!!!!!! My grandmother Mary (Stuart) McKinnon never measured anything either. It was a handful of this, some of that, a pinch of something else etc. Mom said Grammy hand made and baked 27 loaves of bread every Wed and Saturday to feed the nine McKinnon children and up to four foster children in the house. I fondly remember great biscuits. Ironically my Mom said that when they were young, they couldn't wait to have the status of buying and eating “store bought wrapped bread!”

## Moving Kith&Kin Along:

A key concept of the originators of the Kith&Kin Newsletter, Larry and Erica MacDonald with Al and Colleen McKinnon is that the privilege of putting it together should pass on to others, roughly every two years, publishing four K&K Newsletters. That way, various branches of the family will share *their* perspectives and knowledge with the rest of us. We know there are many more branches and researchers who have historical details, anecdotes, photos, documents and memorabilia to contribute. Larry et al published the initial four Newsletters beginning with the Spring 2005 issue through Spring 2007. I then had the honor to take over this responsibility and to start gathering information for the Fall 2007 issue. With daughter Laura's fantastic assistance and Paula's support it is hard to believe we have actually held the torch for almost two years, this being our 3rd K&K Newsletter. Now is the time to set the stage for new beginning, for another to bring their fresh thoughts and ideas to K&K. Therefore, this is a call to someone of you to continue K&K tradition by adding your own style and content. In a perfect world the Newsletter responsibility would transition right after we publish the Spring K&K.

As we see this evolving, Larry has volunteered to continue as the key resource for the genealogical data linking to the K&K web site. The responsibility for the K&K website could also be transitioned on a staggered schedule to someone with advanced web master skills, to expand the K&K web site to its full potential. In the interim I would volunteer to continue to maintain the web site.

As Larry et al mentored me; we would assist to ease the changeover. Don't be timid - the task of publishing the K&K Newsletter is NOT that daunting. With email, everyone is only a click away and with the internet, access to new and informative articles is unlimited. Truth be known, I was quite unsure that I could measure up to the task but hopefully I have brought something to the table. The experiences have proved to be a lot of fun, wonderfully enlightening and rewarding especially being in contact with all of you.

**Requirements as we see them.** Have a good sense of humor, patience, perseverance and want a rewarding experience meeting some really wonderful people you may actually never meet in person. Desire to perpetuate K&K history and genealogy (thankfully we have Larry!) and be related to or descended from our early PEI pioneer settlers, *McKinnon, McDonald, McAllar, Stewart et al.* Be a good communicator using computer and internet skills. Solicit and coordinate information in both the US and Canadian languages (spell checkers and custom dictionaries adding old English and colloquialisms are essential, Eh!). Be able to format, print, collate, staple, label, stuff envelopes and stick on stamps but you DO NOT have to be stronger than a locomotive, faster than a speeding bullet or leap tall buildings in a single bound. And most importantly, find someone to assist you in all of the above that is more talented than you are (again I have Laura and Paula). Hopefully there will be several of you wanting the challenge now and in the future. As we have shared responsibilities with Larry's support, perhaps there will be dual editors in some sort of a team effort. We're looking forward to hearing from you.

**Your K&K Newsletter** is now published kind of casual semi-annual basis sometime in the Spring and Fall and sent to hundreds of Kith&Kin email and snail mail subscribers. Feel free to pass it on to anyone who may be interested. In this day of Spam and Scams, we try to take extra care to respect your privacy and keep names and addresses internal and confidential. Your email address would only be listed in an article if you wish to be contacted by other Kith&Kin. If you now don't need the snail mail copy, please let me know.

**Please note:** There are more than a few references and links in this Newsletter that are available to our internet users that I have not printed due to space limitations. Hopefully snail mail subscribers have internet access through other K&K or at local libraries.

## Lost members:

Since the last K&K we have somehow lost contact with Len and Mary Goski. If you are in contact with them, please have them forward their new address to me.

### Acknowledgements:

Jim Hocking - For his article on John Stewart.

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Larry MacDonald - For his support and ongoing perseverance in continuously updating our family trees.

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Laura Atkinson - For her ongoing assistance in the web site, Newsletters and the Ukelin article.

Rod Atkinson - For his pictures of family memorabilia that he has been "cleaning" for decades (re stolen).

Sue & Randy Sassi - for their delicious recipe.

Christopher McKinnon - For notes and Ray McKinnons mandolin, violin, and charcoal sketch of Felix McKinnon.

Debbie Klughers and Jim Hocking - For their old photos that we will eventually be posted on the web site.

Cindy Mueller - For setting up <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/McKinnonKithandKin/> another excellent way for us to communicate. If you haven't had a chance to join yet, please take a look and consider signing up.

Paula Atkinson - For supporting my efforts, putting up with me, proof reading, and editing par excellence.

### Last Minute Music and Memorabilia from Christopher McKinnon:

I got this fabulous provenance right after I had already printed the first 12 pages of the K&K I wanted to share it with this issue.

"Rick,

I was able to meet up with your brothers Rod and Rock at my brother Charles' annual pre- Labor Day Brant Rock cookout - what a hoot! Excellent food, well prepared. Cops and Criminals, hard to tell the difference! Next day, my brother John brought over one of Pa McKinnon's fiddles - probably homemade in PEI late 1800's early 1900's? He said you might have another one which is maybe better shape or quality? (See page 10). John also has this charcoal sketch of our great-grandfather Felix McKinnon It is in one of my father's hand made barn board frames (from the old PEI homestead in the Brae Lot 9). I cropped the frame away somewhat to get closer to the image because it is hard to see behind the glass. No information on who might have sketched it - Family member? Itinerant artist? Local artist? Maybe ask Kith&Kin when you send it out as part of the newsletter. Also maybe ask who might have made the fiddle/mandolin etc."



Although it may be a little early, let us be among the first to wish all of you great 2008 Thanksgiving and Holiday seasons and an especially healthy and prosperous New Year in 2009.

**With Best Wishes**

**Rick, Paula and Laura Atkinson** [kithkin@cox.net](mailto:kithkin@cox.net)

**58 Pine Tree Lane**

**South Kingstown, RI 02879**

**Larry MacDonald** [larry-macdonald@shaw.ca](mailto:larry-macdonald@shaw.ca)