

Kith & Kin Newsletter

Volume 5

Issue 1

Spring 2009

Happy Spring to all of our Kith & Kin:

Since this was supposed to be my last issue as publisher, I wanted to thank everyone for their support during the last two years and was planning to bid a kind farewell. As all things come to pass, it really is time to move forward but so far it has been a long goodbye. Unfortunately, we have not found a volunteer publisher yet nor has anyone sent any family news for this issue. I will attempt to keep the K&K newsletter going until there is a volunteer. For this issue I am just sending an email edition since it is most relevant to K&K with internet access. Please feel free to snail mail this Newsletter to anyone that may be interested.

Definition of Spring:



According to an astronomical definition, in the northern hemisphere Spring begins on the vernal equinox (usually March 20) and lasts until the summer solstice (usually June 21). The meteorological definition (used in order to express whether 'spring' has been hot or cold or wet, for example) has spring starting on March 1, since this is more in line with weather conditions thought to be typical of spring. According to solar term, spring begins on February 4 and ends on May 4. Calendars typically give the first, but the second and third are more in line with common use. All of this actually means that Spring started this year on March 20th.

In New England and Canada, Spring really doesn't start until the snow is gone.

Note From Larry on April 30th

"Spent an hour this morning shoveling about 20 cm of Montana Spring. We ain't ever gonna get out of this winter. But then, I'm glad to not be in the Maritimes (they just had a Spring blizzard) - small mercies"

I replied "With my handy conversion chart - 20 centimeters = 7.874 015 inches - you know us ugly Americans can't count decimally. I noticed you blamed the snow on Montana - we blame the cold and snow on Canada! Montreal Express and The Alberta Clipper are terms used here in the Northeast."

Larry has to get in last word. "I agree that you get most of your bad weather from Canada but you must understand that we're just passing it along from the Russians. In the foothills of the Rockies here we get a lot of warm dry air which wrings itself out over BC and arrives here as a Chinook. Quite often though, we get southwesterers from Washington via Montana that haven't been wrung and therefore deliver a great deal of wet heavy snow. It seems that no matter where one lives, there's someone, someplace to blame the bad weather on. I wonder who the Russians blame it on."

To that I say in the US we only get hot air from Washington - oh you mean Washington state!!!!!!!!!!

Scottish/Gaelic proverbs: http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Scottish_Gaelic_proverbs

A great site for those that are interested in Scots Gaelic. My grandmother Mary Augusta (Stuart) McKinnon spoke Gaelic on occasion. I only remember something like "how are you, my darling", and as I remember phonetically was "ciamar a hash mahootie". The closest thing I could find on line was "Ciamar a tha thu?" How are you? There is revival of the Scots and Irish Gaelic languages. At one time, the British banned speaking Gaelic along with wearing kilts or clan colors in Scotland and Ireland.

Easter Sunday and Passover:

Celebrations for 2009 will fall on Sunday, April 12 in the western calendar (Catholic and Protestant Churches). The Eastern Orthodox Church has set the date April 19.

Question: How Is the Date of Easter Calculated?

Answer: Easter is a moveable feast and does not occur on the same date every year. The Council of Nicaea (A.D. 325) set the date of Easter as the Sunday following the 14th day of the paschal full moon, which is the full moon whose 14th day falls on or after the vernal (spring) equinox.

Easter always occurs on a Sunday, because Sunday was the day of Christ's Resurrection. But why the 14th day of the paschal full moon? That was the date of **Passover** in the Jewish calendar, (Passover is one of the most important Jewish holidays, the celebration during eight days of Pesach and commemorates their liberation from slavery.) and the Last Supper (Holy Thursday) occurred on the Passover. Therefore, Easter was the Sunday after Passover.

The Church does not use the exact date of the paschal full moon, because it can fall on different days in different time zones, which would mean that the date of Easter would be different depending on which time zone you live in. Likewise, the Church sets the date of the vernal equinox at March 21, even though it can occur on March 20. Both approximations allow the Church to set a universal date for Easter.

Still, Easter isn't celebrated universally on that date. While Western Christians use the Gregorian calendar (the calendar that's used throughout the West today), the Eastern Orthodox continue to use the older, astronomically inaccurate Julian calendar. Currently, March 21 on the Julian calendar falls on April 3 in the Gregorian calendar. Therefore, for the Orthodox, the Sunday following the 14th day of the paschal full moon has to fall after April 3, hence the discrepancy in the date of Easter. In any event Happy Easter and Happy Passover to all Christian and Jewish K&K.

Humor: From Flora (MacKinnon) Jenkins.

For all our Catholic, Irish, and other friends.....

An Irishman moves into a tiny village in County Kerry, walks into the pub and promptly orders three beers. The bartender raises his eyebrows, but serves the man three beers, which he drinks quietly at a table, alone. An hour later, the man has finished the three beers and orders three more. This happens yet again.

The next evening the man again orders and drinks three beers at a time, several times.

Soon the entire town is whispering about the "Man Who Orders Three Beers".

Finally, a week later, the bartender broaches the subject on behalf of the town. "I don't mean to pry, but folks around here are wondering why you always order three beers?"

"Tis odd, tisn't it?" the man replies, "You see, I have two brothers, and one went to America, and the other to Australia. We promised each other that we would always order an extra two beers whenever we drank as a way of keeping up the family bond."

The bartender and the whole town were pleased with this answer, and soon the "Man Who Orders Three Beers" became a local celebrity and source of pride to the village, even to the extent that out-of-Towner's would come to watch him drink.

Then, one day, the man comes in and orders only two beers. The bartender pours them with a heavy heart. This continues for the rest of the evening: he orders only two beers. The word flies around town. Prayers are offered for the soul of one of the brothers.

The next day, the bartender says to the man, "Folks around here, me first of all, want to offer condolences to you for the death of your brother. You know-the two beers and all..."

The man ponders this for a moment, then replies: "You'll be happy to hear that my two brothers are alive and well. It's just that I, myself, have decided to give up drinking for Lent."



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>

As he explained in prior newsletters “**Where did my family surname go on the web sites?**”, some surname pages have been deleted and/or were consolidated. This also occurs where there are no second-generation descendants on new surnames - eg when a daughter marries but does not have grandchildren listed. While this helps simplify the links and reduce page clutter, it means that some links had to be removed. Since K&K links with Larry’s information, this is also the case on Kith&Kin surnames at <http://kithandkinfamilytree.com/index.html> . There are many new pages and updated family links including Costello, Fanning, Hartnett, Madden, McCarthy, Van Blarcom, and the page for Elizabeth Ella (Lillian) McKinnon for your viewing. Laura and I (really mostly Laura) have cleaned up clutter and dead links on K&K web site keeping up with Larry’s updates. If you have additional family updates and information or questions, please don’t hesitate to contact Larry at larry-macdonald@shaw.ca

Reunion Wishes for 2009:

Although several of you had suggested some sort of a family gathering/reunion in 2009 unfortunately, no one came forward to organize and administer an event. Mabey we can have a reunion next year. Paula and I are planning a casual visit to PEI and Nova Scotia, back to our roots this summer and hopefully will have the opportunity to visit some of our distant Kith&Kin during the journey and with any luck, we will attend one of the many Highland games in Canada.

Travel between Canada and the States:

With that travel note, for those of us that may be considering travel between Canada and the United States, we again strongly suggest that you check the changes in the most current governmental regulations concerning entry, exit, land, sea and air travel, passport and identification requirements. The rules keep changing and becoming more stringent. As I understand it, passport cards are only valid for land travel and passports will be required for all other modes of travel. In the US getting a passport is not the most efficient application process and can take several months so please don’t delay. Don’t ruin your vacation by being stopped at the border and denied entry because you don’t have the proper documentation.

Humor: The Scots Bagpiper

A Scots bagpiper was asked by a funeral director to play at a graveside service for a homeless man who had no family or friends. The funeral was to be held at a cemetery in the remote countryside and this man would be the first to be laid to rest there.

As he was not familiar with the backwoods area, he became lost and being a typical Scotsman, did not stop for directions. he finally arrived an hour late. He saw the backhoe and the crew who were eating lunch but the hearse was nowhere in sight.

He apologized to the workers for his tardiness and stepped to the side of the open grave where he saw the vault lid already in place. He assured the workers he would not hold them up for long but this was the proper thing to do. The workers gathered around, still eating their lunch. he played out his heart and soul.

As he played, the workers began to weep. he played and he played like he'd never played before, from Going Home and The Lord is My Shepherd to Flowers of the Forest. he closed the lengthy session with Amazing Grace and walked to his car.

As he was opening the door and taking off his coat, he overheard one of the workers saying to another, "Sweet Jeezuz, Mary 'n Joseph, I never seen nothin' like that before and I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years."



Genealogy questions: Edited from Wikipedia and internet sources.

When researching genealogy one constantly comes up against the questions of Ethnicity and Race, Heritage, Faith.

Genealogy: Genealogy (from Greek: *γενεα*, *genea*, "family"; and *λόγος*, *logos*, "knowledge") is the study and tracing of family lineages and history. Genealogical research is a complex process that is more than affixing a collection of names to a pedigree chart. Rather, genealogy involves identifying ancestral or descendant families by using historical records to establish biological, genetic or familial kinship. Reliable conclusions are based on the quality of sources (ideally original records), the information within those sources (ideally primary or firsthand information), and the evidence that can be drawn from that information. In many instances, genealogists must skillfully assemble indirect or circumstantial evidence to build a case for identity and kinship. All evidence and conclusions, together with the documentation that supports them, is then assembled to create a cohesive "genealogy" or "family history." Traditionalists may differentiate between these last two terms, using the former to describe skeletal accounts of kinship (aka family trees) and the latter as a "fleshing out" of lives and personal histories. However, historical, social and family context is in any case essential to achieving correct identification of individuals and relationships. That being said we are truly lucky to have Larry MacDonald as our genealogist and to all of you for providing him with information.

Ethnicity, Race, Heritage, Faith/Religion:

Ethnicity: An ethnic group or ethnicity is a group of human beings whose members identify with each other, usually based on a presumed common genealogy or ancestry. Ethnic identity is also marked by the recognition from others of a group's distinctiveness and by common cultural, linguistic, religious, behavioral or biological traits.

Ethnicity often also connotes shared cultural, linguistic, behavioral or religious traits. For example, to call oneself Jewish or Arab one immediately invokes a clutch of linguistic, religious, cultural and racial features that are held to be common within each ethnic category. Such broad ethnic categories have also been termed *macroethnicity* to distinguish them from smaller more subjective ethnic features, often termed *microethnicity*.

Race: By contrast, refers to "some concentrations, as relative to frequency and distribution, of hereditary particles (genes) and physical characters, which appear, fluctuate, and often disappear in the course of time by reason of geographic and or cultural isolation." The UNESCO statement *The Race Question*, suggested that: "National, religious, geographic, linguistic and cultural groups do not necessarily coincide with racial groups: and the cultural traits of such groups have no demonstrated genetic connection with racial traits. Because serious errors of this kind are habitually committed when the term 'race' is used in popular parlance, it would be better when speaking of human races to drop the term 'race' altogether and speak of 'ethnic groups'."

Heritage: Refers to something that is inherited from one's ancestors. It has several different senses.

Cultural heritage: A nation's historic monuments, museum collections, etc.

Natural heritage: A nation's fauna and flora, natural resources, and landscape.

Tradition: Customs and practices inherited from ancestors.

Virtual Heritage: A work dealing with cultural heritage.

Inheritance: Physical goods after the death of an individual. **Biological inheritance** of physical characteristics.

Birthright: Something inherited due to the place, time or circumstances of someone's birth.

We have a multitude of genealogical heritages and we continue to add to our original Scots/Irish lineage. For example, my Atkinson/McKinnon roots with its many roots and branches coming from many countries and include English, French, Dutch, German, Polish, Russian, Italian, Greek, Native American/Canadian Indian, Mexican, Spanish, Argentinean, African American, Arab, Jewish in addition to the wealth of their diverse cultures. We are truly all related. That Six degrees of Separation Theory is more and more valid. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Six_degrees_of_separation

Faith/Religion: Our K&K family trees' faiths include most of the Faiths: Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant, Mormon, Jewish and Muslim to name a few. I am unsure about Near and Far Eastern Religions and denominations. With all these including the devout and non-practicing, and all other beliefs, (including non-believers) we should be well represented when we all finally reach our final destination. I am somehow reminded of the old adage "Although almost everyone seems to want to go to heaven, no one really seems to want to go there today!"

K&K web site: <http://kithandkinfamilytree.com/index.html>

I have just renewed my subscription for 2 years for both the domain K&K name and hosting the K&K web site.

For those that did not get the previous email:

While beginning work on the K&K newsletters Laura reminded me that this might be an excellent time to “re send” this edited memo. **“Think Globally, Shop Locally and especially consider supporting the efforts of your Kith&Kin.”**

More than a few of us are struggling to keep up with the current economic chaos in both the Colonies and Canada. I thought it might help to promote your businesses or trade by adding your web pages or business cards with brief write-ups to the K&K web site. With about 2300 “hits”, someone is obviously looking. Our multi talented Kith&Kin are widespread and very entrepreneurial, especially in management, retail, building in addition to being especially creative artists and musicians. This could include your individual business, your franchise, independent agency or simply looking to promote your skills to Kith&Kin.

So, if you want to add information that might interest others, please send the information to kithkin@cox.net so we can review and link it. Perhaps you have other K&K that are not on the direct emailing list that might also be interested. With the Six degrees of Separation Theory that anyone on the planet can be connected to any other person on the planet through a chain of acquaintances that has no more than five intermediaries, I especially think that self-promotion is a good thing especially when you are only a click away from your Kith&Kin! The only caveat is everything should be appropriate for listing on our family oriented web site and there eventually might be space limitations. We do not know exactly what would be inappropriate but hopefully we will know it if we see it.

So far, we have added 6 web sites or businesses for your review from Laura Atkinson, Sean Atkinson, Chris {McKinnon} Crosland, John MacAllar, Michael and Audrey Lamar, Christine and Bob Talbot and Devlyn MacKinnon and are waiting a few web sites that are in development. They are listed under the section “Family Websites”

<http://kithandkinfamilytree.com/individualfamilylinks1.htm>

Please note: If you do not have a web site actually developed yet, initially all that is necessary is your brief business write-up and a business card with email address where you would like your business contacted. Mabey someday when I complete the tutorials I will actually be able to do some of the web hosting myself and relieve Laura of this duty! Her web development skills are terrific keeping me out of trouble.

Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/>

Facebook is a free-access social networking website where people can add friends and send them messages, and update their personal profiles to notify friends about themselves. Users can join networks organized by city, workplace, school and region to connect and interact with other people. I have found Facebook to be a lot of fun connecting and getting updates with family and friends. So far, we have added many from my immediate Atkinson/Benoit/McKinnon clan. Expanding to Kith&Kin, many thanks to Cindy Mueller, as administrator, for setting set up a Kith and Kin Facebook group. We invite all K&K to join by simply joining Facebook and join the Kith and Kin group. About a dozen of you have already joined. Many of you are already Facebook members so if you want to also be linked to Kith and Kin Facebook, go to this link.

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=60294184227&ref=nf>

As with anything that you post on the web, always be cautious about what you post in the personal information section.

Great news from Cousin Larry MacDonald

Hi Cousin: This Facebook thing could catch on. I'm attaching a document I happened upon a few weeks back. It's part of a history of Bishop MacEachern of early P.E.I in a wonderful socio-economic/religious/political stew. Being a history buff, I loved it and saved it with Kith & Kin in mind. Give it a read to see if you find it suitable. For reference, it came from

http://www.umanitoba.ca/colleges/st_pauls/ccha/Back%20Issues/CCHA1953/Landrigan.pdf

(Note: excellent article-The document is too long to be published in the K&K Newsletter so I put it on the web site.)

Skype <http://www.skype.com>

Finally something for free that I think is actually worth it!!!!!!!

If you have not discovered it yet, Skype is an internet phone service that lets users make free phone and video calls with instant messaging with Skype to other Skype users on their computers via their high-speed internet connections. (There is also a for \$ service making calls to land lines which also uses your hi speed internet connection as the phone land line to make calls to people on land lines). All it takes download free software from Skype and use your speakers and a microphone – for those that are not camera shy you can also add a video camera. Both Laura and I and my brothers use Skype all the time - it saves many \$\$ for Laura's daily calling the Netherlands and saves me \$\$ calling my brothers long distance. Did I mention it is FREE? I understand Yahoo is also going to start a similar service.

Your K&K Newsletter

Is now published on a kind of casual semi-annual basis sometime in the Spring and Fall and sent to Kith&Kin email 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.

Acknowledgements:

Flora MacKinnon Jenkins:	For sending Humor –I had to wait a year to get it in the Newsletter!
Jim Hocking:	For sending pictures of the Brae for the web site.
Larry MacDonald:	For his support and ongoing perseverance in continuously updating our family trees.
Laura Atkinson:	For her ongoing assistance in the K&K web site and formatting newsletters.
John MacAllar, Debbie Klughers and Jim Hocking:	For their old photos and pictures that will eventually be posted on the web site.
Cindy Mueller:	For setting up our Kith and Kin Facebook, 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 at http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=60294184227&ref=nf/
Paula Atkinson:	For supporting my efforts, proof reading and editing par excellence.

With Best Wishes

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