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# KITH & KIN

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## Heard This One?

Three Irishmen, Paddy, Sean and Shamus, were stumbling home late one night and found themselves on the road which led past the old graveyard.

"Come have a look over here", says Paddy, "It's Michael O'Grady's grave, God bless his soul, he lived to the ripe old age of 87."

"That's nothing", says Sean, "here's one named Patrick O'Toole. It says here that he was 95 when he died." Just then, Shamus yells out, "But here's a fella that died when he was 145 years old!"

"What was his name?" asks Paddy.

Shamus lights a match to see what else is written on the stone marker, and exclaims, "Miles from Dublin."

## What's This?

You're looking at an attempt to connect the clan and pass around a bit of Irish cheer along with, perhaps, some good ol' tombstone information. Ok, so most of us are not Irish but we ARE interesting as is our family information - including the tombstone details. Wouldn't it be nice, though, to be more closely connected than the minimum born-married-died-God-bless-his-soul? We want to strengthen ties with kith and kin.

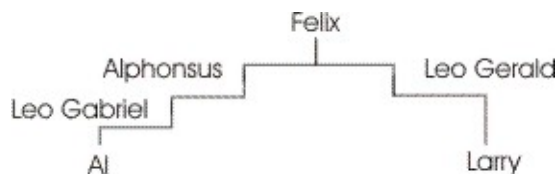
Kin are considered as blood relations or someone treated as such according to law (for example, in-laws, half-relations, step-relations, adopted children, etc.). Kith, usually defined as friends and acquaintances, are also included because there have been and are many other people who also have what we consider to be a legitimate right to be part of our family. Our overall objective is to be inclusive – to include as many people as we can – and not exclusive.

## Who We Are

We chose to set the pretty face bar quite low and include mug shots of Al and Larry. Al and Colleen, Larry and Erica live in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, where, as Al puts it, the prairie meets the foothills of the Canadian Rockies. Larry and Al are first cousins, once removed since Larry is a first cousin to Al's father Leo (gone, God love him and rest him, for almost 27 years now). Now, if you don't know what such terms as "once removed" mean, as Al didn't when we began, don't worry. We provide a chart for explaining such relations later in this newsletter.



Al McKinnon



Larry MacDonald

## Reasons For A Newsletter

A man once paid a genealogist a lot of money to search his lineage. The researcher discovered that the man's g. grandfather was the first person to be executed when the electric chair was installed in Sing Sing Prison. Undaunted, the man had the genealogist record that his ancestor once occupied the chair of applied electricity at a leading New York institution.

To date, we don't know of any family members who've resided in such famed institutions but we do have lots to talk about. We thought this forum might help:

1. To establish and strengthen family ties and connections
2. To share historical and current family information
3. To publicize events that our kith and kin can participate in
4. To make new friends (this should be number 1, actually, shouldn't it?).

If you agree we certainly welcome your participation in any and every manner you are comfortable with.

## Some Family Details

Much work remains to establish the exact conditions under which John McDonald and Neil McKinnon left Scotland and arrived on Prince Edward Island. For now, their story and ours begins with the marriage of John and Marie's son, James, to Ann McKinnon; their daughter, Elizabeth, to John Stewart; their son John Jr. to Catharine Stewart; and their daughter, Hannah, to Neil McKinnon. We've had the pleasure of communicating with Mary McDonald who descends from James and Ann, Dorothy Farish who descends from John and Catharine, and Jim Hocking who descends from Elizabeth and John. Dorothy, Mary and Jim all have a wealth of family information and we look forward to their contributions to future issues of the newsletter. For now, we'll begin here with Hannah and Neil.

Neil McKinnon came to Prince Edward Island, Canada as a small boy from Barra, Scotland around 1790. In the 1820s, he built a house on the west bank of the Brae Harbour and married Hannah McDonald. Though his birth date remains to be discovered, their first child appears to have been John. Then came Ann, James, Mary and Felix. Ann married Donald MacIntyre, James remained single, the only information available for Mary comes from her birth and baptismal record, and Felix married Elizabeth McDonald. Hannah died between 1850 and 1855 after which Neil married Agnes MacIsaac and lived until 1875.

Felix McKinnon was born 29 Apr, 1836 and married Elizabeth McDonald the daughter of Allan McDonald and Margaret Curtis, 29 Oct 1863. Upon Neil's death Felix and Elizabeth took over the farm, built it up and raised 11 children to adulthood. Felix died 8 Aug, 1908 age 72 years but Elizabeth who was born the fourth of December 1842 lived on the homestead for another 36 years. Elizabeth passed away on the 14th of Aug, 1942 four months shy of her 100th birth date. Children of Felix and Elizabeth are:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Birth Date - Death Date</u>	<u>Age</u>
Joseph James McKinnon	27 July 1864	
John Justin McKinnon	25 May 1866 - 10 June 1926	60
William Peter McKinnon	13 Feb 1868	
Maximillian McKinnon	1 Apr 1870 - died as an infant	
George Allan McKinnon	7 May 1871 - 1949	78
Daniel McKinnon	3 June 1873 - 1 Sept 1961	88
Alphonsus McKinnon	5 June 1875 - 7 June 1946	71
Raymond McKinnon	2 June 1877 - 2 Nov 1975	98
Neil Alexander McKinnon	15 July 1879 - 10 Apr 1947	67
Mary Emma McKinnon	21 Jan 1882 - 5 Jan 1979	96
Margaret Hannah McKinnon	19 June 1884 - 12 Sep 1896	12
Leo Gerald McKinnon	14 Sep 1886 - 10 Apr 1964	77
Elizabeth Ella McKinnon	28 Oct 1888 - 31 Jan 1991	102

The families descendant from John McDonald and Neil McKinnon are far too numerous to list here but, thankfully, we are aware of many of them and look forward to their participation in this newsletter as well. In addition to Prince Edward Island, the descendants of John and Neil currently live in California, Pennsylvania, Alberta, British Columbia, Quebec, Ontario, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Virginia, New Hampshire, Ohio, and probably Florida, Saskatchewan, and Nova Scotia. We are one big extended family so if you're somehow affiliated with John or Neil, kith or kin, then you're one of us. And, like Paddy, Shaun, and Shamus many of you have wandered the cemeteries and otherwise accumulated family information. We hope this newsletter will contribute to information exchange and, if your research is just getting started, then the following hints on genealogy will also help.

## Genealogy: How A Family Tree Grows On You

Allegedly there is an early Montana Census entry which described a settler "Scalped and left for dead by Indians. Hale and hearty now, but hates Indians."

Census data is a terrific source of information but, regardless of the source, you'll need some means to interpret, record and present your findings. There are a few simple, common methods and tools that can help to discover and understand families and relations. An ancestral chart is one such mechanism. It begins as a simple series of linked charts, as illustrated in Figure 1, below, but it's real value lies in the details that one collects if one uses it as a guide. By the way, we don't really expect you to read Figure 1; we know it's just too tiny to get anything out of. But, from its structure, you can see what we're getting at.

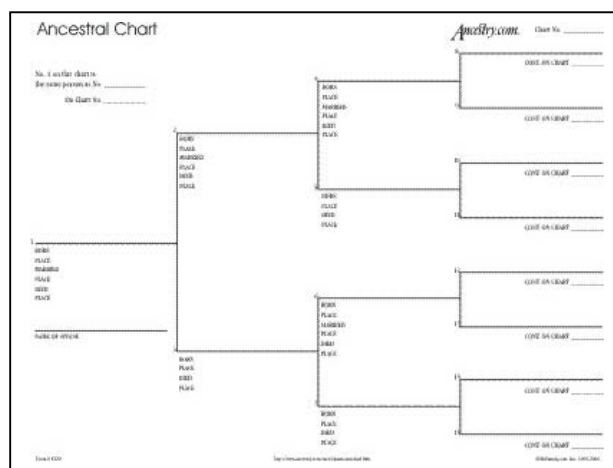


Figure 1 – Example of an ancestral chart

An ancestral chart records the ancestors from whom you directly descend--those for whom you intend to compile a complete and correct family unit. It shows at a glance the progress one has made towards this goal and what remains to be done. And it shows that names, dates, and places are the minimum requirements for each person's birth, marriage, and death. An ancestral chart is a primitive example of a modern database. Start by filling out these forms with all of the information you can gain from your oldest family members. They are the people who know the 'stuff' you'll never find in public records.

Familial relationships can be either through blood (consanguinity) or through marriage (affinity). Usually, those pursuing their genealogical roots and branches prefer to investigate blood relationships. Blood relationships can be deciphered using a consanguinity chart, like the one in Figure 2. If you prefer, you can also call it a family relationship chart or a kinship chart (we'll use the shorter "kinship chart"). These charts help us to identify the relationships of those who share common ancestors. This type of chart in particular helped Al understand what a "first cousin, once removed" is.

		Al ↓					
Larry→	O	P	GP	GGP	3GP	4GP	5GP
	P	S	N	GN	2GN	3GN	4GN
	GP	N	1C	1C1R	1C2R	1C3R	1C4R
	GGP	GN	1C1R	2C	2C1R	2C2R	2C3R
	3GP	2GN	1C2R	2C1R	3C	3C1R	3C2R
	4GP	3GN	1C3R	2C2R	3C1R	4C	4C1R
	5GP	4GN	1C4R	2C3R	3C2R	4C1R	5C

Figure 2 – Consanguinity chart ( aka a “kinship chart” or a “family relationship chart”)

What do all those alphanumeric codes mean? Here are some example explanations, from which we’re sure you can figure out the rest:

O – original ancestor      P – parent      S – sibling      C – cousin      N – niece/nephew  
 GP – grandparent      GN – grand niece/nephew      GGP – great grandparent  
 3GP – great, great grandparent      2C1R – second cousin, once removed

OK, so how do we use the chart? Let’s use the living-and-breathing “Larry and Al” example. Remember how we mentioned that Larry was a first cousin to Al’s father? Well, that means that Larry’s grandparents and Al’s dad’s grandparents were the same. That also means that Larry’s grandparents (GP) and Al’s great grandparents (GGP) were the same. OK, then, using Larry’s grandparents as the original ancestor (O) reference, assign the top row to Larry and the first column to Al (it could work the other way, too). On Larry’s top row, go to the GP column, and then go down the column to Al’s GGP level. You land on the “1C1R” space, which stands for “first cousin, once removed”. For illustration, we shaded the various table entries in Figure 2. Now, this result was a surprise to Al, who previously believed that any of his father’s first cousins must be his own second cousin. Not so. For Al and Larry to be second cousins, as we see from the chart, their GGPs would have had to be the same. But Al’s GGPs were Larry’s GPs.

When using a kinship chart, here’s a couple of tips: make sure you use the nearest original ancestors (O) that you share, or you may come up with some weird relationships; also, remember to boil the mutual relations to some sort of “parent/grandparent” relations, since you can’t use uncles or aunts in the chart.

## Other Types of Family Members

How many of you consider Spot or Fluffy a member of the family? We do and we've got vet bills to prove it. Seriously, our companion animals should be included in the newsletter so, if you have a pet you'd like to see in print, send us his or her photo and information. We'll keep a tally on dog people versus cat people, versus snake, fish etc people.

An out-of-towner drove his car into a ditch in a desolated area. Luckily, a local farmer came to help with his big strong horse named Buddy.

He hitched Buddy up to the car and yelled, "Pull, Nellie, pull!" Buddy didn't move.

Then the farmer hollered, "Pull, Buster, pull!" Buddy didn't respond.

Once more the farmer commanded, "Pull, Coco, pull!" Nothing.

Then the farmer nonchalantly said, "Pull, Buddy, pull!" And the horse easily dragged the car out of the ditch.

The motorist was most appreciative and very curious. He asked the farmer why he called his horse by the wrong name three times.

The farmer said, "Oh, Buddy is blind, and if he thought he was the only one pulling, he wouldn't even try!"

## ***Whozit? (Mystery Pictures)***

Below is a picture of a famous family matriarch, one who has figured prominently in many of our lives even though we may not have been aware of her until now. Can you identify her?



*Figure 3 – Famous Family Matriarch*



*Figure 4 – Family Mystery Men*

The answer to Figure 3 can be found at the end of the newsletter but can you identify any of those handsome gentlemen in Figure 4? It's not the Wild Bunch from the Old West, Al thinks that the one in the back, on the left, is his grandfather, Alphonus. But he isn't sure, although there is a strong resemblance.

## **A Call For Submissions**

A man follows a woman out of a movie theatre. She has a dog on a leash.

He stops her and says, "I'm sorry to bother you, but I couldn't help but notice that your dog was really into the movie. He cried at the right spots, he moved nervously in his seat at the boring parts, but most of all, he laughed like crazy at the funny parts. Did you find that unusual??"

"Yes," she replied, "I found it very unusual ...because he hated the book!"

If you are investigating your own family tree then you probably already know that, like you, other family members are interested in collecting and preserving family history. Thus, there are many out there who probably have collections of documents, letters, photos etc. which the rest of us would love to share. Many family members have put their collections on the web (see the list at on the last page) and will gladly include additional history/artifacts as they become available. We also encourage all to submit details, photos etc for inclusion in the newsletter for those who may prefer this medium. We will take lots of stuff, both scholarly and fun. Here's our contact info:

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As a beginning, the four of us are writers and publishers of *Kith & Kin* but we would be remiss if we took all the credit for the information herein. This newsletter also comes courtesy of many other behind-the-scenes contributors, especially those who have acted as advisors, created articles, hosted Web pages, provided names and contact info, and others. And, as time passes and more *Kith & Kins* are produced, many more good people – maybe you? - are invited to adopt *Kith & Kin* and, by reading it and even contributing information and stories, make it yours, too.

## **Answer to Whozit (A Mystery Picture):**

As promised, here is the answer to our first *Kith & Kin* mystery: the lady in the picture is Elizabeth (McDonald) McKinnon, wife of Felix and mother to all those McKinnon children that we listed on page 2. Al and Larry, among many “cousins”, owe their very existence to this lady. Do you, too?

## **Web Sites of Interest**

Larry's The Descendants of Neil McKinnon and Hannah McDonald page on The Island Register:  
<http://www.islandregister.com/mckinnon4.html>

Larry's Web site with many Lot 9 families:  
<http://www.members.shaw.ca/larry-macdonald/index.htm>

Rick Atkinson's Atkinson-McKinnon Web site:  
<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/a/t/k/Frederick-Stuart-Atkinson/index.html>

Cindy Mueller's Web site (user login and password required):  
<http://www.myfamily.com/>

Mary McDonald's The Descendants of John and Marie McDonald page on The Island Register:  
<http://www.islandregister.com/mcdonald12.html>

Mary McDonald's The Descendants of James and Jane McDonald page on The Island Register:  
<http://www.islandregister.com/mcdonald13.html>

Audrey MacDonald's Stewart Memorial House Bed & Breakfast Web site:  
<http://www3.pei.sympatico.ca/~audrey.macdonald/>

## **One More Thing**

SENILITY PRAYER  
God, grant me the Senility  
To forget the people  
I never liked anyway,  
The good fortune  
To run into the ones I do,  
And the eyesight  
To tell the difference.

This issue of the newsletter will have been mailed to those people whose postal addresses we had or that were readily available. Please pass it along to anyone who might like to see it. Anyone who didn't receive their own copy but would like to, send us your address.

# WANTED

Person of Interest

**Francis J. McKinnon**

aka

James F. McKinnon, John F. Keating, others?

Let it be known that Certain Parties will pay Handsomely for Information leading to the discovery of the Hideout of this Person or the whereabouts of Any of his Associates, Friends or possible Descendants. Fugitive is harmless (we think) and may also be known as:

**"Frank The Priest"**



GENEROUS HELPING OF BARLEY BY-PRODUCTS GIVEN IN

## REWARD

## Wanted – Person of Interest

Remember the old TV 1958-61 western “Wanted – Dead or Alive”, that starred Steve McQueen? At the beginning of each episode, McQueen’s character - Josh Randall - would grab a poster of some outlaw and then head out looking for him. Sometimes, he brought the outlaw back alive and, sometimes, mmm, not so alive.

We McKinnons have our share of missing persons, too. Whether they’re within or without of the law – hey, who knows? But we’d still like to find them or, at least, find out what happened to them.

Our first featured missing person is James Francis (Frank) McKinnon, born in Quincy, MA in 1903 to Alphonsus and Sarah McKinnon. Frank moved with the family to Calgary, Alberta in 1911. He was a bright lad, young Frank; Al remembers his own dad, Leo, showing him Frank’s academic medals.

Frank entered the Roman Catholic seminary in Toronto, Ontario in the early 1920’s. In June 1926, Frank sent a postcard home from Detroit, Michigan that said he was “in Detroit with Joe and working for Fisher”. The front of that postcard, incidentally, features a color-ized rendering of The Church of the Most Holy Redeemer in Detroit. The next word we have, as of June, 1927 Frank has been ordained a Catholic priest. As a member of the clergy for the Calgary Diocese Rev. Francis J McKinnon served at St. Mary’s Cathedral in downtown Calgary for about a year and then was transferred to the rural area of southern Alberta, which included Coalhurst, Coaldale, Diamond City and other little towns around Lethbridge. After that, he seems to have vanished, and that’s actually the wording - vanished - in a chronicle/log of priests kept in St. Mary’s Cathedral archives in Calgary.

Al’s mother Rose left her kids a picture of a flat headstone from the grave of one John F. Keating, found in a cemetery in Los Angeles, CA. She said it was Frank’s grave!

But what happened between the Father Frank of Coalhurst in the 1920’s and the John F. Keating of Los Angeles in the 1950’s? We have some more rumors and clues. Read on ....

Frank may have been involved in some sort of scandal – money-oriented, we think, but who knows? - in southern Alberta. He certainly did return to the USA. He even changed his name to John F. Keating his mother’s sister’s married name. It is said that he became an instructor (a full-fledged professor?) of theology at UCLA. It is also said that, at one time, he had a relationship with a woman – did she start out as his housekeeper? – in the U.S. It is even said that they had at least one child. Have you heard of that person? Can we find them? Are YOU “them”?

There were Keatings from Massachusetts, later Arizona, who visited Frank’s brother Leo (Al’s father) in the early 1970’s. That’s right - Jim Keating of Arizona “dropped by” Leo’s home in Edmonton in the early 1970’s and the two became instant friends. Anyway, until his own death in 1978, Leo, if he knew anything, kept very secretive about Frank. So did Frank’s other brother George, late of Los Angeles, who apparently kept in occasional touch with Frank in their later years. But, considering that Leo never wanted to talk about his brothers, he sure became fond of his Keating cousins.

Further rumours: although Frank apparently taught and died in the USA in the 1950’s, it is rumored that he may have returned to and worked in Calgary in the mid-1940’s. We’re having trouble confirming these rumors, though. Hey! Did you know that there was a Frank Keating in the Ma Barker gang? You don’t think .... nahhh (well, we hope not, but those were the Dirty 30’s ...). We do know that he’s not the esteemed Frank Keating who served as Oklahoma’s governor; that Mr. Keating would have been ‘way too young and is still very much alive.

So what happened to our Frank? Can you help us? Do you know anything about the middle years of Francis J. – or James F. – McKinnon? Or of John F. Keating?

Meanwhile, if you have your own mysterious (or even not so mysterious) missing persons, please send us some details: names, whereabouts, pictures, stories ... Our contact info appears in this newsletter. Remember ... everybody loves a mystery.