

Down East (or Downeast):

Some of our Kith & Kin they asked what the term "Down East" means. Canadians refer to the Maritime Provinces (New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island) as "Down East", "Down" being down river from the more western provinces up the St Lawrence River. "Down East" is also New England geographical term that is applied in several different ways to Canada and to the Acadia section of Maine. My Canadian parents and grandparents always referred to the homes in the Maritime Provinces as "Down East". I understood that this meant they had to drive up through Maine then "Down" and "East" to get into the Maritimes.

Stuart vs. Stewart: for those of us that are in the Stewart/Stuart Clan.

Since several articles in this Newsletter concern Stuart/Stewart genealogy, I gleaned the following information off the internet.

Surname Origin: English, Scottish: **Alternate Surname Spellings:** Stewart, Stuart, Steward:

Definition: An occupational name for a steward or manager of a household or estate; or one who had charge of a king's or important noble's household. From Middle English "steward".

Alas many Stewarts and Stuarts are not *likely* to be *direct* descendants of Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots (1542-1587) as she only had one child, James VI of Scotland. He succeeded Queen Elizabeth I as King James I of England (1566-1625). He did have children (including Charles I and Elizabeth of Bohemia) and his descendants included Bonnie Prince Charlie but the direct male line of this family is now extinct.

Law of Primogeniture: The inherent right of the eldest son to inherit the entire estate and any titles. If you were the oldest son this was a great law. If you were one of the younger sons or any daughter it wasn't so great. They very often did not receive a fair or any portion of the estate, especially titles. The law only applied to legitimate heirs. Illegitimate heirs had no legal rights although they may have carried the father's name.

However Mary Queen of Scots was herself a Stewart, the Stuart spelling is the French version of the name. The change in spelling from Stewart to Stuart is caused by the fact that in French there is no "W." Therefore, after the "Stewarts" were exiled to France, they became known as "Stuart". The Stewarts ruled in Scotland from King Robert II (1316-1390) to Queen Anne (1665-1714). The early Scottish Stewart kings had lots of children (legitimate and illegitimate) and their descendants probably number in the millions. Having the Stewart/Stuart surname doesn't *guarantee* that we are descended from the Royal Stewart line, but it is a *possibility*. The problem is finding and connecting all the links in the chain with documented evidence. It is possible to do this if you can trace your Stuart line back to one of the noble Stewart families in Scotland whose early pedigree is known and documented. Some of these Stewarts had titles, but most descended from younger sons at some point and may be a bit further down the social scale.

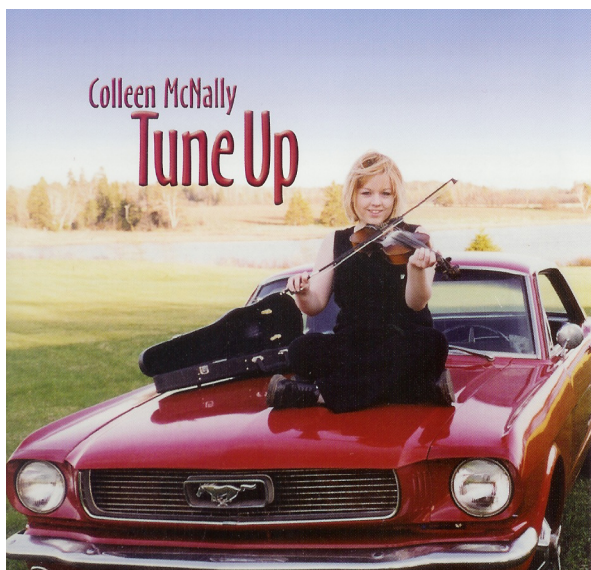
My grandmother Mary Augusta (Stuart) McKinnon said that the difference in the Stewart/Stuart names were the Protestant/Catholic spellings. According to family provenance in her case this was true - she had changed her name from Stewart to Stuart when she converted to Catholicism to marry my grandfather Raymond Alexander McKinnon.

A special note to our "Stuart/Stewart" relatives: Although we may not *likely* be *direct* descendants of Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots, as I remember, my grandmother said she was "related to" or was "a descendent of" Mary Queen of Scots. Since she said she was, and always told the truth, and although genealogists will cringe, I prefer to think that we just haven't found that documented link-yet! If anyone out there does have this documented evidence, we would love to see it. As a side note, my middle name just happens to be Stuart.

Humor:

A Scotsman won a toilet brush as the booby prize in a raffle. He had never won anything before, though, so he was delighted. A few weeks later a friend asked if he was getting much use from the toilet brush. "Well", came the reply, "I don't think much of it. I think I'll go back to using toilet paper."

From Nancy McNally: A note about her daughter Colleen McNally's CD "Tune UP"



"Colleen is twenty-three years old. She started to play piano when she was four and discovered the fiddle when she was eight. She studied classical music for the first few years and won several West Prince Music Festival awards. She also loved to play traditional fiddle tunes. She performed at benefit concerts, was a member of the group "Ceilidh Brae" playing at local festivals and events, and appeared on the local cable TV program "Ceilidh in the Brae". Her rendition of Neil MacKinnon's "*The Brae Reel*" was used as the theme (intro and extro) for the program. When she was sixteen, Colleen entered a talent contest at the Summerside Lobster Carnival and won ten hours recording time at Sandcastle Studio in Borden, PEI. She titled her CD "Tune Up" (to incorporate her love of antique cars and traditional music) and recorded a collection of her favorite fiddle tunes, including "*The Brae Reel*" and "*Mary McNally's Jig*", written by her father, Gerald, in memory of his mother, Colleen's grandmother. Her father also accompanied her on the recording playing guitar and mandolin. The fiddle that Colleen used on the CD belonged to her great grandfather, Jim MacDonald of Brae, and she is proud to carry on a tradition that has been passed down many generations." Colleen has generously given permission for Kith&Kin add the "*The Brae Reel*" to the web site. There are a limited amount of copies left by either contacting Nancy McNally directly at mcnallynancy@hotmail.com, 2780 Beaton Rd., Coleman R.R. 1, PE, C0B 1H0 or the West Point Lighthouse Craft Shop, 364 Cedar Dunes Park Rd. West Point, PE, (902) 859 3605.

Larry's Note: Neil McKinnon was a very talented musician and, in his day, one of the best fiddlers on Prince Edward Island. Very generous with his time, Neil was often sought after to play for weddings, dances, and community events sometimes traveling great distances to attend. Neil's composition, "*The Brae Reel*" is included in [The Fiddle Music of Prince Edward Island, Celtic, and Acadian Tunes in Living Tradition](#) by Ken Perlman. It was played for Mr. Perlman by Eddie Arsenaault a long-time PEI fiddler who learned it from Neil's nephew, Preston MacKinnon. The Brae Reel has most recently been expertly rendered by Colleen McNally on her CD called "Tune Up".

Genealogy Tips:

Using DNA to solve Genealogical Problems a success story: by Dawn Ellis Reprinted with permission from *The Island Register* <http://www.islandregister.com>

"All my life I have been aware of the question burning in the minds of my parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncle. Is our little Ellis family related to the larger Ellis family descended from William Ellis, shipbuilder, on Prince Edward Island? My ggg-grand-father Robert Ellis was born in either Bideford Devon or London in 1797. He leaves us no clues as to whom his parents or siblings were. There is a little evidence that he was related to the Ellis family in Bideford in the names of his children, but nothing solid. It was said that he and William were first cousins, but again, no proof. My only hope of proving there was a relationship is through the random chance that someone somewhere would run across my web site and send me proof positive . . . or get into some very complicated research in Devon that would be rather expensive. I was hesitant to hire a researcher and spend loads of money on a hunch.

I had been hearing bits about DNA testing and genealogy for a while when in February of 2006 I decided that it might be worth trying to see if DNA testing could be used to prove that Robert and William shared a common ancestor. If the test came back positively, then I would think about spending the money to find the connection.

I had already done enough research on Y-DNA testing to know that a positive result would NOT tell me who the ancestor was, but only that they shared an ancestor. It would be up to me to do more work to find out who he was.

The first thing I did was to find a "Surname Project" to join. It so happened that the Ellis Surname DNA project was hosted at FamilytreeDNA. I then emailed my cousin Gavin in New Zealand. Gavin's great-grandfather William Henry Rawle Ellis was the brother of my gg-grandfather John Ellis, and both were sons of Robert Ellis.

Gavin agreed to be tested and so did my father. About six weeks later I had the results back . . . their results were close enough to call it a match when you also took into account the paper trail we had. All I needed to do now was to find another man with the surname Ellis that was descended from William Ellis, shipbuilder and see if he matched my father and cousin.

Genealogy Tips continued.

This summer I found my man! His results are all back now and it is confirmed that they all match! My Robert Ellis, and William Ellis, do share a common ancestor. Now all I need to do is start planning the research I need to do in Devon to prove that my Robert is the one I think he is.

Having had this success with my Ellis family I am going to be contacting cousins with other family names that I am interested in (my grandmother was a Weeks), to see if they might be interested in being tested. My Stewart and Darby lines are others that have ended in brick walls. I urge all who have brick walls to investigate the possibility that DNA might help. Some great resources are:

<http://blairgenealogy.com/dna/dna101.html>

<https://www3.nationalgeographic.com/genographic/index.html>

<http://www.isogg.org/>

<http://www.kerchner.com/dna-info.htm>

Humor:

There are many theories about the bagpipes, otherwise known as the missing link between music and noise. Some say they were invented by a Scotsman who trod on his cat and liked the noise. Others claim that they are based on the noise made by a dying octopus. The truth is, however, that they were given to the Scots by the Irish as a joke - but the Scots haven't seen the joke yet!

Family Relationship Calculator: A chart for those that do not have access to the first Kith&Kin Newsletter.

To find the relationship between two individuals with a common ancestor, follow these instructions. Assuming Individual "A" is the 3x Great Grand Child of the common Ancestor; place him in the 3x Gr. Grand child portion along the top of the chart. To make things simple, assuming that individual "B" is also a 3x Great Grand Child of that common Ancestor, place him in the 3x Gr. Grand child portion along the left hand side of the chart. Follow both lines to their intersection, and you will find that they are Fourth Cousins to each other. You may print this chart off for your own use, if you wish.

Common Ancestor	Child	Grand child	Gr. Grand child	2x Gr. Grand child	3x Gr. Grand child	4x Gr. Grand child	5x Gr. Grand child	6x Gr. Grand child
Child	Sibling	Niece / Nephew	Grand Niece / Nephew	Gr. Grand Niece / Nephew	2x Gr. Grand Niece / Nephew	3x Gr. Grand Niece / Nephew	4x Grand Niece / Nephew	5x Gr. Grand Niece / Nephew
Grand child	Niece / Nephew	First Cousin	First Cousin 1x Rem.	First Cousin 2x Rem.	First Cousin 3x Rem.	First Cousin 4x Rem.	First Cousin 5x Rem.	First Cousin 6x Rem.
Gr. Grand child	Grand Niece / Nephew	First Cousin 1x Rem.	Second Cousin	Second Cousin 1x Rem.	Second Cousin 2x Rem.	Second Cousin 3x Rem.	Second Cousin 4x Rem.	Second Cousin 5x Rem.
2x Gr. Grand child	Gr. Grand Niece / Nephew	First Cousin 2x Rem.	Second Cousin 1x Rem.	Third Cousin	Third Cousin 1x Rem.	Third Cousin 2x Rem.	Third Cousin 3x Rem.	Third Cousin 4x Rem.
3x Gr. Grand child	2x Gr. Grand Niece / Nephew	First Cousin 3x Rem.	Second Cousin 2x Rem.	Third Cousin 1x Rem.	Fourth Cousin	Fourth Cousin 1x Rem.	Fourth Cousin 2x Rem.	Fourth Cousin 3x Rem.
4x Gr. Grand child	3x Gr. Grand Niece / Nephew	First Cousin 4x Rem.	Second Cousin 3x Rem.	Third Cousin 2x Rem.	Fourth Cousin 1x Rem.	Fifth Cousin	Fifth Cousin 1x Rem.	Fifth Cousin 2x Rem.
5x Gr. Grand child	4x Gr. Grand Niece / Nephew	First Cousin 5x Rem.	Second Cousin 4x Rem.	Third Cousin 3x Rem.	Fourth Cousin 2x Rem.	Fifth Cousin 1x Rem.	Sixth Cousin	Sixth Cousin 1x Rem.

Abbreviations: Gr. = "Great" Rem. = "Removed"

Source: The Island Register <http://www.islandregister.com/cousin.html>

ANSWER TO WHOZIT:

Raymond Alexander McKinnon and his five sons, Abt 1929 – son Felix Alphonsus (Al), son John Bernard, son Ronald James, father Raymond Alexander (Pa), son William Daniel (Bill), and son Raymond Alexander (Ray).

Missing:

Since the last Kith&Kin Newsletter we have somehow lost contact with the following: Kathy Bell, Rickie, and Liz Milligan. If you are in contact with them, please have them forward their new addresses to me.

CREDITS AND SUBMISSIONS:

Debbie Klughers	Fond family remberances.
Maureen Gaidosz	Her MacDonald family quest.
Judy (Stuart) Vincent	Search for her Stuart family.
Christine Crosland	For her generous invitation for Kith&Kin to visit her summer home in The Brae.
Rod and Sean Atkinson	Quoits.
Dave Hunter	“The Island Register” - http://www.islandregister.com/ permission to reprint Dawn Ellis’s article - "Using DNA to solve Genealogical Problems . . . a success story"
Chris McKinnon	Resolving sound difficulties and digitalizing the 1941 78 RPM McKinnon recording.
Kim Cooke	PEI assistance in trying to identify the fiddle playing on 1941 recordings.
Nancy McNally	Colleen McNally’s Bio and CD “Tune Up” with Neil McKinnons “ <i>The Brae Reel</i> ”.
Tom MacDonald	Seattle WA assistance in trying to identify the fiddle playing on 1941 recordings.
Larry MacDonald	Genealogist par excellence - the keeper of the flame!
Laura Atkinson	Ongoing technical assistance on the web site and formatting this Newsletter.
Paula Atkinson	Who proofreads everything and continues to support my Kith&Kin efforts.

This Newsletter is sent out semi annually to several hundred Kith&Kin subscribers. Please feel free to pass it on to anyone who may be interested. Contact me if additional Kith&Kin wish to receive their own Newsletter. We want this to be fun. Our only rule for Kith is if you want to be a friend, you can be one, and if you think you are Kin, you probably are. In this day of Spam and Scams, we try to take extra care to respect your privacy and keep names and addresses confidential. They are listed only if that person wants to be contacted directly. If you want to contact someone you see mentioned in an article, contact us and we will forward your address to them for contact. Let me know if you have access to a computer and don’t need the snail mail copy. My Scottish ancestry being ever so frugal, email saves the expense of printing and postage for the Pony Express and dog sled teams throughout the Colonies and the Provinces, not to mention stuffing and labeling envelopes! So far we have heard from more than a few “lost Kith&Kin” and have had over 1200 “hits” on the web site not to mention all the new people that Larry has listed in our family trees.

With Best Wishes,

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