

LINEAGE OF CHARLES MCKINNIS' SON, JOSEPH, b. about 1782

This contribution to the Clan MacInnes website is provided by P William Smith, 5-great grandson of Charles McKinnis, in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of publication of The Lineage of Charles McKinnis and Rachel Carr, 1722-1914.

“The Lineage”, as it is often called, was compiled in 1913-1914, primarily by Charles L. McKinnis (1852-1946). A great-grandson of immigrant Charles, he was born and lived most of his life near Otterbein, Indiana. His more immediate ancestors were among the first children of immigrant Charles to leave western Pennsylvania, first to settle in se. Ohio, later in nw. Indiana and farther west. His information came mostly from his close relatives, with whom he had regular contact, supplemented by information from a limited number of correspondents among his extended family.

After naming all of Charles’ children in the opening paragraph, the compiler wrote, “We have no definite knowledge of [sons] William or Joseph.” Although William remains a mystery to this day, it recently has been possible to establish Joseph’s lineage by a combination of clues.

Perhaps the first clue was a series of deeds executed in 1819 by Charles’ children, brought to this writer’s attention over a decade ago by fellow-researcher Chris Purple. The purpose of those deeds, recorded in Allegheny Co. Deed Book 30, was to settle part of the division of their late father’s estate, namely a tract of land in Deer Twp., Allegheny Co. purchased about 1794. By those filings, six of Charles’ children – Robert, Charles, George, Joseph, John, and Margaret – relinquished any interest to which they might have been entitled through the laws of inheritance, in favor of their youngest brother, James. The implication of William’s omission most likely is that the others knew or presumed that William was deceased by 1819, without children. Joseph was identified as being “of Westmoreland Co.” and with wife, Jane. James later sold the Deer Twp. property and eventually moved west, as had three of his older brothers decades earlier.

On the 1800 and 1810 federal censuses, Joseph can be found in Plum Twp., in northeast Allegheny Co., east of the Allegheny R., adjacent Westmoreland Co. In 1800 he was single; in 1810, he had an apparent wife and young daughter, and his surname was spelled “Meginnis”. Over the next decade, he shifted his location a bit. In 1818 and 1820, Joseph was assessed Westmoreland Co. tax in Washington Twp., which then adjoined Plum Twp., at the rate of a household without tangible property. He escaped the 1820 census altogether, the year that Allegheny Twp. was split from Washington Twp. Annual tax assessment records do not survive again until 1829, when ‘Widow’ McGinnis was taxed for two cows in Allegheny Twp. The 1830 federal census shows Jane McGinness, in Allegheny Twp., with a son aged 15-19 and three daughters aged 10-20+. A Charles McGinnis began to be taxed in Allegheny Twp. separately in 1833, and Jane last appeared in county assessment records in 1834.

The next set of clues was the discovery of tombstones for a Charles and Mary McKinniss, dated 1884 and 1898, in the cemetery of the long-disappeared Beulah Presbyterian Church in Kiskiminetas Twp., Armstrong Co., a short distance across the Kiskiminetas R. from Allegheny Twp. , Westmoreland Co. Further research in censuses and at Armstrong Co.’s Register of Deeds uncovered a series of deeds

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commencing in 1842, the last year that Charles was taxed in Westmoreland Co., until his death, when his wife as administratrix began to dispose of the property that he still owned. Some of it had been sold to his brother, John McKinniss, in 1849.

Although this Charles did not have a will, his affairs went through Armstrong Co. probate, where his heirs were stated to be three sisters: (widow) Sarah Hall of Apollo, (widow) Rachel Taylor of Slate Lick, and Mrs. Mary Bales [sic, *infra*] of Chartiers, Westmoreland Co.; also the three children identified as being of his late brother, John: Jeremiah, James, and Anna Maria, all of Blanket Hill, a district of nearby Kittanning Twp. Further courthouse and National Archives research revealed additional details about this extended family but did not tie it directly to Joseph or the McKinnis family of Butler Co.

Final evidence was uncovered a few years later in the archives of the Westmoreland Co. Historical Society in Greensburg. Most important was the Family Register from the bible of Jeremiah Beale (1837-1912). These identified his father as Madison Beale (1810-1894) and his mother as Mary Jane McGinness (1810-1890). She was stated to be the daughter of Joseph and Jane McGines. Along with the evidence sited earlier, the conclusion then seems inescapable: Charles McKinniss and his heirs all were descendants of Joseph McKinnis and his wife Jane, the former being one of the siblings who relinquished their interest in their father's Allegheny Co. property in 1819.

Other material found in Westmoreland Co. likely adds another aspect to Joseph's descendants. In 1850, an illegitimate boy, named John Andrew, born 28 March 1848 to Margaret Schoener and declared father John McKinniss, was baptized at Salem Lutheran Church in Allegheny Twp. His godparents were Daniel and Elizabeth Sobers, who raised him as John Andrew McGinnis ("JAM"). JAM remained nearby and had a large family. Most of JAM's descendants still reside in nw. Westmoreland Co. In 2014, Harold McGinnis, a great-grandson of JAM, graciously allowed a DNA test of his Y-chromosome. It proved to be a near-perfect match to the Y-chromosome of a proven living male lineal descendant of immigrant Charles. Thus, JAM himself, as well as his father, John, must have been lineal descendants of Charles.

The Occam's Razor identity for the father of JAM is Joseph's son, John. He was known to have lived nearby until 1849, when he married Elizabeth Potts and bought part of his brother, Charles' property in Armstrong Co. That being said, however, no direct evidence is known proving that JAM was Joseph's grandson, just a series of linked circumstances and an absence of plausible alternatives. The linkage of JAM's lineage to Joseph thus becomes subject to the test of "beyond a reasonable doubt." Personally, I believe it satisfies it. Accordingly, I have added JAM to John's offspring in the descendants that follows.

On page 2 of the original 1914 *Lineage*, no children are shown for the Joseph McKinniss listed in the column headed SECOND GENERATION. The following should definitely be added to the corresponding THIRD GENERATION: Mary Jane McGinnis, Charles McKinniss, Rachel McKinnis, John McKinniss, and Sarah Jane McKinnis. Whether their names were spelled with a "G" or a "K", one or two "s's", was a local idiosyncrasy dependent on that individual's interest in, or knowledge of, their family's history, as well their age, education, and local factors. John, for example, served and died in the Civil War as a

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McKinnis; his widow, Elizabeth's, pension was delayed in part because she applied through a scribe as "McGinnis." By the twentieth century, the connection of this entire lineage to "McKinnis" had nearly been lost, having been overwhelmed by the locally more familiar "McGinnis". Perhaps the last self-acknowledged descendant, Charles McKinnis Knepshield, grandson of Joseph's daughter, Sarah Jane, died in Wheeling, WV in 1961.

The following descendants retains the format of the *1914 Lineage* and covers those born up to 1914.

Lineage of MARY JANE McGINNIS, 1810-1890, and MADISON BEALE (1810-1894)

FOURTH GENERATION	FIFTH GENERATION	SIXTH GENERATION
Jeremiah Beale (1837-1912) Eliza T. Cooper, dec'd	Herbert C. Beale, Oil City, PA Ida Mohnkern	Donald Beale Wayne Beale
	William M. Beale, Tarentum, PA Agnes Gallagher	Raymond, William, Lillian, Herbert and Edward Beale
	Edgar F. Beale, Brackenridge, PA Matilda Gohn, dec'd Katherine Ganss	Charles Beale George Beale Richard Beale*
	Clarence Beale, Brackenridge, PA Unmarried	No children
	Jasper Beale (1881-1913) Unmarried	No children
Sarah Jane Beale, New Kensington, PA Jonathan Artman, dec'd	Harry C. Artman, New Kensington, PA Mina L. Dougall	Elizabeth, John, Ruth, William, and Harry Artman
Theressa Sinton Beale, Parnassus, PA Unmarried	No children	
John Calvin Beale (1849-1913) Matilda Jane Aker, dec'd	Frances E. Beale, Leechburg, PA Harry O. Artman	Mary, Genevieve, Francis H., and Clara Artman
	Leila M. Beale, New Kensington, PA Samuel M. Hepler	Ruth E. Hepler
	A. Nora Beale, Parnassus, PA George M. Hepler	Kathryn B., Margaret M., and William G. Hepler
	Charles C. Beale, Parnassus, PA Adeline M. Rush	Mabel E., John C., and Twila M. Beale*

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Elizabeth E. Beale, New Kensington, PA
John L. Wilks

John T., Dorothy E.,
and Levina P. Wilks*

Roxena B. Beale, Leechburg, PA
+ Raymond B. Fryer

Samuel E. Fryer*

Lineage of CHARLES McKINNIS, ~1812-1884, and MARY _____ (~1818-1898)

No children.

Lineage of JOHN McKINNIS, 1814-1864, with MARGARETHA SCHOENER (dec'd)**

FOURTH GENERATION	FIFTH GENERATION	SIXTH GENERATION
John Andrew McKinniss^^ *** Rebecca C. Eckels, Markle, PA	Harry B. McGinnis, Braeburn, PA Rebecca Ashbaugh	No children
	William W. McGinnis, Braeburn, PA Olie Jensen	Pearl A. McGinnis Clair Andrew McGinnis*
	Sarah M. McGinnis, Markle, PA Andrew C. Hamilton	Grace M., Violet R., and Olive Isabel Hamilton
	Anna Bertha McGinnis, Freeport, PA Jacob A. Hamilton	Myrtle, Merle, Rose, and Rebecca Hamilton*
	Lottie A. McGinnis, Markle, PA Charles O. Altman	Ernest R. McGinnis*** Glenn Altman****
	John Andrew McGinnis, Jr., Markle, PA Matilda Ella Taylor*****	J. Walter, J. Clinton, Sloan W., and Edgar K. McKinnis*

Lineage of JOHN McKINNIS, ~1814-1864, and ELIZABETH POTTS (1822-1904)

Anna Maria McKinniss^^, Kittanning, PA Daniel Schrecengost	James E. Schrecengost^, Kittanning, PA	*
	Samuel J. Schrecengost, Manorville, PA Mary M. McClure	No children
	D. Guy Schrecengost, Manorville, PA Bertha J. Beer	No biological children
	Letitia May Schrecengost, Kittanning, PA Roy E. Kinnan	Walter J. and Clarence L. Kinnan*
	David H. Schrecengost^, Kittanning, PA	*

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Jeremiah B. McKinniss^^ Mary Margaret Long (1861-1898)	Anna Elizabeth McKinniss^^ Elmer E. Schrecengost	Vance, Ruth, O. Claire, and Vera Schrecengost*
[All family members lived In Kittanning area]	John L. McKinniss^^ Unmarried	
	Nancy Rosetta McKinniss^^	Gladys ***, *
James Henry McKinniss^^ Eliza Jane Yount	James Marshall McGinnis (1884-1904) Unmarried	No children
[All family members lived in Kittanning area and used McGinnis]	Elizabeth May McGinnis (1888-1914) Michael Quinn	Helen Quinn
	Grace Emmaline McGinnis R. Goodman Ecker	Nelson G. Ecker, Robert R. Ecker*
	Dessie Jane McGinnis (1891-1911) William H. Lerner	Son adopted by others
	Hattie Loretta McGinnis^	Myrna***; *
	Howard Marlo McGinnis^	No children
	Nancy Berdella McGinnis^	*
	Freda Margaret McGinnis^	*
	Catherine L. McGinnis^	*

Lineage of RACHEL MCKINNIS, dec'd, and SAMUEL JOHN TAYLOR, dec'd

Sarah Jane Taylor, dec'd Unmarried	No children	
George W. Taylor, Braeburn, PA Rose Anna Baer (1839-1914)	Ira Page Taylor, Braeburn, PA Lucinda Gibbons	Mary E., George E., Ira E., Annabelle, Ellen, Margaret J., and Martha Taylor
	Harlen E. Taylor, Braeburn, PA Anna Belle Dunn	No biological children
	Harvey Inis Taylor, Braeburn, PA Unmarried	No children
	Edna Blanche Taylor, Leechburg, PA George C. Brown	Clarence, Harold T., and Edna Brown

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James M. Taylor (1844-1906)	James Edward Taylor, Braeburn, PA Unmarried	No children
Nancy Jane Ingram (dec'd)	George Lawrence Taylor, Braeburn, PA Ann R. Lockerton	Rose V. and Lawrence E. Taylor*
Matilda Jane Taylor	Ross Taylor, Leechburg, PA Irene Blanche Glunt	Nancy J. and Lloyd Taylor*
	Matilda Ella Taylor (cf. lineage of John McKinnis and Marg. Schoener, <i>supra</i>)	Life after 1870 not yet known

Lineage of SARAH JANE McKINNIS, 1820-1893, and ___ Hall (dec'd)

John S. Hall	Life after 1860 not yet known	
Sarah Jane Hall (1853-1902)	Cora L. Knepshield, Pittsburgh, PA	Malissa, Ira E., and Howard Bing
John Albert Knepshield (1848-1905)	Ira E. Bing	
	Charles McKinnis Knepshield, Apollo, PA	Violet, Isabel, Arletta,
	Lilly S. Metzler	and John Knepshield*
	Sloan McBrier Knepshield, Apollo, PA	Virginia Knepshield*
	Ella May Guffey	
	Carl F. Knepshield, Apollo, PA	Carl A. and Edna P. Knepshield*
	Edna Caroline Clever	