



Genealogy

McKinnis



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Updated 12 October 2001

Great, Great, Great, Great, Great, Grandfather, Charles McKinnis may be the first to have brought the McKinnis name to America.¹ In about 1886, Henry McKinnis, grandson of Charles wrote this:

Charles McKinnis was born in Scotland near a town called BonaBonner betwene Edinburgh and Glasgow A.D. 1722. Was impressed into the British Army at age of 22 in England about 1744. His regiment I think was called the Granaedier's. He was in Gen. Ed. Braddack's ARMY in the FRENCH and INDIAN WAR: And was wounded in the left side and thigh. He was made a Caption, in 1755 he recined a PATENT for a track of land in Nova Scotia. Halifax is said to be setuated on the track... when Charles McKinnis died in 1806 his papers were placed in the hand of a SQUIRE SKIELL and the papers were put into a pine box that would hold about two bushels and mice got into the box ate and destroyed the PATENT. Pop was there in 1852 and Hiented for the PATENT but he said that at least half of the papers that were in the box were destroyed, and he could not find anything like the PATENT...

Charles McKinniss was married to Rachel Carr when he was 50 years old about 1772. Their oldest child was name WILLIAM. he was born 1773. Next was Robert, then Charles, Joseph, Geoage, and Marawet... Next was John, then a girl who died at age of 2 1/2 yrs. And last was my father JAMES. My FATHER JAMES used to write his name with two ss at the end until about 1855. Then he dropped one S off.

Uncle John, Charles, George, and Pop (James) were all together once, concluded to send Uncle John to see to getting the land, and something happenad so that he did not get off so that the claim state or GRANT was never never settled.

Charles McKinniss and Rachel Carr his wife are buried in Butler Cemettary, Bulter County, Pa. They have TOMBSTONES of GRAY SANDSTONES but I don't know what is engraved on them...

This record I Jennie Dot McKinniss copies from my father copies that my sister Ellen was keeping was writen by my Father Henry McKinnis. Lorraine took this copy from my Aunt Jennie Dot McKinnis Miller¹

Charles and Rachel 's nine children were born between 1773 and 1794. Charles L

McKinnis wrote this for the tenth annual reunion of the McKinnis family at Tecumseh's Trail, Lafayette, Indiana, 13 August 1913:

There is a good deal in a NAME. The Name we want to perpetuate was brought to us across the "Briny Deep" from Scotland, where many of the name still live, by a soldier in Braddock's army of 2,000 men. It was Braddock who reached the Monongahela river in Pennsylvania on July 8th, 1755. Disregarding the advice of Washington and other frontiersman, he pushed on, next day, to Fort Duquesne at the junction of that river and the Allegheny. In a two-hour hard fought battle with 900 French and Indians, Braddock was defeated and mortally wounded... In that battle the valiant and brave soldier, Charles McKinnis, was shot through, wounded in the left side and thigh.. This is the pivotal point on which hung the destiny of our name, the name that so many of us cherish. Thanks to that All-seeing Eye of our Heavenly Father, the soldier survived. Had the wounds proved fatal, I would not be penning these lines, upholding a name, a house-hold word, in so many homes in nearly every state in the Union.²

Charles married Rachel in 1772 possibly in Butler County Pennsylvania.^{1,3} Charles died 16 January 1806 in Butler County, and Rachel died 29 June 1816 in Butler County, Connoquenessing Township.^{1,3,4} They are both buried in Butler County Cemetery.¹

Great, Great, Great, Great, Grandfather, Charles McKinnis displayed the same pioneer spirit as his father:

The McKinnis family is now a numerous and widely scattered clan, but only a little more than a century ago it was represented only by the members of the household of three of Jackson County's most prominent pioneers, Charles McKinnis, the grandfather of Charles W McKinnis of Coalton, was born in 1780 in Pennsylvania and in 1802 emigrated to Chillicothe, Ohio accompanied accompanied by his wife and family, and also his brother, Robert and George, and their families.²

Elizabeth H Gilmore describes the trip this way:

Charles, Robert and George McKinnis hewed a very large canoe from a huge pine tree, and used it to float their families and possessions down Butler Creek and allegheny river, then the Ohio to Portsmouth, and made their way safely to Chillicothe in the fall of 1802 (sic 1809). Later Robert and family went to Hancock Co where he became a judge. The wives of Robert and Charles were sisters... Charles discovered Sulphur Springs in Jackson Cty when on hunting trips, bought it and moved family there. He became a riverboat pilot to New Orleans; died "shooting the rapids" near Louisville KY. Martha returned family to Chillicothe.³

Charles married **Martha Craner** before 1801 in Washington County Pennsylvania.³ Martha was born 1778 in Quarry, Lancaster County Pennsylvania.³ Charles L McKinnis stated that he had reliable data that Martha was a grand daughter of Robert Fulton, Senior,

born in Kilkerry Ireland about 1669.² Robert married a Mary Smith. One of their sons Robert Fulton exploited the first steam boat, the first mechanical dredge, the first torpedo, the first successful submarine (the Nautilus), and several other useful inventions.² However, Fishel seems to express the consensus of today's researchers when he states that the parents of Martha Craner were Philip Criner and Agnes Fulton, and that the ancestry of Agnes is unknown.

Charles and Martha had ten children between 1801 and 1897.^{1,3} Life was hard in Ross County Ohio so they moved their families to near by Jackson County Ohio.

The three brothers made their livelihood at their new location by raising corn and other produce and selling it to the garrison near-by. But their families were suffering terribly at this time from malaria and the ague, so they decided to leave Ross County and move into Jackson County off to the southeast, settling north of Coalton on a site selected because of its proximity to some sulphur springs that Charles had discovered on a hunting trip. This proved to be very beneficial to their health, but the Indians roaming so freely in in this area so alarmed the women that for a time some (if not all) of the family moved back near the fort... Charles, however, eventually did move back to the site in Coal Township of Jackson County on the Coalton-Byer Pike that became known as the first McKinnis homestead in Ohio... Robert McKinnis moved in the spring of 1822 up into Hancock County, Ohio, becoming along with his wife, Betsy, his four sons, Charles, Philip, James, and John, and his three youngest daughters, Rachel, Sarah, and Elizabeth, the first to settle in Liberty Township in that county...

In addition to farming, Charles McKinnis also piloted flatboats on the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. Though he never lost a boat under his command, his death 29 March 1837 was directly attributed to the stress and strain he suffered while shooting the rapids near Louisville, Kentucky.²

After Charles died, Martha moved to Jackson County, Washington Township with her youngest child, Granville. Martha died 24 August 1864 in Ohio, Jackson County. Charles is buried in McKinnis Cemetery, Jackson County, Coal Township.

Great, Great, Grandmother, Nancy McKinnis born 1807, married **George Leach** 29 August 1825 in Chillicothe, Ross County Ohio.^{3,5*} They had four children between 1828 and 1835. Nancy died 1836 in Ohio.³ George then married Mahala Rowell⁶ and they had five children between 1838 and 1854.

*Leach researchers seem evenly split as to whether the first wife of our George Leach is Nancy McKinnis or Persilla Mackey. For a discussion of this follow the George Leach link above to the Leach surname page.

The information in this narrative is dynamic, not static, and I would not publish it in book form. Some information is well documented, some is second hand, and some is speculative or exploratory. My hope is that those who find their family here will engage in a dialogue that will help us all know our families better.

Sources:

1. "Fishel Family History" Book Three Page 4 Compiled 1992 by Roger and Margaret Handke, Box 49, Colesburg, IA, 52035-0049
2. "Lineage of Charles McKinnis and Rachel Carr" by Chas. L McKinnis, Otterbein Ind. for the tenth annual reunion of the McKinnis family Tecumseh's trail, Lafayette, Ind., August 28, 1913
3. Ross County, Ohio Families Volume I page 97, by Ross County Genealogical Society, Gateway Press 1982, Compiler, Elizabeth H Gilmore Frankfort Ohio, 45628
4. Will book A page 24 case #142. Jackson County Ohio
5. Ross County Ohio Marriage Records Volume GC Page 055 August 29, 1826

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Descendants of Charles McKinnis

**1 Charles McKinnis b: 1722 in Bona Borna or Bona Bonner, Scotland
 d: 16 January 1806 in Butler County, Pennsylvania
 Burial: in Butler Cemetery, Butler Countym, Pennsylvania**
**+Rachel Carr b: 1751 in Pennsylvania
 m: 1772 in Possibly Butler County, Pennsylvania
 d: 29 June 1816 in Butler, Pennsylvania
 Burial: in Butler Cemetery, Butler Cty PA**

... 2 Infant McKinnis b: Aft. 1772 in Pennsylvania d: Bet. 1772 - 1872

... 2 Joseph McKinnis b: Aft. 1772 d: Bet. 1772 - 1872

... 2 William McKinnis b: 1773 in Pennsylvania d: Bet. 1793 - 1873

..... +Maria Hof? b: Bet. 1788 - 1798 m: Aft. 1793 d: Bet. 1793 - 1898

... 2 Robert McKinnis b: 21 March 1777 in Butler County

d: 22 August 1863 in Dubuque County, Iowa Burial: in Worden Cemetery,
 Hancock County, Ohio

..... +Elizabeth Craner b: 01 May 1777 in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania

m: Bef. 1797 in Butler County, Pennsylvania d: 01 July 1845 in Hancock, Ohio

Father: Philip Criner Mother: Agnes Fulton

... 2 Charles McKinnis b: 1780 in Butler, Pennsylvania d: 29 March 1837 in Ohio
 River

Burial: in McKinnis Cemetery, Jackson County, Coal Township, Ohio

..... +Martha Craner b: 1778 in Quarry, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania

m: Bef. 1801 in Washington, Pennsylvania

d: 24 August 1864 in Chillicothe, Ohio or near Coalton, Jackson County, Ohio

Father: Philip Criner Mother: Agnes Fulton

- 3 Clarissa McKinnis b: 1801 d: 1883
 +Henry Wilson b: 1791 m: Aft. 1816 d: 1874
- 3 Joseph McKinnis b: 1801 in Pennsylvania d: 1879
 +Louisa Shearer b: 1806 in Massachusetts m: 02 December 1824 in Jackson
 County, Ohio
 d: Bet. 1843 - 1906
- 3 Charles McKinnis b: 10 May 1803 in Pennsylvania d: 11 February 1883
 +Sophia Dorsey b: 1809 in New York or Canada m: Aft. 1824 in Jackson County,
 Ohio d: 1891
- **3 Nancy McKinnis b: 1807 d: 1836 in Ohio**
 **+George Leach b: 25 February 1803 in Virginia**
m: 29 August 1825 in Chillicothe, Ross County, Ohio
d: 12 February 1881 in Jackson County, Ohio
- 3 Philip McKinnis b: 1812 d: 1879 in Otterbein, Indiana
 +Margaret McMullin b: Bet. 1807 - 1817 m: Aft. 1832 d: Bet. 1832 - 1917
- *2nd Wife of Philip McKinnis:
 +Rachel Wolfer b: 1825 m: Aft. 1840 d: 1873
- 3 Robert McKinnis b: 1812 in Ohio d: 1886 in Utica, Nebraska
 +Susan Burnside b: Abt. 1815 in Ohio m: Aft. 1830 d: 1896
- 3 George Washington McKinnis b: 05 August 1816 in Jackson County, Ohio
 d: 11 December 1890 in Otterbein, Benton County, Indiana
 +Lucinda Leach b: 11 March 1820 in Jackson County, Ohio
 m: 03 October 1839 in Jackson County, Ohio
 d: 08 August 1898 in Tippecanoe, Benton County Indiana
 Burial: in Pond Grove Cemetery, Warren Indiana
- 3 Craner McKinnis b: 1817 d: 1842
 +Kathryn Trusler b: Bet. 1812 - 1822 m: 1842 in Knoxville, Iowa d: Bet. 1842 -
 1922
- 3 Granville McKinnis b: 23 September 1823 in Jackson County, Ohio
 d: 08 March 1898 in Coalton, Ohio Burial: in McKinnis Cemetery, Jackson
 County, Ohio
 +Mary Permilia Cassidy b: 19 April 1825 in Ohio m: 02 July 1846 d: 08 January
 1894
 Father: Asa R. Cassidy Mother: Martha Unknown
- 3 Rachel McKinnis b: 1825 d: 1873
 +Robert Elder b: Bet. 1820 - 1830 m: Aft. 1840 d: Bet. 1833 - 1930

..... 4 Martha Eleanor Elder b: Aft. 1840 d: 28 December 1907 in Chillicothe, Ross County, Ohio

..... +Joseph Oaks b: 11 March 1824 m: Unknown d: 1899 in Vinton County, Ohio

... 2 George McKinnis b: 1783 in Pennsylvania d: Abt. 1857

Burial: in Byer Cemetery, Jackson County, Ohio

..... +Permelia Hinkle b: 1792 in Virginia or Kentucky m: Aft. 1807 d: 1864

... 2 Margaret McKinnis b: 1785 in Pennsylvania d: 1850 in Pennsylvania

..... +John Dick b: 1770 m: Bef. 1813 d: 1860

... 2 John McKinnis b: 1788 in Pennsylvania d: 1864 in Pennsylvania

..... +Jane Pillow b: 1783-1793 m: Bef. 1810 d: 1844

... 2 James McKinnis b: 04 April 1794 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania d: 08 September 1858 in Knoxville, Iowa

Burial: in Marion County, Iowa

..... +Margaret Times b: Unknown m: 18 August 1837 d: 1885

I believe this is a fair representation of this family but it should only be considered a guide for further research. Please email me if you make a connection with your own research, or if you have any questions or comments.

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McKinnis Researchers

2 Charles McKinnis +Martha Craner

Joseph & Louisa Shearer McKinnis > Goldie & Martha McKinnis Carr

Bill Smith birdsmiths@hotmail.com

Charles & Sophia (Dorsey) McKinnis

Sally Williams JSWARIES@aol.com

2 George McKinnis +Permelia Hinkle

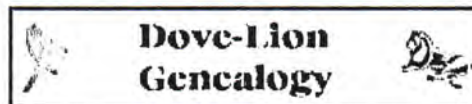
Robert & Ellen (Wilson) McKinnis

Pat Shields testsubject5551@juno.com

McKinnis Books

"Fishel Family History, Book Three", 1992, Compiled by Roger and Margaret Handke
Box 49 Colesburg, IA, 52035-0049

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