

This is the first of the reports I intend to send you regarding the information I hope to discover about our family tree. I hope I don't discover that our ancestors were a bunch of "saps." Sorry, but if you're going to read these things, you're going to have to put up with my jokes too.

First, please respond to this first report so I know I got through to you. After that, it's your choice .

So far, I have Janice Byars, John and Tom Cray, Jean Donoghue, Kathleen Klecker, and Colleen Radi on the Cray side. Please send me the E-mail addresses of any others who may be interested.

I'm doing the same thing with the McKenna family. If anyone is interested, I will put you on that list too.

Please send me information on the location of any documents (birth cert., s.s. cards, etc.) that may exist. Also, any piece of information, no matter how trivial, may be a big clue.

Colleen Radi has already helped me by sending me some information that she researched as a kid in school. According to Colleen, Pop was born in Kattanland, PA to a father named Cray and a mother whose maiden name was Fitzgerld. I could find no town in Pa by that name, but I remember hearing that Pop was born in Kittanning PA. (a town in Armstrong County on the Allegheny 50 miles north of Pittsburgh) on February 17, 1871. Please let me know if you know anything about this.

I went to Armstrong Courthouse, but they have no birth record of any Crays. (Cray spelling may have changed, but more likely that birth was simply never recorded. Of my father's six siblings, only one was recorded at Westmoreland County Courthouse) I searched the entire naturalization records there and the only Cray in the 19th Century to apply for citizenship was Stephen Cray, age 18, in 1860 and listed Ireland as his birthplace. This would make him 29 when Pop was born. He could be my great grandfather, but I have no other evidence of that. I'll find out.

Colleen also reports that Pop was married to Catherine O'Brien of Nashua, New Hampshire, born Aug 29, 1876 to a father named O'Brien and a mother whose maiden name was Fitzgerld. Uh-oh! Something may be rotten in the state of Denmark! That may explain why we're all so screwed up. Aunt Helen Griffin once told my sister Helen Waite that she had once broached the question of this "coincidence" to Pop and he about ripped her head off.

Anyway, thanks for the info, Colleen. I'll find out all the answers before long. Meantime I'm going back to the McKenna side, where all I've got to worry about is a number of alleged horse thieves.

Love to all of you and your families,
Bob (Cray) McKenna