

Mckenna Genealogy 1 (written around 2001?)

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. I'm doing the same thing with the Cray 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.

I have obtained the marriage licenses for Uncle Tom and for Aunt Phyllis. Uncle Tom was born in Export in 1895. Phyllis was born in North Irwin in 1913.

I have the marriage papers for Felix and Catherine as well. They were married on April 16, 1894. Catherine listed her residence as Crabtree, her place of birth as England, and her parents as Thomas and Margaret Curry. Felix listed his residence as Madison, his birthplace as Scotland, and his parents as John and Catherine McKenna. He may have made up his parents' names, because nobody had ever heard him say his parents' names before. Aunt Phyllis had told me that he came over the pond at age 10-12, that he was born in Scotland and grew up in Bobby Burns' town (Glasgow), And that he was brought over by his paternal grandmother and two drunken uncles - Charles was one, and the other she said might be John. I'll find out!

On Grandma's (Catherine Curry's) side, I've found out the most. According to Connie Downey (son of her sister Julie and Martin Downey), her parents, Thomas Curry and Margaret (Cliney) Curry, were born in Ireland - he in 1845 - and moved to England. They probably lived there about 10 years in or near a place called Pendlebury. There was a close connection to two men named Grimes - Willy and Michael. I think Willy came over with them and Michael was already here because he vouched for him on his naturalization papers (which I have). They had four children - Catherine, Julie, Thomas, and Patrick - in England and then came over here. According to Thomas Curry's naturalization papers, he arrived at the port of New York on August 8, 1886.

Questions -
How did they end up in Crabtree? How did Felix meet Catherine?
(Madison was a long walk to Crabtree) What was the connection?
Stay tuned! I plan to find out!

Patrick Curry later ran a company store in Madison. He died in 1915
From an appendix rupture.

Well, that's it for now. The good news is that I'm almost ready to Jump the pond. The bad news is that's where all the horse thieves Uncle Charles talked about will probably show up.

Love to you and all your families
Bob McKenna