

8 Moon Shell Road  
Hilton Head Island, S. C. 29928  
2 Jul 1985

My dear Dr. McKenzie,

Your name as the most knowledgeable person regarding the McKENZIE family history in the southeastern United States was recently given to Mrs. Peeples and myself. We hasten to send you an account of her branch of the McKenzie family as we have compiled it. We began this record shortly after our marriage in 1948 and thus had opportunity to talk with her parents and with her father's mother (who resided in Fort Smith, Ark.) The genealogical problems surrounding families who lived in North Carolina and emigrated to Tennessee or South Carolina and thence westward to Georgia and Alabama are almost insurmountable as you well know. We have corresponded with several additional McKenzie families in Tenn. but have never made contact with anyone who belonged to the family of Francis Marion McKenzie No. 1 or No. 2, other than her grandfather's family: James Obediah McKenzie (1872-1919) and he was, for all practical purposes, an only child, born at the home of his grandfather Shell.

Francis Marion McKenzie (1851-1927), sometime Sherrif of Franklin Co., Ark., was a giant of a fellow, around 6'4" and was known by his Guffey cousins (his wife's sister: Charity Rebecca Shell married George Washington Guffey and was the only other Shell child to survive TB which their brother Captain Obediah White Shell contracted during his military service for CSA) as "Crockett" or "Crock" because like Davey Crockett he killed a bear with his knife. One of the Guffey grandchildren, Bill, wrote several yarns which were published in The Daily Post-Athenian, Athens, Tenn. several years ago. We'll be glad to send you copies if you want them.

We think that Francis Marion McKenzie (c.1819-c.1906) was probably a son or grandson of some McKenzie who fought under Gen. Francis Marion (the Swamp Fox) but have not been able to find anyone with family history. Naturally, we are hoping that you'll be able to enlighten us somewhat. It will be a pleasure to hear from you.

With every good wish for you and for all the McKenzie family, in which same Miss Cora joins me, I have the honor to remain

Faithfully,

*Robert E. H. Peeples +*

Rev. Dr. Robert E. H. Peeples,  
President  
Hilton Head Island Historical Society

- \* 1. Francis Marion McKenzie, born North Carolina c. 1819/20, moved to Tennessee c. 1840, there married Amanda, born Tennessee c. 1825; 1850 Census McMinn Co., Tenn. p. 228 shows Frank 30 yrs. old, Manda 25, with their four older children: Henry M., Margaret J., Manda and Sarah A.; 1860 Census, Riceville P.C., McMinn Co. shows F.M. 39 yrs. old, born N.C., a "stock trader", no real estate, \$800 personal estate; 1870 Census, Athens Township, McMinn Co. shows Francis 52 yrs old, "farmer" with \$1500 real estate, \$565 personal estate, the two elder children had left home but the ten younger children remained. 1850 Census shows a William McKenzie, 28, living next door to Francis and an Alexander McKenzie 31, nearby (p. 226); Francis Marion McKenzie died in Athens, Tenn. c. 1906/7; their twelve children:
- (1) Henry M. McKenzie, called "Bud", married & lived in Tennessee, born 1843.
  - (2) Margaret J. McKenzie, born in Tenn. c. 1844.
  - (3) Manda McKenzie, born in Tenn. c. 1847.
  - (4) Sarah A. McKenzie, born in Tenn. c. 1849, called "Sally", she married James Ward and settled in Arkansas.
  - (5) Francis Marion McKenzie, born McMinn Co., Tenn. 17 Dec. 1851 (see below).
  - (6) Jesse McKenzie, born c. 1854 in Tenn., married and left a son, Henry McKenzie in Bartlesville, Oklahoma.
  - (7) Alexander McKenzie, born c. 1856 in Tenn., married Rose Walter and settled in Kentucky.
  - (8) George Washington McKenzie, born c. 1858 in Tenn.; Rev. George W. McKenzie married Sally Walter and settled in Oklahoma.
  - (9) John McKenzie, born c. 1861 in Tennessee.
  - (10) Mary McKenzie, born c. 1863 in Tennessee.
  - (11) Elizabeth McKenzie, born c. 1865 in Tennessee.
  - (12) Laura McKenzie, born c. 1867 in Tennessee.

- \* 2. Francis Marion McKenzie, born McMinn Co., Tennessee 17 Dec. 1851, <sup>16 Oct. 1870</sup> died in Norman, Oklahoma 1927, married (1) ~~in 1888~~ in McMinn Co., Tenn. Nancy Abigail Shell, born in Tennessee 17 Jan. 1852, died in Franklin Co., Arkansas 24 Aug. 1913; she was a daughter of James and <sup>Lucinda White</sup> ~~Samanda~~ Shell. The 1860 Census at Calhoun P.C., McMinn Co., Tenn. taken 5 June 1860, p. 267, shows:

James B. Shell, 46, farmer, Real Estate \$1200, Personal Estate \$800, born <sup>(11 Mar 1817 - 8 Dec 1877 in.)</sup> North Carolina <sup>Mar 1817</sup>, wife <sup>26 Feb. 1824, and 16 Sep 1823</sup> Samanda <sup>Lucinda White; d. Monroe Co., Tenn. 1881</sup> Shell, 36, born Tenn.

- and their nine children:
- (1) Frances E. Shell, born Tenn. c. 1842. <sup>daughter of Obediah White (Va. 1799 - Tenn. 1893) and Martha Mansell (1801 Ky - 1881 Tenn) daughter of Robert Mansell, Jr. who m. 19 May 1800 Logan Co., Ky. Margaret Moore & died Dec. 1831 at Bethel, N.C. at his sister's home.</sup>
  - (2) Obediah Shell, born Tenn. c. 1844.
  - (3) Charity K. Shell, born Tenn. c. 1846.
  - (4) Martha M. Shell, born Tenn. c. 1848.
  - (5) Benjamin T. Shell, born Tenn. c. 1850.
  - (6) Nancy Abigail Shell, born Tenn. 17 Jan. 1852.
  - (7) Mary A. Shell, born Tenn. c. 1854.
  - (8) Lucinda B. Shell, born Tenn. c. 1857.
  - (9) Sarah Shell, born Tenn. c. 1859.

Francis Marion and Nancy Abigail (Shell) McKenzie were the parents of 1 son and 3 daughters:

- (1) James Obediah McKenzie, born Athens, Tenn. 12 March 1872. (See below.)
- (2) Daughter, died young.
- (3) Daughter, died young.
- (4) Daughter, died young.

Francis Marion McKenzie married (2) in March 1914 Mrs. Perry Belt (born Belle Minor, she had married (1) Mr. Vest by whom she had two daughters, and (2) Perry Belt by whom she had a son, Paul Belt); they were parents of one daughter:

- (1) Ruie Atrice McKenzie who married Francis Marion McKenzie was Sheriff of Franklin Co., Arkansas.



- 1. William, Baron Naas, 2. Gerald Fitz Maurice (1150-1204, 1st Baron Offaly, see below), 3. Thomas, ancestor of the extinct Earls of Desmond, 4. Alexander, dsp, and 5. Maurice, ancestor of the Barons of Burnchurch.
- 7. Gerald Fitz Maurice (1150-15 Jan. 1204), 1st Baron Offaly, married 1193 Eva de Birmingham (died Dec. 1226), daughter of Robert de Birmingham who was granted Offaly in 1170 when Maurice Fitz Gerald was granted Naas; their son and heir was
- 8. Maurice Fitz Gerald (1194-20 May 1257), 2nd Baron Offaly, Lord of Lea, Justiciar of Ireland 1232-1245, called "an Brathair" (the friar), shared in the conquest of Connaught 1235, received Castle of Crom 5 July 1215; his principal manors and castles were at Sligo, Banada and Ardree in Co. Sligo, at Lough Mask, Co. Mayo and Ardrahan and Kilcolgan, Co. Galway; he founded the Dominican Priory at Sligo and the Franciscan Priory at Youghal where he donned the habit of a friar; he married in 1257 Juliana by whom he left three sons: 1. Gerald, d.v.p. leaving a son Maurice, 3rd Baron Offaly, 2. Maurice, Justiciar of Ireland, married 1276 Emmaline (1252-1291, daughter of Stephen de Longspee), died at Ross, Co. Wexford 1286 leaving a daughter, Juliana Fitz Maurice who married Sir Thomas de Clare (died 1287) by whom she left a daughter, Margaret de Clare who married Bartholomew de Badlesmere (died 1322), their daughter, Elizabeth de Badlesmere (1313-8 June 1356) marrying in 1338 Sir William de Bohun (1310-1360), Earl Northampton, etc. and 3. Thomas of Banada (see below)
- 9. Thomas Fitz Gerald of Banada in Sligo, married (1) Rhesia, daughter of Richard de St. Michael, Baron Reban, by whom he left a son, John, 5th Baron Offaly; he married (2) Eleanor, daughter of Sir William Morrie, by whom he left a son, Gerald; Thomas died at Ballyloughmask, Co. Mayo in 1271.
- 10. Gerald Fitz Gerald, created 1st Baron Kintail 1266 by King Alexander III of Scotland; he married Margaret, daughter of Walter Stewart, Lord High Steward of Scotland; he died 1278, leaving a son:
- 11. Kenneth Fitz Gerald, 2nd Baron Kintail, died 1304, married Morba, daughter of Alexander MacDougall, Lord of Lorn, leaving a son:
- 12. Kenneth MacKenneth, 3rd Baron Kintail, fought at Bannockburn 1314; died 1328, married Margaret, daughter of David de Strathbogie, 11th Earl of Athol; their son:
- 13. Kenneth McKenzie, 4th Baron Kintail, died 1346; he married Fynvicia, daughter of Roderick MacLeod of the Lews; their son:
- 14. Murdock McKenzie, 5th Baron Kintail, M.P. 1372, died 1375; married Isabel, daughter of Duncan Macauley of Lochbroom who had protected him when his father was executed by the Earl of Ross; she was an only daughter and through her he succeeded to lands at Loch Broom and Coigeach; their son:
- 15. Murdock McKenzie, 6th Baron Kintail, called Murdock of the Bridges, married a daughter of Malcolm MacLeod of the Herries, a chieftan fourth in descent from Olaf, King of the Isle of Man, and his wife who was a daughter of Donald, Earl of Mar (whose Aunt Isabel was wife of Robert the Bruce); the son of Murdock and Fynvicia (MacLeod) McKenzie:
- 16. Alexander McKenzie, 7th Baron Kintail, called Alastair Ionnric, met King James I at Inverness in 1427, was arrested and sent to school at Perth. Later he stood with the Crown during the rebellion of the Earl of Douglas and received a new charter confirming his lands in Kintail in 1463 from James II; he died in 1488, chief of one of the most powerful clans of the north. His descendant:

\* 3. JAMES OBEDIAH MCKENZIE, b. 12 March 1872 Athens, McMinn Co., Tenn., moved to Arkansas 1881 with his parents, died 20 Nov. 1919 in cotton gin accident in Franklin Co., Ark. where he m. 17 Aug. 1890 MARY ALENA DeWITT, b. Jackson, Ala. 13 Feb. 1876, moved to Arkansas 1884 with her parents, d. Forst Smith, Ark. 19 Aug. 1959.

5.

Genealogy of Mary Alena DeWitt:

1. JAMES DeWITT, b. 1776 SC, d. Wilcox Co., Ala. 1828/30; moved from SC to Ala. with pass through Georgia dated 26 Dec. 1809, with sons: James F. DeWitt and Joseph DeWitt, both born 1795/6 in SC.
2. JAMES F. DeWITT, b. SC 1795/6, d. Ala. 14 April 1875; m.(1) 29 May 1819 Clarke Co. Lydia Williams who dsp by 1822.  
m.(2) 29 Jan. 1823 AGNES ROOPER, b. c.1800, d. Dec. 1840; children:
  - a. Catherine DeWitt, b. Ala. 1825
  - b. James A. DeWitt, CSA (1832-30 Sep. 1862 Chattanooga, Tenn.) m. 19 Dec. 1855 Rebecca E. Tompkins, b. 1840; two children: Mary Jane & Martha Paralee DeWitt. Rebecca Tompkins DeWitt m.(2) c.1866 Wm. D. Gibson.
  - c. Alexander Hamilton DeWitt, b. 25 Dec. 1833 (see below).
  - d. Martha A. C. DeWitt, b. Dec. 1836, m.(1) 24 July 1859 Malcolm Calhoun; daughter: Rhoda Jane Calhoun b. 1861; m.(2) 31 Oct. 1865 John Bumpers; 2 children: Lydia Lee Bumpers, b. 1867 & Homer Louis Bumpers, b. 1870. Malcolm Calhoun, CSA was killed in service.
  - e. Robert Jackson Washington DeWitt, (11 Dec. 1840-28 Feb. 1931) m.(1) 14 Nov. 1865 Harriet Virginia Hoven; son: Jel b. 1872, d. ante 1900; m.(2) 5 Nov. 1896 Mrs. Sarah K. Harrell (Sep. 1852 Ga.-19 Feb. 1923); daughter: Lettie K. DeWitt (14 Aug. 1899-20 Aug. 1910); m.(3) 23 March 1924 Matilda Wade Harrell (March 1860-25 May 1931): no children.James F. DeWitt m.(3) 3rd Sun. Sep. 1841 Wilcox Co. Rhoda K. Moore, (SC 1817-Ala. 4 Mar. 1868); daughter: Mary A. DeWitt (1848-ante 1860).  
m.(4) 8 Oct. 1868 Clarke Co. Mrs. Emily Jane Quinn Cowen (1836 Ga.-1 May 1924) No children.
3. ALEXANDER HAMILTON DeWITT (25 Dec. 1833-17 July 1913 Franklin Co., Ark.) m.(1) 7 Nov. 1856 Rebecca Jane Shepherd (1838-1869); children:
  - a. Rebecca Jane DeWitt, b. 1857, married Barrett; settled in Oklahoma.
  - b. Philip Alexander DeWitt, b. 1859.
  - c. Robert M. DeWitt, b. 1863.
  - d. John DeWitt, b. 1866.
  - e. Lewis Shepherd DeWitt, b. 1869.Alexander Hamilton DeWitt m.(2) 8 June 1869 Elizabeth Woods, b. 1839; dsp; he m.(3) 22 Jan. 1874 Caroline Stringer; one child:
  - a. Samuel DeWitt, born Oct. 1874Alexander Hamilton DeWitt m.(4) 2 Dec. 1874 Catherine Gordon Wiggins, born Dale Co., Ala. 22 Jan. 1844, died in Franklin Co., Ark. 9 April 1910, daughter of George Washington Wiggins (b. Ga.c.1815-d. Dale Co., Ala.c.1858) & his wife, Jane McCall (b.N.C.c.1821, d. Ala.) Their Ch.:
  4. a. MARY ALENA DeWITT, b. Ala. 13 Feb. 1876, d. Fort Smith, Ark. 19 Aug. 1959, m. 17 Aug. 1890 James Obediah McKenzie.  
b. Joel Jasper DeWitt, b. Feb. 1880.  
Children of James Obediah & Mary Alena (DeWitt) McKenzie, all born in Franklin Co., Ark., were:
    1. James Monroe McKenzie (17 May 1892-
    2. ALEXANDER FRANCIS MCKENZIE (5 July 1895-14 Oct. 1975)
    3. Charles Gordon McKenzie (20 Aug. 1900-29 Aug. 1900), s.p.
    4. Donald Patrick McKenzie (26 Sep 1902-18 Aug. 1947), Solicitor of Franklin Co., Ark., m. Lola; 1 son: Theron McKenzie.
    5. Fannie Leona McKenzie (18 Oct. 1903- ) m. Roy Miller, dsp.
    6. Alvin Thomas McKenzie (12 Dec. 1911- ) ; 2 ch. Janice & Michael.
    7. Samuel Edwin McKenzie (24 Sep. 1913- )

died at Bakersfield, California 14 Oct. 1956.

- \* 4. Alexander Francis McKenzie, born Franklin Co., Arkansas 5 July 1895, married 20 Oct. 1913 via Frances Shelby, born Franklin Co., Ark. 14 Oct. 1895, died 25 July 1957 in Bakersfield, Kern Co., California where they settled in 1937; their eight children:
- (1) Ethel Mattie McKenzie, born Franklin Co., Ark. 21 July 1914, died Aug. 1929 at her grandmother's home, s.p.
  - (2) Estchel Agnes McKenzie, born 5 April 1915, married at her grandmother's house 26 Dec. 1936 George Wayne Brock, born 12 July 1914: issue:
    - a. Eleanor Ruth Brock, born 24 July 1940 at Bakersfield, Cal., married 16 Sept. 1961 Warren Ray Shantz; issue:
      1. Norma Lynn Shantz, born 8 Aug. 1966
      2. Bradley Wayne Shantz, born 6 Aug. 1970
    - b. Eloise Joyce Brock, born 24 July 1940 (twin to Eleanor Ruth Brock), married 15 June 1963 Victor Ralph Phillips; issue:
      1. Andrew Owen Phillips, born 10 July 1966
      2. Timothy Phillips, born July 1969 at Camus Valley, Oregon.
  - (3) Fannie Nova McKenzie, born Feb. 1917, died 1920, s.p.
  - (4) Cora Zelma McKenzie, born 6 Dec. 1919, married 18 Dec. 1948 Rev. Robert E. H. Peeples, born at Estill, S. C. 13 Jan. 1918, s.p.
  - (5) Verda Pauline McKenzie, born 2 March 1923, married Virgil A. Payan, born 25 July 1913, died 13 June 1968 at Santa Ana, Calif.; one child:
    - a. Denise Lorraine Payan, born at Bakersfield, Calif. 17 July 1961.
  - (6) Mary Ellen Lorraine McKenzie, born 1925, died June 1947, s.p.
  - (7) Rev. William Obediah McKenzie, born 3 June 1929, married 30 June 1951 Ruth E. Vail, daughter of H. J. Vail of Bellflower, Calif.; issue:
    - a. Stephen Paul McKenzie, born 7 April 1953; daughter Kelly Marie McKenzie born Oct. 1979
    - b. Douglas Mark McKenzie, born 25 Oct. 1955
  - (8) Eula Frances McKenzie, born 2 January 1932, married William Mara, Bakersfield, Calif.; issue:
    - a. Michael Jerry Mara, born Bakersfield, Calif. 29 Aug. 1951
    - b. Candice Alyce Mara, born Bakersfield, Calif. 5 July 1953
- Michael J. Mara married 27 Aug. 1977 at Whittier, California  
Margaret Jean Macgregor, daughter of Mrs. Aune Macgregor.
1. Michael Mara b. 16 Mar 1980
  2. Brian Joseph Mara b. 29 March 1982  
Stephen Paul McKenzie & Josephine McKenzie, Bakersfield, Calif. to  
Stephen Paul & Josephine McKenzie Christopher Stephen McK. 21 June 1982
  1. Heidi Nicole, born 13 Nov 1982 9:45AM, daughter of Douglas Mark & Laura McKenzie.
  1. Heather Dawn, b. 5 Aug. 1980
  3. Ryan Mark, b. 13 Dec 1984

- \* 4. ALEXANDER FRANCIS MCKENZIE, born Franklin Co., Ark. 5 Jul 1895, died Bakersfield, Cal. 14 Oct 1975, married 20 Oct 1913 OLA FRANCES SHELBY, born Franklin Co., Ark. 14 Oct 1895, died Bakersfield, Cal. 25 Jul 1957 where they had settled in 1937; 8 children:
1. Ethel Mattie McKenzie, born Franklin Co., Ark. 21 Jul 1914, died Aug. 1929 at her grandmother's home there, unmarried.
  2. Estchel Agnes McKenzie, born 5 Apr 1915, married at her grandmother's house 26 Dec 1936 George Wayne Brock, born 12 Jul 1914; they reside at Myrtle Point, Ore.; twin daughters:
    - a. Eleanor Ruth Brock, born Bakersfield, Cal. 24 Jul 1940, married 16 Sep 1961 Wayne Ray Shantz; reside Eugene, Ore.; 2 children:
      - (1). Norma Lynn Shantz, born 8 Aug 1966
      - (2). Bradley Wayne Shantz, born 6 Aug 1970
    - b. Eloise Joyce Brock, born Bakersfield, Cal. 24 Jul 1940, married 15 Jun 1963 Victor Ralph Phillips; reside Walla Walla, Wash.; 3 sons:
      - (1). Andrew Owen Phillips, born 10 Jul 1966
      - (2). Timothy Phillips, born Jul 1969 at Camus Walley, Ore.
      - (3). Steven Roland Phillips, born 30 Jan 1976
  3. Fannie Nova McKenzie (Feb 1917 - 1920).
- \* 4. Cora Zelma McKenzie, born 6 Dec 1919 Franklin Co., Ark., married 18 Dec 1948 Alexandria, Va. Rev. Dr. Robert E. H. Peeples, born Estill, SC 13 Jan 1918; reside Hilton Head Island, SC; no children.
5. Verda Pauline McKenzie, born 2 Mar 1923, married Virgil A. Payan (25 Jul 1913 - 13 Jun 1968 Santa Ana, Cal.); 1 daughter:
    - (1). Denise Lorraine Payan, born 17 Jul 1961 Bakersfield, Cal.; married 15 Jun 1985 Santa Ana, Cal. Kenneth David Bates.
  6. Mary Ellen Lorraine McKenzie (1925 - Jun 1947), unmarried.
  7. Rev. William Obediah McKenzie, born 3 Jun 1929 Franklin Co., Ark., married 30 Jun 1951 Ruth E. Vail, daughter of H. J. Vail, Bellflower, Cal.; two sons:
    - (1). Stephen Paul McKenzie, born 7 Apr 1953, married at San Fernando, Cal. 27 Mar 1976 Jessie Ilene Gillespie, daughter of Jesse I. and Dorothy Gillespie; 3 children:
      - a. Kelly Marie McKenzie, born 6 Oct 1979
      - b. Corinne Michelle McKenzie, born Lancaster, Cal. 1 Apr 1981
      - c. Christopher Stephen McKenzie, born 21 Jun 1982
    - (2). Rev. Douglas Mark McKenzie, born 25 Oct 1955, married 6 Jul 1974 San Fernando, Cal. Laura May Bleich, daughter of Arthur A. Bleich; 3 children:
      - a. Heather Dawn McKenzie, born 5 Aug 1980
      - b. Heidi Nicole McKenzie, born 13 Nov 1982
      - c. Ryan Mark McKenzie, born 13 Dec 1984
  8. Eula Frances McKenzie, born 2 Jan 1932, married William Mara of Bakersfield, Cal.; 2 children:
    - (1). Michael Jerry Mara, born Bakersfield, Cal. 29 Aug 1951, married at Whittier, Cal. 27 Aug 1977 Margaret Jean Macgregor, daughter of Mrs. Aune Macgregor; 2 sons:
      - a. Patrick Michael Mara, born 16 Mar 1980
      - b. Brian Joseph Mara, born 29 Mar 1982
    - (2). Candice Alyce Mara, born Bakersfield, Cal. 5 Jul 1953.