

THE McKENNA FAMILY

The ancient Gaelic name now most commonly found in English as McKenna was MacCionaodha meaning "the son of Cionaodh." The name is said to have been adopted as the family name by the descendants of a 10th century chieftain called Cionaodh.

The McKenna family are of Celtic stock and trace their origin to Colla de Croich, the founder of the Kingdom of Oriel, and progenitor of most of the Kings of Ulster and many of the High Kings of Ireland. Cionaodh's ancestors belonged to the southern Ui Niall clan whose territories comprised the Kingdom of Meath and parts of the midlands.

It is somewhat surprising, therefore, to find that the ancestral home of the McKennas is the barony of Truagh in the County Monaghan, which was traditionally northern Ui Niall domain. Probably their kinship with the O'Neills had something to do with their settlement in this area.

It is in Truagh that we find the name most frequently today. In fact, there are so many families of the same name that they have to resort to nicknames and patronymics to distinguish them. The name McKenna is also fairly widespread throughout Ireland.

While Irish annals show that the family produced many scholars and churchmen, it had its quota of soldiers and adventurers too. Major McKenna was a noted commander in the Jacobite army. His grandson, Abbe McKenna was a chaplain to the Irish Brigade at the famous battle of Fontenoy in 1745. Patrick McKenna, a soldier in Napoleon's army accompanied Wolfe Tone on the Bantry expedition in 1796 and was adjutant to Napper Tandy in the 1798 rebellion.

In the New World, perhaps the most famous was General John McKenna (1771-1814). Born in Clogher, County Tyrone, he studied in Spain, he became a noted engineer and joined the Spanish Army. Going to Peru, he became a Governor, and later with O'Higgins, a leader in the revolt against Spain and Chief of Staff ~~of Staff~~ of the Chilean Army. In the United States Joseph McKenna was a Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Our direct and continuous known lineage starts with Frank McKenna who was born in Ireland in 1828. He came to Prince Edward Island in 1839 with his mother, father, and six brothers. On a return trip to Ireland the father died aboard ship. The family later returned to Prince Edward Island and settled on the shores of Northumberland Strait.

In 1849, Frank McKenna journeyed to California during the gold rush to seek his fortune. It is interesting to note that he did accumulate some wealth but it was on a ferry boat in San Francisco, probably accommodating the hoards of gold hunters rather than doing the digging.

He returned to Prince Edward Island a rich man by the standards of those days and naturally became the target of marriage-minded women. The Philadelphia born Anne McKeever was one such belle. She travelled to another parish to attend Mass one Sunday with the hope of meeting Frank. The venture was successful and they were later married. He built a fine home on the shore in Prince Edward Island and they had eight children.

- Children: *(3 children - 1843) died at birth of virus on island*
1. Mary Ellen, married B. Fitzsimmons - 5 children *1861*
 2. Ada, nun - *1863*
 3. Fannie married J. Trainor - 8 children *1865*
 4. Margaret, nun - *1867*
 5. Charles William married Bertha Marshall - 8 children *1869*
 6. Veronica, nun *1871*
 7. Frank, 8 children *1873*
 8. Lavinia married J. Trainor nephew of Fannie's husband *1875*

McKeever
Anne McKeever died 1876 of pneumonia *1876*
1832
44 yrs old.

THE MCKEEVER FAMILY

Very little is known of this branch of the family but it is thought that the McKeevers originated in Scotland and later migrated to North Ireland.

Hugh McKeever, born about 1800 in County Monaghan, Ireland, immigrated to Philadelphia in 1825 but returned to Ireland in 1837. He married Mary Quinn, also from Ireland and had four children in Philadelphia.

Children:

1. Michael, born 1827
2. Hugh
3. Owen
4. Anne born in 1832. - died 1896 age 44

Anne McKeever left Philadelphia with her parents in 1837 to return to Ireland. The family soon returned but this time to Prince Edward Island, just north of Nova Scotia.

Final Name	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Marriage	Place of Marriage	Date of Death	Place of Death	Age at Death
W. Allen	1895	Camden, N.J.	11/27/1863	Bellevue, N.J.	10/5/1902	Bellevue, N.J.	70 1/2
John	1917/10/24	Camden, N.J.	10/28/1886	Bellevue, N.J.	10/30/1980	Bellevue, N.J.	37
Mary Berne	5/8/1911	Bellevue, N.J.	12/14/1926	Bellevue, N.J.	1/28/1984	Bellevue, N.J.	42
John	10/2/1871	Bellevue, N.J.	12/14/1926	Bellevue, N.J.	8/27/1967	Bellevue, N.J.	95
John	9/8/1910	Bellevue, N.J.	12/14/1926	Bellevue, N.J.	3/31/1997	Bellevue, N.J.	87
John	9/12/1914	Bellevue, N.J.	12/14/1926	Bellevue, N.J.	1/17/87	Bellevue, N.J.	73
John	5/9/1929	Bellevue, N.J.	12/14/1926	Bellevue, N.J.	1787	Bellevue, N.J.	80
John	1937	Bellevue, N.J.	12/14/1926	Bellevue, N.J.	9/27/1929	Bellevue, N.J.	92
John	2/22/1970	Bellevue, N.J.	12/14/1926	Bellevue, N.J.	9/25/1968	Bellevue, N.J.	85
John	2/19/1982	Bellevue, N.J.	12/14/1926	Bellevue, N.J.	12/2/1958	Bellevue, N.J.	69
John	5/21/1874	Bellevue, N.J.	12/14/1926	Bellevue, N.J.	1/15/1922	Bellevue, N.J.	48
John	2/1/1921	Bellevue, N.J.	12/14/1926	Bellevue, N.J.	10/7/1954	Bellevue, N.J.	35
John	1/29/1838	Bellevue, N.J.	12/14/1926	Bellevue, N.J.	5/28/1927	Bellevue, N.J.	89
John	1841	Bellevue, N.J.	12/14/1926	Bellevue, N.J.	3/22/1879	Bellevue, N.J.	37
John	10/1/1868	Bellevue, N.J.	12/14/1926	Bellevue, N.J.	10/7/1943	Bellevue, N.J.	74
John	1/4/1869	Bellevue, N.J.	12/14/1926	Bellevue, N.J.	2/7/1957	Bellevue, N.J.	82

10 45
 11 45
 12 45
 13 45
 14 45
 15 45
 16 45
 17 45
 18 45
 19 45
 20 45
 21 45
 22 45
 23 45
 24 45
 25 45
 26 45
 27 45
 28 45
 29 45
 30 45
 31 45
 32 45
 33 45
 34 45
 35 45
 36 45
 37 45
 38 45
 39 45
 40 45
 41 45
 42 45
 43 45
 44 45
 45 45
 46 45
 47 45
 48 45
 49 45
 50 45
 51 45
 52 45
 53 45
 54 45
 55 45
 56 45
 57 45
 58 45
 59 45
 60 45
 61 45
 62 45
 63 45
 64 45
 65 45
 66 45
 67 45
 68 45
 69 45
 70 45
 71 45
 72 45
 73 45
 74 45
 75 45
 76 45
 77 45
 78 45
 79 45
 80 45
 81 45
 82 45
 83 45
 84 45
 85 45
 86 45
 87 45
 88 45
 89 45
 90 45
 91 45
 92 45
 93 45
 94 45
 95 45
 96 45
 97 45
 98 45
 99 45
 100 45