

## STEVE MCKINNIS FAMILY HISTORY

**My family history starts in 1722 when Charles McKinniss was born in Bona Borna, Scotland. Bona Borna probably does not exist today. Our best guess is Bonny Bridge, since people from that area were known as Bonny Bairnes. Charles is the first of my family's nine generations in North America.**

Charles was impressed into the British Army Grenadiers regiment and came to the United States to fight in General George Braddock's army. Charles was wounded seriously in the French/Indian battle on 9 July 1775 at the fork of the Allegheny/Monongahela Rivers in Pennsylvania, with injuries to his thigh and left side and rumored to have lost his left testicle. Charles was made a captain and received Pennsylvania land for his valor. He married Rachel Carr in 1772 at age 50—and even with his injuries—they had nine children. Charles died in 1806 at age 84 and was buried in Butler County, PA.

### **Robert McKinnis, 2<sup>nd</sup> generation:**

Robert was Charles' second-born, and the second s in the last name was dropped. Born in 1777, he was among the early settlers of Hancock County, Ohio. Robert married Elizabeth Craner, niece of steamboat inventor Robert Fulton. As one of the first county judges, Robert was an influential pioneer. He had eight children and died in 1863.

### **James McKinnis, 3<sup>rd</sup> generation:**

James was born in 1807. He married Lucy Wickham in 1830 in Ohio, had 10 children, moved to Iowa in 1849, and died in 1896.

### **Robert Fulton McKinnis, 4<sup>th</sup> generation:**

Fulton was born in 1847 and named in honor of his grandfather and the steamboat inventor. Fulton moved from Iowa to Kansas in the 1870s, married Ureta Foley and had one daughter, Lydia. After Ureta's death he remarried 7 July 1880 in Lyons, KS. His second wife was Irene Octavia Corn, daughter of Anderson and Mary Corn, who were early and influential settlers of Rice County in central Kansas. Fulton named his only child Anderson Corn, after Mary's father. Fulton first lived near Sterling and Saxman, KS, and later settled the McKinnis Farmstead north of Lyons, KS. His father, James, joined him at the McKinnis Farm. Fulton died in 1894, two years before his father.

### **Anderson Corn McKinnis, 5<sup>th</sup> generation:**

A.C., as he was known, was born 16 May 1881 at the McKinnis Farm. On 8 February 1900, A.C. married Lenora Nodurft, daughter of Richard and Martha Nodurft, who ran a cement factory in Lyons. Several Rice County buildings still stand with the cement block or ironwork from this plant. A.C. and Lenora had 11 children, eight sons and three daughters, all born on the McKinnis Farm. The eighth child was my father, Richard Irvin. A.C. died 20 March 1940 and is buried in the family plot at Ebenezer Church, located between Lyons and Chase, KS.

### **Richard Irvin McKinnis, 6<sup>th</sup> generation:**

My dad was a Valentine, born 14 February 1915. He courted my mom, Marian Joan Link of Chase, KS for five years during the Depression. They married 20 February 1941. Dad (known as Dick or R.I.) and Mom first lived at the McKinnis Farm, and Dad partnered with his older

brother, Paul, to run the McKinnis Brothers Secondhand Store. Mom and Dad had four children: Roy Irvin, James Allen, Bonnie Jean, and me, Steven Ray. In 1956, my folks bought their own farm, 80 acres north of Lyons. During its peak years, Dad farmed our 80 acres, leased another 250 acres, and custom cut crops for other area farmers. One year after retiring, Dad died on Friday, 13 January 1984 at age 68 of an aneurysm. A year later, Mom sold their farm, moved to Bell Street in town, and starting spending the winters in Arizona to be near me, Bonnie and grandchildren. Mom moved to Phoenix permanently in 2002. She died at age 91 in Phoenix on 30 December 2007. Both are buried in the family plot in Lyons Cemetery.

**I, Steve, am proud to be the 7<sup>th</sup> generation McKinnis in the USA.**

I was born 3 January 1952 as Steven Ray. My first job was on the farm at age 11, drove a tractor at 12, and worked on the farm throughout high school and summers while in college. I graduated Lyons High School in 1990 as Valedictorian, earned a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Kansas State University in Manhattan in 1974, followed by my Master's in Electrical Engineering in 1982 from the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. I worked for Honeywell in Minneapolis, as well as 19.5 years for Motorola in Phoenix, AZ; Tokyo, Japan; and Austin, TX. In 1999, I moved to Tucson and joined Burr-Brown Co., purchased by Texas Instruments one year later, and am EDA Manager (Electronic Design Animation) for TI-Tucson.

I met the love of my life in Phoenix in 1983, Donna Kay Copen, born 26 December 1945 in Elkins, West Virginia. We were married 19 November 1988 in Phoenix. My Dad did get to meet Donna during Christmas 1983 just before he passed away. Donna and I have had an interesting, international life: Phoenix, Tokyo, Austin, and now Tucson. Donna, a journalist with a dual career in arts administration, had traveled the world before we met, and continued doing so with me. We have visited most of the countries in Asia, some of Canada, a fair amount of Europe—and Scotland many times. Each time to Scotland feels like a homecoming. We have no children and live in Tucson at “Rancho Mac,” a sprawling three acres of desert foothills beauty, wildlife and Arizona vegetation. Like my forefathers, I have had some kind of garden every place I've lived.

My Dad always thought we were Irish, having sent off for a plaque from some company. But after my oldest brother, Roy, got involved with Scottish Highland Games and Clan MacInnes, he found out our heritage was actually Scottish. I joined Clan MacInnes International in 1997, soon after Roy and am the Clan's Communications Director, created the Clan's website, and also serve as Webmaster. I joined the Clan's DNA project, and although I have some weak link to MacInnes, my strongest genes are with Clan Grant. This relation probably dates to 1500 or earlier, so I still claim my heritage and name, which is pronounced exactly like MacInnes.

*by Steve McKinnis and Donna Copen McKinnis  
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