

## McKenzies

- Grandmother Grace's maternal grandparents were named Charles Munro McKenzie & Ann Hawkins, and they came here from Vermont in the early 1830s. For about 10 years their home was a log cabin at "the head of Devil's Lake". Charles himself was away much of the time at work in Adrian, where he was a brick and tile manufacturer. In 1843 he moved the family into Adrian. Their daughter Frances, who became Grace's mother, was 1 year old at the time.
- Two of Frances' brothers followed their father in the brick & tile business (one in Hudson, one in Adrian). Another brother was a mason & builder in Adrian. All but one of the then surviving siblings are in this 1892 photo taken at the 25th wedding anniversary of her brother Samuel.
- So it was our grandmother Grace's grandfather who brought our McKenzies to Michigan, and it was HIS grandparents who brought our Mackenzies to America from Scotland.
- Briefly, the early McKenzie history goes like this:
  - John Mackenzie married Margaret Munro in Inverness in 1719. John is said to have possessed grain mills at Kingsmills, now a part of Inverness. I know nothing more about him. Margaret's family can be traced back many generations because both of her parents were from Scottish landed gentry. Her mother was a Ross, and that line is documented back to ca. 1200. Her Munro line goes back to the legendary founder of the clan, a Donald Munro, First Baron of Fowlis, in about the year 1000.
  - Back to John Mackenzie & his wife Maragret: they had 10 ch.; our ancestor Joseph was their 7th and the 4th son. Scotland law of the time required that all real estate go to the eldest son, so Joseph learned the weavers trade Edinburgh and moved to Paisley which was a major textile center.
  - At age 28 he married Elizabeth Calhoun, 10 years his junior, and in 1775 they sailed to America with their 3 young children, one of whom was our ancestor Charles. They settled first in southern N.H., and after ca. 17 years moved to Hartland, Vermont, to join their oldest son who had moved there a few years earlier. During their years in N.H. Joseph continued to weave, but his sons & grandsons were farmers while in Vermont.

=====

The following notes were NOT part of the oral presentation:

In 1927 Rev. Justin wrote that Charles Monro & his son Joseph visited Scotland, and Nell corresponded with relatives there until her father died.

In the 1889 History of Woodstock it says Charles Mackenzie, son of Margaret, took the name Monro at the request of his uncle David Monro.

In his autobiography Chas Monro wrote that in the spring of 1804 his father (i.e., Charles b. 1768) received a letter from an uncle in Scotland saying he had lost his wife & had no children as heirs to his estate, and he wished to see his nephew, my father, to visit him. My father consented & rented his farm to John Densmore "an uncle of mine." Father ... started on his journey to see his Uncle Charles Monro in Scotland the 12th of May 1804." He returned 26th of August 1805. No mention of anybody going with him, nor the results of the journey other than gifts he brought back with him.

Quotes from Charles Munro McKenzie's autobiography regarding his grandparents:

- My Grand Parents were manufacturers of cloth. They served seven years apprenticeships at the wheel and loom in the town of Paisley, seven miles from Glasgow. This town was a large manufacturing town, and is to this day one of the largest in Scotland. Here he became ... with my Grand Mother, whose maiden name Elizabeth Calhoun, and they were married Dec 7th 1761.
- Joseph McKenzie my Grand Father was born in Inverness, Scotland, in the year 1733. Elizabeth his wife was born in Paisley, afore said, in the year 1744, March 23.
- After landing at Marblehead, Mass., he worked his way up to a town then in the interior of the state, called Londonderry. Here he settled and he and his wife set up their hand factory of spinning and weaving. This town was principally settled with Scotch and Irish manufacturers of the same cloth(?).
- I well remember my Grand Mother tell over her trials, hardships, and exploits, of her life in America, through the American Revolution, in sustaining herself and her family. She had to do the marketing of their goods. Through the war she had to mail her goods, cloth & thread, on a horse behind her, and trudge away to Boston, 40 miles, to market, and this while the British held possession of the town. She was often taken up and searched, to see if she did not have counterband goods, or papers aboard containing information to the rebels that was derogatory to their cause, both when she entered and when she came out of Boston. Many times she was taken up, and the British would detain her to try to make her give them information, how things were going out in the country, whether the rebels were collecting in any considerable force, and the feeling of the people at large(?), how they felt towards the English. She was a woman who did not fear the face of man, and she did not lack for words, and courage to express them in short matter(?). She was a woman of weight, about 200 lbs, and well put together, of a strong muscular form and a strong constitution. Whatever she said she meant, and she said it in such a manner people generally understood it.
- My Grand Father was very much the reverse. He was a very small man, never weighing much over 100 lbs, a slender form, but generally well and rugged, quick in apprehension, expert in business, a good scholar. When he was at his loom, you would generally find him with his book in his hand, either the Bible, or Whitefield's sermons, or John Wesley's or Luther's history of the great reformation, which followed their preachings. He was one of Whitefield's converts in Scotland. He was dearly attached to a book which he brought over with him called Whitefield's Sermons, when anything did intervene that he could not attend church, the Bible first, then Whitefield's or John Wesley's was second to no other book or history to him.