

Gloria V. Gatewood
3571 Deep Landing Road
Huntingtown, MD 20639-9544
February 11, 1999

Michael A. McKenzie
4227 Kessler Ridge Drive
Marietta, GA 30062

Dear Mr. McKenzie,

I finally got around to picking up my correspondence yesterday that has been on my desk for over a month. Your letter and newly acquired enclosure was among the first piece I noticed probably because of the size of the envelope.

Let me tell you how sorry I am for not being able to read your letter and get back to you sooner. My husband of 48 years died December 27th, the day before you wrote your letter to me. Donald had been sick for 20 months with a severe heart condition and had various set-backs at one time or another. He was under the care of a Cardiology team at Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park, Maryland, who did everything in their power to keep him alive. Even though we all knew that Donald couldn't get entirely well, this family had high hopes that he would live a few more years. We had a wonderful Christmas together and had been to our friend's home the afternoon of the 27th. The only thing he said to me when we got home around 7:00 p.m., was that he was very tired. I told him to go lie down and he was watching the Redskins play when he slipped away from us. My only thanks in all of this, is that he did not suffer at the end. He had been through so much for so many years with his heart but the last 20 months were a gift to him through the help of those doctors at Adventist who gave him those 20 months through their expertise and care. We were still able for many of those months able to do some traveling, etc. He saw our oldest granddaughter married in May of 1998 at the Episcopal Church on the campus of LSU where they both graduated. So we both had a lot to be thankful for. This year was going to be spent visiting people that I had written to in his family who are scattered throughout the country.

We both had been active all of our lives despite set-backs. My husband loved life and he fought to stay here. I still intend to be active. After my retirement from the Federal Government, I accepted the position of Curator for our Historical Society in the County where I live. I served seven years before my husband retired and we decided to do some traveling. During that period we found relatives on both sides of our family and quite a few from the Burton side. I intend to keep researching and doing some traveling as long as I am able to.

As to the "wrong" McKenzie line, please don't apologize. I have done the same thing but at one time for a client. I didn't realize after hours and hours of research that I had been pursuing

Columbia married to a woman named Mary. After extensive research which took me from the District to Delaware, back to the Eastern Shore of Maryland and then back to the District I found that he married TWO Mary's, and both were just about the same age. I happened to come across some clue that alerted me that something wasn't right and that's when the better part of my research had to be scrapped and I had to start over. The first Mary died within two years of their marriage and left no children. Wouldn't that have been easy, had I not listened to someone who purported to have known about the genealogy of this particular family. That was my first lesson in writing down what you hear, but follow up to see if it's accurate!

I have not had time to really sit down and go over your new version of these McKenzie's, but I will within the next couple of days.

It has been proven through documents that Ira and his first wife Nany did have children named Littleton and Ellen Jane Burton. When I first found Ellen Jane Burton on the register of marriage to John Wesley Burton, it took awhile to realize that there were TWO Ellen Jane's. One was John Wesley's wife and the other was his younger sister.

To answer your devil's advocate query, as you know I have mulled over this same question as to why these two children lived in the home of the McKenzie in 1850 and not with their father. The only reasonable answer at this point is that many times others took in children in that era in order to help out families. They didn't even have to be related to them. I have heard both my parents and grandparents say that so and so lived with their relatives after a death, or, new marriage, etc. Eventually however, Ellen Jane appears to have moved from her step grandparents home to her father and step-mother's residence.

You raised a point about the Equity Cases. I don't see Equity Case #734 among my papers so I apparently was never made aware of that one. Most of this research was done by mail through the Courthouse in Cumberland and it's possible that Equity N#1804 was overlooked. I am interested in taking you up on your offer of providing me with Case #734, perhaps it would shed some light. This is at your convenience of course.

I hope to be able to see the cousin that has the McKenzie Bible Record very shortly. I want the entire record from that Bible and not just the page that she sent me years ago. I also plan to see another cousin of Donald's who may be able to shed more light on the family history in the near future.

I do want to make a trip to Cumberland when the weather gets warmer and perhaps I can pick something up for both of us, although it appears that you have done a very thorough job of researching on both sets of the McKenzie's that you have put together.

Your reference to the marriage of John Wesley Burton and Mary Ellen Jane McKenzie, that entry was actually was taken from a Bible record in the possession of the second cousin mentioned above. I am anxious to see that Bible also as I have only "bits and pieces" from it. I have tried, in vain, to find a marriage record for these two. My hunch is that there may have been some animosity within the family group when Ira's son married the sister of his second wife. Ellen Jane appears to have been a few years older than John Wesley to the point almost of the old saying "snatched from the cradle." I am sure if this was the case, and it certainly seems to be, that did not set well with the older generation. So it's possible they just disappeared and eloped. There is certainly no impropriety involved according to the dates because there is more than 10 months between the marriage date and the date of their oldest child.

I have not been able to forward the information that you sent to Marian Frankenberry and she forwarded to me to the cousin I told you about, but I will see that Jean Walden gets both copies of your documents. Jean has been trying for years to pin down this side of the McKenzie family and I am sure that she will be pleased to get both of these papers. I will certainly put forth my effort to help you identify your John Frank McKenzie when I am researching this family. The Burton family was elusive enough, seems they connected with other families that are just as elusive.

Again, my apologies to you for making you wait so long to hear from me. I hope that I can locate something to help you with your search.

Sincerely yours,



Gloria V. Gatewood

Enclosure - B.F. McKenzie Bible page

FAMILY RECORD.

MARRIAGE.

Benjamin F. C. McKenzie
Was married to Mary Ann
Alexandra In the Year of our
Lord 1845. on the
19th day of September.

Benjamin F. C. McKenzie
Was married to Margaret Boor
In the Year of our Lord 1847
on the 19th day of
March

Henry E. McKenzie
was married to
Carrie B. V. Gains in the
Year of our Lord 1900 the
23rd day of May

Bills Received of Benjamin F. McKenzie

FAMILY RECORD.

BIRTHS.

William A. McKenzie was born
in the Year of our Lord 1868 on
the 23rd day of November.

Henry E. McKenzie was born
in the Year of our Lord 1865 on
the 31st day of April.

Ida L. McKenzie (was born)
In the Year of our Lord 1868
on the 29th day of January.

Amelia McKenzie was born
In the Year of our Lord 1870 on
the 18th day of January.

Carrie B. V. McKenzie was born
in the Year of our Lord 1872
on the 10th day of October. Died Feb 23-1900

Martha E. Gains was born in
the Year of our Lord 1894.
the 1 day of February.

Ann. Mary Ellen Jane Reiter was born in the Year of our Lord 1897 on the 12th day of February.