

Oak Ridge, TN.
Aug. 22, 1984

Dear Rev. Dr. Peoples:

My nephew Roderick McKenzie referred your letter of 7 Oct 1983 to me for a response. My files reveal that I wrote to you 9-Sept. 1983 but I did not retain a copy of my letter to you but at the risk of repeating myself I am sending you some genealogical info. on our McKenzie line. My greatest problem in verifying information is there are so many different McKenzie lines that followed similar migration patterns when this area was being settled by whites. There are at least ^{two} a dozen different McKenzie lines within a 200 mi radius of this area. I was born and grew up approx. 15 mi west of Athens in Meigs Co. I knew there were McKenzies in Meigs Co. but no family relationship was ever established with our line. There were also other lines in Meigs and Rhea Co.

2.

My great grandfather was listed on the 1850 Census of TN. as Benjamin Franklin McKenzie B. Va. 1768-age 82. His tombstone in Shiloh Cemetery inscribed D. 1854 age 86. His first wife was Frances (Franky) Daniels. B. date and place unknown ^{but} prior to 1804 when her first child was born. Benjamin Franklin McKenzie listed as born in S.C. He married Nancy Casey- 9-12-1830 in Rhea Co. now Meigs. I have been unable to find any information about Francis family. Ben Sr. was listed on the S.C. census of 1800 and 1810 as a head of family in Greenville district. They moved to Cherokee territory of North Ga. sometime before 1818 when George Washington McKenzie (my grandfather) was born in what is now Forsyth Co. Ga. They moved to TN. in 1819 and were one of the original white settlers on land obtained from ^{the} Cherokee Indians under the Hiwassee treaty of 1817. They settled on Agency Creek a few miles N. of where it flows into the Hiwassee river a few

miles upstream from the confluence of
 In and Hiwassee ^{river}. It was then in Rhea Co
 but later became Meigs Co. but the land
 office was in Athens and the old land
 records are on file in the Meigs Co. Court
 house ^{in Athens} there. other children Reuben ^{never} married.

Julia em. married James H. Vernon
 Nancy ^{B-1813 S.C. married D-1844 Ia.} Eldred Grubb - 10-12-1831
 George Washington ^{B-1818 Ia. married Susan Keenum 1844 D-1907 Ia.} (my Grandfather)
 Harney ^{B-1821 Ia.} my grandfather was
 a Captain in the war with Mexico and
 Colonel in command of 5th Ia. Cavalry
 C.S.A. He recieved a grant of 360 acres
 of land for service in the war with
 Mexico. after marrying Susan Keenum
 he lived on her family's homestead
 approx 2 1/2 mi S.W. of Decatur Ia. in what
 is known as Goodfield Valley. My father
 Robert Lee McKenzie took over the Colonel's
 home and farm and I was born and
 grew up there. I have know the Meigs
 Co. areas you mention but regret that

I don't know any helpful information
 about the McKenzies there. one was an
 M.D. but I don't remember his name.

I have been unable to find verifiable
 info. about my great great grandfather
 and his family. Family tradition is
 that his name was James McKenzie
 and he lived in Va. N.C. and S.C. He and
 his wife died at a relatively young age.

The 1810 Census of S.C. lists a James
 McKenzie as head of a family in Kershaw
 Co. with 3 white male children under 10 yr. of age.
 1 female under 10 - 1 Female 17-26 but I haven't
 verified that he is Ben's father in fact he
 could not be but could be a relative of
 some kind. The name James has been
 used by just about every ^{family of every} generation
 who had male children, in our line.
 Some of Ben's descendants still live
 on some of the land he initially
 entered and at least one of them is
 named James. If you should
 (over)

Come into possession of any information about Ben or Frances or their families I would appreciate very much receiving it, at my expense of course. I have written to the S.C. state Archives at Columbia with no appreciable results. I hope to go there sometime but my health has not permitted so far but I am still hoping. I will of course continue to be alert for any information that appears to be pertinent to your interest.

As general information, the last time I was in Atlanta Ga. there were more than 300 McKenzies listed in their telephone directory but the ones I contacted offered no helpful information on my family line.

Best wishes
J.A. McKenzie