

The Amazing McKellogg Clan

STORIES OF YOUR ANCESTORS

DAVE FORREST

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For the descendants of Bob and Claire. May you have pride in your McKellogg roots and also enjoy exploring all the stories of your rich and varied heritage. Most importantly, may you write your own happy adventures on life.

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Preface

During the long, lonely, Covid-19 quarantine I researched and wrote about my ancestors. I ran out of stories. Or I should say my siblings and cousins ran out of patience reading them. I pivoted from telling the tales of my Friedmans and Newmans who escaped poverty and persecution in eastern Europe, to chronicling your McKelloggs, FitzGeralds, Foleys, and Putnams' journeys from western Europe to America's shores. The result is this short book.

Credit where credit is due, the title for this volume came from Grandma Claire's brother. Our Uncle Bob from Ohio sent me an email after his recent visit to the west coast. In it he referred to the "Amazing McKellogg clan". I thought it true and a fitting title.

The McKelloggs are amazing by any metric. Bob and Claire had eleven children and twenty-eight grandchildren. At the time of publication there were thirty-one great-grandchildren and counting.

The McKelloggs are marvelous, but not just for their sheer size. They are fun and funny. Each generation has been taught to value education and hard work. Family members are kind to each other and to their adopted relatives like me. They've all learned to serve others from their mom and dad, whether it's service to country, community or the less fortunate.

It makes sense that an amazing family would have amazing

ancestors. That's what this book is about. In it you'll meet your forbears from Scotland, Ireland and England who made the voyage to America. Some were aristocrats living in castles; others were farmers escaping famine. Along the way, you'll meet war heroes, pioneers, abolitionists and a few scoundrels, too.

So, join me as we travel with the amazing McKelloggs from the British Isles to America's east coast. And then follow their trail from New York to Ohio and finally to their west coast home.

Many thanks for letting me borrow your family's stories.

Dave Forrest - 2021

Your Immigrant Ancestors

James and Mary

FitzGerald

Limerick, Ireland

Imm Yr. 1848

Stephentown, NY

McKellogg Ancestors

Glasgow, Scotland

Imm Yr. Unknown

Jefferson, NY



Abrigail Foley

Cork, Ireland

Imm Yr. 1850

New York, NY

John and Prescilla
Putnam

Aston Abbots,
England

Imm Yr. 1634

Salem, Mass

The McKellogg Name

There are lots of Kelloggs in the US but very few McKelloggs. If you have a local phone book, the only McKelloggs you'll find are the ones you know — family members and relatives. As further proof, try a quick Internet search of the McKellogg surname. JulieAnn, Sara, Keith, Megan, Carrie and Kristen all appear in the very first pages of search results.

Our unique family has an unusual family name. Sue gave her mom and dad a very fine family name certificate explaining the origins of the McKellogg surname. It hung on the walls of 900 N. Mountain View Place in Fullerton. According to the document, the Scottish surname McKellogg is an:

Anglicized form of the ancient and noble Gaelic surname Mac Ceallaigh which name literally signifies "son of Ceallach." McKellogg is derived from the Gaelic term "ceallach" meaning "warlike", it has also been interpreted as meaning "frequenter of churches" and "bright headed." The surname is documented in Scotland as early as the 12th century.

There are other interpretations of the origins and meaning of the McKellogg surname. Ones not as romantic as you imagined rolling off the tongue of your medieval Scottish ancestors. The *Select Surnames Website* writes that “Kellogg” is derived from one who kills hogs:

Originally, Kellogg was an occupational name for a pork butcher, derived from the Medieval English kellen, meaning “to kill” or “to slaughter,” and hog, meaning hog or pig. The surname first appeared as Kyllehog in Essex in the 13th century. It is possible that the surname Kellowe (which appeared in Essex records in 1420) might have been an early variant of Kellogg. Less likely is the similar-sounding Kelloch of Scottish origin. ¹

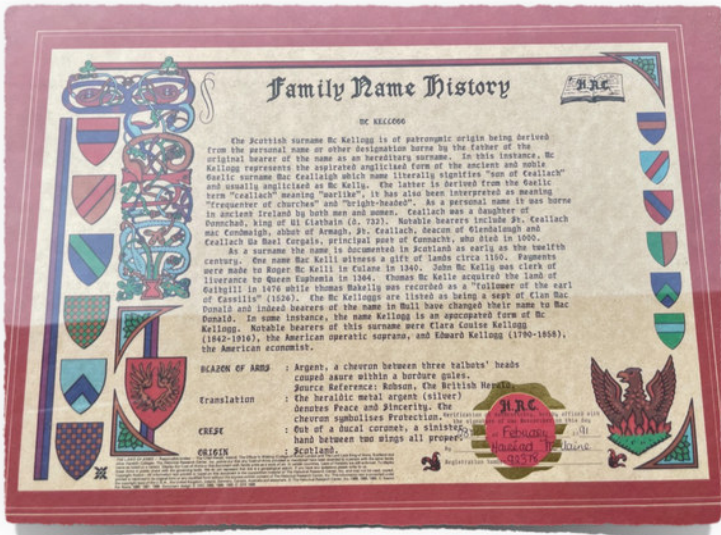
And since Mc means son, McKellogg would mean son of a hog killer. If you don't like the idea that your surname means pork butcher, there are alternative meanings, as well. For example, the *Ancestry.com* website says that the Kellogg name may have its roots in a place rather than an occupation or may be derived from Norse or Irish origins.

So, you have a lot of different choices when telling people about your name. You may say it means: warlike, bright headed, a frequenter of churches or perhaps, hog butcher. One thing for certain, the McKelloggs were Scottish. Recent *23 and Me* DNA tests confirm this, showing McKellogg family members with genetic similarities to other people in and around Glasgow, Scotland.

In 2004, Claire, Caryl, Sue and Ken made a family heritage trip to Ireland and Scotland. After a visit to Edinburgh, they traveled to Culzean Castle (pronounced Cullain). The beautiful stone fortress, perched on the cliffs of Scotland's west coast,

THE MCKELLOGG NAME

overlooks the Irish Sea. Our travelers arrived too late in the day to tour the castle. As they took in the views of the beautiful gardens, a throng of black limousines drove through the castle gates. The pro golfers playing in a nearby tournament were the guests. As the ancient sound of bagpipes echoed outside, Caryl winked to her mom, "See, they knew the McKelloggs were coming."



The family name certificate says the Scottish surname McKellogg is interpreted as meaning "warlike," "frequenter of churches" or "bright headed." An alternative explanation is the Kellogg name is derived from one who "kills hogs."

The First American McKelloggs

We haven't found records of when our first McKellogg ancestors made their way to North America. We do know that most Scottish families immigrated to the eastern seaboard. Those who sympathized with the American revolutionaries settled in the newly formed United States. Those who remained loyal to the crown went north to Canada.

The earliest US McKellogg ancestor so far identified in the databases is Clinton McKellogg (1827-1912). Grandpa Bob's great grandfather was born in 1827 in Jefferson, New York. He is listed as a farmer. Clinton married an Ohio girl, Eveline Mead (1831-1909), in 1851. The first Meads came to the colonies from Kent, England in the 1600s.

The couple moved to Lorain, Ohio. In 1857, Clinton and Eveline had a son, Frank Elwood McKellogg (1857-1927). Frank grew up in Ohio. He was also a farmer. In 1880, Frank married Julia Stone Browning (1861-1950). These nuptials cemented the McKellogg legacy to that of the Putnams, including Revolutionary War general and Ohio founder Rufus

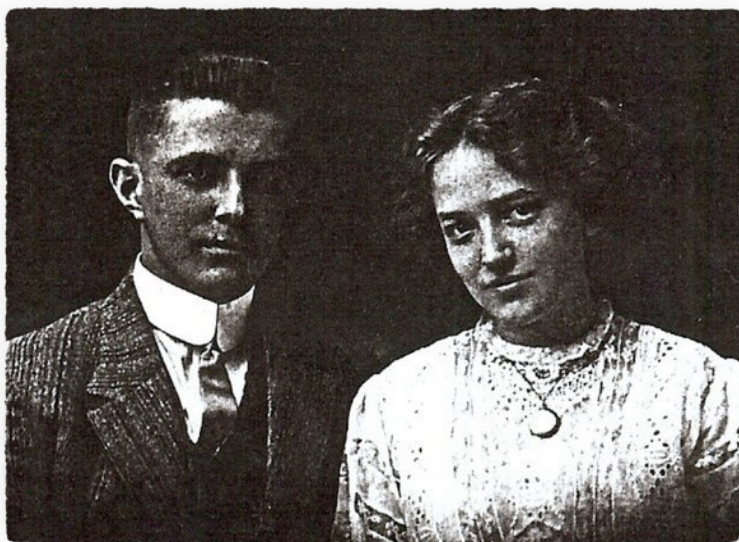
Putnam who was Julia's 2nd great grandfather.

Frank and Julia McKellogg had five children: Florence (1881-1883), Clara Louise (1883-1885), Clarence (1885-1964), Clifford (1890-1952) and Carl (1894-1964). Clifford Browning McKellogg was Robert McKellogg's father.

Clifford married fellow Ohioan Beatrice Dowell (1891-1971) in 1913. Beatrice's early colonial ancestors came from Scotland and Ireland in 1600s. The Scotch-Irish name Dowell means 'dark one' or 'stranger' and was often given to dark complexioned Danes in the British Isles. Clifford and Beatrice had two boys, Charles Browning McKellogg (1917-1980) and Robert Dowell McKellogg (1920-1999), our Grandpa Bob.

Several family members recall that Clifford McKellogg owned an unsuccessful amusement park during the Great Depression. Times were hard for the McKelloggs, as they were for many Americans in the 1930s. However, documents also show that Clifford had several careers during his lifetime. As a young man, he owned the McKellogg Clothing Company in Shelby Ohio. The 1940 Census lists Clifford as an employee of the American Stove Company. His death certificate issued in 1952, indicates that he also worked as an inspector in a General Motors plant, perhaps in his later years.

THE AMAZING MCKELLOGG CLAN



Clifford McKellogg and Beatrice Dowell McKellogg. Robert McKellogg's parents married in 1913, settling in Lorain, Ohio.

Our Putnams and English Roots

The McKelloggs know well their Scotch-Irish roots with surnames like FitzGerald and Foley, However, the family story in America first begins with English origins and the Putnams.

The first Putnam relatives to arrive were Puritans, emigrating from England in 1634. John Putnam (1580-1663) and his wife, Priscilla Gould Putnam (1586-1662) were from Aston Abbotts in the Buckinghamshire District of England. It is a village fifty-five miles north-west of London. The couple married in 1611 and had seven children.

John and Priscilla Putnam left England during the reign of Charles I. As head of the Anglican Church, the King opposed the Protestants including the Puritans. In addition to religious differences with the Church of England, the Protestants further distrusted the King for his marriage to the Catholic Queen Henrietta Maria of France. The persecuted Puritans sought religious freedom. Charles I, eager to exile his Protestant opposition, granted the Puritans a royal charter to form the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

Perhaps you remember in grade school studying the Puritans, especially those first Pilgrims who landed in Plymouth in 1620. They sought to establish a community based on their religious principles. With the grant of a royal charter in 1630, seventeen ships sailed from England carrying over 1,000 Puritan immigrants.

John and Priscilla Putnam soon followed, settling in Salem, Massachusetts in 1634. Several of the Putnam's children came with them, and father and sons were each granted land. In Salem, our family's story takes a terrible turn.

Our Putnam forefathers were the grandparents of Thomas Putnam (1652-1699), responsible for the notorious Salem Witch Trials of 1692. The infamous story of Thomas and the third generation of Putnams in Salem is aptly described in the *Legends of America* website, entitled, "The Vengeful Putnams of Salem Village, Massachusetts."² The witch trials not only involved religious hysteria, but a dispute over land and control between two powerful Salem families: The Putnams and the Porters. In 1692 and 1693, over 200 residents of Salem village were accused of witchcraft and 20 were executed.

Thomas Putnam, landowner and ring leader of the Salem Witch Trials, is the 7th great uncle of the Grandpa Bob. His daughter, Ann Putnam Jr., was a first cousin seven times removed and one of the three main accusers in the trials. My Marilyn taught all about the Salem Witch Trials when her students read *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller. Little did she know she was teaching about her own relative, the villain in this historical drama.

Thomas Putnam's brother, Edward Putnam (1654-1747), did not acquit himself well either, as a deacon in the local church and one of the accusers. However, Joseph Putnam, the youngest

son of the family was a staunch opponent of the Salem Witch Trials. He fell in love with and married Elizabeth Porter (1673-1746), the same Porters who were the long-standing rivals of the Putnams.

Joseph reportedly stormed over to Thomas Putnam's house and confronted Ann Putnam Sr. shouting, "If you dare to touch with your foul lies anyone belonging to my household, you shall answer for it." He was one of just a few who stood against the mass hysteria and fanatical belief in the Devil's arrival in Salem Village. According to Charles Upham in his book, *Salem Witchcraft*, Joseph Putnam showed "a degree of courage, spirit, and resolution, which cannot but be held in honor." ³

Perhaps it helps to know that Putnams were not only supporters but also opponents of the Salem Witch Trials. They were victimizers, but victims as well. For example, according to official Massachusetts records Edward's wife, Mary Hale (1660-1746), was acquitted of witchcraft. So, good news, there are no witches in the McKellogg lineage.



Rufus Putnam served in Washington's Continental Army, retiring as a general. Robert McKellogg's 4th great grandfather led a group of pioneers in the founding of Ohio.

The Putnam Cousins in the American Revolution

It would take two generations for Rufus Putnam (1738-1824) and his cousin, Israel (1718-1790), to redeem the Putnam name. Israel's grandfather was Joseph Putnam who opposed the Salem Witch Trials. Rufus was the grandson of Edward Putnam one of the perpetrators. The two cousins were close. Israel was the older of the two. Both fought in the French and Indian War (1754-1764), and both helped lead Continental Army during the American Revolution.

Rufus Putnam was Grandpa Bob's 4th great grandfather. When I met the McKelloggs, it didn't take long for them to boast about their connection to their famous relative who rose through the ranks of Washington's army to become a general. In addition, after the American Revolution, Rufus led a group of pioneers to found Ohio.

The Putnam family tree shows that Edward and Mary Putnam had a son Elisha Putnam (1685-1745). He married Susanna Fuller (1695-1758). The couple's son was Rufus Putnam, who sadly lost his father at age seven. Rufus had little formal school-

ing, but he learned to be a millwright (mechanic), surveyor, and farmer.

Historian David McCullough, in his book *The Pioneers*, describes the adult Rufus Putnam as:

*A commanding presence, he stood nearly six feet tall and spoke in a manner straightforward and impressive. One of his eyes had been disfigured by childhood injury... He was known to be full of jokes and loved to sing.*⁴

As a young man, Rufus Putnam served in a Connecticut regiment, fighting in the French and Indian War. When he returned from service, Rufus married Elizabeth Ayers in 1761. Tragically, she died in childbirth the following year. Putnam remarried in 1765 to Persis Rice, becoming a father to nine children and a grandfather with two dozen grandchildren.

With the first shots fired at Lexington and Concord, Rufus Putnam joined a Massachusetts regiment to fight the British. He became expert in building fortifications, including those at Dorchester Heights overlooking Boston Harbor. His plan involved using prefabricated chandeliers — heavy timbers and brush — to fortify defenses of the Heights. They were so effective, the British abandoned their siege of Boston. George Washington subsequently promoted Rufus Putnam to Chief of Engineers of the Continental Army.

In this capacity, Putnam led efforts to fortify West Point, a military garrison now called Fort Putnam. Rufus Putnam also served as a military commander in the American Revolution. He led two regiments in the Battle of Saratoga and was made a brigadier general in 1783 at the end of the American Revolution.

* * *

Rufus was not the only Putnam to distinguish himself in the American Revolution. Rufus' older cousin, Israel Putnam, also served as a general of in the Continental Army. Israel, nicknamed "Old Put," was a wealthy New England farmer and tavern keeper. He helped found the Sons of Liberty. As the story goes, when Israel heard of the battle at Lexington and Concord he immediately left his fields, riding horseback for eight hours to Charleston to join the revolutionary cause against the British.

Israel is perhaps most famous for leading the charge against the British at the Battle of Breed's Hill, June 17, 1775. The Mount Vernon organization writes that in this battle:

The entire afternoon, Old Put could be seen riding through the American lines, both encouraging men along the front lines and attempting to goad stragglers back to Breed's Hill. When the redcoats finally overran Prescott's redoubt, General Putnam rallied his Connecticut regiment on Winter Hill. ⁵

In addition, some historians credit Israel Putnam for exhorting his troops by shouting, "Don't fire until you see the whites of their eyes." Although, other accounts credit Colonel Prescott for this famous saying.

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Israel Putnam was Rufus Putnam's older cousin. "Old Put" was a Major General in the Continental Army and led the battle at Breed's Hill near Boston, 17 June 1775.

Rufus Putnam - Founding Father of Ohio

Rufus Putnam retired at the rank of general at the war's end. He later led a small band of hearty pioneers, establishing the first settlement in the Ohio Country. Putnam became one of the state's founding fathers.

After the Revolutionary War, Rufus Putnam settled in Rutland, Massachusetts. He lived and worked on his 155-acre farm in the middle of the state. The *General Rufus Putnam House* in Rutland is not only on the National Registry of Historic Places, but is also currently a bed and breakfast. Good to know if you're on a road trip to discover your Putnam roots.

Rufus Putnam led efforts to secure western lands for Revolutionary War veterans, including founding the Ohio Company. McCullough explains how central Putnam's role was in convincing Washington to support efforts to settle Ohio, writing:

...at the war's end, he had written a long letter to Washington about the possibilities represented by the Ohio country, knowing Washington as a young man had seen the wilderness first hand on

surveying expeditions, and further Washington owned land there. ⁶

When the new US government passed the Northwest Ordinance in 1787, Putnam led a group of pioneers to settle the land that would become Ohio. In the winter of 1787-1788, the New Englanders, led by Putnam, traveled west by wagon until they came to the Ohio River. At Simerall's Ferry, they built boats and made the rest of their journey to the confluence of the Ohio and Muskingum rivers. The new settlers immediately began clearing trees, building shelters and surveying the land. They named their town Adelphia. However, the same year they changed the settlement's name to Marietta, in honor of Queen Marie Antoinette of France. This was a tip of the hat to France, who had aided the US in its fight against the British.

Settlers viewed Ohio Country as frontier, but it was home to several Native American tribes for centuries. An exhibition at the Marietta College Legacy Library says, "When the New England pioneers arrived...they were greeted by 70 Delawares led by Captain Pipe." Another panel at the exhibit notes that, "Rufus Putnam was the leading voice for efforts to coexist with Native Americans. These were not enough to prevent the outbreak of conflict."⁷

Fort Harmar is proof the settlers were not always well received by Native Americans who felt their lands invaded by the newcomers. Built 1785 on the Ohio and Muskingum Rivers, it was intended to protect pioneers from the Indian tribes. It was abandoned in 1790, but not before being replaced by Campus Martius in Marietta. Rufus Putnam used his considerable construction talents building this fortification, completing the fort in 1791 at the start of the Northwest Indian War.

The peace between settlers and tribes did not last. While several tribes had agreed to share the territory, other tribes in the Western Confederacy did not, including the Shawnee, Lenape, Seneca, Miamis, and Potawatomis. In 1791, The US Army, led by Arthur St. Clair, went to war with the Western Confederacy. The Battle of Wabash was a disaster for the US forces. Of the 1000 US soldiers in the battle, only 24 escaped unharmed. The battle was dubbed “St. Clair’s Defeat.”

President Washington forced St. Clair to resign, recruiting Anthony Wayne to continue the war against the tribes in 1792-1793. Rufus Putnam served as brigadier general in Wayne’s Ohio Campaign, which ultimately defeated the tribes. The Confederation and the US government signed the Treaty of Greenville in 1795, ending the Northwest Indian War. In the treaty, the defeated tribes were forced to cede extensive territory, including much of present-day Ohio.

* * *

Rufus Putnam sought to build a settlement in the new territory modeled after a New England town. He surveyed the land and laid out Marietta, naming its streets after Revolutionary War heroes. He built his own home, now known as *The Rufus Putnam House*. It is a historic building in Marietta, located within the current Campus Martius Museum.

As founding father of Ohio, Putnam put a special emphasis on education. Although he lacked much formal schooling himself, Putnam helped found the Muskingum Academy in 1797. In addition to basic education, the first school also offered classes in Greek, Latin, and the natural sciences. Rufus Putnam’s nephew, David Putnam Sr. (1769-1856), was first

preceptor of the Muskingum Academy. In addition, Rufus and his partner in the Ohio Company, Manasseh Cutler, helped found Ohio University in Athens, Ohio in 1804. It was the very first institution of higher education in the Northwest Territory and coincidentally Robert McKellogg's alma mater.

Putnam had other contributions to Marietta and Ohio as well. The Marietta College Legacy Library writes:

He worked to establish a postal route in the Ohio Valley and was instrumental in settling the French immigrants at Gallipolis... in 1796 President Washington appointed Putnam Surveyor General of the Northwest Territory, a position he held until 1803. ⁸

* * *

Like many New Englanders, Rufus Putnam opposed slavery. When the Ordinance of 1787 was signed, it included democratic principles such as trial by jury, freedom of religion, and the prohibition of slavery. As a delegate at the Ohio Constitutional Convention in 1802, Rufus Putnam voted against slavery in a future Ohio.

Your Putnam relatives in the 19th century were abolitionists and conductors in the Underground Railroad in Ohio. A blog on early Marietta life, says:

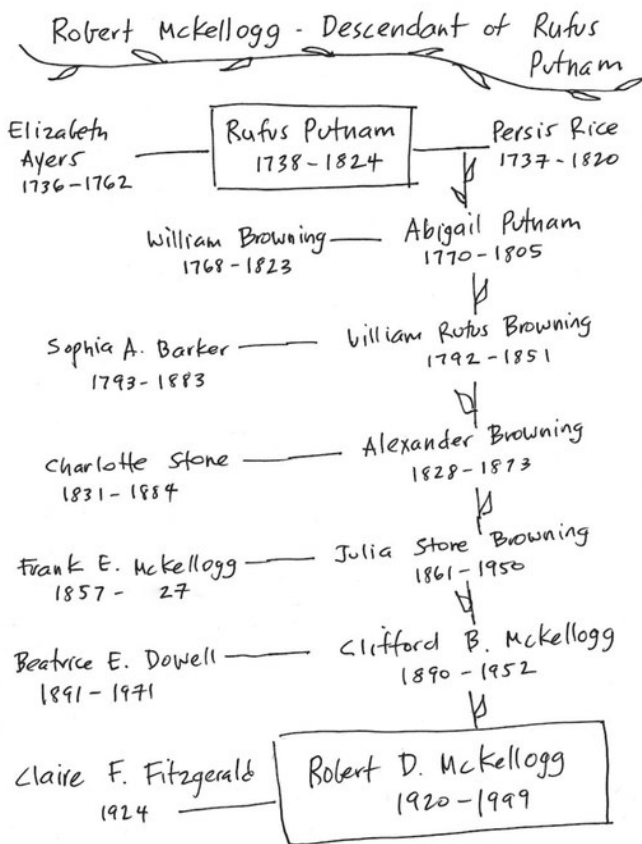
David, Jr. inherited the Putnam family's disdain for slavery. His father was opposed to slavery. Nancy Putnam Hollister, Marietta civic leader and a descendant of David's brother Douglas, observed that "All of the (Putnam) family members were really abolitionists."
9

David Putnam Sr. built his home in Marietta in 1805. This *Putnam House* served as both a family home and as the first bank in the territory. His son, David Putnam Jr. (1808-1892) was an the abolitionist, using his nearby house to shelter slaves escaping from Virginia.

* * *

In 1803, Rufus Putnam lost his position as Surveyor General. He was a Federalist, and Jefferson sought to appoint a Democratic-Republican from his own party. Although he was no longer in favor with the new administration, he continued to be a revered founding father in Ohio. He lived until 1824. He passed away at age 86, and was buried in Marietta's Mound Cemetery beside many of his fellow officers of the American Revolution who followed him to the West.

THE AMAZING MCKELLOGG CLAN



Rufus Putnam was Robert McKellogg's 4th great grandfather. The tie between the Putnam and McKellogg families was due to the marriage of Julia Stone Browning to Frank E. McKellogg in 1880.

The Aristocratic FitzGerald

If Grandpa Bob's side of the family could claim heroes from the American Revolution and a founding father of Ohio, Grandma Claire's family insists they are scions of an aristocratic lineage from the Emerald Isle.

Before she was a McKellogg, our beloved Claire Frances was a FitzGerald. Her dad was John King FitzGerald (1898-1948), a descendant of Irish immigrants born and raised in Saugerties, New York.

The "Fitz" in the FitzGerald name means son. Therefore, the surname FitzGerald is simply "son of Gerald." Claire's brother, our Uncle Bob, explained the capital G in our family name denotes Irish aristocracy.

If this is true, our progenitor was baron Maurice FitzGerald, Lord of Llanstephan (1105-1176). He was born in Wales, taking part in the Anglo-Norman invasion of Ireland in 1169. The English granted him lands near Limerick. Although the first Geraldine dynasty was part of the English invasion of Ireland, after centuries of assimilation the FitzGeraldts were known to be, "more Irish than the Irish themselves."

FitzGerald ancestors first lived in Shanid Castle until their descendants built nearby Glin Castle on the River Shannon. Although the castle was attacked several times over the centuries, the FitzGeralds resided there, on and off, for over 700 years. Today, Glin Castle and its beautiful gardens are owned by Catherine FitzGerald.



Glin Castle on the River Shannon near Limerick, Ireland is the ancestral home of the aristocratic FitzGeralds.

The FitzGeralds of New York

If our Irish FitzGeralds were nobility, our American FitzGeralds were not. James FitzGerald (b. 1805) was no aristocrat. Like so many Irish Americans, our immigrant patriarch was poor, part of the mass exodus to the US due to the Irish Potato Famine.

Two million Irish escaped the Great Hunger or Great Famine, as it was also called, with over a half-a-million arriving on America's shores between 1845 and 1852. Among their numbers was not one but many Irish immigrants by the name of James FitzGerald.

Searching documents for an Irish immigrant named James FitzGerald is a little like finding a family member named John Smith. My *ancestry.com* search produced over 5,000 documents related to more than a dozen James Fitzgeralds who immigrated to the US in the mid-19th century. They came from Dublin, Cork, Tipperary and Waterford. They landed in Boston and New York City. They settled in Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York and beyond. One James FitzGerald served as a soldier in the Civil War for the Union. Another, served time in a South

Carolina jail. Although, neither of these Irish immigrants were our kin.

I was hoping that I could identify our FitzGeralds by their big G, but many of our family's ancestors were listed in documents with a lower case g, too. It is most likely our James FitzGerald was born in Ireland around 1805. His future bride, Mary, was born a decade later. James and Mary married during the 1830s and the first four of their eight children were born in Ireland: Ellen (b. 1838), William (b. 1840), John (b.1841), and Catherine (b.1846).

According to the 1860 US Census data, James and Mary's remaining four children were born in the United States: James (b. 1851), Michael (b. 1852), Johanna (b. 1855) and Mary (b. 1858). This gap between the last of their children born in Ireland in 1846 and their first child born in the US in 1851 is presumably the time the FitzGeralds immigrated to the US. These years correspond with the huge Irish immigration to the US.

James and Mary's son, John FitzGerald (1841-1902), was to become the great grandfather of Claire and her siblings. He was baptized on December 28, 1841 in Tipperary, Ireland, only about 25 miles from the FitzGerald castle in Limerick.

The 1855 New York Census shows the FitzGerald family settled in Stephentown, New York next to the Massachusetts border. The town is just thirty-four miles from Hudson and sixty miles from Saugerties where FitzGerald descendants would settle. In the 1860s Stephentown had a little over 2000 people. In the same census, James is listed as a farmer. The FitzGeralds resided in Stephentown in the 1870s and 1880s.

John FitzGerald married a fellow Irish immigrant Marcella or Mary Riley (1842-1903). She was born in the small Irish

town of Castlepollard. Marcella immigrated to the US with her family during the Irish Potato Famine, too. She was only seven years old when she departed Liverpool, sailing to New York City aboard a ship named the *Andrew Foster*. She arrived in the US May 25, 1848. Records from the Emigrant Bank indicate she was living in New York in 1864.

The two Irish immigrants, John and Marcella, married May 2nd, 1867 across the river from Manhattan in Jersey City, New Jersey. The couple lived on 69 Diamond Street in Hudson, New York. John is listed as a laborer and Marcella as a homemaker.

The couple had eight children: James (1866-1877), John (1870-1912), Michael (1871-1930), Mary (b.1873), and Nicholas (1875-1921), Catherine L. (1877-1968), Charles J. (1878-1857), and Elizabeth (1884-1960).

Tragically, John FitzGerald died in an accident on November 18, 1902. The local newspaper reported his body was found on the bank of a small stream. His clothes were wet, and it was assumed he drowned before his body washed up onto the shore. Marcella would live one more year. According to her death notice she was only fifty-nine. The two were buried in the Hudson City Cemetery.

John and Marcella's third child, Michael FitzGerald, was Grandma Claire's grandfather. As an adult, Michael lived in Saugerties, New York, on the west side of the Hudson River. The town is 110 miles north of New York City.

Michael married Margaret King (1869-1918) June 11, 1896 in Hudson, New York. The couple had three children: Mary Ethel (b. 1897), John King (b. 1898-1948), and William (b. 1901). John King FitzGerald would become Claire's father.

Michael FitzGerald worked for thirty-five years as a cigar maker, even serving as the Cigar Makers Union vice president.

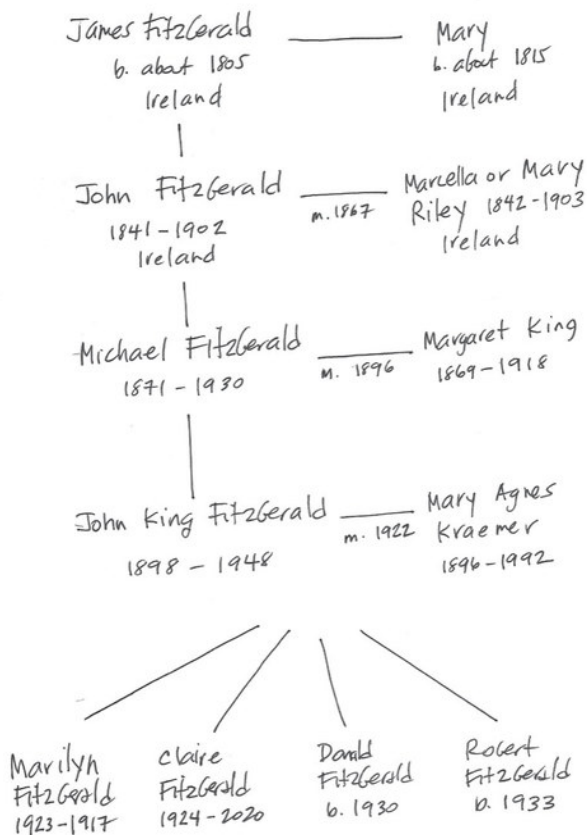
A decade after Margaret died, Michael remarried Josephine M. O'Brien (1890 -1971) November 29, 1928. He would only live two more years. Michael's 1930 obituary described him as, "a genial and companionable man who died at fifty-nine due to an attack of indigestion."

The obituary also reported he was member of the St. Mary's Church and participated in several charitable organizations. At the time of his death, he was the ex-chief of the Saugerties fire department, "much respected by the department members." He was buried in the Saint Mary of Snow Cemetery in Saugerties. Etched on his gravestone was his surname, *FitzGerald*, spelled with a capital G.

Michael and Margaret's middle child, John King FitzGerald - nicknamed Jack - was born in 1898. He grew up in Saugerties, too. John was destined to marry Mary Agnes Kraemer (1896-1992) from New York City. As Grandma Claire told the story, our small-town boy met big-city girl after an introduction from a Catholic priest who knew both families.

THE FITZGERALDS OF NEW YORK

Five Generations of FitzGerald's



Irish Immigrant Abigail Foley

Mary Agnes Kraemer (1896-1992), whom we affectionately called Grandma Fitz or Little White Grandma, grew up on 42nd Street in New York. Her father, August Kraemer (1866-1933), worked on the railroads. His parents were German immigrants. Perhaps you remember Grandma Claire telling us her grandfather spelled his surname the German way, Krämer, with an umlaut over the a.

Mary's mother was Agnes Mary Noonan (1865-1955), daughter of Irish immigrant Abigail Foley. Uncle Bob recalls that his mom, Mary Agnes, told him that Abigail Foley traveled to the US from Cork, Ireland. Records from Ireland's Catholic Parish Registers (1655-1915) list an Abigail Foley from Cork baptized in 1827. And indeed, our Carrie confirmed her birth and immigration information on a trip to the Cork area.

Over a million Irish died due to the potato blight which wiped out the island's staple crop between 1848-1853. Millions escaped Ireland, with many coming to US shores. Databases from the Castle Garden Immigration Station show an "Abigal

Foley” traveled from Youghal, Ireland in County Cork in 1850 on the brig *Charles*. On the passenger list, she is 23 years old. Her passenger card lists her permanent residence as Ireland and her occupation as servant.

The trip across the Atlantic that Abigail took was not an easy one. The first vessels to take Irish immigrants to the US were called coffin ships for a reason. They were overcrowded, poorly ventilated, and one in five passengers did not survive the trip. The US passed the Passenger Acts, to improve the conditions on vessels entering our harbors. We do not know the specific condition of the ship Abigail arrived on. Nevertheless, the voyage from Ireland to our shores could last from forty days to three months, a tough trip for anyone.

The *Charles* arrived in Boston Harbor July 6, 1850. Boston was a common destination for Ireland’s destitute peasants. Irish immigrants in the 1850s made up over one quarter of the city’s population, but they faced discrimination too. “No Irish Need Apply” signs donned the door of some businesses, as many native Bostonians resented the newcomers.

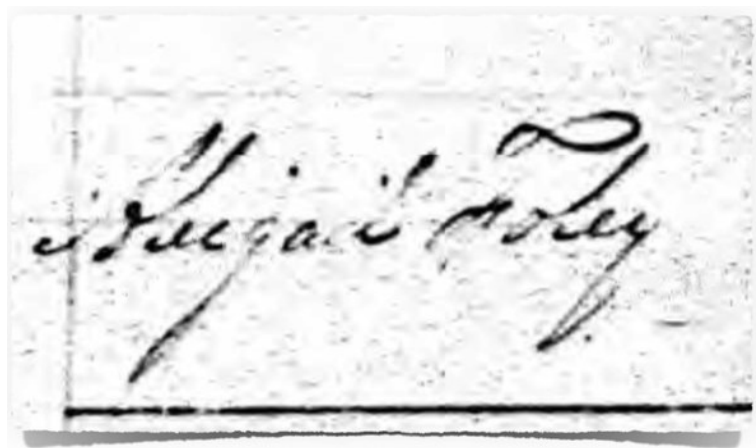
After landing in Boston, our Abigail Foley made her way to New York. The 1855 New York Census lists an “Abbe Nonan and Timothy Nonan,” husband and wife, both 30 years old. Five years later, the 1860 US Federal Census shows the couple living in New York’s Ward 21, District 4. One family story has it that Abby worked as a maid in the rich and famous Cornelius Vanderbilt household. However, I couldn’t find evidence to confirm or disprove this.

In 1870, The Noonans lived in New York City with two daughters, Agnes Mary age 9 and Catherine age 4. Agnes Mary, who was born in 1860, would become our Little White Grandma’s mother. The 1880 Census shows one significant

change, Abigail Foley Noonan is widowed.

Agnes Mary Noonan married August Kraemer in 1892. Grandma Claire said the match of August and Agnes Mary was a common one in New York neighborhoods, where descendants of German Catholic men were often quite smitten with the Irish Catholic lassies. At least, that is how Claire explained it.

The couple had three children, Edward (b. 1893), Mary Agnes (b. 1896) and Annie (b. 1899). The Kraemers lived on East 42nd Street in Manhattan. The 1905 New York Census lists Abby Foley Noonan as the mother in-law in the Kraemer household. Irish immigrant Abigail Foley helped raise her American granddaughter, Mary Agnes, who would one day become our own Little White Grandma.



Portion of Abigail Foley's 1827 baptismal certificate. Grandma Claire's great grandmother sailed from Cork, Ireland in 1850 to escape the Potato Famine. She settled in New York City.

Claire's Family

Grandma Claire told us that her mom and dad were introduced by a priest who was friends with both the Kraemers and the FitzGerald. John King FitzGerald married Mary Agnes Kraemer in 1922. A society page article on the FitzGerald-Kraemer nuptials reported:

A very pretty church wedding took place in St. Agnes' Church, New York City, Tuesday June 6th, when John K. FitzGerald of Saugerties, was united in marriage to Miss Mary Kraemer of New York city. After the ceremony, the wedding party enjoyed a delicious wedding breakfast at Cavanaugh's on 23rd Street. The same day, the newly-weds departed for their honeymoon in Atlantic City.

John and Mary had four children, Marilyn (1923-2017), Claire (1924-2020), Don (b. 1930), and Robert (b. 1933). Claire's earliest memories are of her home in Brooklyn, New York. In an interview several years ago she recalled:

We lived in an apartment. And my memory was everyday my mom

would take us down to Parkside Park. There was a little pool there, and I was allowed to bring something to feed the little fishies. And that was an enjoyable time for me. I liked being at the park because there was no place to play in the apartment. My sister and I had lots of fun there and lots of memories. ¹⁰

Claire also had fond memories of her German grandfather, August Kraemer. She said:

He told great stories about Europe that he liked to share. He taught me a little German – including how to count. I was a little girl and thought I was pretty good to be able to count in German. No one cared but me. But it was fun.

Claire moved to Buffalo when she was a little girl. She quipped, “The way my parents talked, moving to Buffalo was like it didn’t have any comforts of home. My Dad was transferred to Buffalo for his job I went to grade school in Buffalo.”

It was the Great Depression and most kids in the Buffalo neighborhood didn’t have much money. Nevertheless, Claire fondly remembered her apartment building because there were lots of kids her age to play with.

During the 1930s, her family made regular summer visits to their FitzGerald relatives in Saugerties on the Hudson River. Claire reminisced that she loved playing with her cousins. However, as she grew older she realized that the trips to Saugerties were hardly vacations for her mom who spent most hot summer days cooking for the whole FitzGerald gang.

Claire’s family moved from New York to Ohio. She recalled,

By the time I was graduated from 8th grade, my dad's company wanted to move farther west, so we went off to Cleveland before I knew it. That's where I went to high school for 4 years. It was fun. Really liked Cleveland. By the time I graduated from high school, my dad said he was going to ship me off to college and let the nuns worry about me.

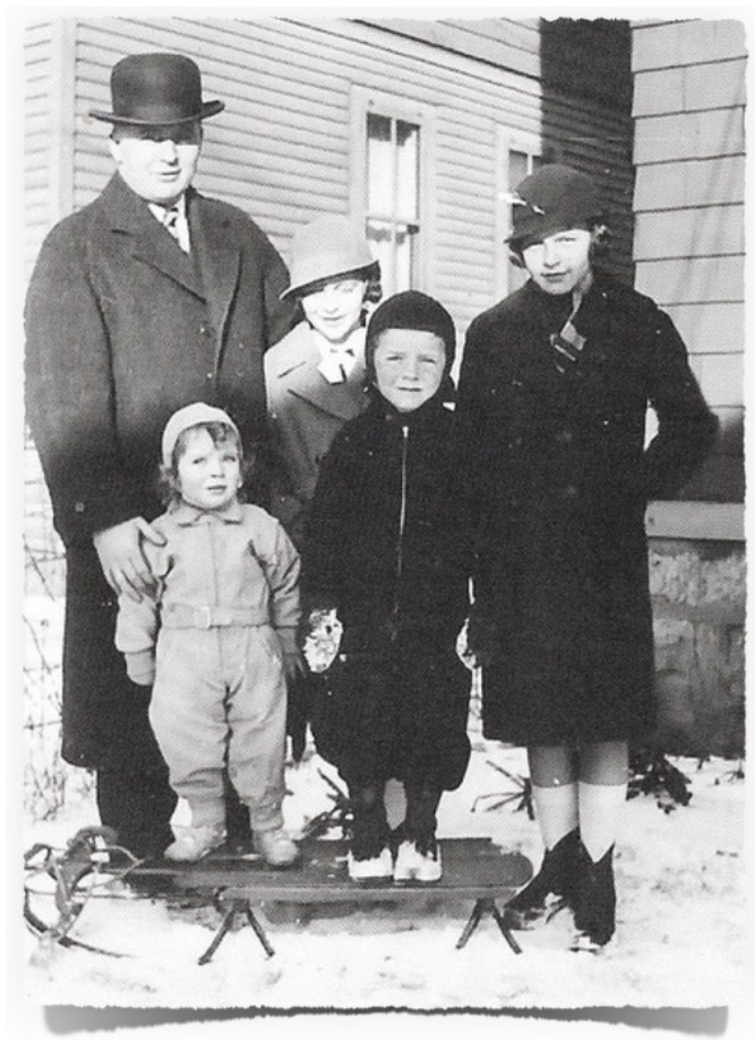
Claire attended the Notre Dame Academy in Cleveland for high school. She recalled it took her a two street cars and two buses to get to and from school. Her favorite teacher was a nun, Sister Elise. Claire loved dancing and acting in high school. However, Claire's dad didn't want his daughter being a performer and encouraged her to go to college.

Claire described her dad, Jack FitzGerald, as having a big and humorous personality. She said he charmed everyone he met including the school nuns. By her own account father and daughter were close, even if they didn't always agree. For example, when she was accepted to Seton Hill, he advised her to pick a practical college major. She had other ideas:

At Seton Hill my sister was a year ahead of me and she took Home Economics. She learned how to cook and sew. My dad thought that was great, but that sounded very boring to me. I wanted to major in Psychology, but he wasn't sure about that. But I told him I didn't want to go to college if I couldn't study psychology, so he relented. I really enjoyed it. I had a wonderful 4 years.

For her part, Claire agreed to add a teaching credential to her major making her more employable after she graduated. Learning to teach would be very useful, but not until much later in her life. She'd raise eleven kids, first.

THE AMAZING MCKELLOGG CLAN

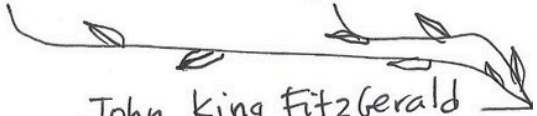


Jack FitzGerald with children Bob, Claire, Don and Marilyn. Circa 1930s

CLAIRE'S FAMILY

Marilyn
FitzGerald
1923-2017

Claire
FitzGerald
1924-2020



John King FitzGerald
1898-1948

Margaret King
1869-1958



Michael FitzGerald
1871-1930



John — Anne
King Lannegan



John — Marella
FitzGerald Riley
1841-1902 1842-1903



James
FitzGerald
1805-1883



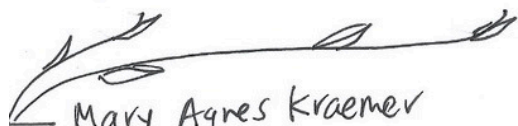
Mary
1815



THE AMAZING MCKELLOGG CLAN

John Donald
Fitzgerald
b. 1930

Robert
Fitzgerald
b. 1933



Mary Agnes Kraemer
1896 - 1992



August Kraemer
1866 - 1933

Agnes Mary Noonan
1865 - 1955



August Kraemer — Mary Meyer
1936



Timothy Noonan — Abigail Foley
1923 1826

Our Liberator

Between her junior and senior year of high school Claire FitzGerald and several girl friends went on holiday to Vermillion Beach on Lake Erie. It was the summer of 1941. Claire recalled the first time she met Bob McKellogg:

The first night we were there we went over to a little dance hall where people from the neighborhoods used to congregate. So we went over to have some fun. And a young man asked me to dance. He wasn't a very good dancer, but he was very nice, and I liked him. I really never expected to see him again, but a week after I got home from the cottages I got a call from Lorain, Ohio. He called and asked me out.¹¹

Decades later, after he and Claire had eleven children, Bob would quip, "All I ever did was go to a dance." He did a lot more. Robert McKellogg served in the 45th Infantry Division during WW II. The Thunderbirds, as they were known, stormed the beaches of Sicily, fought in the mountains of Italy and France before vanquishing Germany and liberating over 30,000

survivors of the Dachau concentration camp.

After they dated in the summer of '41, Bob wrote Claire over 200 letters while at Ohio University and in the Army. You can read his heartfelt correspondence to Claire and get a detailed account of his World War II experiences in my book, *Our Liberator*.¹² For a summary of his experiences, read on.

Robert McKellogg registered for the draft in February of 1942. He did his Basic Training in the sweltering heat at Fort Wolters in Texas, where he was trained as a demolitions expert. Bob proposed to Claire before he went to war in Europe. He arrived in Italy August 12, 1944, after the fall of Rome. Bob used V-Mail to communicate . He wrote his parents:

Dear Folks, I've been attending school for Engineers and we have been doing demolitions, mines and the usual run of explosive stuff. Tell Dad, I am getting quite a "bang" out of it." Love, Bud

The Thunderbirds landed on French beaches in August of 1944. Initially, they met only slight resistance. However, as the 45th Infantry Division marched north through France, fighting became much harder as they neared the Vosges Mountains. In the densely-forested region, they faced a determined Nazi enemy with rocket launchers and snipers. The Thunderbirds fought through the winter, sleeping on the ground in wind, rain, and snow.

Bob McKellogg was in the thick of the fight in France, known as the Rhineland Campaign. He served in the 2nd Platoon of L Company in the Thunderbird's 180th Regiment. As an Army demolitions expert, he helped destroy bridges, laid mines and booby traps for the enemy. His L Company had the distinction of being the very first Thunderbird soldiers to cross the border

into the belly of the beast, Germany.

The Germans refused to surrender, despite facing Allied offensives from east and west. The Thunderbirds moved toward the Rhine River, entering German villages where they engaged in deadly house to house combat. Nazi snipers killed US soldiers from church steeples. The Thunderbirds crossed the Rhine. In March and April, the 45th marched on the German cities of Nuremberg and Munich.

While Claire attended Seton Hill College, she waited and worried as her fiancé fought against the Nazis. She recalled, "I thought, oh my word – the Division he was in was in a lot of battles. I'd get the newspapers every day and hope I'd hear from him." She received V-mails from Bob, too. They began, "Dear Skipper," his nickname for her. The biggest scare for Claire came one day in college when a letter arrived from a priest. She feared the worst, but it began, "Good news." It turned out to be a message that Bob had completed his conversion to Catholicism while in Europe.

In April of 1945 the Nazi regime faced collapse. The 45th Infantry Division marched on Nuremberg, the city that had once been the site of huge Nazi rallies. It was here Bob saw some of the fiercest fighting as his unit took over a Nazi stronghold, a castle held by the enemy. By April 20th, Nuremberg was in American hands. Despite the victory, a week later Bob's unit would witness one of the greatest horrors of World War II: Dachau.

On April 29, 1945, the Thunderbirds entered the Dachau Concentration Camp. The 45th Infantry soldiers first spotted 39 box cars, containing over 2000 corpses. "Hell on earth" was how Bob McKellogg described the walking skeletons and piles of bodies he witnessed. Bob and his fellow soldiers rounded

up German camp guards and people from the nearby town, forcing them to dig graves for proper burial of the bodies.

Emaciated prisoners greeted their liberators with cheers and shouts of "America, America." Dysentery and disease were rife. Many GIs cried seeing the gas chambers and mass graves. The 45th Infantry Division gave water, food, and medical supplies to survivors. Some prisoners beat SS guards and collaborators with sticks. A Thunderbird officer from the 157th Regiment ordered the execution of guards. After a number of Nazis were shot, another officer stopped the reprisals. However, no court martials were issued given the extraordinary circumstances.

On April 30th, a day after the liberation of Dachau, Adolf Hitler committed suicide in his bunker. A week later, the German High Command signed an unconditional surrender to the Allies. On May 8th, 1945, millions across the globe celebrated V-E Day, Victory in Europe.

Bob McKellogg and his unit would not leave Europe until the fall. In the summer of 1945, photos from his scrapbook show he visited historic sites in both France and Germany.

In September, Bob returned from Europe to Camp Bowie Texas. In November he received his honorable discharge papers. They showed Robert McKellogg left the Army a Staff Sergeant and a Squad Leader. He also earned four citations, including: The World War II Victory Medal, the American Theater Medal, the EAME Ribbon, and the prestigious Presidential Unit Citation.

The Thunderbirds fought in Italy, France, and Germany for over 500 days. The 45th Division's initial number of soldiers was replaced seven times since landing in Sicily in 1943. They liberated over 30,000 concentration camp survivors at Dachau. General George Patton praised the Thunderbirds, "The Forty-

fifth Infantry Division is one of the best, if not the best that the American Army has ever produced.”

In 1948, the US Army awarded Robert McKellogg The Bronze Star Medal. The accompanying certificate explained the citation was for heroic achievement during the battles in France, on or about November 1, 1944. We owe our liberator and all our humble heroes from World War II a great debt for their selfless sacrifice.

THE AMAZING MCKELLOGG CLAN



Robert McKellogg fought in the 45th Infantry Division during WW II. The Thunderbirds battled the Nazis and helped liberate Dachau. Grandpa Bob received the Bronze Star Medal.

The Ohio Years

When Bob returned from war in September of 1945, Claire was waiting for him. He admitted he only had one thing on his mind, getting married to his sweetheart. However, Bob agreed to wait until Claire graduated from Seton Hill.

Three weeks after Claire finished college, the couple married on June 20, 1946. The wedding was in Ohio with Claire's mom and dad, Mary and Jack FitzGerald, and Bob's parents, Clifford and Beatrice McKellogg, in attendance.

Claire's Dad, John FitzGerald saw both his daughters married. However, shockingly he died several years later in 1948. He was only 49 years old. It was a very difficult loss for everyone, especially his young sons and recently married daughters. Mary Agnes, Grandma Fitz, would live 50 more years without her husband.

The recently married McKelloggs lived in Ohio:

We settled down in the Cleveland area. He was selling windows to builders. The first seven McKellogg children were born in

*Cleveland... After the war, the battle was fighting that baby that came every spring.*¹³

The first born was Robert Keith (b. 1947), dubbed Keith. John King (b.1948) was called Jack. Patricia Ann (b. 1949) was shortened to Pat. William Dowell (b. 1952) was referred to as Bill. Karen Sue (b. 1953) was also called by her middle name. Richard Browning (b. 1954) went by Dick, and Virginia Marie (b. 1955), was nicknamed Dolly. Claire's fourth child, Mary Claire, was born in 1950. Sadly, she did not survive and was buried in Ohio.



The wedding of Robert McKellogg and Claire FitzGerald on June 20, 1946. To the left of the couple, Bob's parents, Clifford and Beatrice McKellogg, to the right, Claire's parents, Mary and Jack Fitzgerald

The Move to California

In the mid 1950s Bob had a job opportunity on the west coast, so the family resettled in Fullerton. Claire explained:

What got us to California were the builders who wanted to put up houses like crazy. Everybody needed a window. So there we were. The window company moved us and it didn't cost us a penny... . California seemed like heaven on earth. And it was. There was no snow to shovel, no mittens and scarves to put on children.¹⁴

Claire packed up the Ohio family in 1956, flying to Fullerton aboard TWA flight 5. McKelloggs eight, nine, ten and eleven were born in the sunshine state. Marilyn Ann arrived in 1957, Caryl Jean in 1960, Mark Joseph in 1963, and Michelle Amy in 1969. Claire would often rattle off the names of her eleven children in rapid succession: "Keith, Jack, Pat, Bill, Sue, Dick, Dolly, Marilyn, Caryl, Mark and Michelle."

The first year in Fullerton, the McKelloggs were renting a house with an option to buy. However, one day Claire and

her friend Lee Cunningham spotted an advertisement for 900 N. Mountain View Place. She explained:

Then we saw a big sign 'BUILDER WANTS OUT – NOTHING DOWN'. We couldn't get home fast enough to tell Bob and Lee's husband. We all came over to the east side of Fullerton to buy the houses. We put nothing down and paid \$85 per month. And it was wonderful because they were putting up a little grade school a couple blocks away and eventually they built a Catholic girls high school. And I got a job there teaching.

The McKelloggs would live in 900 N. Mountain View Place for 64 years. Claire explained how she and Bob managed to raise so many children in such a small house:

It was a fairly small house, but we managed with bunk beds. The kids were young and didn't demand a lot. We figured we should get the corner lot so we only bothered people on one side... There was a big back yard. We were very grateful to be able to walk the children to school. As the family began to grow we needed more room. We used part of the garage for a bedroom for the boys. It was probably illegal not to have a full garage, but we pretended the car in front was an extra car.

At first it was a little crowded because the little dinenet off the kitchen was supposed to be the eating area. Needless to say, we couldn't fit everyone in that, so the patio that was off the side looked like a good place to enclose and become a dining room... When we gathered for the evening meal, everyone could fit at the one table.... It became an eating place and the place for all the stories to be told.

THE MOVE TO CALIFORNIA



Claire and seven McKellogg children flew from Ohio to California on TWA Flight 5 in 1956. Four more kids were born in Fullerton, where the family lived for over six decades.

Afterword

We will leave you dear reader at the McKelloggs' home at 900 North Mountain View Place. The journey that began in the British Isles ends on California's west coast. The Fullerton stories to follow are best told by Bob and Claire's kids. If you attend any McKellogg gathering you'll hear their childhood tales, yarns and anecdotes shared with amusement and laughter.

Listen closely. You'll hear the stories of a small house filled with a big love, a family of modest means but rich in kindness. McKellogg voices filled the Fullerton neighborhood. Their home at 900 North the place friends flocked to.

You'll also feel their pride of being McKellogg, not just for their famous ancestor from the Revolutionary War, Rufus Putnam, but for their unassuming dad who helped defeat the Nazis and free thousands of survivors at Dachau.

There is reverence for their mom, Saint Claire, always kind, gracious and giving. She inspires awe, too. Who else could raise eleven children and then in her late forties start a legendary teaching career lasting over thirty years? Perhaps her incredible

work ethic was inherited from her hard working immigrant ancestor Abigail Foley.

Claire's kids delight in their mom's antics, too. Just listen as they tell of her "Lucy and Ethel" escapades with dear neighbor Wardie. I was at Bill and Jan's Fourth of July party when Grandma Claire, then in her 80s, did a perfectly executed jackknife into the pool. And who hasn't heard Claire do a flawless recitation of "Barbara Frietchie," a poem she learned in the 4th grade. She is the most amazing of the amazing McKellogg clan.

I can remember meeting the McKelloggs in the late 1980s. Their gatherings were always fun, and they made everyone feel welcome. Coming from a small family, I learned the joys of a big one.

And so the McKelloggs grew, with marriages and children. Bob and Claire's grandchildren are something special. They are bright, polite, full of life and share the McKelloggs' wicked wit. The amazing McKelloggs – the next generation.

These beautiful children have now become beautiful adults, many raising their own kids. Claire and Bob's great-grandchildren not only claim ancestors from the British Isles but from Mexico and Brazil, Japan and Africa, from many more nations around the globe.

May each of Bob and Claire's descendants have pride in their McKellogg roots and also enjoy exploring all the stories of their rich and varied heritage. Most importantly, may they write their own happy adventures on life, too.

THE AMAZING MCKELLOGG CLAN



The McKelloggs of Fullerton. Circa 1991.

Notes

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- 1 “Kellogg Surname Meaning,” *Select Surnames* Website, <https://selectsurnames.com/kellogg/>, November 21, 2021.

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- 3 Upham, Charles, *Salem Witchcraft*, Jan. 21, 2011.

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- 4 McCullough, David, *The Pioneers*, Simon and Schuster, New York, 2019.
- 5 “Israel Putnam,” *George Washington’s Mount Vernon Organizaton*, <https://www.mountvernon.org/library/digitalhistory/digital-encyclopedia/article/israel-putnam/>

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- 6 McCullough, David, *The Pioneers*, Simon and Schuster, New York, 2019.
- 7 “Ohio Pioneers,” *Marietta College Legacy Library*, <https://library.marietta.edu/ohiopioneers>
- 8 Ibid. *Marietta College Legacy Library*.
- 9 Blog, *Early Marietta*, <http://earlymarietta.blogspot.com/>

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- 10 Interview with Claire McKellogg, *Grandma Claire’s Stories website*, <https://www.daveforrest.net/clairestories/>

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- 11 Ibid, *Grandma Claire’s Stories website*.
- 12 Forrest, Dave, *Our Liberator: Robert McKellogg Thunderbird in WW II*, Blurb.2020.

THE OHIO YEARS

- 13 Interview with Grandma Claire, *Grandma Claire's Stories*, <http://daveforrest.net/clairestories>

THE MOVE TO CALIFORNIA

- 14 Ibid. *Grandma Claire's Stories*.



About the Author

When he is not writing about family history, Dave Forrest enjoys visiting his grandkids on two continents. He spends his favorite days walking in the trees with his loved ones.

You can connect with me on:

 <http://www.daveforrest.net/clairstories>

Also by Dave Forrest



Our Liberator

<https://www.daveforrest.net/clairstories/our-liberator.pdf>

Robert McKellogg fought in WW II with the 45th Infantry Division, known as the Thunderbirds. Read dozens of his letters to his fiancé, Claire FitzGerald, while he battled the Nazis in French villages. His accounts will take you across the Rhine into the belly of the beast, Germany. Join him in the ferocious battle for Nuremberg. Trudge with him into hell, Dachau.