

"Christiana Francis - (1826 - 1884?)

Above "Christiana) was Uncle James Francis wife. Uncle 'James' was one of the "49ers - who rushed to California for gold at that date & never returned, but sent from Denver - in early 50's - money & direction for the family to come & join him. How many in the family. I have forgotten but do know that the oldest then was Stuart Francis. There was "Peter" & others. but they started on the long trek - and on the way, (somewhere in Indiana) Aunt C. took sick & died. They buried her & Stuart (the oldest) took charge of the Prairie Schooner - & children - chatahs etc - and moved on with the caravan - reaching Denver, (after months of weary trekking - Indian fights etc.) safely with his brothers & sisters. His father was gone. He never could trace him. So he, with friends in Denver helping, & backing - went into the business of freighting & transporting between Denver & Council Bluffs, Io. He became a big Scout & had charge of the caravans.

When I was a boy of 12, Stuart came to visit us:- stayed, visiting between Kilmarnock - Pakenham - & Renfrew - but mostly at our house all one summer. He had wonderful things - to tell:- gave your father & me indian arrows - (with dried blood stains) - which he had pulled out of bodies on the great plains - after Indian fights. Also some Indian Scalps, with hair tufts 18 inch long. Stuart was a magnificent fellow - 6 ft. 2 in. Strait as an arrow, with big drooping mustach - red hair. The last time he came to see us I was 17 and it was a bitter cold winter. He bought a fine horse - & Cutter. He had brought us 3 or 4 fine Buffalo Skins.

In January we went down (in cutter) to grand-pa's at Kilmarnock & visited - (he & I). Then he took me to a farm, near Maitland - where he married a Miss Fletcher & I was best man. We had a big party - (all night dancing & celebrating) at the Fletcher farm home. He took his wife out West, Colorado - then later he got a ranch in Nebraska - also his Bro. Peter - or Duncan - came there and also got a ranch. Now at this Ranch place, - your mother & father visited Stuart & the others. You ought to know about that & also, remember the many things she told about them. I cannot remember the name of their P. O. It was something like "Dunbar" - commenced with "D". If you could get in contact with them they could supply you with the names of their family, (Uncle James' Children) and other facts about themselves. Now, I know: "Aunt Christian" died en-route, as I have said & that was in 1850 - or 1851. Stuart Francis could tell you all about that & it sure was not "1884".

And Again - -

Uncle Elisha Francis -

Lived and died on a large farm 6 m. out from Renfrew - in Admeston - and his son Allen Francis has it now. He raises fine blooded stock - Cattle - has also a big Dairy - milks with electric machinery etc. Your Father & I visited them when we took our trip to Edna's - & on to Renfrew in the 1921 or 2 trip.

Now about Uncle Elisha's children. I have marked those who are his & given you one (Stuart) you did not have. I cannot place - at all - Mary & John Burrell.

Rachel Francis (1830 - 09) Aunt Rachel never married but lived with her Dad & took care of him until he died - in his old home at Kilmarnock, Locks(?). Maggie Muldon (Aunt Jane's daughter) lived with her & never married. There were several Muldoon children. Sam Muldoon came to learn the Axe-making trade when I was a boy & lived with us, at Valley Cottage - 2 yrs at least.

Peter Francis (1824 - 51) never was married; & died, after a few hrs. illness, of "Asiatic - Cholera", while still a young man. Father often spoke about him.

(Mother's Relatives)

Vashta Wood was my mother's sister. She died after 6 wks - "Quick-Consumption" from a severe cold taken after being overheated at a dance. She was 17 or 18.

Marinda Derrick, is also my mother's relative. She was Marinda VanCamp - & her mother (Aunt Sally VanCamp) was mother's sister Sarah L. Wood. Her older sister Evalin VanCamp married Gus Derrick's older brother - and they all used to live out near Merrickville about 6 miles from Kilmarnock.

Now to come back to Grandfather & Mother - "James & Rachel Francis" - of Armagh, Ireland; - & later of Kilmarnock - Lockes on the Rideau river & Canal; - as it winds its way from Kingston at the foot of Lake Ontario to Ottawa City on the Ottawa River, at the foot of the long 9 miles rapid called the 'Chandiere'.

Grand Mother - (Rachel Stuart) was from Glasgow, Scotland. Not so very far from, & due North, from County Antrim, of which Armagh was County seat. She was a Stuart of the "Royal family" of Stuarts of Scotland; - James - Mary - etc she was a direct descendant of These Stuarts; and was, like them, a Roman Catholic religiously.

She dropped dead (of heart failure) one morning as she was preparing breakfast. While crossing the kitchen floor to the stove, with a plate of uncooked sliced-ham in her hands. She sank down & expired before they got to her. I understood father, that he & Uncle Jonathan were in the kitchen at the time, and that he, (father,) was a then a lad 17 yrs. of age. This happened in the Kilmarnock home. Father (Sam'l. Francis) was only 12 years. of age when the family left Armagh for Canada.

In 1827 - (or about that date)

Grandfather & Family came to Canada - & took up residence at Kilmarnock.

James & Rachel Francis -

The following data, & facts, (outside of what I have written concerning their offspring) are authentic, as I obtained them from authentic and competent sources of information, in the years that are past - & relate to grandfather, his past - and (some at least.) of his family.

Grandfather, was, by trade, a Weaver. He produced from his 'hand-loom' fine linnen fabrics. He made a specialty of fine linnen bed-spreads. He brought his loom with him, & sat it up in an up-stairs room. A room, (as I remember) just at the head of the stairs. There, he wrought & wove many a bed-spread; which always had a ready market, in & about, Wolford township -, & in Merrickville - Smith Falls & other adjacent towns.

In the early sixties - (when I was 12 to 14) there came in my young life, a noted & never to be forgotten Visitor - First, to Kilmarnock then to Valley Cottage, to make the acquaintance of her relatives. She came (afterwards) three summers in succession, to spend vacations. She was "Miss Lizzie Francis from Pawtucket, Rhode Island. Where, she owned & managed a factory, which manufactured Ladies "Steel-hoop Skirts". She was Father's (Sam's) first cousin. James Francis of Kilmarnock was her own Uncle. As I recall her, she was a plump, loveley complexioned woman of 35 to 40:- lovely white, or grey hair, black eyes. She was a good linguist - and as P. W. & I listened to the many conversations, which went on in the evenings, on the veranda of the old home, where we gathered in the twilight. Conversations in which she, & father led, (Cousin Sam as she called him), we heard a multitude of things about the

"Francis" clan going way back of Armagh & Ireland. Some of those items are dim memories now, but some of the things she brought out are as clear & vivid as tho' she & my father had uttered them yesterday.

Here are the facts she told us about and explained. My grand-father came from "Angle Sea" or North-West Wales - (just across the Irish Channel from Belfast) either before, or just after his marriage to Rachel Stuart of Glasgow. Father & most of the children, were born, & raised in Armagh living there until they migrated to Canada. A few yrs. later, Lizzie's father - & his brother - (Two, Brothers of grandfather Jas. Francis with their families, came over but to the States; her father settled down in Rhode Island - and the other Bro. (her uncle) went on, & settled in Virginia.

I cannot recall the many things she had to say, about these Uncles & Cousins of my father, just where they were located & what they were doing. It was in father's plans to take us on a visit to Rhode Island - but we never got to make that visit. Nevertheless, from her, we learned, that while her Uncle Jas., (my grandfather), was born & raised in N.W. Wales - his Francis Ancesters came from Normandy, on the Continent, long long before & they were of the Normandy Clan of Francis, that gave to the world, & the church, the great St. Francis of Assissi.

I have made several contacts with some of the Francises in the East & West, as knowledge of them has come to me-: and have, in a trunk, an old trunk, that has

not been unlocked for many years, preserved many letters. Correspondence which has given me information of relationships existing. Thus, I learned, that David R. Francis, - Ex. Gov. Of Missouri, was one of the Virginia descendants of Lizzie Francis' uncle - & my father's uncle.

When you get your tree more complete send me a copy, wont you.

Regarding old stamps. Sorry Edgar but I never made any such collection.

*Thy Francis Greeting to You All
Through - A. V. F.*