

## **The Keddie Story**

by Grant Keddie, Victoria, British Columbia, 2005 A.D.

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Keddies have descended from families of hunter-gathers who, at the end of the last ice age (about 11,000 years ago), migrated out of a glacial refugium that included parts of what is today southern France, the Iberian Peninsula and parts of what became the British Isles. This population was later followed by populations from Neolithic farming communities coming from the middle-east. In a more recent period the Keddies' are likely descended from the Pictish speaking populations living in the Pictish kingdoms described by early Romans after their invasion of the British Isles in 55 B.C. By about the 8<sup>th</sup> century the Gaelic language was introduced into the region from the northeast.

The Venicone tribes, of what later became S.E. Scotland, are the most likely candidates for our not too distant relatives. The Pictish populations were matrilineal societies that traced descent through the female line. Nobility classes inherited their positions through the female line until this practice was eventually replaced due to the invasion and intermarriage with the Scots, who came from Western Scotland after about 500A.D. With the development of independent Kingdoms and the Country of Scotland, the composition of family origins must have continually changed.

The Keddies' came mostly from families living in the highland and lowland areas of Scotland north of the Firth of Forth in the region of Perthshire and Fifeshire. The spelling Keddie is present in Fife by the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Keddies' were concentrated in the area between the towns of Markinch and St. Andrews. Towns such as Dysart, Leuchars, Auchtemuchty, Kilconquhar, Ceres, Cupar and Springfield. They had also migrated early into Edinburgh. The Keddies were mostly Yeoman farmers [carters, farm

contractors, laborers] and crafts people [makers of fine cabinets, silversmiths, hatmakers, bookbinders, shoemakers].

What follows is a history of our name. This information, from scattered historic records, falls into a category more of legend than solid fact. The second part is some of the factual documentation that I have put together based on many kinds of records - mostly birth, christening, marriage, death and census records. In the future I hope to add to this and produce a more comprehensive political, social and geographical history of the many Keddie lineages. I hope to provide the social context in which the Keddies' lived, their occupations and their geographical history as they moved outward to other parts of Britain, the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Hopefully future research will link some of the legend with fact. Future DNA studies of all those with the name Keddie - and historically related names - will help piece together the puzzle of our historic developments.

I hope that many of you out there will help add to this story with your own family details. At some point I will have this material archived with the appropriate research sources for future family members that wish to continue this further. This will also include visual images.

### **THE ORIGIN OF THE NAME KEDDIE**

Surnames were unknown till the thirteenth century, and were not common till the fourteenth. The name of the "feudal superior" was usually taken as the surname, but it did not imply any blood relationship.

Keddie is one of a number of name variations that evolves from MacAidh to Macadie to MacKeddie. Macadie is an anglicized form of the Gaelic name MacAidh (also MacAda). MacAidh is from Aidh, the Gaelic dialectal form of Lowland Scots Adie. The name MacAdie (the clan Aid or Ade) was the last name of a family of one of the

Fergusson clans in the Ardle River valley which drains into the Tay River of Perthshire. Variations in the name (often several versions used for a single individual during their lifetime) include Keddy, Kedy, Kedd, Keady, Keadie, Keaddy, Kyde, Keddey, Keedie, Keyd, Kiddie, Kidie, Kiddy, Kidy, as well as a few miss-readings of the written word such as Kedlie and Keddle.

### **Notes on the Fergusson Connection**

The Fergussons were "much the oldest Atholl clan and probably dates from Pictish times. At one time, the North part of Atholl, including the greater part of this district, lay with the territory of the Northern Picts. When Angus M'Fergus [recorded as Unust son of Uurgust or Oengus son of Fergus], the King of Fortrenn, or of the Southern Picts, defeated and killed the King [Droston] of the Northern Picts at a battle fought at Blathvlag, near Lock Broom, in 729, he united both Kingdoms under his rule, and he seems to have adopted the prudent course of establishing a colony of his loyal followers or "Fergussons" along the old boundary line. Taking the battle field as the centre, the Fergusson country extended to the Bridge of Cally in the East, and to Cluny in Strathtay in the West.

The Fergussons of Dunfallandy, who at one time possessed Cluny and Derculich in Strathtay and the greater part of Strathardle, were regarded as the head of the clan, but so far as known, that branch is now extinct in the male line. The Fergussons had no Chief, as they regarded themselves as the soldiers of the King, and they held the most of their lands till the beginning of the Seventeenth century, not by any feudal title, but by Tacks or Leases at nominal rents for the services of 'watching and warding'.

The earliest written record of the Fergussons goes back to 1232, when the Chartulary of Moray narrates that Gillemichael, son of Adam of Balmacrochie, excambed part

of Pitcarmick in Strathardle with the Bishop of Moray for certain lands in Strathspey. These Strathspey Fergussons were known as M'Adam, softened into M'Adie (also afterwards corrupted into M'Hattie).

The Fergussons had a Charter of Cluny in Strathtay granted by John Balliol, and it may not be the original Charter, but at least it proves their possession of Cluny as far back as the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The MacAdie Fergusons have been identified with the "Clan Aid" of the 1467 Manuscript whose eponymus "Gillamithil son of Aidh falls about the same time as the above "Gillemychel" Mcath" (i.e. 1232).

Several of the Fergusson families in the district were distinguished by patronymics, which after a time were accepted as surnames. The Fergussons of Woodhill in Strathardle from the eldest son being always named 'Adam' were called 'M'Adie', and the Fergussons in Glenbrierachan from the eldest son being named 'Angus' were known as 'M'Angus' which has been softened into 'M'Innes'. In Glenfernate the Fergussons were known as 'M'Robert' or 'M'Robie' from the eldest son being named 'Robert'.

All the extensive Fergusson properties in Atholl are now in other hands, with the exception of Dunfallandy and Balemund" (Mitchell 1923:133-135).

## ANCESTORS OF GRANT KEDDIE LIST

M=Marriage B: Birth C: Christening D: Death

(9) James Keddie (1689 - specific connection to be made - most likely James of July 12, 1689). [M: March 6, 1715, Markinch, Fife, Scotland] Isobel Mitchell (B: about 1690?)

Children:

David (B: March 5; C: March 6, 1715, Markinch)

Elizabeth (B: May 15; C: May 18, 1718, Markinch)

John Keddie (B: Feb. 2; C: February 12, 1721, Markinch)

(8) David Keddie (c: March 6, 1715, Markinch; D: Jan. 2, 1758, Leuchars) Occupation; Weaver. [M: Nov. 10, 1750, Markinch & Leuchars] to Janet (Jean) Fleming (B: Jan. 6, 1721, Wemyss; D: Aug. 3, 1790, Leuchars).

Children:

David (C: Jan. 4, 1752, Leuchars)

Robert (C: Sept. 29, 1754, St. Andrews; c: same, Leuchars)

(7) Robert (B: Sept. 29, 1754, St. Andrews) [M: Jan. 24, 1790, Auchtermuchty; and also Jan. 8, 1790, Markinch as "Robert Kiddy and Nelly 'Helen' Bell"] Helen Bell (B: ? Dec. 8, 1766)

Children:

Margaret (B: Aug. 29; C: Sept. 12, 1790, Markinch - "Kiddy", parents listed as Robert "Kiddy" and "Nelly" Bell)

James (B: Aug.6; C: 12, 1792, Markinch; c: same - mother, Nelly")

Jean (B: June 2: June 8, 1794, Markinch) [M: "Keddy" & Andrew Anderson. Lived in Auchtermuchty in 1812]

John (Apr. 30, 1802, Auchtermuchty)

Barbara Thomson (B: Nov. 26, 1804; C: Dec. 1, Auchtermuchty) [M: June 16, 1828 to James Young]

(6) John (Apr. 30, 1802, Auchtermuchty). Occupation: Carter. [M: Nov.27, 1830, Kilconquhar] Isobel Mathewson (B: July 26, 1797, Scoonie; D: 1869).

Children:

John (B: Apr. 11, 1830, Kilconquhar, mother as "Isabella")

Andrew (B: Mar. 2, 1831, Kilkconquhar)

James (B: Sept. 04; C: Nov. 2, 1835, Kilconquhar). Mother as "Bell Mathewson".

(5) John (B: Apr. 11, 1830, Kilconquhar; D: Feb. 16, 1915) Occupation: Carter. [M: Apr. 30, 1852, Kilconquhar. Reg. June 30, 1852, Ceres] Elizabeth Robertson (B: Aug. 17, 1830, Cupar; D: Feb. 22, 1913, Coaltown and Gallange, Ceres [Cupar]).

Children:

John (B: 1854) Occupation: in 1875 - shoemaker. [his son John Keddie lived in Leith in 1911, as did his c. 5yr old son William].

Alexander (B: Dec. 8, 1855, Cameron)

Andrew (B: Nov. 7, 1857, Scoonie)

Isabella (B: Nov. 22, 1859, Ceres)

James (B: Nov. 7, 1861, Ceres)

Thomas (B: Jan. 11, 1864, Ceres)

David Henderson (B: Feb. 12, 1866, Ceres)

Jessie (B: Feb. 12, 1868, Ceres)

William (B: Jan. 21, 1870, Ceres)

Ann (B: Mar. 4, 1872, Kemback)

(4) Alexander (B: Dec. 8, 1855, Cameron) [M: Oct. 16, 1885, Springfield, District of Cupar] Helen Keltie (B: Jan. 18, 1863; D: c. 1937). Occupation in 1890 - Locomotive fireman for Northern British Railways.

Children:

Jean "Jane" (B: June 11, 1883, Fife)

Elizabeth (B: Abt 1884; D: Abt. 1972, Toronto, Canada) M: Robert Brown of Toronto - daughter Audrey lived in Toronto in 1990.

Mary (B: Abt. 1887, Fife; D: About 1940, Dunfermline, Fife)

John (B: July 31, 1890, Burntisland, Fife; D: 1990, Beloiel, Quebec, Canada)

Joan (B: Abt. 1893, Fife; D: Abt. 1965, Fife) (M: Thomas Oswald of Dunfermline). Occupation: Singer and Actress.

Helen ("Nel") (B: Jan. 16, 1896, Fife; D: Sept. 13, 1967) Married and moved to Detroit - lived on Steel Ave.)

Isabella (B: Nov. 1897, Fife; D: Jan. 1977). Married Robert ("Robin") Clark (B: July 16, 1896.

Agnes (B: Abt. 1898, Dunfermline, Fife; D: Abt. 1975). Married Robert Welsh, Buckhaven, Fife.

(3) John (B: July 31, 1890, East Port, Burntisland, Fife; D: 1990, Beloiel, Quebec, Canada). Occupation: hardware store clerk in Toronto 1912-c.1915; Canadian Industries Explosives Plant, Perry Sound Ontario; Office Manger for CIL at McMasterville Quebec; Canada Explosives Board in Winnipeg during World War II. [M: Toronto, Canada, June 25, 1915] Maude Coutts Cree (B: Oct. 14, 1893, Townhill, Cowdenbeath, Fife; D: 1978, Montreal, Quebec)