

STIRPES, Texas State Genealogical Society Quarterly  
Vol. VI, December 1966, No. 4, pp. 151-154

AN INNES GENEALOGICAL FILE

By Edna Perry Deckler

Anyone interested in tracing a Scottish family history is fortunate if he owns a copy of the New York Public Library's THE SURNAMEN OF SCOTLAND: THEIR ORIGIN, MEANING AND HISTORY, by George F. Black. Genealogical Book Company of Baltimore, Maryland, has a second reprinting (1965) available of this fine text. On page 376 of this excellent reference is the following data on the surname INNES, copied for this particular Innes File:

INNES. Of territorial origin from the barony of the same name in the parish of Urquhart, Moray. Part of the barony is an island formed by two branches of a stream running through it, hence the name (from Gaelic innis, 'island'). The first of the name in record was a Fleming named Berowald ('Berowaldus Flandrensis'), who obtained from Malcolm IV a charter of the lands of Inness et Etherurecard (Easter Urquhart) in the province of Elgin (Registrum episcopatus Moraviensis... Edinburgh, 1832, p. 453-454). The existence of this Berowald is confirmed by a charter to his grandson, Walter de Ineys, granted in 1226: "Alexander Dei gratia Rex Scotorum, etc. sciunt non concessisse et hae charto confirmasse Waltero filio Johannis filii Berowaldi Flandrensis Inees) (Innes Familie, p. 53). Berowald or Beroald continued a favorite name in the family. Beroald Innes of Knockorth is recorded in 1633 (Miscellany of the Spalding Club. Aberdeen, 1841-52, III, p. 83), and Beroald Innes was appointed schoolmaster of Bellie, 1664 (Extracts from the presbytery book of Strathbogie, A. D. 1631-1654. Aberdeen, 1843, p. 146.) This Walter de Ineys, who appears to have been the first to assume the territorial designation, witnesses a composition between the bishop of Moray and W. de Petyne relating to the lands of Ardtrillen, Duldavy, Lunnin, etc., in 1226 (Registrum episcopatus Moraviensis... Edinburgh, 1832, p. 25), and another agreement between the bishop and David de Strathbolgyn in 1232 (ibid, p. 30). William de Ineys swore fealty at Aberdeen in 1296. The device on his seal is a star of six points, S' Will'i de Ynays (Calendar of documents relating to Scotland preserved in the Public Record Office. Edited by Joseph Bain. Edinburgh, 1881-84, II, 785). Robertus de Innes, juror on inquest in 1389 regarding the mill lands of Quarelwode (REM, p. 171). A branch of the family of Innes of Innes is found in Caithness, 1507. Innice 1685.

And what does all this mean? Nothing unless it can be given some meaning by close study and work. And like all good family

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historians, tracing should begin with the present and go backward in time. This data is rather a kind of map to be used for future exploration. But one item does strike a note of interest. The fact that a "six pointed star" is used as early as 1296 by an Innes is interesting. Today in Lexington, Kentucky, the old John Price Innes home that was purchased by James S. Rockefeller of Greenwich, Connecticut, in the late 1930's, has a pattern of trees planted in a six-pointed star by the Innes family.

The first bearer of the Innes surname in this file is one Sue Innes born 14 November 1844, married 3 September 1868, and died 22 April 1914. She was born and married in Lexington, Kentucky, in the home of her father, John Price Innes. She married John William Burgess. She died in Fort Worth, Texas, in the home of her daughter, Mary, on Belknap Street. She just stepped off the streetcar and walked into the house and sat down in her favorite rocking chair and passed away.

In Lexington Cemetery, Lexington, Kentucky is an INNES plot and a BURGESS plot where many of this intermarried family are buried. All of the children of Sue Innes Burgess and John William Burgess were born in Lexington, except the baby daughter (youngest daughter, Mary (Estill--named for a neighbor family) Burgess, who was born in Fort Worth.

Sue Innes was the daughter of John Price Innes and his first wife, Lydia Ann Spears. (See MAJOR genealogy in volume 3, page 93, REGISTER OF KENTUCKY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.) Their children were John Price Innes, Jr.; Nancy S. Innes; Margaret S. Innes; James Innes (C. S. A., died of wounds received in battle--a letter from an officer about him written to Sue Innes, his sister, is in this file.); Susan "Sue" Innes; and Elizabeth Varnon Innes.

John Price Innes married 2ndly Columbia Davis and had issue:- Mary Innes, Burunes Innes, George W. Innes, and America Innes who married George Whitney.

John Price Innes was the son of James Innes who had married "Nancy" Ann Major Price, daughter of Elizabeth Redd Major and her husband, John Price, Jr.

James Innes (1782-1823), the father of John Price Innes, was the son of Hugh Innes who married Hannah Eggleston (See marriage notice in the VIRGINIA GAZETTE) in 1772.

According to a chart prepared by Sir Thomas Innes of Learney, Lord Lyon King of Arms, Her Majesty's Register House, Edinburgh, Scotland, that is in this file, Hugh Innes and his twin brother, Berowald, were born August 12th, 1729. They had a brother, Robert born June 28, 1720, who married Catharine Richards. This line of Robert seems extinct.

Hugh Innes, born 1729, was the son of William Innes in Wester Alves, born 1686, married Margaret Mackay, born July 23, 1686.

William Innes in Wester Alves, born 1686, was the son of Berowald Innes of Inch-Stellie, Minister of Alves, Chanter of Moray who married Jean Falconer, daughter of Colin Bishop of Moray.

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Berowald Innes of Inch-Stellie who married Jean Falconer was the son of James, Burge of Elgin. James, Burge of Elgin had a brother Alexander Innes of Elgin, and they were the sons of Alexander Innes of Coxton Tower.

Alexander Innes of Coxton Tower was the son of Peter Innes of the Keam, youngest son of Walter Innes of Innermarkie.

In a letter from the Lord Lyon, King of Arms, Sir Thomas Innes of Learney from the Court of the Lord Lyon, H. M. Register House, Edinburgh, dated 20th June, 1955, in the file, quote:

" I have received your letter of 10th June with much interest. I am glad you are working on your Innes cousins, and I feel pretty sure about the origins of your grandmother's branch of the family being from some branch of Inneses, viz. Innes of Inchstellie in Moray, the same branch as Judge Harry Innes, and which branch descends from the Reverend Berowald Innes, Minister of Alves, and Chanter of the Diocese of Moray, who was descended from the House of Innes of Coxton, and Innes of Coxton was descended from Patrick, younger brother of the great Robert Innes of Innermarkie.

...You can dismiss as rubbish the claim on the 40,000 dollar Innes fortune, which relates to the banker family of Innes of Stow, and the money went to the Mitchell-Inneses in 1837, and most of it has been squandered or confiscated in estate duties. About 1850 a "racket" was started, partly in this country and partly in America, to induce gullible people to subscribe to a syndicate to attack the Mitchell-Innes succession to the "Stow millions," but nothing came of attempts which were in themselves groundless, and in regard to which British Courts of Justice are far-seeing and careful. These claims never even came into Court, and so far as I can see were merely efforts by the promoters of the syndicate to get subscriptions. They did, however do a great deal of harm by inducing many Inneses to believe that some way or another they were descended from Innes of Stow, a branch of which the origin has never yet been fully cleared up, but it was probably an illegitimate cade of Innes of Toux. All I need observe is that in this, as in two or three other descent cases for Innes Families, you have to seek the truth irrespective of confusing and groundless statements of "Stow" ancestry.

I am glad to see that your own tradition is quite properly deduced in a manner which would be actually quite incompatible with a "Stow" connection. On the other hand, as we see, you have already adduced circumstances that are quite compatible with a descent from Innes of Inchstellie, the Minister of Alves.

Coxton Tower, the fortress of the baronial branch from which Inchstellie derived, is a pretty little turretted tower three miles east of Elgin. I hope to investigate the Reverence Berowald Innes' tombstone at Alves probably sometime this summer. No one has yet fully read the inscription on it, which is rather difficult as it is about 20 ft. up on the wall...."

On the pedigree chart is shown that Robert who married Janet Gilzean (this Robert Innes was born June 28, 1720, and took orders and went to Virginia and was the husband of Catherine Richards) had sons: Robert, M. D., married Rebecca Warrener; Harry of Cedar Hill, Judge U. S. Supreme Court; and James, Col., U. S. Army, d. 1798.

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Col. James Innes, U. S. Army, Attorney General of Virginia, died 1798, married Eliz Janislocke and had one daughter, Anne, who married Peyton Randolph.

Harry Innes of Cedar Hill, U. S. Supreme Ct. Judge married twice and had only five daughters.

Robert Innes, M. D., the brother of Harry and James, married Rebecca Warrenner.

In a letter in the file dated 8 Feb. 1960, from the Lord Lyon, Sir Thomas Innes of Learney, he writes: "...The effect of the new information is, as you will see, to indicate that Berowald the Chanter of Moray now appears as a legitimate cadet-branch descending from the younger son of Alexander Innes 1st of Coxtan Tower and not from a natural son of John Innes of Culdrain as had been supposed from the pedigree in which Sir Hugh Innes of Lochalsh endeavored to make him out a brother of Sir Alexander Innes 4th of Coxtan. The remoter but legitimate descent which now appears is of course consistent with the type of difference (the open book of a minister) found between the stars upon the Chanter's monument on the east gable of the old kirk of Alves. I have read with much interest the bulletin of the Genealogical Society and congratulate you on its doing so well...."

In the file is a letter written April 23, 1959, to Miss Marion Q. Farlow, R. R. 3, Box 877-C, Indianapolis, Indiana, which states: "James Innes (1782-1823) was the son of Hugh Innes, married 1772, James County, Virginia; buried March 22, 1794 in Virginia; and his wife Hannah Eggleston. A copy of the will of Hugh Innes is on file in the Virginia State Library at Richmond and I had a copy of it made and sent it to Sir Thomas Innes of Learney, Lord Lyon King of Arms, in Edinburgh. In this will, Hugh Innes mentions his son James among his children left land in Kentucky.

An earlier letter--from Miss Farlow to the owner of this file--states that she is descended from Francis Innis who married Marjorie Millikin of Canada and Pennsylvania. She says, "We are interested in data on Nathaniel Innis who lived in Woodford County, Kentucky, 1790, and was a son of Francis Innis of Tuscarora Creek and Ft. Bigham, 1751-9." By "We" she means herself and a Miss Ione Innis, Box 668, Newhall, California.

A letter dated January 19, 1961, from Mrs. Robert S. Innes, 3275 West Shadowlawn Ave., N. E., Atlanta, Georgia, who is interested in a Robert and John Innes who settled first in Pa. and later in Phillipsburg, New Jersey, after having served in the American Revolution. Her Robert Innes was born 1734 and died July 31, 1813, as recorded in Innes Bible in her possession.