

## Chapter 21 - The Diaspora of Our Relatives

**Introduction:** Diaspora is a word that means the movement, migration, or scattering of a people away from an established or ancestral homeland. In a way, a study of diaspora is a “reverse genealogy.” Rather than tracing our ancestors up the family tree, we look towards tracking the descendants (our relatives) to where they live now. Using my DNA matches and family trees that have been shared with me, I was able to track the locations of the “end descendants” of many of our ancestors. I will identify where each branch of the family originates from and give a listing of the geographic places where the end descendants are known to live today. However, as many of the living end descendants desire privacy, their places of current residence is not known, so the locations identified in this chapter are really only a fraction of the total diaspora of our relatives.

What I have found to be remarkable is the very wide distribution of our relatives. But as a side note, I found it fascinating when I have come across “near misses.” These near misses are where we actually had a relative that lived near our immediate family location and we didn’t know it. One example of this is Fr. Joseph Murphy (our first cousin, once removed). He was a Catholic priest serving in Pomona, CA during the 1980s. This is when I and my family were living not far away in Hesperia, CA. Another example is how several descendants of Peder Jensen (brother of our Great Grandfather Christoffer Jensen) were residents of San Marcos, CA in the 1940s and 1950s when our Grandmother Hattie Jensen McLane (their cousin) was living in Santa Monica, CA.

Over the years I have become acquainted and made contact with many distant relatives. In doing so I have learned where these relatives and their families are living now. Further, through DNA matches identified by Ancestry.DNA and Family Tree DNA I have learned the current locations of many of those matches (at least those who choose to provide this information). I will mention here some of those locations sorted according to the family groupings of each of our great grandparents. The bottom line is that we have relatives all over the world with most of these concentrated in Canada and the United States.

To start with, for the most part, our immediate family are from Southern California after our parents and grandparents had migrated there in about 1939. We remained in Southern California through to the 1970s, but began to disperse after that. With only five siblings in our family, it is amazing just how widespread we are now. We and our descendants live in such places as: Huntington Beach, CA, Moreno Valley, CA, Placentia, CA, Sacramento, CA, Temecula, CA, Boise, ID, Meridian, ID, Dekalb, IL, Silver City, NM, Haslet, TX, and Herriman, UT.

### Relatives of the McLanes

Our oldest DNA relatives are those that share our YDNA. A branch of the Vincent line was known to have first inhabited Lower Yonkers, NY in 1675.

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Also related to us by YDNA are those of the Biglane surname from County Sligo, Ireland. They and their descendants had migrated to such places as: Alameda, CA, Santa Rosa, CA, Jones County, MS, Cleveland, OH, and Scranton, PA.

We also have some autosomal DNA matches to a Patrick McLean from County Sligo, Ireland whose descendant are known to live in such places as: Brooklyn, NY, Jamaica, NY, Long Island, NY, and Queens, NY.

Our ancestors who were the first to arrive in North America in 1806, was the Miles Murphy and Marguerite Nowlan family. They came to Quebec, Canada and settled in St. Marie de Beauce and their son Andrew Murphy was the first settler in Frampton Township, Quebec. I perhaps have tracked more descendants of this family than any other relatives of ours. These Murphy descendants are today found in such Canadian places as: Frampton, Quebec; Granby, Quebec; Grande Riviere, Quebec; St. Marie De Beauce, Quebec; N.Vancouver, British Columbia; Calgary, Alberta; Edmonton, Alberta; Medicine Hat, Alberta; St. Albert, Alberta; Valley View, Alberta; Oakville, Ontario; and Stittsville, Ontario. These descendants are found in the U.S. in Modesto, CA; Redding, CA; San Diego, CA; San Francisco, CA; San Jose, CA; Hartford, CT; Ft. Collins, CO; Grinnell, IA; Grandview, ID; Lewiston, ID; Shreveport, LA; Springfield, MA; Worcester, MA; Baltimore, MD; Auburn, ME; Bangor, ME; Lewiston, ME; Portland, ME; Rumford, ME; Duluth, MN; Woodsville, NH; Hamilton, NJ; Hillsborough, NJ; Rome, NY; Columbus, OH; Oklahoma City, OK; Roseburg, OR; Trevese, PA; Boerne, TX; Tyler, TX; Fairmont, WV; Vancouver, WA; Marshfield, WI; and Neillsville, WI.

Another Frampton, Quebec family we are related to are the O'Farrells. O'Farrell descendants can be found in such places as: Edmonton, Alberta; Vancouver, British Columbia; Cranbourne, Quebec; Montreal, Quebec; Los Angeles, CA; Ft. Lauderdale, FL; Orlando, FL; Auburn, ME; Bath, ME; Winslow, ME; Spokane, WA; and La Crosse, WI.

Another Frampton, Quebec family we are related to are the O'Connors. O'Connor descendants can be found in such places as: Burlingame, CA; Hayward, CA; Los Angeles, CA; San Jose, CA; Hammond, LA; and Norwood, MA.

Our Great Grandfather John McLane and his siblings would find their way to the United States. His sister Ann McLane's descendants are found in such places as: Chico, CA; Monterey, CA; Redding, CA; Sacramento, CA; Santa Barbara, CA; and Shingletown, CA. His sister Catherine's descendants are found in such places as: Hemet, CA and Oklahoma City, OK. His sister Mary McLane's descendants are found in such places as: San Mateo, CA; Portland, ME; Waterville, ME and West Forks, ME.

Our Grandfather Miles McLane migrated with his family from Quebec to Neillsville, WI. Hence many of his sibling's families were located in the United States. His sister Anastasia (Stacy) McLane's descendants are found in such places as: Minneapolis, MN and Ramsey, MN. His sister Helen McLane's descendants are found in such places as: Fresno, CA; Moundsview, MN; St. Paul, MN and Waupun, WI. His sister Esther McLane's descendants are found in Kansas City, MO. In Contrast to Miles and his sisters, his brother Moses McLane had migrated to Canada to settle and his descendants are found in such places as: Dawson Creek, British Columbia; Prince George, British Columbia; Vancouver, British Columbia; Acadia Valley, Alberta; Edmonton, Alberta; Grande Prairie, Alberta and Lacombe, Alberta.

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### **Relatives of the Jensens**

Our Great Grandparents Christoffer Jensen and Kirsten Hendriksdatter have descendants and relatives who live throughout the United States in such places as: Los Angeles, CA; San Marcos, CA, Sacramento, CA; Manhattan, KS, Allendale, MI, Fergus Falls, MN; Lakefield, MN; Minneapolis, MN; St. Paul, MN; Tower, MN; Wyoming, MN; Big Timber, MT; Livingston, MT; Molt, MT; Greenville, NC; Bismarck, ND; Fargo, ND; Minot, ND; Sioux City, NE; New Salem, SD; Redfield, SD; Katy, TX; Tyler, TX; Bremerton, WA and Riverton, WY.

### **Relatives of the McLeans/Samsons**

We have a unique situation where both the family of our Grandparents Harvey McLean and Elizabeth Samson and the family of their respective siblings Lewie Samson and Marie McLean have family members that descend from both the McLeans and the Samsons. The descendants of these families are located in such places as: Pleasanton, CA; Denver, CO; Minneapolis, MN; Fargo, ND; Grand Forks, ND and Park River, ND.

### **Relatives of the McLeans**

The line of the McLeans that go back the farthest are those ancestors and relatives that had lived on the Isle of Tiree in Scotland. Some of these descendants actually stayed in the British Isles in such places as: Liverpool, England; Barrhead, Scotland; Glasgow, Scotland and Oban, Scotland.

There were other lines of descendants from Tiree families that would find their way to the other side of the world and are located in such places as: Brisbane, Australia; Hamilton, Australia; Ingham, Australia; Melbourne, Australia; Sydney, Australia; Christ Church, New Zealand; Gisborne, New Zealand; Palmerston North, New Zealand and Wellington, New Zealand.

As our McLean ancestors and many of their relatives migrated from Scotland to Canada, a lot of these descendants can be found in such Canadian locations as: Edmonton, Alberta; Lethbridge, Alberta; Sherwood Park, Alberta; Abbotsville, British Columbia; Vancouver, British Columbia; Brandon, Manitoba; Ft. Alexander, Manitoba; Russell, Manitoba; Winnipeg, Manitoba; Caledon, Ontario; Chatham, Ontario; Hamilton, Ontario; Havelock, Ontario; Huntsville, Ontario; Kearny, Ontario; Oakville, Ontario; Ottawa, Ontario; Thunder Bay, Ontario; Toronto, Ontario; Willowdale, Ontario; Montreal, Quebec and Regina, Saskatchewan.

Our McLean ancestors and some of their close relative migrated from Ontario, Canada to the United States. Their descendants can be found in such places as: Northridge, CA; San Diego, CA; Denver, CO; Coeur d'Alene, ID; Pontiac, IL; Detroit, MI; Hillman, MI; Oakland, MI; Redford, MI; Elk River, MN; Fargo, ND; Grand Forks, ND; Williston, ND; Fernley, NV; Barker, NY; Somerset, OH; Wooster, OH; Brandford, PA; Naskville, TN; Payson, UT; Powhatan, VA; Bainbridge Island, WA and Kennewick, WA.

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### Relatives of the Samsons

The Samsons were from Iceland and there are still relatives that remain in Iceland in such places as Aukreyri, Iceland, Reykjavik, Iceland, Saudarkrokur, Iceland, and Skagafjordur, Iceland.

Our Great Grandparents Jonas Samson and Katrin Asmundsdottir first came from Iceland to North Dakota. But after the death of our Great Grandmother Katrin Asmundsdottir, Jonas Samson remarried and migrated to Saskatchewan, Canada. So there are two branches of Samson descendants, those that live in Canada and those that live in the United States.

The Canadian branch of descendants live in such places as: Calgary, Alberta; Red Deer, Alberta; Abbotsville, British Columbia; Burnaby, British Columbia; Comox, British Columbia; Dawson Creek, British Columbia; Fort St. John, British Columbia; Nanaimo, British Columbia; Surrey, British Columbia; Vancouver, British Columbia; Victoria, British Columbia; White Rock, British Columbia; Anola, Manitoba; Arborg, Manitoba; Gimli, Manitoba; Lakeland, Manitoba; Riverton, Manitoba; Winnipeg, Manitoba; Kenora, Ontario; Sudbury, Ontario; Montreal, Quebec; Leslie, Saskatchewan; Tantallon, Saskatchewan; Turtleford, Saskatchewan and Wynyard, Saskatchewan.

The United States branch of descendants live in such places as: Berkeley, CA; Los Angeles, CA; Modesto, CA; Ontario, CA; Fairway, KS; Ft. Wayne, IN; Melrose, MA; Duluth, MN; Moorhead, MN; Minneapolis, MN; Osakis, MN; Stephen, MN; St. Paul, MN; Billings, MT; Denver, CO; Akra, ND; Cavalier, ND; Devils Lake, ND; Dickinson, ND; Fargo, ND; Grand Forks, ND; Mandan, ND; Milton, ND; Minot, ND; Minto, ND; Raton, NM; Rochester, NY; Norman, OK; Stillwater, OK; Hillsboro, OR; Portland, OR; Summerville, SC; Houston, TX; Salt Lake City, UT; Ashburn, VA; Blacksburg, VA; Bellingham, WA; Blaine, WA; Lake Forest Park, WA; Lakewood, WA; Snohomish, WA and La Crosse, WI.