

*Remembering the Knights*

THE 2014 KNIGHT FAMILY CALENDAR

## *Christmas, 2013*

Our 2014 calendar celebrates William and Catherine Goggin Knight, paternal grandparents to the Knight kids and maternal great grandparents of the Kemp sisters. Will was born in 1853 and Kate was born in 1864 during the Civil War, so long ago that they would be strangers to us without the lore they left and the family they raised. Of all of us, only Jerry has a vague memory at barely a year old of sitting in grandpa's lap and hearing the tick of a big railroad watch held to his ear.

In addition to Kate and Will, this calendar tells stories of the first generation of their offspring, from Josie, the oldest, born in 1983, down to Mickey, the twelfth and last, born in 1907. We have given special attention to Josie and her husband, Tim Coughlin, and their children, Bill Coughlin and Catherine Coughlin Kemp, because they hold a prominent role in the history of our entire family.

This project began in April of this year when seven of the Knight descendants met for a day of mustering as many old family stories as we could and sharing bits of information. Each of the Kemp sisters, Patty, Charlene, Mary Kay and Jo Beth were there, and the Knights were represented by Kathi, Jim and me. We were hosted by Kathi and Gene in their condo at the Welk Resort near San Diego.

The Kemp sisters brought a scrapbook kept by their mom with clippings and photographs covering a span of some eight decades. Their mom also contributed to the family history book that is in many of our homes. Both of these collections were resources in this project.

Our great (and grand) niece, Cameron Kathleen Clay, has joined me this year as the co-editor of our calendar. Cam is a talented and creative writer, a hard worker and a fun companion. Together, our greatest hope for this, the 2014 edition of the Knight Family Calendar, is that it manages to tell some of the story of the lively beginnings of our big family, widespread and diverse but closely knit. Cameron and I hope you enjoy it.

Love,

Denny

Roots ...

**Patrick Adams** and **Kathrine Gragry** were both born in Ireland where they were married, possibly around 1840 but maybe a little earlier. Their daughter, **Johanna Adams** was born in County Kerry on June 21, 1841. There were other children.

Patrick and Kathrine migrated with their children to the United States during the potato famine around 1850, settling in Kentucky where Johanna married **Thomas Goggin** in 1858 or 1859. Three children were born in Kentucky, Mike Goggin in 1860, **Catherine (Kate) Goggin** in 1864 and Thomas Goggin in 1865. The family moved to Plattsburg, Missouri in 1870 where the parents lived out their lives.

Johanna Adams Goggin was a homemaker and is remembered as a forerunner of the social worker, giving much of her time to those in need. Her daughter Kate sometimes accompanied her mother on her tours of mercy. **Catharine Jenkins Knight** was ill with typhoid, and Johanna with Kate went to the Knight home to help in their time of need. Kate was impressed with Catharine’s son **William Knight** because he was so attentive to his mother.

**John Knight** was born May 16, 1817 in County Mayo, Ireland. He came to the United States in 1840, landing at Baltimore, and settled in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia where he married **Catharine Jenkins** in 1850. Some records say Catharine was born in the Shenandoah Valley, but from the recollections of Johanna (Josie) Knight Coughlin, she was born in Wales in 1830.

John and Catharine lived in Virginia until 1855 when they moved to Boone County, Kentucky. From there, they moved to Missouri in 1857 or 1858 and stopped first in Macon County to work on the Hannibal and St. Joe Railroad. He also worked on the railroad in Platte County and then was engaged in building a turnpike road, before moving to Ray County, Mo for the rest of their lives.

The children of John Knight and Catharine Jenkins Knight were Mary Jane Knight, born 5/16/1852, **William Knight**, born 12/16/1853, Ellen Knight, born 12/26/1856, Amanda and her twin Michael born 6/4/1860, and Anne, born 11/11/68. There were three other children who likely died in infancy.

**Catherine Goggin** and **William Knight** were married in 1882 in Plattsburg, Missouri.  
Kate was not quite eighteen but her father Thomas Goggin gave permission for her marriage.

The Children of William and Kate												
	Johanna	Charles	Mary	Nellie	John	Catherine	William	Julia	Margaret	Thomas	Gertrude	Emmett
	(Josie)	(Charlie)	(Mayme)	(Nell)		(Katie)	(Bill)	(Julie)		(Tom)		(Mickey)
Born	1/28/1883	8/11/1884	12/23/1887	12/26/1889	1890	3/12/1892	7/2/1895	5/16/1897	6/30/1899	6/6/1901	6/1903	7/6/1907
Died	2/19/1979	2/1964	6/16/1976	12/13/1978	Died at Birth	10/30/1918	6/3/1937	1953	8/16/1978	12/5/1997	1918	6/8/1987
Spouse	Timothy Coughlin	Eva	J.P. Downey	Dolph Colson		Barnie McGue		“Doc” Hunt	Raymond Wright			Geraldine Payton

## *Vignettes of Life on the D&RG ...*

William Knight owned a successful bar in Missouri when, in 1888, he and Kate decided to move to Colorado to be closer to family in a covered wagon when Josie was five, Charlie was four and Mayme was still a baby. William had secured an offer by way of his brother, Michael, to take a job as a gandy dancer on the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad.

By 1910, William had been made a section foreman and served in that role at various places along the track, including Silverton and Carbondale Junction in Colorado, and Aztec and Farmington in New Mexico, where he was 'pensioned' at some point in the early 1920's.

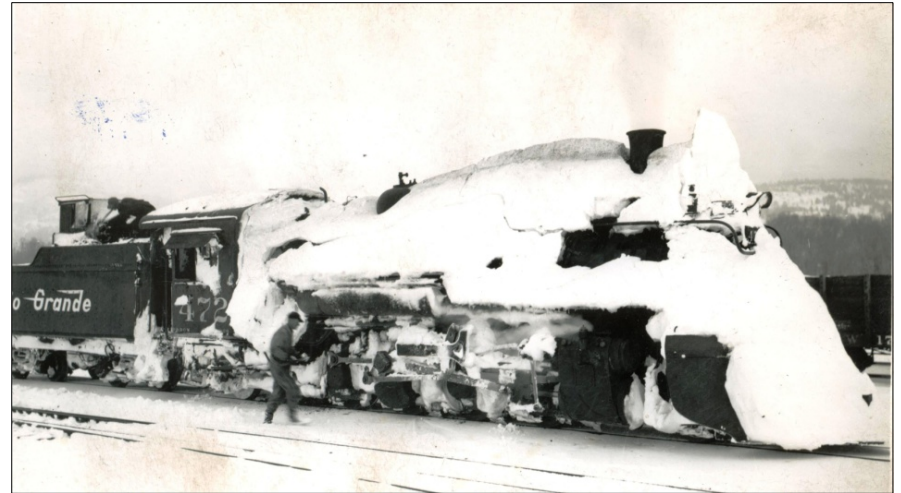
Most of the section houses that the Knights occupied were in Navajo country. A family legend holds that one time a couple of Indians curiously peered into the kitchen window. But Grandma Knight was friendly and hospitable, and she soon made it a habit to leave an extra loaf of freshly baked bread in the window. The Knights and the Navajos shared the beautiful countryside in peace.

Josie and Nell were in their twenties, about 1910, when they took a stroll in the mountains. They were very late in returning home. Josie later admitted they actually had gone to a German friend's home to spend a happy afternoon imbibing in fine home brewed beer.

Another story from Josie's granddaughter Charlene has Josie and one of her sisters laying flat on the ties when caught crossing the tracks with a train bearing down. They seem to have been fortunate indeed that the narrow gage engine and cars were high enough off the ground.

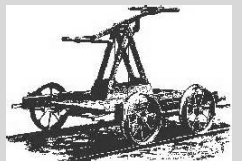
Some of us still use the expression, "That's a hell of a way to run a railroad!" We may have inherited it from our Grandpa Knight.

Along the Durango to Silverton route, the snow would get so deep that you had go out and in from the section house from a second story window.



*This photo from about 1940 seems to match a clipping of unknown origin in Catherine Kemp's scrapbook. The clipping reads: "The pictures show snow all but covering the locomotives run by A. H. Basket and **Tim Coughlin** of Alamosa, who were marooned for 30 hours without sleep or food as the crews remained on their snowbound engines to keep up steam and heat the cars. It was the worst experience either of the engineers had had in almost 40 years of running the Santa Fe branch."*

Gas and electric powered handcars were recent innovations in the business of running a railroad. The idea appealed to an aging William Knight, tiring of pumping his way up and down the track to inspect his section of some twenty miles. His request to the D&RG was met by a visitor who came to his door to announce that he was the new section foreman. Grandpa Knight was officially retired as of that date, with three days to move his family from the section house. Although newspaper clippings at the time say he had been 'pensioned', family lore has it that he did not receive a retirement because he had once participated in a strike and lost his seniority.



Will Knight hired out on the D&RG as a gandy dancer, a worker who maintained the track. It was hard work and it took him over twenty years to finally rise to be a section foreman.

He then became the overseer of other workers on rail sections of about twenty miles in length. The origin of the term *gandy dancer* likely refers to the movements of the workers using a gandy, a bar used as leverage to keep the tracks in alignment.



Mickey, Nellie, Mayme,  
Josie, Margaret and Tom  
1973

## Josie and Tim ...



Johanna Knight weds Timothy Coughlin  
September 23, 1912

During the great depression, hobos often came to their back door for helpings of Josie's home cooked food.

Tim was the only member of the big Knight family who migrated from Ireland. The wit and charm he imported to the family was beloved by all.

Tim's migration to the America in 1900 was sponsored by Timothy Carr, the husband of Josie's Aunt Mary.

Tim and a visiting brother-in-law might wish to partake of a little libation, but first he would ask "D'ye suppose we might be 'avin' a wee drap now, Josie?"

As the oldest of the eleven children, Josie definitely took charge, earning the lifelong nickname of "Bossy Jo."

Josie was photogenic and throughout her life loved having her picture taken.

Josie was twenty-nine when she married Tim, but she had been engaged at different times to three others.

The Coughlin's home at 404 Bell Street in Alamosa came by mail order from Sears. When the parents moved to Alamosa from Durango, they lived in a house behind, at 404½ Bell.

Tim would praise Josie's cooking, "Ye put a good scorch on it, Josie..."



The Honeymoon Trip

Mary Kay said her grandfather Tim Coughlin had been a "hedgerow child" in Ireland. Cameron researched and wrote this excellent article for us:

### The Hedgerow Children

In an attempt to force Irish Catholics to accept and adhere to the Anglican Church of England during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, the Protestant dominated parliament of Ireland passed the Penal Laws; prohibiting Irish Catholics from voting, owning or purchasing land and from educating their children. Instead of giving into parliament's game the Catholics held tightly onto their faith, and with subtle defiance, Priests and educated Irish men conducted schools in hiding to educate the children.

Though they might be held in barns, huts or even caves, the name sake of these clandestine schools comes from their most popular location, behind hedgerows. Because it was a crime punishable by death if a Catholic were to educate others or act as a teacher, one boy would always be designated to stand watch for British soldiers during the lessons.

For an education that took place behind a hedgerow, students were scholastically well rounded. For a fee of approximately twenty-five cents per month, hedge schoolmasters taught the basics of reading, writing, math and Irish History as well as a more classical subjects of Greek and Roman. The education they secretly provided was priceless, and if it was their desire, a hedgerow student could readily continue his education in college.

The Penal Laws were repealed and prohibited in the Catholic Emancipation Act of 1829 but hedgerow schools continued as a result of rural poverty and the lack of resources as much as religious suppression. In a late nineteen hundreds census, of the 550,000 enrolled students, 403,000 were reportedly hedgerow pupils. With such a vast range of students, hedge schools proved successful in producing many influential individuals.

To the dismay of Parliament, many boys went on to become Catholic priests and educators. Edmund Rice, for example, founded the "Christian Brothers" association. Others such as, Charles Macklin, broke away from professions within the church and changed the greater world. Macklin became a famous actor and playwright in London. In his plays, he introduced a new and controversial method of acting. Instead of directly addressing the audience, characters in his plays only talked to one another.

Based upon my completely biased opinion, of all the hedgerow students of Ireland, the most influential was Uncle Tim Coughlin.

- Cameron Clay



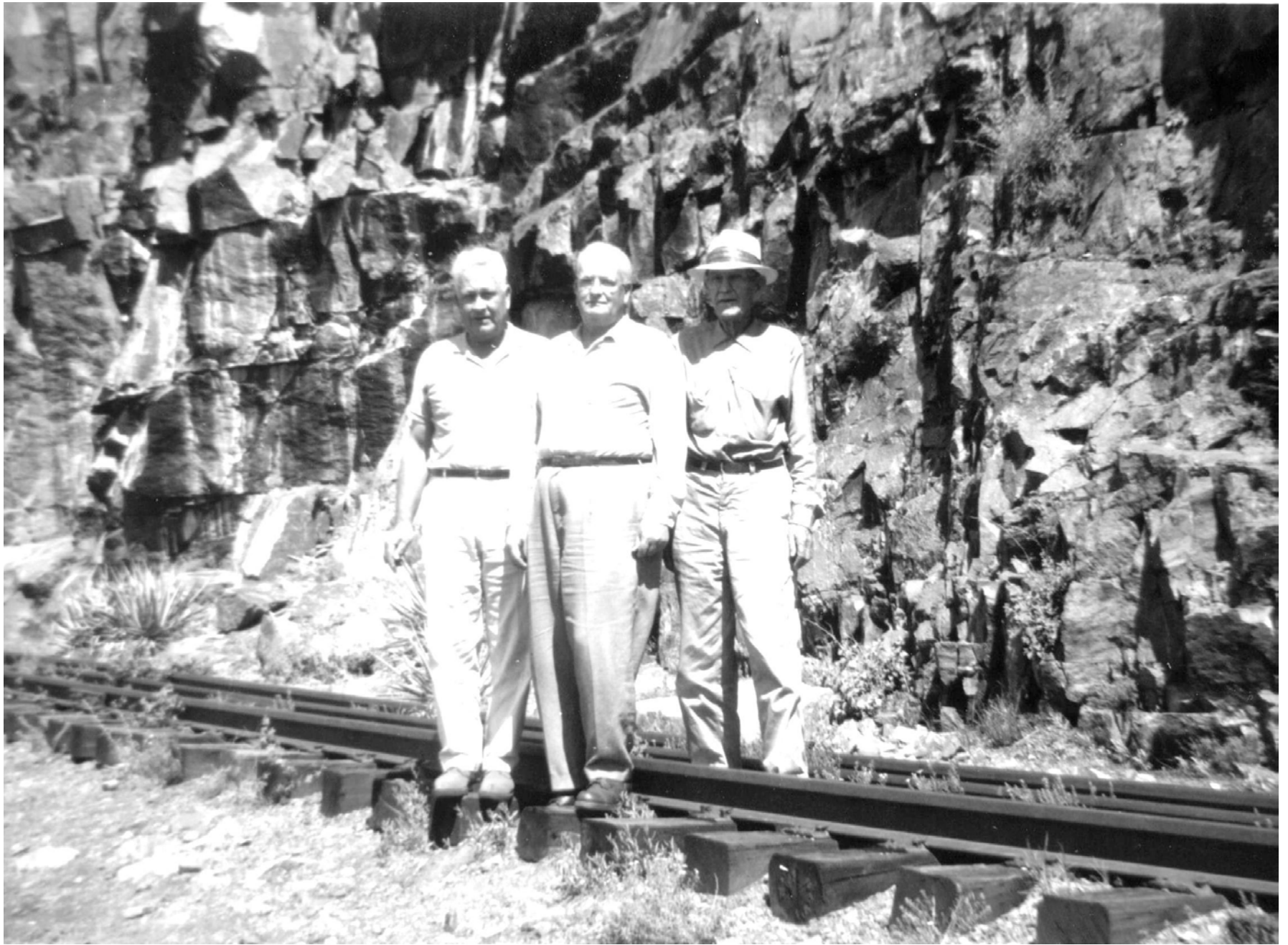


Top Left, Tim Coughlin and daughter Catherine going to a tea, 1934

Top Center, Josie Coughlin with niece and nephew, Jerry and Maureen Knight, 1939

Top Right, Josie Coughlin with granddaughter Jo Beth Kemp, 1946

Bottom, Josie Coughlin with granddaughters Jo Beth, Patty, Charlene and Mary Kay, 1953



Mickey, Tom and Charlie Knight (Undated but it would have been in the early sixties)





William Knight, Kate Knight, Tim  
Coughlin, Josie Knight Coughlin,  
Mickey Knight, Catherine Coughlin  
1938



Catherine Coughlin, Kate Knight,  
Will Knight, Mickey Knight  
Circa 1930

***Bill, Catherine and Gerald Coughlin ...*** Note: We are honoring Josie and Tim's three children, Bill, Catherine and Gerald, even though they were of the next generation, because they were contemporaries in age and more like brothers and sister to their Uncle Mickey.

William Coughlin graduated from Adams State College in Alamosa, and went on to a long career in social services. Bill rose to a high position in the Colorado Department of Welfare before he left Denver for more salary in California, where he



Catherine, Josie and Bill Coughlin

continued to advance in his career. He retired as an administrative law judge resolving welfare cases. He was frequently called on the carpet by an unsympathetic Governor Ronald Reagan. Bill was born on July 13, 1915 and died a confirmed bachelor on November 7, 1988.



Josie, Bill and Tim Coughlin

Bill and Geraldine Knight enjoyed a special bond over the years, and they both loved the song, *Sentimental Journey*.

Catherine Coughlin Kemp also graduated from Adams State Teachers College and had a long and rewarding career in public education, teaching first in Colorado and then in California. She married Charles Kemp in 1944. Catherine was born February 24, 1917 and died March 19, 2002.

When Catherine was a young woman, probably still in high school, someone had the temerity to call her Kate. Grandpa Knight, overhearing her strong protest, scolded her, "If Kate is good enough for your grandmother, young lady, it is good enough for you."

Bill was born on July 13<sup>th</sup> and turned thirteen on a Friday the thirteenth, making it an ominous day indeed to Grandma Knight. She had apprehensively baked a special cake, but when Bill and Jerry snuck out to go swimming, apparently offending yet another of her superstitions, she threw it out.



Bill and Catherine

Josie took her three children to Silverton to visit with their aunt and uncle, Nell and Dolph Colson. Katherine, then six, was playing in the garage when she fell sixteen feet from the second story. A headline in the Silverton paper proclaimed, **Child Fatally Injured in a Fall Out Loft**. The report of her death was greatly exaggerated. Although she did fall, she landed on a boy who broke her fall but suffered a broken arm himself. The paper later reported the doctors were awaiting x-rays of her skull for further diagnosis and possible surgery. They were unneeded but served as further and irrefutable scientific proof of the hardness of a female Irish head.

Gerald Coughlin, born December 21, 1918, was eighteen and just weeks short of his graduation from Alamosa High School when he suffered an appendix attack. He died on May 16<sup>th</sup>, 1936 of complications following emergency surgery caused by him drinking from a pan of water left on his bedside.

The entire senior class turned out for his funeral, and of course he graduated posthumously.

Jerry was an active leader and athlete. Catherine kept his report cards, diagrams of football plays, and other mementos of her little brother's high school years.



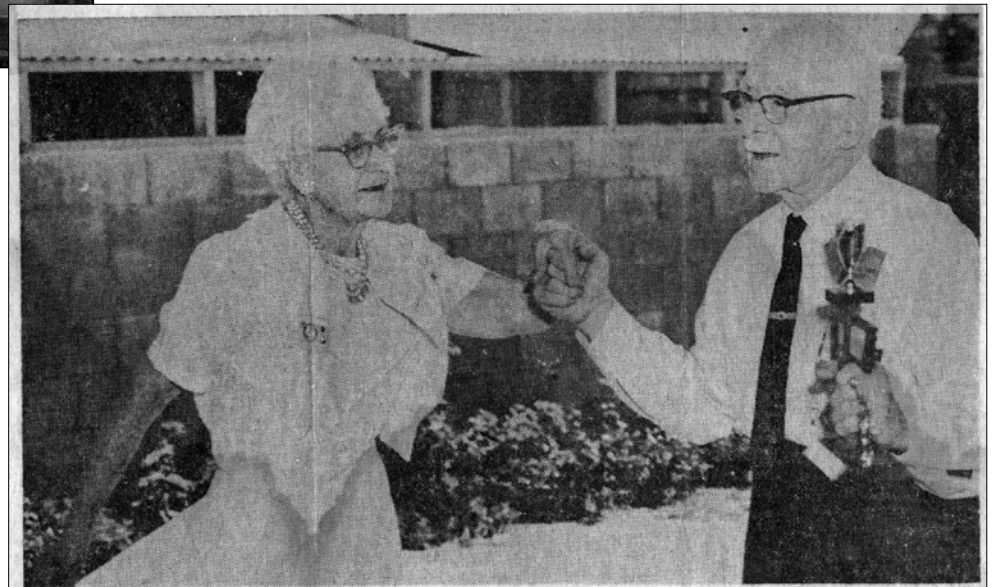
To the Knight kids, Catherine and Charlie's four daughters will always be our treasured Kemp Cousins. We are delighted that they are part of our Family Calendar tradition, and they were most helpful in putting this edition together. Thank you again, Jo Beth, Patty, Charlene and Mary Kay.



Margaret, Gertrude and Tom Knight, 1903.

Jerry found this old photograph on Tom Knight's desk at the Colorado State Veterans Home at Monte Vista after Tom died in 1997. It must have been taken quite late in 2003, because Gertrude was born in June of that year.

This undated clipping from Catherine's Scrapbook might have been about 1975 when Margaret would have been 86.



### *Schottische Dancers*

Margaret Wright and Martin Heisler, both of San Bernardi-

no, teamed up to win the Schottische Dance contest during

Senior Citizens Day fun at the San Bernardino County Fair.



Top: Wm Knight, Bill Coughlin, Tim Coughlin, Bill Knight, Julia Hunt, Doc Hunt, Kate Knight  
 Bottom: Naomi Hunt, Lee Hunt, Jerry Coughlin, Catherine Coughlin  
 (This undated family photo would have been about 1934 when Catherine would have been about seventeen)



Standing: Charlie Knight, Margaret Wright, Josie Coughlin, Julia Hunt, Mayme Downey  
 Front: Mickey Knight, Kate Knight, Tom Knight  
 At William Knight's Funeral, December, 1938

An old family story says that Tim Coughlin had an acting job in an early silent movie about a train robbery. As an engineer on the Denver & Rio Grande Western, he was perfectly suited for the role, which had the bandits board the engine and throwing or forcing the engine crew to jump. Tim did just that, landing in a soft mattress. There was a 1909 movie made in southern Colorado called "The Road Agents." This may have been the film, but I was not able to confirm it. —Denny



Tom and Mickey Knight, circa 1984



Sisters Josie Coughlin, Mayme Downey and Margaret Wright, 1972

**Gertrude Knight**, born in June of 1903, the tenth of the eleven children of William and Catherine Knight, passed away in Farmington, New Mexico in 1918 at the age of fifteen after several weeks of influenza. Her loss was suffered by all but she was especially missed by her little brother, Emmett (Mickey).

Most of our generation considered it a family of eleven children, but there was a twelfth, **John Knight**, who died at birth in 1890. It must have been a great loss to the parents, but it was a common part of life in those years, and in that the other siblings thought themselves to be a family of eleven children, its likely Kate and Will didn't involve the children in their grief.

Mickey Knight with Dolph and his sister Nell Colson at ancestral grave marker in Missouri (their mother Kate was a Goggin.) This undated photo would have been in the early seventies.





## Catherine Goggin Knight

1864 - 1941

*The Knight kids and the Kemp sisters know  
Grandma Knight by the stories we have heard,  
and we remember her by this photograph  
which graced our childhood homes.*

*We hope the stories and photographs in our  
calendar have helped bring Kate and Will and  
the stories of their family to life.*

