

# Descendants of Dr. Benjamin DE ST. CROIX MD, DCL

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**1-Dr. Benjamin DE ST. CROIX MD, DCL** [1457], son of **Joseph Temple DE ST. CROIX** [4496] and **Leah GALLAUDET** [4497], was born on 10 Apr 1776 in New Rochelle, Westchester Co., NY, USA, died on 10 Sep 1848 in Charlottetown, PE, CAN at age 72, and was buried in Charlottetown, PE, CAN.

Death Notes: The Islander 15 September 1848, page 3

Died

On Sunday morning, the 10th inst., at half-past two o'clock, in the 73rd year of his age, universally esteemed and regretted, BENJAMIN DE SAINT CROIX, ESQ., M.D., and D.C.L., formerly Assistant Surgeon [sic] of the 24th Regt., and for a period of nearly Forty years attached to the Medical Staff of this island. He endured the brief but painful which terminated his life with christian [sic] patience and resignation to the Divine Will.

Burial Notes: Old Protestant Burying Ground.

General Notes: Excerpt from Past and Present of PEI p.145

Dr. Benjamin de St. Croix came to Charlottetown in the early part of the nineteenth century, and died on the 10th of September, 1848. He was commissioned to be surgeon general and medical superintendent to the militia forces of Prince Edward Island on the first day of November, 1812, in the fifty-third year of His Majesty's reign. The commission was signed by Thomas DesBrisay. Esq., secretary. and William Townsend, Esq., president and commander-in-chief in and over His Majesty's Island Prince Edward, and the territories adjacent thereto. He held his diploma from the Royal College of Surgeons, London, 1801. He was an Englishman with a French name; probably a descendant of one of the numerous French families that came over to England after revocation of edict of Nantes. He practiced for many years in and around Charlottetown and was a maternal granduncle of the Hon. Frederick de St. Croix Brecken, late postmaster and assistant post office inspector at Charlottetown.

Benjamin married **Margaret DESBRISAY** [1440] [MRIN: 467], daughter of **Reverend Theophilus DESBRISAY** [1436] and **Margaret STEWART** [1437], on 29 Sep 1804 in Annapolis Royal, Annapolis, NS, CAN. Margaret was born on 27 Jul 1781 in Covehead, St. John's Island, CAN, died on 17 Feb 1870 in Charlottetown, PE, CAN at age 88, and was buried on 19 Feb 1870 in Charlottetown, PE, CAN. They had one daughter: **Margaret Leah**.

Marriage Notes: They were married by Rev. Theophilus DesBrisay, father of the bride.

Death Notes: From The Islander, 18 Feb 1870, page 3:

In this city, on Thursday, the 17th inst., after a few days illness, in the 89th year of her age, Margaret, relict of the late B.D. St. Croix, Esq. M.D., and daughter of the late Reverend Theophilus Desbrisay. [Funeral on Sunday next, at four o'clock.]

**2-Margaret Leah DE ST. CROIX** [3946] was born on 3 Jul 1805 in Annapolis

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Royal, Annapolis, NS, CAN, was baptized on 22 Jul 1805 in Charlottetown, PE, CAN, died on 18 Jan 1878 in Charlottetown, PE, CAN at age 72, and was buried on 21 Jan 1878 in Charlottetown, PE, CAN.

Baptism Notes: She was baptized by Rev. Theophilus DesBrisay.

Burial Notes: St. Peter's Anglican Cathedral Cemetery.

Margaret Leah married **Hon. John BRECKEN** [3947] [MRIN: 1292], son of **Ralph BRECKEN** [5228] and **Matilda ROBINSON** [5229], on 19 Jun 1826 in Charlottetown, PE, CAN. John was born on 23 Feb 1800 in Charlottetown, PE, CAN, was baptized in Mar 1800 in Charlottetown, PE, CAN, died on 2 Nov 1847 in Charlottetown, PE, CAN at age 47, and was buried on 6 Nov 1847 in Charlottetown, PE, CAN. They had four children: **John, Frederick De St Croix, Ralph William, and Margaret Matilda Jane.**

Marriage Notes: By Rev. T. Adin

Birth Notes: Lot 33, Queen's County.

Death Notes: Lot 33, Queen's County.

From The Islander, 5 November 1847, page 3:

Died

On Tuesday morning last, after an long and painful illness, the Hon. JOHN BRECKEN, Member of the Executive and Legislative Councils of this Island, aged 47 years. His funeral will take place To-morrow, (Saturday), at One o'clock.

3-**John BRECKEN Jr.** [3948] was born on 18 Apr 1827 in Charlottetown, PE, CAN, was baptized on 20 Jun 1827 in Charlottetown, PE, CAN, died on 28 Oct 1897 at age 70, and was buried on 30 Oct 1897 in Charlottetown, PE, CAN.

Burial Notes: People's Cemetery

General Notes: Occupation: 1864, Justice of the Peace, Committee of the Prince Edward Island Auxiliary Bible Society, and Executive Committe of the Diocesan Church Society, Charlottetown, PE.

John married **Ann Laura MAYNE** [3953] [MRIN: 1294], daughter of **Comdr. John Raynor MAYNE** [3954] and **Unknown**, on 9 Dec 1852 in Charlottetown, PE, CAN. Ann was born in 1832 in ENG, UK and died on 16 Mar 1908 at age 76. They had six children: **Margaret Leah, John Frederick, Laura Alice, Fanny Constance, Laura Edith, and Edward St Croix.**

Marriage Notes: Bondsman: Daniel Hodgson

4-**Margaret Leah BRECKEN** [3955] was born on 31 Jan 1854 in Charlottetown, PE, CAN.

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Margaret Leah married **Frederick MITCHELL** [3956] [MRIN: 1296] on 6 Jun 1877.

4-**John Frederick BRECKEN** [3957] was born on 13 Jun 1855 in Charlottetown, PE, CAN, was baptized on 16 Sep 1855 in Charlottetown, PE, CAN, and died on 13 Nov 1885 in BC, CAN at age 30.

General Notes: He was a Civil Engineer.

4-**Laura Alice BRECKEN** [3958] was born on 8 Jan 1857 in Charlottetown, PE, CAN, was baptized on 26 Jul 1857, and died on 16 Mar 1908 at age 51.

4-**Fanny Constance BRECKEN** [3959] was born in Oct 1859, died on 22 Oct 1859, and was buried on 24 Oct 1859 in Brackley, PE, CAN.

Burial Notes: Sherwood Cemetery

4-**Laura Edith BRECKEN** [3960] was born on 11 Jun 1862 in Charlottetown, PE, CAN, died on 30 Oct 1944 at age 82, and was buried on 1 Nov 1944 in Charlottetown, PE, CAN.

Burial Notes: People's Cemetery

Laura Edith married **Lt. Col. Charles Thomas LEIGH** [3961] [MRIN: 1297], son of **Charles LEIGH** [5230] and **Fanny PEAKE** [5231], on 24 Nov 1897 in Charlottetown, PE, CAN. Charles was born on 2 Apr 1869 in Plymouth, Devonshire, ENG, UK, died in Nov 1934 at age 65, and was buried on 1 Nov 1934 in Sherwood, PE, CAN.

Marriage Notes: St. Paul's Anglican Church, Marriage Bondsman: Arthur G. Peake

Burial Notes: Lot 33.

4-**Edward St Croix BRECKEN** [3962] was born on 27 Dec 1864.

3-**Frederick De St Croix BRECKEN** [3949] was born on 9 Dec 1828 in Charlottetown, PE, CAN, was baptized on 4 May 1829 in Charlottetown, PE, CAN, died on 14 Oct 1903 in Charlottetown, PE, CAN at age 74, and was buried in Charlottetown, PE, CAN.

Birth Notes: Lot 33, Queen's County.

Burial Notes: Section F, St. Peter's Cathedral Anglican Cemetery, St. Peter's Road.

General Notes: Occupation: Lawyer, Postmaster, Assistant Inspector of PEI, Member of the Legislative Assembly, Member of Parliament

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BRECKEN, FREDERICK DE ST CROIX, lawyer, politician, and office holder; b. 9 Dec. 1828 in Charlottetown, second son of John Brecken\* and Margaret Leah de St Croix; m. 28 Sept. 1858 Helen Leith Boyd Emslie in Saint John, N.B., and they had three children; d. 14 Oct. 1903 in Charlottetown.

Frederick Brecken belonged to a Prince Edward Island family with a tradition of political activity. His father was a member of the House of Assembly and of the Executive and Legislative councils; a grandfather (Ralph Brecken) and a great-grandfather (Joseph Robinson) had both been speakers of the assembly. Frederick was educated at Central Academy in Charlottetown and he was articled for two years to Robert Hodgson. Unlike most Island lawyers, who were content with a colonial education, he then spent two years at Lincoln's Inn and the Inner Temple in London. Following his return to Charlottetown, he was called to the bar of the Supreme Court in June 1852. He practised with his cousin Thomas Heath Haviland until 1874 and then with Rowan Robert Fitzgerald. Brecken was made a qc in 1875 and he would continue to practise until he took a federal position in 1884. He was a member of the executive committee of the Law Society of Prince Edward Island when it was founded in 1877.

Named attorney general on 11 April 1859 in the administration of Edward Palmer, Brecken had held the post until it became elective in 1863. He ran successfully that year as a tory for the House of Assembly and he retained his Charlottetown seat in the general elections of 1867, 1870, and 1873. He was attorney general again in 1870–72 and from 1873 to 1876. A brilliant orator, he appears to have had little difficulty in following the changing attitudes of his party and its leader, James Colledge Pope, toward issues such as confederation. His position on the school question, which dominated Island politics for the entire period he was an elected member, was somewhat ambiguous but his support of Pope was not. Both Brecken and Pope were defeated in the provincial election of 1876 after they had been identified as "Denominationalists," because of their support for religious schools.

Brecken had made an unsuccessful attempt to secure a seat in the dominion parliament in the special election of 1873, following the union of the Island with Canada. He appears subsequently to have turned down a Senate appointment. In 1878 he was finally elected to the House of Commons along with Pope for the riding of Queens. Four years later he was narrowly defeated for one of the seats there by fellow Conservative John Theophilus Jenkins. Having appealed the result to the province's Supreme Court, Brecken was awarded the seat in February 1883.

The following year he became involved in the manoeuvres to find a successor to T. H. Haviland as lieutenant governor of the Island. Brecken was mooted as a deserving candidate who was not overly objectionable to Roman Catholics. Although he made it clear that he would not take the post if it were offered, he continued to be a factor. Donald Ferguson, a member of the provincial government, noted in a letter to Prime Minister Sir John A. Macdonald that making some provision for Brecken

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could have a threefold benefit. Brecken was viewed in his constituency as a less-than-zealous mp, Ferguson warned, and his replacement by a more active member would help the party. A political post would also reward Brecken for his past service and please those of both parties who held him in high regard. In the end Macdonald offered the post to Andrew Archibald Macdonald, a Roman Catholic who was postmaster of Charlottetown and post-office inspector of the province, and tendered Macdonald's job to Brecken.

Brecken claimed he was unqualified, but he finally agreed to accept the post provided his "claims for professional advancement were not weakened." Having been assured by the prime minister that the office "would not be considered as a 'receipt in full,'" he took the post-mastership in July 1884. As had been expected, Jenkins was easily elected to the commons in the subsequent by-election.

In spite of Brecken's hopes for a judgeship, he continued to be passed over and he served without incident as postmaster until his death in 1903. According to his obituary in the Morning Guardian, he had been in his younger days "the idol of the Conservative party." That his support of the Tories resulted in almost a 20-year term in an administrative position rather than on the bench must have been a bitter disappointment for him.

Frederick De St Croix married **Helen Leith Boyd EMSLIE** [3963] [MRIN: 1298], daughter of **Capt. EMSLIE** [3964] and **Unknown**, on 28 Sep 1858 in Saint John, NB, CAN. Helen was born in 1839 in ON, CAN, died on 30 Oct 1906 at age 67, and was buried in Charlottetown, PE, CAN. They had three children: **Leith Emslie, Frederick Arthur, and Helen Amelia de St Croix.**

Burial Notes: Section F, St. Peter's Cathedral Anglican Cemetery, St. Peter's Road.

4-**Leith Emslie BRECKEN** [3965] was born on 20 Jul 1859, died on 1 Nov 1944 at age 85, and was buried on 3 Nov 1944 in Charlottetown, PE, CAN.

Burial Notes: Section F, St. Peter's Cathedral Anglican Cemetery, St. Peter's Road.

General Notes: Occupation: 1891, Law Student

4-**Frederick Arthur BRECKEN** [3966] was born on 25 Jun 1862, died on 29 Jul 1863 at age 1, and was buried in Charlottetown, PE, CAN.

Burial Notes: Section F, St. Peter's Cathedral Anglican Cemetery, St. Peter's Road.

4-**Helen Amelia de St Croix BRECKEN** [3967] was born on 10 Mar 1864 in Charlottetown, PE, CAN, was baptized on 24 Jul 1864 in Charlottetown, PE, CAN, died on 20 Apr 1939 at age 75, and was buried in Charlottetown, PE, CAN.

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Baptism Notes: St. Paul's Anglican by D. Parnter.

Burial Notes: Section F, St. Peter's Cathedral Anglican Cemetery, St. Peter's Road.

Helen Amelia de St Croix married **Robert Vernon LONGWORTH** [3968] [MRIN: 1300] on 16 Sep 1907 in Charlottetown, PE, CAN. Robert was born on 23 Oct 1857 in Charlottetown, PE, CAN, was baptized on 17 Apr 1858, died on 30 Nov 1937 in Charlottetown, PE, CAN at age 80, and was buried on 2 Dec 1937 in Charlottetown, PE, CAN.

Marriage Notes: Bondsman: Charles Lyons; Clergy, Rev. James Simpson.

Burial Notes: Section F, St. Peter's Cathedral Anglican Cemetery, St. Peter's Road.

**3-Ralph William BRECKEN** [3950] was born on 21 Apr 1830 in Charlottetown, PE, CAN, was baptized on 16 Aug 1830 in Charlottetown, PE, CAN, died on 6 Mar 1900 at age 69, and was buried in Charlottetown, PE, CAN.

Baptism Notes: St. Paul's Anglican by L.C. Jenkins.

Burial Notes: St. Peter's Cathedral Anglican Cemetery.

Ralph William married **Lucy Margaret McNUTT** [3969] [MRIN: 1301], daughter of **Charles Augustus M'NUTT** [3202] and **Eliza COLLEDGE** [3970], on 18 Mar 1856 in Charlottetown, PE, CAN. Lucy was born about 1832, died on 4 May 1873 about age 41, and was buried in Charlottetown, PE, CAN. They had two children: **Eliza Colledge** and **Frederick William**.

Burial Notes: St. Peter's Cathedral Anglican Cemetery.

**4-Eliza Colledge BRECKEN** [3971] was born on 25 Jan 1857 in Charlottetown, PE, CAN, was baptized on 10 Jul 1858 in Charlottetown, PE, CAN, and died on 15 Feb 1939 at age 82.

Baptism Notes: Baptismal sponsors were her parents and Mary Hodgson.

**4-Frederick William BRECKEN** [3972] was born on 13 Jan 1866, died on 10 Apr 1932 at age 66, and was buried in Charlottetown, PE, CAN.

Burial Notes: St. Peter's Cathedral Anglican Cemetery.

**3-Margaret Matilda Jane BRECKEN** [3951] was born on 20 Mar 1834 in Charlottetown, PE, CAN, was baptized on 23 Apr 1834 in Charlottetown, PE, CAN, died on 19 Oct 1889 in Saint John, NB, CAN at age 55, and was buried in Charlottetown, PE, CAN.

Death Notes: Royal Hotel

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Burial Notes: St. Peter's Cathedral Anglican Cemetery

Margaret Matilda Jane married **Hon. Edward Jarvis HODGSON** [3952] [MRIN: 1293], son of **Daniel Brecken HODGSON** [4499] and **Mary Cambridge WRIGHT** [5977], on 6 Aug 1863. Edward was born on 29 Jul 1840 in Charlottetown, PE, CAN, was baptized on 27 Oct 1840 in Charlottetown, PE, CAN, died on 12 Aug 1911 in Charlottetown, PE, CAN at age 71, and was buried in Charlottetown, PE, CAN.

Marriage Notes: Witnesses: Hector MacLean, George Hodgson

Baptism Notes: St. Paul's Anglican by L.C. Jenkins

Burial Notes: St. Peter's Cathedral Anglican Cemetery

General Notes: He was a lawyer, Judge of the Supreme Court, and Master of the Rolls, O.B.

Margaret Leah next married **Daniel Brecken HODGSON** [4499] [MRIN: 1487], son of **Robert HODGSON** [4500] and **Rebecca ROBINSON** [4501], on 20 Apr 1853. Daniel was born on 4 Oct 1803 in Charlottetown, PE, CAN, was baptized on 2 Sep 1804 in Charlottetown, PE, CAN, died on 21 Jul 1883 at age 79, and was buried on 25 Jul 1883 in Charlottetown, PE, CAN.

Marriage Notes: Marriage License: 26 APR 1852 in Charlottetown, Lot 33, PEI Note: Marriage Witnesses: T.H. Haviland, Ralph Brecken, J. MacKieson.

Baptism Notes: St. Paul's Anglican by T. DesBrisay.

Burial Notes: St. Peter's Cathedral Anglican Cemetery.

General Notes: He was a Protonotary and Clerk of the Crown in the Supreme Court.