

THE Marjoribanks LETTER

FOR AND ABOUT PEOPLE OF THE NAME, IN ALL ITS VARIATIONS - MARCHBANKS, MARCHBANK, MARSHBANKS, AND THE REST

2005 GATHERING SETS ATTENDANCE RECORD

The 2005 Annual General Meeting, held in Greenville, South Carolina, May 27-29, broke attendance records as approximately 200 persons attended. The second largest gathering was at Charleston, South Carolina in 1996 and drew about 150 people.

The site was chosen to honor the descendants of Stephen Perry Marchbanks and Rachel Rebecca Jones Marchbanks, who were early settlers in the area.

Relatives and guests gathered for dinner Friday evening at the Hyatt Regency in historic downtown Greenville, with Caroline Morris and Carol Hightower Leake as hostesses. Programs and information packets were distributed and all enjoyed seeing old friends and meeting new relations. After dinner, some members retired to the Jazz Festival on Main Street.

We assembled at Reedy River Baptist Church at 9 a.m. Saturday morning for a tour of former Marchbanks lands. Howard Addis conducted an informative tour, highlighting family anecdotes and history. We filled two buses and overflowed into private cars.

Following the tour, we returned to the church for a special service which outlined the church history and its Marchbanks connection. The second part of the program consisted of a presentation of WWI Service Medals to several family members who had served in that war.

A barbecue luncheon was served in the Family Life Center, after which the group returned to the church for a narrative of the history of Stephen Perry and Rachel Rebecca Jones Marchbanks. A descendant of each of the seven sons of this couple who served in the War Between the States related a brief history of their ancestor's life and all of his descendants present were asked to stand.

To close the service the Color Guard of the Sons of Confederate Veterans led the congregation to the cemetery behind the church. Here, Iron Crosses of Service in the War Between the States were unveiled on the Marchbanks graves. The Cannon presented the three-gun salute and Taps was played by a family member.

Elizabeth Earle Farnsworth and Mary Earle Drawdy hosted a Family dinner Saturday evening at the prestigious Poinsett Club. Guests enjoyed a history of the Marchbanks family in America, presented by Dr. Jerry Oldshue, Family president.

We re-convened Sunday for luncheon at the Commerce Club with Caroline Morris as hostess. Dr. Oldshue presided over the business meeting. Several items were discussed but no official action was taken. ■



Volunteers arrange literature, books, and historical data, furnished by James Green, in front of Reedy River Baptist Church

YORKSHIRE, ENGLAND SELECTED FOR 2006 FAMILY GATHERING

The ancient town of Richmond in North Yorkshire, England, will be the site of the 2006 Marjoribanks Family Gathering June 23, 24, 25.

Founded in 1071 {soon after the Norman Conquest} the town grew up around the castle which sits on a hill dominating the beautiful landscape. Aside from the castle, one of the interesting places to visit is Green Howards Museum. Major John Marjoribanks was a member of the Green Howards Regiment. He fought gallantly on the British side at the battle of Eutaw Springs during the American War of Independence. He later died of his wounds, but was cared for, and eventually buried, by the Ravenel family on their plantation.

Headquarters will be The King's Head Hotel. The program will include a reception on Friday evening, a day in the beautiful Yorkshire dales including lunch at the George and Dragon pub in Aysgarth and a visit to sites of interest to the family. The Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday at the King's Head, followed by lunch, a visit to the Green Howards Museum and a farewell tea.

Plans are still being finalized. To help with his planning and to calculate how many people might attend, Roger Marjoribanks would be glad to hear from you. His address is 104 Gosden Hills Rd, Guildford, Burpham, Surrey, England GU47JB or <rogmarj@tiscali.co.uk>. ■

MEMORIAL SERVICE CONDUCTED AT CHIRNSIDE CHURCH

Members of the family from Britain and North America gathered in an ancient churchyard in May of 2004 to pay tribute to a distinguished man and wife—Edward Marjoribanks, the second Baron Tweedmouth, and Fanny, Lady Tweedmouth.

The memorial service was conducted by Rev. Robert Higham in the parish church of Chirnside, in the Church of Scotland, a few miles from the border with England.

The village of Chirnside is perched on the south side of a hill, five hundred feet above sea level affording a striking view of rich farmland and the surrounding marshes. It is just a short drive from Berwick-upon-Tweed and the Marshall Meadows Country Hotel which was the headquarters of the 2004 Marjoribanks Family Gathering.

The church was dedicated in 1298, in the days of the Norman Conquest, and some parts of the building, particularly a graceful doorway, still reflect the Norman style of architecture. After Lady Tweedmouth's death, Edward had the church restored as a tribute to his late wife. He and Lady Tweedmouth were buried side by side in an alcove in the church's west wall near the church tower.

Edward was the eldest son of Dudley Coutts Marjoribanks, the first Baron Tweedmouth, and served as Chief Whip in the government of Prime Minister Gladstone. On the death of his father in 1894, Edward became the second Baron Tweedmouth, took his seat in the House of Lords, and was appointed First Lord of The Admiralty.

In 1873 he had married Lady Fanny Spencer-Churchill, the aunt of Winston Churchill, and by virtue of this marriage became Winston's "Uncle Teddy." Edward and his wife were generous patrons of Chirnside Church and, in the political arena, lifelong supporters of Prime Minister Gladstone and the Liberal Party. Fanny was famous as a political hostess and her brilliant dinners brought together the most powerful figures of her generation. She died—probably of cancer—in 1904. Edward was devastated by his loss, became ill, suffered financial reverses and died of a stroke in 1909.

After paying tribute to Lord and Lady Tweedmouth we retired to the local pub, The Waterloo Arms, owned by an American couple, Chuck and Sheila Perkins, from Atlanta and Des Moines respectively.

After lunch, we traveled west to Coldstream, where we admired the statue of Charles Marjoribanks M.P. which stands atop a tall column in the center of the city, honoring his role in passing the Reform Act of 1832 which extended the franchise to many people who had never been able to vote before. We also visited the nearby church at Ladykirk which contains several memorials to the Right Honourable David Robertson, Baron Marjoribanks. David was born a Marjoribanks, the younger brother of Charles, but changed his name to Robertson when he married a Robertson heiress. He was elevated to the peerage in 1873 and chose Baron Marjoribanks as his title, recovering his family name.

His life as a baron was short, however. He died a week later when he was struck by a horse and carriage on leaving his club.

We wound up the day at Eden House in Duns, the home of John Marjoribanks, the Chief's younger brother, and his wife Andrea, for a traditional afternoon tea. ■

JOHN MARJORIBANKS TAKES ACTION

On our visit to Chirnside Church we entered the grounds through a magnificent pair of gates which were erected in memory of Lord and Lady Tweedmouth.

John Marjoribanks of Gavinton in Berwickshire is watchful of the family dignity and he found it necessary a few years ago to protest to The Scottish Borders Council that a pictorial sign had been attached to the Chirnside Memorial Gate prohibiting the entrance of dogs.

He wrote:

I visited the Memorial Gate at Chirnside today to pay respects to my collateral ancestor and distinguished citizen of Berwickshire, Edward Marjoribanks, Lord Tweedmouth. His life is commemorated by the Gate and his burial place, with his wife, is at the west end of the church, beyond the Memorial Gate.

I was entirely dismayed to find a conspicuous white sign, featuring a black dog with a red prohibition ring, fixed to the northern half of the Gate in such a way that it impinges upon the central wrought iron design.

The visual effect of this sign is disastrous. The emotional impact is worse. Who would enjoy finding such a sign affixed to their ancestor's memorial? The fact that the memorial in this case is a gate in no way lessens the negative impact of such an affront.

I sincerely hope that you will see fit to have the sign removed from its present location and put in a more seemly place.

John says he had a very pleasant acknowledgement from the Council, pointing out the nuisance caused by dog-fouling and offering the assurance that there had been no intention of insulting the memory of his illustrious collateral ancestor. The offending sign was removed and he received a letter of thanks from the Chirnside minister. ■

FAMILY CONVENED AT BERWICK-ON-TWEED IN 2004

The 2004 General Meeting was held at Berwick-on-Tweed, England. Dr. Jerry Oldsue, the former archivist and historian of the University of Alabama, was elected president of the Marjoribanks Family.

Dr. Oldsue is descended on his mother's side from Burwell Marchbanks, a grandson of George Marjoribanks who was captured in the Jacobite uprising of 1715 and transported to Virginia Katherine Cousland of Cumbria, England, was elected vice-president. She is descended from George Erskine Marjoribanks who served in India as a Conservator of Forests ■.

REMINDER

Annual dues cover a period of 12 months from the time you enroll. To check if your membership has expired please see date in the bottom right-corner of your membership card, or contact the Honorary Secretary. ■

STEPHEN PERRY MARCHBANKS

Stephen Perry Marchbanks was born circa 1805 in South Carolina. No record of his parentage has ever been found, but many believe he was the son of Stephen Marchbanks who died in the Laurens District in November, 1805. This Stephen Marchbanks had three minor children at the time of his death and his son George was much too young to have been the father of Stephen Perry.

Stephen Perry Marchbanks first surfaced in the 1830 Federal Census living in Spartanburg County, with 3 males under 5 years old, 1 male 20/30 years old, and 1 female 20/30 years old. Sometime about the year 1824 he married Rachel Rebecca Jones, who was born about 1897 in Spartanburg County.

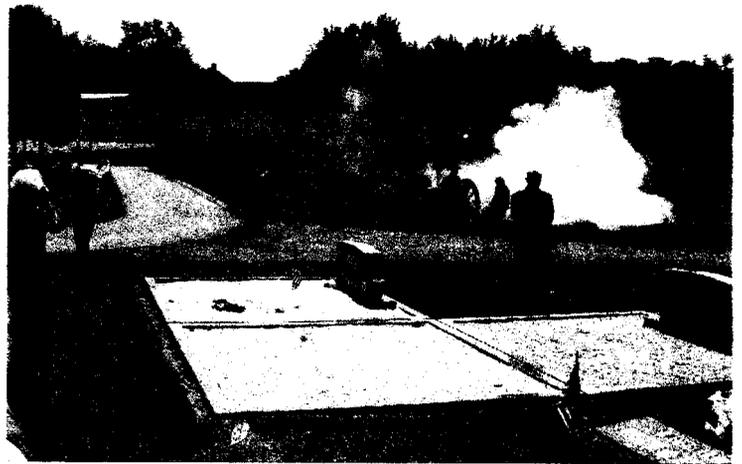
On August 28, 1837, Stephen Marchbanks bought a tract or parcel of land containing 154 acres on Mountain Creek, waters of Enoree River in Greenville County from John W. Southern for \$800.00. The congregation of the Mountain Creek Baptist Church met and found Stephen Marchbanks and his wife Rebecca to be "Fit Candidates" and they both joined the church by experience October 31, 1840. Stephen was elected church clerk September 3, 1842.

Next, Stephen purchased 100 acres on Enoree River which included a saw mill, fixtures and implements. This land was located near Jackson Grove Methodist Church,

The next record of Stephen and Rebecca is found in the minutes of Reedy River Baptist Church where they joined by letter August 25, 1850. In 1855, Stephen bought more land on a creek, waters of Enoree, immediately around the mill and mill pond. There are two deeds recorded in 1857 for one 1700 acre tract near the west end of Paris Mountain and a 152 acre tract adjoining lands of D. Hoke, Franklin Howard, S. Marchbanks and Stephen Powell. They apparently moved to the Reedy River section of Greenville County in the mid 1850's and lived out their lives in the Paris Mountain Township. Stephen Marchbanks called for the "Letters" for he and his family on three different occasions at a Reedy River church. But no record has been found as to which church they attended. They came back into the fellowship of the same church in 1870 and were on the rolls until they died.

Stephen and Rebecca Marchbanks' first child was born about the year 1825 and was the first of 10 children, nine sons and 1 daughter. There may have been others who died young but no record has been found to support this. Tragedy, sorrow and many long hours of anxiety came into this home on many occasions. Six sons to enter the army for the war, most of them sick from the diseases common to the soldiers, the death of a young grandchild, the death of two sons all serving in the army and still later, the death of a young son about the age of 21 years.

The old home place where they lived for many years still stands in good repair but has been remodeled and is presently a permanent residence of the owners. It stands near the old mill pond site located near Reedy River Baptist Church on the Buncomb Road, near Traveler's



The Color Guard of The Sons of Confederate Veterans presented a three-gun salute to honor the sons of Stephen Perry Marchbanks who served in the War Between the States

Rest SC. Some of the land which was part of the 1850 acre tract which Stephen Marchbanks bought in 1857 remains in the family and on which stands the homeplace of Peter C. Marchbanks, his son. ■ (Article submitted by Caroline Morris.)

HERE WE GROW AGAIN

Andrew Marjoribanks of that ilk and Fiona Madame Marchbanks, are happy to announce the birth of a granddaughter, Molly Elizabeth Galbraith, to their youngest daughter Kirsty and her husband, Graeme Donald Galbraith of Gourrock.

Molly, who was eight pounds, two ounces at birth, was named for her maternal great-grandmother Mary Ord Logan Marjoribanks (known as Molly) and her paternal great-grandmother Elizabeth Galbraith. ■

MARJORIBANKSES INVOLVED WITH COUTTS BANK

The Marjoribankses had a close involvement with Coutts Bank, a financial institution that still thrives and numbers among its clients, the Queen, other European crowned heads, and wealthy athletes and entertainers.

It was founded in the Spring of 1692 at the Sign of the Three Crowns on the Strand in London by John Campbell, a Scottish goldsmith who provided private banking services as a convenience to his aristocratic clients. Queen Ann commissioned him to make collars and badges for members of the Order of the Thistle, an ancient order of chivalry scanned in precedence only to the Order of the Garter.

When Campbell died in 1712, he was succeeded in the business by a series of partners and the business grew by the acquisition
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Coutts Bank (continued from page 3)

of other London private banks. Within a few years goldsmithing activity had declined, and the firm had become one of the leading banks in the country.

The name Coutts entered the business in 1755 when Campbell offered a partnership to the successful Scottish banker James Coutts, son of John Coutts, at one time Lord Provost (mayor) of Edinburgh. James brought in his younger brother Thomas and the company eventually became Coutts and Company, a name by which it is still known today. On James's death in 1778 Thomas became the sole proprietor of the firm.

Thomas then took on several partners among whom was Edward Marjoribanks, the fourth son of Edward Marjoribanks of Lees (1738-1815), a wine merchant, doing business in Bordeaux. Edward's father returned to Scotland to inherit the Lees estate in the Scottish borders, the seat of the Lees branch of the family. Edward himself was the first of the family to leave Scotland and to move south to London.

Edward, 22 years of age, was at first a junior partner in the firm but his commanding presence, his serious manner and his prudence in business matters eventually won him appointment as senior partner of Coutts and Company.

Edward, who was somewhat dictatorial, had frequent clashes with the woman who was then proprietor of the firm, Angela Georgina Burdett-Coutts, Thomas Coutts daughter. On the death of Thomas's wife in 1837, Angela inherited nearly two million pounds and at 23 years of age, was widely known as the richest woman in England. In gratitude to her grandfather, she joined his name to that of her husband and became Angela Burdett-Coutts.

She devoted her wealth to philanthropic causes. She built and endowed churches and schools, sponsored housing schemes for working people, provided drinking fountains for dogs, soup kitchens, and more.

Charles Dickens was Angela's partner in many of these enterprises, using his knowledge of social conditions to recommend projects to Angela's generosity. Dickens and Angela first met and formed their partnership at a dinner at the Marjoribanks house. Dickens dedicated his novel *Martin Chuzzlewit* to Angela.

She was the first woman ever to be created a baroness in her own right. (Former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher received a similar honour on her retirement from office.) Baroness Burdett-Coutts died in 1906 and is buried in Westminster Abbey.■

CAPT JOHN MARJORIBANKS, SOLDIER - POET

Several years ago, Roger Marjoribanks came across a reference in Rev. Thomas Marjoribanks's memoir on his family to a Capt. John Marjoribanks who had published four volumes of verse towards the end of the 18th century. He also found that Maj. John Marjoribanks of the 19th Foot Regiment, who died at the battle of Eutaw Springs, had a son John who had lost the ancestral farm through bankruptcy and had apparently disappeared.

During 2004, Roger was contacted by Karina Williamson, a post-graduate student at Edinburgh University. She had discovered that the two Johns were one

and the same person. Young John eventually obtained sponsorship to join his father's regiment. His military career was not distinguished but his poetry attracted the attention of Sir Walter Scott who had a moderately high opinion of it. He was an early anti-slavery campaigner, and much of his poetry reflects his enthusiasm. Unfortunately he died young, at about age 38, having left the army, probably on medical grounds, and so never made what might have been a substantial reputation

Karina will attend our gathering in Richmond to tell us all about him.■

KIRKIN OF THE TARTAN

A Kirkin of the Marjoribanks Tartan is planned for May 20 at the Reedy River Baptist Church in Greenville, S.C. Highlights include an Awards of the Military Cross of Service, a barbecue luncheon, a book signing by Tommy Hays of his new novel that has Prater Marchbanks as the main character, a dinner at the Poinsett Club, and a history lecture. Hopefully, Bob Farnsworth will play a hymn he has written. More details will be forthcoming from Caroline Morris.■

HOW TO ORDER THE TARTAN

The Marjoribanks tartan is available from: D.C. Dalgliesh Ltd, Dunsdale Mill, Selkirk TD75EB, Scotland.

Ties, scarves and sashes will be shipped fully made up by Dalgliesh but if you want a kilt, trews, waistcoat, kilted skirt or other garments, you can order an appropriate length of material from Dalgliesh and take it to your kilt-maker or tailor. The tartan is identified as Marjoribanks/Marchbanks and is registered by the Scottish Tartans Society as number 2607. Inquire from Dalgliesh about current prices. For a kilt you will need 4.5 yards of cloth. Medium-weight material is 56 inches wide. Ladies' kilted skirts require three to six yards of material, depending on the lady's height. There may be customs duty to pay. A deposit of at least one third of the total value must accompany all orders. Payments may be made by cheque or money order in British pounds.■

The Marjoribanks Letter

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Canada	\$26.00 (Can)	\$47.00
Australia	\$25.00 (Aus)	\$45.00
New Zealand	\$30.00 (NZ)	\$55.00

*Family membership includes parents and their children.

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