



THE Marjoribanks LETTER

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

RAIN FAILS TO DAMPEN FAMILY'S HIGH SPIRITS!

The Marjoribankses, with banners flying, marched in the pouring rain behind their chief, leading the Parade of the Clans around the sodden field of the Charleston Scottish games.

As we huddled later in the Marjoribanks tent, which was decorated and furnished by James Green III of Winnsboro, South Carolina and members of his family, someone remarked

"Isn't this nice! It's just like Scotland!"

The rest of the three-day Gathering, September 20, 21 and 22, happily was nothing like Scotland. The sun shone brightly and the temperature hovered in the low eighties as some sixty members from Scotland, England, Canada, and the United States shared in historical and genealogical explorations, sampled Low Country cooking, admired Charleston architecture, and got to know each other better.

The Chief, Andrew Marjoribanks of that Ilk, of Greenock Scotland, was accompanied by his wife Fiona and their daughter Faith. The Chief was designated the Honoured Guest by the Scottish Society of Charleston, the sponsors of the Games. The family was named 'The Honoured "Clan."'

On the Friday afternoon, we travelled by bus through cotton fields, a few miles north of Charleston, to the field of the Battle of Eutaw Springs in 1781, one of the turning points in the American Revolution. There, Madam Marjoribanks placed flowers on the grave of Major John Marjoribanks of His Majesty's 19th Regiment of Foot who played a heroic role in the battle and was fatally wounded. The Major made his way after the battle to the Wantoot Plantation, owned by the Ravenel family, and there he took refuge in a slave cabin where he was cared for and eventually buried.

Arthur Ravenel Jr., a descendant of the plantation owners, attended our luncheon on Sunday and accepted from the chief a certificate attesting to the Marjoribanks Family's gratitude for the kindness shown to the Major in his dying days and for "the reverent care thereafter accorded his mortal remains."

On Sunday morning, accompanied by pipers and banners, we attended the Kirkin' O' the Tartan service at the First [Scots] Presbyterian Church in Charleston.

At the Annual General Meeting on Sunday afternoon, William P. Jackson Jr., of McLean, Virginia, a distinguished Washington lawyer and a descendant of George Marjoribanks (Marchbanks) who arrived in Virginia in 1716, was elected president. George W. Marchbank, a retired policeman of Derbyshire in England, was elected vice-president. George attended the founding meeting of The Family in Edinburgh in 1988. He is active in the local history association in his home-town of Heanor and is an enthusiastic member of the Derby Cathedral choir. His Marchbank ancestors were cattle drovers who migrated from northern Yorkshire in the 16th century.

Robert and Nancy Marjoribanks of Ottawa were re-elected Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer respectively.



Fiona Marjoribanks, wife of the Chief, lays flowers on the tombstone of Major John Marjoribanks, a hero of the Battle of Eutaw Springs.

Sir James Marjoribanks K.C.M.G. of Edinburgh, the retiring president, who was unable to attend the Gathering because of illness, was unanimously elected President Emeritus.

It was decided that the 1997 Marjoribanks Gathering will be held May 30, 31 and June 1 in Dumfriesshire, Scotland, in conjunction with Roots '97, a reunion of all the clans and principal families of the area. The organizers of the Roots '97 event envisage a "Clan Village" in which each group will have its tent. There will be a Grand March of all the participants, an ecumenical church service, a reception, clan ball and other events. The Family will organize its own activities, including possibly a visit to the ancestral lands near Moffat.

Allan Marchbank of Truro, Nova Scotia, invited The Family to hold its 1998 Gathering in Prince Edward Island. There are many Marchbank families on the Island who are descended from pioneers who emigrated from Annandale in Dumfriesshire early in the last century.

Robert Marjoribanks, the Honorary Secretary, reported that membership in The Family has now reached 137, an increase of about 15 per cent over the previous year. The Treasurer's report showed a balance of more than \$1,000.00 in Canadian funds.

At the genealogical session, Dr. Gerry Oldshue, Archivist and Professor of History at the University of Alabama, gave an entertaining account of the westward migration of his ancestors, the sons of George Marchbanks, the captured Jacobite, from Virginia into

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Three prominent members of the Lees branch of the family are featured in the latest issue of *The Marjoribanks Journal*. (No.4)

Edward Marjoribanks, the second Baron Tweedmouth (1849-1909), like many of his ancestors, was a lawyer. He was elected a Liberal Member of Parliament and became Chief Whip under Prime Minister Gladstone, a position that he filled with great distinction. The Earl of Oxford and Asquith said of him. "He was rich and fond of pleasure but he worked at his job like a galley-slave."

He married Lady Fanny Spencer-Churchill, the daughter of the Duke of Marlborough and aunt of Winston Churchill. The culmination of his political career was his appointment in 1905 as First Lord of the Admiralty.

Sir John Marjoribanks (1763-1833), at one time Lord Provost of Edinburgh, followed another family tradition by becoming a partner in Mansfield's Bank, as well as a Liberal Member of Parliament. As Lord Provost, he was instrumental in the building of the Regent Bridge and a monument on the structure commemorates his contribution to the city. He was created a baronet in 1815 and in the following year became Acting Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Freemasons of Scotland. (The titular Grand Master was the Prince Regent.)

One of the best known and most admired members of the Lees branch was Ishbel Marjoribanks, Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair, daughter of the first Baron Tweedmouth. She married John Campbell Gordon, the seventh Earl of Aberdeen, in 1877 and was his loyal and devoted partner during his appointments as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland and later Governor General of Canada. Because of her incredible energy and her passion for social reform, particularly in improving the lives of women, Ishbel's reputation frequently eclipsed that of her distinguished husband.

The Lees branch is so named from an estate near Coldstream in Berwickshire.

A fourth article records the history of the branch of the family which called itself Banks. The first member to be clearly identified was John Marjoribanks, a dyer or fuller, born at Thornhill in Perthshire in 1743. Perhaps seeking to improve the family fortunes, he arrived in Charleston, South Carolina, in 1785 or 1787. Some time after his arrival in America, he changed his name from Marjoribanks to Banks. His son, Samuel Mandeville Marjoribanks, went to Charleston in 1794, looking for him, but discovered he had died.

Samuel stayed in America and married Elizabeth Robinson in 1797. They had eleven children, all named Banks. Two of their sons, William and Alexander, became Presbyterian ministers. Alexander travelled widely in the South and became quite famous for his piety and eloquence. Samuel's descendants are numerous in North and South Carolina and in Tennessee, Texas and California.

(Copies of The Marjoribanks Journal are available to members without charge from the Honorary Secretary.)

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Tennessee and Texas. One of George's descendants, Elijah Marchbanks, ended up in Mississippi.

"Believe it or not," Dr. Oldshue said, "he was one of the first Senators and one of the first members of the House of Representatives in Alabama until they surveyed the line and discovered that he lived in Mississippi."

Following the genealogical session everyone gathered in the courtyard of the Lodge Alley Inn for a reception, contributed in honour of the late W. Paul Jackson, father of William.

As the afternoon wore on and people began to leave to start packing their bags, the remaining few joined hands in a circle and sang several heartfelt verses of "Auld Lang Sync."

Roger Marjoribanks of Surrey, Chairman of the Historical and Genealogical Committee, has discovered the burial records of thirty British members of the family who died in two wars.

They include those named Marjoribanks, Marchbanks and Marchbank and indicate rank, regiment, age, date of death, place of burial and, in some cases, the next of kin.

Among those whose next of kin are known are:

Captain Alexander Marjoribanks, a brother of Thomas Marjoribanks of that ilk (1871-1947) and a great-uncle of the Chief. The Captain served in Somaliland from 1902 to 1904 and in the Mohmand Expeditions in 1908. At the time of his death from cholera 28 September 1914 he was the adjutant of the 52nd Sikh Regiment in India. He was 35 years of age. He is buried in the Delhi Memorial Cemetery.

Second Lieutenant Marmaduke Edward Marjoribanks of the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, Roger's uncle, was the son of Dudley Sinclair Marjoribanks (1858-1929) and a brother of Dudley Churchill Marjoribanks (1874-1935), the third Lord Tweedmouth. He died 21 November, 1917, at the age of 20 and is buried in Favreuil British Cemetery in France.

More than half of those listed are named Marchbank and two are from Dumfriesshire:

Private James Marchbank of the King's Own Scottish Borderers, the son of Thomas and Margaret Marchbank of 8 New Street, Thornhill, Dumfriesshire, died 6 May 1915 and is buried at Baillieu, France. He was 18.

Private James Marchbank of the Canadian Infantry, the son of John and Willicemena (sic) Marchbank of Syme Street, Moffat, Dumfriesshire, died of wounds 8 October 1916 at the age of 23. He is buried at Puchevillers, France.

One, a Canadian from New Brunswick, died in World War II:

Private Basil Lewis Marchbank of the North Shore (New Brunswick) Regiment died 8 February 1945 at the age of 26. His parents are listed as Mr. and Mrs. Hudson J. Marchbank, of Marchbank, King's County, New Brunswick. He is buried in the Groesbeck Canadian War Cemetery in the Netherlands.

One was a woman:

Amy Marchbank, 25, was serving as an Air Raid Warden in London and died of injuries sustained 4 July 1944. Her husband, Douglas Marchbank, was in the Merchant Navy at the time.

(Details of other listing are available from the Honorary Secretary.)

Try Sallie's Pie

Here's a recipe from Sallie J. Marchbanks, written in 1860.

Buttermilk Pie
 1 cup sugar
 2 cups buttermilk
 2 eggs
 2 tablespoons butter
 2 tablespoons flour

Nancy Marjoribanks of Ottawa tried it and says it's delicious. She says, "Use Sallie's ingredients and then follow the cooking instructions for your favourite custard pie recipe."

Sallie was the daughter of Joshua Bailey Marchbanks, a great-grandson of George Marchbanks, the Jacobite. She kept a diary during the Civil War when she was in her early twenties.

Catriona Marjoribanks, the Chief's eldest daughter, was a member of the crew of the Scottish yacht that placed second in a gruelling month-long, 2,100-mile sailing race around the British Isles.

Two yachts were entered from each of five countries: Scotland, England, Wales, Ireland and France. A French boat was first and Catriona's was second, followed by England, Ireland and Wales, in that order.

They sailed the race in four legs, from Cowes off the south coast of England to Galway in Ireland; from Galway to Oban in the Scottish highlands; from Oban to Newcastle in England; and from Newcastle, four weeks later, back to Cowes. The boats earned points by the order of their finishing each leg.

Catriona — Katie for short — is 23 and was chosen from among 3,000 candidates for her place on the Scottish team. She started sailing on the River Clyde at the Royal Gourock Yacht Club when she was in high school and was a member of the University of Edinburgh sailing team. She graduated with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and has been employed for the last two years by British Rail.

As a sailor she follows in the wake of her father who is a member of the Royal Gourock Yacht Club, Commodore of a Loch Long Class fleet on the River Clyde, and an enthusiastic and competitive skipper.

She was delighted to get a letter in February saying that the 3,000 applications had been whittled down to 22 and asking her to report for team trials at Largs on the Clyde.

The candidates split into four crews and spent a day sailing in what Katie calls "traditional Scottish weather — strong winds, freezing conditions, horizontal rain and occasional snow."

The next day, the two Scottish crews were announced and Katie was thrilled to hear her name called out. She spent the next few months attending training courses, preparing herself for her ordeal. She reported for duty at Cowes on August 14, four days before the start.

Katie was assigned the on-board job of managing the halyards, the ropes that hoist the foresails, raising and lowering them and changing from bigger to smaller sails as the wind requires. Ashore, she was the purser, planning the menu for the trip and making up the shopping lists, taking into account that the tiny galley would be heeled-over much of the time at an alarming angle and the hull would be bouncing with the waves. Meals would be cooked and eaten in the few minutes snatched from deck duties and there would be no chance of nipping out to the shops for something you had forgotten. At one point, during a calm stretch of the race one of the Irish crews sent out an urgent message on the VHF radio asking if anyone had parsley and fresh cream for a meal they were preparing.

"Oddly enough," says Katie, "nobody did."

She wrote an article about her adventure for her colleagues at British Rail.

On the first leg of the race a heavy wind arose and it was "all hands on deck" throughout the night. Nobody slept.

"That night was the most exciting sailing I have ever done — surfing down the waves with the phosphorescence in our wake creating an unreal light. I was certainly glad of all my foul weather gear. On Thursday morning we came flying up the west coast of Ireland, all exhausted after working hard for so many hours, and we were really boosted by having a school of dolphins accompanying us, swimming alongside, crossing in front of the boat, and leaping out of the sea."

After a couple of days in Ireland, doing laundry and working on the boat, they set sail again.

"The conditions on the Sunday were fierce as we sailed out of Galway Bay,"

Katie writes, "This turned out to be the upwind leg from hell as we smashed through heavy seas up the Irish coast and across the Irish Sea for three days. I was slightly seasick and spent twenty-two out of the first twenty-four hours on the weather rail. To get an idea of what it was like, try to imagine sitting on a metal rail, being thrown about in the wind, with the occasional bucket of freezing cold salt water thrown over you. We could not take time off to go below to eat, so cups of soup and bowls of pasta were consumed with difficulty on the rail."

As they approached Oban, a man fell overboard from one of the English boats and Katie's boat stood by to help but his shipmates hauled him to safety very quickly. As they neared Newcastle, the winds that had caused such havoc became dead calm and they were allowed to complete the leg using their auxiliary engines.

The last leg to Cowes was the most challenging and demanding of all. For two days and nights a following wind, gusting to more than thirty knots, would catch the mainsail, unexpectedly swinging the boom violently from one side of the boat to the other, threatening to break frayed ropes.

"Working in very difficult conditions all through the night and day meant we needed our adrenaline to keep us going. When off duty for an hour or two to get some sleep below there was no chance to remove all the layers of waterproofs and warm clothing since we could be called up on deck for an emergency at any moment."

Finally, they sailed into Cowes in glorious sunshine and, when all the calculations had been made, Katie and her crew were awarded second place in the fleet of ten boats.

Katie says she applied for a place on the team and did her part in the arduous voyage because, "it presented an opportunity to really test myself."

She passed the test with flying colours.

Robertson Davies and Uncle Hamish

Robertson Davies, the creator of the fictional character Samuel Marchbanks, died in Toronto 2 December 1995.

He was the author of a dozen novels as well as plays and essays and was one of a handful of Canadian writers who have won international acclaim. While he was editor of the Peterborough (Ontario) Examiner in the 1940s he wrote a humorous column under the pseudonym Samuel Marchbanks. These columns were collected and published in three books: *The Diary of Samuel Marchbanks* (1947), *The Table Talk of Samuel Marchbanks* (1949) and *The Marchbanks Almanac* (1967). An enlarged and edited edition appeared in 1985 under the title *The Papers of Samuel Marchbanks*.

He borrowed his pseudonym from a Dumfriesshire ancestor.

His great-grandfather William Robertson married Elizabeth Marchbank (correct) (1821-1877)

The fictional Samuel recorded these observations about St. Andrew's Day:

"This is St. Andrew's Day, and although I do not belong to the Scottish Branch of the family (it spells its name Marjoribanks, which is wasteful, and therefore unScotch) I can never let the day pass unnoticed. My uncle Hamish Marjoribanks was an implacable Jacobite to his dying day, and at breakfast on St. Andrew's Day, he would throw great gobs of porridge at the chrome of Queen Victoria which hung on the dining-room wall, crying 'There's for ye, Hanover!' in a fierce voice. His wife, who was somewhat more reconciled to Culloden and the Act of Union, would spend the rest of the day swabbing the Royal Likeness with a dampened cloth."

During a moment's silence at the Annual General Meeting, members paid tribute to the memory of W. Paul Jackson. Mr. Jackson, the father of our newly elected president, died on September 8, 1996, in his eighty-fourth year, after a long illness.

In his opening remarks, the Chief recalled his pleasure at meeting Mr. Jackson at the inaugural meeting of The Family in Edinburgh in 1988, along with his son and his grandson, William P. Jackson III, now a student at the College of Charleston.

Mr. Jackson was born in Lamar County, Alabama and attended the University of Alabama. Like his father before him, he was a surveyor and later became an engineer with the state highway department and an expert in soil stabilization. He retired in 1976 after thirty-four years of service to become a private consultant.

More than a dozen of Mr. Jackson's family, including a son and three nephews, are lawyers, most of them graduates of the University of Alabama. In 1982, the Jackson family endowed the John Evans Jackson Scholarship at the university's School of Law in memory of Mr. Jackson's grandfather.

Richard Adam Marjoribanks

One of our most enthusiastic members in Australia, Richard Adam Marjoribanks of Busseton, Western Australia, died on April 11, 1996, at the age of eighty years.

He was proud to trace his ancestry to Alexander Marjoribanks of that ilk who died in 1864. One of his most treasured books was Alexander's "Travels in New Zealand and Australia," published around 1850. He was an historian and a teacher by profession and took a keen interest in his roots.

His daughter, Patricia Marjoribanks Ritchie of Cupar in Fife writes to say, "Perhaps being orphaned at the early age of seven made him seek a family to belong to."

He was never able to attend a Gathering but he corresponded regularly with members of the family. Roger Marjoribanks of Guildford in Surrey visited him in 1994 and spent several hours comparing genealogies.

He often wrote nostalgically about Scotland and Edinburgh. After receiving an invitation to the Gathering in Charleston, he wrote:

"Alas, I cannot be there, as I am a 'prisoner' in Western Australia which we only meant to visit!"

His wife, the former Muriel Moncrieff, has been under continuous care in hospital since 1983. He is survived by two sons, Dr. Roger W. Marjoribanks, a geologist in Perth, Western Australia, and Ken, in Busseton, and a sister Jean, a hospital matron in South Queensferry, West Lothian, Scotland.

The Gentle Johnston/es

A new book has been published about our cousins the Johnstones. It's called "The 'Gentle' Johnston/es, The Story of the Johnston/e Family."

It was written by Hon. Mr. Justice Russell C. Honey Q.C. LL.B. who was a judge in Belleville, Ontario until his retirement in 1991. He is the Canadian Membership Commissioner of Clan Johnston/e in America. He and his wife, the former Mairie Lajoie of Sarasota, Florida, live on a farm in Ameliasburgh Township, Prince Edward County, Ontario. They are both members of The Marjoribanks Family and attended the Gathering in Ottawa in 1994. The book is published by their own firm, Fallingbrook Publishing, Inc., named after their farm, and Mairie designed the cover and created the illustrations of old Annandale landscapes.

I've been very busy ever since I got home from Charleston, drafting the minutes, writing and publishing this edition of *The Letter*, and dealing with all the questions and requests that arose during the Gathering. (If I haven't yet responded to your inquiry, please remind me.)

One of the important decisions we made in Charleston was to meet next year in Scotland — in connection with Roots '97, a gathering of all the clans and principal families of Dumfriesshire. We will meet for a three-day weekend, May 30 and 31 and June 1. Mark that space on your calendar now and I will let you know the details as soon as they are decided.

It was suggested during the annual meeting that, since we now have a substantial balance in the bank, copies of *The Marjoribanks Journal* should be available to members without charge. The Executive Committee has accepted this proposal and you now may have *The Journal* for the asking. *The Marjoribanks Letter* is sent free to all members but if you would like back issues, there is a charge of \$3.00 in Canadian funds or the equivalent in other currencies.

As I do regularly in this space, I would like to remind you to check your membership card to see if it has expired. It would cost a considerable amount of time and money to notify everyone individually when his or her membership expired, so we will count on you to keep it up to date. If you have mislaid your card and can't remember your expiry date, ask me and I will let you know.

If you didn't get a chance to renew or take out a membership at Charleston, it's never too late!

And, of course, keep up the missionary work! Tell all your aunts, uncles and cousins about The Family. If you send me the name and postal address of people you think might be interested, I will send them a copy of *The Letter* and a brief history of the family and our organization.

If you have a computer and a modem and would like to share e-mail with family members, the address is: nn102601@midnet.csd.sc.edu

To visit James Green's Marjoribanks Home Page: <http://genealogy.org/~green/Mbanks.html>

If I'm lucky, and you get this edition of *The Letter* before Christmas, let me wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year!

*Robert Marjoribanks,
Honorary Secretary*

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* Family membership includes parents and their children.

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