



THE THORNHILL FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER



August 2000

Annual Meeting in Scotland

The Thornhill Foundation Annual Meeting and Hardie family reunion activities drew fifty Hardie descendants to Scotland for tours of the important family sites, including Edinburgh, Kinross, Clackmannan, St. Andrews and Stirling.

Attending were Tina Bell from Denver, Colorado, and her friend Mike Hudson; Belle and Joe Paul Bramhall from College Station, Texas, with their children, Bobby and Kaci; Polly and Todd Fisher from Knoxville, Tennessee, and Polly's daughter, Marti; Robin and Dick Griffiths from Incline Village, Nevada; Chris Hardie from New Orleans, Louisiana, with his fiancée, Darlene Hill; Cliff and Connie Hardie from Wilmington, Ohio; Eben and Mimi Hardie from Atlanta, Georgia, and their children, Sarah and Kacy; Eben and Linda Hardie from New Orleans; Ruth Hardie from New Orleans; Jack Hardie from Dallas, Texas; Tom Hardie from Chicago, Illinois; Tom and Dee Hardie from Butler, Maryland; Bill Hardie from Mobile, Alabama; Don Hoffman from New Orleans; Ann Kimbrough from Fairhope, Alabama; Billy and Kay Kimbrough from Mobile; Mary Elizabeth Kimbrough from Mobile; Kitty Grey Long from Uniontown, Alabama; Charles and

Renate Marchal from Boissise-le-Roi, France; Marion and Bill Mathes from Princeton, New Jersey; Melvin and Charlotte Mathes from New Orleans; Rose Scott Rothbart from New Canaan, Connecticut; David and Carol Smith from Jacksonville, Florida, and their son, Jason; Helen and Bill Smith from Winter Park, Florida; Claire Wadlington and her husband Ted Post from Newton, Massachusetts, and their children, Ian and Garrett; and Walter and Ruth Wadlington from Charlottesville, Virginia.

Our guests from Scotland included Frank Hitchman from Edinburgh; Margaret and Jim Cuthbert from St. Andrews, and Ann Thomson from Dunfermline. Frank Hitchman is a cousin of our directors, Bill Hardie and Robin Griffiths, and he was a gracious host for dinner one night. Margaret Cuthbert is a descendant of John Hardie's sister Isabella Hardie Sands. Margaret's brother, Lindsay Sands, now owns the store founded by John Hardie's brother Joseph. Margaret's husband Jim was an integral part of the planning for our reunion activities. Ann Thomson is also a descendant of Isabella.

Directors Reelected

The principal order of business for the membership at the Annual Meeting was the election of directors for the next year. All incum-

bents were reelected. Their names and addresses appear in the box on the next page.

Reunion Diary

During one of the long bus trips of the reunion, the Editor of the Newsletter found Connie Hardie making notes. Connie and Cliff Hardie were first-time attendees at a reunion, and Connie kindly agreed to share her diary.

Saturday, 10 June 2000

We arrived at Gatwick at 8:00 a.m., the last leg of our journey from Ohio. We had to wait 6 hours in the waiting room to make our connecting flight to Edinburgh. Our flight to Edinburgh was smooth, but part of our luggage was "lost."

In the evening we met the Hardie clan for the first time for dinner at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, located just around the corner from our hotel. We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves; good food and great "cousins." By 10:00 p.m. we were pretty bleary eyed and headed back to the Ibis Hotel. Note: Our luggage arrived at the Hotel around 10:30 p.m.! British Airways had made good on their word that they would deliver it that evening.

Sunday, 11 June 2000

We slept late, got up later, and had breakfast in the hotel. Since St. Giles Church was just a short distance from the hotel, we decided to go to their 11:30 a.m. service. The choir was marvelous; they sang three works - all a capella - one traditional and two very modern church pieces. As it was Pentecost, the sermon was focused on the message: "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place." What a fitting message for the Hardie reunion!

The Thornhill Foundation Directors for 2000 - 2001

Catherine C. Babin 316 Rue Saint Ann Metairie, LA 70005 (504) 837-3636	Delia Lane Hardie 4206 Danneel Street New Orleans, LA 70115 (504) 899-8501	Louise C. Hoffman 1524 4th Street New Orleans, LA 70130 (504) 522-2890
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M. P. Greene, Jr. P.O. Drawer C Talladega, AL 35160 (205) 761-3200	Sandra L. Hardie 2026 Pinevalley Road Rock Hill, SC 29732 (803) 324-8318	Helen Hardie Smith 1005 S. Lakemont Cir. Winter Park FL 32792 (407) 599-2995
Marilyn W. Greene P.O. Drawer C Talladega, AL 35160 (205) 761-3200	William B. Hardie, Jr. 425 Indian Bluff Road El Paso, TX 79912 (915) 581-0989	Alice L. Rainold 636 Pine Street New Orleans, LA 70118 (504) 861-0243
Robin Hardie Griffiths 530 Spencer Way Incline Village, NV 89451 (775) 831-0350	William H. Hardie, Jr 134 Myrtlewood Lane Mobile, AL 36608 (334) 344-5231	Kathryn Coke Rienhoff 8 Palmer Green Baltimore, MD 21210 (410) 323-7595
Susan Gwinn Goetze 1531 Sparks Road Sparks, MD 21152 (410) 771-8139	William H. Hardie, III 432 Laurel Creek Blvd. Moorestown, NJ 08057 (856) 914-9073	

After the service, we went down to the undercroft for a light lunch of soup, hard rolls and coffee. Not bad - and a cozy setting.

Since the afternoon was cool, with a blue sky and very little traffic, we explored the Royal Mile (the street in "old" Edinburgh from the Castle to Holyroodhouse), making particular notes as to which "close" (or alley as we would say in the states) we would come back to. We discovered Advocates Close where John Hardie, during an unsuccessful effort to find employment, roomed before sailing from Leith to New York on 10 May 1817. We also explored Lady Stairs Close where the Writers Museum is located and many other quaint winding alleys. Our leisurely pace meant that we were not making a whole lot of progress on our tour. Cliff spotted the city tour bus going by, so we

Some of us ate our boxed lunches huddled in the shelter of the still standing

decided to hop on to it. By late afternoon we returned to the hotel for a brief rest.

At 6:00 p.m. the family began gathering at Creelers Restaurant, and at 7:00 p.m. the reunion dinner and the official "annual meeting" of The Thornhill Foundation began. Great fun - oh, did I mention how great the food, drinks and service were? We will need to work out when we get back home.

One side note to the day. We noticed one young Hardie, Don Hoffman, sporting a bandage across his nose and forehead. It seems that on his way to the meeting the airplane hit an air pocket, causing the plane suddenly to lose altitude while Don took a fall.

One other casualty of the day was Helen Hardie Smith who, while on her way to St. Giles Church, stumbled on the "Heart of Midlothian." The "Heart" chimney. Perhaps the Hardies had sheltered in the same way over two

is formed by cobblestones in the shape of a heart in the sidewalk of the Royal Mile, and in the 18th century it was the heart of Edinburgh. Legend has it that one is to leave a personal greeting on the heart to bring good luck. Unfortunately, Helen suffered a nasty cut over her eye as well as a hairline fracture to her arm.

If there can be a bright side to these two mishaps, it was the fact that both Don and Helen received excellent medical service at the Edinburgh Infirmary.

Monday, 12 June 2000

We left the Ibis Hotel at 10:00 a.m. for an all day bus trip to discover the places where John Hardie and his family had lived. Sarah, our driver, was extremely competent. She took us down roads that I would consider a lane, turned around on these lanes with ease, and parked in very narrow spaces with the greatest assurance.

Our first stop was at Saline, a very small Scottish parish (community) and visited the graves of John Hardie and Isobel Cousin Hardie (John Hardie's parents). Their monument was originally intended to lie horizontally on short pillars (much like a low table top). Many of the legs have fallen over, but the slab is still intact. We also saw the gravestone for Joseph Hardie and his wife Marion Messar which bears only the initials "J H" and "M M". It was interesting to note that some of the stones in this cemetery bore Robert the Bruce's coat of arms.

On we traveled to Thorny Hill, John Hardie's tenant farm. We started our hike to the remains of the home, past a farm now owned by John Graham, past fields of buttercups, all with the sweet smell of apple blossoms filling the air. Mr. Graham very graciously allowed us the use of a port-a-john that many of us greatly appreciated.

We climbed the rocky, thorny, and sometimes marshy, hill - up to the top where the remains of a cottage sit. I was struck by the size; it was much larger than I had envisioned it to be. Still visible there were remnants of a round fireplace sunk in the ground. An old tree, bent by years of wind and storm, stands as a lonely sentinel to what must have been an isolated life, subject to very hard work. We learned that John Hardie lived here for just a few years before moving his family to Kinross.

hundred years ago.

After lunch we boarded our bus to

continue on to the town of Kinross to see the house and garden located on the land, called "Viewfield," that John Hardie had occupied as "feuar" until his death. The present house, also called Viewfield, was built in 1879, according to the couple who now own it. In back of the main house is a smaller building that we were informed was built on the site of John Hardie's barn with some of the original walls. After thanking these gracious people, we went a short distance into the center of Kinross to the store founded by our John Hardie's brother, Joseph Hardie, and now owned by other descendants of John and Isabel Hardie, David Lindsay Sands and his son David Sands. They gave us a warm welcome and showed us an exhibit they had arranged for us consisting of old ledgers and photographs of the store. Smaller than an American supermarket, the store still featured a wide variety of fresh fruit, a bakery, milk, flowers and canned and packaged goods. Lindsay Sands and his son have expanded that original store into a chain of thirteen grocery stores in the Kinross area. Next door was the ironmonger (hardware) store that is now owned by Stuart Skinner, but was once part of Joseph Hardie's business. Mr. Skinner had also prepared a display of his historical documents and photographs.

Before the afternoon had fully passed, we left for St. Andrews where we saw the ancient abbey that had been destroyed by Scottish reformers. We also did a little shopping and walked along the shore of the North Sea before dinner. Our dinner was at the Links Restaurant in the new clubhouse of the Royal & Ancient, and we had a beautiful view of the Old Course from the dining room windows. We could see all the preparations for the British Open soon to be played on the course.

We were back "home" at the Ibis Hotel by 10:00 p.m.. It was quite a day with a great deal to absorb and comprehend with the knowledge there would be more tomorrow.

Tuesday, 13 June 2000

On Tuesday, our trip took us to Clackmannan, Alva, Stirling and Culross

We had the day off from our busy tour schedule on Wednesday, so we took the opportunity to get caught up on our sleep, to sight-see, and to go shopping. Cliff and I decided to go back

with Bob as our driver. Bob was a true Scot (Sarah was from Sussex), and Bob enjoyed sharing his wide knowledge of Scotland with us whenever we showed an interest.

Our first stop was the parish church at Clackmannan where Hardies had been baptized and married for as far back as we can find. Thanks to the planning of Jim Cuthbert, we were met by the clerk of the Session and the Minister of the church. We learned that the first stone church on the site had been built before 1195 and survived for six centuries. Towards the end of 18th Century the original church fell into disrepair, and it was replaced by the church that now stands on the hill with a commanding view of the land down to the Firth of Forth. The present church was completed in 1817, so it was in the original church that John Hardie was baptized in June 1760. He left Clackmannanshire to marry Isabel Cousin in Saline where their children were all baptized. Surrounding the church is a cemetery that was originally consecrated by St. Serf in the 7th Century, but the earliest stones date from 1655. Many of the parishioners over the years had been members of the Bruce family, so many gravestones bear the coat of arms of Robert the Bruce. While I was busy taking pictures, two ladies inquired why we were stopping at the church and not in the town square where a monolithic stone sits on top of a large shaft next to the tollbooth that in the past served as a court and prison. After explaining to them why we were at the church, they seemed pleased to learn that the descendants were paying their respects to their ancestors.

On the way back to the bus I came upon another Scotswoman sweeping her walk who asked the same question. After hearing the same reply, she asked if I had been up to the Robert the Bruce Tower.

"No," I replied. "Is it close by?"

"It lies at the top of the hill, not five minutes from here. Just give the gate a little push and follow the path up the hill. But mind your step. Cows and and explore some of the "closes" that we hadn't had time to see on Sunday. We also went through the usual tourist attractions, including John Knox's home (interesting) and the Writers Museum.

sheep graze there now!" she said with a knowing wink.

So up the hill I quickly scurried to find the tower that Robert the Bruce had supposedly lived in and where Robert Burns was said to have been knighted with Bruce's sword. It is boarded up now, so I could not climb the steps. Standing alone next to the tower I could see for miles around as I imagined chieftains peering out of the narrow windows looking for attackers. Is that bagpipes I hear in the wind?

My reverie was broken when I heard the bus, and I hurried back to the group so we could move on to Stirling. We drove through the little village of Alva where, it is conjectured, the Hardies may have lived. At least that's one explanation for the many Hardie men named Alva.

We parked at Stirling Castle where one of the buildings has been painted bright yellow. According to our driver Bob, it was a controversial effort to simulate how the limestone looked when it was originally built. We had a wonderful lunch at the Scholars Restaurant in the Stirling Highlands Hotel. Once a private school, it is now a hotel whose ambience is truly part of the "old school" or the established society with its many rules and privileges. Ah, what a life that would be!

Note: Even though we have been eating extremely well, we also find that by climbing the hills, walking along the cobblestone streets, and climbing many stairs, we are really becoming pretty fit.

Our last stop of the day is Culross; not part of the Hardie history, just a wonderful quaint colorful town where the "palace" (actually a large home of George Bruce) is painted a soft orange. We explored the streets and alleys of this 17th century village until the horn summoned us to the bus for the ride back to Edinburgh by 6 p.m.

For dinner, a crowd of us "taxi-pooled" to the Waterfront Restaurant in the borough of Leith, the port of Edinburgh. What luck! The royal yacht, Britannia, was moored just one or two piers over. Awaiting a visit from a member of the royal family, perhaps.

Wednesday, 14 June 2000

We thought the Writers museum was very good, particularly on Robert Louis Stephenson.

Finally, about 4 p.m. our energy gave out and we said, "Enough already - we

need rest!"

Around 7 p.m., we all gathered in the lobby of the Ibis Hotel to share taxis to 17 India Street where we were dinner guests of Frank Hitchman, a cousin of our president Bill Hardie. We all shared a wonderful dinner in a gorgeous Georgian setting. We all felt the same nostalgia in the fond memories of the trip and the realization that the reunion was coming to an end. We also felt that we should "hurry back" for this was truly a reunion and a renewal, not only of our family, but also of new found friends.

2001 Annual Meeting in New Orleans

At our Annual Meeting in Edinburgh, the members voted to have our 2001 Annual Meeting in New Orleans. This recommendation will be acted on by the directors when they select the time and place for the 2001 annual meeting. Meanwhile, if you have any suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact one of the directors at the addresses given above.

Highway Project Threatens Thornhill

The Alabama State Highway Department has embarked a project to widen Alabama State Highway 21 from Sylacauga where it intersects with U.S. Highway 280 to Interstate Highway 20, near Oxford, Alabama. This is evidently related to the recent decision by Honda Motors to locate an assembly plant in Lincoln. The project is already underway between Talladega and Interstate Highway 20, and the resulting four lane highway is very impressive. But south of Talladega Creek, the current version of the project, even after revisions to preserve the Marianna Greene Henry Equestrian Center will still cut a substantial slice of the property off the south side of Thornhill farm. The existing gate and some of the buffer will be lost to the new highway. As a result, the highway will be much closer to the cemetery, and the project will diminish the quiet

dignity and reverent solitude the cemetery now enjoys. The cemetery and the farm are on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Alabama State Highway Department calls this Project NHF-218(16). If you would like to make your views known to the governor you may write:

The Honorable Don E. Siegelman
Governor
State of Alabama
Governor's Office
600 Dexter Avenue, Suite N104
Montgomery, AL 36130-3021

If you write, please mention the project number and send a copy to:

Mr. Lee H. Warner
Executive Director
State of Alabama
Alabama Historical Commission
468 South Perry Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36130-0900

You may also use the enclosed postcards if it is more convenient.

Family News

Malcie Berrigan (1.12.4.2) has written about her children. Laura Denise Berrigan (1.12.4.2.1) was married on 8 November 1996 to Oris David Creighton in Abita Springs, Louisiana. David and Laura are now living in Folsom, Louisiana. Tracey Lynne Berrigan (1.12.4.2.2) is living in Clermont, Florida. Kimberly Anne Berrigan (1.12.2.2.3) was married on 20 June 1998 to Christopher Brent Baggett in Slidell, Louisiana. Chris and Kim have one son, Tristan Thomas Baggett, and they are living in Picayune, Mississippi.

Fontaine Martin has moved, but the beautiful Creole cottage at 535 Lowerline Street, is still owned by a Hardie descendant. John Fenner French (6.3.2.3.2) and his wife Elizabeth Shane French have purchased the home where they now live with their daughter. Fenn operates two men's stores under franchise from Jos. A. Banks, and Shane is a physician practicing obstetrics and gynecology.

Theodore G. Harris, III was married to Debbie Smith on 18 September 1999. They are living in Houston, Texas.

The Reverend John Ford Hardie (7.1.3.1.4) is serving as rector for St. Marks Episcopal Church in Corpus Christi, Texas, where he and his wife Melanie are living with their three children.

Hugh Griffiths (1.6.2.3.2) and his wife Laura and their children are also living in Corpus Christi where Hugh is stationed as a pilot in the Coast Guard. Hugh has recently transitioned from helicopters to fixed wing aircraft.

Todd D. Hardie (1.4.2.3.1) was married on 15 August 1999 in Charlotte, Vermont, to Rebecca M. Hill.

Our sailors, Peter Smith (7.4.4.1) and Chen Liang-Hsia, spent the winter on their boat in Italy, and in May they left the comfort of their harbor for further adventures in the Greek Islands.

Joseph Renick Hoover, husband of Mary Hardie Cunningham (2.2.5.1), died in El Paso, Texas, on 1 April 1999. Joe was loved by everyone who knew him, and he was enthusiastic about everything he did. He is survived by Mary, two sons, four grandchildren and many other relatives.

Mailing List

Our mailing list is a valuable asset, and your help with new addresses is very much appreciated.

Family Correspondence

Our thanks also to all of you who have provided information for the Newsletter.