

July 1997

Dear Family and Friends:

**1997 Annual Meeting in Birmingham**

We held the 1997 Annual Meeting of The Thornhill Foundation on Saturday evening, April 12, 1997, at the Vestavia Country Club in Vestavia, Alabama. The main order of business was the election of our Directors and Officers.

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If you have any suggestions about our activities, please call one of these directors. Our next annual meeting is scheduled for April 18, 1998, in Maryland.

**Reunion at Thornhill**

We held the 24th Hardie Family reunion over the weekend of April 11-13, 1997, and gathering Hardies met Friday evening in a hospitality room at the Sheraton Perimeter Park Hotel. This room served as the unofficial headquarters throughout the weekend.

The highlight of the reunion was Saturday at Thornhill as the rain clouds cleared just in time for our luncheon. If it were possible, Thornhill and its surrounding buildings looked even more beautiful than they did at our last reunion at Thornhill in April 1992. Since our last visit, Pat and Marilyn Greene have added the lovely All Souls Chapel adjacent to the Hardie Family Cemetery. It is a white frame building with exposed beams and a polished brick floor. The cemetery is also in wonderful condition. We had our lunch at the Marianna Greene Henry Special Equestrians Arena which, together with its adjoining barn, have also been added since our last visit. The arena encloses an enormous area for horseback riding by deaf, blind and multi handicapped children.

Family members came from far and wide to make the 1997 reunion one of our most successful. Traveling the farthest was Hardie Davies who came from Poway, California, and brought her two sons, Chuck from Fullerton, California, and Paul and his wife Dale from Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Liddy Lund came from El Paso, Texas, with her two daughters, Diane from Las Cruces, New Mexico, and Barbara from Dallas, Texas. Robin and Dick Griffiths came from Incline Village, Nevada. Kitty Grey Long came over from Uniontown, Alabama, but her daughter Rose Scott Rothbart came all the way from New Canaan, Connecticut, with her two children Charles and Katherine. Walter and Ruth Wadlington came from Charlottesville, Virginia, and brought their daughter Charlotte with her husband Pete Griffith and their three children, Duncan, Wyatt and new-born Kelsey. Tom and Dee Hardie and their granddaughter Edith Hardie Birney came from Butler, Maryland, and Sue and Al Goetz came from Sparks, Maryland. Butch and Louise Clayton, Gray and Darthula Buck and their daughter Thula Buck Davis and her two children Grayson and Anna attended from Birmingham, Alabama. Brad and Jill Kimbrough also attended from Birmingham, and they were joined by Brad's parents Hardie and Deanna Kimbrough from Thomasville, Alabama. From the Mobile, Alabama, area came Bill and Alix Hardie, Billy and Kay Kimbrough and Ann Kimbrough. Will and Jessica Kimbrough and their baby Emma June came from Nashville, Tennessee. From the New Orleans area our attendees included Delia Hardie, Ruth Hardie, Eben and Linda Hardie, Lou Hoffman, Fontaine Martin, Ralph and Nina Ross and their son Andrew, and Helen Shaw. Gary Stebbins came to the reunion on her way from Florida to her home in Rochester, New York. Gary is a member of the Isbell family, the same family as Margaret Discretion Isbell, wife of Joseph Hardie. Gary has shared with us some of her collection of Hardie memorabilia, especially her copies of Joseph Hardie's account of his experiences in the Civil War.

Gene and Linda Ford were special guests at our reunion dinner at the Vestavia Country Club. Gene Ford is a consultant who is helping Pat and Marilyn Greene with their application to include Thornhill on the National Register of Historic Places. Gene discussed historic preservation and described the progress of the Thornhill application.

Our featured speakers were the family celebrities, Tom and Dee Hardie who write about Grandparenting. Dee is also the author of a popular feature in *House Beautiful* magazine. They shared their experiences with us and showed us slides of the "other" Thornhill in Butler, Maryland.

According to Rose Scott Rothbart, just before she sent in her reunion registration, her son Charles found the following message in a fortune cookie: "A family reunion in the coming months will be a tremendous success!" Well, the fortune cookie was correct; the reunion was a tremendous success. It even deserved the exclamation point. I wish I could claim credit for it, but Pat and Marilyn Greene did all the work necessary for the wonderful time we had at Thornhill, and Darthula Buck made all the arrangements for our dinner at the Vestavia Country Club. Delia Hardie gets credit for the wonderful photographs. Thank you all!

### **Family News**

#### *Deaths*

With an interval of silence at our reunion dinner we recognized the many family and friends who had died since our last meeting.

Willie Wallace Welch died December 29, 1996, in Talladega, Alabama, at age 91. She was buried in the Oak Hill Cemetery. Miss Willie was a loyal and devoted friend of the Hardie family although she could claim no direct kinship. She served on our board of directors and was the Chairman of our Cemetery Committee for many years. Willie Wallace Welch attended Randolph

Macon Women's College in Lynchburg, Virginia, and she worked most of her life as a librarian. She served as Supervisor of School Libraries for the Alabama State Department of Education, and she held the position of Librarian for the Talladega Public Library from 1943 until her retirement in 1969. She was honored as Talladega's citizen of the year in 1988. Willie Wallace was always at the Hardie reunions as long as her health allowed, and it was she who collected our registration fee at the first reunion. Miss Willie was active and alert until the end. Alix and I called on her at least once a year when we were in Talladega, and Willie and I spoke and corresponded often. My last letter from her was about a book entitled *Fear God and Walk Humbly: The Agricultural Journal of James Mallory, 1843-1877* edited by Grady McWhitney, Warner O. Moore, Jr., and Robert Price. James Mallory was the father of Elizabeth Darby Mallory who married Alva Finley Hardie in Talladega on May 29, 1866. Elizabeth was also Oliver Welch's sister's granddaughter which explains Willie Wallace Welch's interest. Thomas Chalmers Hardie married Hannah Jane Welch, granddaughter of Oliver Welch from his first marriage to Elizabeth Mallory (not Elizabeth Darby Mallory; you'll find this all explained in Lillian Martin's book, *John Hardie of Thornhill and His Family*). In a letter she signed "Excitedly yours," Willie Wallace told me that "I consider the Journal truly a classic," and suggested that "Descendants of Alva Hardie and Elizabeth Mallory and of Thomas Chalmers Hardie and Hannah Welch need to know about it." Copies are available from the University of Alabama Press, Post Office Box 870380, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0380. According to the book notes, "Mallory kept a detailed journal of local, national, and often foreign news, agricultural activities, the weather, and especially events involving his family, relatives, slaves, and neighbors in Talladega County, Alabama." This recommendation is a wonderful gift to us all from Miss Willie.

In a tragic automobile accident on March 12, 1997, near Birmingham, Alabama, Mary "Molly" Hardie Hoover Smith (2.2.5.1.1) and her son Reed Hardie Smith (2.2.5.1.1.2) were both killed. Reed died on March 12, 1997, and his mother died two days later on March 15, 1997. Molly and Reed were on a trip to visit the University of the South at Sewanee, Tennessee, and they were evidently returning to Birmingham just after a visit to Thornhill. Reed was a senior at Westlake High School in Austin, Texas, and intended to enroll at Sewanee the next fall. Reed was a leader in Christian Youth Ministry at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church and the Episcopal Diocese of Texas, and he was a generous contributor of community service. As an outstanding student, Reed participated in theater, debate and journalism, and he was an award winning photographer. Molly Smith had attended the University of Colorado and lived in El Paso, Santa Fe and Colorado Springs before moving to Austin. Molly was a freelance photographer and active in the sports she shared with her children. Molly's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Joseph R. Hoover (Mary Hardie Cunningham).

#### *Marriages*

May 31, 1997, was the date for the wedding in Cincinnati, Ohio, of William D. Hardie (1.2.6.2.1), the only child of Clifford and Constance Hardie, and Jennifer Berry of Greenville, South Carolina. The newlyweds are both doctors. Clifford retired in 1997 from Wilmington College in Wilmington, Ohio, where he taught literature and writing for 36 years. Clifford's latest book is *Voices From The Heartland*.

Marion Cobb Hardie (6.3.1.1.2) was married on April 20, 1996 to William Mathes III in New Orleans. They live in New York City and Princeton, New Jersey. Last August, Marion joined Financial Security Assurance, Inc. where she is responsible for providing insurance for mortgage backed securities. Marion is the daughter of our director Eben Hardie, Jr. Marion's sister, Lydia Adrienne Hardie (6.3.1.1.5) was married on December 28, 1996, to Peter Hansche in New Orleans.

*Births and Other News*

Mary Lee Bicknell (4.3.2.3.1) sent us a note that she and Todd are living in Dallas, Texas, with their have two children, Russell Todd Bicknell, Jr. born March 8, 1991, and Elizabeth Cecile Bicknell, born February 5, 1994.

Charlotte Menville (6.3.4) reports the birth of a great-grandchild: Grace Hardie Smither was born on March 7, 1996, to Stacy and Van Smither (Charles Vantress Smither, 6.3.4.1.1).

Tom and Dee Hardie's daughter Louise (1.4.2.3.2) and her husband William B. Isaacs have new baby named Martha Butler Isaacs born on September 26, 1995. Bill Isaacs is a molecular biologist and professor of urology and oncology at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. Bill and his brother John were members of a team of physicians who have confirmed the link in a significant number of prostate cancer cases to a specific gene. The discovery was announced in a November 1996 issue of the journal *Science*.

Walter Wadlington, husband of Ruth Hardie Wadlington (6.3.1.2), has added to his many honors election as trustee-at-large of the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates. Walter is James Madison Professor of Law and Professor of Legal Medicine at the Law School of the University of Virginia. Walter and Ruth's daughter Susan (6.3.1.2.3) and her husband David Butler are the proud parents of Hannah Ruth Butler born on January 20, 1997 in Boston, Massachusetts. Daughter Charlotte (6.3.1.2.2) and her husband Peter Griffith had their third child, Kelsey born March 4, 1997, and they all attended our reunion in April. Son Derek (6.3.1.2.4) is in New York City where he is the Theatrical Production Buyer for Walt Disney Company and his wife Kim Donahue recently started a new job with Vari\*Lite, a theatrical lighting company.

LeBron Hardie Jr.'s daughter Erika Lee Hardie (2.2.9.1.1) and Ethan Douglas Rietma were married on September 8, 1996 at Pinecrest lodge near Florissant in Teller County, Colorado. LeBron (2.2.9.1) recently made a gift to The Historic New Orleans Collection of letters of Bradford Hardie (2.2) to his wife Mary and other letters from 1895-1910. Bradford Hardie and Mary Binion Thornton married at Mountain Creek, Alabama, and wrote each other often during their separations. Lebron, who is Bradford Hardie's grandchild, prepared transcripts of the letters from the originals lent to him by Margaret Varner Bloss (2.2.4.2). The 354 letters span the period from September 1895 to August 1910, and 332 of them are addressed to Bradford's wife Mary. Evidently Mary was not as prolific in her correspondence, for one of the letters includes the plea, "I sent you some paper and envelopes this afternoon - dont be stingy with them." but the next day he wrote, "When I came down this morning and found no letter I was very much disappointed. And the train came & still none - But about half an hour later Horace came & delivered your very sweet letter." Not all the letters are from Bradford. There are also letters to Mary from her children including the following from her son James (2.2.3) on July 19, 1905, in Grandview, Alabama:

"Thornton's hen came off yesterday, and hatched six little white chickens. We ran our tram-car last night and night before last. To-day was my pay-day and the amount was \$3.00. I am still reading my book, With Taylor on the Rio Grande. You loving son, James W. Hardie"

James was only nine years old when he wrote this while both parents were in Sapphire County, North Carolina. Bradford and Mary moved to El Paso in 1906 to recover from tuberculosis. There they founded the prolific El Paso Branch of the family. LeBron's work on this collection of letters is a major addition to the family's historical record and to the Hardie memorabilia.

Hardie Bell Davies (1.2.4.2) writes with justifiable pride that she and her husband Charles have two great-grandchildren. Hardie's grandson Paul Hardie Davies Jr. (1.2.4.2.2.1), and his wife Cathleen

Back were married on February 12, 1993, and Paul and Cathy now have two children, Zachary Austin Davies (1.2.4.2.2.1.1) and Jacob Charles Davies (1.2.4.2.2.1.2). Paul is a Captain in the Marine Corps stationed in Quantico, Virginia. Hardie and her sons Paul (1.2.4.2.2) and Chuck (1.2.4.2.1) enlivened the group at our reunion in Birmingham.

Hugh (1.6.2.3.2) and Laura Griffiths new daughter Amy Elizabeth Griffiths was born on April 25, 1997, in San Diego, California.

Note the new era! Helen and Bill Smith have left Miami after 55 years and moved to Winter Park, Florida. Their son Peter (7.4.4.1) and his wife Chen Liang-Hsia (who seldom stay anywhere for 55 days) are still afloat. In December 1996 they were in Guatemala after a voyage of 925 miles from Cartagena, Colombia. Before that they were in Puntarenas, Costa Rico. Their journey has taken them from Seattle, Washington, down the west coast of the United States and Mexico, through the Panama Canal, and into the Caribbean. During their transit of the Canal, they stopped at the Pedro Miguel Boat Club which offered them a communal kitchen shared with other cruisers and a view of the Canal.

We could sit in our cockpit at sunset and watch the stream of world shipping pass through the locks. Like a lesson in economics we could see the American balance of trade moving deficit dollars from the U.S. toward the Orient as the Toyotas and the televisions moved past us. One day we watched an American nuclear submarine cruise slowly through the locks while the crew of the submarine barbecued steaks on the deck.

Their longest passage in the Caribbean, so far, was from Cartagena to the Island of Providencia.

Isla Providencia offers some of the best of the Caribbean: clear water in a picturesque anchorage surrounded by mountains, good provisioning, benign officials . . . and everybody speaks good English. In the little town we climbed the hilly road to have dinner at Miss Amparo's Restaurant. Miss Amparo is witty and articulate in English and Spanish as well as the local patois based upon English that she told us was descended from the days when the only inhabitants of these islands were slaves and pirates. Miss Amparo runs a good restaurant and holds court out front where the passersby stop to chat. Lunch and dinner are a set meal, the *comida corriente*. We had beef stew with cilantro and yucca, fried chicken, rice cooked in coconut milk, patacon (a plantain pancake, fried), breadfruit and salad, with a drink of puréed guava and mango.

Their letter comes from 20 miles up the Rio Dulce in Guatemala where they planned to stay for several months. We'll have to wait for another instalment to learn their next destination.

Jot Gunter Hardie (7.1.3.1.3) and his wife Lindy had their first child, a girl named Mikayla Ann Hardie, born March 13, 1997, in Denton, Texas. Jot's brother John (7.1.3.1.4) is an Episcopal priest whose church is in Uvalde, Texas, where he and his wife live with their three children. Their third, a girl named Bethany Joy Hardie, was born on March 21, 1996. Ann Elizabeth Hardie (7.1.3.1.1) is a religious sister in Paraguay and Nancy Ellen Hardie (7.1.2.1.2) is living in Prescott, Arizona, and teaching school.

Al Hardie (Charles Alva Hardie, Jr., 7.4.5.3) has been self-employed in the catering business for seven years in North Carolina. His company specializes in large corporate and family events; in just three events last year, they served over seven thousand people. Al is single and living in Cary, outside of Raleigh.

Dorsey Fenner Campbell (6.3.2.2.2) and her husband Rob are still in the restaurant business in Atlanta. They have operated *RJ's Uptown Kitchen & Wine Bar* for ten years, and they'd love to see any Hardies who find themselves in Atlanta.

Shep Sims writes that her son Brad (4.10.2.3.1) has moved around a lot; he is now working for Southern Progress (publishers of *Southern Living* etc.), living in Birmingham, and going to school. Her other two sons, Philip (4.10.2.3.2) and Hardie (4.10.2.3.3), are also in Birmingham; Philip is employed as team manager by Pitney Bowes for the Bell South library, and Hardie, who graduated from Troy State University in May 1996, is working at Shaeffer eyeglass company.

William A. Kimbrough, Jr. (4.10.1.2) has completed his one year term as the President of the Mobile County Bar Association. Billy, who was honored by induction into the American College of Trial Lawyers in the Fall of 1994, is a former U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Alabama, and is a partner in Mobile, Alabama, in the law firm of Turner, Onderdonk, Kimbrough & Howell, P.A.

### **John T. Hardie Letter Found**

Tina Bell (1.2.4.1.2) has discovered a letter addressed to John T. Hardie in New Orleans dated December 26, 1872, from Sarah Bladworth Hardie, widow of John Hardie's brother James. The salutation is "My dear nephew," and the letter reports the safe arrival in Edinburgh of John T. Hardie's second child William.

William would have been fifteen years old that winter, and he evidently was sent to Scotland for the completion of his education. Sarah B. Hardie was widowed when James Hardie died on January 5, 1866. Sarah and James had eleven children, and their youngest was only two years older than William. According to Sarah's letter, she had been waiting for William for some weeks.

I cannot convey by words how thankful we felt when we saw your dear boy landed here safely. As you mentioned in your letter to me that you would write immediately upon his sailing, from the middle of this month I have daily expected another letter. But none arriving, I thought perhaps you had changed your intentions for the present, and he was remaining till calmer weather. On the 22d I wrote to the shipping agents in Liverpool requesting them to let me know when the Memphis was expected, but on the morning of the 24th we had the great joy of having dear Willie here safe and well. He is a fine fellow, and we are all already attached to him. After receipt of your first letter telling me of your intentions regarding him, I began making enquiries for his future benefit both as regards educational advantages and being in the home of a gentleman well reported of where he will be under Christian discipline. My son accompanied me this forenoon to the house of Dr. Ferguson, Head Master of the Edinburgh Institution, Queen St. His house is in the first class position of Edinburgh and just a nice short walk from the school. It is No. 12 Moray Place, a large airy house. There are about 15 young gentlemen with him - 3 I think following the same course that Willie is designed for - and a very fine set of young men. The board is to be £70 -yearly- school fees are paid according to classes taken. Dr. Ferguson belongs to the congregation of the Rev. Dr. Candlish of the Presbyterian Free Church. They are a most zealous good congregation, but we have not decided whether Willie should go with his master or us. I thought best he should try which ministers he liked best before fixing. There was one particular thing amongst many others in fixing with Dr. Ferguson. That his house is not far distant from ours, and as I should like him conveniently near, it had its weight. Today I also had him measured for a school suit, for I do not like him to be daily wearing his nice black suit. I shall see all his clothes listed and that he has all requisite for his comfort. Rest assured he shall be cared for, and I trust he will be quite well and happy here and progress made in all points to prepare him for his future duties.

Many sincere thanks for your kind advice to dear Richard. He is very kind hearted, but his duty is now to try to try and gather something. He owes you much, and I trust he will at all

times study to do what you approve of. Accept also my thanks, too, for the 2 books which I shall have much pleasure in reading. The other presents are most handsome and greatly prized and admired. I shall write Mrs. Hardie soon. Meantime, thank her for her kind presents. I shall also write Mrs. Lewis soon. I felt grieved to hear of her delicate health. If she had only thought of coming here I am sure she would have been benefitted by our strengthening air. We have had a great quantity of rain here for months now. Never recollect such a continuation of rain dear nephew. I should have much liked to have kept your son but owing to our own numerous family and always requiring to have spare bed for a friend I could not have managed it but he must spend his holidays with me and come as frequently as possible. And I do rejoice he will not be far from me. With much love to you, Mrs. Hardie and other friends, believe me. Your affectionate aunt, S.B. Hardie

This must have been quite an adventure for young Willie. His ship, the "Memphis" probably sailed from New Orleans, and may even have had some of his father's cotton in the hold. Although the ship may have made a stop at Liverpool, Willie undoubtedly arrived on the ship in Edinburgh. In 1872, Edinburgh's port was Leith (now part of the city) on the south side of the Firth of Forth. The city is dominated by Edinburgh Castle built on a towering rock in the center of the circle of hills that formed the city limits at that time. In the 19th century the city was known as "Auld Reekie" from the cloud of smoke over the low lying quarters. No doubt Dr. Ferguson's "first class position" was above this pollution. The "Moray" of Dr. Ferguson's address is Thomas Randolph, 1st Earl of Moray, a Scottish hero of the 14th century. Moray destroyed Edinburgh Castle when it was held by the English in 1314, and he turned back the English at Bannockburn. When Robert Bruce died in 1329, Moray was regent of Scotland and guardian of young king David II. The population of Edinburgh was probably not much more than 200,000 while Willie was living there. Edinburgh justly deserved the reputation for education that brought Willie there. It was not only the seat of Edinburgh University, but it was also home to a number of fine public schools.

The "Mrs. Lewis" referred to in the letter is John T. Hardie's sister, Ann Eliza Hardie, who had married J.M. Lewis and was living in New Orleans a few blocks from John T. Hardie at the time. "Richard" is Richard Bladworth Hardie, James and Sarah's eighth child, then 25 years old. Richard had come to America in 1869 and worked with John T. Hardie in New Orleans. He returned to Scotland in 1879 to marry Annie Ireland and brought his new wife back to America to live in Texas. Richard died at his home in Dallas on July 14, 1917, and his widow died on October 26, 1936, also in Dallas. Richard and Annie had five children, and The Thornhill Foundation has tried to keep up with them.

### **Mailing List**

Our mailing list is a valuable asset to The Thornhill Foundation, and I very much appreciate your help with new addresses. If any of the members of your family have moved, please send me their latest address so we can keep them informed of our activities.

### **Thornhill Cemetery Endowment Fund**

The Board of Directors has created the Thornhill Cemetery Endowment Fund. Gifts to this fund will be used to create an endowment so that the income will insure continued care for the cemetery. Therefore, if you wish to make a gift in addition to your annual contribution, you may choose to designate it to the Thornhill Cemetery Endowment Fund. Donors of Memorial Gifts may

wish to make their gifts to this permanent fund. Memorial Gifts may be sent to the Chairman of the Memorial Gifts Committee:

William H. Hardie, III  
Fleer Corporation  
1120 Route 73, Suite 300  
Mount Laurel, NJ 08054

Memorial gifts are recorded in the records of the Foundation, and acknowledgments of the gift are sent to the family of the person honored by the gift.

**Family Correspondence**

Many thanks for all the correspondence we've received. I apologize if we've been tardy in responding, but we do our best to keep up. Please continue to write. As you can see we learn something new with every letter. Our thanks to all of you who have provided information for the Newsletter. Please keep up our flow of information. You might consider including the Newsletter on mailing lists for birth and wedding announcements. We'd love to receive Christmas cards with your news, too. Clippings of important events in your family's life are especially appreciated.

**Genealogical Information**

Catherine Babin collects the information for the Genealogical Committee and our Newsletter. Her address is:

Mrs. Hunter E. Babin  
316 Rue Saint Ann  
Metairie, LA 70005

**John Hardie of Thornhill Supplement**

Unfortunately, we don't have any more copies of Lillian Martin's book, *John Hardie of Thornhill and His Family*. However, we are looking for volunteers to help with the preparation of a supplement. We'll be covering all the marriages, births and deaths since the publication of Lillian Martin's book. It will be easiest if one person from each branch would collect the information for that branch. I'll be sending out a questionnaire to everyone with the Fall Newsletter, and someone will have to follow up on the replies. If you'd be willing to help, please let me know.

**Civil War Book Still Available**

The history of the Hardie brothers in the Civil War is still available, but the numbers are dwindling. Everyone who made a contribution to the Foundation this year should have received a copy at no cost. If you have made a contribution this year but did not receive the book, please drop me a note, and I'll send your copy at once. We have enough for all the members who have not yet made their annual contribution to the Foundation. We also have enough for your favorite library. If you'll send me the name and address of your library, we'll be glad to contribute a copy to it.

Sincerely



William H. Hardie, Jr.