



# THE Marjoribanks LETTER

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

## ISLAND SPIRIT SWEEPS GATHERING

The Prince Edward Island members of the family took charge of the 1998 Gathering in Charlottetown and infused it with their own irrepressible spirit.

At the welcome reception on Friday night they inducted the Chief as an Islander. Allan Marchbank of Truro, Nova Scotia, presented him with a P.E.I. tartan tie. Hubert Marchbank of Kensington performed an initiation ceremony by administering “a taste of the land and the sea,” requiring the Chief to take a bite of a raw potato and to swallow a live oyster, two products for which the Island is justly famous.

Fiona, the Chief's wife, was treated more gently. She was presented with a bouquet of Island flowers by five-year-old Amy Marchbank, the daughter of Hubert and his wife Joyce, supported by her older sister, Laurie, 10.

The next day they took us on a bus tour of historic Marchbank sites. We visited “Outermain”, the farm established by James Marchbank of Annandale in Dumfriesshire, Scotland, who settled at New Annan in 1825 and named his new farm after his Scottish holding. We saw a branding iron marked “Outermain” which James apparently brought with him. It was explained that the iron was used, not for branding cattle, but for marking wooden chests.

We visited other Marchbank properties, some of which have been in Marchbank hands for five generations. We stopped at Marchbank Pond, a popular fishing spot. Dale Marchbank explained that it was once a mill pond but, over the years, it became filled with silt. His father, Kier Marchbank, a great grandson of the first James, had the pond cleared of soil and dedicated it for public fishing. He specified that no one should ever be charged to fish there and Dale has a similar clause in his will.

We visited numerous Marchbank graves and, while in the Bedeque cemetery, we were joined by Ernestine Marchbank Scott who is now 87 years of age and the unofficial Marchbank historian. She travelled from Nova Scotia to meet us.

Our last stop was at a mill operated in the latter half of the last century by John Marchbank, a son of the first James, and later by John's son David. The mill is now owned by Mackenzie Dixon and his son. The Dixons acquired the mill when one of their ancestors married John Marchbank's widow. Mr. Dixon had recruited a local piper to greet us and toured us through the mill, a three-storey frame building sheathed with cedar shingles.

The climax of the Gathering was a free-for-all picnic in Cabot provincial park near Malpeque on the Monday, the Labour Day holiday in Canada and the U.S. More than a hundred people turned up for the event – Islanders and “come-from-aways,” men, women, children and infants in arms. They consumed more than three hundred oysters, raised by Hubert, as well as innumerable mussels and many dozens of ears of corn grown by Garth Marchbank of New Annan.



*Amy Marchbank, 5, assisted by her sister Laurie, 10, presents a bouquet of Island flowers to Fiona Marjoribanks, the wife of the Chief.*

## New President, VP, Elected

George W. Marchbank, a retired police officer living in Heanor, Derbyshire, England was elected president of The Marjoribanks Family at the Annual General Meeting on Sunday, September 6.

George, who has served as Vice-President for the last two years, is a community leader in Heanor. For more than 20 years he has been chairman of the district Boy Scouts Association, is a former chairman of the History Society and sings in the choir of Derby Cathedral. He traces his ancestry to a Yorkshire farmer who was born in 1557 and whose parents are believed to have emigrated from Dumfriesshire in Scotland.

The new Vice-President is William E. Lucado of Germantown, Tennessee. He is a Senior Vice President of Concord EFS Inc. and of EFS National Bank, companies which specialize in the electronic transfer of funds. He is also President of EFS Federal Savings Bank. He is descended in the female line from Samuel Mandeville Marjoribanks of Perthshire who emigrated to South Carolina in 1794 and shortened his name to Banks. William and his Canadian-born wife, the former Elizabeth Macleod, have one daughter, Andrea Kristina, who recently graduated from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

Robert and Nancy Marjoribanks of Ottawa continue as Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer respectively.

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## Islanders' Roots Discovered

A British researcher has found some traces of the Scottish ancestors of the Marchbank branch of the family in Prince Edward Island.

Duncan Adamson, who was engaged by Roger Marjoribanks and financed by the Research Fund, has found the baptismal record of David Marchbank, the first-born son of James Marchbank and Mary Walker who came to the Island in 1825 from Annandale in Dumfriesshire.

The records of the parish of Ruthwell show that David was born to James Marchbank and Mary Walker on January 20, 1813 on a small and remote farm called Twathets, about half a kilometre from Carrutherston in Dumfriesshire. Mary was 21 at the time of David's birth.

Some time after David's birth, the family moved, presumably to the farm called "Outermain," but, in any case, to the Annandale district where their second son, Samuel, was born. David died young, before James, Mary and Samuel emigrated to Prince Edward Island.

Nothing more is known for certain about James except that he had left the Twathets farm and the parish of Ruthwell and moved to Annandale before their second son, Samuel, was born.

After studying Mr. Adamson's evidence, Roger believes that it was likely that James came from Johnstone parish, just south of the Marjoribanks home parish of Kirkpatrick-Juxta, and that he was born in the early or middle 1780s. His father may well have been Samuel Marchbank of Greenrig in that parish. By 1812 James had moved to Cummertrees parish where he met and married Mary Walker, the third daughter and fourth child of David Walker and Margaret Hetherston. Mary was born on Wintersheugh farm but her family later moved to Priestside in the same parish.

Most of the evidence suggests that Outermain was a farm on the river Annan on the estate belonging to Hoddam Castle and is now known as Hoddam Mains. There was an Outermain farm on the estate at least until 1804.

The search continues.

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## "Who the Hell Was He?"

Major-General Sir John Swinton is upset about the Marjoribanks monument that stands in the centre of Coldstream in Berwickshire, Scotland.

He complained to the Daily Telegraph recently that there is no monument in Coldstream to his good friend the former British Prime Minister Alex Douglas-Hume, also a resident of the town.

Sir John told a Daily Telegraph reporter:

"In Coldstream there is a statue to a former M.P., Charles Marjoribanks, but, with the greatest respect to his family, who the hell was he?"

In answer to Sir John's question, Charles Marjoribanks, whose statue stands atop a tall column and is visible everywhere in the town, was the third son of Sir John Marjoribanks, at one time Lord Provost of Edinburgh. After a distinguished career with the East India Company, Charles returned home in 1832 and, in the same year, was elected the first Liberal Member of Parliament for Berwickshire and supported the struggle to pass the first Reform Bill of 1832.

He died a year later and the monument was erected by his friends "to perpetuate their admiration of his high qualities and political principles."

Robert Marjoribanks, the Honorary Secretary, told the Annual Meeting that he is going to pass that information along, "just as soon as I find out who the hell is Major-General Sir John Swinton!"

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## Jack Marchbank's Yukon Saloons

From Dawson in Canada's Yukon Territory comes new light on the career of Peg-Leg Jack Marchbank who made a fortune in the Klondike Gold Rush in the latter part of the last century and later became the all-powerful czar of the San Francisco gambling industry.

As often suspected, Jack didn't become rich panning for gold. He made his money running gambling saloons,

Murray Lundberg, a Dawson City researcher, says he found Jack's record in an inventory of Yukon roadhouses.

It shows that he and a partner, C. Kelly, leased the Northern Hotel & Bar in Dawson in March, 1899 and a month later it burned down at a loss of \$30,000. Within a few weeks he had opened a new business, The Horseshoe Saloon & Music Hall on Front Street in Dawson, but he gave that up three months later and moved to Bennett City, just over the Yukon border in British Columbia. Almost three years later he was back in Dawson and listed as the owner of the Del Monte Saloon on First Avenue.

He did try his hand at gold-mining and is listed as the owner of a placer gold claim at Dominion Creek but it's not known whether it ever yielded him a profit.

In any case, by 1902 he had transferred his operations to the San Francisco suburb of Daley City. He named his first saloon there the Northern, after his ill-fated Northern Hotel in Dawson. His second, more pretentious, establishment was called the Villa San Mateo. Perhaps his most profitable investment was San Francisco's Tanforan Race Track which he bought in 1928 for \$285,000. He left several million dollars to his secretary whom he married shortly before his death in 1947. He was born John William Marchbank in 1862 at DeSable, Prince Edward Island, a grandson of James Marchbank of Outermain, the first of the Island Marchbanks.

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## How to Find Marjoribanks Street

Hilary Nicholl of Wellington, New Zealand, writes to say that she doesn't have any connection with the family but she gets into many arguments about the pronunciation of Marjoribanks Street, one of her city's principal thoroughfares.

"True Wellingtonians (i.e. people born and bred like me!) pronounce it like Marshbanks but the new people to the city have an annoying habit of saying, 'Where? Oh, you mean Marjorie-banks Street!'"

The late Commander James Marjoribanks of Berwick-upon-Tweed liked to tell about a similar experience when he visited Wellington.

"I had a friend who lived at the top of Marjoribanks Street. He invited me to his house for lunch but he warned me not to tell the taxi driver to go to "Marchbanks" Street. 'If you pronounce it that way, you'll never get here,' he said. 'You've got to say Marjorie-banks Street.'"

(Members who attended the 1991 Gathering in Bathgate, Scotland, will recall that the town's main thoroughfare, called Marjoribanks Street, after Alexander Marjoribanks of Balbardie and of that ilk, invariably and officially is pronounced Marjorie-banks.)

The street in Wellington was named after Stewart Marjoribanks (1774-1863) who was a shipping magnate engaged in trade between England and New Zealand in the early part of the last century. His vessels carried many of the original settlers.

## THE FAMILY WILL HAVE A TARTAN OF ITS OWN

The Marjoribankses will have their own tartan at last.

John Marjoribanks of New Delhi, India, the Chief's younger brother, produced a design that met the approval of members attending the Annual General Meeting.

The tartan would be made in the colours of the chief's coat of arms – red, white, yellow and black – and predominantly red. In recognition of our ancient neighbours, the pattern would follow that of the Johnstones but, where theirs is blue and green, ours would be red and white. Like the Johnstones we would have black and yellow stripes.

The meeting unanimously supported a recommendation to the Chief that he officially designate the design as the Marjoribanks tartan. Choice of the design is the Chief's prerogative and he readily agreed.

The Chief will discuss our borrowing of the Johnstone pattern with the Earl of Annandale and Hartfell, the Johnstone chief, and John will consult the Scottish Tartans Authority in Pitlochry, Scotland, and then seek proposals from tartan manufacturers.

## Mrs. Marjoribanks's Silk Scarf

A silk scarf said to have been worn by a Mrs. Marjoribanks at a ball in 1745 at Holyrood Castle in Edinburgh in honour of Prince Charles Edward has turned up in a library in Moultrie, Georgia.

It was presented to the Ellen Payne Odom Genealogical Library by Mrs. Lily MacDonald Zinck of St. Joseph, Missouri. It is not known how Mrs. Zinck came into possession of Mrs. Marjoribanks's scarf and letters addressed to her have gone unanswered.

Roger Marjoribanks of Surrey says it's quite true that Bonnie Prince Charlie spent several weeks in Edinburgh in that year, trying to recruit supporters to restore the Stuarts to the British throne. He says that, if the story of the scarf proves to be true, the Mrs. Marjoribanks who wore it likely was his great-great-great-great grandmother, Katherine Campbell, the wife of John Marjoribanks who was a burgess and guildsman of Edinburgh. John's family was known to have Jacobite connections and his cousin, Edward Marjoribanks, was a secretary or agent of Prince Charles Edward's father, James II, the Old Pretender.

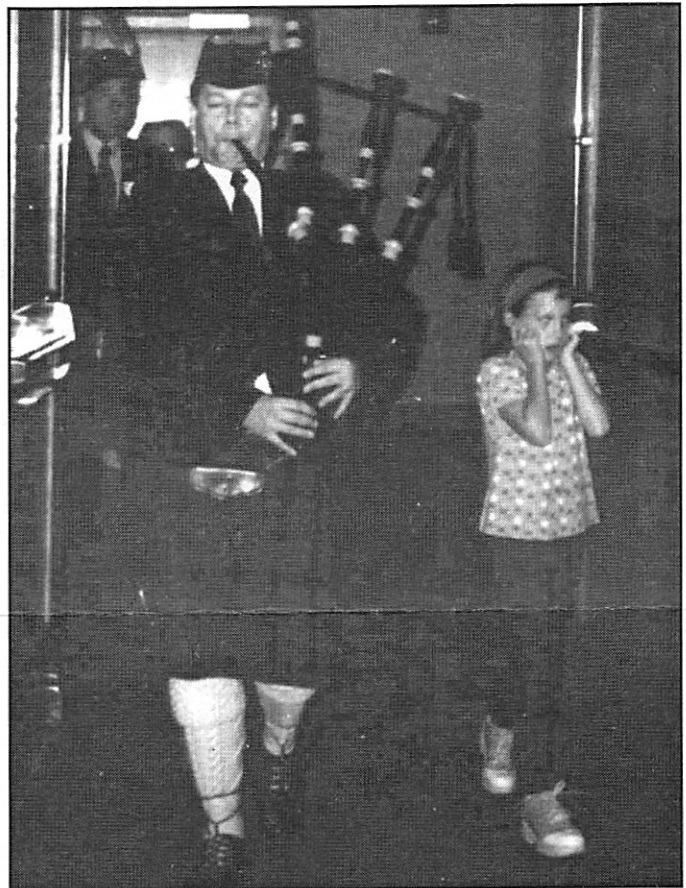
## Back to Edinburgh in 1999

The 1999 Gathering of The Marjoribanks Family will be held in Edinburgh, Scotland's capital, September 10, 11 and 12.

The dates were chosen not to conflict with the annual Edinburgh Festival (16 August to 5 September) during which accommodation will be scarce and expensive.

There is a great deal to see and do in Edinburgh. The city, of course, has many historical associations with the Marjoribanks family. The Marjoribankses were prominent in the life of the city as early as the 16th century. The most notable was Thomas Marjoribanks of Ratho. He was Lord Provost (mayor) of Edinburgh in 1540 and several times represented the city in Parliament. In more recent times, Sir John Marjoribanks served as Lord Provost in 1813 and 1814 and was the prime mover in the construction of Regent Bridge that links the city and Calton Hill. A monument on the bridge commemorates his achievement.

The first meeting of family members, convened to discuss the formation of a family organization, was held on Saturday, June 4, 1988 at the Abbey Hotel in Edinburgh.



*A young member of the family finds the skirl of the pipes a little overwhelming as the piper leads the grand march.*

## Bye-bye, Birdie!

Alistair Marjoribanks of Coldstream in Berwickshire sends a clipping from an 1896 issue of the Coldstream newspaper:

"In the Queen's Bench Division Sir Edward Clarke announced that in the case of Watkins vs Marjoribanks in which Miss Watkins ('Birdie Sutherland' of the Gaiety Theatre) sued the Hon. Dudley Marjoribanks, only son of Lord Tweedmouth, for breach of promise of marriage, a settlement had been arrived at by which the plaintiff would receive five thousand pounds."

Dudley, in this case, was Dudley Churchill Marjoribanks, son of the second Lord Tweedmouth and grandson of Dudley Coultts Marjoribanks, the "inventor" of the Golden Retriever. He succeeded to his father's title in 1909 and, his youthful indiscretions forgiven, served as Lord in Waiting to both Edward VII and George V.

## Anniversary of Darien Scheme

This year marks the 300th anniversary of the disastrous Darien Scheme, a Scottish attempt to establish a profitable trading colony in the New World.

Three ships set sail from Leith in July of 1698 and founded the township of New Edinburgh on the Isthmus of Darien in what is now Panama but the enterprise foundered in the disease-ridden swamps and in 1700 the remaining settlers surrendered to Spanish soldiers.

In all, some 2,000 Scots died and more than £200,000 were squandered on the expedition. Among those who never returned was Joseph Marjoribanks, an Edinburgh merchant and son of Joseph Marjoribanks of Leuchie. The right to the arms of Marjoribanks of Leuchie eventually descended to his second cousin, once removed, Edward Marjoribanks of Lees.

## Cdr. James Bogue Marjoribanks

Commander James Bogue Marjoribanks of Berwick-upon-Tweed, Berwickshire, late of the Royal Navy and a founding member of The Marjoribanks Family, died on October 20 after a lengthy illness.

The Chief, Andrew Marjoribanks of that Ilk, attended a thanksgiving service at Ladykirk church near Coldstream in commemoration of his life.

James is believed to have been the last surviving male member of a branch of the family which thrived in the Berwickshire parish of Eccles about the middle of the 17th century. He and Sir James Marjoribanks, President Emeritus of The Family, became good friends and attended all of the Gatherings together until illness made them both unfit to travel.

James once served with the late Daniel Coutts Marjoribanks, a brother of Roger Marjoribanks of Surrey. Commenting on this coincidence, he observed that "my Lords of the Admiralty must have a sense of humours to have placed the only two Marjoribankses in the Royal Navy in the same ship."

## Alec Creighton Marchbank

Alec Creighton Marchbank of Bergenfield, New Jersey, a loyal and faithful member of The Marjoribanks Family for almost ten years, died on October 5, 1997, of a massive heart attack at the age of 87.

Alec was a partner in a New York wool-importing firm until his retirement in 1977 and, on his frequent visits to Scotland, spent many hours searching his ancestors in the area of Moffat in Dumfriesshire. He traced his line back to Samuel Marchbank (1722-1787) and Samuel's wife Janet Gillespie. Baptismal records indicate that his family once spelled its name Marjoribanks.

Alec was born in Shrewsbury, Shropshire, England and emigrated to the United States in 1939. His wife Catherine Leiby died in 1990. A son, Andrew, died of cancer shortly after returning from service in Vietnam. Alec is survived by two other sons, Peter and Philip, by five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, and by a niece, Mrs. Pamela Marchbank Gaddes in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire and a nephew, Douglas Marchbank in Wollaton, Nottinghamshire.

Alec bought Cooper's Mill in 1949, an historic Bergenfield property consisting of a grist mill and a white mill house and spent many years restoring it and creating spectacular gardens which were open to the public for one week-end each year.

## The Marjoribanks Journal No. 5

The Marjoribanks Journal No. 5 is now off the press. It contains articles about:

- Archibald and Coutts Marjoribanks, the younger sons of Dudley, First Baron Tweedmouth, and their disastrous experience as cattle ranchers in America.
- Archibald's marriage to Elizabeth Trimble "Myssie" Brown of Tennessee and the brief and brilliant career of their son Edward.
- The migration of the Marchbanks family from Tennessee to Texas in the middle of the last century.
- Recent research into the lives of George Marjoribanks (Marchbanks) the Jacobite prisoner who was transported to Virginia, and Samuel Mandeville Marjoribanks (Banks) who emigrated from Perthshire in 1794.

Copies are available to members of The Marjoribanks Family without charge and may be ordered from the Honorary Secretary.

## Notes from the Secretary

We have found a U.S. manufacturer who will produce Marjoribanks badges in pewter for \$16.00 U.S. or the equivalent in other currencies. The design is the same as the one that appears on the heading of this Letter. They can be worn by ladies as a brooch or by men as a cap badge.

A similar badge, in sterling silver, is made by a British Columbia jeweller at a cost of \$75.00 in Canadian funds or the equivalent.

We also have a supply of Marjoribanks Family ties. They are polyester, in the Chief's colours – a black background with the family badge in gold and silver between two gold-and-red stripes. They are manufactured in Britain and cost £10.00 in U.K. funds.

By the time of the next Gathering, I hope I will be able to tell you where to buy a kilt or a skirt or a pair of trews in the new Marjoribanks tartan!

Exchange rates vary so much these days that it's not possible to quote prices in all currencies. Your bank will sell you a money order in whatever currency you wish, at the current rate. Please make your money order or your cheque payable to The Marjoribanks Family and send your orders to me at the address below.

As you will have read elsewhere in this Letter, we are Gathering in Edinburgh next year on September 10, 11 and 12. That's as far as we've got with our planning but I will be letting you know details of the program when they are completed. In the meantime, mark those dates on your calendar and start thinking about your travel arrangements.

A Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year to us all!

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Honorary Secretary

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## The Marjoribanks Letter

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\* Family membership includes parents and their children.

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