

Notes & Documents {Transcribed}

Table of Contents

The Clans and Tartans of Scotland [A00173].....2
McVickar [A00174]6
The Name and Family of McVicker or McVickar [A00175]8
Why you have a family name and what it means to you [A00176].....13
PRAIRIE DAYS [A00212].....16

The Clans and Tartans of Scotland [A00173]

THE
CLANS AND TARTANS
OF SCOTLAND

by

ROBERT BAIN

City Librarian, Glasgow

Foreword by His Grace

THE DUKE OF MONTROSE, C.B., C.V.O.

COLLINS

LONDON AND GLASGOW

Toronto New York Sydney Auckland

First Published, July 1938

Notes & Documents

CAMBELL OF ARGYLL

Known as the race of Diarmid, the Clan Campbell was for centuries a most powerful influence in Argyll and the West of Scotland. In the thirteenth century Archibald Campbell obtained the Lordship of Lochow through his marriage with the daughter of the King's Treasurer, and for a long period thereafter the Campbells of Lochow formed one of the chief branches of the clan.

Sir Cohn, of Lochow, the progenitor of the Campbells of Argyll, was knighted in 1280, and from him the chiefs of the Argyll family received the designation, MacCailean Mor, retained by the Dukes of Argyll till the present day. His descendent Sir Duncan was created a peer by King James II. in 1445, and Duncan's grandson Colin was created Earl of Argyll in 1457. Archibald, his son, who was Lord High Chancellor, was killed at Flodden in 1513.

Archibald, 5th Earl, although a prominent Reformer, commanded the army of Queen Mary at the Battle of Langside, while his brother Cohn supported the young king. Archibald, 7th Earl, commanded the army which was defeated by the Earls of Huntly and Errol in 1594. His son was the leader of the Covenanters. He was created Marquis in 1641, but in spite of his loyalty was beheaded in 1661. His son Archibald was also beheaded for his part in the Monmouth rebellion. Archibald, 10th Earl, returned with William of Orange, and by him was elevated to a Dukedom. John, 2nd Duke of Argyll, was created Duke of Greenwich in the peerage of the United Kingdom.

The present chief of the clan is Sir Niall Diarmid Campbell, 10th - Duke of Argyll.

Crest: A boar's head, fesswise, couped or. Badge: Fir club moss, Bog myrtle. War Cry: Cruachan. Pipe music: Baile Ionaraora ("The Campbell's are coming").

There is a Clan Campbell Society with headquarters in Glasgow.

MACNAUGHTON

The progenitor of this ancient clan is alleged to be Nachtan Mor who lived about tenth century. The clan is supposed to be one of those transferred from the province of Moray to the crown lands in Strathgairn by Malcolm IV. About a century later they possessed lands bordering on Loch Awe and Loch Fyne, and in 1267 Gilchrist MacNaughtan and his heirs were appointed by Alexander III. keepers of the Castle of Fraoch Eilean in Loch Awe. The MacNaughtans also held the castles of Dubh-Loch in Glen Shira, and Dunderave on Loch Fyne.

Donald MacNaughtan opposed Bruce and lost most of his possessions, but in the reign of David II. the fortunes of the MacNaughtans were somewhat restored by the grant of lands in Lewis. Alexander, chief of the clan, who was knighted by James IV., was killed at the Battle of Flodden in 1513. The MacNaughtans remained loyal to the Stuarts and after the Restoration, the chief, Alexander, was knighted by Charles II. He died in London, and his son, John, fought at Killiecrankie in 1690. The estates passed out of the family about 1691.

At a meeting of the clan held in 1878 it was resolved that Sir Francis E. MacNaughtan of Dunderave, Bushmills, Ireland, was the lineal descendant of the family of the chief through Shane Dubh, the grandson of Sir Alexander MacNaughtan, who fell at Flodden and who went to Ireland. 1580. The present chief is Sir Francis, 8th Baronet.

Notes & Documents

Crest: A castle embattled, gules. Badge: Trailing azalea. War Cry: Fraoch Eileen (Heathery island).

THE SCOTTISH CLANS AND THEIR TARTANS: History of Each Clan and Full List of Septs
24th Ed. W. & A. K. Johnston, Ltd. Edinburgh and London 1935. Printed in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Naclaughton	Gaelic,	MacNeachdian; O.G., Nectan	(p.21)
MacVicar,	Gaelic,	MacBhiocair, "Son of Vicar"	22)

A List of Clan Septs and Dependents

Sept.	Clan	
MacKnight	MacNaughton	46)
MacVicar	MacNaughton	50)
Weir	MacNaughton, MacFarlane	55)
MacNuir	MacNaughton	48)
MacNiven	Cumin, Mackintosh, MacNaughton	48)
MacNaughton	MacNaughton	48)
MacNaughtan	MacNaughton	48)
MacNaughton	MacNaughton	48)
MacNair	MacFarlane, MacNaughton	48)
MacNachdan	MacNaughton	48)
MacNachton	MacNaughton	48)
MacNaghten	MacNaughton	48)
MacHendrie	MacNaughton	44)
MacBrayne	MacNaughton	39)
Kendrick	MacNaughton	37)
Hendrie	MacNaughton	36)
Hendry	MacNaughton	36)

THE CLAN MLCNAUGHTON: War Cry: "Fraoch Eilean" ("The Heathery Isle," Loch Awe).
Badge: Lus Albanach (Trailing Azalea).

The earliest authentic reference to the Clan MacNaughton connects them with Strathtay and Argyllshir. The name Nectan is Pictish, and in the 12th century the Clan MacNaughton were proprietors of Strathtay, and were styled Toiseachs or Thaners of Lochtay. In the 13th century we find them possessing land in Argyllshire. These possessions extended over the upper part of Lochbawe, Glenara, Glenshira, and Loch Fyne. Their strongholds were 'Fraoch Eilean' Castle, Loch Awe, Castle Dubh-Loch in Glenara, and the more modern castle of Dundarave on Loch Fyne.

Alexander III. in 1267 granted to Gillichrist MacNachdan the keeping of his castle of Fraoch Eilean (Heathery Isle), Loch Awe, so that they should cause it to be built and repaired at the King's expense, as often as needful, and keep it safely for the King's necessity; and that as often as he should come to it, the castle, well furnished, should be delivered to him to lodge and dwell there at his pleasure. Between the years 1390 and 1406 Robert III. confirmed Maurice MacNaughtane a grant by Colin Campbell of Lochow, in heritage of various lands in Over-Lochow.

Notes & Documents

In 1691 the MacNaughton estates were forfeited.. The last of the MacNaughtons of Dundarave was John, who married about 1700 a daughter of Sir James Campbell, the last of the Campbells of Ardkinglass in the direct male line. It is said that Ardkinglass, Laban-like, deceived Maclaughton, who found himself married to the eldest daughter instead of the second. Local tradition says that the following day MacNaughton and the second daughter fled to Ireland, leaving his wife lamenting. Sir Francis MacNaughton of Dundarave, Bushmills, Antrim, 8th Baronet, is the present Chief.

On the right hand page to the above text (left hand page) is the tartan
68 MACNAUGHTON

Books on Scottish History, Topography, Family History, Genealogy, etc., William Brown (W. Brown Bookseller, Ltd.), 18a George Street, Edinburgh, Scotland. (Established 1877).

Scottish Books ... History, Family History and Genealogy, etc. John Orr, Bookseller and. Printseller, 74 George Street, Edinburgh (Book from which above is compiled borrowed from Public Library, Iowa City, Ia.)

[A00173 *Transcribed from JRM notes by James B. McVicker 5/14/2005*]

McVickar [A00174]

McVICKAR

Page 130

It is stated, with some authority, that a younger son of the well-known Scotch family of BOYLE, having emigrated to Germany in the XIV century, was entrusted with special powers by the then reigning Emperor of Germany, and sent to rule a far-off portion of his vast domains, with the title of "VACARIUS." then often used by provincial governors throughout the so-called HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE. His posterity having returned to Scotland, adopted as its distinctive appellation the name of Mac-VICKAR (son of the Vicar), under which the descendants of the original BOYLE, IMPERIAL "VICARIUS," are known in the present days.

Later at the time of the great Scotch emigration to Northern Ireland, the family of McVICKAR took root in Belfast, whence came over in 1780, the colonist, John McVICKAR, one of the leading and wealthiest merchants of New York during the Revolutionary period and at the time of the War of 1812. His name is found associated with the principal commercial and philanthropic enterprises of the time. He brought over and used the arms we give, which are those of the BOYLES of Shewalton, Co. Ayr. The BOYLES are represented in the Scottish Peerage by the Earls of Glasgow, the Earls of Cork and Orrery, and the Earls of Shannon.

()
 (Eagle) Crest: An eagle displayed, with two heads, per pale,
 (with) embattled, argent and gules
 (two heads)
 () Motto: Dominus providebit (The Lord will provide.)

References:

Mrs. Martha J. Lamb: History of the City of New York, II, 517
 Rev. William A. McVickar: The Life of the
 Rev. John McVickar (of Columbia College) 1872
 T. Gwilt Mapleson: Hand Book of Heraldry, 1852
 Sir Bernard Burke: Peerage, Baronetage, and Knightage, etc., 1887
 Sir Bernard. Burke: The General Armory of England, etc., 1884
 The Book of Family Crests, II, 56

(Class 929.8 Book V 59 LIBRARY HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT OF IOWA (See above on)
 (Title page: AMERICA HERALDICA (Page 130)

A Compilation of Coats of Arms, Crests and Mottoes
 of Prominent American Families
 Settled in this Country before 1800
 - 7634 -
 Edited by E. Dev. Vermont
 Illustrated by Henry Rykers
 New York
 Brentano Brothers

Arms:

Quartered—1st and 4th:
(see page 130, Plate XVI) Or, an eagle, displayed, with two heads,
gu. 2nd and 3rd: Per bend, embattled,
arg. and gu.; over all, an escutcheon, or,
charged with three stags' horns, erect, gu.,
two and one.

SAME ARMS as the BOYLES, EARLS OF GLASOW, etc.

[A00174 *Transcribed from JRM notes by James B. McVicker*

5/10/2005]

The Name and Family of McVicker or McVickar [A00175]

THE NAME AND FAMILY
OF
McVICKER OR McVICKAR

Compiled by

THE MEDIA RESEARCH BUREAU

Washington, D.C.

THE NAME OF McVICKER OR McVICKAR

The name of McVICKER or McVICKAR, originally MacVicar, meaning “son of vicar,” is a name anciently found on the shores of Loch Fyne, in Scotland. It was first used as a sept name, its bearers belonging to the Clan MacNaughton. In ancient British and early American records the name is found in the various forms of MacVicar, MacVicer, McVicar, McVicer, MacVickars, MacVickar, McVickar, MacVicker, McVickers, McVicker, and others. Of these, the two spellings first mentioned are those most frequently used in America in modern times.

The Clan MacNaughton, of which the MacVickers were a sept, possessed land in Argyll shire, Scotland, in the thirteenth century, their possessions extending over the upper part of Lochawe, Glenara, Glenshira, and Loch Fyne. Among the earliest records of this clan are those of the Gillichrist MacNachdan, that is, Gilchrist MacNaughton, who was granted the Castle of Fraoch Eilean, in Lochawe, in the year 1287; and those of Maurice MacNaughtane, of Lochawe, between 1390 and 1406.

Dongall MacVicker, who was living at Bardger, in the parish of Lochwinnoch, Scotland, before 1672, married Margaret Caldwell or Caldwell, of Glasgow, but the names of their progeny are not in evidence.

A branch of the family early settled at Edinburgh, Scotland, was represented in 1754 by John MacVicar, who was married in that year to Grizel, daughter of Lawrence Sinclair, of Caithness. Other records of the family in Edinburgh include those of Katherine MacVicer, who was married in 1761 to George Springs: those of Ann MacVicar, who married Alexander MacNaughton in 1762; those of Niell MacVicar, son of another Niell, who married Marjorie, daughter of David Grierson, in 1765; those of Alexander MacVicar, who married in 1779 to Katherine, daughter of George Miller; those of Christian MacVicar who married John MacDougall in 1783; those of Captain Charles MacVicar, who was married in 1797 to Martha, daughter of William Cambell; and those of John MacVicar, who married Agnes, daughter of John Miller, of Ayrshire, in 1798. These records are however, only fragmentary.

Although the records of the family in the British Isles are not complete, the clan seems to have occupied an honorable, though undistinguished, position. The bearers of the name in Great Britain belonged chiefly to the yeomen and merchant classes. Their descendents in America are numerous, many of the clan having come to this country in the eighteenth century.

Probably the first of the family in America was Archibald McVickar or McVicker, whose parents had removed from Scotland to Ireland in the early eighteenth century. Archibald came to America in 1769, if not before, and settled in the New York City. It is probable that his father's name was also Archibald and that he had two brothers, John and James, both of whom lived and died in Ireland. Of those brothers, however, James is said to have been the father of four children, John, Nathan or Nathaniel, Jane, and Nancy, of whom the two sons also immigrated to America in the eighteenth century and will be mentioned again later. The immigrant Archibald died in New York in 1779, leaving a widow named Elizabeth, but no issue.

John McVickar or McVicker, nephew of the immigrant Archibald, possibly came over about 1777 and was certainly established in New York City as early as 1780. He was an importer and ship-owner and held, among other distinctions, those of being director of the Bank of New York; founder and Vice-President of the St. Patrick's Society; director of several insurance companies and of the Western and Northern Coal Company; vestryman of the Trinity Church; and founder of St. Michael's, St James, and St. Paul's churches, all in New York.

Notes & Documents

The immigrant John married Ann Moore, of Newtown, L.I., in 1781 and had issue by her of James, Archibald, John, Mary Eliza, Hannah, Augusta, Henry, Edward, Nathan and Benjamin Moore.

Of the last-mentioned brothers, James was twice married, his first wife being Eweretta Constable, by whom he was the father of William Constable, Anna, John Augustus, and Mary Stewart McVickar. By a second wife, he left only one child, a daughter names Catherine, who died unmarried.

Archibald, son of the immigrant John, married Catherine Augusta Livingston and was the father by her of Brockholst, John, Catherine, Archibald, and Susan.

John, son of the immigrant John, resided at Bloomingdale, N.Y., and was the father by his Elizabeth Bard, of John, Anna, Samuel Bard, Henry, Mary, Frances, Pendleton, Sarah Bard, Susan, and William Augustus.

Edward, son of the immigrant John, married Frances Matilda Constable, by whom he was the father of Frances, Emily Constable, Branton, Anne, Henry, Augustus, Matilda Constable, and Eweretta.

Benjamin Moore McVickar, the youngest son of the immigrant John, married Isaphene Lawrence. Their children were John Lawrence, Cornelia Augusta, Anna, Isaphere, and Maria Elizabeth.

Nathan or Nathaniel, the younger brother of the immigrant John, came to America about the year 1798 and made his home in New York. By his wife Catherine Bucknor, he had issue of four sons, William Henry, John, Nathan, and William Bucknor, all but the first of whom died unmarried.

William Henry McVickar, son of Nathan, married a Miss Phelps, by whom he was the father of at least three children, Henry, Catherine, and Edith.

William McVickar or McVicker, who settled before 1800 at Conesus, N.Y., left issue by his wife, Betsy Roberts, of Julia, Charles, Jane, John, Walter, Elizabeth, Edwin, Edward, Martha, George and Sarah.

John McVickar or McVicker, a native of Scotland, came in the early nineteenth century to Nova Scotia and later settled for a time at Whelling W.Va., whence he finally removed to Frederick County, on the Shenandoah Valley. He married Catherine Thatcher and was the father by her of Catherine, Charles William, Marion Jenkins, Turner Ashby, Henry W. and Minnie.

The McVickars and McVickers in America have been shown themselves to be, the whole, a highly religious race, intellectually able, resourceful, and possessed of the strength of their convictions.

Members of the family who served with the Colonial forces during the American Revolution, some of whom may have been original immigrants from the British Isles, including Duncan McVicker, Peter McVicker, and Archibald McVickers of Pennsylvania.

John, Alexander, Archibald, James, Nathan or Nathaniel, Henry, Samuel, Benjamin, George, William and Edward are some of the Christian names more frequently used by the family for its male progeny.

Notes & Documents

Of the members of the family who have been prominent in America I comparatively recent times, the following are considered representative:

John McVickar (1787-1868), of New York, educator and author.

John Augustus McVickar (1812-1892), of New York, physician.

John George McVickar (nineteenth century), of New York, Michigan, and New Jersey, educator and founder of the Montgomery Academy.

James Hubert McVicker (1822-1896), of New York, Louisiana, Missouri, and Illinois, journalist, actor, and theatre manager.

William Augustus McVickar (1827-1877), of New York, clergyman and author.

William Neilson McVickar (1843-1910), of New York, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island, clergyman and bishop.

Henry Goelet McVickar (latter nineteenth and early twentieth centuries), of New York, poet and author.

Harry Whitney McVickar (B. 1860), of New York, author and illustrator.

James Rufus McVicker (B. 1876), of Iowa, writer.

The coat of arms of the Scottish family of MacVicar, from which the McVickars and McVickers of America trace their descent, is described in heraldic terms as follows (Burke, *Encyclopedia of Heraldry*, 1844);

Arms.—"Argent, a millrind sable, charged with four estoiles of the field."

Crest.—"An Eagle rising, proper."

Motto.—"Dominus providebit."

Notes & Documents

BIBLIGRAPHY

Adam. The Clans, Septs, and Regiments of the Scottish Highlands. 1934.

The Scotch Clans and Their Tartans. 1935

Scottish Record Society. Commissariat Record of Glasgow, 1900-1901.

Scottish Record Society. Register of Marriages, City of Edinburgh.

McVickar and Breed. Memoranda Relating to the McVickar Family in America. 1906.

L. B. Thomas. The Thomas Book, 1896

VanRensselner. New Yorkers of the Nineteenth Century. 1897

Boyd. History of Conesus, N.Y. 1887.

Bruce. History of Virginia, Biography. Vol. 4. 1924.

Pennsylvania Muster Rolls. 1907

Herringshaw. American Biography. Vol. 4. 1914.

Burke. Encyclopedia of Heraldry. 1844.

[A00175 *Transcribed from JRM notes by James B. McVicker*

1/9/2006]

Why you have a family name and what it means to you [A00176]

Primitive personal names doubtless originated soon after the invention of spoken language, although the date of their first use is lost in the darkness of ages preceding recorded history. For thousands of years thereafter, first or given names were the only designations that men and women bore; and in the dawn of historic times, when the world was less crowded than it is today and every man knew his neighbor, one title of address was sufficient. Only gradually, with the passing centuries and the increasing complexity of civilized society, did a need arise for more specific designations. While the roots of our system of family names may be traced back to early civilized times, actually the hereditary surname as we know it today dates from a time scarcely earlier than nine hundred years ago.

A surname is a name added to a baptismal or Christian name for the purposes of making it more specific and of indicating family relationship or descent. Classified according to origin, most surnames fall into four general categories: (1) those formed from the given name of the sire; (2) those arising from bodily or personal characteristics; (3) those derived from locality or place of residence; and (4) those derived from occupation. It is easier to understand the story of the development of our institution of surnames if these classifications are borne in mind.

As early as biblical times certain distinguishing appellations were occasionally employed in addition to the given name, as for instance, Joshua the son of Nun, Simon the son of Jonas, Judas of Galilee, and Simon the Zealot. In ancient Greece daughters were named after their fathers, as Chryseis, the daughter of Chryses; and sons' names were usually an enlarged form of the father's, as Hieronymus, son of Hiero. The Romans, with the rise of their civilization, met the need for hereditary designations by inventing a complex system whereby every patrician traced his descent by taking several names. None of them, however, exactly corresponded to surnames, as we know them, for the "clan name", although hereditary, was given also to slaves and other dependents. This system proved to be but a temporary innovation; the overthrow of the Western Empire by barbarian invaders brought about its end and a reversion to the primitive custom of a single name.

The ancient Scandinavians and for the most part the Germans had only individual names, and there were no family names, strictly speaking, among the Celts. But as family and tribal groups grew in size, individual names became inadequate and the need for supplementary appellations began to be felt. Among the first employed were such terms as "the Strong", the "Hardy", the "Stern", the "Dreadful—in—battle"; and the nations of northern Europe soon adopted the practice of adding the father's name to the son's, as Oscar son of Carnuth and Dermid son of Duthno.

True surnames, in the sense of hereditary designations date in England from about the year 1000. Largely they were introduced from Normandy, although there are records of Saxon surnames prior to the Norman Conquest. Perhaps the oldest known surname in England is that of Hwita Hatte, a keeper of bees, whose daughter was Tate Hatte.

During the reign of Edward the Confessor (1042—1066) there were Saxon tenants in Suffolk bearing such names as Suert Magno, Stigand Soror, Siuward. Rufus, and Leuric Hobbesune (Hobson); and the Domesday record of 1085—1086, which exhibits some curious combinations of Saxon forenames with family Norman names, shows surnames in still more general use.

Notes & Documents

By the end of the twelfth century hereditary names had become common in England. But even by 1465 they were not universal. During the reign of Edward V a law was passed to compel certain Irish outlaws to adopt surnames; “They shall take unto them a Surname, either of some Town, or some Colour, as Black, or Brown, or some Art or Science, as Smyth or Carpenter, or some Office, as Cooke or Butler.” And as late as the beginning of the nineteenth century a similar decree compelled Jews in Germany and Austria to add a German surname to the single names which they had previously used.

As stated above, family names may be divided into four general classes according to their origin. One of the largest of these classes is that comprising surnames derived from the given name of the father. Such names were formed by means of an added prefix or suffix denoting either “son of” or a diminutive. English names terminating in son, ing, and kin are of this type, as are also the innumerable names prefixed with the Gaelic Mac, the Norman Fitz, the Welsh ap, and the Irish O. Thus John’s sons became Johnsons; William’s sons, Williamsons or Wilsons; Richard’s sons, Richardsons or Richardses (the final “s” of “Richards” being a contraction of “son”); Neill’s sons, MacNeills; Herbert’s sons, Fitz Herberts; Thomas’s sons ap Thomases (ap has been dropped from many names of which it was formerly a part); and Reilly’s sons, O’Reillys.

Another class of surnames, those arising from some bodily or personal characteristic of their first bearer apparently grew out of what were in the first instance nicknames. Thus Peter the Strong became Peter Strong, Roger of small stature became Roger Little or Roger Small, and black-haired William or blond Alfred became William Black or Alfred White. From the many names of this type, only a few need be mentioned: Long, Short, Hardy, Wise, Good, Gladman, Lover and Youngman.

A third class of family names, and, perhaps the largest of all, is that comprising local surnames—names derived from and originally designating the place of residence of the bearer. Such names were popular in France at an early date and were introduced into England by the Normans, many of whom were known by the titles of their estates. The surnames adopted by the nobility were mainly of this type, being used with the particles de, de la, or del (meaning “of” or “of the”). The Saxon equivalent was the word atte (“at the”), employed in such names as John atte Brook, Edmund atte Lane, Godwin atte Brigg, and William atte Bourne. A vestige of this usage survives in the names Atwell, Atwood, and Atwater; in other cases the Norman de was substituted; and in still others, such as Wood, Briggs, and Lane, the particle was dropped. The surnames of some of the Pilgrim fathers illustrate place designations: for instance, Winthrop means “from the friendly village”; Endicott, “an end cottage”; Bradford, “at the broad ford”; and Standish, “a stony park”. The suffixes “ford”, “ham”, “ley”, and “ton”, denoting locality, are of frequent occurrence in such names as Ashford, Bingham, Burley, and Norton.

While England enjoyed a period of comparative peace under Edward the Confessor, a fourth class of surnames arose—names derived from occupation. The earliest of these seem to have been official names, such as Bishop, Mayor, Fawcett (judge), Alderman, Reeve, Sheriff, Chamberlain, Chancellor, Chaplain, Deacon, Latimer (interpreter), Marshall, Sumner (summoner), and Parker (park-keeper).

Trade and craft names, although of the same general type, were of somewhat later origin. Currier was a dresser of skins, Webster a weaver, Wainwright a wagon builder, and Baxter a baker. Such names as Smith, Taylor, Barber, Shepherd, Carter, Mason, and Miller are self—explanatory.

Many surnames of today which seem to defy classification or explanation are corruptions of ancient forms which have become disguised almost beyond recognition. Longfellow, for instance, was originally Longueville, Longshanks was Longchamps, Troublefield was Tuberville, Wrinch was Renshaw, Diggles was Douglas, and Snooks was Sevenoaks. Such corruptions of family names,

Notes & Documents

resulting from ignorance of spelling, variations in pronunciation, or merely from the preference of the bearer, tend to baffle both the genealogist and the etymologist. Shakespeare's name is found in some twenty-seven different forms, and the majority of English and Anglo—American surnames have, in their history, appeared in four to a dozen or more variant spellings.

In America a greater variety of family names exists than anywhere else in the world. Surnames of every race and nation are represented. While the greater number are of English, Scotch, Irish, or Welsh origin, brought to this country by scions of families which had borne these names for generations prior to emigration, many others, from central and southern Europe and from the Slavic countries, where the use of surnames is generally a more recently established practice, present considerable difficulty to the student of etymology and family history.

Those Americans who possess old and honored names—who trace the history of their surnames back to sturdy immigrant ancestors, or even beyond, across the seas, and into the dim mists of antiquity--may be rightfully proud of their heritage. While the name, in its origin, may seem ingenious, humble, surprising, or matter—of—fact, its significance today lies not in a literal interpretation of its original meaning but in the many things that have happened to it since it first came into use. In the beginning it was only a word, a convenient label to distinguish one John from his neighbor John who lived across the field. But soon it established itself as a part of the bearer's individuality; and as it passed to his children, his children's children, and their children, it became the symbol not of one man but of a family and all that family stood for. Handed down from generation to generation, it grew inseparably associated with the achievement, the tradition, and the prestige of the family. Like the coat of arms--that vivid symbolization of the name which warrior ancestors bore in battle--the name itself, borne through every event of a man's life and through the lives of scores of his progenitors, became the badge of family honor--the "good name" to be proud of, to protect, and to fight for if need be. As the worthy deeds of the marching generations have given it dignity and splendor, it has become an institution, a family rallying cry, and the most treasured possession of those who bear it.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Anderson. Genealogy and Surnames. 1865.
Bardsley. English Surnames. 1875.
Bardsley. Dictionary of English and Welsh Surnames. 1901.
Baring-Gould. Family Names. 1910.
Encyclopedia Americana. 1932.
Finlayson. Surnames and Sirenames. 1863.
Grussi. Chats on Christian Names. 1925.
Harrison. Surnames of the United Kingdom. 1912—1918.
Lower. Dictionary of Family Names. 1860.
McKenna. Surnames and Their Origin. 1913.
Moore. Surnames and Place—Names. 1890.
Woulfe. Irish Names and Surnames. 1923.
Weekley. Surnames. 1927.

[A00176 *Transcribed from JRM notes by James B. McVicker* 5/11/2005]

PRAIRIE DAYS [A00212]

‘PRAIRIE DAYS’

Probably some time before 1845 N. W. McVicker had first come into Iowa, and he divided his time attending school a while at Rochester (Cedar County) working with the John Morgan family (his sister Pop's family) and working for others. It seems that with the work of breaking up the sod, draining of swamps, and making the soil habitable in general, grubbing brush, and the clearing of forest for that section that there must have been plenty of work for the pioneers to do. He was in Cedar Rapids when it was a shanty town, and the best lots sold for \$5. He voted there at 18. He related in his experiences of one being on a far trip afoot between Cedar Rapids and probably as far North as Mason City--a hundred miles or more. No landmarks blazed the trail. No prairie sod houses offered rest. Night came on when he was far away from any human habitation. He lay down to rest upon the prairie sod, gazing up at the stars, hearing the gentle sighing and rustling of the summer breeze, and in that place of solitude and open spaces there took his rest for the night. The pioneer must have shared with the Indian the propensity to accommodate himself to the open spaces.

Often he related he was wracked with ague in common with others of the pioneers. No special treatment was afforded for the ills of the pioneers. They simply endured and wore out the ailments.

[A00212

Transcribed from JRM notes by James B. McVicker

5/24/2005]