

THE FAMILY HISTORY OF JAMES MCGILL,
UNIVERSITY FOUNDER

BY

J. M. MCGILL, F.S.A. Scot.

CONTENTS.

Foreword.

References.

The Ancestry of the McGills.

Glasgow in the Early Eighteenth Century.

Glasgow Pedigrees, and the Founder's Grandfather.

The Founder's Father.

The Founder's School-days.

The Father's Affairs in Glasgow.

A Change in Fortune.

The Last Link with Glasgow.

The Site of the Founder's Birth.

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS, MAPS, ETC.

- The Baptismal entry of the Founder's name in the Parochial Register.
- Negative copy of advert. "Notice to Creditors" in Glasgow Mercury, 19th. Jan, 1790.
- Negative copy advertising McGills Land - for sale. Glasgow Mercury, 16th. Feb. 1790.
- Negative copy referring to donation of £100 by the Founder on behalf of his sister. Edinburgh Advertiser, 4th. Aug. 1809.
- Photostat of Decreet Arbitral of 9th. May, 1775, showing signature of the Founder's father.
- Photostat of Power of Attorney in the Founder's handwriting, given to Andrew 21st. Oct. 1789.
- Photographic copies of Sasines, as entered in the Sasine Registers dated -
25th. Dec. 1749. 30th. Dec. 1767. 11th. May, 1772. 15th. May, 1772.
2nd. June, 1773. 19th. Feb. 1779. 19th. Feb. 1779. 4th. Mar. 1779.
5th. Feb. 1790. 8th. Mar. 1790.
- Modern plan of Stockwell Street showing site of Founder's birthplace.
- Map of Glasgow in 1650.
- Plan of Stockwell Street - early eighteenth century.
- Plan of Stockwell Street - late eighteenth century.
- Illustration of the corner of Stockwell and Briggate, much as it was in the Founder's days.
- Drawing of a "Tobacco Lord".
- Photograph of No. 28, Stockwell Street, showing early eighteenth century house.
- Photograph of corner of Argyle and Stockwell Streets, late eighteenth century.
- Three drawings depicting eighteenth century costumes and characters.
- Drawing of Family Tree - Origin of the McGills.
- The Family Tree of the Founder.
-
- Previously sent - Official copies of the Baptismal entries of the family,
taken from the Parochial Records, Glasgow.

References.

- Adam's History of Scotland.
Annals of the Four Masters.
Annals of Ulster. - W.M.Hennessy and B.MacCarthy.
Burkes Peerage.
Calendar of Documents Relating to Scotland. - R.Bain. (4vols.)
Carrick Gallovidian.- Kevan MacDowall.
Celtic Place Names in Scotland.- W.J.Watson.
Celtic Scotland.- W.F.Skene. (3 vols.)
Chronicles of the Picts and Scots.- W.F.Skene.
Commissariat of Glasgow.- sixteenth and seventeenth Centuries.(1547-1790)
Early Scottish Charters Prior to 1153.- Sir Arch. Lawrie.
Early Sources of Scottish History.- A.O.Anderson.
Exchequer Rolls of Scotland.- Sixteenth to eighteenth Centuries.
Glasgow's Story.- C.Stewart Black.
Glasghu Facies.- Rev. Dr. J.F.S.Gordon.
Herdsman and Hermits.- T.C.Lethbridge.
Historical Account of Scotch Highlanders in America.- J.P.McLean.
Lands and their Owners in Galloway.- P.McKerlie.
~~THE LORDSHIP~~
~~MacDonald~~ of the Isles.- Dr. I.F.Grant.
MacFarlane's Genealogical Collections
McGill and Its Story.- Cyrus MacMillan.
Memoir of D.Maitland-Makgill-Crichton.- Rev. J.W.Taylor.
Miscellany of The Scottish History Society, vol. IV.
Norsemen in Alban.- F.L.Bremner.
Parochial Registers of Glasgow, Kintyre, Dumbarton, Seventeenth-eighteenth Centuries.
Registrum Magni Sigilli Regum Scotorum.
Scots Peerage.- Balfour Paul.
Scottish Annals from English Chronicles, A.D. 500-1286.- A.O.Anderson.
Settlers in The American Colonies.- J.C.Hotton.
Theatrum Genealogium Ostentam Omnes Aetatum Familias Monarcharum Regum Ducum.- Heronymus. (Edinburgh University Library copy.)
The Glasgow Story.- C.Brogan.
The Second City.- C.A.Oakley.
The Surnames of Scotland.- G.F.Black.

FOREWORD

No one has ever been able to produce a complete genealogical history. There are gaps at some period or other in all family records which are impossible to fill, as the information simply is not there - has never been recorded ^{or} ~~and~~ is lost in the mists of time.

This short history of James McGill and the Glasgow family background is an instance of this. The birthplace of James McGill his grandfather may be recorded somewhere, but to find it would be a formidable task; no less than the search of all Parochial Registers of Scotland with the exception of those which I have already dealt with here.

It is also most unfortunate that there were no lists of emigrants compiled between 1740 and 1773:- the most important period in James McGill's life when, some time during those years, he and his brother John left the old country, never to return.

As to his father - it is ironical that his failure in business and his financial stress should have been recorded in such complete detail in the Glasgow Archives, but his successes in life are mentioned nowhere and are unknown. That he became a Deacon of the Guild of Hammermen proves that he was a first class craftsman, but it did not help him to make a fortune.

It is with some reluctance that I have had to lay bare the facts of the father's financial embarrassments. They lead me to wonder what was the cause of it all. Was it speculation, or was his Smithy business outdated in methods of production? The iron industry in Glasgow was expanding rapidly during his lifetime; so his business may have been swallowed up by larger producers. We know too little of facts to sit as judges on the unfortunate man.

In my quest for the information contained in this short history, I have left no stone unturned, and doubtlessly have been a nuisance to many people, but everyone has been most co-operative.

I am indebted to so many who have helped me so much to secure valuable data - that a list of their names would be too long for me to inscribe here - but they all have my warmest thanks and appreciation.

22 Canaan Lane,
Edinburgh, 10.

THE ANCESTRY OF THE MCGILLS

Almost one hundred and fifty years have passed since James McGill became a well-known figure in Montreal, Canada; but, apart from the fact that he was a wealthy man, his home town, Glasgow, knew very little about him, and this state of affairs continues up to the moment of writing.

Efforts have been made to discover who his parents were, and where he was born in Glasgow, without much success, so I hope this humble contribution of mine will help to remedy this, and place him among the ranks of the many famous sons of Glasgow.

Born of humble parents, James McGill, like many other Scottish emigrants, made a fortune. He also gained a high position in the political field, and rose to high rank in the army of his adopted country.

The world famous University in Montreal, which he founded, has been called after him, so perhaps no man has ever had a more fitting tribute with which to perpetuate his memory.

The surname McGill, which has over thirty variants, is not uncommon, but very few people know its origin, so a short history of it may interest readers, as it has a bearing on the question as to where James McGill's ancestors originally sprung from.

Various experts assert that the Progenitor of the McGills was Gilli, who was Governor of the Isles and part of the mainland of Scotland for Sigurd the second, during the reign of Malcolm, King of Scots. Sigurd married a daughter of Malcolm and they had a son named Thorfinn. Gilli married Sigurd's sister in A.D. 995, and when Sigurd was killed at the Battle of Clontarf, near Dublin in 1014, Gilli took Thorfinn, aged seven into his care. Thorfinn, on reaching manhood came into the possession of eight earldoms in Scotland, and added Galloway as the ninth.

With regard to Gilli, frequently mentioned in the Norse Sagas, historians are increasingly accepting the theory that he was Gilli-Brigid, the great-great-grandfather of Somerled, the Progenitor of the Clan Donald. The "Annals of the Four Masters" record under the year 1083 - "Death of Somerled, son of Gillibrigid, King of Innsigall". (i.e. isles of the foreigners) the Erse name for the Sudreys. Gilli probably called this son Somerled in honour of his wife's kinsmen. According to the Gaelic bards, Gilli-Brigid was fourth in descent from Godfrey MacFergus, Toiseach of the Isles during the reign of Kenneth MacAlpin in the

ninth century, and a direct descendant of the Irish king, Conn of the Hundred Battles.

Gilli also had a son named MacGill, who was the greatest chief in Galloway in the middle of the eleventh century. Most likely he acted as Thorfinn's governor for that earldom, in the same capacity as his father had done for Sigurd in regard to the Isles. From what history tells us, this MacGill had a stormy career.

In Aikman's "History of Scotland" vol. 1, p. 332, it states that -

"He (Macbeth) afterwards went to the Aebudae (Hebrides) where he executed severe justice, and returning home he summoned repeatedly MacGill, the most powerful chief in Galloway to stand trial; but he - MacGill - more afraid of being charged with having belonged to the party of Malcolm, than dreading any crime of which he could have been accused - refused to obey; on which, Macbeth sent some detachments against him who, having vanquished him, put him to death."

In Hollinshead's "Scottish Chronicle" vol. 1, p. 341, in the part dealing with Macbeth's history (from which, it is said, Shakespeare got his idea for his immortal play of that name), it refers to the same MacGill, but in less complimentary terms -

"He (Macbeth) caused to be slaine sundrie Thanes, as of Cathenes, Sutherland, Stranaverne, and Ross, because through them and their seditious attempts, much trouble daillie rose in the realme. He appeased the troublesome state of Galloway and slue one Makgill, a tyrant, who had many years before passed nothing of the regall authoritie or power".

A similar history to the above is given in the works of Heronymus which bear the ponderous title of "Theatrum Genealogium Ostentam Omnes Aetatum Familias Monarcharum Regum Ducum", and which were written in 1597.

It is impossible to ascertain how many sons this chief MacGill left after he was slain by Macbeth, but it has been tentatively suggested that Fergus, Lord of Galloway (1096-1161), was descended from him. Sir Archibald Lawrie in his work, "Early Scottish Charters, Prior to A.D. 1153", states that "Fergus de Galweia was the descendant and representative of the old chiefs of Galloway. He is never styled 'Comes'; The Chronicle of Holyrood calls him 'principis'. He married an illegitimate daughter of Henry I. of England. He founded the Monastery of

Dundrennan, and restored the Bishopric of Candida Casa. In 1160 he became a canon in Holyrood Abbey, where he died."

Gilbert the son of Fergus, became Lord of Galloway not long after the death of Fergus; and when Gilbert died in 1185, the title was claimed by Roland the son of Gilbert's brother Uchtred.

According to Sir Donald Makgill of that Ilk and Kemback, it is from this family, through Gill fil Bueth the fourth son of Bueth or Heth mac Gille, son of Gilbert, that all the McGills of the present day are descended.

Gille fil Bueth was Lord of Gillesland in North Cumberland, which at that time belonged to the Scots. He is mentioned (A.D. 1155-1157) in a charter by Henry I. as the former owner of the Barony of Gillsland then granted to Hubert de Vallibus. Ralph de Meschines or Micenis, who obtained Cumberland from William of Normandy, had two brothers - Galfridus, who had a grant of land of the county of Chester, and William, on whom he bestowed the land of Coupland. The latter was also granted Gillesland, but he was not able to get it from the Scots; for Gill, the son of Bueth held the greatest part by force of arms. After his death, Henry II. bestowed it upon Hubert de Vallibus or Vaux, who had murdered Gill fil Bueth to obtain them. In repentance, he founded and endowed the Priory of Lanercost, and gave to it the lands that caused the quarrel.....

An interesting point regarding surnames arises here. Hubert, when granted Gillesland, had no surname, but took one from the land which had been bestowed on him. The word "Gill" in Cumberland signifies a deep valley from the Norse word "Gill" - a deep glen, which again in Latin is "Vallis, - hence the origin of the surname Vallibus - or Vaux.

Gill fil Bueth was one of the Jurists in the "Inquisitio" held by David I. regarding the lands held by Glasgow Cathedral.

Burkes Peerage gives a different version to the origin of the McGills, and states that according to an old manuscript history in the Kemback Charter chest, the surname first appeared in Galloway where it was borne by Malcolm MacGill, who seems identical with Malcolm, fourth son of Gilbert, Lord of Galloway (died 1185). All the Galloway MacGills are descended from this Malcolm. In the family tree of the origin of the McGills, I have given the latter version.

In tracing the lineage of ancient families who were known to have existed at such a remote period, eminent historical and genealogical ^{experts} are liable to disagree, no matter what positive arguments are put forward, or what answers are given to the thorny questions involved. T.C. Lethbridge in "Herdsman and

Hermits"; F.L.Bremner in his "Norsemen in Alban"; Adams in his "Clans, Septs and Regiments of the Scottish Highlands"; Dr. I.F.Grant in her ^{THE LORDSHIP} "~~MacDonald~~ of the Isles"; also P.McKerlie in "Lands and their Owners in Galloway", and several other authorities have mentioned the lineage of the MacDonalds and of the ancient Lords of Galloway, and in quite a few instances, some have tentatively connected the two branches to the one stem springing from Gilli. Further proof of this connection is that Fergus and his contemporary Somerled, carried the same armorial bearings, viz. a lion rampant. The armorial bearings of Somerled's descendants MacDougal of Lorn and the MacDowalls of Galloway (the surname of Fergus) is a lion rampant. This makes an interesting family tree which will no doubt bring the wrath of the MacDonalds down upon my head, unless I explain that the family tree which I have drawn, is only to simplify my theory that Gilli was the progenitor of these two great families. Which of the sons of Gilli was the first born will never be known.

The name MacGill (most commonly spelt with the prefix Mc) is most frequently met with in Galloway at the present time, and there are also several McGill families living in Perth, Fife, and the Lothians, who have, in the majority of cases come from Galloway at some remote period. Two of the most distinguished families who can claim descent from the ancient Celtic Lords of Galloway are Sir Donald Makgill of that Ilk and Kemback, who now resides in London; and D. Maitland-Makgill-Crichton, heir of line of the Viscounty of Fendraught, of Monzie Castle, Crieff. Their forebear James McGill from Galloway became a Burgess of Edinburgh in 1550, and rose to the rank of Lord Provost of the city in 1570. Prior to this he was implicated in the murder of Rizzio and had to go into hiding for a period, but was later pardoned. He was created Sir James Makgill of Rankeillor-Nether, and Clerk of Register, and in 1571-1572, was the Ambassador of Mary Queen of Scots to the court of Queen Elizabeth of England.

His descendant Sir James Makgill of Cranston-Riddell was Senator of the College of Justice, and was created a peer by Charles II. with the title of Viscount of Oxenfoord and Lord Makgill of Cousland in 1651.

The ancestor of D.Maitland-Makgill-Crichton, James Makgill, the Laird of Rankeillor in Fifeshire in 1679, was of the same stock. One day he happened to attend a Perth market in the company of Sir Robert Balfour of Denmilne, a rather quick tempered gentleman. The good cheer which Sir Robert had partaken of during

the day tended to increase rather than to diminish his temper, and on his way home, he fell foul of a Highland chief and his attendants, and swords were soon drawn. James Makgill then appeared on the scene and terminated the affair. Later, on their way home Makgill reminded Sir Robert of the danger from which he had saved him, but Sir Robert scorned the idea, and offered to fight Makgill himself. Much against the latter's will, they set-to and unfortunately it ended in the death of Sir Robert, and James Makgill had to fly to France.

He afterwards returned and presented himself at King Charles II.'s court to ask the king's pardon. The king offered to grant him this on condition that he challenged a well-known bully to a duel. The narrative goes on to say that the bully was a tall brawny built man whereas Makgill was very small and slender and looked no match for the bigger man. However, Makgill with a dexterous thrust ran his apponent through, and won the day. The king admired Makgill's skill and bravery so much that he granted him a pardon, and also conferred the honours of knighthood on him. Human nature being as it is, I suppose that in a narrative such as this one, the hero always has to be the smaller and weaker man who vanquishes the big strong one, so personally, I can only accept this item of history - cum grano salis! I would much prefer to believe that Sir James Makgill gained the honour of knighthood for a much more meritorious service, than for killing a bully.

The surname was mentioned quite often in earlier times. A Maurice McGill witnessed a charter by Maldenan, third Earl of Lennox in 1231, and a David McGill gave a charter of lands in Roxburghshire during the reign of Alexander III. A John McGill gave a charter of lands to a Glendyning prior to 1286. There was a Thomas McGill Canon of Dunkeld Prebendary of Fungarth about 1560.

According to Bain in his "Calendar of Documents..." vol. II p. 169., a Michael de Miggyll did homage to Edward I. on March 14th. 1296, and his name is in the "Ragman Roll": (Charter House, Scots Documents, Box 4, No. 10). The name is a Normanised version of Michael McGill, spelt phonetically by a Norman or French scribe. Bain gives an interesting account of this same Michael. He was taken prisoner at Dunbar Castle when Edward invaded Scotland in 1296, and he was imprisoned at Roxburgh Castle on 16th. May. He was afterwards sent to Nottingham where the king commanded the Sheriff to pay him, and Walter de Bozeville (Boswell), another prisoner 3d each and their warder 2d daily: (23rd. Nov. 1298). On 23rd. Sept. 1299, King Edward, in aid of the ransom which

James de Lyndesay his leige, lately taken prisoner by the Scots and confined in Bothwell Castle, had made for his release, consented to exchange Michael - "A Scottish prisoner in Nottingham Castle", and commanded Robert de Clifford the constable to do so.

At Michaelmas 1299, there was a warrant for Ralph de Shirle, sheriff of Nottingham and Derby for monies paid to de Boyville, and Michael de Miggel and Roger the Clerk, esquires, Scottish prisoners at Nottingham Castle from 1st, May 1298 till Saturday next before Michaelmas 1299, when Michael was delivered from prison.

Further to this, it is recorded that Michael was again captured by the English whilst serving under William Wallace, as there was a writ made at Perth dated 1st. September, 1305, before Malise Earl of Strathearne, and many other high personages; who said on oath, in Michael's presence that he was forced against his will to serve under Wallace who threatened him with death if he tried to escape. Malise and the others added their appeal to Michael's for a pardon, and Edward eventually granted him this, and also commanded his Chamberlain to give him his goods and chattels - "of the king's special grace". Michael McGill was definitely a "lad o' pairts !

Descendants of the McGills bearing other names, or connected with the family are - Cargill, Cairns, De Carnys, Carnie or Carny, Glen, Gillen; and one authority suggests that the Whytes of Argyll may also have descended from the same family. The armorial bearings of the McGills, which are recorded in one of the oldest manuscripts in the office of the Lord Lyon King of Arms, are three martlets. Cargill, and Glen of Auchline are on a field gules with marks of cadency.

Naturally, a family which springs from such ancient stock have their own particular tartan, which is six coloured with the red predominating. This tartan was "lost" for many years and has just recently come to light.

The second branch of the McGills hail from Argyll, and are mentioned in MacFarlane's Genealogical Collections; Dr. Black's "Surnames of Scotland"; and also in the "Miscellany of the Scottish History Society", vol. IV. This branch or clan were known in Gaelic as the "Clan Mac an'Ghoill", or son of the stranger or Lowlander, possibly because they originally came from Galloway.

Baron McGill of Barkabay, 1291, was granted the lands of Barrichbean

by Sir Dugald Campbell of Craignish (died 1350) for military services. His son also named Duncan, Baron of Barrichbean, having no male heirs, offered his eldest daughter Effreta in marriage to John, son of Donald, son of John Gorm of Craignish, with Barrichbean as her "tocher", on condition that his other three daughters Catherine, Margaret and Finwala would be suitably taken care of. All the McGill lands eventually passed to the Campbells of Craignish, and the clan dispersed to various parts of the Isles.

The third branch of the McGills are descended from the MacGill mentioned in the "Red Book of Clanranald", (the Gall MacSgillin), as belonging to the family of Somerled, progenitor of Clan Donald. This MacGill settled in the Glens of Antrim, and from him sprang the "Clan McGill of the Glens". So it would appear from the short extracts I have given of the three branches of the name, that they all sprang from the same stem.

Although the name McGill is known to have existed in the eleventh century, it cannot be looked upon as an established surname at that date, Surnames did not come into general use until well on in the twelfth century, except by a few of those holding the highest ranks. Highlanders, in most cases, adopted the names of their chiefs or landowners whether they were of the same blood or not, but this clan surname system never existed in Galloway. Those of the same surname in that part of the country, indicate that they were all sprigs from the same stem, i.e., they are all descendants of the one family many centuries ago. It is regrettable that the destruction of the records, and family bibles during the persecution of the seventeenth century makes it almost impossible to trace the descent. It has been stated that 65 volumes of Register of General Sasines between 1617 and 1649 inclusive, with 38 volumes of Particular Sasines from July 1617 to July 1650, were shipped to London in the time of Cromwell, and were lost when the ship carrying them foundered in Yarmouth Roads. At the same time, 50 volumes of charter books for periods between 1424 and 8th. March 1628 disappeared, and it seems certain that they were destroyed.

There are two instances known where the surname McGill was adopted by those of different blood. The first - a few of the members of the Clan MacMillan curtailed their Gaelic name - Mac Gille-Mhaoil to the shorter term MacGill. The second instance is that of the Clan MacGregor. When this clan was proscribed in the seventeenth century, some of the members took refuge in Islay where they were known as the "Clan Mac a'Geal" or Clan of the White. The Gaelic name

was anglicised to - McGill, and in a few cases to Whyte.

From which of the three main branches did James's forebears descend? As I have already mentioned, the McGills were and still are most numerous in Galloway, so I think it is safe to assume that it was this part of the country they originally came from. There has been a persistent rumour that some of the Kintyre McGills were related to James' family, and although I cannot find any proof of this, it could be the case. Many "Lowlanders" from the south-west of Scotland settled in Kintyre during the seventeenth century, and for many centuries previous to this, there was a great deal of intermixing between the peoples of Galloway, Kintyre and Ulster. A study of the surnames and place names of these three parts will reveal that there is a great similarity.

The family from whom James the founder was descended, settled in Glasgow in the late seventeenth century

GLASGOW IN THE EARLY EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

For reasons which will become obvious later in this history, I must give a brief description of Glasgow and its citizens of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

In 1605, the population of the city numbered about 5,000, and at the close of the century, this figure had reached the neighbourhood of 14,000. With the growth of the population the traders sought a wider scope for their activities, mainly with the colonies belonging to England, but they were opposed in every way by the English who closed the Colonies to them, thereby causing a great feeling of bitterness between the two countries.

William Patterson, a Dumfriesshire man who had founded the Bank of England some years previously, suggested and formed a scheme whereby the Scots would have a Colony of their own - a Scottish Colony on the Isthmus of Darien, Panama, which would embrace the trade of the Pacific as well as the Atlantic countries. This was known as the Darien Scheme. Unfortunately, the Colony was disease ridden, and this, together with the resentment of the English, effectively wrecked the enterprise.

Many valuable lives were lost, and also half the wealth of Scotland, and the feeling of bitterness between the two countries was reflected in the opposition

(contd. on page 9)

put up by Glasgow against the Union of Parliaments in 1707. However, as the years passed, the Union brought prosperity to Scotland as it opened the way for trading with the English Colonies, now British, and the population of Glasgow began to increase at a rapid rate. By 1740, this had reached a total of 18,000, and the following figures will give an idea of the remarkable growth of the city which reflects the expansion of trade:-

1765 - 28,300	1821 - 147,000
1780 - 43,000	1831 - 202,000
1791 - 67,000	1841 - 283,000
1801 - 77,000	1851 - 359,000
1811 - 101,000	1861 - 448,000

According to the Census taken in 1951, this figure had reached a total of 1,089,767.

The years 1707 - 1775 were known as the Tobacco Period. With the way open for the Glasgow merchants to trade with the Colonies, they commenced to import tobacco from Virginia, and within a few years ousted the English from the continental market, much to their resentment.

During this period, a new type of personality appeared on the scene in Glasgow, who were known as "Tobacco Lords". These were merchants who had made a fortune in tobacco trading, and they adopted an overbearing and objectionable manner to those whom they considered beneath them. The ordinary man in the street had to doff his hat and make way for them as they strolled through the streets, otherwise they would have felt the weight of their gold mounted canes across their shoulders. They even went to the extent of wearing a bright red coat to distinguish themselves from the common herd.

Very few of the "Tobacco Lords" survived, financially, the American War of Independence which began in 1775. This war ruined many of the merchants and traders, but after a year or two of distress and difficulty, this was followed by a revival in foreign commerce in other commodities. The sugar trade more than made up for the loss of the tobacco trade; and flax-spinning, introduced in 1725 made rapid progress. This attracted many people to Glasgow, with a resultant increase in population.

In 1790, cotton superseded flax, and the weavers were then mostly engaged in muslin weaving.

Naturally, the increase of population lead to a shortage of housing, and a few of the tradesmen speculated in property building which, as I shall show later, was more of a gamble than a safe way to make a fortune.

The old time magistrates of Glasgow were also as overbearing as the "Tobacco Lords". If any of their fellow townsmen failed to make way for them or to take off their hats to them, they looked upon it as a crime which might land the offender in jail for a period the length of which depended on the mood of the Baillie concerned. The culprit would then have to appear at the Market Cross, bare footed and bare headed, and there ask forgiveness of God - and the Baillie.

There is mention in the old records of a Robert McGill who had the temerity to threaten a Baillie with a dagger. There is no indication of whether he was in the right or the wrong, which would not have mattered in any case. His punishment was to be kept in irons in the Tolbooth during the Baillie's pleasure, and then to appear at the Market Cross with bare head and feet, deliver the dagger by its point to the Baillie, then go down on his knees and ask the Baillie's forgiveness. He was afterwards fined £100 Scots, and banished from the city for seven years.

Another instance given is that of a Thomas Crawford, a merchant burghess, who was severely punished by being deprived of his "burghess ticket" upon which his livelihood depended, for having passed derogatory remarks against the Provost in the presence of "several persons of quality".

The next persons of importance in the city were the burghesses and members of Craft Guilds. To qualify, the applicant, at an early period, had to be of good character, and worth in land, heritages and moveable gear, 500 merks if a merchant, and half as much if a craftsman. This requirement was dispensed with later, and the applicants were admitted as burghesses on payment of a fine. In 1605, the number of burghesses including the merchant and craft guilds did not exceed a total of 600.

Only a burger had the right to set up in business or trade within the city boundaries. When called upon, he had to undertake his share in the defence of the town, providing his own weapons for this purpose. He also had certain tasks to perform which, in modern times, are part of the duties undertaken by the servants and officials of the local authorities. As no police force existed in those days, he had to take his turn on night patrol, and assist in maintaining law and order.

Probably the oldest of Glasgow's Trade Houses is that of the Incorporation of Hammermen, dating back to the sixteenth century. The guild was all powerful in those days, and their decision as to whether a person could or could not set himself up in the city to ply a trade which came within their scope, was final.

James Watt, whose researches and improvements on the steam engine are used to this day, attempted to set up as an instrument maker but was prevented from doing so by the then privileged Incorporation as not being free of the craft. He tried to obtain their leave to use a very small workshop for experimental purposes but this was peremptorily refused. The Glasgow University eventually came to his assistance and allowed him to use a small room within the precincts of the College, over which the Guilds had no jurisdiction, and there he designed and completed the model of his steam engine. This model is one of the prized possessions of the University to-day.

It is interesting to note that in February of this year (1955) Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh, on receiving the Freedom of Glasgow, was also enrolled as a craftsman in the Incorporation of Hammermen.

GLASGOW PEDIGREES, AND THE FOUNDER'S GRANDFATHER

Births in Glasgow were not recorded until near the middle of the nineteenth century; but the recording of baptisms, deaths and marriages began in 1609. The rapid increase of population in the eighteenth century, and the haphazard method of registration commencing at such a late period, added to the difficulties of establishing long pedigrees in the city. I am also of the opinion that there were many children born who were never recorded in the baptismal records.

A pedigree extending to four generations in nineteenth century Glasgow, was considered to be quite exceptional unless a person had private documents which could prove a much longer one.

D. Macleod Malloch, in his book of Glasgow anecdotes remarks that the brevity of the average Glasgow pedigree is hit off in the following story:-

"An old Scottish landed proprietor, or Laird, who piqued himself much upon his pedigree, and had a sovereign contempt for men who had come to fortune through successful industry, was one night in a company where a young lady from Glasgow happened to descant upon what her father, her grandfathers, and her great-grandfathers had done as civil rulers in the City. After enduring this for a while, the Laird at last tapped the fair speaker gently on the

shoulder and said to her in an emphatic but good humoured tone - 'Wheest, my woman, nae Glasgow folk ever had grandfathers'!"

Glasgow consisted of four parishes during those years - Barony, Gorbals, Govan, and the Royal burgh of Glasgow. I searched the four parish registers, and the information concerning the forebears of James McGill the founder of the University was contained in the Royal burgh records.

There were few surnames registered beginning with 'Mc' or 'Mac' at the beginning of the entries. One of the earliest names using the prefix was that of John MacGall who, on 6th May, 1622, along with George Bogell, was a godfather to the daughter of Robert Bogell and his spouse Margrat Ghrame. The name MacGall is one of the variants of McGill, and it is interesting to note that the name Bogell, or Bogle as it is sometimes spelt, is frequently ^{met} with as a witness to baptisms in the McGill family at a later date; so it would appear that there was a connection between the two families: but there is no other evidence available to show that John MacGall was an ancestor of the later McGills.

The earliest mention of the name as it is spelt at the present time was in the following entry which I give in full:-

"1662, August 3rd. John McGill and Joannet Gray, ane lawful dochter Margrat, witnesses James Lees and James Elphistoun."

On investigating this entry in the various registers, and also by checking ancient records in the National Library, I find that this McGill is in no way connected with the founder's family.

The first mention of an ancestor of James, was of his grandfather named James McGill.

I note that the eldest son of each generation is called James, so in order to avoid confusion, I shall call the grandfather James, elder.

His parents are not mentioned anywhere in the records, so he may have come to Glasgow when a very young man to serve his apprenticeship as a hammerman, most likely with James Craig, his future father-in-law. He definitely did not come from Dumbarton as I searched the records pertaining to that Parish. He may have been a descendant of a John McGill, armourer, whose wife's Will was recorded in Maybole on 4th April, 1665; or of a James McGill of Dayllie, near Maybole dated 11th October, 1675, but as there is no possible means by which I can connect James, elder with these two McGills, it would be sheer conjecture on my part to say either

of them was an ancestor of his. Maybole lies in the county of Ayr, and is not so very far away from Glasgow.

On the 7th June, 1716, James, elder, married Janet, a daughter of James Craig, hammerman, and on 11th September of the same year, he was elected a burghess of the city, and a guild brother of the Incorporation of Hammermen. I am inclined to think that he became a partner of his father-in-law, as there is no mention anywhere of him owning property or having his own workshop; but in the Sasine Register for 11th April, 1740, his brother-in-law John became heir to property in Stockwellgait which had belonged to James Craig. Incidentally, on 26th March, 1734, a John Craig resigned his property to John Craig, younger, reserving for himself the liferent of half a Smithy.

This property consisted of the "Westmost half of a tenement, close, and yard in Trongate". The street Trongate adjoins Stockwell Street on the north-east side, and there would be access to the yard from either of the streets, so it is quite possible that this Smithy was where James, elder, and his sons plied their trade.

James Craig, his father-in-law, was admitted to the Incorporation of Hammermen on 30th June, 1687.

The family of James, elder, and Janet, consisted of James (whom I shall call senior) baptised on 7th April, 1717, witnesses Andrew and George Craig.
George - baptised on 24th January, 1720, witnesses James and George Craig.
John - baptised 19th November, 1721, witnesses James and George Craig.
David - baptised 13th October, 1723, witnesses James and George Craig.

Their mother Janet died on 9th August, 1751, and her burial is recorded in the register in these few simple words - 'Janet McGill, an old woman'. Had she been of higher social standing, no doubt the clerk would have written a much more elaborate entry accorded to some cases. The cemetery where she was buried lay south and west of Stockwell Street, and was attached to the "Toun Hospital". It was demolished in 1855 along with other old property, to make way for improvements.

There is no further mention of the father, James, elder anywhere. Whether he retired to the place where he was born, is difficult to say.

THE FOUNDER'S FATHER

James, senior, also became a hammerman to trade, and on 14th September, 1741, his name was added to the list of burghesses and guild brothers of Glasgow. An

interesting entry dated 29th April, 1741, is contained in the Town Council Act Book, as follows - (rubric)

"Warrant, Thesaurer for James McGill"; and the text reads -

"The which day the Magistrats and Town Council conveend ordain James Nisbit, Thesaurer, to pay to James McGill, hammerman, four pounds three shillings and sevenpence for Iron work for the Town to the Dung boat for cleansing the River."

On 5th September, 1743, the Treasurer's accounts for the year Michaelmas 1740-1741 show that the above account was duly paid, viz. -

"by £4. 3. 7. to James McGill, hammerman, for iron work to the dung boat per act 28th April, 1741.

On 16th May, 1742, at the age of twenty-five, James, senior, married Margaret Gibson, the daughter of John Gibson and Isobel Tailyour his wife. She was only two months younger than James, and belonged to a family whose name dates back to the beginning of the Glasgow records. The family of this marriage as entered in the registry of baptisms consisted of the following:-

The first born - Janet, baptised on 29th March, 1743, witnesses James McGill and John Craig.

Then came James, the founder, who was born on 6th October, 1744, and baptised on 14th October, 1744, witnesses James McGill and John Craig. (A photostat of the original entry accompanies this article.)

The rest of the family are recorded as follows:-

8th June, 1746, John. Witnesses James McGill and John Craig.

8th February, 1748, Robert. Witnesses James McGill and John Craig.

9th July, 1749, Margaret. Witnesses James McGill and John Craig.

9th August, 1752, Twins Isabel and Rabina. Witnesses John Craig and Peter Bogle.

13th April, 1754, Andrew. Witnesses John Craig and Peter Bogle.

And finally - 30th July, 1757, Robert. Witnesses Peter Boyle, weaver, and John Craig, hammerman.

It will be noticed that Peter Bogle's name changes to Boyle, no doubt due to the top of the 'g' being left open, thus changing it to a 'y'. This is a good example of how surnames altered in the past, especially in Scotland.

The first Robert died in childhood, and one of the twins was named Rabina to commemorate him, this being the custom in those days. Rabina also must have died very young as the last son was named Robert. Another male child, born between the years 1749 and 1752 died before being baptised, as the son Andrew was mentioned as being the fifth son born.

During those early years the infantile death rate was very high, no doubt due to overcrowded conditions of living, and the very elementary ideas of sanitation they had in those days. As a result, the burial recorder omitted to enter the names but simply gave the details of interment briefly with the date as follows - "eight children", "ten children", "four children", etc.

With regard to the rest of James junior's generation, in the marriage register, the marriage of Janet his elder sister is entered as follows - "20th October, 1765 - Robert Allan, Merchant in Glasgow and Janet McGill lawful daughter of James McGill, Hammerman there".

The marriage of his younger sister is recorded thus - "10th April, 1772, James Russel, smith and Margaret McGill privately married 27th January, 1772".

I cannot find any trace of what happened to the youngest son Robert, and I can only surmise that he died in childhood. Had he lived, there would have been mention of him in one or other of the records, and he probably would have joined his brothers in Canada.

This leaves only Isabel unaccounted for. An item of news appeared in the "Edinburgh Advertiser" dated 4th August, 1809 as follows -

"The Treasurer of the Glasgow Royal Infirmary has received by the hands of James Dunlop, Esq., one hundred pounds, that sum having been verbally bequeathed to that Institution by the late Miss McGill. This generous bequest has been approved of and sanctioned by her brother and heir, the Hon. James McGill, of Montreal, and ordered by him to be paid accordingly."

Probably Isabel, the only daughter left, had to look after the household, and like many others placed in this position, died a spinster. Glasgow Royal Infirmary was founded in 1792.

THE FOUNDER'S SCHOOL-DAYS

James senior's eldest son James, whom I have termed "junior", commenced his elementary education at the Glasgow Grammar School, now known as the Glasgow High School. No lists of pupils were kept, but as the Grammar School was the only one in the burgh, it is safe to assume that this was the school James attended.

The hours were very long indeed, commencing at 5 a.m. most of the year, and at 7 a.m. in the winter, and they lasted till about five or six in the evening with two intervals for meals.

Punishment was very severe in the old days, and the cane was very much in evidence at all times. Most schools had a large boulder or block of stone near the door, which was called the "coolin' stane", and after the boys were caned, they sat on this stone, the coldness of which was supposed to counteract the pain of the punishment. Truly, the children's lot in the seventeenth and eighteenth century was far from being a happy one!

It was the custom at this period to allow entry into Universities at a very early age, so James, at the age of twelve, in 1756 left the Grammar School and enrolled in a class under the Rev. George Muirhead at Glasgow University. He is entered in the Matriculation Album as "Jacobus McGill, filius natu maximus Jacobi mercatoris Glasguensis", but there is no record of his having graduated. His classmates were -

Alexander MacLellan	John Hamilton
Alexander Taylor	John King
Alexander Wilson	John Lindsay
Archibald Patoun	John Miller
Gilbert Hamilton	Patrick MacLellan
William Stewart	Patrick Wilson
William Struthers	Robert Dunmoor
James Brydin	Robert Ingram
James Jack	Thomas Stevan
James Paton	Andrew Wilson
James Colquhoun.	

There is no mention of his younger brother John having matriculated; but Andrew, nine years later in 1765, enrolled in the same University and is recorded as the fifth son, as follows -

"Andrea McGill, filius natu quintus Jacobi mercatoris Glasguensis".

When a very young man, James junior, like many others in the seventeen sixties, decided to emigrate to the American Colonies, accompanied by John. Unfortunately, no detailed records are extant of emigration from Scotland during the period 1740 -1773.

It was not till 9th December, 1773 that the Treasury instructed the Commissioners of Customs to transmit weekly emigration returns -

"... it having been represented to my Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury that great numbers of the subjects of this country emigrate to America and foreign parts ..."

Although the sources of information are vague, the majority of emigrants went to the Carolinas, Albany and Novo Scotia. From 1760 to 1770, settlements also sprang up in various places throughout Pennsylvania.

The movements of James in the American Colonies are unknown, to my knowledge. He knew nothing about farming so he did not emigrate as a settler; and as he had not learned a trade, he could not have been a craftsman, so I venture to suggest that he joined a family relative. In 1740, an Archibald McGill was granted 500 acres of land at Bladen in North Carolina. Was this McGill a distant relative?

After a while, his young brother Andrew joined them and in 1774 they moved north to Canada and became engaged in the fur trade, eventually joining the North West Fur Company founded by Simon MacTavish of Montreal. James and his great friend Isaac Todd became partners in this firm, and there they amassed a large fortune.

In 1776, James junior married Charlotte, the daughter of Guillaume Guillemin, and widow of Francois Amable Trottier des Rivieres. There were no children of this marriage.

THE FATHER'S AFFAIRS IN GLASGOW

I must now turn back the pages a few years and continue with the history of James junior's father.

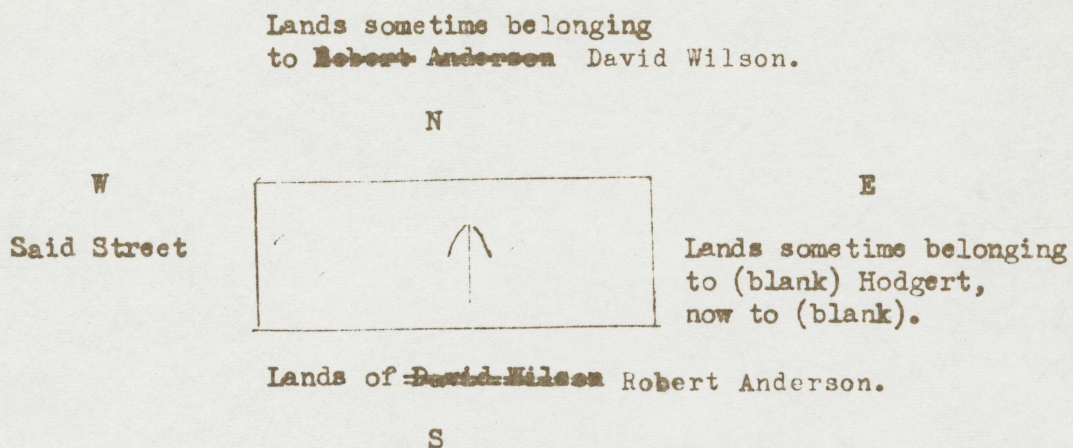
James senior's business of Hammerman was apparently a prosperous one, ^{TO SUCH AN} ~~EXTENT~~ that in December 1749, he was able to act as cautioner in a case involving a debt in which some property in Stockwell Street was held in security. The case was a complicated one, and is entered in the Glasgow Sasine register, an extract of which is given here:-

TO:- Under reversion, to -

25th December, 1749

Richard Falconer, writer in Glasgow, as attorney for -
John Clark, mariner in Glasgow,
eldest son of deceased Adam Clark, merchant in Glasgow,
of a tenement of land high and low, back and fore,

lately rebuilt and repaired by William Leckie, merchant in Glasgow, and situated on east side "of that street commonly called the Stockwell gate" and with a yard at the back thereof, all bounded as follows -



From:- from John Johnston, one of the burgh officers, as procurator for -

the said Adam Clark, now deceased, to his spouse, Agnes Miller, now deceased, in liferent, and to the said John Clark, his eldest son, whom failing, to the said Adam's "youngest" son, William Clark whom failing, to said spouse Agnes Miller,

And particularly 1,200 merks Scots of principal, and 240 merks of penalty and @rent of said principal sum, etc., in a bond and wodset granted to said Adam Clark

by Thomas Lecky (son of Wm. Lecky, merchant, Glasgow) as principal,

and by

Wm. Lecky, father of said Thomas,

And James McGill, hammerman in Glasgow, as cautioners;

Whereby the above lands are disponed and wodset in security of payment, and wherein the said Adam Clark stood infeft under reversion, by the said Thomas Lecky, by disposition etc., dated June 20th 1728.

Whereupon, after sasin was served to said John Clark, instantly the said John Clark dispones under reversion the said lands to JAMES MCGILL and his heirs, hammerman aforesaid,

ament £39 17/- resting of principal of the original sum
of 1,200 merks and @rent."

In 1755 he was elected Deacon of the Incorporation of Hammermen, and served
the guild for the usual two year period. To attain this office he must have been
well esteemed by his fellow hammermen.

James senior's next deal in property is recorded in 1767, and is entered
in the Glasgow Sasine. I shall give a short version of each sasine:-

30th December 1767:

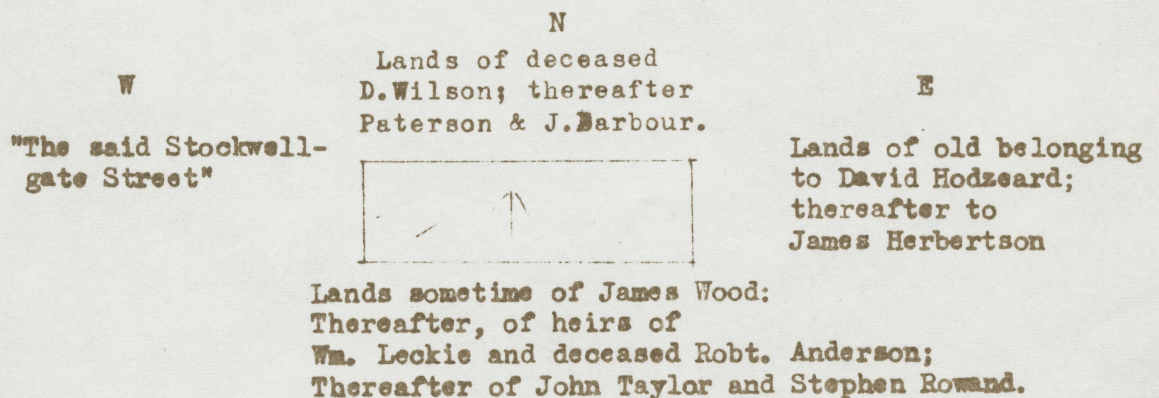
James Findlay, a burgh officer, as procurator for
James McGill, hammerman in Glasgow,
who has sold and disposes "heretably and irredeemably"
to Isobel Campbell (widow of Walter Jones, merchant
tailor in Glasgow, and whose attorney in Hugh McLean, writer
in Glasgow -

The first or ground storey of "That new fore tenement
of land lately erected by the said JAMES MCGILL, and back jamb
on the East side thereof"

situated "on the East side of the street commonly called the
Stockwellgate"

on the ground where that fore-tenement of land or two dwelling
houses which were acquired by the said JAMES MCGILL from
Alexander Stark, stood,

And on the ground where that tenement of land with office-houses
etc, and close also stood, and which was acquired from Matthew
Paton, Patrick Reid and John Reid by the said James McGill,
all as at the date of the said disposition possessed (tenanted)
by the said James McGill and Hugh Wylie and Company,
merchants in Glasgow,
and bounded thus -



All as disposition etc., dated 21st December 1767 more
fully bears.

It will be noted from the last Sasine, that James lived in this tenement,
and that he bought a considerable amount of property, but this is the only
instance where he sold any.

The next Sasine is dated 15th May, 1772. In this Sasine James became the
owner of property on the West side of Stockwell Street, and it reads as follows:-

To Thomas McFie, writer in Glasgow, as attorney for James McGill
late Deacon of Hammermen, Glasgow.

From - John Gillies, a burgh officer, as procurator for James Craig,
carter in Glasgow (eldest son of deceased John Craig, carter
Glasgow)

And for John Craig, carter ("Second and youngest" son of said
deceased John Craig)

alienating and irredeemably disposing

whole houses there and middenstead as far up the close as the eastmost
gable disposed by the said deceased John Craig and Janet Dobbie, his
spouse, to Margaret Dobbie (youngest daughter and one of the heirs
portioner of deceased John Dobbie, carter in Glasgow, and wife of
Robert Muir, wright there) being parts of that tenement on west side
of "that street called the Stockwell gate", bounded on the North by
lands of James Craig and representatives of deceased John Boyd;
on the East by the said street; on the South by the South Sugerie;
on the West by the lands of b l a n k.

The particular part herewith disposed to McGill is bounded thus -

On the North - the land formerly of the said James Craig and the
representatives of said deceased John Boyd, thereafter of the
successors of Andrew Jarvie, carter;

On the South - the South Sugerie;

On the West - the east gable of the foresaid back tenement
of said Margaret Dobbie;

On the East - the Stockwell Street.

All in accord with disposition dated 13th May, 1771.

A CHANGE IN FORTUNE

In 1773, we find a change in the fortunes of James senior. He lost most of his property which was held in security for a sum of over £1,300. There is no indication that he had trading interests abroad which at that period were beginning to feel the effects of the discontentment of the Colonial settlers, over Taxation, which came to a climax in 1775, when the American War of Independence started.

Whatever the cause, his property was claimed by two firms - Messrs. Simson, Baird & Co., and Alexander Houston & Co. The last named firm had an interesting history. - Alexander Houston was in the sugar and rum trade, and his firm was one of the largest of the West Indian Houses, whose partners, finding the times difficult, tried to corner the slave trade, and found themselves left with thousands of African natives on their hands. There was no market for them, and the partners had to feed, clothe and house them. A great many died from disease and starvation.

The Decree at the instance of the first named firm is as follows -

Glasgow Sasin Register, 11th May 1773:

Thomas Buchanan, writer, Glasgow, as Attorney for John Clark, merchant in Glasgow, trustee for the creditors of Messrs. Simson Baird & Co., merchants in Glasgow,

in accord with Decree of Adjudication dated 9th March, 1773

(and recorded in Register of Abbreviates of Adjudications,

14th April 1773) before the Lords of Council and Session,

at instance of said John Clark against James McGill, hammerman in Glasgow,

whereby the Lords adjudged from said McGill in respect of sums owing, vis. -

£110 sterling of principal, with interest, which, after deductions etc., was at date of adjudication, £69;

and also £123 15/- 4d. of principal, with interest, which at said date amounted to £132;

and also £110 sterling of principal, with interest etc., which amounted at time of decree to £102;

Sasin given of the following, all under reversion etc.,

Tenement of land and pertinents with close and middenstead
and a new back tenement lately built on said grounds on east
side of Stockwellgate,
bounded on south by lands of deceased Robert Anderson, now of
(blank) Rowand alias "Haddrie Hall":
on north, by lands of deceased David Wilson, now of (blank)
Paterson;
on east, by deceased David Hodgeart;
on west, by Stockwell Street;
And also of that fore-tenement of land or two dwelling houses,
with the laigh back house in the close adjoining to the said fore-
houses, as the same are presently rented by Wm. Steven, sugarhouseman,
Wm. Park, nailer, and Janet Reid;
being part of that tenement which sometime belonged to Wm. Roy,
carter in Glasgow, on the east side of the street called the
Stockwellgate,
bounded as follows;
on east, by lands belonging of old to David Hodgeart,
on north, by lands sometime belonging to Andrew Reid, and now
to said James McGill;
on south, by lands sometime belonging to James Wood, thereafter
to successors of Wm, Leckie, and now to John Taylor, cooper
in Glasgow;
on west, the said Stockwell Street;
And also of a tenement on west side of Stockwell Street,
on north side of the Sugar House.

The second Decreet is as follows:-

Glasgow Sasin Register: 2nd June 1773:

Hugh McLean, writer in Glasgow, procurator for Alexander Houston
merchant in Glasgow,
in accord with Decreet of Adjudication at instance of Alexander
Houston & Co.,
against James McGill, hammerman in Glasgow,
whereby the Lords Council and Session adjudged from said

James McGill, hammerman,

under reversion etc.,

in payment and satisfaction of £789 14/- sterling remaining of the principal sum of £1,500 contained in a hereditary bond mentioned in the decret, with interest and penalties etc., extending at time of said decret to an accumulated sum of £1,141 sterling.

the said decret being dated 6th July 1768 and is registered in Abbreviates at 17th August 1768;

of that tenement etc., on east side of Stockwell Street bounded by lands of deceased Robert Anderson, now to (blank) Rowand, alias Heddrichill, on south;

by lands of deceased David Wilson, now of (blank) Paterson on north;

by lands of deceased David Hodgeart on east;

by Stockwell Street on west;

And also of that foretenement or two dwelling houses etc;

All under reversion.

The next document of interest in James senior's affairs is dated 9th May, 1775, and is a deed registered in the Glasgow Burgh Court which reads briefly as follows -

Decret Arbitral between

James McGill, late Deacon of the Hammermen, Glasgow,

and Robert Callendar, lorimer in Glasgow,

anent a fore-tenement now being built by said Robert on west side of Stockwell Street,

between a part of which tenement and another tenement on the south thereof belonging to James McGill there is a mean gable for the service of both said tenements

and in respect of the sufficiency of said gable.

The arbiters are

Thomas Thomson, late Deacon of the Wrights, and Daniel Wardrop, late Deacon of the Masons.

John Eason, writer, is appointed their "clerk".

The decret is dated 28th June, 1774; and the "sentence" is dated 29th April, 1775.

I am attaching a photostic copy of this most interesting document, as it is an original deed, and not just a transcription, and it carries the signature of James McGill, hammerman.

The next Sasine registered is dated 19th February, 1779, as follows -

Discharge and renunciation by John Clark, Glasgow merchant, trustee for the creditors of Messrs. Simson Baird and Company, Glasgow merchants,

to

James McGill, hammerman in Glasgow;

considering that the said Messrs. Simson Baird and Company by their Bill dated 5th February 1771, drawn by them and accepted by said James McGill ordained him to pay six months after date £110 sterling for value received,

and which bill was protested at instance of said Messrs. Simson Baird and Company on 11th November, 1771; and the protest registered in Glasgow burgh court books 13th December, 1771, on which bill there is marked the following payments, viz.

£20 paid on 19th May 1772

£10 paid on 4th Nov 1772

£18 paid on Nov 1772;

AND ALSO considering that said company by their other bill dated said 5th Feb. 1771 and accepted by said James McGill ordained him to pay 9 months after date £123 15/- 4d. sterling for value received,

and which bill was duly protested by said Company for non-payment on 11th Dec 1771 and said protest registered in Glasgow burgh court books 13th Dec 1771;

AND ALSO considering that the said Company by their third bill dated said 5th Feb 1771 and accepted by said James McGill ordained him to pay them 12 months after date £110 sterling for value received,

and which bill was protested for non-payment on 8th Feb 1772

deducing from this third bill the sum of £13 9/- paid on
10th June 1772 by a bill on James Walker,
to which three bills the said James Clark has now right by
virtue of a disposition granted to him by James Simson, John
Baird, Alex. Crichton (all Glasgow merchants and partners of
Simson Baird and Company),
the said disposition being dated 24th July 1772 and registered
in the Commiss. Court Books of Glasgow, the (blank) day of
November 1772;

AND likewise by act of Court of Session dated 3rd Sept 1772,
vesting the said personal estate of said Company to said John
Clark as trustee appointed on behalf of creditors at meeting of
24th August 1772;

AND likewise that on 9th March 1773 the said James Clark
obtained decret of adjudication before Court of Session against
said James McGill in respect of his lands in Stockwell Street;
and in respect that there was paid to James Clark on 13th Dec
1776 £34 11/- on account of said debt and interest;
and in respect that James McGill has now paid the whole balance
of £370 sterling, herewith discharge etc.

It will be noticed in the above Sasine that James senior redeemed part
of his property by paying the amount due to the creditors of Messrs.
Simson Baird & Co. The next Sasine shows that he also cleared his debt to
Alexander Houston & Co. The Sasine reads as follows -

Glasgow Sasin Register, 19th Feb. 1779 -

Disposition - Andrew Houston of Jordanhill, merchant in Glasgow,
to James McGill, hammerman in Glasgow.

Andrew Houston of Jordanhill

considering that James McGill, hammerman in Glasgow
by his bond dated 13th May 1764 (registered, Books of Session,
25th Nov. 1767)

obliged himself to pay to my father, the now deceased Alexander
Houston of Jordanhill, representing Alexander Houston and Company,
the sum of £1,500 sterling at Martinmas then next, with penalties

in case of failure, and interest etc.,
and for security the said James McGill disponed, under reversion,
the 1st storey then rented by Claud Alexander, merchant,
the 2nd storey then rented by Alexr. Wilson, merchant,
the 3rd storey then rented by Wm. Cuningham, merchant,
and the garrets or top rented by (blank)
all in that new foretenement lately erected by the said James
McGill, on east side of Stockwellgate, bounded etc., etc.,
built on the site of tenement acquired by said James McGill
from Mathew Paton, late Deacon of the Wrights in Glasgow,
Patrick and John Reid, maltmen in Glasgow (sons of John Reid,
late Visitor of Maltmen of Glasgow), with consent of Agnes
Isobel and Elizabeth Reid (daughter of deceased Andrew Reid,
maltman in Glasgow), and likewise with consent of William
Ewing, baker in Glasgow (husband of said Isobel Reid), in
accord with disposition dated 16th May 1751.

AND considering that Alexander Houston & Co. were duly infeft
by sasin dated and recorded 12th June 1764;
and considering that the other partiners of said Company (John
Clark, merchant in Glasgow, and John Brown, merchant in Glasgow)
disponed their right to my father, 22nd April, 1772;
and considering that my father, 6th July 1768, for himself and
company obtained decret of adjudication before the Lords
against the said James McGill, for sums extending at time of
decret to £1,141 sterling (recorded, Abbreviates, 17 Aug. 1768);
and considering that the said debt on 1st Nov. 1771 was reduced
to £972 18/-2d.;
and considering that sundry payments were made to my father, and,
after his death to me, whereby the said James McGill reduced
the debt to £83 0. 10.;
and considering that said balance is herewith paid,
the said property is herewith redeemed.

The next Sasine entry in the Register fully explains how James senior managed
to pay the debts he owed to the two Glasgow firms mentioned in the Sasines; and

as will be shown by further records, the unfortunate man never regained his prosperity. It may be also noticed from the foregoing records that he made every endeavour to repay his debts, even in small amounts.

Glasgow Sasin Register 4th March, 1779.

John McEwan, writer in Glasgow, procurator for

James McGill, merchant in Montreal, North America.

James Ewing, a burgh officer, is procurator for

James McGill, hammerman in Glasgow,

for obligation in hereditary bond, whereby the said father

borrowed from his eldest son, James McGill, merchant in Montreal,

£1,120 sterling, to pay debts owing by said father;

which, together with another £400 owing by said father to his

second son, John McGill, merchant in Montreal (which £400 the

said eldest son had bound himself to pay and relieve

Andrew McGill;

making £1,520 in all.

The father hereby obliges himself to pay to his said son

James this £1520 at Martinmas 1779, with interest and penalties

etc.

Wherefore, for security, father infefts said son in a yearly

interest of £76 sterling on the loan, furth of that tenement

of land on east side of Stockwell Street, and furth of that

foretenement or two dwelling houses, as fully described herein;

and for further security gives sasin of said properties,

under reversion.

THE LAST LINK WITH GLASGOW

On 25th April, 1789, James McGill, father of the founder died, at the age of 73. He is recorded in the High Church Burial Register as having been buried in the cemetery of the High Church, which is known to-day as Glasgow Cathedral. The gravestones in the cemetery are placed flat on the ground in most cases, level with the surrounding turf, and are of sandstone, and have weathered badly. Those which are of the period when the founder's father died one hundred and sixty-five years ago, have unfortunately crumbled away and are in most cases undecipherable.

Addition to page 28.

Please insert after line 2.

I have no details of the rest of James senior's generation, with the exception of his brother John.

A story from the past has been handed down in my family, that John was "out" in the '45 rising, and escaped to Ireland after the Battle of Culloden. He married there and settled down to farming in the north of Ulster. He never returned to Scotland, but some of his descendants found their way back, and others emigrated to the new World. My family claim descent from him but as the records and other relevant documents were lost in the disastrous fire which destroyed "Four Courts", Dublin, in 1922 it is impossible to verify the truth of this. Nevertheless, it is a remarkable coincidence that my family knew that an uncle of the founder was named John, many years before I found proof of this in the Parochial Records of Glasgow.

A number of the McGills were involved in the '45, and in the official list of prisoners taken, are mentioned George, a surgeon from Kimbock (Kemback), and a John McIghail from Torosay. McIghail is a very old variant of the surname. Several escaped to Holland and their descendants may be living there to this day.

I could find no trace of the McGill family gravestone, and there are no lists extant by which the site could be identified.

At the end of the year 1789, Andrew, with a Power of Attorney in his pocket, set sail from Canada for Glasgow, to act for James junior as the eldest son and heir to his father.

This was Andrew's second visit to Glasgow since he emigrated to Canada. This statement is confirmed by an entry in the Burgess Roll of the city dated 16th. September, 1773, recording the admission of Andrew McGill, (Merchant), younger son of James McGill, (Hammerman). During that year the father's affairs were at a low ebb and it is most likely that Andrew was sent by James to examine the father's financial aspects, with a view to putting them in order. This was eventually done later as I have already related. It is likely that Andrew enrolled as a Burgess during this visit in order to facilitate any business transactions he may have had in view.

The Power of Attorney written and signed by James, is deposited in the Glasgow Archives. A photostat copy is attached to this history, and it reads as follows :-

KNOW ALL MEN by these Presents that I James McGill Esquire of Montreal in the Province of Quebec in North America, eldest son and heir at law of the deceased James McGill, late Hammerman in the city of Glasgow in that part of Great Britain called Scotland, Have made, Nominated, Constituted and appointed my Brother Andrew McGill, who is soon to leave Montreal to return to Glasgow aforesaid, my true and lawful Attorney for the especial purpose herein after-mentioned, That is to say - Whereas by the decease of my said father James McGill, I am entitled in quality of his Heir at Law, to take up his succession and to make up Titles to certain Real property consisting of Houses or lands and tenements situated, lying and being in the said City of Glasgow and on the East and West side of the street called Stockwell Street, in which Houses, Lands and Tenements my said Father died infert and seised or entitled so to be - And that for this purpose on account of my necessary absence from Glasgow aforesaid and residence in this province, I have by another Power of Attorney of even date with these Presents fully authorized and empowered my said Brother

Andrew McGill to represent me in Scotland aforesaid and to procure for me and in my name the necessary Service or other Admissions or receptions as Heir to my said Father in the Subjects aforesaid agreeable to the Law Usage or Custom of the Holding thereof in such mode and form as may be most advisable and for my interest -

And whereas, I stand creditor to my said Father or to his succession in a sum of fifteen hundred and twenty pounds sterling or thereabouts by Heritable Bond and Infertment thereon affecting the subjects aforesaid bearing Date the Day of one thousand seven hundred and seventy nine with Interest of the said principal sum from thence forward and until payment as in the said bond and Infertment thereon is more fully marked. And whereas I am willing and desirous that how soon proper Titles are settled and completed in my person to the Subjects aforesaid, the whole or any part thereof should be sold provided an adequate price can be had or got for the same. Therefore I do hereby fully authorise and empower my said Attorney in my name and to my use and benefit to Bargain, Transact and agree for the sale of all or any part of the property Houses Lands and Tenements aforesaid with any person or persons willing to become purchasers thereof and actually and effectually to sell and dispose of, assign convey and make over the same for such price and upon such terms and conditions as he in his prudence may think adequate and proper to be taken - For this purpose, I do hereby authorize and empower my said Attorney to subscribe, execute and deliver all and every necessary Title Deed of Sale and Conveyance thereto in my name, which shall be equally binding valid and effectual to the Receivers or purchasers as if granted or executed by myself with power also to my said Attorney to receive and Discharge the whole or any part of the purchase price of the Subjects aforesaid - and to warrant the sale and Conveyance by him made or the property if needful, absolutely or from Fact and Deed as the case may require - Hereby Ratifying, Approving and Confirming all and whatsoever my said Attorney shall lawfully do or cause to be done in the premisses - And Binding and obliging myself my heirs or Successors whenever thereto required, to Ratify and

Confirm the same - Or at the option of the purchaser or purchasers of the whole or any part of the premises aforesaid, sold to them by my Attorney, To execute Subscribe and deliver all necessary compleat and formal Title Deeds and Conveyances thereto and that at the expence of the party and within the time mutually agreed upon - Lastly I hereby authorize and empower my said Attorney to appoint a substitute or substitutes to him in case of need for the execution of these presents or any part thereof - And Do hereby revoke and recall all former powers by me granted to any other Person or Persons for the purposes herein mentioned or those specified and contained in the Power herein referred to of even date with these presents - Consenting to the Registration of the Premises in the Books of Council and Session or other competent for preservation for which end I constitute

my procurators

In witness whereof I have subscribed and delivered these presents at Montreal in the Province aforesaid this twelfth Day of October One thousand Seven hundred and eighty nine, Before the Subscribing Notarys Publics residing at Montreal aforesaid in whose presence the same was openly read, heard and understood agreeable to the Laws and Usages of this province the day and year aforesaid

JAMES MCGILL.

At the foot of the last page of the document, it is endorsed with the seals and signatures of two Notarys Public, as follows -

These Certify whom it may concern that the aforegoing Power of Attorney was duly executed and Noted in the testing Clause thereof in our presence, Witness our Hands at Montreal this twelfth Day of October One thousand seven hundred and eighty nine -

J. G. Beek. Nots. Pub.

John Wm. Delisle. Nots. Pub.

Attached to the document there is a certificate from Lord Dorchester certifying the authenticity and signatures of the two Notaries.

Guy Lord Dorchester
Captain General and Governor
in chief in and over the Province
of Quebec yea yea yea.

To all whom these presents may Concern.

I do hereby certify that Mr. John Berbrand Beek and John William Delisle before whom the within Letter or Power of Attorney hath been executed as appears by their signatures as Notary's Public thereunto annexed are Notary's Public for the Province of Quebec duly commissioned and appointed as such; in consequence whereof full faith and credit are and ought to be given to their signatures in such capacities wherever the same may appear

Given under my hand and seal (?) at arms
at the Castle of Saint Louis (?) in the
City of Quebec this Twenty first day of
October one thousand seven hundred and
eighty nine, in the Twenty Ninth year of
His Majesty's Reign

Dorchester.

By His Excellency's Command.

Geo. Pownall, Secry.

The handwriting of James McGill is a beautiful example of quill penmanship and is full of character. The only flourishes throughout the text are those he used in forming the letter "d" which is written in seventeenth century style.

Shortly after Andrew arrived in Glasgow, an "Inquisitio" was held to establish the claim of James as being the eldest son and lawful heir of the deceased James McGill, Hammerman in Glasgow. The names of the members of the "Inquisitio" and their verdict were entered in the Glasgow Service Register dated 5th. February, 1790...

At Glasgow the fifth day of February, seventeen hundred and ninety sitting in Judgement James Gordon, Esquire, Baillie.

Inquisitio -

Archibald Givan

William Wilson

William Lindsay

John McEwan

John Lang

Robert Anderson

Peter Paterson

Alex. Campbell

John Robb

John Hamilton

David Hutcheson, Thos. Falconer, David Lang, Writer in

Glasgow, Robert Ewing, Baker there, Robert Robertson, Cooper in Glasgow.

Compeared Robert Ewing, Baker in Glasgow, aged thirty years and upwards, married, and Robert Robertson, Junior, Cooper in Glasgow, aged forty years, married, who being solemnly sworn and examined, depone that they knew and were acquainted with the deceased James McGill, hammerman in Glasgow. That they knew and were acquainted with James McGill Esquire of Montreal in the Province of Quebec, North America, merchant. That he is the eldest lawfull son of the deceased James McGill, Hammerman, his father, and habit and repute to be nearest and lawful heir of his said father, and this is the truth as they shall answer to God.....

Whereupon the Inquisitio hereby serve and cognosce James McGill as heir to said deceased father to his lands and tenements in Glasgow.

Whereupon James Robb, writer in Glasgow, as procurator for the said James McGill Esquire, conform to Power of Attorney by him to Andrew McGill, his brother, and prory by the said Andrew McGill to the said James Robb, both recorded in the register of probative writs for this burgh of this date, asked and took ins^{ts} and acts of court.

Archibald Givan was "chancellor" of the "Inquisitio".

The identity of James of Montreal as being the lawful heir having been proved, he received Sasine of the property. The Sasine is dated 5th. February, 1790, and gives a much fuller description, ~~of the property.~~

Alex. Campbell, writer, Glasgow, as Attorney for James McGill, Esq., Montreal merchant (as eldest son and heir of his father, deceased James McGill, hammerman in Glasgow; in respect of his service in Glasgow, dated 5th. Feb., 1790)

herewith given sasin of

that tenement of land high and laigh (low), back and fore, with cellar, brewhouse and other office-houses thereto belonging, with close and middenstead and haill pertinents thereof, including therein a new back tenement of land lately built on the grounds of the said lands, all lying within the burgh of Glasgow, upon the

east side of that street thereof called the Stockwellgate, bounded
as follows -

on north: by lands of deceased David Wilson, now of (blank) Paterson;

on east: by lands of deceased David Hodgeart;

on south: by lands of deceased Robert Anderson, now of (blank)
Rowand of Heathery Hall;

on west: by said Stockwell Street.

and in which subjects the said deceased James McGill was infeft
and recorded, 12th. June, 1764;

AND ALSO OF ALL and whole that fore-tenement of land, or two
dwelling houses high and laigh with the laigh back house in the close
adjoining to the said fore houses as the same were once possessed
by William Steven, sugarhouseman, William Park, nailer, and Janet
Reid, widow, being part of ALL and hail that tenement of land
high and laigh, back and fore with close, yard and pertinents,
which sometime belonged to William Roy, carter in Glasgow, thereafter
to the deceased William Park, carter there, father of the after
designed Alex. Park, and then to him as his heir -

on the east side of the street called the Stockwellgate bounded thus -

on north: by lands sometime belonging to Andrew Park, afterwards
to said deceased James McGill himself;

on east: lands of old belonging to David Hodgeart;

on south: lands sometime of James Wood; thereafter of successors
of William Leckie; afterwards of John Taylor, cooper;

on west: the said Stockwell Street.

Together with the dung of the said three houses last described.

As the said deceased James McGill was infeft and recorded, 12th.
June, 1764:

Upon part of which two subjects above described the said deceased
James McGill afterwards erected a large tenement of land fronting
said street.

AND ALSO of that tenement of land, high and laigh, back and fore,
with close, herein fully described on west side of Stockwellgate,
bounded thus -

on north: by lands late of James Craig and representatives of

deceased John Boyd;

on east: the said Stockwell Street;

on south: the South Sugar House;

as the said deceased James McGill was infert and recorded on 15th.
May, 1772.

Previous to this, a notice was inserted in the "Glasgow Mercury", which read -

NOTICE to the CREDITORS and DEBTORS of the
deceased JAMES M'GILL, late hammerman in Glasgow
ALL persons who have claims against the said James
McGill, are requested to lodge the same, and oath
of verity thereon, with Alexander Campbell, writer in
Glasgow, against the 12th February next.

AND

Those who are addebted to the said James McGill
will please forthwith pay the sums they owe him to
the above Alexander Campbell, so as to render unnecessary
any prosecution for that purpose.

Glasgow, Jan. 14th, 1790.

On 16th. February, 1790, an advertisement appeared in the "Glasgow Mercury"
which read as under -

To be SOLD together or separately,

All and whole that FRONT TENEMENT (known by the name of McGill's
Land,) situated upon the east side of Stockwell Street, consisting
of three stories, commodiously laid off, and garrets, besides the
ground story, which consists of three shops and other apartments,
all in good repair. --- Likewise several slated Dwelling houses
and Cellars immediately behind said Tenement.

ALSO,

All and whole that piece of ground, and Houses thereupon, on the
west side of Stockwell Street, adjoining the north end of South
Sugar House, and fronting said street.

Apply to Alexander Campbell, writer, with whom the progress of
writs is lodged.

Glasgow, 5th. February, 1790.

As soon as the property was sold, and the family affairs settled, Andrew

returned to Montreal. There is no trace of ^{any of} the brothers ever visiting Scotland again.

In the "Glasgow Courier" dated 17th. September 1805, there appeared a brief notice of the death of Andrew McGill, an eminent Canadian merchant on 31st. July, 1805, at his house in Montreal.

Very little is known of the brother John. He was the first to lend financial assistance to his father when he sent him £400 to help him through bad times. Otherwise, nothing is known of him. He died in Montreal in 1797.

Meanwhile, James continued to prosper. From 1792 to 1796, and from 1800 to 1804, he represented the West ward of Montreal in the Legislative Assembly of Lower Canada, and in 1793 was appointed a member of the Executive Council of the Province. He was made Colonel-Commandant of the 1st Battalion Montreal Militia, and in 1813 was promoted to Brigadier-General.

He is said to have been a tall fine upstanding man with a commanding appearance, and was very popular with all those who were acquainted with him.

He died in Montreal on the 19th. December, 1813, at the age of sixty-nine, leaving his considerable fortune to found a University in Canada, to be known by his name.

The subsequent history of the founding of the University and the difficult times it encountered, has been ably dealt with by Cyrus MacMillan in his work "McGill and its Story", so I shall not dwell on it here.

The Site of the Founder's Birth.

In the early seventeenth century, Stockwell (the well-head made of wood), or Stockwellgait as it came to be known, then the western boundary of the city, consisted of a few scattered thatched fishermens cottages. It took its name from a spring famous for the abundance and purity of its water.

According to the Burgh Records of 1638, one of the Public Wells was removed from the "Hie Street" and carried to the "Stockwell"; and that "the head of ane Wall at the Croce" was removed therefrom to decorate the new one in Stockwellgait. About twentyfive years later, by another Minute of the Town Council, " the Deacon - Conveinar advert and sie to the commoune Wel there, that it be not wronged, as is reportit, by washing thereat or otherwayes." (Burgh Records 21st. Aug. 1663).

The way to the city from the old bridge, or at a much earlier date, from the ford which crossed the River Clyde, was via the Btiggate which by-passed the

the Stockwell. This roadway did not lose its countrified air until the end of the seventeenth and the beginning of the eighteenth centuries. As the city expanded, the leading merchants and notabilities of the city began to build their town houses there, and for a time, large mansions and thatched cottages stood side by side. A description of the street given by John McUre in 1737 proves interesting reading. He describes the houses as follows, beginning at the northeast end - " First, the tenement belonging to George Nisbet, late Baillie; the fine tenement of Daniel Campbell of Sauchfield (Shawfield); the tenement of Peter Murdoch, late Provost; the great tenement belonging to Mathew Crawford of Balshagry; the tenement belonging to William Buchanan of Bankel; the tenement of James Graham, Robert Colquhoun, and Robert Smith; the tenement of James Mitchel, late Baillie; and the tenement of Matthew Paton, wright. On the west side the tenement of Robertson, late Baillie; the tenement of Adam Dougal, merchant; the tenement of John Graham of Dougalston; the two tenements of land belonging to Matthew Brown, one of the Under-Clerks of Council and Session.

The McGill premises are not mentioned at that date, but their house and workshop may have been a thatched one which did not come under the notice of John McUre.

What is of importance in the list given above is the mention of the tenement of Matthew Paton which, as will have been noticed in the Sasines, was bought by James senior and on part of which he built his fore-tenement.

The maps of the period show that the majority of the houses were built in the northern half of the street. This was probably due to the southern end being quite often flooded by the river. One of the worst floods occurred on March 11th., 1782 when boats had to be used as far north as Trongate to rescue the inhabitants. Flood barriers were then built along the banks of the Clyde; then buildings gradually spread southwards on both sides, slated tenements replacing the thatched cottages. This country roadway then became known as Stockwell Street.

The eighteenth century Sasines and other documents which record the business affairs of James senior, give a very hazy idea as to where the family property in Stockwell Street was actually located. The tenement of land on the west side was easily identified by its close proximity to the South Sugar House. The site of the property on the east side was more difficult to find, but by the aid of two maps of the area - one early and the other late eighteenth

century surveys, I have eventually managed to find the position by having the two maps enlarged to the same scale and super-imposing one upon the other, and noting where the two fore-houses were replaced by one large fore-tenement. By carefully studying the old Sasines, I firmly believe that James senior occupied the old northmost house, or one on this site, and that his "Smithy" was at the back and entered from an alley or "close" which ran alongside the north gable; and it could also be entered from Trongate. The "Smithy" of James Craig his mother's father, was situated at the westmost end of Trongate, and may have ^{been} the one and the same workshop.

In this house mentioned above, all the family were born, INCLUDING JAMES THE FOUNDER. At a later date, James senior built the new fore-tenement, part of which covered the site. I have marked the spot on the modern map which accompanies this history.

James senior's whole life apparently centred around Stockwell Street. He did not own property anywhere else in Glasgow. The first Directory of the city was published in 1783, and it was a very slim volume containing only the names of merchants, traders, professional men and officials. This Directory confirms that James McGill, Hammerman lived in Stockwell Street; and the volume dated 1789 refers to him as - "McGill, James, late Smith, Stockwell."

Almost all the eighteenth century houses in the street were demolished during the thirty years up to 1856, and replaced by others which, in turn, were largely disturbed with the building of the railway leading to St. Enoch Station in the eighteen-seventies. St. Enoch's was opened and operating in 1879. The only old buildings now standing are number 28 - early eighteenth century, (the photograph shows the type of houses built at that period). The house at the corner of Stockwell and Argyle Streets, was built about 1770, and the one at the corner of Howard Street and Stockwell Street late eighteenth century.

The modern buildings which now cover the site of "McGills Land" are numbered 27, 29 and 31. The shop numbered 27, which is tenanted by a News Agent and Tobacconist, and is owned by the Glasgow Corporation, stands on the site where the founder was born. I interviewed the present tenant and he confirmed my theory that there was once an alleyway at the north end of his shop which led to some old property at the back, now demolished.

There is very little else for me to say. I have covered the ground very

thoroughly, and I doubt if there is any further information to be discovered of the McGill family history, except that the entries of the baptisms, marriages and deaths were found in the records of the High Church of Glasgow, which inclines me to believe that the founder's branch of the family was of that persuasion.

The name of James McGill, as founder of the University, will be known for all time. Did he visualise how great an Institution it was to become ?

Was he cognisant of the ancient McGill armorial crest. - a Phoenix, with the motto - " SINE FINE " ?

Should this old World of ours survive the present Atomic Age, and enter a new era, which will perhaps be known as the " Cosmic " Age,- one which may bring future generations peace and plenty,- I predict that " McGills ", by its rapid advancement in the teaching of the sciences, will play a leading part.

The only memorial to the founder in the city of his birth, is a tablet in the Glasgow University, the inscription which reads as follows :-

This Memorial Stone
is placed here by
McGill University
in honour of
James McGill
1744 - 1813
Student in Arts of the
University of Glasgow
Trader Soldier and
Statesman in Canada
and
Founder of McGill University
Montreal.

To this I would finally like to add " SINE FINE ".

Note. The crest and motto were those of the first Lord McGill of Cousland, Viscount Oxenfoord, 1651, mentioned in the first chapter.

22, Canaan Lane,
Edinburgh, 10.

THE FAMILY BACKGROUND OF JAMES MCGILL, FOUNDER OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY, MONTREAL.

James McGill m Janet Craig, dau. of James Craig, hammerman.
7th. June, 1716.

James
b. April 1717
m. Margt Gibson 1742

George
b. 1720

John
b. 1721 (Ancestor of
J.M.McGill, 22 Canaan Lane, Edinburgh, 10)

David
b. 1723

Janet
b. 1743
m. Robt. Allan, Glasgow
Merchant 20th. Oct. 1765
(Could be traced further)

James
b. Oct 1744.
Founder of University.
d. 1813, no issue.

John
b. 1746

Robert
b. 1748,
d. very young.

Margaret
b. 1749.
m. Jas. Russell, smith
on 27th Jan. 1772.
(Have met Miss Russell
who visits Edinburgh)

Son
No trace of name
or date of birth.

Isabel & Rabina,
twins, b. Aug. 9th, 1752
(to be traced)

Andrew
b. 1754

Robert
b. 1757
(no further trace)

Isabel died a spinster in 1809.

THE ORIGIN OF THE MCGILLS.

CONN OF THE HUNDRED BATTLES.

High King of Ireland
second century A.D.

Godfrey mac Fergus (Direct descendant of Conn, died 853)

Gille-(Brigte) Fourth in direct line from macFergus.
Referred to in ancient chronicles as
King of Innsigal, (the Hebrides and Isles)
Married Sigurd II sister in 995.

Bueth or Heth macGill
Lord of Galloway. Slain by Macbeth c 1045

son
Somerled, died 1083

son

son

son

son, Gille fil Bueth

Gille-Adamnan

Gille-Brigte

Somerled, died 1184

Fergus, Lord of Galloway
1096-1161. married dau of Henry 1
of England

Gille fil Bueth
Lord of Gillesland (Driven out
by William Rufus 1092.)

Malcolm MacGill
From whom all McGills are
descended. (The Kemback
charter chest version)

Clan Donald

Gall MacSgillin

Uchtred. Gilbert, Lord of Galloway.
died 1185

Malcolm McGill
(Debretts Peerage version)

Duncan de Carrick. Roland. son

Nigel, 2nd Earl of Carrick

Marjory, married Robert de Bruce
7th Lord Annandale

Robert de Bruce
King of Scotland

Marjory, married Walter Stewart

Robert II (First of the
Stewart Kings)

From whom the Royal family are
descended

Argyll and
Kintyre McGills

McGills of
the Glens of
Antrim.

The McGills of the present time.

Additions to the McGill History.

Add to 2nd. para.

The theory that the McGills are descendants of Galdus, a Pictish robber prince can be discounted. There is also an absurd assertion that the surname is a curtailment of Mac Gille-Mhaoil, the old Gaelic name for MacMillan. In reply to this, I would like to quote extracts from a letter I received from Sir Thomas Innes, Lord Lyon King of Arms who represents Her Majesty on all heraldic matters in Scotland :-

"..... to put forward such a proposition would be an egregious instance of "Sept-snatching".....The MacGill is an independant family or clan whose pedigree is recorded in the Public Register of Genealogy, and claim descent at a very remote period (which is quite reasonably probable and consistant with their antecedents) from the Celtic Lords of Galloway. They have nothing to do with other clans...."

Add to 5th. para.

The Founder came of a family of Hammermen (workers in metals) and his father plied his craft in Glasgow where he was born and where he became a Burgess. His grandfather was also a Hammerman and Burgess of Glasgow, and I have recently had reason to believe that his forebear was John McGill, an Armourer , who died in Maybole (in ancient Galloway) in 1665.

The Founder was born in Stockwell Street, Glasgow, in a cottage adjoining their workshop. The property was demolished about 1760 to make room for a tenement to house ^{some of} the growing population of the city. On its site there now stands a large departmental store, but a plaque which was unveiled by Dr. Cyril James in April, 1956, marks the approximate spot where the old cottage stood.

Autobiography of John Michael McGill

I was born , eldest son, on Christmas Eve, 1899, at Glenkinchie, in the Parish of Pencaitland, East Lothian, only a few miles from where Lord McGill of Cousland, Viscount Oxenfoord, held his estates or part of them. Originally my parents came from the west, and shortly after my birth moved to Edinburgh. It was their ambition to give me a university education and saved hard for this purpose but, unfortunately war broke out when I was fourteen. At the age of 15, I attended evening classes for wireless and on obtaining a radio operator's certificate joined the Merchant Navy in March 1916. I came through the German submarine menace safely and continued my sea-faring career until 1932. During the period 1928-1932, was chief radio officer of Antarctic Whaling expeditions, but being married then, my wife persuaded me to take a safer job on dry land, and I joined the electricity supply industry where I am at present employed on the secretarial staff. When the 2nd. world war broke out, I landed in France early in 1939 as sergeant with the British Expeditionary Force(I volunteered in Sept, 1939). I was injured on the beach at the evacuation of Dunkirk, and a few months later was discharged from the army as unfit. For many years my hobbies have been ancient history and genealogy.