

McNEIRS OF MARYLAND

DESCENDANTS OF THOMAS McNEIR
AND NANCY BURGESS*

1. THOMAS McNEIR, according to tradition, and his brother came over from England with General Braddock during the French and Indian War (1750?). After Braddock's defeat and return to England, one brother settled in Pennsylvania, spelling his name "McNair," and the other settled in Maryland, spelling his name "McNeir."

In 1757 Thomas McNeir married Nancy Burgess, the daughter of Captain Edward Burgess, Sr., who raised and equipped a company in the service of the "Flying Camp" (1775-83). Colonel William Burgess, grandfather of Captain Burgess, was justice, Anne Arundel County, 1664-65, 1674-80; high sheriff, 1664; lieutenant, 1659; captain, 1661; major, 1675; colonel, 1676; commanding foot of Anne Arundel County; commander-in-chief of Maryland forces against the Indians, 1677; burgess for Anne Arundel County, 1660, 1669-82; member of council, October 12, 1682, 1686-87; commissioned deputy governor, May 1, 1684.

Thomas McNeir resisted the landing of the Stamp Tax Commissioner in the harbor of Annapolis, Maryland, in 1765, and is spoken of as the "first patriot wounded in the struggle for American rights." In the fight which ensued, Mr. McNeir had his thigh broken, but his party succeeded in preventing the landing of the stamps at that point. During the Revolutionary War he was a sergeant in the Frederick German Artillery.

Thomas McNeir and Nancy Burgess had two sons:

2. George McNeir
3. Thomas McNeir

* Data obtained from Mrs. Emma McNeir Smith (17). References used: Elihu S. Riley, *The Ancient City*, p. 149; McSherry, *History of Maryland*; *Maryland Archives*, XVIII, 581; *Record of Maryland Troops in the Continental Service during the War of the American Revolution, 1775-1783*. Concerning the Burgess family the following references were used: *Maryland Historical Magazine*, IV, 293; *Maryland Archives*, V, 293; *Side-Lights on Maryland History*, II, 36, 37 ff.; George Norbury Mackenzie, *Colonial Families of the United States*, VI, 363.

SECOND GENERATION

2. GEORGE McNEIR (Thomas [1]¹) was born July 9, 1774. He was in the War of 1812, taking part in the defense of Fort McHenry. He married Charlotte Little, of Ann Arundel County, who was born June 4, 1781. They had one child:

4. Elizabeth Campbell McNeir
3. THOMAS McNEIR (Thomas [1]¹) married Elizabeth Coberth, of Ann Arundel County. Their two sons are:
 5. William McNeir
 6. George McNeir was third lieutenant, Fifty-first Regiment, Maryland Militia, in the War of 1812.

THIRD GENERATION

4. ELIZABETH CAMPBELL McNEIR (George [2]² Thomas [1]¹) was born in Philadelphia in 1805. She was married to John McEnnis, and they have one child:

7. Michael McEnnis, of St. Louis, Missouri, was in the Mexican War
5. WILLIAM McNEIR (Thomas [3]² Thomas [1]¹) was born in Annapolis, Maryland, in 1798. He was in the War of 1812, enlisting twice, being honorably discharged after each service. At the age of fourteen, he enlisted as a private in Captain Andrew Slicer's detachment of the Twenty-second Maryland Militia; he was also a private in the Fifty-first Regiment, Maryland Militia. In 1821 he married Mary Ann Maccubbin, who was born in 1798. They were married by Bishop Henshaw of Maryland. Mrs. McNeir died in Annapolis in 1856, and he died in 1865, and was buried in Mount Moriah Cemetery in Philadelphia. Their children are:
 8. Elizabeth Ann McNeir was married to Ralph Poultney, of Baltimore, Maryland
 9. Mary Rebecca McNeir was married to Abram V. Zane
 10. James Boyle Tyson McNeir
 11. Julia Virginia McNeir was married to Fayette Davidson, of Virginia
 12. Isabella M. McNeir was married to Charles Bacmeister
 13. William Thomas McNeir
 14. George Alexander McNeir
 15. Laura E. McNeir was married to James Wiley, of New York

FOURTH GENERATION

14. GEORGE ALEXANDER McNEIR* (William [5]³ Thomas [3]² Thomas [1]¹) was born in Annapolis, Maryland, July 6, 1837. He attended St. John's College, Annapolis. In 1856 he moved to Washington, D.C., and was for sixty years connected with the Departmental service. During the Civil War, Mr. McNeir was mustered into the federal service in Company A, Washington Light Infantry, April 10, 1861, the morning after President Lincoln's call for seventy-five thousand troops.

In addition to holding membership in the Sons of the American Revolution, he was a member of the Oldest Inhabitants Association of the District of Columbia, and the Grand Army of the Republic.

In 1864 he married Margaret Emma Henning, who was born in Washington, D.C., May, 1840. She died in 1911, and Mr. McNeir, March 20, 1918. Their children:

- 16. Charles Spottswood McNeir, unmarried, is an attorney-at-law
- 17. Emma McNeir is married to James Edgar Smith

* See Selden Marvin Ely, *Report of the Historian for the Year ending February 22, 1919, District of Columbia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.*