

The following is an excerpt from Lillian Galt Martin, *John Hardie of Thornhill and His Family* (1988) at pages 313-320.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS OF JOHN HARDIE OF THORNHILL

1. JOSEPH HARDIE

Joseph Hardie, baptized on 15 June 1787, was the first child of John Hardie and Isabel Cousin Hardie. He never married. It was to this much respected older brother that John Hardie wrote most of his letters (which are summarized in Section IV-2). Joseph had a store in Kinross, in which his father John Hardie seems to have also had an interest. They were also “manufacturers,” apparently of “Hardie's Whiskey.”

Joseph died on 12 January 1845, aged 58. Judging from their letters, Joseph and John had been educated at least to the extent necessary to run a business. (Their letters were well expressed, they were consistent in their spelling, and their handwriting was good.) Joseph was a very careful and considerate man and was looked up to by his brothers and sisters, and by his nieces and nephews. He also seems to have been a very reserved man. When he had decided to arrange for his nephew David Sands to take over his store, he found it hard to bring himself to speak to David about it, and another brother had to write the news to him, though David was working for Joseph in his store in Kinross. [See the Sands Family Letters, among the Hardie Memorabilia at The Historic New Orleans Collection (THNOC).]

Joseph's unmarried sister Marion apparently lived with him, perhaps above the store, and kept house for him. She appears to have “lost her mind;” and became a problem for the family.

Joseph was a man much admired and respected in his community, and was well known even further afield, as one of the founders of the “Free Church of Scotland.” When Joseph retired in 1844, his nephew David took over the store, which still exists, in the late 1980s (over 150 years since opened by Joseph Hardie) and which is still run by descendants of David Spence, now by his great-grandson, D. Lindsey Sands.]

2. ISABELLA HARDIE SANDS

Isabella Hardie, second child, first daughter, of John Hardie and Isabel (or Isabella) Cousin Hardie, was baptized on 26 October 1788. She was married on 12 March 1813 to John Sands. She may have been living in Edinburgh at the time. The marriage certificate describes them as “Mr. John Sands, Wright [builder], South Leith Parish, and Miss Isabel Hardie, Tolbooth Church Parish, Daughter of Mr. John Hardie, Parish of Saline;” and further says that “She has resided in Edinburgh upwards of six weeks preceding the proclamation of Banns...”

After their marriage Isabella and David Sands probably lived in Kinross. They had eight children:

1. David Sands, who worked for his uncle Joseph Hardie in Kinross. When Joseph retired in 1844, David took over the store. Joseph Hardie died less than a year after he had retired. David Sands was married on 3 June 1850 at Haddington, East Lothian, Scotland, to Margaret Smith, of Haddington, daughter of Margaret Smith. (Her father had probably died before 1850.) David and Margaret Sands had nine children, Margaret, Isabella, Rachel, Jane, John, James, David, Marianne, and Joseph Hardie Sands. [See the Sands Letters, at THNOC.]

2. Isabella Sands married James Galbraith (no children).
3. Margaret Sands, born in 1821, married (no children).
4. Marianne Sands married Charles Smith (no children).
5. James Sands was a farmer, married - Ireland.
6. Helen Sands married Walter Galbraith. Material about them and their family and interesting letters from him are at THNOC.
7. Jane Sands.
8. Joan Sands.

3. WILLIAM HARDIE

William Hardie, the third child, was baptized on 13 April 1790 in Saline, Scotland. He married Kate (or Catherine) McFarland (or McFarlane). They lived at Ross, Belford, Northumberland, where he was a farmer. Eight children: John, Isabella, William, Marion, Joseph, Kate, Alex, and Agnes.

4. JOHN HARDIE

John Hardie, the fourth child, born in 1792, apparently died an infant. The name was used again for another son ("our" John Hardie) who was born in 1796.

5. MARION HARDIE

Marion (or Marrion) Hardie, the fifth child, was baptized on 18 May 1794 in Saline. She never married. She lived with and kept house for her oldest brother Joseph, who also never married, and she is probably the "Aunt" (her name is never mentioned) who was such a trial to the family, "not in her right mind:" [See the Sands Letters at THNOC.]

6. JOHN HARDIE ("OF THORNHILL")

John Hardie, the sixth child, was baptized on 6 March 1796. (His grave marker, in the Thornhill Cemetery, says that he was born in 1797, but baptism records in Saline, Scotland, give the 1796 date.) There had been another baby named John, born in 1792, who must have died soon after birth, and the name was used again. This John Hardie went to America, settled in Alabama, married Mary Mead Hall, and died on 7 August 1848 at Thornhill. Nine children: John Timmons, James White, Joseph, Mary Isabella Hardie Bradford, Robert Alexander, William Tipton, Alva Finley, Ann Eliza Hardie Lewis, and Thomas Chalmers. [For more on John Hardie of Thornhill, see the earlier sections of this book.]

7. DAVID HARDIE

David Hardie, the seventh child of his parents, was born on 18 February 1798. He was married (in 1833?) to Christine (or Christina) Black, of Kilcaddy. They lived in Marklemain, East Lothian, Scotland, east of Edinburgh. Two of their sons are said to have gone to New Zealand (?). They had eight children, among them were: John, Joseph, James, David (?), and Isabella Hardie McArthur. She married John McArthur, son of Agnes Spence (sister of William Spence, who married Helen Hardie (# 10, below). Isabella Hardie McArthur and John McArthur came to Alabama in 1853. [For more on these David Hardie descendants, see Hardie Memorabilia at

THNOC. See also entry for Helen Hardie Spence (#10), below.]

8. ROBERT HARDIE

Robert Hardie (a twin), the eighth child, was born on 12 August 1800. He was a merchant in Edinburgh and was unmarried. He died young.

9. JAMES HARDIE

James Hardie (a twin) was born on 12 August 1800, the ninth child of John Hardie and Isabel Cousin Hardie. He was the youngest son in the family (his younger brother Alexander had died young). Like his brothers Joseph, John, and Robert, James was a "merchant" (The other brothers, William and David, were farmers.) James Hardie had a store in Edinburgh (perhaps with his twin brother Robert, who never married, and who is said to have been "a merchant in Edinburgh"). James Hardie was married on 10 December 1833 to Sarah Bladworth of Yorkshire, England. She was the daughter of William Bladworth, who died on 18 March 1842, and Jane Bladworth, who died on 28 February 1860. James and Sarah Hardie lived in Edinburgh and had eleven children, nine of whom, six sons and three daughters, lived to adulthood.

We have copies of a number of letters from James to his nephew David Sands (son of James's elder sister Isabella Hardie Sands), written in 1842 and 1843. [See "Sands Letters."] James Hardie seems to have been a bluff, honest, straightforward man. He wrote two letters of advice to nephew David, in December 1842 and January 1843. James and his brother David Hardie were concerned about problems which had arisen between David Spence and his uncle, Joseph Hardie, and James helped to resolve these problems by writing to Joseph about the situation, although, as he says to David, it is "disagreeable for me to interfere at all in the matter." There are also letters from James Hardie to David Spence requesting supplies from the country for his grocery store in Edinburgh. He asks David to send him some "kitts" of butter and some honey for his shop.

James Hardie died on 5 January 1866. In one of Sarah's letters she says she is "so glad that I have one [a picture] of my dear good husband to send you. He was beloved & respected by all who knew him and all who frequented our home clung to him."

In 1867 when his widow Sarah Bladworth Hardie wrote three letters to her Alabama relatives we see a picture of a prosperous Edinburgh family. (They travel, spend months at the seashore in the summer, have photographs made, etc.) Nevertheless, there were six sons among her nine living children, and some of them must have been thinking of coming to the United States to seek their fortune, now that the Civil War was over. [See Sarah Bladworth Letters, at end of this section.]

Sarah says in her first letter that her son William has written to his cousin John Timmons Hardie in New Orleans, with no reply. However, John T. must have replied eventually, and with help, for at least two of her sons did come to this country, and one of them, Richard Bladworth Hardie, named one of his sons "John Timmons Hardie." Most of the following information on the descendants of James and Sarah Bladworth Hardie is from this (the Richard Bladworth Hardie) branch James and Sarah Bladworth Hardie had eleven children.:

1. John Hardie was born 14 December 1835, married Eliza Clark, had at least three children, stayed in Scotland.

2. William Bladworth Hardie was born 19 November 1837, married Elizabeth Coleman, probably remained in Edinburgh.

3. Joseph Hardie was born on 22 February 1840, and died on 19 March 1841.

4. Jane Bladworth Hardie was born on 14 November 1842. She was married to Peter L. Catterach (Cattnoch?) (?), “advocate in Edinburgh.” [Family Bible.]

5. James Hardie [I] was born on 10 June 1844, and died at three months on 12 September 1844.

6. Joseph Robert Hardie was born on 28 November 1845, died 11 February 1876.

7. James Hardie [II] [the name was used again, after the death of James the fifth child] was born on 24 December 1846. Perhaps he came to the United States, as his daughter Margaret Hardie is said to have married a Dr. Corwin Cornell, of Knoxville, Iowa. [H-H, 1935.] At least one child: Margaret Hardie Cornell.

8. Richard Bladworth Hardie was born on 16 July 1848 in Edinburgh, Scotland, He was married on 6 August 1879 at Christ's Church, Chiswick, London, to Annie Elizabeth Ireland, of Yorkshire, England. According to a newspaper story at the time of his death in 1917, Richard Bladworth Hardie “came to the United States in 1869,” and was “a resident of Texas since 1878.” (Where was he during the nine years between 1869 and 1878-if these dates are correct? Probably in New Orleans. And note that he named one of his sons for John Timmons Hardie.) Richard's brother David came to Texas in 1882 and in 1899 they opened the Hardie Seed Company in Dallas (which continued to be run by Richard's son after the deaths of the brothers).

Richard had gone back to Britain to marry. Perhaps it was at that time that he arranged for his brother David to join him, which he did about two years later. Richard brought his wife Annie back to Dallas in late 1879, and David came to Dallas in about 1882. An obituary notice at the time of Annie Ireland Hardie's death tells that she “came to Dallas as a bride in 1879 and had been here practically all of the time since. She was a member of the Westminster Presbyterian Church.”

Richard Bladworth Hardie died “at his home 2709 Howell Streets” Dallas, on 14 July 1917. Annie Eliza died on 26 October 1936 in Dallas, “at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Annie H. Greenwood, 3017 Fairmont.” Richard and Annie Eliza Hardie had five children: Annie Ireland Hardie Greenwood (Nana) (of Dallas), William Howat (whose daughter Nina Hardie Furbringer lives in Memphis), James, John Timmons (whose granddaughter Ruth Hardie Stevens lives in McAllen, Texas), and Richard Bladworth [Jr.] (his son Richard Bladworth Hardie Jr. [really III] lives in Little Rock, Arkansas, and was for 35 years the minister of the Westover Hills Presbyterian Church there).

[Further information on descendants is on file at THNOC.]

9. David Hardie was born on 20 April 1850. He went to America in 1882 or 1883, and with his brother Richard opened the Hardie Seed Company which they founded in 1899 in Dallas. David Hardie never married, but he was close to his brother's family. His brother's grandson Richard Bladworth Hardie Jr. [really III] remembers that, his own Hardie grandfather having died in 1917 before he was born, his great-uncle David Hardie was “like a grandfather” to him. David Hardie died (in Dallas?) on 22 March 1934, shortly before his 84th birthday.

10. Sarah Elizabeth Hardie was born on 8 April 1852. Apparently she never married, as a “sister, Miss Sarah E Hardie of Edinburgh, Scotland” is mentioned in Richard Bladworth Hardie's obituary notice in 1917. Sarah Elizabeth Hardie died on 22 March 1934.

11. Isabella Hardie (Bella) was born on 20 February 1855 and died on 4 February 1930. She must have married McArthur Moir [Muir?], as Richard Bladworth Hardie's obituary notice in 1917 mentions a sister, "Mrs. I. McArthur Moir, of Colchester, England."

10. HELEN HARDIE SPENCE

Helen Hardie was born on 1 December 1802. She grew up the youngest in the family (Alexander, born in 1807, had died an infant), and the pet of her brothers and sisters. She was married, apparently against her father's wishes, probably in late 1824 or early 1825, to William Spence. He had been born in either 1803, 04, or 05. According to his gravestone in the Thornhill Cemetery, "Wm. Spence, Died April 11, 1876, age 72 years. Born in Cowie, Scotland." (But some of his descendants think the family was from Dunfermline.) He actually died on 21 February 1877, for we have a funeral invitation for "3 o'clock, Feb. 22,'77," and a death notice from a Talladega newspaper gives the date of his death as 21 February, "aged 73 years." This would make the year of his birth either 1803 or 1804. If he died in 1877 at age 72, he would have been born in 1804 or 1805. In any case, William Spence was a little younger than his wife, who was born in 1802.

William Spence had two brothers and two sisters (there may have been others): Christina (or Christine) Spence Kier, Agnes Spence McArthur, Edward Spence, and Henry Spence.

The marriage of Helen Hardie to William Spence was not approved of by her family. Perhaps his youthfulness may have had something to do with their disapproval of the marriage. Benjamin Palmer Lewis [in *John Hardie of Thornhill*] thinks that Helen's family disapproved of her marriage to William Spence because he was a veterinary surgeon, but this seems unlikely. Perhaps they did not like him for other reasons.

Perhaps Helen and William eloped. Surely they did not have her father's permission to marry. Whatever Helen Hardie's dreadful sin was (perhaps it was simply that she had married without her father's permission—a serious matter in those days), the family was sorely disappointed, and refused to see her.

On 4 June 1825 John Hardie, her brother who had come to the United States in 1817, wrote to their elder brother Joseph, "I am very sorry indeed to notice what you say concerning sister Helen, but as matters cannot now be mended, why hold no correspondence with her? [If I could] I would go and see her, cannot you ... 'forget and forgive' and should she and her husband behave themselves properly, could you not return it? It must hurt her very much to be forsaken by her Brothers, Sisters and Mother; I feel very much for her situation."

One hopes that the families became reconciled. Later, a daughter, Isabella, of David Hardie (Helen's brother) married the son, Andrew McArthur, of William Spence's sister, Agnes Spence McArthur (of Mobile). But this was after both had come to Alabama.

Where Helen and William Spence lived for the 23 years between their marriage in 1825 and their arrival in Alabama in 1848 is not known. "Dr." Spence's obituary notice from the Talladega paper gives "the fall of 1848" as the time of their "removal to this country from Scotland," and says that he "had resided in the neighborhood where he died, a little more than 28 years." "He died at his residence, six miles North of this place [Talladega]," [in Munford, Alabama].

Undoubtedly, William Spence and his wife Helen came to Talladega County (bringing with

them their five sons and Helen's niece Isabella Hardie, daughter of her brother David) in order to be near Helen's brother, John Hardie of Thornhill and his family. Unfortunately, John Hardie died in August 1948, probably before the arrival of the Spence family. Nevertheless, the grieving widow with her eight, and soon to be nine, children to care for, still found room in her heart to welcome with love her husband's sister and her family, and the Hardie children and their Spence cousins became and remained close friends.

Besides practicing veterinary medicine, William Spence seems to have owned in Munford, where they settled, a good-sized farm, which he managed. There is a mystery about some farm land that was supposed to have been bought in Talladega County by William Spence's sister Agnes and her husband Andrew McArthur. When they arrived from Scotland in 1853 to claim their farm, they found that they did not own it. Was this the Spence farm in Munford? [The McArthur family settled, instead, in Mobile, and in 1861 Isabella Hardie, who had come to America with her aunt Helen Hardie Spence, was married in Mobile to John McArthur, son of Andrew McArthur and Agnes Spence McArthur.]

A letter from Mary Mead Hall Hardie, widow of John Hardie of Thornhill, to her husband's brother William Hardie in Kinross, Scotland, dated Thornhill, 28 June 1868, contains the following about the Spences. "I must now tell you about Sister Helen and her family. They are all well so far as I know. William, her oldest Son now living, is living in the State of Texas, is a farmer & was doing well, has a large family of children. Robert the next oldest is at home not very promising, was wounded in the war. James is merchandizing with my son Alva in Mississippi, has married well. David the youngest is at home managing the farm, he is a nice young man.

"Mr. Spence has always been talking about going back to the old country and never fixed up to live comfortably till this year. He is now building a large nice house, it is nearly finished & all paid for. I am truly glad that dear Sister Helen will be comfortable in her old age. I went up to see her not long since. She said her health was very good but that she was beginning to feel the infirmity of old age, tho she is very active & can run about much better than I can tho she is many years older than myself..." Mary's fondness for her sister-in-law Helen shines through her words. [One wonders why it took William Spence twenty years to decide to "fix up to live comfortably" in Alabama!]

William Spence's newspaper obituary notice describes him as "a true Scotchman, possessing in an eminent degree, the firmness and decision of character peculiar to his nationality. He loved his friends with the clannish devotion of a genuine Scotchman and made no pretension of friendship for those he disliked. He was not only candid in his speech, and true in his friendships, but strictly honest in all his dealings.

"Dr. Spence was a large man, of great power and strength in his younger days, and if there were three things, in which he specially prided, they were his Scotch blood, his physical manhood, and the character of an honest man. Habits of rigid economy and honest industry, secured the comforts of a well supplied home, and a competence oaf worldly goods. He was a kind husband and father, a good neighbor and a substantial and valuable citizen." William Spence's will, signed on 18 May 1872, probated on 11 July 1877, left: "300 acres to Robert Spence, 500 acres to wife Helen Hardie Spence for her lifetime, then to son David Spence, and smaller amounts to Isabella (his niece who had come to America with them in 1848) and William, and debt of son James cancelled if not paid."

The date of William Spence's death is given on his gravestone (in the family cemetery at Thornhill) as 11 April 1876, "aged 72 years." The date of his death as shown in his will probate is 21 February 1877. Helen Hardie Spence died on "11 June 1886, aged 85 years" (gravestone at Thornhill).

William and Helen Hardie Spence had five sons (and perhaps two more children who may have died young). There is no question at all of the loving close relationships between Mary Hardie and her children and Helen Hardie Spence and her children. The friendships continued throughout the lives of the Hardie and Spence children.

William and Helen Hardie Spence's son William P. Spence married Parthenia Elrod in 1850. He served in the Confederate Army, was wounded at Chickamauga, and moved to Texas, probably shortly after the Civil War. They had ten children, the first six born in Alabama, the last four in Texas. Joseph Spence probably lived in Selma. Robert Spence married Emma Morriss and they lived in Talladega County on the family farm, which Robert managed, as well as practicing veterinary medicine. They had at least four children. James Spence married Anna Price, and they lived in Tuscaloosa, where he was a cotton broker and banker. No children. David Spence married, but had no children. He was buried at Thornhill.

[More about the descendants of William and Helen Hardie Spence, especially those who settled in Texas, can be found among the Hardie Memorabilia at THNOC.]

Some information about William Spence's two sisters follows.

Christina Spence

William Spence's sister Christina (or Christine) was probably born between 1800 and 1810 (in Dunfermline?). Christina Spence married Peter Keir. They lived at Dunfermline(?), Fifeshire, Scotland. Christina Spence died "at Hillhead, by Dunfermline, the residence of her son, on the 19th inst. [no year] wife of Peter Keir, Burnbrae, Saline, at age 87" [letter from William Keir Spence, 1918], and was buried at Burnbrae, Saline [information from Day Lander]. They had several children (order not known):

1. Peter Keir
2. Edward Keir
3. William Keir

4. Jane Malcolm Keir (or was her name Christina?) was born in 1853 (or 1856?) in Scotland. She was married to her first cousin Edward Spence [Jr.?], born in about 1852, died about 1926 (?). (He was probably the son of her mother's brother Edward.) They had at least nine children (order in family not known): Edward [his granddaughter Margaret Spence Colmer lives in Pascagoula, Mississippi], Johnny, Peter, William Keir, Christine, Mary, Jean, Agnes, and Helen.

Agnes Spence

William Spence's sister Agnes Spence (Nanny) was born in Dunfermline, Scotland, in 1807. She was married on 19 December 1834 in Scotland to Andrew McArthur (born in 1810 in Scotland). They lived in Alva, Clackmannanshire. They moved to a farm near Ardee, Ireland, in 1845; left there with their six children and sailed for America on 2 November 1852. They landed in New Orleans on 6 January 1853.

[Following is the story about the emigration to Alabama of William Spence's sister Agnes, her husband John McArthur, and their children:]

A handwritten memoir written many years later by Agnes's eldest son John McArthur, born in 1835, tells the pathetic story. From New Orleans “the whole family, 4 boys & 2 girls, Father and Mother, we went up to Wetumpka on the side-wheel steamer Fashion, then by wagon to Talladega, to a farm we thought we had secured. We [had] paid 50 lbs. on it but couldn't get it nor a place to put our head. Mother took [to Mobile] all but Father and I. We were to stay & get the farm, the others were to stay in Mobile & go to a trade, 3 boys and 2 girls. Father & I staid in Talladega in hopes of getting the farm but failed. Mobile was quarantined. The fever broke, & two Bros. & a sister were carried to the Graveyard, don't even know where they were buried. Mother came up to Talladega when quarantine was raised, when we all left for Mobile. I got the farm about 20 years afterwards. The shock was too much for Father, he pined away & died about 18 (16?) mos. after.

“Mobile the home of God's People was good to us.”

Only two of Andrew and Agnes Spence McArthur's six children had issue. Three died in the yellow fever epidemic. James married but had no children. John McArthur (writer of the above account), born in Alva, Scotland on 27 August 1835, was married in Mobile in 1861 to Isabella Hardie (daughter of David Hardie, brother of John Hardie of Mobile). Isabella had come to America with her aunt Helen Hardie Spence and Helen's husband William Spence and their sons in 1848. John McArthur was the nephew of William Spence; Isabella was the niece of William's wife Helen Hardie Spence. Therefore, their descendants are descended from both the Hardie family and the Spence family. They had at least four children (order unknown): Dr. Andrew Patterson McArthur (grandfather of Mary Day McArthur Lander, of Moss Point, Mississippi), John Hardie (died an infant), James David (died an infant), and Helen Isabella McArthur Coffin (two sons, no grandchildren).

11. ALEXANDER HARDIE

Alexander Hardie was born on 12 April 1807. He must have died an infant, as no further mention of him is found.

[For more information about Helen and William Spence's descendants, see papers at THNOC There are also notes on the descendants of William Spence's siblings, Christina Spence Keir, Agnes Spence McArthur, and Edward Spence. (There may have been another brother, Henry Spence.)]