

1113 Seabrook Ave  
Cary, N.C. 27511  
8 September 1974

Dear Robert,

No sooner said than done! Your enthusiasm and keen interest shows in your last letter to me and I appreciate the offered help. I just may leave a few problems with you at the end of this letter in hopes you can eventually find answers.

Comments on your letter:

1. You indicated that Ray Sandiford received photostats of the Granville Co. Royal Grant of 300 A to Alexander McBride and found out that the land actually fell into what later was Abbeville Co. I can't be sure of the actual date for the 96th District (which included Abbeville) establishment but the S.C. State Archives told me it was there by 1769, only 2 years after the 1767 grant to Alexander. Can you give me a description of the land for this grant (incl creeks, rivers, orientation, etc.?) Incidentally, I forgot to add the following from pp 67 of Original Lists of Protestant Immigrants to South Carolina (1763-1773) compiled by Janie Revill: ALEXANDER McBRIDE arrived about Febfuary 1767 and petitioned for land. Perhaps, Janie merely used the land grant record to transcribe this information for it tells us no more than we knew before.

2. Origin of Archibald & Alexander McBride. Forget about the Archibald & Alexander McBryde of Moore Co., N.C. - I have their histories and they arrived from Scotland in 1775 aboard the "Jackie" with their father JAMES McBRYDE. Incidentally, there is a Male b. 1751-60 living in the household of one ARCHIBALD McBRIDE in Chesterfield Co., S.C. in 1830. You may have a point on the 2 ARCHIBALD McBRYDES (families) living in Robeson Co., N.C. in both 1790 and 1800, however the 1820 Robeson Co., N.C. Census shows one ARCHIBALD McBRYDE family still there (ARCHIBALD b. before 1775) and beginning in 1810, an ALEXANDER McBRYDE family (ALEXANDER b. 1775-85). Perhaps a better bet would be the ARCHIBALD McBRYDE (b. 1756-66) who was in Richmond Co., N.C. from at least 1791-1813, however his father's name was Duncan. Note the surname spelling of these McBRYDES... they made a point (mostly in N.C.) of insuring that spelling in the records I have of those North Carolina counties.

3. "that the grandfather of Burwell McBride 'with his Irish wife' came to N.C. 'Flora MacDonald.' Is there anything to that?" I have never heard of that story but would certainly not rule it out. All we need to know is Burwell's grandfather's name. At any rate, the Scots under Flora MacDonald settled in the Cape Fear Valley area and many early county records were lost or burned, however some are still extant. I've diligently searched the British records for the names of those Scots in America who fought for the British <sup>in N.C.</sup> ~~here~~ and found no McBRIDE/McBRYDES. I was quite surprised, for many, if not a majority, were out and out Tories. The only reference to a McBRIDE that I have found in this area during the Revolution was from Revolutionary Incidents; and Sketches of Character, chiefly in the "Old North State" by Rev E.W. Caruthers, D.D. 1854, Philadelphia by Hayes and Zell. On pp 382 is a chapter entitled- "Massacre at the Piney Bottom and the Revenge taken by the Whigs." Piney Bottom is in the vicinity of Fayetteville, Cumberland Co., N.C.:

pp 393- "Taking the road now towards Rockfish, before they reached it, Captain Culp rode on ahead to see and protect his old friend McLean. When the men arrived, he told them to pass on; for, McLean not having been at the Piney Bottom, was his friend, and they must do no mischief there; so they crossed the Rovkfish and came to the house of Peter Blue, where they found him and Archibald McBride, and shot them both. Blue was badly though not mortally wounded; but McBride was shot dead on the spot. This was sorely to be lamented; for McBride was a sound Whig, one of Captain McCranie's men and was then at home on parole....."

4. 1813 Will of ALEXANDER McBRIDE of Berkeley Co., S.C. I received the same ~~impression~~ impression of the slave DEICE being the mother of the 4 children- John, Robert, Mary & Martha, but later conjectured that he meant that the slave acted in the capacity of a mother due to his wife being lost. I'm glad that you have corrected my impression,

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What do you have to say about the following (filed in the Probate Court, Charleston, SC):

a. Vol 64(1731-33) pp 480: Last Will & Testament of ALEXANDER McBRIDE of the Province of S.C. was on 19 Oct 1732, proved by me (Robert Johnson-Gov of S.C.). MARTHA McBRIDE is sole executrix of this will (she is lately deceased). Grant that Hugh Butler and Robert Taylor be given full powers as administrators and provide inventory in Charles Towne on or before 28 Jan next.

/s/ ROBERT JOHNSON 28 Oct 1732

b. Vol 62-B(1729-31), pp 542: 25 Dec 1730- Bill of Sale from James Gray to ALEXANDER McBRIDE (prob same as one above), both of St. John Parish in County of Berkeley in Province of S.C. .... sale of 2 negro women.

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\* Is this your Archibald (son-Burwell)? Rev War Data-filed in State Archives, Columbia, S.C.- File # AA 739: S.C. Indent for seven pounds to Hardy Bryant on 31 Dec 1786.. signed over to ARCHIBALD McBRIDE, who used it as bounty for 99 acres of land given him 15 Feb 1790. Dated 3 May 1790. (No location)

There are some other McBRIDES in Charleston and a large number in Abbeville that I yet must sort out to my satisfaction. I have fairly good records on the ones from Williamsburgh Co. and Sumter Co. Come to think of it, <sup>(NEW SUB SECT)</sup> your postscript notes refer to the same ALEXANDER McBRIDE listed above in subparagraph 'a'.

Thank you for your offer of help on the Censuses. All of the southern state censuses through 1880 are available to me here. For McBRIDE search, I have already been through all of the S.C. counties for 1790 through 1840 and have searched selected counties for 1850. I am doing this sort of thing for all of the southern states. Its quite a job but fun. These records along with those from probate courts, county courts, cemeteries, land transactions and miscellaneous material help to make my book come true. I am most anxious to find relatives of old S.C. families still living in S.C. The McBRIDES of St. James Parish (Goose Creek) were quite numerous. That's another area for search.

Again, please accept my wholehearted thanks. History and genealogy go hand in hand... and I'm learning both. Incidentally, I'm almost 51 years of age and served in the USAF for 26 + years as both a fighter and light bomber pilot and with most of my duties ending up in the foreign intelligence field. My wife and I picked this area because of the research facilities available for my work and because of its very fine geographical location (half-way between the sea and the mountains) midst professional people and universities.

P.S. I SHOULD HAVE REWRITTEN THIS LETTER WITH ALL OF THE EDITING!!

Very Sincerely,

*Ransom*  
RANSOM McBRIDE  
or "Mac"