

Undated letter from Mack Guess McGuffin, son of Albert Perry McGuffin and Orpah Carmilla Kirk McGuffin, to Audrey Taylor McGuffin Phelps, daughter of Anderson Taylor McGuffin and Mary Isabelle "Jennie" Whalen McGuffin. Letter is from the Audrey Taylor McGuffin Phelps collection, and the original is now (1996) in the possession of Daniel McGuffin Phelps.

**HARRIMAN ELECTRIC CO.
P. O. BOX 426
HARRIMAN, TENNESSEE
TELEPHONE: 399-J**

Dear Audrey:

Sorry I have waited so long to answer your letter but I have a great deal to do even tho I don't always get it done.

We are all alright. I haven't had anymore trouble. Selma and Long came back from Texas last week.. They will stay here this summer.

Audrey, I don't know whether I can help you out much or not. I don't recognize James E. McGuffin. One of Dad's brothers was named John and he had two sons and I don't remember their names, so I don't know who this one is.

I can give you a little information on the McGuffins. Your great-great grandfather was named Andrew McGuffin. He had a son Andrew McGuffin and three daughters. I don't know their names. Anyway, Andrew McGuffin, Jr.-My grandfather was a captain in the Civil War. He rode all thru the war and was at the surrender of Lee at Appomatox. He was a confederate. He and another officer started home, and when they had gotten in about twelve miles of home, they stopped at farm house to eat breakfast. Lee had give them their horses and their guns. They hitched their horses, and set their guns down by the front door when they went into the house. While they were eating breakfast some bushwhackers came by, and catching them at the table without guns, killed them both and took their horses and guns.

My great Grandfather owned several hundreds of acres of land in what is now the richest part of Greene County. During the war

grandfather McGuffin came back to Greene County to get some deserters and Great-Grandfather McGuffin thought they they were the ones that murdered grandfather, so fearing for the safety of the rest of the family, he sold and give away all of his land and moved to Sweetwater. He lived there a few years and then moved into Virginia.

McGuffin is Scotch-Irish and it is my understanding that four brothers came over from Ireland and one settled in Virginia and one settled in N. Carolina and the other one in Tennessee. One, a preacher, went back to Ireland.

Dad had two brothers John McGuffin and Louis McGuffin. Frankly I don't remember John McGuffin's children. However, Louis McGuffin's sons were Everett, Bruce, Bert, and Will. Two daughters Lydia, now in Texas, and Minnie. Minnie married a Collett. She isn't living, however, her son Maford Collett lives in Knoxville. Also, Everett McGuffin lives in Knoxville and there is a Katherine McGuffin teaching school in Knoxville that is the daughter of Bert McGuffin. Will McGuffin has two son Clyde, a dentist in Greeneville and Lewis McGuffin an M. D.

There are not many McGuffins about. I havn't met one that I wasn't kin to.

There is a bit of history on my Mothers side that your probably don't know about. Her name was Kirk. Grover Kirk, a salesman of Kerns bakery is your cousin. There is a Lona Cox in Knoxville that would be your cousin and Hubert Harmen and Billie Margrave from the same side of the family.

There has been a legend in our family on the Kirk side that I had learned about so I decided to make a check and went to the Lawson McGhee library in Knoxville and I

found this incident recorded in early Tenn. history:

In 1789 about where Boyd's bridge is now, there was a military fort called the Kirk fort. My great-great-great grandfather by the name of John Kirk lived near this fort. The Indians had developed a habit of coming to the house and begging for food. My grandmother had gotten tired of this as it had become burdensome and so one day when an Indian came to the house begging for food she turned him down. A little while later this Indian with three others came back to the house and massacred everyone in the house. Eleven were murdered but I don't know whether they were all of the same family. My grandfather and one son was out in the field and escaped. The soldiers at the fort did a little detective work and found out who the Indians were. Under the pretense of talking peace, as there had been quite a war going on between the Cherokees and the whites, the soldiers lured these four Indians into the fort. They took them in to a room and had them sit on a bench. They were told to bow their heads and a sword was given to the Kirk boy and he killed all four of the Indians by splitting their heads. It was the state of Franklyn then and John Sevier was governor. The war had sort of quieted down but of course this started all over again. I understand that the play "Chucky Jack" at Galinburg has something in about (it) and Elisha Kirk. I don't know whether this is our kin or not.

This is about all I know about the ancestors so maybe you had better adopt it as a hobby. One thing, some of them were over here from the beginning.

My typewriter needs quite a bit of fixin, but maybe you can make out what it says.

Let me hear from you (*handwritten*)

Love
Mack

Editor's Note: In Doc. No. KIRK-1996-3, p. 7, Audrey Taylor McGuffin Phelps, the recipient of this letter from Mack, wrote:

"Uncle Mack told me that the Bruce McGuffin family of Morristown has the sword used for this execution (related in Mack's account of the massacre). I should like to know if this is our family or not, as I don't know if it (the family) was here (in the U. S.) as early as 1789."

* * *

Subsequent research has revealed that Mack McGuffin's grandfather's name was Jonathan McGuffin and Jonathan McGuffin's father was named John David McGuffin. No record has been found of any Andrew McGuffin or Andrew McGuffin, Jr.

—Christine Bebee Keener