

1843



Springfield Oct. 28, 1843

Arthur M^CA^r+hur, Esq.

Dear Namesake,

For the first time in my life I commence a letter by placing my name at the beginning instead of at the bottom. I do this however with the greatest pleasure, for I am delighted that there is another person by the same name in the United States. Before going into particulars I must ask you to excuse my apparent delay in answering your interesting letters. But ever since that time I have been so engaged in preparations for Court and the business attending a long term that I have neglected most every thing else. As you are in the profession you can appreciate this difficulty. It is indeed a strange concurrence of circumstances that in so many important particulars our names, pursuits, sentiments, national origin and a clanish partiality ~~I would write~~ ^{It was enough to excite} your curiosity and I am glad you have [hole in paper] to be satisfied. I was born in Glasgow in the year 1817 and am now 26 years old. I bear my father's name and in some respects have a Strong resemblance to him as my mother informs me. I never saw him for he died ten days before my birth. I had a little sister about one year old who also died about the same time, so that I never saw either of them. These bereavements left me the only child of a widowed mother. The circumstances of the family were such only as the exercions [exertions] of my parents could make them. When I was about 7 years old my Mother married a very worthy man by the name of Alexander Meggett. To him I am greatly indebted for many favors and assistance. In 1828 my parents immagrated [immigrated] to this country bringing with them your present correspondent. We landed at New York but shortly afterward pitched our tent in Uxbridge, Mass. where we lived a number of years. As I grew up I imbibed Strong and decided sentiments on political topics, becoming a Democrat on the great measures of Public policy. I also at a very early period developed an inclination for the profession I am now a member of. By my own almost unaided efforts I obtained an education partially collegiate and commenced the Study of the law in New York City in the year 1838. Three years afterward I was admitted to the Bar of that State and in Feby. [February] of 1842 began my professional life in this place. [It is] gratifying to myself that I have met with

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unusual success in my business. While I was yet studying in New York I married a black eyed Yankee girl and what is most to be prized is that I have never regretted the act. My wife belongs to this town and when on a visit here after my admission in New York, her friends persuaded me to ~~lose~~ my fortune in Springfield. We have no children but live in hopes that it will not always be so. I have thus given you a history of myself in this country and I trust it may not be deemed out of place. I wish you to consider it as an introduction on my part to yourself and family.

In giving my pedigree I am at a loss for the details. I left Scotland when a child and although my mother still lives (in Rhode Island) yet I have been unable to gain much information on this interesting subject. My grandfather was a genuine highlander and I believe on my father's side my ancestors are from the North. The last time I saw my mother she described a visit she made with my father to his native place shortly before his last illness. And it was among the braes and hills and Lochs described by Sir Walter Scott as the scenery of that romantic region. Loch Kathrine was one of the places embraced in this visit, a Loch consecrated by the muse of Scott in the Lady of the Lake. The Trossie glens were also see on the same occasion. This is undoubtedly the home of our mutual ancestors. That the McArthur's at one time formed a distinct clan, has always been my opinion, and that the few of that name who are now so widely dispersed are the decendents of a clan that perhaps in a period to remote to be reached by any investigations which I have yet made. This is one fact which I have almost forgotten to relate, about my parentage, which perhaps under the circumstances will a little supprise [surprise] you. I am a double distilled McArthur. My Mother's name was Sarah McArthur and my Father's name was Arthur McArthur. My Mother's family were McArthur's and my Father's family bore the same name. My Father's family which is still numerous reside mostly as I believe in Glasgow and [hole] large branch of my mother's family live [hole] Dumbarton, Scotland engaged in the ~~promotion~~ *Printing* of calicos. My Mother's mother died in this country and also one of her sisters. She has still another sister living with her in Rhode Island and a brother at Uxbridge, Mass.

The next time I write home I will make enquiries if any branch of our family ever lived at Perth the place you mention where your father came from.

I am much pleased with the idea of corresponding with you, and I hope in the course of our mutual enquiries we may discover a fellowship of blood that may be pleasing to us both. I expect to hear from you soon and mean while give my kindest regards to your family for the interest they have taken in your enquiries, I wish I could write you something more satisfactory then I fear I have done. I will give you any information in

my power or any that I can learn from other sources, so you may make perfectly familiar with me.

Yours affectionately

Arthur McArthur

[letter addressed to Arthur McArthur Esq., Limington, Maine]

certified to be a true copy of the manuscript
letter located in MacArthur Memorial archives,
Record Group-10, PRIVATE Correspondence, Box 1.

Edward J. Bone Jr.
Acting Chief Administrator



[copy in VIP FILE]

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Arthur M. Arthur

Letter from
Arthur M. Arthur
to
Arthur M. Arthur

Nov. 1 1843.

Arthur M. Arthur Esq

London

Maine