the company have been members of one family with the exception of one nine year period. The directors of the company were also recruited from old Philadelphia families, and are remarkable for their long service. Horace Binney, the noted Philadelphia lawyer, was a director of the company for a period of forty-two years, and, for twenty-six years, Chairman of the Board. As a result of this conservative management the company remained relatively small. Nevertheless, it is remarkable for its financial stability, its sound insurance practices, and its historic position in the development of property insurance in the United States.

Mr. Wainwright has written an attractive and interesting book based on research in the records of the company and the material contained in various repositories in Philadelphia. Since the volume was intended to celebrate the bicentennial of the company, it was written for the lay reader rather than the specialist interested in business history or the history of the insurance industry. This book will also have its greatest appeal for Philadelphians and former Philadelphians. Those not well acquainted with the city will fail to understand many local allusions and references. This is an attractively made book, and it is illustrated with water colors of various landmarks in Philadelphia. It seems unusual that there is no illustration depicting the headquarters of the company. There is neither an index nor bibliography, and both would have been valuable aids.

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McNair, McNear and McNeir Genealogies, 1922 (315 pp.) Supplement, November 2, 1928 (340 pp.) Supplement, February, 1955 (457 pp.) by James Hirtley McNair. Published by author, 818 South Ardmore Avenue, Los Angeles 5, California.

This series of three volumes of McNair family history published in 1922, 1928 and 1955 constitutes a monumental piece of research on a family with many ramifications in our own state and city.

The 1922 volume has a wealth of information in geometrical progression on the McNairs of the MacFarlane clan, who were natives of the borders of Loch Lomond, Scotland. All available material, with cemetery and family Bible records, gives as full and as accurate an account as possible. The name "Macnayr" was found on 1390 documents. King Robert Bruce presented a chieftain of the
McNairs a Coat-of-Arms at the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314. Little is known of the clan for several generations, until the Sixteenth Century when Duncan MacFarlane, of the ilk, became an adherent of Mathew, Earl of Lennox. Duncan was certainly to be admired for he was quite brave to make open profession of the Christian Religion in the kingdom. He fought in many battles and was finally slain at the battle of Pinkey, September, 1547. Duncan was the illustrious progenitor of the clan. His son Andrew took up where his father left off and became very valiant. About the close of the Fifteenth Century the Clan MacFarlane was divided into two Sections, hence the MacNuirs and MacNairs, some of which are now Weirs and are regarded as Septs of the Clan MacFarlane. The McNairs moved and settled in Plymouth, Brighton, England; Larne, Ireland; and Stirling, Glamannan, Lanarkshire, Dunkeld (near Airdrie), Scotland. Every effort was made to trace down every descendant to the extent that Hugh McNair, James McNair, John McNair and Nathaniel McNair were located in Canada. The author then takes his readers through the descendants of the McNairs to the United States, particularly Georgia, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, North and South Carolina, Ohio and finally Pennsylvania.

*Supplement*, 1928. Contains additional genealogical information collected in the five years since the first edition. Research was carried on in North Ireland and London. The compiler expresses his appreciation to Mr. Charles Knowles Bolton, author of *Scotch-Irish Pioneers*, who aided in the Ulster research and particularly to Miss Jennie Graham McGuire of Philadelphia and Miss Jessica C. Ferguson, now retired from the Pennsylvania State Library. This reviewer wishes to express her own fondness for Miss Ferguson, one of the most brilliant genealogists she has ever had the pleasure of knowing. Major McNair writes, "As long as marriages are recorded, births registered, gravestones used, and obituaries written there is value to genealogy. As long as heredity is recognized, family merit encouraged, and patriotism cherished, genealogy is imperative."

This 1928 supplement begins with an exciting and most interesting account of Andrew McNair and the Liberty Bell, "Proclaiming Liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof." Cornelius Lee Peebles claims that a William Hurrie rang the Liberty Bell, citing this service when he established William Hurrie as his
ancestor through the Sons of the Revolution, State of California. The D.A.R., however, in the September 1917 issue of their magazine, validate the account of Andrew McNair and The Liberty Bell. Major McNair did splendid research work on this story alone, not counting his exceptional McNair, McNear, McNeir family genealogies.

Supplement, 1955. In his introduction, the compiler evaluates “The Dream of Equality,” “We must be inextricably interrelated” and “we are all largely related, and frequently much more closely than we realize,” and family history has had a continuous and marked effect on national diplomacy. “In the history of our country there are but few events which did not have their start or involvement in genealogical connections.” “Those who have preceded us are related to those who come after us and no one understands himself so well but that he can learn more about himself through consideration of the life histories of his forefathers.” Further accounting is made in this supplement of Andrew McNair and the Liberty Bell. The following chapters comprise additional data and a correction on the subject to that in McNair, McNear and McNeir Genealogies (1922) and Supplement (1928).

These volumes, plus the additions and corrections, not previously identified in the parent work, are so arranged that no difficulty should arise in linking them to the proper family. The research is concise and well documented. Notes and complete name indexes further enhance the usefulness of these books. Finally, there is so much well-written biography that it is a pleasure to read these volumes.

Pittsburgh
Margery Shore Scott

Archeology and American History: Two Case Studies

The contribution of the archeologist to the study of prehistoric periods is well known. Archeology has also told us much of the early story of historic periods in Palestine, Rome, and other such ancient cultures. We do not ordinarily think of archeology as a valuable tool for the study of American history, however. Yet archeology has been proved such by two recent archeological studies in western Pennsylvania. The reports of these two studies are reviewed below.