

No memorial

George KINCAID d. 5th January 1791 aged 57
Patrick KINCAID d. 2nd September 1809 aged 77

The Kincaid brothers were born in Wigtownshire, Scotland to William and Grizel Kincaid (née Agnew, married February 1731).¹ The Kincaids are said to descend from the ancient Earls of Lennox, the Galbraiths of Buthernock, the Grahames and the Comyn Lords of Badenoch. In the 17th century the Kincaids fought on the royalist side during the Scottish Civil War and many emigrated to North America as a result of persecution by the Covenanters.² The Scottish Kincaids were adherents of the Presbyterian Church and during the Jacobite Risings of 1715 and 1745 they supported the exiled Stuarts.³ Brsbin (2021) wrote, *"Following the '45 Rebellion", several Kincaids departed Scotland for new lives and opportunities in The Netherlands and North America (future Canada and future United States) perhaps because of prejudice for Jacobite sympathies."*⁴

Little is known about the brothers' early lives, but George moved to America sometime after 1755. He married Marion Moodie, the sister of Helen Moodie who married John Storr, and Ann Moodie who married George Hounston, son of Sir Patrick Houstoun who was Registrar of Grants and Quit Rents in the colonial government in Savannah, Georgia.

George Kincaid was in business in Charleston, South Carolina between 1757 and 1774, but he also had significant interests in Georgia. He became a wealthy rice planter owning 1150 acres of Buffalo Swamp, Georgia, in 1763, and the Clifton and Springfield plantations along the Savannah River which he purchased from Charles Odingsells around 1770.⁵ In November 1771 it was reported that he had "upwards of forty slaves" on the Clifton and Springfield plantation. Land on Onslow Island (see map) became available after all the timber had been stripped. The owners had hesitated to carry out the difficult task of clearing and damming the land for rice culture. Kincaid was determined to cultivate the land for rice and drove his slaves to the limit of their endurance as many were reported to have run away. He persisted to clear and dam the land until he had prepared 160 acres of "lands unsurpassed for rice culture".



Map of Savannah River and adjacent lands by Orlando Poe (1895). Onslow Island is circled.

Kincaid continued his successful agricultural operations during the turbulent 1770s but in 1775 he foresaw the end of his continued prosperity as a plantation owner and he reduced his direct involvement and began to sell his plantation stock and to dispose of his slaves. His will was written in 1776.

In April 1778 together with Sir Edmund Head and others, George Kincaid purchased *Hope* “at an extravagant price” in order to sail to England. In May 1778 the ship sailed from Charleston with a cargo of rice but ran aground and had to return to shore for a refit. The ship sailed again in June 1778 but, because of an embargo, had to head for Rotterdam. In the English Channel she was boarded by a Folkestone privateer and taken to Portsmouth. The owners had to pay a considerable suit. George spent some time in England, and then returned to Georgia. He later went to Jamaica before returning to England and joining his brother in Exeter.

In 1782 lands in South Carolina owned by those loyal to the British Crown were confiscated and George Kincaid was named as one of the owners who had never submitted to the American Government.

He died suddenly in Exeter on 5th January 1791 on his return from the theatre. He was survived by his wife Marion. She moved to 7 Maryland Street, Liverpool where she lived with her sisters Helen, widow of John Storr, and Rachel, a spinster. Maryland Street is in the centre of Liverpool and is now adjacent to the campus of Liverpool John Moores University. Marion died in 1821 aged 78 and Rachel in 1838. They were buried at St James', Toxteth Park, Liverpool. Helen died in 1841 at the grand old age of 97.

Patrick Kincaid

There is no evidence that Patrick followed his brother to America, and it is also not known when or why he removed to Exeter.

RACK-LANE, EXETER.
TO be SOLD by private contract, the fee-
 simple and inheritance in possession, of all that substantial brick-built DWELLING-HOUSE, with various attached and detached buildings, a garden and spacious courtlage, the whole extending from Rack-lane to Rock-lane, otherwise called Coombe-street, into which it has a carriage road, which premises were lately in the occupation of Patrick Kincaid, esq deceased, and his tenants. The dwelling-house is fit for the reception of a large family, and comprises on the basement floor, a kitchen, 22 by 15 feet; another kitchen 16 by 13 feet; a beer cellar, and spacious wine cellar; a wash-house, 19 by 18 feet; a coal vaults capable of containing 25 quarters, and other conveniences; on the principal floor, is a dining-room, 18 by 15 feet; a breakfast-room, 16 by 14 feet; a small fitting-room; a good library-room; a store-room; and a mangle-room or laundry. The first floor comprises a drawing-room, 23 by 15 feet 6 inches; three good bed-rooms; and a dressing-room. On the attick floor, are four bed-rooms, with four garrets over the whole building. Behind the dwelling-house is a good garden, and a spacious courtlage, in which is a large building upwards of 110 feet in length, by 21 feet wide; the ground floor of which comprises a press-shop, and ware-rooms; and underneath is a spacious wine or oil vault; and above are two floors, used as drying linneys.—There is also another brick BUILDING, about 34 by 24 feet, comprising a packing-shop with a finishing room over.
 Also, to be SOLD, with the above, a LEASE in TWO GARDENS, adjoining the premises, in one of which are a stable and fundry offices, of which lease about 7 years are unexpired.
 For viewing the premises, apply to Mr. Cornish, builder, and for further information, and for treating for the same, to Messrs. Jones, attorneys, Exeter.
 October 4, 1809.

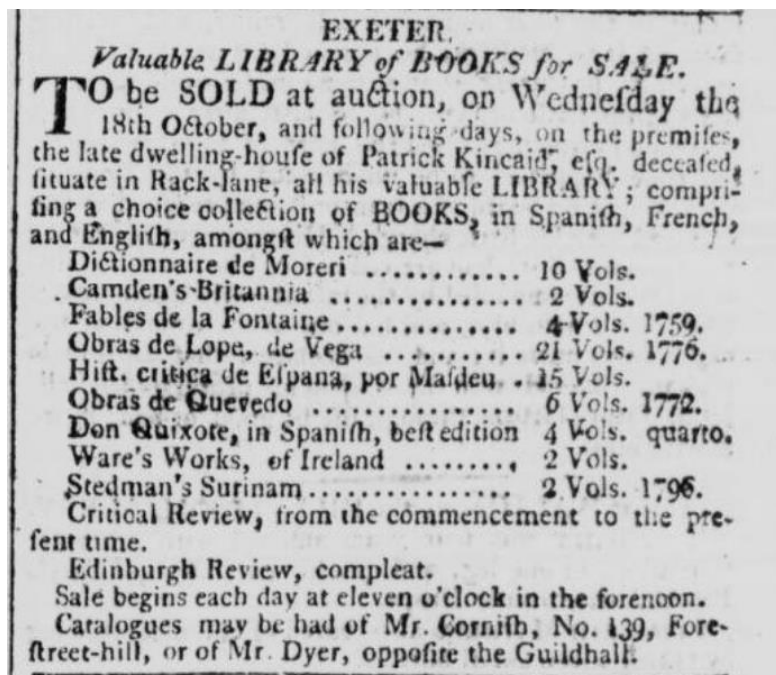
His name did not appear in the Exeter Pocket Journal for 1796, but he had attended the first planning meeting for a new Lunatic Asylum in Exeter in March 1795.⁶ Patrick was a benefactor contributing £21 to the fund which by July 1795 had generated almost £6,600. The committee was chaired by John Baring Esq. and Revd James Manning, James Buller Esq. and Dr Daniell were early committee members.

The St Thomas Lunatic Asylum was opened on 1st July 1801 in Lower Bowhill House on Dunsford Hill, Exeter, and Revd James Manning laid the foundation stone for a purpose-built mental facility just two years later. Patrick Kincaid was Treasurer to the Exeter Lunatic Asylum trustees from 1801 and in 1804 he was commended for the ‘troubles’ he had undertaken.

Patrick Kincaid owned a substantial house on Rack Lane in Exeter (extending to Coombe Street in the West Quarter) and lived there with his tenants until his death in August 1809. Sales particulars published in the *Exeter Flying Post* in October 1809 described the property in some

detail (see above). He was clearly a man of learning as a sale of his library took place later the same

month (see extract from *Exeter Flying Post* below).⁷ His household furniture and effects were sold by auction in March 1810.

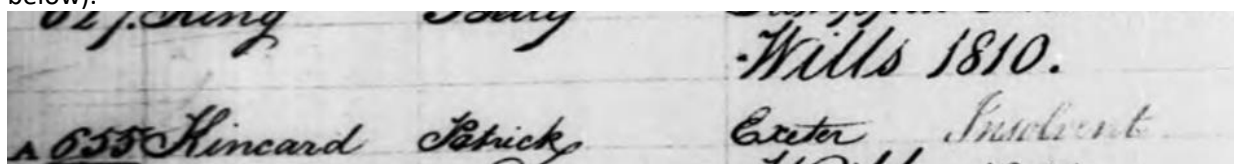


It seems that Patrick Kincaid did not marry. A death notice appeared in the *Exeter Flying Post* on Thursday 31 August 1809. It read, "Yesterday died, at the advanced age of 78, after a long illness, Patrick Kincaid, esq. of whom it may be truly said that during his long residence in this city, his time has been constantly occupied in rendering assistance to every humane establishment, to all of which he was a warm and zealous patron. – His amiable and gentlemanly manners, endeared him to a very large circle of acquaintance, by whom his loss is much lamented; but more particularly by the poor, to whom he was a kind and liberal benefactor."

Slave owner to benefactor?

It appears that Patrick Kincaid was a significant benefactor to inhabitants of the city of Exeter, but it is not known as yet whether his wealth was accumulated from his own business interests or was inherited from his younger brother George who died in 1791. George's will bequeathed to Marion, "one moiety or half part of the yearly income of my Estate while it shall be kept together unsold and the same moiety or half part of the interest arising from the monies received therefore where sold yearly and every year during her natural life" with "my beloved brother" Patrick and "my beloved sister Mary" being residuary legatees, benefitting from "all the rest and residue of my said Estate monies and effects to be equally divided between them share and share alike".

The Death Duty Register for 1810 lists Patrick Kincaid's will with a script noting "Insolvent" (see image below).



Patrick's will appears not to have survived, so it is not possible to ascertain why his estate was declared insolvent. Perhaps Patrick tried to absolve the guilt of his brother's prosperity built on the enslaved lives of so many people by philanthropic distribution.

Graveyard

A new cave was constructed for George Kincaid at a cost of £1.5s in January 1791 and this cave was opened in 1809 for the burial of Patrick. In January 1827 the cave was sold for 8 shillings to Henry and Elizabeth Matthews for the burial of their infant daughter Mary.

Ian Varndell

February 2024

¹ Kincaide, N.L. (2013) Kincaid South Carolina Timeline 1750-1899. Hosted on RootsWeb.

² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clan_Kincaid,

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scotland_in_the_Wars_of_the_Three_Kingdoms and <https://www.clankincaid.org/> accessed 23 February 2024.

³ <https://sites.radford.edu/~festival/pages/kincaid.html>

⁴ Brisbin, J. (2021) The Jacobites. In *The Defender*, Issue 103. The Defender is The Official Newsletter of the Clan Kincaid Association International.

⁵ Savannah River Plantations (1947). Savannah Writers' Project. Georgia Historical Society, ed. Granger, M.

⁶ Outline of a plan for a Lunatic Asylum dated 16th March 1795; DHC 3992F/H1.

⁷ *Exeter Flying Post*, 5th October 1809.

