

Does anyone really believe that Wm. McNabb embarked for the Colonies with five children having an age spread of from about 5 or 6 to 12 or 13? This at a time when passengers furnished their own food, water and sanitary items. If he did, it seems more than likely that his name and the names of his children would be listed in three places; one, on the list of those embarking at the port be it England, Scotland Ireland or wherever; two, on the passenger list of the ship itself; three, as a new arrival at some port in the Colonies. With literally hundreds of researchers seeking such information, over the years, if any list, or partial list existed, it would have been found long before now. And the reason such information has not been found is because all of the persons we are seeking were born in or near Monroe County, Penn.

Another factor to be considered: Baptiste'--Does it seem even possible that a Scotsman in Scotland would name his first born son Baptist, a name usually reserved for a religious group. While one cannot be absolutely certain, Baptiste', would be a name that comes from the common Latin spoken by the Roman soldiers in France, Spain, Portugal, Austria & Italy. It was probably the first name of a Moravian missionary who was admired by Wm. McNabb and his wife, Betty Aiken. The entire Moravian Missionary Diaries is available to one at the Monroe County, Penn., Historical Society or at the Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia. The latter being a copy that I donated to the State Library. The few pages that are included with this article, I have extracted for the purpose of identification of both McNabb and his occupation, i.e., smith.

I do not know about right now but I do know that from about 1675 to 1775 there were no persons named Aiken within 200 miles of Glendochart. OR if there were persons of that name, they were amazingly adept at escaping the written record of such name. I have been unable to find a sept with a name even close to Aiken, in all of Scotland. However, on extract page 68, a list of the inhabitants of Wind Gap (Penn.), shows Gideon van Aken living a few miles from Wm. McNabb. And as most genealogists come to realize, slight differences in the spelling of names is more the norm than otherwise. One can imagine all sorts of scenarios about Wm. McNabb finding Betty elsewhere and marrying her; however, where are the records of not only such an event but the births of the children seem to be also unrecorded. Finally, why is there no record of the death and burial of Betty Aiken, in Scotland?

Having taught Advanced Research Techniques as a graduate school professor, at the University of Colorado in Boulder, I am well acquainted with the maxim "One can draw no inference from silence." With that in mind concerning the above observations about the absence of Wm. McNabb & family records in Scotland, let us examine the evidence for such residence in Monroe County, Penn. circa 1700 to 1747-48.