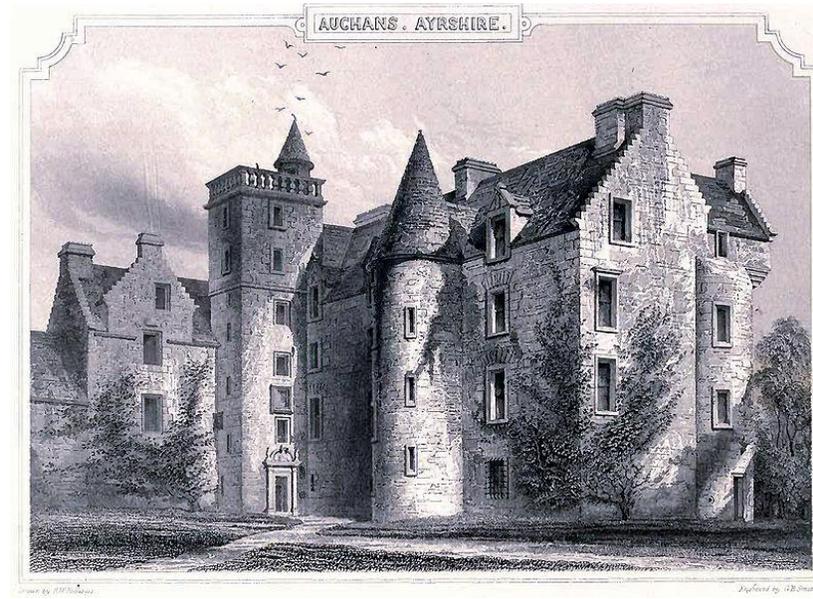


THE COCHRANE HERITAGE

Volume 2 Number 2

September 1990



FROM THE PIPES OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER:

Dear Family Members:

I need to apologize for not having published a newsletter since January. I've been in the process of looking for a new job and relocating back in Baltimore. I'm glad to report that I've been successful. I am now settled in.

Clan Cochrane in America was represented for the first time at the Fair Hill Games in Maryland last May. Clansman Peter Johnson, who resides in Delaware, was very helpful and contributed to a very successful day.

We were also represented at the Virginia Scottish Games in July. These Games were held at the Episcopal High School in Alexandria Virginia. Once again we owe many thanks to Bill Sellers, the President of these Games, for giving me a strategical corner in the Clan tent area.

The Williamsburg Games will be held on the 22nd of September at the Berkley Plantation. This is located about 10 miles east of Richmond on the James River. Although Clan Cochrane will not be represented I will be there. If you decide to attend you can locate me by asking for me at the Clan Hay tent. They will be able to point me out.

I will also be attending the Stone Mountain Games in Georgia on the 20th of October and I strongly urge anyone in the vicinity to make an effort to attend these games. We will be having a General Meeting at that time and I would like to meet as many members as possible from that area. This will be an opportunity for you to help map the direction of our organization and in addition have a good time enjoying our Scottish Culture.

Saus Alba Michael

GREETINGS FROM PORT ALBERNI, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

Dear Kinsmen:

There are two very large games to my knowledge that are close. Both are here on Vancouver Island, one at Victoria, our capital and the other at Nanaimo. They are held once a year and quite honestly I have not attended in the past but will make enquiries immediately. I am sure there will also be one or more in the Vancouver area as well. Highland Dance is very "Big" here and there area great many gatherings in that connection. Robbie Burns dinners are also very popular. Last January I was a 4 in two weeks. All these are fertile ground for display and recruitment so I will look into that now. I am not quite sure what we would do as far as a booth, or is that what is done? As you can see I am green as our tartan in this area so any advice would be appreciated.

I am so pleased that we have a president with a Canadian background. Of course Nova Scotia is very Scottish in nature. In Cape Breton they still speak Gaelic and even tried to have the Mod there two years ago. The Scots have the most celebrated history of all the immigrants to Canada. Our major explorers in the west were Frazer & MacKenzie and the fur trade was controlled by Scottish factors who married native women, not too long ago at a course I was teaching for native students I met a Chief called Campbell MacDonald who had as much right to wear his kilt as I have. I must admit I found the combination of the two names a bit strange.

In the area of recruitment, you may have noticed in my letters to David that I have a book showing every Cochrane in Canada (taken from the telephone books, I assume). I would start in this area. We have a mayor in a city not far from here named Cochrane and a Rock Star called Tom Cochrane in Vancouver as well as a sprinkling of other celebrities so it might be an interesting quest.

I will close this again with a wish that we may work together as enthusiastic kinsmen. Good luck with your efforts and be assured that you have a firm supporter in me.

Yours Aye

John

God be with you until we meet again!

TWENTY-EIGHTH COLONIAL HIGHLAND GATHERING
FAIR HILL, MARYLAND
Submitted by Clansman Peter Johnson

On May 19, a record crowd estimated at 10,000 Scots and their descendants reunited in the Bonnie Hills of Maryland to exchange tales of their homeland. The glorious sounds of bagpipes were heard everywhere that day in what is considered a most prestigious completion in the United States.

Clan Cochrane, for the first time, was tented amongst several dozen other proud Clan exhibitors. An extensive reference library brought by Michael Hartley attracted a considerable amount of interest with both Clan and non-Clan inquires. Several Clan relationships and spelling problems were easily solved. A number of prospective and eligible Clan members stopped by to recall and discuss their Clan relationships.

Other expected activities as the gathering included those rugged athletes who tossed everything from the caber to the sheaf demonstration, Highland dancing, piper competition, and the Massed Bands which kept alive the Highland traditions.

For Clan member Peter Johnson, perhaps the greatest treat was some polite eavesdropping on a member of live recollections from World War II. These included memories of a young lad being sent to the country for safety, the first blitz on the river Clyde, and witnessing Hess's plane as he dropped in on the Scottish Farmlands.

Our Clan wants to carry on the Clan tent tradition and give our membership a boost. Please check with Michael about sponsoring a Clan Tent at a gathering in your area. The experience is certainly worth the effort. Michael can provide you with banners and clan material.

See you at the games.

NON-PROFIT STATUS

It's been over a year since we've began the process of becoming a Non-profit organization. No news as yet. Because we are so small I don't believe it will have much of a difference. I will keep you posted.

AMERICAN HERITAGE – FEBRUARY 1990

1815 – One Hundred and Seventy-five Years Ago

From the beginning of Andrew Jackson could not believe that a British General would be foolish enough to attempt an amphibious invasion of New Orleans. The city was essential to a British plan to remove the Americans from Louisiana and establish sovereignty “over all the territory fraudulently conveyed by Bonaparte to the United State”, but miles of thick swamps between New Orleans and the sea made it easy to defend from below. “A real military man, with full knowledge of the geography of this country”, wrote Jackson, would “cut off all supplies from above and make this country an easy conquest.”

Jackson had arrived in New Orleans in December to fortify the city’s already strong position against an anticipated attack by Adm. Alexander COCHRANE, who was directing twenty-five hundred troops through Lake Borgne, directly to the east of the city. A miserable sixty-mile journey from the British fleet, during which the troops slept in rainy marshes filled with snakes and woke with their clothes frozen to their bodies, landed them on the Plain of Gentilly, nine miles from the city. Jackson descended with his entire force of two thousand men just as the exhausted British were settling in for their first comfortable night in two weeks. The British called for reinforcements to bring additional cannon from the distant fleet and for each new man to carry a cannonball in his knapsack.

Jackson’s men quickly erected log breastworks along a canal that bisected the field as it narrowed between a swamp and the Mississippi River, cutting off the only approach to New Orleans. Still, COCHRANE blustered that his redcoats could dispose of any number of Jackson’s “dirty shirts”. Jackson disagreed, “I will smash them, so help me God!” Sir Edward Pakenham, the senior British general, took command of the army on Christmas Day. When the mist lifted on the morning of January 1, British artillery began throwing shells at Jackson’s fortifications. But their guns were inadequately mounted, supported in part with barrels of sugar that dissolved into a sticky muck. Twelve American guns braced partially with cotton bales, took Pakenham’s erratic batteries apart, forcing a retreat.

A contingent of Kentucky troops arrived on January 3 to support the badly outnumbered American force, but to Jackson’s disbelief, they had no rifles. “I have never seen a Kentuckian without a gun and a pack of cards and a bottle of whiskey in my life,” he commented. Though his army was still outnumbered two to one, Jackson was ready for the advance when it came on January 8. British soldiers covered the plain before Jackson’s backwoods sharpshooters like an immense red carpet. The killing was ludicrously easy. The only Englishman who made it to the top of Jackson’s wall unscathed looked behind him and saw that his men “had vanished as if the earth had swallowed them up.” The British fell in whole columns under a steady barrage of American lead, and within twenty-five minutes they were in frenzied retreat. One-third of the British force, about two thousand troops, lay in heaps before Jackson’s men. “The field,” wrote an American observer, “was so thickly strewn with the dead, that from the American ditch you could have walked a quarter mile in the front of the bodies of the killed and disabled.” That afternoon, as the survivors went out to the battlefield under a flag of truce to bury their dead, among them General Pakenham, they learned that the American line had lost only eight dead and thirteen wounded. COCHRANE abandoned the Louisiana delta for good. By February 4, when news of December’s Treaty of Ghent reached American shores, Andrew Jackson was renowned as an American hero.

Note on the previous article added 2010: Alexander Cochrane did not participate in the Battle of New Orleans. He did however help plan it.

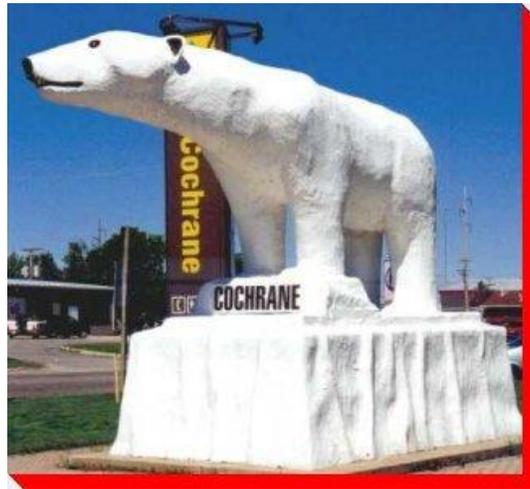
CLAN COCHRAN IN AUSTRALIA

A Trip to “COCHRANE” – Canada

In August 1988 my sister Ann and I travelled to Canada where we spent 2 months touring from Toronto across to Vancouver. From Toronto we made a trip to James Bay Frontier and the town of Cochrane!

Cochrane is a railway town founded in 1908. The town was named after the Hon. Frank Cochrane, then Minister of Lands, Forests, and Mines for the Province of Ontario. Cochrane was almost destroyed twice by fire – once in 1911 and again in 1916. The town was rebuilt to become the gateway and distribution centre for the James Bay Frontier.

At the entrance to the town we were greeted by an oversized Polar Bear with a sign, “CHIMO WELCOMES YOU TO COCHRANE HOME OF THE POLAR BEAR EXPRESS”.



Chimo the Polar Bear

The name Chimo is Eskimo and means “I am friendly”.

In the heart of COCHRANE is the lovely 55 acre Commando Lake, named after an Indian chief who camped with his tribe on the shores many summers ago.

One of the reasons for traveling to COCHRANE is to catch the Polar Bear Express which travels down to the Arctic Watershed at Moosonee, which is only accessible by plane or train.

Moosonee is regarded as the gateway to the Arctic and a “must” for the tourist”.

Elizabeth and Ann Cochrane are the daughters of Vin Cochrane from Adelaide, a staunch member of the Clan, and cousin to our dear Molly Moody. Ann has just arrived home after nursing in the United Arab Emirates, which she enjoyed enormously.

There must be more “traveling Cochranes” we would love to hear of your trips overseas and around Australia.

More research on the Canadian town of Cochrane revealed that the Hon. Frank was not a Dundonald Cochrane. His father was of Scottish descent and his mother came from Ireland.

When the Hon. Frank died, he left a high reputation for competence, honesty, and integrity. Paradoxically, he was a man of few words and would never use two words when one would do, which earned him the soubriquet of “Silent Frank”.

Many thanks for taking us on your trip to Canada with you, Elizabeth and Ann.

Editorial

“THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER”

Once again a member of the United States Congress is attempting to replace “The Star Spangled Banner” with “America the Beautiful” as our national anthem. This should be of special interest to Cochrane’s since it was written by Francis Scott Key from the deck of Captain Thomas Cochrane’s ship and speaks of the defeat of his father Vice-Admiral Alexander Cochrane at Baltimore on September 14, 1814 in the War of 1812. The removal of this song as our National Anthem will diminish the historical role Cochrane has played in our history. On the contrary it glorifies the defense of our land by the common man against seasoned troops, fresh from the Napoleonic Wars.

Cochranes throughout the United States are urged to write their representatives in Congress to let them know that they oppose the bill. (Update 2010: not only did COCHRAN(E)S write to Congress but so did many Americans and the “Star Spangled Banner” is still the National Anthem!”)

THE GENEALOGIST’S CORNER

QUERY: Need birthplace and name of parents of JOHN R. COCHRANE, b. 13 Aug. 1828 PA., died 1 Jul 1908, Minneapolis, MN; married 22 Feb. 1854 at Toledo, OH to Frances Ermina YOUNG. Children: Frances H. born 1855 OH; Charles Eddy, born 1856 OH; Ionia born 1860 IN; Catherine Maude born 1864 IN; John R., Jr. born 1868 IN. Believe found in the 1850 US Census for Moyamensing Twp., Philadelphia Co. Have contacted various Phila. Churches to verify birth with negative results. Church marriage records destroyed by fire. Death certificate does not list city of birth. Querist: John R. Cochrane, 845 W. 19th St., Fremont, NE 68025.

Sent inquiries to:

Virginia Risdon Roberts
6545 Ravenna Ave. NE R203
Seattle, Washington 98115

BE SURE TO INCLUDE: I think the policy for “Queries” should be that they will be published as a service to members who may wish to exchange helpful information about mutual ancestral lines. They may submit as many queries as they wish, typed or printed, on 3x5 cards, with their names and addresses on the back of each card. The query should be 50 words or less.

If they respond to a query, they should send a copy to me, indicating the query number (which I assign—1,2,3,etc.) and the surname in question.

When responding to a query, they should note any references consulted, giving author, title and date of publication (if any) or manuscript (at what library), family record, oral tradition, etc.

A query should be state clearly and space permitting, giving references already consulted. Standard abbreviations will be used when published. Dates will be counted as one word.

For of query: first name, generation in the US., if known, last name, birthplace, birthdate, place of death, date of death, place of marriage, date and spouse’s name. Children born and where?

If their query is not published within two consecutive issues, they may re-submit the query, indicating it is the second request.

Note 2010: Virginia Risdon Roberts position was taken over by Cynthia Cochran Scheuer-Jones in 1992.

SPECIAL THANKS

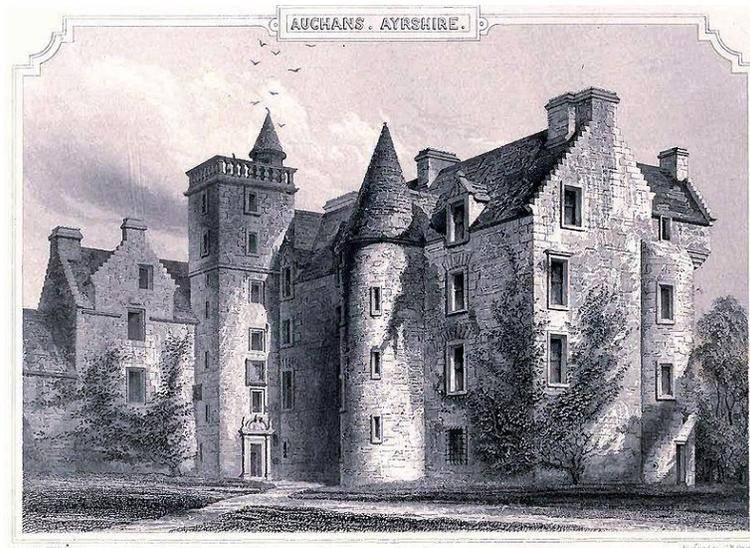
Those of you who receive the “Highlander Magazine” will have noticed that Clan Cochrane is now being advertised. Clansman Gene Cochrane in Indiana volunteered to write up the advertisement and donate the money to have us included. Thanks Gene!

By the way, The Cothrons have lost a lot more sleep and a little more room in their home since the arrival of Erin Jean Cothron on 12-29-1989. What a way to start the New Year. A hearty Congratulations goes out from all of us to all of you.

CLASSIFIED

For Sale: “The Autobiography of a Seaman” by Thomas Cochrane the 10th Earl of Dundonald, 1862 2nd Edition and 1862 Third Edition. This is the famous book by the Sea Wolf. Have your own copy. This is a real thing. Limited offer. Contact your President.

ON THE COVER AUCHANS HOUSE



On the cover is Auchans House. The last issue it shows as ruins of Dundonald Castle. Auchans House is to the right of the castle, in that picture, and is situated about a mile from Dundonald Castle.

William, the first Earl of Dundonald, acquired Auchans from the Wallaces near the end of the 1600's. He lived there briefly before moving to the Place of Paisley, a manor house attached to the ruins of Paisley Abbey.

Auchans was built from the stones of Dundonald Castle, as was the custom at the time. In the end of the last century when an aristocrat built a new house they often had a party to blow up the old house.

Auchans looks to be a massive estate but actually its floors are only about seven feet tall. The picture shows what is left of Auchans today the only part left standing is the center and back walls.

I visited a local genealogist while in the village of Dundonald who shared tales of the “rat lady” with me. Evidently there was an old lady who lived in Auchans in the 1920’s and shared the estate with the local rat population.

It must have been a beautiful estate in its heyday.

