

Clan Rattray Society



Journal Number Eleven December 2003

**Lachlan Rattray of Rattray and of
Craighall Rattray 29th Clan Chief.**



*Left to right; Lachlan Rattray of Rattray
with Flora his daughter and Michael
Rattray at 2001 Blairgowrie and Rattray
Highland Games.*

Clan Chief's Message

It is a great privilege to be 29th Chief of Clan Rattray and to be part of such a vibrant Clan Society.

I would particularly like to mention the role of the Rannagulzion Rattrays, James, Rullion, Hugh and David, who have all worked tirelessly during the last ten years in developing the Clan Society. Their dedication has increased the profile of the Clan and consequently the Society's growing membership in many parts of the world.

I would also like to commend the initiative of Scott Rattray in building such an excellent web site, Dr Charles Bird for his time and expertise in developing such an impressive Clan database, and to the efforts of all of you who strive to keep the Clan name alive both at home in Scotland and abroad in far flung places such as New Zealand, Australia, South Africa and Canada.

Your combined efforts are an essential part in keeping alive the traditions of the Rattrays and the many families associated thereto, which, in turn, is a valuable contribution to securing the future of Scots heritage and culture.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Clan Gathering next September and, in the meantime, wish you all a very Happy Christmas and the best of health and prosperity in 2004.

With Very Best Wishes,

Lachlan Rattray. Craighall. 08/12/03

Major Amrik Singh of Rattray's Sikhs visits Scotland.

James Rattray



*Major Amrik Singh and Dageel Singh next to the
town welcome sign to Rattray and Blairgowrie*

In August I received an e-mail from our old friend Major Paddy Chowdry (now retired, and living in Delhi with his new wife). Attached to the e-mail was a letter from Major Amrik Singh who had recently lost his wife. Amrik wrote saying he wanted to visit the UK with his two children for a couple of weeks to help take their minds off the loss a deeply loved wife and mother.

Amrik had been with the battalion in 1997 when my brother Hugh, my cousin Davina and her husband Robert and I had the honour of visiting the Rattrays Sikhs who were stationed at Rudraprayag, right up in the Himalayas on the Indo-China boarder. We had a fabulous 7 days with the battalion meeting many very special people.

Going back to Amrik's letter, Amrik wrote he was having difficulty getting a visa for Britain despite having relations living in London. He asked if I could write a letter of invitation, which I had absolutely no hesitation in doing. Amrik planned to come up to Scotland and stay with us during his visit and bring us news of the battalion. After several letters and having to write directly to the head of the visa section at the British High Commission in Delhi, the necessary permission and visa were finally obtained.

At this time we also received a letter from the Rattray Sikh's new Commanding Officer Col Milton Adhikari regarding the 150th anniversary of the raising of the Rattrays Sikhs in April 2006. Col Adhikari advised us that Major Amrik Singh had been assigned the task for co-ordinating all aspects regarding the ex-British Officers and their kin during this event.



Major Amrik Admiring the view over the River Ericht some 200ft below from Craighall Castle balcony.

Amrik arrived in Scotland on the 4th October escorted by Dageel and Ranber Singh, his two brothers-in-law from London who stayed with us on through Saturday night before having to leave. On the Saturday my brother Rulzion came up from Dundee

and together we took Amrik, Dageel and Ranber on a tour of a number of the Rattray sites and a bit of our beautiful Scottish countryside.



Major Amrik Singh signing the Visitors Book at Craighall.

We headed off over the hills from Killiecrankie, via Kirkmichael and Bridge of Cally, pointing out the ancient Rattray territory and the Rannagulzion Rattrays house, the ancestral home of Captain Thomas Rattray, founder of the Rattrays Sikhs.



Major Amrik Singh flanked by Rambir and Dageel at the entrance to Craighall.

We then went on to Craighall Castle, home of the Rattrays of Rattray and our Clan Chief Lachlan Rattray of Rattray and his wife Niki. We called in to Craighall to find Niki in, though Lachlan was away attending one of their children's sports matches. As always, the Rattrays of Rattray are most hospitable to people turning up at their home. Niki greeted us and left us to wander around the grounds at our own pace.



The Rattray of Rattray burial plot at Rattray Kirk.

Niki then took us into Craighall and to the spectacular balcony overlooking the River Ericht 200 feet below.

From Craighall we went to Rattray Church and then to Dunkeld and Queen's View.



Amrik Singh taking in the scenery at Queens View., Highland Perthshire.

Amrik brought us lots of good news from 3 Sikh (Rattrays): they had been awarded the Chief of Army Staff's citation as "The Bravest of the Brave" amongst India's fighting units and a Rattrays Sikh had been awarded India's highest gallantry medal, the "The Ashok Chakra". He also made clear that a good contingent of Rattrays were expected and would be made very welcome at the 150th anniversary of the raising of the Rattrays Sikhs in April 2006 (more

details will be made available at the Clan Gathering in September 2004).



Major Amrik looking the part with his long hair and flowing beard, dressed as a 17th century highlander at Killiecrankie. Ready for battle.

On the Sunday, Day and Robert Howden came all the way down from Berridale in Caithness to have tea with us and visit with Amrik again after some 6 years. Day and Robert, having been with us on the trip to the Rattrays Sikhs in India in February 1997, had lots of news to catch up on with Amrik. On Monday morning, 6th October, we said our good byes to Amrik as he headed south on a train from Pitlochry after a very enjoyable weekend.



Back left Robert Howden, Major Amrik Singh, Day Howden. Front right James Rattray, Sheelah Rattray and Kathleen Rattray.

I can not but help think how lucky we are as a family and a clan to have this incredible connection with the Indian Army and the Sikhs. Those who attended the 2000 Gathering in Kirkmichael will know what I mean!

22/12/2003
James Rattray

North American Representative's Report **Keith Rattray**



Keith Rattray at the 2000 International Gathering at Kirkmichael.

As I type this report into the computer the snow is gently falling and the ground is already covered by almost six inches of snow. Trees and bushes present a picture perfect scene with their snow laden branches. As for the horses of CEILIDH STABLES they are out in their respective paddocks munching of fresh hay and again, a picture perfect scene. It is difficult to comprehend, looking at such a tranquil scene, the unrest that exists in the World today.

As for the Clan Rattray Society, born in the late summer of 1993, things are not tranquil, they are humming! 2003 has seen an enormous increase in the number of guests who have signed the guestbook on our web page, totally redesigned thanks to Scott Rattray, of Ottawa, Canada. The most recent count of signators is headed strongly in the direction of 200. No doubt, countless others have also visited the web page from time to time. Each signator is acknowledged via email and referred to Dr. Charles Bird, our tireless volunteer genealogist. This has resulted in additional Rattray data being added to his huge database and has also resulted in a number of family linkups which otherwise might never have occurred.

In many instances, direct emails have been received asking for information regarding of 3rd World Gathering of Rattray in 2004. These have been acknowledged with encouragement to monitor the web page after the 1st of January, 2004, when it is anticipated the details of the Gathering will be posted. Preliminary indications of interest would seem to indicate a return in 2004 of a number who attended in 1996 and/or 2000 plus a number who will be attending for the very first time. It augurs well for

yet another successful World Gathering of Rattray. We will see you there!

Closer to home, one day in mid summer, a number of my Rattray cousins gathered here at CEILIDH STABLES along with our children and grandchildren for a day long "get acquainted" and steak barbecue. It was a great day with children having the opportunity to climb aboard a horse and adults getting to know each other, some for the very first time. In addition, in early August, Julie (Rattray) Carapanos, from California, visited with my wife and I here at CEILIDH STABLES. Later, in the week, Julie and I travelled to Fergus, Ontario, where we attended the annual Fergus Highland Games. I first met Julie, her two children and her parents, during the 2000 Gathering. Julie and her parents are planning to attend the 2004 Gathering and her report appears elsewhere in this edition of the Journal.

As for CEILIDH STABLES itself, it has been a remarkable year with riding students finishing the competitive show jumping circuit with numerous ribbons ranging from first place downward. Two students finished the year as Champions in their respective divisions and a third was Reserve Champion in her division. Now that winter is upon us, the training begins for the 2004 season, the 60x120 foot indoor riding arena being put to good use.

Turning back to the Clan Rattray Society, I would like to recommend that we attempt to find a volunteer to represent the Clan Rattray Society in the USA. With the increase in interest, etc., I now feel that I need to devote more time to our efforts in Canada. There exists numerous Rattray families in the USA and I feel that they would be better served in the North American Representative activities sphere, which have been my pleasure to perform over the past ten years, by one representative for Canada and one representative for the USA.

Well, I think this concludes my ramblings for this edition of the Journal, time now for a dram of the "water of life" while watching the Blue Jays flitting about in the yard at our numerous bird feeders. Best wishes to all for 2004 and, hopefully, we will meet and greet many in Perthshire!

Keith Rattray

Humble Beginnings in a New World **Dr Charles Bird**

In February 1882, the **Christopher Tatchell Winter** family made preparations for emigration to Canada. They left at the end of the month by the "Flying

Dutchman" train for Liverpool where, on March 1, the next day, they boarded a boat and were on their way. On 15 Mar 1882, two weeks later, they landed at Halifax. They then took the train to Winnipeg where they were joined by Maud and Malcolm who had gone to Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, the previous year. On 8 Apr they were at the end of the line in Brandon, Manitoba. There they bought oxen, harness and a wagon, and with them headed up to the Birtle area.



Their first home, a "soddy",

The family homesteaded the SE36-15-27 in the Blenheim District, south of Birtle, Manitoba in 1882. Their first home, a "soddy", was made of lumber, then the walls and roof were covered with cut sod. They called it "Cannington" after **George Kerbey Cannington**, a school teacher who married Christopher's sister **Ann**. In the above photo, there appears to be a barn for their livestock on the right.

Their second home, "Winterton", was constructed in the fall of 1886 by a neighbourhood "bee" assisted by members of the Seale, **Ashe**, Gough, **Malcolm** and Huehnichen families. It was made of logs from trees cut in the winter in the nearby Birdtail River valley by Malcolm and Chris Winter. It was replaced in 1903 by a frame house which they called "New Winterton".

None of the family members had any experience with farming and the first few years must have full of both mental and physical challenges. They would have had to break their land with oxen or a horse and do many other new things such as clear trees by hand, dig a well, and cut firewood for their wood stove. Things were difficult financially for the first years. **CTW** ran credit over the winter of 82/83 at George Rowswell's General Store in Beulah and when spring came was unable to pay the amount owing. **Presgrave**, then 13, went to work at the store to help pay the family debt. **Caroline**, **CTW**'s wife, worked out on a number of occasions as a midwife to help pay the bills. **CTW** also received some financial help from his sisters **Eliza** and **Ann**.

The boys in the family soon found out how to raise cattle and crops, while the girls learned the arts of

homemaking, churning butter, tending a garden and raising hens, turkeys, geese and ducks. The wheat that they grew took a long time to mature and often froze. It had to be taken forty miles to Elkhorn to be ground into a flour of poor quality that made sticky, dark bread.

The Winters were staunch Anglicans and ardent church workers. In the early years, services were often held in their home, then for fifteen years in Blenheim School. **CTW** was Rector's Warden and a member of the committee that supervised the 1902 construction of St. Alban's Church. **CTW**'s oldest son, **Malcolm**, became an Anglican minister (he later became a Catholic).



A fall harvest scene with oxen pulling a wagon, a sheaf being carried from a stook and various family members either watching or helping.

All the family were together at the time of the 1891 Census but it wasn't long before the children started making lives of their own. The first to be married was **Janet** (1891, **G.J. Huntly Malcolm**), followed rapidly by **Lilian** (1893, **Roger "Punch" Hepburn**), **Gertrude** (1894, **Arthur Quelch**), **Isabel** (1897, **Isaac Ashe**), **Maud** (1898, Rev. **Joseph Cox**), **Ethel** (1899, **Arthur Bird**), **Malcolm** (1900, **Maud Taylor**), **Presgrave** (1902, **Marie Dupuis**), **Beatrice** (1904, **Hubert Meyrick**), **Ralph** (1908, **Maisie Francis**), **Percy** (1913, **Janet White**) and **Gordon** (1920, **Catherine Brown**).

Tatchell Winter's Rattray Connections:

What is our Rattray connection? Our **Christopher Tatchell Winter**'s parents were Rev. **Christopher Winter** and his wife **Ann Presgrave**; **Ann**'s parents were **Edward Presgrave** and his wife **Ann Clerk**; **Ann**'s parents were **Duncan Clerk** and his wife **Ann Brown**; and **Duncan Clerk**'s parents were Dr. **John Clerk** (11 Sep 1689-25 May 1757) and his wife **Margaret Rattray** (22 Jun 1702-23 May 1744). **Margaret** was the eldest daughter of the Rt. Rev. **Thomas Rattray** who was Bishop of Brechin 1727-1732, Bishop of Dunkeld 1732-1743, Primus of the

Episcopal Church of Scotland 1739-1743, and 20th
Laird of the Rattrays.
Dr Charles Bird
19/12/2003

Chairman's Report

James Rattray.



James Rattray. Chairman of Clan Rattray Society

This coming year, 2004, will see our Third International Rattray Clan Gathering. This has the potential of being even better than the previous two Gatherings. It will take place in Blairgowrie so we can join in all the festivities surrounding the Blairgowrie and Rattray Highland Games with the Braemar Night on the Saturday night. I am told that the 2003 Braemar Night attracted some 4,000 people.

We have one or two new things lined for the coming year's Gathering which we will keep under wraps until the Gathering itself. As some of you will recall, our coaches were highjacked by the Jacobite battle re-enactment group, the White Cockade, in 1996, followed by a pitched battle as clan fought clan. In 2000 we had six Rattrays Sikhs attending for the first time, they certainly added an extra dimension to the whole occasion. In 2004 we are again adding new events and one or two surprises.

The cost of £110 for the three and a half action packed days including all the meals, event costs, admission fees and transport represents excellent value. I would recommend all of you who are considering coming to make the effort and put the pennies (or is it cents?) aside. You will never get a better chance to see your heritage and have lots of fun in the process too. In the UK, you can get incredibly cheap flights and other transport deals by booking early and also via the Internet. For example,

a flight from London to Scotland has been purchased for as little as £0.50 plus airport taxes. But remember the earlier you book, the better the deals, usually via the Internet.

Our web site, thanks to Scott Rattray in Canada, continues to recruit new members for the Clan Society and makes many people across the world aware of their Rattray heritage. There has been considerable interest shown in the 2004 International Gathering through the web site. This is the first occasion we will be advertising the International Gathering through our web site.

Dr Charles Bird, Charlie, continues his magnificent task of building up our clan genealogy, an absolute mammoth achievement. There are over 32,000 individuals now on the database. Please read Charlie's report carefully and send him the information he is requesting, so your descendants are given a helping hand to learn about you, your parents and grand parents.

Once again, thanks to all office bearers all round the world who give up their free time to help our little Clan Society function: without them, there would be no society!

James Rattray, 23/12/2003

Mini-Rattray Reunion in Ontario, Canada.

Julie Rattray Carapanos.

One of the primary benefits of joining the Clan Rattray Society is meeting other interesting Rattrays around the world. Keith Rattray and I first met at the 2000 Clan Rattray reunion and have had many a phone conversation since then. He invited me to visit him in Canada, and I threatened to take him up on it. Well, I made good my threat, and Keith and his family hosted me at their home – Ceilidh Stables in Ontario, Canada where I was attending a Scottish Country Dance workshop and the Fergus Highland Games.

Keith accompanied me to the Fergus Highland Games, dressed in his Ancient Rattray kilt and Prince Charlie. The town of Rattray is very well known in Fergus, Ontario because Fergus is a sister city of Blairgowrie-Rattray. Many people from Fergus have visited Rattray, and there have been student exchanges as well as a Lions Club members visit to Blairgowrie-Rattray. I'm involved in the Sister City

Organization because there is actually a three-way sister city relationship between Blairgowrie-Rattray, Fergus and Pleasanton, California where I live. Our sister city organization here in California has been very active in promoting cultural exchanges between

Blairgowrie-Rattray and Pleasanton (more details below), and I was in fact attending the Fergus games as a sister city representative from Pleasanton. The fact that Keith and I were Rattrays and very familiar with Blairgowrie-Rattray helped maintain the sister city triangle. We spent a good part of the games exchanging pictures and experiences of Blairgowrie-Rattray with the mayor of Fergus and other sponsors in the VIP tent. It didn't hurt that the VIP hospitality was tremendous – excellent catered food, open bar, etc. and the covered tables offered the best seat in the house for viewing the events on the main field.



Entry sign to Fergus showing the sister cities of Blairgowrie-Rattray and Pleasanton, California.

The Fergus Games are a very comfortable size in a lovely park setting. There are plenty of vendors, pipe bands, heavy athletics, and approximately 900 competitive highland dancers. We spent Saturday wandering amongst the various musical venues, clan tents and cultural tents. The games actually began on Friday night with a Tattoo. This included a musical group from Cape Breton, followed by various pipe bands, and a traditional heavy events demonstration. The demonstration was interesting because it gave a brief history of the different events and showed how they were performed.

The finale of the evening was the 48th Highlanders of Canada Pipes and Drums and Military Band and the

Royal Regiment of Canada Brass Band from Toronto, accompanied by a wonderful troupe of Highland Dancers. Along with the pipe and dance finale, there was a traditional candlelight 'Lightin' with a "Tribute to the Homeland" and "Rallying of the Clans". The field was surrounded by grandstands where all the spectators had a candle, and the effect of the clans marching in through the replica castle battlement gates to the swirl of the pipes and surrounded by candlelight was breathtaking. Each participating clan brought their candles up to the 'hearth' when their clan was called out. This was definitely the highlight of the Fergus Games for me. It would be great if enough Rattrays could gather together to be represented at these games.



Julie Carapanos with Charlie and Amelia Blair-Oliphant in front of the Blair tent at the Dunsmuir Highland Games in California.

On the final Sunday of my visit, Keith, myself, his daughter Lauree and her family represented Clan Rattray at a "Kirkin' O' the Tartan" in the lovely town of Stratford.



At the Kirkin' of the Tartan - Keith (Centre) wearing the Rattray ancient kilt, with Julie Rattray Carapanos on his left wearing a Rattray modern tartan sash, Keith's daughter Lauree (her sash is hidden), her husband and sons.

In case you are not familiar with this tradition, here is a brief history of the Kirkin', according to the Late Dr. H. Douglas Stewart: "... after the English

defeated Prince Charlie and the Highland Scots at Culloden in 1746, To subdue the spirit of the vanquished Highlanders, the English Parliament invoked the Act of Proscription that banned the wearing of any sign of the tartan, forbid any speaking in Gaelic, and outlawed Scottish music, dancing, or the playing of the pipes.



Keith Rattray's family in Ontario- his son Farley (middle back), daughter Lauree (middle back), with their spouses to their sides and children in front.

It was 36 years before the Act of Proscription was revoked and, during all those years, Highland churches had a special day when the highlanders gathered, each with a small piece of Tartan concealed under his outer clothing and, with the right hand held over that precious piece, they all joined in the prayer that it might please God speedily to cause the repeal of the devastating Act of Proscription. When finally the Act was repealed, the highlanders, as Cunningham in his History of Scotland has written: "returned with joy to their beloved kilt, no longer bound to the unmanly trews of the lowlanders." It is in spiritual continuity with this era of Scottish history that we celebrate the liturgy of the Kirkin' O' the Tartan."



Keith and Julie with the Major of Fergus, & his wife. With Keith at the far left and Julie standing between the Major and his wife.

This Kirkin' began with a Parade of the Tartans from along the Avon River, up through the downtown area

and over to the church. The parade consisted of a police escort, very decent pipe band, and about 70 people wearing kilts (men) and sashes (ladies) and carrying large tartan banners. There was a fair crowd lining the streets to watch us all strut by in our finery. Keith again wore his ancient Rattray kilt and Prince Charlie, Lauree and I wore our modern Rattray sashes. After a very nice service, we again paraded out and back down to the river for a picnic lunch and a few hours of Scottish Country Dancing which Lauree and I participated in. All in all, quite a thrilling event for the exiled Scottish soul.

While touring the beautiful Ontario countryside, Keith and I had many conversations regarding all things Rattray and the upcoming 2004 Clan Reunion – which we both plan to attend. I hope that the reunion will promote closer relationships between Rattrays around the world, and that more of us will be able to get together as Keith and I did and share our Rattray interests and heritage.

I'd love to have visitors if any of you should ever come out to Northern California. My e-mail is jc1284@sbc.com.

Julie Rattray Carapanos
24th October 2003.

More on the Pleasanton / Fergus / Blairgowrie - Rattray Sister City Organisation:

As I mentioned above, we have a quite active three-way sister city organization between Fergus, Ontario; Pleasanton, California; and Blairgowrie-Rattray.

A great deal of our success is due to Laurence and Jenny Blair-Oliphant, from Ardblair Castle, Blairgowrie. They have been a tremendous support in facilitating exchanges between Blairgowrie-Rattray and Pleasanton. They have hosted several members from our sister city organization at Ardblair, and my family also visited them there while at the 2000 Rattray gathering. Ardblair is a fortified farmhouse and is the equivalent of Craighall, Rattray on the other side of the Ericht River. The oldest part of Ardblair dates from the 16th century and has walls five feet thick and arrow slits up one side. The second floor is a museum containing all the family artifacts and paintings back to the late 17th century, including a collection of Bonnie Prince Charlie's personal possessions, entrusted to Laurence's forebears by the Prince prior to this flight into exile after the disastrous Battle of Culloden in 1745.

Those of you who have attended the Blairgowrie Highland Games have met the Blair- Oliphant family, because Laurence is Chieftain of the Games which are held on one of his fields. If you were present at the 1996 games as part of the first Rattray Clan

Gathering, you might remember the presentation of the fire engine by the city of Pleasanton to Blairgowrie to celebrate their twinning. The fire engine is proudly rolled out on the field every year, so now you know why an old Pleasanton fire engine is present.

The sister city organization has also brought the Blair-Oliphant family over to California several times to be Chiefs of one of our local highland games. Lawrence and his wife Jenny are much beloved by the whole highland games community. Their son and daughter, Charlie and Amelia, were Chiefs of the

games this year and were stunned at the hospitality they received, and how many people spoke fondly of their parents and of visiting Blairgowrie-Rattray. There are also periodic student exchanges between the cities.

Clan Rattray will be attending the Blairgowrie Games as part of our 2004 clan gathering , so you will certainly meet the Blair-Oliphants then if you haven't already had the pleasure. Hopefully the Rattrays will best Blairgowrie in the tug-of-war – I hear we lost this year!

Julie Carapanos. U.S.A. 24/10/03

The Clan Rattray Database

Dr Charles Bird

Dr. Charles Bird compiler (Box 22, Erskine, Alberta, Canada, T0C 1G0; cdbird@telus.net)

As of 19 December 2003, the Clan Rattray Database contained information on 32755 individuals with a Rattray connection. Data is stored in Personal Ancestral File 4 software in the compiler's own computer. Frequent backups are made and, in addition, periodic copies are made and given to James Rattray, Chairman of the Clan Rattray Society, and Keith Rattray, our North American representative. The database is not online and information from it has not been uploaded to online databases. The compiler is willing to answer queries from those with a Rattray connection and will prepare reports for those people, which show the nature of their Rattray link. The compiler does not charge for his work but reminds all that he is involved with numerous other projects and, therefore, may not be able to immediately reply to a query.

The Database commenced over ten years ago when the compiler put together information showing his

own Rattray connection. He was later approached by Rulzion Rattray to expand the Database to include information on all those with a Rattray connection. Since that time, information has been added from many different sources and such information continues to be added. Essentially all online information has been added. Unfortunately, most of the latter information covers only up until about the time that Civil Registration commenced in Scotland, England and elsewhere. In addition, much information has been made available by individuals. The latter is especially helpful as it covers the last 150 years or so. The compiler has no funds available to request documents relating to birth, marriage and death and this cost can only be covered by others.

If information on your Rattray line is not in the Clan Rattray Database, please get in touch. Because of the very large number of individuals in the Database, it is very important to add dates and places of birth, marriage and death. Other information, such as dates of emigration, profession, etc., are also of interest. Serious attempts are made to add the sources of such information are added to the Database, so please provide details.

Dr Charles Bird, 19/12/2003



Dr Charles Bird showing his ancestors Dr John Clerk and his wife Margaret, born Rattray. The photo was taken 1st September 1996 at Craighall Rattray during the International Gathering

Treasurer and Membership Secretary.

Hugh Rattray

Treasurer's report 2003:

Main accounts

Opening Balance:	£ 1967.96
Receipts:	
Subscriptions & interest	£ 466.72
Interest	: (~£5)
Expenses:	
Journal Printing & posting	£ 242.55
Web site costs	£ 115.86
Total Expenses	£ 358.41
Closing Balance	<u>£ 2076.27</u>
Original A/C	£648.82
Main A/C	£1543.41

Hugh Rattray 28th December 2003

Membership report 2003:



Hugh Rattray Treasurer and Membership Secretary.

The clan membership levels are stable at 128 versus 120 last year and 116 the year before that. These figures, of course, represent the individuals and not all family members.

The breakdown of membership by country is as follows:

USA	40
Scotland	30
England	20
Canada	7
Australia	7
South Africa	5
New Zealand	4
Wales	4
Zimbabwe	3
India	2
France	2
Namibia	1
Germany	1
Sweden	1
Tanzania	1

Hugh Rattray 28th December 2003

Ratray DNA tests carried out by Oxford Ancestor's

Dawn Raimondo

You may remember that I wrote in last year's Journal about DNA tests carried out by Oxford Ancestor's on three male Ratrays – *“one in Scotland who can trace his ancestry back to 1100, another in Scotland whose research is ‘stuck’ at 1803 and another in South Africa whose ancestor can be traced back to 1795 in Dundee and environs”*.

The results were :-

Person A - South Africa 14 12 23 11 13 13 10 15 12 12

Person B - Proven ancestry Scotland 14 12 23 10 13 13 10 16 12 12

Person C - Scotland 14 12 24 11 14 13 09 16 12 12

As you can see Person A & B are remarkably similar. The interpretation from Oxford Ancestors is as follows:-

- “1) *Person A & Person B's Y-Line signatures differ from each other at two markers, showing that they probably had a Common Paternal Ancestor (CPA) within the last 40 to 60 generations.*
- 2) *Person A & Person C's Y-Line signatures differ from each other at four markers, showing that they probably had a Common Paternal Ancestor (CPA) over 80 generations ago.*
- 3) *Person B & Person C's Y-Line signatures differ from each other at four markers, showing that they probably had a Common Paternal Ancestor (CPA) over 80 generations ago.”*

Not the conclusive result we hoped for and the whole exercise disappointing, but on closer examination, encouraging. It is generally accepted in genealogical circles that the average age for one generation in males, is 25 years. However, any one generation can vary from between 18 and 50 years. If we take the average of 25 years and 40 generations for a possible Common Paternal Ancestor, it brings us to about 1000 AD, a date near enough to the proven 1100 AD ancestry. More data is required to confirm and expand on the hypothesis of relationship, and I feel sure that now this study has been started, many more Ratrays from around the world will take part.

During October I had a conversation with Professor Peter Beighton, Emeritus Professor of Human Genetics at the University of Cape Town. I told him of our test and the rather vague result we received and he has encouraged us most enthusiastically to submit the tests again, saying that this field of research is progressing so rapidly, that whereas in November 2002 it was routine to do a DNA test with 10 markers, in October 2003 it is routine to use 20 markers and not uncommon to use 30. The greater number of markers used, the more conclusive the results.

On a personal note – my research into Ratrays in South Africa continues, but after ten years of producing a newsletter for my particular Ratray family, I am now discontinuing it, mainly due to the apathy of the family, but also because of increased demands upon my time.

For those of you who have never attended a Clan Ratray Gathering, I highly recommend you to make the effort – it is a *very* special experience. For those of you who have attended a previous Gathering, this one promises to be even more exciting and I look forward to meeting you in Scotland again.

Dawn Raimondo – Cape Town, South Africa

Our Stewart Heritage

Lachlan Ratray of Ratray

The Ratrays had been established in the area for more than two hundred years by the time Patrick Ratray of that ilk, the eighth laird, married a Stewart heiress in the early part of the 15th century. Whilst initially increasing the power base of the Ratrays, the links to the Stewarts very nearly resulted in the destruction of the family. The story covers more than a century during which time Ratray lairds married two Stewart heiresses of Royal blood. In order to understand the significance of the story, it is important to explain where the Stewarts came from and their influence on Scotland's history both in local and wider terms.

During the reign of King David I (1124-53), and that of his immediate successors, the Scottish nobility received by royal invitation an influx of Anglo-Norman, Northumbrian, Flemish and Breton baronial blood, among which were the Stewarts, descended from Alan, hereditary Steward of Dol in Brittany, evidently related to the local Breton counts of Dinon, and thus ultimately Ancient Britons in origin.

King Robert the Bruce, the epic hero who liberated Scotland at the decisive battle of Bannockburn in 1314, left daughters by each of his wives, the throne eventually passing through his eldest daughter

Marjorie to her son Robert, seventh hereditary Great Steward of Scotland, who in 1370 became the first Stewart sovereign as King Robert II. The Stewart dynasty lasted for more than three hundred years, James VI of Scotland becoming James I, King of Great Britain in 1603, the last Stewart sovereign being Queen Anne, who died in 1714.

The third Stewart sovereign, King James I, was assassinated in the Black Friar's Monastery in Perth in 1437. The murderers were pursued by a band of loyalists including Robert the Swarthy and John Gorm Stewart, who eventually captured the two main conspirators, Walter, Earl of Atholl and Sir Beaufort Graham, within two miles of Blair Castle at a little rivulet, which to this day is called Graham's Burn on account of that incident. The Earl of Atholl was beheaded at Edinburgh in April 1437, his hoary head fixed on a spear, encircled with a crown of iron, and his titles and extensive estates forfeited.

Sir John Stewart of Balveny was next to be created Earl of Atholl in 1457, James II being his half-brother. Their mother was Lady Jane Beaufort, Dowager Queen of Scots, who selected for her second husband Sir James Stewart, the Black Knight of Lorne, being a handsome, graceful man, their nuptials taking place in 1439. The Dowager Queen bore him three sons and died not long after in 1445. James II gave his half-brother extensive estates and the unique right to grant out land separate from the Crown. What was later to be called the Regality of Atholl consequently became like a kingdom within a kingdom.

The Earl of Atholl had two daughters by his first marriage to Lady Margaret Douglas, eldest daughter of Archibald, fifth Earl of Douglas. He married secondly, Lady Eleonora Sinclair, daughter of William, Earl of Orkney & Caithness, by whom he had two sons and nine daughters. John, second Earl of Atholl, did not enjoy the title a full year, being killed with King James IV and the 'Flowers of the Forest' at the Battle of Flodden in September 1513. John, third Earl of Atholl, succeeded his father and became famous for his great hospitality and his magnificent way of living, more like a sovereign prince than a subject.

Patrick Rattray of that ilk, the eighth laird, married a daughter of James Stewart, who was a son of Alexander Stewart, Earl of Buchan "Wolf of Badenoch", and grandson of Robert II, King of Scots. Patrick died in 1461 and was succeeded by his eldest son, Sir Silvester, who was appointed one of the Scottish ambassadors to negotiate a treaty of peace with England for which he obtained a safe conduct, dated 12th June 1463. He sat in Parliament and was one of the assize at the trial on a charge of treason of

Robert, 2nd Lord Lyle on 22nd March 1481, the King, James III, sitting as judge. He was granted many charters of land, his interests stretching into Atholl territory as far a field as Grandtully and Edradynate in Strathhtay, and became one of the most powerful magnates in the area.

Sir Silvester died in 1496 and was succeeded by his eldest son, Sir John, who in 1488 had the honour of Knighthood conferred upon him by James IV. He married firstly Elizabeth Kennedy, daughter of John, 2nd Lord Kennedy, by whom he had a son John, who predeceased him but left two young daughters, Grisell and Elizabeth, by his marriage to Margaret Abercrombie of Innerpefferay. Sir John married secondly, about 1486, Matilda Johnstoun, by whom he had two sons, Patrick and Silvester. Sir John Rattray of that ilk was one of the many Scots noblemen killed at Flodden in 1513.

Sir John's eldest niece, Grisell, married John, third Earl of Atholl in about 1522, a marriage that brought great distress on her father's family. The traditional account is that the Earl came with a great body of his clan and seized upon the Castle of Rattray and took possession of the family archives and carried away or destroyed all the ancient title deeds of the family. Patrick and his brother, Silvester, retreated to their stronghold at Nether Kinballoch, the Earl keeping possession of the greater part of the estate by a lawless power too common in the times wherein he lived. However, not being content with possessing the majority of the barony of Rattray and many other lands, the Earl was determined to obtain by any means the remaining part of the barony as well as the lands of Kinballoch, the latter that had been in Rattray hands since the 13th century, and so the strife continued.

A Commission of 17th October 1533 shows that Patrick, with his brother Silvester, attended the Court of Session in Perth with an appeal for protection against the Earl of Atholl in order that he might get himself served heir to the estates which fell to him on the death of his father, Sir John, and brother John, which for a period of twelve years the Earl had prevented. This determined appeal to the law was evidently too much for the Earl for, as soon as he heard of it, he sent out a party of his followers including Walter Leslie, John of Lorn and other accomplices with instructions to get rid of the appellant. They came upon Patrick at his house at Nether Kinballoch on the following Friday, 3rd October, and ruthlessly slew him in the adjoining chapel where he had sought sanctuary.

After the murder of his brother, Silvester persisted in his efforts to regain his inheritance in spite of the Earl's murderous threats that if he continued to resist

him he would suffer the same fate as his brother. However, with the assistance of his good friend, David Kininmonth of that ilk, he obtained a Commission from James V under the Great Seal to be served heir to his father and brother at Dundee as the Atholl power was too great at Perth for justice to be done there. By this means the feud was finally settled and on 10th November 1533 Silvester was served heir to his father in the lands of Kinballoch and third part of Haltoun lying within the barony of Kinballoch.

In consequence of the above Commission, Grisell, Countess of Atholl, by a precept of Clare Constat dated at the Castle of Edinburgh on 20th December 1533, granted warrants to her baillies for infesting Silvester, as nearest lawful heir to his brother, John, in the lands of Braidwalls &c., lying in her barony of Rattray.

Andrew Kininmonth's wife, Marjorie, was a first cousin of the Earl of Atholl, and it was probably her influence and that of her mother, Lady Elizabeth Gray, that helped settle the long-standing feud. Lady Elizabeth was the eldest of the first Earl's nine daughters. Andrew Kininmonth died soon thereafter, Silvester marrying his widow, Marjorie, by whom he had three sons and one daughter. He died in 1554 and was succeeded by his eldest son, David, great great grandson of Lady Jane Beaufort, Scotland's Plantagenet Queen and directly descended from King Robert the Bruce.

Nether Kinballoch was re-named Craighall after the Kininmonth family seat in Fife and has been the family home ever since. The Rattrays of Craighall continued to fight their corner during the dangerous times of the 16th century and became staunch Royalists during the equally difficult times of the 17th century. Their loyalty to the Stewart cause was eventually rewarded in 1648 when the ancient Barony of Kinballoch and lands in Rattray and other parishes were united into one free barony to be called the Barony of Craighall-Rattray in all time coming.

Support for the Stewarts, (or Stuarts as they had become through the marriage of Mary, Queen of Scots, to Henry Stuart, Lord Darnley,) continued until 1747 when John Rattray, 'the Golfing Surgeon' was released from house arrest in London in the amnesty of 1747.

Lachlan Rattray. Craighall. 06/12/03

'Notify Alec Rattray'

Article published in the St Andrews Citizen February the 08th 2002.



Captain Duncan and fellow POWs are pictured with one of their Japanese guards.

THE extraordinary wartime story of two St Andrews University undergraduates is told in a new book to be published next Friday (February 15, 2002).

It is based on the archive and correspondence of Atholl Duncan and Elizabeth Glassey, who were engaged to be married in May 1940 before he was posted east in January 1941.

The publication date marks the 60th anniversary of the fall of Singapore - the single biggest defeat in British military history and the event which sealed the fate of hundreds of thousands of Allied troops.

This is not just another POW diary: seldom has the story of the families they left behind been heard as well. Written by Meg Parkes, 'Notify Alec Rattray,' tells a true story of survival, ~coded messages and of the 'captivity' experienced by the relatives left behind in Britain.

An exhibition of items from the archive, including his secret diaries, letters to and from the family, drawings and plans of the camps, will go on display at the University Library in St Andrews, from March 5-30. Captain Duncan and fellow POWs are pictured above with one of their Japanese guards.

Our thanks to all of you who have helped to make this a superb Journal.

You will notice the many articles come from all over the world, in my opinion this is the best journal we have produced so far.

We welcome all articles with a Rattray interest. So please send us your entry.

Editor

Shop account for y/e 31st August 2003

Michael Rattray.

Opening Balance		£189.15
<u>Income</u>		
	Rules of Golf	£25.00
	Whisky miniatures	£104.00
	Bank Interest	£0.39
Closing Balance		£318.54



Michael Rattray at the 2000 Gathering

Another quiet year for sales. The rules of golf were all sold at the second annual golf tournament at Leith Links in Edinburgh. Neither Lachlan or I were able to attend this year to try and win another trophy, but the competition has now been extended to a 2-day event.

I have had about 30 requests during the year from visitors to our website regarding Rattray merchandise and I have directed them all to Piob Mhor. If one puts Clan Rattray into search in the web 10 sites appear and the last one states 'clan crests; badges; plaques; kilt pins, ties, etc.' Clicking onto this brings up a page with our clan crest and about 40 items available from Piob Mhor.

Michael Rattray
22/12/2003

A Voyage with the Royal Canadian Navy in 1944

Norman Rattray

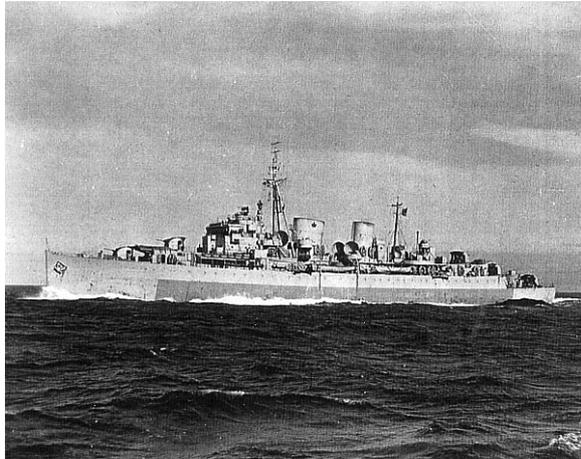
“In the Clan Rattray Journal #6 (September 1998) there was an article about Norman Rattray’s career as a young Purser on the Muskoka Lakes Steamships in Central Ontario.

This story is another aspect of his obvious desire to “go down to sea in Ships.” Following his service on the lake ships and at the earliest age he could enlist (17) he joined the Royal Canadian Navy as an

Ordinary Seaman in March 1944 in the latter years of WWII.

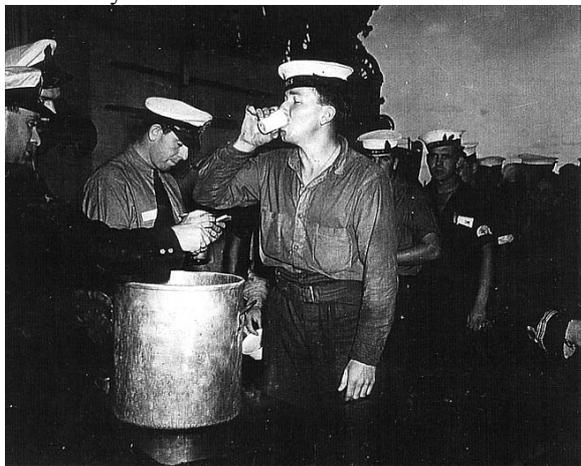
Following basic training at H.M.C.S. York in Toronto, he was drafted to Halifax, Nova Scotia, where he was stuck on Shore Patrol for several months. Just as he was to commence advanced training, VE Day arrived and so he volunteered for the Japanese campaign in the South Pacific. Immediately he was sent to Vancouver, B.C. at the other end of Canada and, following a commando course in hand—to—hand combat, he boarded an Anti--Aircraft Cruiser, H.M.C.S. PRINCE ROBERT, and headed for the South Pacific via San Francisco, Pearl Harbour, Bataan, Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, Leyte, Admiralty Islands, Manila etc.

Later on he discovered that his ship was not too far off the coast of Japan when the A-Bomb was dropped.



HMS Prince Robert During Trials off Vancouver Island.

When in Sydney, Australia, after VJ day it was determined that the PRINCE ROBERT would be sent to Hong Kong to take over from the Japanese and liberate the Canadian POW's. This was deemed appropriate, as the PRINCE ROBERT had actually escorted the Canadian Troops to Hong Kong in 1941, just in time to be over-whelmed by the Japanese invasion and, of course, were cruelly interned for the next four years.



Splicing the Main Brace, Sydney, Australia.

Many did not survive. He personally witnessed the terrible condition of the survivors, many of whom were taken back to Canada on his ship; they told the crew of the unspeakable horrors they had endured under the Japanese.

H.M.C.S. PRINCE ROBERT was a Canadian ship, in an English fleet, under the American command. The take over proceeded with only minor incidents and the peace was signed in Hong Kong



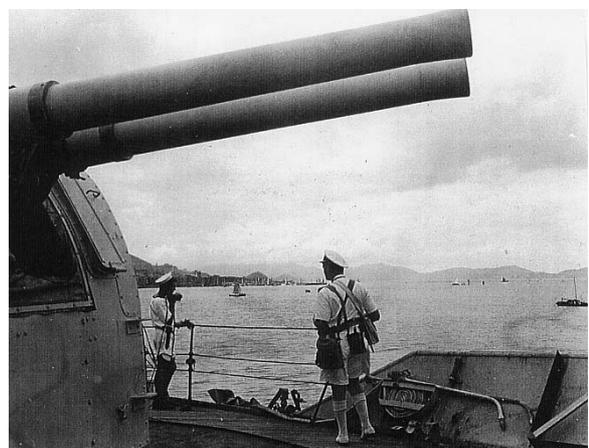
Ratings & Rickshaws in Hong Kong.

with the Captain, Wallace B. Creery, signing on behalf of Canada.



Norman Rattray on Sentry Duty on the jetty at Kowloon at the stern of the Prince Robert and looking across the harbour to Hong Kong.

Norman is shown in the photo (see above), by this time an Able Seaman, guarding the ship at the jetty in Kowloon, looking across the harbour to Hong Kong. The hills shown would today be totally covered with high-rise buildings, as those of you who have been there recently could attest.



Victoria, Hong Kong from Prince Robert showing one of five sets of 4" guns on the ship.

After a few weeks, the long voyage home to Vancouver, Canada commenced, and eventually the crew was discharged and Norman was shipped back to Toronto to commence civilian life.



Landing party taking Japanese officers and car into custody.

He managed to smuggle back in his hammock a Japanese rifle, a Hong Kong Police pistol he took from a Japanese officer, and two samurai swords, as souvenirs.

All of this happened before he reached his 20th birthday. Quite an eventful voyage for a young fellow, wouldn't you say?



"Crossing the Equator" ceremonies

Norman's great—grandfather, Alexander Rattray, emigrated to Toronto, Canada from Kirkmichael in 1840 and raised a family of eight boys and one girl. His only brother, Robert, remained in Kirkmichael and was Jimmy Rattray's (of log Cabin Hotel fame) great—great—grandfather, so Norman is proud to have as his Scottish relatives Jimmy, Wendy and family.

Norman Rattray 6th November 2003

Report from our Web Master.

www.clanrattray.org

Scott Rattray



Scott & Michelle Rattray outside Craighall.

The Clan Rattray website (www.clanrattray.org) continues to generate much interest. Estimated visits are 5000 since the site launched in 2001. Guestbook entries highlight the variety of people that have taken the time to leave a comment for the Society. People continue to thank the Society and its website and for having taught them about their Rattray heritage, with many visitors having said they knew very little about their lineage prior to their visit. As a means of educating Rattrays around the world about the work of the Society and the history of the Clan, the site has been a success. However, if the site is to continue generating new interest and repeat visits, new content is required. Much of the site has remained unchanged since its unveiling. If the Society and its membership wish to maintain the relevance of the site we should seek to provide new content on a regular basis.

To compliment the historical information on the website, it would be ideal to provide information on modern-day Rattrays. Ideally, I would like to showcase members and their families. This could include photos, bios and a brief narrative on the member's specific line of Rattrays. By including modern Rattrays, I think it would do much to demonstrate that the Society is comprised of families with unique stories to tell from around the world and not simply a static source of historical information. So I encourage you to send to me by email (or post) a

photo of your family and any information you feel comfortable sharing. Clan members are also encouraged to send along any interesting news they wish to share with others. If a Rattray (Society member or otherwise) has an interesting story to tell or an accomplishment, the website offers a great means of sharing that with the world.

Finally, the website provides the Society with an effective and economic means of publicizing the 2004 Gathering. I encourage all Society members to direct family members and other Rattray contacts to consult the website for more information on the Gathering as it becomes available.

For all of you that have contributed to the site, we thank you and encourage others to make use of this great resource.

Scott Rattray, Canada, scottmish@rogers.com
09/11/2003

No Vacancies!

Rosemary Rattray

We've given up the B&B. Sold up and moved away and I'd say good riddance – after 7 years I'd had enough – but it WAS good fun.



Rosemary reminiscing with the photo album at the Coach House Killiecrankie Christmas 2003.

We kind of fell into the job – the children were at school in Pitlochry (a very expensive area) and we needed to move there. I had been working at home for a number of years and this seemed like the ideal solution – a way to top up my income and still be able to do my computer work. But it IS hard work – up early for breakfasts EVERY day during the summer, never able to go out until the rooms are taken, no summer holidays and endless ironing....but fun too. We met some lovely people – Stephan and Marieka – he had the shortest shorts I'd ever seen and she was ashamed of her (she thought) poor English

and refused to speak to me until I told her the only phrase I could say in German was "Ich bin nicht Fraulein Meyer" – the French couple who came for the horse trials and who found my very pathetic French quite amusing – a charming Dutch couple who stayed several years in succession to visit elderly friends in Blair Atholl and who enjoyed our attempts to converse with them in Dutch – another Dutch couple with an interest in Scottish country dancing who sent us the instructions for the Killiecrankie Reel and of course all the guests who James insisted on dressing up in his highland plaid – the list is endless but of course there is another end to the scale – the guests who stole the towels, invaded our privacy, blocked the loo, smoked in the rooms.....

The doorbell rang at 3am. The no vacancy sign was up and no light was showing. We tried ignoring it, but it rang and rang. Eventually Rulzion got out of bed and answered the door. "Can you tell us where we can get some petrol?"



Garry House from the Old Main Road North.

Several weeks later, at the end of the season, Rulzion was away on business and I had decided to close for the weekend. Several people had come to the door to ask for rooms that year despite the No Vacancy sign being up, so I decided to print a large CLOSED notice on the computer and attached it to the front door. Then I remembered the petrol incident and wrote on the bottom Please do not ring the bell after 7pm. That'll fix 'em I thought and went off to fetch Lachlann from work. WRONG! As we arrived back, there was a woman studying the notice. She came over as we drew up, a perplexed look on her face. "There's a notice saying closed on the door" she said. "Do you think they're open at all?" Lachlann and I were still giggling half an hour later, when there was a ring on the doorbell. I answered the door. The message I had attached now looked like a speech bubble coming out of my head. "Do you have any vacancies" asked the man standing there. I pointed wordlessly to the notice. "I know" he said, "but it says don't ring the bell after 7pm and it's only quarter to"!!!!



View across the Glen from the Garden.

Mind you, it wasn't always only the guests who behaved irrationally. One very busy morning I was rushing in and out of the dining room, taking orders, serving and trying to cook the breakfast. I plonked the teapot down in front of my French guests and dashed off to rescue the bacon. When I returned, the Frenchman looked a little confused, while an English couple were trying not to laugh. Eventually they told me why – I had forgotten to put the teabags in the pot! Then there was an Austrian couple who seemed a little disgruntled when they checked out. It wasn't until later, when I was cleaning the kitchen that I discovered the reason why – his omelet was still in the warming cupboard!

One day, a couple of very beautiful Swiss girls arrived. They were rather concerned as they had been told that their bank cards would work in the local autotellers, but they had discovered that they didn't. They were fast running out of money and appealed to us to help. Rulzion phoned one of their fathers and arranged for an international bank transfer of funds from his account to our account. When it arrived, Rulzion took the girls to the bank, drew out £800 in cash and thanking them profusely handed the money to them. When he looked round, the bank teller was staring at him open-mouthed! I can't think what she was thinking!

Michael drove a vintage Riley sports car and had come up for a car rally at Blair Atholl. The car (Amy) wasn't running well by the time he got to Garry House, so Rulzion, James and Jimmy from next door all helped him fix her, while I supplied tea and encouragement. Amy was finally ready to go to Blair Atholl next morning and I was rewarded with a ride and Amy a mention in the local paper.

Michael wasn't the only guest with car problems. We smelt the burning oil from Patricia's car long before she drew up in the drive. Rulzion's mechanic cousin Graham was visiting at the time and tried to help, but there was nothing to be done. Patricia was beside herself – her parents were expecting her on the ferry to Ireland the following day and she had no way of contacting them or of getting to Stranraer without her

car. We tried to phone the bus companies but their offices were all closed and as the following day was Sunday, likely to remain so. The weather forecast was good, Rulzion was home for the weekend and I hadn't been out for weeks, so I said if Patricia would pay my petrol, I'd drive her down to Stranraer. She was embarrassingly grateful – insisted on helping me with the breakfasts, buying Lachlann (who'd volunteered to come and keep me company on the drive home) and me coffee on the way and giving me far too much for the petrol. Little did she know that I had a lovely day out and a wonderfully welcome break from routine.

Some of our first guests were Jane and her cousin. In the late afternoon the cousin collared me and asked if I could do anything a bit special for Jane, whose birthday it was the following day and who had recently lost both parents. Lachlann and Morbhen had made friends with some children living just down the road and we all set to with a will. Morbhen and Melissa made birthday cards while I made a cake. Early in the morning, Lachlann and Jayson went out and gathered armfuls of wild flowers and when Jane came down for breakfast, we all marched in singing loudly with our offerings.



Enjoying a barbecue in the garden.

Our very last guests provided perhaps our strangest incident. A young Dutch couple took our last room – a very small twin room. They had asked for a double, but insisted that this room would be OK as it was only for one night. They had an early breakfast and as I was serving some later guests, I saw that their car had gone. I asked the couple I was serving if they had seen them leave. "Oh yes" they said, "they packed up their car and drove off – didn't they pay?". No they didn't. I went up to the room and found it was locked, so I opened it with the pass key. The room was an absolute tip, with clothes strewn about everywhere, suitcases half unpacked, a diary, address book and empty handbag on the bed. When I told Rulzion, he said perhaps they had stolen all the stuff they had left. That seemed logical, so I phoned the police, who came and took a statement and a description of the couple and removed the 'evidence' to the police station. At 7pm, as bold as brass, in walked the Dutch couple!!!! They

had just assumed that they could stay an extra night, without bothering to ask if we had any vacancies for that night! They weren't too pleased to discover that not only did they have to find alternative accommodation for the night but that they first had to go to the police station to retrieve their belongings!

It was a wrench leaving Killiecrankie – it's a beautiful part of the world and we were very happy there. In the 7 years that we ran the B&B we have accommodated a real cross-section of society - black, white, brown, young, old, hetero and homosexual, strangers, friends and relations. We now live just outside Dundee and are planning a loft conversion to make a spare room. Those of you in the last two categories will always be welcome to come and stay – provided you don't take the towels with you!

Rosemary Rattray. Fife. 14/09/03

Rattray's Downunder: Report from New Zealand

Glenda Rattray

Greeting to you all.

There have not been many queries from the New Zealand Rattrays this year the only query was from an Aussie connection where we were able to swap and correct some of our information. I have however made good progress with my own Rattray line after many years of no progress. At last I have found their arrival in NZ in 1880 via Australia, the reason for not locating them on shipping lists. They went from Scotland to Australia on a steam sailing boat the JOHN ELDER arriving in Melbourne in February 1880. Andrew, Ann Alex and Robert Page Rattray. The then boarded the RINGAROOMA, a steamer for NZ arriving in Lyttleton (the port for Christchurch) in March 1880. Progress too has been made on their employment in NZ and the setting up of business from Confectionary business to catering to Hotel management in the family until 1980's. I havent however found out what happened to Andrew, the machine maker in Scotland, then miner, from his shipping records. I often wonder if he sent letters back to Dundee to the mother and siblings who stayed behind. Something I will have to check out when I get to Scotland.

My other Scottish interest this year, which has totally captured my imagination, has been the migration of over 900 Scots from mostly Sutherlandshire to Nova Scotia and then to New Zealand over a forty year period until 1859. When they wanted to travel they built a boat. They were treated like Noah, laughed at, scoffed at but they succeeded and in their many travels were safe. It has set me to reading about the Highland Clearances; the devastation this brought to families, the hardship and heartbreak that occurred

when families had their homes burned over them; looms burned with the almost completed tartan not able to be retrieved, their livelihoods destroyed in front of their eyes, the cruelty shown by men who were more interested in sheep than people. Despite the hardships these broken people were able to build new lives in many different places around the world. They went from being slaves to Scottish landlords in desolate country areas to landowner of rich lands providing a far better future for succeeding generations than many would have been able to if they had stayed put in extreme poverty in Scotland. Some made incredible journeys to unknown places, some perished on the way. The survivors have told incredible stories. On my journey to the 2004 Gathering I want to revisit the journey, in reverse, that this very large band of people made from Scotland to Cape Breton to New Zealand, their 40 years in the wilderness literally, finally reaching their promised land. Hopefully it will be a photographic journey of where these people went. I don't know if there were any Rattrays in this migration, I am not sure the Rattray's would have been welcome in McLeod territory in the Clan warfare days. I have no knowledge of how the Rattray's fared in the Clearances. Perhaps my Dundee line where some of the weavers removed from their crofts who set up their weaving with the many others in Dundee. I have never been able to trace my Andrew Rattray line past 1817 about the time of the clearances, perhaps this is their story. I will find out yet!

See you all in September 04 I hope,

Glenda Rattray
Rattray's of New Zealand
Christchurch

AYLMER RATTRAYS

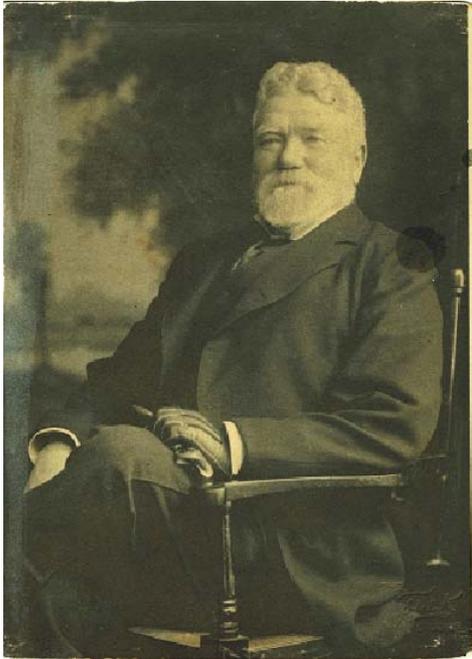
Mark Rattray

Our family are descendants of James Rattray who arrived at Port Chalmers, Dunedin in 1860.

James was born at Stirling in 1827, youngest of a family of seven. His father, also James, after seven years with the 'Dumbarton Fencibles', became a timber merchant but the family traces its origins to the Craighall House and Estate. James began his working life at the National Bank of Scotland in 1842 but after a number of years decided that his future lay in business.

Attracted by the goldmines of Australia, he emigrated to Melbourne in 1853. Unsuccessful as a miner, he found that experienced bankers were in high demand and by 1856 had become the chief accountant of the Colonial Bank of Australia. The next year he fulfilled his ambition to enter business after an offer from FG Dalgety to join his firm at Geelong. Dalgety's were

stock and station agents and in 1860 opened branches in Canterbury and Otago, NZ. James was a partner in the new enterprise, responsible for opening the Dunedin office. In 1861 he met and married Kate Aylmer whose father was the first Anglican Vicar of Akaroa, near Christchurch. His father, in turn, was Sir Fenton Aylmer, 7th Baronet of Donadea in County Kildare.



James Rattray born at Stirling in 1827.

In 1870 Dalgety decided to amalgamate the NZ business with his Australian company and manage both from his London office. Unimpressed with the new arrangement, James left Dalgety's in 1874 taking many of his clients with him and began trading as J Rattray & Co, wholesale merchants and importers. In fourteen years in Otago, James had seen a massive transformation in Dunedin. His new business was one of a number of importing houses, which were to make Dunedin the import centre of New Zealand.

James Rattray died in 1905. His son Charles, who had joined his father in partnership in 1888, converted the business into a limited liability company, J A Rattray & Sons, the 'A' recognising the Aylmer lineage. This issued in a new era of expansion with branches being established throughout the South Island. In 1959 the company was listed on the New Zealand Stock Exchange. Under CTA (Tim) Rattray's guidance, the company, through mergers and acquisitions, became a major force in foodstuffs on the South Island before being acquired itself and now, sadly, in the middle part of this year, the last remnants of the company have been extinguished.



Nevertheless, the contribution of James Rattray to the development of Otago and Canterbury is evidenced by Rattray Streets in both Dunedin and Christchurch and 'Rattray's' remains a household name to many South Islanders.

Mark Rattray. New Zealand. 31/11/03

Canadian Soldiers of the First World War

Charles Bird

If one does an internet search at http://www.archives.ca/02/02010602_e.html, one can come up with a list of all of the individuals that signed up for service in Canada in World War I, most of them as members of the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force. One comes up with a two sided form, the first side has Regimental Number, surname, given name, present address, place of birth, name of next of kin, that person's address, that person's relationship, date of birth, occupation, married or single, previous military service, date and place of Attestation; the second side has apparent age, height, girth of chest when fully expanded, range of chest expansion, complexion, eye color, hair color, any distinctive marks and Religious Denomination. Full information has been added to the Clan Rattray Database. The following is a list of those with the surname Ratterree and Rattray found at the site along with some of the major points.

Ratterree, William Luther – Regimental # 2621870; born 19 Sep 1917, Montreal, Quebec; occupation miner; next of kin Mrs. Nettie Means sister, her

- address S. Arizona St., Butte, Montana; Attestation Paper signed 27 Sep 1917, Calgary, Alberta.
- Ratray, Albert Victor – Regimental # 466689; born 9 Mar 1887, Durham Co., England; occupation teamster; next of kin Florence Ratray wife, her address 1210796th St., Edmonton, Alberta; Attestation Paper signed 19 Jul 1915, Edmonton, Alberta.
- Ratray, Alexander – Regimental # 153469; born 3 Aug 1876, New Pitsligo, Aberdeenshire; occupation stone mason; next of kin Mrs. Maggie Ratray wife, her address 79 Clifton St., Winnipeg, Manitoba; Attestation Paper signed 13 Jul 1915, Winnipeg, Manitoba.
- Ratray, Alexander – Regimental # 636219; born 6 Apr 1883, Scotland; occupation laborer; next of kin Jane Ratray wife, her address Hillier, Ontario; Attestation Paper signed 6 Jun 1916, Wellington, Ontario.
- Ratray, Alexander Cruickshank – Regimental # 907465; born 6 Aug 1884, Co. Kerry, Ireland; occupation accountant; next of kin David Millar Ratray father, his address Gornaskeky, Ballybunion, Ireland; Attestation Paper signed 22 Mar 1916, Regina, Saskatchewan.
- Ratray, Annie – Regimental # not given; born 29 Dec 1884, Portsmouth, Ontario; occupation Professional nurse; next of kin Rev. James Ratray father, his address Tweed, Ontario; Officer's Declaration Paper signed 21 Nov 1917, Kingston, Ontario.
- Ratray, Archie – Regimental # 904212; born 1 Oct 1885, Roberts, Wisconsin; occupation mechanical engineer; next of kin Mrs. Olga Ratray wife, her address not given; Attestation Paper signed 7 Feb 1916, Edmonton, Alberta.
- Ratray, Bert – Regimental # 101648; born 8 Jul 1890, Wisconsin; occupation engineer; next of kin Mrs. Richard Bagnell mother, her address Beach P.O., North Dakota; Attestation Paper signed 3 Feb 1916, Edmonton, Alberta.
- Ratray, Charles – Regimental # 117495; born 14 Jun 1887, Edinburgh, Scotland; occupation rancher; next of kin Robert Ratray father, his address 11 Plewlands Terrace, Morningside, Edinburgh, Scotland; Attestation Paper signed 11 Jun 1915, Calgary, Alberta.
- Ratray, Charles – Regimental # 811616; born 21 Oct 1891, Kinell, Forfarshire, Scotland; occupation laborer; next of kin Annie Ratray wife, her address Lavoy, Alberta; Attestation Paper signed 4 Jan 1916, Edmonton, Alberta.
- Ratray, Lieut. Edward Ernest Benson – Regimental # not given; born 23 Feb 1879, Quebec City, Quebec; occupation merchant and wholesale grocer; next of kin Mrs. Frances Marion Ratray wife, her address 271 St. Cyrille St., Quebec City, Quebec; Officers' Declaration Paper signed 6 Mar 1916, Quebec City, Quebec.
- Ratray, George Thomas – Regimental # 511269; born 7 Aug 1895, Ballybunion, County Kerry, Ireland; occupation police constable; next of kin David Millar Ratray father, his address Ballybunion, County Kerry, Ireland; Attestation Paper signed 23 Feb 1916, Regina, Saskatchewan.
- Ratray, Harry Hutton – Regimental # 3186629; born 20 Mar 1897, Hazel Hill, Guysboro Co., Nova Scotia; occupation cable operator; next of kin David Ratray father, his address Hazel Hill, Guysboro Co., Nova Scotia; Attestation Paper signed 28 May 1918, Aldershot, Nova Scotia.
- Ratray, James – Regimental # 466192; born 11 Aug 1878, Lanarkshire, Scotland; occupation miner; next of kin Mrs. James Ratray wife, her address 922 Aberdun St., Medicine Hat, Alberta; Attestation Paper signed 12 Jul 1915, Medicine Hat, Alberta.
- Ratray, Lieut. James Halliday – Regimental # 1335; born 20 Dec 1887, Portsmouth, Ontario; occupation mining engineer; next of kin Rev. James Ratray father, his address Tweed, Ontario; Attestation Paper signed 7 Jan 1915, Tweed, Ontario.
- Ratray, Lt. Col. John Grant – no Regimental # given; born 15 Jan 1867, Banffshire, Scotland; occupation land inspector; next of kin Emily Ratray wife, her address Pipestone, Manitoba; Attestation Paper signed 21 Sep 1914, Vancouver, B.C.
- Ratray, Joseph – Regimental # 63744; born 27 Jan 1880, Pitlochry, Perthshire; occupation brick layer; next of kin Margaret Ratray wife, her address 78 St. Emilie St., Montreal, Quebec; Attestation Paper signed 21 Nov 1914, Montreal, Quebec.
- Ratray, Maurice – Regimental # 129646; born 28 Feb 1894, St. Paul, Minnesota; occupation shipper; next of kin W.A. Ratray father, his address Mission City, B.C.; Attestation Paper signed 25 Sep 1915, Vancouver, B.C.
- Ratray, Norman – Regimental # 40574; born 22 Jun 1886, Melrose, Tyendinaga Twp., Ontario; occupation accountant; next of kin Rev. James Ratray father, his address Tweed, Ontario; Attestation Paper signed 14 Sep 1914, Val Cartier, Quebec.
- Ratray, Stephen – Regimental # 736964; born 22 Dec 1884, Edinburgh, Scotland; occupation second victualer; next of kin Mrs. Stephen Ratray wife, her address home of Mrs. Ironside, 6 Graham Place, Dundee, Scotland; Attestation Paper signed 17 Apr 1916, Calgary, Alberta.
- Ratray, Thomas – Regimental # 904946; born 7 Sep 1896, Pipestone, Manitoba; occupation farmer; next of kin James T. Ratray father, his address Killam, Alberta; Attestation Paper signed 3 Apr 1916, Edmonton, Alberta.
- Ratray, Wilbert – Regimental # 2203371, born 24 Oct 1872, Edinburgh, Scotland; occupation architect;

next of kin Madge Rattray wife, her address Box 446, Vancouver, B.C.; Attestation Paper signed 26 Feb 1917, Vancouver, B.C.

Rattray, William Alexander – Regimental # 506183; born 15 May 1872, Normandy, France; occupation machinist; next of kin Mary H. Rattray wife, her address 202 Shaugnessy Lodge, Vancouver, B.C.; Attestation Paper signed 14 Sep 1916, North Vancouver, B.C.

Rattray, William Brown – Regimental # A35274; born 21 Feb 1880, New Pitsligo, Aberdeenshire; occupation clerk; next of kin Georgina K. Rattray wife, her address 232 2nd Ave. W, Calgary, Alberta; Attestation Paper signed 5 Jun 1915, Calgary, Alberta.

Rattray, William Jordan – Regimental # 9362; born 7 Jun 1879, Toronto, Ontario; occupation mechanic; next of kin Johanna Rattray mother, her address 766 Dovercourt Rd., Toronto; Attestation Paper signed 20 Nov 1916, Toronto.

Charles Bird, (volunteer Genealogist),
Clan Rattray Society.Canada.14/11/03.

Floating Mountain

Mark Rattray



A view of Floating Mountain Vineyard.

Floating Mountain is a small, artisan vineyard and winery located in the Waipara Valley, 60kms north of Christchurch on New Zealand's South Island. Owned and operated by Mark & Michelle Rattray, it is a continuation of Mark's life-long passion for wine and thirty-year involvement in the New Zealand wine industry. During this time, he has made wine for a number of companies including Montana Wines, and helped launch several new wineries. In the early '70's, he owned a small vineyard in Germany's Rheingau region. His wines are marketed worldwide and direct to New Zealand's finest restaurants and lodges.



Mark Rattray Checking progress of the grapes.

A full background can be obtained at www.floatingmountain.com

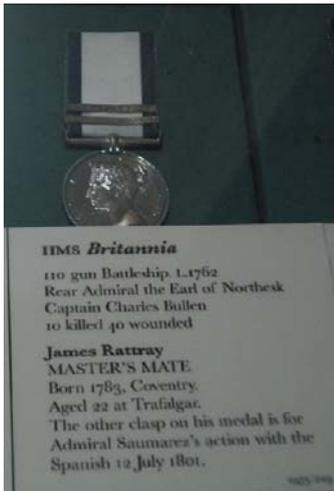
Mark Rattray. New Zealand. 31/11/03

Admiral James Rattray at the Battle of Trafalgar

Hugh Rattray

For some time we had been planning to make a family trip to the naval dockyard in Portsmouth so that we could visit HMS Victory and Henry VIII's ship, the Mary Rose. Last April we finally got round to making the journey. I had last visited HMS Victory as a child and had remembered the occasion as a fascinating one. I had also heard a lot about the raising of the Mary Rose and the fantastic artefacts that were found with her.

After touring the Mary Rose and the Victory, which fully lived up to expectations, we popped into the museum nearby. I had been aware that Admiral James Rattray had served on the Britannia at the battle of Trafalgar early in his career but I was very pleasantly surprised when I looked at the display of service medals and saw that his campaign medal was on display. (See photo.) I have also included a photo of the position of the Britannia at the commencement of the action. The Britannia was a flagship for Rear Admiral The Earl Of Northesk.



James Rattray's medal from Trafalgar with Clasp.

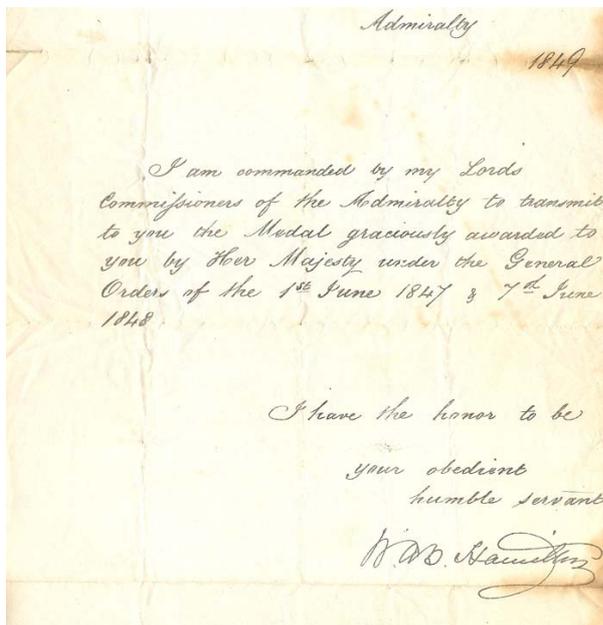
James Rattray was my great-grandfather's uncle and was born in 1786 according to our records (although the inscription with the medal suggests he was born in 1783). He lived in Barford House in Warwickshire. His family was considered "the handsomest in the County". [Letters of Henrietta Rattray to her sons in India 1800-1814.] So I presume that he gained a considerable amount of prize money from the Battle of Trafalgar and other encounters!!!

plan to invade southern England by crossing the Channel in a specially constructed invasion flotilla. He attempted to concentrate his battle fleets in the mouth of the Channel to overwhelm the British defenders.

His plan was thwarted by skilful moves by the Royal Navy and the combined French and Spanish fleets were forced to take shelter in Cadiz. A furious Napoleon abandoned his invasion plans. He turned his army around and marched on Austria.



Hugh (Left back) Patrick and Rhiannon, with HMS Victory in the background.

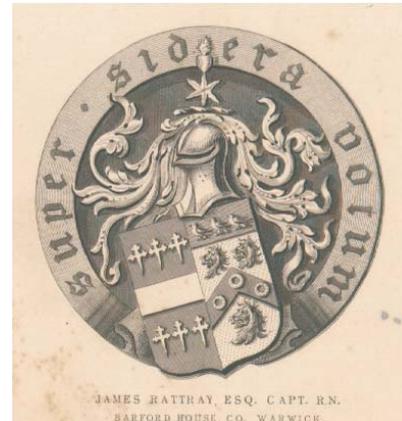


Copy of the letter sent to James Rattray notifying him that he had been awarded the Trafalgar medal.

The following description is courtesy of www.seabritain.com

The battle of Trafalgar, 21st October 1805:

The French Emperor Napoleon, victorious all over Europe, wished to eliminate his most constant opponent – Great Britain. He devised an ambitious



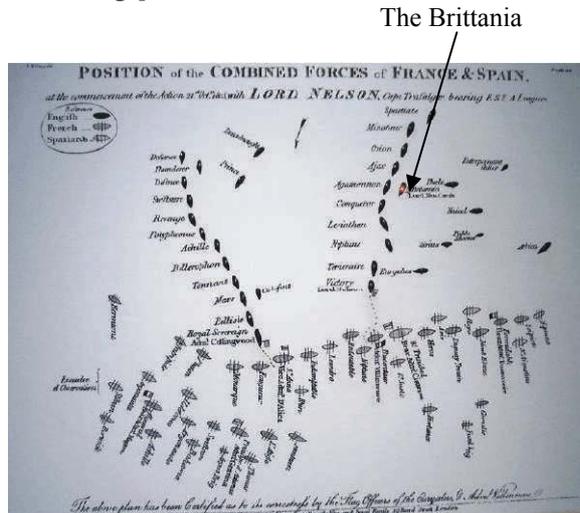
Admiral Rattray's personal coat of arms.

Nelson was one of the Royal Navy's most brilliant commanders at that time. He arrived to take command with a special battle plan, 'The Nelson Touch', which he shared with his excited captains.

He aimed to bring overwhelming force to bear on one part of the enemy's line, to crush it as quickly as possible. To do this he planned to attack in two divisions, splitting his opponent's line into segments. One segment would be dealt with by half of the British fleet, while the other half kept the remaining enemy ships out of the battle.

The battle

[The *Britannia* (with James Rattray) was in Nelson's line. – Hugh]



The battle unfolded as Nelson had planned. The British attacked in two lines aiming at right angles to the allied (French and Spanish) line. One British division, under Vice Admiral Cuthbert Collingwood, enveloped the allied rear, crushing it with superior gunfire. The other, under Nelson, smashed through the allied centre cutting it in two and preventing the unengaged half of their fleet from helping their comrades.

Of the 33 French and Spanish allied battleships that began the battle 18 were either captured or destroyed.
Hugh Rattray 28th December 2003

Cathy Ord (nee Rattray) overpowered an intruder with “Kindness”.

Scott Rattray writes ‘I came across this article involving my Dad’s first cousin. It turns out that Cathy Ord (Nee Rattray) living in Florida has been all over the US news for serving a home intruder a sandwich and some rum thus averting a robbery and resulting in the burglar’s capture.

Oct. 30 2003 — After a man wielding a sawed-off shotgun smashed his way into their home Tuesday night, two Carrollwood, Fla., women kept their cool and overpowered the intruder with “kindness.”

‘He said he wouldn’t harm us unless we did something smart.’ — Rose Bucher.

Cathy Ord, 60, and Rose Bucher, 63, said they offered the man a ham sandwich with pickles, a bottle of rum and a shower, even providing him with a disposable razor to shave off his scruffy beard, the Tampa Tribune reported Thursday.

They also chatted amiably with the man and agreed to call him a cab when he indicated he was ready to leave. But when the sated “guest” fell asleep while awaiting the cab, they called sheriff’s deputies, who arrested the man, the newspaper said.

Ord and Bucher said they were watching TV about 9:30 p.m. on Tuesday when the man shattered a kitchen window and then walked into the dining room with a shotgun that he leveled at Ord.

“He said he wouldn’t harm us unless we did something smart,” Bucher told the newspaper.

Rather than panic, the women offered the man a sandwich and a bottle of rum, which he promptly consumed. Later, they suggested he use their shower and shave off his beard. He did so, emerging every minute with a towel wrapped around him to make sure the women weren’t calling police, the Tribune said.

Shortly after 3 a.m., the man asked the women to call him a cab, and the women did so. When the cabbie called to say he was having trouble finding the house, the gunman allowed Ord to go outside to flag the taxi. When she returned, the man was snoring peacefully, apparently the victim of too much rum.

After hearing of their ordeal, the cabdriver called 911 and Hillsborough County sheriff’s deputies soon swooped down on the home to arrest the man.

Alfred Joseph Sweet, a 42-year-old homeless man, remained in jail without bail on Wednesday on charges of home invasion and false imprisonment, the newspaper reported.

Scott Rattray. Canada.05/11/03

Tyla Rattray is a world class motocross racer

Dear James,
We have been following developments on the Clan Rattray website with some interest. Our interest stems from the fact that we have sponsored and supported a



young South African, Tyla Rattray, in the world sports arena for some years. Tyla is a world class motocross racer, and finished 6th in the 125cc motocross world championships in 2003. He is a strong contender to become world champion in this demanding sport in



2004, and we are naturally keen to have news of his achievements spread as far and wide as possible. We would indeed be honoured if you could feature some news of this remarkable young sportsman on your website, and we would be happy to include you in our news list so that you may receive regular updates of his progress. We are sure that Tyla will do his family name proud in years to come. Please let us know if there are any other clan members that we should include in our news list. We thank you for your kind attention, and look forward to hearing from you. If you would like to get more information on Tyla, please visit his website on www.stylamx.com

Yours sincerely
 Tinus Nel -2nd January 2004



James and Kathleen in their garden in Killiecrankie.

Great News from Killiecrankie.

On Friday 15th August 2003 James and Kathleen were married with a quiet ceremony taking place in Pitlochry. I am sure all in the Clan society will join with me in wishing them all the best wishes for the future.

Editor.

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