



# Clan MacKenzie Society in the Americas



## Cabar Feidh

The Canadian Chapter Magazine

June 2003

ISSN 1207-7232

### In This Issue:

<b>History of the Mackenzies - Part 13</b> . . . . .	1 - 7
New Members . . . . .	7
Letters to the Editor . . . . .	7 - 8
Events in 2003 . . . . .	8
Proposed Clan MacKenzie Library . . . . .	8
New Zealand Clan Gatherings . . . . .	8 - 11
Kildonan, Canada and New Zealand . . . . .	11 - 12
More on Thomas Urquhart McKenzie . . . . .	12
400th Anniversary of the Union of Scottish and English Crowns . . . . .	12 - 13
<b>Pedigrees of the Early Mackenzie Chiefs - Part 1 . . . 13 - 14</b>	
Glory of Poolewe - poem . . . . .	14
Alberta Happenings . . . . .	15
The Real McKenzies . . . . .	15
Sir Alexander Mackenzie's Grave . . . . .	15
An Incident in Scotland . . . . .	16
Book Review by Ken Mackenzie-Smith . . . . .	16
McKenzies in a Champion Pipe Band . . . . .	16 - 17
Other Clan Articles . . . . .	17 - 20

### HISTORY OF THE MACKENZIES

### CHAPTER 13

### THE JACOBITE ATTEMPT OF 1719

In November 1890 the British Museum obtained a book of letters of the second Duke of Ormonde, which were written between November 14, 1718 and September 27, 1719. Most of the letters were written to Cardinal Alberoni or Prince James Francis Edward Stuart, otherwise known to history as the Old Pretender, or to the Jacobites as King James the VIII of Scotland and III of England. The contents of these letters related to the projected invasion of Britain in 1719 on behalf of the exiled Stuarts, which eventually led to a landing in the West Highlands. The result was the ill-fated Battle of Glenshiel.

As a consequence of the finding of these papers, the Scottish History Society produced them and updated the account of the

abortive 1719 uprising in a book for their members in December 1895, entitled *The Jacobite Attempt of 1719*. This attempt is a most important one from a Mackenzie perspective, as the clan chief, William Mackenzie, the 5th Earl of Seaforth, was one of the principal leaders of this uprising in Scotland. It led to his exile. It also resulted in the destruction of the Mackenzie's historical stronghold, Eilean Donan Castle and it was the main reason that the Mackenzie clan played such a minor role in the '45 rebellion, twenty-six years later.

Among the almost 300 letters and papers reproduced by the Scottish History Society, there is only one from the Earl of Seaforth himself, and a mighty strange letter it is, written as it was only two months after the Battle of Glenshiel.

The history of the 1719 uprising started far from the Highlands of Scotland and was immersed in the complexities of European politics.

James Butler, Duke of Ormonde, had been Captain General in the English army, in succession to the famous Duke of Marlborough. He went on to become one of the leaders of the Tory party in England. Ormonde became deeply implicated in the plot to bring over James Stuart from France following the death of James' sister, Queen Anne in 1714. Queen Anne was the last surviving Stuart sovereign, except for the ambitions of Catholic James. Ormonde rightly felt that James was the legitimate heir to the throne as the son of his father James VII and II, who was forced to abdicate his throne because of his Roman Catholic religion in 1688 in favour of the joint sovereigns, William of Orange and his wife, Queen Mary. Mary was not only the wife of William of Orange but also the daughter of James VII and II. There is no question that in accordance with the rules of inheritance, James VIII and III was the legitimate king of both England and Scotland. It must be said, however, that James could have made his path to the throne a less difficult one had he been prepared to renounce his Roman Catholic religion and to have made a statement to that effect. But James was not prepared to depart from his religious beliefs and an antagonistic Britain was not overly sympathetic to him because of his dogmatism. Thus politics came into play and the German, King George I was placed on the throne of Britain. Outraged Scots rallied to the cause of the Jacobite rebellion of

### Cabar Feidh Newsletter:

Members who wish to write to the Society with contributions to the Newsletter please send submissions to The Editor, Clan MacKenzie Society, 580 Rebecca St., Oakville, ON L6K 3N9. or e-mail to [alan@mkz.com](mailto:alan@mkz.com)

1715 which fizzled out following the indecisive battle at Sheriffmuir.

A further complication to the attempt to put the Stuarts back on the throne was that in 1707 an Act of Union brought England and Scotland together as a single country, Great Britain. The Union was disliked by many on both sides of the border and did little, initially, to remove the dislike that the English and Scots had for each other. Some Scots hoped that a Stuart monarch would renounce the Act of Union and make Scotland an independent nation once more. Whatever their respective motives, the plotters plotted and Britain became a place of intrigue, a place full of spies and secret agents, with government informers everywhere seeking to find out what was going on. Most of the intrigues took place in Europe with or without the support of foreign princes or prime ministers, each of whom had their own secret political reasons for supporting or not supporting the Jacobite cause. Many promises were made and broken and the history of the Jacobite rebellions is filled with outrageous promises of huge armies, massive arms shipments and boat loads of gold to finance risings in both England and Scotland. Constantly the promises were not fulfilled. Sometimes these were due to a change of political fortune, sometimes an assassination, sometimes bad weather, but always, bad luck! Against this background we have the Jacobites divided amongst themselves and often having personal motives in opposition to the general good. The English Jacobites, for their part, simply failed to produce the necessary numbers of men to make the uprisings succeed and the Scottish Jacobites also had to fight clans and countrymen loyal to the House of Hanover. It was a sorry catalogue of missed opportunities for a cause which could have been won with better planning, better leadership and better co-operation.

Once it was discovered that Ormonde was implicated in the plot to re-establish the Stuarts, a move was immediately made to impeach him. He fled to France in August, 1715 and worked for the Jacobite cause from that base. King Louis XIV, the Catholic monarch of a powerful country, had been supportive towards James, whose exiled court was domiciled in France. Unfortunately Louis died in September 1715 and French politics changed in favour of friendship with England. James was forced to leave France after his return from Scotland following the ill-fated upris-

ing in 1715, and he moved to the Papal dominions, where he remained for the rest of his life.

The Jacobites plotted other attempts to unseat King George from the throne and sought the help of Sweden, who promised to land 12,000 Swedish troops in Scotland in support of a Jacobite uprising in England. King Charles XII of Sweden was to lead his troops in person and substantial financial support was to be forthcoming from Cardinal Alberoni and Spain. The attempt came to naught when secret papers were seized which disclosed the intrigue and effectively ended that initiative.

The next scheme involved a proposed marriage between James and one of the daughters or nieces of Tsar Peter to gain thereby Russian support against King George. Ormonde failed in this attempt, though the Earl of Mar was able to announce that a bride had been found for the Jacobite King James in the person of Princess Maria Clementina Sobieski, a granddaughter of the King of Poland.

The Jacobites continued their plotting and discovered a strong ally in Spain in the guise of Cardinal Giulio Alberoni, who had become the absolute master of Spain and was now having problems with the English navy under Sir George Byng. Byng was under orders to protect Italy from attack by Spain. Byng completely destroyed the Spanish fleet much to the great fury of Alberoni who decided to hit back at the British via military support for the exiled House of Stuart. The further plan was that Ormonde, with his military reputation and personal popularity in England was the man to lead such an expedition. Ormonde's letters commence at this point, from November 4, 1718. Ormonde met with Alberoni in Madrid and the plans for an expedition were discussed and relayed to James. These plans included sending many thousands of Spanish and Swedish troops plus enormous numbers of muskets to arm the English Jacobites, with landings in the west of England and also the Highlands of Scotland where the Jacobite support was strongest.

Two things happened to put a dent in these plans. First the political involvement of Spain in France's affairs led to France declaring war on Spain on 9th January, 1719. With Spain now at war with England, Italy and France, Alberoni was very restricted in the amount of support he

could now give to the Jacobite adventure. The second setback was the assassination of Charles XII of Sweden. He had been a strong opponent of King George I and his death now led to a change of policy in Sweden's previously hostile attitude to Britain.

Ormonde next invited George Keith, the 10th Earl Marischal to join the cause and he agreed to do so and was accompanied by his younger brother, James Keith, who was to go on to achieve fame as a Field Marshal in later years. The Earl Marischal was provided with two frigates and two thousand muskets plus a supply of money and ammunition. In addition a small body of Spanish troops were sent with the Earl to Scotland, where it was expected that the Highlanders would flock to the standard of King James VIII & III. The Earl Marischal set sail on 8th March 1719 with letters from the Duke of Ormonde to the Duke of Gordon, Glengarry, Maclean of Brolas and Donald Macdonald of Benbecula, the cousin of Clanranald.

The main force was to go with Ormonde and he waited for the fleet of five warships and 22 other ships with 5000 troops and arms for 30,000 more. This fleet left Cadiz on 7th March. But the government in England had plenty of warning from its informers that such an invasion was being attempted and put out a price of £5,000 for the capture of Ormonde.

Unfortunately for Ormonde, he waited in vain for the ships and the troops since terrible storms scattered the fleet and caused the loss of many lives. An attempt to send a further fleet was abandoned and all hopes for a successful rising now rested with the Earl Marischal and his tiny invasion force, now making its way to Scotland.

The Earl Marischal's Spanish force comprised a total of 307 men which included 18 officers. Young James Keith was dispatched to France, now an enemy country, to advise the Jacobites there of the intended expedition. At Bordeaux he met with General Gordon, Brigadier Campbell and some others to whom he gave money so that they could hire ships to get to Scotland. At Orleans he met with the Marquis of Tullibardine and they travelled together to Paris.

It was in Paris that Keith and Tullibardine met up with the Marquis of Seaforth, (he had been made a Marquis by James in the Jacobite peerage), and

Seaforth brought with him a brother of Lord Duffus. Shortly afterwards they were joined by Campbell of Glendaruel. Keith reports:

politics were being played in a game in which the Scots were required to work together if they were to stand any chance of success whatsoever in the light of the enormous odds against them.

This mixed party left Havre on 19th March in a small barque, the *Fidele*. They arrived in Mackenzie territory on the Isle of Lewis, just narrowly avoiding capture by the British fleet which was on the alert, having received intelligence of the proposed uprising.

The Earl Marischal was already in Lewis and his two frigates were at anchor in Stornoway. Tullibardine had in fact received his commission from General Arthur Dillon who was at James' court at St Germain's.

However, Tullibardine did not advise the Earl Marischal of this commission and, as the Earl was the senior major-general present, he took command accordingly. A council of war was held at which the Earl Marischal expressed the need to land on the mainland of Scotland and make a dash to Inverness, where they would seize the garrison. Tullibardine

advised against this saying that they should remain in Lewis and wait for Ormonde to arrive with his forces in England. It was decided to head for the mainland.

The next day Tullibardine requested a meeting of the council of war at which he made a speech, "which nobody understood but himself" and produced his commission appointing him as Lieutenant-General of James' forces in Scotland. Marischal accordingly resigned command, except for the ships, which had been committed to him personally by Alberoni. Once again Tullibardine and Glendaruel stressed the need to remain in Lewis, but others protested so strongly that the Earl Marischal's views prevailed and they set sail from Lewis on April 4th with the intention of landing in Kintail, which was considered safe as it was also Seaforth's property. Bad winds prevented them from reaching Kintail so they disembarked in Gairloch, which was loyal Mackenzie territory.

Seaforth himself was very wary of the proposed rising in Scotland. He was of the strong belief that until there was evidence of strong support with Ormonde landing in England with his army the Highlanders would not wish to risk all so soon after the last abortive attempt of 1715. However despite these grave misgivings Seaforth "with the greatest difficulty . . . was persuaded to move." Lord Seaforth declared that his mind was still the same as it had been when they were in Lewis:

"...thinking it folly and distraction to stir without a landing in England, and the Gentlemen of his name agreed that all their endeavours would be to no purpose for men could not be brought in earnest to the field before that time..."

Glendaruel was dispatched from Gairloch with messages to the Highland chiefs announcing the arrival of the expedition. The ships left Gairloch on the 6th but continuous storms drove them all the way back to Lewis and it was not until April 13th that they landed on the shores of Loch Alsh.

The next day Glendaruel returned with the response from the Highlanders that they were ready to rise in support of King James as soon as they had confirmation of Ormonde's landing in England. Lockhart of Carnwath sent a note to the Earl Marischal with his views on what ought to be done:

"...it is thought proper that the Earl Marischal should publish a manifesto, in which, after having enumerated the many grievances attending the Union, such as the decay of trade, and the violation of the Scots' liberties and civil rights, etc, he should declare that it is the King's (James VIII) intention to restore his Scots' subjects to their ancient rights and independent state. And that he himself and those with him appear in arms as well to redeem the nation as restore the King, and that he does thereby invite all his fellow subjects to contribute towards so just, honourable, and necessary an undertaking. And in this manifesto, assurance should be given that a Scots Parliament will be invited to meet as soon as the posture of affairs will allow the same to assemble, that such laws may be therein made and passed as shall be judged necessary for settling the peace and tranquillity of the nation and securing the liberties and religion of the same..."



*William Mackenzie, 5th Earl of Seaforth (and Marquis of Seaforth in the Jacobite peerage)*

"I told them the reason of my coming, and showed them the short credentials I had brought from the Duke of Ormonde. Glendaruel smiled at reading them, and told me that the billet would have been of little weight with them, had they not been already advertised by the Duke of Marr to obey what orders the Duke of Ormonde should send. This plainly let me see that we had two factions amongst us, and which proved the occasion of our speedy ruin when we landed in Scotland."

Glendaruel was secretly anxious to gain a commission for Tullibardine as the commander in chief of the forces, since he felt comfortable that he could direct the easy-going Tullibardine for his own ends. On the other hand, Glendaruel was not on good terms with General Gordon and wished to ensure that the military control did not fall into his hands. Thus underlying



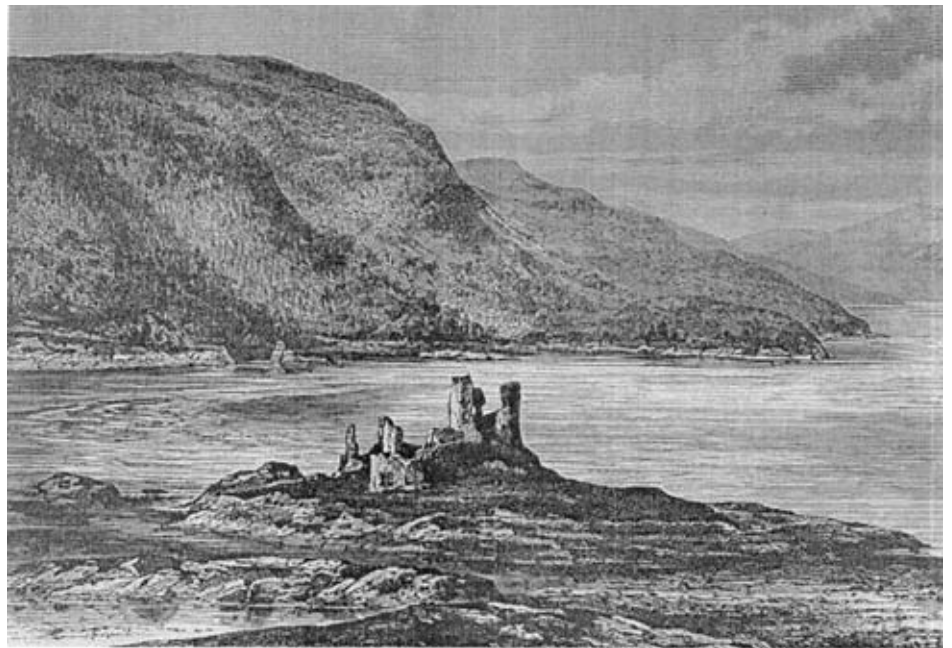
The Marquis of Seaforth undertook to raise 500 men from his Mackenzie clan to support the Spanish contingent on the understanding from Tullibardine that he would write and obtain the support of Clanranald and Lochiel. Arguments continued among the Jacobite leaders as to their course of action with Tullibardine and Glendaruel still counselling delay. On the 20th April, Clanranald and Lochiel arrived.

Then came the news of Ormonde's plight with his fleet. Tullibardine was all for taking the next boat back to Spain, but the Earl Marischal would not hear of such a thing and he threatened to burn the ships. In fact he sent the two frigates back to Spain and they just missed being captured by a strong British squadron of five warships. One of the reasons that the Earl Marischal took this action was that he was suspicious of Tullibardine's caution; he believed that it was his intention to embark the force and return with them back to Spain. The despatch of the frigates removed this option. In fact not only Tullibardine, but the Spanish Colonel, when he saw how few Highlanders had joined the cause was also ready to return to Spain with his force until he was prevailed upon to stay. With the frigates gone, there was now no retreat.

The Jacobite leaders made Eilean Donan Castle their base. This castle, the ancient stronghold of the Mackenzie clan, was used as the storehouse of ammunition and supplies and these were guarded by about 40 of the Spaniards.

On May 10th, three British warships under the command of Captain Boyle came up the loch to Eilean Donan and demanded that the castle surrender. One of the Spanish soldiers deserted and informed Boyle's men that the Spanish lieutenant in charge of the garrison was prepared to deliver up the castle. Captain Boyle's despatch elaborates:

"At nine in the morning, I sent my Lieutenant towards the Fort with a Flag of Truce to demand them to surrender; but they firing at the Boat, he return'd. About Four in the Afternoon, a Deserter way'd to us from the Side of the Camp, who, being brought off, inform'd us that the Camp was of about 4700 Men and daily increasing. At eight in the Evening we brought our Ships to play upon the Castle with a great Fire, under the Cover of which I detach'd two



*The sorry state of Eilean Donan Castle after the Royal Navy had finished with it.*

Boats mann'd and arm'd, under the Command of two Lieutenants, who, landing at the Foot of the Castle, attack'd and took it after a small Resistance. Thinking it proper (as the Camp lay within two Miles) to blow the place up, I sent Captain Herdman of the *Enterprize* on that Service, who perform'd it effectually, after having first sent off the Prisoners, with 343 Barrels of Powder, 52 Barrels of Musket-Shot, 200 Weight each, and some Bags of Meal."

Eilean Donan had seen much action in its long history as the stronghold of the Mackenzies of Kintail, but modern warships and artillery fire were too much for this otherwise impregnable fortress. The small Spanish garrison surrendered without a fight and were taken prisoner. The buildings in which the provisions had been stored were set on fire and the ancient Eilean Donan Castle was blown up, ending 500 years of history. The ruined shell of the castle stood solitary and proud for almost 200 years before it was rebuilt early in the 20th century by its new Macrae owner.

The Jacobites were in a sorry state with no base and limited supplies. The failure of Ormonde heavily restricted the ability to raise the necessary numbers of men in England and Scotland. At this point Tullibardine decided to do what he should have done in the first place, raise men for the cause from the Highland clans. Keith

says that "not above a thousand men appeared, and even those seemed not very fond of the enterprise." Tullibardine's younger brother, Lord George Murray arrived with a force of men from Perthshire. Murray was to become famous as the leader of the Jacobite forces during the '45 rebellion and was arguably one of the greatest military leader to come out of Scotland. Another famous figure, Rob Roy, arrived with men from Stirlingshire and Argyllshire. On June 5th, Lochiel arrived with 150 of his clan and two days later, Seaforth turned up with the 500 men he had promised from the Mackenzie clan and their supporters. The next day Rob Roy's son brought another 80 volunteers.

Meanwhile delays had ended the plans to seize Inverness as the garrison had been substantially reinforced. General Wightman, who had been one of the commanders of Argyll's troops at Sheriffmuir, marched from Inverness with a strong force of about 850 infantry, 120 dragoons and 130 Highlanders and proceeded to make his way across the Highlands to Kintail. The Jacobites decided to await the force at Glenshiel, a grand and desolate glen. This area is typical Highland terrain and if the Highlanders were to fight, then this ground would suit them best with its hills, gorges and steep declivities.

On the 9th June Lord George Murray, who commanded the outposts, reported that the enemy was encamped four or five miles off, near Loch Clunie. Next morning

they struck camp and made their way towards Glenshiel. As they advanced, Murray and his men moved back, maintaining a distance of about half a mile.

At two o'clock in the afternoon the two armies came in sight of each other and Wightman halted and deployed his men for an attack. The Jacobites had built some fortifications including a barricade thrown across the road and along the face of the hill on the north side of the river there were entrenchments. At this point the main body of the Jacobite army was posted and this included about two hundred of the Spanish troops, Lochiel and his 150 men, 40 of Rob Roy's men, 50 McKinnons and two hundred of Lord Seaforth's Mackenzies, under the command of Sir John Mackenzie of Coul. One of the officers in command was John Mackenzie of Avoch. There were in addition about 179 others, the majority of whom were probably Glengarry's men.

Lord Seaforth himself was positioned on the extreme left high up on the side of a hill with two hundred of his best Mackenzie clansmen. On the right 150 men were under the leadership of Lord George Murray, while the centre was commanded by the Marquis of Tullibardine, accompanied by Glendaruel. Brigadier McIntosh of Borlum was with the Spaniards and the Earl Marischal and Brigadier Campbell were with Seaforth's men.

Wightman's force consisted of British and Dutch troops with some support from Highlanders loyal to the Hanoverians. These included 80 Munros under Captain George Munro of Culcairn, the younger brother of the Munro clan chief, Sir Robert Munro of Foulis. Culcairn was to be severely wounded in the action which followed. One official report gave the Jacobite force at 1,640 Highlanders and 300 Spaniards, while General Wightman's force totalled 1,106 men including 136 Highlanders as well as four mortars for throwing grenades.

The battle commenced between five and six o'clock at which time the left wing of Wightman's army moved against Lord George Murray's position on the south side of the river. The position was first shelled by a mortar battery and then attacked by a number of troops, including the Munros. This attack was repulsed but a second attack drove back Murray's men. Wightman's right now moved up the hill to

attack the Jacobite left commanded by Lord Seaforth. He was strongly positioned behind some large rocks and soon received support from Sir John Mackenzie of Coul, together with the remainder of the Mackenzies. Seaforth was still feeling the pressure of the attack and called for more support. Rob Roy and his men set off to join the Mackenzies, but the support did not reach them in time and most of them gave way under the pressure of the attack, while Lord Seaforth himself was badly wounded. Rob Roy's men next gave way and retired up the mountain where they were followed by the Glengarry men and others.

Wightman's army directed their attention to the centre and the Spaniards held out well, but finding themselves deserted by the Highlanders they too retired up the mountain side away from harm's way. The whole of the Jacobite army under Tullibardine was now in retreat and the Hanoverians pursued their enemy over the hills until it was dark.

The "English" losses were 21 men killed and 121 wounded. Despite the sorry result for the Jacobites, it is not believed that the Highlanders suffered any worse losses than those of the government. Lord George Murray was wounded as was Lord Seaforth. One report states that only ten Jacobites were killed or wounded.

The Jacobite leaders gathered the next day to determine their next move. The fact that they were without ammunition and supplies they had no confidence to try again. It was decided that the Spanish troops should surrender as prisoners of war while the Highlanders, who would be tried and executed as traitors if caught, should escape among the mountains and find their own way to safety.

A price was put on the heads of Lord Seaforth, the Marquis of Tullibardine and the Earl Marischal of £2,000, a great deal of money in those days. The leaders successfully managed to escape to the continent and some of them were to try again 26 years later, during the '45 rebellion.

The Mackenzie clansmen were without their chief and they suffered greatly when Wightman wrote to say he was:

"taking a tour through all the difficult parts of Seaforth's country to terrify the Rebels by burning the houses of the guilty and preserving those of the Honest."

A little later on June 30th he wrote: "I have used all possible means to put a Dread upon those who have been more immediately concerned in this late unnatural Rebellion, and by all just accounts am assured the Rebels are totally disperst."

There were 274 Spanish prisoners taken and they were sent to Edinburgh and were ultimately returned to their country in the following October.

The Pretender James and the Duke of Ormonde remained in Spain hoping to renew their attempt at a later date. Alberoni also had ambitions to support a further invasion but he had lost credibility and it was reported that the Spanish people just laughed at his project. Quite apart from that his hands were very full with affairs at home and only the Jacobites had "faith enough to believe every thing that makes for them, let it be ever so impossible." Alberoni fell from power in the December of 1719.

Of Ormonde, nothing more was heard. He lived for many years but took no more part in politics, and when he was seen by Lady Montagu in 1743 she said, "To say the truth, nobody can be more insignificant."

Tullibardine was the man who unfurled Prince Charles' standard at Glenfinnan in 1745, dying the following year a prisoner in the Tower of London.

Lord Seaforth managed to make his peace with King George and was able to return home to play no further part in the Jacobite cause. It was left to his kinsman, George Mackenzie, 3rd Earl of Cromartie, to lead the Mackenzie clan for the Jacobites in 1745, by which time Seaforth was dead.

Only the two Keiths went on to lead successful and prestigious careers, although Lord George Murray came close to great fame in 1745 by almost leading the Jacobite forces to victory, marching the Highland troops through England all the way to Derby.

The year following the abortive rising at Glenshiel, James and his wife Clementina had a son, Bonnie Prince Charlie. He it was who would lead the next, and last, Jacobite uprising of 1745.

But back once more to William Mackenzie, 5th Earl of Seaforth. He had been attainted for his part in the 1715 rebellion so he was asking for serious trou-

ble for the leading role he played in the 1719 uprising. The mass of letters and papers from Ormonde to Alberoni and James make little reference to Seaforth. But it was Seaforth and his Mackenzie clan who provided almost one half of the Jacobite forces, while the leaders argued and politicked and wrecked any chance of winning a difficult campaign. Seaforth wrote a letter to James on August 10th 1719, just two months after the disaster at Glenshiel. His letter tells us little, except that from the tone one gathers that Seaforth was unhappy that he was not in James' confidence despite the fact he had risked all for his King, and that there were unnamed persons responsible for the poor support of James' cause. Let Seaforth have the last word:

The Earl of Seaforth to James VIII & III  
August 10th 1719

Sir - Your Majesty's I received by Captain Barkley, and am most sensible of the regard and kindness, you are pleased to honour me with. I read the two letters of May 1st and June 9th you ordered to be communicated to me, and regret from the bottom of my heart the unlucky situation of circumstances, not upon mine, but upon your Majesty's account.

I will not pretend, Sir, to give you a detail of things here, since you have not honoured me with the trust of any, only to assure your Majesty that as there were no men engaged in the late action of Glenshiel but mine, and those but few (though a great many standing by) so there are none more ready on all occasions to show their zeal for your service, when opportunity offers.

I am sorry that I am forced to acquaint your Majesty that your affairs here are brought to so low an ebb (by whose fault I wont say) that there nothing remains but everyone to shift for himself, and that by the advice of him you honour with your commands, I still made it my study (upon which account I suffer most of any) to serve your Majesty to the utmost of my power, and though I be once more obliged to leave my native country, as in all probability I must, to wander abroad, in whatever place fortune alots my abode, I shall always beg leave to subscribe myself, with the profoundest regret,

Sir,

Your Majesty's most dutiful subject  
and most obedient humble servant,

SEAFORTH.

Thus the proud Clan of the Mackenzies had reached its nadir. General Wade reporting on the condition of the people in 1725 stated, that whereas the Seaforth tenants had been the richest in the Highlands, they were now reduced to poverty through the neglect of their lands and crops through taking up arms. Their state of misery in 1719 was compounded by the destruction caused by the soldiers.

There had been efforts previously to try and disarm the Highlands. For example, in 1716 an act was passed by parliament for the disarming of Highlanders. But despite these efforts, most of the Jacobite clans were as well armed as ever and a trade in arms took place between the clans and Holland and other continental countries.

A more determined effort was made in 1725 following the Disarming Act to try and forcibly pacify the rebellious clans. This time General Wade was given the responsibility and he arrived in Inverness in August 1725.

The following report included in *Letters from a Gentleman in the North of Scotland*, lists the clans who took part in the 1715 rebellion and sheds light on the relative strength of the Mackenzie clan:

"The underwritten Clans or Tribes were engaged in the late Rebellion: most of them are armed, and commit depredations.

"The M'Kenzies, and the small Clans, viz. The M'Ra's, the M'Lennans, Murchiesons, and the M'Leods of North Assint, and M'Leys inhabiting the Countries belonging to the late Lord Seaforth; and all the Gentlemen and others of the name of M'Kenzie in the Main Land, and Isle of Lewis, in Ross, and Sutherland, shires; the M'Leods and others of Glenelg in the Isle of Skey, and the Harries in the shire of Inverness; the M'Donalds and others of Slate or Skey and North Uist in the shire of Inverness. The M'Donalds and others of Glengary, Obertaff, or Knoidart, in Inverness shire; the M'Donalds and others of Muidart, Arrisack, Muick, Canna, South Uist, in Inverness and Argyle shires. The Camerons of Lochiel in Inverness shire; the Camerons of Ardnamurchan, Swynard and Morvine, in Argyle shire; and the other small tribes in these countries; the M'Donalds of Keppoch, and others in that part of Lochaber belonging to M'Kintosh of Borlum in Inverness shire; the Stewarts

of Appin and others in that Country in Argyle shire; the M'Leans in Mull, Rum, Coll, Morvine, Ardnamurchan and Swinard, in Argyle shire.

"The several Clans in that part of Lochaber belonging to the Duke of Gordon in Inverness shire; and those in Murray and Banf shires.

"The M'Neils of Barray in Argyle shire; The M'Kintoshes and other tribes of that name in Inverness shire; the Robertsons belonging to Strowan in Perthshire.

"The underwritten Clans belong to Superiors well affected to His Majesty.

The Duke of Argyle	4,000
Lord Sutherland and Stathnaver	1,000
Lord Lovat (Frasers)	800
The Grants	800
The Rosses and Monroes	700
Forbes of Cullodin	200
Rose of Kilraick	300
Sir Archibald Campbell of Clunes	200
	8,000

The two Clans underwritten for the most part went in the Rebellion in 1715, without their Superiors:

The Athol Men	2,000
The Braidalbin Men	<u>1,000</u>
total	3,000

The Clans underwritten were in the late Rebellion, and supposed still to be disaffected to His Majesty's Government.

The Islands and Clans of the late Lord Seaforth	3,000
M'Donalds of Slate	1,000
M'Donalds of Glengary	800
M'Donalds of Mourdairt	800
M'Donalds of Keppoch	220
Lochiel Camerons	800
The M'Leods in all	1,000
Duke of Gordon's followers	1,000
Stewarts of Appin	400
Robertsons of Strowan	800
M'Kintoshes and Farquharsons	800
M'Euens in the Isle of Skey	150
The Chisolms of Strathglass	150
The M'Farsons	220
In all	11,140

General Wade made his way to Brahan Castle and called upon the Mackenzies to deliver their weapons. He persuaded the representatives of the Clan that if they would willingly give up their arms he would make representations to parliament



to obtain remissions for the Clan Chief and his followers. To a large extent the procedure was a sham since the weapons handed in were largely old and worthless.

The process of the submission of the Mackenzie clan and the surrendering of their arms was reported to the Government by General Wade. His report makes interesting reading:

“The Laird of the Mackenzies, and other chiefs of the clans and tribes, tenants to the late Earl of Seaforth, came to me in a body, to the number of about fifty, and assured me that both they and their followers were ready to pay a dutiful obedience to your Majesty’s commands, by a peaceful surrender of their arms; and if your Majesty would be graciously pleased to procure them an indemnity for the rents that had been misplaced for the time past, they would for the future become faithful subjects to your Majesty, and pay them to your Majesty’s receiver for the use of the public. I assured them of your Majesty’s gracious intentions towards them, and that they might rely on your Majesty’s bounty and clemency, provided they would merit it by their future good conduct and peaceable behaviour; that I had by your Majesty’s commands to send the first summons to the country they inhabited; which would soon give them an opportunity of showing the sincerity of their promises, and of having the merit to set the example to the rest of the Highlands, who in their turns were to be summoned to deliver up their arms, pursuant to the Disarming Act; that they might choose the place they themselves thought most convenient to surrender their arms; and that I would answer, that neither their persons nor their property should be molested by your Majesty’s troops. They desired they might be permitted to deliver up their arms at the Castle of Brahan, the principal seat of their late superior, who, they said, had promoted and encouraged them to this their submission; but begged that none of the Highland companies might be present; for, as they had always been reputed the bravest, as well as the most numerous of the northern clans, they thought it more consistent with their honour to resign their arms to your Majesty’s veteran troops; to which I readily consented.

“Summonses were accordingly sent to the several clans and tribes, the inhabitants of 18 parishes, who were vassals or tenants of the late Earl of Seaforth, to bring or send

in all their arms and warlike weapons to the Castle of Brahan, on or before the 28th of August.

“On the 25th of August I went to the Castle of Brahan with a detachment of 200 of the regular troops, and was met there by chiefs of the several clans and tribes, who assured me they had used their utmost diligence in collecting all the arms they were possessed of, which should be brought thither on the Saturday following, pursuant to the summons they had received; and telling me they were apprehensive of insults or depredations from the neighbouring clans of the Camerons and others, who still continued in possession of their arms. Parties of Highland companies were ordered to guard the passes leading to their country; which parties continued there for their protection, till the clans in that neighbourhood were summoned, and had surrendered their arms.

“On the day appointed the several clans and tribes assembled in the adjacent villages, and marched in good order through the great avenue that leads to the Castle; and one after the other laid down their arms in the courtyard in great quiet and decency, amounting to 784 of the several species mentioned in the Act of Parliament.

“The solemnity with which this was performed had undoubtedly a great influence over the rest of the Highland clans; and disposed them to pay that obedience to your Majesty’s commands, by a peaceable surrender of their arms, which they had never done to any of your royal predecessors, or in compliance with any law either before or since the Union.”

General Wade refers in this report to the rents from the Seaforth estates which were “misplaced”. One of the more interesting stories of how these rents came to be misplaced is a remarkable narrative of the loyalty that the Earl of Seaforth’s tenants had to the Mackenzie Clan Chief. The hero of the story is one Donald Murchison, who was the estate factor of the Earl of Seaforth and whose duties involved the collection of rents from the numerous tenants of his Lordship across Ross and Cromarty. This story will be told in the September issue of Cabar Feidh.



## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members who have joined since the publication of the last Newsletter:

Marlene Coultis,  
RR#7,  
Owen Sound, ON N4K 6V5

Katharine & David Erskine,  
425, 14th Street West,  
Owen Sound, ON N4K 3Y1

[Katharine is the daughter of member Pat Jansen and the grand-daughter of Margaret MacKenzie Clark Hyslop, great grand-daughter of Mabel Duff Clark (1st cousin to Major Lex Mackenzie) and great great grand-daughter of Sarah Ann MacKenzie Duff.]

Alexander George & Eva MacKenzie,  
RR#1,  
Shallow Lake, ON N0H 2K0

Donald & Ann McKenzie,  
(Commissioners of the Clan MacKenzie  
Society of New Zealand - South Island)  
"Greenbush", Fortrose, R.D.5,  
Near Invercargill, New Zealand

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*Well Done. A fantastic job on the March newsletter! The quality of work put into the editing is superb and I am not just saying that because of your mentioning my family and the outgoing search for my ancestor's point of origin. I must say that I was quite pleased though. Dad was so impressed that he was wondering what the cost would be to acquire a dozen copies of the March newsletter, Cabar Feidh? Also, do you have copies from previous years?*

*Since we last corresponded I have come across some new developments . . . Here is what I have found:*

*A quote from the notes (1930's) of my 3x great-uncle, Jesse Clarence Kimsey, states, "Dissatisfied with McKenzie clan (mentioned in Scott's 'Lady of the Lake'), life in Scotland, our ancestors' opinions, marked them 'McKemzie' for discrimination. They sought the coasts, fished, sailed, traded - decided to come to America - Passed through Ireland - Embarked from England with one of Lord Baltimore Colonies before the Revolutionary War - settled East Bank of the Potomac. Moved to Cane Creek, N.C. (Buncombe Co.)*

Many Kimseys have since followed the call westward. Left off "Mc' when reached America."

Christopher Kimsey, Princetown, ID

Ed: This is just an extract from a very long letter. Research into a family tree takes considerable time and Christopher has all the necessary enthusiasm. As I have said on many an occasion, you get lucky sometimes but the amount of luck is in relationship to the work you put into the research. No research - then do not expect any luck!

On the matter of extra copies we do print just a few extras to hand out to new members at Highland Games. We do keep copies of all back issues and to photocopy these would take a considerable amount of time. A price can be quoted if you wish to pursue this further.

Here is another very long letter from which we have extracted a part:

*Having researched my husband William Mackenzie's family history for some years, I made a great discovery, for me at least, in Kew Public Records' Office in London last October.*

*William's father 4666 Pte. Donald Ross Mackenzie was in the 2nd Battalion Seaforth Highlanders and fought in the Boer War. The first time I visited the Records' Office I found a copy of Donald's war service record of four large pages in very good condition showing when and where he joined up and where he served. I could not believe my good fortune. I also found he had served in the Chitral Campaign 1895 near the Afghanistan border and was given the Indian Medal 1895 with clasp Relief of Chitral 1895.*

*Jill Mackenzie, White Rock, B.C.  
- jillmac@sprint.ca*

## EVENTS IN 2003

### Highland Games

The following games have been identified and volunteers to attend noted:

June 10: Grande Prairie Highland Games

Grande Prairie, AB: (403)532-4250

June 14 - Georgetown - Alan, Bob & Olga, and Ken

June 20,21,22: Chemainus on Vancouver Island. The 20th is a golf tournament, the games on the 21st & pancake breakfast on the 22nd.

June 21: Highland Gathering in the

Park (Sherwood Park, AB)

June 21 - Fort Erie - Alan & Ken

June 27-28: Red Deer Highland Games (Red Deer, AB)

June 28 - Barrie - not attending

June 28 - B.C. Highland Games - at the Coquitlam Town Centre Stadium

June 29: Edmonton Scottish Society Highland Games: (780)987-5261

July 1 - Embro - Ken

July 5 - Kincardine - Volunteers ??

July 5 - Halifax - everyone on the trip  
July 5, Penticton. 9 - 5 p.m. at King's Park, 500 Eckhardt Ave West.

July 12 - Chatham - Alan & Norman?

July 12: Fort Edmonton Highland Games (Edmonton, AB)  
Info: (403)962-8476

July 19 - Highlands of Durham (Uxbridge) - Alan, Norman, Bob & Olga

July 19 - Orillia Scottish Festival - Rad.  
Aug 1/2 -Maxville - Alan, Ken, Alistair

Aug 3 - Montreal - Jimmy

Aug 9 - Fergus - Alan, Norman, Alistair, Ken, Shawn

Aug 16 - Sarnia - Alan, Bob & Olga

Aug 23 - Almonte - Ken Mackenzie-Smith & Alan

Aug 30 - Calgary Highland Games

August 31: Canmore Highland Games (Canmore, AB)

## ANNUAL PICNIC AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Picnic and AGM will be held at Black Creek Pioneer Village on Sunday, September 14, 2003. Liz Kelly has confirmed that she has tentatively booked the Georgina Finlay Dancers for the event.

## PROPOSED CLAN MACKENZIE SOCIETY LIBRARY IN CANADA

BY ALAN MCKENZIE

At a recent meeting of the local committee in Oakville, Ontario I offered to donate my Scottish book collection to the Clan MacKenzie Society. Here is the Minute made at that meeting:

"Alan McKenzie reported that he had obtained a professional valuation of his collection of Scottish books. It comprises 816 books and journals and the valuer, John Rush - Books of Hamilton, Ontario, has placed a valuation on the library of

\$41,650. He was recommended to Alan by the library at the University of Guelph. Alan reported that he was prepared to donate this collection to the Clan MacKenzie Society subject to the members' approval and that if accepted the clan would issue a tax receipt for the amount of the valuation. The books will continue to be kept at 580 Rebecca Street and will be available for lending to paid up members on terms to be decided. It was noted that the Clan MacKenzie Society in New Zealand has a small library and books are loaned for up to four weeks with the member paying the cost of mailing. Lost books are invoiced to the member at their value.

There was much discussion on this proposal and in particular the fact that the Society would need to insure the books. It would also need to determine what would happen to the location of the collection in the event of Alan's death. The recommendation was made that a trust or library committee be formed to look after the matter of insurance and future custody after Alan's death. In the unlikely event that the Society ceased to exist it was agreed that the library should go to the Clan Centre at Castle Leod.

On Motion duly made by Norman MacKenzie, seconded and carried unanimously it was RESOLVED that the Society accept the offer of the collection which would be named "The Alan McKenzie Collection" at some point during the current year with a possible handover to be officially recognized at the AGM and picnic at Black Creek Pioneer Village on September 14th. It was further RESOLVED that the Society issue an income tax receipt for the amount of the professional valuation of \$41,650 and that a copy of the listing and valuation be retained by the Society with its books and papers for future identification."

The Collection includes some very valuable books on the Mackenzie clan and other books of interest to anyone interested in the history of Scotland. In due course we shall issue a listing of the books in stages - the collection listing runs to 49 pages so it is not practicable to include it in the Newsletter.

There will be further information on the library in due course.





## GATHERINGS IN NEW ZEALAND

BY ALAN MCKENZIE

I mentioned in an earlier Newsletter that following the Clan MacKenzie



*Thomas Urquhart McKenzie and his wife Margaret Fraser*

Gathering in Scotland in 2000 and my meetings with the Clan genealogist, Graeme Mackenzie, that I had discovered a family connection in New Zealand. The connection was with a member of the family who emigrated to New Zealand in 1840 and was thus one of the earliest of the settlers to go to this beautiful country. This person was Thomas Urquhart McKenzie and shortly after his arrival in New Zealand he married another Highland

Page 9

immigrant, Margaret Fraser. This couple had 19 children, all of whom survived and they in turn had several children, Today we can count thousands of their descendants in New Zealand. I subsequently make contact via e-mail with some of these fourth cousins and in further correspondence with Jock and Sonia Mackenzie, Joint Commissioners of the Clan MacKenzie Society of New Zealand, who also have Canadian relations, I was invited to come to New Zealand and Sonia arranged an excellent program of visits to various members of the clan including some of the cousins. All of these people put me up in their homes and I was generously accommodated throughout my one month's stay, from March 3rd to April 3rd.

I visited clan members from Auckland in the North Island to Fortrose (very appropriate!) at the foot of South Island and in between I did a considerable amount of driving all over this remarkably scenic land. In fact so overwhelmed was I by the spectacular scenery that I came back with eight hours of video film!

Through the good offices of Jock and Sonia Mackenzie arrangements were made for me to attend three Gatherings in Fortrose, Christchurch and Puketapu (near Napier). I met a large number of clan members and that included no less than seven fourth cousins. Needless to say I could write a book on my experiences. I

shall restrict this somewhat but will include some articles in future issues. Meanwhile it is worth mentioning some of my immediate observations.

The Clan MacKenzie Society in New Zealand boasts about 600 members which is a remarkable achievement. This does, for the most part include husbands and wives. A single membership costs \$8 while a joint membership is only \$10. Severe restrictions exist for non-profit societies and so they have been unable to accumulate the funds to help with the Castle Leod Project. They do have a fund in place to invite over Cabarfeidh at some point. I know that he would certainly enjoy such a visit. The New Zealanders speak very highly of Liliias, Dowager Countess of Cromartie's visit a few years ago. She very much impressed the clan members there.

I was also impressed by the knowledge so many New Zealanders have of their genealogies. When members talk to each other they will often be heard to exchange information on which ship their ancestors arrived.

Some of my cousins were keen that I should visit the place where Thomas Urquhart McKenzie had his house and estate, known as Poyntzfield. During this interesting visit to the region known as the Lower Rangitikei I was shown the Fraser Cemetery, a private cemetery where the descendants of the Fraser and McKenzie

*continued on page 11*



*This is just a "few" of the descendants of Thomas Urquhart McKenzie and Margaret Fraser and their nineteen children taken at the McKenzie Family Reunion at Bulls, New Zealand in 1976. Needless to say the numbers have swollen considerably since that photograph was taken!*





*First New Zealand Gathering held at the home of Commissioners Donald and Ann McKenzie at Fortrose, near Invercargill, South Island. Donald and Alan McKenzie hold the banner and Ann McKenzie stands immediately to the right of Alan.*



*Second New Zealand Gathering held at the home of Joy (McKenzie) Burrows in Christchurch. Joy's husband wears the kilt on the right and Joy herself is standing to the right of Alan (or is it her identical twin sister standing at extreme left?)*



*Third New Zealand Gathering at the home of Jock & Sonia Mackenzie - Joint New Zealand Commissioners. Jock (Lieutenant to Cabarfeidh) and Sonia Mackenzie flank Alan McKenzie (centre).*

families are buried. I was intrigued to see a number of graves that had Maori names. Over the many years there have been a number of intermarriages between the Maori and immigrant peoples. In fact I met a Maori lady, Elaine Jeffree, who actually looks after the cemetery and is herself a descendant of the Fraser side of the family.

One of the cousins that I met at the cemetery was Graeme Winston (Jock) McKenzie. I was much surprised to learn that he and his two sons, Stewart Craig McKenzie and Fraser James McKenzie, were all members of the Manawatu Scottish Society Pipe Band. This grade one pipe band are the current New Zealand champions (2001 and 2002!) and also the 2002 Australasian champions. More of this band on page 16.

Another cousin that I stayed with in New Zealand was Ian Levien, a retired major in the New Zealand army. He had been very active as a cornet player in the National Band of New Zealand, which has been on a number of world tours. Ian is now their Assistant Manager and when I mentioned the possibility of them performing at the Nova Scotia International Tattoo in Halifax with their Maori dance group he was very excited. So I returned to Canada with a video tape and a mission to contact Tattoo Drum Major Norman MacKenzie (our Toronto Commissioner) to see what can be done. Norman has since taken the video and will pursue this possibility.

I shall pass on more information in due course about this visit. Meanwhile I must pay a special thanks to all those wonderful hosts who looked after me during my marvellous visit. They are Ian (4th cousin) and Denise Levien in Papakura, Colin (4th cousin) & Josie McKenzie in Thames, Gay Kingi (nee McKenzie) in Rotorua, Jim and Betty Thwaites - Jim is deputy commissioner - in Manaia, Donald & Ann McKenzie (Commissioners South Island) in Fortrose near Invercargill, Hugh and Gay Ross in Wanaka, Don and Margaret McKenzie in Timaru, Joy (McKenzie) Burrows, who hosted the Gathering in Christchurch, Sarah and Martin Crysell in Wellington, Roland and Betty Mackenzie in Dannevirke (Roland greeted me on arrival by playing the bagpipes on the doorstep!), Liz (4th cousin) and Stuart Gunn in Hastings, and finally Jock (Lieutenant to Cabarfeidh) and Sonia Mackenzie (joint Commissioners) in

Puketapu.

The following article is from Jim Thwaites, whose family has Canadian connections.

## **KILDONAN, CANADA AND NEW ZEALAND**

**BY JIM THWAITES**

### **DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, NEW ZEALAND**

Lost in the mists of time and lost in the misty Highlands many of the details of our forebears are probably gone forever. But there is much information to be gained with perseverance, contacting relatives, friends and genealogists who have some knowledge and those still living in the Highlands.

Belonging to the Gruinard Mackenzies' family and with the help of good friends who are related, like Sonia Mackenzie, Philippa Mackenzie, Anne Smith and Nina Mackenzie (now deceased) I have been able to trace back to Fisherfield. This is the name given to the area lying between Meikle Gruinard and Gruinard Garve, the south bank of the Gruinard river. Once long ago pre 1655 this was part of the Gruinard estate, part of the property sold to Henry Davidson in 1795. Now there is an attractive bridge nearby for travellers to cross but in those times there was a small ferry or, of course, the long way round.

Donald of Fisherfield was the second son of Thomas Mackenzie and the grandson of John Mackenzie, 1st of Gruinard. He probably farmed the area either on his own account or by subletting to tenants but for to have retained the name so long he must have been a remarkable man in some ways. Time has hidden this from us but there is no way time could hide his descendants as he has many. The original house is long gone but salmon still leap in the beautiful Gruinard river. Cattle and sheep no longer roam the valley but the trees have not yet invaded its grandeur.

Donald of Fisherfield married three times, his first wife was Mary Mackenzie of the Ardloch family being the fifth child of James of Keppoch. There were three sons and one daughter from this marriage. Donald's second wife was Janet Mackenzie, the 17th child of George Mackenzie of Gruinard and his first wife, Margaret. Their eighth child, Elizabeth, married Kenneth Mackenzie of Badlochar,

a grandson of Alexander of Ballone, their son, Donald, born November 13, 1796 and died April 1848, married Sarah (More) Macleod, born 1788 and died March 8, 1870. They lived at Kildonan on the shores of Little Loch Broom where they had their family until the village was cleared in 1840. The ruins of Kildonan are across a burn from Kildonan House, which is now owned by Sir Tim Rice's son. In the burn is an old unmarked cemetery where we may have ancestors.

Donald and Sarah are buried in the wee cemetery at Bhord Bhuidhe, which is also on the Dundonnell estate.

Most of the crofters at Kildonan moved to Scoraig. Two families went to Badralloch. Donald and his wife went to Loggie on Loch Broom, the opposite side to Ullapool. Donald died in 1848 but during those years at Loggie there had been the formation of the Free Church of Scotland in 1843 and the potato famine in 1846. Following the much publicised Irish potato famine of 1845 the blight hit Scotland a year later than it hit Ireland and England. During the 1800's the road to Ullapool became known as Destitution Road as many travelled that road to sail from Scotland never to see their homeland again. Donald and Sarah (More)'s oldest son, Alexander, became a crofter at Loggie and in 1856 married Barbara McLennan in the Free Church of Scotland in Ullapool. They had five sons and two daughters; the eldest son, Donald, and his wife Margaret Sutherland from Durness, Sutherland, sailed for Australia where on the journey they lost their twin sons. They had two daughters born in Australia where Donald worked on the railway; they then came to New Zealand where they had eight more children. Donald first worked for his uncle Kenneth George MacKenzie, known as K.G., who was farming at Fortrose, Southland, New Zealand.

Two other sons of Alexander, Kenneth Bain - known as K.B., and his brother Murdo emigrated to Canada in 1893. K.B. was working in Halifax as a gardener and a caretaker at a college where he met Margaret Jane Little, a student studying singing and the skills of a seamstress. The young couple began an eleven year correspondence while K.B. sought his fortune. In 1897 he travelled to Dawson City, Yukon, to stake his claim in the Klondike goldrush. It seems bad luck at the roulette table lengthened his time there but he must have had some success because he proudly



claimed the nuggets in a small doeskin bag and the gold in Margaret Jane's engagement ring were from the Klondike, as was the brooch he sent back to his sister, Kenithina, in Loggie, Scotland.

In 1899 K.B. was working on the Canadian Pacific Railway through the Crowsnest Pass in the Rocky Mountains. Several photos show him, head powder man, standing with the other men of his crew.

Finally, K.B. returned to Halifax to marry Margaret Jane on October 27, 1902. Together they returned west to Grand Forks, B.C., where K.B. worked as a smelter. It is not known if K.B. stayed together during those years but there are notes saying Murdo worked for a shipping company in Montreal and later at a smelter in Trail, B.C., not too distant from Grand Forks. In April 1906 K.B. and M.J.'s first child, John Robert, was born and in 1908 M.J. returned to Halifax for the birth of Barbara Jean. Kenneth and Margaret then decided to pursue farming on the Prairies, first at Three Rivers, Manitoba and soon thereafter at Travers, north of Lethbridge, Alberta. The first few years were prosperous years. Photos show a fine wooden structure home and a well-dressed family of seven. Tragically in 1916 Margaret Jane died in childbirth and somehow Kenneth managed with his brood of children.

In 1923 Murdo returned to Loggie to look after his widowed mother, Barbara. After her death he packed up his own family with wife, Williamena, and joined K.B. in Alberta. Murdo died in 1928 after a lengthy illness. K.B. continued farming until his death on July 28, 1941. Presently Murdo's daughter Janet lives at Marwayne, Alberta while descendants of Kenneth Bain live mainly in the areas around Edmonton and Drayton Valley with some of the younger generations as far flung as Vancouver, New York and Thailand!

Kenneth, the brother of Alexander and son of Donald and Sarah (More), while working as a shepherd at Loggie, Newton, married Catherine McLean on September 17, 1860 in the Free Church of Scotland in Ullapool. After the ceremony they were rowed out to a sailing ship destined for Greenock where they boarded the "Lady Agidia" and set sail for New Zealand. Kenneth tried his hand at gold mining in the Otago goldrush. This was not to his liking so he went shepherding until 1869 when he acquired his first property of 50 acres,

hence the beginning of their home at "Greenbush", which is now a much larger property [1,200 acres!] and farmed by Donald and Ann McKenzie who are the South Island Commissioners for the New Zealand Clan Mackenzie Society. Today in New Zealand the descendants of Kenneth and Catherine and their spouses number over 400.

With my wife, Betty, our great experience last September was to travel to Edmonton in the hope of finding some of my MacKenzie relations. The result was even better than I had hoped for, meeting with Juanita Block who was the only Canadian relative I had heard of. We were phoned by Ken and Mary Mackenzie from Drayton Valley. Ken is a grandson of Kenneth Bain and he came to Edmonton and took us to stay with them at their home in Drayton Valley. On returning to Edmonton Ken's cousin Pat (MacKenzie) Race [one of our clan members in Canada!] and her husband, Cec Race, both retired schoolteachers, made us very welcome at their home in Leduc. When we left Canada we felt we had united the two families of New Zealand and Canada with the Western Highlands.

[Ed: This interesting article is an addition to the book "K.G. McKenzie, Of Greenbush Southland 'Our Heritage'". Further information on this book can be obtained from Jim and his e-mail address is jim\_betty@xtra.co.nz].

### A LITTLE MORE ON THOMAS URQUHART MCKENZIE

As mentioned earlier Thomas lived with his large family at a house he named Poyntzfield (which he named after a manor house in Easter Ross). When meeting with my cousin Colin McKenzie in Thames, Coromandel, New Zealand he produced an extract from a book entitled "Ramblings by A. Tramp" (J.D. Wickham) on a journey made in 1887. Here is what he had to say on running into Thomas Urquhart McKenzie:

"As I said, I did not get sight of the McKelvie, but I met the Mackenzie, a neighbour of his, one of the finest 'real old Scottish gentleman, one of ye olden time,' it has been my good fortune to meet with. Hale, hearty, hospitable, Mackenzie, of Parewanui, is the *beau ideal* of a Highland chieftain. His clan numbers a hundred -

children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren - and judging from samples, a clean-built, comely race they are, too. Duncan, the eldest, is rather dark and sour-looking, but he will mellow with age and his father's whisky. 'Duncan - the bottle!' Choking with dust, and sun-dried till I crinkled like parchment, the airy and shaded parlour of the Mackenzie was to me an oasis of comfort, cool and refreshing. I refreshed, but did not insult the old laird's whisky by taking it in milk (the printer will please be careful of the whisky and milk). I fancied from the twinkle in the chief's eye that he expected to see me go under after the third tumbler, but was unaware of the seasoning I had received in the editorial whisky department. 'Donald, the bottle stands with you!' One of the sights, I might almost say wonders, of the country is Mr. Mackenzie's flower garden. It is such a splendid scene of artistic beauty that all the gardens in Auckland rolled into one can scarcely equal. The mystic maze is especially ingenious in design, and the stranger, once in, has some difficulty in finding his way out. This horticultural wonder is mainly the work of Mr. Mackenzie's own hands, and is, I understand, the work of a lifetime. I hope the grand old fellow will yet live years enough to make a second lifetime, and add new beauties to his creation."

[Ed: Poyntzfield no longer exists, it was burned down many years ago. There is a cairn placed by the family on the spot where the house once stood and the remains of the magnificent garden can still be seen with some massive trees and shrubs.]

### 400TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNION OF SCOTTISH AND ENGLISH CROWNS

The following piece is from the Economist newspaper:

#### Scottish nationalists mourn their union with Britain. Misguidedly so.

Anything to help the tourist trade. That, presumably, was the Scottish Executive's thinking when it laid on some pomp and pageantry to mark the 400th anniversary of the Scottish and English crowns. But the Scottish National Party smells a rat.

To some Scottish patriots, March 24th 1603, when James VI of Scotland became James I of England, marked the start of a

slide that ended with the subjugation of the country by its larger southern neighbour. The Anniversary shindigs are particularly unwelcome, they reckon, because they mean, in effect, a burst of state-financed unionist propaganda slap in the middle of the campaign for elections to the Scottish Parliament on May 1st.

For a party whose biggest electoral problem is persuading Scots to feel more self-confident about independence, this seems narrow-minded. Admittedly, the Stuarts were not a great success, and were binned in 1688 for another import, this time from Holland. But with the Jamestown settlement in Virginia, they launched the empire, which was largely run by Scots. And Scottish dominance of today's cabinet suggests they have retained much of their power. The SNP should surely be arguing that, if the Scots can run Britain, they can be trusted to run their homeland.

## A MAJOR HISTORICAL REVIEW OF THE EARLY CHIEFS OF THE CLAN MACKENZIE

We have been in communication with Douglas Hickling who has sent us a most interesting review of the various sources of the Mackenzie clan chiefs. Since the article is so large we shall include it over the next several editions of the Newsletter. It is appropriate that some work be done on this aspect of Mackenzie history. Indeed I attempted a shot at it some time ago but found myself immersed into too many clan projects at the same time. We are therefore most grateful to Douglas for this research. Let us start, therefore by giving you Douglas Hickling's biography.

### DOUGLAS HICKLING

Douglas Hickling is a retired California attorney, who was born and raised in Eden, New York, the hometown of the Kazoo Company. Both of his parents were Canadian, the earliest New World Hickling, a naval veteran, having settled in Simcoe County, Ontario, in 1819, as part of the Crown's program of encouraging the immigration of soldiers and sailors so as to pacify the Indians.

Douglas took an early interest in family history. Even before graduating from Cornell, he explored the rural cemeteries and public records of Simcoe County. After completing service as an artillery



*Douglas Hickling*

lieutenant in Germany, he attended Harvard Law School where he studied labor law under Archibald Cox, who was to become the special counsel who was ordered dismissed by President Nixon in the famous Watergate affair.

His wife, the former Madeleine Henning, is of Yankee ancestry on her mother's side, and is descended from the Munros of Scotland and, through them, from Kenneth-a-Bhlaire Mackenzie, whose daughter Catherine married Hector Munro of Foulis.

## THE PEDIGREES OF THE EARLY CHIEFS OF CLAN MACKENZIE

### CAN THEY BE TRUSTED?

BY DOUGLAS HICKLING

#### PART 1

The several published pedigrees of the early Mackenzie chiefs - from Kenneth, for whom the clan is named, through Alexander "Ionraic" - that are contained in family histories compiled between the 17th and early 20th centuries are based upon traditions, real, perceived, or contrived. Considering that these pedigrees frequently contradict each other and that they are not supported by existing contemporary records, can any of them be relied upon?

The two earliest surviving manuscript histories of the Mackenzies were compiled in the seventeenth century by Sir George Mackenzie, created first Earl of Cromartie by Queen Anne in 1703. His first account, written circa 1650, takes the form of a let-

ter and was published in volume II of Sir William Fraser's **The Earls of Cromartie** (1876), at page 462 et seq. It was followed by a shorter manuscript history entitled **The Genealogy of the Mackenzies Preceding the Year 1661 Written in the Year 1669 by a Person of Quality**, published in 1900 in volume I of Walter Mafarlane's **Genealogical Collections in Publications of the Scottish History Society**, volume 33. The pedigrees of the early chiefs contained in both manuscript histories are similar. The Earl of Cromartie's pedigree, based upon his 1669 shorter manuscript history, at pages 54-60, follows:

#### PEDIGREE 1

1. **Kenneth**, son of Colin Fitzgerald and the daughter and heiress of Kenneth MacMahon (Matheson), was named for his maternal grandfather. He married Morba, "daughter to MacDougal of Lorne." He was succeeded by their son,

2. **Kenneth**, who supported Bruce in his contest with the Comyns. He was succeeded by his son,

3. **Kenneth na Sroine** [*Kenneth of the Nose*], who married Finguala, daughter of MacLeod of Lewis. He was executed by the Earl of Ross at Inverness, and was succeeded by his son,

4. **Murdoch Dow**, who married a daughter of "MacCaula of Lochbroom". He was succeeded by his son,

5. **Murdoch Nidroit** (of the bridge), so called because his mother while pregnant with him had been saved from a fall at the bridge of Scatwell. He married Fingala, daughter of MacLeod of Harris. He was succeeded by his son,

6. **Alexander Ionraic** (the upright), who married (1) Anna, daughter of MacDougal of Lorne, by whom he had Kenneth and Duncan, and (2) Margaret, daughter of MacDougal of Morir.

The shorter manuscript history of the Mackenzies, by the first Earl of Cromartie, was soon followed by **The Genealogie of the Surname of M'Kenzie Since Their Coming Into Scotland** collected in 1667 by John Mackenzie of Applecross, a friend of the first Earl, and copied from the former's papers in 1670. This manuscript was

published in 1916 as volume II of **Highland Papers** and volume XII of **Publications of the Scottish History Society (second series)**. The pedigree of the early Mackenzie chiefs as set forth in the Applecross manuscript follows:

#### PEDIGREE II

1. **Kenneth**, son of Colin Fitzgerald and the daughter of Kenneth Matheson, was named for his maternal grandfather. He married a daughter of MacIver, and was succeeded by their son,
2. **Murdoch**, who married a daughter of MacAulay. He was succeeded by,
3. **Kenneth na sroine**, who married a daughter of MacDougall of Lorn, whom he caused to be thrown over the bridge at Scatwell while she was pregnant with
4. **Murdoch na drochaid** (of the bridge), who married a daughter of MacLeod of Lewis. He was executed by the Earl of Ross at Inverness, and was succeeded by
5. **Murdoch dubh**, known as Black Murdoch of the cave. He married a daughter of MacLeod of Harris, and they were the parents of
6. **Alexander Ionraic** (the upright). He was brought up by MacDougall of Lorn, and married (1) a daughter of MacDougall of Lorn, by whom he had Kenneth and Duncan, and (2) a daughter of MacRanald.

It is widely believed that John Mackenzie of Applecross borrowed the Colin Fitzgerald descent from the first Earl of Cromartie and that they both relied upon one or more earlier manuscripts that no longer exist

The foregoing are the only published seventeenth century manuscript histories of the family. Several later unpublished family histories by compilers, including the Rev. John Macrae, Hector Mackenzie, Dr George Mackenzie, and Captain John Matheson of Bennetsfield, are held in Scottish libraries, but they are not readily accessible because they are in manuscript form only.

In 1833, an ancient parchment now known as the **Manuscript of 1467** was found by William F. Skene in the Advocates' Library in Edinburgh. The manuscript is a compilation of crude lists of names, believed to be the pedigrees of

the chiefs of most of the Highland clans up to about 1400. According to Skene, the manuscript was compiled by an Irish sennache employed by Clan Maclachlan as indicated by the fact that the pedigree of that clan is quite detailed and includes intermarriages.

In 1834, Skene published his English translation of this manuscript in volume 1, part 1, of the **Transactions of the Iona Club**, at page 54. In a note, Skene pointed out that the manuscript established "[t]he comparatively late invention of many of the traditional origins of all the Highland clans."

Skene became more specific in his **The Highlanders of Scotland** (1836), in which he attacked the notion that the Mackenzies were descended from Colin Fitzgerald as claimed by the 17th century, and subsequent, family historians. First, at pages 187-188, he stated that whenever a clan tradition, such as that of the Mackenzies, asserts a marriage of the foreign founder of the clan with the heiress of that family, the family claiming the foreign founder is invariably the oldest cadet of the family which has somehow usurped the power and estates of the clan chief. It then attempts to conceal the defect in its right by blood by asserting the foreign founder who married the chief's heiress.

Second, Skene, at pages 325-326, stated that the documents frequently quoted as supporting a Mackenzie descent from Colin Fitzgerald were either (1) non-existent, (2) inconclusive, or (3) "a forgery of later times." Not only was there no documentary support for the claimed descent from Colin Fitzgerald, such a descent was rejected by the manuscript of 1467, which shows a Gaelic descent from Gilleoin of the Aird.

[Ed: There are five more pedigrees of the early chiefs yet to be examined. See the next Newsletter in September for more on this fascinating subject.]

#### GLORY OF POOLEWE

*I've heard folk wing the praises of their  
towns and cities grand  
they say that in their fairness they're  
the finest in the land  
but away up on the Highlands 'mong  
the misty mountains blue  
we sing of sun-kissed waters and the*

*glory of Poolewe.*

*'mong silver birch and rowan trees a  
river winds it's way  
to join the peaceful waters of Atlantic's  
proudest bay  
where wavelets lap the shingle round  
the foreshore's lovely line  
and the bay reflects the beauty of a vil-  
lage that is mine.*

*Sweet memories of boyhood bliss upon  
those waters wild  
of roaming by the shady banks when I  
was but a child  
come back to me and longingly I sigh  
once more to be  
by whispering winding waters as they  
ramble to the sea.*

*Oh to roam by primrose pathways  
through sweet Inveran's bonnie glades  
among the Rhododendron groves  
beneath the evening shades  
once more to thrill to the mavis' trill by  
the wildwood ways I yearn  
and to watch the roedeer gambol  
through the bracken and the fern.*

*In the twilight of my lifetime I would  
choose to settle down  
where the winds sweep through the  
woodlands and the mountains seem to  
frown  
there I'd linger by the river where  
water ouzels play  
and salmon leap quick-silver-like in  
flashes through the spray.*

*Poolewe, Poolewe, it's your mountains  
blue, your river and your bay  
that make you pride of Highland hearts  
no matter where they stray  
it's the birds that sing and the woods  
that ring to the echoes of their song  
that make a mystic haven of the place  
where I belong.*

Copyright Willie MacKenzie 1959

Willie is one of our members in B.C. and we have given examples of his poetry and songs in previous issues. This grand one above was sent in by Commissioner Joan MacKenzie, with Willie's permission.

#### ALBERTA HAPPENINGS

There is always something interesting going on in Alberta and our constant





Heather Chilton (on the right) enjoying a quiet moment with a friend at the Calgary Horticultural Society in the "twig" gazebo.

communication with Sheila McKenzie helps us keep abreast of them. Sheila sent us a full page colour article from the Calgary Herald dated April 17th on two new surgical methods for replacing or resurfacing hips. Now we do know that some of our members have had hip replacement surgery or, at least, are looking for such help. So it was with interest we noted that one of the pioneers in a method known as Birmingham Hip Resurfacing is Dr Jim MacKenzie, who just happens to be the son of our Edmonton Commissioner, Cec MacKenzie. Made of cobalt chrome, the hip resurfacing unit is a small, shiny two-piece unit designed to replicate a human ball-and-socket hip joint. The parts fit flawlessly, the ball sliding like silk in the socket. In September 2002, Dr Jim Mackenzie implanted one of these new beauties into Calgary's first Birmingham Hip Resurfacing patient, a 60-year-old male patient. This new treatment has great possibilities and is now covered by the Alberta Health scheme.

Sheila McKenzie also sent us a picture (reproduced above) of Heather Chilton (sitting on the right). To quote Sheila: "Heather Chilton is a mainstay of our locals. She is Kathleen MacKenzie's daughter and former colleague of mine in Occupational Therapy. She is a daemon gardener."

### THE REAL MCKENZIES

Someone tipped us off that quite apart from the reasonably well-known brand of Scotch whisky known as "The Real McKenzie" there is also a punk rock band with a rather similar name - The Real McKenzies. Now I have to admit that I am not much into punk rock - in fact to tell the

truth I can't stand that type of music. Nevertheless it is gratifying that someone has seen that the good name of Mackenzie is good enough to gain some points with the buying public. In the case of The Real McKenzies they do actually have a member of the band by the name of Paul Kevin McKenzie "aka: Kipper McKenzie, Fibbler McKenzie, that idiot w/ the kilt up around his head". One is enough I suppose to give them some sort of legitimacy to the name and they do wear the Mackenzie kilt and some have tattoos with the stag's head!

### SIR ALEXANDER MACKENZIE'S GRAVE

We have had a response from Scotland from former Clan society president Peadair Mackenzie. This is what he had to say:

*Hope you are all well and avoiding the 'bug'. I read in one of your magazines that the memorial at Avoch was not being looked after----- I wish someone had contacted us because although the gentleman who did look after the site is now retired and in a home, we can progress matters here.*

*I have been in touch with the local people, who are proud of the association, to prevent any possible cross purposes as a Society. I expect to clarify the local situation quite soon ie; do they have anyone in mind as a carer? Our Society Committee discussed the matter recently and we do have a prospective 'Guardian of the Grave' although we have not made any approach-*



How the grave appeared when it was being looked after.

*es until the local situation is clarified.*

*Is it possible to set up joint funding for the project? Just to let you know we are*

*aware of the situation and reassure you we are getting on with it"!*

In response to this welcome comment it did occur to us that given the importance of this explorer to the good name of Canada that some of our civil servant members might have some thoughts as to whether the government might step up to the plate for help with the funding. So we asked Peadair if he had any idea of the likely cost of such upkeep. He responded as follows:

*I would think a one-time capital sum of around £4,000 invested will provide for future years for maintenance of the Memorial.*

So here was a general request to members. If you are interested in making a one time donation towards such a fund - and we can give a charity receipt - then send us a cheque payable to Clan MacKenzie Society and we shall forward such funds to the Scottish Clan Society. ALSO, any civil servant members out there - what chances for getting government help? Please contact me directly on this matter at: alan@mkz.com or phone (905) 842-2106.

Here is a further e-mail from Peadair Mackenzie which is of great interest:

*As an addendum to my last email, I have heard from the Chairman of the Avoch Heritage Trust. He is delighted to hear that we will take over the administration of the Memorial. The area has been weeded and an anti-weed membrane laid*

*down and covered with three tons of gravel to reduce the level of maintenance. We will have to replace the current flags which are too large - no problem!*

*We do feel that Gregor Mackintosh who looked after the site for many years and is now in a home and unable to walk should be honoured in some way by our Societies. We will now make an approach to discover a 'Guardian of the Grave'*

*Regards, Peadair.*

This seems good news and donations are requested for this project. Sir Alexander Mackenzie is one of the great

heroes of Canada and MacKenzies in Canada should take a lead.

## AN INCIDENT IN SCOTLAND

by A. Morley MacKenzie

Here is a Scottish story of a tradition many clan members may not be aware of - it came to my mind when reading the March issue of *Cabar Feidh* and the border incidents relating to the Jacobites.

A few years back on one of our English/Scottish visits Paula and I stopped overnight one Saturday just south of the border. On Sunday we started out and crossed into Scotland at Jedburgh. A little later, about 11 a.m. we entered Lauder, a small village with a pub on the square and a half dozen cars parked outside. We parked and entered to find about a dozen customers enjoying the hospitality. The landlord served us and as we sipped ours over the next 15 or 20 minutes we noticed the publican continually going to the window and looking out onto the square. When I called him over for our refills I asked why he kept looking out the window. "Ah lad!" he said, "I shouldna' be open till noon and it's only 11.45. But you see we had 700 horse riders in town all from hereabouts and I didna' close till 2 a.m. and these thirsty people were hangin' on the door at 9 a.m. this mornin'."

"Really?" I said, "why the 700 riders?"

"We do it every year at this time and they ride the border to keep the English out! But now I'm keeping an eye open for the constable."

"Well," I said, "you go and change your clock to 12.15 and I'll change my watch as well and swear to the constable that your clock is right!"

"What a guid idea!" he said, and promptly moved the hands of the pub clock to 12.15.

It wasn't a large pub and as I looked around I saw the patrons also adjusting their watches. And one guy even applauded!

[Ed: good story Morley - thanks!]

## HOW THE SCOTS INVENTED THE MODERN WORLD

by Arthur Herman

One of the hottest books on Scotland to hit the market in recent years is this best seller by Arthur Herman (a non Scot!). It is published by Three Rivers Press, New York, a subsidiary of Random House.

Commissioner Ken Mackenzie-Smith has read this book and this is his review:

This is a fascinating, easily read book by an American Professor. It is a "true story of how Western Europe's poorest nation created our modern world and everything in it". Starting in the 1600's it covers all aspects of Scottish history and its most famous sons up to the present day. It details Bonnie Prince Charlie's historical failure, the Highland Clearances, the lives of Robert Adams, John Watts, Arthur Conan Doyle, Alexander Graham Bell, David Livingstone, Adam Smith - even Ian Maclean along with countless others. All great Scots who have left their mark on our world.

Reading it makes you even more proud to be part of one of its most famous Clans. I highly recommend it to all our members.

## OTTAWA CALLING!

Ken Mackenzie-Smith is the Commissioner for Eastern

Ontario and he is looking for ideas from members in that region for "get-togethers" to be developed over the Summer months in the Ottawa area. Meanwhile members in that area please note that we shall be at the Almonte Games and we should like you to visit us at the clan tent. So call Ken with your suggestions or offers to help. He can be contacted at [tulach@rideau.net](mailto:tulach@rideau.net) or 613-273-1500.

## McKENZIES IN A CHAMPION PIPE BAND

Now I have to say I am not given to boasting (much!) but when I discovered on my visit to New Zealand that three of my cousins were in the New Zealand champion band for the last two years then I must say that I glowed with pride! The band in question is the Manawatu Scottish Society Pipe Band and they are the current New Zealand and Australasian champions and they are planning to go to Scotland this year to try their luck in the world championships for the first time. They hope to find themselves placed among the top ten bands in the world - at least that is their ambition at their first attempt. I met one of the band members, Jock McKenzie, while I was visiting the cemetery where the early McKenzie immigrants to New Zealand were buried. Jock told me that his two sons were also in the band. Stewart McKenzie is the Pipe Major and his brother Fraser is the Drum Sergeant. So I contacted the band via the internet and purchased their newly released CD titles "The Calling" and very good it is too.

Only a few days earlier I had gone into Toronto to hear a performance by the four time World Champions, the Simon Fraser University Pipe Band and I bought one of their outstanding CD performances recorded at Carnegie Hall. When one hears a band of this calibre it is no wonder that the standards set are so high that it must be a hard thing to aspire to such a standard of excellence. The Simon Fraser band has so much depth with world standard solo pipers, and they can produce sounds from their pipes that almost seem impossible. The audience certainly appreciated this.

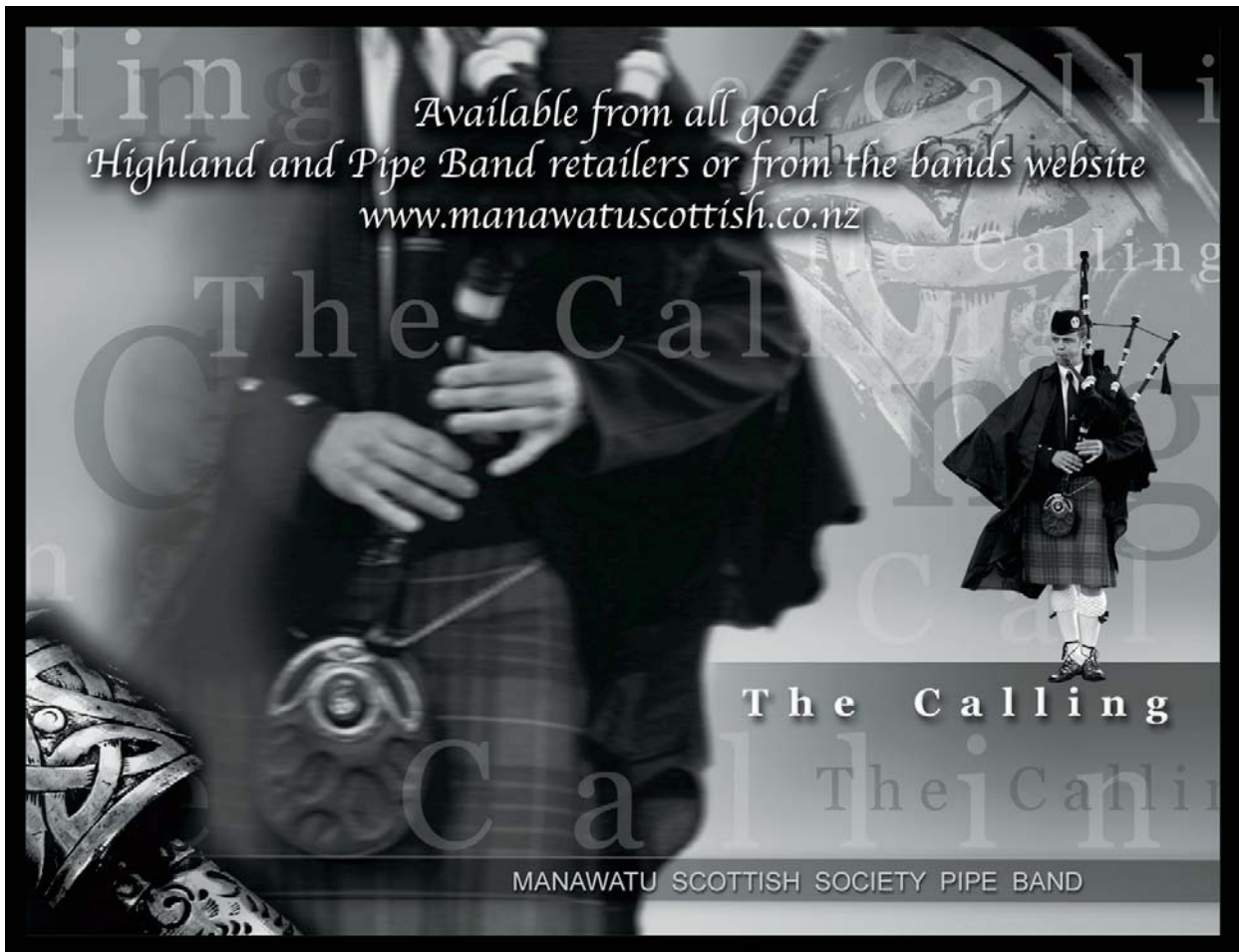
However, the standard of the Manawatu Pipe Band is exceptionally high and the solo performance of Stewart McKenzie on his pipes is absolutely outstanding. He has won numerous awards for his piping and under his leadership the Manawatu Pipe Band would certainly give all others a run for their money! Good luck to them in their championship efforts in Scotland.

The Manawatu Scottish Society Pipe Band was formed in 1925, and is based in Palmerston North, New Zealand. The band draws its membership from as far afield as Australia. The band is led by the brothers Stewart and Fraser McKenzie, who have led the band to victory at the New Zealand Pipe Band Championships in 2001 and 2002 and to first place in the Australian and South Pacific Championships in 2002. The band also won the New Zealand Champion Drum Corps title in 2002, a title it has held three times in recent years.

The CD, "The Calling" brings together the music and arrangements that characterise the band, including new material that expands on the traditional pipe band repertoire without exiting the genre. Featured on the recordings are compositions and arrangements by Stewart McKenzie and Timothy Cummings. Their arrangements, coupled with the original drum scores by Fraser McKenzie, give the band a distinctive sound and style that has won it many accolades.

The picture above shows the cover on the CD with Stewart McKenzie being the piper. This CD is not generally available in





Canada but I had no problem buying my copy by sending an e-mail to the band and buying a bank draft in payment.

Just send an International Bank Draft (you can purchase from your local bank) payable to "Manawatu Scottish Society Pipe Band", for New Zealand Dollars \$40.00. The CD is NZ\$30 plus \$10 for packaging & postage (Air Mail). Please post the Bank Draft to David Sutherland, 5A Birkhall Grove, Strathmore, Wellington, New Zealand. (The e-mail address is sanspeur@actrix.co.nz).

The New Zealand dollar is cheaper than the Canadian dollar and the cost works out at around Can\$32. Highly recommended.



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT: CORNELIABUSH@CORNELIABUSH.COM**

**CALLING ALL MACKENZIES!!!!**

**THE LANDS OF THE MACKENZIES OF BALLONE HAVE BEEN PLACED ON THE MARKET.**

*[This message that follows created a huge volume of e-mails on the Mackenzie chat line. My own contribution from the Clan Society in Canada was to suggest that we had quite enough on our plate with the Castle Leod Project. However here is what started this huge interest!]*

Alexander I of Ballone (1608-1645) was the 4th son of Sir Roderick MacKenzie, Tutor of Kintail (Progenitor of the Earls of Cromartie and the families of Scatwell, Tarvie & Ballone) and his wife Margaret MacLeod of Lewis, Coigeach and Assynt.

We were the first to clear the lands and establish a community there, with a small church, known as the Clachan, Loch Broom. I personally visited the site, where the graves of Alexander II of Ballone and his descendants are situated, greatly in need of repair, a project I mentally committed to and would like your help with. Their memorials have survived, more or less, since 1666.

Ballone went out of our family's control in 1799 as a direct



result of our participation in the Battle of Culloden. Two members of our family were taken prisoner and later released from the Tower of London, being Colin MacKenzie 1st of Badluachrach and his brother, William MacKenzie, who fought under their kinsman George MacKenzie 3rd Earl of Cromartie. The minister went to London and negotiated the safe release of these two Jacobites. The estate so encumbered could not be saved.

During the Clearances, the minister and his wife at the Clachan saved the lives of many of our kin by allowing them to spend the winter in tents in the snow on the church grounds. Those that survived mainly came to America.

Today known as Inverbroom, the property once consisted of about 60,000 acres and was later known as the Braemore Forest, on the road between Inverness and Ullapool.

During my trip, I met the current owners of the property, who are in the process of settling the estate of their late parents.

It is my hope that members of the Clan MacKenzie around the world will be interested in reacquiring some or all of this beautiful land. The property is being offered either in its entirety for £2,550,000 and above or in two lots: Lot 1 at 19,300 acres for offers over £2,000,000 and lot 2 with a portfolio of estate dwellings at offers over £550,000, provisionally offered on condition that the buyer of Lot 1 does not require the entirety.

If you are interested in buying any or all of this parcel, or in combining somehow in a group to acquire any or all of this parcel, please email me ASAP.

Thank you!

Cornelia W. Bush

PS I have not received fees of any kind for this announcement and am not the property agent. I have notified the owners of my wish to see the property in MacKenzie hands again and they are amenable to hearing from us on this subject.

=====  
C.W. Bush, FSA Scot

Member, Association of Professional Genealogists

<http://www.corneliabush.com>

<http://www.americanpeerage.com>

[corneliabush@corneliabush.com](mailto:corneliabush@corneliabush.com)

*[This large estate should not be confused with Ballone Castle which is Easter Ross and is in the ownership of Lachlan and Ann Stewart].*

## 20TH ANNUAL MCKENZIE REUNION

**SATURDAY, JULY 26TH, 2003 AT THE DROMORE PARK,  
EGREMONT TOWNSHIP (NOW SOUTHGATE), GREY COUNTY,  
ONTARIO, from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m**

Each year some fifty descendants of JAMES MCKENZIE and ELIZABETH ROSS have met to celebrate the lives of their ancestors. James and Elizabeth were married in 1829 at Nigg, Ross & Cromarty, Scotland. In 1847 they, along with their six children, came to Canada and took up land in Egremont Township, Grey County. Over the next 156 years their descendants have scattered all across North America.

We have been advised of this event by member, Bill McMeekin, the president of this reunion, now in its 20th year.

There is to be a pot luck supper and attendees are asked to

bring food - they will supply plates, cups, cutlery and a cold beverage. People are also asked to bring along any records or additions to their family tree history book. Since there are to be a number of children expected if you can take prizes for games that would be welcome!

Anyone with McKenzie ties would be welcome to come and spend the afternoon at this event. To get to the Dromore Park, travel north on Highway #6 about 10 miles past Mount Forest. Turn right on Concession 18 and go approximately 7 miles to the Park on the right side of the road before the village of Dromore itself.

Enjoy a pot luck meal, games and fellowship. Bring photos and stories of your family line to share with the gathering.

For more information contact Bill or Sheila McMeekin at (519) 369-6374.

## ANOTHER CASTLE LOOKING FOR MONEY

There is a lot of competition in the world when it comes to extracting money from donors to assist Scottish castles which are crumbling and in risk of decay. Mark Courtney, our intrepid source of what goes on in Scotland, sends us lots of newspaper and magazine cuttings and in fact we could make up a magazine from these alone. One of the articles that was of great interest was from the Daily Mail of May 5th which showed a photo of Castle Sinclair Girmigoe which is in great danger of toppling over the cliff on which it stands plunging it into the North Sea. The castle is owned by Malcolm Sinclair, 20th Earl of Caithness. The castle is said to be in such a perilous condition that it has been added to a list of the world's most endangered heritage sites, along with the Great Wall of China and the Valley of the Kings in Egypt!

So here is another castle competing with Castle Leod for funds! In the case of the Earl of Caithness's castle he has the advantage that he is very pally with Prince Charles and Camilla Parker Bowles and the Prince has agreed to help his friend with the campaign to raise the funds to save the castle. Lucky Earl!

Friends believe that Prince Charles' involvement is a confirmation that he intends to continue his grandmother's strong links with Caithness in a move which mirrors her 50-year project to restore her beloved Castle of Mey.

## HIGHLAND CLEARANCES

*Here is an interesting article from the Daily Mail sent in by Mark Courtney. It is by Michael Fry.*

Inverness and the rest of the Highlands suffered a blow when they failed to make it onto the short-list for European Capital of Culture in 2008. It was always a bit far-fetched to think a whole region might be designated as a capital.

Still, it was worth a shot, if only to show that Highlanders now consider themselves to be in a European league for cultural vitality. That in itself is a big change for people used to seeing themselves as down-trodden victims.

A change of view is justified. The region is prospering as never before, with its population rising after a century of decline. But perhaps its view of itself has not yet changed quite enough.

Every culture worth the name carries with it a certain burden

of history. Highland culture is rich in music, poetry and song inherited from long ago and still being renewed in the present day. But pervading it all is a sense of gloom.

Highlanders can make merry with the best of them, yet the morning after they will come face-to-face with two feelings dictated to them by their traditional culture. The first is that they ought to feel miserable. The second is that they cannot do anything about it.

Several ingredients have gone into this depressing brew. Winters are cold, nights are long and the weather is awful. The midges are maddening. Eking out an existence from thin, acid soil amid moor and mountain has never been easy. And Highland religion is seldom cheery.

But the burden of history has been especially heavy on Highlanders. They are told, and tell themselves, there was once a happier time. Then the straths were stocked with sturdy clansmen, comely maidens and chubby children. The glens were dotted with cosy homesteads where families lived their simple lives as they tilled their tiny plots.

But it was all destroyed by outsiders. For the sake of profit the tyrannical landlords, often Englishmen, threw the people out, left them to starve or forced them to emigrate, and turned their land into a desert fit only for sheep.

These were the Clearances, from the end of the 18th century to the end of the 19th century. If the Clearances are the central fact of modern Highland history, then the Highlanders would be right to feel miserable.

And they would be right to resent those who rejected all claims of justice or pity and evicted their forefathers from the land they loved, shedding bitter tears over their own helplessness.

Yet what if the Clearances are a myth? Or largely a myth, just a single part of a more complicated story?

In that case, today's ceaseless chorus of despair over the Clearances would be quite out of proportion to what actually happened. Worse, this chorus has a persistent damaging effect on the present generation of Highlanders.

It makes them feel they can do nothing for themselves. It makes them look to outsiders, usually the Government, to do everything for them. It makes them think the world owes them a living. With such a psychology, they are unlikely to sustain any cultural vitality for long.

I am a historian, and I have long suspected that the story of the Clearances handed down to the Scotland of today contains too much myth.

John Murray, the 200-year-old Scottish publishing house in London, has just commissioned me to write a new history of the Highlands.

When they first contacted me, they asked me to update the story as handed down. But I replied that I wanted to tell a different story and, after I explained, they accepted there was one to be written.

Public announcement of the commission brought a variation on the familiar Highland chorus - a chorus of hate and abuse.

People tell me I am like David Irving, the historian who writes that Nazi Germany never carried out the Holocaust on the Jews. He invented Holocaust Denial, which in some countries is a crime.

Now I am inventing Clearance Denial. Perhaps the Scottish parliament, on one of the many days it has nothing better to do, should make that a crime too.

I think these critics should at least wait and see what

I write - my book is unlikely to be published for another four years. But let me make it plain that I do not deny that any Clearances ever took place at all.

For instance, in 1814 Patrick Sellar, a sheep farmer from Elgin, evicted many families from Strathnaver in the interior of Sutherland. He packed them off down to new homes on the coast, where they struggled to exist.

He was acting on the authority of the Duke of Sutherland, who gave him the lease of the land. Sellar's men used more force than they needed to, and two old people died of exposure after their homes were destroyed. He was tried for culpable homicide, but acquitted.

This is all a matter of detailed historical record, and there would be no sense in denying it. And there are many more examples which are just as well documented.

But the question I ask is how representative these incidents were? In other words, is Clearance really the central fact of modern Highland history?

What makes me suspicious on this score is comparison with other instances of whole populations being removed, or even destroyed, of which there have been far too many in living memory.

The Holocaust is a case in point. In 1939 six million Jews lived in the parts of Europe about to be occupied by the Nazis.

They were killed on the spot or cleared from their homes only to be murdered in the camps. By 1945 no Jews were left except a few lucky survivors.

Kosovo is the latest example, an ethnic cleansing much more like a Clearance.

When the Serbs invaded the province, two million Albanians were living in it. They killed some, mainly in order to prompt the rest to flee to safety. They did so, and within a few weeks only a tiny fraction of the original population remained.

How do the Highland Clearances compare? In 1755 Dr Alexander Webster carried out, on his own initiative, the first national census of Scotland. He relied on information from ministers of the Kirk which no modern scholar has seriously been able to dispute.

He found a population of 250,000 in what we used to call the seven crofting counties.

From 1801 the British Government started an official census every ten years. The last to record an increase in those counties' population was in 1881. They then contained 400,000 people.

From this I conclude that, whatever happened to the Highland population between 1775 and 1881, it cannot be called Clearance, not as a general description, not as a central fact.

If you clear the people of a region, there are none left, or very few. Or else you can look for them in mass graves, and where are the mass graves in the Highlands?

Highlanders not only stayed living in their own region, but actually increased in numbers by 60 per cent. If my argument amounts to Clearance Denial, I am happy to accept the term.

My second big suspicion is about the demonising of the landlords. Ever since the Jacobite rebellions, the men running Scotland have seen the Highlands as a problem.

It is chastening to read the papers of those in the 18th century and find them fiddling with the same nostrums as their successors now: encouragement of fisheries, higher educational standards, better communications and so on.

Not until recently did the oil industry and e-commerce begin to solve the problem. Meanwhile, everyone thought intervention by outsiders was the answer - nothing could be expected of Highlanders themselves. The Duke of Cumberland had his own way with them, but after him the approach turned more benign.

The Duke of Sutherland with his fellow landlords regarded themselves as engaged in a great project of improvement, founding a tradition which stretches right down to the Highland and Island Enterprise of today.

Who else, in their time, was to tackle it? The state did not yet think economic development any part of its business and, anyway, it lacked the resources of money and expertise. Vast schemes of social engineering, as they would now be called, could only be carried out by wealthy individuals with power over their own estates to get things done.

The Duke of Sutherland was a landlord, but he was much more of an industrialist. Like other industrialists of the age, he supported the Liberal party, not the Tories.

He came into his Highland estate by marriage, and he drew his riches from his huge properties in the English Midlands, where he owned coalmines and potteries, built roads and canals.

He wanted to bring to the North of Scotland the progressive spirit of the industrial revolution.

That also caused upheaval and dislocation, not to mention suffering, to the common people. But they were all better off in the end. In his innocence, the duke expected similar benefits for Highlanders.

But why did he have to turn them off the land and knock down their wee houses? It is easy to forget that the wholesale shifting of the population is part and parcel of progressive social engineering.

The people of Strathnaver moved no further from their ancestral homes than the people of Townhead moved to Castlemilk when the Corporation of Glasgow rehoused them in the 1950s. The same degree of social disaster, but here in a sink scheme, is the result. It is no better for having been caused by a public body rather than by a private individual.

Clearance was a policy of the Left. Like so many policies of the Left, it issued in squalor and chaos. Luckily it did not affect all Highlanders, perhaps even a majority.

They could move to the growing towns. They could find work in the Lowland industries. They could emigrate. Some even made a go of it by sticking out where they were.

They took their lives into their own hands. Probably they were happier, without feeling that this was something they had to broadcast to the world.

I hope my history will show from the example of their forefathers that today's Highlanders need not be miserable and that, if they are, they can themselves do something about it.

*[Ed: I have a strong suspicion that this controversial article might get some of our members to reach for their pens or their e-mails. If so then we would welcome your views and comments on the matter of the Highland Clearances!]*

### An Old Scottish Punch Cartoon



*Tourist (landing on small island in the Hebrides - to old resident). "Who lives here, my friend?"*  
*"Oh, just me and the wife and my brither-in-law."*  
*"And what sort of place is it?"*  
*"Oh, an awfu' place for scandal."*