



Clan MacKenzie Society in the Americas Cabar Feidh

The Canadian Chapter Magazine



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TALES FROM THE OTHER SIDE.....

THE LOCAL HISTORIAN'S TALE.

by Ian Blake

Recently I heard somebody on the radio complacently pontificating "Ethnic cleansing? That's one of those modern atrocities we're always hearing about but at least it never happens here." Neither is true. I have been researching events culminating in what was nothing less than ethnic cleansing which took place very close to home.

We are extremely fortunate to have nineteenth century antiquarian John Dixon's stunningly compendious *Gairloch, in North-West Ross-shire Its Records,*

Traditions, Inhabitants and Natural History. A fluent Gaelic speaker, he noted down verbatim the stories, myths and legends which had been handed down, father to son, mother to daughter, for centuries before the teaching of English (still being enforced, corporally, on pupils in both classroom and playground even sixty years ago) in highland and island schools virtually suppressed this rich oral tradition.

In 1480 Gairloch was M'Leod territory. Allan M'Leod, the laird, had married the daughter of Alexander the Upright, Sixth Laird of Kintail. They lived with their two small sons in a 'fortalice' (fortified house) on an island in Loch Tollaidh. Although Allan was a peaceable man, Dixon warns us that an evil day was coming. His two brothers were unwilling that Mackenzie blood should run in the veins of the heir of Gairloch.

On the day of his murder which precipitated ethnic cleansing, Allan walked down Tollaidh burn to fish the River Ewe. Fish not biting, he stretched out on a hillock named to this day Cnoc na-Chommhairle (The Hill of Evil Counsel) and fell asleep in the sun. His brothers slew him where he lay, cut off his head and threw it into the mill race. Then, telling the widow what they had done, they tore her little boys from her trembling grasp and, once out of sight, murdered their nephews in cold blood.

Before burying the pathetic little corpses beneath Crag Bhadan an Aisc (Rock of the Place of Interment) the two uncles stripped the blood-stained shirts from their nephews as proof that the boys were dead and that no heir of mixed blood would inherit Gairloch.

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

A loyal servant, spying the little shirts hanging up, managed unperceived to get possession of them and brought them to the distraught mother. Old Alexander could not credit his daughter - until she presented the blood-caked shirts. He then sent Hector Roy, her brother, to Edinburgh where such incontrovertible evidence so appalled James III that he gave Hector Roy Commission of fire and sword for the destruction of the M'Leods.

In my efforts to determine, at least my own satisfaction, whether this tale is fiction or fact, I sought to verify the various places mentioned in Dixon and by early summer I was pretty sure I had identified the original site of the 'fortalice'.

The Rock of the Place of Interment is marked on map. It is a sequestered small outcrop in sight of a small lochan, beside 'The Old Road', the packed-stone surface of which is still clearly visible though it went out of use long before the tarring of highland roads. One purpose of my expeditions was to record 'on location' impressions for the programme on the topic I'm putting together for Two Lochs Radio. I switched on my tiny, surprisingly efficient, mini-disc recorder. Although the precise location of the actual burial is long forgotten (if ever known except to the uncles) it seems a melancholy haunted spot even on the sunniest day. However, any ghosts remained silent that afternoon - unless the gentle breeze barely audible on the recording is them whispering.

My final expedition was one last attempt to identify The Hill of Evil Counsel, actual site of the fratricide, where Allan's head was tossed into the mill race. Although evidently still common knowledge in

Dixon's day, there is now no local memory of its whereabouts, although Torr a' Mhuillir The (Round) Hill of the Mill (which must have some relevance to the mill race) is marked on the 1:25,000 OS map. I had walked the ground several times previously without coming to any conclusion.

As I approached my customary parking place, I was dismayed to see four or five tatty vans and caravans. Tinkers! Unpopular with residents, whether crofters or landowners, they are usually quickly moved-on. I parked some distance away, making sure I locked and alarmed the car, before following the route Allan would have taken down the burn from the head of Loch Tollaidh, trying once again to identify the elusive 'murder scene' - as it would be termed in to-days's TV parlance.

Holding the little recorder, I picked my way amongst tufted heather and boulders, crouching down to capture the sound of water rushing over stones and little rapids. Straightening up, some distance ahead I glimpsed heads and shoulders of two small figures paddling in the burn where it ran between the banks of a slight declivity. Tanned by outdoor life with long tangled hair they had to be from the dilapidated vans parked along the road. I was therefore mildly surprised that, shy as little tinker girls usually are, they did not dash off on my approach. Nor did they rush up begging, the alternative customary reaction of their bolder siblings!

"Hello, you two."

Intent on the pool, where they waded up to their knees, backs toward me, they gave no indication

that they had heard me.

"Guddling trout?" I persisted, "Any luck?"

That caught their attention. They turned gazing at me with wide, enquiring, intelligent eyes. The long hair had deceived me. They were little boys of about five or six, quite unembarrassed by their nakedness, so evenly tanned all over that it occurred to me they might be of genuine Romany stock.

Spreading his hands in what I interpreted as some sort of plea, one spoke - replied I supposed, for I have no Gaelic. What exactly was he was saying? Did they even understand English? Assuming he must be begging, I discovered a coin in my pocket and placed it in his small almost delicate hand. They both stared at it. Then he looked back at me as if I had disappointed him. Finally, his eyes still on my face, he placed it gently on a large flat stone. Abruptly, preoccupation with the burn reclaimed them.

"No word or gesture of thanks? Ungrateful pair of little urchins!" I muttered somewhat ruefully. Nonetheless, though it had been the only coin I had on me, a twinge of embarrassment at my apparent stinginess impelled me to call cheerfully "Enjoy your game!" as I left them to it.

Once again I was unable to convince myself of the location of The Hill of Evil Council and, passing the spot about an hour later, I found both children had gone. The coin still lay on the flat stone. I left it, pretty certain that their parents would send them back pronto (no doubt with a skelping for having forgotten it in the first place!) However, when I reached my car, the battered little convoy had disappeared. 'Authority' presumably

having encouraged them on their way.

That evening I played the recordings. Even my ancient set-up revealed that they provided excellent complementary material for my radio programme. And an unexpected bonus. I'd forgotten to turn off the recorder and thus, to my delight, had inadvertently recorded my encounter with the little boys.

Next morning I took the mini-disc along to the Two Lochs Radio. Alex played the tracks through. On sophisticated studio equipment the soft appealing treble of the young tinker came through with poignant clarity.

"You'll need to translate it for the benefit of non-Gaelic speakers like me."

Frowning, he played it through three or four times more. "It seems to be a dialect, probably spoken on one of the islands but, if so, rarely heard. You thought they were begging? Could be a travellers' dialect I suppose. But..." He gave me quizzical look and, after slight hesitation, "You're not having me on are you?" I shook my head. "Because that kid's certainly not begging. As far as I can make out he's saying, 'We cannot rest in peace until we find our father's severed head.'"

Eventually the silence was broken by Alex saying quietly, "Well, congratulations. The position of The Hill of Evil Council could hardly be more authentically identified."

Ridiculously, all I could think of was how crass I must have seemed to Allan's young son who, offended at being taken for a beggar, had rejected my coin with what I now recognised as quaintly courteous

dignity.

Ed: This splendid short 'Ghost' story was sent to me by Ian Blake the former president of the Clan Mackenzie Society in Scotland. Ian lives in Gairloch and knows a lot about the ancient region's history. Cleverly built on the real story in Dixon's book mentioned, I thought the tale worth telling and I got Ian's permission to publish it here. Ian says he has been sending annual newsletters at Christmas for 20 years and this happened to be one of these. A splendidly clever tale.

CASTLE LEOD OPEN DAYS 2009

The Clan Mackenzie Society in Scotland has announced the Open Days for Castle Leod for 2009. If you will be in Strathpeffer you will be welcomed to have an escorted tour of the old castle and see the wonderful portraits of early Mackenzies.

May 28th to 31st (Thursday to Sunday)

June 3rd to 7th (Wednesday to Sunday)

June 25th to 28th (Thursday to Sunday)

July 30th to August 2nd (Thursday to Sunday)

August 27th to 30th (Thursday to Sunday)

September 24th to 27th (Thursday to Sunday)

CLAN MACKENZIE SOCIETY SCOTLAND

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2008-9

Hereditary Chief, The Earl of Cromartie
President, Hamish Mackenzie O.B.E.

Executive Chairman and Treasurer, Philippa Mackenzie
Vice Chairman and Genealogist, Graeme Mackenzie
Secretary, Susan Weinmann
Membership Secretary, Brian Usill (from February 2009)
Past President, Dr. Ian M-Blake
Hon. Vice President, Lady Julia Mackenzie
Committee Members: Roderick Balfour, John Graham, Donnaie Mackenzie, Keith Mackenzie and Mary Mackenzie.

CANADIAN OFFICERS

At the AGM of the Canadian Chapter of the Clan MacKenzie Society in the Americas, the following were elected to serve for 2009:

President: Norman S. MacKenzie C.D.

Treasurer: Alan McKenzie FSA Scot,

Secretary: Mary-Lou Oyler.

All the Commissioners in Canada were confirmed to remain as Commissioners with the addition of Shawn MacKenzie who takes on the role of Commissioner for Toronto from Norman S. MacKenzie.

Alan McKenzie will continue in his role as Administrator of the Mackenzie/McKenzie DNA Project with co-administrator Alice Fairhurst in the United States.

CLAN MACKENZIE'S INTERNATIONAL GATHERING STRATHPEFFER 2010

The Scottish Clan Society has announced that the planning for the International Gathering of Clan Mackenzie at Strathpeffer is proceeding. The dates of the Gathering

are August 2nd to 8th, 2010.

It is expected that the new archive centre in Inverness will be open and will be of particular interest to those researching their family history. *[Ed: that is one place I will not miss!]*

There will be the usual mix of tours, talks, ceilidhs and genealogical seminars. The week of the Gathering will culminate in the Highland Games held in the grounds of the chief's home, Castle Leod.

We have been asked by Scotland to let them have approximate numbers who might be attending. If you feel that you would like to go and this does not commit you to attend in any way, please e-mail me at alan@mkz.com and let me know how many would be in your party. This all helps Scotland with their early planning. Those who do respond will be sent early booking forms once they are available. In addition Scotland wants to know what sort of events would interest you. In 2005 there were many interesting tours including ones to Eilean Donan Castle, Applecross via the "Pass of the Cattle" (what an amazing experience that was!) as well as looking for Nessie! In fact anything that takes your fancy let us know and it might make a difference.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thank you so much for the wonderful Newsletters helping us to stay in touch.

Stella MacKenzie Cleave,
Mission, BC

Greetings Alan - Thank you for the very interesting article on MacKenzies of Redcastle. I have been told that I am descended from MacKenzies of Redcastle, but have

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never been able to prove anything. My earliest ancestor that I have been able to locate is John MacKenzie (McKenzie) who was born in 1775. An old picture indicates he was born at Brahan in Ross-shire, but no evidence has been found to prove this. All other information I have learned about him I have been able to collaborate and proves accurate. John MacKenzie married Anne Macdonald (Born 1777) who was the niece of Allan Macdonald of Kingsburgh and his wife the illustrious Flora Macdonald of Prince Charlie fame.

The entire MacKenzie family with the exception of daughter Margaret who married in 1828 emigrated to Canada in 1831 settling in Kenyon Township of Glengarry County where they took up land. The direct line to me follows with Alexander Born 1809, Bracadale, Skye,---- Roderick (Rory) Born 1854, Glengarry, Ontario, ---- Donald Born 1881 Glengarry ----- James W. Born 1914, Plenty, Saskatchewan -----Glen W. Born 1948, Russell, Manitoba.

So, like you indicated in your DNA article, my family history research hit a brick wall in Scotland as I was unable to track anything prior to 1775. My hope is that in the DNA project at some time I will find someone who is a very close match.

I retired two years ago but seem to be busier than when I had a full time job. I have been Mayor of the Town of Swan River since 1997 and have two years left in my term. This gives me something to do and presents many different challenges.

Thank you for all the time and effort you put in to the Clan

MacKenzie Society.
Glen McKenzie
Swan River, Manitoba

OBITUARY WILSON H. MACKENZIE 1918-2008

Wilson Mackenzie's children report, with sadness, the



Wilson (seated) at his nephew, Don's wedding. Standing, Don and to Wilson's left and right are his wife Nora and sister Eunice.

death of their father. Wilson came from Ullapool in Scotland. He was raised in Haney, B.C. by his parents H.E. and Ethel MacKenzie with his brother Donald and sister Eunice.

He leaves behind Nora, his wife of 67 years, his two daughters, Stella and Donna, six grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

To Masonry and Scotia dear!
A last request permit me here,
When yearly ye assemble a'
One round, I ask it with a tear,
To him, the Bard, that's far awa.
Robert Burns, "The Farewell"

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Many thanks indeed for the generous cheque . . . Please thank all those who contributed and particularly at this difficult time. Having just finished some work on the Castle; - the east window/lintel of the old kitchen has just been totally replaced and work done at

The clans are all here

30,000 Scots expats and descendants set to return as Salmond announces largest-ever gathering for the Year of Homecoming

As seen in this extract from Britain's Daily Mail there is a great deal of publicity of Scotland's "Homecoming" in 2009, both in the press and on the internet. I have received several notifications from Scotland. Our Society and others from Clan MacKenzie will be in Edinburgh for the Gathering of the Clans in July. President Norman MacKenzie will be there with Alan McKenzie and Toronto Commissioner, Shawn MacKenzie.

See more on this BIG event on page 17



The pipes are calling: Alex Salmond and the pipe band from Queen Victoria School, near Dunblane, invite Scots to return home

the back of the building too; - which has left the grand sum of 21 pence in the CMCT main account after paying the builder. So, you can be sure that your cheque came like Manna from Heaven and entirely unexpected.

Ed: This message from the Earl of Cromartie was in response to a cheque for £530.38 mailed by us and representing personal donations from members designated for the Castle Leod Project totalling \$944.97.

By the way we hear from the Clan Society in New Zealand that the Chief will be visiting them from April 10 - 28 this year. This will be his first visit to New Zealand.

CLAN MACKENZIE SOCIETY OF GERMANY

Hallo to all of you around the world!

In 2009 the Clan Mackenzie Society of Germany will hold Highland Games together with the Clan MacLaren and the Clan MacKay!

The Clan MacKay will hold Highland Games in Germany for the 5th time.

We are very proud to be a part of this event!

The Games take place on 28/06/2009 in D-48607

Ochtrup-Welbergen.

The location for our Highland Games will be the surroundings of the restaurant "Zum Kapellenhof" in Ochtrup-Welbergen.

An event for the whole family with Pipe Band, solo piper, some real Scots, a Scottish Country Dancing group and of course with the famous Highland Games, including Tossing the caber, Putting the stone, Sheaf toss, 100 Yards Race, Tug o War and much more.

A colourful and entertaining program will be provided with Scottish music, dancing and other things.

We expect to have thousands of enthusiastic spectators.

Everyone is invited to visit the Highland Games!

Free entry!

www.clan-mackenzie.de

Everyone who thinks about visiting Germany - please contact me!

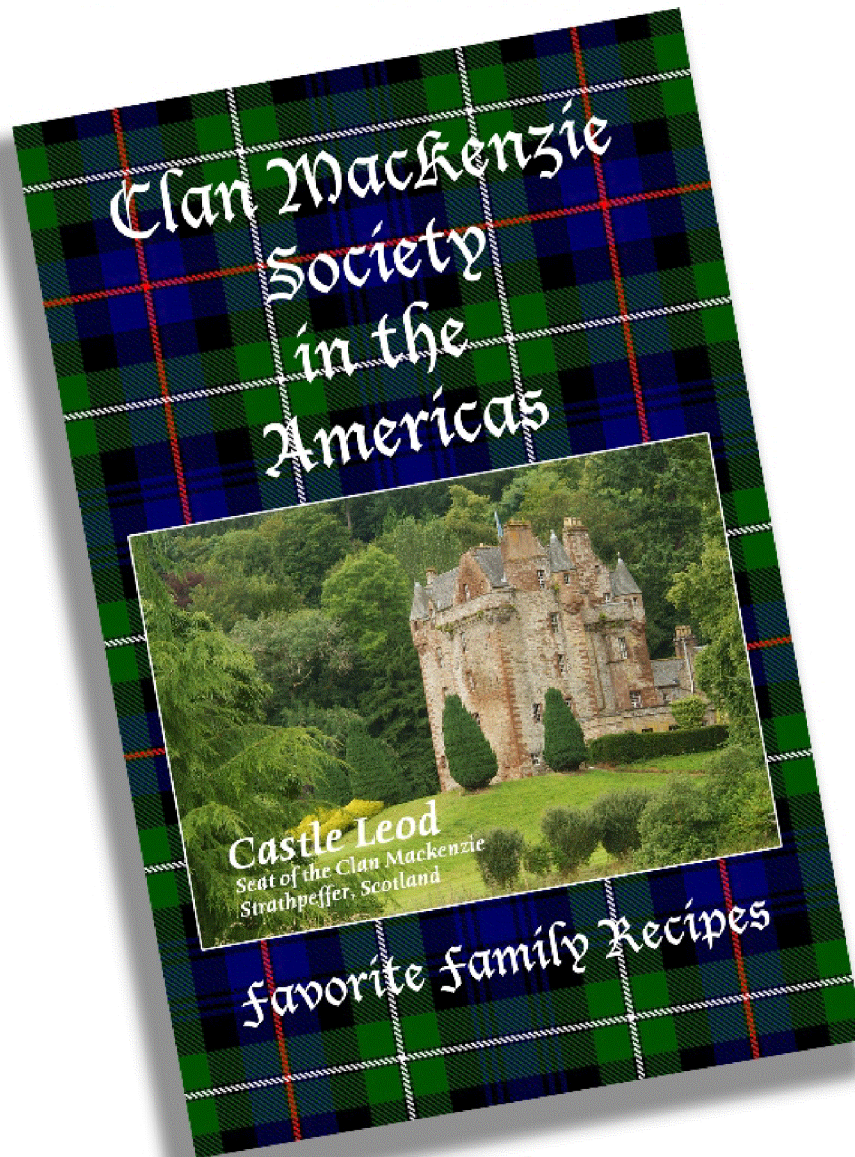
Tulach Ard!

Markus Kewitz

President Clan Mackenzie Society of Germany

Ed: Well done for our Clan Society in Germany - they really seem to be getting things moving in a big way!

Cookbooks on Sale



\$12.00 each

Help Support the Castle Leod Restoration Fund

The Clan MacKenzie Society has assembled a unique collection of over 300 favorite family recipes from its members and bound them together along with a history of Clan Mackenzie into an attractive keepsake cookbook. Cookbooks are available at the MacKenzie tent at (Highland Games) and on-line at www.clanmackenzie.com. Proceeds from the sale of this one-of-a kind collection will go toward the restoration of Castle Leod in Strathpeffer, Scotland. Castle Leod is the seat of the Chiefs of Clan MacKenzie. The Clan MacKenzie Society works to foster a greater interest among Mackenzie descendants and to educate and instill an awareness of Scottish history and traditions. Cookbooks are also available for immediate shipping for US\$12 each (plus \$4 for S&H). Make checks payable to Clan MacKenzie/Castle Leod Cookbook and mail to 133 West Vermont Avenue, Southern Pines, NC 28387. For more information, contact Don McKenzie at mcfoto@pinehurst.net [Canadians will need to send a bankers money order to get this book].

**REVELSTOKE, PRIME MINISTER
MACKENZIE & THE RAILWAY PLUS
A NEAR FATAL ACCIDENT**

FROM RODDY MACKENZIE

I'd just completed three very pleasant days in Revelstoke having my car repaired -- a bearing on one wheel was shot. Revelstoke is a beautiful, historic mountain community devoted to the railways, so its main street, the nearby ski mountain, several businesses and other places sport the name "MacKenzie". This is to honour Canada's second Prime Minister, Alexander Mackenzie, the genius who made the 3,000 mile railway from Montreal to Vancouver happen, thereby pulling the prairies and BC into Canada. For decades that national railway was the only way into Revelstoke. It had snowed heavily in Revelstoke Tuesday evening, covering a sheet of ice on the roads. However, it was a nice morning, I'd had a refreshing sleep the night before and my car was performing beautifully.

**A Figure Eight on the Trans
Canada Highway**

Yesterday in the mountains between Revelstoke and Shushwap my car did a figure-eight on the Trans-Canada Highway. I should have been killed. My guardian angel performed a miracle in keeping me alive. I'd just passed a huge semi-trailer truck that had jack-knifed into the ditch. The RCMP and a tow truck were on the scene. Then I passed an abandoned car, the entire front end of which was smashed in. I was thankful I'd been raised in Alberta with its learner's permits when you turn 14 for two solid years of driving practice until getting your driver's licence at 16. My Dad had made

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good use of those two years to teach me how to drive safely in all weather conditions. I was driving under the speed limit with great caution, but the highway appeared at that point to be in safe driving condition.

Then it happened. Without warning I hit a huge spread of smooth sheer ice. All the snow had been blown away. It was like a giant ultra slippery skating rink. My car automatically accelerated, trying to find traction. Fortunately it has a button on the dash to shut off traction, because my car has such powerful traction and that's the last thing you want on sheer ice. But my car was accelerating into a wall of rock. I'll never know how I turned it away at the last second, given I had no control over the car. The realization dawned on me I was going to die. Then a calm settled over me and it felt like my Dad (who died in 1991) was sitting in the passenger seat beside me just as he did for those two long years from age 14 to 16. I remembered everything I'd been taught, and I drove more expertly than ever in my life. I felt no fear or panic, just calm acceptance that whatever will be will be. Having avoided the wall of rocks, I was now speeding out of control across the Trans Canada Highway towards the sheer cliff on the other side. Going over that into the rocks far below would have meant certain death. Somehow I pulled my car out of that at the last minute by spinning it around, again crossing the full width of the highway and narrowly missing the wall of rock, followed by crossing the full width of the Trans Canada a third time and with only centime-

ters to spare pulling out of the turn just before going over the cliff which I was approaching a second time. My car then stopped, facing east. I'd been travelling west. Shaking, I got out to inspect the damage. There was no damage. My car was in perfect working order. Just then huge semi-trailer trucks approached simultaneously from the east and the west, taking up between them every inch of highway except the shoulder where I was parked with my four-way flashers on. They missed me and each other. If they'd come during my Figure-Eight, I would have been killed and at least one of them would have jack-knifed over the cliff down into the valley, killing that driver as well. Still shaking, with adrenaline coursing through my body, I thanked God, my Dad and my guardian angel for saving my life, and the lives of those truck drivers.

**Sicamous to Kamloops --
PERFECT**

Driving conditions from Sicamous to Kamloops were perfect. To celebrate still being alive, I stopped in at Salmon Arm to see my friend and classmate from Queen Elizabeth High School in Calgary, Lody Kieken. Lody was out, so I left a nice letter for him on his desk.

**The Coquihalla -- A SECOND
NIGHTMARE**

The BC Highways Ministry should have closed the Coquihalla. It was a second nightmare. As I was cautiously approaching the summit, with the snowfall getting heavier by the minute, a huge passenger bus

passed me. Minutes later that bus jack-knifed into a deep ditch, with the back of the bus blocking the highway. We all had to stop at the side of the road, to leave the one usable lane clear for police, ambulances, fire rescue vehicles, tow trucks and highways control vehicles. As the snowfall got heavier and heavier, we all sat there for two and a half hours! Our line of traffic stretched for miles. We had to keep turning our engines off to avoid poisoning ourselves with carbon monoxide, and turning them on again to avoid freezing. When we finally started inching forward my thought was to turn back to Merritt, but the turnoff lane was impassable and at the Summit I realized I was now a few kilometers closer to Hope than Merritt, so I worked my way down the slope. As I got lower, weather conditions were getting worse instead of better, the snow was falling heavily and it was starting to get dark. So I took the first exit into Hope.

AND HERE I AM IN HOPE - - SAFE, SOUND & ALIVE!!

I found my friend Glen DuPre, enjoyed with him a superb Greek dinner, drank some of his 15-year-old Scotch and telephoned Ka Hyun Shin at VST with the news I'm still alive. Ka Hyun told me she'd been praying for me all day. Then Glen and I watched an excellent documentary on TV about angels, before I fell into the deep, refreshing sleep I've just now woken from.

We must all be good to our guardian angels. They work hard for us.

Best regards, Roddy

CONQUER THE SCOTS...

Edward Longshanks (Edward I of England) comes to Scotland to Conquer the Scots. He brings 4,000 men with him. As he nears the battlefield, there suddenly appears a solitary figure on the crest of the hill - a short, ginger-haired guy in a kilt.

"Hammer o' the Scots?" yells the wee Scottish guy on the hill. "Come up here, ya English sodgers, and I'll give ye a hammerin'!"

Edward turns to his commander. "Send 20 men to deal with that little Scottish upstart, he says. The commander sends twenty of his best men over the hill to kill the Scotsman.

Ten minutes later, at the crest of the hill, the little Scot appears again. "Ya English diddies!" he yells. "Come on the rest of ye!! Come on, I'll have ye all!"

Edward is getting somewhat annoyed. He turns to his commander.

"Send 100 men to kill that little guttersnipe!"

The commander sends 100 men over the hill to do the job.

Ten minutes later, the little Scot appears at the top of the hill once more, his hair all sticking up, his shirt a wee bit torn. "Ya English SCUM!" he yells. "I'm just warming up!! Come and get me, ya English losers!!"

Edward loses patience. "Commander, take 400 men and personally WIPE HIM OFF THE EARTH!" he yells. The commander gulps, but leads four hundred men on horseback over the crest of the hill.

Ten minutes later, the little Scotsman is back. His clothing is all torn, his face is covered in

blood, and Irn-Bru. "Is that the best ye can do??? You're like WUM-MIN!!! Come on!! Come and have a go ya bunch of English no-goods!!!" he yells.

Edward turns to his second in command. "Take 1,000 men over that hill and don't come back until you've killed him!" he commands. The second in command gathers the men and they ride off over the hill to their fate.

Ten minutes later, one of the English troops appears back at the top of the hill. He's covered in blood and his clothes are all torn. "Your Majesty!" he yells: "It's a trap!!! There's two of them!!!!"

[Ed: Thanks to the member who sent this in, suitably edited by us to remove the bad language!]

Edward I was known as "Longshanks" as he was very tall. He gained the epithet "Hammer of the Scots" for the many battles he won against them and he was the man who had William Wallace hanged drawn and quartered in London. All in all a great nuisance to the Scots of the day. The change occurred when the English were badly beaten at the now famous Battle of Bannockburn 23-24 June 1314. This time, however Edward I was dead and it was his son Edward II who led the English army to this huge defeat. Needless to say Edward II was not a patch on his father as a commander of troops. Robert the Bruce was King of Scotland and finally secured the independence of Scotland from England. (That is until the two countries joined together to become Great Britain in 1707!)

Ed: The following e-mail was sent to us and we pass it on for whatever action you wish to take.

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Dear friends at Clan MacKenzie – Scotland needs your help!

As you will see below we are planting a woodland to commemorate The Gathering 2009 and to be the living legacy of The Year of the Homecoming.

We are delighted to be working in partnership with them and we aim to plant a woodland that embodies everything that is good, innovative and green about Scotland!

Ultimately we would like every Scot wherever they are in the world to take a positive action and plant at least one tree! Any help that you can give us to achieve these aims would be very much appreciated. If you could, for example forward this e-mail to the rest of your members or put something up on your website - all would be much appreciated.

We look forward to your support whether it is to help us spread the word to your clan or simply to plant a few trees and to get your name on our on-site honours board. If you would like to discuss any ideas then feel free to drop me an e-mail. In the meantime, have a glance at the e-mail below and click through to the website:

www.teaghlachwood.com

Many thanks for your support,
Angus
Angus Crabbie
Tree4Scotland
Tel: 0131 476 5929

You are receiving this e-mail either because you are a member of the Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce or you have registered

to get newsletters from The Gathering 2009 or www.thebigtreeproject.com

Having trouble viewing this e-mail? View it in your browser.

THE TEAGHLACH WOOD

With your support The Gathering 2009 will plant 10,000 trees to commemorate Scotland's greatest ever international gathering of the clans.

Show how much you, your family or your business love Scotland by planting a tree in the new Teaghlach Wood and leaving a lasting legacy for the generations to come.

Buying a tree for The Teaghlach Wood to be planted in the hills above Comrie in Perthshire will bring traditional broadleaf species back to the heart of Scotland, regenerate wildlife habitats and combat climate change.

Plant Some Trees

www.thegathering2009.com

Ed: This e-mail was sent by Angus Crabbie at The Big Tree Project in partnership with The Gathering 2009, 27 Queen Charlotte Street, Leith, Edinburgh EH6 6AX to ros@thegathering2009.com.

HIGHLAND GAMES 2009

This is a heads-up for what we have discovered on the Highland Games events in Canada so far. We have heard that the popular Chatham-Kent Games are dead which is a disappointment. And as far as we can tell it looks as if the Sarnia Games have also gone. In these days of belt-tightening it is not surprising, as getting bands to

play at these games is a very expensive proposition and if the crowds do not attend then more will fall by the wayside. Here is what we know so far:

ONTARIO/QUEBEC

Georgetown Highland Games - June 13

Cobourg H.G. - June 27

Orillia Scottish Festival - July 18

Cambridge H.G. - July 18

Embrow H.G. - July 1

Kincardine Scottish Festival and Games - July 3, 4 and 5

Glengarry Highland Games, Maxville - July 31 - August 1

Fergus H.G. and Scottish Festival - August 7, 8 and 9

Beach Celtic Festival - Sept 12 - 13

Given that some of us will be in Scotland in July for the Gathering of the Clans in Edinburgh, we will need help to get the Clan to the Maxville Games.

We plan to be with the tent at the Games above in **darkened script**.

ALBERTA

Fort McMurray - Jun 6

Grand Prairie H.G. - June 14

Red Deer H.G. - June 27

Canmore H.G. - Sep 6

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Comox Valley H.G. Courtenay - May 16

Victoria Highland Games - May 16-17

Coquitlam H.G. - June 27

Kamloops H.G. - July 11

NOVA SCOTIA

Halifax H.G. - July 11

Antigonish H.G. - July 19?

At the time of writing we still have no other details of Games that may also be on elsewhere in

continues on page 12

Clan MacKenzie Society in the Americas - Canadian Chapter

Balance Sheet as at December 31, 2007

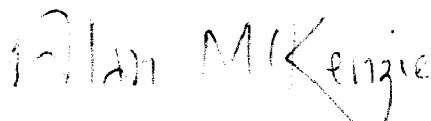
Assets	\$	\$	Liabilities	\$	\$
Cash at Bank			Capital Account 1/1/2007	92,506.04	
CIBC - Nevada Account	310.81		Net Surplus Income for 2007	<u>479.72</u>	
CIBC - General Account	4,759.18		Total Capital	<u>92,985.76</u>	92,985.76
ING Bank Account at Interest	<u>34,172.70</u>		Donation Reserve for DNA Project		881.61
Total Cash at Bank	<u>39,242.69</u>	39,242.69			
Other Investments (at current value)		28,484.64	Castle Leod Project a/c		70.00
Inventory at cost		12,115.03	Suspense Account		0.00
Nevada fees in advance		200.70			
GST Receivable		574.69			
Other receivables		0.00			
Inventory of 1894 Books		2,164.08			
Inventory of W.L.Mackenzie books		1,368.87			
Payments in Advance		0.00			
Inventory of Donald Mackenzie books		124.60			
Clan Van at cost less depreciation		9,662.07			
		<u>\$93,937.37</u>			<u>\$93,937.37</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements

Note #1 - During the year an officer claimed for expenses exceeding \$500 and this claim was partially offset by donations amounting to \$500 from the officer.

Note #2 - The total of funds sent to the Clan Mackenzie Charitable Trust for the Castle Leod Project came to £54,468.45 for the period up to Dec 31, 2007. The \$2,333.75 sent in 2007 converted to £1,137.76, thereby increasing the funds remitted from the Society and its members to £55,606.21.

I hereby certify that these accounts are a true and accurate reflection of the financial activities of the Clan MacKenzie Society in the Americas - Canadian Chapter for the Year ended 31 December, 2007



Alan McKenzie, ACIB, FICB, F.Inst.D., FSA Scot, Treasurer

Clan MacKenzie Society in the Americas - Canadian Chapter

Financial Statements for the Year Ended

December 31, 2007

Income and Expenditure Account

Expenditure	\$	\$	Income	\$	\$
Personal Donations to Castle Leod account		2,393.75	Nevada net income		3,536.38
Society Donations to Castle Leod Account		-	Donations (tax receipt)		6,063.75
Other Donations		50.00	Donations (no Tax receipt)		175.00
Clan Regalia - flags etc.		1,524.71	Officers donations (Note #1)	500.00	
DNA Testing		1,736.42	less expenses claimed	<u>500.00</u>	0.00
Catering & Rentals		450.31	Membership dues		6,555.86
Postages		2,616.95	Interest & Investment Income		3,295.52
Printing & Publishing		2,849.88	Profit from sales		1,872.37
Stationery & Office Supplies		847.81	GST Recovered		574.69
Van Insurance, Licencing, Gas, Expenses		1,849.13	Other Income		0.00
Van depreciation (30%)		4,140.89			
Sundry Expenses		2,492.13			
Bank Charges		87.60			
Clan Dinner & AGM 2007		<u>554.27</u>			
Sub-total		21,593.85			
Net Income/(deficit)		479.72			
		<u>\$22,073.57</u>			<u>\$22,073.57</u>

Castle Leod Project - Accounts

Expenses	\$	Income	\$
Paid to Castle Leod Project 2007 (see Note #2)	2,333.75	Balance in hand at January 1, 2007	10.00
		Per Personal Donations	2,393.75
Balance in Hand - December 31, 2007	70.00	Clan Society Donation	0.00
	<u>\$2,403.75</u>		<u>\$2,403.75</u>

The financial results for 2007 shown on pages 10 and 11 were presented to the Clan MacKenzie Society Canada AGM on **Sunday, December 7, 2008.**

The Treasurer also reported that for the current financial year (2008) there will be a substantial reduction in the Capital Account of the Society due to the decline in the value of the mutual fund investments held. The investments' decline in value for the year will amount to almost \$10,000.

It was also noted that there is a sizeable increase in the numbers of members that have not yet renewed their subscriptions and that income from that source is down \$1000 from the income shown in 2007



country. It is advisable to check locally before setting off to one of the Highland Games above just in case changes are subsequently made.

CLAN GENEALOGY AND DNA TESTING

I think it is a good time to mention that over the last few years there has been a decline in the amount of activity on clan matters, especially here in Ontario. This is, I understand quite general as if people are tiring of hearing about their ancestry and all that stuff about clan wars and fights and Jacobites and emigration to better places. Maybe that is so. Certainly we are see a decline in members and we fail to pick up new members as older members die or fail to renew.

However that may be I can tell you that one area of clan activity which is alive and flourishing is in the area of DNA testing. The numbers of Mackenzies in the world who have tested are growing steadily and I find I have quite a job to do updating all the results, which I transpose onto the chart of all Mackenzie DNAs. These can be found on our web-site at www.electricscotland.com/mackenzie and click on the DNA updates file.

Now, I do not see the numerous e-mails that go on between participants when they discover another Mackenzie somewhere in the world whose DNA matches closely, indicating a possible close relation. A close match with someone with the same surname is a strong indicator that there is a recent family connection, maybe within the last four or five generations in some cases.

In my case I do not do much corresponding as my only close match is a fourth cousin in New Zealand and we already had paper trails to show our relationships. But I did dip my toe in the water with one member who matches with a large number of Mackenzies and helped him by contacting others with the same or close DNA results.

I was quite overwhelmed when I started to receive a mountain of attachments to e-mails showing family trees. Some of these ran to thousands of pages. This particular set of people, we believe, are descended from the early Mackenzie families who would have owned land and included the Chiefs of the clan. All these landed families were often related to one another as it was common practice in times past for "land to marry land". In other words to marry peo-

ple in their own class!

Three of the person in this group have family trees showing they do descend from landed families and it became very interesting to see that many of these families with matching DNAs trace their roots to Lochbroom, the large parish on the western side of Ross and Cromarty county (now simply called Ross-shire!)

Slowly the puzzles are starting to make sense and we are making a lot of progress as more and more Mackenzies around the world are becoming familiar with DNA and are learning through usage how to interpret results.

What is also remarkable in looking at the analyses to date is the variety of places around the world where the DNA members whose results have come in are located.

This clearly shows the huge diaspora of the Mackenzies.



*continued from page 12***Just look at this analysis:**

Location	No of Men
Scotland	11
England	8
Australia	14
New Zealand	7
Belgium	1
S. Africa	1
Canada:	
Ontario	27
British Columbia	19
Alberta	8
Manitoba	3
Quebec	3
Nova Scotia	3
Saskatchewan	3
USA:	
California	10
Georgia	8
Pennsylvania	7
Florida	6
Alabama	4
New York	3
Ohio	3
Washington	3
Maryland	3
Massachusetts	2
Kentucky	2
New Jersey	2
S. Carolina	2
N. Carolina	2
Oregon	2
Montana	2
Illinois	2
Minnesota	2
Maine	1
Mississippi	1
Delaware	1
New Hampshire	1
Oklahoma	1
Virginia	1
Colorado	1
Texas	1
Nebraska	1
West Virginia	1
Missouri	1

We can also look at the **haplogroups** (that is **family groups** in DNA-speak!). Bearing in mind there are about 600 or so family groups in the world most Mackenzies fall within two large groups which are relatively common in Western Europe.

The biggest group is the **R1b** family and their subdivisions:

Haplogroup Rib (origins - Northern Spain 30,000 years ago, dominated the expansion into Europe after the last Ice Age 11,000 years ago.)

Haplogroup	No. of men
R1b1	5
R1b1b2	139
R1b1b2a1a	1
R1b1b2a1b	1
R1b1b2d	1
R1b1b2e	4

R1a1	3
------	---

(from mostly Europe and Northern Europe, origins Ukraine and souther Russia)

Haplogroup I (Common in north west Europe, primarily Scandinavia, or Viking!)

I	4
I1	12
I2b	10

We assume the people in this group descend from the Viking invaders that raided Scotland and Ireland over several centuries.

Haplogroup J (Middle East or Jewish origins)

J2	4
----	---

Haplogroup E (origins Middle East)

E1b1b1	1
--------	---

Haplogroup T (recent discovery)

T	1
---	---

DID THE MACKENZIES COME FROM SPAIN?

Perhaps some of you reading the DNA article looked up in surprise to think that we may have come from Spain.

What's that all about you may ask?

Mark Courtney in Inverness-shire sent me a news-

paper article some time ago. It was a 2007 piece from the British "Daily Mail" the headline said **"We're all Spanish - The Basques beat the Celts to Britain 15,000 years ago"**.

They quoted Oxford University researcher, Dr Stephen Oppenheimer, when he made the comment that three-quarters of our genes were inherited from the Basques of northern Spain.

Dr Oppenheimer says he believes the Basques arrived around 15,000 years ago, significantly earlier than the Celts or the Anglo Saxons - and at a time when the British Isles were still joined to the rest of Europe.

Britain was unpeopled then because of the glaciers from the last ice age that kept Europe under a cold blanket for thousands of years limiting populations to to Spain and Italy. Once the glaciers retreated and the temperatures rose the hunters and gatherers started to move back north.

It is believed that agriculture was introduced by the Celts on their arrival around 6,000 years ago, after the rising sea levels separated Britain and Ireland from the continent of Europe and from each other. According to Dr Oppenheimer in his book **"The Origins of the British: A Genetic Detective Story"** the Basques had the greatest influence on the blood-lines, more than the Celts, the Anglo-Saxons, Romans, Vikings or Normans.

If the DNA analysts have got it right then the Basques were the origins of the R1b blood-lines on the DNA chart, shown in the earlier article. That accounts for the vast majority of the Mackenzie Clan. Only the Viking Haplogroup (family group) get a look in with our clan. In fact 73.3% of our DNA testers are of this R1b group (or Basque group if Dr Oppenheimer is to be believed) and the Viking element among the Mackenzies comes to 12.6%.

Oppenheimer says that the majority of the gene pool of the British Isles is very ancient and dates to the era after the last great Ice Age, and has nothing to do with the Celts or the Anglo-Saxons or any of these more recent ethnic labels.

The Ice Age made Britain a polar desert and there was no-one living there until the first settlers came to the British Isles from the Basque country of northern Spain between 15,000 and 7,000 years ago. Some three-quarters of the ancestors of our modern gene pool arrived then.

Personally I find this hard to swallow. Among the

Mackenzies where are the signs of the Celts or the Picts? My personal opinion using common sense and what knowledge we have of recent history - 1,000 plus years ago - it seems self-evident that the vast R1b group contains the Basques, that is a given, but from that same group descend both the Celts and the Picts.

Perhaps at this stage I should make a statement to clarify to non-DNA members that if we are all mostly descended from the Vikings and the Basques/Celts/Picts. how does having one's DNA help find close relations?

The answer to that is quite simple. I have the confirmed haplogroup R1b1b2 along with 138 other members. But the detailed analysis of the "markers" I am measured against show only one person who is close to me and that is my 4th cousin in New Zealand. The other 137 people are distant from me by hundreds or even thousands of years, even though we do have a common male ancestor. That is shown among the difference in the markers when I had my DNA analyzed. These differences are the result of minor mutations in the DNA. The more mutations there are the greater the genetic distance I am from the others. There is a very large group of Mackenzies who do match with each other closely and in those cases the genetic distance may be as short as a grandfather or a great grandfather. It is then that two members can exchange family trees and see if they can discover where the two families are linked by these common Mackenzies.

FINANCIAL HELP FOR DNA

It costs at least US\$99 to get started on DNA and twice that if you want to have a large number of markers to identify a close relationship. The clan has a small pot of money to help those members of our society (paid up members of the Canadian Chapter!) who would like to start DNA but find the cost prohibitive. If you fall into that category contact me (alan@mkz.com) and we shall see what we can do to assist you in joining our exciting project.

CLAN MERCHANDISE

An increasingly important part of our clan income derives for the sale of Mackenzie clan merchandise. A lot of work has taken place over the years by carefully choosing items which will appeal to



Highland Fleece Jacket and Ball Hat



Jacobite wine glass with Mackenzie crest. (I think these are just terrific! - Ed.)

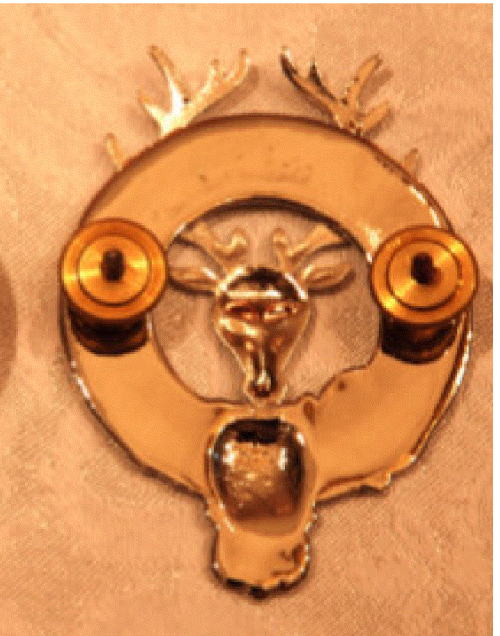
Below: choice of two clan Belt Buckles - Clan Mackenzie Crest or Mackenzie of Seaforth Crest (on the left)



Fridge Magnet - Mackenzie Clan



T-shirt - our most popular item!



This attractive silver looking hat badge can also be used as a brooch on a coat. There are two screw attachments to hold the badge in place. Specially designed for the Mackenzie Clan - a very attractive piece - size 2" x 2 3/4".

members. In this regard a lot of credit must go to Clan President, Norman MacKenzie. He goes to a great deal of trouble in selecting some really fine items and his work in getting us shirts, coats and bags, etc., with the the clan crest sewn in has been very valuable to us. Thanks Norman!

Here is the full list from our database. We use this list at Highland Games to help volunteers price articles for sale.

Clothing

Golf Shirts (white, blue, green, or red)	\$33.00
Sweatshirts (ditto plus gray)	\$26.95
T-shirts (blue or black, XL, L, or M)	\$20.00
(photo)	
T-shirts for youths 10-12 or 12-14 (black only)	\$20.00
V-Neck Pullovers (blue or green)	\$49.00
Highland Fleece Vests (red, blue or green)	\$59.00
Highland Fleece Jackets (ditto)	\$63.00
(photo)	
Sports Bags (blue or green)	\$25.95
Conference Attache Bags (black)	\$38.00
ditto - small conference bag with new crest	\$35.00
Ball Hats (stag's head)	\$14.00
(photo)	
Nylon Jackets	\$46.00
Tartan Scarves	\$25.00
Embroidered Clan Crests (cloth)	\$8.00
Embroidered Clan Crests (NEW - stick or sew-on)	\$15.00
Tartan ties	\$25.00

Books

Mackenzie Genealogy by Alan McKenzie (limited edition - 100 copies - over half sold)	\$45.00
History of the Highland Clearances	\$33.00
History of the Mackenzies by Alexander Mackenzie (over 450 copies sold to date)	\$80.00
Clan MacKenzie - Your Clan Heritage	\$9.00
Colonial Advocate (re William Lyon Mackenzie)	\$12.95
Donald Mackenzie - King of the NorthWest	\$25.00
Mackenzie clan mini book	\$4.00

Crystal and Other

Dram glass

Mackenzie Gifts

\$14.00

Dram pairs in box	\$28.00
Wine pairs 6.5 ozs	\$56.00
Nosing Whisky Glass & Watch Cover	\$35.00
Tankard 18 ozs	\$50.00
Jacobite Glass (photo)	\$30.00
Jura Paperweight Rainbow	\$50.00
Solway Hexagon Block	\$30.00
Mackenzie Keyrings	\$10.00
Mackenzie keyrings (small)	\$5.00
Mackenzie of Seaforth pin (large)	\$7.00
Mackenzie of Seaforth pin (small)	\$5.00
2003 Detailed Map of Scotland	\$12.00
Mackenzie Bookmark - card	\$2.00
Mackenzie Bumper Sticker	\$3.00
Clan Mackenzie fridge magnet	\$1.00

(photo)

Castle Leod Postcard	\$0.50
Clan Crest Rubber Stamps	\$15.00
Stags head rubber stamps	\$18.00
Clan notebooks	\$5.00
Clan Map of Scotland	\$12.00
NEW Clan Maps (for framing)	\$18.00
Clan Thimbles	\$8.00
Mackenzie Tartan Wool Throw	\$65.00
Clan Evening Dress Sporrans (special order)	\$315.00
Clan Kilt Pin - white metal	\$31.00
Clan Kilt pin - cheaper version	\$27.00
Clan Brooch - white metal	\$28.00
Clan Brooch Pendant - white metal	\$31.00
Clan Lapel Pin - white metal	\$22.00
Clan Belt Buckle - white metal (pic)	\$57.00
Clan Spoon - white metal	\$30.00
MacKenzie Mugs	\$15.00
Trivets	\$20.00

Cabar Feidh White Metal Cap Badges

(photo)

Tartan Shirts (inc taxes)	\$85.00
Clan Mackenzie Flags	\$130.00
Clan MacKenzie Pennant	\$20.00
Luggage ID Belts	\$15.00
Post It Notes	\$3.00

No taxes are required but postage costs will apply. In most cases \$5 is sufficient and orders over \$100 will be sent postage free.

Send orders to Clan Mackenzie Society with your cheque (no credit cards) at 580 Rebecca Street, Oakville, Ontario L6K 3N9.



University of Edinburgh - Pollock Halls

PRESIDENTS ANNUAL REPORT 2008.

The past year has been interesting one with many of our planned activities and events not turning out as we would have perhaps hoped.

Due to bad weather and some family bereavement, two of our quarterly meetings had to be cancelled in the early part of the year. In addition the weather at some Highland games this year proved to be a disaster, with those in attendance, sometimes standing ankle deep in water.

On a more positive note, we were able to show off our larger new clan tent, which really stood out amongst the other clan tents. The increased size proved to be a plus, allowing us to pull in the tables and help keep the Clan merchandise dry.

The Clan was again well represented at many Highland Games across the country, with the booth or tent being staffed by many of our members. Attendance and assistance at the games sometimes requires a 2 to 3 hour drive. To those that assisted we thank you for your support and dedication to the Clan.

Attendance at the Highland Games usually gives the opportunity to obtain new members and sell many of our clan products, however due to the weather and lack of attendance, it was down in both these areas.

We have been fortunate to be able offset some of the lost games revenue, by the income from the existing Nevada outlet, and the addition of another two outlets. However this revenue now has to be used by the guidelines set out by the lottery.

We have been very fortunate to have Alan McKenzie, with his banking experience, invest our monies to give us the best possible return. However I am sure that we can all appreciate that this return has not been as we would like due to the present market

conditions.

I have always stressed the need to protect and maintain our funds for the future growth and development of the Clan Mackenzie Society of Canada. This is more evident now with the New Nevada Guidelines.

I have been somewhat disappointed in the past years by the lack of news or update by the Chief to myself as the President of the Clan MacKenzie Society Canada, on the future of Castle Leod, etc. Any news has been given to me by a third party. As many of you can attest, I have supported the Clan well in the past, also the financial support to the Castle. A motion was passed last year that no further funds be sent to the Castle until we know what direction the restoration and future of the Castle is. I had asked that financial statements be provided to explain the restoration and progress of the castle, with only receiving a document for the period ending 31st January 2006 that was marked "DRAFT" with no date of a certified audit. We are still unsure what the future plans are for the castle. Following the forum in 2005 it was suggested that an International Committee be formed to assist in the restoration process, to date nothing has ever been done to form this committee.

It has been an honour for me to serve as President and Commissioner during the past years. I wish the Society continued success in the future.

Norman MacKenzie.

President Clan Mackenzie Society of Canada

GATHERING OF THE CLANS, 25TH/26TH JULY 2009.

By President Norman S. MacKenzie

On receiving this issue of the newsletter, we will be approximately 4 months away from the Gathering. During a visit to the Gathering office in January they were counting the days, at that time 199 days, not long when we think about it.

Clan MacKenzie Canada has reserved a 5 X 5 metre tent that will be shared with New Zealand and the United States. There had been an indication from Clan MacKenzie Germany, that they also wished to participate, but due to some family matters they can no longer commit.

With all indications this will prove to be the largest Clan Gathering ever to take place with 500 clans and associations from around the world. Events will include World Heavy Weight Games, World Highland Dancing Competition, Solo Piping and many other

activities. (Visit: www.thegathering2009.com for full details)

One of the highlights of the Gathering will be the parade up the Royal Mile, with the March Past, Pageant and Finale on the Castle Esplanade.

To take part in the March, the March Past as well as watch the Pageant and Finale, one has to be in possession of a "Passport" This is a "Gathering Passport" and is not to be confused with your own passport. This passport also allows admission to the games field at Holyrood Park. Clan MacKenzie Canada still has some passports available at 95 Pounds each. Tickets for only the Highland Games Field can be purchased.

Accommodation that we will be using is at the University of Edinburgh, Pollock Halls, (*see photo page 17*) and Chancellor's Court Building. This location is situated very close to Holyrood Park and the centre of town; the accommodation is very very good with Twin Room Occupancy £68.09 and Single Room Occupancy £51.06. This includes a full Scottish breakfast.

The rooms are blocked for the period, Thursday 23rd to Wednesday 29th July.

If your are planning to be in Scotland during the Gathering, we hope that you will stop by and visit with your country's delegates and Mackenzie's from around the world.

THE YEAR OF THE HOMECOMING AND THE YEAR FOR YOUR DOLLAR AND THE POUND

This is the year that could, perhaps, give the best exchange rate for your Dollar to the Pound that we have seen in some years.

The following shows recent years comparisons with the Pound Sterling :

January 2009	\$1.82 to \$1.86.	Canadian
April 2008	\$2.06	"
August 2007	\$2.16 to \$2.20	'

This is the year to visit, see Scotland, the Gathering, the Tattoo and many other events.

TRAVEL TIPS. If your are considering obtaining a new suitcase, there are some very light cases available. These new or lighter cases are sometimes half the

weight of older model suitcases, and can possibly save excess baggage costs.

They also recommend that you now put lighter items, such as socks, underwear etc in your "carry on bag" thus freeing up space and weight on you suitcases

CANADIAN MASSED PIPES AND DRUMS, SCOTLAND TOUR 2009

by President Norman S. MacKenzie

The band is the first officially invited band to take part in the Gathering of the Clans on the 25th/26th July 2009. This will be the 7th Scotland tour for the Canadian Massed Pipes and Drums with the band comprising Pipers and Drummers from across Canada numbering approximately 100.

In addition to the Gathering, the Massed Pipes and Drums will be performing in Blairgowrie, Glasgow, Perth, and Pitlochry.

They will also take part in Aberdeen's Tartan day and Union Street Parade on the 2nd August. Also, the Cavalcade Parade in Edinburgh on the 9th of August and a Pre-Show performance at the Edinburgh Tattoo on the 10th of August.

The Band is under the direction of Senior Pipe Major Ross Baxter and Senior Drum Major Norman MacKenzie CD.

GORDON HIGHLANDERS INTERNATIONAL BEATING RETREAT, July 30 – August 2, 2009

Celebrating the global footprint of one of the most famous regiments in British history, The Gordon Highlanders Museum will draw members of its associated and affiliated pipe bands back to the north-east of Scotland for a spectacular Gordon Highlanders International Beating Retreat.

Pipe band members from Canada, Australia, South Africa, Germany and the Netherlands will return to the homeland of the Gordon Highlanders – back to their Scottish roots – to join forces with fellow Gordons in the first international reunion of its kind.

Developed in partnership with Aberdeen City

Council, the Gordon Highlanders International Pipe Band will perform a spectacular Beating Retreat on Tartan Day in Aberdeen on August 2nd and also at the following events:

- * July 29, 2008 The Gordon Highlanders Museum - ticketed event
- * July 30, 2009 Huntly Mini-tattoo
- * July 31, 2009 Museum fundraising dinner
- * August 1, 2009 Aboyne Games
- * August 2, 2009 Tartan Day, Aberdeen

CLAN PRESIDENT NORMAN S. MACKENZIE GIVES ANOTHER DRUM MAJOR SEMINAR

The following announcement has been taken from the website of Ontario Massed Pipes and Drums:

"Once more our well known and renowned Drum Major, Norman MacKenzie, is providing, (in conjunction with the Seaforth Highlanders Regiment and the Canmore Highland Games), a three day training workshop for drum majors. This seminar, April 10 - 12, has international status and is unique in its comprehensive curriculum. If you are interested in improving your knowledge and skills as a drum major, now is the time to register. See the registration form for more details and watch your timing. The deadline for registering is March 1, 2009.

If this is of interest to Mackenzie members of the clan then give Norman an e-mail at :
dmjrmac@sympatico.ca

THE BARONY OF COIGACH

We have heard from our clan chief that he is putting up for sale his Barony of Coigach. There is an extensive website going into full details of this offer and the website is:

<http://www.baronytitles.com/forsale-The+Barony+of+Coigach.htm>

Here are the opening paragraphs from that website:

"We are commissioned to offer for sale the Dignity of 'The Baron of Coigach'. Our clients have indicated that they will give serious consideration to offers of £65,000. Purchasers are advised to read carefully our Terms of Business posted on our web-site. Following the passing, and coming into effect of the Abolition of

Feudal Tenure etc. (Scotland) Act 2000 barony titles are separated from their former lands. The purchaser of The Barony of Coigach will not acquire any land as a result of his/her acquisition of the barony title.

"The new holder of the title will be able to style him/herself 'Baron(ess) of Coigach'.

"Following a decision, 3rd December 2008, by the Lord Lyon King of Arms the ownership of a Scottish baronial dignity will come within the heraldic jurisdiction of the Lord Lyon; the acquisition of a Scottish baronial dignity will enable the holder to Petition Lord Lyon for a coat of arms.

"Lord Cromartie, Chief of the Clan Mackenzie, has indicated that he will give favourable consideration to a request from the new Baron/ess of Coigach to join the Clan Mackenzie; this will be effected by the Baron/ess entering into a Bond of Maintenance and Alliance with the Clan Chief."

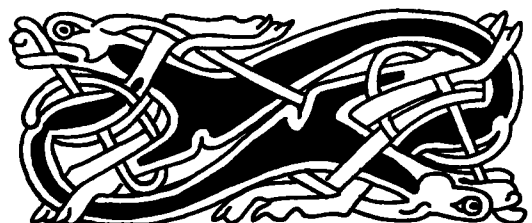
We understand that the purchaser of this barony does not have the right to leave this barony to his or her offspring.



OPP CENTENNIAL TATTOO

12TH SEPTEMBER 2009 7: 30 PM

GM CENTRE, OSHAWA. ONTARIO

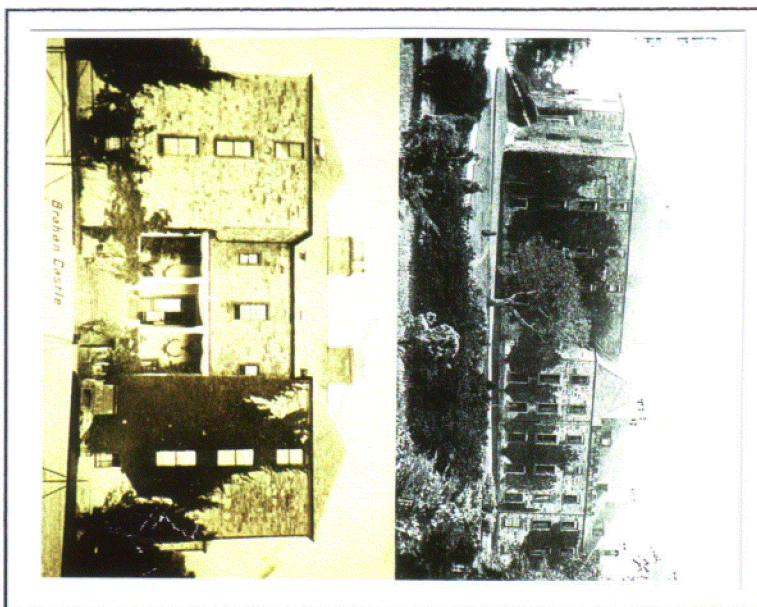


Brahan Castle

The clan seat of the Mackenzies of Seaforth, Brahan Castle was built in the early 17th century by Colin, 1st Earl of Seaforth, and was by all accounts a handsome example of the traditional Scottish fortified tower house of the period—boasting a fine Great Hall. It was Francis Humberston Mackenzie, Lord Seaforth, who in the very late 18th/early 19th century completely remodelled and modernised the castle, converting its appearance to that of a vastly larger mansion, sadly shorn of all castellated features. Contemporary opinions of the final result (see front of card) were not universally complimentary(!), but there was no denying the grandeur of the new structure, its imposing presence overlooking the River Conon now only able to be imagined (on lower ground in front of the magnificent present-day Brahan House, which was once the castle's stable block), since the enormous size of the rebuilt castle became a liability over subsequent generations, with proper year-round maintenance and winter heating proving particularly difficult—leading to the decision in 1951 to demolish the castle completely after extensive rot was found to have infested the whole building. Brahan Estate in the modern era, however, continues to go from strength to strength, with 15 beautifully-restored rental cottages and many outdoor pursuits for holiday-makers to enjoy. For leaflets, contact: Seaforth Highland Country Estate, Brahan, by Dingwall, Ross-shire IV7 8EE, Scotland, U.K. (www.brahan.com)



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BRAHAN CASTLE, Near Dingwall, Easter Ross.
Top, eastern elevation showing, lower left of picture, where the grand driveway arrived at the castle; bottom, southern elevation, the castle's grand front entrance.



Our Christmas Card this year from Mark Courtney in Scotland gives us a glimpse of the old Brahan Castle and also a bit of a history lesson. I recall the Dowager Countess of Cromartie saying that it was a very uncomfortable castle. The kitchens were so far from the dining room that delivering the meals meant going through some of the bedrooms and that no meal in the castle was ever hot by the time it arrived on the table! Brahan is pronounced : "brarne".