



Clan MacKenzie Society in the Americas

Cabar Feidh

The Canadian Chapter Magazine

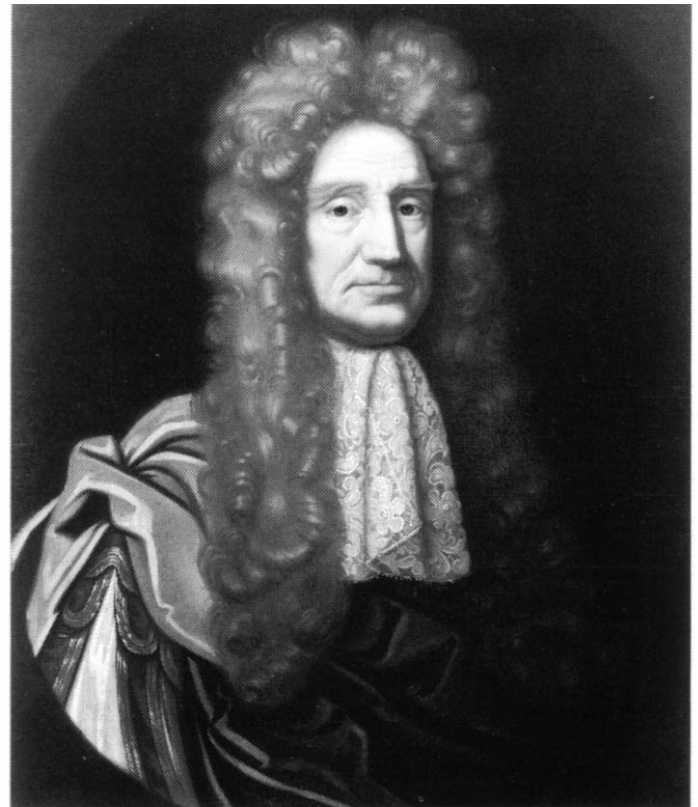


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George Mackenzie, first earl of Cromartie (1630-1714), after Sir John Baptiste de Medina - reproduced by permission, Scottish National Portrait Gallery, in Professor Whatley's book, The Scots and the Union.

HOW ROSS MET CROMARTY

[The following interesting article I found in the Summer 2007 edition of the Newsletter, *Tulach Ard*, of the Clan MacKenzie Society in Australia Inc. It will be seen that this was picked up in the *Wester Ross Life* magazine. Once again the first earl of Cromartie comes in for a bit of savage criticism. I must admit I like this man. He was a true and wily politician of his age but highly intelligent and learned. I think it is time to put him in a more reasonable and kinder light. So read this article and then let us have a go at restoring his reputation with the help of Christopher Whatley, Professor of Scottish History, University of Dundee. *Alan McKenzie.*]

Of all the counties in Scotland, the two which are now united as Ross and Cromarty were, in their day, possibly the most illogical subdivision of land in the history of Scottish political life. Until a hundred years ago, the map of the north showed an apparently crazy hotchpotch of bits and pieces of land scattered about today's District: some marked Ross and some marked Cromarty. The fact of the matter was that it

Cabar Feidh Newsletter:

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Clan Web Pages: www.clanmackenzie.com & www.electricscotland.com/mackenzie

was, indeed crazy. For Cromarty never had any political rhyme or reason. What it did have, associated with its origin as a county, was the ambition of one notorious landowner with an urge to make a name for himself.

Ross-shire.

The story of Ross and Cromarty is one of an ancient land, Ross, which for centuries covered the area served by today's district council as well as the areas of South-West-Ross and Lewis, and of the hitherto-unrecognised county of Cromarty, which came into being in 1698 at the wish of one ambitious man, George Mackenzie, landowner, grandson of the Tutor of Kintail, and soon-to-be first Earl of Cromartie. The ancient province of Ross had by then long been recognised. The land which is now Wester Ross was, until the 13th century, part of the huge territory of "North Argyle". It is thought that the Gaelic name Rois (meaning a headland) was first applied to the main promontories on the east coast around the Black Isle, and then came to be extended across the whole region to the west coast. In 1226 Farquhard, abbot of Applecross, was created the first Earl of Ross. As the power of the earls grew, Ross came to be extended to the west coast to include those lands of North Argyle stretching from Glenelg up to Sutherland.

After the fall of the Vikings in 1266, Ross again expanded, with the incorporation of Skye and Lewis. When, in 1292, the Sheriffdom of Skye was erected by King John Balliol, it included the lands of the "Earl of Ross in North Argail". Skye thereafter became for a time a part of the separate Lordship of the Isles, but by the 15th century had been again incorporated into the lands of Ross when the Earls of Ross became also Lords of the Isles. The last Earl of Ross, John, who was also Lord of the Isles, forfeited the earldom in 1476 for plotting against the Scottish crown. He was meantime allowed to remain Lord of the Isles, but that title in turn was extinguished in 1493 as the King sought to bring the Highlands and Islands under control. Two and a half centuries of the Earls of Ross, though, had left a legacy in that the name of Ross had become firmly attached to the whole area now known as Ross and Cromarty.

After the Ross earls came the MacKenzie chiefs. The MacKenzies have dominated the history of Wester Ross since the days of Kenneth, first chief of Kintail,

who lived at the same time - the late twelfth century - as William, third earl of Ross. The MacKenzies were originally vassals to the Ross Earls.

Kenneth died in 1304. His descendant, Alexander, who was chief of Kintail in the 15th century and died at the age of 90 in 1488, is considered as the father of the several main lines of MacKenzie which flourished afterwards. It was his three sons who would become, respectively, considered as the founders of three great MacKenzie lines: the Kintail, the Gairloch, and the Hilton MacKenzies. A century later, in 1609, another Kenneth was created the first Lord MacKenzie of Kintail. His son Colin was created the first Earl of Seaforth, in 1623. The name Seaforth, like that of MacKenzie, thereafter went hand-in-hand with the history of Wester Ross.

The Earls of Seaforth.

Colin MacKenzie took his title from Loch Seaforth, in Lewis, which island had recently been granted to the Mackenzies of Kintail after an unsettled period in Lewis's history. The Seaforth title continued all-powerful in Ross-shire through four more generations until falling into difficulties after the 1715 rebellion when, as a result of Seaforth's participation, the fifth earl's estates were forfeited. In one of the celebrated stories from clan history, his clansmen then stayed loyal to him and continued to pay him rent during the forfeiture, eventually enabling the Kintail Mackenzies to repurchase their property. The earldom was never to be restored, however.

During the heyday of the Seaforths, Ross-shire's place on the map was recognised when the first member of parliament for the county of Ross-shire was returned. In 1661 the political boundaries of the area were re-drawn. It was then that Ross-shire and Inverness-shire took shape which they would retain for centuries. Skye, Harris and the southern Hebrides were made a part of Inverness-shire while Lewis remained in Ross. The Earl of Seaforth at the time insisted that the county boundaries of Ross should continue to include his own estate of Kintail, with the stronghold of Eilean Donan Castle, rather than surrender it to county of Inverness as was being mooted. Kintail and Glenshiel therefore remained a part of Ross-shire, carving a long wedge out of the shire of Inverness. The old parishes of Lochalsh, Kintail and Glenshiel only ceased to be part of Ross and Cromarty in 1975, when

they were absorbed by the new Skye and Lochalsh District, but their Ross-shire connection lives on in the name of South-west Ross, still commonly used.

The New County of Cromartie.

Enter, in the late seventeenth century, one George MacKenzie...

As the MacKenzies had spread and flourished throughout Ross-shire, different branches of the original line had become powerful families in their own right. Local MacKenzie chiefs held sway in their own lands of Gairloch, Applecross, Dundonnell.

Coigach, however, along with other detached pockets of Wester Ross, was just a part of a swathe of estates throughout Ross-shire held by another MacKenzie who was rapidly rising to prominence. George MacKenzie was the grandson of the celebrated tutor of Kintail, Roderick, who had wielded great influence in the Seaforth family during his life. The seat of the Seaforth line had by then long been established at Brahan, near Strathpeffer, but their most famous stronghold remained Eilean Donan Castle, on the Kintail lands.

Roderick had been personally granted land near Brahan, to the north of Strathpeffer, where he established Castle Leod. His grandson inherited this property and took his first title of Sir George MacKenzie of Castle Leod. As he began to find recognition from the king for his various services, he became in turn Lord MacKenzie of Tarbat - Tarbat being one of his estates further east - before gaining his final rank, for which he used his title to the lands of Cromartie.

By the end of the 17th century George MacKenzie had inherited lands throughout Ross-shire, extending west as far as Coigach and the Summer Isles. Already in favour at court, where incidentally he was one of the very few Scots who championed the union between Scotland and England, MacKenzie now began to scheme to gain new grandeur. He pressed a case for having his own scattered lands recognised as a separate county, of which he would be deemed earl. There was, by any standard, no rhyme or reason to it except MacKenzie's desire for stature. He was, however, in a position to manipulate. The historian Bain interpreted MacKenzie's thinking:

"Here was the nucleus of an earldom, a dignity fairly well within his reach; as counties went it was certainly small, but what was there to hinder a past master in the art of intrigue, as he knew himself to be, having his other estates detached from the wide shire of Ross and added thereto?"*

In 1698 MacKenzie succeeded. The county of Cromartie was recognised. Five years later, MacKenzie succeeded in being made Earl of Cromartie, the Act recognising the new Earldom being drawn up by the Lord Clerk Register in Edinburgh, who was none other than the Earl of Cromartie.

And so the deed was done! The county of Cromartie was a strange mixture of all MacKenzie's different estates. They included, in Wester Ross, the Summer Isles, Coigach, Leckmelm and lands on the south side of Loch Broom; in mid-Ross, Strathpeffer; and the var-

ious family lands in Easter Ross, including Cromarty, Tarbat Ness, and Portmahomack.

The new county thereafter continued to exist separately from Ross-shire for two centuries. And even when the old political entity of Ross-shire was effectively restored in 1891, the name of Cromarty was recognised in the new name.

Testimony to the power misused by one man.

Perhaps the most ironic outcome of the saga of Ross-shire is the difference in the fate of the Seaforth MacKenzies and of the Cromartie MacKenzies. For it is the present Earl of Cromartie who now claims the nominal title of chief of the Clan MacKenzie. The Seaforths are long gone.

Post Script: The end of the Seaforths.

While there is surely too much false "romance" associated with the history of this part of the world, it does still seem poignant to trace how fortune treated two long lines of once-powerful families in Ross.

Both the Seaforth and the Cromarty earldoms were attained after, respectively, the 1715 and 1745 rebellions. The Cromarties eventually won back their full title, despite having to wait more than a century after the '45, until 1861, to do so.

The Seaforth line was never restored. Kenneth MacKenzie, son of the last (fifth) Earl of Seaforth, managed to re-purchase the Seaforth lands and remained chief of the MacKenzies, officially the eighth Lord MacKenzie of Kintail. He regained the favour of the crown sufficient to win the title of Lord Fortrose. His son, in turn, won

recognition for the Seaforth name in 1771, when he was created Earl of Seaforth. This was, however, a title accorded under the Irish peerage. And with his death in 1781 came the extinction of the earldom.

The last of the Seaforths was Francis Humberston MacKenzie, who bought the family estates from the son of the above in 1782. He was created Lord Seaforth and Lord MacKenzie of Kintail in 1797, these being specially created "British" titles. With his death in 1815, even these titles became extinct.

Wester Ross Life

*Bain: "History of the Ancient Province of Ross"

It must be admitted that the odd collection of lands com-

prising the former County of Cromarty does look very odd. The eventual merging together again of the two counties to become Ross and Cromarty at least preserved the Cromarty name, and as a Mackenzie I am pleased about that. We hardly want Clan Ross crowing that it was their county!

The comment in the article that "it is the present Earl of Cromartie who now claims the nominal title of chief of the Clan MacKenzie". Not only was it claimed by the father of the present Chief but it was recognised formally by Lord Lyon, the last word in these matters. The Cromartie line were close kinsmen of the now extinct Seaforth line.

I could also take issue regarding the Earls of Ross and Lords of the Isles comments. Suffice it to say that the defeat of the powerful Macdonald Lords of the Isles at the Battle of the Park around 1482 by the Mackenzies was the main reason why the Macdonald lost their titles and influence and from that time the Mackenzie clan rose to great prominence,



This copy from an old map of Scotland shows the vast area of Ross-shire, together with the strange bits and pieces of the Cromarty County lands. Top left shows the largest slice of land, that of Coigach, which contains the town of Ullapool. To the south lie two smaller parcels of land in the parish of Lochbroom. Then another property a little further east by Loch Fannich. The eastern lands include Ben Wyvis and the small town of Fodderty and that would include Castle Leod. The Easter Ross properties of Tarbat Ness and Cromarty are also marked.

gaining much of the lands previously controlled by the Lords of the Isles, being gifted to the Mackenzies by the king.

Now we come to the comment that the first Earl of Cromartie was "one of the very few Scots who championed the union between Scotland and England." If that was meant to be a criticism then it is a strange one. The union enabled an impoverished nation to help lead one of the mightiest empires the world has seen. Just look at the number of British prime ministers (including the last two) with Scottish names.

Professor Whatley makes it clear in his book, "The Scots and the Union", that both England and Scotland were very concerned about the power of France - then the mightiest nation - involving themselves with Scotland to bring Roman Catholicism back to Britain. No one can accuse the Scottish Presbyterians of being friendly to the Catholic religion. There was a strong body of opinion that Scotland and England should unite.

Here is what Professor Whatley says: "Cromartie was one of the country's elder statesmen by the beginning of the eighteenth century. He was well-liked (although not by his enemies) if not always trusted, having a reputation for political slipperiness. Critics have found it hard to explain why Cromartie and his fellow episcopalian noblemen from the north-east supported union, other than through political pressure exercised by the court, including financial payments. Yet Cromartie knew Scotland well, and appears to have had genuine concerns about what he saw as its low condition. Moral degeneracy was partly the cause (he thought), but he recognised too the damage that was done by faction-fighting. Over a period of years from at least as early as 1702, Cromartie wrote some telling treatises advocating incorporating union, not least because he saw major economic advantages for Scotland in a united British kingdom."

In securing a British united kingdom, Whatley refers to Cromartie as being more explicit in his commitment, "probably the most ardent British Scottish politician of the period, whose investigation into Scotland's condition had caused him to lose faith in an independent Scotland: 'May we be Britains', Cromartie urged in 1706, and drop the 'ignominious' names of Scotland and England; 'Britains is our true, our honorable denomination.'"

On the subject of trade and the wretched condition of Scotland and in particular the heavy illicit trade of imported goods, it was noted by John Clerk that such branches of trade were the ruin of the country. Foreign silks, calicoes and linen manufactures "were never more frequently worn", protested a group of Edinburgh merchants.

The earl of Cromartie was probably the most savage critic of his luxury-loving countrymen: he regretted what he saw as the loss of "old Scots manhood" to "exotic effeminacy", a nation of "pemping parasites" whose love of London taverns and play houses, "childish clothings and superfluous furniture" along with an inclination to "live above our fortunes" and "get into employments and live on the spoils of public money" were indicative of national "degeneracie".

Here is another quote from "The Scots and the Union":

"Much better known for his vociferous sponsorship of incorporation in the interests of Scotland's economy was the earl of Cromartie who, like Paterson, had experienced first hand the economic and social trials and tribulations and dashed hopes of the pre-union years. An enthusiastic promoter of Scottish enterprise abroad, including the Darien scheme, Cromartie (at that time, lord Tarbat) was involved with abortive plans for manufacturing glass and linen as well as to establish a herring fishery at Ullapool. It is entirely conceivable that this, rather than, to at least in addition to, Cromartie's lifelong and quite understandable habit of keeping his political options open (he had learned early on the cost of royal rejection), provides part of the explanation why this learned and wily and tenacious political operator, who was at the forefront of estate improvement in the north, had begun to advocate incorporation as early as 1702. Union, had concluded by 1705, following a searching critique of the failings of Scottish government and most of the country's political leaders, would 'not only be the best but the speediest if not the only remedy' for most of the country's problems."

THE MACKENZIES OF FAWLEY COURT AND FARR

Those members who have a copy of Alexander Mackenzie's huge volume "History of the Mackenzies" (and since we have sold almost 500 of these books, that must include many of our readers) will know that there are several major families of Mackenzies listed with detailed genealogies. Nearly all of these landed families in Scotland were related to each other very many times over and had lines connecting them to the chiefs of the clan.

The last family to be listed in the book (page 620) is the important family, the Mackenzies of Fawley Court and Farr. Strangely despite the family's great wealth there is no connection shown with the other landed families. However we have been in touch with a member of the family who claims that he is a direct male descendant of one of the lairds of Fawley Court and Farr, and more importantly, from our perspective, has joined our DNA project. Furthermore he sent us several additional pieces of information of the family including a family tree which shows a direct male line going back to the Mackenzie Chief Colin "Cam" Mackenzie of Kintail who died in 1594. If this genealogy is accurate then our DNA project will have a definitive DNA for the main male line of Mackenzie chiefs. This will be the second claimant with such a line and it will be interesting to see if these DNA results match, which they should.

The story of the Mackenzies of Fawley Court and Farr is extremely interesting. Below you will get an immediate introduction to the Late Colin Mackenzie, whose life was reported in The Times newspaper for November 10, 1999 following his death.

But there is a lot more of interest to this extraordinarily successful family. We are including some of this as it is almost certainly unknown to most members of the clan.

So let us look at Colin Mackenzie first.

Heath as "the unacceptable face of capitalism". After a bitter courtroom battle, the group was outmanoeuvred, but Rowland never succeeded in shaking off the taint of corruption which it had exposed.

Celebrated as this episode was, it was perhaps less important in Mackenzie's life than the little-known role he played during the war behind the grim walls of Colditz Castle where, for four years, he was a prisoner of war. In 1945 he was quietly appointed MBE. The citation, classified at the time, confirms that he was one of a

tive remembers being struck by strangely detailed requests such as "do remember Mike's birthday and send him four blue handkerchiefs". His work was commended by a senior officer in London, and the citation says that "his constant cheerfulness and high morale proved of the highest value to his fellow prisoners of war".

His surviving colleagues from the Colditz years knew nothing at the time of his secret role. They remember a good-looking, quiet young Scottish 2nd lieutenant - he was only 21 when captured - in his Seaforth Highlanders kilt, a man of cast-iron loyalty who was "a delight to be with". Aware of his family estate in Inverness-shire, they called him "The Laird".

He was always a dependable and discreet source of help in the course of the many escape attempts for which Colditz was famous. He was also a war hero. In June 1940, near St Valéry, he was leading a patrol which came under German machinegun fire. Together with a Private McLaughlin, Mackenzie moved his position deliberately to the flank, exposing himself to view and shouting orders to draw the attention of the enemy while the remainder of the patrol withdrew. For this he was awarded the Military Cross.

Later, when the 51st Highland Division was surrounded and forced to surrender at St Valéry, Mackenzie was knocked unconscious by a bullet which struck his helmet. He refused to be evacuated, and was taken prisoner. He attempted to escape with another officer in a rubbish cart from the German camp at Tittmoning but was caught and was transferred to Colditz, where he spent the rest of the war,



Major Colin Mackenzie, MBE, MC, soldier, landowner and businessman, died at Inverness on October 1, 1999, aged 80. He was born at Fawley, near Henley, on March 23, 1919.

"MAJOR COLIN MACKENZIE

FOR a brief but spectacular period in 1973, Colin Mackenzie was one of the rebel directors of Lonrho who attempted to oust the tycoon Tiny Rowland from the company he had founded. Known as the "straight eight", they were outraged at the business methods of the man later described by Edward

small number of British prisoners-of-war sending back information on German dispositions and planned escapes from Colditz to MI9, using a coded system in letters to family and friends.

Only one in a hundred Sandhurst officers were selected for this dangerous but vital mission. Mackenzie himself would never talk about it, but at least one rela-

despite several escape attempts. He was released by American forces on April 16, 1945.

Though born in England, Colin Dalziel Mackenzie spent much of his childhood at Balmoral where his father was commissioner for the royal estate under George V. On the death of his great-grandfather, he moved to the family estate of Farr in Inverness-shire, of which he himself would become laird. Educated at Eton and Sandhurst, he joined the 2nd Battalion the Seaforth Highlanders in 1939, and was posted to Fort George, where there was a call for one of two officers to join the battalion in France. Mackenzie spun a coin with a fellow-subaltern and won.

After the war he became ADC to Field Marshal Wavell, Viceroy of India, in 1945, and he was later deputy military secretary. It was there that he met Anne Fitz Roy, daughter of the 10th Duke of Grafton, and they were married in 1947 at her family home at Euston in Norfolk. He became a senior trustee of the Euston Estates.

In 1951 Mackenzie began a varied business career, which included involvement with bus company in Oxfordshire, a chemical firm in Lockerbie, and elsewhere cattle, salmon nets, printing and helicopters. It was while he was working for the mining company of Willoughbys in Northern Rhodesia that he first came across Tiny Rowland. Willoughbys was bought by Lonrho and Mackenzie became a director. He admired Rowland's buccaneering spirit, and Rowland in turn respected his transparent integrity.

But the revelation that Rowland had arranged for secret payments to

Lonrho's chairman, Duncan Sandys, via an offshore fund, shocked Mackenzie and led to his joining the rebel group. It was with relief that he left the company to run the estate at Farr.

He was a member of the Queen's Bodyguard and the Royal Company of Archers, and a major in the Territorial Army. A county councillor for Inverness-shire, he served as Vice-Lord-Lieutenant of the county, and helped many local causes, including raising funds to rescue the delightful little church at Daviot, where his own funeral service took place.

He was an accomplished angler and a fine shot, and was never happier than on the hill at Farr, particularly during the years when the place was teeming with grouse. To see him striding across the heather with a gun under his arm, or casting a long line on the Spey or the Findhorn - and then to think of his soldiering background - was to catch a glimpse of the character John Buchan might have had in mind when he wrote Greenmantle.

A man of great charm and striking good looks, he was one of that disappearing breed of Scottish laird who recognised the responsibilities of landowning, and were greatly loved by those who worked for them. He endured a long and frustrating illness without complaint.

He is survived by his wife Anne, and by a son and three daughters."

Brian Usill, who, as mentioned has joined the Mackenzie DNA project as a direct descendant of the Mackenzies of Fawley Court and Farr got in touch with the clan genealogist, Graeme Mackenzie (who just happens to be my 4th

cousin!) Here is a portion of the letter Graeme sent to Brian Usill:

"The main problem in tracing the descent of your line is the confusion of places called Muirton and of M'kenzie families who were lairds of such places (I spell M'kenzie thus incidentally as in virtually all families there is likely to have been more than one spelling of the name over the centuries, and this is a good "neutral" form in relation to the most usual variations - and the ones that get people most worked up if you use what they think is the wrong one --

i.e. Mackenzie/MacKenzie/McKenzie)

"The key to the puzzle is the fact that the Muirton where your ancestor Alexander the canal builder was born in c.1752 (in Strathconon, to the west of Muir of Ord) was previously called Wester Fairburn, and had its name changed because Alexander's father, also Alexander, had previously been the laird of Muirton/Muirtown of Kilcoy (in the Black Isle to the east of Muir of Ord). Though this Muirton is sometimes helpfully called Muirtown of Fairburn, it is very often just called Muirton - as sometimes is Muirtown of Kilcoy - so you can see the first causes of confusion.

"There is similar scope for confusion when looking at the different families associated with these places at different times. So we have the M'kenzies of Fairburn (descendants of Rory "Mor" of Achilty); and the later M'kenzies of Muirton (a branch of the Gairloch family), who were able to acquire Muirton and neighbouring Meikle Scatwell from the female heirs of your ancestors; as well as the M'kenzies of Muirton (of Kilcoy) who are the family we are looking for. They were a branch of the M'kenzies of Kilcoy, and once one discovers that then all becomes clear - as demonstrated on the enclosed tree - and the relevant detailed information can be found in Alexander Mackenzie's "History of the Mackenzies" (1894) under M'kenzies of Kilcoy (pages 581-2) and M'kenzies of Fawley Court and Farr (pages 620-5).

"I hope you can make sense of all this, and I'd be delighted to have

FARR HOUSE
INVERNESS IV1 2XB
FARR (STD 08083) 202

27. Oct 86

Dear Brian,

At long last, I enclose
the extract from the history
of the Mackenzies. I don't know
how accurate the early bit is,
but from Alexander fourth
of Munton, I believe it to
be correct.

I hope you are all flourishing.
As always we had a very
busy summer, but things have

details of how you fit into the tree (I
recall you telling me that you were [a
descendant] of one of the Farr family
.....). I wonder, since you had
not been able to establish how the
family connected to the rest of the clan,
if Philip Mackenzie "of Farr" (do the
family still own the estate?) might also
appreciate a copy of this;

"Please feel free to follow this up

with any questions that may arise; and
I look forward to the chance of dis-
cussing it all in person again at some
future gathering of the clan."

The family of the Mackenzies of
Fawley Court and Farr are one of
the most successful Mackenzie

how quickened down - we are going
South for a bit this week.
we had as everywhere else a
lonely spell of weather earlier
this month, but the snow has
come now on the hills.

My daughter-in-law had another
daughter about a fortnight ago -
which makes four!

keep the extract - as I have
other copies.

Yours sincerely
Colin Mackenzie

A 1986 letter sent by Major Colin Mackenzie to Brian Usill.

families having been senior engi-
neers, being responsible for the
development of the French railway
system.

Here are a couple of extracts
sent to us with gives more insight
into this remarkable family.

**Extract from Steam Trains of the
World. by Bill Hayes, published by
Albany Books of 36, Park Street,
LONDON W1Y 4DE.**

page 91 The French Connection;

"Initially, rail development in France
moved slowly, and by 1850 the country
could boast only 1927 miles of track,
compared to 6600 miles in Britain and
3700 miles in Germany. The French
had little money or engineering exper-
tise and were required to import all or
most of their railway hardware and
know-how from Britain. In 1845, for
example, Joseph Locke, an English
engineer, was appointed to build the
Paris to Rouen and Rouen to Le Havre
railways. Two of Locke's engineers,
Budicom and Allcard, transferred their
newly established locomotive works



Brian Usill (right) with his wife and birth mother and her other son.

from Warrington and set up one of Europe's most important engine works in Chartreux. Locke also imported 5000 English navvies, who enjoyed the same level of notoriety as they were used to in Britain. The local French populace would make pilgrimages to the construction sites to watch these Englishmen work. They soon lost their popularity, however, when the Berentine Viaduct collapsed in 1846, shortly before it was completed. Nevertheless, the construction company of BRASSEY AND MACKENZIE, which employed all these navvies, had been responsible for building 75 per cent of the French railway system by 1897."

Obituary of Edward. Mackenzie, of Fawley Court, from the Annual Register for 1880.

Edward Mackenzie, of Fawley Court, Henley-on-Thames, died on September 27th. 1880, at the age of 70. He was the youngest son of the late Mr. **Alexander Mackenzie**, C.E. of Fairburn, in Ross-shire, and was twice married; first to a **Miss Dalziel**, of The Craigs, County Dumfries; and secondly, to Miss Ellen Mullett, who survives him. He left behind him a colossal fortune, made as a civil engineer and contractor. He was a man of mark in connection with his elder brother, the late Mr. **William Mackenzie**, and the late Mr. **Brassey**, in the early and palmy days of the railways, they being contractors for gigantic works in France and England. They were all men of great administrative power. Mr. Mackenzie lived for a quarter of a century at Fawley Court, which estate he purchased on retiring from business. The house was filled with valuable paintings and. works of art. It was built by Sir Christopher Wren after the demolition of the former mansion during The Great Rebellion. Mr. Mackenzie was a magistrate and deputy lieutenant of the county of Oxford, and served the office of high sheriff of that county in 1862-3. It has always been considered by those best informed on the subject that in the biographies of Mr. **Brassey** some injustice has been done to the Mackenzies

in attributing to Mr. **Brassey** alone the skill and indomitable industry and enterprise which were characteristic of the Mackenzies, as well as of Mr. **Brassey**.

Incidentally Brian Usill tells us that he is also connected through the Usill family to another prominent Mackenzie family. He says in his letter to me that "if you Google Walter Fawkes Mackenzie you will find details of this man who married Frances Usill who was an aunt of my dad's".

Here is what the Alexander Mackenzie book "**History of the Mackenzies**" says about the founding families of the Mackenzies of Fawley Court and Farr:

THE MACKENZIES OF FAWLEY COURT AND FARR

I. Alexander Mackenzie, the first of this remarkable family prominently known in the engineering world, was born at Wester Fairburn, in the county of Ross, on the 5th of June, 1769, and educated at the Grammar School, Inverness. He joined an old school-fellow, David Mackintosh, a native of Cawdor, Nairnshire, as a firm of contractors and engineers. They constructed several canals in England, and were very successful. He married Mary, daughter of William Austin, from her great beauty known as one of the "Lancashire Witches," with issue -

1. William, of whom presently. [Born 20th of March, 1794]
2. Alexander, C.E., who was born at Hollinwood, Lancashire, in 1796. He married, with issue - (1) William Seager, who married, first, a daughter of Thomas Woodhouse,

C.E., with issue; and secondly, a daughter of George Woodhouse, C.E. William was for many years a civil engineer in the employment of the Russian Government, and lived for some time at Nyksa in that country. He afterwards went to Canada, and died in London on the 26th of February, 1887; (2) Kenneth, C.E., killed in a railway accident near Bordeaux, in France, unmarried; (3) Richard, C.E., who married his cousin, Eliza, daughter of John Griffith, and died at Montreal on the 16th of February, 1887; (4) Alexander, C.E., who was killed in a railway accident in Canada, without issue; (5) Mary, who married Mr Scott, in Canada.

3. Daniel, who was born in 1799, and died in 1802.
4. John, who was born on the 1st of November, 1804, went to Virginia as a planter, and died there, unmarried.
5. David, born in 1807, and died in 1811.
6. Thomas, who was born in 1808, and died in 1811, the same day as his brother, both being buried in the same grave.
7. Edward, from whom the Mackenzies of Fawley Court, Farr, etc.
8. Sarah, born in 1797, and died unmarried.
9. Margaret, who married John Griffith, with issue - (1) Edward Mackenzie, who settled in the United States, and married a daughter of Colonel Campbell; (2) William Alexander, who settled in Canada and married a daughter of Mr Baldwin, Baldwin House, Boston, United States, without issue. He lives in Quebec. (3) Mary, who married Slack Davis, M.A., of Oxford, barrister-at-law, a well-known writer and poet in America,

where he died on the 31st of March, 1889; (4) Alice, who married Thomas Musgrave, with issue; (5) Emily Mackenzie, who married Joseph William Painter, barrister, deceased, with issue - several sons, ranching near Denver, Colorado; (6) Harriet, who married William Johnson Shaw, of Buenos Ayres, with issue; and (7) Eliza Ann, who married her cousin, Richard Mackenzie, C.E., Montreal, above mentioned.

10. Mary, born in 1814, and married James Barnard, shipowner, Greenock, without issue. She died in 1875.

11. Eliza, married Alexander Duckworth, with issue.

Alexander died on the 23rd of February, 1836, aged 66 years, his wife having predeceased him on the 8th of June, 1828. They were both buried at Blackburn, Lancashire. He was succeeded as representative of the family by his eldest son,

II. William Mackenzie, afterwards of Newbie, Dumfries-shire, and of Auchenskeoch, County of Kirkcudbright, who was born at Marsden Chapel on the 20th of

March, 1794. He was a celebrated engineer, first beginning his career under David Mackintosh, his father's partner. He subsequently practised his profession under Telford. He made his way very rapidly, taking part in most of the great engineering works - railways, canals, and bridges - of his time; and in the Shannon improvements, on which the Secretary for Ireland complimented him in the highest terms in the House of Commons..... *[there follows a lengthy resume of his achievements. Copies of the "History of the Mackenzies" can be obtained from our society at a cost of \$80 see address at foot of page 1 or email us at alan@mkz.com]*

A lengthy family tree sent to Brian Usill shows a deeper connection with the landed families of the Mackenzie Clan. It starts with :

Colin "Cam" Mackenzie Clan Chief died 1594 = Barbara Grant of Freuchie

I

Alexander Mackenzie of Muirtown of Kilcoy, [a younger

"I Love a Lassie, a Bonny, Bonny Lassie"

brother of the Seaforth and Cromartie families] fl.1657-66 = Marie Cuthbert of Drakies.

I

Colin Mackenzie W.S. of Muirtown of Kilcoy = Anna/Barbara Grant of Moyness.

I

Kenneth Mackenzie of Muirtown of Kilcoy = Mary Mackenzie of Culen in 1724.

I

Alexander Mackenzie of Muirtown of Kilcoy = Margaret Mackenzie of Highfield

This couple had five children and the third son was **Alexander**, the first person mentioned in the "History of Mackenzies" under the Mackenzies of Fawley Court and Farr.

SHIP HECTOR LOG

The latest Log from the Ship Hector Foundation reported that last July her main mast was struck by lightening during a violent storm. No fire resulted although three sections of the main mast need to be replaced. Luckily the damage is covered by insurance and the ship will be ready for the 2008 season in Pictou Nova Scotia.

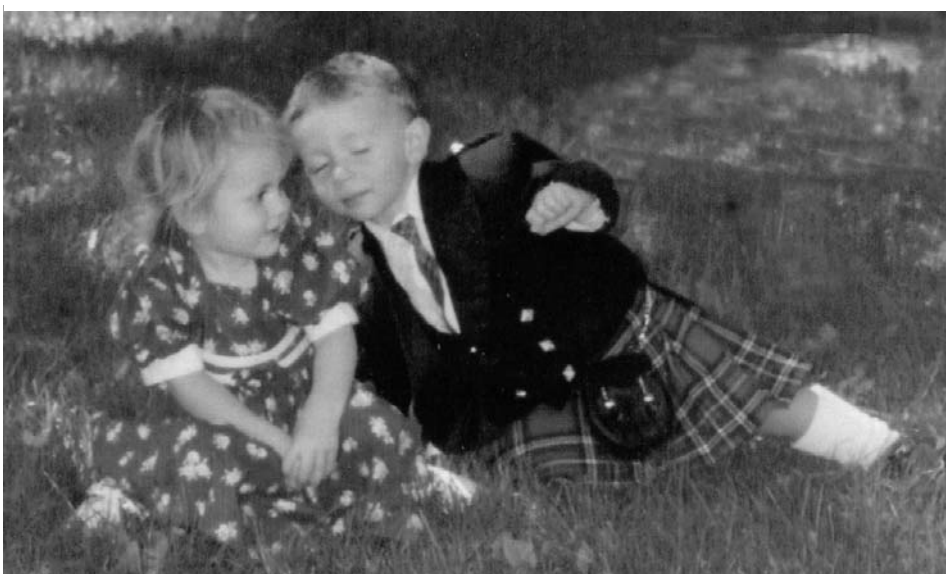
OBITUARY

DR ROBERT BLAKELY McKENZIE

We have received a generous donation of \$500 from member Donald G.A. McKenzie, in memory of his father, Dr Robert B. McKenzie. In his letter Donald tells us that his father was an avid reader of Cabar Feidh.

Here is an extract from his obituary in the newspaper:

McKenzie, Robert Blakely, MD
- Born 16 May 1932 in Glasgow,



Liz Kelly sent us this photo taken at the Clan picnic in 2005. On the left is Alan's granddaughter, Delia and Liz's kilted grandson, Kilian. Priceless!

Scotland. Died 16 September 2007 in Toronto. Graduated in Medicine from Glasgow University. Served in RAF as a Medical Officer in Rheindahlen, West Germany. Immigrated to Canada in 1968 and worked in family medicine in Toronto. Also served as Medical Officer with The Toronto Scottish Regiment and as Commanding Officer of 25 Medical Company. A volunteer with several charities, especially "Out of the Cold" and "Raise the Roof". A man of wisdom with many talents and a zeal for life, he played many different roles: poet, singer, actor, soldier, physician and gardener but above all a husband, father and grandfather. He was loved by all those who had the good fortune to know him. Darling husband of Rita McKenzie (nee Burgoyne), beloved father and father-in-law of Donald, Diane, Sandy and Deborah, and proud grandfather of Malcolm, Simon and Gillian. Kind and loving, gentle and generous, a giant in all our hearts.

OF SKELETONS, STORIES AND SOIL

By A. Duncan L. James

Most families have a host of strange characters, odd doings and great personages located some place in their historical closet. The tale that follows details one of my family's stories and how it has resolved itself just recently.

When I was a child, my grandmother one day proudly announced that our family was related to Scottish gentry. To "document" this assertion, Granny produced a yellowing postcard from a relative I'd never heard of, written in a hiero-

glyphic script I could not read, that seemed to date to the Bronze Age. In this very brief missive, it was stated that my father was directly linked to the lairds of Gairloch, (a seat of the Mackenzie clan, as you probably know.) At that time, of course, I had difficulty picturing a "layered hair lock", but once it had all been explained to me, I gasped in awe. (My father, however, took it all in stride. Perhaps he was more used to the glitz of semi-royalty, I reasoned...he was older, after all.)

In the over-active imagination of an eight year old, this tidbit of news was a veritable banquet for the mind! Perhaps a red carpet would be rolled out at my school once they read about this in the paper, I thought. I wondered if I would now be able to call the Queen ... collect. Was I going to have to learn to play polo, because if so, it was sure gonna hurt if I fell off one of those horses. These and similar fancies took hold of my brain, but I grew out of all that in time, of course.

When I was 17, my family and I vacationed in Britain and one of our stops was in fact the village of Gairloch. It was small - hardly the capital of the empire I had pictured! I must admit, the romance of a connection to a Scottish laird still awed me somewhat, even then.

Alas, reality hit hard: for some reason, no one in Gairloch recognized us. We were not greeted in the streets by the cheering throngs. No parades were held in honour of our homecoming. We came, we saw, we left. When we returned to Canada, I went about life just as common people do. No empire, no castle, no red carpets even! Eventually, I took my "lairdly Mackenzieness" for granted and remained happy in the

knowledge that I could lay claim to a rich Scottish heritage on both sides of the family.

Still, there had been something special about the soil back in Scotland; that dirt, those rocks, all the burns and hills had once been trodden by my ancestors! And that was important.

Some thirty years later, my wife and I happened upon the Mackenzie Clan tent at the Maxville Highland Games in the summer of 2007. "Are you a Mackenzie?" Commissioner Alan McKenzie asked me. "My parents tell me I am!" I replied jokingly. After approximately 0.32 seconds of indecision, I decided to become a member of the Clan MacKenzie Society and in doing so, I felt as if I were being re-united with my long lost family. It was great!

However, my words to Alan that day haunted me later. You see, my surname is not Mackenzie and I am unable to point to any distant Uncle So-and-so Mackenzie; beyond my late Granny's old allegation, there was nothing to prove I was truly a Mackenzie. It was all hearsay information.

A mini-crisis ensued: had I mistakenly joined the Clan MacKenzie Society? Of course, I never expected to be ejected from the Society if I were not a bona fide Mackenzie, but not knowing for certain rankled. At my insistence, my parents hunted high and low for that ancient post card of Granny's, but it could not be found. Frantic calls went out to distant outposts of the family, again at my urging, but to no avail. Until, quite unexpectedly, an eighty year-old second cousin living on the Welsh border, mailed us a photocopy of a letter to my grandmoth-

er in 1938. I have transcribed part of that letter below:

1st Nov. 1938

My dear Edie,

I shall satisfy your interest in your Scots' relations, for you know that both your maternal grandparents were Scots. Your dear Mother's Father, Colin MacKenzie Dick, had as his Mother Isabella MacKenzie of Mountgerald, [?] Ross-shire. Her grandfather was the son of the VI Laird of Gairloch, and you can turn up the present Laird (Sir Hector MacKenzie, Br...[?]) and have your Scots relationship back to the XII century!!. That is good enough it is full of interest.

*I am your older [?] cousin,
A.A.Gordon*

Here at last, was a Mackenzie connection to me and my family sketched out! But was it true, I wondered?

To find out, I turned to Alan McKenzie's cousin, Graeme, a genealogist in Scotland. I sent the letter and tidbits of information to him and he promptly replied that he was able to draw definite familial connections from those in the letter right back to the 6th Laird of Gairloch who died in 1669. Not only that: it seemed I was connected to the Lairds of Mountgerald to boot! Now, that was quite a rack of bones in the closet!

Well, it never snows, but it blizzards! I was stunned that Granny's family tale was so resoundingly confirmed. And, of course, I'm very proud to be a "legitimate" member of this ancient and proud race called the Clan Mackenzie.

Does this knowledge make a difference to me? Yes and no. I can't say my lifestyle has changed much

and, of course, the Scottish heraldry 'thing' no longer has any pull for me whatsoever. But I do have something many people crave: a sense of where I came from and where I belong. I'm proud to say that I have been to the place my ancestors roamed and stepped on the same soil. And that's enough for me... That is, until I can find a good deal on a small roll of red carpet!!

Ed: Our thanks to Duncan for this article. We have a few in the clan that have relationships with the Mackenzies of Gairloch and also of Mountgerald. These families are detailed in the History of the Mackenzies by Alexander Mackenzie (published in 1894). We have copies of this large volume for sale in hardback at \$80 inclusive of postage. See bottom of page one for our address and send a cheque payable to Clan MacKenzie Society if you want a copy - over 450 sold so far! No home should be without one!

CASTLE LEOD A BRIEF UPDATE

We have had a number of communication in recent months with Cabarfeidh on the status of the important and urgent castle repairs. What follows are some extracts.

"On the home front, the Old Tower of the Castle is having an amazing face lift, courtesy of Bill Taylor's All Terrain Access. This is a large mobile crane with a working platform. All the upper level stonework is being treated, repointed, made safe, the vegetation removed and stonework sprayed. Loose mortar or stone is being removed, skews recemented and loose slates replaced. It looks a lot better, will be more watertight and costs are vastly less than if the same work was being done by scaffolding. His team are using a lime rich

mortar that is the same colour as the stonework and I think visitors will notice the much improved appearance of the Castle. Angus, my handyman is also replacing many of the old sills in the interior with high quality treated wood so all in all, though it may not be the major works which are still in mind, it is a large step forward in preserving this fine and lovely old building. The total cost of these repairs came to just over £15,000 a huge saving on scaffolding alone which would have been around £30,000. The Old Tower has been treated on all its elevations including the three battlements, window embrasures and the lead replaced above the front door. The firm also gave three free days to the CMCT [Clan Mackenzie Charitable Trust]. I hope to employ them next year to do a check on the work done and to possibly rebuild the south chimney-head which was removed during the roof replacement in 1991."

From another e-mail: "The next 'target' for 2008 is to restore the south elevation chimney head, taken down during the 1991 roof restoration. I hope to use the same firm (Bill Taylor's 'All Terrain Access') as this year. No prices as yet but anticipate a week's work and if prices hold then approx £500 per day. Bill may well manage it in less but I prefer to be pessimistic and add the odd day on." See photos page 13.

NEW MEMBERS

The following new members have joined since the date of the last Newsletter:

Charles McKenzie,
4241 Morgan Crescent,
Prince George, BC V2N 3E7



Castle Repair Work



East Battlement before repairs



This shows a tree growing out of the east chimney head!

P. Robert MacKenzie,
2163 Country Hills Circle N.W.,
Calgary, AB T3K 4Z2

The following piece I found on an e-mail and I found it fascinating. The Roses of Kilravock were close neighbours of the Mackenzies located near Fort

George:

BATTLE OF CULLODEN:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Culloden

This article mentions a "Rose" - Hugh (Rose of Kilravock), 16th Baron, entertained the Pretender and the Duke of Cumberland respectively on 14th and 15th April 1746, before the battle of Culloden. On the occasion the Pretender's manners and deportment were described by his host as most engaging. Having walked out with Mr. Rose, before sitting down, he observed several persons engaged in planting trees. He remarked, "How happy, Sir, you must feel, to be thus peaceably employed in adorning your mansion, whilst all the country round is in such commotion." Kilravock was a firm supporter of the house of Hanover; but his adherence was not solicited, nor were his preferences alluded to. Next day, the Duke of Cumberland called at the castle gate, and when Kilravock went to receive him, he bluffly observed, "So you had my cousin Charles here yesterday." Kilravock replied, "What am I to do, I am Scottish", To which Cumberland replied, "you did perfectly right."

GENEALOGICAL HUNTING

I guess most of us have spent some time at least searching for our Mackenzie ancestors. From time to time we get questions directed to us by someone just hoping we might be able to pull a rabbit out of the hat and answer all the questions. Of course it just doesn't happen like that.

I thought members might be interested in a series of e-mails that arose when Matt Hall in Wyoming

sent in a query and by the time we finished a number of members were brought in to see if they could help. I fancy that if some of you out there can add to this fascinating piece of ancestor-searching then please let us know.

Here is a summary sent in by Matt. If you can add anything to this genealogical search get in touch:

Dear Alan,

I am writing a biography of Jesse Burgess Thomas, one of the first two U.S. Senators from Illinois and the author of the Missouri Compromise.

He was married to Rebecca MacKenzie who was born in about 1775 in Crown Point, New York. Since she was born at the time the British controlled Crown Point and since she went on from there to Montreal, she was presumably the child of Loyalist parents. In 1797 she married John Francis Hamtramck who was then the American commander of the fort at Detroit and the third highest ranking officer in the U.S. Army. It was ironic that she, born in America and fled to Canada, should end up marrying Hamtramck who had been born in Canada and chose to leave to fight on the American side in the Revolutionary War.

At the time of her marriage to Hamtramck, which occurred the year after the fort had been finally turned over by the British, Rebecca was described as the "belle of Detroit." She was said in one family account to have been a sister to Sir Alexander MacKenzie, the one who was a principal of the fur-trading house known as the North West Company and a famous arctic

explorer. There are some intriguing parallels to the life of the explorer, namely the arrival of Sir Alexander's father, Kenneth, in New York in 1774 and his enlistment in a loyalist regiment soon afterward went to the area near Crown Point and then on to Montreal.

However, for reasons discussed below, I believe she may have been the sister of another Alexander MacKenzie.

Hamtramck died in 1803, and William Henry Harrison, then the governor of the territory in which Detroit was located, became his executor and advisor to Rebecca. It is presumably through Harrison that she met Jesse Burgess Thomas, who was then serving as Speaker of the territorial General Assembly. They were married in 1807, the year before he went off to be a territorial judge in the new Illinois Territory.

In 1810, Thomas wrote a series of letters to her brothers seeking support for Rebecca's children by her first marriage. Three of the brothers are named MacKenzie. They are Alexander, William and Robert.

There are also several letters to Thomas Markland of Kingston, who is also described as a brother.

The Thomas Markland to whom a November 13, 1810 letter is addressed is definitely the prosperous merchant of Kingston described in the Canadian Dictionary of Biography Online, because there are also letters from Jesse Burgess Thomas to his son George H. Markland, who also has an entry in the CDBO. Thomas' letter of November 13 to the elder Markland refers to the connection "between your sister and myself" and refers to a letter he had received from Alex'r. McKenzie, another from "your Brother of Montreal" and to several from "your Brother of Philadelphia."

He concludes that he "will be very happy to hear from you ... Mrs. Thomas sends her love to Mrs. Markland, yourself and your son ..." It is hard to see how Markland could have been a brother-in-law to Rebecca because his only known wife is Catherine Herchmer. Perhaps he was a half-brother rather than a brother-in-law.

Five days later, Thomas wrote a warm letter to Alex'r. McKenzie, dated Kaskaskia, Illinois Territory, November 18, 1810 saying that he hopes Alexander will soon come for a visit. It is this letter that makes me think that it was not addressed to Sir Alexander MacKenzie because the latter had returned to Scotland in 1808 and was never again in North America. This

letter refers to Alexander's brothers William, his brother John and his brother Robert as well as to Mr. T. Markland.

On the same day, November 18, Thomas wrote a letter to Robert McKenzie.

From the context, it appears that Robert could be the brother from Montreal. Thomas Markland is there described as being "of Kingston." As background on both Markland and Robert McKenzie, there is a fascinating account by Capt. Thomas Gummersall Anderson in James J. Talman's "Loyalist Narratives from Upper Canada" describing Anderson being apprenticed to Markland and then going off with Robert MacKenzie on a fur-trading expedition to the Mississippi River. Clearly this is the Robert who was a brother of Rebecca.

It would be very useful and important to know who were Rebecca's parents. Perhaps someone will be able to identify a family of MacKenzies in that time period with brothers named Robert, William and Alexander with connections to Montreal and Philadelphia or with a connection to Thomas Markland. I would appreciate any help anyone could give.

Sincerely,

Matthew W. Hall

mwhall@pardee.com

Ed: I cannot help but think that those early Mackenzies in Montreal must have left descendants - some of whom may be current members of our society. We would be very interested in hearing from members who may be able to spot a family connection here.

RODDY MACKENZIE'S MESSAGE

A past president of the Clan Mackenzie Society in the Americas (when it included both Canada and the United States) is Roddy MacKenzie whom many of you will know well. He has taken on the role of Communications Coordinator for the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada Patrons' Corps. In this role he will be issuing newsletters. Here is an e-mail he sent in late February:

Good Morning Fellow Seaforth Patrons,

What better way to wind up this week than by receiving your first Seaforth Patron news of 2008! Attached is lots of interesting information. The most time urgent is our Annual Seaforth Patrons' Luncheon

on Thursday, March 13th. Please diarize that one right now, and please come.

Unfortunately, I will personally have to miss our March 13th luncheon. I'll be in New Zealand. I'm Secretary and Assistant Tour Leader of our Kerrisdale Lions Rugby Team, a group of Grades 11 and 12 boys including my son Ruaridh. On learning last June that our sons' high school would not be having a rugby tour in 2008, several other parents and I created this team and 25 boys from Ruaridh's school promptly joined. Canada's greatest rugby player, Gareth Rees, signed on as our coach and the Canadian Rugby Union is sanctioning our tour. So wish us success during our half-month rugby tour of New Zealand next month, and come to our Seaforth Patrons' Annual Luncheon March 13th.

And enjoy reading the attached news of our Seaforth Highlanders of Canada Patrons' Corps. [See page 16 for the attached news.]

Best regards, Roddy
Roddy MacKenzie
Communications Coordinator
Seaforth Highlanders of Canada Patrons' Corps
Shannon Mews at 110 - 7155 Granville Street
Vancouver, BC V6P 4X6 Ph 604-264-8885

GENETIC MUTATIONS OFFER INSIGHTS ON HUMAN DIVERSITY

By David Brown
Washington Post Staff Writer
Friday, February 22, 2008

We're all pretty much the same except, of course, for the little things that make us different.

Those are the conclusions of three studies published this week that looked at human diversity through the keyhole of the genetic mutations we all carry.

The findings -- the latest dividend from the world's investment in the Human Genome Project in the 1990s -- confirm a broad narrative of human history known from previous biological, archaeological and linguistic studies. But the new research adds an astonishing level of detail and a few new insights that were not previ-



"You don't look anything like the long haired, skinny kid I married 25 years ago. I need a DNA sample to make sure it's still you."

ously available.

All three studies support the idea that modern human beings left East Africa, walked into Central Asia and then fanned out east and west to people the entire planet. The studies also confirm earlier research showing that as a group, Africans have more diverse genes than people of other continents. But the new research further shows that genetic diversity declines steadily the farther one's ancestors traveled from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, which is roughly the site of the exit turnstile for the "out-of-Africa" migration.

The studies also show that many seemingly "purebred" ethnic groups have ancestry traceable to more than one continent.

For example, the Arabian Peninsula's Bedouin -- a culturally distinct group -- are descended not only from longtime Middle Eastern peoples, but also from Europeans and peoples originating from around modern Pakistan. The Yakut people of eastern Siberia share blood with East Asians, Europeans and American Indians, but very little with Central Asians, who are geographically closer to them than two of those populations.

The research may also shed light on the genetic underpinnings of human disease. One study found that Americans of European descent carry a larger number of damaging gene variants than African Americans do -- a byproduct of Caucasians' arduous march westward

continued on page 17

The Seaforth Highlanders of Canada Patrons' Corps

News of Interest to Every Seaforth Patron

Our First Seaforth News of 2008: Our Chair, L.Col. Arthur A. Knight, has asked me to send this news to you - our first Seaforth Patron News of 2008.

Patrons' Presentation to Seaforth Captain Trevor Greene: This coming week, our Seaforth Commanding Officer, L.Col. Rob Roy MacKenzie, will for us present The Highlander to Captain Trevor Greene in his hospital in Alberta. Brutally attacked in March 2006 while on duty conferring with Village Elders in Afghanistan, Trevor is the most grievously wounded Seaforth in over 60 years. He's the third recipient of The Highlander from our Patrons' Corps. L.Col. Arthur Knight and Col. David Fairweather are the other two recipients.

Patrons' 2008 Annual Luncheon March 13: On Thursday, March 13th at noon in the Officers' Mess of the Seaforth Armoury, we will have our 2008 Annual Patrons' Luncheon. Good food, good fellowship and interesting news.

April 12, 2008 Annual British Columbia Military Ball: This year's Annual BC Military Ball is on Saturday, April 12th in Victoria. We are being given a special room-rate at the Fairmont Empress Hotel of only \$100 per night. It's important that our Seaforth Highlanders be represented by at least a couple of tables of our Officers, Patrons and guests. Please let me know if you are coming.

Seaforth Cadet Reunion October 18, 2008: Our Chair, L.Col. Arthur Knight, is Chairing a Committee to organize a third Seaforth Cadet Reunion. Art also helped organize the second Reunion 12 years ago, and the first Reunion 22 years ago. This third Cadet Reunion will convene on Saturday, Oct 18th in the Seaforth Armoury Drill Hall. Former Cadets, and parents of our Cadet Band and Guard, will be invited. We Patrons will also be invited. You will recall that our Patrons' Corps' original purpose was to assist our Cadets. The fund our donations created aids our Cadet Corps each year in perpetuity. Our four Cadet Corps are:

72nd Vancouver Seaforth Highlanders of Canada Cadet Corps
2812th Surrey/White Rock Seaforth Highlanders of Canada Cadet Corps
2893rd Coquitlam Seaforth Highlanders of Canada Cadet Corps and
2963rd Sechelt Seaforth Highlanders of Canada Cadet Corps.

Arthur's Committee is arranging special entertainment for what will be a memorable Cadet Reunion on Oct 18th. Please diarize the date and come.

To Reserve Your Place at Our March 13th Luncheon or the April 12th Annual BC Military Ball in Victoria, please email me at kintail@telus.net or phone me at 604-264-8885.

Respectfully submitted to our Seaforth Highlanders of Canada Patrons' Corps on Feb 22, 2008 by Roddy MacKenzie, Seaforth Patrons Communications Coordinator.

to the shores of the Atlantic.

The biggest message, though, is that these differences are the details, not the main message, of human diversity.

About 90 percent of the full catalogue of human genetic diversity exists in every human population. Individuals are likely to have almost as many differences with people we consider to be “like us” as with strangers on the other side of the world.

“What this says is that we are all extremely related to each other,” said Richard M. Myers, a geneticist at Stanford University School of Medicine, who helped lead one of the studies being published today in the journal *Science*.

“Most genetic variation is shared worldwide. It is only a small part of human genetic variation that is private to particular continents,” said Noah A. Rosenberg, of the University of Michigan. His group’s findings were published yesterday in the journal *Nature*.

All three studies examined single “letter” changes in the 3-billion-letter transcript that makes up each person’s genome. Every individual carries tens of thousands of these variations. Some do not change the “words” that are the genes; some change a word but not its meaning; and some change the meaning in a way that can be beneficial or harmful.

Each person’s collection of these changes (called “single nucleotide polymorphisms” or SNPs) contributes to his or her individuality. People with a common ancestry, however, tend to have similar collections of SNPs (pronounced “snips”).

“There is no single gene, no single DNA marker, that would distinguish one population from another,” Myers said. Instead, he said, “it is a pattern, like a bar code with thousands of lines on it,” that allows researchers to tease apart the fine points of relatedness among populations.

He and his colleagues looked at 938 individuals from 51 different populations whose DNA is in a

repository in France. The group lead by Rosenberg and Andrew B. Singleton, of the University of Virginia, studied 485 people from the same collection. Each person studied had a clear-cut ethnic identity and in most cases came from a family that had lived in the group’s homeland for generations.

With such diverse and abundant starting material, the researchers were able to sketch a picture of ethnicity far more detailed than previously known.

For example, Africa’s surviving hunter-gatherers -- two groups of pygmies and the San people of southern Africa who were formerly known as Bushmen -- are closely related to one another and quite distinct on a genetic basis from all other black Africans. The Hazara of Afghanistan and Pakistan and the Uygur of northwestern China are also close genetic relatives, despite living far apart. On the other hand, China’s dominant ethnicity, the Han, is actually two genetically distinct groups, the northern and the southern Han.

The research shows that populations’ genetic footprints on the planet are deep, sharp and not easily covered over by time.

Both research teams using the French DNA collection found geographic distance from East Africa is a major determinant of genetic differences among groups.

“Each group carried only a subset of the genetic variation from its ancestral population. So there is a loss of genetic diversity with the distance from Africa,” Rosenberg said.

One of the more interesting consequences of that pattern is the subject of the third study, also published in *Nature*.

Carlos D. Bustamante of Cornell University and his colleagues measured SNPs in 20 European Americans and 15 African Americans. They found that the average person carries at least 2,000 SNPs that change the meaning of a genetic “word.” However, in the European Americans, a larger proportion of those changes were likely to be unhealthy or unfavorable.

The reasons for this curious finding are not fully

known, although there are theories.

The chief explanation is that the ancestors of Europeans (and most white Americans) suffered repeated population “bottlenecks” in which their numbers crashed as result of epidemics, environmental catastrophes and genocide. Each time that happened, the population lost a lot of its genetic diversity simply because a lot of people died.

The survivors, like their ancestors, carried a certain random collection of deleterious SNPs -- genes that caused disease or increased the risk of disease. When the population rebounded, those genes were spread widely as the small number of survivors gave rise to all living descendants.

But if they were potentially bad, why weren't they flushed out by natural selection? That is the mystery.

It may be that in the rebound after the bottleneck, the slight hazardousness of these SNPs did not make much difference. New conditions, perhaps territory free of competitors or a new technology for getting food, allowed people who carried them to flourish just as well as people who did not have them.

It is even possible that some deleterious SNPs were “dragged along” into the future because they were physically close on chromosomes to newly arising SNPs that increased a person's biological fitness.

With time, natural selection will tend to flush the deleterious SNPs out, as it has done -- relatively speaking -- in African populations. But in the case of Europeans, not enough time has passed.

The following tale comes from an old copy of an even much older book about Gairloch and a Guide to Loch Marie published in 1886. Among the many interesting pages of this parish, noted for its vast number of Mackenzies living there, are a series of anecdotes and stories of the local inhabitants. These tales were told by James Mackenzie of Kirkton, who was born in 1808. James was a descendant of the 5th laird of Gairloch. He was an enthusiastic lover of family history and local folk-lore and his stories were tran-

scribed preserving the same words and phrases that he used.

We shall publish more of these stories in future issues of Cabar Feidh. Meanwhile here is one which involved the Mackenzies of Dundonnell.

THE OTHER ROB ROY MACGREGOR

Kenneth Mackenzie, the last laird of Dundonnell of the old family, was descended from the first Lord Mackenzie of Kintail, and was a connection of the Gairloch Mackenzies. He was a peculiar man; he had a large flock of hens, and used to make every tenant pay him so many hens at the Martinmas term along with their rent. My grandfather's brother, Sandy M'Rae, who was tenant of the Isle of Gruinard, had to pay four hens every year to the laird. Kenneth Mackenzie, in 1817, married Bella, daughter of one Donald Roy Macgregor, belonging to Easter Ross; they had no family. She had a brother called Rob Roy Macgregor, who was a lawyer in Edinburgh. When Kenneth was on his deathbed his wife and Rob Roy wanted him to leave the Dundonnell estate to the latter. The dying laird was willing to do so, because he did not care for his only brother Thomas Mackenzie; but he was so weak that he could not sign his name to the will, and it is said that Rob Roy Macgregor held the laird's hand with the pen, and that the wife was keeping up the hand while Rob Roy made the signature. The laird died soon after, and left nothing at all to his brother Thomas. When the will became known there was a great feeling of indignation among all the Mackenzies and the gentry of the low country, as well as among the tenantry on the Dundonnell estates, against Rob Roy Macgregor, who now took up his residence at the old house of Dundonnell. The whole of the tenantry were opposed to him, except one man at Badluachrach named Donald Maclean, commonly called Donald the son of Farquhar. He was the only man that was on Rob Roy's side. His neighbours made a fire in the bow of his boat in the night time and burnt a good part of it. He sent the boat to Malcolm Beaton, a cousin of his own at Poolewe, to repair it; the night after it was repaired (whilst still at Poolewe) there was a fire put in the stern, and the other end of her was burnt. The Dundonnell tenants rose against Rob Roy Macgregor, and procured firearms; they surrounded the house, and fired through the shutters by which the windows were defended, hoping to take his life; one ball or slug

struck the post of his bed. The next night he escaped, and never returned again. His barn and his stacks of hay and corn were burnt, and the manes and tails of his horses were cut short. Thomas Mackenzie commenced law against Rob Roy Macgregor for the recovery of the estate. In the end it was decided that it belonged to him, but it had become so burdened by the law expenses that it had to be sold.

This account is in accord with the family records shown in Alexander Mackenzie's book "History of the Mackenzies" copies available for \$80 inclusive of postage from the Clan MacKenzie Society in Canada. Here is a portion from the Dundonnel family record pages 364 and 365.

"V. Kenneth Mackenzie, fifth of Dundonnel, who, in 1817, married Isabella, daughter of Donald Roy of Treeton, without issue. He left the estate by will to his brother-in-law, Robert Roy, W.S., who, however, lost it after a long and costly litigation with Kenneth's brother,

VI. Thomas Mackenzie, sixth of Dundonnel, who was financially ruined by the litigation in the case; and the property had to be sold in 1835, to meet the costs of the trial. It was bought by Murdo Munro-Mackenzie of Ardross, grandfather of the present owner, Hugh Mackenzie of Dundonnel, and of Bundanon, Shoulhaven, New South Wales. Thomas married his cousin, Anne, eldest daughter of Alexander, VI. of Ord, with issue -

1. George Alexander, who became the representative of the family on the death of his father.
2. Thomas, who emigrated to California, and of whose issue, if any, nothing is known.
3. John Hope, who for some time resided at Tarra-dale House, Ross-shire
4. Helen, who married the Hon. Justice Charles Henry Stewart of Ceylon, without issue.
5. Isabella, who resided in Elgin, unmarried.

Thomas was succeeded as representative of the family by his eldest son,

VII. George Alexander Mackenzie, who, on the death of his father, became head of the original Mackenzies of Dundonnel, although the estates had been sold to another family. He married Louisa, daughter of Captain Stewart of the Ceylon Rifles, without issue. If his next brother, who went to California, survived George Alexander, then, on his death, he -

VIII. Thomas Mackenzie, would have succeeded as head of his house, and failing him and his descendants, if any, the representation of the old Mackenzies of Dundonnel would have fallen to

John Hope Mackenzie, third son of Thomas, VI. of Dundonnel and last proprietor of the family estates. He married Louisa, daughter of Captain Stewart of the Ceylon Rifles, widow of his deceased brother, George Alexander, without issue, and died in London in 1892."

Ed: The Dundonnel (otherwise Dundonnell) line was a senior line for the Chiefship of the Clan. If there were male descendants then they could well have been heirs to the Chiefship of the clan. In the end, of course, the title of Chief went to the earl of Cromartie through his ancient descent from the Chiefs of the clan and the famous "Tutor of Kintail".

THE MACKENZIE DNA PROJECT

At a risk of repeating myself I would like to remind members that the DNA Project continues to grow nicely and we now have 183 Mackenzies signed up for the y-chromosome tests. Many members went initially for a 12 marker test because it was the cheapest way of getting involved at a cost of US\$99 plus \$4 postage.

However, since that time it is clear that members have become very enthused with the project as the majority have spent further funds to expand their DNA markers to 25, 37 or even 67 markers. The reason for this is that so many members have found they match 100% with 12 markers with other Mackenzies that they needed more markers to find just how close they were related to the others.

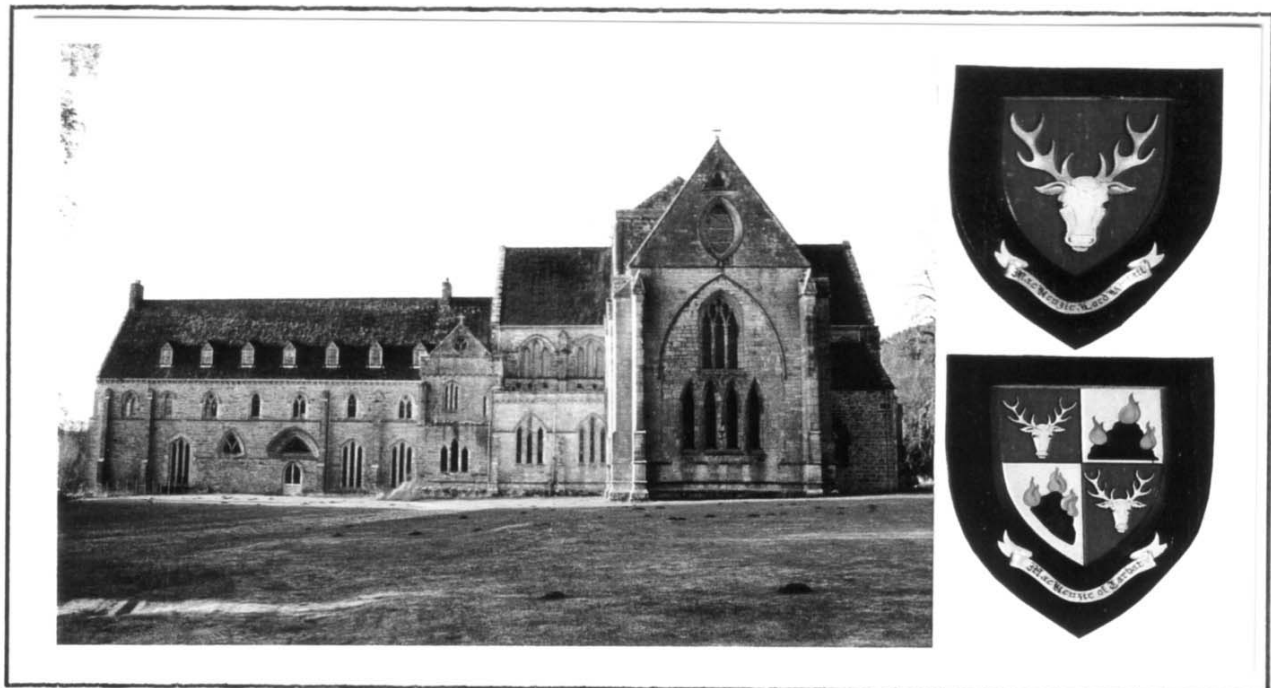
To use my own example I found I matched with nobody on 12 markers except with a few names not called Mackenzie. I then contacted a 4th cousin, Colin Ashton McKenzie. We did not match exactly on 12 markers but when we did 37 markers we matched 34 and in fact, as a consequence, he is my closest match out of over 100,000 people who have done this DNA test. I am thus satisfied that he is my 4th cousin and this proves the paper trail which our respective families have put together over many generations.

About 85% of members (including me) are classified as R1b - meaning we descend from a man in Spain around 35,000 years ago!

I have been invited to give a talk to The Canadian Federation of University Women Markham/Unionville, Ontario on the subject of tracing ancestors using DNA.

- Alan McKenzie

BELOW IS A COPY OF THE BACK AND FRONT PAGES OF A SPLENDID CHRISTMAS CARD
SENT BY MARK COURTNEY



PLUSCARDEN ABBEY, NEAR ELGIN: *Main picture*, approaching the Abbey from the north-east;
Right, two of the eight heraldic shields displayed in the chancel in honour of the
the Abbey's post-Reformation lay owners, the top one bearing the Arms of
Mackenzie of Kintail, the bottom one the Arms of Mackenzie of Tarbat.

Pluscarden Abbey

Nestling in a particularly peaceful woodland setting a few miles south-west of Elgin is this beautiful Benedictine monastery, founded in 1230 by Alexander II of Scotland under the Valliscaulian monastic order. Pluscarden has had a turbulent history over the centuries, including assault by the armies of Edward I of England in 1303, followed by much more serious fire damage circa 1390, almost certainly caused by the infamous Alexander Stewart (more commonly known as the "Wolf of Badenoch"). After a mid-15th-century conversion to the Benedictine order, the religious upheaval of the Reformation (during the 1560s in Scotland) marked the start of an extended period for Pluscarden as a lay property, during which time it was sold in 1594 to Kenneth Mackenzie of Kintail, the priory (as it was then called) and its estate remaining in Mackenzie hands for seventy years. Sadly, the discontinuation of Pluscarden's use as a monastery proved to be calamitous after the battering the building had taken in the 14th century, and further centuries of neglect compounded the ruination of this formerly magnificent building. In 1948, however, Benedictine monks from Prinknash, Gloucester, were gifted the monastery and took up residence, starting the long, slow process of restoration. Now, in the 21st century, Pluscarden is the only medieval monastery in Britain still inhabited by monks and being used for its original purpose; indeed respectful tourists are most welcome to visit and sample the amazingly tranquil atmosphere and admire features of the building such as the impressively restored windows with unique designs in modern stained glass. Everything is done by the monks themselves, who continue with the meticulous restoration, and there is a small gift shop where items can be purchased to help with restoration funds.



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