



Clan MacKenzie Society in the Americas



Cabar Feidh

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THE MACKENZIES OF REDCASTLE

TALK GIVEN TO THE HIGHLAND FAMILY
HISTORY SOCIETY ON 26TH FEBRUARY 2008
BY GRAHAM CLARK

There is evidence of human habitation in the area now known as Redcastle from circa 3000 BC. Neolithic chambered cairns at Kilcoy South and North, bronze-age cairns at Carn Glas and Carn Irenan, an

iron-age crannog in Redcastle Bay and several Pictish sites all point to early occupation prior to the advent of written documents.



Redcastle (in better times!)

The earliest known record of the castle that would become Redcastle is in 1179. William I of Scotland (the Lion) had entered Ross-shire with a large army to subdue insurrections led by Harald Maddadson and Duncan MacHeth. To ensure that Ross and Moray remained firmly under royal control William ordered two royal castles to be built, one of which was at "Dunsaith" on the north Sutor overlooking the Cromarty Firth and the other at "Etherdover" on the north shore of the Beaully Firth, where there was probably already a rudimentary motte. [Redcastle has been

Cabar Feidh Newsletter:

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subjected to several name changes with numerous spelling variations over the centuries. The variations used in this article include Etherdover, Edirdowyr, Eddyrdor, Eddirdule, and Reidcastell].

The building works at Etherdover were supervised by William's brother David, the Earl of Huntingdon, but they proved to be insufficient because various sons and grandsons of MacHeth and Maddadson, particularly Donald Bane MacWilliam (a grandson of MacHeth), led further rebellions during which the castle was captured in 1211. However it was re-captured and strengthened in 1212 by Sir John Bysset, who held the Lordship of the Aird and was married to Agnes, William's sister. As his reward, Sir John was granted the custodianship of Etherdover. His predecessors as Lords of the Aird were almost certainly descendants of "Gilleoin of the Aird", who lived around 830-890 AD and is thought to be the progenitor of the Mackenzie clan. Although the connection is nebulous, the Mackenzie link to Redcastle had been made.

Sir John Bysset was also the founding patron of Beaulieu Priory circa 1230 and, after his death in circa 1259, a Beaulieu Charter of 1278 granted occupation of Etherdover to his daughter Elizabeth and her husband Andro de Bosco, for 2 merks per annum. Then in 1294 their daughter Mary and her husband Hugh of Kilravock, were granted the permanent tenancy (or "tenement").

How long the castle remained in the ownership of the "de la Ard" family does not seem to be recorded but it was at least until 1296, when it is possible that the forces of Edward I captured it during the "pacification" of Scotland. Several medieval and late-medieval finds have been retrieved from the fields around Redcastle, the earliest of which is a shield-shaped heraldic horse pendant measuring ~3cm high and ~2cm wide with three white lions (the Arms of England) on a red enameled background. It has been dated to the 13-14th century and close-by was also found an Edward I long-cross hammered penny, minted in London in 1281-2.

The proprietorship of Etherdover during the 14th century is vague. After Edward's death, Robert the Bruce's forces re-captured the Highland castles for the Scottish Crown in 1308 and by 1367 Etherdover had



Redcastle in more recent times.

passed into the possession of the Frasers of Lovat. In reality these were probably the descendants of the Byssets "de la Ard" who had become "*Frisealich am boll a mine [Frasers of the boll of meal]*". The earliest reference in the Register of the Great Seal of Scotland is in 1426 when James I confirmed to James of Douglas the "*lands and barony of Eddirdule*" within the earldom of Ross and the lordship of the "*Ardmeanach [the Black Isle]*". During the 15th century, "Eddirdule" probably referred to the area administered by the barony, whilst the castle itself gradually became known as the "Reidcastell".

The proprietorship of the Douglasses came to an abrupt end in 1455 when Hugh Douglas, the Earl of Ormond, was executed by James II along with the Black Douglasses and their allies. In consequence, the castle and its lands were forfeited to the Crown and formally annexed in perpetuity by an Act of Annexation dated 4 August 1455. After the annexation, James II gave custodianship of the Ardmeanach to his ally Sir Andrew Moray, the Earl of Moray. Andrew appointed his half-brother Celestine (otherwise known as "Gillespie of the Isles") as the keeper of the castle, the rent being £26:13:4d Scots. However in 1481 James III granted the "*fortalice of the Rubeum Castrum [Red Castle]*" to his second son, James Stewart, the Marquis of Ormond, thus commencing a period of 87 years in which the title of Earl of Ross, together with the custodianship of Redcastle, was assigned to members of the Royal House of Stewart, or their sub-tenants.

In the summer of 1564, Mary Queen of Scots visit-

ed Redcastle during her tour of the northern Highlands, having granted the title of Earl of Ross and Ardmeanach to her second husband Lord Henry Darnley earlier that year. Henry Darnley was murdered in February 1567 and Mary Queen of Scots was forced to abdicate in July 1567. Her infant son, James VI, fell heir to the Scottish crown with the Earl of Moray as his Regent. Changes in the custodianship of the Redcastle were imminent.

The modern estate of Redcastle originates in the granting of the foralice of Redcastle in 1568 by James VI to Kenneth Mackenzie (known as Coinneach "Na Cuirc") the 10th Baron of Kintail and his wife, Lady Elizabeth Stewart (the daughter of the Earl of Athol), as a reward for his part in the arrest of Mackay of Farr who had been pillaging and plundering parts of Sutherland. Kenneth died that same year and was buried in Beaulieu Priory. His eldest son, Murdoch, had died in childhood, hence his second son, Colin "Cam", fell heir to the Barony of Kintail and his third son Rorie (known as "Ruairidh Mor") inherited Redcastle.

Ruairidh Mor, who already owned land at Ardafallie, then successively acquired charters of the "Lands of Killearnan" in 1578, the "Milns of Redcastle" in 1584, and of "Gargiestown, Newton of Redcastle and Easter Kessock" in 1589. Thus the estate of Redcastle had been created by 1589 and was in the ownership of Ruairidh Mor Mackenzie (1st of Redcastle). The Exchequer Rolls of Scotland for

1595 record that the lands of Gargastoun and the Reidcastell within the Lordship of Ardmannoch had been set in "*few-ferme to Rorie Makenze*" for £100 Scots per year.

The staunchly royalist Ruairidh Mor of Redcastle and his brother, Colin "Cam" of Kintail, were rebels who successfully commanded the Mackenzies in many of their clan skirmishes but who at times acted somewhat lawlessly. For example, the Register of the Privy Council of Scotland records that in December 1577 they attacked the Bishop's house in Fortrose, seized all the servants and imprisoned them in Redcastle. Failing to appear at the subsequent court hearing, they were denounced as rebels and put to escheat [i.e. made to forfeit their property to the Crown]. In theory, this judgement ended the Mackenzie's ownership of Redcastle but the court's decision was never implemented, presumably because of the brothers' royal connections. Several years later the brothers were detained in 1586 in Edinburgh to answer charges laid by Macdonald of Glengarry accusing them of the murder of several of his clansmen during various ambushes. On 5 October 1586, before a trial could be held, they were given a royal pardon for these and "all other past crimes" and, thereby, Ruairidh Mor Mackenzie regained the legal ownership of Redcastle.

On 2 December 1608 James VI of Scotland (who was also James I of England by the Union of the Crowns in 1603) under his Great Seal gifted the charter of Redcastle and its lands to Ruairidh Mor and

his son and heir, Murdoch, thus ensuring the male succession of the estate. The charter also refers to the holding of an annual fair in Redcastle on 7 July, called St Andrew's Day. This fair is also mentioned in the Great Charter of Inverness of 1591 which refers to the "boyes-fair" held at the "Rudecastell". Various artifacts that have been found in the fields around Redcastle indicate that fairs and markets have been held in the area from at least the 14th century. These include a 14th century annular ring brooch, an Edward III silver groat and a James VI silver sixpence, dated 1624.

As a consequence of the hereditary charter of 1608, the Redcastle estate was inherited in 1615 by Murdoch Mackenzie (2nd of Redcastle) thus establishing a dynasty of nine generations of Mackenzies who were destined to own Redcastle for almost another 200 years. Not much is known of Murdoch other than that he married Margaret, the daughter of William Rose, Baron of Kilravock, in June 1599 and they had five sons and seven daughters. However the eldest son, Kenneth, died as a young child in 1607 and Redcastle was inherited on Murdoch's death in 1638 by his second son, Rorie (3rd of Redcastle). Rorie, who had been born in 1608, married Isobel, the eldest daughter of Alexander Mackenzie 1st of Kilcoy, in 1629, and they had four sons and a daughter. In common with his ancestors, Rorie was strongly royalist, a loyalty that was to have far-reaching consequences.

Charles I was executed by

Cromwell on 30 January 1649 and Charles II was proclaimed King of Scotland on 5 February 1649. However Inverness Burgh declared loyalty to the Parliamentarians on 9 February 1649 and this precipitated an attack by the royalist Mackenzie and Mackay clans (many of which came from Easter Ross and the Black Isle, including Rorie Mackenzie of Redcastle). The clans took control of the town and destroyed the fort on Castle Hill. Parliamentary Covenanters under Col. David Leslie soon retaliated and re-captured the town. The clans fled back to Ross-shire, pursued by the Covenanters and, in May 1649, Rorie was captured near Fortrose and taken to Edinburgh where he was imprisoned. In his absence, Redcastle held out as the last castle in Scotland loyal to the Crown. However it was laid siege and ultimately captured, looted and set on fire by the troops of Col. Gilbert Ker (or Carr). It is said that during the skirmish Rorie's younger son, Kenneth, was shot and died after falling from the ramparts. Rorie was later released on payment of 7000 merks Scots (paid by Ross of Bridly, his maternal uncle) but died soon afterwards in 1650 from "grief and melancholy" after seeing the ruins of his castle.

Colin Mackenzie (4th of Redcastle), Rorie's eldest son, was born in 1630. He was known as Colin "Niag" and was a Collector of Customs in Inverness when he inherited the remains



of Redcastle in 1650. In 1661 he was awarded £21,777 in damages for its burning by the Covenanters and ordered it to be rebuilt on its 12th century foundations in the form of the L-plan tower house that remains today. An engraved stone that is still set into the northern elevation of the castle displays the initials R.M.K. and is dated 1641. The significance of the date is not clear but the initials probably refer to Rorie Mackenzie (3rd of Redcastle), Colin's father. The stone had perhaps survived the sacking of the old castle and may have been incorporated into the rebuilt castle either in memory of his father or as a mark of allegiance after the restoration of the monarchy in 1660.

One of the key events in Redcastle history occurred on 2 January 1680 when Charles II issued a "Charter

of Resignation, Confirmation and Novodamus and New Erection" to Colin Mackenzie. This "erected" Redcastle as a Scottish Burgh of Barony. The charter reads: "By this Charter the said whole estate is erected into a Barony, called the Barony of Redcastle, and the village of Milntown of Redcastle is erected into a Burgh of Barony, called the Burgh of Barony of Redcastle with all the usual privileges, a weekly market to be held every Wednesday in the said Burgh. Another free fair to be held on 24 February yearly, besides that formerly granted to be held the 7 July yearly. With tolls and customs of said weekly market and two yearly free fairs with favour to the Proprietor, to elect and chuse (sic) baillies of said Burgh of Barony, deputes, clerks, dempsters, officers and other members of court and to change the same yearly. To erect and build a market cross, a tolbooth and prison, with liberty to build a sea port or harbour at said Burgh for the reception of ships and vessels and to impose and exact anchorage, shore dues and others at said port and harbour which is declared to be a free sea port or harbour in all time coming". The existence of a market cross is recorded by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland but unfortunately the supporting bibliographic documentation, as well as the cross itself has been lost.

Colin Mackenzie (4th of Redcastle) amassed a substantial fortune from his business interests and was described as a very opulent man who in 1661-8 was the elected MP for Inverness-shire. He was married twice, firstly to Isobel, the eldest daughter of Sir Kenneth Mackenzie (1st of Coul) by whom he had three sons and four daughters, and secondly to Marjory, the daughter of John Robertson of Inches, who was a widow. To ensure that the succession of Redcastle followed the children of his first marriage, Colin made an entail of the Redcastle estate [also known as a "tailzie"]. Several records state that Colin was killed at Killearnan in 1704, although neither the circumstances of his death nor any corroborating evidence is given. He is said to be buried in Killearnan parish church.

Colin Mackenzie's eldest son Roderick (5th of Redcastle) was known as "Ruairi Dearg". He married Margaret, the daughter of James Grant 16th of Freuchie, and had four sons and three daughters. The eldest was Roderick (6th of Redcastle) known as "Ruairi Mor". There are different accounts of Ruairi

Mor's marital history. He was first married in 1707 to Margaret, the daughter of Sir James Calder of Muirtoun and secondly to Katherine, daughter of Charles Mackenzie of Cullen, in 1727. Various, there are reported to have been up to 30 children but other accounts record only two sons (Roderick and Colin) and one daughter (Florence).

A disposition of Redcastle in 1718 by Ruairi Dearg to Ruairi Mor was to prove the turning point in the fortunes of the Mackenzies of Redcastle. Ruairi Mor immediately began to sell parts of the estate. The proceeds were probably intended to pay off his father's debts but a sale of some land in Easter and Wester Kessock to Capt. Hugh Fraser proved to be disastrous and commenced a long-standing legal dispute that extended for over 20 years and precipitated the eventual bankruptcy of the Mackenzies of Redcastle.

In May 1729 Capt Fraser successfully sued Ruairi Mor for 17,000 merks. It seems that Ruairi Mor was unable to produce any legal documentation proving his title to the disputed land and therefore his right to sell it. However, Ruairi Mor failed to pay and further actions taken in the High Court in Edinburgh in November 1730, October 1733 and April 1736 led to further fines and penalties (£2000 Scots) relating to Capt Fraser's damages, interest and expenses. The outcome was sequestration of the Redcastle estate. Unfortunately, Ruairi Mor's response seems to have been a less than sensible act of desperation. He arranged, apparently in collaboration with his son Roderick, for a set of counterfeit title deeds to be drawn up. They are first recorded in 1739 but it was not until 1745 that Ruairi Mor finally admitted the fraud. In the subsequent court proceedings he was described as a man who was "*universally reputed and known to be by the whole country a weak and facile man easily imposed upon*" and who was impecunious due to issuing bonds without securities, taking out "groundless law suits before inferior courts" and borrowing (against bonds) "*such sums as £250 when no person in the country would credit Redcastle a shilling*". He is also recorded as "*a man of no expense tho' possess of an estate of about five hundred pounds of yearly rent ... did involve himself in upwards of forty thousand merks of debts*".

Ruairi Mor Mackenzie died in April 1751 and was succeeded by his eldest son, Roderick (7th of Redcastle) and known as "Ruairi Ban". He had married Hannah (or Anna), daughter of Thomas Murdoch of Cambodden, in 1730 and they had four sons and five daughters. Hannah died at the age of 39 in April 1755. Despite Ruairi Ban's financial plight, he was determined to make the funeral of "Lady Redcastle" a lavish event. The bill amounted to £64:11:2¼d which included £16:16/- for 16 dozen bottles of claret!

Whilst Ruairi Mor's management of the estate's financial affairs had been incompetent, Ruairi Ban's was hapless. In the period 1756-61 he became embroiled in at least two complex legal cases, one involving his refusal to pay for the purchase of grain, the other involving money owed to a trust fund. In 1768, in a valiant attempt to keep the estate solvent, Ruairi Ban and his motherless young family relocated from Redcastle to Inverness where he was appointed as Collector of Customs at Inverness harbour. In later life he became blind and when he died in May 1785 his (second) son, Kenneth, succeeded him (the eldest son, Murdoch, having died in childhood in 1746). By this time the estate was, once again, in sequestration and the castle had become seriously dilapidated.

Ruairi Ban's son Kenneth (8th of Redcastle) was born on 21 February 1748. His youth is described as "*opprobrious ... the terror of Inverness mothers ... the aversion of Inverness tradesmen*" and it was the general belief that he would come to a bad end. On 17 August 1767 he married Jean Thomson, the daughter of the Accountant-General of Excise in Scotland, and immediately afterwards (26th August) he joined the Armed Forces, initially being appointed as an Ensign in the 33rd Regiment of Foot and subsequently promoted to Lieutenant in February 1771. Thereafter, his army records are scanty but his regiment was ordered to embark for America in 1775 and it is probable that he fought in the American War of Independence.

Kenneth had returned by January 1778 when he joined the newly created 78th Regiment of Highland Foot (or the Seaforth Highlanders) as a Captain. In this capacity he was in command at the Tolbooth in Edinburgh when a minor mutiny, known as the "Revolt of the Macraas", took place. The Macraas [more gen-

erally known as the MacRaes] were a sept of the Mackenzies of Kintail and around 400 of them had enlisted in the Seaforths as “fencible infantry” [i.e. to serve only within the British Isles]. However, it was rumoured that they had been “sold” to the East India Company and were to sail to India, a rumour that turned out to be true. When ordered to march to Leith to board ship, the Macraas revolted and a party of the mutineers went to the Tolbooth to demand the release of some comrades who were held there. Captain Kenneth Mackenzie is said to have “bared his breast and told the mutineers to strike if they dared, but he would not release a man”, an action that gained him a reputation for bravery and resolve.

Jean Thomson and Kenneth had three sons and three daughters, of whom only two sons (Roderick and Hector) and two daughters (Boyd and Hannah) survived childhood. However, in 1780, Jean brought a successful divorce action against Kenneth, the grounds being that he “casting off the fear of God and disregarding his matrimonial vows and engagements, has for several years past totally alienated his affections from his legal wife and given up himself to adulterous practices, fellowship and correspondence with lewd and wicked women ... and to having carnal and adulterous conversation, intercourse and dealings with them”. It transpired that one of these women had given birth to a child and Kenneth had become infected with venereal disease. At the conclusion of the hearing the court awarded Jean a life annuity of £160 and the sum of £200 in lieu of her share of furniture.

After the divorce, in what was probably an attempt to earn his fortune and pay off the mounting Redcastle debts, Kenneth offered to raise an Independent Company of Foot. By 1 February 1781 he had enlisted the required 100 men but his Company was assigned a somewhat unattractive mission, attached to the HM Leander to sail to the west coast of Africa to attack and capture Dutch trading settlements. Survival rates in West Africa were low due to tropical diseases and there were few opportunities for officers to make money. Kenneth’s disappointment is expressed in a letter to Lord Amherst, Commander-in-Chief of HM Forces. *“Pardon me my Lord, for letting a syllable escape from my lips or pen, that has the least appearance of reluctance to the service I am going on. Assure yourself my Lord, of the contrary. I have youth, inclination and a good Highland stamina that I firmly believe equal to any climate or fatigue. Tho Africa does not promise so many diamonds as Asia, yet the former may afford as many laurels. Your Lordship has been pleased to intrust me with a field to operate on, and I trust in God I shall be enabled to do my duty to the satisfaction of my gracious Master. It does not become a soldier to promise much. I shall only beg leave to add, my Lord, that Mackenzie shall never shrink from any service or his duty, but with a cheerful heart lose the last drop of his blood when the cause of his good and gracious King demands it”*.

HM Leander, in convoy with the transport ship Mackarel and HM sloops Alligator and Zepher,

reached the Gold Coast (now Ghana) on 2 March 1782 where they captured the Fort of Mouree. After the operation Capt Kenneth remained there to command the garrison attached to the fort. With little else to do, he turned his attention to enriching himself by pirating passing ships and employing his soldiers on a plantation which he claimed as his own. He also quarrelled with his officers and gained a reputation as a cruel leader who had his men savagely flogged for trivial offences. His Adjutant was Kenith Murray Mackenzie (said to be his cousin) but they quarrelled and Kenith hid in the neighbouring “Black Town” to escape a flogging. When Capt Kenneth threatened to fire his cannons on the town, the natives returned Kenith to the fort whereupon he was tied to a handspike and placed in front of a 9lb cannon. A soldier by the name of John Plunkett was then ordered by Capt Kenneth at pistol point to light the fuse of the cannon. Kenith was fired into the air and *“the body was found in a very mangled state at some distance from the fort”*.

Reports reached London some months later and Commander John Wickey was sent to arrest him. In Kenneth’s possession was gold dust valued at up to £10,000 which he denied had been gained through piracy. A preliminary hearing was held on 23 October 1783 at which Kenneth was committed for trial. Due to the time needed to bring witnesses from Africa to London, the trial did not take place until 10 December 1784. In his defence, Kenneth asserted that his garrison was mostly composed of mutinous convicts and that Kenith Murray

Mackenzie had been their ring-leader. However, the jury found Kenneth guilty of wilful murder but *“in consideration of the desperate crew the Captain had to command”* they recommended him to His Majesty’s mercy. The judge, nevertheless, sentenced him to be *“hanged by the neck until you are dead, and afterwards your body be dissected and anatomized, according to the statute, and the Lord have mercy upon your soul”*.

Despite the judgement, Kenneth did not hang. Accounts of his trial had appeared in several newspapers and his case was sympathetically taken up by several interested parties, including The Times in which several articles and letters argued that normal civil law could not fairly apply to officers who had to command convicted prisoners who had enlisted as soldiers. Kenneth was held in Newgate prison whilst he was granted several respites and postponements of his execution. He finally received notification of a free pardon from George III on 6 December 1785. It states that *“whereas some circumstances have been humbly represented unto us on his behalf, inducing us to extend our grace and mercy unto him and to grant him our free pardon for his said crime, our will and pleasure therefore is that our cause him, the said Kenneth Mackenzie, to be forthwith discharged out of custody, and that he be inserted for his said crime in our first and next General Pardon that shall come out for the poor convicts in Newgate without any condition whatsoever”*.

On his release, Kenneth returned to Edinburgh and in 1786 featured

as one of four “Bucks of the City” in a caricature by John Kay, the famous Edinburgh portrait artist. In April 1778, with the consent of his



ex-wife, he placed the Redcastle estate in trust. The trustees were Sir Hector Mackenzie of Gairloch and John Tait WS. *[The letters WS indicate that the person was a “writer to the Signet”, in other words, a solicitor]* From that point onward Kenneth’s life is shrouded in mystery. It is said that he fled to Russia as the result of a duel that he fought in Edinburgh and that he served in the Russian army in the war against the Turks and later became an Assistant Consul in Constantinople. It is thought that he was himself killed in another duel with a merchant ship’s captain by the name of Smith in Constantinople in March 1789. Allegedly, Kenneth had entrusted Smith with all his possessions six years earlier, when he had been arrested at Fort Mouree.

When Kenneth Mackenzie died in 1789 the sequestered Redcastle estate was technically inherited by his eldest son, Roderick (9th of Redcastle). However, Roderick *“renounced to be heir in general to*

his deceased father and grandfather” and Redcastle was subjected to judicial sale. It was purchased by James Grant of Shugley for £25,450 and the sale was completed by the issue of a Crown charter of the Barony of Redcastle on 5 July 1790. It has been suggested that the MacKenzies were cheated out of the real value of the estate but whether that is true or not, the purchase turned out either to be an inspired act of entrepreneurship or a case of insider knowledge on the part of James Grant. Redcastle would earn its new owner (and his heirs) a very substantial return on his investment.

The judicial sale and its aftermath precipitated a flurry of complex legal activity as the large numbers of Redcastle creditors used the Session Court to win warrants in favour of their respective claims. Others obtained inhibitions and adjudications against Kenneth Mackenzie (and his son Roderick) to establish the ranking of their respective claims and prevent any prior disposals of assets. The situation was further exacerbated when it emerged that Kenneth Mackenzie had never truly inherited Redcastle. This is because the imprisoned Kenneth had failed after his father’s death in 1785 to obtain a charter of confirmation of his accession to the “superiority” from the Crown. Thus the superiority remained legally vested in the deceased Ruairi Ban whilst the assets of the estate were vested in Kenneth, and then his son Roderick, as the heirs.

The extensive list of creditors included:

o Kenneth’s children

(Roderick, Hector, Boyd and Hannah) who each claimed alimony of £30 per year together with a settlement of £2000 plus interest for the younger children (arising from a clause in the marriage contract between Kenneth Mackenzie and Jean Thomson in 1767);

- o Jean Thomson, Capt Kenneth Mackenzie's divorced and re-married wife, who claimed £1790 unpaid alimony and £316 liquidate penalty;

- o other family members, several of whom were bondholders, for example: John Mackenzie (Capt Kenneth's younger brother) who had inherited the Kincaig estate on Ruairi Ban's death in 1785; and Alexander Mackenzie (Ruairi Mor's younger brother) who was a customs official at Strontian and held a bond for 4000 Scots merks issued in 1710 by Ruairi Dearg;

- o merchants, for example: David Sheppard & Sons, Nicol Summerville and James Dewar, all of Edinburgh; John Du Roveray of London; and Phineas & William MacIntosh of Inverness, who were owed £3120 (Phineas MacIntosh also held a bond for 20,000 merks Scots);

- o solicitors, for example: John Dingwall WS, who had also acted for Ruairi Ban in the 1756-61 legal case; Kenneth Mackenzie WS and William Lockhart WS, who had represented several creditors; and John Tait WS, who was a trustee of the estate;

- o bondholders, for example: George Ross and John Ogilvie of London, who held a bond of £800 for the financing of Capt Kenneth Mackenzie's Independent Company of Foot; Robert Mackenzie of Kilcoy (£262); and

John Grant (£800);

- o the new owner of Redcastle (James Grant) who had been permitted to withhold £2311:2s:2d from the purchase price to prepare a Bond of Caution enabling him to stand surety for various estate creditors and "*for answering certain eventual annuities*" from members of the Mackenzie family.

Given the complexity, it is not surprising that it took eight years to assess all of the creditors' claims and devise a scheme of division of the residual assets. The purchase price of the estate (£25,450) plus a small sum due for rentals from the "superiority" comprised the entire assets of the estate, amounting to £27,468:1s:6d. The total debt of the estate was assessed as £31,154:13s:1d and creditors were paid according to a scheme of division approved by Robert Macqueen, Justice Clerk, on 7 March 1798. [*Macqueen was the dreaded Lord Braxfield, immortalized further in Robert Louis Stevenson's masterpiece, "The Weir of Hermiston"*]

The demise of the Mackenzies of Redcastle and the loss of the estate was a great blow to the Mackenzie clan. Roderick (9th of Redcastle) emigrated to Jamaica

where his uncle and cousins were in business. He died there, unmarried, in 1798. The Mackenzie of Redcastle dynasty died with him.

At Fortrose Cathedral there is an unusual carved stone mural above the entrance to the Mackenzie and Seaforth memorial vault in the South Aisle (see photo below). It is thought to have been commissioned circa 1800 by Sir Alexander Mackenzie of Coul and to represent a member of the Mackenzie family as "*Death holding on to his castle of Redcastle*".

The next chapter in the history of Redcastle is another story. The Grants remained in ownership until 1825 when Patrick Grant sold the estate to Sir William Fettes. The purchase price was £135,000, a five-fold increase over that paid 35 years earlier in 1790 by James Grant. Sir William died heirless in 1836 and his trustees sold Redcastle to Col Hugh Baillie of Tarradale who commissioned William Burn to extend and renovate the castle in the Scots baronial style. On the death of Hugh's son, Henry Baillie, the estate passed to the Baillies of Dochfour in 1885 and remains in their ownership to this day. The castle was requisitioned by the military during WW2



as an ammunition store. Today the ancient Redcastle stands ruinous on its 12th century foundations, a sad relic of 800 turbulent years - none more so than those 222 years of the Mackenzies.

The author's research into the Mackenzies of Redcastle is ongoing - corrections, suggestions and further information would be most welcome.

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[Ed: Our thanks to Dr Clark for allowing us to reprint this fine article. Given the vast numbers of children this family had over the years it should not be a surprise if there are descendants named Mackenzie still around. Does anyone claim such an ancestry?]

Let us know : alan@mkz.com]

Graham Clark was born in Dumfries (a "doonhamer") but was brought up in Edinburgh. Both his parents and all of his ancestors were from Angus and Kincardineshire. He has traced several of his family lines back to the early 17th century. After graduating with a PhD in Chemistry from Edinburgh University in 1966 he researched, taught and managed in Further and Higher Education, becoming Principal of Inverness College, the largest constituent College of the University of the Highlands & Islands Millennium Institute. On retirement in 2003 he and his wife, Linda, started to research the history of their home in Redcastle. Before long this research began to spill over into the local history of the quarry and its pier, the parish church, the schools and, of course, the Redcastle itself - all of which are located within half

a mile of each other. He hopes soon to publish a book on Redcastle, the article being a summary of part of the chapter on the lairds of Redcastle.

A PIPER AT THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

This article was sent in at our request by our member Erin MacKenzie Grant. Erin is the designated piper who attends the Scottish functions held at the University of Guelph.

In September, 2007 I was presented with the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal Research Grant, for which I am honored and greatly thankful for. Before I explain some of the research I was able to accomplish, I would like to introduce myself. I am a Masters student at the University of Guelph and I am currently going into my second year of the Scottish Studies History program there. I have also been a member of the pipe band community for the past ten or so years, and for most of those years my involvement has been in the competitive scene. I am currently a Grade 1 piper and a member of the Peel Regional Police Pipe Band. On August 16, 2008 my band competed in Grade 1 at the World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow, Scotland.

With the travel grant I was able to spend three weeks of August in Scotland to pursue much of the research that I will need to complete my study. My research will essentially be a social history of piping and pipe bands from an 'insider' perspective. There are very few historical studies on piping and pipe bands, and there are no known studies on the dynamics and social

aspects of competition bands in either Ontario, Canada, or in Scotland. During my research trip I was able to interview pipers and drummers from all over the world. The majority of these musicians were there to compete in the World Pipe Band Championships, and many were participants in the International Piping Festival, Piping Live, which is held on the week leading up to the Worlds. I was also able to utilize the resources of the National Piping Centre, and the College of Piping, the latter of which has an extensive library of archival material. With the material and contacts I was able to make on this research trip I am hoping to better understand the historical significance of this small, but vibrant community of musicians and their importance to Scottish history and its Diaspora.

Glasgow, Scotland is currently one of, if not the largest centres for piping and pipe band people in the world. During the week of August 11th to the 16, Glasgow holds an international piping festival, ending with the World Pipe Band Championships. The festival, called Piping Live, has venues all over the city throughout that week and pipers and bands from all over the world are invited to perform at various venues. The largest is held in St. George's Square, located in the heart of Glasgow's shopping and entertainment districts, where a large stage is set up at one end of the square, a large tent with tables and a bar, and another large tent set up at the other end of the Square with vendors by major bagpipe makers where cds and t-shirts of many of the performers can be purchased. The stage is almost contin-

uously filled with performers throughout every day and night of that week. It is an absolutely breathtaking sight and one cannot help but become caught up in the music and the energy of the festival.

The World Pipe Band Championship itself is what many pipe bands live for. Not all of the bands have the opportunity to compete, which is mostly due to a lack of funding, but hundreds of bands flood Glasgow Green for this competition in the hopes of capturing the world title. Bands fly in from all around the world, from Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, even Oman and Mexico. It is interesting to see all the different types of uniforms, many of which differ from the traditional pipe band uniform.

By looking at this community the world can seem much smaller as so many people are brought together because of the international language of music.

Not all of my research was observation and listening however. I was able to spend quite a bit of time in Glasgow's two piping centres. The National Piping Centre, and the College of Piping were able to provide the majority of the information that I was able to gather while I was in Scotland. The National Piping Centre, located in Glasgow's East End, although it does not have a library, has a museum where one can observe the many different types of pipes and how they have changed throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. The museum is filled with sets of historical pipes and pictures of the first known types of pipes which you can peer at through the glass as you listen to the sounds of some of the greatest pipers play *piobaireachd*, the classical music of the pipes.

The College of Piping, located in the West End of Glasgow, also has a museum which displays many different sets of pipes from the 19th and 20th century, but the College also contains an extensive archive and library where its curator and librarian, Jeannie Campbell has meticulously organized the collection of thousands of articles and magazines pertaining to piping and it's history throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. It is here where I found most of my information and I spent hours searching through articles. The majority of the magazines and newspaper articles that I found reported on the winners of various events and the times and dates of the next



Erin with four other members of the Peel Regional Police Pipe Band in Edinburgh

competitions. However, I was also able to find many of the conflicts and discussions of various issues debated among members of the piping communities. One such dispute occurred in 1930 when the location of the World Pipe Band Championships was under debate. The Edinburgh City Council believed that the "World's" should be held in Edinburgh, and should coincide with the Edinburgh Music Festival, which is world-renowned today. However, Cowal had traditionally claimed the title of the World Championships and argued that tradition should triumph. This debate continued for a year until August 1931, which led to the disqualification of bands that attended the Cowal Championships, banning them from Edinburgh competitions. The matter was finally settled when Glasgow Green was decided upon as a neutral place to hold the World's, and it has been held there since under the stipulation that the World's not be held on the same date as the historical Cowal Championships, which are held every year on the last weekend in August.

This is just one of the many interesting topics that I found at the College of Piping. I also found a large number of articles on women in piping, which illustrate the attitudes toward women who play and how this has changed throughout the 20th century. Many Scots were shocked to see women playing and many of the articles reported by local newspapers tended to focus on what the girls were wearing rather than their playing and the prizes they had won. While much of this has changed, there are still many in Scotland who remain shocked to see women in piping.

I had the opportunity to travel to Oban, on the West Coast, for the Argyllshire Gathering. It is here where I spoke to one of the competitors, Andrea Boyd, who had recently been interviewed by the BBC following her performance at the Piping Live festival entitled "The Girls of Piping". She said that she was entertained that the Scotsman newspaper printed a large picture of herself the next day. She said that it was surprising how little the Scottish media is tuned into the fact that there are girls, and many of them that play and are good pipers too! Andrea Boyd, originally from Nova Scotia, won the Silver Medal Piobaireachd contest on Wednesday August 27th at the Argyllshire Gathering. There are many more articles on women and piping which I am excited to analyze from a historical and sociological perspective.

There are many other topics that I have found throughout my research at the Piping College. Issues such as whether there are too many competitions, events that were classified as "scandals" involving the illegal taping of a major competition. The piping community worries about whether the tunes for the major competitions should be set before the contest or not, and what the consequences might be for having set tunes. The library at the College of Piping was able to provide a clear and very detailed dialog for the piping community throughout the 20th century. The topics are many and as I reflect back on the amount that I have been able to accomplish in a few short weeks, I am satisfied with how my research went. I am

indebted to the St. Andrew's Society of Montreal for the generous opportunity it has given me to explore the world that I have been a part of for so long. I was able to look at the piping community with new eyes and begin to see the historical significance of this small, yet vibrant community.

Erin C M Grant
University of Guelph - Scottish Studies

[Ed: Erin was the piper at our Clan Dinner in Mississauga in October. Among the many tunes she played was "Cabarfeidh Gu Brah". What a great piping tune that is!]

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

What a great clan tent - I'm glad to see it in action! Keep up the good work, Alan and team.

Donald McKenzie, Toronto

I love this magazine of the Clan MacKenzie and I read nearly every article then off it goes to my niece. Whoever is responsible for putting it together (I suspect Alan does) should be commended heartily and deserves special mention. I have been a member now since near the beginning and have seen our Society grow.

Anne (MacKenzie) Reynolds,
Brantford, ON

Ed: I put the magazine together but do rely a lot on members submitting items. If you find something interesting then please send it in and we shall publish it!

Alan McKenzie

The following was sent in by member Mick Mackenzie, formerly of Toronto and now of Meaford, Ontario:

On August 2, 2008, Elaine Margaret MacKenzie, of Meaford, passed away in her sleep in hospital after a lengthy illness. She will be greatly missed.

Dear Alan I have a grandson and his (fairly) new wife, who have just presented me with a new great granddaughter and they have had the smarts to Christen her middle name "MacKenzie". How do I enroll this kid, from now on, as a life member?

Cheers,

A. Morley MacKenzie, Ottawa

Ed: At present we do not have a life membership program. I can raise it at the next AGM in December. I have chosen to give memberships to my grandchildren when they are old enough to appreciate it - say 15 or 16?

To all clansmen at Fergus. I made the trip having bought the ticket in advance. I won't waste \$48. I was not dressed for the rain. The first tent I jumped into turned out to be the Mackenzie - well what a surprise. I was soaked right through, light jacket all soaked. The people manning the tent were great - they got me a hot coffee, sold me a beautiful fleece jacket that kept me warm all day, I signed the guest book and bought a few other clan items. I just wanted to tell everyone what a great bunch of people - smiles in the rain. You have all heard about the rain. Keep up the good work and I'll see ya all next year,

Ruth Fox

A MACKENZIE TOAST

This toast was sent in by BC Commissioner Joan Mackenzie:

TOAST TO THE MACKENZIE TARTAN

**Here's to it
The fighting sheen of it
The Red and Green of it**

**The silver, the blue of it
The swing, the hue of it
The dark and glory of every
thread of it
The fair girls have sighed for it
The brave have died for it
Our fore-men fought for it
Heroes died for it
Now lift your glasses
Drink to the fame of it**

**“Cabarfeidh”
The Seaforth Highlanders
The MacKenzie Tartan
forever!**

Dear Alan,

Best wishes from Germany! Autumn has come with wind and rain, The days are becoming more and more gray and dark. What about Canada? I hope you are well and everything is fine!

In an email you told me that you are very interested in how the Mackenzies came to Germany. In June I received an email from Cliff Mackenzie from Australia. His ancestors lived in Germany and his email may be interesting for you, too.

Kindest Regards

Markus Kewitz

President of the Clan Mackenzie Society of Germany

Subject: Family history

Markus . Greetings from an Australian Clan Mackenzie Society member.

It is pleasing to note the formation of a Mackenzie Society in Germany particularly in view of my family association, which is briefly as follows:

In 1746 my ancestor William Mackenzie then an 18/19 year old Lieutenant in the Scottish Jacobite army of Prince Charles Edward Stuart was at the Battle of Culloden. Our side lost the fight, William was jailed, tried for treason by the English, and condemned to hang. By some ruse he escaped from Perth jail on 30/6/1747 and fled to Prussia. His occupation prior to enlistment was a Fencing Master in Aberdeen. In Prussia he joined The Prince of Prussia Regiment in which unit he served for 30 years, after which he was discharged Medically Unfit. He then was employed in the Royal Household generally as a doorman, and died in Berlin in 1791. He had been made a Berger of

Berlin in 1779. In 1753 he married Eva Maria Wagnerin in the Reformed Church Alt Landsburg. From this union there were at least four sons and one daughter as follows:

Friedrich Wilhelm born 1755. Later a Master Carpenter in Gruenberg (now Zelina Gora) Silesia;

Johann Friedrich, Married Hanna Christine Winkler in 1760.

Master Joiner Carl Gottfried. In Royal Service, married Marin Dorothea Poelow 17/6/1798.

Anton Ludwig, Musician, Married Maria Louise Vettern on 20/9/1793.

Name of daughter not known.

I had research done many years ago by professional researchers, but that was in pre-computer days and when the wall dividing Berlin made travel to the Eastern Zone difficult. I do have quite a lot of the family history in Germany but the hard part is the Scottish connection. We were always told at home in no uncertain words that we were Cromartie Mackenzies descended from a John Mackenzie whose father, also a John Mackenzie was the 2nd Earl of Cromartie. However after Culloden the English Forces trashed the two castles, burnt family records, so all we can go by is oral history.

In Germany the Name was sometimes spelt Mackenzi, Mackensky, Mackensen etc.

Our family in Australia is descended from Friedrich Wilhelm who had a son Gottlob Wilhelm who in turn has a son Ernst Wilhelm who, after family disputes about Reformed and Evangelical beliefs, migrated to Australia as a Missionary School Teacher. He died in 1930.

As to myself I am 86 years old living in a Retirement Village. Pre-retirement I spent 42 years [less 4 in Victorian Regiment and 3 years in Air Force] in Banking, mainly in Bank Administration.

All or some of the above many be of interest to you or perhaps some of your members.

Kindest Regards

Cliff Mackenzie

[Ed: What an interesting history! Just a couple of comments. It is not likely the family descended from John Mackenzie, 2nd Earl of Cromartie. His family is listed in “A Highland History” by the Earl of Cromartie (published 1979) and he shows only three sons: George Mackenzie, 3rd Earl of Cromartie, Hon. Sir Kenneth Mackenzie of Grandvale and Cromarty,

Bart. and Hon. Sir James Mackenzie of Royston, Bart. who became Lord of Session in 1710. No John Mackenzie is mentioned.

The claim that William McKenzie was a Lieutenant who escaped does not tie in to the massive records on the participants in the Jacobite Rebellion of 1745/6. There was a William McKenzie who was a Lieutenant in Cromarty's Regiment who was captured but he was 26 and there is no record of him having escaped. One William McKenzie in Kilmarnock's Regiment was taken and did escape but he was a private soldier and not a lieutenant.

While Cliff Mackenzie may be accurate in his genealogy as far as Lieutenant William McKenzie is concerned I would be very interested to know more about the records that his professional genealogists came up with. Eilean Donan Castle was destroyed by the British forces (not English! by the Royal Navy, actually) at the Battle of Glenshiel in 1719, Castle Leod itself was occupied but was never destroyed. I am not aware if any records in the castle were destroyed.

I just received the Cabar Feidh and as usual it is an excellent read. Who knew I had married into such a fascinating clan? Loved the picture of Canmore Games and the snow. My grandson Evan McKenzie was there playing the bagpipes. He says it was COLD.

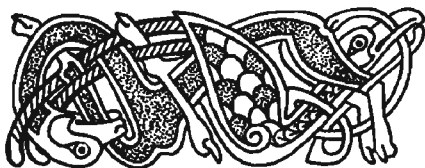
Shannon and Evan were down to the Enumclaw Games and saw Rod and Ruth who we met in 2000 at the Games in Scotland. At least having a grandson who pipes keeps me up on things.

I am mostly house bound as my Parkinson's is progressing but am still able to use the computer in the mornings when my energy level is highest. I watch with interest all that comes on TV and in the papers.

It was nice to see Jill's name again - what a fitting memorial to her - one that informs and spreads information through lectures!

As Ever,
Sheila McKenzie, Calgary

Ed: Sheila has been a stalwart worker for the clan in Alberta for many years. We wish her well in her fight with Parkinsons disease.



OBITUARY

Globe & Mail, Friday October 10, 2008

MCKENZIE, ROBERT JAMES

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Robert (Bob) McKenzie at the age of 78 at Toronto Western Hospital on Wednesday, October 1, 2008. Beloved husband and dearest companion of Olga, loving father of Kathryn and Janice (Ken Hadfield) and cherished grandfather of Matt and Kelley. Predeceased by his brother, Doug. He will be deeply missed by his sister Margaret (Jim Atack) and sister-in-law Elvira and their families. He was an adored uncle of many nieces and nephews. Many thanks to Dr. Hodaie and the helpful and compassionate staff at Toronto Western Hospital. Bob, a graduate of Humber College and University of Toronto, taught Geography for 24 years at Western Tech Commerce. He loved the outdoors - swimming, camping, canoeing, exploring and tennis. His passion for life was an inspiration for all of us. Family and friends are invited to visit the Turner & Porter Yorke Chapel, 2357 Bloor St. W., on Friday, October 17, from 6 - 9 p.m. A celebration of his life will be held at The Unitarian Congregation of Toronto, 175 St. Clair Ave. W. at 2pm on Sunday, October 19, 2008. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Habitat for Humanity or a charity of your choice.

This notice appeared in the Globe & Mail. Bob's death came as a great shock to us. He and his wife Olga were regular attenders of the quarterly Committee Meetings held in Oakville. They also helped out at a number of Highland Games in Ontario when requested and we shall greatly miss Bob's company and quiet sense of humour. A photo is included on the next page.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the new member who has joined since the issuance of the last Newsletter.

William Edward (Ted) Mackenzie,
56 Main St N., #409,
Markham, ON L3P 1X6



This photo taken in 1998 at the Clan Mackenzie Dimer shows Bob and Olga McKenzie with Lady Gilean Mackenzie (on the left).

CLAN NEWS FROM GERMANY

We received the following e-mail from the Mackenzie Clan Society in Germany:

Dear Cabarfeidh, dear Presidents, dear friends,
Here is some good news from Germany. On the 1st of November I met the officials from the Clan MacKay Society of Germany and the Clan MacLaren Society of Germany. We are the only three Clan Societies in Germany which are recognized by the Clan Chiefs! It was a warm atmosphere and we agreed in founding a Clan Alliance! We also set a common headquarters, which is unique in the Clan history.

I think this is a remarkable and historical event! Please read the attached statement!

The first result of this Clan Alliance will be common Highland-Games in Germany in the year 2009!

More information: www.clan-mackenzie.de

To all Clan Mackenzie Societies: I will be thankful, if you could create a link to our homepage on your webspace!

Have you already thought about starting a Clan Mackenzie Network? It would be a chance to get closer!

All the best wishes from Germany to the

Mackenzies all over the world!

Markus Kewitz

President of the Clan Mackenzie Society of Germany

On page 20 we include the letter which was attached to their e-mail. Our congratulations to our Mackenzie friends in Germany on the formation of this Clan Alliance.

We have asked our kinsmen in Germany to link our Canadian website to their website and they have said that they will do this.

SOME THOUGHTS ON THE CLAN MACKENZIE DNA PROJECT

BY ALAN MCKENZIE

It was four years ago that I first dipped my toe in the DNA genealogical water and telephoned Bennett Greenspan, the president of Family Tree DNA. I told him we wanted to start a Mackenzie DNA Project. Family Tree DNA was the choice because they were specializing on single surname projects. For an extremely busy man Bennett was truly very helpful. He phoned me in response to my voice-message so it was his dollar and he was on the phone to me for a very

long time from Phoenix, Arizona. He explained what we could expect from the project and some advice on how to proceed. That initial phone call impressed me a great deal and in fact whenever I send him a message he always responds (as do all the people at Family Tree DNA) with the comment, "feel free to get in touch with me at any time".

I have hear some sneers that Family Tree DNA is just a commercial operation. I suppose that is true but Bennett started the operation when doing his own genealogy. He was trying to find other Greenspans around the world and knowing people who were in the earliest stages of DNA research he asked them to do his y-DNA so he could compare his own results with others. As time went by he developed a detailed analysis of the Jewish DNAs and I will be using some of his notes when I give a talk on DNA to a Jewish genealogical group in 2009.

While I am by no means an expert on the subject I have attended two international seminars run by Family Tree DNA and the wealth of experienced people and academics who support the group is very impressive.

When I signed on to take my own DNA I was given a kit number: 26778. That meant I was the 26 thousand and 778th person to join. That was four years ago. People joining now are up to around 140,000. This is just one indication of the phenomenal growth of this business. There are a number of other groups around the world in the same business but Family Tree DNA was one of the first and is certainly the largest by far. That is very important, because if we are seeking people with matching DNAs we need large numbers enrolled in such DNA projects. As I write we now have 209 members in the project and they come from all over the world. They all have the surname of Mackenzie or one of its variations. There are a few we have allowed in with a different surname where there is evidence that there has been a name change. We have one member surnamed Chan who lives in China whose great grandfather was a Mackenzie living or staying in China in the 19th century and Mr Chan is a direct descendant in the male line. We watched with interest when his DNA results were produced and the results show that he is right among the vast bulk of Mackenzies with a similar DNA. If he had a Chinese male ancestor the result would have been very different.

Why do we want a DNA Project?

The impulse that caused me to investigate using DNA to help in genealogical research was watching a group of Americans talking to the Mackenzie genealogist, Graeme Mackenzie at the Clan Mackenzie Gathering in 2000 at Strathpeffer. I overheard comments that showed that many Americans (and Canadians too) descend from Mackenzie ancestors who immigrated to North America as long ago as the late 17th century and although many could trace their family back to certain States or Provinces in North America, the constant refrain was, "I cannot get back to Scotland", "I do not know when or where they left Scotland".

Clearly the genealogical hunt was close to impossible for these people as written official records such as the parish registers of Scotland were not useful to them without much greater knowledge of their forebears, which clearly they did not have and were unlikely to find.

Something different was required. Was DNA the answer?

What does DNA do for us?

DNA connects people together having a very similar DNA and sharing the same surname. Have a look at my own brief family tree on the McKenzie side:

Direct Descendants of Alexander McKenzie

1 Alexander McKenzie b: 1730 in Balveallie, Nigg, Scotland + Margaret McAndie m: Abt. 1772 in Scotland

2 William McKenzie b: April 26, 1788 in Loans of Rarichie, Fearn, Ross & Cromarty, Scotland d: March 27, 1878 in Tain, Ross & Cromarty, Scotland +Isabel Gair m: July 04, 1811 in Fearn, Ross & Cromarty, Scotland

3 Alexander McKenzie b: May 07, 1819 in Arboll, Tarbat, Ross & Cromarty, Scotland d: Feb 7, 1893 in Chapelhill, Nigg, Ross & Cromarty, Scotland +Janet Munro 1823 - 1919 m: July 16, 1847 in Fearn, Ross & Cromarty, Scotland

4 Archibald McKenzie 1867 - 1951 b: January 18, 1867 in Bayfield, Nigg, Ross & Cromarty, Scotland d: 1951 in Woolwich, London, England + Elizabeth Martin 1866 - 1955 b: October 26, 1866 in High Street, Dingwall, Ross & Cromarty, Scotland m: December 16, 1891 in Burn Place, Dingwall, Ross &

Cromarty, Scotland

5 William Alexander McKenzie 1897 - 1988 b: June 29, 1897 in Perth, Perthshire, Scotland d: March 27, 1988, Plymouth, Devon, England +Ada Ethel May Cross 1899 - 1986 m: July 04, 1925 in Fulham Parish Church, Fulham, London, England

6 Alan McKenzie b: September 22, 1936 in Chester, Cheshire, England +Jill Leach 1938 - 2006 m: August 16, 1958 in Mannamead, Plymouth, Devon, England

7 Duncan Stuart McKenzie b: November 08, 1960 in Plymstock, Plymouth, Devon, England +Amy Leigh Eila Maggiacomo b: 1963 m: November 10, 1990 in Black Creek Pioneer Village, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

8 Lachlan Tycho McKenzie b: 1994 in Oakville, Ontario, Canada

This tree traces back to my great great great grandfather Alexander McKenzie born in Nigg in 1730 and goes down to my eldest male grandchild, Lachlan Tycho McKenzie born in 1994, here in Oakville, Ontario, a total of eight generations. The tracing back of ancestors prior to my grandfather Archibald was done by me from the Mormon genealogical records. Many cities in North America have a Mormon genealogical library. To find one in your area look up the telephone directory of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and ask. You do not have to be a member of the church.

If I do a y-chromosome search of my DNA then that will provide me with a Haplogroup - that is a family recognized by the DNA charts for the world. In my case it is: R1b1b2. I can then look at all the other R1b1b2 members on the Mackenzie DNA chart. (the chart can be seen on our website at www.electricscotland.com/mackenzie)

The y-chromosome passes ONLY from father to son. Generally this is unchanged in your own family except for an occasional MUTATION of one of the 37 markers you may have been tested for.

I discovered from researches into my family tree that I had distant family living in New Zealand. On the chart you will see that **1. Alexander McKenzie** had a son **2 William McKenzie**. But Alexander also had a second son, the brother of William and his name was: **Robert Bruce Enias Macleod McKenzie**. The descendants of this Robert comprise the New Zealand branch of the family and their genealogy added another 2,000 names to my family tree.

BUT! What if the genealogy paper trail was not correct? Could DNA help? So, what I did was I wrote to Colin Ashton McKenzie, my 4th cousin once removed. Colin is about my age and is a retired banker, like myself and I stayed with him a few days in New Zealand in 2003. He is a direct descendant of Robert Bruce Enias Macleod McKenzie so Colin and I share a common ancestor in the DIRECT male line back to **1 Alexander McKenzie**, who was born in 1730. Therefore Colin and I should share the same DNA.

So, I asked Colin to take a DNA test with 37 markers and we compared the results. We matched 34 out of 37 markers.

The big question was: are 34 out of 37 markers good enough to prove our paper genealogies are correct? The results showed that since 1730 our male lines reveal 3 mutations. My conclusion is that this a close enough match! Why? Because Colin is my closest match out of the 209 Mackenzie DNA members we have in the Mackenzie DNA Project and in fact my closest match out of all the 140,000 DNA tests done to date in all surnames. So in my particular case I was able to prove the accuracy of an existing paper trail and that there were no irregularities with adoptions, name changes or any "non paternal events". This is the quaint way we avoid using the word "bastards"!

Why do I bother about all surnames? Because family DNA Haplogroups are very old and surnames in the Highlands are, in many cases, relatively recent. I calculate that most Highlanders adopted clan surnames as recently as the early 18th century. Prior to that they had Gaelic surnames, a little like miniature family trees in their own right. Here are some Gaelic surnames from the forfeited estates of the Earl of Seaforth around 1720:

Peter McCoil VicInis
Murdo McVurchie Vic Neil
John McUrchie Ken Roy
Malcolm McCoil Ken Roy
John McOil VicIllie Challum

Names such as these disappeared and will not be found in the 1841 census of Scotland. In the early 18th century the only people who had a Mackenzie surname, were people who owned land or who rented large farms. To quote *The Account of the Parish of Tain* in the Statistical Account of Scotland 1845:

Most of the Landowners and in truth most of the people bore the name of Ross or to speak more

correctly almost everybody possessed two surnames, by one of which (in general, a patronymic beginning with Mac) he was universally known in conversation, though he deemed himself called upon to change it to Ross, or sometimes to Munro whenever he acquired any station in society or became able to write his name. (Easter Ross, it may be observed, was of old divided by these two clans . . .)

In my family I find this to be the case. The first two members of my family on the chart, **1. Alexander Mckenzie** and **2. William McKenzie** both showed records carrying an **alias of McAnin**. According to the Mackenzie History by Alexander Mackenzie 1894, this alias is mentioned and according to the author the family claims to be part of the family of the Mackenzies of Gairloch. I have never ever found such a connection to date. The New Zealand branch of the family claimed it meant “son of the Canon” which was an offshoot of the Sir Kenneth Mackenzie of Kintail, who just happened to be a brother of Mackenzie of Gairloch. But the DNA result shows no other male lines close enough to hang upon that genealogy. If, however, there was a female line intervening then the DNA solution does not work - it must be an unbroken male line descent.

Well, of course, people may well have changed their surnames a great deal in that era of the 18th century, as evidenced by the complete disappearance of Gaelic surnames. But therein lies the great advantage of DNA because the DNA is largely unchanged in the male line y-chromosome.

Have there been many matches in the Mackenzie DNA?

The majority of Mackenzies who have undertaken DNA tests have been identified as one of the various branches of the R1b haplogroup. In fact over 80% of Mackenzies fall into that large category. But the relationships between some of these can be very distant. The originator of the R1b male ancestor is reckoned to have lived in northern Spain some 35,000 years ago!

However, a glance at the DNA results shows that among these R1b family groups is a very large group whose DNA match very closely. Some indeed match 37 out of 37 markers indicating a very close family relationship within just five generations.

What happens when a match is discovered is that

these people get into communication with one another by e-mail. Of course I am not privy to their personal communications. I do know that some families have been able to tie their respective family trees together. In particular those families whose ancestors were connected with the fur trade in North America have connected. Many of these families have maintained large family trees showing how they relate to one or other of the Mackenzie fur traders - there were rather a lot of them. And it certainly seems that many were in fact related to each other.

Because there are so many of these matching Mackenzies we happen to believe that these may well be the direct descendants of the early chiefs who had a Mackenzie surname as far back as the fifteenth century or even possibly earlier. Clearly, the further back in time you can claim a Mackenzie forebear, the more likely it is that there are going to be vast numbers of descendants. My New Zealand cousins can claim over 2000 descendants from a single McKenzie who emigrated to New Zealand in 1841. Imagine then how many descendants we might see from a Mackenzie born in 1481!

Unfortunately we cannot use the DNA of our present Mackenzie Chief as his Chieftainship of the clan came to him through a female line.

Do we descend from the early Clan Mackenzie chiefs?

When we went into the DNA Project our big hope was that we would find many descendants of the Chiefs of the Clan going back to Colin “Cam” Mackenzie. Our biggest problem, unlike the Clan Donald, for instance, is that we have only one member in our project who can trace his family back to one of the major clan Mackenzie families, most of whom were related to each other. These families numbering many thousands of Mackenzies are shown on the famous “Findon Tables”. On the other hand the Clan Donald managed to get six chiefs of the present Clan Donald families to undertake DNA tests and these showed clearly that they were closely related through the male line.

If you know a Mackenzie who has paper trails showing legitimate descent from the Mackenzie chiefs then try and persuade him to take the DNA test. The Clan Mackenzie expects him to help his clan in this project. And we shall pay the cost of such a test.

What about the Ladies?

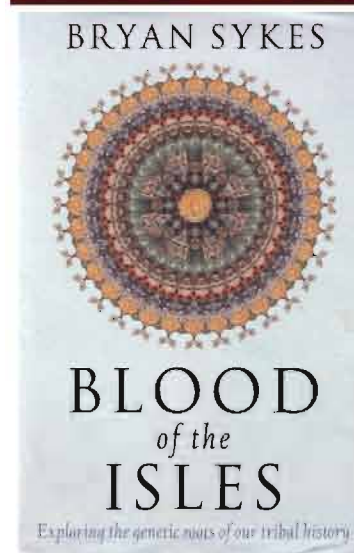
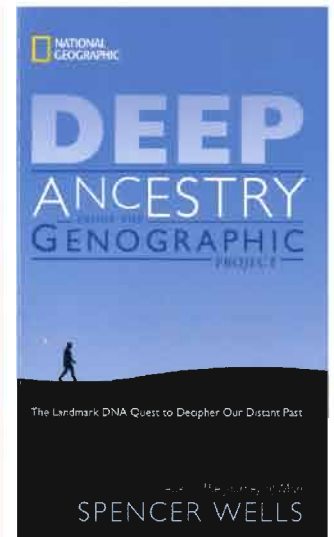
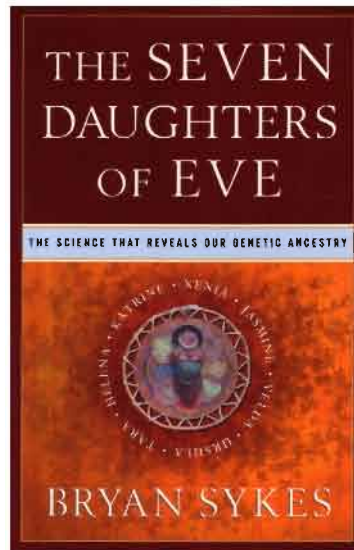
Whenever I give a talk on DNA and mention that the man must take the DNA test, the atmosphere becomes charged with such a politically incorrect statement. Is this man discriminating against us ladies?

No, I am not discriminating. In fact ladies can have what is called a mitochondrial DNA test. This DNA descends only through the female line in the same way that the y-chromosome descends only through the male line. Indeed, men can also do a mitochondrial DNA as males also inherit that from their mother.

The problem with mitochondrial DNA is that it can trace the female line back in time but since women usually change their name on marriage, it does not have the great advantage of the y-chromosome where the result tends to match to a particular surname.

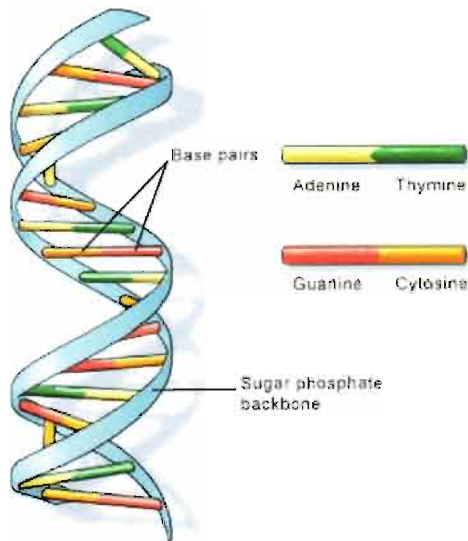
Many men and women do, nevertheless, have a mitochondrial DNA test done and it will produce a family haplogroup which Dr Bryan Sykes says will likely take you back to one of seven women living between 15,000 and 45,000 years ago. To these women he has given names in his celebrated book: "The Seven Daughters of Eve". This book does a great deal to explain DNA.

Opposite are four books with deal with genealogy and the DNA effect. My favourite is the "DNA & Genealogy by Colleen Fitzpatrick & Andrew Yeiser. I met Colleen at the DNA Seminar in Washington DC in 2005. I recommend this book to anyone who wants to learn more about the subject.

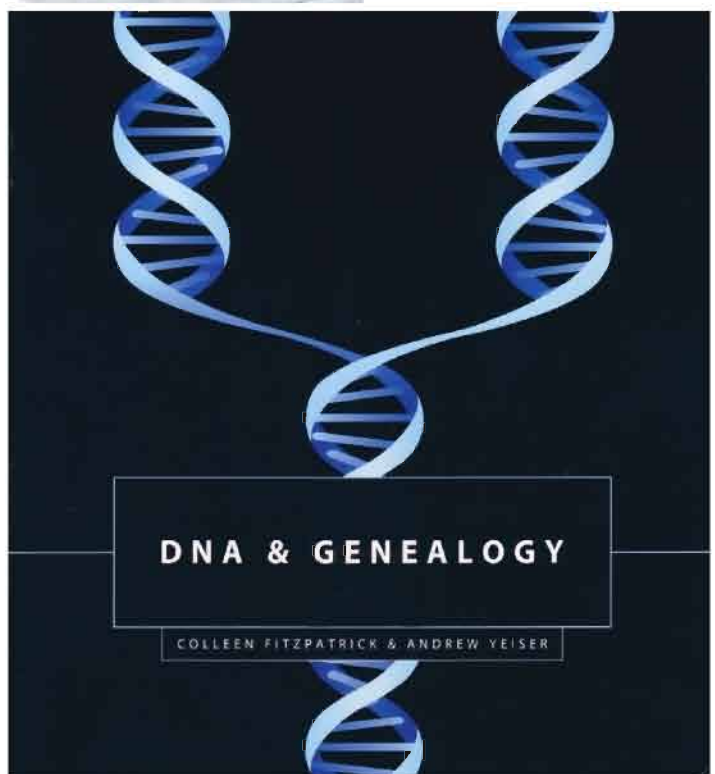


The structure of DNA

DNA is a double helix formed by base pairs attached to a sugar-phosphate backbone.



U.S. National Library of Medicine





Photos from the Archives -
1998

Above:
Table at the Annual Dinner
December 1998 - standing
left to right, Alan's Sons,
Ian and Duncan, Alan and
Alan and Jill's granddaugh-
ter Claire, Seated, Alan's
late wife, Jill and Lady
Gilean Mackenzie, sister of
the Clan Chief.

Right:
At the Alexander
Mackenzie
Commemoration day,
Sarnia, August 1998
On the right is Dr James
Mackenzie, Great grand-
nephew of prime minister
Alexander Mackenzie with
Alan and Alexander's 3xGt
Grand Niece.



Clan Mackenzie Society of Germany

Georgstr. 3, D-33154 Salzkotten

C M S G • Georgstr. 3 • D-33154 Salzkotten

To all members and friends
of the Clan Mackenzie



Salzkotten, 15th of November 2008

Clan-Alliance of Clan MacKay, Clan Mackenzie and Clan MacLaren in Germany

With pride and happiness we announce a historical event. On the 1st of November 2008, coevally with the celtic New Year, a new era for Scottish Clans in Germany began. The only three Clan Societies in Germany which are officially recognised by the Clan Chiefs, met in a friendly atmosphere to bundle their power for the future. The aim is to organize common events, to strengthen the relationship between Scotland and Germany, to establish friendships between the Clans and to convey authentic Clan culture in Germany. Wherever possible we will act in concert, without giving up our separate identities. United in our spirit, strong in the alliance! With this motto Markus Kewitz from Clan Mackenzie, Siggie Schierstedt from Clan MacKay and Dieter Deckert from Clan MacLaren built the basics for a Clan-Alliance which has never been before in this way. As a sign for the unity a common headquarters was set at the "Sophienburg" in the beautiful landscape near Münster in North Rhine-Westphalia. From here, our spirit shall go around the globe and send the message of friendship. May other Clan Societies follow and contribute to unite the clansfolk all over the world!

Alba gu brath – Scotland forever!

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Markus Kewitz'.

Markus Kewitz
President of the Clan Mackenzie Society of Germany