

MCKENZIE FAMILY TREE

The object of this paper is to clarify the genealogy of our family going back in time beyond the records of the parish registers and census data.

There is considerable evidence now available to us to connect the family with the Findon Tables. These tables identify the genealogies of the major land-owning Mackenzie families in the Highlands. These families connect to each other several times over and also with the chiefs of the clan and ultimately with the kings of England and Scotland.

Our McKenzie family from Highland Parish Registers

I start with the earliest proven record - Andrew McKenzie from Balveallie, Nigg.

His name crops up in the Nigg registers twice as follows:

Alexander of Andrew McKenzie, Balveallie, baptised 12/7/1730

and

Kenneth of Andrew McKenzie, baptised 19/1/1734 (which is also shown as Jan 19, 1733/34 due to the change in the calendar)

Hence Andrew may have been born sometime around 1700, possibly in Nigg.

A previous genealogy shows Andrew being the son of the Rev. James Mackenzie, Minister of Nigg, a man who had 20 children and is listed with seven of his children in the Findon Tables, descending from Alexander "Ionraic" Mackenzie of Kintail, a prominent chief of the clan. The problem with that tree is that there is no proof of Rev. James Mackenzie having a son named Andrew. This genealogy came from Geoffrey Rockel in New Zealand and he wrote to me saying that his book "We Rockels" Vol. 2 should properly have read: "Be that as it may IT WOULD SEEM one of the Rev. James and Mary Mackenzie's sons MIGHT HAVE BEEN Andrew Mackenzie who was probably born about 1700."

Since the Rev. James had 20 children and was in the parish of Nigg he did indeed appear to be a likely candidate to be Andrew's father, as he was said to have "populated the Parish of Nigg." In fact Nigg parish was largely the territory of the Rosses and the Munros. However the vital proof was missing to satisfy the genealogy of our family

There is another more substantive piece of evidence that curiously enough does show a direct ancestry back to Alexander "Ionraic". This comes from a footnote in Alexander Mackenzie's book *History of the Mackenzies* published in 1894.

But first we must show how that connection arises. We must look at our common ancestor Alexander McKenzie born July 12, 1730 in Balveallie, Nigg, a son of Andrew. Alexander is my 3rd great grandfather. He had at least four children. One of these was my great

great grandfather William McKenzie and another son was Robert Bruce Enias MacLeod McKenzie, the ancestor of the New Zealand branch of the family through his son, Thomas Urquhart McKenzie. An important aspect of these families of the two brothers, Robert and Alexander is that DNA analysis of their respective descendants proves their relationship. Both the families lived in Easter Ross and at one time both were living in Arboll in the parish of Tarbat, which is in Easter Ross.

Members of this family including the common ancestor, Alexander and his son, William, are shown in the parish registers as “McKenzie alias McAnin” (or even McKannin). This alias provides the important clue to the genealogy of our family.

Let us now go back to the family tree of Alexander “Ionraic” as shown on sheet 3 of the Findon Tables - The Gairloch Family. This clan chief had a second marriage to Margaret, daughter of Macdougall of Morar. From this marriage came Hector Roy Mackenzie, 1st of Gairloch (Eachainn Ruadh). Hector Roy is referred to frequently in *History of the Mackenzies* - see the index page 736.

Hector Roy had by Margaret, a daughter of the Laird of Grant, a son named Hector Cam. Before the marriage was consecrated Margaret died so the Gairloch estates went to the descendants of Hector Roy’s marriage to Anne, daughter of Ronald Bayne McDonald of Moydart. Hector Roy died in 1528.

We now go to Hector Roy’s natural son, Hector Cam (who was blind in one eye). He married a daughter of Mackay of Farr, the ancestor of Lord Reay. Hector Cam had two children: 1. Alastair Roy, who married a daughter of John N. McGilliechallum McLeod of Raasay, and 2. Murdoch who married a daughter of Murdoch Buy McVahan.

In the *History of the Mackenzies* a footnote is added after recording the two sons of Hector Cam as follows:

“These were both succeeded by the son of Alexander, a slothful man, who dotingly bestowed his estate on his foster child Sir Roderick Mackenzie of Coigeach, in detriment to his own children, though very deserving of them, Captain Hector Mackenzie, late of Dumbarton’s Regiment, and also a tribe in Easter circuit of Ross, surnamed from one of their progenitors, Mac Eanin, i.e., the descendants of John the Fair.” - *Gairloch MS*. “It also adds that of the successors of the Mac Eanins in Easter Ross, were “Master Alexander Mackenzie, an Episcopal minister in Edinburgh; and preceptor [teacher] to the children of the present noble family of Cromarty, whose son is Charles Mackenzie, clerk to David Munro of Meikle Allan.”

When I met with Alastair McLeod at the Inverness Genealogical Centre in Inverness in August 2010 he confirmed that McAnin and Mac Eanin were the same name in the Gaelic. He pointed to Murdo son of Hector Cam on the Findon Tables and said “that is your family” and he then went to the *History of the Mathesons* in Vol. 47 of the *Transactions of the Gaelic Society of Inverness* and pointed to references to Murchadhe Buidhe, a chief of the Mathesons who flourished in 1539 and in 1556. This he said was an ancestor of the McAnin tribe also. Murchadhe Buidhe Matheson is of course the same as Murdoch Buy McVahan on the Findon Tables.

So we know from the old Gairloch MS and family trees that the McAnin family of Easter Ross descended from Hector Roy Mackenzie 1st of Gairloch via his natural son Hector Cam and most likely his son Murdoch. We do not have the exact genealogy thereafter.

Here is what the Findon Tables show for this part of the Gairloch family we are told connects to the McAnin tribe:

Hector Cam m,----- dau of Macky of Farr, Ancestor of Lord Reay

I	
<p>Alastair Roy m.----dau John N. McGillechallum McLeod of Raasay by Agnes d. of John MK of Kintail I Hector, "The Bishop" m----dau. of McLeod of Raasay I A dau. m. Hugh MK</p>	<p>Murdoch. m-----dau Murdoch Buy McVahan I I Lachlan, m-----dau Murdoch MK of Achiltie I <hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/> I I Murdoch, m---dau. Allister, m-----dau. Alex. Ross of Ciulich William McCulloch of Park.</p>

Our McKenzie family links in with the above genealogy according to the old Gairloch MS as described in *History of the Mackenzies*. Possibly it is a female line since our McKenzie DNA does not tie in with the DNA commonly believed to be that of the chiefs of the Mackenzie clan.

Final Comment

I intend to visit Alastair McLeod as soon as I can conveniently get to Inverness again and will try and get more details of the McAnin connection to the Hector Cam Mackenzie genealogy. There is no doubt in Alastair's view that these families are connected.

Some of the descendants shown in the Findon Tables above do not accord with the lines shown in *History of the Mackenzies*. For our purposes, however, the lines are close enough to pursue the McAnin connection.