Electric Scotland's Weekly Newsletter for November 6, 2026

Electric Scotland News

Clan Mackenzie - Septs, Related Names, and Branches

What does it truly mean for a surname to belong to Clan Mackenzie? How many of the names traditionally identified as clan septs have a documented historical connection and how many are simply variations of other surnames?

These are among the questions examined in Clan MacKenzie: Septs, Related Names, and Branches, a significant new work published in 2025 by Graeme Mackenzie, Clan Mackenzie Seanchaidh.

In this work, Graeme examines the origins of the surnames associated with Clan Mackenzie, challenging assumptions that have been repeated in clan publications and sept lists for generations.

This book also explores related surnames, previously overlooked connections and branches of the Mackenzie family, including research into the Mackenzies of Dalmore and the clan's wider genealogical origins.

For Graeme Mackenzie, this is an "interim report" on an ongoing research project as discoveries continue to refine our understanding of this topic.

For anyone interested in Mackenzie ancestry, clan history or the historical meaning of septs, this booklet offers a great opportunity to distinguish documented history from inherited tradition. Something we love at the Initiative.

Understanding our past requires more than preserving familiar names and stories. It requires a willingness to examine the evidence behind them.

You can order your copy here.
https://genfair.co.uk/product/clan-mackenzie-septs-related-names-and-branches-13970114/

We are pleased to present the newest episode of the Clan Mackenzie Podcast featuring Colin Tarbat, the son of John Cromartie, Cabarfeidh.

Enjoy the episode here.
https://clanmackenzie.org/

Introducing GAIA, MyHeritage's Groundbreaking Genealogy AI Agent
GAIA is powered by agentic AI, meaning that it can plan and carry out multiple connected tasks to achieve a goal. Unlike general-purpose AI platforms like ChatGPT, Gemini, or Claude, GAIA is built specifically for

genealogy.

Read more at:
https://blog.myheritage.com/2026/11/introducing-gaia-myheritages-groundbreaking-genealogy-ai-agent/

My Canadian Experience
November 2026

Started the November edition with articles and videos on This Canadian Tractor Has NO Computer. Farmers Are Going Crazy for It, Highway 401 and Road Rules Now in Force, An Ancient Discovery in the Yukon Is Leaving Archaeologists Speechless, Prime Minister Carney deepens partnerships with Commonwealth nations across trade, investment, and climate action, Mulcair: Americans voted for decency in mid-terms, Canadian Club Toronto hosts discussion on U.S. midterm results and more.

Scottish News from this weeks newspapers and other media

I am partly doing this to build an archive of modern news from and about Scotland and world news stories that can affect Scotland and as all the newsletters are archived and also indexed on search engines it becomes a good resource. I might also add that in a number of newspapers you will find many comments which can be just as interesting as the news story itself and of course you can also add your own comments if you wish which I do myself from time to time.

Here is what caught my eye this week...

Ex Trump Adviser Fiona Hill Drops Bombshell, Reveals Why US President Won't Confront Russia's Putin
Former Trump adviser and Russia expert Fiona Hill delivered a stunning assessment of Donald Trump's relationship with Vladimir Putin, claiming Trump is "embarrassed" by the Ukraine war and suggesting he wants Kyiv to capitulate. Speaking at the House of Lords, Hill dissected Putin's mindset, the Russia-Ukraine war, NATO, and growing global security threats facing the West.

Watch this at:
https://youtu.be/GNg28i3HBGQ?si=TbgVLx7_FtdkDZMM

Europe LAUNCHES Microsoft Killer - Free Euro-Office Goes Live, US Software Control ENDS
This wasn't a software launch. It was Europe rewriting who controls the digital layer beneath its economy.

Watch this at:
https://youtu.be/DrFc0LW0nL0?si=U5-qpfMskJiL8aRQ

King James VI & I – the first Unionist
THE ORIGINAL UNIONIST was a Scot, the most intelligent and educated monarch who ever sat on the British throne, James VI & I. On the twentieth anniversary of the foundation of ThinkScotland it is appropriate to revisit James's approach to Unionism. The author of the book under review, Clare Jackson, ends her discussion of his life by saying: "James VI and I was indeed the first king of Great Britain; he was also, by far, its most interesting."

Read more at:
https://thinkscotland.org/2026/11/king-james-vi-i-the-first-unionist/

Conrad Black: Don't bet against capable Netanyahu
The only road to peace is Israeli victory in this war

Read more at:
https://nationalpost.com/opinion/conrad-black-dont-bet-against-capable-netanyahu/

It's Time: Scotland's shame as figures show another 15 women die violently
Experts warn society's growing contempt for women is driving the terrifying surge in violence against women and girls.

Read more at:
https://www.sundaypost.com/fp/its-time-scotlands-shame-as-figures-show-another-15-women-killed/

'I took foot off the gas… but I'm still up to speed with F1': David Coulthard is happy to be a podcaster and pundit, while leaving the race track to his son
Standing in the paddock, watching the action on the track from a safe distance, David Coulthard still feels every twist and turn the new generation of Formula One stars make.

Read more at:
https://www.sundaypost.com/fp/david-coulthard-is-happy-to-be-a-pundit-leaving-the-track-to-his-son/

Scottish American History Forum featuring Marjory Harper
Topic: Homecoming Migrants as Tourists: Reconnecting the Scottish Diaspora
Speaker: Professor Marjory Harper, Chair in History, School of Divinity, History and Philosophy, King's College, University of Aberdeen, Scotland

Watch this at:
https://youtu.be/wmROL-L9XrU?si=dyzvKHGCuiXHogSA

Americans voted for a 'resounding rebuke' | U.S. political analyst breaks down the results
CTV News U.S. political analyst Eric Ham says Americans voted for a 'resounding rebuke' of Trump's economic policies.

Watch more at:
https://youtu.be/zs4uLNi5lZ8?si=BogprmoM9U6Eib7p

Trump suffers 'public execution' in Democratic bloodbath | Scott Lucas analyses midterms
Professor Scott Lucas joins Maddie Hale to break down the Democrats' sweeping midterm victory, Trump's reaction to the Republican defeat, the backlash over the Iran war and cost of living, and what Democratic control of Congress means for Trump's final two years in office.

Watch this at:
https://youtu.be/6NORMsnYaRM?si=QKwczaMhACfCcPLG

Electric Canadian

Vanguards of Canada
By John MacLean, M.A., Ph.D., D.D. (1918) (pdf)

You can read this book at:
https://www.electriccanadian.com/history/first/VanguardsofCanada.htm

The Apostle of the North, Rev. James Evans
By Egerton Ryerson Young (1900) (pdf)

You can read this book at:
https://www.electriccanadian.com/history/first/apostlenorthjam.pdf

James Evans
By Lorne Albert Pierce (pdf)

You can read this at:
https://www.electriccanadian.com/history/first/james_evans.pdf

Thoughts on a Sunday Morning - the 1st day of November 2026 All Saints Day / All Hallows Eve
By The Rev. Nola Crewe

You can watch this at:
https://youtu.be/PrulwrseYrw?si=Ay0VTlM196mi9XdR

Statements Relating to the Home and Foreign Trade of the Dominion of Canada
For 1880 TO 1882, the seventeenth publication by Wm. J. Patterson, Secretary of the Board of Trade and of the Corn Exchange Association (1883) (pdf)

You can read this at:
https://www.electriccanadian.com/transport/industrial/statementsrelat.pdf

The Beaver Magazine
Added No. 1 Outfit 275 June 1944 (pdf)

You can read this issue at:
https://www.electriccanadian.com/transport/hudsonbay/thebeaverjune1944.pdf

Electric Scotland

Curious Minds 11.2: James Hutton and the Scottish Enlightenment
Talk given by Alan McKirdy at the Perthshire Society of Natural Science. added this video to the foot of our page about him.

You can watch this at:
https://electricscotland.com/history/other/hutton_james.htm

Travels in North America during the years 1834, 1835 & 1836
Including a summer residence with the Pawnee Tribe of Indians and a visit to Cuba and the Azore Islands by Sir Charles Augustus Murray (1839)

You can read this book at:
https://electricscotland.com/history/america/travels.htm

Last Call for the Telephone After 150 Years - With No Extensions
Scots-born Canadian American Alexander Graham Bell's first practical telephone emerged in 1876 after a race to the patent office. Now the landline, as we know it, will very soon be no more in the land of his birth along with the rest of the UK. An article by Bill Magee.

You can read this article at:
https://electricscotland.com/magee/article0062.htm

David S. Donaldson
Resident of Terre Haaute (pdf)

You can read about him at:
https://electricscotland.com/history/nation/DonaldsonDanaldson.pdf

Donaldson, John Willcox
Irvington-on-Hudson, N,Y., 1931 (pdf)

You can read about him at:
https://electricscotland.com/history/nation/Donaldson.pdf

A Genealogical Record of One Branch of the Donaldson Family in America
Descendants of Moses Donaldson Who Lived in Huntingdon County, Penn., in 1770 compiled by May Donaldson McKitrick (1916) (pdf)

You can read this at:
https://electricscotland.com/history/nation/genealogicalrecorddonaldson2.pdf

The Trump Doctrine Deconstructed
By Conrad Black

You can read this at:
https://electricscotland.com/history/america/trump.htm

The statutes and regulations, institutes, laws and grand constitutions of the ancient and accepted Scottish rite
By Scottish Rite (Masonic order) (1859) (pdf)

You can read this at:
https://electricscotland.com/history/scottishrite.pdf

Green's Encyclopaedia of the Law of Scotland
By John Chisholm (1896 - 1904) in 14 volumes. Added volumes 4 - 6.

You can read these volumes at:
https://electricscotland.com/history/law/lawofscotland.htm

Story

Fraser's Highlanders
Seige and Surrender of Louisburg

The uniform of the regiment "was the full Highland dress with musket and broad-sword, to which many of the soldiers added the dirk at their own expense, and a purse of badger's or otter's skin. The bonnet was raised or cocked to one side, with a slight bend inclining down to the right ear, over which were suspended two or more black feathers. Eagle's or hawk's feathers were usually worn by the gentlemen, in the Highlands, while the bonnets of the common people were ornamented with a bunch of the distinguishing mark of the clan or district. The ostrich feather in the bonnets of the soldiers was a modern addition of that period, as the present load of plumage on the bonnet is a still more recent introduction, forming, however, in hot climates, an excellent defense against a vertical sun".

The regiment embarked in company with Montgomery's Highlanders at Greenock, and landed at Halifax in June 1757. They were intended to be employed in an expedition against Louisburg, which, however, after the necessary preparations, was abandoned. About this time it was proposed to change the uniform of the regiment, as the Highland garb was judged unfit for the severe winters and the hot summers of North America; but the officers and soldiers having set themselves in opposition to the plan, and being warmly supported by Colonel Fraser, who represented to the commander-in-chief the bad consequences that might follow if it were persisted in, the plan was relinquished. "Thanks to our gracious chief", said a veteran of the regiment, "we were allowed to wear our garb of our fathers, and, in the course of six winters, showed the doctors that they did not understand our constitution; for, in the coldest winters, our men were more healthy than those regiments who wore breeches and warm clothing".

Amongst other enterprises projected for the campaign of 1758, the design of attacking Louisburg was renewed. Accordingly, on the 28th of May, a formidable armament sailed from Halifax, under the command of Admiral Boscawen and Major-general Amherst, and Brigadier-generals Wolfe, Laurence, Monckton, and Whitmore. This armament, consisting of 25 sail of the line, 18 frigates, and a number of bombs and fire-ships, with 13,000 troops including the 78th Highlanders, anchored, on the 2d of June, in Gabarus Bay, seven miles from Louisburg. In consequence of a heavy surf no boat could approach the shore, and it was not til the 8th of June that a landing could be effected. The garrison of Louisburg consisted of 2500 regulars, 600 militia, and 400 Canadians and Indians. For more than seven miles along the beach a chain of posts had been established by the enemy, with entrenchments and batteries; and, to protect the harbor, there were six ships of the line and five frigates placed at its mouth, of which frigates three were sunk.

The disposition being made for landing, a detachment of several sloops, under convoy, passed the mouth of the harbor towards Lorembec, in order to draw the enemy's attention that way, whilst the landing should really be on the other side of the town. On the 8th of June, the troops being assembled in the boats before day-break in three divisions, several sloops and frigates, that were stationed along shore in the bay of Gabarus, began to scour the beach with their shot. The division on the left, which was destined for the real attack, consisted of the grenadiers and light infantry of the army, and Fraser's Highlanders, and was commanded by Brigadier-general Wolfe. After the fire from the sloops and frigates had continued about a quarter of an hour, the boats containing this division were rowed towards the shore; and, at the same time, the other two divisions on the right and in the center, commanded by Brigadiers-general Whitmore and Laurence, made a show of landing, in order to divide and distract the enemy. The landing-place was occupied by 2000 men entrenched behind a battery of eight pieces of cannon and ten swivels. The enemy reserved their fire till the boats were near the beach, when they opened a discharge of cannon and musketry which did considerable execution. A considerable surf aided the enemy's fire, and numbers of the men drowned by the upsetting of the boats. Captain Baillie and Lieutenant Cuthbert of the Highlanders, Lieutenant Nicholson of Amhert's, and 38 men were killed; but, notwithstanding these disadvantages, General Wolfe pursued his point with admirable courage and deliberation: "and nothing could stop our troops, when headed by such a general. Some of the light infantry and Highlanders got first ashore, and drove all before them. The rest followed; and, being encouraged by the example of their heroic commander, soon pursued the enemy to the distance of two miles, where they were checked by a cannonading from the town".

The town of Louisburg was immediately invested; but the difficulty of landing stores and implements in boisterous weather, and the nature of the ground, which, being marshy, was unfit for the conveyance of heavy cannon, retarded the operations of the siege. The governor of Louisburg, having destroyed the grand battery which was detached from the body of the place, recalled his outposts, and prepared for a vigorous defense. He opened a fire against the besiegers and their work from the town, the island battery, and the ships in the harbor, but without much effect. Meanwhile General Wolfe, with a strong detachment marched round the north-east part of the harbor to secure a point called the Light-house Battery, from which the guns could play on the ships and on the batteries on the opposite side of the harbor. This service was performed on the 12th by General Wolfe with great ability, who, "with his Highlanders and flankers", took possession of this and all the other posts in that quarter with very trifling loss. On the 25th the inland battery immediately opposite was silenced from this post. The enemy however, kept up an incessant fire from their other batteries and the shipping in the harbor.

On the 9th of July they made a sortie on Brigadier-general Lawrence's brigade, but were quickly repulsed. In this affair Captain, the Earl of Dundonald, was killed. On the 16th General Wolfe pushed forward some grenadiers and Highlanders, and took possession of the hills in front of the Light House battery, where a lodgment was made under a fire from the town and the ships. On the 21st one of the enemy's line-of-battle ships was set on fire by a bombshell and blew up, and the fire being communicated to two others, they were burned to the water's edge. The fate of the town was now nearly decided, the enemy's fire being almost totally silenced and their fortifications shattered to the ground. To reduce the place nothing now remained but to get possession of the harbor, by taking or burning the two ships of the lines which remained. For this purpose, in the night between the 25th and 26th, the admiral sent a detachment of 600 men in the boats of the squadron, in two divisions, into the harbor, under the command of Captains Laforey and Balfour. This enterprise was gallantly executed, in the face of a terrible fire of cannon and musketry, the seamen boarding the enemy sword in hand. One of the ships was set on fire and destroyed, and the other towed off. The town surrendered on the 26th, and was taken possession of by Colonel Lord Rollo the following day; the garrison and seamen, amounting together to 5637 men, were made prisoners of war. Besides Captain Baillie and Lieutenant Cuthbert, the Highlanders lost Lieutenants Fraser and Murray, killed; Captain Donald M'Donald, Lieutenants Alexander Campbell (Barcaldine), and John M'Donald, wounded; and 67 rank and file killed and wounded.

END.

Weekend is almost here and hope it's a good one for you.

Alastair