To The Reader:

About the documents:

These documents can be opened by either Microsoft Word or Open Office. They were created in docx format using the font Frankfurt Gothic, which is not installed with Windows but must be installed separately. A quick search on google will lead you to a site where Frankfurt Gothic can be downloaded and installed. Just right click on the downloaded file and select install from the popup menu.

If you open one of these documents, without Frankfurt Gothic installed the program will default to Times Roman, the letters of which are larger than Frankfurt Gothic. This will result in some pages running long and otherwise messing up the formatting. Also, direct quotes are formatted in Times Roman, to distinguish them from other text.

About the PDF Files

These very old books about Scottish History can be found on the internet through www.archive.org which gives its mission statement as follows:

“The Internet Archive is building a digital library of Internet sites and other cultural artifacts in digital form. Like a paper library, we provide free access to researchers, historians, scholars, and the general public.”

From the home page of archive.org putting “Macnab” in the search box brings up links to 9 entries.

The first one <http://www.archive.org/details/clanmacnabshorts00mcnauoft> “The Clan Macnab, a short sketch” by John McNab, Edinburgh, The Clan Macnab Association 1907. This is the first officially published history of the clan – there was one previous as part of “The Scottish Nation, or the Surnames, Families, Literature, Honors and Biographical History of the People of Scotland” by William Anderson. The “short sketch” is referenced in the Clan History currently in print and is substantially different from that publication. The “short sketch” is also referenced in the book titled “In Old Bredalbane” by the Rev William A. Giles

The second entry is <http://www.archive.org/details/lastlairdofmacna00frasuoft> “The last Laird of MacNab; an episode in the settlement of MacNab township, Upper Canada”, by Alexander Fraser and was published in 1899 – Note; this is not the book of the same name, written by Roland Wild, published in 1938 which is largely based on this book as is the section on Archibald Macnab in “Giants of the Ottawa Valley” by Joan Finnigan.

“The Last Laird” is based on newspaper articles published in Canada and is a very comprehensive account of Archibald MacNab’s time in Canada.

All these books are available as a variety of downloads including, PDF and text.

I have discovered that the best way to print the PDF files is to use the 4up option available in Adobe Reader. This puts four pages on one sheet – slightly reduced from the original size but perfectly readable. They can also be downloaded as text files which would make reproducing them easier, though the illustrations will, of course be lost, however they can then be edited, which allows the elimination of white spaces and converting the paragraphs to text wrap instead of a line break at the end of each line.

I have found the best way to convert text documents in Microsoft Word is to use “edit – replace.” First replacing double line feeds with a unique symbol (% or @ works well). Then replace all single line feeds with a space and finally replace all instances of the symbol you chose to replace all the double line feeds. Sometimes it will be necessary to replace double spaces with single spaces again using edit – replace.

Of course occasionally, such as when a poem is imbedded in text this does not work as well, in which case it becomes necessary to cut and paste large chunks of text to another document to edit.

David Rorer