



# Clan MacKenzie Society

## in the Americas

### Cabar Feidh



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*John Mackenzie, Lord Macleod, and Count Cromartie (in the Swedish Peerage)*

#### HISTORY OF THE MACKENZIES CHAPTER 16

##### THE 45 JACOBITE REBELLION THE TRIAL OF THE EARL OF CROMARTIE

In addition to those leaders captured were, of course, George Mackenzie, 3rd Earl of Cromartie and his son Lord Macleod. The English were lusting for blood and wanted examples made of those few leaders of the rebellion now in captivity. The Marquis of Tullibardine, elder brother of Lord George Murray, died of his illness in the Tower of London on July 9, 1746. On the 23rd of the same month, a grand jury of the county of Surrey found bills for high treason against the Earls of Cromartie and Kilmarnock and Lord Balmerino. These indictments were removed by the chancery so that the three noblemen could be tried, according to

the law of the land, by their peers in the House of Lords. The 28th of July was fixed for the date of the trial and there was no doubt that given the mood of the predominately English and protestant House of Lords that the lives of the three noblemen were in extreme danger. If there were any sympathies for them then such lords were not likely to exhibit those sympathies to their peers in case they too came under suspicion as Jacobites.

The trial of the Jacobite lords was an opportunity for King George's parliament to make a lasting impression on any would-be revolutionaries. The English were capable of doing this in style. At the time appointed the three peers were transported to

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Westminster Hall for their trial in three coaches. The first coach contained the Earl of Kilmarnock who was attended by Lieutenant-General Williamson, deputy-governor of the Tower of London and captain of the guard.

In the second coach was the Earl of Cromartie, attended by Captain Marshall and in the third coach was Lord Balmerino, attended by Mr. Fowler, gentleman-gaoler, who placed the axe on the seat in front of him to remind those who were in any doubt of the significance of these trials. All three coaches were guarded by a strong body of soldiers in their colourful uniforms creating an atmosphere of pageantry to the occasion.

This pageantry was taken up at the House of Lords where the lord-high-steward and the judges in their robes accompanied by the master of the rolls and other officials in their respective robes of office added an awesome dignity to the proceedings. These officials accompanied by one hundred and thirty five peers of the realm in full regalia solemnly processed into Westminster Hall which was decorated to accord with the great pomp and ceremony.

Mr. Adam Gordon was appointed as solicitor to Lord Cromartie, at his request, and Mr. George Ross acted for the other two lords. The prisoners were then escorted before the assembly led by the gentleman-gaoler, who carried the axe with the edge pointed away from the accused, in accordance with tradition.

After the indictments had been read both the Earl of Cromartie and the Earl of Kilmarnock pleaded, "Guilty", and threw themselves upon the mercy of the king. Balmerino, on the other hand was not going to give in quite so easily and protested that he was not at Carlisle at the time specified in the indictment. Balmerino was told that it was necessary for him to plead first. Poor Balmerino did not understand what was meant by this and exclaimed loudly, "Plead! Why I'm pleading as fast as I can." After explanations, Lord Balmerino pleaded, "Not guilty."

Evidence was brought to prove that Balmerino was active in the rebellion and in great favour with Prince Charles. The lord-high-steward then called for silence and addressed each peer by name as follows:

"What says your Lordship? Is Arthur Lord Balmerino guilty of the high treason whereof he stands impeached, or not guilty?"

Each peer in turn was so addressed and each stood up and laying his right hand upon his breast, said:

"Guilty, upon my honour."

The dignity and ceremony of this awful occasion continued with the other two lords being brought to the bar. There they were told by the lord-high-steward that they must return on the following Wednesday at eleven o'clock to state their objections, if any, otherwise the sentence of death would be awarded against them.

The three prisoners were once again returned to the Tower of London in the three coaches, surrounded by the armed guard who processed through the streets of London to the gazes of the citizens. The axe, which was again in Lord Balmerino's coach had its sharp edge pointed this time towards its victim.

On Wednesday, July 30, 1746 the House of Lords met once again to receive the pleas of the indicted peers. The first to speak was The Earl of Kilmarnock, who made a servile speech in which he tried to evade taking responsibility for the role he had played. He concluded his unworthy speech by saying that if their lordships did not feel themselves called upon to employ their interest with his majesty for his royal clemency, that he would lay down his life with the utmost resignation, and that his last moments should "be employed in fervent prayer for the preservation of the illustrious house of Hanover, and the peace and prosperity of Great Britain."

The next to take the stand was George Mackenzie, 3rd Earl of Cromartie who began by declaring that he had been guilty of an offence with merited the highest indignation of his majesty, their lordships and the public; and that it was from a conviction of guilt that he had not presumed to trouble the lordships with any defence. He went on:

"Nothing remains, my lords, but to throw myself, my life, and fortune, upon your lordships' compassion; but of these, my lords, as to myself is the least part of my sufferings. I have involved an affectionate wife, with an unborn infant, as parties to my guilt, to share its penalties; I have involved my eldest son, whose infancy and regard for his parents hurried him down the stream of rebellion. I have

involved also eight innocent children, who must feel their parents' punishment before they know his guilt. Let them, my lords, be pledged to his majesty; let them be pledged to your lordships; let them be pledged to my country for mercy; let the silent eloquence of their grief and tears; let the powerful language of innocent nature supply my want of eloquence and persuasion; let me enjoy mercy, but no longer than I deserve it; and let me no longer enjoy life than I shall use it to deface the crime I have been guilty of. While I thus intercede to his majesty through the mediation of your lordships for mercy, let my remorse for my guilt as a subject; let the sorrow of my heart as a husband; let the anguish of my mind as a father, speak the rest of my misery. As your lordships are men, feel as men; but may none of you ever suffer the smallest part of my anguish. But if after all, my lords, my safety shall be found inconsistent with that of the public, and nothing but my blood can atone for my unhappy crime; if the sacrifice of my life, my fortune and family, is judged indispensably necessary for stopping the loud demands for public justice; and if the bitter cup is not to pass from me, not mine, but thy will, O God, be done."

After this moving speech, the lords received Lord Balmerino's presentation which amounted to an appeal that as his alleged act of treason had been committed in Carlisle he ought to have been indicted in Carlisle and not in the county of Surrey. This nice legal point caused their lordships to adjourn the court until the 1st of August while this matter was debated. Thus both Cromartie and Kilmarnock were obliged to wait to learn their sentence.

Once again the pomp and ceremony of escorting the prisoners in their respective coaches to the Tower was enacted and once again they were brought back.

Lord Balmerino withdrew his objection to the legal point he had raised on the advice of his counsel and proceeded to beg their lordships' pardon for giving them so much trouble. Lord Hardwicke then made an address to the prisoners and concluded by pronouncing the sentence of the court in the following words:

"The judgment of the law is, and this high court doth award, that you, William Earl of Kilmarnock; George Earl of Cromartie; and Arthur Lord Balmerino, and every one of you, return to the prison

of the Tower from whence you came: from thence you must be drawn to the place of execution: when you come there, you must be hanged by the neck, but not till you are dead; for you must be cut down alive; then your bowels must be taken out and burnt before your faces; then your heads must be severed from your bodies; and your bodies must be divided each into four quarters; and these must be at the king's disposal. And God Almighty be merciful to your souls."

The three unfortunate men were again returned with due ceremony to the Tower of London while the lord-high-steward announced to the Peers that the business of the court had been completed. At which, he took the white rod he carried and ceremoniously broke it, signifying that the commission was at an end.

Thus ended the unusual event of three peers of the realm being tried by a court of their peers. The public had been treated to a demonstration of the majesty and power of the British king and his lords and woe betide anyone who would dare to challenge that authority again.

The Earl of Kilmarnock made immediate efforts to obtain the mercy of the king in whose hands all three lives now depended. It was now an opportunity for King George to demonstrate his supreme power by granting mercy, while at the same time he needed to make an example of these rebels for the benefit of others in a similar frame of mind. Kilmarnock asserted his innocence of the grievous, if false charges, of having given an order to give no quarter to the King's troops in the battle of Culloden. His plea was ignored.

The Earl of Cromartie was, if anything, in a slightly better position to claim mercy for he, at least, was not at Culloden, having been captured the day before the battle. But there was no doubt that he was one of the leaders of the '45 rebellion and as such was still in great danger for his life. It was his remarkable wife, Isabella Gordon, the Countess of Cromartie, who worked the hardest to save her husband's life. Although she was in the latest stage of pregnancy, she rode a horse from Castle Leod, in Strathpeffer, to London to plead the life of her husband to the king himself. The Countess presented a petition to each of the lords of the cabinet-council. She then went to Kensington Palace accompanied by Lady Stair and positioned herself so that she could see King George on his

way to chapel. When the king approached, Lady Cromartie fell to her knees and seized the king by his coat, presented her petition and then fainted. The king, much surprised by this event, took the petition and handed it to one of his attendants, the Duke of Grafton, and lifted up the countess. He asked Lady Stair to take the Countess to one of the apartments in the palace which was done. Further petitions for the Earl of Cromartie's life were presented personally to the king by the Dukes of Hamilton and Montrose and the Earl of Stair. On the 9th August, King George granted a pardon to the Earl of Cromartie.

When the writer visited Castle Leod in November, 1986, the Countess of Cromartie proudly showed an oil painting of the King's brother, which hangs in the dining room of the castle. This painting was given by him to the Countess, as admiration for the efforts she had made to save her husband.

Lord Balmerino made no effort to petition the king for mercy. He showed no fear at all and even the king had to marvel his high bearing and cool demeanour. "Does nobody intercede for poor Balmerino? He, though a rebel, is at least an honest man." Thus said King George.

The Earl of Kilmarnock and Lord Balmerino received notice that their execution was to take place on August 18, 1746. Balmerino showed little concern and his manner greatly impressed those who saw him. When the Earl of Kilmarnock and Lord Balmerino were leaving the Tower on the way to their execution, the deputy-lieutenant at the Tower cried out "God bless King George!". Kilmarnock gave a bow while Balmerino responded with the reply, "God bless King James!"

At eleven o'clock on the morning of the execution, Lord Balmerino asked to see the Earl of Kilmarnock and their conversation was overheard and reported by a Mr Foster, a dissenting clergyman:

Balmerino: "Did you ever see or know of any order signed by the prince to give no quarter at Culloden?"

Kilmarnock: "No, my lord."

Balmerino: "Nor I neither, and therefore it seems to be an invention to justify their own murders."

Kilmarnock: "No, my lord, I do not think that inference can be drawn from it, because while I was at Inverness, I was

informed by several officers that there was such an order, signed 'George Murray' and that it was in the duke's custody."

Balmerino: "Lord George Murray! Why then, they should not charge it upon the prince."

Kilmarnock was the first to be executed by the axe. The gruesome method of execution given out at their trial was waived in favour of the axe, at least a modest example of King George's mercy. Balmerino followed and continued to impress the crowd with his nonchalant air. He gave the executioner three guineas and his coat and waistcoat. He then put on a tartan cap to signify that he was to die as a Scotsman. To the Jacobites he also died a martyr.

The Earl of Cromartie's life was spared, but he was attainted and his properties were confiscated. He lived the rest of his life in exile in Devonshire.

His son, Lord MacLeod pleaded guilty and requested his life be spared on the grounds that he was only a youth. He addressed the Court at his trial as follows:

"My Lords, I stand indicted for one of the most heinous of all crimes, that of rebellion and treason against the best of Kings, and my only rightful lord and sovereign. Would to God, my Lords, I could not plead guilty to the charge. But as I cannot, I beg leave to assure your Lordships my heart never was consenting to the unnatural and wicked part I then acted. Remember, my Lords, my youth, and I am in that state of life when an unhappy father's example is almost a law. But my heart is full from the deep sense I have of his miseries, and my own; and I shall only add, that as I must and do plead guilty to the charge, if, on your Lordships' kind representation of my case, his Majesty shall think fit, in his great goodness, to extend his compassion to me, what of future life and fortune I may ever have shall be entirely devoted to the service of his Majesty, on whose mercy I now absolutely throw myself."

One wonders who Lord MacLeod's scriptwriter was! These sentiments were clearly not his own, but such pleas were necessary to escape the axe, and the vengeance of the English, who had been truly scared by the Highlanders' march all the way to Derby.

As it happened the plea was effective.

His life was spared and he received a full pardon, subject only to the small but vital condition that on attaining the age of 21, he was required to surrender all claims to any of the Cromartie estates to the Crown as if he had been attainted of high treason!

The next issue concludes the long series on the History of the MacKenzies.

**THE PEDIGREES OF THE EARLY  
CHIEFS OF THE CLAN MACKENZIE**  
BY DOUGLAS HICKLING  
CONCLUDING PART 4

*We conclude this interesting research into the various Mackenzie Chiefs' genealogies published in a number of manuscripts.*

The only comprehensive 20th century history of the Mackenzies is **SOME MACKENZIE PEDIGREES**, completed by Duncan Warrand in 1937, but not published until 1965. Warrand was a well-regarded family historian, who served as co-editor of volume VI of **THE COMPLETE PEERAGE**. He refused to give any credibility to the existing pedigrees of the early Mackenzies, explaining, at 1-2:

It is not too much to say that the histories of the Clan Mackenzie, histories compiled for the most part in the dangerous 17th century, are wholly unreliable at all events prior to 1475. The late Sheriff Macphail, whose knowledge of and sympathy with the Highlands have been amply recognized, was clearly of this opinion . . .

The absence of record evidence in these early times may not in itself be conclusive proof of a fabulous genealogy, but it is at least highly suspicious, the more so that the early charters, once cited in histories, not only do not exist, but, if they did, are almost certainly spurious . . .

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The article on Seaforth in **THE SCOTS PEERAGE** really begins with Alexander Mackenzie, the upright, though five supposed chiefs are placed (quantum valeant) ["for what it is worth"] before him. Of these, the last is Murdoch who is said to have died in 1416. In 1414, therefore, he may be presumed to be getting on in years, the father of sons, and there is record evi-

dence of Kenneth, son of Murdoch of Ross, who was then engaged in the pacification of that district - - 'et Keneath Murchieson de Rosse laboranti in partibus Rossie pro quiete regni ex causa considerata super com-potum xli.' Again, in 1415, Alexander, son of Murdoch, and Rory, his brother, were prisoners in Inverness Castle - 'et pro mensa Alexandri Murcherson et Ruthery fratris sui malefactorum ibidem in cancribus pro utilitate republice XIIIli.'

These references may, indeed have no relation to the Mackenzies (though it is by no means clear when that surname was first adopted), but at least one is furnished with an Alexander, son of Murdoch, as required by the family histories. With Alexander the account of the family commences.

1

Alexander Mackenzie, known as Alexander Ionraic (the upright), had, according to **THE SCOTS PEERAGE**, both from John, Earl of Ross, and from the Crown, after the forfeiture of that earldom, several grants of land. His name, however, as Sheriff Macphail points out, does not appear in the Register of the Great Seal or in any other public record . . .

Although giving Alexander Ionraic a place in the early Mackenzie pedigree, he was unwilling to do the same for either or both of Alexander's purported wives, saying, at 3, "into the question of Alexander's marriages, real or imaginary, it is not proposed to enter."

Contemporary documentary proof of Alexander Ionraic's existence and of his relationship to Kenneth-a-bhlair is set forth by Jean (Dunlop) Munro and R.W. Munro, the eminent Scottish historians, in their **ACTS OF THE LORDS OF THE ISLES: 1336-1493**, published by the Scottish History Society in 1986. At 160-161, the Munros have printed a charter by John, Earl of Ross and Lord of the Isles, executed at Dingwall in 1471, witnessed by "Alexander McKennye de Kintail." At 244, the Munros set forth an even more interesting record - that of a papal marriage dispensation, dated 13 September 1465, to

"Kennacius Alexandri Kennaci and Finvola Celestini de Insulis." This record is found in the **VATICAN ARCHIVES: ACTA SACRA PENITENTIARIAE APOSTOLICA**, 13, 32v. The name of the husband may be translated as "Kenneth, son of Alexander, family of Kenneth [i.e. Mackenzie]," perhaps the earliest use of the name of the ancestral Kenneth as a surname for his descendants. It may be safely assumed that the Alexander of Kintail, who witnessed the charter in 1471, was the same Alexander, who was the father of Kenneth, who obtained the dispensation in 1465.

Although Kenneth-a-bhlair is not a subject of this article, the marriage dispensation seems to resolve the issue of the identity of his first wife, frequently claimed by the family historians to have been a daughter of John, Earl of Ross and Lord of the Isles. The Munros, at 304 and 307, identify Finvola as a daughter of Celestine/Archibald of Lochalsh, a son of Alexander de Yle, Lord of the Isles and later Earl of Ross.

Jean Dunlop, co-editor with her husband R.W. Munro of **ACTS OF THE LORDS OF THE ISLES: 1336-1493**, in her concise **THE CLAN MACKENZIE**, first published in 1953, largely ignored the traditional pedigrees of the early chiefs. At page 5, she states that "the original Kenneth, who lived in the thirteenth century, is said to have descended from a younger son of Gilleoin of the Aird." Her detailed genealogical discussion of the early Mackenzies starts with Alexander Ionraic, but she, too, does not identify his wife. The first Mackenzie wife identified by Dunlop is Alexander's daughter-in-law, "a daughter of Lord Lovat," who married Alexander's son, "Kenneth of the Battle."

The same pattern is again followed in the most recently published pedigree of the early Mackenzies in **BURKE'S PEERAGE & BARONETAGE** (106th edition, 1999) at 723:

**LINEAGE:** According to Celtic genealogies the Mackenzies of Kintail stem from Gillian Og ("the Younger"), son of Gillian of the Aird, ancestor also of the Earls of Ross. Ninth in descent from Gillian, and the first of these Mackenzies for whose existence there is documentary evidence, was:

Alexander Mackenzie of Kintail, called "Ionraic", imprisoned by James I; dies 1488, having had with two younger sons:

Kenneth Mackenzie of Kintail . . .

The foregoing shows that BURKE'S has completely disregarded the traditional pedigrees of the early Mackenzies, but it does recognize the existence of Alexander Ionraic, clearly based upon the same record, relied upon by Warrand, that one Alexander, son of Murdoch, was a prisoner, although the date of the incarceration is stated to be 1415 by Warrand and 1427 by BURKE'S. Like Warrand, the BURKE'S editors apparently regarded the traditional identity of Alexander's wife or wives to be lacking sufficient reliability to be included.

In partial defence of the early Mackenzie histories, Matheson argues, at 208 and 226 note 51, that, in addition to earlier histories no longer existing, "the family historians also used . . . inscriptions on tombstones, and the records of religious houses dispersed after the Reformation."

With candor seldom found in genealogical histories, James D. Mackenzie of Findon, at 12, argues that there can be no positive certainty as to the Mackenzie pedigree:

Peering into the mist of ages - back to a time when, however high the culture in other parts of Europe, our ancestors were, from their remote position, yet in a state of rude barbarism and ignorance, leaving little more than the tales of slaughter to guide their posterity - it were vain to seek a clearer determination of their origins; and we must be content to accept such details as we find, oral traditions being perhaps the most reliable guide.

In support of the reliability of oral traditions, he quotes Sir George Mackenzie of Rosehaugh (1636-1691) in his DEFENCE OF THE ANTIQUITY OF THE ROYAL LINE OF SCOTLAND (1685 edition), at 22:

It was ordinary in our Highland families, not only at burials, but at baptisms and marriages, to recite the genealogies for many generations, and we can well therefore understand how

such ever-freshened tradition faithfully endured.

But it is not possible to construct a credible pedigree based upon a supposition that 17th century Mackenzie historians had access to earlier sources, whether they were in writing or in traditions handed down orally through generations of Mackenzies, when: (1) the existing manuscript histories contradict themselves and the manuscript of 1467, (2) most of the charters and other documents which may have helped sort out the contradictory traditions and pedigrees have now been discredited, and (3) no one can tell which of the traditions are based upon fact, conjecture, or a desire to glorify the clan's history and bloodlines.

There is even less reason to give credence to the names of the wives given in the traditional pedigrees. Both the manuscript of 1467 and MacVurich's BLACK BOOK OF CLANRANALD show the Mackenzie ancestral male line, but are completely silent as to wives, mothers, and daughters. Their absence strongly indicates that the pedigrees, allegedly recited at length at family events by generations of Mackenzies, were similarly limited to Mackenzie males.

Particularly flagrant is the claim of a marriage between Margaret Strathbogie, daughter of the Earl of Atholl, and either Kenneth, Murdoch, or John Mackenzie. In a society and time in which one's class and ancestry clearly counted, one would tend to remember a descent and royal bloodline, from an earl's daughter, who, in turn, descended from King John, of Magna Carta fame, and his parents, King Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine. Yet, neither the first Earl of Cromartie nor John Mackenzie of Applecross mention a Mackenzie-Strathbogie marriage - strong evidence that the marriage is an invention of a later century. In such a class-conscious society and age, a marriage between the daughter of an earl, having a royal descent, and the chief of what was at that time a minor vassal clan, is inherently unlikely. In the absence of documentary evidence of such a marriage or even that Margaret Strathbogie even existed, her name does not belong in any credible pedigree. The names of the wives assigned to Alexander Mackenzie

Ionraic similarly lack credibility. Well into the 19th century, some family historians argued that his first wife was a daughter of the first Earl of Argyll, and they would no doubt continue to do so, but for the fact that it was shown to be a chronological impossibility. The claim that he married daughters of two unrelated Macdougall families seems too coincidental to be accepted, especially when neither of these families seem to have asserted the existence of such a daughter or marriage. The fact that one of these alleged wives, Anna Macdougall, if she existed at all, is said to have been a granddaughter of Sir Colin (of Glenurchy) Campbell, himself a descendant of King Robert III of Scotland, may account for the fact that earlier generations of Mackenzie historians clung to her in their pedigrees.

I conclude that the more recent 20th century Mackenzie histories, namely those by Duncan Warrand, Jean Dunlop, and the editors of BURKE'S PEERAGE & BARONETAGE, have taken the only acceptable course in beginning their Mackenzie pedigrees with Alexander Ionraic and his son Kenneth-a-bhlair. Although the Mackenzie family members, who have continued to rely on Margaret Strathbogie and Anna Macdougall in maintaining their claims to a royal bloodline, may be disappointed, they can no doubt find other, and provable, royal descents in their Mackenzie ancestries, including that of Agnes Fraser, who married Kenneth-a-bhlair. Agnes's mother, the redoubtable Violet Lyon, known for her skill in killing mountain lions, was the great-great-great-great-granddaughter of King Robert II of Scotland.

NOTE: The differences in the spelling of names generally reflects the varying orthography of the compilers of the several pedigrees.

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This concludes this excellent piece of workmanship by Douglas Hickling. We owe him thanks for this useful appraisal of the genealogies of the Mackenzie chiefs. It will doubtless remain a subject of further research and controversy and we would welcome readers' views and comments on this subject.



*Above: Starting a line-up for the Parade of the Clans at the Glengarry Highland Games*

*Below: US Commissioner and our member, Angus and Pamela MacKenzie with Lady and Lord Cromartie at Castle Leod*





*Here is a photo from a newspaper sent to us from New Zealand. It shows the unveiling of a statue of the famous James Mackenzie, the Gaelic-speaking shepherd who was sentenced to a term of imprisonment in the 1850s for stealing 1,000 sheep and hiding them in an unknown part of New Zealand, now known as the Mackenzie Country. This story was told in the September 2003 issue of Cabar Feidh.*

## WHO WENT BEFORE II

### "RURAL ROOTS"

BY RAD MACKENZIE

In my earlier notes I emphasized the importance of talking to older family members, asking for details they could give about the family, in particular names, dates and birth locations of aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents etc. etc. With that fount of knowledge explored, you should consider another place to check if you have not already done so, go through any family papers tucked away in odd corners, looking for bibles, diaries, journals, pension application records, marriage documents, military pension records. If there is a family member recently deceased, ask to look through the papers left behind which will otherwise soon be discarded. Look for all of the above plus photo albums, old letters - check envelopes for post marks and addresses, prayer books, school records, baptismal certificates and Sunday school attendance diplomas. (The flyleaf of a prayer book etc. often shows it was a gift with the donor's particulars). Sort any papers you find and put in a scrap book for future use. There are often valuable leads found in these innocent items. When contacting relatives it is best to provide a chart listing all the information you have and ask for corrections and additions. This is more effective than a verbal request and then waiting for them to "get around to it". Don't be shy about following up on your request - - - this might be a once around exercise so be persistent.

If you have listed all possible known relatives, the next step is to try to learn about who went before these folks. You will likely have blank spots in what you have written down so far but continue on into this next area, keeping in mind that your records are not closed off and likely the blanks will be filled in eventually. I will start this next level with the assumption that your family has

been in Canada for some years, having arrived here in the large immigration of the mid 1800's. (If your people are of recent arrival and you have some information about their lives in Scotland, our research overseas will be dealt with later). New arrivals today seem to establish themselves in the larger centres to suit their employment history while back a few generations the immigrants arriving mostly had a rural background and looked eagerly to the possibility of free or inexpensive land being made available, a chance to own their own property, something they were likely unable to do back in the old country. A good many new arrivals settled in lands which were made available through the Canada Company, a group set up to locate settlers in Ontario in what had been undeveloped until then. This area which now includes Huron and Perth counties in southwestern Ontario was settled during that period. Similar immigration promotions were effected which brought people into other areas of Canada, documents recording these may be available in other provincial archives. As a starting point let us assume you are trying to trace your grandfather and you only have his name and that he died in 1960. We want to find more about him and his origins and documents on file may have clues to help you do just that. His age is an important item to confirm, if no other source is at hand, obtain his death certificate which will also record his origin - Ontario or Scotland, perhaps, even the county or parish. Another important document would be a marriage certificate which would require that you have an approximate date and location. This Certificate would show his parents, his bride's parents along with witnesses (perhaps other family members). Finally, if age is established, a birth certificate may be found which again would list parents and other details. You should be aware that sometimes entries are not complete so several sources are worth checking. These documents are available through the Registry Office in Ontario who will provide "Extracts for Genealogy", write to:

The Manager of Customer Services,  
Office of the Registrar General,  
Registration Division,  
Macdonald Block, Parliament Buildings,  
Toronto, ON M7A 1Y5

If you are searching in locations other than Ontario, refer to the equivalent department in the provincial parliament offices of the province concerned.

Prime source, if you have identified a community and can thus identify the township involved, are the Census records which were compiled in 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881 and more recently as well. Copies of these records are sometimes on file in the central libraries of the larger towns. If you have no success through your local library system, you can visit:

Archives of Ontario  
77 Grenville Street  
Toronto, ON  
Inquiries:- 416-965-4039

where many old records are available. This is a repository of a great deal of historical material but organize yourself before going there, establish just what you want to find out and the areas you wish to search. A phone call to learn their procedures would be

wise. The material here is remarkable. I once looked through the scrapbook of William Lyon MacKenzie of rebellion fame. On another visit I searched through the original ledgers of the Canada Company. Using the census records is a slow project, you need get into the appropriate township pages, examine each page and try to identify your target under the family name and Christian name, this means looking at each family entry. If you are looking for "John McKenzie" and know he was born in 1879 you might try the 1881 census, looking through all McKenzie entries and hoping to find a two or three-year old John. This is a name which might surface in several families so you need to reinforce any discovery with the names of his siblings. Are there names there that you recognize as repeated later in the family? Perhaps you already know the names of a brother or sister. If you are certain that you have found your "John", you have also found his parents and brothers and sisters as of 1881 and as well, the birth location of each with their age as of the date of entry. You may find some children listed that don't seem to fit (the same age as others in the family, or names that are out of sync with the usual family naming style), these could be foster children who have been taken into the family, not an unusual thing, or perhaps cousins or friends visiting on the census day. The birthplaces of the children may vary which shows you the family moved about. In some cases, it is possible to follow a family as it travelled across the country before settling in one spot. Others in John's family, his parent's brothers and sisters, might have travelled with John's parents and settled nearby so further digging in census records of the earlier home communities might turn up more of John's family. In the census, the parent's noted place of origin might have been Scotland if they were not Canadian born. To make the leap back to Scotland it is important to know what town or parish was the family home before emigrating. John's parents' death certificates could show that detail. Record all information you find about your family; it is a good idea to make a note of the various nearby people as well, as the children grow up some may have married into neighbouring families. Be sure to record the page number of the records you are transcribing in order to return to them in the future if needed. Checking later census records will show new family members or that some

are now no longer part of the family (from death or going out into the world). Cemetery markers in nearby graveyards may show some family members but in many cases stone memorials were not erected and wood markers have long since disappeared.

Interesting data can be obtained from the agricultural census. This is a separate listing which describes the farm particulars, the acreage under cultivation, the crops, farm animals and the estimated worth of the place. This does not extend your family tree but does give a picture of the family's situation at that time.

Further sources of background information are the township registers. These record information on most properties, listing the various owners and often some comments about them. Along with this you might also look in the area library for a copy of the local township atlas, which are detailed lot maps prepared in the 1879 period for many Ontario townships. If you have identified the land your people settled on then these maps will show you the location and, if they lived there at the time the map was prepared, their name will be shown. At least you will have more information on the neighbouring families and a better sense of the community. One more thing, if you wish, you can obtain records of the property in question, who owned it originally, the various charges against it (mortgages) and who it passed on to. Go to the Land Registry Office for the area involved. Most people at these places are very helpful if you explain your interest in tracing old family particulars. There is sometimes a fee involved. Your records will start to take on a meaningful look if you include in your binder photocopies of the various items you have discovered. Individually they may not mean much but taken together they tell quite a story. Show your young grandson the map of his G-G-G-Grandfather's farm, where it was located, how many horses, pigs and cattle he had, how much wheat and barley he grew and what became of the property..... This is real history! Finally, enquire of the nearest library asking for information on a local historical society and as well, the local women's institute. This last group prepared "Tweedsmuir" records, this was a task promoted by our early Governor General, Lord Tweedsmuir, requesting the gathering together of local data on people

and events. Some of these groups were quite dedicated in their approach and their records and scrapbooks are very interesting.

**Military Records** - There are many bits of information on file for each serviceman, the earliest would be his "Attestation Certificate" which was completed on enlisting and will show "Next of Kin" with an address. This key item will help identify and locate a parent you may have not already found. As well, if the soldier had been wounded, his medical records will show where his treatment took place and also, his movements (on leave or to other establishments) while in the service. The National Archives of Canada hold records relating to the service in the military for these conflicts:

1939 - 1945 World War II  
1914 - 1918 World War I  
1899 - 1902 Boer War  
1837 - 1838 Rebellion of 1837  
1812 - 1815 War of 1812.

An enquiry will need a full name and service number, include any other particulars you know. Records from the early conflicts are rather sparse but worth checking. If you have an interest in the Korean or Vietnam wars, you may find these too recent for the release of documents.

For Service Records write to:  
National Personnel Records Centre  
National Archives of Canada  
Tunney's Pasture  
Ottawa ON K1A 0N3

There have been a great many war casualties and if you wish information on someone who died in WWI or WWII, these are recorded and particulars are available through the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, write to:

The Secretary-General  
Canadian Agency, C.W.G.C.  
East Memorial Building  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0P4

Until now no mention has been made of using the internet. Some folk have not moved into that realm and so the forgoing is conventional research that can, with some determination and effort, give major results. This is not a fast moving hobby so don't despair, you will likely follow many leads that go nowhere but you also will find the odd gem that will make it all worthwhile. There is nothing quite like the



thrill of suddenly seeing the name of someone you have been looking for.

[This series continues in the next Newsletter.]

### NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members who have joined since the previous issue of the Newsletter:

Dr Margaret (Peggy) C. Allan, Ph.D.,  
R.Psych., NCSP, LSSP, DABPS  
Registered Psychologist,  
4363 Valley Drive,  
Vancouver, BC V6L 2K9

Robert Barclay,  
#307, 18 Davenport Road,  
Toronto, ON M5R 3M3

Steven & Sharon Fenwick,  
32 Killarney Street,  
London, ON N5X 2A7

Daniel MacKenzie,  
624 Leonard,  
St. Eustache, QUE J7R 6J5

Isabelle MacKenzie,  
31 Wendell Ave.,  
West Bridgewater, MA 02379

Jerry and Ann McKenzie,  
835 Mountain Road,  
Thunder Bay, ON P7J 1C1

John G. MacKenzie,  
Hound Ears Club,  
P.O.Box 188,  
Blowing Rock, NC 28605

Dr Christine Kyle Mather,  
317 Wellington Road Seven,  
Elora, ON N0B 1S0

### OVER 450,000 SCOTTISH WILLS AND TESTAMENTS AVAILABLE NOW!!

*The following is part of an e-mail we received from Scotland:*

We have now nearly completed the mammoth task of digitising all 520,000 Scottish wills and testaments from 1500 to 1901 held by the National Archives of Scotland. Over 78% of Scottish wills and testaments are now available from <http://www.scottishdocu->



ments.com/ and we will be adding the remainder over the next few months until the task is completed in June 2004. This will bring to a close one of the largest archival digitisation programmes in the world. Don't worry!! - we are already working on digitising other fascinating series of Scottish records including Kirk Session records and Poor Law records. To find out more about this, ensure you remain registered with us to receive our news updates.

### HIGHLAND VILLAGE IN NOVA SCOTIA GETS A "NEW" CHURCH

Since its inception over four decades ago, the inclusion of a church on the Highland Village Museum site has been a dream for those involved. In November 2003 that dream became a reality. Thanks to the generosity of the River and Lakeside Pastoral Charge of the United Church of Canada (Orangedale, Malagawatch and River Denys), the Malagawatch United Church was moved from its site near the shores of the River Denys Basin to the Highland Village Museum in Iona. Constructed as a Presbyterian church in 1874, this building will make a wonderful addition to the Highland Village Museum and its interpretive program.

We were alerted to this church move by Olive Bowen in Nova Scotia who sent us several newspaper cuttings. Unfortunately the quality of newspaper pictures do not copy well so we show a photo of the church which we picked up off the Village web site.

Both the location of the old church and the Highland Village are in Cape Breton and the village can be found in Iona. Many of our members make the trek to Cape Breton and this may be an interesting place to visit.

The Mission Statement: The Nova

Scotia Highland Village is a non-profit Society with the mission: to protect, interpret and further the collection of buildings and artifacts at the Nova Scotia Highland Village site in Iona; and to preserve and promote the Scottish Highlands and Islands culture as found in Nova Scotia.

### Highland Village Living History Museum - Hours of Operation:

2004: May 22 to October 17 - Daily 9 am to 6 pm

Other times by appointment for group tours.

### Roots Cape Breton Genealogy & Family History Centre (Visitor Centre)

Daily 9 am to 5 pm (May to November- other times by appointment

Genealogist's hours vary, appointments are recommended.

### Highland Village Gift Shop (Visitor Centre)

2004: May 22 to October 17 - Daily 9 am to 6 pm.

### QUEBEC RECOGNIZES TARTAN DAY

*The following email was received and was sent to all the clans. It is good news:*

Greetings to you all

Some of you may have had this news as second hand.

Some of you may not care or may not be interested enough to know.

BUT just in case I wanted to let you know that through the work of Lou Dawson of the Sons of Scotland the Province of Quebec has finally decided to recognize and make official April 6th as Tartan Day (not yet a paid holiday).

Now at least we the people of Quebec have decided that time was right to recognize some of the Scottish contributions to the development of this wonderful province. . . . regardless of its sometime funny political thinking . . . .

As I stated some of you will be pleased to hear this, others indifferent, HOWEVER, I would ask as a personal favour if you might at least put a little note in your next Clan newsletter so that any of your Quebec members might be informed

Thank you very much,  
Doug Macfie

### SUCCESSFUL GATHERING IN CALGARY

The Calgary Christmas Gathering at the Home of Sir Roderick (Ruaridh)

Mackenzie of Scatwell was a "huge success" according to long-time member Betty Hall. Guests totalled around 40 people, which is a great turnout indeed. Included were Commissioner Cec MacKenzie and his wife Phyllis, all the way from Edmonton, Alistair and wife from Ponoka, Isabelle Walcot, son John and wife Mary Sheila McKenzie and Betty Hall's brother, Bud. Ruaridh entertained the guests on the violin with Cathy on Guitar. There were selections by Melisa, Vanessa and Isobel and carols were sung by everyone! Further accompaniment was provided by Don Sumerfield on the piano.



*The Calgary Christmas get together: Cathy on guitar with her daughter singing. Sir Roderick plays the violin while Don Sumerfield (on the right) plays the piano.*

### **CASTLE LEOD DONATION AND A REPORT FROM CABARFEIDH**

A decision was made to make a donation to the Clan Mackenzie Charitable Trust in the amount of \$4,000 for the Castle Leod Project. A cheque was duly sent to the Trust and a response has been received from our Clan Chief, Cabarfeidh. Here it is:

Once again the Canadian Chapter have acted as a most welcome Santa Claus to the CMCT! Can I take this opportunity to thank the donors for their continuing generosity and that the money continues to be used for vital work on the Old Tower. The Castle will again be open to the public for 25 days next year and your money helps towards restoring and refurbishing as well as replacing parts of the building which need it. Currently we are on a drive to repaint and in some cases replace windows which are long past their sell-by date. Other work is the labelling and maintenance of trees within the 'tree walk' and the resurfacing of the path to the Castle. And so it goes on; bit by bit the place becomes updated and the Canadians can be proud that

their help has not only contributed financially but that their moral support has provided a strong background motivation to us to improve Castle Leod so that it continues to be the seat of the Mackenzies in the true sense. Many thanks and all of us here wish you a prosperous and happy 2004.

Cabarfeidh

### **IN SIR ALEXANDER MACKENZIE'S FOOTSTEPS**

*Our good friend and printer, Rob Stewart, alerted us to a web site about John Donaldson's adventures in a canoe following the route taken by Sir Alexander Mackenzie. We found it interesting and although we did a report on his trip a few years ago it is worth reviving. Accordingly we wrote to Mr Donaldson asking if we could copy part of his web page and he confirmed we could do so.*

Donaldson followed the Peace River through Alberta and battled the wild rapids of the mighty Fraser River in British Columbia. Canoeing the swift current was "like riding with ten thousand elephants at your back," he grimaced.

On the night of July 21, 1993, his transcontinental odyssey complete, Donaldson arrived at Mackenzie's Rock, 80 km west of Bella Coola. He attended a ceremony receiving a telegram of congratulation from the Deputy Prime Minister, Jean Charest.

But, of all the messages he received the one he treasures the most came from his family (including new triplets, Jennifer, Greg, and Alexandra) which read:

To: John Donaldson  
c/o Ray Skelly, MP,  
Bella Coola, BC  
July 20, 1993

Dear Grandpa,

We wish we could be with you today at Bella Coola to celebrate your monumental achievement, that of singlehandedly retracing the footsteps of that other great Inverness Scot, Sir Alexander Mackenzie, from Montreal to the Pacific by canoe. Of course, he did it the easy way as he took along some friends and relied on skilled local guides for assistance. It is also widely known that at least he had some private sector support.

You, by contrast, have never been known to do things the easy way.

Your family has, we hope, performed our role as effectively as possible during your expedition. Our job was to worry. We worried when you announced you intended to embark upon your venture. We worried when you actually left. We worried when you turned up with your face burnt by the sun and your hands swollen and blistered. We worried when we discovered that you had been nearly capsized in the wake of a laker on Superior. We worried when we discovered you had been held at gunpoint by a madman near Buffalo Narrows. We worried when you were camped in a freezing blizzard at Peace River. We were worried when you had to negotiate that tricky stretch of water west of the watershed. Now we are worried about what you are going to do for an encore.

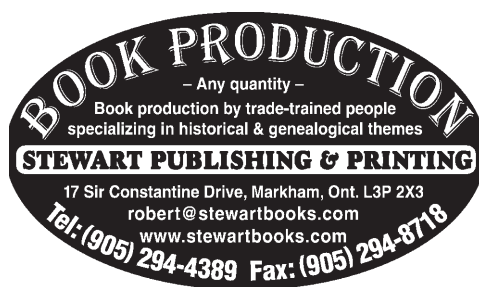
All of us simply want you to know that we are very proud of you and of what you have managed to accomplish. Your spirit and determination are an inspiration to all those you have met along the voyage and especially to us, your loving family.

The Valcovs:  
Anne, Bob, Christiana, Katherine, Elizabeth, Alexandra, Gregory, Jennifer.

The following day precisely marked the 200th anniversary of Mackenzie's reaching the Pacific. The place is named for the large boulder where Mackenzie inscribed this simple message:

"Alexander Mackenzie from Canada by Land; July 22 one thousand seven hundred and ninety three."

As Donaldson stood proudly listening to a piper from Canada's



own Seaforth Highlanders play the stirring Mackenzie lament, he commented, "my principal aim in pursuing this arduous and frequently dangerous task was to try to bring to public attention some understanding of an authentic Canadian hero and to revitalise the jaded image that our history has unfortunately become for most Canadians."

Donaldson, along with his canoe and his Scottish West Highland Terrier, Angus, returned from Mackenzie's Rock to Bella Coola in style, as guest of the Captain on board the Canadian warship, HMCS Mackenzie.

[Ed: We followed up with John Donaldson as we had heard he had corresponded with and met Sean Connery. We asked him what happened. He replied as follows: "Sean Connery did give some money to the Avoch Heritage Society to set up a display of Mackenzie paraphernalia including my canoe. Actually, it is now on loan to the . . . would you believe . . . the Lord Lovat Arms seat of the FRASERS at Beaulieu."]

Since including the above article we received an email from Mr Donaldson and we pass it on to you as follows:

*Dear Alan,  
One of the things that the Heritage Assoc. at Avoch have told*

*me is that there are very few visitors to Mackenzie memorabilia, etc. I am wondering if the Mackenzie Society could not let their members know more about SAM at Avoch and also whether we could do something to stir the Scottish Tourist Board out of its lethargy? Sean Connery told me that he had little faith in that organization when it came to promoting anything worthwhile! So there you go.*

*Regards,  
John Donaldson*

Ed: I suggested to John that the Alexander Mackenzie memorial at Avoch may well be on one of the places to visit during the 2005 Clan Gathering! We shall see.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **WHY A CLAN CENTRE?**

*[The following article has been sent to us by Peadair Mackenzie, who has been trying for some years to establish and fund a Clan Centre in Scotland].*

The spiritual home of the clan is Castle Leod, Strathpeffer, the home of our Chief. For many reasons it is not possible to create a 'Clan Centre' there, as such, so when a call for a separate Clan Centre was initiated by clansfolk from overseas the UK Society took action. A survey was sent out world wide to discover if there was such a demand, the extent of it and what it was expected to provide.

From the results of the survey it appeared that a clan centre was hugely desired and should include numerous facilities. Accordingly a most appropriate site, with existing planning permission was found, an outline plan was drawn up and displayed to much acclaim at the Millennium Gathering.

Now our research showed that Clan Centres per se, limited to the interests of a single clan, soon fell into difficulties because the numbers of visitors were relatively few and not enough to generate the income needed to support the venture. Therefore whatever is provided should have an appeal to the public at large as well as purely clansfolk.

The ideal to be aimed for is aptly illustrated by the facilities at the Brodie Centre near Nairn, which offers a variety of excellent high quality products and a good restaurant that is not expensive. This, of course, has been built up over a period of many years but is a very successful business. If a section is added to such a facility dealing with a particular clan reference, then an excellent economically viable situation is created.

Now we do have an excellent site, on the Estate where the famous Brahan Seer worked, so a Brahan Seer exposition would have general public appeal and if a restaurant was added initially, (because that main road to Ullapool has very limited refreshment facilities), then we have the basis on which to build a centre.

However, to make even this get off the ground, funding is required. When the request for assistance with funding went out internationally, there was absolutely little or no response, despite the fact that any funding could be matched by the UK Society, which is after all the smallest Society in numbers. It is disappointing in view of the fact that clans much smaller in number have been vastly more successful in fund raising.

But unless there is more favourable financial support from our overseas Societies then the

'Clan Centre' will remain a wooden building, 8 feet by 12 feet, located in a Council member's garden, where it is a store for archives.

I am happy to entertain any suggestions in the mean time and look forward to any relevant comments.

Peadair Mackenzie.

Email: [peadair.mackenzie@ntl-world.com](mailto:peadair.mackenzie@ntl-world.com)

*[Ed: A quick comment regarding smaller clans doing better at fund raising: The Clan MacKenzie Society in Canada has sent over £46,000 to date for the Castle Leod Project which incorporates a Clan room. The US Society has also been increasingly generous in recent years towards this project. The only big clan success I have ever heard of is the Macdonald Clan Centre and that was due to a gift of around \$4 million from a clansman related to the wealthy U.S. Dupont family. We also have a problem in Canada in sending charitable funds overseas. Some years ago we obtained specific permission from the then Revenue Canada to send such funds to the Clan Mackenzie Charitable Trust for the Castle Leod Project and we are obligated to submit a report each year to Canada Customs and Revenue Agency on the status of the project. Without a single very wealthy member, who is prepared to put up substantial funds, fund raising is an arduous and long term task for vast and costly projects such as clan centres. We hear that the million pound clan centre in the Munro country folded through lack of support and public funds are going to be hard to*

*get after this significant failure.*

*I have now given up my role as Treasurer of the Scottish Studies Foundation (I remain a Governor) as we have now raised the necessary two million dollars to fund a Chair in Scottish Studies at the University of Guelph, Ontario. The ultimate success was largely due to a small committee being raised among our most prominent and wealthy members. These in turn brought in their Scottish heritage contacts and substantial personal donations were forthcoming. One individual donated almost \$200,000. Perhaps a joint clan centre involving all clans and all of their members and wealthy contacts could be the answer to this perpetual problem. Meanwhile we shall continue to support the Castle Leod Project.]*

#### STAYING IN TOUCH

Here is a recent photo from former President of the Clan MacKenzie Society in the Americas. Roddy MacKenzie is with his three children, Mary Ann, Ruaridh and Guy.



## CLAN MACKENZIE GATHERING, SCOTLAND, 2005

Angus and Pam of Mackenzie Holidays have prepared two itineraries for the Clan Mackenzie Gathering in August of 2005. One tour is just before the Gathering, and the other just after. **It is not possible to price the tours until after September of 2004.** You may visit their website at [www.mackenzieholidays.com](http://www.mackenzieholidays.com) for updates as they have them: Mackenzie Holidays, PO Box 469, Honeoye Falls NY 14472. The email address is [info@mackenzieholidays.com](mailto:info@mackenzieholidays.com). Your comments are welcomed.

### MACKENZIE CLAN GATHERING 2005

#### PRE-GATHERING TOUR AUGUST 1-8, 2005

##### 'CASTLES AND GLENS'

**(Saturday, July 30, 2005, depart from all airports in North America for Glasgow)**

**Sunday, July 31, 2005:** Arrive in Glasgow with time to adjust to the time change. We will meet you at the airport and transfer you to your hotel. Later that evening we will meet for dinner. Overnight Stirling. (D)

**Monday, August 1, 2005:** We begin our tour by visiting the Wallace Monument and then Stirling Castle where we will have lunch. Then it is on to St Andrews for the afternoon.

Overnight Stirling. (B,D)

**Tuesday, August 2, 2005:** After breakfast we will travel to Rabbin Burns country in the lovely seaside village of Ayr. In the afternoon the majestic Culzean Castle will host our lunch. Overnight Stirling. (BL)

**Wednesday, August 3, 2005:** This morning we depart our Stirling hotel with our bags and travel to Jedburgh and Melrose.....In the afternoon visit the famous Falkirk Wheel. Overnight Edinburgh. (B)

**Thursday, August 4, 2005:** This morning we'll take the open-top coach tour of Edinburgh, visiting the Edinburgh Castle, Holyrood.... Optional tour in the afternoon to the Royal Yacht Britannia. Overnight Edinburgh.

**Friday, August 5, 2005:** Free-time in Edinburgh. Attend the famous Edinburgh Military Tattoo in the evening. Overnight Edinburgh. (B)

**Saturday, August 6, 2005:** Depart Edinburgh and travel north via Glen Almond to Pitlochry. This is a beautiful village with sights and shopping galore. There is also the famous salmon ladder. Overnight Pitlochry.

**Sunday, August 7, 2005:** We will leave Pitlochry after lunch and visit the Blair Atholl Castle. Overnight Strathpeffer. End of Tour.

### CLAN MACKENZIE GATHERING, STRATHPEFFER

**AUGUST 8 TO AUGUST 14, 2005**

**(SEE PAGE 20 FOR THE DRAFT PROGRAM)**

### MACKENZIE CLAN GATHERING 2005

#### POST-GATHERING TOUR AUGUST 15-21, 2005

##### 'MYSTICAL ISLANDS'

**Sunday, August 14, 9am:** Depart Strathpeffer at 9am and travel north via the east coast visiting the Caithness Glass Factory and Castle Mey before stopping for the night at the Northern Sands Hotel in Dunnet near Thurso.

**Monday, August 15:** Leave your bags at the hotel for we will be back after an early departure from Thurso to take the ferry to Kirkwall, Orkney. Spend the day visiting ancient sites including Skara Brae and the Ring of Brogar...Ferry back to Thurso. Overnight in Dunnet.

**Tuesday, August 16:** We will depart Thurso and head for Ullapool traveling along the coast past Durness and through Lochinver. After having lunch in the lovely fishing village of Ullapool and some free time for shopping and strolling, we will board the ferry for Stornoway, Isle of Lewis. Overnight, Stornoway.

**Wednesday, August 17:** Visit a 'Black House' in Lewis and the Callinish Stones, then take the incredibly scenic drive to Harris where some of the most beautiful sand beaches in Scotland are located. Visit a Harris Tweed weaver. Lunch at the Harris Hotel. Then, we will board the ferry to Uig on the Isle of Skye. Overnight Portree.

**Thursday, August 18:** With the Cuillin hills always a spectacle we take the beautiful drive to visit the Dunvegan Castle, in the afternoon we have time to wander the lovely seaside village of Portree. After lunch we depart Skye for Tobermory via ferry. Take a walk along the seaside in this colourful village. Overnight Tobermory.

**Friday, August 19:** We leave Tobermory for the Isle of Iona where you will have 6 hours to spend touring the Abbey and the island. Try a hike to the other side of the island where a beautiful shell beach awaits. If you are unable to walk, a horse and cart can be hired to take you to the Abbey. Take the late afternoon ferry to Oban. After dinner you will have some free time in Oban. Overnight Oban.

**Saturday, August 20:** After a scenic drive to Edinburgh, check-in at accommodations and spend the day touring the city. Use your hop-on hop-off pass to stay as long as you like at one or more of the many stops on the double-decker bus tour. In the evening, see the famous Edinburgh Military Tattoo. Overnight Edinburgh.

**Sunday, August 21:** Coach transport to Glasgow Airport OR optional extension to Edinburgh stay.

COMMENTS

[Ed; If we had more letters from members like Dr Kimsey, we would never have a problem filling 80 plus pages on the Clan MacKenzie each year. He has some interesting points to make and they are worth printing.]

A fantastic job on the December newsletter! This will probably always have to be repeated upon receiving each and every issue of *Cabar Feidh*.

In reading the Newsletter, I came across some interesting points upon which I desire to comment. It was of interest to me to learn of the Earl of Loudon and his connection to Seaforth (pg.5). This is because in the Registers of the Chichester Presbyterian Chapel, where Benjamin Mackenzie is listed, there is also mention of a Mackenzie in Loudon's Regiment. It is also of note that the first Kims/zey land was approximately 60 km from Loudon County, VA. Here is an excerpt from my letter to my Kimsey cousin:

"I was a bit hasty in pronouncing William's land on the Cacapon as the original point of settlement. It couldn't be, because he had land previous to that. This land, Three Springs, was close to Frederick County Line (Virginia?). William had this land in his possession from Feb. of 1761 to Aug. 1762. I wonder if Benjamin had lived there with his brother, having crossed over possibly at

Harper's Ferry, or did they come down the Cacapon? William received a land grant from Proprietor Fairfax in June of 1762. It was surveyed in 1763. Three Springs was probably sold to make the move.

"I believe the Kinsey/Kimsey brothers, Benjamin and William, both served in the French and Indian War. To what capacity I do not know. The fact that William received a land grant is the clue. William's grant was from Proprietor Fairfax.

"Other points of interest are those regarding Benjamin, William, and William's wife. Benjamin had some sort of problem with a Stewart in 1753. In 1756 he is absent from paying taxes. May 1756 is when the British declared war on the French. Was he off to war? Both Benjamin and William are on the Virginia Militia Muster Rolls for 1758. This was the year of the British expedition to Philadelphia and the retreat of the

French. Benjamin witnessed the will of John Smith in 1756 and Elizabeth the will of Resse Thomas in 1758. Were these men also fighting in the war?"

[Ed: 1756 - 1763 - *The Seven Years' War with France - the result of which was the ceding of Canada to Britain by France.*]

The piece about Rob Roy (pg. 23) kind of correlates with the issue of the McGregor name change and my Gre/agg ancestors. I have read that the McGregors altered their names to fit in and avoid the stigma.

Finally, Jim McBeth's article about the Scots fighting racism in the 1800's brought to mind the stories in my own family of pressing against the tide of bigotry, especially when doing so was not popular. I would like to share some of these instances. The first recorded occasion is that of my 3x great-grandfather, John Alexander, who along with other Kims/zey family mem-



Dr Christopher Kimsey (2nd from the right) in an honor guard. His father, Mark Kimsey, is 2nd from the left. Christopher belongs to the Lewiston American Legion.

### NEW ZEALAND DEPUTY COMMISSIONER COMING TO CANADA

bers fought to free their African American brothers from the barbaric atrocities of slavery in the South. John came home a hero to Illinois, and along with him the grief which his family carried over the loss of those other brave Kims/zeys who laid down their lives for their enslaved brothers. These dear ones will long stand as tribute to the ultimate price of Liberty for all mankind. After the Civil War, John moved West. The stories are still told in the family of how his Native American friends would come to visit and pitch their teepees in his front yard, as well as how he would hunt with a bow and arrow rather than the rifle.

Moving along to my grandfather, Lloyd Wilson, named for his uncle, Lloyd Smith, who was of Native America descent (Cherokee - has anyone read of the Trail of Tears?). When grandpa Lloyd went into the military during WWII he was loaded onto a bus with other recruits headed for Basic. At the back of the bus sat an African American, the son of a Baptist minister. My grandfather, Lloyd Kimsey, walked to the back of that bus and sat with that brother. A bit rare for the 1940's, but true to form. Kims/zeys had fought to free the slaves and now they were joining us to fight global tyranny. And so, time marches on and one bias replaces another and another form of genocide replaces another, but with God's help, against these we will prevail, "Our Father . . . Thy Kingdom Come."

Keep up the good work. I have also enjoyed the articles by Douglas Hickling and look forward to more by Rad MacKenzie,

Sincerely,  
Christopher Kimsey

Jim Thwaites and his wife Betty have advised us they will be visiting Ontario for one week later this year. Alan McKenzie has invited them to stay at his house for the first three days - July 15th to July 18th, at which point they will stay with friends in Guelph. Hopefully they will have time to see the magnificent Scottish Library Collection at the University of Guelph - a Collection of National Importance!

Jim, who is noted in New Zealand for having one of the finest Jersey herds of cattle, has been the Deputy Commissioner of the Clan MacKenzie Society of New Zealand for many years.

Quite apart from his dedication to the Clan MacKenzie Society he also can claim some fame for his role in forming a huge milk processing plant in New Zealand - the largest in the world! Jim and Betty took Alan on a tour there while he was staying with them in 2003 during a visit to New Zealand.

Anybody in the Toronto area will be welcome to visit this very friendly couple as we shall hold a reception/dinner for them. Please contact Alan McKenzie at (905) 842-2106 or alan@mkz.com if you would like to be included.

### TRACE YOUR FAMILY USING YOUR Y-CHROMOSOME

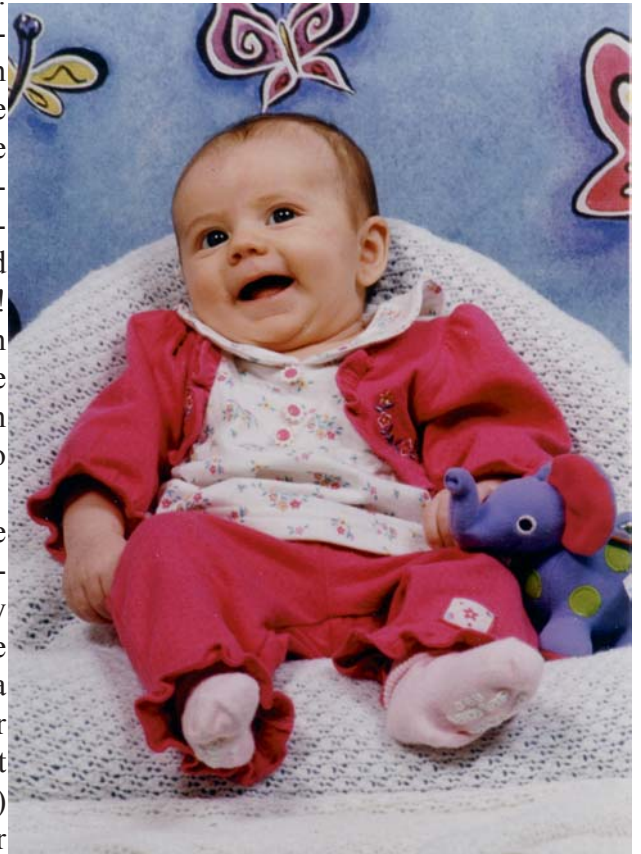
*The following article came from Scotland - thanks to Mark Courtney - our intrepid source of what's happening. It was published in The Mail on Sunday and it is of great interest to the genealogist using genetics to tie him/herself to an ancestor many generations back.*

#### THE NORSE CODE

BY NEIL MACPHAIL

Are you a MacDonald herding sheep on your lonely croft? A MacDougall commuting home from your office job? Or even a MacAlister living a quiet but humdrum life?

If so, there is every possibility that lurking in your body is the genetic fingerprint of one of Scotland's greatest warriors - a fearsome man capable of tearing the heart out of a Viking foe.



*Catherine McKenzie Jansen and her husband Martin Jansen are pleased to show this photo of their first child, Delia McKenzie Jansen. Delia is Alan and Jill McKenzie's ninth grandchild and will make sure she is included as a member of the Clan in due course!*

An Oxford University scientist has traced the Y-chromosomes, which determines maleness, of the founder of Clan Donald - the great Somerled of Argyll, who was born around 1100 and drove out all the Viking invaders.

Geneticist Bryan Sykes says this microscopic fragment of the fearsome fighter still lives on in the DNA of half a million clansmen throughout the world. Indeed, Professor Sykes says the Y-chromosome of the Gaelic warrior, who it seems had Norse blood himself, is so prevalent it could be among the most successful in the world.

Prof. Sykes and his team made the discovery almost by accident while they were researching genetic links between the Scots and the Vikings and looking for Norse chromosomes.

He and researcher Jayne Nicholson had taken thousands of DNA samples from men in the Highlands and Western Isles, and spotted a group that stood out.

They were at first puzzled, then Miss Nicholson looked at the donors' names. These revealed that among the men with the identical Y-chromosomes were, MacDonalds, MacAlisters and MacDougalls.

Prof. Sykes said: 'There didn't seem all that much in it until Jayne said quietly that these clans were all supposed to be related.

The possibility that this Y-chromosome was inherited from the common ancestor of the MacDonalds, MacDougalls and MacAlisters was incredibly exciting.'

They wrote to dozens of these clansmen throughout Scotland, enclosing a sampling brush for them to collect DNA from inside their cheeks. In the samples of

those who replied, they found a single common Y-chromosome. To be double sure this was Somerled's, Prof. Sykes embarked on a sensitive piece of research involving the living chiefs of the Clan Donald and their septs.

He said: 'I wanted to see if the clan chiefs still alive, whose recorded genealogies descend from Somerled, also shared the same chromosome. This was a delicate task. We might find one or more of the chiefs did not have it - meaning one of their paternal ancestors might have been adopted, or had not been the biological father of his heir.'



*Professor Bryan Sykes*

He approached Lord Godfrey Macdonald, Sir Ian Macdonald of Sleat, Ranald MacDonald of Clan Ranald, William McAlester of Loup and Ranald MacDonell of Glengarry, enclosing a DNA brush.

The result was conclusive: 'They all shared the same chromosome. There was now no doubt we had identified the legacy of Somerled.'

Now the only one whose lineage is in doubt is Somerled himself. Tradition says he descended from the ancient Irish kings - but Prof. Sykes says the chromosome proves his Norse ancestry.

*We found this article of great interest and we wonder when the Clan MacKenzie can undertake a similar exercise. Can we put to bed a Clan Ross claim that most Mackenzies are Rosses who changed their name?*

*The Y-chromosome can only be used to trace the male line. However the following article which we found on the internet deals with connecting people with their common female ancestors too.*

### **ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND**

Pete Hodgson, the Minister for Research, Science and Technology, can trace a direct line of maternal descent back to a woman who lived in Syria about 10,000 years ago, according to results just announced by the Royal Society of New Zealand. As part of a visit by best-selling author Professor Bryan Sykes, the University of Otago has run tests on several eminent New Zealanders' mitochondrial DNA.

The tests use the nucleotide sequence of mitochondrial DNA, which is inherited solely through the female line, to create an evolutionary framework going back 150,000 years. Described in Professor Sykes' book, "The Seven Daughters of Eve", the framework reveals that almost everyone whose maternal routes lie in Europe is descended from one of seven clan mothers. Eve was the original mother of all modern humans who lived in Africa about 150,000 years ago. Jasmine, from whom the Minister is descended, is the most recent of the seven, and lived near Syria around the end of the last ice age.

Other results announced show that Kiwis' proportions of clan



mothers seem similar to those in Europe, with almost half of those tested coming from Helena, the most common “daughter of Eve”. Helena’s descendants include new Royal Society Fellows Professor Alison Mercer, Professor Robin Smith, Dr Allan Crawford, and Professor Rosalind Gibson, as well as Royal Society CEO Dr Steve Thompson. *[Ed: all Scottish surnames!]* Forty-seven percent of modern Europeans belong to the clan of Helena, who lived around 20,000 years ago.

Professor Sykes:

“Everyone that lives either in Europe, or America, or Asia, or Polynesia, or Australia, are all related to one another and have a common ancestor, certainly as far as M-DNA is concerned, living roughly something like maybe a hundred thousand years ago at the very most. And this is very, very recent in evolutionary times”.

Professor Diana Hill, chief executive of Global Technologies NZ and chair of the Marsden Fund Council, is a descendent of Xenia, who lived about 25,000 years ago. Today, about one percent of Europeans and six percent of native Americans are descended from Xenia.

Professor Sykes’ genealogy testing company has a new “Viking” test, which was done for Emeritus Professor George Petersen, New Zealand’s “father of DNA”. This test analysed the Y-chromosome, passed down the paternal line, to discover where his male ancestors had originated from. Professor Petersen’s Y-chromosome showed a very rare result - it seems his paternal ancestors came from North Africa about 5,000 years ago and worked their way up into Norway. They were then part of the Viking incursions into Britain.

At his lectures around New Zealand Professor Sykes will look at how the study of mitochondrial DNA has demolished any scientific basis for racism, revised our knowledge of the colonisation of the Pacific, and changed how we viewed Homo sapiens’ settlement of Europe, a continent once dominated by the Neanderthals.

Professor Sykes has come to New Zealand as The University of Auckland Sir Douglas Robb lecturer

for 2003. The Royal Society, in partnership with the British High Commission and British Council New Zealand, is hosting additional lectures in Dunedin (with UNESCO), Christchurch, Nelson, Wellington and Palmerston North as part of the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the discovery of the structure of DNA.

*[Ed: These lectures took place in November 2003. You can see and hear Prof. Sykes video conference at:*

*[http://www.digitalconversations.org.nz/genes/mov/bs\\_clip6\\_e.php](http://www.digitalconversations.org.nz/genes/mov/bs_clip6_e.php)*

*A last word from Professor Sykes:*

**“There are sixty million men in Asia that are direct descendants of Genghis Khan”.**

*[Ed: If any member knows how we can contact Professor Sykes per-*

*haps we could ask him to attend the 2005 Clan Gathering. Now that would be a real coup!]*

## CLAN MUNRO SHOP & RESTAURANT CLOSES

BY ALAN MCKENZIE

Among the interesting newspaper articles sent to us by Mark Courtney from Scotland was a sad one from the Ross-shire Journal of August 22, 2003. It reported that the Storehouse of Foulis shop and restaurant was to close for good the following week. Visitors to the Clan Mackenzie Gathering in Strathpeffer in 2000 may, like me, have found time to make a quick visit to this place. It was then known as Clanland and Sealpoint. Clanland was, I suppose, a term intended to entice all clan members of any clan to visit. Some of us were aware that this property was largely a Clan Munro exhibit and a very expensive one at that. The simple case was that it did not attract enough visitors despite the fact it was located on the busy A9 road. Clan Chief Hector Munro, who drank that famous toast with our Clan Chief at the 2000 Gathering pledging eternal peace - or something like that, had something to say about the closing of this centre. He said that although 10,000 cars passed the centre every day at the height of the

season it was too close to tourist dormitory centres such as Strathpeffer and Inverness for drivers to think of stopping for refreshment and was on a very fast stretch of road that made calling in difficult. He added, "this is a beautiful site, but it isn't a retail site. You would either have to be an extremely well-known franchise such as Pizza-Hut where people know what they were going to get, or a business that makes most of its revenue off-site." A pretty sad state of affairs for a venture that was supposed to have cost around \$1 million including a big slice of public funds (RACE and the Lottery Fund).

Mr Munro also sent a stark warning to others considering such ventures. "Unless you hit the ground running you are doomed," he said, "We went back to the Clan Munro who put in cash at the outset for another £130,000 to relaunch Clanland as Storehouse of Foulis, but you cannot keep going back to a small, voluntary society for more money. It is a very long haul. I have spoken to people all over the world and they all say the same thing about projects in rural areas."

However, all is not lost. It is stated that the exhibition will remain in place and open to

the public. It is only the shop and restaurant space that is closing. A spokesman for RACE said: "We are disappointed to hear that the shop and restaurant at Storehouse of Foulis are to close, and we would like to offer or advice and assistance to any workers affected by this. The Listed Storehouse building with its clan and history exhibition has been carefully restored and remains a tremendous asset to the area, and we understand that this will reopen again to the public."

RACE provided £150,000 towards setting up costs of the venture.

When I visited this place in August 2000 I found it reasonably attractive but not overwhelming. The restaurant was pleasant and so was the shop. The clan centre portion was well done but it had no people to advise or explain. It was one of those exhibits where you read and progress and finish up watching a film - which I enjoyed because it mentioned the rivalry of the Munros and Mackenzies! I thought at the time that the cost of this project was excessive for what it was. However I am sad that it has come to this. I have one final comment to make: why on earth did they change the name of Clanland

and Sealpoint to The Storehouse of Foulis. It sounds like some sort of warehouse and the name is singularly unattractive to prospective tourists. But don't kick a guy when he's down, eh?

#### **FLOWERDALE GETS A FACELIFT**

*Ross and Cromarty Enterprise news release issued: Monday, February 16 2004*

An enhanced experience is in store for visitors to Gairloch and Wester Ross with a facelift for Flowerdale. The project, which is underway and is due to be completed in the spring, is supported by Ross and Cromarty Enterprise (RACE), the European funded Community Economic Development (CED) programme, Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and the Forestry Commission Scotland.

Gairloch Estate has been owned by the Mackenzie family for hundreds of years, and is the Mackenzie clan 'homeland'. The Estate has its historical centre at Flowerdale, which includes an 18th century manor house, some archaeological remains, excellent mixed woodlands and a system of burns, ponds and waterfalls.

Until about 50 years ago, these were managed by and for the estate but for the last 20 or 30 years, the levels of management going into the core Flowerdale estate lands has declined due to economic pressure, at the same time as public access has been increasingly encouraged.

RACE has assisted the project with funding of £8,607, with a further £7,950 from the CED programme. CED is a partnership initiative that aims to target funds for sustainable development activities undertaken by communities most in need of support and is managed and distributed in Wester Ross by the Wester Ross Alliance.

SNH provided £4,588 as part of its commitment to improving public access to important local natural heritage sites. Forestry Commission Scotland contributed a £12,500 woodland improvement grant.

The construction of new paths and improvements to some of the existing paths has already begun. Dense growths of

rhododendron and bracken are being cleared to improve lines of sight and bring in more light and derelict wire fences have been replaced with post & rail.

The project will also see the development of view points with benches to allow visitors to overlook Loch Gairloch, Charleston Harbour and to see across Flowerdale. Signs giving historical, environmental and view information will be erected, along with way-markers and the ornamental ponds will be restored to their former glory.

The project will enable Flowerdale to offer visitors a number of options from short, flat, low-level walks suitable for all abilities, to relatively steep climbs up to the waterfalls and beyond. They will take visitors through one hundred year old plantations of exotic sample trees and past sites of interest such as the ice house and the ancient Island of Justice - the place where the Laird sat in judgement between the 12th-16th century.

There may be some disturbance at Flowerdale during the coming months while the work is happening, and at times access may be restricted or parts of the footpath closed. Roger McDonald, the estate manager said: "We hope visitors will

understand that this is necessary so we can provide them with better access and facilities and take full advantage of what this area has to offer."

Lloyd Gudgeon from the Wester Ross Alliance, said: "Flowerdale is a very popular attraction and we hope that these improvements will encourage even more people to visit the area. This project will help increase the number and variety of activities on offer to people living in or visiting Wester Ross."

Nicola Ewing, a development manager at RACE added: "The project fits nicely with one of the CED programme's main priorities which is to promote green or cultural tourism and to support activities which sustain the local culture and heritage. This is an excellent example of how the CED funds can be targeted for the benefit of locals and visitors alike."

*[Ed: It would have been better to call Flowerdale "the homeland of the Mackenzies of Gairloch"!]*



Flowerdale - home of the Mackenzies of Gairloch. Photo by Mark Courtney

### Advertisement

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*"Margaret Struth, who made HRH Prince Charles' kilt recently, made my kilt for the Mackenzie Gathering in Scotland in 1995. It is still as good as new despite constant wear. Alan McKenzie"*

A Punch Cartoon

Another view of how the English viewed the Scots about one hundred years ago!



AT BILKINS'S ROYAL HOTEL  
(LIMITED), LONDON.  
Mac (hungry). "Lo-or-sh keep's!  
Ca' this a br'akfast!!"



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UNLIMITED!

THE PRINCIPAL REASON WHY MAC STAYED SUCH A SHORT TIME IN LONDON.

## Clan Mackenzie Society of Scotland and the UK



## International Gathering 2005 Strathpeffer, Scotland

Monday 8th August 2005 to Sunday 14th August 2005

### Programme Outline

- Monday 8th Daytime - Arrival, Registration and Meet Up, at the Community Centre Strathpeffer  
Evening - Torchlight Procession and Spit Roast Venison Barbeque
- Tuesday 9th Official Opening - Society Reports - Lectures - Gaelic and Scottish Dance classes
- Wednesday 10th Daytime - During 3 days there will be a choice of half or full day guided coach tour to Mackenzie country  
Thursday 11th Evenings - A Dinner or Ball or Concert in the Castle or tour at Distillery will take place. The actual evening  
and Friday 12th of each one to be decided.
- Saturday 13th Afternoon - Strathpeffer Highland Games. The Gathering will have its own large marquee there.  
Evening - Ceilidh
- Sunday 14th Interdenominational Sunday Service, followed by Sunday lunch and Closing Ceremony
- Throughout the week The Community Centre and School facilities will house the HQ. Registration will be based there with separate rooms for demonstrations, lectures, sales areas etc. A kitchen allows us to provide light refreshments. There will be a tree planting ceremony in the Gathering Grove at Castle Leod on a day to be decided

### Admission Ticket

**Day Ticket** £15 Sterling per day **Whole Week Ticket** £60.00 Sterling if booked before June 1st 2005 **Child Concessions**  
**Ticket Includes** Torchlight Barbeque, Coach Trips, Talks, Lectures, Classes, Distillery Visit, Games Entrance, Ceilidh

### Other Tickets

**Additional Individual Price** - Dinner, Ball, Concert, Sunday Lunch, Boat Trip, Rough Shooting, Fishing, Genealogist Session  
**Advanced Booking opens 1st May 2004.** Forms will be in 2004 Magazine, on Website, and Mailed to those on database

Due to crashed computer all e-mails sent to register on database for information between May and November 2003 have been lost. Could those who have sent emails in this period **please send again.** Sincere apologies for any inconvenience

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