



Clan MacKenzie Society in the Americas



Cabar Feidh

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Norman and Alan show our new Clan MacKenzie flag which will be used in Clan parades in Ontario. Copies have been made for other regions of the country. (Photo: Mrs Flora James)

GEORGETOWN HIGHLAND GAMES

JUNE 14, 2007

The well-attended 32nd Georgetown Highland Games took place June 9th in perfect weather and in lovely surroundings. The organizers had worried that the fierce winds earlier in the week might have continued into the weekend. There had been great damage in the area. However, a single jagged tree stump near our location was the only evidence of these

severe storms. They did not appear to have affected attendance. Alan McKenzie, normally in charge of the Clan tent, had a commitment as lead actor in a stage play on the 9th. This meant that I had my first opportunity to play the lead part as impresario of the Clan tent. I had often helped Alan.

It was an enjoyable experience, especially due to the quality of my support group consisting of GTA residents Alex, Shawn and son Rory, and Georgetown resident Sandy; all Mackenzies but with spellings testifying to our ancestors' independent opinions on orthography. We met with the expected interesting visitors, much interest in all things Scottish, great pipe

Cabar Feidh Newsletter:

Members who wish to write to the Society with contributions to the Newsletter please send submissions to The Editor, Clan MacKenzie Society, 580 Rebecca St., Oakville, ON L6K 3N9. or e-mail to alan@mkz.com
Clan Web Pages: www.clanmackenzie.com & www.electricscotland.com/mackenzie

and drum music - more than thirty pipe bands - and fine athletic events. There was one group which was new to me, the women's heavyweights.

And why not, I say.

A day like this is a joy, a wonderful break from the routine. If you, dear reader, haven't tried a spell of hosting at the Clan tent, I recommend it.

COBOURG HIGHLAND GAMES JUNE 23, 2007

Alan McKenzie was back from his thespian activities and he and President Norman S. MacKenzie put the clan tent up at Cobourg for the first time for many years. Norman tells us that he won best drum major competitions at Cobourg for six years many years ago and he spoke of a photo where his five year old daughter also won in her class in the Highland dancing - not surprising as she went on to become world champion. What a family! Alan will have to stick at acting and directing in community theatre if he is to win any awards!

The day was very sunny and no clouds were to be seen. So Alan, being smart, snatched a spot under the trees to avoid the heat of the sun and congratulated himself as to his quick presence of mind in acquiring such an advantageous spot. However, a pretty lively breeze kept up all day from Lake Ontario and despite the bright sunshine the temperature remained cool. Indeed Norman was heard to comment on more than one occasion that it was extremely cold in the spot under the trees, so Alan won no awards for his skills in that regard.

Other than that the day was rather quiet but we had some good activity with a few customers buying clothing and in fact we picked up our first new member this season at a Highland Games. Most new memberships appear in the mail - usually from the website or from members giving gifts to family of other memberships.

The site of the Games is a park which is vast in size and several activities were scattered across this space. It was quite a long walk to get from the dancing to the band competitions, while the knights in armour fighting each other was another popular spot situated just behind the Clan avenue. We counted ten clans present and these took part in a march onto the field for the opening ceremonies. Indeed these took so long that Norman nearly had to send a search party to look for Alan who was stuck on the field with the other clans

and the massed pipes and drums.

All in all a very nice day (except for the cold!)

EMBRO HIGHLAND GAMES, ONTARIO

JULY 1, 2007

Ken and Kim were in attendance at the clan tent with me (Alan) for another warm and sunny day at Embro. There were good crowds on this fine Canada Day and we were kept busy at the tent and had good sales in excess of \$400.

Ken was his usual chatty self and is just an outstanding ambassador for the clan at the Highland Games meetings. Kim, meanwhile, showed some small skill at persuading visitors to the tent to purchase an item or two.

We enjoyed the usual tug of war competitions, the highlight of the Embro Games and for the first time we actually had a parade of the clans - there were eight present at these Games.



Embro: above left, Kim McKenzie, above right Ken Mackenzie giving information, below: re-enactment of the Jacobite times - 1740s



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We were excited to read the piece about Norman Mackenzie and the Canadian Massed Pipes & Drums and the upcoming Tour of Scotland. Because Bill and I are going to be part of that group in Scotland next month. Bill is so thrilled to be planning to play in the pre-show at the Tattoo. The icing on the cake to his piping career (close to 50 years he's been playing!)

Thanks for all the work you do with the Mackenzie Society, Alan.

Sincerely,

Helen McMeekin

Helen and Bill McMeekin are members in Durham, Ontario.

Hello Alan,

We got back from our trip to England, France and Scotland a few weeks ago and I thought I'd share a few pics with you (don't worry - not too many!). The highlight of my trip was to arrange a meeting with Pia Randolph-Goddard, my distant cousin, as it turns out. Pia, as I think you know, is DIRECTLY descended from Sir Alexander Mackenzie and his Indian wife, Kitty, whereas my descendency comes through his sister, Margaret who married into the Dowie family. It was great fun to get together and meet Pia and her family and we spent a lot of time poring over papers and albums. I've attached a picture of the two of us.

My husband and I spent a delightful day in Avoch, on the Black Isle, where we located Sir Alex's grave, and that of his wife and two sons. We met so many wonderful people there, who were very interested in my lineage and gave me some very useful names



Top: Judy Parry; Below: Judy Parry with Pia Randolph-Goddard.

and phone numbers which I shall follow up. I've attached some pictures of the gravesite, which I'm sure you've seen many times, as well as the church where it is located.

We also drove through Strathpfeffer and had a look at Castle Leod. We didn't want to intrude by knocking on the door, so just took a few pictures. It was bluebell time in Scotland and Castle Leod boasted several million of them!

I do hope you and your family are doing well after suffering your great loss. I look forward to seeing you later in the year.

All the best,
Judy Parry

Ed: What fun to find a distant cousin through a joint relationship to the family of Sir Alexander Mackenzie. Judy in Saskatchewan and Pia in London, England are both members of our Clan Society in Canada.

I have prepared a report on the day of Clan Challenge. [The information on this was advertised in the previous issue of Cabar Feidh]. The Challenge was from the Clan Macmillan to the Clan Mackenzie and Clan Fraser to raise the most money for the Macmillan Cancer Relief Fund which was set up in 1920s by a bard of the Clan Macmillan to raise funds to support patients and their families during this difficult time. This was before the National Health Service was set up in 1948 but continued afterwards as this service is not covered by the NHS.) Three crews paddled from Drumnadochit to Inverness on 20th July

Could you let your members know that there is a PDF document available on the Scotland and UK website (www.clan-mackenzie.org.uk) with report and photographs

Thank you very much

Kind regards

Philippa MacKenzie

Editor, Clan Mackenzie Society of Scotland & The UK

email : philippa.mackenzie@tesco.net

webpage : www.clan-mackenzie.org.uk

KINCARDINE SCOTTISH FESTIVAL, ONTARIO

JULY 7, 2007

BY ALAN MCKENZIE

I do not know if the date 07-07-07 has any special luck attached to it. Nevertheless it was an extraordinary day as far as sales were concerned with takings at the tent (including tartan shirts) reaching \$900. This ranks as one of the most successful days ever. I do recall taking over \$1000 at Fergus many years ago, but that is one of the biggest Games in North America.

James Kemler, the drum major member from Michigan was with us most of the day and his own purchases were a record sale to a single member. We enjoyed his company and that of his friend Barb who was with him. His son, standing at six feet eight inches was playing for the Flint, Michigan Pipe Band, and he looked very smart in his Mackenzie tartan, as did all the Flint band members.

The clan tents were back inside the main grounds again this year for which we were thankful. However, we were not allowed to bring our van into the ground and this caused much aggravation as our van had to unload at the gate and all of the many items carried several yards to our location. If we had known this in advance we could have brought a trolley. The excellent sales during the day restored our frayed tempers somewhat.

The day was warm and sunny and the new location for the clans, close to the vendors and with a number of large trees close by made this a most delightful spot creating a warm and friendly ambience with large crowds making their way amongst our tents. We were also very close to where the band competitions were taking place. We could not see the bands easily because of the crowds seated on the bleachers in our way but we could hear them well enough. My one recollection of the day towards the end was the final grade one pipe band playing - the 78th Fraser Highlanders Pipe Band from Toronto. They were nothing short of brilliant and it was no surprise when they won the grade one prize. After all they did once win the world championships in Scotland and it was good to hear them playing to their same high international standard. Mr. Bill Livingstone I presume! [We since hear that they came third in the World Pipe Band Championships with Simon Fraser University Pipe Band being placed second again. And in that respect I must boast that two of my New Zealand McKenzie cousins were in the Manawatu Pipe Band who finished in 9th place. [By the way you can

see and hear them and many others by going to www.youtube.com]

NEW MEMBERS

The following new members have joined since the last newsletter:

Richard Beers,
22 Algonquin Cres.,
Aurora, ON L4G 3E5

Sarah Church,
1185 O'Neill Road,
Oxford Mills, ON K0G 1S0

Duncan James,
98 Lee Cresc.,
Barrie, ON L4N 9Z1

David G. MacKenzie,
384 Glendon Road,
Stratford, ON N5A 6Y7

Duncan MacKenzie,
#58, 6488, 168 St.,
Surrey, BC V3S 8Z1

John Duncan MacKenzie,
1554 Venetia Drive,
Oakville, ON L6L 1K7

Michael McKenzie,
14 Hamlet Court,
Brampton, ON L6S 1X5

ORILLIA, ONTARIO JULY 21, 2007

Commissioner Rad, Norman and Alan ran the tent at this pleasant spot on Lake Couchiching. Another fine and sunny summer day. There were large crowds at this popular event and we were in competition with the Highland Games events on the same day at Cambridge and also the Highlands of Durham Games.

The outstanding aspect at Orillia is the huge parade with dozens of bands taking part - mostly Legion bands - and this long parade goes through the streets of Orillia and many thousands of people turn out to watch this splendid show. The parade finishes as the bands march into the park and our tent is the first that they march past.

This year our President Norman S. MacKenzie took part in the parade leading a group of Legion bands as their drum major (see



Orillia: Drum Major Norman MacKenzie leads in a Legion band and is just about to pass our MacKenzie Clan tent.



Commissioner Rad MacKenzie at Orillia.

picture).

Sales were quite good and we enjoyed a very pleasant day.

GLENGARRY HIGHLAND GAMES, MAXVILLE, ONTARIO

AUGUST 4, 2007

Maxville is the greatest distance we travel for Highland Games in Ontario. For me, Alan, the trip takes all of five hours to Cornwall,

which is the nearest place to find a hotel.

Maxville ranks as one of the largest Games in North America with over 50 pipe bands taking part in the competitions. Only Fergus ranks equivalent in size in Canada and so it is necessary for us to be here. However, the region is populated by the descendants of the MacDonells of Glengarry who emigrated to this region en masse and this is one of the few Games we go to where we see Clan Donald represented - to me quite amazing as it is the largest of the clans.

Once again the clans were placed in the two barns and this years there were 30 clans

*Join us at The Gathering,
Holyrood Park, Edinburgh, July 25/26 2009.*

The Gathering will take the form of a classic Highland Games and will host the 2009 World Heavy Event Championship. There will be a special clan ceremony held on the magnificent Castle Esplanade, home of the Edinburgh Military Tattoo. This unique occasion will commemorate the contribution made by the clans to the culture and history of Scotland

The Gathering is being hosted by the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs, and it is hoped that all clan associations will attend.

Please spread the word to all your clan members and Register now at our website.

*We look forward to hearing from you,
Lord Sempill
Director of the Gathering*

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Watch out for more information about this event. We plan to be there so mark your diaries if you wish to join us



Some of the Mexicans at Maxville in their Mackenzie tartans



Commissioners Gary and Ken at Maxville

in attendance - the largest number we have seen here to date.

It was an opportunity for us to show off our new clan flag in the parade of the clans. I was impressed by the length of the parade and was pleased that the clans are making such

an impression here at long last. Perhaps we may one day even escape from the barns - which we all hate.

The clan tent was run by commissioners Ken, Gary and Alan. Gary's wife was also present to help out when needed. Among the visitors to our

tent was the Hon. Flora Macdonald, who at age 81 told us she had just returned from her eighth visit to Afghanistan! What a splendid and gracious lady she is. She always stops by to see us - even though she is a Macdonald!

Sales were only moderate but at least we did pick up a new member.

**FERGUS SCOTTISH FESTIVAL
& HIGHLAND GAMES,
FERGUS, ONTARIO
AUGUST 13, 2007**

So, once again we go to our favourite games in Canada. Fergus is the best and once more we had a truly splendid day, aided by fine weather. Sometimes we sit around at Highland Games just waiting and hoping for someone to come into the tent and proclaim they are a Mackenzie, or descended from one/ At Fergus we were swarmed with Mackenzies all through the busy, busy day. On hand we had Commissioners Ken, Alistair and Alan and the valuable help of Shawn MacKenzie.

At the parade of the clans, which was long and impressive, requiring four pipe bands, three of us took part behind a huge crowd of Mackays. We felt it was not appropriate for them to



Fergus - Ken and Alan with Neil Fraser, Chairman Clan Fraser Society of Canada

include so many clansmen and women in ordinary summer clothing. We believe that a parade requires proper clan dress. The MacKenzies showed off their new clan flag again and Alistair kindly volunteered to be our flag-bearer. After standing during the opening ceremonies in the hot sun we picked up a bit of a tan, and were rather glad when we were able to march off back to the shade of our clan tent.

The busy day produced

sales not far short of \$800 and the recruitment of three new members.

One very interesting visitor to our tent was Lord Jamie Sempill, a Scottish baron, who is the main organizer of an Edinburgh Gathering in July 2009. I had already heard of this gathering when Lord Sempill met Norman Mackenzie in Scotland recently and we intend to have a Canadian Clan MacKenzie presence at this event. Please see the card which he left us on page 6.

Incidentally we had a long talk with Jamie Sempill and we referred to the Mackenzie association with his name back in the Jacobite days. One branch of the Sempill family were Hanoverian supporters

while another cousin in the same family supported the Jacobite cause and fled to France. This latter Sempill was married into the Seaforth branch of the Mackenzie family and King James VIII of Scotland in France gave him the Jacobite title of Lord Sempill at the same time as the Earl of Seaforth was raised to the dignity of the Marquis of Seaforth. Neither title was worth much as the Jacobites never came to power, but it was a good story. The present Lord Sempill descends from the original Lord Sempill who was the Hanoverian supporter. Lord Jamie Sempill happens to be on the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs and he told me that his father and our present Chief's father, the late Earl of Cromartie were both prisoners of war together in Germany and were good friends.

**CHATHAM HIGHLAND GAMES
JULY 14, 2007**

Alan McKenzie was on his own for these Games and was lucky enough to have Jim Kemler present from Michigan to help out. Once again Jim was even more helpful by opening his wallet again just one week after Kincardine and helping our sales to a very handsome figure. Chatham is



Chatham: Jim Kemler (member) and Alastair McIntyre (of electricscotland.com)

also the home town of our important friend Alastair McIntyre. He runs the largest Scottish website in the world and it is also the home of our Canadian Clan website: www.electricscotland.com/mackenzie. I have nothing but the highest admiration for Alastair and his huge electricscotland website. If you want to know anything at all about Scotland this has to be the one place to go. In particular the history section is just vast.

Chatham Games are always enjoyable - nice location, lovely weather and lots of Highland dancers to watch from the clans area.

MONTREAL HIGHLAND GAMES AUGUST 14, 2007

**FROM COMMISSIONER JIMMY
McKENZIE**

Photos: 1} My wife Joyce and I setting up early in the morning. 2} Grandson Cole presenting the MacKenzie Trophy to the Grade 3 Pipeband winners: Edmonton & District Pipes & Drums.

Of interest: Cole just finished acting in a movie Science Fiction, his first attempt, now doing some commercials he is really liked by the production staff. And they say he should do well and hope he sticks with it, but hockey & soccer are his first loves and he going to start boxing soon, quite a



Montreal - Jimmy and Joyce McKenzie



Grandson Cole presenting the Mackenzie grade three trophy

little guy. My wife Joyce and I just celebrated our 45th wedding anniversary. Great Party, and good time with family and friends.

Back to the Games: Smaller crowd this year - but a lot of activity in the tent. Gave out a lot of pamphlets, good

response hope that translates into new members, lot of French with MacKenzie background. Some interesting people dropped by: A Rob Thompson from the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada, is interested in affiliating with Clan MacKenzie Canada,

Clan MacKenzie Society



Montreal Commissioner Jimmy McKenzie with his wife Joyce (centre)

since they now are the only Seaforth Regiment in the world. I referred him to you, you are the one with the knowledge about that process, his enthusiasm was great. His e-mail robertsthompson@hotmail.com please try and answer his queries on the affiliation question. Sounded like a good guy. Some MacRaes insisted they belonged to the MacKenzie Clan they are interested in joining e-mail apoirier@globetrotter.net maybe you can drop them a line also.

A pipe band from Mexico City was at the games, and a lot of them passed by the tent. It was great talking with them, they wore the "MacKenzie Tartan" Seaforth cut and one of their pipers called Erick Brahan told me that the reason

for adopting our Tartan was because of the green background and the red & white stripes all colors of the Mexican Flag. I really enjoyed talking with them and I asked if I could join them for the closing ceremonies, they said yes and I had a great time with them. e-mail erick_piper@yahoo.com Erick Brahan Hope to see you at the Golf Club Dinner. Jimmy McKenzie

ALMONTE HIGHLAND GAMES ONTARIO AUGUST 25, 2007

With the very kind offer of Joyce Mackenzie Hirasawa and her husband Jack and their family to join them at a cottage near Almonte, I was able to attend the Almonte Games with the

assistance of Joyce.

I will remember that weekend with fond memories by Lake Mississippi, with the sounds of the loons in the evening and much laughter playing pictionary with Joyce and her two sons.

What a pity that the Almonte Games were such a disappointment. Thirteen clans turned out and the "Clan Village" for want of a better name was mostly deserted most of the day and we saw only a small handful of Mackenzies, took no new members and sales totalled \$20. Hardly worth the 440 kilometres driving there. I suspect we shall not bother again. Thank goodness we had such a convivial stay by the lake - it made it all worthwhile.

I should, however mention that a lady at the Clan Gunn tent, a Francophone, astonished me by her knowledge of genealogy of the Mackenzie clan. She went out of her way to provide us with copies of files she had. One of these is reproduced in this magazine - "The Sinking of the Paddle Steamer Montreal" which Mackenzies should find most interesting.

THE SINKING OF THE PADDLE STEAMER "MONTREAL"

By LOUISE B. GUNN

On June 26, a memorial celebration was held at the Cap Rouge Marina to commemorate the 160th anniversary of the sinking of the paddle steamer "Montreal". La Societe historique de Cap Rouge and the 78th Fraser Highlanders hosted the event that included the lowering of the Scottish flag, musical presentation by the 78th Fraser Highlanders and an interesting description of the event by local historian, Denis Robitaille.

On June 26, 1857, there were about 400 people aboard the Montreal, most of them Scottish immigrants who had arrived at Quebec the day before aboard the "John McKenzie". Little did they know that, after leaving Glasgow 40 days earlier, they would now face such a tragedy.

Soon after their departure from the wharf at Quebec, fire broke out aboard. Ignoring pleas from the crew to beach the vessel, the captain continued on his route not realizing that the fire would spread.

However, it did and an enormous explosion followed. Many of the estimated 253 victims were burned to death while others drowned trying to reach the shore. Most of the remains were buried at Mount

Hermon Cemetery.

As in any tragedy, acts of heroism were remarkable. Margaret Bloomfield was on her way to Toronto to join her husband, a mechanic employed by the Grand Trunk RR. She jumped into the river with her young family and managed to save two of her children: nine-year old Jessie and her 12-month-old William by holding his clothing by her teeth while swimming. Unfortunately, they could not help Catherine and Margaret, twelve and four years old respectively, who drowned.

A young man from Lanarkshire, 14 year-old William Douglas, was the only survivor of a family of 10 while 12-year old Catherine McKenzie lost her mother and her five brothers and two sisters; they were en-route to join their father William who had set up a farm west of London, Ontario. And there are dozens of other similar stories to tell.

Non-immigrant travellers had also chosen to be on that vessel that day and several of them as well as crew members lost their lives. Among them were Sarah Bonner, wife of John McCrae of Quebec City, Simon Fitzimmons also of Quebec and M. McLaren, Quebec's prison director.

The loss of the "Montreal"

is the second biggest marine tragedy in Canadian waters, surpassed only by the "Empress of Ireland" that sank near Pointe-aux-Peres in 1914.

NEW YORK TIMES - MARCH 5, 2007

ENGLISH, IRISH, SCOTS: THEY'RE ALL ONE, GENES SUGGEST

BY NICHOLAS WADE

Britain and Ireland are so thoroughly divided in their histories that there is no single word to refer to the inhabitants of both islands. Historians teach that they are mostly descended from different peoples: the Irish from the Celts, and the English from the Anglo-Saxons who invaded from northern Europe and drove the Celts to the country's western and northern fringes.

But geneticists who have tested DNA throughout the British Isles are edging toward a different conclusion. Many are struck by the overall genetic similarities, leading some to claim that both Britain and Ireland have been inhabited for thousands of years by a single people that have remained in the majority, with only minor additions from later invaders like Celts, Romans, Angles, Saxons,

Vikings and Normans.

The implication that the Irish, English, Scottish and Welsh have a great deal in common with each other, at least from the geneticist's point of view, seems likely to please no one.

The genetic evidence is still under development, however, and because only very rough dates can be derived from it, it is hard to weave evidence from DNA, archaeology, history and linguistics into a coherent picture of British and Irish origins.

That has not stopped the attempt. Stephen Oppenheimer, a medical geneticist at the University of Oxford, says the historians' account is wrong in almost every detail. In Dr. Oppenheimer's reconstruction of events, the principal ancestors of today's British and Irish populations arrived from Spain about 16,000 years ago, speaking a language related to Basque.

The British Isles were unpopulated then, wiped clean of people by glaciers that had smothered northern Europe for about 4,000 years and forced the former inhabitants into southern refuges in Spain and Italy. When the climate warmed and the glaciers retreated, people moved back north.

The new arrivals in the British Isles would have found an empty territory, which they could have reached just by walking along the Atlantic coastline, since there were still land bridges then across what are now English Channel and the Irish Sea.

This new population, who lived by hunting and gathering, survived a sharp cold spell called the Younger Dryas that lasted from 12,300 to 11,000 years ago. Much later, some 6,000 years ago, agriculture finally reached the British Isles from its birthplace in the Near East.

Agriculture may have been introduced by people speaking Celtic, in Dr. Oppenheimer's view. Although the Celtic immigrants may have been few in number, they spread their farming techniques and their language throughout Ireland and the western coast of Britain. Later immigrants arrived from northern Europe had more influence on the eastern and southern coasts. They too spread their language, a branch of German, but these invaders' numbers were also small compared with the local population.

In all, about three-quarters of the ancestors of today's British and Irish populations arrived between 15,000 and 7,500 years ago, when rising

sea levels finally divided Britain and Ireland from the Continent and from one another, Dr. Oppenheimer calculates in a new book, "The Origins of the British: A Genetic Detective Story" (Carroll & Graf, 2006).

As for subsequent invaders, Ireland received the fewest; the invaders' DNA makes up about 12 percent of the Irish gene pool, Dr. Oppenheimer estimates, but it accounts for 20 percent of the gene pool in Wales, 30 percent in Scotland, and about one-third in eastern and southern England.

Still, no single group of invaders is responsible for more than 5 percent of the current gene pool, Dr. Oppenheimer says on the basis of genetic data.

He cites figures from the archaeologist Heinrich Haerke that the Anglo-Saxon invasions that began in the fourth century A.D. added about 250,000 people to a British population of one to two million, an estimate Dr. Oppenheimer notes is larger than his but considerably less than the substantial replacement of the English population assumed by others. The Norman invasion of 1066 A.D. brought not many more than 10,000 people, according to Dr. Haerke.

Other geneticists say Dr.

Oppenheimer's reconstruction is plausible, though some disagree with details. Several said that genetic methods did not give precise enough dates to be confident of certain aspects, like when the first settlers arrived.

"Once you have an established population, it is quite difficult to change it very radically," said Daniel G. Bradley, a geneticist at Trinity College, Dublin. But he said he was "quite agnostic" as to whether the original population became established in Britain and Ireland immediately after the glaciers retreated 16,000 years ago, as Dr. Oppenheimer argues, or more recently, in the Neolithic Age, which began 10,000 years ago.

Bryan Sykes, another Oxford geneticist, said he agreed with Dr. Oppenheimer that the ancestors of "by far the majority of people" were present in the British Isles before the Roman conquest of A.D. 43. "The Saxons, Vikings and Normans had a minor effect, and much less than some of the medieval historical texts would indicate," he said.

His conclusions, based on his own genetic survey and information in his genealogical testing service, Oxford Ancestors, are reported in his new book, "Saxons, Vikings and Celts: The Genetic Roots of Britain and Ireland."

A different view of the Anglo-Saxon invasions has been developed by Mark Thomas of University College, London. Dr. Thomas and colleagues say the invaders wiped out substantial numbers of the indigenous population, replacing 50 percent to 100 percent of those in central England.

Their argument is that the Y chromosomes of English men seem identical to those of people in Norway and the Friesland area of the Netherlands, two regions from which the invaders may have originated.

Dr. Oppenheimer disputes this, saying the similarity between the English and northern

European Y chromosomes arises because both regions were repopulated by people from the Iberian refuges after the glaciers retreated.

Dr. Sykes said he agreed with Dr. Oppenheimer on this point, but another geneticist, Christopher Tyler-Smith of the Sanger Centre near Cambridge, said the jury was still out. "There is not yet a consensus view among geneticists, so the genetic story may well change," he said. As to the identity of the first postglacial settlers, Dr. Tyler-Smith said he "would favor a Neolithic origin for the Y chromosomes, although the evidence is still quite sketchy."

Dr. Oppenheimer's population history of the British Isles relies not only on genetic data but also on the dating of language changes by methods developed by geneticists. These are not generally accepted by historical linguists, who long ago developed but largely rejected a dating method known as glottochronology.

Geneticists have recently plunged into the field, arguing that linguists have been too pessimistic and that advanced statistical methods developed for dating genes can also be applied to languages.

Dr. Oppenheimer has relied on work by Peter Forster, a geneticist at Anglia Ruskin University, to argue that Celtic is a much more ancient language than supposed, and that Celtic speakers could have brought knowledge of agriculture to Ireland, where it first appeared. He also adopts Dr. Forster's argument, based on a statistical analysis of vocabulary, that English is an ancient, fourth branch of the Germanic language tree, and was spoken in England before the Roman invasion.

English is usually assumed to have developed in England, from the language of the Angles and Saxons, about 1,500 years ago. But Dr. Forster argues that the Angles and the Saxons were both really Viking peoples who

began raiding Britain ahead of the accepted historical schedule. They did not bring their language to England because English, in his view, was already spoken there, probably introduced before the arrival of the Romans by tribes such as the Belgae, whom Julius Caesar describes as being present on both sides of the Channel.

The Belgae may have introduced some socially transforming technique, such as iron-working, which would lead to their language supplanting that of the indigenous inhabitants, but Dr. Forster said he had not yet identified any specific innovation from the archaeological record.

Germanic is usually assumed to have split into three branches: West Germanic, which includes German and Dutch; East Germanic, the language of the Goths and Vandals; and North Germanic, consisting of the Scandinavian languages. Dr. Forster's analysis shows English is not an off-shoot of West Germanic, as usually assumed, but is a branch independent of the other three, which also implies a greater antiquity. Germanic split into its four branches some 2,000 to 6,000 years ago, Dr. Forster estimates.

Historians have usually assumed that Celtic was spoken throughout Britain when the Romans arrived. But Dr. Oppenheimer argues that the absence of Celtic place names in England — words for places are particularly durable — makes this unlikely.

If the people of the British Isles hold most of their genetic heritage in common, with their differences consisting only of a regional flavoring of Celtic in the west and of northern European in the east, might that perception draw them together? Geneticists see little prospect that their findings will reduce cultural and political differences.

The Celtic cultural myth “is very entrenched and has a lot to do with the Scottish, Welsh and Irish identity; their main identifying feature is that they are not English,” said Dr. Sykes, an Englishman who has traced his Y chromosome and surname to an ancestor who lived in the village of Flockton in Yorkshire in 1286.

Dr. Oppenheimer said genes “have no bearing on cultural history.” There is no significant genetic difference between the people of Northern Ireland, yet they have been fighting with each other for 400 years, he said.

As for his thesis that the British and Irish are genetically much alike, “It would be wonderful if it improved relations, but I somehow think it won't.”

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OBITUARY

JAMES THOMPSON THWAITES 1924-2007

Jim Thwaites was the Senior Commissioner of the Clan MacKenzie Society in New Zealand and along with Sonia Mackenzie and her late husband Jock ran the New Zealand Society for many years.

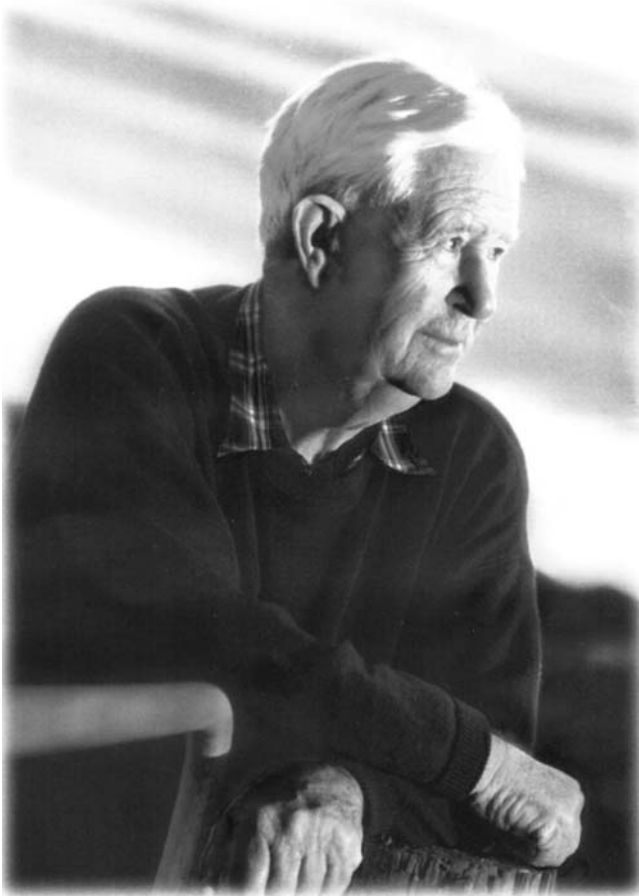
Many members in Canada met Jim during a visit to Toronto about three years ago and he was also at the Clan Mackenzie Gatherings in Scotland in 1995 and 2005.

There is much we could say about this good friend and Clan MacKenzie officer, but we shall leave this to Cabarfeidh in the following:

“Jim may have gone but he will not easily be forgotten. I was immediately impressed by his sense of Humour and his sheer humanity, quite regardless of his clan connections.

“This I felt, was a good and loving man and my sincere condolences go out to Betty and the family.

“You can rest assured that all at Castle Leod



the Queen Elizabeth Way.

The dinner has been fixed for 8 p.m. and the Annual General Meeting will be held prior to the dinner at the same place at 6 p.m. Cocktails to be available from 7 p.m.

The cost of the dinner will be set at \$60 per person and the Society will provide both red and white wine for each of the tables.

For out of province Commissioners there are special arrangements to enable them to attend and they should contact Alan at alan@mkz.com for details.

Here is the dinner menu:

Soup: Lobster Bisque.

Salad: Niagara Salad (Baby Lettuces tossed in Ice Wine Vinaigrette with Sliced grapes, Pine Nuts & Goat Cheese.)

Entrees: Choice of **Roast Eye of Prime Rib** (Well-Trimmed and Lean Prime Rib served with Demi-Glace, Buttermilk Mash and Vegetables.) or, **Chicken Supreme & Shrimp** (Topped with Roasted Shrimp & White Wine Roasted Garlic Cream Sauce served with Rosti Potato.)

Dessert: Chocolate Trio (Dark Chocolate Cup with White Chocolate Mousse, Devils Chocolate Ice Cream and Chocolate Dipped Strawberry.)

In the past we have had over 100 members and friends attend this dinner and we shall work on providing lots of entertainment in addition including Highland dancing.

BOOK YOUR PLACES NOW

Just send a note reserving the number of places preferably with your cheque as well and also your preferred choice of main course. In any event we would like reservations to be in no later than September 30th so we can finalize with the golf club.

Requests for tickets should be sent to **Alan McKenzie at 580 Rebecca Street, Oakville,**

will be thinking of you Betty and hoping you will be supported and cared for as Jim would have wished.”

**CLAN MACKENZIE SOCIETY DINNER & AGM
- MISSISSAUGA GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2007

A number of people have told me they are looking forward to coming to the Clan MacKenzie Dinner on October 27th but to date only one cheque has been mailed to us. It would help the organization of this event if we could get definitive orders and cheques please.

Full details were given in the last newsletter but here is a reminder:

The once popular annual Clan Mackenzie Society Dinner is being revived and we are pleased to announce that arrangements have been made to use the superb facilities of the Mississauga Golf and Country Club on Mississauga Road close to the intersection with

ON L6K 3N9 together with a cheque for the meal at \$60 per person. There are a number of good hotels in the vicinity and the Club itself is only 20 minutes from Toronto Pearson Airport.

**CLAN MACKENZIE SOCIETY DINNER -
VANCOUVER**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2007

Lt-Colonel Rob Roy MacKenzie, Commanding Officer of the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada has confirmed the availability of the Seaforth Armouries for the Clan Mackenzie Annual Dinner in Vancouver on Saturday, October 20th. Colonel MacKenzie is the son of B.C. members Everett and Joan MacKenzie.

Commissioner Joan MacKenzie is very keen to know as soon as possible how many people wish to attend this special event. It has been some years since a Clan MacKenzie event has been held at the splendid Seaforth Armouries and it is possible that space may be restricted so advise Joan quickly please.

Details of this Vancouver Dinner can be obtained from Commissioner Joan MacKenzie at tel (604) 952-2026 or email: jo.mac@telus.net

President Norman S. MacKenzie and Alan McKenzie will be present from Ontario and Alan plans to give a talk on the Mackenzie DNA Project.

This event is special as the Seaforth Highlanders were originally formed out of the Clan Mackenzie in Scotland under their Chief, The Earl of Seaforth.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Memberships are due for renewal on October 1st and cheques for \$20 can be sent to Alan McKenzie (Treasurer) at 580

Rebecca Street, Oakville, ON L6K 3N9.

Memberships two years in arrears are now automatically removed from the membership lists. So please help by getting your cheques in as soon as possible.

The City of Toronto have placed restrictions on how the Nevada Lottery monies are used and we shall in the future be more reliant on income from dues and donations (Donors also receive a charitable receipt for the Society.)

GENEALOGICAL HELP NEEDED!

Re: Duncan and Annabella McKenzie

I am trying to complete my family tree and to learn as much about my heritage as I can. I have been able to trace my great great great grandfather, Duncan McKenzie, to his homestead near Galt, Ontario Canada.

Duncan was born in November 1807 in Scotland. He married a lady named Annabella. Annabella was born in 1811 in Scotland. Duncan and Annabella had five children in Scotland; Rory (born 1823), Donald (born 1826, Died 1911), William (born April 3, 1829, died April 24, 1906), Hanah (born 1833), and Annabella (born 1835, married James Hemsworth). The family then immigrated to Canada and had three more children; Kenneth (born 1838), Alexander (born February 14, 1840, died 1919, married Annie Hemsworth), and Murdock (born 1843).

My great great grandfather, Alexander McKenzie, married Annie Hemsworth and they had my great grandfather in Galt Ontario in 1868. They then moved to Plainsfield Michigan prior to 1871. They moved to Saskatchewan Canada prior to 1886. They had four children in Michigan (William, Mary, Euphemia and Margaret). Their last son, John, was born in Canada. If anyone has information about their son, William (born 1871), please

contact me.

I have no other information about Duncan and Annabella. I have heard through the family gossip line that Duncan and Annabella were from the Isle of Skye. If anyone has any information about anyone in my family line, please contact me. I love history and find the McKenzie history very interesting so if there is any information on our history please direct me to the location. My email address is chcline@shaw.ca.

Thanks for your time,
Chrystal Cline

GENEALOGICAL REPORT FROM SHARIE ARGUE

**July 12th, 2007 Baddeck, Cape Breton,
Nova Scotia, Canada**

Well, cousin Gail Coward & I are in Cape Breton at the moment. We have been having a wonderful trip since arriving in Halifax on July 2nd. We proceeded to Pictou County for a couple days where we met many interesting people, then on to P.E.I., one of the most beautiful places on earth! Then a quick trip back to Halifax to take in the Highland Games (we must admit we were disappointed there were no booths for the Mackenzie, Cameron, Ross, or Fraser Clans there!), but upon visiting the MacLeod tent we chatted with a lovely lady working there (after all one of our early Mackenzies, Roderick The Tutor, was married to Margaret MacLeod, daughter of Torquill MacLeod of Lewis), who turned out to be related to us on the Mackenzie side of her tree as well! Later we were enjoying the young highland dancers and we started chatting with the lady sitting next to us. She too was a Mackenzie. We have been keeping in contact with both of them. Good food, highly competitive games, excellent piping and dancing,

AND two new cousins! The day was a great success after all!

On Sunday afternoon we attended the Tattoo....it was fantastic! Both Gail and I have attended several Tattoos in various places, including Edinburgh, and we agreed that this was the best Tattoo we've ever attended. It was exceptional!

We spent a few days enjoying the unique architecture and history of Lunenburg and area, with a side trip to visit a possible Mackenzie connection on the opposite side of the Annapolis Valley, then we moved on to Truro. After watching the Tidal Bore fill and then change direction, we decided to cancel our accommodation there and return to Stellarton to visit Vangie Way yet again to see if she could assist us with some exciting information we'd received the previous evening by email.

Donald MacDonald-Ross while browsing a small Scottish newspaper online saw an excerpt from a letter written in 1814 and realized that the writer, a Pictou Mackenzie man to his brother in Quebec, was actually one of our branch! So, we do have Maritime connections after all. On the same day I received the same information about the 1814 letter from cousin Joan Mackenzie in B.C. and also by email from Shirley McCormack [Clan MacKenzie Nova Scotia Genealogist] whom we had gone to see the day before when she was unfortunately away visiting in Pictou! Through correspondence with Donald & Shirley it was discovered that Shirley had a photocopy of the entire letter which she has generously shared with us. Another puzzle piece fits into place. This 1814 letter was between two sons of a formerly unidentified brother of our fur-trading 'boys', the writer being the one living in Pictou, Nova Scotia at that time.

While Gail and I visited with Vangie Way, who is the most delightful lady and a wonder-

ful researcher, she brought out a file of miscellaneous Mackenzies that she had not yet been able to connect with their local Mackenzie families. In that huge file I came across an unidentified long sheet of paper on which in handwriting was outlined 'our' Mackenzie family, including the 1814 letter writer! On the reverse side of the paper there was also mention that one of their first cousins had a river named after him! Bingo . . . another important link reconfirmed. This handwritten sheet had no identifying marks on it however, but after contacting Shirley McCormack about it, she replied that her mother had written the paper out for her many years ago at her father's insistence that she know about her ancestors! So we now know an accurate source of that information. Yesterday our genealogical sleuthing was so successful, we were eager to head to Cape Breton immediately to see if we could find some more of our newly discovered Maritime cousins.

We are staying in Baddeck, Cape Breton, a beautiful town, for four nights and today went on a jaunt across Bras d'Or, up over Kelly's Mountain (elevation 240 metres!) okay, I know even Saskatchewan is higher, but it is Their Mountain, to Boularderie (which name everyone here pronounces in a slightly different fashion), where we met the Frasers, Roberta & Sandy. Delightful, hospitable people Roberta is an expert researcher and a font of information. We quickly found her husband's connection to our tree, again reconfirming the Maritime Mackenzie connections. However, when I checked our kinship report, Sandy and I are related to each other eleven times over thanks to all the intermarriages in the Mackenzie Clan no wonder it is so complicated to chart out!

Roberta is very generously sharing her data to add to the Mackenzie database and it is

hoped that through some of her very careful research I will be able to provide Ann Stansberger [U.S. Commissioner working closely on the Clan Mackenzie DNA Project] with the paper trails for many of the matching DNA samples of those from the Maritime provinces.

Ann has been patiently awaiting my recent retirement. Well, even though my entire database is over 23,000 individuals, I still have a very long way to go with the Mackenzie family! Obviously now, I will have many Maritime connections to add to our tree. I'll let you know as further connections are verified.

Well, enough rambling on about our travels and the wonderful people we have met. We are hoping to have several Mackenzies from the Maritime branches do DNA testing. With the help of the kind people we met during our trip, I hope to be able to pick out one or two Mackenzie men who would be representative of that branch of the family. The detective work goes on!

Cheers for now.

Sharie & Gail

Sharie Argue (Regina, SK)

& Gail Coward (Lethbridge, AB)

[Ed: Sharie has connected with a number of Mackenzies including Ben Mackenzie in Ohio, direct descendant of Donald Mackenzie "King of the North-West". These family connections have been confirmed as a result of the DNA Project and the supposed close relationship to Sir Alexander Mackenzie, the explorer, seems to be close to proof. Few members would have a family tree with over 20,000 names. I thought mine was large at 4,000 but it does show that such an impressive genealogical record requires considerable research and travel. Our thanks to Sharie for this interesting report.

Since this report was sent we have had a 37

marker match with another of our members in British Columbia. There seem to be quite a substantial number of our members who have done a DNA test to have quite close relationships with this large branch of the Mackenzie family who can trace their ancestry to the Mackenzie Chiefs.]

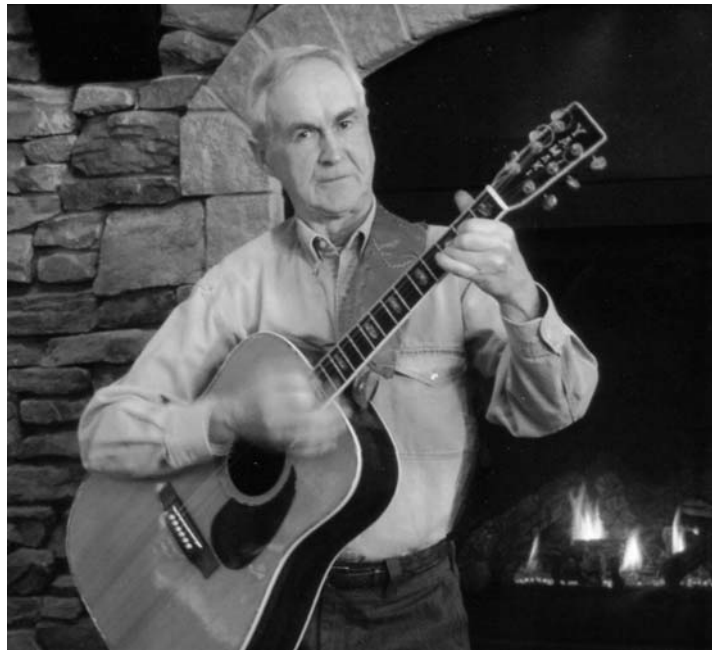
WILLIE MACKENZIE
SONGS OF A ROSS-SHIRE SON

Willie Mackenzie, a Clan MacKenzie Society member living in White Rock, British Columbia has just produced a new CD entitled, “Willie MacKenzie Songs of a Ross-shire Son - Celebrating Scotland and Western Canada.”

Willie was born 1935 in Poolewe, Ross-shire, which he describes as “wonderfully care-free years growing up and through my twenties, great love of the hills and Nature, fishing the lochs and doing a bit of deerstalking now and then.”

He first emigrated in 1964, but returned to Poolewe in 1970, married, and stayed there enjoying the hills and old lifestyle for eight years. He returned to Canada in 1978, living in White Rock. Willie started writing in the village bard style, rhymes and songs of the early twenties, most pieces celebrating the wonderful freedom and beauty of those great skylines. He did a bit of roving initially in Canada, writing songs and poems telling of Western Canada’s beauty as well as more on those same old and often missed scenes left behind.

“I still have good friends in the villages, where some songs are occasionally sung at Ceilidhs and house-gatherings, and I keep in touch with them pretty regularly. The past is important and some of my songs go back in time, like ‘The Raven Song’, ‘Children of the wind’, ‘Wee flowers of Dunblane’, ‘Riddle of



Willie MacKenzie

the Sea’, and more recently, ‘Lewis’ Saddened Shore’, which tells of the very tragic wreck of the yacht *Iolaire* outside Stornoway harbour New Year’s morning 1919 when 200 Hebridean sons drowned just twenty yards offshore as they returned from the war.”

Willie says he is not a regular performing person, just an old songwriter who did a few of his songs because nobody else wanted them, so this is his only CD. Willie kindly sent me a copy and I have it playing regularly when I am at clan work in the study. It is a professional piece of work and copies may be bought from Willie who can be contacted at his e-mail address: williesden@gmail.com

I do not know the price but I suspect with postage costs it will run to a total of about \$15.

To give you a better feel of Willie’s work here are the words of one of his songs: “The Raven Song - Legend of Isle Maree”

Isle Maree, the raven’s calling
From the scenes of long ago
Autumn leaves are gently falling
On the ones who loved you so
In ancient times, so goes the legend

Royal Lovers claimed your shore
And blissful by your groves they lingered
'Til the prince went off to war.

In time his ship came homeward sailing
To the bride so long denied
But fearing he no longer loved her
She pretended she had died
Life's reason gone, the prince was broken
Steel shone bright in the evening sun
And in a moment it was over
His heart was still, his time was done.

The raven heard the woman's anguish
Saw her clutch the deadly knife
And plunge it in her breast to join

Her loved one in a higher life
So they died for one and other
As the raven circled low
And they were laid to rest forever
Where the oak and holly grow.

A thousand years the winds have wandered
Since the time I'm talking of
When laughter rang across their island
Isle of Legend, Isle of Love
Now the scene lies hushed and silent
Under Autumn's gentle smile
Lovers sleep and the winds are resting
There's peace on St. Maelrubha's Isle
Aye Peace on St. Maelrubha's Isle.



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For price quotes or questions, we invite you to contact us at the address below. We are pleased to offer a 10% discount to members of Clan Mackenzie on all orders placed with us.



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