



The Cochrane Heritage



SPECIAL EDITION FOR THE GATHERING 2009



Clan Cochrane at *The Gathering* in Edinburgh July 2009

Steve Hines, Ethan Cochran, Benjamin Cochran, Mathew Smith, Steve Smith, Douglas Dundonald (Earl of Dundonald), Archie Dundonald, E. J. Cochran (Hidden), Catherine Cochran, Sandy Cochran Lee, Miranda Cochran, Tyler Lautenbaugh, Steve Cochran, Michael Cochran, Mike Wells, Chip Wells, Michael Hartley with son, Beatrice Dundonald, Joan Crooks, Sue Cochran Smith, Michael Cochran's son Charlie, Michael Cochran's wife, Abbey Cochran, Ryan Elkins, Brendan Cochran, Tom Cochran, George Crooks, Cheryl Crooks, Cathy (wife of Michael Hartley (Squatting)), Patty Cochran, Emily Cochran Elkins, Sherrie Cochran Anderson, Karen Cochran, Mariana Dundonald, Audrey Cochrane Pickle (dau. of Alexander Cochrane who wrote "The Fighting Cochrane")

From the Desk of the High Commissioner: Michael Cochrane Hartley

Greetings Fellow Family Members:

The Gathering in Edingburgh this past July was incredible. It was the biggest games I have ever attended. It out placed Grandfather Mountain and you didn't have to navigate the Appalachian Mountains, you only had to navigate the tram being placed down Princess Street. It has been said that over 60,000 people showed up for the event. This was more than when Bonnie Prince Charles came (or so I have heard). We did get a shower at one point.

I have never before seen so many Cochrane's together in one celebration. We had a total of 43 (there may have been more if you count the ones that showed up at the booth) from all around the globe. We had them show up not only from Scotland and England but also from the U.S., Canada, New Zealand, Germany, as well as South Africa. Steve Cochran brought a family of 19 from the US and Tom Cochran brought a family of 8. Steve usually brings at least a dozen to the Christmas Walk in Alexandria, the first weekend of December.

On Friday night a Cocktail party was thrown at the Caledonian Hall of the Royal Botanical Gardens in Edinburgh. It was sponsored by The Earl and Countess of Dundonald in a relaxed and private atmosphere; we had a chance to meet with family from around the world. An enjoyable evening was had by all. A photo session finished the evening off. I was impressed and couldn't have asked for more.

The next two days were like any other games except big, no huge. They pulled it off well.



Michael, his son Charlie, and Douglas, Earl of Dundonald

The Parade march up the Royal Mile was awesome, even though I couldn't participate. I was able to preorder a DVD and CD of the Gathering so I will be able to watch what I missed. I had also ran into some friends that I knew from Alexandria.

We also visited Culross, a 17th century burgh which dates back to the 6th century. It is a living community even today. The central part of the village is more like a museum. Our tour guide, Michael, pointed out his Cochrane Tie and informed us we had just missed the Clan

Cochrane Tour. There is a bust of the 10th Earl of Dundonald in the middle of the square in his honor.



The Palace is museum, the former house of Sir George Bruce, which has climbing gardens. The Abbey itself is awesome as it dates back to 1217. A must see for anyone who visits Scotland. I had looked form the Abbey House where the 9th and 10th Earls had resided. Michael, our guide, pointed it out to me, so this time I got to see it.

Auchans, cultivated fields and Dundonald looked the same as it did 25 years ago. We also visited Dundonald Church, and there was a meeting going on so we didn't disturb them.

If you have any desire to see articles on these sites, they are on the internet if you do a google search.

Until the next Newsletter:

Saus Alba

Michael



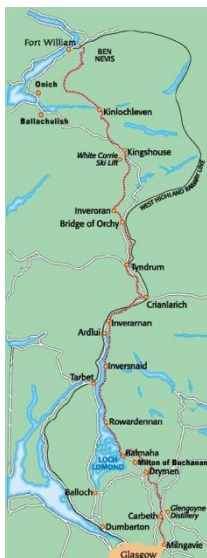
Going Home!!

Thomas Cochran, President of Clan Cochrane in North America

Marching up the Royal Mile on Saturday July 25, 2009 was the culmination of nearly 2 years planning and work. Was it worth it? In the words of the commercial, it was, "Priceless!" What had begun as a dream of having my immediate family take part in this event had grown and taken on a life I couldn't have thought possible a year before.



The whole experience was indeed a bit surreal. When I originally thought of going it was for a week maybe ten days. Then good friends and Clan Cochrane members Mike and Chip Wells reminded me I had said I always had wanted to do a long distance walk with them. "How about the West Highland Way?"



Okay, so now we have added a 95 mile Glasgow to Fort William 9 day stroll to the equation. Well you can't just show up and start walking, so let's add a few days to recover from jet lag. And we'll need a couple of days to recoup from the walk before we hit Edinburgh and we've always wanted to see Skye, so? Our 7 days ended up becoming 29 including travel.

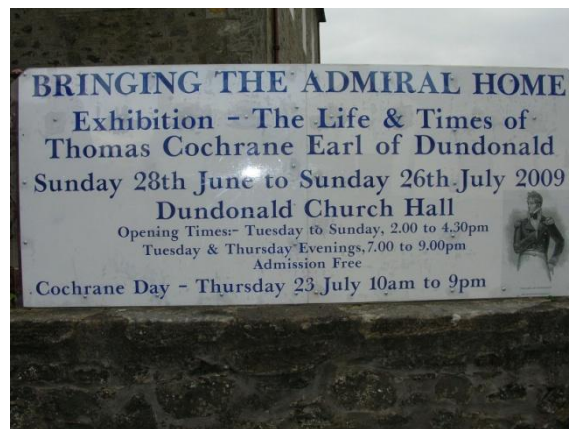
So when we arrived in Edinburgh on the 21st we had already had amazing adventures and I won't take up too much space here by trying to describe all of them. I will tell about a day we arrived in Scotland though because it set the tone for the whole trip. Because of the Robert Burns 250th anniversary I wanted to visit Alloway again but decided in a fortuitous moment to try to spend our first night, not there but in Dundonald, home of William Cochrane the 1st Earl of Dundonald. I had visited the village before and felt it had a special connection which I hadn't yet really completely understood. Looking up B&Bs on the internet led to only one choice. The Glenfoot House. Well I thought I'll give it a try. Sheila Paine responded that yes there were rooms for 3 available and did the name Cochran have anything to do with our visit? She was on the committee that had helped put together a special exhibit called "Bringing the Admiral Home!" about Lord Thomas Cochrane, 10th Earl of Dundonald. It was going to be open the day we arrived, would we be interested in visiting it? I had by this time had started organizing the Cochrane bus tour and Dundonald was to be on the agenda. Would we have time to see the Castle, Auchans House, and the exhibit? I should check it out so if it wasn't very well done I could politely beg off. Another factor was added by the email greeting from Kenny Cassels who lived 20 miles away from Dundonald, and whose mother was a Cochrane. He wanted to meet us, so on July 4th, my sister Sherri, Karen, and I arrived (late) in Glasgow, rented our car and drove southwest to Dundonald. We were greeted warmly by Sheila's husband Alan, who showed to our rooms and as we were settling in, Sheila bustled in apologizing for not greeting us herself and offering tea in the upstairs drawing room. The house and our hosts were wonderful. While not rushing us we were reminded the exhibit normally closed at 4 and while they had agreed to stay open for us we might be trotting along as it was now 4:00. Oops, we had also set 4:00 o'clock meeting time with Kenny at The Old Castle, the village pub. We walked out of the house and down the short lane to the main street and right in front of us was the pub and Kenny! We all headed down to the exhibit about a block away. Wow, the exhibit by Frances Wilkins was overwhelming. The visual impact drew us in and there were layers of information from captions on the display boards to pamphlets in front of the boards to books about Lord Cochrane, we tried to take all this in as well as converse with Kenny and Frances. Jimmy, the smiling energetic 70+ years old, town historian comes in to introduce himself and inform us He will be leading our tour when the group comes back to town on the 23rd for "Cochrane Day". What? We were being given our own day in Dundonald? After assuring them we would be back for a longer look on the 23rd, Jimmy led us out of the Hall and across the street to the church where we saw the grave stones of local celebrities including some named in Burns' poems and then Reverend Bob shows up in running shorts and shoes, and sporting an accent so thick you needed a sharp knife to cut to the meaning. He is all smiles and genuine warmth as he lets us into the church where we are assured lays the remains of Willaim Cochrane, the 1st Earl, though the exact location is unknown.

We finally retire to the pub with Kenny (waiting) and to hear of his family and his life as a computer tech in modern Scotland. After a pint and good conversation we exit past the locals setting on the bench

against the wall. "Where you from?" one asks. "Colorado and California" we answer. "So what's yer names?" "Cochrane". "Aye, there a few of them about." "Seems like it" "Well enjoy you visit and welcome home". Later that evening after a great meal at the Cochrane Inn (Highly Recommended) we all remarked how we did feel welcomed and that we had indeed found another home.



"Cochrane Day" in Dundonald!! Then on the 23rd Our Cochrane Group Tour of 28 arrived in Dundonald where we first visited Royal Dundonald Castle which is still owned by the 15th Earl, Douglas Dundonald, our Clan Chief. Gordon Stewart, president of the Friends of Dundonald and our guide Jimmy are there also and inform us that after the tour we are to take the bus down to the exhibit hall. It's only about 4 or 5 blocks, but okay. We get off the bus to be greeted by Jimmy, Reverend Bob, and a young piper all in kilts and we are piped into the exhibition! Inside are Sheila and several other ladies with tea, coffee, and scones and various biscuits (Cookies). After introductory remarks by Frances we spend the next hour being informed and feted and treated to genuine Scottish hospitality.



We then visited the ruins at Auchans House before a ride back to Edinburgh.

The 25th after spending the day greeting Cochranes from Scotland, England, South Africa, Germany, Canada, and America, some 45 of us including Douglas Dundonald the 15th Earl, his wife and two young sons gather and march up the Royal Mile. Steve Cochran and the Earls oldest son, Archie share the

pipes as Clan Cochrane is piped the whole way. Joan Crooks, our Commissioner from New Zealand and her daughter walk with Karen and I and at one point 80 year old Bill Cochrane from Scotland, pops out of the crowd to walk beside me for a few hundred yards before melting back into the throng. "I knew I couldn't make it the whole way" he says, "but I knew I had to be part of it". I had tears in my eyes then and do now thinking about it.

The next two days were full of good feelings and good byes but those days of July, 2009 will always be in my memory as days of being a family, of being Scottish, and of indeed going home. Priceless!!

I must take a moment to thank some special people for helping make Clan Cochrane presence at the Gathering possible. Sandy Lee, Nancy Cochran and Evelyn Cochran, whose financial support helped make the booth in Edinburgh happen. Joan Crooks, Emily (Cochran) Elkins, and Cynthia Cochran Scheuer-Jones for helping to prepare materials for the booth. Mike and Chip Wells for helping transport materials for the booth to and all around Scotland before the Gathering. Karen Cochran, Sherri Cochran Anderson, Emily (Cochran) Elkins and Brendan Cochran for the wonderful job of decorating the booth. To Michael, Steve, Sue, Ginger, and all the other Cochranes who spent time greeting visitors to the tent, thanks. And I want to especially thank Douglas Dundonald and his family for their support and hospitality before and throughout the Gathering. It was indeed a Homecoming. We will never forget.

Clan Cochrane in the Parade of Tartans on The Royal Mile





The Games – Tent Village



Clan Cochrane Tent



Clan Cochrane Tent Display



Douglas, Earl of Dundonald and Thomas Cochran



Cochran's of CO & John Cochrane of Scotland



Emily and Ryan Elkins, Jamie and Archie Cochrane



More Cochran's visiting the Tent



Visitors to the Clan Cochrane tent (all pictured are Cochran(e)'s)

The Gathering, Edinburgh 2009

By Joan Crooks, Commissioner Clan Cochrane of New Zealand

The New Zealand members of Clan Cochrane arrived in Edinburgh, on the 20th July, and set up home on the Royal Mile apartment. The next day, Tom Cochran, and his family arrived, and were staying opposite, Joan, George, Cheryl, and Steve.

On the 22nd July, all the Cochranes met at 80 Queen Street Pub, and it did not take long for everyone to chat and mingle and get to know each other.

The 23rd July, was the Cochrane Sites Bus Tour. This was a very special trip, to Culross, Paisley Abbey, Royal Dundonald Castle, and a lovely display at the Dundonald Parish Hall "To Bring the Admiral Home". Afternoon tea was provided, and I was able to buy a few things of interest, such as a wee book about my relative in Dundonald, the smuggler Matthew Hay. I must say at this point, that Dundonald is the home of my ancestors. Involving the Blair family and Todd, Hay, Gibson, Craig, and a few others. I went outside, and a very kind gentleman let me into the Dundonald Church, where my Gr-gr-grandparents, were married in 1807. It was very special to stand there, and think of them. I then went outside to the cemetery and found my ancestors grave, which is very covered with Holly and moss. On my way back to the bus, I turned around and saw my Blair/Todd gravestone, just as Tom called us to get on the bus. I madly photographed this precious stone, before leaving. Our next stop was the ruins of Auchans House. In the Kirk Session notes for Dundonald, in 1602, it mentions my ancestors, John Blair and Christian Auld, who lived on "The Outfields of Auchans (Auchans)". So you see Dundonald is a very special place for us.

On the 24th July was a Reception at the Botanic Gardens put on for Clan Cochrane, by The Rt. Hon. The Earl and the Countess of Dundonald. Everyone had a most enjoyable time and many photographs were taken with the Dundonald Family.

The 25th July was Clan Cochrane Booth at Holyrood Park. There were lots of Cochrane's called to chat and at the end of the day, was the March up the Royal Mile. There were people lining the street all the way up, and they were cheering and yelling and having a great time. Archie Cochrane and Steve Cochran took turns playing the bagpipes going up the mile. It was a wonderful event, and one to remember for life. A Play at the Castle finished the evening.

The 26th July, it was final day at the Booth, and one of the members from the U.S.A. told me about the Maori folk at the Clan Gunn tent, who had brought the spirit of a family member, back home to Scotland. I went over to see them, and they finished with a song and a Haka. I had my photo taken with these wonderful people. They had also enjoyed the whole weekend. It was sad when the day finished and it was time to say goodbye.



Joan Crooks with fellow New Zealanders

It is with many thanks to Tom Cochran and his family, for the wonderful time we had in Scotland for "The Homecoming".

Message from the Land of the Long White Cloud

By "Tag Along Man" (George Crooks, New Zealand)

Well here we go again, nearly the end of winter, and has it been cold. Not much sun, but cold rainy days to make one sit by the fire with a good book to read.

This year has been for our family a very interesting year with a trip to England and Scotland, for the Clan Commissioner and myself to the Gathering of the Clans in Edinburgh on the 25th & 26th July 2009, with Highland Games, Red Hot Chili Pipers, and other groups. Highland Dancers, Tossing the Cabre, food stalls, coffee and beer services, ice cream, scotch pies, and many other food stands. Also a stand where one could trace your family history, or instruct yourself in the Gaelic tongue or Harris Tweed material, and how it is made. At one end of the park, was the Clan Village with about 125 Clans all set up, with much information to share.

Now this trip came about through the contact from Tom Cochran, President of Clan Cochrane in America, who organized all the paperwork for everyone who decided to go there. The best part was

meeting up with the American families in Edinburgh and the following five days with meetings and bus trips to Dundonald and other places was just fabulous.

From Clan Cochrane in New Zealand, we thank you guys for your enjoyable company and time together.

The other part of our trip was spent with our son and wife, who live near London, and enjoyed various places. We that is enough from me, and it is back to stoke up the fire to keep warm until spring arrives. TAG ALONG MAN.



It is with great sadness that we report the death of "Tag Along Man".

Crooks, Norman George – On October 10, 2009, peacefully at home, surrounded by family in his 73rd year. Dearly loved husband of Joan, loved father and father-in-law of Cheryl and Steve, Royden and Tina, and Matthew and Michelle, and much loved granddad of Jack and Travis.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Joan and family.

Welcome Back!
Audrey Cochrane Pickles

In July I took part in the "Scotland's year of the Homecoming" for descendants of the Emigrant Scots after battle of Culloden and the disgraceful Highland Clearances. Thousands arrived in Holyrood Park and then during the weekend 125 Clans formed up in alphabetical order for the March from the Palace up the Royal Mile to the Castle, a total distance of 1.4 miles. Clan Chiefs and their families led each Clan and the Pipe Bands were countless. Young Archie Dundonald took turns with Steve Cochran to play the bagpipes. The march was fast and steep in places; most memorable of all were the huge crowds all along the route. They cheered us on "Welcome Back" and the atmosphere was such that we shall never forget. Children climbed up lamp posts and people "hung out the windows". It took 1 ½ hours for all to arrive at their places on the Esplanade at the Castle for a pageant of their Emigration. I would not have felt comfortable if I had been English!! Because of my father's book (*The Fighting Cochranes*) I went along and joined in with the New Zealand Contingent. Note: Audrey lives in the UK but is a member of Clan Cochrane Australia.

Notice: Mark your calendars as they are planning another “Gathering of the Clans” in 4 years. More information to follow as it becomes available.

Urgent!! Clan Cochrane won “The Best Clan Tent” award at the 2009 Stone Mountain, GA Scottish Highland Games. Article and photos to follow in next newsletter.