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CLAN CHIEF'S AND LADY CROMARTIE'S VISIT TO NORTH AMERICA

Cabarfeidh and his wife Eve, Countess of Cromartie were received by the Canadian and US Clan MacKenzie Societies from September 11th to 22nd.

Alan McKenzie (Immediate Past President) and his wife Susan were at Toronto Pearson Airport to welcome them to Canada on Wednesday, September 11th at around 2pm and they were taken to their home in Oakville

for much of their stay. Our aim was to make their stay interesting and as relaxing as possible.

Early on Tuesday the 12th the four of us took a short flight to Sault Ste Marie and drove to Wawa. One of the purposes was to try and find agates on the shores of Lake Superior. Cabarfeidh has one of the finest collections of agates in Britain and his hope was to obtain the unique agates found in this region of Canada to give to the Scottish National Museum in Edinburgh. Unfortunately we had no success in our search so we took the opportunity of looking around this beautiful part of Canada.

We were back in Oakville on Saturday the 14th and we were very pleased to welcome to our home Sharie and Earle Argue from Regina Saskatchewan.

Two major Clan events took place the following day. The first was a light buffet lunch at the grand Officers Mess of the 48th Highlanders of Canada. This was an opportunity for local Toronto members to "meet and greet" their clan chief and Eve, Lady

Cabar Feidh Newsletter:

Members who wish to write to the Society with news or other contributions to the Magazine please send submissions to The Editor, Clan MacKenzie Society, 580 Rebecca St., Oakville, ON L6K 3N9. or e-mail to alan@mkz.com
 Clan Facebook: www.facebook.com/clanmackenziecanada Clan Web Page: www.clanmackenzie.ca

Cromartie. The relaxed atmosphere - no speeches - was most successful and in three hours everyone present had plenty of time to have conversations with our honoured guests. Cabarfeidh expressed his pleasure with this informal event.

In the evening it was time to don formal evening wear for the Society's annual dinner, preceeded by the Annual General Meeting. Alan stood down as president and Sharie Argue was duly elected as our new president.

A motion was made and passed unanimously that Alan be appointed honorary life president, a title that adds no new workload! Alan remains newsletter editor and treasurer. Alex MacKenzie of Toronto was re-elected as deputy treasurer. Mary-Lou Oyler stood down as secretary after many years of long service and was duly thanked for her dedication to the Society. The post of secretary will remain open until Sharie Argue can arrange for a new secretary to be co-opted.

The Society's annual dinner followed the AGM and almost 60 members and partners were in attendance for a fine meal at the Mississauga Golf & Country Club. Cabarfeidh was, of course, our guest speaker and he gave a most interesting and entertaining talk, well illustrated with a photographic presentation. Much of his talk was about the ongoing search for the funds necessary to renovate the old castle.

On Tuesday the 17th Alan drove all the guests (six of us) in the clan van to Niagara Falls and later to Queenston Heights to see the memorial to General Brock killed at the Battle of Queenston Heights in 1812. We also visited the printery museum of William Lyon Mackenzie also located in Queenston.

On September 18th Cabarfeidh, Lady Cromartie, Sharie & Earle Argue and Alan &

Susan McKenzie flew to Charleston, South Carolina for a number of events arranged by the Clan MacKenzie Society of the USA. There we met up with Toronto Commissioner Shawn MacKenzie and his wife Shea.

Among the many events organised was an evening dinner at the St. Andrews Society of Charleston, reputedly the oldest St Andrews Society in the United States. This event was for men only as the society admits only male members and there is a long waiting list we understand. About 180 people were present. The ladies in our party had a separate event organised and we found them enjoying a meal in a local restaurant. The following evening was a formal black tie Charleston Tartan Ball at the grand Mill House Hotel in central Charleston. As with all the events we went to past president Don McKenzie was there with his camera taking loads of pictures. Don is a professional photographer and we looked forward to seeing his photos.

The biggest event was held on Saturday and that was the 42nd annual Scottish Games & Highland Gathering at the Boone Hall Plantation, which included tea with Lord & Lady Cromartie in the huge Mackenzie tent. The Mackenzies were the honoured clan and Cabarfeidh was the honoured Chief of the Games.

The massed bands were led by the sumptuously dressed Sandy MacKenzie, who also turned out to be a movie director with four international film festival awards.

All of these events in the USA were particularly valuable for our new president Sharie Argue. She met with all the Clan MacKenzie leaders in the USA and that will help cement our growing warm relationships with them. In this regard we must pay special thanks to Don McKenzie and Wayne Morgan who were

among the leading organisers and who looked after the Canadian contingent so well. They were truly splendid and so were their wives!

On the Saturday night a large party of us gathered at a restaurant for the President's Dinner, hosted by president Howard MacKenzie-Wright. Once more we were able to cement our warm relationships with our American clan cousins.

Sunday saw us in Highland daywear for a Kirkin' of the Tartan church service at the First Scots Presbyterian Church in central Charleston. This very grand church is only one of the 180 churches in Charleston. The ceremony was very impressive for the packed congregation, the parade of the tartans, with pipes playing along with the church organ "Highland Cathedral" - very moving.

After the service was over we looked for the plaque in the church of Lady Anne Murray, one of the daughters of George, 3rd Earl of Cromartie, who moved to Charleston and married there in the 18th century. So too did her sister Lady Mary who married four times in Charleston and is said to be buried in the churchyard. See pages 9 to 11 for articles on these two sisters.

Charleston is a beautiful city and the signs that it was once one of the wealthiest places in America based on plantations of cotton and of gold rice is evidenced by its grand buildings.

We all said good bye to Cabarfeidh and Eve, Lady Cromartie, at a lunch held in the Mill House Inn. They clearly enjoyed their visit to North America and it was a huge pleasure meeting with our hard-working chief and his wife, Eve, who has also worked extremely hard on all matters relating to fund raising for the old castle.

A selection of photos from their tour is included on pages 19 and 20.

FERGUS SCOTTISH FESTIVAL **AUGUST 10, 2013**

Fergus has always been our favourite Games in Ontario. It is certainly the largest Games in Canada attracting vast crowds. The weather was absolutely perfect, bright and sunny and a comfortable temperature throughout the day. In fact we sold some long sleeved jackets early in the morning when it was rather on the cool side.

Alan and Susan had great support at the tent from Commissioner Shawn MacKenzie and kilt-maker Joyce Mackenzie and her two sons. Shawn's family also helped out during the day.

The Avenue of the Clans was located in a different spot from previous years and we looked rather askance at this change from what had always been a splendid set-up. But we needn't have worried, the crowds came in large numbers and we had our busiest Highland Games for many years. Sales of inventory exceeded \$800 and that hasn't happened for a very long time. But better still, we signed up six new members, making the day for us an outstanding success. It was a great way to finish the Games season in Ontario.

There were 34 clans present and once again, like Maxville, we had a good turnout in the Parade of the Clans behind the three pipe bands. The honoured guest at the Games was Diana Gabaldon. She attracted large numbers at her tent where she was busy signing copies of her latest book. She is clearly a very popular lady who has built a huge reputation around the world - publishing in 26 languages and 28 million copies of her books. Her stories often relate to the activities of the Mackenzie and Fraser clans though I am not sure if they are historically accurate. Perhaps I should read some of them and report?



Close friends of Alan and Susan, Larry and Alice Doyle enjoyed the Fergus Festival so much they joined our Clan Society.



Shawn and Joyce discussing the tartans in our reference book.

THE YES CAMPAIGN HAS “VIRTUALLY NO CHANCE” OF VICTORY IN NEXT YEAR’S REFERENDUM ON SCOTTISH INDEPENDENCE

According to one of America’s most-respected polling experts, Nate Silver, the award-winning statistician who shot to fame when he correctly predicted the outcome of all 50 states in the 2012 US presidential elections, says all the indicators point towards Scots voting to stay in the UK on 18 September next year.

Only a “major crisis” south of the Border could turn the situation in favour of independence, despite it being more than a year until polling day, he added.

In an interview with *The Scotsman*, Mr Silver said polling data was “pretty definitive”. “There’s virtually no chance that the Yes side will win”, he said. “If you look at the polls, it’s pretty definitive really where the No side is at 60-55 per cent and Yes side is about 40 or so.

“Historically, in any Yes or No vote in a referendum, it’s actually the No side that tends to grow over time, people tend not to default to



Joyce and Alan enjoying this very happy day at Fergus.

changing the status quo.

“The No side is even more dominant with the younger voters, so there’s not going to be any generational thing going on.”

“Yes” campaigners insisted yesterday the more people learn about independence, the more likely they are to vote for it.

But the “No” campaign has consistently been ahead in research carried out by the pollsters YouGov, TNS-BMRB and Ipsos Mori.

Only about a third of Scots are behind a Yes vote, while about 55-60 per cent want to stay in the Union. A poll conducted by Panelbase and published last month showed support for the Union standing at 46 per cent, up two points from May, while support for independence increased by one point to 37 per cent.

Speaking yesterday, Mr Silver said, however, that the Yes campaign could benefit if there is some kind of dramatic economic collapse south of the Border.

“If there was a major crisis in England – if the Eurozone split apart and there were ramifications economically (for the UK) – then maybe things would be reconsidered.

But he added: “For the most part it looks like it’s a question of how much the No side will win by, not what the outcome might be.”

The French-speaking province of Quebec in Canada has previously rejected a vote on independence, despite sharp “cultural differences and genuine hostility” with the wider Canadian state, Mr Silver added.

“That is a case where a smaller country reads more about the economic consequences and it becomes harder to change the status quo.

“That was one where the Yes vote had been ahead, then faded down the stretch and lost.

“So on general principle, even if you took all the undecided votes, they are more likely to end up being No votes than Yes votes.”

The 35-year-old recently moved his hugely successful FiveThirtyEight blog in the US from the New York Times, which has licensed it since 2010, to ESPN, Walt Disney’s sports network.

His forecasts on the outcome of the last two elections have embarrassed pollsters and political reporters in the US.

He advocates a more scientific approach to forecasts and predictions based on layers of evidence. At ESPN, he is set to apply his model to subjects as diverse as education, the Oscars and economics.

Mr Silver is in Edinburgh for a talk on his award-winning book *The Signal and the Noise* at the Book Festival.

John Curtice, Professor of Politics at Strathclyde University, said all the polls indicate that “the referendum is there for the No side to lose”.

“I think it’s going to be very difficult for both sides to secure large shifts in the vote,” he said.

But he did not rule out the kind of game-changing event set-out by Mr. Silver which may yet swing it in favour of a Yes vote.

He added: “If the price of oil doubles, if we find another large enormous amount of oil in the North Sea, somebody might indeed demonstrate that wave power is economically viable or there is enormous run on sterling, a serious UK fiscal crisis repeated, then maybe Scotland will vote Yes.”

But he added: “In terms of campaigning there is only one card left for the Yes side to play in the campaign and that’s publication of the White Paper.

“If that were to narrow things from 60-40 to 55-45 and the Yes side start getting momentum, the impact of that could be felt in all sorts of way, because I have the impression there are

quite a lot of people sitting in the campaign now on the basis that it isn't going to happen."

The SNP government is to publish the White Paper setting out its vision for the make-up of an independent Scottish state later this year.

A spokesman for the Yes Scotland campaign remained upbeat yesterday. He said: "We regularly ask audiences at public meetings how many people they know who had been intending to vote Yes but had switched to No and so far we have encountered none.

"Our research tells us that the more people learn about the benefits of independence, the more likely they are to see a Yes vote as the best path to a fairer and more prosperous country.

"That is why we're confident of a majority voting Yes in 2014."

A spokesman for the pro-union *Better Together* campaign said it is still all to play for.

"We are confident that Better Together speaks for the overwhelming majority of the people who live in Scotland," he said.

"However, we cannot and will not be complacent. We will be fighting for every vote between now and the referendum."

SCOTTISH INDEPENDENCE - WARNING OVER SCOTTISH REGIMENTS

AN INDEPENDENT Scotland could not expect to automatically inherit the country's historic regiments nor the servicemen and women who serve in them, Defence Secretary Philip Hammond will insist.

In a new UK government paper on how a Yes vote next year would impact on the Army, Navy and Royal Air Force, the UK government warns Edinburgh could not "simply co-opt Scottish personnel or Scottish based units from UK Armed Forces".

The warning raises the prospect the rest of the UK would want the Royal Regiment of

Scotland and battalions such as the famous Black Watch to be retained by UK forces, similar to the continued existence of the Irish Guards.

That runs counter to the SNP's pledge to ensure that all current Scottish infantry battalions are retained by an independent Scotland and that abolished Scottish regiments are reinstated, as part of a 15,000-strong new Scottish Armed Force.

The UK government paper also argues that "bonds of loyalty" will ensure that many Armed Forces personnel who are based in Scotland would want to remain part of the UK service.

Ministry of Defence sources are also warning this weekend that independence would mean that Scotland "shutting the door" on British military contracts, such as those won by the Clyde shipyards for new aircraft carriers and destroyers. And given the integrated nature of the Armed Forces across the UK, the paper will also claim that a new Scottish defence force would have to start from scratch in finding new support systems.

The claim drew a firm rebuttal from the SNP, with a spokesman insisting Scotland would be able to afford a new £2.5 billion Scottish Armed Force, without the cost of paying for the Trident nuclear deterrent at Faslane.

CAPTAIN JAMES MACKENZIE

Our thanks to Greg Bell for drawing our attention to this website for the All Suites Manor in Kingsto, Ontario. The web address is; <http://www.allsuiteswhitneymanor.com/>

All Suites Whitney Manor was built by James Mackenzie in 1817. Captain Mackenzie was Captain of the first cargo ship ever to sail up the St. Lawrence. He built the house to resemble Sopwell Hall in England, which he greatly admired.

Now there's a bit of Mackenzie history to add for Canada.

A COMMENT ON SEPTS

Dear Alan

Just read Cabar Feidh with my usual enjoyment, and must remark on the article on Septs while it is fresh in my mind. My belief is that many tenants would have adopted the laird's name to show whence they came or as a compliment to the great man.

As regards the name "Cromarty", this is the name of a landed family in the island of South Ronaldsay, in Orkney, where I hail from. I read, or was told, as a boy, that it arose from a Mackenzie, fleeing after the '45, adopting as his name the county of his birth. He married the daughter of the local laird and did very well, thank you! I once put this to a local historian and he said "No, he was a Cameron." As Sandy had some Cameron connection himself I am skeptical about this. He is now gone to his reward so I cannot confirm or deny his story.

Oddly enough, some years ago, when I was working in the north I met a pleasant young man, a psychologist I think, called Cromarty, although with a slightly different spelling. I asked if he knew where his name came from and he replied promptly "Oh. yes, the Orkney islands!"

Thank you, as ever, for the great work you do on behalf of Clan Kenneth,

Regards, Hugh [McKenze]

ED: Black's "The Surnames of Scotland" confirms the origins of Cromarty, the surname, from South Ronaldsay in the Orkneys. Why did the first earl of Cromartie use that name for his title and for his new county "Ross & Cromarty"? Cabarfeidh says that he once lived in the town of Cromarty. The Cromarty portion

of this enlarged county was a strange collection of territories which were not adjoining but which were properties owned by the first earl. I have an old map showing the counties of Scotland including the old Ross & Cromarty with Cromarty estate bits all over the place.

SCOTTISH INDEPENDENCE

The following report was published on-line by The Scotsman Newspaper - September 1st;

The No vote against independence is hardening, according to a new poll indicating that 59 per cent of Scots now reject Alex Salmond's plans to take Scotland out of the United Kingdom.

A YouGov poll, published today, reveals that the No side has increased its lead over Yes by four percentage points in the past ten months.

When compared with a similar YouGov poll published at the end of October last year, today's figures show that support for independence has remained at 29 per cent, while those intending to vote No has increased from 55 per cent to 59 per cent.

The survey of 1,171 Scottish adults carried out last month was commissioned by the DevoPlus campaign, which believes that the Unionist parties should work together to offer a more powerful Scottish Parliament in the event of a No vote.

Other results uncovered by the poll were interpreted by DevoPlus as an indication that voters would be even more inclined to vote No if an enhanced devolved settlement was put on the table before the referendum.

The headline figure, revealing a surge in No support as the number of "don't knows" fell from 14 per cent to 10 per cent, was welcomed by the Better Together campaign.

"This is another encouraging poll for Better

Together,” said Blair McDougall, the campaign’s director. “First, because undecided voters continue to turn their back on the dishonest independence campaign. Second, because it shows that we are reaching out to Yes voters with our positive message about continuing the success of devolution.

“With a year to go, Yes Scotland are further behind than they were when they launched their campaign. This poll will surely add to the sense of crisis in the nationalist camp. However, supporters of Scotland remaining in the UK cannot afford a moment’s complacency. The SNP have come back from behind before.”

McDougall added: “The lesson from this poll is that we will need to work as hard over the next year as we have done so far.”

Further analysis of the poll, examining the sample’s attitude towards constitutional change, found that 25 per cent of Labour voters had yet to commit to voting No in the referendum. Ten per cent of Labour supporters did not know which way they would vote and another 15 per cent said they would vote Yes.

Amongst SNP voters, 10 per cent said they would reject the party’s key policy and vote No. A further 8 per cent did not know which box they would tick in the referendum ballot.

Those surveyed were also asked about their views on the Scottish Parliament having more powers along the lines envisaged by the DevoPlus campaign – whereby Holyrood would be responsible for raising most of the money it spends, with Westminster retaining control over items like defence and foreign affairs.

The poll asked the 41 per cent who were not signed up to voting No, if they were more likely to support remaining within the UK if voting that way would lead to a DevoPlus-style settle-

ment. It found that 16 per cent of them were more likely to vote No if DevoPlus was on the table.

Broken down by party, almost one-in-three Labour voters not intending to vote No would also be more likely to do so. Even one in ten SNP voters would be more likely to vote No if it meant that Scotland would get DevoPlus.

When the sample was taken as a whole, 56 per cent said they wanted the parties to set out the extra powers that would come to Holyrood in the event of a No vote before the referendum takes place.

Yesterday, Nationalists took comfort from the figures indicating that the majority of Scots wanted some form of constitutional change.

Linda Fabiani, an SNP MSP on the Referendum Bill committee, said: “Between support for independence and support for more powers, 70 per cent of people back self-government for Scotland and the clear fact is that only a Yes vote can deliver more powers and make sure that decisions about Scotland are taken here in Scotland.”

A Yes Scotland spokesman said: “Whatever additional powers the anti-independence parties may or may not promise – whether that is before or after the referendum – they will not come anywhere close to what is proposed by DevoPlus. In any event, DevoPlus is not on offer and it is becoming clear to increasing numbers of people that a Yes vote is the only way to guarantee the kind of powers they want.

“Next year’s referendum is about two choices. One is sticking with a Westminster system that isn’t working for Scotland and has led to the UK becoming one of the most unequal countries in the developed world. The other is an opportunity to make decisions that match our own priorities and aspirations and to build a fairer and more prosperous country.

“Only a Yes vote can deliver that opportunity.”

NEW MEMBERS

The following members have joined the Society since the issue of the last Newsletter

Carole (MacKenzie) Busat,
340 Melrose Place,
Kamloops BC V2C 6S1

Larry and Alice Doyle,
665 Cumberland Avenue,
Burlington, ON L7N 2X6

Robin Kern,
109 Ashville,
Vernon Hills, IL, USA 60061

Blair McKenzie,
514 Hughson Street N.,
Hamilton, ON L8L 4N7

Barry & Kim McKenzie,
15 Wesley Street, Apt 3,
Etobicoke, ON M8Y 2W4

David Scott McKenzie,
131 Keller Crescent,
Saskatoon, SK S7J 5G3

Heather Jean O'Donnell,
23 Harnish Crescent,
Toronto, ON M2M 2C2

Peter Richardson,
68 Burke Drive,
Caledonia, ON N3W 1C4

LADY MARY MACKENZIE 1731-1788

While we were in Charleston, in fact on our final day, we had a few hours before our flight to pay a visit to the Middleton Plantation north of the city of Charleston. I mention this because of some interesting connections between the Mackenzie family and the Middleton family that owned this large plantation. Besides going on a horse and carriage ride and learning about the plantations of South Carolina which included seeing the lakes in which slaves planted and gathered rice, we also learned that the slaves risked their lives from the crocodiles in the lakes. Malaria was also a cause of death from the mosquitos.

However it was a visit to the Middleton house on the estate that took my interest.

Lady Mary Mackenzie was one of the two daughters of George, 3rd Earl of Cromartie, who emigrated to Charleston, South Carolina. The 3rd earl, you may remember was the one who lost his titles and lands and was tried by



the House of Lords for high treason following

his support for the Jacobite cause ending with the Battle of Culloden in 1746. He was sentenced to death but was saved by the actions of his wife, Isabella appealing to the Prince of Wales. George was banished to Devon in the south of England.

Lady Mary first married Captain John Clark in 1750. The marriage was dissolved but they had one son Jabez. Both Jabeth and Mary took the name of Mackenzie.

Mary's second marriage was to a very wealthy man, the Hon. Thomas Drayton. Lady Mary and her son Jabez and her sister Lady Anne returned with Mr Drayton to Charleston, SC. Thomas obtained 662 acres on the Ashley River and named it Magnolia Plantation. He received 3000 acres in St Helena and owned a house in Charleston. Thomas Drayton served in the Royal Assembly. Thomas and Mary had one "dimwitted son" Thomas, born 1759 and he died in 1802. Thomas senior died in 1760 and Mary inherited two tracts on the Ashley River and the use of the Magnolia Plantation during her lifetime.

Mary married a third time to John Ainslie in June 1762. He also owned some plantations and on his death in 1774 Mary inherited one of the plantations to add to the properties from her second husband Thomas Drayton.

Mary married a fourth time to Henry Middleton in 1776, the owner of Oak and Middleton Plantations. Henry served in the Royal Assembly and in the 1st and 2nd Provincial Congress and the 1st and 2nd General Assembly. He became the wealthiest landowner in SC with over 50,000 acres, 20 plantations and 800 slaves. He died June 1784. Lady Mary inherited \$40,000, the house in Charleston, the use of the Middleton Plantation as well as a pew in St. Michaels Church.

The portrait on the previous page shows

Henry Middleton and was painted by Benjamin West around 1771. This painting was hanging in the Middleton House and we also saw two other portraits in the same room of his grandson, another Henry Middleton, and both of these were also painted by Benjamin West.

It was this aspect which caught my attention. Benjamin West was an Anglo-American artist who also painted pictures in Britain. Of course the most famous one to the Mackenzies is the killing of the stag by Colin Mackenzie saving the life of King Alexander III. Part of this picture is shown in the heading to each of our newsletters. I have also heard it said that all the other persons in the painting are copied from leading members of the Mackenzie clan. I do not know if this is true but it does raise the question as to whether the artist was known to Lady Mary or Lady Anne and that was how he came to Charleston to paint the Middleton portraits!

The first Henry Middleton refused to accept separation from Britain but it did not seem to do him any harm as the new American government did not confiscate his properties as they did with other Loyalists to the Crown.

Lady Mackenzie returned to England with her son Captain Mackenzie (Jabez?) for settlement of her brother's estate in 1786 - that would be John Mackenzie, Lord MacLeod. He was also declared treasonable for his role in the Jacobite rising in 1745/6 but as he was only 17 years old he was released and he went to Sweden where he became a major general in the Swedish Army. Cabarfeidh told me that in Sweden he was raised to their peerage as Count Cromarty and that title is still extant.

Lady Mary died at sea on her return to Charleston in 1788. Most of her estate she left to her son-in-law Edward Rutledge in trust for her son Thomas Drayton.

LADY ANNE MACKENZIE

Lady Anne Mackenzie was born at Castle Leod in 1733 and died at the age of 35 on January 18, 1768 in Charleston, South Carolina.

She firstly married the Hon. Edmond Atkin on May 1, 1760. He was the Superintendent of Indian Affairs in Southern America and later the President of the Council of South Carolina.

Her second marriage was to Dr John Murray, Deputy Secretary of the colony, on February 14, 1764. Dr Murray was born in Scotland and died on January 12, 1774 in Charleston.

Even though Anne's sister, Lady Mary, married far above Anne and obtained land and great wealth, of the two sisters it is Lady Anne Murray who is remembered in Charleston. There are no memorials of any kind in Charleston to Lady Mary, but a beautiful memorial stone to Anne was placed on the east wall of the First (Scots) Presbyterian Church at 53 Meeting Street. It is one of the most handsome examples of 18th century art in America.

At her death she was praised in the following manner in the American General Gazette: "With all the politeness ease and dignity of her rank and birth, she obsessed a cheerfulness of mind and temper, with a sweetness of behavior that commanded the esteem and love of all. In the more adverse scenes of her life her fortitude and equanimity never forsook her. And her last long and painful illness, she bore with that patience and resignation and met death with that confidence, which nothing but true religion can inspire, having a disconsolate husband and relations, with all who had the pleasure of her acquaintance to regret her loss."

DR GRAEME MORTON GOES TO DUNDEE

Many of you will know that Graeme Morton was the first person to hold the Chair in Scottish Studies at the University of Guelph. After several years in that role he has finally accepted a post that enables him to return to Scotland. That role was of Professor of Modern History at the University of Dundee.

Since I (Alan McKenzie) was heavily involved for many years in trying to raise funds for a Chair in Scottish Studies at the University of Guelph (via the Scottish Studies Foundation), I was disappointed not to be able to attend his farewell gathering at Guelph earlier in the year. So I wrote him an e-mail and what follows is his reply, which will be of interest to the many members who had the opportunity to meet him and hear him speak.

Dear Alan and Susan,

Greetings from Dundee - and profuse apologies for not replying to your kind email until now. It has been such a whirlwind lately we are only now beginning to catch our breath. I started in Dundee on 1 August, and really it has been non-stop. The boat finally arrived with our worldly belongings (and all my books) a few weeks after we did, and the unpacking has been interesting (and time consuming) to say the least. Canadian houses from the 1980s do not translate into 19th century Scottish ones. We still own the house in Guelph, so if you know anyone that would like to buy it, then please send them our way! That we haven't yet sold means we've yet to buy, so currently we rent in the pretty Perthshire village of Alyth. The downside is that it's 45 minutes into Dundee, but we chose it because it was about the only option for our dogs (really, it was!). And the place does have a great history. The

old jute mill owners had their country homes here, and William Lyon Mackenzie's mother owned a general store! It was also the last place the Scottish parliament met before Cromwell came in and took over.

Angela has been busy organising our new lives, and doing much house hunting. Sam and Evie are both enrolled now in Dundee University - Evie in English, Sam in Law. And I've held my first classes, slipping back into the old ways once again.

And I write with great expectation that you are both feeling much better now after your recent hospital visits. If memory serves, you were both in at the same time, which is terrible timing, it really is! So I insist that you are both on the up, and ready to resume your travelling and performing.

Remember to come over to Dundee (and maybe even Alyth if we are still here) next time you are over. I plan to be in Toronto in the summer, then back for all the Homecoming fun and games.

Keep in touch, and hope to see you both soon.

With all best wishes,
Graeme

ED: We are still waiting to hear who will replace him as Chair at Guelph. At the Annual Colloquium at Guelph on October 5th it was announced that permission has been granted by the university to advertise for candidates. The process will likely take some months, but we will announce the new Chair in Scottish Studies as soon as we know that person.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CLAN MACKENZIE SOCIETY OF CANADA, HELD AT THE MISSISSAUGA GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB, SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 15, 2013

There were 35 in attendance for the meeting.

President Alan McKenzie called the meeting to order, welcomed all and greeted the Earl and Countess of Cromartie. Alan introduced President-elect Sharie Argue and her husband Earle.

Marg Hood nominated Alan McKenzie to chair the meeting. Seconded by Andy MacKenzie. Carried.

Ron McKenzie moved the Minutes of the previous AGM be accepted as presented.

Seconded by Mike Hook. Carried.

President's Report

Alan formed a Succession Planning Committee to ensure that the Society continued without interruption in the event of deaths or resignations. We have as a result dealt with the posts of president and treasurer. The position of Newsletter editor has not been finalised but a possible candidate has been identified. Mary-Lou informed the members of her stepping down as Secretary. Marg Hook offered to help take notes at the quarterly meetings held at Alan and Susan's home. Alex MacKenzie is the Assistant Treasurer to Alan. Alan informed the members that he would remain as Treasurer for the time being. Alan will also continue as Newsletter editor for the present time. Alan and Susan had assistance at a number of Games this summer. He and Susan continue to recuperate from their major surgeries in May and June. Alan thanked Carol and Blaine McKenzie for their help organizing the reception for the Earl and Countess this afternoon in the Officers' Mess of the 48th Highlanders at Moss Park Armoury. Scott MacKenzie contin-

ues to work hard on the Clan Society web site. Andy MacKenzie, Dan McKenzie and Gary Mackenzie were also thanked for their assistance at Highland games. Alan read reports from two Commissioners – Shawn Mackenzie for Toronto and Joan MacKenzie from British Columbia. Joyce Hirasawa and family also worked at the Fergus Games. Alan reported that the DNA project for Mackenzies is very active and now numbers 300 members across the world.

Web Site

Scott McKenzie gave a report on his goals with the Clan's web site. One goal is to have Clan items available for sale through the web site as well as on line using Paypal.

Treasurer's Report

Alan presented his Treasurer's Report which was moved by Mike Hook and seconded by Blaine McKenzie. Carried.

Elections

Daniel McKenzie made a motion that Sharie Argue be elected President of the Clan MacKenzie Society of Canada. Seconded by Eleanor Thomson. Carried.

Gary Mackenzie moved that Alan be re-elected Treasurer. Seconded by Duncan James. Carried. Alan thanked Mary-Lou for her years' help to the Clan Society. Alan made a motion that Alex MacKenzie be elected Assistant Treasurer. This was seconded by Mike Hook. Carried.

Alan read the slate of Clan Commissioners, all of whom have agreed to remain, except for Alistair MacKenzie in Burlington who is stepping down because of health issues. Daniel McKenzie moved the slate be accepted. Seconded by Susan McKenzie, carried.

President Sharie Argue spoke briefly of her beginnings with the Clan MacKenzie Society and that she is looking forward to working with

all the Commissioners across Canada.

Commissioner Daniel McKenzie made a motion that Alan McKenzie be made Honourary Life President. This was seconded. Carried unanimously. Alan responded that he had been honoured to have been the President of the Clan Society for Canada and that he was particularly pleased that the Clan Chief and the Countess were with us here in Canada before travelling to the U.S.

There being no further business, Daniel McKenzie moved to adjourn. Seconded by Liz Kelly. Carried.

The meeting was terminated at 7:00 p.m.

The treasurer's financial statements are on pages 14 and 15 and Scott MacKenzie's interesting report is also copied on pages 16-17.

LILIAS, COUNTESS OF CROMARTIE

1918-2013

A much-loved and respected pillar of the North Highlands community and wife of the late chief of Clan Mackenzie has died. Lillas, Dowager Countess of Cromartie, passed away peacefully on 11th October 2013 at her home Dower House in the clan seat of Castle Leod at Strathpeffer.

Full details of her life can be found at:

<http://www.bletherskite.net/2013/10/21/lilias-countess-of-cromartie-1918-2013/>

Known to many of the members and family as "Billie" Cromartie, she was a much-loved member of the Cromartie family. She was of much help to me (Alan) when I set up the Clan Society in Canada in 1987. I still have an audio recording of our conversation at Castle Leod.

CLAN MACKENZIE SOCIETY OF CANADA
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012

Expenditure		\$	\$	Income	\$
Members Donations to Castle Leod			1,620.00	Nevada net income	7,717.84
Catering & Rentals			304.18	Donations (tax receipt)	3,125.16
Memberships			70.00	Officer's donation (Note #1)	2,362.07
Postages			2,616.50	less expenses claimed	<u>2,362.07</u>
Printing & Publishing			6,453.59		-
Stationery & Office Supplies			780.22	Membership dues	5,337.26
Van Insurance, Licencing, Gas, Expenses			2,279.25	Interest & Investment Income	5,946.86
Van depreciation (30%)			695.91	Profit from sales	2,188.89
Sundry Expenses			756.77	HST Recovered	2,198.46
Bank Charges & Cheque books			188.04		
Clan Lock-Up Rental			2,644.20		
Grants and Donations paid			100.00		
Clan Dinner & AGM 2012			<u>1,020.11</u>		
Sub-total			19,528.77		
Net Income			6,985.70		
			<u>\$26,514.47</u>		<u>\$26,514.47</u>
Castle Leod Project - Accounts					
Expenses		\$		Income	\$
Paid to Castle Leod Project 2012			1,590.00	Balance in hand at January 1, 2012	0.00
See note 2				Per Personal Donations	1,620.00
Balance in Hand - December 31, 2012			30.00	Clan Society Donation	0.00
			<u>\$1,620.00</u>		<u>\$1,620.00</u>

The above accounts and those on the next page were presented and approved at the AGM held on September 15th, 2013

BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31ST, 2012

Assets	\$	\$	Liabilities	\$	\$
Cash at Bank			Capital Account 1/1/2012	90,300.02	
CIBC - Nevada Account (see Note #3)	2,263.72		Net Surplus (Deficit) Income for 2012	6,985.70	
CIBC - General Account	1,348.11		Total Capital	97,285.72	97,285.72
ING Bank Account at Interest	16,112.66				
Total Cash at Bank	19,724.49	19,724.49	Suspense account		0.00
Other Investments (at current value)		55,414.49			
Inventory at cost		12,373.88	Castle Leod Project Account		30.00
Nevada fees paid in advance		702.45			
GST/HST Receivable		2,198.46			
Other receivables		0.00			
Inventory of 1894 Books		1,152.82			
Inventory WLM Books		1,168.87			
Inventory - Tartan Cloth		2,675.61			
Payments in Advance		0.00			
Inventory of Donald Mackenzie books		32.30			
Inventory of Britons Books		248.55			
Clan Van at cost less depreciation		1,623.80			
		<u>\$97,315.72</u>			<u>\$97,315.72</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements

Note #1 - During the year an officer claimed for travel and accommodation expenses amounting to \$2362.06 and this claim was offset by a donation of \$2362.07 from that officer.

Note #2 - The total of funds sent to the Clan Mackenzie Charitable Trust for the Castle Leod Project came to £57,818.44 for the period up to December 31, 2011. The \$1590 paid in 2012 converted to £972.91, thereby increasing the funds remitted from the Society and its members to £58,791.35.

Note #3 - The funds on the Nevada bank account are restricted in use to printing and publishing.

I hereby certify that these accounts are a true and accurate reflection of the financial activities of the Clan MacKenzie Society of Canada for the year ended December 31, 2012

Alan McKenzie, ACIB, FICB, F.Inst.D., FSA Scot.
Treasurer

Presentation to the Clan MacKenzie Society of Canada Annual General Meeting

September 16, 2013

An account of the previous year's activities undertaken by
Scott McKenzie – Commissioner – Digital Media

For those who don't know me, my name is Scott McKenzie and I am the Commissioner for Digital Media, and new position created at the last AGM. I would like to take a few minutes to give an account of some of the initiatives we have undertaken to strengthen the Society's presence in the ever evolving digital world, what we have achieved, and what is in the works for both the short and longer term.

Short term goal – Integration

According to data presented by e-marketer, a digital media research firm, by the end of 2013 there will be over 17 million Canadians using social media and this is expected to grow to almost 20 million by the end of 2017¹. To capitalize on this potential market, it is imperative to fully integrate existing and emerging social media platforms into the overall communications strategy of the society, echoing the message delivered to the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs at their Clan Convention in 2009.²

To accomplish this, we have established a strong presence on the two largest social media platforms, [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). We have "staked our claim" on some of the smaller platforms such as [Pinterest](#), and [Google +](#) placing ourselves in a strong position should these platforms grow, and lastly we have also developed a presence on two niche social media platforms, [Tartan Footprint](#) and [Kiltr](#).

While our following has not grown as quickly as I expected, likely due to the fact that we are targeting a relatively small group, an approach that favours quality over quantity will better help us achieve our aims of growing the society ranks and creating a more dynamic clan family.

Over the next year, I will begin the process of refining the content we deliver through our various outlets, to bring information to followers that resonate, and prompt comment, discussion and interaction.

Short term goal – Modernization

While the past evolution of the society website has been excellent, from personal experience I know that the inability to join the society and pay my dues fully online is likely resulting in missed opportunities for new members. Long before I joined I was aware of the society, but as someone used to living in the online world, printing off a membership form, writing a cheque, and putting it in the mail stopped me in my tracks. Luckily I met Alan at the Glengarry Highland Games, and I was able to fill out the application, hand over my twenty and I was in. Had there not been a Clan presence there, or had I not gone to the games, it is highly unlikely I would be a member today. To attract the younger generation who, rightly or wrongly are used to instant gratification, we need to put ourselves in the position to capitalize when we have their attention. Young members form the future leaders of the Society, and we need to engage them early to ensure longevity.

That being said, over the past year, I have been developing what I have affectionately referred to as version 2.0 of the Clan Website, with modifications in three distinct areas.

As part of the redevelopment, we have implemented a content management system (or CMS) to manage the site. In the past, it has been very costly and time consuming to make any changes to [clanmackenzie.ca](#). Implementing an easy to use, intuitive CMS, timely information updates will be possible in minutes, with little effort, and at no additional cost. The new web presence will also include the ability to join the society, and pay for your membership fully online as a one stop shop. For those so inclined, you will be able to pay your yearly renewal fees this way also. As in the past, payments by cheque and membership by mail will still continue to be an option for those who feel more comfortable. The new site will also launch with a fully integrated e-store, where we will be able to sell all of those wonderful clan items to a previously unaddressed market. The new website will also be fully integrated with social media with Facebook and Twitter feeds displayed throughout.

As a new feature, to support both the society and the Castle Leod restoration fund, the new website will feature a donation page where supporters will have the option of

making their donation securely online.

Lastly, as a more long term goal, our hope is by increasing avenues to merchandise sales, we can clear out the significant amount of items in the current inventory, increasing revenue and reducing storage cost. Once the in-stock inventory has been eliminated, we plan to examine alternate means of merchandise supply, such as on demand production and shipment through avenues such as [CafePress](#) or [Zazzle](#) which are more cost effective.

We expect to launch the new site within the next few months, hopefully in time to sell some gift memberships, or clan merchandise in time for the holidays which make the perfect gift for those special someone's who are hard to buy for. I would encourage you to like us on Facebook, or follow us on Twitter to be instantly informed when the new site goes live.

Medium Term Goal – Performance Measurement

In order to know if any of these efforts have achieved the ultimate goal of attracting new members we will need to gather some performance information.

Members who join online will be prompted to indicate how they first heard about the society, and through analysis of this information we will be able to determine if our social media is actually driving new membership, focusing efforts where it is working and reevaluating in areas of weaknesses. Additionally, we plan to employ web analytics to examine web site visits. Determining from where visitors to our site arrive, tracking what parts of our website they visit, and for how long.

The key here will be to ensure this data is used to plan future activities, and initiatives. I look forward to presenting this performance data, and the plans that it has influenced at the next AGM.

I would like to thank you all for taking the time to listen, and please feel free to contact me at any time. I am always open to suggestions, appreciate feedback, and would definitely welcome any new ideas or perspectives. Does anyone have any questions, concerns or comments?

MAJOR MACKENZIE OF FOVRAN

The portrait of a person below was described by Waddingtons Auctioneers in Toronto some years ago as **“Major Mackenzie of Forran, Seaforth Highlanders, Chief of Mackenzie Clan, Oil painting on canvas: signed lower left and dated 1864. The artist was Alexander Leggett (19th Century), British. Est.\$10,000/15,000.**

This impressive painting was on display at Waddingtons when I went there to see if there were



any good bargains.

Naturally enough I immediately took issue with this description of a man who was not shown in any of my records as Chief of the Mackenzie Clan in 1864. I did some research and I concluded that he was Mackenzie of Fovran and not Forran. The estimate of the price at auction put me right off any attempt to buy it. It was a grand painting and it measured almost 4 feet by 3 feet. But what I did do was to write to

Waddingtons telling them that the person in the portrait was never Chief of the Mackenzie Clan. I do not know if Waddingtons made any such statement to the crowds of buyers on the night of the auction. What was interesting was the price it realised - \$20,000! which with buyers premium and GST probably came to around \$26,000.

Of course it was the smart uniform of an officer in a kilt in a battle scene that attracted the buyers.

THE FITZGERALD CONNECTION

In the previous issues I made mention of an article in a magazine stating there was "proof" via DNA of the Mackenzies being connected to the Fitzgeralds. According to some histories of the Clan, Colin Fitzgerald was the first Chief of what became the Mackenzie Clan.

So it was going to be interesting to see what this proof was. It turned out that one Mackenzie lady matched her DNA with two other people and on analyses it showed she had a large number of ancestors from Ireland and most of them were in areas inhabited by the Fitzgeralds. However this lady did not match with the 300 members of the Mackenzies in the DNA project and there was no other indication that the majority of Mackenzies had this Irish connection to support the Fitzgerald theory. In fact, what finished this investigation for us was the fact that the Mackenzie lady did not have a single ancestor in her DNA by the name of Fitzgerald. So false alarm - we shall not pursue this further.

One member accused me of having a fixation with the Fitzgerald origins. Not so. These origins were put forward by the 1st earl of Cromartie and he claimed to have documents proving the origins. These papers have never been found but even Mackenzie of Findon, the man who researched the Mackenzie family and produced the vast Findon Tables, starts his Mackenzie genealogy off with Colin Fitzgerald. Also the famous painting of Colin killing the stag was believed to be of Colin Fitzgerald also named Colin Mackenzie.

I have never had a fixation of the Fitzgerald con-

nection. I have only insisted that it could not be disallowed just because two genealogists, Skene and Alexander Mackenzie, refused to believe it. Why would the first earl of Cromartie pretend to be descended from an Irish soldier. The earl was a Latin scholar and became Secretary of State for Scotland. Not the sort of person to invent such a genealogy.

MESSAGE FROM CABARFEIDH

Dear All,

We have recently had our AGM in Dunkeld which was superbly organised by Susan Weinmann our Secretary. On Saturday we visited Hatton Castle and Blair Atholl Distillery amongst other things and despite being rather damp a very good outing was had by all.

Our AGM on Sunday saw, after over five years of service to the Society a change in some of the Officers of the Society. In particular, our President Hamish Mackenzie has moved on to become an Honourary Vice-President and his place taken by The Earl of Cromartie. Our long serving Secretary, Susan Weinmann, has now taken a partial back seat and her work split between Eve Mackenzie and our Membership Secretary, Jacqueline McKenzie. Two other former Officers and Committee Members have rejoined, namely Graeme Mackenzie as Deputy Chairman and Margaret Saunders who will also act as Minutes Secretary.

All our other Committee Members remain the same and we also now have an excellent new website, thanks to Daniel McKenzie, Jacqueline's son, who is a non-Committee Member.

All enquiries for the Society should be addressed to Jacqueline in the first instance:
jacquimac2@gmail.com

I hope all is well with all our Mackenzie Societies around the World and that together we may continue to flourish and grow as a great Clan.

Alba gu brath! Cabarfeidh

SEASON'S GREETINGS TO ALL MACKENZIES AND CLAN MEMBERS:

It is an honour to represent you as the President of the Clan MacKenzie Society of Canada.

Over the next season or two I hope to meet many more of you in person at Highland Games or meetings or other events in your areas.

The MacKenzie surname has always held a great fascination for me, starting with the stories my Great Grandmother MacKenzie used to relate to me when I was a youngster. That was the beginning of what is now, with the assistance and contributions of people worldwide, a database of over 45,000 individuals. This is a personal database and I do not plan to put it online, nor write a book or any other massive undertaking. However, I do freely share with those who share their data with me. So, if you'd like to contact me at: sharieargue@sasktel.net, I would be pleased to see if I can discover where you fit into the 'tree' and then share with you the material you'd be interested in having.

Amongst my official duties so far this autumn have been the very pleasurable task of attending the AGM in Toronto, followed by a delicious dinner & an interesting presentation by Cabarfeidh about Castle Leod.

A few days later we journeyed to Charleston, South Carolina to attend a variety of events put on by the local Scottish Society, including the Highland Games at Boone Hall Plantation where the Clan MacKenzie were their honoured clan this year. The Tartan Ball in Charleston was fun and an opportunity to meet many more people who are interested in their Scottish roots.

My husband, Earle, and I, along with Alan & Susan McKenzie & John & Eve (Our Cabarfeidh, The Earl of Cromarty & the Countess of Cromarty), had a thoroughly enjoyable time representing our Clan at these and various other events.

Over the coming year I hope to hear from you with your ideas and suggestions about how we can improve and expand the scope of the Clan MacKenzie Society of Canada. Genealogy and history are always

of interest, but we need to also find innovative ways to encourage new members to join the Society. I would be delighted to hear from you at any time, in waking hours here in Saskatchewan where we are always on Daylight Savings Time, at 306-757-3960....our home phone, or by email at: sharieargue@sasktel.net

You may also contact me by mail if that is more convenient for you at:

P.O. Box 3672, Stn. Main, Regina, Saskatchewan,
Canada S4P 3N8

With your input, I look forward to an exciting term as President and will do my very best to represent you well and assist however I am able to with your local projects!

Best wishes to you and yours for a very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Sharie Argue



Earl & Countess of Cromartie and Commissioner Gary McKenzie viewing painting at 48th Highlanders Officers' Mess



Sisters Heather and Kim McKenzie at the Officers' Mess



Carol McKenzie and Commissioner and Piper Andy MacKenzie



Commissioner Scott McKenzie and his wife Nadine at the Annual Dinner



Gathering at the 48th Highlanders of Canada's Officers' Mess



Mike and Marg (MacKenzie) Hook at the annual dinner



Dinner Guests listening to Cabarfeidh