



Clan MacKenzie Society in the Americas

Cabar Feidh

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A HISTORY OF THE MACKENZIES PART 12 THE MACKENZIES OF CROMARTIE

By 1684, the main line of the Urquharts of Cromarty had died out. The barony was in the hands of a rapidly rising branch of the clan, the Mackenzies of Cromartie who descended from Sir Roderick Mackenzie, tutor of Kintail and the heiress of Macleod of Lewis. Sir Roderick had inherited Coigach through his wife and on part of the lands he had acquired from his father stood Castle Leod, which dated back to the early 15th century. The castle is in Strathpeffer near the town of Dingwall and is the home of our present chief. Roderick also purchased lands at Tarbat and a grand house was built there; unfortunately it no longer exists. From this important branch of the Mackenzie family descend the present Earl of Cromartie and chief of the Clan Mackenzie, and his son Viscount Tarbat. This family acquired the town of Portmahomack and the name became changed to Castlehaven.

However, present day maps now show the town by its old name of Portmahomack, so the new name was never accepted. The Earl of Cromartie's titles include Baron Castlehaven of Castlehaven.

SIR GEORGE MACKENZIE OF ROSEHAUGH 1636 - 1691

It is timely to take a look at one of the most famous members of the Mackenzie family to make his name in history. The portrait



of him was painted in 1665, coincidentally, the time of the Great Plague! Sir George, became known by the unattractive epithet

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

“bluidy Mackenzie”. This was because of his very able and spirited prosecutions of the Scottish Covenanters during the period of their persecution. He was the King’s Advocate for Scotland. So prominent was his reputation that it was considered a test of courage in the 19th century, for the youth of Edinburgh to enter Greyfriars Churchyard, where Mackenzie was buried, and challenge his ghost with the couplet:

Lift the sneck and draw the bar,
Bluidy Mackingie, come oot if ye
dar’.

However, so few dared risk the consequences, that it was said that the safest hiding place for a criminal on the run in Edinburgh was Mackenzie’s vault in Greyfriars.

He was the son of Simon Mackenzie of Lochslin who was, in turn, brother to George Mackenzie, 2nd Earl of Seaforth. He was born in Dundee in 1636 and studied Greek and philosophy at St. Andrew’s and Edinburgh Universities. He then went to Bourges in France to study civil law and returned to Edinburgh in 1659 where he was called to the bar. He made an incredibly rapid rise to eminence in the legal profession while pursuing his literary interests.

He came to national prominence in 1661, at the age of 25 for his defence of the Marquis of Argyll at his treason trial. Nevertheless, the unfortunate Argyll still lost his head, despite the fine defence put forward by his young lawyer. Argyll’s proven affiliations with the late and unloved Oliver Cromwell was the cause of his doom.

Shortly afterwards he was appointed a justice-depute and later a criminal court judge. By the age of 35 he was the member of parliament for Ross-shire and was active in advising against a too hasty decision on the proposed act for incorporating the union between England and Scotland.

The merit of his legal advice and service to the Scottish parliament was appreciated and by 1677 he had already been knighted and was now the King’s Advocate and a Privy Councillor. On his accession to his new office he discovered the gaols full of untried prisoners. Many of these he had released. But as far as the imprisoned Covenanters were concerned he pursued these ruthlessly. These were the religious extremists and fanatics who had led Scotland down a destructive path of

civil war, of war against the king and of war against the English. It was these people he helped to eliminate.

The chronicler and Presbyterian divine, Wodrow, who was certainly no natural supporter of Mackenzie, or his acts against the Covenanters, says of him:

“Sir George Mackenzie was a very great instrument in the after severities against Presbyterians, and was scarce ever guilty of moderating any harsh proceeding against them in the eyes of the prelates themselves.”

There are a couple of stories about Sir George which are worth repetition as they add some elements to the worthy man’s character. The first story is about the time when he was called upon at his home in Rosehaugh by a poor widow. This old lady sought the lawyer’s advice about her croft. Although she had a lease to this small property she had been threatened with eviction, despite the fact there were some years still to run under the terms of the lease. Sir George quickly examined the lease and spotted a flaw in the wording, the effect of which was to put the old lady’s lease in jeopardy. Sir George advised her that she would certainly lose the case if she contested it and advised her to vacate the croft. The old lady was so distressed at this revelation that Sir George asked her to call upon him the next day when he would examine the situation more carefully.

Sir George had a clerk, who slept in the same room as his master and he was surprised in the night to see Sir George get out of bed, light a candle and go to his desk and commence writing, all the while being totally asleep! After writing several pages, he locked the papers in his desk, put out the candle and retired to his bed, still asleep.

The following morning at breakfast he remarked to his clerk that he had had a very strange dream involving the widow’s croft and in his dream he had resolved the matter in favour of the lady. However, he was unable to remember how that resolution had presented itself. The clerk, requesting the keys to the desk, went to the desk and extracted the papers he had seen Sir George writing during the night. He showed them to Sir George and asked, “Is that like your dream?” Sir George examined the papers for a while and expressed

his surprise, “Dear me, this is singular; this is my very dream!” The clerk then told Sir George what he had seen the night before, much to his amazement.

The case he had written was, as it turned out, watertight and the poor widow was able to hold on to “her wee bit croftie.”

The second tale about Sir George is no less remarkable. Although, of course, he had a fine estate at Rosehaugh, deep in Mackenzie territory like other professional men in Scotland, he also had a residence in Edinburgh and it was his practice before dining to take a walk for about half-an-hour or so. One of the places which he favoured for this stroll was Leith Walk, which in those days was a quiet and solitary place. One evening while taking his pre-dinner amble, he was stopped by an elderly gentleman, who, without either introduction or apology, immediately made demands on Sir George as follows:

“There is a very important case to come on in London fourteen days hence, at which your presence will be required. It is a case of heirship to a very extensive estate in the neighbourhood of London, and a pretended claimant is doing his utmost to disinherit the real heir on the grounds of his inability to produce proper evidence of his title to the estate. It is necessary that you be there on the day mentioned. In one of the attics of the mansion-house on the estate, there is an old oak chest with two bottoms. Between these you will find the necessary titles written on parchment.”

So saying the old man quickly departed, leaving Sir George bewildered and speechless. After a while he thought no more about the matter. On the following day, however, while he was walking once again before taking his evening meal, the same gentleman appeared. Once again, without introduction or greeting, he immediately urged him not to delay but to go to London. He also assured Sir George that he would be amply rewarded for his trouble. The gentleman quickly departed and Sir George paid no great attention to the matter.

On the third evening he once more met the old gentleman who this time pleaded with him not to lose another day but depart for London otherwise the case would be lost.

The most unusual circumstances of these meetings piqued Sir George’s curiosity. He therefore decided that he would in fact journey to London which he did the

following day on horseback. On his arrival he went to the mansion-house which had been described by the old gentleman. There he discovered two men engaged in earnest conversation. One of these men was one of the claimants to the property and the other a celebrated London barrister to whom he introduced himself as the principal law officer for the Crown of Scotland. The London barrister was not pleased to meet Sir George and assumed he had come to "take the bread out of his mouth." He spoke in a surly manner and made rude remarks about the Scots and Scotland. Sir George replied "that lame and ignorant as his 'learned friend' took the Scots to be, yet in law, as well as in other respects, they would effect what would defy him and all his London clique."

The conversation was in danger of becoming even more disagreeable, except that the other gentleman ended it by taking Sir George into the house. The drawing-room was filled with many beautiful drawings and paintings and one of the portraits attracted Sir George's attention and he asked whose likeness it was. The gentleman replied that it was a portrait of his great great grandfather. "My goodness," said Sir George, "That is the very man who spoke to me three times in Leith Walk, and at whose urgent request I came here."

Sir George then requested that he be shown to the attic. This was agreed and there they found a number of old documents, which, after examination were shown to be of no use in the matter of the case of the heirship. Sir George then remembered the old gentleman's remark about the trunk with two bottoms and looking around the attic he spotted an old trunk lying in a corner. He gave the ancient old trunk a good hearty kick. The bottom fell out releasing a quantity of chaff, amongst which were the original papers relating to the titles to the estate.

The next day, Sir George appeared in Court just as the case was about to commence. He approached the eminent barrister who had made the rude remarks about Scotland and he was acting on behalf of the pretended claimant to the estate. Sir George asked him, "Well, Sir, what will I give you to abandon this action?" He replied, "No sum, nor any consideration whatever, would induce me to give it up!" Sir George drew a snuff-box from his pocket and taking a pinch of snuff, quietly said to the illustrious lawyer, "Well Sir, I

will not even hazard a pinch on it."

The case proceeded and in answer to the claimant's lawyer's presentation, Sir George gave a most eloquent speech in which he exposed the means adopted to deprive his client of his birthright and closed the case by presenting the documents of title, which decided the action in favour of his client. Taking his young client's arm he turned to his "learned friend" and said, "You see now what a Scotsman can do and I must tell you that I wish a countryman anything but a London barrister."

Sir George was well paid for his trouble and returned to Edinburgh. But he never ever saw the old gentleman again!

So much for "Bloody Mackenzie." Since the word "bloody" tended to be an all-embracing epithet used by the extremist Covenanters against any who opposed them, perhaps Sir George Mackenzie was not as black as he was painted. In fact there was another "bluidy Mackenzie" who, coincidentally, had the same name, Sir George Mackenzie of Tarbat; later to become Viscount Tarbat and the first Earl of Cromartie. These two Georges are often confused with one another, since when the persecution of the Covenanters was at its peak, one presided as Lord Justice-General, while the other was head of the Bar as King's Advocate. Tarbat was also an accomplished lawyer and has been described as "one of the most extraordinary men that Scotland has produced." However he was politically sensitive and his scheming led one satirist to write:

*"Some do compare him to an eel;
Should mortal men be made of steel?"*

However, neither of these men were the monsters of cruelty they were made out to be. Sir George Mackenzie of Rosehaugh was considered by some in a much kinder light. Lord Fountainhall, a moderate in both politics and religion described him as "the brightest man in the nation." Bonnie Dundee wrote of him in 1689,

"the advocate is gone to England, a very honest man, firm beyond belief."

That he prosecuted the Covenanters is in no doubt, after all that was his job. He happened to regard them as rebellious subjects, but he did not persecute them for

their religious convictions. In one of his books he writes:

My heart bleeds when I consider how scaffolds were dyed with blood and the fields covered with the carcases of murdered Christians.

It was only the extremists that he sent to the scaffold. To the merely rebellious they suffered the merciful and lighter sentence of the thumbscrew or the "boots" - the ingenious method of torture in Scotland which was effective in extracting information.

If Sir George was aware that he was known as "bluidy Mackenzie" it is certain he did not care.

WILLIAM MACKENZIE, 5TH EARL OF SEAFORTH AND 6TH LORD MACKENZIE OF KINTAIL, CHIEF 1701—1740.

William Mackenzie succeeded his father as Chief of the Clan Mackenzie and as the 5th Earl of Seaforth and the 6th Lord Mackenzie of Kintail in 1701. As the son of Catholic parents, he was to choose the cause of the exiled house of Stuart and to play a prominent role in the Jacobite rebellions of 1715 and 1719. He was, after all, a marquis in the Jacobite peerage. James VII & II died in 1701. His son became the Jacobite King James VIII & III, otherwise known as the Old Pretender or, the Chevalier.

William was still a child on his "succession" in 1701 and at first it was proposed by his grandmother, the old Countess of Seaforth that he should be put under the care of Duncan Forbes of Culloden. But William's strong-willed Catholic mother, Frances, had other plans and insisted that Culloden not meddle with her son. She won that battle with her mother-in-law and William was spirited out of Scotland to France to be "popishly bred". And there he stayed until his return to Scotland in 1713.

One year after the death of the fourth Earl of Seaforth, the protestant King William also died as result of a fall from his horse which tripped on a mole hill. The Jacobites were delighted with this development and they toasted the mole which was the cause of the accident as the "little gentleman in black velvet". William was suc-

ceeded by another protestant daughter of James VII & II, Queen Anne, who was to prove to be the last of the Stuart monarchs. It was during Queen Anne's twelve year reign that the Act of Union of 1707 came into force. By this important act England and Scotland became united as Great Britain with its own flag - the Union Jack. But there were people in both England and Scotland opposed to this merger of their nations.

Another political act which was to have important consequences for the Jacobite cause was the English Act of Settlement passed in 1701 to determine who should succeed to the throne on the death of King William and later Queen Anne. This Act of Settlement determined that the Electress Sophia and the German House of Hanover were next in line. Conveniently, the Catholic James, "the Old Pretender", and son of James VII & II, was left out of consideration. Although Queen Anne was pregnant eighteen times, only one child survived infancy and he died in 1700. Meanwhile Scotland had made no decision on who should become their sovereign. The Pretender watched these proceedings with interest. Some Scots already regarded him and spoke of him as King James, indeed the French King Louis recognized him as King James VIII of Scotland and III of England.

In July 1713, William, 5th Earl of Seaforth returned from Catholic France a determined Jacobite. On August 1st, 1714, Queen Anne died and the German, King George I, of the house of Hanover, arrived in England in September as Britain's new king. Although George was, in fact, a great grandson of James VI & I, he was still seen as a usurper to the throne by the Jacobites who now saw no reason why King James VIII & III should not now return as their lawful sovereign. There were Jacobite supporters in both England and Scotland, though the English Jacobites tended to be Catholics while the Scottish Jacobites were both Catholics and nationalists. In Scotland many clans were Whigs politically and thereby supporters of King George. Others were fervent Jacobites. The seeds of civil war had been planted and were now about to flourish. James made a declaration on October 15th as follows: "We have beheld a Foreign Family, Aliens to our Country, distant in Blood and strangers even to our Language, ascend the throne." This seemed to have little effect, at least at first.

On George's arrival in England he went out of his way to ignore the Tories and snub the Scottish nobles who had come to meet him. Among these was the Earl of Mar, Secretary of State. George went further, later demanding he return his Seals of Office as Secretary of State for Scotland, which were passed to the Duke of Montrose. This action pushed the Earl of Mar into the Jacobite camp and he became its leader. He was also the cousin of the Earl of Cromartie.

On August 19th, 1715, the Earl of Mar, one time supporter of the Act of Union, sent letters to all of the known principal Jacobites inviting them to attend a grand hunting match at Braemar on the 27th of the same month. The Earl of Seaforth was among those who attended this gathering, the real purpose of which had little to do with hunting. The other Jacobite nobles in attendance included the Marquis of Huntly, eldest son of the Duke of Gordon, the Marquis of Tullibardine, eldest son of the Duke of Atholl, the Earl Marischal, the Earls of Nithsdale, Traquair, Errol, Southesk, Carnwarth and Linlithgow, the Viscounts Kilsyth, Kenmure, Kingston and Stormont, Lords Rollo, Duffus, Drummond, Strathallan, Ogilvie and Nairne plus other gentlemen of influence in the Highlands including General Hamilton, General Gordon, Macdonell of Glengarry and Campbell of Glendaruel.

The Earl of Mar produced a commission from James appointing him as Lieutenant-General and Commander of the Jacobite forces in Scotland. He made a stirring speech to the assembled gathering in which he said he was supplied with money sufficient to pay forces raised to join his standard and establish the Chevalier on the throne of Scotland. The Old Pretender was frequently referred to as the Chevalier. Each member in the assembly then took an oath of loyalty to the Earl of Mar as the representative of James VIII and III and promised to raise their men and to join Mar when they were so commanded by him.

On September 3rd, the Earl of Mar summoned his adherents to meet with him at Aboyne. Three days later the royal standard of King James VIII & III was raised at Braemar Castle and with that act rebellion had commenced. It is said that just three days later, Mar, in the presence of 2,000 troops, raised the royal standard once again, but this time the ball on top of

the flagpole fell off. This was seen by the Highlanders present as a very bad omen and cast a gloom over the proceedings. An old Jacobite song describes this event:

*But when our standard was set up,
So fierce the wind did blow, Willie,
The golden knop from down the top
Unto the ground did fa', Willie,
The second-sighted Sandy said
We'll do nae gude at a', Willie,
While pipers played frae right to left,
Fy, furich Whigs awa, Willie,
Up and waur them a', Willie,
Up and waur them a', Willie,
Up and sell your sour milk,
And dance, and ding them a', Willie.*

The Earl of Seaforth was late in joining Mar since he was tied down at home by the surrounding Whig clans. Colonel Sir Hector Munro, who had a fine military reputation in Queen Anne's wars, raised the Munros and the Rosses, totalling 600 men, for King George and encamped them at Alness to oppose Seaforth's Mackenzies. These were later joined by the Earl of Sutherland's men and those of Lord Reay adding another 600 armed supporters for the Government.

Seaforth was next joined with 700 Macdonalds and others, which, together with his own clan, amounted to 3,000 men. With this superior army he attacked the Earl of Sutherland who fled to Bonar-Bridge where his forces dispersed. A party of Grants on their way to support Sutherland, hearing of the flight of their allies, prudently decided to return from whence they came. Young Seaforth now levied considerable fines on the neighbouring Munros for their audacity in seeking to oppose him.

A party of Frasers also joined the rebellion under the command of Mackenzie of Fraserdale. He had assumed the chiefship of the clan Fraser since he was married to the daughter of the old chief. However, when Lord Lovat arrived on the scene he commanded the Frasers to withdraw from the rising which they did, leaving Fraserdale on his own.

Seaforth eventually met up with Mar and they marched south, leaving behind Mackenzie of Coul and Mackenzie of Gruinard to hold Inverness for the Jacobites. Mar captured Perth and made it his headquarters. He had almost 9,000 men under arms, and in England other Jacobites were raising forces. Unfortunately Mar

was not a leader in the image of Dundee. He was frequently unable to make up his mind what to do and often did nothing. When he did make a decision he was prone to change his mind. Thus he acquired the derisory epithet of "Bobbing John".

The Jacobite army under Mar eventually met the much smaller government army, commanded by the Duke of Argyll at Sheriffmuir. The right flank of Mar's forces, which included Seaforth's men, won the battle against the left flank of Argyll's, while the right flank of Argyll's won the struggle against Mar's left. This indecisive result led to Mar's Highlanders drifting back to their homes and the rebellion was over. On the 22nd of December the Old Pretender landed in Scotland. But he was too late!

It is conceivable that had James been a natural leader he could have gathered together sufficient support to have recovered the throne. But, unfortunately, he was not only not a good leader, he was a lugubrious, dismal and uninspiring man as the following contemporary account shows:

"...and yet I must not conceal that when we saw the person who we called our King, we found ourselves not at all animated by his presence, and if he was disappointed in us, we were tenfold more so in him; we saw nothing in him that looked like spirit; he never appeared with cheerfulness and vigour to animate us: our men began to despise him; some asked if he could speak; his countenance looked extremely heavy; he cared not to come abroad among us soldiers, or to see us handle our arms or do our exercise; some said the circumstances he found us in dejected him. I am sure the figure he made dejected us, and had he sent us but 5,000 men of good troops and never come among us, we had done other things than we have now done."

James returned to France in the following February and never came back to Scotland again. It was left to his son, Bonnie Prince Charlie, to try his hand to regain the throne for his father thirty years later.

The Mackenzies suffered many casualties at Sheriffmuir. Four of Seaforth's followers so distinguished themselves that a Gaelic poem was composed to commemorate their valiant deeds and deaths in the battle. The four became known as "the four Johns of Scotland." They were John

Mackenzie of Hilton, who commanded a company of Mackenzies, John Mackenzie of Applecross, John MacRae of Conchra and John Murchison of Achtertyre.

Prior to the Battle of Sheriffmuir, Eilean Donan Castle fell into the hands of the king's soldiers. A local tenant approached the new governor of the castle and asked for the help of the garrison in cutting his corn, as the weather appeared threatening and starvation would result if the harvest was not gathered. The governor agreed to this reasonable request and instructed the garrison to help the tenant. When the soldiers returned from the fields, they realised they had been the victims of a deception, for the men of Kintail had taken possession of the castle and were armed and dancing on the roof, "just as they were setting out for the Battle of Sheriffmuir where this resolute band was cut to pieces."

Sir John Mackenzie of Coul and George Mackenzie of Gruinard, meanwhile, continued to hold Inverness. They were awaiting the arrival of Macdonald of Keppoch who was marching to support them. Lord Lovat, the Fraser chief, intervened on behalf of the government forces, despite his supposed support of the Jacobite cause, and Keppoch was obliged to retreat. The position became hopeless for the outnumbered defenders of Inverness. Coul decided to escape with his men, leaving the turncoat Lovat to enter Inverness unopposed. Seaforth returned from the south and tried to raise his men at Brahan. But he found strong opposition from the other local clans including the Earl of Sutherland, Lord Reay's Mackays, the Munros, the Rosses, Forbes of Culloden's men, as well as the Frasers.

Seaforth made his way to Lewis and raised his men there, placing them under the command of Brigadier Campbell of Ormundel, an officer who had served in the army of the Russian Tsar. The government's General Cadogan, hearing of this development, sent a force to Lewis to meet this new resistance. Seaforth escaped to Ross-shire and the Mackenzies, abandoned by their chief, likewise deserted Campbell, who was captured. Days later, ships arrived from France with supplies for the Jacobites. But it was to be a frequent story, the promised assistance by foreign allies came too late or, was too little. The failure of Sheriffmuir to produce a decided victo-

ry had taken the wind out of the revolutionary sails. Seaforth gave up the struggle and followed James to France.

In May 1716 an Act of Attainder was passed against the Earl of Seaforth and the other Jacobites. The Seaforth estates were forfeited, though, as will be seen, in practice it was difficult for the government to put the forfeiture into effect. It was not until 1719 that Seaforth was again instrumental in attempting another Jacobite uprising.

SCOTTISH NATIONAL ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION 1902-4

BY ALAN MCKENZIE

Scotland has suddenly recognised a new hero. It is Dr William Speirs Bruce, the leader of one of the most successful Antarctic expeditions ever, the Scotia Expedition. He discovered and named Coats Land after his financial sponsors, the Coats brothers of Paisley. He was the first man to map the Weddell Sea and his scientific findings filled seven large published volumes. "History Scotland" magazine and "Scots" have both made the expedition a major story in recent issues. In Glasgow the Royal Scottish Geographical Society and the City of Glasgow sponsored a centenary dinner at the prestigious City Chambers. In March and April 2003 the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh will run a major exhibition on



Dr William Speirs Bruce and his wife, Jessie Mackenzie and son Eillium Alastair.

the Scotia expedition.

My interest in these events is through a family relationship with Dr Bruce. He married my grandfather's youngest sister, Jessie Mackenzie, and they had two children. When I learned of the events taking place in Scotland and saw that the Royal Scottish Geographical Society was seeking funds by way of donation to finance the various events I e-mailed the director and

Capital to celebrate forgotten city explorer



SUCCESS: William Speirs Bruce, right, led a team to the Antarctic in 1902. His team is pictured, left, flying the Saltire on Laurie Island in South Orkneys



H.R.H. The Princess Royal, The Earl of Dalkeith (President of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society) and Alan McKenzie

Secretary of the RSGS, Dr David Mackenzie Munro. Dr Munro's family comes from Nigg, the same region as my own family. Indeed Dr Bruce and Jessie

grandchildren lived in Toronto and Hamilton, Ontario! I managed to get the address of Mrs Moira Watson, Bruce's granddaughter (my second cousin) and Jill

and I paid her a visit and we stayed for dinner. We both exchanged information as we had both collected a great deal on the life and times of Dr Bruce.

Moira Watson had some valuable effects from her grandfather including his gold medal given him by the Royal Scottish Geographical Society one hundred years ago. She also had his camera with which he took many photographs of wildlife in the

Antarctic. These two items Moira decided to donate to the Royal Scottish Geographical Society. They were quite overjoyed to receive these and it was no great surprise that Moira and her son, Bruce Watson, were privileged guests on the top table for the centenary dinner.

I decided to spend nine days in Glasgow while attending this dinner and as those who read the December newsletter will know I took a day off to visit Strathpeffer and see the Chief and his family at Castle Leod.

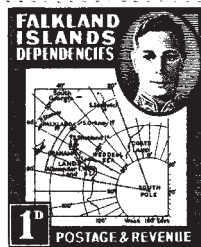
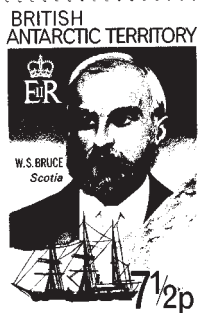
I was invited to a private reception prior to the centenary dinner at which HRH the Princess Royal, a Patron of the Scotia Centenary attended. I was able to meet with descendants of members of the crew of the Scotia, including the ship's



piper. The famous picture of the piper playing to a penguin does not reveal that the piper had tied the penguin's foot by a string to his own foot. That ensured the reluctant piping fan did not run away! This picture was used in the logo of the Scotia Centenary.

I also had the pleasure of meeting the various descendants of the ship's captain as well as other important members of the scientific staff. Among the guests I met was Falcon Scott, the grandson of the famous Scott of the Antarctic. The failures of both Scott and Shackleton's expeditions overshadowed the successes of the Scotia expedition. Bruce was impatient with expeditions to reach the Pole as he considered they were not in any way considered to be scientific. I did introduce Moira to Falcon Scott and they had a good conversation. Moira reminded Mr Scott that his grandfather consulted with Bruce.

I asked Moira if her son, Bruce Watson, was present. She said he was and I asked to be introduced to this cousin that I had not known even existed a month earlier. He was finely dressed in a kilt and evening



Three stamps commemorating the Scotia Expedition. The first shows Dr Bruce and the S.Y. Scotia. The S.Y. Scotia is also shown on the Falkland Islands Dependencies stamp. The centre stamp shows a map of the Antarctic and Coats Land. A new set showing Bruce is now being issued by British Antarctic Territories.



Plenty of good conversation - this picture was taken at the annual picnic at Black Creek Pioneer Village on September 15, 2002

jacket and I immediately liked him. As we started to talk Dr Munro introduced us to Princess Anne. I told Her Royal Highness her that I had just met my cousin for the first time and that we had both come to Glasgow from Canada. Princess Anne was amused by this and asked if we had come from opposite ends of Canada. No, I told her, we live just twenty minutes away from each other!

The dinner itself was a glittering occasion. The City Chambers is as near to being a palace as makes no difference. A special programme of original dances was arranged and teams of Scottish country dancers performed such dances as "Scotia Sea", "Coats Land", "Bruce's Men" and "The Piper and the Penguin". That reminds me that a few days later I visited the Hunterian Museum located at Glasgow University. There was an Antarctic display cabinet which had a large photo of Dr Bruce and beside this picture stood a big stuffed penguin. I noticed that someone had tied a label to the penguin's foot and on it was written "Stop cruelty to penguins - ban bagpipers!"

Were it not for this Centenary I would never have found my new cousins!

GENEALOGY TWO SELF-PUBLISHED MANUSCRIPTS

As more and more of us collect our family trees on professional programs such as Family Tree Maker we are soon able to convert the mass of collected data into a book. Some of our members are doing this and in fact we have received two

such genealogies which may be of interest to some members.

The first massive volume which runs to well over 350 pages is entitled "**The MacKenzies and Sullivans of the Miramichi**" and is by Betty McKay MacKenzie. It was printed in April 1994 and was sent to me for copying by our member Lynn MacKenzie of 3510 Clayton Street, Port Coquitlam, B.C. V3B 4R1. In the introduction to the book it is mentioned that James MacKenzie, born in Scotland in 1819 (town unknown) married Margaret Clark (also born in 1819) in Scotland - location unknown. The New Brunswick census of 1851 shows that James and Margaret and their family entered New Brunswick in May 1840 having previously lived in Crapaud, PEI.

The family tree also includes the Jardine family which traces back to George Jardine born in 1797, a son of Joseph Jardine and Jennie Kerr from Dumfriesshire. Descendants of this family married into the MacKenzie line and from thence a vast line of descendants.

The second manuscript book sent to us is entitled "**Descendants of Kenneth MacKenzie and Isabella McCaskil - Who came from Assynt, Scotland to Caribou, Nova Scotia in 1803**". This beautifully printed manuscript was put together by our member Barbara Jean Thorpe, 2220 Paliswood Place SW, Calgary AB T2V 3R2. Although this is a much slimmer version than the first Manuscript it still manages to include almost 300 Mc/MacKenzies in the index and 1,171 descendants.

Barbara gives a special mention of thanks to the late Norval MacKenzie "whose research and family charts introduced me to many new cousins." The late Colonel Norval MacKenzie was a commissioner of the clan some years ago and was a good friend and adviser to me in the early days of the Clan MacKenzie Society in Canada. I remember lending him my copy of "Home's Survey of Assynt" which was published by the Scottish History Society in 1960. It is conceivable that this useful book which contains maps and mentions many Mackenzie families in that parish was of assistance to the family in their genealogical hunt.

Barbara has mentioned in the book that since vital data is recorded on people that are potentially still alive that some limits should be placed on access and use of this material. However, if you think this family might connect with yours then copies can be purchased for \$25 plus postage. Barbara can also be contacted by e-mail at thorpep@telus.net

The genealogy starts with Kenneth MacKenzie born around 1754 in Loch Assynt, Sutherland, Scotland. He died December 15, 1833 in Caribou, Pictou Co., Nova Scotia. His tombstone shows he was 79 when he died. He married Isabella McCaskil, also born in Loch Assynt and she died in 1820 in Caribou. Their children were Neil born 1781; Alexander born 1784; Martha born 1788; John born 1792; and Murdock born 1794. All the birth dates have a "?". From this small number descend the 1171 persons listed.

These two volumes are a remarkable

record of the long years of hard work necessary to be able to produce such a wealth of detail.

GUILLAUME McKENZIE SEARCH

I am: Paul A Nichols of
1723 Alquinas Drive,
San Ysidro, Ca 92173, USA
e-mail: pauli007@pacbell.net

I was born in Cambridge, Ma and raised in Boston, Ma. Most of my ancestors come from Maine.

My Oakes line went from Mass to Maine to New Brunswick, Ca and back to Maine.

My grandmother is Marguerite Oakes. She was the daughter of Electus Oakes and Hattie Bouchard, m 8 Oct, 1866 in St Francis, Maine. Hattie Bouchard was the daughter of:

Ettiene Bouchard and Margarite McKenzie. They were married 28 Aug, 1832 in Riviere Quelle, Quebec, Ca . . . which is the beginning of my query.

Margarite McKenzie is listed in "Riviere Ouelle marriage book 1672-1972", I am informed, as the daughter of: **GUILLAUME MCKENZIE & ELIZABETH FRASER.**

I have no other information except that the person who sent me the information said that (Kokinlay)? was inserted after Margarite McKenzie's name.

I have been unsuccessful trying to trace any further back and would appreciate any assistance. Thank you.

Paul of San Diego

[Ed. I have included this query which was sent through to us from the Clan Fraser Society. The name of Guillaume McKenzie rings a bell and I suspect there may be members out there who may connect with this family. If so, let us know as well as Paul please.]

MORE MACKENZIES SOUGHT IN CANADA

Can anyone assist Blair MacKenzie, President-elect of the Clan MacKenzie Society in the USA? He has discovered that some of his ancestors made their way to Canada.

"I would greatly appreciate hearing from anyone who might recognize any of the following family:

Alexander McKenzie, born 1791, Kilchoman Parish, Islay, Scotland. Came to Grey County, Ontario in 1862 with five

of his children. He died in Cedarville, Grey County in 1879. His children, all of whom were born in Kilchoman and married in Grey County, were as follows:

John McKenzie, born 1829, married Elizabeth Ann McCullough. In 1881 was living in Winnipeg.

Janet McKenzie, born 1831, married Alexander McPherson. In 1881 was living in Proton, Grey East.

Flora McKenzie, born 1828, died 1897, married James Leversage. In 1881 was living in Proton, Grey East.

Duncan McKenzie, born 1841, married Flora McMillan. In 1881 was living in Proton, Grey East.

William McKenzie, born 1844, married Mary Ann Turner. In 1881 he was a school teacher and living in Arthur, Wellington North.

Blair MacKenzie,
7028 Bradley Circle
Annandale, Virginia 22003, USA

blair_mackenzie@msn.com

SEARCHING THE MACKENZIES OF ESSICH

Member Betty Hall of 501-3339 Rideau Place S.W., Calgary, AB T2S 1Z5 has been ancestor hunting for some years but is still looking for leads to the Mackenzies of Essich - which is some 3.5 miles south of the city of Inverness.

Here is what is currently known:

Catherine Gillanders b 1791, d Oct 11, 1860 married July 6, 1813 at Fodderty (near Castle Leod!) to John Mackenzie. They had a daughter "Muckle" Mary b Dec 29, 1820 Essick, sister of John G. Mackenzie, b 1819 and Kenneth b 1822 (Betty has records and names of witnesses). Mary married at Beaulieu Feb 22, 1839 to Neil McLean (b 1815) and they had a daughter Ann b July 4 in Beaulieu, Inverness and she married Dec 19, 1866 Samuel Waldo (May 19, 1836, Burritts Rapids, Ontario).

Before any wit asks the question, Betty is not looking for Waldo! In fact she states that she has got that connection thanks to Vic Waldo of Tulsa, Oklahoma.

If anyone can connect with this Mackenzie family then get in touch!

KIMSEY, KINZIE KINSEY

I have seen it said, and have no reason to doubt it, that when Highland Scots made their way south into England they frequently dropped the Mac off their name. Hence we get Gregor, Rae, Lennan, Donald and even Kenzie.

From my own experience I have spotted some parishes where the parish clerk spelled the name McKenzie as McKinzie and when the parish clerk moved on his replacement reverted to the usual spelling. So it is no surprise to see the name Kinzie turning up and as a variant of that spelling the well-known name of Kinsey.

We have recently taken on a new member named Dr Christopher Kimsey who lives in Idaho. This variation is one I had not seen before and one needs to look at the genealogy to see if it is in fact a derivation of Mackenzie. Here is an extract of Dr Kimsey's letter:

"There has been quite a debate amongst various branches of the Kimsey/Kimzey family on whether to disregard the oral tradition, since no one can find any genealogical evidence for Benjamin McKimzey [an ancestor from England born there in 1725] overseas. There are about forty-five hundred Kimsey/Kimzey families here in the States, who are descendants of our Benjamin Kimsey/Kimzey, Sr. Amongst these, there are a handful of researchers who I challenge to renew the Scottish research this year.

"When I began reviewing legal documents for my ancestors, I kept finding Kinsey, Kinzey, and Kinzie used sparingly throughout the documents for about one hundred years. Generally these spellings are found on tax records, land grants for military service, military enlistment papers, and one military pension. One family researcher has located a Benjamin Mackenzie in Sussex, England, from the chronological time of our Benjamin MacKimzey. So maybe we have a link now."

Once a family has left Scotland the spelling of a complex surname tends to get many variations going back a couple of hundred years or more. One can just imagine an illiterate Highlander, speaking Gaelic, trying to get his name across to a semi-literate official, who writes what he thinks he hears.

CALGARY CLAN CHRISTMAS GET-TOGETHER - DECEMBER 7, 2002

BY SHEILA MCKENZIE

Thirty one MacKenzies and friends gathered at the home of Ruari and Nadine for our annual Christmas get together. Piano, violin, guitar and happy voices made a fitting start to the season. The pot-luck dinner was, as usual, enough good food for an army and the talk and laughter made the evening a big success. It is nice to see the younger members growing up and we were thrilled by a dance performance by Megan MacKenzie who first danced for us 10 years ago. She is now in Grade 10 and very grown up in comparison to that little girl of years past. It was a chance to renew acquaintances, meet new "relatives" and generally make merry. We hope the extended Clan has a happy holiday season.

Best of Everything from the Calgary Group. Sheila

[See page 12 for a photo of the younger MacKenzie Clans people present.]

STATISTICAL RECORDS OF SCOTLAND

BY RAD MACKENZIE

You may have read in the last issue of Cabar Feidh of the availability of the Statistical Records and perhaps some may have already taken advantage of them via the Internet. Other readers who do not access the internet at present or who would prefer some other means of checking out these sorts of things, have another option, reading the Records via the services of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints genealogy libraries, known as "Family History Centres", which, if you have not yet considered, warrant serious examination by anyone doing family research. As well as being able to read the Records, it is often possible to make a copy to keep for future reference or to round out your collection of data on your family's early home parish. To pursue this route, look up the nearest LDS church location found in many larger communities, and enquire if a Family History Centre is operated there or, if not, the nearest location of one. A phone call will inform you of the hours/days the centre is open and a visit will permit you to learn what materials and facilities are available to you. So far as the Records are concerned, these are not likely to be on site but can be ordered on loan

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for a small fee. Ask the attendant for the index or catalogue listing the papers available for the various parishes in Scotland. You must remember that although a tremendous amount of material is available, some records have not survived and you may be out of luck. However, make the enquiry and if your parish is shown, you will see just what is held at the main repository at Salt Lake City. The attendant will show you how to write up the request for loan and once the paperwork has been forwarded you will have only a short time to wait, perhaps a week or so, and then you will be able to do some serious reading. In the interim, make use of the records that are on site. If you are not familiar with the History Centres, you will find that there are microfilm and microfiche reading machines and in many locations there are also records on CD's, readable by their computer, permitting the generating of various lists. This is an important location to do family research, a tremendous source of information and a prime investigation spot to exhaust before taking a trip overseas for on-the-spot snooping (often with disappointing results). A great number of the historical records held in Scotland have been photocopied or transcribed and are at the Historical Centres for you to examine.

The Statistical Records provide a view of the time period recorded that is quite complete, a time machine snapshot of the parish, for the most part carefully considered and honestly reported. The purpose was to record the important data of the day by the person on site, often the local minister of the church, who was usually well educated and by the nature of his calling, interested in the parish under his care.

Areas dealt with include:

Geographic location, the surface, climate, population, character and manners of the people, occupations, landowners, soil and cultivation, fishing, harbours, price of labour, roads and bridges, the poor, ale houses, the Church, the schools, antiquities (ancient ruins, monuments).

The forgoing shows the general nature of the Records, however each is unique and while in the parish of Petty statistics a few names are mentioned under 'Heritors' (landowners), this particular document does not provide much genealogy material. Another Record, for the parish of Ardersier, Petty's neighbour to the north-

west, has more to offer in the way of people mentioned, mostly the various clergy of different levels, some military people (as Fort George is close by) and a few others whose lives were noteworthy.

We read these accounts and realize the people of that time were not so very different from us, their first concern being to provide for their families. True, they did not have the electronic wizardry we live with, cars were not dreamed of, but walking, or in some cases the use of horses, was sufficient for the distances they needed to travel. Clothing was suited to their needs, food though simple, sustained them and they found pleasure in their own entertainment. Their spiritual guidance may seem strict to present society but it encouraged and comforted them. Education was considered very important and treated with respect. Not many progressed very far, but the schoolmasters must have noted and cultivated the brighter students as evidenced by the numbers who distinguished themselves and brought honour to Scotland in the fields of engineering, science and medicine.

These forbears of ours must have done something right and we are the proof!

Using the Statistical Records of the Parish to supplement information on people found in Old Parish Registers (another marvellous source) will give you a broader picture of the place and people of that time.

THE RESULTS OF A GENEALOGICAL SEARCH - A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

BY KENNY MACKENZIE

It is not at all difficult to find and peruse the family tree of a noted admiral, duke, prime minister or famous inventor but that doesn't mean because you're a Kenny MacNobdy that you cannot have an interesting tree. I started my search with nothing more than my mother's Scottish birth certificate and it led me on a very interesting journey.

The first document my genealogist sent me was an 1891 Scottish census transcript which showed my great great grandparents and seven of their children, one of whom was my grandmother whose name was on mother's birth certificate. Anyone who has seen a census transcript will know that it contains the age of each person listed at the time of the census, the individual's occupation, address, marital status, county, and

whether or not each individual spoke Gaelic, English or both. Noting that the occupations of my grandmother, two of her brothers and a sister were all listed as 'scholars', I thought to myself, AHA!! I have some geniuses in my family tree! I was hastily set straight by my learned Scottish genealogist who, sticking a pin in my ego, informed me that in the 1800's, one could be listed as a scholar by virtue of the fact they could read and write, speak both Gaelic and English, and in all likelihood may only have reached grade 5 in school. WELL! There goes the neighbourhood as far as my tree was concerned! [Ed: I have always understood that scholar merely meant the child was at school].

On to the next tidbit. Noting my grandmother's brother Alexander (known as San) on the census brought back a memory from my early teens. Mother had told me San was a fearless man who fought in the First World War and had attained the rank of Sergeant. When mother was just a child, San was her favourite uncle and when he would be sent home to recover from battlefield injuries, he couldn't wait to get back to the front lines, but while he was home he would regale mother with vivid stories about the number of bellies he'd introduced his bayonet to. Charming fellow! Apparently, it was debatable whom he hated the most - - - the Germans or the English. Once, while on leave, he was waiting in a long line in front of an establishment and when he was nearing the front of the line, an overbearing English army Captain tapped him on the shoulder and said, "Back of the line, Sergeant; I'll take your place at the front". Cheers went up from all the Scots in the long line as dear old uncle San laid the Captain out cold! The Captain must have been a rather stupid fellow because he reported San's actions. Of course San lost his Sergeant's stripes for striking an officer but the Captain was also punished for abuse of authority which he would not have been if he had kept his (thereafter) toothless mouth shut about the incident. Somehow I can't help but believe Uncle San got enough satisfaction out of decking the Captain to the cheers of onlookers that he likely never regretted the consequences. Fearless in battle, yes. But I think 'colourful' would be a better character description of him.

Now, looking at an 1871 census transcript, I found myself again interested in my ancestors' occupations. While scanning

the page through fisherman, fisherman, fisherman, crofter, general merchant, lunatic, general servant - - - WHOA!! Back up the train - - - occupation 'lunatic'?!? Terrific! No generals, dukes or prime ministers in my tree, the scholars likely never graduated public school and now I have an ancestor whose occupation was 'lunatic'! Methinks I should have stayed just Kenny MacNobody and left well enough alone. I spent a lot of time thinking about why a person would be listed that way on a census and although I have no known way to prove my theory, I reminded myself that I was looking at a record from 1871 and the poor soul probably suffered from epilepsy. Remember, in those days there was no such thing as an electroencephalogram machine so anyone having the misfortune to suffer from epileptic seizures could easily have been viewed very differently in the 1800's than today. I can think of no other explanation why she would be listed as a lunatic in 1871.

Although I have currently uncovered only 36 hitherto unknown ancestors, I noticed that double MacKenzies had already appeared several times in my tree. My great grandparents were both MacKenzies, my great grandmother's parents were both MacKenzies, and one of their sons married a MacKenzie woman. While proudly relating all the double MacKenzies I'd found in my tree to a friend, he replied, "Oh, so that's what's wrong with you"!! Me and my big mouth!

I have been trying for some time to find living kin that may be able to help me fill in more recent information but given all the foregoing, what do you think? Should I leave well enough alone and simply satisfy myself that I'm just another MacNobody?! Or should I press on and see what other oddities lurk in the annals of my ancestry?

Like I said at the beginning, there may be no admirals, dukes, prime ministers or other famous personages in my tree, but no one can ever say it's dull and uninteresting!

[Ed: Thanks to Kenny MacKenzie of Penticton, B.C. for this amusing and interesting experience in climbing the ancestral tree a few branches. With so many MacKenzies in his background he has no cause to call himself a "MacNobody". The MacKenzies are entitled to have great pride in their name and clan. We should be very interested in hearing from other mem-

bers about their genealogical searches and their interesting finds.]

WORLD WIDE WEB

Here is a very interesting web site for those who have computers and are on the Internet. It is Tartan TV with lots of interesting articles and a few short videos. Open and get started with:

www.tartan.tv

From here you can search to your hearts content on almost any Scottish subject of general interest.

GAELS OF ENGLAND TO STORM BORDER

The following piece from The Times has been sent to us by our valued contact in the Highlands, Mark Courtney. Thanks once again Mark for these terrific items of interest.

London-based Gaelic campaigners are to march on the Scottish parliament, claiming that there is more sympathy in England towards saving the language than there is north of the border.

They are planning to fly St. George's Cross flags emblazoned with pro-Gaelic slogans when they demonstrate outside Holyrood in September [2002].

The parliament's commitment to the language was already in question because of the resignation of Alex O'Henley, its first Gaelic officer. He said that there was deep anti-Gaelic sentiment among senior civil servants and a severe lack of resources, and expressed "frustration and disappointment" with Holyrood's lack of action over Gaelic. The march is being organized by the 300-member Gaelic Society of London, founded 225 years ago by Highland soldiers based in the capital after their return from the American War of Independence.

Iain Macleod, the society's president, said: "Most people in England may be indifferent towards Gaelic but if you asked them they would say that they think it is worth preserving Scotland's oldest language. But in Scotland there is quite another reaction. Many Scots are against saving Gaelic because they think it is a waste of money.

"England is far more pro-Gaelic than Scotland because the English are conserv-

CLAN SEAT SET TO BE REVIVED WITH £409,000 AID

09:00 - 17 December 2002

Work to preserve the legacy of a historic Highland castle surrounded by local myth and folklore is due to begin in the spring.

The legends involving Ardvreck Castle in Assynt will be conserved thanks to the work of local community-led charity Historic Assynt, which was set up to help retain and restore the heritage of the area.

The organisation has received £409,000 in Heritage Lottery Fund cash to conserve the ruins of the 16th century castle and the nearby mansion Calda House.

Additional funds for the project also came from a wide range of sources, such as Historic Scotland, Caithness and Sutherland Enterprise, Highland Council, Scottish Natural Heritage, the Simon Whitbread and the Gordon Fraser, and Scotbelge Charitable Trusts.

Maggie Campbell of Historic Assynt said the 20,000 people who visited the castle every year were often faced with having to climb fences and wade through bogs, and one of the main aims of the programme was to improve access to the site.

"The castle is probably the last tower house on the west coast mainland north of the Great Glen," she said.

"It and Calda House are scheduled ancient monuments so their importance is recognised nationally."

According to local legend, the castle, which has been uninhabited since 1795 when it was struck by lightning, counts a witch and several ghosts among its residents.

Local folklore stated that the strike was the result of a resident dowager placing a curse on the area, following years of bad harvests.

The castle was the former residence of the chiefs of the MacLeods of Assynt.

In 1672, it was besieged by the Seaforth MacKenzies, who took control after a dispute involving the payment of estate debts.

Here is an interesting newspaper article from the Press & Journal and picked off the Web by Angus Mackenzie for us. The amount raised for this ruin could have been usefully used for Castle Leod which is trying hard not to become a ruin!

ative with a small 'c' and are on the side of the little guy more than the Scots are. If you ask the English, they look on Gaelic as an asset. That's because, unlike the Welsh that burned homes owned by English people in Wales and the Irish who have bombed English cities, the English have not felt threatened by the Scottish Gael since the Jacobite rebellions of the 18th century."

Mr Macleod also claimed that MPs were more sympathetic towards the lan-

guage than their counterparts in Edinburgh. "Many MPs, wherever they come from, have had good experience holidaying in Gaelic-speaking parts of the Highlands. The Scottish parliament is dominated by lowland Scots who are suspicious of Gaelic."

The latest census, due out early in 2003, will show that the number of Gaelic speakers in Scotland has fallen to just over 50,000 from more than 200,000 a century ago.

Language campaigners argue that without proper funding and a Gaelic Language Act being given official status in Scotland the language is doomed. The Scottish Executive, however, has shown no enthusiasm for such a move.

At a recent Gaelic conference, Mike Watson, the Minister for Culture, was greeted with slow handclapping when he appeared to dismiss the possibility of a Gaelic Language Act on the grounds of cost.

However, in the wake of Mr O'Henley's resignation, the Scottish Parliament announced that it was to expand its Gaelic services by creating two posts to promote the language.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members who have joined since the last Newsletter was mailed:

David Ford,
4411 Tanger Place,
Victoria, B.C. V8N 6E9

Dr. Christopher J. Kimsey,
Mark Kimsey, P.O. Box 100,
Princeton, Idaho 83857

Edward Daniel MacKenzie & Donna
Mae MacKenzie,
6375 - S.E. Marine Drive,
Burnaby, BC V3N 2Y5

Theodore N. Ulch,
5 Vanhurst Place,
Ottawa, ON K1V 9Z7

HENRY MACKENZIE - NORWESTER

We have been in communication with David Ford about one of his ancestors, Henry Mackenzie who worked for the North West Company. I asked him if he might be prepared to do an article on this man and here is part of his reply:

My knowledge of Henry is insufficient to stretch to a two page article, although I have found an excellent source of information in David Anderson, curator of the Bethune Thompson house in Williamstown, Ontario. This is, by the way, said to be the oldest house still standing in Ontario, and was the home of his wife



*back row: David Mathias; Sarah Watson; Lisa McKenzie; Gregory MacKenzie
front row: Jeremy Mathias; Isabel McKenzie; Vanessa McKenzie; Meghan MacKenzie; Evan McKenzie. David & Jeremy Mathias and Sarah Watson are the grandchildren of Sheila and the late Doug McKenzie (Former Commissioner for Alberta).*



This photo was taken by Cabarfeidh during Alan's hasty visit to Castle Leod last November. The light was just right for taking photos of the trees and castle and both of them took many pictures. In Alan's case the film came out blank! The Chief says that it looks as though Alan is picking the tree out of the ground to show his great strength!

Anne and her father John Bethune, the first Presbyterian minister in Upper Canada. Her mother sold it to David Thompson after her father's death.

I am from Victoria, British Columbia, which makes visiting there difficult, and I have only been once, a year ago last September. I am retiring soon, and plan to return. Williamstown is a very interesting place if you have any attraction to Canadian history. It is a tiny village not very far west of Montreal, but at one time it was just stiff with loyalists and norwesters.

The local museum contains a portrait of Henry Mackenzie donated by my cousin Audrey (I found to my great surprise.)

What I did know from my grandmother was that he was a Montreal partner in the North West company and the younger brother of Roderick Mackenzie, who seems to have some prominence in the history books, partly, I understand, because he liked to write. One family story that David did not have was the manner of his death. He was living in Montreal as one would expect, and at that time cholera was a major scourge there, brought in with the many immigrant ships. During one epidemic, a poor woman fetched up in front of their gate, obviously suffering grievously. For some considerable time she lay there with nobody to help her. Finally Henry could take no more. With his wife and family dragging at his clothes he marched out and picked her up, and took her to the shed at the back of their garden to nurse her. She lived and he died. Apparently when his wife was trying to stop him he looked at her and said "Woman, would you have me do less than my duty?"

From David Anderson I learned about Henry's part in the negotiations over merger [of the North West Fur Company] with the Hudsons Bay Company. He also looked after the affairs of a number of other Norwesters when they were away, including those of his cousin Alex [Sir Alexander Mackenzie]. David said he appears to have had a good business head. David also told me that Roderick and Henry shared an estate which is now a suburb of Montreal. They were Sieurs de Terrebonne. Another place I must visit.

I have not heard of Donald MacKenzie, and am intrigued. [re Donald Mackenzie King of the North West]. Is the book still available? I see there is an application form for membership in the Clan on the website, and I will fill it out today.

Members may recall that we published 50 copies of the 1937 book by Cecil W. Mackenzie entitled "Donald Mackenzie 'King of the Northwest'". The original copies of this book are very rare and quite expensive - if you were ever lucky enough to find one. Our hardcover publication is still available at \$30 (or US\$20) plus \$5 postage. The narrative is a great book for the Mackenzie bookshelf and is of interest to those learning about the exploits of the early fur-traders both in Canada and the United States. Donald at one time worked for J.J. Astor and his Pacific Fur Company. Relations with that company ended in 1813 due to the war between Canada and the USA.

It was a great age for exploration as the adventurers discovered new areas in North America.

Copies of the book can be obtained by sending a cheque to the address at the foot of page one payable to Clan MacKenzie Society.

This is not the only article on this family. See page 18 on another of David's relations!

COACH TRIP TO NOVA SCOTIA

The planned trip to Nova Scotia this year by coach, starting from Toronto, is proving a remarkably popular event. In fact if everyone who says they are going actually go then our 47-seat coach is almost full. If you have been thinking about making the trip then you had better move fast as the number of spaces available can be counted on the fingers of one hand!

Here is the proposed itinerary:

Sunday - June 29th - Depart Burlington around 6.30 a.m. picking up passengers in Toronto and all points east en route. Stop overnight at a motel in Quebec.

Monday - June 30th - Arrive late afternoon in Halifax and stay at suites reserved at St. Mary's University, Halifax.

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, July 1st - July 5th - In Nova Scotia based in Halifax with side trips to places of interest including Pictou, and

with get-together with members of the **Clan MacKenzie Society of Nova Scotia**. We shall also attend the **Halifax Highland Games** with the Clan tent.

On **Friday, July 4th** Commissioner Norman S. MacKenzie, who is the Tattoo Drum Major once again at this important annual event, has reserved 55 seats in Halifax for the **Nova Scotia International Tattoo** for Clan MacKenzie members on the coach and for Nova Scotia Clan members (\$27 each). The coach is available to take the members to all of the places of interest.

Sunday, Monday, July 6th - Depart Halifax, stopping en route overnight in Quebec and arriving Toronto late evening on **Monday, July 7th**.

Please note that this schedule has changed slightly from the one listed in the December newsletter.

What about the cost? Well each person will pay \$50 for the coach and are responsible for the costs of motel accommodation in Quebec. St Mary's University (where we stayed last time in 1997) provides a suite for \$80.61 (including taxes) a night. Each suite has two bedrooms each bedroom sleeps two people. So per person the cost is only \$20 a night! Breakfast costs about \$6 if required. The suites also have a bathroom and a kitchen.

If members who have not already booked to reserve spaces on the coach and wish to do so then PLEASE get in touch with us IMMEDIATELY. Mary-Lou Oyler is the person to contact and she will see if she can squeeze you in! Mary-Lou can be contacted at: Mary-Lou Oyler, 311-65 Spring Garden Avenue, North York, ON M2N 6H9; phone: (416) 229-4461; or by e-Mail:

secmloyl@sympatico.ca

We have done several of these coach trips over the years and this has had the biggest response of all. Clearly the word has got around and many on the coach have been on trips in previous years.

DEATH NOTICE

We regret to advise the death of Barbara Mary (Mackenzie) Wilson of 2568, Eastdowne Road, Victoria, BC V8R 5P9. Mrs Wilson had been a member since October 1989. She died on December 7, 2002.

CLAN MACKENZIE DINNER 2002 - THE BC WAY

by B.C. Commissioner Joan MacKenzie

Just look at these faces; we're having a great time - once again. [See photos on page 15]

On Saturday, December 7th, 2002, the Call to Gather brought 31 MacKenzies or MacKenzie-types to the Old Spaghetti Factory in New Westminster, BC. We were especially pleased that Ross and his daughter Heather were able to come and hopefully we'll catch them again. Also more of our second generation came:

Rob and Jamie are Marlene and Ken's sons, Willie and Biddy's son Ryan brought his girlfriend Nicky, and Gyllian [aka Jill's] two sons came: Allan brought his ladyfriend Kim and Ian and Lynn brought their sons James and Charles.

Gordon and Matthew are not MacKenzies but they're good friends of MacKenzies. Matthew Hayes doesn't know how close the Hayes and the MacKenzie are connected, but in Marlene and Ken's home, Matthew is son-material. We always enjoy the company of Rod and Ruth from Bellingham, Washington. Some of our regulars were unable to come, so our next gathering could push forty people. During the evening, Ed and Donna joined the Clan MacKenzie and Ian renewed his membership. We're talking about another dinner in the Spring.

Next events for sure will be the Bellingham Games on the first weekend in June, Kirkin' of the Tartan some time in late June to kick off Scottish Heritage Week and then the Coquitlam Highland Games.

If you want to keep in touch with us, use my email address:

jo.mac@telus.net - and tag on the list.

GENEALOGY HELP REQUEST

Ted Ulch of 5 Vanhurst Place, Ottawa, ON K1V 9Z7 or e-mail at:

shambles@sympatico.ca

writes and asks for help that anyone might provide on the McKenzie settlers in Essex County/Talbot Settlement in Ontario. In particular he is looking for any details on or connections with Barbara H.A.F. McKenzie and her parents John McKenzie and Elizabeth Ferguson.

If you can help Ted with any guidance at

continued on page 16

LIST OF YOUR CLAN COMMISSIONERS & OFFICERS

We notice that the United States Society always includes a page listing the names, addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses of their officers in each quarterly issue of *Tulach Ard*. We have not done so in the past and have generally left the appointment of officers to the Annual Meeting, from the minutes of which we reproduce the names of those elected. On recollection the American society is right to include this listing for a number of reasons. The most important is that it is a reminder of your local commissioner and it provides an opportunity for members to contact the commissioner and help him or her to organize local events such as a picnic, lunch or tea, for example. Such gatherings enable local members to meet one another. Calgary holds history meetings, for example, and other centres do different things. Other than the annual picnic the members in the Toronto area have the opportunity to attend a quarterly meeting followed by a tea. These meetings, we have found, strengthen the bonds between members and help create new friendships. So feel free to contact your local commissioner and offer help with organizing an event and we shall be happy to publish the event in the newsletter!

Commissioner at Large and Treasurer, and Lieutenant to Cabarfeidh

Alan McKenzie, 580 Rebecca Street, Oakville, Ontario, L6K 3N9; phone: (905) 842-2106; e-Mail: alan@mkz.com

Commissioner for Toronto

Norman S. MacKenzie, C.D., 2559 Bloor St W #102, Toronto, ON M6S 1S2; phone: tel (416)762-9557 or 738-7385
e-Mail: dmjrmac@pathcom.com

Commissioner for Oakville/Burlington area

Alistair D. MacKenzie, 2498 Newport Street, Burlington, ON L7M 3X7; phone: (905) 335-6309; e-Mail: amackenz@cogeco.ca

Commissioner for Hamilton/Niagara region

Kenneth Mackenzie, 20 Canal Street, St. Catharines, ON L2N 4S8; phone/fax: (905) 935-9407; e-Mail: portken@on.aibn.com

Commissioner for Northern Ontario

Radleigh A. MacKenzie, Box 1355, Gravenhurst, ON P1P 1V5; Phone: (705) 687-6590; e-Mail: radmac@sympatico.ca

Commissioner for Ottawa and Eastern Ontario

Dr. S. (Ken) MacKenzie-Smith, F.C.A., One Rideau Street - Box 558, Westport, ON K0G 1X0; phone: (613) 273-1500;
e-Mail: tulach@rideau.net

Clan Secretary

Mary-Lou Oyler, 311-65 Spring Garden Avenue, North York, ON M2N 6H9; phone: (416) 229-4461;
e-Mail: secmlloyl@sympatico.ca

Commissioner for Quebec

James Patrick McKenzie, 7821 Tetrault, LaSalle, Quebec H8N 2B4; phone: (514) 365-5544 bus: (514) 634-0649;
e-Mail: jimmypmckenzie@aol.com

Commissioners for British Columbia

Ian Stuart Mackenzie, 1890 Southmere Crescent, Surrey, BC V4A 6W9; phone: (604) 953-0909;
e-Mail: lnyymac@telus.net

Joan Louise MacKenzie, #7-2250 Christopherson Road, South Surrey, BC, V4A 3L3; phone: (604) 542-2244;
e-Mail: jo.mac@telus.net

Roderick M. MacKenzie, 7425 Adera Street, Vancouver, BC V6P 5C7; phone: (604) 264-8885;
e-Mail: rodody@mackenzie@shaw.ca

Commissioner for Vancouver

William John MacKenzie, 2510 Cable Court, Coquitlam, BC V3H 3E9; phone: (604) 469-2213;
e-Mail: wjmackenzie@shaw.ca

Commissioner for Calgary

Sir Roderick McQuhae Mackenzie, 2431 Udell Rd N.W., Calgary, AB T2N 4H4; phone: (403) 284-3535;
e-Mail: rmmacken@telus.net

Commissioner for Edmonton

Cecil A. MacKenzie, #3, 1203 Carter Crest Road, NW, Edmonton, AB, T6R 2R1; phone: (780) 436 4491
e-Mail: cecmaknz@telusplanet.net

Commissioner and Computer Genealogist

Glen W. McKenzie, Box 1767, Swan River, MB R0L 1Z0; phone: (204) 734-2059; e-Mail: gwmckenz@svcn.mb.ca

Commissioner for Manitoba

Michael Hugh Mackenzie, 507 Kanata Street, Winnipeg, MB R2C 1G3; phone: (204) 222-7298; e-Mail: mmhammer@home.com

Commissioner for the Clan Forum Chat Line

Richard McKenzie Melucci, 242 Bentbough Drive, Leesburg, FL 34748; phone: (352) 360-1088 - to join this chat line on the internet send an e-mail to CLAN-MACKENZIE-L-request@rootsweb.com

Clan Society Web Page for North America: www.clanmackenzie.com; to e-mail: info@clanmackenzie.com

U.S. President & Lieutenant to Cabarfeidh

Steve McKenzie, 3432 Via Palomino, Palos Verdes estates, CA 90274; phone: (310)378-4434; e-Mail: steve@mckenzie.net



This jolly group of pictures show the members in British Columbia getting together for a meal and thoroughly enjoying themselves. The nicely provided captions were sent to us by Commissioner Joan MacKenzie (top picture on the left -standing). The other new Commissioner, Ian Stuart Mackenzie, is to be seen in the photo top right with his wife, Lynn, and their two sons. See page 13 for the write-up on this event.

all please contact him directly or through us at the address at the foot of page one.

Since the Editor's own McKenzie are first generation immigrants we have to leave it to those many experts and knowledgeable members who have been through this process to help. Please do so if you can.

SIR ALEXANDER MACKENZIE'S GRAVE IN AVOCH

There used to be a generous man living in or near Avoch on the Black Isle in Ross-shire who used to maintain the upkeep of Sir Alexander Mackenzie's grave. Sir Alexander, of course, was the first man to cross Canada by land.

He retired to Avoch where he married another Mackenzie. We now hear from Norman Mackenzie in Nova Scotia (this Norman is the former English Literature Professor at Ryerson University in Toronto). Here is what Norman says:

'A hasty note because I have been forgetting too often to inform you that friends told me that a visit to Sir Alexander Mackenzie's grave was a bit discouraging because of neglect - tattered Canadian flags, overgrowth of vegetation.

Perhaps an expedition from nearby Strathpeffer could be mounted in order to carry out maintenance before the site becomes a problem for upkeep?

Pretty sure you will know the appropriate parties to alert' Ed: Actually I do not have any idea to whom this might be directed. Some person would have to be mightily involved on a regular basis and one could say that for any cemetery or gravestone. However, it does occur to us that perhaps the Canadian government might be prepared to pay a small sum to enable one of its great heroes to have the grave site regularly serviced. Do any of our members in government have any suggestions how this might be achieved? If so let us know.

MAJOR GENERAL LEWIS MACKENZIE IN THE NEWS AGAIN

Clan friends in Vancouver have sent us an Editorial from The Vancouver Sun of January 2nd. Here is a part of it:

The best leader the Tories aren't going to get by Barbara Yaffe

Progressive Conservatives may have found their star leadership candidate - a respected Canadian with a blunt message for party members.

Retired Major-General Lewis MacKenzie is telling Tories to get real, and start courting the Alliance or learn to love oblivion.

He minces no words in a recent letter appearing on a grassroots Tory Web site (www.Torydraft.com). Responding to an invitation to enter a lacklustre leadership race, he unequivocally declines.

Mr. MacKenzie isn't the first to recognize the need for the two parties to cooperate. Former PM Brian Mulroney has said as much, along with former Reform leader Preston Manning, premiers Ralph Klein and Mike Harris, former Alliance fund raiser Peter White, MP Peter MacKay and several Alliance MPs . . . the list keeps growing.

Mr. MacKenzie, who would be ready to negotiate with Canadian Alliance leader Stephen Harper, could turn out to be the ideal candidate.

He has national perspective and proven leader-

ship capabilities, as demonstrated in a distinguished military career, which included leading the near-impossible 1992 Canadian peace-keeping mission effort in Sarajevo.

What better credentials than those to make peace between the two warring conservative forces?

Mr. MacKenzie, 62, also has a national profile and has been both intelligent and articulate in media commentaries since his 1993 retirement from the forces.

He lost a 1997 bid for a Commons seat representing Parry Sound-Muskova because of vote-splitting with a then-Reformer that enabled a Liberal to win.

While he is not bilingual, at this stage that isn't key; his candidacy wouldn't necessarily translate into his leading conservative forces into the next



February 20, 1993 - Colonel Donald K. Mackenzie thanks General MacKenzie for his speech to the joint gathering of the Clan MacKenzie Society and the Scottish Studies Foundation at the Officers' Mess of the 48th Highlanders of Canada. Alan McKenzie watches on the left.

election.

He might, however, be just the person to lead his party into a coalition with the Alliance. He carries no past baggage or history of animosity and is not known for vehement partisanship.

Another reason Mr. MacKenzie is badly needed by the Conservatives is that the search to replace Joe Clark at a May leadership convention has attracted few big names.

An informal poll on the grassroots Web site shows only three candidates - expected to formally announce their candidacies any time now - in serious contention: Scott Brinson, Peter MacKay and David Orchard. All are competent; none is a seasoned political dynamo.

So uninspired has the contest been that another poll on the Web site shows a third of respondents want Mr. Clark to remain leader.

Mr. MacKenzie reveals in his missive that, in contemplating a run at the leadership, his plan would have been to act as "sacrificial lamb."

The idea would have been to engineer an arrangement in which there would be one PC/Alliance candidate in each riding or one strong candidate representing one party or the other.

Mr. MacKenzie shouldn't sell himself short by

advertising himself as a sacrificial lamb.

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To date, Alliance leader Harper has not set off firecrackers and done zip to change the fact his party is dead meat east of Ontario.

Conservative activist and University of B.C. academic Andrew Irvine is urging Mr. MacKenzie to reconsider, advising that an informal poll shows overwhelming support for him.

I'm willing to bet Sir John A., who was the ultimate pragmatist in his time, would endorse Mr. MacKenzie and tell the "political masochists" to take a hike.

Ed. I have to admit a great admiration for General MacKenzie and would have loved to see him play a role in uniting these two conservative parties in Canada. By the way, I had always understood from my father, who was an army officer in the British forces, that any officer above field rank - i.e. major and above - retains his or her army rank on retirement. Thus, Lewis MacKenzie should be properly addressed at General MacKenzie and not Mr. MacKenzie, as in the newspaper article. Also any rank of general such as major-general or lieutenant-general is politely addressed as "general" without distinction as to which level of general. This also applies to a lieutenant colonel who is addressed in speaking as "colonel". Lecture over!

Anyway, I asked General MacKenzie if he would like to add any comment to the members of the Clan MacKenzie about his political status as the saviour of the Conservative Party in Canada and here is my reply:

Hi Alan-I guess that part of the country missed the story over the Christmas holidays! It was front page banner stuff in the Globe and the National Post and on TV - the Post published my e mail to the key PC folks, seeking to convince me to run, word for word and I've attached a copy of it which will explain my decision (probably the smartest one I ever made!). Unfortunately, following my FINAL decision I continued to be encouraged by the likes of Alan Fotheringham in his last column in Macleans, Mike Harris, Stephen Harper, Christie Blatchford, etc., which convinced some that I was seriously interested - which I never was - nevertheless I was honoured that so many "thought" I was the solution to our current dictatorship!

All the best to everyone, Lew

Dear Friends,

During the past few months I have been flattered by the large number of Canadians who have called, visited or e-mailed me with pledges of support should I enter the race for leadership of the PC party. Mind you, just yesterday, my wife reminded me that twenty nine and a half million Canadians didn't call!

During the 97 election I entered the fray because of the government's abysmal handling of the period running up to the last referendum in Quebec.

During the campaign I frequently abandoned my riding and went from coast to coast for Mr Charest speaking out on the subject of national unity - well documented in Steve Paikin's book, "The Game". Without that critical cause I would never have entered politics.

This time around I reacted to the above-mentioned encouragement with the well worn, "I'm not bilingual" and "I'm too old at 62." I firmly believed those were two major impediments to a long-term commitment in politics at the party leader level - and still do. However, during the last month as I watched our government stumble through and around ethical crisis after ethical crisis I

thought perhaps there was some potential for a short term commitment and contribution. Lets face it, in any other democracy if a government performed like ours has during the last year it would be thrown out on its ear (or replaced by the military-perhaps that's why they keep our army so small!). In Canada, on the other hand, the Liberals could go to the polls tomorrow and win another majority mandate. Obviously, the problem is not just with them; it's also with us on the other end of the political spectrum for presenting such a fragmented opposition. That being the case, I thought, OK, if I ran for the PC leadership as a sacrificial lamb with the theme to push for, as a minimum, running a single PC/Alliance candidate in each riding - or if the Election Canada Rules would not permit that, running a token candidate for one party and a strong candidate for the other we might just erode the Liberal's monopoly and eek out a minority government the next time around and I could exit stage left (right?).

As I promised a number of you, I gave my potential involvement sober second thought and was close to deciding to commit until I started to broach the idea of cooperation with the Alliance with a multitude of dyed-in-the wool Tories - who presumably go to sleep at night with a picture of Sir John A watching over them. I have rarely been so disappointed with a group of political masochists so firmly trapped in the past. To a person, they honestly believe the PC party can win the next election on its own. I have no idea what they are smoking but it could make us all rich.

I realize that there are a good number of younger and more astute party members or potential party members out there who might well save the day for the party sometime in the distant future - after the next election mauling? However, as long as the current Jurassic mentality holds sway it is my opinion that the party is condemned to 5th party status - or less.

During the last few days some of you have queried why I didn't show my "unite the right" colours at the very beginning of your support. You will recall that at that stage I was saying no to the idea and lack of second language skills and age were the easiest and quickest to explain. When you convinced me to give my running for the leadership, "sober second thought", I had to visit policy issues and that is when I ran up against a frustrating (for me) resistance within the party to level the playing field prior to the next election.

That being said, what the party needs is a much younger person who can wait out the party's nay-sayers and someone with a good deal more patience than I have because it is going to be a long and painful process with Canadian democracy the victim along the way.

I must say I found a good deal of support for my "strategy" - unfortunately, almost all of it came from Liberal (their party wants an opposition!) or Alliance friends. Go figure.

I sincerely thank you all very much for your support and encouragement - I know many of you fit into the camp that sees cooperation on the political Right as the salvation of the PC party and Canadian democracy.

Unfortunately, you have a major persuasion challenge on your hands when dealing with Sir John A's living disciples and I can only hope that in the long term you will be successful.

Best of luck - I'll be cheering from the sidelines!

Warmest regards, Lew MacKenzie

RODDY MACKENZIE BACK IN LAW

We often get asked what has happened to Roddy MacKenzie? He was once the President of the Clan MacKenzie Society in North America when the Canadian and US Societies were a single society. Roddy remains on our list of Commissioners for British Columbia though he has not been so active in recent years.

He still stays in touch and sends us information for the newsletter quite frequently. His recent Christmas newsletter to his friends and relations reveal that after what he describes as “my coaching sabbatical” he has returned to active membership as a lawyer. He has joined the Board of UBC’s Law Alumni as well as the Attorney-General’s Advisory Group of a dozen lawyers created for the BC Government’s far-reaching Administrative Justice Program to overhaul BC’s 67 tribunals.

He has sent us this photo of his three children - rapidly growing up. They are from left to right Mary Anne 19, Ruairidh 12, and Guy Roland 18.



Ben Mackenzie, photo by Commissioner Joan MacKenzie

THE STRANGE CASE OF DONALD MACKENZIE AND HIS DUELLING PISTOLS

A little background is needed here to introduce this very interesting story. In March 1994 I published an article in the Tulach Ard newsletter on Canadian Scots. It referred at one point to the Nor’Westers with the source of information coming from Hugh McMillan, the former head of the Ontario Archive, who is one of the most knowledgeable men in the world on the Nor’Westers. The following quotation was given by Canadian author, William Stephenson

“My favorite true Nor’Wester story is of a Mackenzie appearing in London to be knighted. “You’re all right, but you’ll have to ditch that woman first”, the king decreed. “No squaw is going to be ‘Lady Mackenzie’ while I’m alive.” To which Mackenzie replied, “In that case, Your Majesty, I’ll trade your knighthood for a brace of duelling pistols. I imagine they’ll come in very handy.”

That article caused me to receive a call from Ben Mackenzie, who is the great great grandson of the Mackenzie who received the duelling pistols. And, to my surprise this ancestor of Ben’s was none other than Donald Mackenzie, the “King of the North West”. It was some years later when I discovered the book by Cecil W. Mackenzie entitled *Donald Mackenzie “King of the Northwest.”* We have subsequently reprinted this long out-of-print book.

So we asked Ben Mackenzie if he would like to do a write-up on these famous pistols and what follows is his article:

FROM BEN MACKENZIE

The best all-around, most compact life of Donald Mackenzie

we can find in the Dictionary of American Biography by Charles Scribner, published in 1933. It really sums up his life quite satisfactorily.

“Mackenzie, Donald (June 16, 1783 - Jan. 20, 1851) fur trader, was born in Scotland, a brother of Sir Roderick Mackenzie of the North West Company, and a cousin of Sir Alexander Mackenzie, the explorer. He was educated for the ministry, but instead of entering that profession went to Canada and joined the North West Company. On June 23, 1810 after ten years experience he was engaged by John Jacob Astor to be one of his partners in the Pacific Fur Company. With Wilson P. Hunt, he led a band of adventurers by the overland route to the mouth of the Columbia River. Mackenzie with his group arrived at Fort Astoria Jan. 18, 1812. He later became the head of a large party which engaged in hunting and trapping. His journeys took him to the rivers Willamette, Columbia and also the Snake, where he established a post. He left Astoria again in March 1813 and in June returned with 140 packs of furs from Okanagan Post, and Spokane River. While carrying supplies to the interior that Fall, he was robbed by Indians. Returning to Astoria, he occupied himself storing salmon until his party learned of the War with Great Britain. Concluding that Astoria would be captured and goods confiscated, he and his partners there sold out to the North West Company, the following Spring. On Apr. 14, 1814, Mackenzie set out for New York, where he remained for some time seeking re-employment by Astor. Failing to obtain it, he returned to Canada and again entered the service of the North West Company. In 1816 he was on the



This extraordinary character appeared in the March 23, 1889 edition of *Vanity Fair* under the caption "the Universal Benefactor". Research shows that the gentleman in question is Mr J.T. Mackenzie of Kintail. Can anyone shed any light on this man? Presumably he gave away large sums of money and in 1889 I am not sure that anyone was using the title of "Mackenzie of Kintail". Anyone who can come up with any information should write to the Editor and we shall publish the findings (if any!)



page 19 Columbia River, spending his time at Fort George, and Fort William and Spokane House. He rendered valuable service to the company in developing the rich trade of Southern Idaho. His brigade of 1817 was the first to report a year without casualties, and the quality of furs obtained was considerable. Mackenzie was retained when the Hudson's Bay Company consolidated with the North West Company, and in the following year, 1822, established Chatterton House. In 1824 he was made Chief Factor at Fort Garry on the Red River of the North, and the same year was appointed Councillor of the Governors. Soon thereafter he was made Governor of Red River Colony, the highest post of the Country, next to the Governor-in-Chief, which vast province he ruled, judiciously and with kindness. To him is due credit for the peace and progress which prevailed during the following eight years. He retired in August 1833 and took his family to Mayville, N.Y. where he had an estate. There he lived until his death. Donald Mackenzie was eminently fitted, both physically and mentally, for life in the wilderness. His knowledge of the Indians was remarkably keen and accurate, and his influence over them was great. His boldness and prompt decision, in times of danger, helped to awe and conquer them. His ways and accomplishment astonished his associates; he weighed over 300 pounds, but was so active that he was called "perpetual motion". In August 1825 at Fort Garry, he married Adelgonde Humbert Droze, by whom he had thirteen children."

Regarding the duelling pistols, there is only a brief reference to them in the book *Donald Mackenzie "King of the Northwest."*

Page 203 [Ed: Page 196 in the reprinted version]: "The London pistols which Governor Donald Mackenzie carried over the Rockies in 1810 are now in possession of Donald, one of his grandsons, also the grand old clock; but most of the family mementos are in the possession of Alexander Mackenzie of Toronto Ontario."

The Donald referred to was my grandfather's younger brother, who had no children. The pistols were transferred to my grandfather's eldest son, John Donald Mackenzie of Mayville, NY, who has a son John Joseph Mackenzie (retired USAF pilot) living near Mayville at Jamestown, NY. However, since John Joseph had a daughter and no male heirs, he passed the pistols on to my father, Sprague Alyn Mackenzie, who had two sons, both with sons. I am the eldest son, hence the passage of the pistols on to me by my father in 1989. I have two sons, each with sons.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DUELLING PISTOLS

These pistols were made by John Manton, known as the finest gunmaker in London. I took them to Dick Seelinger, a senior member of the society of gun appraisers who wrote up the following description in 1989:

Cased pair British flintlock duelling pistols with waterproof pans, by Gunmaker John Manton, 6 Dover Street, London, England. Circa 1800. [He later told me they were made in 1808.] 50 caliber 10" octagon barrels with damascus pattern, gold bands inlaid at breech end of barrels, MANTON inlaid in gold letters on top of barrel flat. Walnut half stocks with horn forend tips and checkered rounded bag grips. Refinished English style case with brass trim and lift ring, jag and cleaning rod, bullet mod and extra flints. Powder flask missing. Manton's label in case lid. Condition of both pistols is Very Good based on N.R.A. antique gun standards. Above pair of pistols with extensive historic docu-

nent, and was later knighted for his accomplishments.

Donald's brothers are:

Roderick Mackenzie (b. abt 1761, d. 15 Aug 1844) A letter from John Mackenzie, great great grandson to John Mackenzie,
(continues on page 21)



mentation, - Value range \$25,000 - \$50,000.

By 1800 John Manton was the superior of any other maker in the number of top quality duelling pistols, sporting guns and rifles he was producing. One of his distinctions was to bring the flintlock duelling pistol as near perfection as the flintlock system permitted.

I then corresponded with the Royal Armouries in London to try to determine if they had any record of the transaction of the gift of these pistols to Donald Mackenzie. I sent them photos, along with what I suspected were matching serial numbers, which can be seen when the barrels are removed from the stocks. I also sent him photos of the pistols.

Their response was from Mark Murray-Flutter, Assistant Curator, Weapons Department. Unfortunately any records regarding the gift of them to my great great grandfather are long since gone. He did state:

"The numbers you quote in your letter are indeed the serial numbers and making use of known Mantons we can deduce that your pistol were made by John Manton, in London, in the first half of 1808.

"Technically your pistols possess two interesting features. The first is a safety catch fitted to the rear of the locks. The second is the incorporation of rollers on the steel spring to reduce friction and increase efficiency. The entire design of the locks are known as French cocks, which are characterised by the curly design of the cocks."

My grandmother, Amy Polly Covey Mackenzie, knew a couple of Donald's children, and had met Cecil W. Mackenzie, author of the above book who came to their home. In the late 1950's, a few years before she died, she told me about the pistols, and how they came into the family. I had never seen them until the mid-1970's when they were passed on to my father by my uncle before he passed away.

Donald Mackenzie (b. 16 Jun 1783, d. 20 Jan 1851) came to Canada with his three brothers at the urging of his older cousin Alexander Mackenzie, a Nor'Wester to join him in the fur trade. Alexander was the first man to cross the North American conti-

More Punch Cartoons

These two cartoons come from a 1977 book entitled "Punch on Scotland." For over one hundred years the English magazine liked to have a joke at the Scot's expense. In the Introduction to the book the Editor comments: "Many Scots readers will conclude, no doubt, that English views on Scotland show no development whatever over the last century. That is as it should be. If there is one thing the Scots hate more than being misunderstood by the English, it is being understood by the English. They are a proud people and do not wish to have their true nature guessed at by such a stolid nation as the English".





Enlarged view of the label in the box of duelling pistols

(continued from page 20)

brother to Roderick, dated 1938 to Cecil Mackenzie, states that Roderick "came to Canada in 1784. Built Fort Chipewijan."

James Mackenzie (b. abt 1777, d. 18 Jul 1849), Quebec, for many years Governor of the King's Posts.

Henry Mackenzie (b. abt 1781, d. 28 Jun 1832), secretary-treasurer of the North-West Fur Co.

According to my grandmother, Donald's expedition to the west coast was the third one (after Alexander Mackenzie and then Lewis and Clark), and he went to a fort established by sea. Since John Jacob Astor funded the venture, he renamed the fort, Fort Astoria (Oregon). He later discovered Bear Lake at the Utah/Idaho border. Later he became governor of the Red River Colony/Territory, which was the land area between Ontario and British Columbia (per my understanding) and had the authority of a king, hence the title of the book.

Donald's first wife was half Indian according to family records. Like his cousin, Sir Alexander Mackenzie, he was invited to go to England to be knighted, but (per my grandmother) he was told to "leave his savage wife behind". That didn't set well with Donald, and he was never knighted. My grandmother stated that in conjunction with the invitation was a gift of a set of duelling pistols.

After reading that article in *Tulach Ard*, I called Alan McKenzie and related my story, and we had a great discussion. Alan mentioned my call to him in a following article.

Note that the John Manton label inside of the duelling pistol presentation case has wording which suggests that the pistols were made for the king when he was younger: "John Manton - Gun Maker - To their Royal Highnesses - The Prince of Wales and Duke of York". Thus, the label is a fit for a spur of the moment decision by the king to give his set of duelling pistols to Donald Mackenzie.

Donald did remarry later to Adelgonde Humbert Droze from Switzerland, and I am descended from that marriage which produced thirteen children.

Donald was a big man for his time. Most family records and

verbal descriptions cite that he was 6 ft 8 inches tall, and weighed 300 pounds later in his retirement. A few descriptions indicate his height to be 6 ft 6 inches tall.

Later, when in Mayville, NY, he continued to be influential to history in two ways:

1. His friend from Westfield, NY (7 miles away) was William Seward whom he apparently told about his adventures and what was out west, including Alaska, and that if the U.S. ever had the chance to purchase Alaska from Russia it should do so. When Seward eventually became Secretary of State for the U.S. he did indeed purchase Alaska for the U.S. I still have a Mayville newspaper article at the time of Alaska making statehood in the 1950's. It shows a photo of Donald's brick home, with the article titled: "The Birth of Alaska Started Here."

2. When Canadian and U.S. governments were trying to determine where the border should go between the two countries west of the great lakes, Secretary of State Daniel Webster was sent to Donald's home where he stayed for the couple of days of talks about where the border should be. Family legend stated that Daniel Webster traveled by boat from Buffalo, NY to Westfield, NY, and from there via carriage to Mayville, and that the blinds were drawn so as to not draw attention to himself. I have a pewter water pitcher which has been passed down through the family and was supposed to have been on the table during that visit.

A few years before my uncle John Donald Mackenzie passed away he stated that there were several letters of importance of Donald's that were stolen from the family (around 1959). They had been in the possession of his uncle. They may have included correspondence with Daniel Webster and William Seward (my speculation). Donald Mackenzie's rifle was also missing. My uncle had a prime suspect for the theft and I know the name. Several years later during a visit to the museum at Westfield, NY (which has an oil painting of Donald Mackenzie), I mentioned this matter of the missing papers and other items to one of the employees there. She stated that a man who had done some handyman work at their museum (of the same name given me by my uncle) had told her he had these valuable letters of Donald Mackenzie, and had sold them to an antique dealer in Westfield, and was told where this dealer's home was in Westfield. I took my family to that home, and after knocking on the door, an adult retarded son answered the door. I introduced myself, and stated that I had heard that they had a valuable collection of letters of Donald Mackenzie. This young man stated, "Yes we have them, would you like to see them?" I said yes, and he went to the back of the house while we remained on the front porch. About a minute later, his mother (an old and grumpy woman) came to the door, and stated that they did not have the letters and they did not know anything about them. I should have gone straight to the police, but did not think to do it then, and we were in a hurry to continue with our trip. Thus, the trail of tracking down those letters ends.

Regarding the duelling pistols, they are kept secure at a bank. For a number of years following my father sending photos to the Arms and Armament section of Sotheby's in New York to get an appraisal from them, they would call me annually, when they found that I now had them, to try to get me to sell them through Sotheby's. Finally they became convinced that we value them as family heirlooms and are not interested in selling them. They stopped calling!

S. Ben Mackenzie, 3847 Bassett Rd, Rootstown, OH 44272
Phone (330) 325-7800.

Our sincere thanks to Ben Mackenzie for this interesting article. There are quite a number of descendants in Canada and the USA of this large family of fur-traders. One of these is our B.C. Commissioner, Joan MacKenzie. I asked Joan what her relationship was to Ben Mackenzie and this was her reply:

"Ben Mackenzie, David Ford, Anne MacNaughton, Jock MacKenzie, Margaret Burrell and I are all related: we have the same gggggrandfather, Alexander MacKenzie who died in 1789. Alexander MK had six sons and two daughters, John, Murdoch, Roderick, James, Donald, Henry, Barbara and Alexanderina. Ben branches from Donald, David from Henry and Anne, Margaret and I from John. These brothers are first cousins to Sir Alexander MacKenzie who was the first European to reach the Pacific Ocean. [Ed: See page 16 regarding Sir Alexander's grave!] I've connected with a number of others branching from Alexanderina who married Alexander MacKenzie of Langwell. This Alexander had a brother Roderick who married Angilique which is another interesting story."

A MACKENZIE WEDDING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

We have had a friendly letter from Marlene MacKenzie of Delta, B.C. [her photo can be seen on page 15]. She enclosed a couple of photographs which simply oozed Mackenzie tartan. It is a pity we cannot afford to produce our magazine in colour. Meanwhile, here is Marlene's letter and the two photographs.

"I am enclosing two photos taken at our daughter Heather's wedding. The big event took place on August 11, 2002 at Northwood Golf & Country Club in Surrey, B.C.

"The happy couple, Heather MacKenzie and Michael Chan, were united in matrimony by Rod MacKenzie, Commissioner for Washington, Clan MacKenzie Society in the Americas [US Division].

"The 'MacKenzie Men' are Rod, Ken, father of the bride, and Heather's two brothers, Jamie and Rob. They were all very proud to show off their MacKenzie heritage.

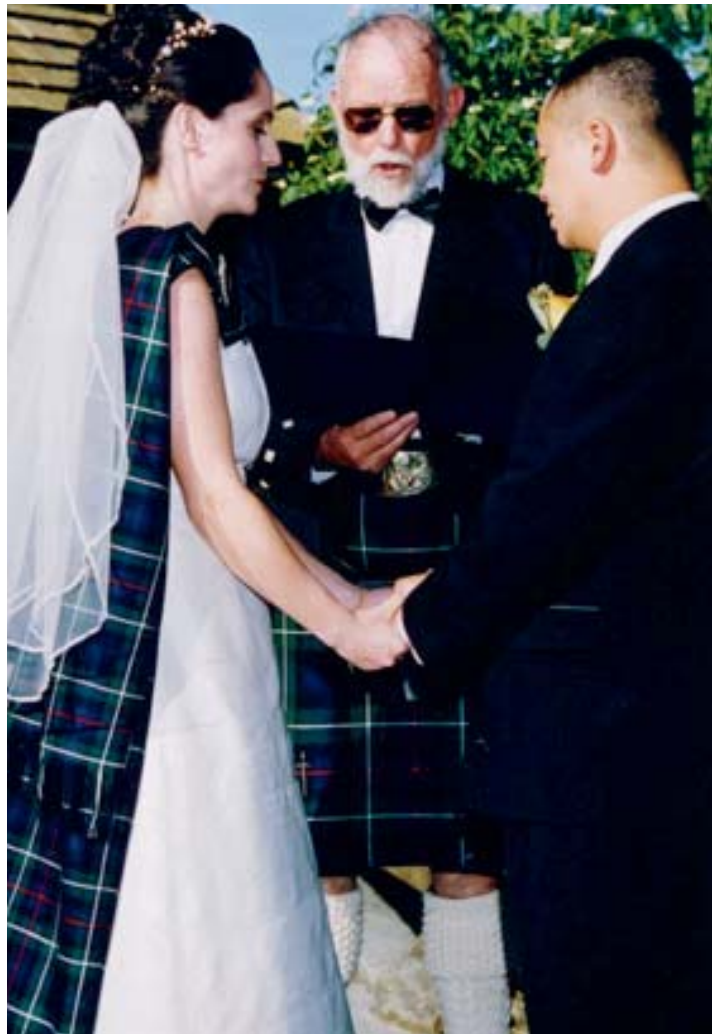
"Ken and I met Rod and Ruth through the Clan MacKenzie Society and have become good friends. As they live in Bellingham, which is quite close to us in Delta, we are able to socialize frequently.

"We shall be attending a Burns Supper together, along with a large group of friends here in Delta on January 25th. The Clan continues to be fairly active in Vancouver and we try to take in as many get-togethers as we can.

Thank you for your continued great job in the newsletters. I look forward to each and every copy.

Sincerely,

Marlene and Ken MacKenzie
358 - 52nd Street, Delta, B.C."



Heather MacKenzie and her bridegroom, Michael Chan with Rod MacKenzie in the centre.



left to right: US Commissioner Rod MacKenzie, Ken MacKenzie, James Douglas MacKenzie and Robert Bruce MacKenzie

BURNS SUPPERS AN' A' THAT

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We are reminded by the letter from Marlene that January is the time for Burns suppers across the world and your editor attended two such suppers this year. The largest of these was run by the Scottish Studies Society, of which I happen to be the Treasurer, and almost 200 people attended the Toronto Colony Hotel in downtown Toronto for this big bash. Indeed the entertainment included the 48th Highlanders Pipes and Drums (simply marvellous!), the Tunnochbrae dancers (sublime!), Danielle Bourre (a magnificent singer from Quebec who knows

Another local group I attend is called "Oor Club" and these are members of the Scottish Studies Foundation who like to meet for lunch every couple of weeks in a pub in Toronto, "the Bow and Arrow". The pub is the headquarters of the Glasgow Rangers Supporters Club and so the walls are filled with photos of the great soccer players of the Rangers club. These get-togethers usually attract 25 to 30 people and once again we call on an amazing amount of talent to perform. We have singers and actors and some outrageous "characters". Fellow member of the Clan MacKenzie Society, Gina MacKenzie Erichsen, helps to organize these meetings by phoning everyone

every couple of weeks, a vital and lengthy task. In early January I did a presentation to this club on the trial of Madeleine Smith, a young lady of 21 who was tried in Edinburgh for the murder of her fiance in 1857 in Glasgow. The case made world headlines as she was of a well-to-do family and her young man was seen as a penniless fortune hunter. The trial ended with the verdict of "Not Proven!" This has come to mean in Scotland - "not guilty - but don't do it again!"

If you are interested in knowing more about this famous case then go into your internet search engines and look for

"Madeleine Smith" and you will find a large number of pages. One page, which I found very interesting, had 169,000 hits! So even in this day and age the case still attracts attention. David Lean, the film director, made a movie entitled "Madeleine" with his wife, Ann Todd, playing the role of Madeleine Smith. Curiously enough when reading through the trial and other material to prepare for this presentation I was surprised to find the name of MacKenzie cropped up several times. One of the prosecutors for the Crown was Donald Mackenzie, Advocate-Depute. This man was the grandson of Rev. John Jamieson, D.D., the compiler of the well-known "Dictionary of the Scottish Language." In 1870 he was promoted to the Bench with the title of Lord Mackenzie.

Two of the witnesses to give evidence against Madeleine Smith were Duncan Mackenzie and his wife Christina Haggart, who was a servant in the Smith household.

The other interesting Mackenzie, who died long before he knew what his actions had led to, was Sir Francis Mackenzie of Gairloch. He met the young man, who was to die in mysterious circumstances, in Jersey in the Channel Islands. The young man was Emile L'Angelier and Sir Francis took a liking to him and was impressed by his abilities working in the family nursery. He invited Emile to return with him to Scotland to help him with the management of the estate at Cononbridge at the foot of the Cromarty Firth. The L'Angelier family council met to determine whether



One of the Mackenzie tables at the Burns Supper, Toronto. Left to right: Ken and Isabella Appleby, Gina MacKenzie Erichsen, Alan McKenzie, Barbara Sheffer, and U.S. Commissioner Howard Wright

all the best Scottish songs) and a foot-stomping trio of fiddles and piano. I mention this dinner because we had two Mackenzie Clan tables comprising local members. These included three commissioners (Alan, Ken and Alistair) and a U.S. Commissioner, Howard Wright. Ken Appleby was also among our group and he is working with Mary-Lou Oyer (Clan Secretary) to organize the coach trip to Nova Scotia later this year.

The other Burns Supper I attended was organized by a small local group called the Halton Peel Burns Society. We comprise only a dozen or so members but with spouses we made up a group of 22 and held a smashing Burns Supper in the basement of a house owned by one of the members. Because of the small number of members everyone was given a job to do and some form of performance. Since most of the members come from Scotland (accents and all) they had no difficulty performing songs, reading poems or just playing bagpipes or the "moothie" i.e. the mouth organ! I have an English accent so was not called upon to do much except buy the wine and lead in the haggis as the sword bearer! Actually, that is not quite the whole story, as the leader of this group had asked me to recite "My Hearts in the Highlands." It is in English, as opposed to the Doric, so I did practice to ensure I did not let the side down. The illustrious leader, however, forgot about this part of the program so I escaped! He phoned me the next day to apologize profusely which I accepted with good grace (not to say, a sigh of relief!)

this move should be accepted and concluded that Emile would be safe with 'the Scotch' for 'Sir Mackenzie must indeed be an English duke.' So guided by this advice the young man went to Edinburgh for training and within a year Sir Francis Mackenzie was dead from a stroke and the luckless Emile was trapped in Scotland without the means to return home. Thus the events that would lead to him meeting Madeleine Smith!

Poor Emile! If he had lived a little earlier and met Sir Francis Mackenzie when he had written his work on agriculture, *Hints for the Use of Highlands Tenants and Cottagers*, he could have become an important part of improving the lives and welfare of the Highlanders. Instead he died of arsenic poisoning.

Sir Francis Mackenzie of Gairloch was the father of his famous son, Osgood Hanbury Mackenzie, who created the world-famous gardens at Inverewe, now owned by the National Trust for Scotland. Osgood also wrote the book *A Hundred Years in the Highlands*, which we used to sell. It is now out of print to the best of my knowledge.

All of which brings us back to the Burns Supper in Toronto! Here is how US Commissioner Howard Wright described it:

Did you ever find yourself sitting around, having a good time, and notice that you're wearing a kilt? It's a version of the "How did I get here?" question I ask myself sometimes. Usually, within a few minutes of thought, I can trace my thinking backward and get an answer, and I did this time too.

Again this year, I attended the Burns Dinner in Toronto, Ontario, and once again, had a great time. Two years ago, Alan McKenzie, Lieutenant to Cabarfeidh, and friendly-mentor to many a Mackenzie neophyte, told me about this wonderful event and invited me to attend. Alan organizes entire tables of Mackenzies, so it is a chance to visit with friends I might not see from one year to the next.

After greeting Alan and his wife, Jill, Barbara and I were seated with Gina Erichsen, her daughter, Caroline, and cousins Isabella and Ken Appleby (all members of the Clan MacKenzie Society). Those who were at the 2000 Gathering in Scotland will remember Gina as the lady who brought energy and good humour to every occasion.

The evening began with "the blessin" brought by Jim Robertson, President of the Robert Burns World Federation. Next was the "Address to the Haggis," then the haggis itself. The fine food was later intermingled with piping, dancing, singing and laughter.

The toasting is what makes this evening fun! This year, Dr Richard Janeczko, who Gina told me is a medical researcher, delivered the toast to the Lassies. Richard toasted the ladies with a Scottish version of Women are from Venus and Men are from Mars. The reply to his toast was delivered again this year by Daisy White. Daisy, a lass nearing eighty, is a very funny lady. Her reply was given in good humour, and with the occasional barb and innuendo. Bravo, Ms Daisy!

The point of a Burns Dinner is supposed to be the Bard himself, and here's where I will bring the letter full circle. Part of the evening's entertainment was the singer, Danielle Bourre, who performed many of the songs of Robert Burns. Here I was, a second generation American, sitting in Canada, celebrating the birthday of Robert Burns, wearing my Mackenzie kilt, and hearing the songs of Robert Burns that my Mackenzie grandmother and mother sang in our house when I was a kid.

That's it. That's how I got here.
Happy birthday Mr Burns!

Howard M. Wright

CANADIAN CENSUS RECORDS

Some kind friend sent us this e-mail which is of great importance to genealogists seeking their families in Canada:

"Genealogists, historians, and researchers across the country won a major victory today as Industry Minister Allan Rock announced the immediate release of the nominal records from the 1906 census. Ontario Senator Lorna Milne (Liberal - Peel Region) welcomed the news."

So reads the opening paragraph of a News Release issued today, 24 January 2003, by Senator Lorna Milne.

The full text of Senator Milne's News Release, and other pertinent News Releases, can be found on the Post 1901 Census Project website at

<http://www.globalgenealogy.com/Census>

The announced release of the 1906 Special Census of the Western Provinces is indeed a major victory for genealogists and historians who have been actively campaigning for this for the past five years. It is felt that release of the 1906 Census will lead the way for the eventual release of the 1911 and subsequent Censuses of Canada.

We are grateful to Industry Minister Allan Rock for recognizing what is right and proper, and doing what legally should have been done in 1998. We are pleased that the Minister has released the 1906 records in full, and without restrictions, on the same basis as 1901 and earlier records have been available.

[1901 and 1906 are now both available online at www.archives.ca]

We are grateful also to MP Murray Calder, and especially to Senator Lorna Milne for the effort they have put in for us to reach this point in our campaign.

We have won a major battle, but the war is not yet over. We have yet to deal with expected legislation that must ensure the orderly and continued release of historic Census records, after the legislated period of closure. We expect that legislation will be brought down shortly after Parliament resumes sitting at the end of January. We trust Minister Rock, in drafting the legislation, to remember that what we seek is the same unrestricted access to records after, now 1906, that is currently available for records up to then.

The person who wrote this is not known to me but this looks like information which should be disseminated as soon as possible. There was a horrible rumour going around that census records were to remain confidential for all time in order to persuade people to provide the information requested. That would have been a disaster for the future genealogists in Canada.

