



Clan MacKenzie Society in the Americas

Cabar Feidh

The Canadian Chapter Magazine



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and time. Also we must remember that during the transcribing from the original documents, human error could have come into play and in spite of the dedication and care of the transcribers, some information shown in LDS records may be incorrect, some entries overlooked or some sections missed altogether.

It is possible to get information direct from some of the old records held in such places as the Registry Office but in addition you may enquire if a local historical society exists in the community you are exploring. By now you are likely looking about for some ongoing source of ideas. The Highland Family History Society already mentioned is a location to advertise your area of interest in case other readers may help and at the same time the list of other members' searches in their newsletter may provide a link to your people. Another similar organization is:

WHO WENT BEFORE - 6

PROSPECTING IN SCOTLAND

BY RAD MACKENZIE

Previous instalments have been promoting the use of research facilities at the Latter Day Saints Family Centres for overseas data and local sources for records of events in Canada. While the LDS library can supply tremendous amounts of information, as mentioned in the last article, perhaps you would like to go to the facilities in Scotland and do some personal research which might give more details of your ancestors. This can be a rewarding experience if you have the patience

Aberdeen and NE Scotland Family History Society
158 - 164 King Street,
Aberdeen, AB24 5BD
Scotland.

There are probably many magazines on this subject; here are three you may wish to check out:

Practical Family History
and Family Tree Magazine

Both are published in the UK but can be ordered through:-

Mrs. S. Lancaster,
178 Grandview Ave,

Cabar Feidh Newsletter:

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

Thornhill, ON L3T 1J1
Or phone (905) 889 - 0498

Another magazine with the same name, published in USA but not connected to the above is:

Family Tree Magazine,
PO Box 3279,
Harlan, IA 51593, USA

Before leaving this topic, go to your local library and look at the magazines they subscribe to for the benefit of their patrons. You may find copies of the publications I have mentioned; have a scan through and then decide if you wish to take out a subscription of your own. You will possibly see copies of other papers or magazines that relate to genealogy in general or feature Scottish material, for example:

"The Highlander"
PO Box 397,
Barrington IL, 60011, USA

This is an interesting general information source on things Scottish but not really slanted towards genealogy as are the others. Two others in this same category that might be of interest to you are:

"The Scottish Banner"
PO Box 724
Niagara Falls, ON L2E 6V5

This newspaper, in publication for 26 years, is published in Florida, having offices of publication in Canada, USA, Australia and Scotland. Issues are quite substantial, running to 30 pages or more in a typical newspaper format.

As well, in a different approach, this item:

"Celtic Heritage"
Clansman Publishing Ltd.
PO Box 8805
Station A,
Halifax, NS B3K 5M4

This is described as an "ethnic journal", and is produced six times each year with the focus being the history and achievements of various Celtic people who have settled in Canada and the United States.

If you feel you have worked through all sources and think local exploration is needed but you are not prepared to visit Scotland, there are folks who will do the research for you.

This can be costly but one piece of important data that has escaped you till now, if found, could be worth the expense involved. If this is the route you wish to follow but have no idea where to go, here are some professionals who list their services in the Family Tree Magazine. I have no knowledge of their abilities or reliability so a letter of enquiry would be wise to determine rates and then it is for you to decide if you wish to try their service. It would be a good idea to establish exactly what you are looking for and the scope of search you would want followed. The answering mail should give you some idea of the cost and then you can decide if you wish to proceed. These names were taken from the February 2004 issue and should be current.

Leslie Hodgson, 4 St. Stephen Place, Edinburgh, EH3 5AJ Scotland

John Adams, Flat 2/L, 1 Queensborough Gardens, Glasgow,

G12 9PW Scotland
Norman Thompson,
31 Beechtree Place, Auchterarder, Perthshire, PH3 1JQ Scotland.
Janet M Bishop, Rivendell, Milnorduff, Elgin, Moray, 1V30 8TJ Scotland.

John Traynor, 51/4 Pleasance, Edinburgh, EH8 9TN Scotland.

The Clan Mackenzie genealogist is also available. He is Graeme Mackenzie, c/o Clan MacMillan International Centre, Finlaystone, Langbank, PA14 6TJ, Scotland. His email address is:

Graeme@clanmacmillan.org

The back pages of the magazines noted above have many more listings of researchers, often according to the geographic area in which they specialize.

INTERNET IDEAS

The various articles presented till now have avoided mentioning the Internet, except in a very few cases, in order that those not involved with that medium could be aware of other methods of research. The search engine that becomes active when you start your computer (quite possibly it is MSN) has broad coverage but if an enquiry does not result in data you think should be available, it is worth trying again, working through other engines whose different search methods may turn up further material. In the open panel at the top of the page key in one of these and make your search again.

WWW.ALTAVISTA.COM
WWW.INFOSEEK.COM
WWW.EXCITE.COM
WWW.CYBERHOUND.COM
WWW.PLANETSEARCH.COM

WWW.WEBCRAWLER.COM
WWW.METACRAWLER.COM
WWW.YAHOO.CA
WWW.LOOKSMART.COM
WWW.LYCOS.COM
And one of the most powerful:
WWW.GOOGLE.CA

Here is some material for those already online or those who have access through a friend. There are such a lot of areas to explore that a beginner might feel lost and wonder just how this great facility can be used. Fortunately there are helpful sources available in two categories, the "official" sites, set up by museums, archives and other depositories, and the other being sites organized by dedicated individuals or groups who are offering information they have gathered, sometimes free and sometimes for a fee.

Where to start? If you have not already checked these, it is worthwhile to explore the facilities available through directories such as "CYNDI'S LIST" and "HELM'S TOOLBOX". Those readers who have been active on the Internet for a while will see some familiar sites listed here but perhaps there may be a few that have been overlooked till now. Many offer general information but there are some that are focused on particular families and through an index identify names already being researched by others, which might link you to someone else in your extended family.

Here are a few places worth exploring -

Are you trying to locate the Ontario burial site of someone? Go to the Ontario Cemetery Finding



Now I wonder where this proud Mackenzie got this from!

Aid at WWW.OCFA.CA which shows several million burial records. If you identify the likely cemetery you will be able to search the record of who is buried there. A fee is required to get the full details shown on the grave monument. If you are looking in other provinces enter "Cemetery Finding Aid" in the search address. Not all provinces have the records available. B.C. Cemetery Finding Aid exists as does South East Saskatchewan Cemetery Records. For the rest, enquiries of local Historical groups may be needed.

National Archives of Canada
WWW.ARCHIVES.CA

Ontario Genealogical Society
WWW.OGS.ON.CA

Ontario County Atlases - between 1874 and 1881 nearly 40 county atlases were published in Canada, covering counties in the Maritimes, Ontario and Quebec
WWW.IMAGO.LIBRARY.McGILL.CA/CountyAtlas/default.asp

If you are looking for similar publications in other areas, there is little shown in our records. However it is worth making enquiries at Historical Societies in the province involved.

If your research includes Canadians in WW I, look at the resources at:
WWW.CFCSC.DND.CA/LINKS/MILHIST/WW1

An earlier issue made reference to the Canadian Archives for records covering veterans of conflicts from 1812 to the present.

WW 1 General Background
information -
WWW.FIRSTWORLDWAR.COM
WWW.FIRESTEP.COM
WWW.1914-1918.NET
WWW.WARART.COM

The Royal Navy
ROYAL-NAVY.MOD.UK/HISTORY/INDEX.HTM
WWW.SHIPS.CO.UK/INDEX

Interesting sites
WWW.HMSHOOD.COM
WWW.SUBMARINE-MUSEUM.DEMON.CO.UK

If you are tracing a soldier in the British Army, on site research may be needed, have a look here for sourcing information:

National Registry of Archives for the UK
WWW.HMC.GOV.UK/NRA/HTML

SCOTLAND

Old Parish Registers

WWW.SCOTLANDSPEOPLE.GOV.UK

National Archives (UK)

WWW.NATIONALARCHIVES.GOV.UK
/DEFAULT-CONTENT.HTM

Scottish Archive Network

WWW.SCAN.ORG.UK

Genealogy and Culture

WWW.TARTANS.COM

Counties of Scotland

WWW.GENUKI.ORG.UK/BIG/SCT/SCT
_SMAP.HTM

Birth Marriage Death Data

WWW.UKBDM.CO.UK

General Register Office For

Scotland (Fee Charged)

WWW.ORIGINS.NET.GRO

Ordnance Survey Maps

WWW.ORDSVY.GOV.UK/GETAMAP/
NDEX.HTML

London Metropolitan Archives

WWW.CityofLondon.GOV.UK/LMA

U.K. Trade Directories, 18th &
19th Centuries

WWW.HISTORICALDIRECTORIES.ORG

Finally, if you have not already started, get a ring binder and make a note of the addresses of all sites you look up and especially, a note of sites that you find by chance you will want to return to these someday!!

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Ed: Our thanks go to Rad MacKenzie for this very useful genealogical guide, which is now concluded. Rad has put this into a small book format and these are

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available at \$5 post free. The proceeds go to the Clan MacKenzie Society - thanks to Rad. If you would like a copy send a cheque to Clan MacKenzie Society to the address at the foot of page one.

HELENBAR LAKE PLANE

CRASH

We thank Alastair McIntyre of electricscotland for bringing this article to our notice.

On June 29, 1946 an RCAF flight lieutenant (Lt. William "Hugh" Mackenzie), was flying a Gloster Meteor from Kauskasing in northern Ontario to Toronto. The Gloster Meteor was the first jet plane developed by the British and the only allied jet to see combat in World War II. His plane was caught in a severe thunderstorm and he lost his way. When the plane was about to run out of fuel, he made a crash landing in Helenbar Lake. Miraculously, he lived through the crash and managed to survive for three weeks on the shores of Semiwhite Lake.

Search planes never found him but he was rescued on Flack Lake by a fishing party from Laurentian Lodge. The pilot, who had made his way to Christman Lake heard the party and managed to gain their attention. Most of the aircraft was removed by the military, but the wing-tip fuel tanks can be seen at the end of the portage on Helenbar Lake. They are now protected by the Provincial Parks Act. This accident was the first jet plane accident in Canada.



THE BRAVE LADS OF LOCHBROOM

They heard the bugles call to arms
re-echoing from the bens
They heard the pibroch sounding
loud in the clachans and the glens
They heard the war-drums thunder
roll along the silent street
Then hasten to the rendezvous – the
tramp of hurrying feet

Far o'er the hills and Dhirrie Mhor
the call to battle came
To the breed of Clan Mackenzie
and Clans of kindred fame
We saw them muster in the street of
the village of the shore
To the Seaforths' war cry
Cabarfeidh and Lochaber wail no
more

In the dawning of the morning mist
the war clouds sullen gloom
They bade farewell to kindred and
the shores of fair Lochbroom
Far o'er the weary Dhirrie through
the midst and fog of war
Come the stories of their valour
from the battle lines afar

And their native looks prouder and
each burnie sings the praise
Of the heroes of the village, from
the Clachans and the Braes
And as we listen to their song,
comes a mournful sad refrain
For the brave lads that have fallen,
for the heroes that were slain

The wells, streams and corries, of
lovely fair Strathmore
Mourn for the brave young
Chieftain who will return no more
Mourn for the valiant brothers who
aye for most fighting fell
The Glens of Braemore and the
Clachans their fair fame long will
tell

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This happy band of warriors attended a Clan MacKenzie meeting at 580 Rebecca Street, Oakville on December 5th and having concluded the meeting went on to enjoy the refreshments provided. Later a number stayed on to help mail out the clan newsletter. Left to right: Warren Emory, Iain Mackenzie-Gray of Applecross, Bob McKenzie, Commissioner Alastair MacKenzie, Commissioner Ken Mackenzie, Jack Hirasawa, Mary Jane Gray, Seated up front-Eleanor Thomson, Morag MacKenzie, Mary-Lou Oyler, Ada Chong, Ron McKenzie, Rob Barclay, Olga McKenzie, and Joyce Mackenzie Hirasawa (seated). (Alan McKenzie was the photographer).



Andrew Matheson, the owner of Brahan shows visitor 13 year-old Ruaridh MacKenzie a copy of the famous painting of Colin Fitzgerald killing the stag and saving the life of the king. Ruaridh was at Brahan with his father Roddy, the former President of the Clan MacKenzie in the Americas.

The lone village by the dim loch
side with pride will always own
On the roll of her best and her
bravest the young pastor of renown
The son of the grand old shepherd,
whose care he had been so long
He died with the lads like a soldier
and their souls go marching on

For the brave young lads that have
fallen
There are sorrows in the house by
the bay
Their honour in the land that has
bred them
Shall endure till eternal day.

*[Our thanks to Angus MacKenzie
for finding this poem on his recent
visit to Ullapool.]*

HIGHLAND HOUSE PRICES

The Economist magazine recently carried an article regarding the prices of houses in the Highlands of Scotland. It appears they rank among the hottest properties in a hot UK market. Last year property prices in the Highlands rose by 24%, well above the British average of 14%. One example given was a four-bedroomed sea-side house in Plockton, near Skye, on the market for £430,000 (that's over one million dollars Canadian money!)



One of the reasons given for this growth in property values is immigration to Scotland. Since 1995 the population reduced by 1% because of low birth rates and emigration (something Scotland has always been good at!) But now the population trend has reversed and there is a net inflow to Scotland and one of the hotspots is the Highlands. Last year a net 1,300 people moved in and while this may not sound much (at least by Toronto standards) the Highlands are so empty that this influx boosted the population by half a percent.

There are a number of reasons why people are starting to rediscover the Highlands. Firstly, the Highlands' capital city of Inverness is booming. The city's economy has grown by 3.9% over the past decade, it has a new university and there are better roads. Many immigrants are from the south of Scotland but half come from England and Wales. They have been attracted by the lower house prices and can sell their English properties and come north, buy a new home and have cash in their pockets. Another aspect shows that it is not only retirees that are moving north. Some 40% were workers of one sort or another who wanted to work in more tranquil and ideal surroundings, and in this day of bustle, rush and nervous strain, one can fully understand that attitude.

Television has also done its bit. The delightful Highland TV series "Hamish MacBeth" which has been seen here in Canada also, has attracted people to Plockton, where it was filmed and so too has the series "Monarch of the Glen", loosely based on the superb book by Sir Compton Mackenzie (which

is far better than the TV series). Tourists also have been making a habit of becoming residents having fallen in love with the Highlands. Some of us might not appreciate the weather in the Highlands but it is certainly not much worse than the rain one gets in England and Wales.

One hears a lot about Clan members and other expatriate Scots wanting to return "home". We might hear a lot about it but, in my experience it seldom translates into action.

Alan McKenzie

COMMISSIONER WANTED

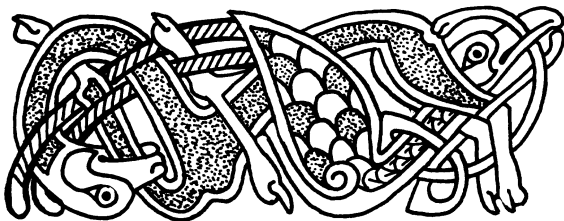
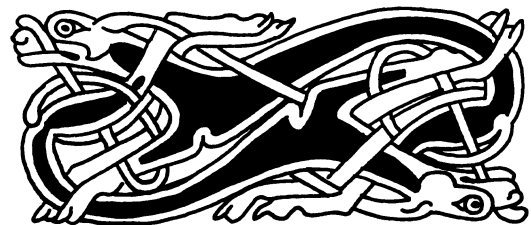
There is a vacancy which we need to fill urgently. The post of Commissioner for Eastern Ontario, which includes Ottawa and the many members we have in that region, needs some local leadership. Please contact us if you would be prepared to step into the breach. Help will be provided for a get-together or a tea party etc.

ALBERTA EVENTS

Betty Hall sent us some interesting reports of events that took place in Calgary recently. She was due to host the Clan MacKenzie history evening on November 13th but a disaster struck in the morning when the elevator in the condominium where she lives (and Betty is high up!) failed. Luckily Sir Roderick Mackenzie came to the rescue and a fine evening was enjoyed at his home with some 19 people attending this popular event.

On the 4th of December the local group held their Christmas party and 25 enjoyed yet another fine evening despite the weather man refusing to cooperate in the

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Captain's Deck, New Westminster Quay, 2004 - top left - Heather, Frank, Ron David and Flora. Top right: Everett and Joan R. MacKenzie; Centre left: Commissioner Ian S. Mackenzie, Charles, Lynn and Jill. Centre right: Commissioner William MacKenzie, Jenny, Jill and Ian. Lower left: Donna, Diane and Susan. Bottom: U.S. Commissioner Rod & Ruth MacKenzie, Marlene & Kenneth MacKenzie.

necessary yuletide spirit. Sir Roderick and Jean played the bagpipes and there were the usual Christmas carols.

Betty commented on the really desperate need for some young and interested Mackenzies to help with the ageing group that run these events year after year - that by the way is a common complaint across Canada.

CASTLE LEOD UPDATE

We had a message from Cabarfeidh thanking the Canadian members for the donation of £2,000 sent in December to the Clan Mackenzie Charitable Trust (CMCT) for the Castle Leod Project. In his message of thanks he gave us some thoughts on developments at the castle:

"We are particularly keen to try and get builders to sort out the Red Stairs before too long as that would make public access easier and avoid the dog-leg of going back through the Great Hall! Of course that also means moving all the stuff in the passageway that connects the stairwell to the corridor outside the office and through to the main front door; oh boy, but it will have to be done and result in a vast improvement both in looks, throughflow and give us a chance for more exhibition space. Whether we can manage it in time for the Gathering is a moot point - builders here are all piling into building new houses where the easy money lies and it is rather hard (a careful understatement) to get them interested - at a reasonable price - in anything else. Such is life.

In the meantime I will keep you posted on the above! You may be glad to know that the architects, the Law and Dunbar-Naismith (LDN)

are preparing a fully costed report on the proposed apartment in the Old Tower. This will incorporate the QS report structural engineer plus of course the fire officers verdict which should be entertaining. This is a fair amount of work and after a long meeting with them in Forres they have agreed to work at cost without profit for a maximum CMCT budget of £3000. Obviously they hope to recoup their money if the Project goes ahead, and this is all being done in order to have a worthwhile and realistic breakdown of costs in time for the Gathering."

NEW MEMBERS

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

Ian Mackenzie Creese,
1625 Rue Champigny,
St. Laurent, QC H4L 4P9

Flora Laxdal,
624 Thurston Tee,
Port Moody, BC V3H 4J2

Duncan MacKenzie,
Box 1183, 1040 Carlton Drive,
Esterhazy, SK S0A 0X0

Ian & Lisa MacKenzie,
605 Graycliff Drive,
Sarnia, ON N7S 6M3

Jared MacKenzie,
136 North Skeena Street,
Vancouver, BC V5K 3P4

John A. (Sandy) Mackenzie,
22 Hyde Park Drive,
Georgetown, ON L7G 2B6

Kenneth MacKenzie,
445 Stark Way,
Medicine Hat, AB T1B 4N1

Lance MacKenzie,
1031 Felix Avenue,
Windsor, ON L6K 3N9

Nicole MacKenzie,
544 Dominion,
Montreal, QC H3J 2N4

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

This extract from a letter from member Ron Grant refers to the merchant vessel "Clan Mackenzie" which was shown in a photograph in the December newsletter:

That wee "boatie" *Clan Mackenzie* was one of the Clan Line Shipping Line or more commonly known as The Clan Line Steamers of which there was a substantial fleet owned, some 20 or more, by Sir Herbert Cayzer of Glasgow. His son "Bunny" was an eager participant in any and all nefarious activities and he was described as the "bane of the district". His father told him if he improved his act and passed his exams (which he did, surprisingly) he could have a car. Accordingly he went out and bought a very expensive one!

Ron Grant

Herewith my membership, a bargain which delights my Scots heart considering the quality and content of *Cabar Feidh*.

Interested to read of the Tokyo Pipe Band. My brother toured Japan last year with the Kirkwall Pipe Band. They were much feted and had a great time.

The poem is also interesting;

most of it is tribal chauvinism directed against the Earl of Sutherland and his Munro followers, I think. The Munro armorial bearings are an eagle's head, which presumably explains the author's antipathy toward that unfortunate fowl.

Thank you again for all your hard work.

Sincerely,
Dr Hugh N. Mackenzie, Powell River, B.C.

For the first time on my annual junkets to Scotland I visited Castle Leod. I usually go straight up to the Highlands of Scotland, but this time drove 'down' to the castle to have a look and what a wonderful place it is. Cabarfeidh was there taking tickets, his wife [The Countess of Cromartie] did the tour and his [step] mother [the Dowager Countess of Cromartie] was in the ticket booth. It was a quiet beautiful day in Scotland, sunny with calm blue skies above. The house was looking very good, and I did have a chance to speak a bit with the Chief, tell him where I was from, and I left a donation for the ongoing works. . . .

Later in the fall, I received a very nice letter from him, thanking me for the support of the Castle Leod restoration, and for visiting and chatting with him in September. (He must keep a pretty smart diary.)



I'm enclosing a photo taken that day to add to the collection. It truly is a beautiful place and deserves all the support we can give.

Sincerely,
J. Ronald Patrick, Stouffville, Ontario

I particularly enjoyed the December 2004 issue of the Newsletter, and the article "Scotland via Latter-Day-Saints." I am a volunteer worker in the local L.D.S. Family History Library, and now that we are on the Internet there is a lot of information we can get quickly without the wait for the mail. The services we offer are absolutely free of charge, except for the mailing costs when we order films from Salt Lake City Family History Library, where, of course, there are all the films stored.

Sincerely,
Grace Mackenzie Gibbon, Penticton, B.C.

Dear Alan, I have read some of your excellent book 'The History of the MacKenzies' and felt I had to send you this note as there may be some coincidences in origins of the McKennas and MacKenzies.

I have been researching the McKenna Clan Monaghan, Ireland, for some years and have been particularly interested in our Origins.

There are a number of stories relating to the possible origins of the McKennas in Monaghan:

1: The McKennas originated from Tuathail an Tuaisceart son of Fiacha son of Niall of the Nine Hostages.

2: The McKennas originated from Colla Uais

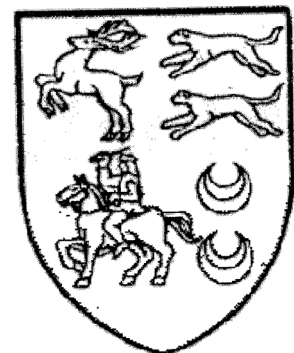
3: The McKennas came to

Monaghan from Co. Meath

Anyway no one knows for sure and many Irish Clans like Scots Clans may have fabricated lineages or particular quirks through marriage, illegitimacy, fosterage etc..

Local folklore in Monaghan regarding the McKennas tells of the McKenna Chief was out hunting and raised a Stag in Co. Meath. He chased it for 2 days and nights and killed it with his *Scian* in the townland of Lios Scian (Fort of the knife) in North Monaghan. That townland today is called Liskenna. He was entertained by the local Chieftain 'Torean' for a period of time. When he wanted to return home he discovered that he had been ousted from power in Meath. He returned to Monaghan and married the daughter of Torean and eventually became Chieftain. This is supposed to have happened in the 9th century. The McKennas have ruled this area from the 13th century until the 17th century when Gaelic rule was overthrown.

The McKenna Coat of Arms on the local graveyards in North Monaghan has a stag with two hounds, a horseman and two crescents. This is supposed to represent the hunt, with the Chieftain, his hounds, the stag and the two crescents representing the two nights of the hunt. This is one of the coincidences as the MacKenzie Coat of Arms [COA] from what I understand, has a Stag and two hounds



and there is a connection with a hunt also. I attach the coat of arms of the Mc Kennas of Truagh, North Monaghan which is not the official COA. The official COA in the Heraldic offices has three tigers and a salmon. Locally we all use the Hunt Scene COA.

The McKenna overlords in Monaghan were the McMahons supposedly connected to Matthews and Mathesons. Another coincidence ?

Finally I decided to join the DNA club and see where the McKennas fit in and recently got my 12 marker results. I got two full matches (one of which was a Mac Kenzie), who coincidentally have a possible Fitzgerald connection. I know this means nothing at this early stage but possibly another coincidence. I await my 25 marker.

Anyway, the research goes on and maybe we might find that the McKennas were brought in as Gallowglass by the McMahons. There was certainly a large amount of movement of people between Ireland and Scotland in those times so we might not all be who we have been led to believe we were - from the old manuscripts!

Regards,

Gerry Mc Kenna

LADIES OF THE COVENANT

LADY ANNE MACKENZIE

While working with Alastair McIntyre of Electric Scotland I offered to transcribe a book in my possession entitled *Ladies of the Covenant*. I did not realize how long it would take as it ran to over 600 pages and even with OCR (Optical Character Recognition) on my computer, the program often failed to read the

script correctly and much time was taken up comparing the original narrative with the copy to correct the many mistakes. However, it is now up and running. I mention this because one of the later chapters, and one of the largest, relates to the Earl of Seaforth's daughter, Lady Anne Mackenzie, who seems to have had a very difficult life despite her high born relations and marriages. Her husband, the Earl of Argyll, was executed for his involvement in the religious wars of the 17th century. This chapter can be read at the following web address:

<http://www.electricscotland.com/history/ladies/ladies21.pdf>

It is well worth reading to get a feel of the atmosphere of those terrible times in Scottish history.

I also have another book about this lady. It is entitled "*A Memoir of Lady Anna Mackenzie, Countess of Balcarres and Afterwards of Argyll 1621-1706*". This book, published in 1868, was written by Alexander Lord Lindsay, Master of Crawford and Balcarres. If there is a general interest expressed by readers of the newsletter I can transcribe this book in chapters in this magazine. Let me know - it is a quite remarkable story.

CLAN GATHERING IN NEW WESTMINSTER, BC

Rod Mackenzie our US member from Bellingham, Washington tells us that a nice group of MacKenzies gathered in New Westminster, BC for dinner and a visit. Commissioner Joan MacKenzie organized this and New Westminster is one of those places where the members in the USA and Canada are so close to each other

that it is a small matter to cross the border for a clan get-together.

OVER THE BRIDGE TO SKYE

We spotted the following note on Alastair McIntyre's website : www.electricscotland.com

Got some good news in from the folks on Skye to say they have succeeded in getting the tolls stopped on the Skye Bridge. So for those that like to drive to Skye you can now use the bridge for free instead of that five pounds charge each way.

MACKENZIE PIPE MUSIC

I had a letter from one of my many distant cousins in New Zealand. This one was from Rob Knight in Feilding, author of the book, "*Poyntzfield - The Story of a Pioneer Family - The McKenzies of the Lower Rangitikei*".

Rob has turned his attention this time to pipe music with Mackenzie Clan connections. In checking out a programme of music being played at a local Highland Square Day he noticed there were five pieces with Mackenzie connections. They were: *Archie Mackenzie of Dumbarton*, *Cabar Feidh*, *Lady Mackenzie of Gairloch*, *Rev. A.W.R. MacKenzie's Revenge*, and *Peter McKenzie Warren*.

It occurred to Rob that it would be an interesting exercise to compile a list of Mackenzie related bagpipe music by inviting members and pipers to submit names of tunes. Now there's a good idea! It's outside my area of expertise, but I am sure we have some members who could add to that list. Please send us an email or phone us and we shall include it in the next Newsletter.

Alan McKenzie

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WEST COAST MACKENZIES

Page 12

We thank Commissioner Joan Louise Mackenzie from British Columbia for this report and selection of photos. Unfortunately she did not include one of herself.

"This time the West Coast MacKenzies send evidence of their annual dinner. We almost had 30 people. Commissioner William MacKenzie was the Master of Ceremonies and invited each family unit to speak to the group regarding their Scottish/Canadian connections. We have many members stemming from Cape Breton. We tried the MacKenzie/Scotland multiple choice questions quiz (as used at the Toronto picnic in 2004) and we did not do that well. Everett and Ian played their pipes. After a few hours of eating and chatting, it was suggested we plan a picnic in the summer. Maybe we shall do it!"

The photos are on page 7.

ONE IN FIVE SCOTS HAS BLOOD TIE TO ANCIENT IRAQ

by SHARON WARD
(from NEWS.Scotsman.com)

ABOUT 20 per cent of all Scots have Iraqi blood, according to a new book and television series examining the pre-history of what is now Scotland.

The remaining four in five Scots are descended from bands of hunter-gatherers who came from England and northern Europe after the Ice Age - dispelling the myth of the Scots as a mongrel race made up of Romans, Angles, Vikings, Normans and other arrivals.

These revelations come from a documentary series "Before Scotland: The Story of Scotland Before History," to be screened

later this year on STV and Grampian.

The programmes - accompanied by a book - also claim the mythical land of Atlantis existed in what we now know as the North Sea, and that many Scots spoke Old Welsh before Gaelic.

And they dispel the myth that the population in 4000BC was made up of grunting cavemen running around in animal skins, saying the people were actually very similar to Scots today.

Alistair Moffat, the writer and producer of the series, said many people would be surprised by the findings: "We find it very difficult to believe that 10,000 years ago people who looked like us lived on this island, hunted and gathered food, had families that they cared for, talked about ideas, gossiped, told funny stories, lied and were often worried about the future.

"Yet all the evidence shows that they were indeed like us, and, further, they were in fact our direct ancestors. They deserve a history and nothing less," added Mr Moffat.

Telling the country's story from the end of the last Ice Age - about 8000BC - to the fall of the Pictish kingdom, the series ends in 900AD when the name Alba, Gaelic for Scotland, came into common use.

The original name Scotland, said Mr Moffat, meant the Land of the Pirates.

Using new research into Scottish DNA by Professor Bryan Sykes of the Oxford Ancestors Project, the revelation that some Scots have an exotic set of Iraqi ancestors is also backed by his research, which traced the movement of early farmers in the centuries around 4000BC.

It showed them coming from Iraq and ultimately to prehistoric Scotland.

Fi Harris, marketing and communications consultant for the Scottish genealogy website ScotlandsPeople, said: "It certainly promises to offer a fascinating and innovative insight into Scottish ancestry and the role it has played in shaping modern-day Scotland.

"Since we launched ScotlandsPeople in 2002, interest in genealogy has soared and we now have over 245,000 registered users.

"Although this new documentary concentrates on 8000BC to 900AD, it will help to demonstrate how fascinating it can be to trace the lives of our ancestors."

We thank Philippa Mackenzie of the Clan Mackenzie Society in Scotland for drawing this article to our attention.

In fact this is very timely as our early results from the Mackenzie/McKenzie DNA y-chromosome project is showing a wide variety of differing DNAs from Mackenzie. This dispels the unlikely belief that we all descend from one common male Mackenzie ancestor. This was never really on, anyway, as the adoption of surnames by the Gaelic-speaking Mackenzies was very late compared to England. It is evident from old records that the paternalistic Gaelic surnames, like miniature family trees, were still in evidence in the 17th and even 18th centuries.

That raises the question why did Clansmen adopt the name Mackenzie. There have been a number of reasons given. Firstly, that they believed themselves to be related to the Mackenzie Chief. If that were so then there is no reason why the DNA of Mackenzies

should be the same, since a descendant of the chief through one of numerous female lines would not pass on the y-chromosome of the first Mackenzie chiefs. The y-chromosome only passes from father to son.

Secondly, they adopted the name Mackenzie because they lived on Clan Mackenzie lands.

Whatever the reason a person has the name of Mackenzie we must not forget that the Mackenzies lived in the same territory, mostly Ross and Cromarty, and if we go back one thousand years then two random Mackenzies living in these territories would have been related to each other ten thousand times over! And they lived together and fought together as a proud and independent clan.

All the DNA project does is tie persons together through just one line of those ten thousand lines - the male line only. And that common ancestor may have lived two thousand years ago before surnames existed.

Enough of this. See my report on the DNA Project for further analysis of results to date.

MACKENZIE DNA PROJECT

by Alan McKenzie

The Mackenzie/McKenzie surname DNA Project was started in late 2004 and there was an immediate response from members around the world wishing to participate.

The object of the Project is for males with the name of Mackenzie or McKenzie, or any other variation of the spelling, to have their y-chromosome of their DNA analyzed. The y-chromosome is inherited by all males from their father who in turn inherit it from their father and so ad infinitum. It then becomes very clear that this is another tool in the chest for genealogists. If two persons share the same y-chromosome then the chances are high that they descend from a common ancestor. Since the y-chromosome only passes from father to son female members of the Mackenzie clan cannot participate directly. That has meant that some enterprising and more forceful lady members have "encouraged" their brothers or male cousins to take the test for the family.

Since we all descend some millions of years ago from the same male ancestor we should all have the same y-chromosome you would think. However, that is not the case. The reason is that every 500 generations or so one of the "markers" that identifies the DNA result mutates and changes slightly. Some markers

mutate faster than some others. So as time goes by different families descending from a common male ancestor show slight differences in their DNA. Over several thousands of years the differences are large, showing that any relationship is distant to being virtually non-existent from a genealogical point of view.

When we started this project we elected to go for a standard 12 marker DNA test. The results are shown on page 11 for the candidates whose results have come in so far. Many more are still awaiting results from the laboratory.

The first 12 markers are clearly shown and you will see that these generally differ from each other by a smaller or larger amount. In some cases the markers match exactly indicating a relatively close relationship. At this point candidates then might elect to have their DNA result reexamined on a 25 or 37 marker basis to see just how close they are with other Mackenzies with the same 12 marker result.

On the chart there are two men with identical 37 marker results. This indicates a very close relationship and in fact according to Family Tree DNA who manage our DNA Project there is a 50% probability that these two share a common ancestor within just 5 generations which is very close indeed. At this point the two parties would normally correspond with each other and swap family trees to try and find the common male ancestor if they can.

The immediate response to the results was horror by some candidates. They had expected that as Mackenzies they would all be related. In other words they would all descend from the first male Mackenzie. While in England Professor Sykes did find a very close relationship with other Sykes in England - 60% were related to him - the situation there was different from Scotland as the name of Sykes (in Yorkshire) had been around since the 13th century.

The Highlanders, however, were very late in adopting surnames, in some cases not until the 18th century. They adopted the names of the Chief they believed they were related to or even if they worked on his land.

I have already given sufficient proof that two random Mackenzies in the Highlands would be related to each other 10,000 times over going back one thousand years. But that relationship would have been through several lines involving female Mackenzies and the y-chromosome would be lost.

Out of the 10,000 times we relate to each other the DNA project and the y-chromosome only identifies

one single direct male line going back some 800 years when the name of Mackenzie first appeared.

Nearly all of the candidates showed a common R1b result which indicates that their ancestors came from Europe, perhaps two thousand years or more ago. This is also the same in Ireland which shares similar results to Scotland. This seems to give proof to the heritage that we all descend from Celtic tribes in Europe (which started off somewhere in what is now the Czech Republic) and moved across to western Europe into Gaul (France) and from there were driven back by the Romans into Brittany, Cornwall, Wales, Ireland and into Scotland.

What the DNA result does do is identify close relationships. It can also disprove false claims that we are related to the early Mackenzie chiefs and others shown on the Findon Tables. In this regard we have managed to recruit a Mackenzie in Scotland who descends in the male line from Hector Roy Mackenzie who in turn descended from that mighty chief of the Mackenzie Clan, Alastair Ionraic. We await his results with interest and if we can get others who have proven genealogies who show on the Findon Tables we will have a useful base to measure ourselves against.

One of our members has an interesting result which is not R1b. It has an "I" classification and this is a northern Europe ancestry. In other words his distant male ancestor seems very likely to have been one of those Vikings which raided and settled parts of the Highlands and particularly the Hebrides in Scotland.

One other result shows an ancestry identified with the middle east

and possibly of Jewish origins.

As more and more results come in and as the DNA results go through greater analyses we shall be part of a greater adventure in turning history upside down. There are now many thousands of single surname projects under way and this method of genealogy is exploding and creating several interesting new websites. The Campbells in particular have gone into great detail on their heritage and list several genealogies and DNA results of the leading members of the family descending from the chiefs of that large clan.

By the time the Highland Games season starts and the Clan Gathering takes place in Scotland in August we confidently expect that our numbers of DNA results will run into the hundreds. The McLeods have 500 results so far and their web page makes interesting reading. I will post our results from time to time on www.electricscotland.com/mackenzie.

The cost of taking a 12 marker test is US\$99. It costs more to expand this result into a 25 or 37 marker result.

We can also compare our results with the world at large. We have noted that one of our members had an exact match with a McKinney (the Kinneys have their own DNA Project). McKinney could be a variation of Mackenzie and we often show the name as a sept of Clan Mackenzie.

My own result matches with nobody at all so far. Close matches with just one or two marker variations show a number of people with Scottish or Irish surnames. Interestingly (from my perspective)

I seem to have rather a high proportion of people from the Shetlands. I find this surprising. My people came from Easter Ross and I get back to about 1700.

Because of the vast numbers of people running their DNAs through Family Tree DNA it is a requirement that communication MUST be by email. Some candidates who have joined without email have managed to persuade relations or close friends to be the email address for receiving results or communications.

The Chat line has been very active on this subject of DNA. It is clear that many are very confused. Some are quite angry that they do not relate to other Mackenzies according to their DNA result. I have to admit I am not at all surprised with the results. It was plainly daft to think we all descended from a single Mackenzie when we did not even have surnames in the Highlands until comparatively recently.

I shall report much more on this subject once a lot more research has been done. I am currently reading a large work on the Celts as this is a subject we should all know more about in the light of our knowledge of the history of the Scots, Irish and others.

In fact here is another article we received recently from Mark Courtney. This was published in The Times last September.

SCOTS' CELTIC ROOTS ARE LINKED TO NORTHWEST SPAIN

The Irish and Scots may be as closely related to the people of Northwestern Spain and Portugal as the Celts of central Europe, a new study suggests.

Historians have long believed the British Isles were swamped by a huge invasion of Iron Age Celts from central Europe in about 500BC. But geneticists at Trinity College, Dublin, now claim the Irish and Scots have as much, if not more, in common with the people of Galicia in Spain.

Dr Daniel Bradley, a genetics lecturer at Trinity, said a new study into Celtic origins revealed close affinities with the people of Galicia. "It's well known that there are cultural relations between the areas but now this shows there is much more," he said.

"We think the links are much older than the Iron Age because they also show affinities with the Basque region - which isn't Celtic. The links point towards other Celtic nations, in particular Scotland, but they also point to Spain."

Historians believed the Celts, originally from the Alpine regions of central Europe, invaded the British Isles 2,500 years ago.

By comparing the DNA samples from people living in Celtic nations and other parts of Europe geneticists at the university have drawn new parallels. Dr Bradley said it was possible migrant moved from the Iberian peninsular to Ireland as far back as 6,000 years ago up to until 3,000 years ago.

"I don't agree with the idea of a massive Iron Age invasion that took over the Atlantic islands. You can regard the ocean - rather than a barrier - as a communication route," Dr Bradley said.

The study found people in areas traditionally known as Celtic, such as Ireland, Wales, Scotland, Brittany and Cornwall, had strong links with each other, and that people in Ireland had more in common with Scots than any other nation. There are also close links between Scotland and Ireland dating back much further than the Plantations of the 1600s, when many Scots moved to northern Ireland in search of fertile farming lands, the research showed.

However, scientists could not shed any light on whether fair skin, red hair and fiery tempers truly are Celtic traits.

The study was published in *The American Journal of Human Genetics*.

LOOKING BACK TEN YEARS

The Clan MacKenzie Society in Canada started to form after the Fergus Highland Games in 1986. We have shown some pictures

of this era in past newsletters. So we thought we would look back just ten years to the time of the first Clan Mackenzie Gathering in Scotland and show you some of the photos taken in 1995.



This picture was taken at our first and one of the last visits to the Highland Games in Barrie, Ontario. Drum Major and Toronto Commissioner, Norman MacKenzie, and I are seen holding the award the Clan MacKenzie received for the best clan tent!



Members meeting at the Clan Gathering in Strathpeffer. Our Chief, Cabarfeidh, is seen talking to the late Douglas McKenzie, Commissioner for Alberta.



Lady Gilean Mackenzie (left) chats with Betty Hall, from Calgary, at the Clan MacKenzie Gathering

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If you cannot visit us because of the distance involved and you can still go on line and order a kilt from us. There is a measuring form on our website. The web address is www.burnetts-struth.com

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



Looking back to 1995 - Cabarfeidh shows the visitors around Castle Leod