



Clan MacKenzie Society in the Americas

Cabar Feidh

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HISTORY OF THE MACKENZIES

PART 14

THE EXILED EARL OF SEAFORTH

What follows is a most interesting account of the 'misplaced' rents from the Seaforth estates. These should have come to the Government's commissioners following the exile of the Earl of Seaforth and the forfeiture of his vast estates. It was General Wade who referred to these missing monies and it is a remarkable fact that despite the Chief of the Mackenzies having lost his titles and his lands, nevertheless his tenants still paid their rents to the factor, Donald Murchison, and he in turn passed these on to the earl.

This old account which follows is of particular interest and is taken from Chambers' Domestic Annals of Scotland.

"The following account of Donald Murchison's proceedings

and of Seaforth's vassals during his exile in France is abridged from an interesting and valuable work. It brings out in a prominent light the state of the Highlands and the futility of the power of the Government during that period in the North. As regards several of the forfeited estates which lay in inaccessible situations in the Highlands, the commissioners had up to this time been entirely baffled, never having been able even to get them surveyed. This was so in a very special manner in the case of the immense territory of the Earl of Seaforth, extending from Brahan Castle, near Dingwall in the east, across to Kintail in the west, as well as in the large island of the Lewis. The districts of Lochalsh and Kintail, on the west coast, the scene of the Spanish invasion of 1719, were peculiarly difficult of access, there being no approach from the south, east, or north, except by narrow and difficult paths, while the western access was only assailable by a naval force. To all appearance this tract of ground, the seat of many comparatively opulent tacksmen and cattle farmers, was as much beyond the control of the six commissioners assembled at their office in Edinburgh, as if it had been amongst the mountains of Tibet or upon the shores of Madagascar.

"For several years after the insurrection, the rents of this district were collected, without the slightest difficulty, for the benefit of the exiled Earl, and regularly transmitted to him. At one time a large sum was sent to him in Spain. The chief agent in the business was Donald Murchison, descendant of a line of faithful adherents of the "High Chief of Kintail". Some of the later generations of the family had been entrusted with the keeping of Eilean Donan Castle, a stronghold dear to the modern artist as a picturesque ruin, but formerly of serious importance as commanding a central point from which radiate Loch Alsh and Loch Duich, in the midst of the best part of the Mackenzie country. Donald was a man worthy of a more prominent place in his country's annals than he has yet attained; he acted under a sense of right which, though unfortunately defiant of Acts of Parliament, was still a very pure sense of right; and in the remarkable actions which he performed he looked solely to the good of those towards whom he had a feeling of duty. A more disinterested hero - and he was one - never lived.

"In bold and avowed insubordination to the Government of

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

George the First, Mackenzie's tenants continued for ten years to pay their rents to Donald Murchison, setting at nought all fear of ever being compelled to repeat the payment to the commissioners."

In 1720 the King's men made an effort to exercise their rights to the rents of the Mackenzie Chief's lands. Two brave men were found willing to attempt the task. They were William Ross of Easterfearn and Robert Ross, a bailie from Tain. The Ross Clan were close neighbours and to a large degree historical adversaries. It is not difficult to imagine the Mackenzie Clan's reactions to the Ross men's audacity to try to exercise these rights, even though they did have the power of the King and parliament behind them. Some Lochcarron men were heard to mutter ominously that the two factors would get nothing but "leaden coin" from the Seaforth tenants, in other words - musket shot!

Murchison, meanwhile, acting for the Clan Chief, collected the rents due, using part of the funds to maintain a small army of sixty men to resist any attempt by the King's men to collect rents from the tenants. He used this force with some effect when he intercepted a party of excisemen passing near Dingwall with a quantity of *aqua vitae* which he helpfully removed from them, allowing them to continue their journey without this burden. The unappreciative excisemen reported this matter to the Board of Excise, but it appears that nobody felt compelled to do much about it.

In February, 1721, the two Rosses sent some of their officers into the western district to try and persuade the tenants to exercise good sense. If they were prepared to submit to the authority of the King, then they would be assured of proper treatment by the King's men. This very reasonable approach got short shrift however. The ungrateful tenants seized the officers, robbed them of their official papers, money and arms and sent them on their way after first producing their solemn assurance they would not renew their mission.

The outraged Rosses were swift to act in support of their official authority. They appointed a constable to proceed into Lochalsh, together with a military party from Bernara Barracks in Glenelg to take into custody the wicked men who had acted so ungratefully. A secret night march across the Highlands resulted in the capture of two men. But the alarm was given,

the two men escaped and fired on their captors from a hill. They then set a bonfire as a signal which was passed through Kintail and Lochalsh. The armed force, recognizing they were discovered, beat a hasty retreat back from whence they started.

Other ineffective efforts were made to exercise authority, but to no avail. Finally the two factors decided to force the issue and resolve matters once and for all. Setting off from Inverness with some thirty armed soldiers in addition to an armed body of servants and followers, they moved across the Highlands, picking up a further fifty troops from Bernara Barracks. Confidently they moved towards Kintail having been told that there would be no resistance from the Kintail men. Word soon reached the two Rosses, however, that their trust in a peaceful encounter was inappropriate. The fact is that Donald Murchison had assembled his own band of Mackenzies plus some further Mackenzies from Lewis under Seaforth's cousin, Mackenzie of Kildun. Further bands of armed men from the Camerons, Glengarry and Glenmoriston comprised a total of three hundred and fifty determined and sullen warriors ready to resist and they were reportedly armed with Spanish long rifles.

As the government force moved in towards Kintail they were surprised by an outbreak of shooting from rising ground on their right. The first casualty was Ross of Easterfearn himself who was wounded but continued to give orders to his troops to advance and clear the ground of lurking clansmen. They had some success in this respect and were able to proceed to a narrow gorge in Kintail which led into Loch Affric. In this ideal ambush territory lay Murchison and his men.

The resulting ambush caused considerable confusion among Ross's men. They did their best to fight off the concealed attackers. Walter Ross, the son of Ross of Easterfearn was badly wounded and another casualty was Bailie Ross's son who was also wounded. Both of the wounded young men were taken prisoner together with Bailie Ross's servant. Easterfearn's son died of his wounds the next day.

Realising that they were severely outmanned and outgunned Easterfearn made contact with his enemy and met with Donald Murchison himself. Murchison

was a tough negotiator but finally agreed to let Ross of Easterfearn and his men go, after first taking his papers and getting his covenant under a penalty of five hundred pounds not to officiate in Murchison's territory, being the lands forfeited by the Earl of Seaforth. Donald's men conducted Easterfearn's men safely out of the protected territory. Murchison let it be known that should any stranger enter Kintail and call himself a factor for the lands, that man would be killed by any one of sixteen persons who had sworn to take such meritorious action even though they might be hacked to pieces for it.

The young Walter Ross was buried at Beaully and thus ended the abortive action to seize the Seaforth estate rents against the wishes of the local clanspeople.

A second attempt was made to possess the Seaforth estates for the government. This time it was decided to avoid going via the previous route where there were opportunities for ambush. This time the route would be by way of Dingwall, Strathgarve and Loch Carron, which was longer but easier. A Captain McNeill accordingly set off with one hundred and sixty troops. Donald Murchison advanced to the top of Mam Attadale by a high pass from Loch Carron to the head of Loch Long separating Lochalsh from Kintail. His relative, Kenneth Murchison, and a dozen heavily armed volunteers advanced to an ambush point in the defiles of Coille Bhan (White Wood). The Captain and his men moved cautiously forward into this dangerous area where they were fired upon by the ambushers. The red-coats fought back strongly and made some headway causing the ambushers to retreat. However Captain McNeill and some of his men were wounded and one of his grenadiers was killed. News then reached McNeill that a large party of Mackenzies was waiting for him in the mountain pass of Attadale and he believed that there was a scheme to draw him into a fatal ambush. Discretion being the better part of valour and taking into account his wounded condition, McNeill decided to withdraw back to Inverness.

The Mackenzies under Donald Murchison were much elated to learn that their thirteen guns had held at bay and driven off one hundred and sixty red-coats.

That was the last attempt to seize the Seaforth lands by way of an armed force.

Murchison, meanwhile, continued to collect the Earl's rents and send them to him in France. He is reported to have gone

to Edinburgh in a public manner with eight hundred pounds of rents in his possession, to have been received as a gentlemen and to have been unmolested despite the fact that his actions were well known to the population. This caused General Wade to remark ruefully to the King;

“I cannot omit observing to your Majesty that this national tenderness the subjects of North Britain have one for the other is a great encouragement for rebels and attainted persons to return home from their banishment.”

The Commissioners on the forfeited estates concluded their report in 1725 by stating that they had been unable to sell the estates of William, Earl of Seaforth as they had not been able to obtain possession of the properties and consequently convey them to a purchaser.

King George I died in 1726 but before he died he pardoned the attainted Earl of Seaforth who returned to Scotland a free man, though without his properties he was in tightened circumstances. His financial state caused him to write to Sir Robert Walpole who advised him to write to the King. The King was not in the giving vein which caused the Earl of Seaforth to remark that “I could not forbear making appear how ill I was used.” This must seem a strange comment given the fact that Seaforth had played an active role in a conspiracy to deprive the House of Hanover of the crown!

As for Donald Murchison his heroic story ends sadly. When the Earl of Seaforth took possession once again of his properties in the Highlands, preserved for him by his loyal factor, he turned his back on him. His reward for his loyalty was a small farm paying no more than sixty pounds a year. A poor reward for unexampled protective zealously, risking his own life in the process. It is said that Murchison, upset by this derisory offer, declined it and moved near Conon where he died, it is said, of a broken heart. Seaforth visited him on his death-bed and asked him how he was. The dying man replied “Just as you will be in a short time.” He then turned his back on the Earl and concluded their relationship.

Not everyone regarded Murchison as a high-minded patriot and gentleman. One of his whig opponents produced the following verse in which he is referred to as Daniel Murchison:-

Page 3

*Keppoch, Rob Roy, and Daniel
Murchison,
Cadets are servants to some chief of
clan,
From theft and robberies scarce did
ever cease,
Yet 'scaped the halter each, and died in
peace.
This last his exiled master's rents
collected,
Nor unto king and law would be sub
jected.
Though veteran troops upon the
confines lay,
Sufficient to make lord and tribe a prey,
Yet passes strong through which no
roads were cut,
Safe-guarded Seaforth's clan, each in
his hut.
Thus in strongholds the rogue securely
lay,
Neither could they by force be driven
away,
Till his attainted lord and chief of late
By ways and means repurchased his
estate.*

We do not know why Murchison was so ill-used by Seaforth. Perhaps Murchison's methods of shooting at government troops caused embarrassment to Seaforth's attempts to make peace with the government and recover his estates. In fact, he was not successful in this regard and the Seaforth lands did not return to the family until 1741 when they were purchased from the Commissioners of the Forfeited Estates for £25,109 by the Earl's son. Perhaps also Seaforth did not care for Murchison using the rents to finance a private army. Whatever the reasons Seaforth had for his apparent lack of gratitude to Murchison, they died with the Earl.

William Mackenzie lived the latter part of his life on the Isle of Lewis, where he died on the 8th January, 1740. He married on 22 April, 1715, to Mary, daughter and heiress of Nicholas Kennet of Coxhow, Northumberland. She died in France in August, 1739, while on her way to Scotland. They had three sons and a daughter:

1. **Kenneth Mackenzie.** Except for the attainder, he would have been the 6th Earl of Seaforth and 7th Lord of Kintail. He took the courtesy title of, and was known as, Lord Fortrose.

2. **Ranald Mackenzie.** Born around 1725, he was entered in the Scots College at Douai, aged seven, on 11, October, 1732. He died unmarried.

3. **Nicholas Mackenzie.** Born circa 1728, he was also entered in the Scots College at Douai in December, 1735 at the age of seven and a half. He later went to Paris to study law. He died in 1774 as a result of a skating accident when he fell through the ice and was drowned. He was unmarried.

1. **Frances Mackenzie.** She was a celebrated beauty in her day and was married in Edinburgh in 1744 to the Hon. John Gordon of Kenmure. But for the attainder, by which his father was executed in 1715, he would have succeeded as Viscount Kenmure.

In the next issue of *Cabar Feidh* we shall look at the huge upheaval in the Highlands and its severe effects on the Mackenzie Clan in particular. We refer to the second Jacobite Rebellion of 1745, which culminated in the disastrous Battle of Culloden in April 1746. We shall see how the Earl of Cromartie staked all in this uprising. It nearly cost him his life.

THE PEDIGREES OF THE EARLY CHIEFS OF THE CLAN MACKENZIE

BY DOUGLAS HICKLING

PART 2

We continue the review of the various pedigrees of the Mackenzie Chiefs published in a number of manuscripts.

In his *THE EARLS OF CROMARTIE* (1876) volume I, at v, Sir William Fraser sets forth a Mackenzie pedigree in tabular form which provides the basis for the following:

PEDIGREE III

1. **Kenneth**, son of Colin Fitzgerald and a daughter of Kenneth MacMahon or Matheson, married Morba Macdowal, daughter of Alexander Lord of Lorn, and was succeeded by

2. **Kenneth Mackenneth**, who married Margaret, daughter of David de Strathbogie. Earl of Athol. He was succeeded by

3. **Kenneth Mackenzie**, who married Fynvola, daughter of Roderick Macleod of Lewis. He was succeeded by

4. **Murdoch Mackenzie**, who married Isabel, daughter of Murdoch MacAulay. He was succeeded by

5. **Murdoch Mackenzie**, who married Fingala, daughter of Macleod of Harris. He was succeeded by

6. **Alexander Mackenzie**, who married (1) Lady Agnes Campbell, daughter of Colin, Earl of Argyll, and (2) Margaret Macdougall, "a daughter of the House of Lorn." The mother of his son Kenneth is not identified.

Fraser, who published his history forty years after Skene's *THE HIGHLANDERS OF SCOTLAND*, stoutly defends the genuineness of the documents upon which the claim of a descent from Colin Fitzgerald is based and declares the manuscript of 1467 to be "quite fabulous." [in this context fabulous mean fake!] He adheres, in most respects, to the pedigrees contained in the 17th century Mackenzie family histories. As the historian and patron of the Earls of Cromartie, Fraser no doubt felt pressured to uphold the theories advanced by the first Earl in his history of the family.

Only three years later, Major James D. Mackenzie of Findon published his *GENEALOGICAL TABLES OF THE CLAN MACKENZIE* (1879). The notes, which accompany the tables, at 7-10, set forth the following:

PEDIGREE IV

1. **Kenneth**, son of Colin, "the 'Gerald' of tradition, or of early Celtic or Irish derivation" and a daughter of Kenneth Macmahon of Lochalsh. He married Morba, daughter of Alexander MacDougall of Lorne. He was succeeded by

2. **Kenneth** "or in some manuscripts **Murdoch**." He married Margaret, daughter of David of Strathbolgy, eleventh Earl of Athol. He fought at Bannockburn, 1314, and was succeeded by

3. **Kenneth na Sroine of Kintail**, who married Fynvola (or Finguala), daughter of Torquil MacLeod II of Lewis. The compiler notes that, according to Dr. George Mackenzie, Kenneth was murdered by the

Earl of Ross at Perth. His only son,

4. **Murdoch Dubh**, is said to have been conveyed to the Lewis upon his father's death and to have been called "of the caves" because he led a "hole in the corner existence" before he was able to regain his father's estates. He married Isabel, daughter of MacAulay of Lochbroom, and was succeeded by his son,

5. **Murdoch na Drochaid** ("of the bridge"). He married Finguala, daughter of MacLeod, chief of Harris, by whom he had one son,

6. **Alexander Ionraic** ("the upright"), who married (1) Anna, daughter of MacDougall of Dunollie of the lineage of Lorn, by whom he had Kenneth and Duncan, and (2) "another MacDougall or MacCoull of Morar, or 'Morir' on the mainland."

James D. Mackenzie of Findon vigorously attacked the reliability of the manuscript of 1467 as well as the writings of Skene and others that questioned the existence of Colin Fitzgerald. As is clear from Pedigree IV above, the compiler was willing to concede only the possibility that Colin was not of Irish origin while at the same time insisting that he was the founder of the clan, whatever his origin may have been. James D. Mackenzie of Findon was the last Mackenzie historian of consequence to adhere to the 17th century family histories and to the claimed descent from Colin.

Alexander Mackenzie was the first historian of the family to adopt many of Skene's views as well as his translation of the manuscript of 1467. He published his *HISTORY OF THE CLAN MACKENZIE* in 1879, a work which was first serialized, beginning in 1877, in *THE CELTIC MAGAZINE*, volume III, a periodical which he edited.

Skene published the third volume of his mature work *CELTIC SCOTLAND* in 1880. In the revised 1890 edition of this volume, Skene discusses the role and reliability of clan genealogies. In his view, stated at 338-339, the clan pedigrees contained in the 14th and 15th century Irish manuscripts, including the manuscript of 1467, "as far back as the eponymous or common ancestor from which the clan takes its name, are in general tolerably well

vouched, and may be held to be authentic," but the early historic portions of those pedigrees, "when analyzed, prove to be entirely artificial and untrustworthy."

At 346 et seq., Skene explains that, in 1597, the Parliament held at Edinburgh passed an act which required that inhabitants of the Highlands show by what right they possessed their lands. Many of the clans, which had at one time held charters to their lands, had lost them during the conflicts that followed the forfeiture of the Lords of the Isles. Many times lands were feudally vested in an alien family but were actually possessed by competing clans. Other clans had held their lands for time immemorial, maintained by the sword. The chiefs "found themselves compelled to defend their rights upon grounds which could compete with the claims of their eager opponents, and to maintain an equality of rank and prestige with them in the Herald's Office." They did not hesitate "to put forward spurious pedigrees better calculated to maintain their position when a native descent had lost its value and was too weak to serve the purpose."

According to Skene, at 349, from this period, the "manuscript histories of the leading Highland families began to be compiled, in which these pretensions were advanced and spurious charters inserted." At 351-354, he states that "the most remarkable of these spurious origins is that claimed by the Mackenzies," first put forward by the first Earl of Cromartie. "[T]he evidence of the construction of a false legend is too palpable to be disputed." At 353 note 28, Skene says that other charters not related to Colin Fitzgerald "said to be granted by David II in 1360 and Robert III in 1380, are equally suspicious."

Skene's English translation of the genealogy of the Clan Kenneth, as set forth in the manuscript of 1467, beginning with the most recent person in the pedigree is printed at 485: "Murdoch son of Kenneth son of John son of Kenneth son of Angus son of Cristin son of Kenneth son of Gilleeoin og son of Gilleeoin of the Aird." In a note, Skene explains that he regarded the listing of Agad (Adam) in the manuscript as the father of Cristin as a mistake which he corrected by substituting the name of Kenneth, as shown in the Black Book of Clanranald by MacVurich.

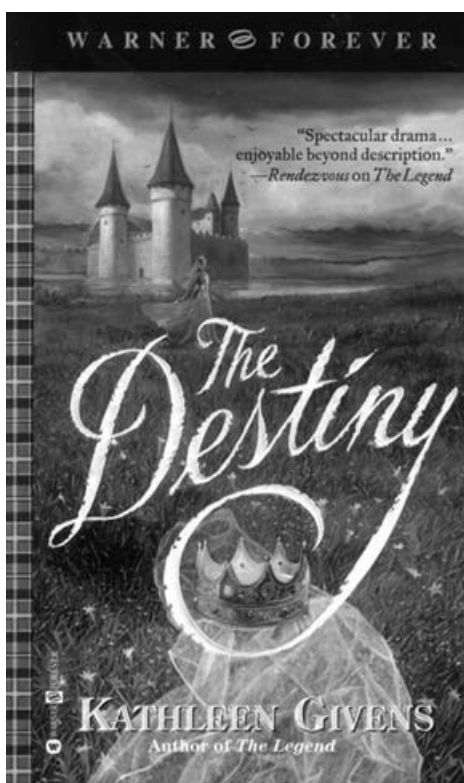
In the next issue of *Cabar Feidh* we shall look at two more pedigrees produced firstly by the writer, Alexander Mackenzie,

and secondly the listing shown in the 1910 issue of "THE SCOTS PEERAGE." This listing was needed to prove the genealogy of the Earls of Seaforth.

Our thanks once again go to Douglas Hickling for this fascinating review of the Mackenzie genealogy.

BOOK REVIEWS

We have a couple of books which will be of interest to members. The first is a fictional novel by **Kathleen Givens** entitled "**The Destiny**". Kathleen has written four novels which centre in the Highlands and they all specifically involve the Mackenzie clan. The latest of these books is another cracking good read and in my opinion, and I have read all her books,

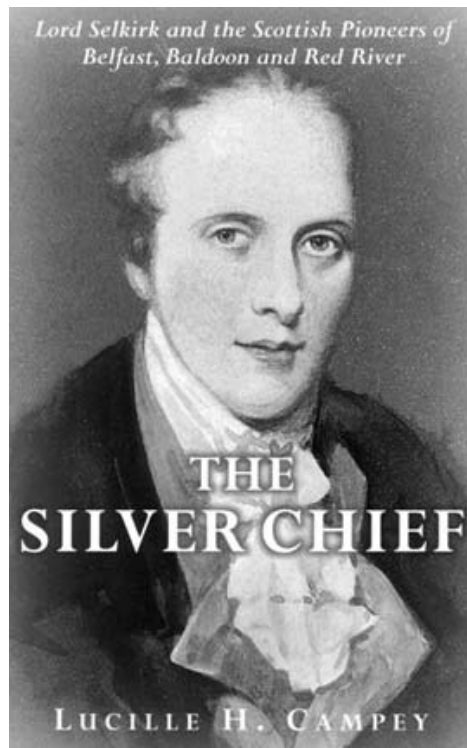


this is the best yet. Once again this book revolves around a fictional clan, the MacCurries of Torridon, whose chief is the Earl of Torridon. Few Mackenzies need to be told that Torridon is Mackenzie country. However our fictional chief has Mackenzie cousins and they play important roles in this book. The chief plot revolves around a young and beautiful woman in England called Eileen Ronley. This lady finds herself heavily involved in the dangerous English politics of the era of the joint sovereigns of England, William and Mary. Eileen lives at court with Princess Anne, the sister of Queen Mary (and one day to become Queen Anne). Eileen is a grand-

daughter of Charles II through his relationship with a Jane Ronley. There is evidence that Charles actually married Jane and if that could be proved then Eileen Ronley has a prior claim to the throne to both William and Mary and also Anne. So how does this tricky situation involve the Highlands of Scotland. Well the luckless Eileen Ronley's mother is a Catriona Mackenzie and she is well connected with the leading families in the Mackenzie clan. Into this complex plot comes the brave and good looking Earl of Torridon who rescues Eileen from her dangerous situation and carts her off to the Scottish Highlands and needless to say the romance between these two sets the ingenious background for Kathleen Given's best novel yet.

The Destiny is published by Warner Books, an AOL Time Warner Company. www.twbookmark.com

The second book is **The Silver Chief** by **Lucille H. Campey**. This author was reviewed recently when we looked at two other fascinating histories of immigration to Canada with "**A Very Fine Class of Immigrants**" : **Prince Edward Island's Scottish Pioneers 1770-1850** (2001) and "**Fast Sailing and Copper-Bottomed**": **Aberdeen Sailing Ships and the Emigrant Scots They Carried to Canada**



1774-1885 (2002).

In this latest book Lucille H. Campey

offers some fresh perspectives on those Scottish pioneers who first settled in Canada and the man who spent a fortune on their relocation - Lord Selkirk, "The Silver Chief." Other books have concentrated on Selkirk's battles but Campey turns her attention to the settlers themselves and the big part they played in turning Selkirk's colonization plans into a reality. And it was not the unmitigated disaster that has been claimed by some. Campey uncovers new and fascinating evidence that Selkirk's settlements - first at Belfast, and later at Baldoon and Red River - played an important role in opening up Canada's North West and cementing the roots of the country's rich Scottish heritage.

Selkirk was named "The Silver Chief" by the five Indian chiefs with whom he negotiated a land treaty at Red River. Using a wealth of documentary sources, Campey reconstructs the settlers' carefully planned sequence of emigration from Scotland. Her use of maps, charts and tables of passenger lists makes this book a valuable resource for genealogists. ISBN 1-896219-88-8; Price CAN\$24.95 from the publishers: Natural Heritage/Natural History Inc., P.O. Box 95, Station O, Toronto, Ontario M4A 2M8; www.naturalheritagebooks.com

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following members who have joined since the publication of the last Newsletter:

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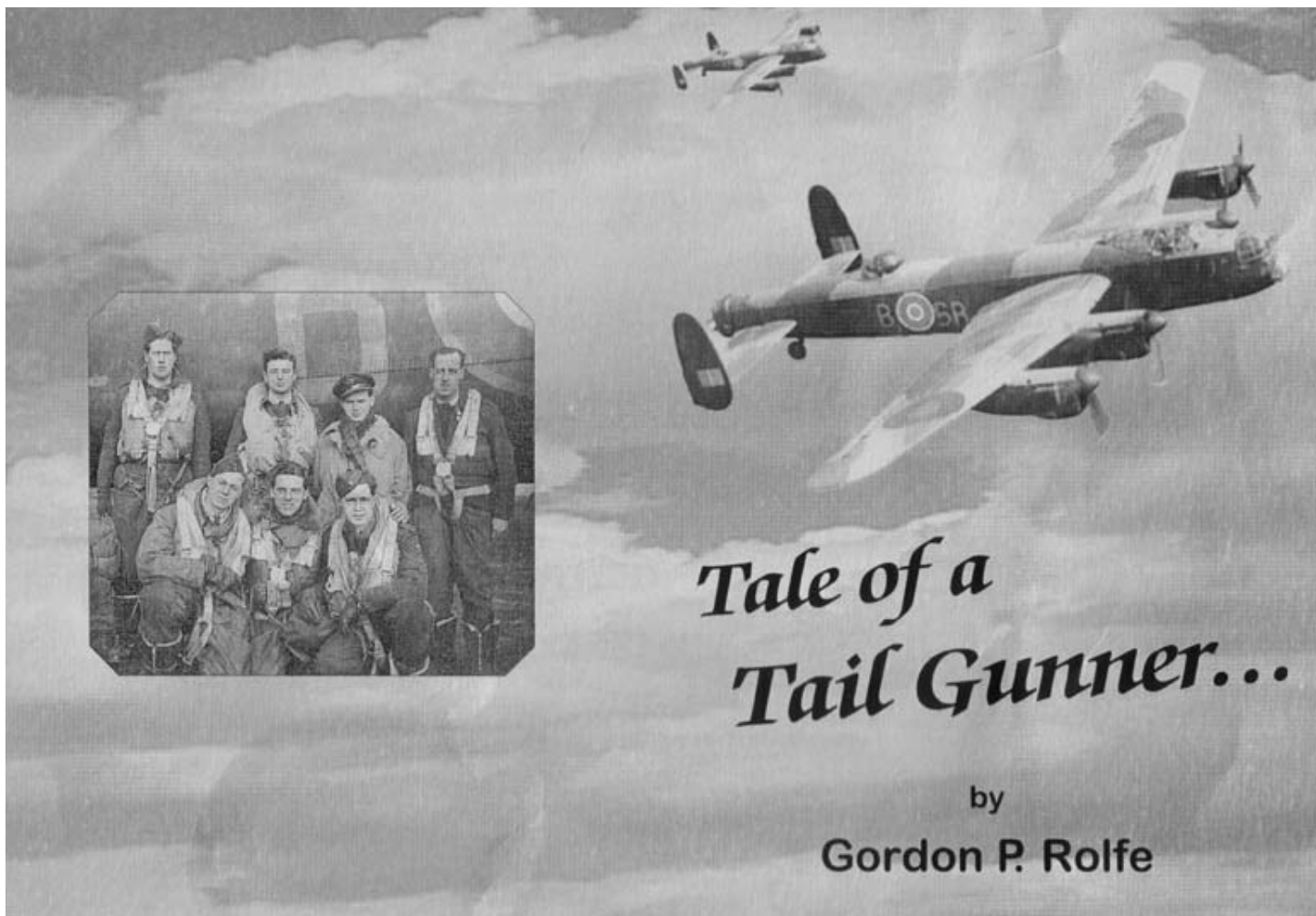
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OBITUARY - MACKENZIE _ JOHN R. (JACK) JOHN R. MACKENZIE, M.B.E. MILITARY DIVISION,

We received this obituary from Sheila McKenzie in Calgary. He was better known to some Clan members as the uncle of former Clan Society President, Roddy MacKenzie in Vancouver.

Died of cancer at his home and in the arms of his loving family on June 9, 2003 one day before his 84th birthday. Jack loved his family, his country, and creating hope and opportunity for others. For more than forty-nine years the dearly loved husband of Sheila, Jack is also survived by his six children, David (Norma), Arthur (Janis), Mary (Randy) Corke, Donald (Karen), Jane (Scott) Morrill and Allan (Tara); and by the Marigold Foundation. He is also survived by two brothers, Arthur and Bruce (Nikki); two sisters, Thelma Irvine and Ruth MacKenzie; by sister-in-law Verna MacKenzie; and by forty-nine nephews and nieces. His brother Roland and his sisters, Agnes Graves and Mildred Harrison predeceased Jack. Jack will be missed by his fifteen grandchildren, Chris, Mary-Jane; Emily-Joan, Pierson, Brighton-Jacqueline; Jon, Allison, Lauren; Cathy, Tommy, Randy, Stephen; Ken, John and David; as well as by his many friends. Born June 10, 1919, in Webb, Saskatchewan, he grew up in Alberta; living a short time in Big Valley before moving to Stettler. As a Captain in World War II Jack was one of the first troops to be wounded during the D-day invasion but he persevered and was mentioned in dispatches while serving in Europe for the duration. Later he earned an engineering degree at the University of Toronto (summa cum laude) and an MBA at the Harvard Business School. Jack chose Calgary to raise his family because of the opportunities it presented and the mountains so near. Those who knew Jack best will remember him as a man of vision who truly loved new ideas. Through hard work he was instrumental in creating many successful companies and organizations, some of which will continue benefiting our world long after he is gone. True to his belief that we must contribute to our society, Jack served as Chairman of the Calgary Public School Board in the 1960's and was active in philanthropy throughout his life.



Here is a good little book published by our printer, Stewart Publishing and Printing. It has 48 pages and has some photos. A nice little history of the author's life in the RCAF. Copies available from us at just \$12 including postage. Send cheques payable to Clan MacKenzie Society to the address at foot of page one.



Sarah Ann Mackenzie Duff

SARAH ANN MACKENZIE DUFF
1857-1887

Here is a sad little story. It was sent in by our member Pat Jansen and the

details came from her aunt, Isabell (Clark) Johnston.

The picture shows Sarah who was the daughter of William Mackenzie, who was born in Scotland. Sarah was the sister of Donald, who in turn was the father of Major "Lex" Mackenzie, after whom the Major Mackenzie Highway is named in Toronto. Sarah is also thus the great aunt of our own senior member, Jessie Mackenzie Glynn, who celebrated her 98th birthday recently in Georgetown, Ontario.

Sarah died on July 15, 1887 aged only 30 years, one month and 15 days according to a plaque in the family's possession. Little plaques of this kind were placed on the coffin during the wake but were removed before burial. Sarah was the first wife of Alexander Duff.

Isabell Johnston writes: "About 70 years ago my mother, Mabel (Duff) Clark, told me that Sarah Ann realized that she was dying and came down by boat to Owen Sound from Thessalon with her two

small daughters, my aunt Annie, four or five years of age, and Mabel, about 13 months old. She went to the Duff farm near Desboro and asked her mother-in-law if she would raise her two girls. My great grandmother agreed to do so but Annie pined so much for her father that they had to take her back north to be with him. My mother said that Annie spent the following winter 'in the bush' with her dad and another man. My mother, Mabel, was raised on the family farm with her grandmother and uncle Bill, who were always very good to her. Mother, lived at the farm until she was married in 1909. I asked Mom why Sarah Ann died, and she said that they called it 'chronic appendicitis'.

"Also, before her death, Sarah Ann suggested to my grandfather the names of two women who she thought would be a good wife to him. The one he married was one of these two and they raised a family of five children."

GEORGETOWN HIGHLAND GAMES

JUNE 14, 2003

So, once again we start the 2003 Highland Games Season with the Games at Georgetown. After a week of terrible weather with almost non-stop heavy rain we chewed our finger nails in trepidation of what Saturday was going to let us in for. As it happened we were dead lucky. A slightly cloudy start to the day turned into sunshine and was delightfully warm. Coupled with a delicious breeze the day was near perfect as far as weather was concerned. The crowds were up to the usual standard and we had a variety of visitors to our tent. This year Alan McKenzie was joined by Bob and Olga McKenzie and managed perfectly well setting up the tent with exciting new display items. These included a genealogy chart showing the chiefs of the Mackenzie Clan from Colin Fitzgerald down to the Earl of Cromartie and his two children. This interesting chart is for sale at \$15 and is the work of Sonia Mackenzie in New Zealand. Outstanding!

Another new item was a large poster of Colin Fitzgerald killing the stag and saving the life of King Alexander II of Scotland. From this event we derive the stag's head as the coat armour of the Mackenzie chiefs and of all Mackenzies who register a coat of arms. We also derive the title of the Mackenzie Chief as Cabarfeidh from this same event - fable or otherwise. The poster was purchased from the Clan Mackenzie Society in Scotland and is, of course, a copy of the famous painting by Benjamin West which hangs in the National Gallery in Edinburgh.

We also had some new items for sale including a MacKenzie Clan mouse pad! These are \$15 each.

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The best news, however, was that we were successful in recruiting three new members. This augers well for the Highland Games season ahead!

MACKENZIE COUNTRY

When my itinerary was being put together for my visit to New Zealand in March this year I was advised by Commissioner Sonia Mackenzie to travel via the Mackenzie Country. I found this place on the map and decided to make sure that I visited it. I found out that the New Zealand stamp for 30 cents showed a picture of the Mackenzie Country and naturally enough I felt a certain pride that a region of New Zealand would be named after our famous clan. Well, why not? We have our own MacKenzie District, MacKenzie Mountains and MacKenzie River named after the famous explorer, Sir Alexander MacKenzie in Canada. So who was the Mackenzie Country named after in New Zealand's South Island? Well, it was in fact a simple Gaelic-speaking shepherd who happened to have a remarkable sheep dog which he had trained.

According to one book by James McNeish entitled "The Mackenzie Affair" James Mackenzie, the "hero" of our story may have been a descendant of Hector Roy Mackenzie of Gairloch, but that is somewhat doubtful. What is certain is that after his emigration to New Zealand this young impoverished lad got himself a wonderful sheepdog called "Friday" and a job as a shepherd. What followed was his arrest when he was hunted down and accused of stealing 1,000 sheep and hiding them away in an out-of-the-way region, now known as the Mackenzie Country. Mackenzie

claimed that he was taking the sheep on behalf of his employers who were in fact the real thieves. James was put on trial and was sentenced to five years hard labour.

To this day there has sprung up folk hero legends about the young shepherd. Firstly he received no proper defence and as he only spoke Gaelic and almost no English he did not understand what was going on and throughout the trial his one concern was what had

£50 Pounds Reward.
 Sheriff's Office, Lyttelton,
 May 11th, 1855.

WHEREAS the Prisoner, JAMES MACKENZIE, sentenced to a term of imprisonment, at the last session of the Supreme Court, for sheep stealing, did, on the 10th instant succeed in effecting his escape and is still at large, the above reward will be paid to any person or persons, who may succeed in apprehending him and handing him over to the proper authorities.

Description of MACKENZIE:—Height, about 5 feet 11 inches; hair, light; eyes, small and grey; nose, large and aquiline; face, long and thin; body spare and muscular.

At the time of effecting his escape he had on a brown wide-awake hat; cloth waistcoat, check shirt, marked with a broad arrow, and numbered, corduroy trowsers, a pair of worsted socks, no boots or shoes. Speaks English imperfectly, feigning generally that he only understands Gaelic. Has a peculiar habit of putting his hands behind him, and snapping his fingers.

CHARLES SIMEON,
 Sheriff.

happened to his dog.

The final end to the story was his release (he had escaped earlier and was recaptured) and was pardoned. When the harshness of his treatment was revealed all sympathy went to James Mackenzie.

Whether or not he was really a sheep stealer is not clear. But his fame arose from escapes and the search for his clever dog.

While I was visiting a tourist centre near the Mackenzie Country I was given a copy of a poem which tells the story. In my New Zealand travels I called on Roland MacKenzie and his wife Betty and they kindly gifted me a copy of "The Mackenzie Affair" by James McNeish which tells the shepherd's story.

Here then is the poem that also tells that same tale:

continued on page 9



Bob and Olga McKenzie at Georgetown



Mackenzie Country stamps

TARBAT CHURCH

PORTMAHOMACK, SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS

A church has been on record here since at least 1255, and the present building (depicted on front of card) dates from a complete restoration in 1746. Many Pictish and medieval remains have been discovered nearby. Rights were acquired by Mackenzie of Tarbat in 1634 for use of the church by him and his heirs as a burial place. An impressive mural monument in the north aisle of the church commemorates William Mackenzie, minister of the parish from 1638. There are many interesting funerary monuments (from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries) in the churchyard, the most imposing being that of Thomas Dingwall and Hector Mackenzie.

Other greeting cards, specialty gifts and Clan MacKenzie in Canada membership available from
Alan McKenzie, 580 Rebecca St., Oakville, Ontario, Canada L6K 3N9.
alan@mkz.com



CASTLE LEOD, STRATHPEPPER, SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS

SEAT OF CLAN MACKENZIE

Evidence points to a Castle on this site from the times of Norse occupation, built on a man-made mound here. In circa 1606, Sir Rorie modified and added on to the existing structure of Castle Leod, creating a magnificent, compact, red sandstone tower house. Circa 1616 marks the completion date of this 5-storey. A single-storey addition to the east and low wing to the north were added in 1851, with a two-storey west wing being added to the latter in 1874. Some rebuilding of these wings took place in 1904, with a further extension added in 1912. Major renovation work continues to be undertaken on the fabric of the Castle, which is lived in by the Clan Chief, the Earl of Cromartie, with his wife and two young sons.

This illustration of the Castle was painted by the Clan Chief in 1977.

Other greeting cards, specialty gifts and Clan MacKenzie membership available from Alan McKenzie, 580 Rebecca Street, Oakville, Ontario, Canada L6K 3N9.
alan@mkz.com



Above we show a new item which might appeal to members. These are two notelets that people can send to their friends. These show the front and back covers leaving the insides blank for notes or message. Folded they are small - just 5 1/2"x 3 3/4" and are cream coloured. A packet of ten including ten envelopes costs just \$4 plus \$1 for postage. Each packet of ten includes five of each Mackenzie scene - Castle Leod and Tarbat Church (now a museum in Portmahomack). Cheques should be payable to Clan MacKenzie Society and sent to the address on the foot of page one.

(continued from page 8)

AN ODE TO JAMES MACKENZIE AND HIS LOYAL COMPANION "FRIDAY"

Mackenzie had a marvellous dog,
Named Friday, full of knowing.
She never barked while working sheep
With slinking grace, eyes glowing.

And as they went from Lyttleton
Towards the snow-packed hills,
They looked for sheep to steal it's said,
At night by Friday's skills.

Man and dog roamed Canterbury,
The land too dear to settle,
By chance they found a mountain pass
And plains to test the mettle.

Three hundred miles of tussock grasses
thorn-scrub, river torrents,

The witch-dog set the travelling pace
They crossed Otago province

Dealer Mossman grinned and said
He'd pay a pound a day
If Jock would drive a thousand sheep
In secret, down that way

From 'Levels' Mossman stole those sheep
And hustled them to Jock
Then Friday at her master's nod
Led on the stolen flock

A sudden pounce - and Jock was caught
Sidebottom tied the dog
His stockman claimed the stolen sheep...
Jock escaped in fog

The hunt was on at Lyttleton
Seager caught him sleeping
Locked in a stinking cell
With rats and water seeping.

His trial in English muddled him
The angry courtroom simmered
When someone shouted 'Hang the Bitch'
With tears his cheekbones glimmered

The judge said he must clear himself
No one spoke in favour
Verdict: Guilty, sentenced passed;
Five years with hard labour

No dog allowed, nor Gaelic bible
Heavy leg irons tied him
He made escapes to find his dog
Was caught.... now folks admired him

But someone believed his trial unfair
The evidence put badly
When Tancred sought a pardon free
The Governor signed it gladly

T'wards midnight when moon and stars
Conspired to hide their light

They set him free from prison chains
To vanish from all sight

Who knows if Jock did find his dog
Or where their bones are lying
Mackenzie Country's still the haunt
Of both their spirits sighing.

THE FREEMAN'S ADVOCATE AND JAMES MACKENZIE

BY CHRIS RAIBLE

[Our thanks go to Chris Raible, the acknowledged expert on the life of William Lyon Mackenzie, for this article which was first published in the Newsletter of the Mackenzie Printery and Newspaper Museum.]

On September 29, 1838 a newspaper, *The Freeman's Advocate*, was launched in Lockport, New York. Its purpose was to rally support for the independence of Canada from British Colonial rule. Its editor was James Mackenzie, the twenty-four-year-old son of William Lyon Mackenzie, instigator of the 1837 Rebellion in Upper Canada.

It was a crucial time for supporters of Canadian liberty. The year before, rebellions in both Lower and Upper Canada had been quickly put down. Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of Canadian rebels had fled to the United States. Many, along with many more American volunteers, organized themselves into "Hunter's Lodges," secret societies (like the Freemasons) with signs, signals and passwords. By the fall of 1838 there were some forty thousand Hunters in lodges stretching from Vermont to Michigan, as well as in lodges in Canada.

The new paper - an organ of the Hunters' Lodges, albeit never openly acknowledged as such - was marked by revolutionary rhetoric: "[T]he slave power is ever tyrannical and cruel, and the stronger become their fears, the fiercer is the cry for '**blood!** Blood!! BLOOD!!!" Think they the free spirit of man can be crushed by cruelty or SCOURGED into quiescence?... We bid them beware! The arm of the patriot has not yet withered, nor his energies palsied. BEWARE!"

Correspondence to the paper used similar language. One expressed outrage over Lieutenant-Governor Sir George Arthur's showing no mercy to the widow of hanged rebel Samuel Lount: "Does he hear complaints from the oppressed? Does he reply to the petitions of the most reasonable nature?... NO. Blood must be spilt by the

blood-thirsty wretch!... Hear it, ye heavens. Read it, ye angels on high. Forget it not, ye inhabitants of the earth. Arthur is yet alive."

In his editorial columns, James Mackenzie boldly stated his own political opinions:

Canada must have an independent, republican government. The British monarchy and its accompanying aristocracy are a form of tyranny. The cause of Canadian liberty is inspired by - and much the same as - the American revolution. The American Government has no right to enforce neutrality on its citizens. American support is essential to the Canadian cause, but ultimately the freedom of Canada can only be won by Canadians themselves.

Among the contributors of the *Freeman's Advocate* were Canadian exiles Charles Duncombe and Charles Durand who wrote defending the reasons for the Rebellion. Anonymous correspondents in Canada reported on developments and attitudes north of the border. The paper also presented a wide range of news and opinion reprinted from other newspapers and periodicals - in the course of six months of weekly publishing it quoted 185 different journals, including 33 published in Canada and 28 in Great Britain.

By the fall of 1838, Hunter plans were well under way for new invasions of the Canadas. Lower Canadians were gathering forces in Vermont. In upstate New York a band of Hunters planned a crossing of the St. Lawrence. Further west, more Hunters were rallying for an invasion from Detroit. In each case, an armed band was to enter Canada, signaling the moment for Canadians to rise up in renewed armed rebellion. Early in November an invasion of Lower Canada took place, later that month the "Battle of the Windmill" near Prescott, and soon thereafter an attack on Windsor all took place. All were dismal failures, resulting in deaths in battle and executions thereafter.

After these debacles, Mackenzie's attitudes began to moderate: "[Canadian] freedom may take longer than has hitherto been anticipated, but eventually the result will be that, indignant and no longer cowardly, the Canadian people, on mass, Tories and all, will see the folly of foreign dictation and Downing street rule, and, all other means found fruitless, strike as one man

for freedom."

For all its propagandistic purposes, the *Freeman's Advocate* was also a weekly country newspaper, dependent upon local Lockport advertisers, carrying reports and notices of village events, and reminding subscribers to pay their bills. Occasionally it reflected on the printing profession: "Many who have acquired great fame and celebrity in the world began their careers as Printers. Sir William Blackstone, the learned English Commentator of Laws, was a printer by trade. King George III was a printer and not infrequently worked at the trade after he ascended the throne of England. We need not say Franklin was a printer, for this is well known to all who are familiar with his name."

After several months, the *Freeman's Advocate*, struggling to survive, attempted to broaden its readership by printing more "literary gleanings" and general news. It was too late. At its peak the paper had more than 800 subscribers with more than thirty agents in five states. By the spring of 1839, however, with no new Canadian initiatives on the horizon, and too few readers and advertisers, the paper died.

LOCH SLOY HIGHLAND GAMES

JUNE 21, 2003

The less said about these Games the better. The Knox family which organized these Games for many years have resigned and whoever took over from them did a poor job. The contact names, telephone numbers and web sites were all out of date and there were no signs directing visitors to the Games. Indeed there were only five clans in attendance compared with the dozen or more we would normally expect. On arrival in teaming rain we had difficulty finding anyone who knew where the clans were supposed to set up and after several enquiries I found a harassed man, who told me he had been up all night, pointed to a general area and said "anywhere there". Commissioner Ken Mackenzie who joined Alan in setting up the tent got lost trying to find the site and was late in arriving. Against this tale of woe it teemed down with rain all day and the visitors to the tent could be counted on the fingers of one hand.

And yet there were thousands of people there. The bands treat these Games as important and some bands had travelled long distances. The Games organizers were under the thumb of the Piping

Society and the Clans were clearly treated as the poor relations. We must question the reasons for travelling the long distance to attend these Games in future.

The one bright spot was that despite the wretched day we did recruit a new member and took \$200 in sales of inventory, which gave us some small reason for rejoicing. If rejoicing is the right word!

HALIFAX HIGHLAND GAMES

JULY 5TH, 2003

If we were not pleased with the Games in Fort Erie it was a significantly different story in Halifax, the year of the International Gathering of the Clans. With the coach load of enthusiastic Mackenzies brought up from Ontario and a spiced with some American cousins we made a grand spectacle at the Clan tent. Our coach took us to the ground at 7:30 a.m. with seven hardy workers to unload the coach and set up the tent. Such help is not normally available and indeed the tent was up and ready for business shortly after 8 a.m.

The Games were held on a piece of ground adjoining the Halifax Citadel which loomed behind us as a spectacular backdrop to the event.

The previous day I had attended a civic reception with Rad and Grace Mackenzie and Mary-Lou Oyler and we met some of the important dignitaries who had travelled from around the world. Among these who later attended our clan tent and signed our visitors' book was Pauline MacGillivray, Chairman of the Clan Chattan Association, Edinburgh, whose clan confederation includes the Mackintoshes, Farquharson of Invercauld, Shaw of Tordarroch, MacThomas of Glenshee, the MacPhersons, the MacGillivrays of Drumglas, Macleans of Dochgarroch and a string of others. Another of the important people who honoured us with a visit to sign the book was Sir Lachlan Maclean of Duart, Chief of Clan Maclean and owner of Duart Castle on the Isle of Mull. We had a good chat when he told me he had banked with Barclays - that was my employer for 40 years!



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Next to our tent, which occupied pride of place in the centre of the semicircle of the 20 clans assembled for these games, was Clan MacLaren. Their Chief was also present for the Games but it has to be said that their clan representation was pretty poor with a table and chairs (no tent) and nobody in Highland dress and very few visitors. Admittedly the person running the tent was a lady who found herself in the invidious position of having to try and do something with very limited resources. I would have been ashamed to receive a clan chief in such circumstances.

Norman MacKenzie looked by - fresh from his outstanding performance the night before at the Nova Scotia International Tattoo. We were extremely proud to introduce him to the many people at our tent. Not everyone can boast the Tattoo Drum Major as one their Clan Commissioners!

At one point we were advised that we had to evacuate the Clan tent as the 78th Highlanders Regiment from the Citadel were about to perform. The smart regiment in the period Clan MacKenzie kilts, red jackets, white cross belts and feather bonnets looked grand. The did a marvellous job at demonstrating the early drills performed in the 1860s. They also fired their rifles directly at our tent - now devoid of any persons in that area. There was much merry-making by some of the Clans that the Mackenzies were being shot at. However, we had to point out that they were the Seaforths and were firing on their own clan!

One interesting visitor was Vitaly Ivanovich Mironov, who directed the Cossack dancers at the Nova Scotia International Tattoo. He introduced himself as a director of the Scottish Cultural Centre in Moscow. He was particularly interested in trying to get us to come to a Gathering of the Clans in Moscow next year. He told us that there are many thousands of Russians who descend from Scots.

The trip to Nova Scotia and our attendance at the Halifax Games produced an added benefit in that we picked up no less than six new members. This was very pleasing.

When it came time to leave we had the bulk of the coach's passengers ready to give a hand and with everyone's help the tent was disassembled and packed onto the coach in double quick time. It was a terrif-

ic day and very enjoyable. And it was sunny too!

On arrival back home we had a call to tell us that Clan MacKenzie had won the "Best Clan Tent" award at the Halifax Games. Well done Clan MacKenzie!

A TASTE OF THE MARITIMES

CLAN MACKENZIE TRIP

TO NOVA SCOTIA

JUNE 29TH 2003 - JULY 7TH 2003

by Catherine McKenzie Jansen

One of the greatest benefits of Clan membership is the opportunity to participate in group trips, like the recent excursion to Halifax, Nova Scotia. On June 29th, in the early hours of the morning, thirty-three of us boarded a coach and began our two day journey to Halifax.

I'm not usually a fan of long drives, even when they are scenic, but the atmosphere on the bus was lively, and there were plenty of entertaining videos to pass the time. It didn't seem long until we found ourselves crossing from New Brunswick into Nova Scotia, just a few hours away from the capital city.

July 1st was our first full day in Halifax. The city was bustling with Canada Day events, including a splendid parade where performers in the Tattoo gave us a brief preview of the show. The weather was warm and pleasant, so many clan members went down to the boardwalk where you could catch an ocean breeze, visit the charming downtown shops, and gaze out at the Atlantic.

The fine weather kept up over the next two days, and the group was able to make visits to local attractions. A trip was arranged to Peggy's Cove, the most photographed spot in Canada, famous for its picturesque lighthouse. The coach traveled on to Lunenburg, a unique and historic town that no visitor to Nova Scotia should miss. The town has actually been declared a United Nations heritage site, and special regulations protect its cultural and architectural integrity. Brightly coloured houses and buildings surround the harbour where the original Bluenose was built - the one that is featured on every Canadian dime.

One of the highlights of our trip was a visit to Pictou, where a reproduction of the Hector, the ship that brought Scottish immigrants to Canada, is displayed.

Visitors can explore the ship and see for themselves the cramped and dirty conditions travellers had to endure. (It was nothing like our coach.) The mayor of the town welcomed us and urged us to spend money during our stay! And spend, we did... Nova Scotia is full of artisans who work in the mediums of glass, metal, wool, and clay. I briefly considered a pair of very unusual fossil earrings, but decided against them because they looked rather like earwigs. For those who wanted something a little less artsy, there were plenty of t-shirts and lobster chips to be found.

That evening, we were entertained by the members of the Clan MacKenzie Society of Nova Scotia. They provided us with a tour of the area, a delicious lobster supper, and musical performances. Their members were most gracious hosts and showed us a wonderful time, proving that Maritime hospitality really is something special.

Our main reason for traveling to Nova Scotia was to see the world-famous Halifax Tattoo. I'd heard rave reviews about the Tattoo, so I knew that it had to be good, but I wasn't really sure what to expect. It turned out to be a variety show, a fantastic blend of music, historical reenactment, choreography, and athletics. The show featured the best of the best from around the globe - Russian dancers, Estonian gymnasts, marching bands from Germany, Switzerland, and the Netherlands, just to name a few. The pipe bands were expertly led by the Tattoo

Drum Major Norman MacKenzie, a member of our own clan society and the Commissioner for Toronto.

Our last day in Halifax was July 5th, the day of the Halifax Highland Games. The Clan MacKenzie Society obviously made a good impression on local Haligonians - they awarded us Best Clan Tent! It was a fine finish to an exciting week.

The trip was great fun, not to mention a bargain. Passengers paid only \$50 each for their round-trip coach ticket, as the cost was largely covered by the Society. Instead of staying in a motel or bed and breakfast, we had accommodations at St. Mary's University, where, as at many other universities in Canada, you can rent a room in the residence facility very inexpensively.

Special thanks must go to Mary-Lou Oyler, Norman MacKenzie and Ken and Isabella Appleby for all their hard work in arranging accommodations, booking tickets, and organizing our itinerary. It was a great success!

"Farewell to Nova Scotia, you sea-bound coast

*Let your mountains dark and dreary be
For when I am far away on the briny
ocean tossed*

*Will you ever heave a sigh and a wish
for me?"*

SERTOMA HIGHLAND GAMES - CHATHAM, ONTARIO JULY 12, 2003

We were very short of helpers for our attendance at the beautiful setting of the Highland Games in Chatham. In fact I (Alan McKenzie) had to refuse taking part in the parade as there were no other persons looking after the tent. After some persuasion the Games organizers supplied a security guard so at least the Clan MacKenzie would be represented in the parade. Shortly after we were visited by Lorne MacKenzie from Sarnia who was beautifully dressed in Highland dress including the weathered Mackenzie tartan which looks magnificent. Lorne offered to help with the tent next year if we need help. Lorne joined me in the parade of the Clans so the Mackenzies looked good with two people parading the banner.

It was a beautiful sunny day but it was very quiet. No new members and very few sales. Disappointing.

ORILLIA SCOTTISH FESTIVAL JULY 19, 2003

We had a lot of support at the Orillia Scottish Festival this year. Commissioners, Alan, Rad and Norman were in attendance with additional support provided by Catherine McKenzie Jansen and her husband Martin. Help on this scale enables the clan tent to be erected and brought down in very fast time.

There were vast crowds of people who



Lorne MacKenzie and Alan McKenzie at
Chatham



A fine setting for our clan tent at the Orillia Scottish Festival - the lake is in the background.

turned out for this popular festival in a beautiful park on Lake Couchiching. The parade through the City of Orillia is the largest we have seen in Ontario. There are a large number of pipe bands and other groups who take part on the long parade and as they came into the park in front of our tent they made a grand sight and there were many photographs and films made as the marched past.

Despite the huge numbers of people that wandered in and out of the park we were disappointed by the few people who entered our prize-winning tent. Sales were moderate but we did pick up one new member which helped matters somewhat.

Still, we had a good time. A carnival atmosphere persisted and the weather was simply gorgeous.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The following e-mail was sent to us from the Clan Mackenzie Society in Scotland (Mary Mackenzie):

I have just had word that Cabarfeidh was elected President of the Mountaineering Council of Scotland on Saturday and as such speaks for some 11,000 members of various climbing and walking clubs.

I know that I speak for you all in congratulating him on his new post.

[Ed: Our Chief is very well known among the serious mountain climbers in

the Highland and he has contributed numerous drawings to a book on climbing the Munros - showing the routes to use. I understand that to the mountaineering community he is known simply as John Mackenzie.]

During the Clan coach trip to Nova Scotia there was a visit made to the log church built on the site of the original kirk erected by the first Scottish immigrants to the Pictou area. Our hosts had cooked some oatcakes and they were so much appreciated that there was an instant demand for the recipe. So, here it is.

Dear Mrs. Appleby

I hope you enjoyed your visit to the Log Church, my mother was thrilled to hear that someone enjoyed her oatcakes enough to ask for the recipe. This is my great aunt Kathleen Graham's recipe and I hope you enjoy it!

Nova Scotia Oat Cakes

3 cups of rolled oats
1/2 teaspoon of baking soda
3 cups of flour
2 cups of shortening
1/2 cup of brown sugar
1/2 teaspoon of salt

Combine rolled oats, flour, sugar, salt and baking soda in large bowl. Cut in shortening and work with your hands until

dough is manageable. Moisten with cold water. Roll out about 1/4 inch thick using rolled oats on board to prevent dough from sticking. Cut into squares. Bake for 15 minutes on ungreased cookie sheet at 350 degrees.

Thank you again for visiting the Log Church.

Sincerely,
Amy Miller

[Dough can be cut with a small fluted cutter if round cakes are desired. The recipe makes between 60 and 70 small oatcakes!]

[The following letter sent to Mary-Lou Oyler - one of the organizers of the coach trip to Nova Scotia - by Olive Bowen of the Clan MacKenzie Society of Nova Scotia]

Dear Mary Lou:

So pleased you enjoyed your trip, had a safe trip home and it was certainly our pleasure to entertain and hope it won't be too long until we can do so again.

Have fun with the cook book, there is one slight correction to note on page 57 or 58, haven't a book in front of me, but it's Brownies by Vivian Smith and lists flour twice, the first mention should be sugar instead of flour.

We are still having great weather, my daughter and son-in-law leave tomorrow to head back to Oshawa but they enjoyed meeting the Clan from Ontario, so much so that they even joined *[Darlene and David Horne - see page 5]*.

Nova Scotia is a pretty Province and the month of September is another delightful time to visit when the leaves are in blazing colours. You would be most welcome to visit me at anytime.

In the meantime, it was great meeting everyone and so glad you enjoyed yourself.

Come again soon.

Warmest regards, Ollie Bowen

FAIRBURN TOWER IN DANGER OF COLLAPSE

There has been some press coverage recently in Scotland over the state of the Mackenzie castle, Fairburn Tower. It appears that it is a dangerous condition and may collapse. In fact so severe is the condition that The Lord Lieutenant of Ross-shire faces legal action to make him protect this old Highland stronghold from collapse.

Captain Roderick Stirling, one of Scotland's most influential landowners, is



Fairburn Tower - there are grim signs in this older photo by Mark Courtney of a crack in the long wall facing the camera.

responsible for the upkeep of the rapidly-crumbling Fairburn Tower in Ross-shire.

It was from this stronghold that helped Clan Mackenzie rule the Highlands.

Historic Scotland has warned that the A-listed, six-storey fortress is in "ruinous condition" and may be lost.

Highland Council has now threatened to impose a compulsory repair order demanding restoration of the 500-year-old castle - which the Clan Mackenzie Society says will cost up to £500,000 to complete.

John Duncan, the council's conservation architect, will inspect a crack which may have made the front wall of the tower, at Muir of Ord, unsafe. He can serve dangerous building, urgent work and repair notices if he consider the castle unsafe.

The Clan Mackenzie Society says destruction of the tower would fulfill a prophecy of the Brahan Seer. The seer, who was born around 1650, predicted dozens of events, including the Highland Clearances and the discovery of North Sea oil. In one prophecy, he said: "The day is coming when the Mackenzies of Fairburn shall lose their entire possessions and that branch of the clan shall disappear, almost to a man, from the face of the earth. Their castle shall become uninhabited, desolate and forsaken and a cow shall give birth to a calf in the uppermost chamber of Fairburn Tower."

Reports confirm that in 1851, people travelled to Fairburn from all over Scotland after a cow followed a trail of hay to the tower attic and gave birth.

Clan Mackenzie honorary treasurer and vice-president Hugh Courtney said: "Fairburn Tower is terribly important to the Clan Mackenzie, but it needs serious attention and serious money to restore.

"There is a vertical crack stemming a long way up the tower and it's very dangerous."

A spokeswoman for Capt Stirling said he was very concerned that the tower should not go to ruin.

"The tower is a very beautiful building but restoration would cost many thousands of pounds and previous attempts to secure finance have failed," she said.

Capt Stirling, 71, owns 16,353 acres of Ross and Cromarty. As Lord Lieutenant, he is the Queen's representative in Ross-shire.

The tower was built by Murdoch Mackenzie in 1542 to protect the Clan Mackenzie from retaliatory raids and to put down disturbances.

PRINTING A FAMILY TREE

BY ALAN MCKENZIE

I happen to use Family Tree Maker for recording my family tree. It is easy to use and it will produce a wide variety of printed reports - provided you have the required computer, of course. The real problem arises where you want to print the entire tree. My tree has 4,000 names and the entire printout looks like a dog's breakfast! It would involve quite a few yards of Scotch tape.

While I was in New Zealand in March this year and was swapping genealogical information with my 4th cousin Liz Gunn, her husband, Stuart Gunn, produced his genealogy and the printout it produced from his genealogy program (which is not Family Tree Maker). I found this long chart quite amusing and Stuart kindly agreed to pose by it as I took a photo of it. The photo is reproduced below and the family tree looks to be about twelve feet long.

Of course, the problem does not go away easily with any software program. One often has to print direct lines only



This monster family tree was prepared by Sonia MacKenzie in New Zealand and contains several thousand names. Alan's granddaughter, Claire, found her name after a search! Sonia did this using Excel spreadsheets - a huge amount of work.

missing out the numerous cousins and uncles and aunts for the tree to make any sense to a third party.

I have used four different genealogy software programs over the years. As far as I am concerned Family Tree Maker is the best.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

At the end of September membership renewals are due. It will be much appreciated if members can get their renewals in as early as possible after October 1st. To make life a little easier we enclose with this newsletter a renewal form and return envelope. Members who have paid in advance will not receive a renewal note as they may accidentally pay twice!

And don't forget that this is the time when we look for donations that can be used for the Castle Leod Project or other clan activities. Members have been extremely generous in the past and if you can afford to make a donation then we shall be delighted to send you a tax receipt to reduce your income tax! "And we've all paid enough taxes".

Members showing two years in arrears on their dues will be automatically removed from the membership list. These

continued on page 16

TOP 100 MOST COMMON SURNAMES IN SCOTLAND FROM THE 1901 CENSUS

		Total	Relative frequency per 10,000			Total	Relative frequency per 10,000
1	SMITH	62,945	141	51	JOHNSTONE	12,820	29
2	BROWN	48,656	109	52	MUNRO	12,791	29
3	ROBERTSON	46,994	105	53	MILNE	12,770	29
4	WILSON	45,127	101	54	RUSSELL	12,627	28
5	CAMPBELL	42,669	96	55	GIBSON	12,622	28
6	THOMSON	42,312	95	56	McGREGOR	12,361	28
7	STEWART	39,752	89	57	CRAIG	11,652	26
8	ANDERSON	38,771	87	58	MUIR	11,492	26
9	McDONALD	37,025	83	59	KENNEDY	11,460	26
10	SCOTT	32,198	72	60	McMILLAN	11,452	26
11	REID	28,352	64	61	MARSHALL	11,264	25
12	MURRAY	26,075	58	62	McKENZIE	11,227	25
13	ROSS	25,544	57	63	WATT	11,227	25
14	FRASER	24,756	56	64	STEVENSON	11,148	25
15	YOUNG	23,706	53	65	McINTOSH	11,013	25
16	CLARK	22,804	51	66	MILLAR	10,632	24
17	TAYLOR	22,437	50	67	WHITE	10,436	23
18	MITCHELL	22,215	50	68	RITCHIE	10,417	23
19	HENDERSON	22,013	49	69	KELLY	10,222	23
20	CAMERON	21,928	49	70	CRAWFORD	10,122	23
21	WATSON	21,858	49	71	McINTYRE	10,009	22
22	PATERSON	21,594	48	72	WOOD	9,924	22
23	McKENZIE	21,520	48	73	WILLIAMSON	9,734	22
24	MORRISON	20,840	47	74	McFARLANE	9,716	22
25	WALKER	20,740	47	75	WRIGHT	9,550	21
26	DAVIDSON	19,339	43	76	DICKSON	9,498	21
27	MILLER	19,032	43	77	BRUCE	9,302	21
28	McLEAN	18,925	42	78	DOUGLAS	8,964	20
29	DUNCAN	18,860	42	79	ALEXANDER	8,925	20
30	GRAY	18,617	42	80	CHRISTIE	8,922	20
31	FERGUSON	17,978	40	81	CUNNINGHAM	8,904	20
32	GRANT	17,374	39	82	McPHERSON	8,870	20
33	HUNTER	17,239	39	83	FORBES	8,663	19
34	HAMILTON	17,009	38	84	LINDSAY	8,579	19
35	ALLAN	16,811	38	85	AITKEN	8,543	19
36	JOHNSTON	16,781	38	86	HAY	8,496	19
37	GRAHAM	16,654	37	87	BURNS	8,393	19
38	MACDONALD	16,296	37	88	JAMIESON	8,217	18
39	SIMPSON	16,217	36	89	BOYD	8,019	18
40	KERR	16,079	36	90	CURRIE	7,947	18
41	McLEOD	15,775	35	91	FLEMING	7,669	17
42	BELL	15,372	34	92	SHAW	7,492	17
43	BLACK	14,457	32	93	DONALDSON	7,476	17
44	MARTIN	14,161	32	94	McLAREN	7,361	17
45	SUTHERLAND	13,594	30	95	MACLEOD	7,360	17
46	McKAY	13,198	30	96	RAMSAY	7,324	16
47	GORDON	13,017	29	97	CHALMERS	7,268	16
48	MACKAY	12,909	29	98	McCALLUM	7,256	16
49	SINCLAIR	12,905	29	99	BAIN	7,079	16
50	WALLACE	12,868	29	100	BUCHANAN	7,074	16

This listing was obtained from a web page - www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/grosweb/grosweb.nsf/pages/surnames. It will be clear that the failure to combine the Macs and Mcs causes major inaccuracies. The Macdonalds come very close to first place if one combines MacDonald, McDonald and Donaldson. Mac/McKenzie should be shown in tenth place. Anyone who thinks McKenzie is Irish go to the back of the class and put a dunce's cap on!

will have already been sent a number of reminders. So thanks to you all for sending in your dues in good time! You will notice that we encourage feedback and some of these comments, both good and not-so-good, will be included in the next Newsletter. In particular let us know what other articles or items you would like to see included in future magazines.

HIGHLANDS OF DURHAM GAMES, UXBRIDGE, ONT.

JULY 26, 2003

This relatively new Highland Games has grown in importance in recent years and this was demonstrated by the presence of 21 clans. Besides the usual heavy events and the many bands performing and dancers dancing, these Games have other interesting attractions which include a dog show of the many Scottish breeds. There were also Highland cattle in abundance and some of the heavy shire horses which also attracted much admiration and attraction. There were even sheep and sheep dog demonstrations and at one point I nearly tripped over a small goat that wandered in my direction!

Manning the tent this year we had Commissioners Norman and Alan with excellent support from Bob and Olga as well as a visit from Eleanor Thomson who was also playing her pipes in the massed bands. We were also delighted to have with us for a large part of the day Iain Mackenzie-Gray (the current Mackenzie of Applecross and former Major in the Seaforth Highlanders) and his partner, Ada. Iain and Ada were supposed to have been with us on the coach trip to Nova Scotia but Ada, who works in a hospital was listed as a SARS suspect and both of them were in isolation and had to miss the trip, much to their annoyance. The good news was that Ada was cleared of the disease.

A number of other members looked by and we had an enjoyable and profitable day. The only drawback was the wind which at times became very strong and found us gripping the tent to stop it blowing away. A few things went for a journey off the tables but, as far as we know, they all came back again! The clan tent for the Stewarts of Bute manned by a single hardy member blew away while he was on parade for the march past of the clans and massed bands. He bore this loss with surprising good humour. Firstly it was not his tent and secondly he managed quite well with a table only.

The rumour was that we were in for heavy rain and the radio reported that nearby Toronto was having a downpour. But other than the fierce gusts of wind the rain stayed off until we were finally forced to pack up at 4 p.m., which was half an hour earlier than we had intended. All in all a good enjoyable day.

GLENGARRY HIGHLAND GAMES, MAXVILLE, ONTARIO

AUGUST 2, 2003

We had a good team to man the tent at these large and important Games at Maxville, which is about an hours drive east of Ottawa. The Games attract vast crowds each year and the French language is heard a great deal as it is a relatively easy drive from Montreal.

Ken and Dorothy Mackenzie and Alastair and Morag MacKenzie together with Alan McKenzie manned what turned out to be a very busy tent. Once again, despite complaints, the clans were housed in two large barns. This year, however, the

page 16 excessive heat was missing and we all had an enjoyable time. Aside from the French-speaking visitors we received quite a number of Inuit people and they all turned out to be descendants of Mackenzies. They were all intensely interested in learning about the Mackenzie Clan and its history. They were terrific students!

Sales at the tent were good - the best this year - and even more importantly we recruited no less than seven new members. This was indeed a most pleasing result. If we are to sit or stand in a barn for several hours then it has to be worthwhile. In this case it was well worth the trial.

We were allowed to escape from our barnyard at noon to take part in the parade of the Clans, which gets better each year. Maxville has now got this just right and for once the parade of the clans is an impressive affair and it is no embarrassment to march with the other clans in front of thousands of spectators in the grandstands. Each clan is announced in turn as we follow each other with our respective banners and flags flying and maintaining a decent interval between each of the clans. At the front is a pipe band and as we circle the running track we are led to form a long line facing the crowds opposite the stands. There we are joined by the Scottish dance competitors and the parade continues with the pipes and drums of the Glengarry pipe band who follow police on their motorcycles and in turn are followed by the dignitaries of the day in their respective motor vehicles. The leading band strikes up again and the clans once again complete the circuit following the band and march off. We do get a good reception from the spectators and applause is heard as we make our way around the track. But then - it is back to the barn! We have had our moment in the sun and there is work to be done!

FERGUS SCOTTISH FESTIVAL & HIGHLAND GAMES

AUGUST 9, 2003

There are a number of reasons why Fergus is our favourite Highland Games in Ontario. It is the biggest and as far as the clans are concerned we are welcome and the entire clan village is well organized and very busy throughout the day. The large genealogical tent near us is a major attraction to the 30,000 or so visitors to these successful Games. This year there was a record number of clan tents present. I counted 47 and the public announcement referred to 53. Our clan tent was well manned with commissioners Alan, Ken, Norman and Alastair plus Shawn, Dorothy and Morag. Alan's granddaughter, Zoe McKenzie (aged ten), attended her first Highland Games and she enjoyed herself. The many visitors included Mary Jane Mackenzie Gray, who joined us in the parade, Iain Mackenzie-Gray of Applecross, and Elizabeth Pearse. Several people signed the Visitors' Book.

The tent was very busy for most of the day and sales were very brisk. Particularly pleasing was the enrollment of eight new members and this on top of the seven we recruited last week at Maxville. Excellent!

We did not expect to win best clan tent at Fergus as we have won it twice previously and Fergus likes to share the award around. Despite the fact we did have the best clan tent the organizers gave the award to the Stewarts of Bute, a tiny society exhibiting some impressive maps. This was the same clan whose tent was blown away two weeks earlier at Uxbridge. Fergus gave them something to smile about!

We were well pleased with our results and despite some horri-

ble weather forecasts the sun shone for most of the day.



Mary Jane Mackenzie Gray poses in Halifax with the Russian, Vitaly Ivanovich Mironov. See report page 11.



A couple of members line up for a photoshoot at Halifax. Someone should tell the spectator on the right that he needs to diet, or wear a shirt!



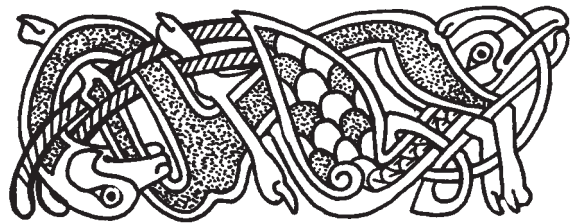
Two of the entertainers provided by the Clan Mackenzie Society of Nova Scotia at the lobster supper. First class! See page 12.

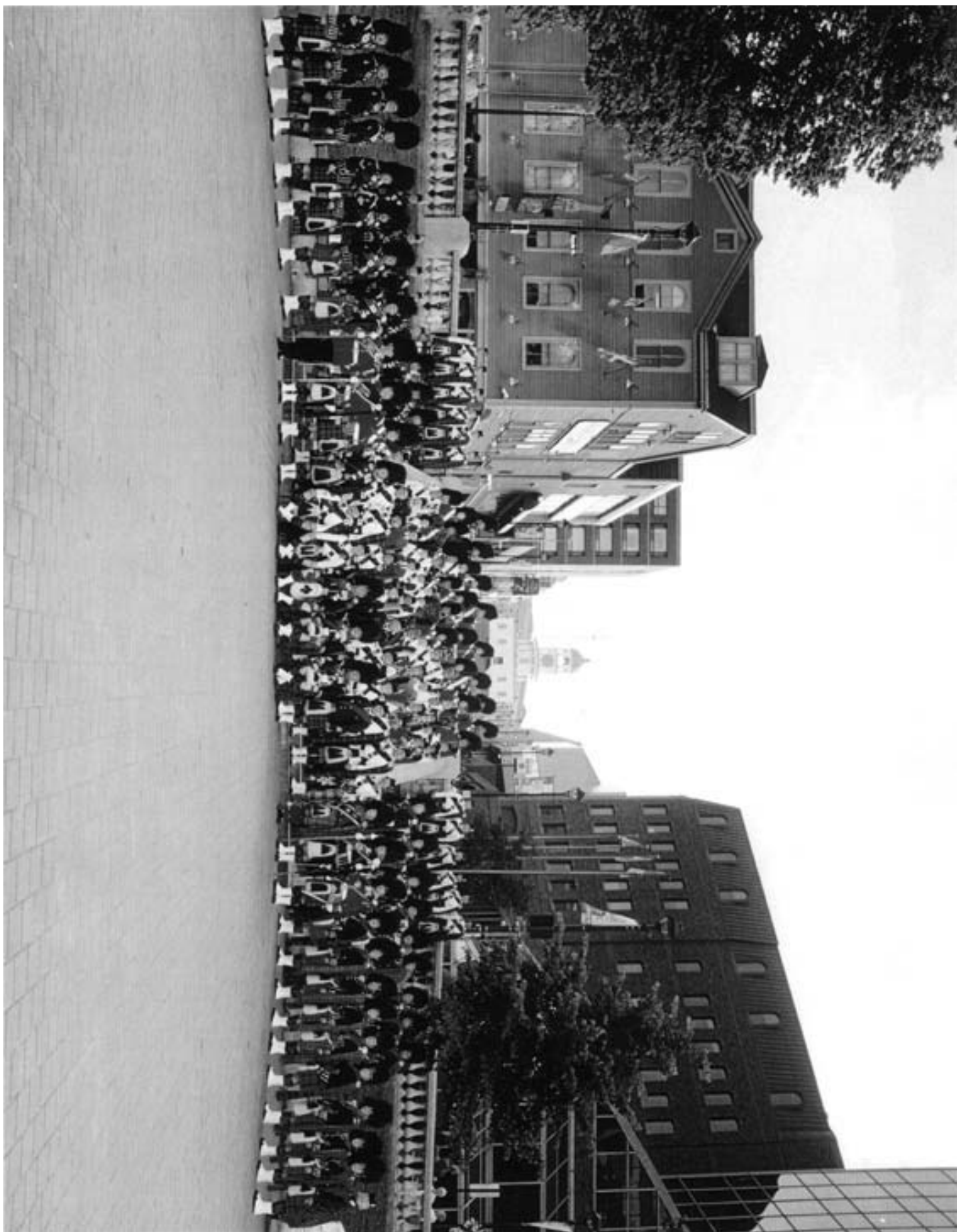


Drum Major Norman MacKenzie leads the Pipes and Drums through the streets of Halifax before vast crowds along the route.



It is quite a thing when the 78th Highland Regiment in their MacKenzie kilts fire upon the MacKenzie Clan tent! Luckily we were warned and we had evacuated the tent. Much merriment from rival clans!





The impressive sight of the Massed Pipes and Drums of the Nova Scotia International Tattoo with the clock tower below the Halifax Citadel in the background. The Tattoo Drum Major Norman MacKenzie can be seen front left - with the trousers.



Here are just a few of the many photos taken during the Clan coach trip to Nova Scotia which included visit to Pictou, Peggy's Cove and Lunenburg, as well as Halifax and the Highland Games and the International Tattoo.



CHRISTMAS GIFTS - SOME CLAN MacKENZIE IDEAS!

Clothing etc.

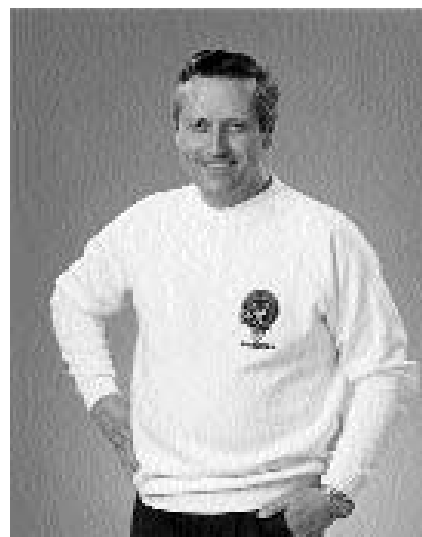
Golf Shirts (white, blue, green, or red)	\$33.00
Sweatshirts (ditto plus gray)	\$26.95
T-shirts (blue or black, XL, L, or M)	\$20.00
V-Neck Pullovers (blue or green)	\$49.00
Highland Fleece Vests (red, blue or green)	\$59.00
Highland Fleece Jackets (ditto)	\$65.00
Sports Bags (blue or green)	\$25.95
Conference Attache Bags (black)	\$38.00
Ball Hats (stag's head)	\$14.00
Nylon Jackets	\$46.00
Tartan Scarves	\$25.00
Embroidered Clan Crests (cloth)	\$8.00
Tartan ties	\$23.00

Books

Mackenzie Genealogy by Alan McKenzie (limited edition)	\$45.00
History of the Highland Clearances	\$33.00
History of the Mackenzies by Alexander Mackenzie	\$80.00
Clan MacKenzie - Your Clan Heritage	\$8.00
Colonial Advocate	\$12.95
Donald Mackenzie - King of the NorthWest	\$25.00

Crystal and Other Mackenzie Gifts

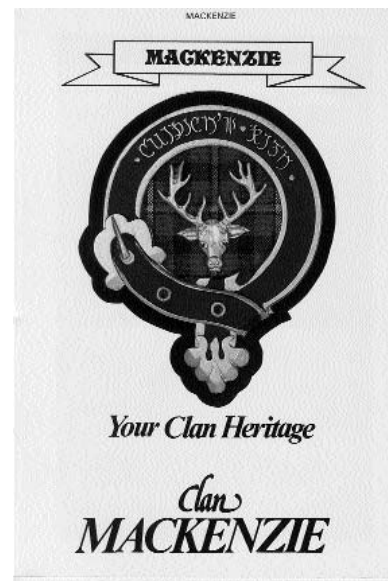
Dram glass	\$14.00
Bedside whisky set (His and Hers)	\$75.00
Mackenzie Keyrings	\$10.00
Men's 10k gold ring - with clan crest	\$299.00 (Special Orders only)
Women's 14k gold ring - with clan crest	\$299.00 (Special Orders only)
Men's and women's silver rings (with crest)	\$95.00 (Special Orders only)
Mackenzie of Seaforth pin (large)	\$7.00
Mackenzie of Seaforth pin (small)	\$5.00
Government of Canada Proclamation re Alexander Mackenzie Voyageur Route Poster	\$29.00
Mackenzie Bookmarks	\$2.00 each
Mackenzie Bumper Sticker	\$3.00
Clan Mackenzie fridge magnets	\$1.00
Clan Mackenzie fridge magnets (multicolour)	\$3.00
Castle Leod Postcard	\$0.50
Clan Crest Rubber Stamps	\$15.00
Clan - Stags head rubber stamps	\$18.00
Clan notebooks	\$7.00
Clan Map of Scotland	\$12.00
Queens Own Highlanders Regiment Button	\$1.00 each
Colin Fitzgerald postcards	\$1.00
Mackenzie Tartan Bagpipe Bag	\$35.00
Clan Thimbles	\$8.00
Mackenzie Tartan Wool Throw	\$65.00
Clan Evening Dress Sporrán	\$315.00
Clan Sgian Dubh	\$95.00
Clan Kilt Pin - white metal	\$29.00
Clan Brooch - white metal	\$26.00
Clan Lapel Pin - white metal	\$22.00
Clan Belt Buckle - white metal	\$53.00
Clan Spoon - white metal	\$30.00
MacKenzie Genealogy Charts	\$15.00
Mackenzie History posters	\$15.00
Mackenzie Mouse Pad	\$15.00
MacKenzie Mug	\$15.00
MacKenzie Wall Clock	\$40.00
MacKenzie Trivet	\$20.00



sweatshirt



Embroidered Clan Crest cloth



Bedside whisky set (His and Hers)

**Send your list plus cheque. Add \$5 for amounts under \$100 for postage and packing to:
Clan MacKenzie Society, 580 Rebecca Street, Oakville, Ontario L6K 3N9**