



# Clan MacKenzie Society in the Americas

## Cabar Feidh

The Canadian Chapter Magazine



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### WHO WENT BEFORE - PART 4 MAPS, A DIFFERENT VIEWPOINT by Rad MacKenzie

It is a long dark tunnel we enter when first we become involved in the genealogy of our people. At the start there are many windows looking out onto scenes familiar to us from our own lives and including faces of people we remember. As we move further, we find fewer openings, we see some images of our family and places that are familiar from photo albums and holiday postcards. Progressing further, there are vague views of people and places that are not really very clear, these are impressions of what these folk might have looked like and a supposition of how a location might have appeared based on family stories, documents or old letters. Our goal is to first find our ancestors and then from old records create a picture which will shed light on them and their times. We persevere, developing snippets of information, tracing

leads in various directions, exploring every channel that comes to mind, sometimes with no success but once in a while we find a gem. . . .

Maps are an aid which provides information from a different angle, they are a snapshot from above, an overhead view of the scene as it appeared at a specific moment, frozen at the time of preparing and printing. True, there is nothing here to identify people and only in a few cases will you see individuals named but here is a great deal of information and some of it will probably be of value to us in our research. The use of maps can give you an understanding of changing place names and boundaries; the details you will see depends on the type of map studied. A starting point is the familiar provincial road map whose focus is to help you find your way from here to there. As well as the various towns linked by identified roads, there are some prominent geographical features such as lakes and larger rivers and as well, the various counties are named although finding their boundaries is not always easy. The further problem with these maps is the scale. To put the usual information on one sheet of paper of a manageable size means the scale must be such that one inch on the map represents about 25 miles which does not permit much detail. There are map-books currently being offered for specific areas and for special interest groups, these are the "Back-road Map-books" which cover some of Ontario's areas such as Muskoka, the Kawarthas, Algonquin Region as well as Eastern Ontario and Near North Ontario. These books depict greater detail than the regular road-map, are popular with hikers and fishers but still do not cover the details we are looking for although providing a little better sense of the geography.

The Rand McNally maps are produced in a number of styles from the large Atlas for USA and Canada to the smaller but more closely focussed county maps of Ontario, which show excellent detail of the roads and most are identified by name.

Further improvements are the county maps put out by the Ministry of Transportation and Communication, which have greater accuracy, include identified concession roads, which will help you find your home farm though actual lots are not defined. To get more geographic detail have a look at what has been produced by the mapping branch of the Department of Energy, Mines

### 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](mailto:alan@mkz.com)

and Resources in 1:50,000 scale which works out to about 1-1/4 inches to the mile. Now you will see dots representing houses and outbuildings, all geographic information, contour lines as well as rivers, streams and lakes. A feature valuable to us is the location of cemeteries, schools and churches. Here also we see the proximity of neighbours, mills and towns. Some of these are also available in 1:25,000 scale which at a scale of 2-1/2" to the mile offer much more room for detail.

Probably the most valuable are the County Atlases (such as the Historical Atlas of Wellington County published in 1906), which give a fairly recent depiction of the townships, with owners names on identified lots. This and others like it were published by the Historical Atlas Publishing Company, Toronto. Another of this type are the Atlases created by H.R. Page in 1879 some of which have been reproduced by Boston Mills Press, Erin, Ont. (some of the original printing exist in libraries today). I have mentioned these atlases previously and you may have already looked into them. These are set out to cover the individual townships of the county and as well as marking out the properties with the name of the owner at the time of compiling, show local geographic details such as marshes, streams and neighborhood items such as churches, cemeteries and schools. Your family's location would be described by lot number and concession number, (information found on the census pages), which pinpoint the farm on the applicable township map. Additional important information is that although your family name might not be shown if they took up the land after the date the map was prepared, there are shown all the neighbours and quite possibly an examination of these names will locate a family whose son/daughter married into yours. Further, children would have attended the local schoolhouse and if it can be identified it may be possible to find references to student lists etc. effective in the time period you are checking. While in this area, it is possible that local historical groups have prepared documents from "memories", writings of local elders who reminisce on their youth in that area. Check the local Women's Institute for their Tweedsmuir collection and the area Library for copies of these or other amateur historical publications.

In the recent past the development of "911" service has made it necessary to

identify all roads in a unique way for prompt identification of the scene of a problem. This means that references to "Lot 23, Concession 6" will not be easily found unless using the historical atlases mentioned.

All the forgoing relates to what I have come across in Ontario, if you are interested in areas in other provinces similar material could be available but your enquiries through your local library, County Offices or Provincial Government offices are needed. Before going afield in search of these maps, enquire in your local book store, W. H. Smith and Coles etc. and for the topographical maps, try stores featuring camping and hunting gear. Before moving on, a point to keep in mind: when searching for a location, some places will be hard to find perhaps as a result of place-name changes, or some are now ghost towns. Also you might remember that back some years ago when the mails were handled differently, there were many post offices identified by name but were just a crossroads store and not a village as such. Today these still show up on some maps but where a birth record states "born at Parker, Luther" it means the family were in Luther Twp. and Parker was the nearest Post Office (in a small general store) and the remainder of the community was made up of three houses and a schoolhouse surrounded by the farms of the area. As times change, these rural post offices have gone, folks travel by car to a nearby town for shopping and the small general stores have closed but the name may still show on older maps.

Much of what has been said refers also to your research in Scotland, you have likely already seen large maps showing the whole of the country, perhaps one with the historic location of the Clans. For our purposes, although this type is interesting and gives an indication of where the MacKenzies lived all those years ago, it is probable that the people you are looking for may be in other parts of the land. Beginning your research in Scotland you must have a starting point - this means a firm knowledge of where your ancestors lived and when they were there. (As well as their full names too, of course). This will be the area that you will want to explore first and it may not be in the traditional Clan lands. With this basic data a first choice would be a map of the Parish

involved, or at least, a large scale map on which the parish is marked out. If you have found a reference to a baptism in the Old Parochial Registers or in the International Genealogy Index (more about these later) there will likely be mention of a community as the home of the family, this place-name may suggest it is a village but in fact these names often identify large farms or estates where most people lived; these would not be landowners but may have a rented cottage or "bothy" and as farming at that time was labour intensive, a number of families may have lived at that location and been the farm's workforce. An old map I own shows marks indicating buildings and suggest there were a dozen families working the land. The "big house" or "the Mains" would be the owner or his agent's home.

Following the same sequence as mentioned for Ontario, a good general map collection is found in **the Big Road Atlas for Britain** from: The Automobile Association, Farnham House, Basing View, Basingstoke, Hampshire, England RG2 12EA

This atlas covers the whole of Britain and Ireland, more than you may wish, but includes much detail at 4 miles to the inch.

**The Collins Roadcheck 2003 Map of Scotland**, - Collins Maps and Atlases, 4/5 Manchester Park, Tewkesbury Road, Cheltenham, England GL51 9EJ

**The Collins 2003 Map of Scotland** at 8.7 miles to the inch is a valuable tool, the scale is good and shows the main features well although primarily a road map.

The next would be a general map of Scotland showing Clan locations, this is available on the internet at: <http://gaelic-dreams.tripod.com/HTMLobj-767/clan-map.jpg>

If you can find a copy, an Ordnance Survey of Scotland, RAF Aeronautical Map (produced in WWII) is a valuable item showing the named farm/estates which you will find referred to in Birth and Marriage entries in Old Parish Registers. This would be the closest thing to the old County Atlases of Ontario but unlike them, does not show individual properties. Land ownership was much different from Ontario, our forbears for the most part owned no land but as mentioned earlier lived on the large land holdings of others.

One of the most valuable collections of maps is the Reprint of the first edition of the one-inch **Ordnance Survey of**

**Scotland.** There are 116 of these very detailed maps which show all the old farms and villages and are revised to 1896. At one mile to one inch these are a treasure trove of information. Copies of these maps can be obtained from Caledonian Books, Collieston, Ellon, Aberdeenshire, AB4 9RT, Scotland. I found a number of these at a genealogy shop in Milton, Ontario and a superior shop dealing in maps may stock these.

Finally, keep a lookout at book sales for a book of maps titled : Illustrated Maps of Scotland produced by Jeffrey Stone of the University of Aberdeen. This is a collection of 48 maps published in the mid 17th century by John Blaeu, the engravings created from the field documents of Timothy Pont who spent much of his life travelling around Scotland mapping the country. Considering he travelled mostly on foot, this is an amazing piece of work. This is a general interest item, no family names given but many of the farm/estates are still in existence. Few of us can trace family back beyond the mid 1600's when these maps were drawn but at least these illustrations show the countryside as it was when our forbears of that period were alive. Sometimes this book is found on the discount table at Coles or W.H. Smith's.

### MORE ABOUT THE Y-CHROMOSOME

If you have been reading the last few issues of the Newsletter you will no doubt have come to the conclusion that there is a massive revolution going on in the matter of tracing ancestors. It is by using the DNA process.

Professor Sykes is the man who has been getting the most publicity on the fascinating subject and by using the Y-chromosome two male Mackenzies can prove that they come from a common male ancestor - or not - as the case may be.

Here is a web page based on Professor Sykes' work and you might like to spend some time looking at this site and perhaps get some of the books advertised. If you want to spend big money you can get your DNA done for the record and perhaps compare it to others of your name.

Here is the web page:

<http://www.oxfordancestors.com/>

The following question and answer is given on the page:

### Can paternal lines be traced back using Y-chromosomes to a small number of men, in the same way that tracing mitochondrial DNA identified the Seven Daughters of Eve?

*Yes. Our Y-Clan™ service groups Y-chromosomes into a small number of ancient paternal clans. This is similar to the MatriLine™ service, but is not directly equivalent to it. Next year, we will be launching a new service, PatriLine, which will group Y-chromosomes into one of approximately 15 paternal clans, each founded by a single common male ancestor, so keep watching our website.*

Now, isn't that interesting ! We are getting close to being able to see which of us Mackenzies are descended from a common ancestor in the male line!

### CLAN SEPTS - McIVOR

The name of McIvor, or McIver is one of the very few septs of the Clan Mackenzie. Like the name of Mackenzie there are several variations of the surname and these include Ivory and Iverson. One variation is MacKeavor and in fact that is the general pronunciation of the name in the Highlands. In referring to various reference books on the clans most will mention that McIvor is a sept of Clan Campbell. However, since Clan Campbell seems to grab vast numbers of Scottish surnames as septs one should look a little more closely. The Mackenzies have always claimed McIvor as one of its very few septs.

So we looked at Black's "Surnames of Scotland" but for once we could get very little to prove our case from this source. It says that the name means son of Ivar from the Norse personal name of Ivarr. In Gaelic MS of 1467 the spelling is M'Imhair. Imhair, a Norse chief, joined with Olaf the White, king of Dublin, in the siege and sack of Alclyde (i.e. Dumbarton) in 870. Another Imhair was slain in 904. The name crops up in various spellings in ancient times all over Scotland. The following comes from Black's: 'The Craignish MS. says that the Macivers are descended from Iver Crom, illegitimate son of Gillespick son of Callen maol math, 'good bold Coline,' who married a niece of King Alexander I. "The Clan Iver lands were forfeited in the 17th century and were

restored on condition that the heir should take the name of Campbell". The Macivor form is due to its occurrence in Scott's *Waverley*, "and was never adopted by any family of position in the Clan in Scotland." Black is quoting here but he does finish by saying that as Iver was such a common Christian forename it would be impossible to name the particular Iver from whom the Macivers take their name. The following are some of the later centuries spellings of the name: McEiver 1726, M'Euir 1533, M'Evar 1672, Makewer 1572, Euar M'Ewir 1529, M'Ewyre 1548.

The next step was to see if there were many of the name living in Ross & Cromarty, which is largely Mackenzie territory and most of which was owned by the families of the Mackenzie chiefs. The summary of the 1841 census which lists only the "heads of family" came up with a surprisingly large number. The names of Ivery, MacKeavor, and Iverson did not appear at all and in fact there was only a single spelling of the name for that census and that was either MacIver or McIver. The name MacIver or McIvor does seem to have been a much more recent spelling of the name. And it is important to realize that spelling in the early to mid 19th century was very arbitrary.

Here then are the Mac/McIvers living in Ross & Cromarty as "heads of family" (which means that the children are not included).

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Number</u>
Avoch	7
Applecross	9
Contin	18
Cromarty	4
Dingwall	3
Fodderty	2
Gairloch	48
Killernan	3
Kilmuir	2
Lochbroom	2
Lochcarron	7
Logie Wester	1
Rosemarkie	1
Urray	10
<u>Isle of Lewis</u>	
Barvas	59
Lochs	37
Stornoway	118
Uig	75
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>406</u></b>

These surprisingly large numbers equate to a total population, inclusive of

children, of around 1,200. It will be noted that a large portion of the McIvers appear on the Isle of Lewis which became the property of the Mackenzies when they seized the isle from the MacLeods and populated it with Mackenzie clansmen from Wester Ross in the 16th or 17th centuries.

It will also be noted that by no stretch of the imagination can any of these parishes be considered part of the lands of the Clan Campbell. One can see at a glance from these numbers how the McIvers became septs of the Mackenzies and there is little doubt that all McIvers from the Highlands have much Mackenzie blood running in their veins.

We then looked at the census for the all of the Highlands for 1881 and the names of Maciver in all its four spellings (MacIver, McIver, MacIvor, McIvor) showed a total population of 2,424. On examination the large part of these were in Ross and Cromarty and it is interesting to see that the name McIvor now appears in Ross & Cromarty showing clearly that many spelling changes took place since 1841. But once again I have to say that spelling should be largely ignored. The fixation on spelling "correctly" is a much more modern characteristic. The simple fact is that the name is the same when in the same territory.

The 1881 census shows these variations:

McIver	1,580
MacIver	625
McIvor	34
MacIvor	185

Total            2,424

Finally, we can cement the Mackenzie connection with the McIvers. The source is The Scottish History Society's three volume series "The Prisoners of the Forty-Five", published in 1929. Volume 3 lists five McIvers who were captured in 1746 following the Battle of Culloden. Four of the five prisoners served in Cromarty's Regiment, the regiment of the Mackenzies under the Earl of Cromartie. They were:

Evander M'Ivor, Cromarty's Regt. From Ross-shire aged 20. He lived with his father in Ishinishish. There is no reference to him being transported and he may have died.

Donald M'Ivor, Cromarty's Regt. Aged

21 as above - possibly his brother?

Daniel M'Ivor, Cromarty's Regt. Aged 24 - a farmer in Dunnomuch, Ross-shire. He was employed as a witness.

Kenneth M'Ivor or M'Ever, Cromarty's Regt. aged 22 from Sutherland.

William McIver from Traquair, Tweeddale. He was factor to the Earl of Traquair and was "suspected of aiding the rebels". After spending time in Edinburgh jail he was released on May 11, 1746.

### THE CLAN IN FRANCE

The Clan Mackenzie Society of Scotland & the UK magazine for 2004 contains a report from The Clan Mackenzie Society of France.

This society was founded in October 2002 by a small group of French members of the Scottish society and now has about 30 members.

The magazine has a photo of two of our Gallic cousins in their kilts. And very smart they look too, wearing the kilt with pride.

A group of the French members will be coming to the Clan Gathering in August 2005.

### USEFUL SITES FOR RESEARCH

Here is a comprehensive and extremely useful set of web pages which we have copied from the Scottish Clan Mackenzie Society's magazine:

#### Scottish Genealogy web sites:

[www.genuki.org.uk/big/sct/](http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/sct/)  
[www.scotsorigins.com](http://www.scotsorigins.com)

#### Archives:

National Library of Scotland:  
[www.nls.uk](http://www.nls.uk)  
National Register of Archives:  
[www.hmc.gov.uk/nra/](http://www.hmc.gov.uk/nra/)

#### Historical Resources

Scottish Cultural Resources (SCRAN)  
[www.scran.ac.uk](http://www.scran.ac.uk)  
Historic Scotland:  
[www.historic-scotland.gov.uk](http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk)  
Scottish Castles:  
[www.castle.org/Chatelaine](http://www.castle.org/Chatelaine)

#### Public Libraries

For UK census data, poll books etc.:  
[www.earl.org.uk/familial](http://www.earl.org.uk/familial)

#### Clans & Tartans

Clan Mackenzie Society Scotland:  
[www.clan-mackenzie.org.uk](http://www.clan-mackenzie.org.uk)

Electric Scotland:  
[www.electricscotland.com/webclans](http://www.electricscotland.com/webclans)

Official Register of Tartans:

[www.tartans.scotland.net](http://www.tartans.scotland.net)

Clan MacKenzie Society in the Americas:

[www.clanmackenzie.com](http://www.clanmackenzie.com)

### GEORGETOWN HIGHLAND GAMES

JUNE 12, 2004

The Highland Games season started in Ontario with a flourish. Just gorgeous warm weather with that little breeze to help keep down the heat. Smashing!

Commissioners Alan and Alistair and Alistair's wife, Morag manned the tent and despite a disappointingly quiet morning things bucked up with a vengeance after the parade of the clans and lunch.

I can't remember when we ever had such interesting people visiting the tent. One of these was my future guest, Alastair McIntyre, who runs the vast Electric Scotland web site: [www.electricscotland.com](http://www.electricscotland.com). He was also visiting the tent next to ours in which I had a particular interest as it was shared by two groups with whom I am a keen member. They are the Scottish Studies Foundation and the Halton Region Burns Club. Trudi Wright, a graduate student at the University of Guelph was looking after the Scottish Studies side on behalf of the university while a number of members of the Halton Burns club put on an interesting display and attracted much interest from others wishing to set up Burns clubs in their areas too.

I also took the picture (see below) of our member Erin MacKenzie Grant who was representing a new youth pipe band, the Craigellachie Pipe Band, which was starting out in the pipe band competitions as a grade 4 pipe band but with every intention of improving to grade 3 by the end of the season. The word is that it should be no problem - as they start off with no less than four grade one pipers in their band. Erin (21) is the Pipe Major of the band and her brother Brian Grant (20) is the Pipe Sergeant, both of them grade 1 pipers. Their father is Jim MacKenzie Grant, who is not only one of our members but also the "heid yin" of the Clan Grant Society in Canada.

The Games were, for us, successful



*Georgetown Highland Games: Erin MacKenzie Grant helps tune her young piper's bagpipes.*

with reasonably good sales and the recruitment of two new members made it a very satisfying and enjoyable day. See also the pictures on page 6.

Here is a part of Jim Grant's report following the competitions at Georgetown:

"The [Craigellachie Pipe Band] placed 6th out of 12 bands which was reasonably satisfactory considering it was their first competition, but we are confident they will do much better as the summer progresses. They played three 12 year-old pipers, and even one 10 year-old, and will continue to play the younger kids in the smaller competitions: i.e. Georgetown, Kincardine etc. At the Championship Supreme Games they will not play the younger ones but will take a serious run at winning.

"Band ages are from 10 years to 23 years - primarily teenagers. The band will compete next at the Hamilton Games which is first championship supreme competition. We did not take a proper band picture but will do so at Hamilton.

"The band currently comprises of 12 pipers (including the young ones) three snare, one bass and one tenor drum. Unfortunately there are not yet any Mackenzies in the band but we do have three Mackenzie-Grants, Erin, (Pipe Major) Brian, (P/S) and their first cousin, Kyle (snare)

"You might remember Kyle from three or four years ago. He was the short dumpy

kid who hung around the Clan Grant Tent at Highland Games wearing a Mackenzie kilt. He is now a 6'2", almost 16 years, lean and mean rugby player who plays snare drum for Craigellachie Pipe Band.

"Kyle Mackenzie Grant lives in Beeton with his mother Elizabeth Grant. He won the grade three solo drumming contest (MSR) at Georgetown last Saturday. The Mackenzie name comes from his grandmother whose maiden name was Mackenzie. She was born in Tain, Ross shire in 1920 and passed away here in Ontario in the year 2000."



*An interesting and unusual march on by the pipe bands at Hamilton. The bands were divided into two groups and marched to the centre from opposite ends.*

## CALGARY HISTORY MEETING

JUNE 12, 2004

Sheila McKenzie reported on another of the history meetings originally started by Sir Roderick Mackenzie of Scatwell.

"We had a stimulating gathering on the hillside overlooking Cochrane last night. The fascinating home of the Ollerenshaws held thirteen happy MacKenzie history followers. Susan Watson and Joan Winwood led us through discussions of King James VI and then the National Covenant under Charles I."

## A HIGHLAND TALE

We picked this nice little story up from the Electric Scotland website ([www.electricscotland.com](http://www.electricscotland.com)):-

A well-known Highland Regiment had acquired a wide-spread and well-merited reputation during the war for exemplary conduct both in and out of action. Among their almost legendary virtues was included the regularity of their letters home, a subject on which they were unmercifully chaffed by the other troops in the locality.

One night as the Scots were coming out of the line they were met by an English regiment and the usual exchanges began.

"I hope you have written your old 'mither' tonight Jock" shouted one of the Englishmen, to the accompaniment of loud guffaws from his fellows.

"Ay, ay" returned Jock quietly "but dae ye niver write yirsel?"

"Sure, Jock, sure" replied the Englishman "three times a day after meals."

"Aweill" replied Jock with a glint in his eye "the next time ye write hame, mind an tell her ye've seen the sodgers!"



## HAMILTON HIGHLAND GAMES,

JUNE 26, 2004

These Games have been resurrected once again and have returned to their original spot at the Ancaster Fair Grounds.

*continued on page 7*





*Georgetown Highland Games - Alistair's and Morag MacKenzie are joined by special guest, Alastair McIntyre (standing) of Electric Scotland.*



*Georgetown Highland Games - Commissioner Alistair MacKenzie exchanges friendly banter with the old enemies - the MacLeods!  
The Clans were lining up before the opening parade.*



Five Mac/Mckenzie's in a row at Ancaster: Lyle, Alan, Ken, Alistair's & Donald

*continued from page 5*

Only six clans turned up, which was a pity since there were three cash prizes awarded for best clan tent! The Games were not well publicized and we only discovered them by accident when trying to confirm dates of other games by using the Piping Society's web site. No less than 34 pipe bands were there including three grade one bands, so it is surprising that so little publicity was given I hear that the reason was that they had very little money to advertise!

Well, we turned up anyway and Alan, Alistair & Morag and Ken were joined by Donald C. MacKenzie and Lyle G. McKenzie (a local member) and that made our tent look respectable as far as visitors were concerned.

The Ancaster Fair Grounds are not my favourite spot but the weather was good and so we had an enjoyable day and a number of interesting visitors.

The Clan prize winners were:

**First place, Clan MacKenzie !! \$100**

Second place, Clan MacFarlane. \$50

Third Place, Clan MacLennan. \$25

## ZORA HIGHLAND GAMES, EMBRO

CANADA DAY JULY 1, 2004

A beautiful sunny day in this rural setting and large crowds were out in holiday mood to see the tug-of-war competitions as well as the usual dancing and pipe band displays. Alan and Ken manned the tent and agreed it was a very relaxing day. In fact at one point it looked as if we would go home empty handed for the first time ever. However, things bucked up in the afternoon and we managed reasonable

sales and the prize was the addition of two new members.

There were eight clan tents present.

[See pages 16 & 17 for photos from Embro and also Kincardine]

## KINCARDINE HIGHLAND GAMES

JULY 3, 2004

There was no time to unpack the van from Embro as we were off the next day from for the long drive to Kincardine, Ontario, a community steeped in Scottish ancestry.

This year this Scottish Festival converted to a Highland Games by having heavy events for the first time. These took place in another part of the town and a little north of the main park where the previous festivals had been held. I elected to put up the tent on the Friday night before the Games and crossed my fingers that nobody would vandalize it following the late night festival activities. Other tents had been erected so I figured it would be safe. I arrived at the site at 7.30 a.m. to dress the tent. First of all the clans were very displeased at being removed from the main site where the concessions had the privileged sites and complaints were duly made. It was suggested that since the concessions pay to be represented they had some form of priority. The result was that the park was just a shopping centre for Scottish products.

The clans, meanwhile, were situated on a street north of the park and were largely invisible from the park itself. Luckily there was a street of food concessions joining our street so we were easily spotted by the constantly hungry and thirsty crowds.

So, crossing our fingers we waited for something to happen and by 11 a.m. we

had seen few visitors - it was heading for a disaster. At the tent we were joined by member Pat Jansen and her husband, duly kilted up, and later by Joyce Mackenzie Hirasawa and husband Jack and their two sons, both sons wearing kilts and looking great. Jack, a Canadian of Japanese heritage, was wearing one of the clan MacKenzie's black t-shirts and he proved to be a great help to us during the day along with the other helpers mentioned.

We took part in the usual parade through the streets of Kincardine and despite only six clan tents being visible the numbers of clan taking part in the parade was suddenly and surprisingly enlarged including a huge crowd of Buchanans, which clan I have never seen at a Highland Games previously. The honoured clan was Clan MacKay and they put up a tent and had a large gathering supporting them in the moment of honour.

After the parade ended just outside our own clan tent the crowds were much in evidence and the opening ceremonies were close to us. The pipe bands also marched to and from their competitions past the clan tents and so what looked like a disaster suddenly took on a new light. At the end of the day we could count on reasonably good sales of Mackenzie clan products and more importantly, two new members.

The whole day was bathed in brilliant and warm sunshine and our group had an enjoyable relaxing time. Everyone helped to dismantle the tent and load the van at the end of the day.

## ELECTRIC SCOTLAND

BY ALAN MCKENZIE

As mentioned earlier I had the greatest pleasure and privilege of having as a house guest for one week in June, Alastair McIntyre, the creator and owner of the largest Scottish website in the world. And by that I mean the Electric Scotland website. The home address is:

**[www.electricscotland.com](http://www.electricscotland.com)**

and from that base you can explore over 12,000 pages of things Scottish, with a huge section on Scottish history where you can read a large number of out-of-print and out of copyright volumes which would cost a fortune to buy, if you could ever find them.

Alastair has a mission to which he is

*continued on page 12*

# Clan Mackenzie Society of Scotland & The U.K. International Gathering 2005 Strathpeffer, Scotland

Monday 8th to Sunday 14th August 2005

## Early Booking Form Closing Date: 1st June 2005

The Programme for our Gathering is ready although as time goes by between now and 2005, we may have to make some slight alterations and additions. Bulletins will be issued to inform you of these changes if you have made a booking.

Before completing the forms, **please note that no liability is accepted by the Clan Mackenzie Society of Scotland & The UK or its Office Bearers therein for any loss or damage to persons or property of a member of the said Society or a member of the public attending the said Society Gathering from 8th to 14th August 2005 inclusive at Strathpeffer.** It is advised that everyone should have their own insurance cover.

**The forms enclosed with this newsletter are for bookings placed before 1st June 2005.** After that date the Weekly Ticket will be £90 per week and One Day Ticket £19 per day. Full refunds can be given for cancellation made before 1st June 2005. Tickets may be transferred to another but cannot be refunded after 1st June 2005.

**Credit Card numbers must not be sent by email.** Please send by Mail. UK banks do not want the exposure to hacking and possible fraud.

Now it's your turn to pick up a pen or tap the keyboard to complete the Early Booking Form. There is a space for everyone in your Group to show their individual requirements as all may not want to attend the same events. It is essential that we have a record of the names of all persons attending (including children) for security purposes. Please put each name at the head of a column, then tick all the events they wish to attend to ensure places are booked. It cannot be guaranteed that changes can be made to bookings so please be sure to fill in exactly as required. We have to ensure that there are enough speakers and venues for talks etc, so please be sure to complete and return the Event Choices Form, page 6. (See enclosed forms with this Newsletter).

Please use Capital Letters if completing by pen. After completing the form; doing your sums; signing where appropriate; take a copy for yourself then send pages 3 to 6, and payment, to Philippa MacKenzie as below.

The price page (Page 3) will be numbered by us as they come in. A numbered copy will be returned as a receipt. You must bring with you the numbered receipt page 3 and, for your reference, copies of 4, 5 & 6.

When you arrive in Strathpeffer, please come to the Community Centre in the village where you can register with us and receive your Ticket detailing all bookings. One ticket will be provided at Registration for each person and each child. The Ticket will show all the bookings for the week or individual days.

This ticket must be shown to gain entry to most events and in particular to Tours, the Strathpeffer Games, the Ceilidh, and all Individually Priced Events.

If you have any queries please email me at : [msgathering2005@caleystream.co.uk](mailto:msgathering2005@caleystream.co.uk) or phone to 01463 231388 or write as under

We are all looking forward to welcoming you, and in the meantime wish you, your family and friends good health and a safe journey.

**Please return completed forms with payment by mail to Philippa MacKenzie at 11 Heatherley Crescent, Inverness, IV2 4AW, Scotland**

**[The Forms are enclosed separately with this Newsletter.]**



## 2005 Gathering Bulletin (1) April 30, 2004

### A few notes on the program so far.

The new Community Centre-Strathpeffer School complex offers us many advantages. We can run a Gathering Coffee Shop and encourage local residents from Strathpeffer to use it too, so that you have a chance to meet and talk with present day Highlanders - some of whom may well be related through grandparents, cousins, etc. There will be a Genealogy Room open throughout

With the numbers expected in 2005, it will not be possible for everyone to do everything, (There is a limit to coaches available on any one day and there are one or two 'one off' trips.) So you will need to make choices. **Early booking is advised as reservations will be on the 'first come' basis.** (e.g. the Ball is limited to 150 double tickets and Highland Banquet seats 225). However, the fact that we have numerous rooms available at the Centre/School means we can provide, for the first time, an alternative daily programme, talks, demonstrations etc. (a boon for those who do not want to embark on all-day coach tours every day?)

**Coach Trips.** Applecross is restricted to a 33-seater so that it can negotiate 'The Pass of the Cattle', but we can provide this on Wednesday, Thursday & Friday if there is sufficient interest. At the Folk Museum at Newtonmore they use traditional crafts to reconstruct a Highland village being excavated by archaeologists. The trip is planned for one day only at the moment. If enough interest, a coach/boat (Jacobite Queen) round-trip to Castle Urquhart can take place on Thursday only; we need to fill 160 places and is a long half-day trip 09.00-14.00 (possible £4.00 surcharge for Castle entry.) A small group (20 only) of keen gardeners can visit three Mackenzie gardens (Inverewe, Tournai, Dundonnell) conducted by Professor Douglas Henderson, formerly the Queen's Botanist, who was i/c the Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh and, for some years after his retirement, Inverewe Gardens. (Contributions to the Charities supported by Lady Horlick and Lady Rice.)

**Talks** include: Dr. Dennis Harding (Abercrombie Professor of European Archaeology at Edinburgh University) on exciting discoveries in the Hebrides during this last decade. (His groundbreaking new book on the prehistory of North Britain is due out from Routledge in the autumn.) Dr Robert Frost (graduate of St Andrews & Reader in History, Kings College, London) authority on the warfare of Eastern Europe in the 17th-18th century *The Northern Wars* 1558 1721 ISBN 0-582-06429-5 and will speak on 'Mackenzie Mercenaries'; Peter Reese author of *Bannockburn and Flodden - A Scottish Tragedy* (2003) ISBN 1 84158 2654 talks on each of these decisive battles. Marjory Harper, authority on Scottish emigration, will give two talks on 18th-19th century emigration, and Scottish emigration of the 20th century; I have asked her particularly to look for Mackenzie emigrants. Helen Smailes, Senior Curator of British Art, National Gallery of Scotland will speak about two Mackenzie paintings. Dr Ewen Cameron, Senior Lecturer, Highland History, Edinburgh University is an authority on Highland land ownership and Scottish History from 1700 onwards. (Final details of times/days etc of all of these to be arranged. Some talks will be given twice).

**Demonstrations.** Kilt-making; Alan Baillie contemporary Scottish silversmith; Iain Marr of Beaully will talk on and show Scottish silver (Thursday.) Andy Macdonald (Introduction to Gaelic) and a Scottish Country Dance tutor will conduct daily classes, either before coach trips start out or after they return. On Thursday, an introduction to understanding the pibroch and the tunes of 'Iain Dall' piper to Mackenzie of Gairloch (1656-1754), demonstrated by Duncan McGilliveray, a fine piper (also organising music for the Highland Ball, Friday 21.00-03.00 in the Pavilion- supper included). On Friday, a demonstration of shinty. (Those who have visited Castle Leod will recall the picture of one of Cabarfeidh's ancestors, as a boy, with a shinty stick. Colin and Alastair are both keen players). The Castle Concert is fund-raising for the Castle Restoration project.

Incidentally, as some of you know, in 2000 The Ben Wyvis Hotel looked very dowdy. Happily however, it has just re-opened, splendidly refurbished: telephones every room, Internet access, and leisure centre with pool to be added. **Mackenzies are offered attractive prices.** Nigel Turner the manager asks you book direct with The Ben Wyvis (not the parent company in Edinburgh) mentioning that you are part of the Gathering. Don't delay (I have already booked.) Tel 01997 421 323 Fax 01997 421 228. A revised Guide is attached; please note that self-catering is usually Saturday to Saturday a.m. but some will add a few days so ask.

You will appreciate there are difficulties in trying to tie down a detailed programme fifteen months ahead, but your early booking will help us to try to arrange things so that you can attend as many of the events as you wish.

Ian M. Blake, President,  
Clan Mackenzie Society of Scotland & The U.K

[With this Newsletter we enclose forms, labelled pages 3 to 6, to enable you to register early. It is best to find accommodation early unless you have family or friends you can stay with in the area. For an extensive listing of accommodation available in Strathpeffer go to the clan web page in Scotland - [www.clan-mackenzie.co.uk/](http://www.clan-mackenzie.co.uk/) or contact me at [alan@mkz.com](mailto:alan@mkz.com) if you are not on the internet.

Our thanks go to the organizers of the Clan MacKenzie Gathering in August 2005 for the preparations they have made so far. The signs are that there will be a large turnout for this, the third Gathering of the Clan Mackenzie. I am going and I look forward to seeing many members from Canada there.

See also the next two pages for further updates on the Gathering and some answers to common questions.

Alan McKenzie, Lieutenant to Cabarfeidh]

## 2005 Gathering Update - June 2004

### Guide to Accommodation – please note the following:-

Change of Ownership	New owners of The Richmond, Strathpeffer do not have new email yet but post address and telephone are the same.
Not Functioning – new details to follow	Phone, email & website for Linnmhor, Strathpeffer do not respond
As at 10 <sup>th</sup> June 2004 these B&B or Guest Houses are fully booked for 2005	Garden House, Inver Lodge, Scoraig, White Lodge and Dunraven Lodge
Likewise - Self Catering are booked –	Birch Cottage, and smallest cottage on Brahan Estate

### Early Booking Forms – just a little reminder

Please send completed Early Booking Forms to Philippa MacKenzie, 11 Heatherley Crescent, Inverness, IV2 4AW, Scotland, ensuring that you include your Visa/Mastercard number or your £ (pound) sterling cheque or international money order, made out to Clan Mackenzie Society of Scotland & the UK.

### Frequently Asked Questions (received up to 10<sup>th</sup> June 2004), with answers

Where can we get more Early Booking Forms?	(1) By post to 11 Heatherley Crescent, Inverness, IV2 4AW www.clan-mackenzie.co.uk (2) Via the website (3) By emailing cmsgathering2005@caleystream.co.uk
When will visa be lodged with your bank? I need to let my visa bank know a withdrawal is to be made from abroad	In most cases the visa number will be put through the visa machine held by our Assistant Treasurer as soon as the totals on page 3 have been checked. This could be within a few days of receipt of forms. However, if there are any queries to deal with and I have to make further contact, then in this case, would be a week or two later.
What is meant by Day Ticket?	For people attending that day only. Price covers all activities listed for that day except those that are Individually Priced and shown as items 07, 08, 09 and 10 on page 3 of Early Booking Form. For example a Wednesday Day Ticket includes :- the Gaelic & Scottish Country Dance Classes, Talks, Demos, 1 Tour and an evening Distillery Tour & Buffet. The Highland Banquet is an Extra Individually Priced evening item and not included in the Day Ticket
What is meant by Weekly Ticket?	For people attending every day of Gathering. Price covers all talks, demos, tours and social events except those that are Extra Individually Priced items. (07, 08, 09 and 10)
Which are the Individually priced tickets?	The Ball, The Banquet, The Concert, the Sunday Lunch. There may possibly be Additional Extra Items which if decided will be offered because of the numbers attending
If all places booked will there be any new items?	This is a possibility and some of these items may have an extra charge. Information will be sent out if this happens
Thursday Country Dance Class. Is this a class or social?	Class. Dancers can join to help learners
Will there be qualified child minding?	I am waiting to find out how many children will be attending of each age group before booking child minders (for which there may be a charge)
How many tours can we go on?	One on each "Tour" day Tuesday Choose either Cromarty or Fort George on this day Wednesday, Thursday, Friday – one per day, On each day choose between Gairloch, Eilean Donan, Applecross, and Ullapool. If you have already visited these places there are the alternatives of– Three Gardens - Wednesday Loch Ness Coach and Boat Trip - Thursday Portmahomack Pictish Dig, or Newtonmore Highland Centre - Friday
Can we have more details of the tours?	Exact details are not set in stone at this point but an outline is given below with website you can look at to get more general information. <u>Cromarty</u> Website www.cromarty-courthouse.org.uk The Highlands Top Historic Town. Reconstructed Trial in 18 <sup>th</sup> Century Court Room <u>Fort George</u> The mightiest artillery fortification in Britain. Military history from 1794. Regimental museum Queens Own Highlanders. Website www.heritage.me.uk/misc/fort_george.htm <u>Gairloch</u> Website www.ghmr.freemove.co.uk An important Mackenzie area steeped in history, with Heritage Museum

(continued) Some information of Tours	<u>Eilean Donan</u> Website <a href="http://www.eileandonancastle.com">www.eileandonancastle.com</a> MacKenzie Stronghold held until 16 <sup>th</sup> century then Government garrison but abandoned in ruins in 1719. Rebuilt by Conchra Trust 1920s
	<u>Applecross</u> Website <a href="http://www.applecrossheritage.org.uk">www.applecrossheritage.org.uk</a> Very remote, narrow roads, beautiful scenery. Lands of Alexander Mackenzie, natural son of Colin Mackenzie of Kintail from 1582. It was here that Maelrubha founded Christian Abbey in 673
	<u>Ullapool</u> Website for Ullapool <a href="http://www.ullapool.co.uk">www.ullapool.co.uk</a> A fishing port with deep harbour in beautiful scenery. A very good museum of Mackenzie history.
	<u>Three Gardens</u> Inverewe Tournaig & Dundonnel conducted by Prof. D Henderson former Queen's botanist
	<u>Loch Ness</u> Either take the boat or the coach from Inverness to Urquhart Castle, then change to coach or boat for return trip
	<u>Portmahomack</u> Pictish, Norse & Medieval site in south facing, East Coast village. Website <a href="http://www.york.ac.uk/depts/arch/staff/sites/tarbat">www.york.ac.uk/depts/arch/staff/sites/tarbat</a> . Amazing museum with relics from archaeological dig (still in progress)
	<u>Newtonmore Highland Museum</u> Website <a href="http://www.highlandfolk.com">www.highlandfolk.com</a> Reconstructed Highland Village in Cairn Gorm mountains, excavated by archaeologist. Track how Highland people dealt with their environment, creating ingenious solutions to everyday problems of providing light, heat, shelter, clothing & food
	Are the Gaelic Classes progressive? Can we book 1?
What is the "double" ticket for the Ball	They are Progressive, so best to attend all. We hope that by the last session you will have at the least an ability to greet etc in Gaelic
I want to come on my own to the Ball, should I pay £90?	The ticket is for two people to attend the Ball with supper for two plus a bottle of champagne shared between two
Can I pay £45 and come to the Ball?	One reason for the double ticket is to encourage equal numbers of men and women as this makes for much better Scottish Country Dancing of reels etc.
Can I pay £45 and come to the Ball?	Sorry – no, there are no £45 tickets  <b>N.B</b> from Philippa. – Let me know if you are a single and I will match up tickets. Also please note that I am not a Dating Agency!
What dress for concert?	Casual/Smart
What is Dress Code for the Banquet and Ball?	Formal Kilt/Trews, Evening Dress.
Can we have more details of At the Distillery evening?	A tour of the distillery with a buffet and chat afterwards
Any Vendors at the Games?	Yes in our Marquee
Any opportunities to shop?	No "shopping" tours included. There may be small gift/souvenir shops at tour stops
What is Drumhead Service?	It is a multi-denominational service "in the field", probably in this case in the marquee
What dress for Drumhead Service?	Formal or informal to choice. Kilt always acceptable formally or informally.
What Time of Day are the Talks	Before or after the tours or in the early evening. The exact times will be decided when we have more idea of how many are interested in which talks etc.

### Any Other Queries

If you have any other queries or want to be one half of a Highland Ball ticket, please send to the above address or phone 01463 231388 or email to :- [cmsgathering2005@caleystream.co.uk](mailto:cmsgathering2005@caleystream.co.uk)



*Commissioner Ken Mackenzie chats with Moira Watson (centre) at Ancaster. Moira is Alan's second cousin and she is the granddaughter of Dr William Speirs Bruce, who headed the Scottish National Antarctic Expedition 1902-1904 when he discovered and named Coats Land.*

devoted and truly dedicated. He says himself that growing up in Scotland he never learned Scottish history and now he wants to make sure that the 50 million or so Scots around the world will be able to access that information that he was deprived of. The website has its own search engine to find your way through the 12,000 pages

On the site is a section called the Flag. This is a weekly newspaper published on the electricscotland website by the Scottish Independence Party. It is very readable with lots of fine articles to keep you up to date with what is going on in Scotland at the present time. The editor, Peter Wright, (who, I am told ALWAYS wears the kilt in public in Scotland) also has a section on old Scots' words and sayings which he pronounces and for which he gives the explanations. This section is a real treat and I recommend you try it out, provided your computer has a sound card of some sort. Search for Scots sayings. There are also many Scots songs. There are also over 500 short stories for children and the list goes on and on.

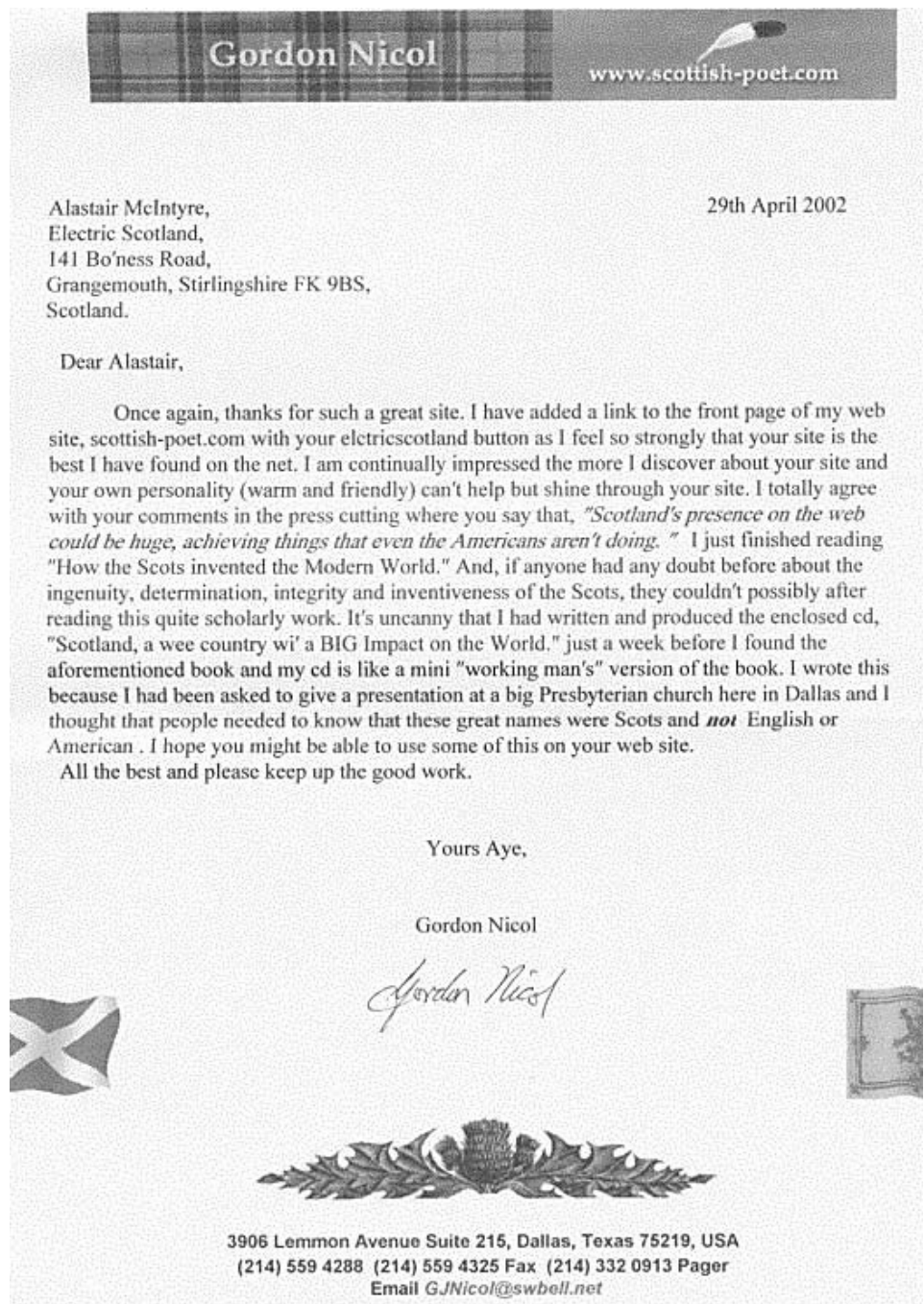
While Alastair was here I managed to get a few local members to come and see him and he demonstrated the vast extent of the site to which he adds numerous pages and photographs every day. He asked why we did not have some of our magazines on his site as he thought that would attract members. So it was that in a few hours we created a Mackenzie page and we have a number of things already on that site and in due course we can put on a complete list of items for sale with colour photos. All this costs us nothing. Quite remarkable. Have a look at it -

**www.electricscotland.com**  
**/mackenzie**

This gives us extraordinary power to expand our reach and we welcome articles or family histories we can add to this page. Already one of our members has submitted a family history and Alastair included it just like that. He told us - "it is yours to do what you like with it."

While Alastair was here I took him to meet Dennis Snowden and he interviewed Alastair on his weekly radio station in Toronto, "A Little Breath of Scotland" which has been going now for over 30

*continued on page 13*



*How's this for a letter of reference?*

years. This was a terrific piece of propaganda for the superb Scottish Library Collection at Guelph. You can see photos of some of the books he saw there. Go to the front page click on "World" then "Focus on Guelph" then University of Guelph Library" where on each entry you will find some amazing photos of books and documents Alastair photographed. Each picture, although large, is a thumbnail so it can be enlarged by clicking on it - and you can in some cases read an entire book!

Alastair, who comes from Scotland

(you can read his biography) is increasing his knowledge of Canada by further travels to Cape Breton and a string of other places.

I recommend that you subscribe to his newsletter which comes out weekly (click on Newsletter to see back issues). It is free and enables you to keep apprised with new items, all of which are interesting.

While Alastair was staying with me I showed him my own Scottish Collection which runs to over 900 volumes and asked if he wanted any of these added to his site, which I would do for him. He selected an unusual book, *The Ladies of the Covenant*

by the Rev. James Anderson, published in 1851. I thought this a strange choice as I considered I had much more exciting ones. He explained that he has had complaints that there was not enough about Scottish women and too much about men! So I am in the process of scanning and processing the volume (over 600 pages plus some illustrations) for the electricScotland website. I found it slow going typing it so I purchase a new OCR program - an optical character recognition program which after being scanned is then read and converted to a word program which can be edited and formatted to produce an excellent book. The process is faster but still slow as the old book with its fine print often deceives the scanner, which misreads and often misspells the words. With a spell check added these are quickly corrected. However it means reading the document two or three times before being satisfied that it is correct.

Search for *Ladies of the Covenant* and you can read the first few chapters. I must admit I had not realised what a terrible time the Presbyterians went through in the reigns of Charles I, II and James II. Many were executed for their religious beliefs. Scottish History helps us to understand our interesting heritage!

## CHATHAM SERTOMA HIGHLAND GAMES

JULY 10, 2004

The long drive to Chatham - 260 kms - means an early start to get there by 8.30 a.m. Alan, Alistair and Morag were the three persons looking after the clan tent that day. Yet another warm day. I cannot remember ever having been to Chatham when the weather was not warm.

We do not have many members in that particular region so we never expect to get



*Scenes from Chatham*



terribly busy as the day rolls on. We certainly did not get any new members, though we did have the pleasure of talking to some very interesting people who looked in. It could have proved a rather empty sort of day except for one Mackenzie - not a member - who looked in and spent \$200 on gifts - for himself!

We took part in a parade at 12.30p.m and behind us, in alphabetical order, were Clan McKintosh, who were having their AGM that day followed by a "banquet". As a consequence we were overshadowed by a large crowd of McKintosh Clan members, many from the USA and most of them in jeans and t-shirts. Alistair and I (Alan) decided that quality counts and despite the warm weather we were fully kitted and kilted with jackets and glengarrys, carrying the clan banner. I have to admit to a certain prejudice against people parading in front of a large crowd at a Highland Games in casual clothing.

It has been noticeable at recent events

this year that the numbers of clans turning out are much reduced from previous years. Interest in clan and Highland heritage has a tendency to have periods of ups and downs. It is almost a fashionable thing to do and then it dies off. The Clan in Scotland had a large membership 100 years ago and that died a death. The present clan society had to be restarted from scratch. It therefore behooves us all to try hard to keep the traditions, history and culture alive. In particular, as we all get older, we really need an influx of some younger blood ready to take over the running of the Clan society in the future. So help us bring in some of the younger members of your family. Buy them a membership for their birthday or for Christmas - now there's an idea! See next page for some photos taken at Chatham.

## HALIBURTON HIGHLAND GAMES, ONTARIO

JULY 10, 2004

This is a first time Games for our Clan; and Commissioner Rad MacKenzie reports:

Our day at the Haliburton Games on July 10 was looking to be damp as we had rain frequently recently and the forecast was one of those that although looking hopeful, had room for a downturn. We were met with a bright clear morning and an early arrival at the park connected us with Lorne and Marion MacKenzie of Fenelon Falls who had arrived already and selected a site for the tent, erected it and were waiting our arrival with the rest of the gear. We were located just off the playing field, with the open back of our tent towards the river and the nearby lake, a location that resulted in a nice draught of fresh air from time to time to cool us down. Early in the day Anne and Kelton MacKenzie of Tweed joined us and little



*The MacKintosh Clan at Chatham*



*Haliburton - left to right - Kelton and Anne Mackenzie, Grace and Commissioner Rad MacKenzie*



later Mary-Lou Oyler stopped by. Once the parade through town had entered the grounds, about 11:00 a.m., a steady stream of visitors entered the park and in turn, passed by our location, many stopped to examine the Clan Map, which is always an eye-catcher, giving us a chance to introduce ourselves and start a conversation bringing a few sales and a good deal of pleasant conversation. Attempts to recruit various members of other clans to our cause were not successful, but in spite of the MacKenzies of the area being rather sparse, we did recruit one new member. These games are a long-time event in Haliburton and well organized, the grounds are well suited for this event and quite attractive. An entry fee of \$7.00 per person might have affected the attendance but we had traffic past the tent until 4:00 pm when it faded and the tents were beginning to be taken down. We packed up and were on our way home by 5:00 pm, feeling the day was a success and thinking of possible improvements in our tent set-up and stock. We look forward to a return visit next year.

## ORILLIA SCOTTISH FESTIVAL

JULY 17, 2004

Rad and Alan joined forces after their respective Highland Games a week earlier. We were pleased to have Commissioner Norman back with us after his recent busy spells drum majoring at a number of Highland Games in the United States and also his leading role as Tattoo

Drum Major at the Nova Scotia International Tattoo in Halifax in early July (see photo page 17).

What was also especially pleasing was to have, as our very special guests at the Clan tent, Senior Commissioner Jim and Betty Thwaites all the way from New Zealand and it gave us an opportunity for several photo shoots for our Clan Societies' respective clan newsletters. Jim and Betty found their first visit to our clan tent at a Scottish festival an interesting and enjoyable experience and there is no doubt we always come away with new ideas when we visit other countries and see what each Clan MacKenzie is doing that is different.

The Orillia Scottish Festival is situated on a beautiful park on Lake Couchiching some 120 kms north of Toronto. Admission is free and while there are no heavy events the crowds swarm here to experience the sights and sounds of 28 pipe bands in one of the longest parades we have ever seen. The weather was as near perfect as we could wish but, learning from previous experiences here and also a fair warning from the forecasters about possible thunderstorms, we put on the rain sheets just in case. Around 3 p.m. came the most alarming thunderclap and the skies darkened. The other four clans quickly packed up but this time we stayed put and the threats remained just that - a threat but no rain.

After a most enjoyable day with reasonable sales, interesting people and one new member, we packed up and made our long return back

home. It was on the road home that the threatened rain came down with a veritable vengeance! The Highways which were crowded with heavy traffic reduced speed to a crawl as rains, not experienced since Noah built his ark, came slamming down. Just wonderful to behold!

The following day we held a small dinner party in honour of our special guests, Jim and Betty Thwaites and we all agreed we would meet up again next year at the Clan MacKenzie Gathering in Strathpeffer. We expect to see many of our Canadian members there too.

## CLAN MACKENZIE VISITORS FROM NEW ZEALAND (BY ALAN MCKENZIE)

As you will have noticed in the previous report we had the pleasure (and a real pleasure it was!) to have as our guests for a couple of days Jim and Betty Thwaites from New Zealand. I had stayed for a few days with this delightful couple when I visited New Zealand in 2003. At that time Jim was the deputy Commissioner of the Clan Mackenzie Society in New Zealand. Since then, of course, we have had the sad loss of the then Lieutenant to Cabarfeidh, Jock Mackenzie. There has since been a restructuring of positions in New Zealand and former Commissioner Sonia Mackenzie has been appointed by our Clan Chief as Lieutenant to Cabarfeidh and as such is now the senior Clan Mackenzie representative in that country. Jim Thwaites has been appointed Senior Commissioner, and North Island now has new Joint



left to right at Orillia: David Todd, former Drum Major of the Perth & District Pipe Band, Scotland, Peter McGuiness, Sgt Maj., Ontario Provincial Police Ceremonial Unit, with Commissioner Norman S. MacKenzie, (who followed David Todd as the Drum Major of the Perth Pipe Band - three successive drum majors emigrated to Canada!), Commissioner Rad MacKenzie, and Betty and Jim Thwaites.



Jim and Betty Thwaites with "William Lyon Mackenzie" at the Mackenzie Printery Museum in Queenston, Ontario.





*Jim Thwaites meets a fearsome character - not to be found in New Zealand Jim!*



*Dinner for the Thwaites - Ken, Morag, Jim Thwaites, Norman, Jill (the hostess), Alistair, Dorothy, and Betty Thwaites.*

Commissioners in Mirel and Michael Imber. South Island continues to be represented by Donald and Ann McKenzie as Joint Commissioners.

We had a very busy couple of days for Jim and Betty during their brief visit and that included the required visit to Niagara Falls, which was very crowded with tourists, and at which our guests thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Our main tourist attraction was the attendance at the Orillia

Scottish Festival, mentioned earlier, and we introduced them to as many of our clan members that looked in as we could.

My wife Jill organized a dinner party for Jim and Betty and invited a small party of local commissioners and spouses, giving them an opportunity of discussing clan ideas and the forthcoming Clan Gathering (which everyone seems to be planning to attend!)

On the morning of our guests' departure I took them on a walking tour of old Oakville and showed them where Col. Chisholm founded the town around 1830 and built his house, "Erchless" - now the town's historical society's museum. Chisholm had a Mackenzie grandmother and came from the Highlands and his descendants still live in the town. Oakville still has a large population of Scottish descendants and the Knox Presbyterian Church dominates the centre of the main shopping street - Lakeshore Road.

## HIGHLANDS OF DURHAM GAMES, UXBRIDGE, ONT.

JULY 24, 2004

The best possible weather! Warm, not hot, sunny, no wind - delightful ! Sixteen clans were present, the best we have seen so far this year in Ontario but even here it was two or three clans less than last year. The clans were relocated to



*On the left, the dog show brought a number of visitors to the tent - here are a couple! On the right, a cute shot of a suitably dressed little girl at Uxbridge.*



*Jessie Mackenzie Glynn recently celebrated her 99th birthday with a big party at Georgetown, Ontario. The above photo was taken at the Clan Picnic in September 2003. Here is Jessie with twins Barry (left) and Zack Erskine with grandpa Evert Jansen. The twins' great grandmother is a cousin to Jessie.*

a new spot well away from the retail and food concessions where the crowds tend to congregate. The result was fewer visitors to the tent. What we missed in quantity we made up in quality and we did recruit two new members, though sales were very slow.

Norman and Alan were the team running the tent and two was more than enough to cope.

This was the ninth Games in Uxbridge and we have attended them all. Indeed Alan was Chieftain of one of the first events held here. There were large crowds and the location is a popular one. We did get to see the dancers performing from our new location. One of the most amusing parts of the day occurred when a large number of young Chinese ladies from Shanghai descended upon our tent to be photographed with Alan and Norman in their kilts - which these ladies clearly had never seen before, except perhaps in picture books! We posed for well over two dozen photos for these delightful young people, who were attending a local college to learn English. One wonders what the parents back home in Shanghai will think when seeing pictures of their daughters hob-nobbing with Scots in kilts!

## GLENGARRY HIGHLAND GAMES, MAXVILLE, ONTARIO

JULY 31, 2004

The less said about these huge Highland Games the better. This ranks one of the biggest, if not the biggest Games in



*Above left - Canada Day atmosphere at Embro Games; above right- Embro dancers; below left: this grandson of a Scot is a champion at judo*



*Tug of War is always the big favourite at the Embro Highland Games*



*Here are some pictures from our day at Kincardine*





*Our member, Kevin Malcolm MacKenzie, stopped by at our Clan tent at Kincardine to sign the Visitors' Book. Kevin lives in Guelph and explains that the reason he is wearing the kilt in the tartan of Ancient MacDonald of Glenaladale is because he plays with the Grand Celtic Pipe Band from Fergus, Ontario, who were performing at Kincardine.*

Canada and it attracts very large crowds both to the Games themselves on the Saturday and to the spectacular Tattoo on the preceding Friday evening. We have always had some misgivings about the treatment of the Clans. We are placed in a large barn and we fail to attract the crowds in this out-of-the-way location. So this year after a struggle, complicated by the fact that a youth set fire to one of their main buildings on the grounds (which upset them mightily) they decided to split the clans into two groups, the larger group in the barn and another group, including Clan MacKenzie, which had elected to set up their tents. This latter group were placed a long distance from the barn and in fact at a location which was even worse than that of the barn.

However, all that aside, the week-end was wrecked by the heaviest rainstorms we have ever experienced. By the time we arrived on the Saturday morning the rains continued in a steady unrelenting down-pour and we made up our minds to set up



*Maxville in the barn - and outside in the rain*

our tent in the barn, where at least we would not have the bother of the rain and might even expect large crowds escaping the deluge.

So all the clans were squeezed into the big barn, 21 of us in all. We were later asked to move into the centre of the barn as more clans arrived and needed the wall to hang their banners. We, of course, had the tent so did not need wall space. The position was excellent; but there the enthusiasm ended. The crowds did come into the tent but business at our Clan tent was miserable. We had our lowest sales for the season - and this at the largest Games - and we managed to recruit only one new member.

The MacLennans told me they saw nobody!

Clan Grant (Jim Mackenzie Grant, our member) had previously written to the organizers about the arrangements as follows: "... your alternate plan of half in the barn and half elsewhere indicates that the Glengarry Games continue to place a very low priority on the participation of Clan Societies. The Clan Grant Society of Canada is not prepared to participate in Highland Games where we consider that the organisation of Clan representation or Clan parades is demeaning to our Highland heritage." We agree with these strong feelings, though, of course, it must be said that





*The Nova Scotia International Tattoo, Halifax, July, 2004. Toronto Commissioner Norman S. MacKenzie was the Tattoo Drum Major for the 21st time, an amazing achievement. Norman is in the centre leading the parade.*

given the appalling weather we would have been in worse shape outside in the rain. Jim Grant has recommended that the Glengarry Games organizers get in touch with John Campbell at the Fergus Highland Games and Scottish Festival to advise them how to set up a proper clan village. I wonder if they will take his advice? We will contact the same organizers and support Jim's recommendation.

As a footnote, Alistair and Morag

MacKenzie, and me (Alan) had the added frustration of running into a monumental back-up of traffic on the 401 driving to Cornwall as a result of a fatal car accident at Fort Hope. The closure of the 401 on this busy week-end resulted in adding three hours to our journey. Not the best time we have ever had!

However, despite our moans, we did enjoy being next to David Ross, the author, from Scotland, who dressed in exotic Highland gear gave some entertaining exhibitions of wearing the old style kilt and how the Highlanders weapons were used. He also sold several of his books.

### **MONTREAL HIGHLAND GAMES**

AUGUST 1, 2004

Once again Jimmy McKenzie, accompanied by his wife, Joyce, represented the Clan MacKenzie Society at the Montreal Highland Games. You may be able to see from the photo (the sky is blue!) that the foul weather which wrecked the Glengarry Games on the previous day had dispersed and fine weather was existing in Ontario and Quebec.

Jimmy reported that the Games were great but hardly anyone visited the clan tents. Those that came by were chatted with and were given an application form, and some took away an old copy of the

Newsletter.

The winners of the Clan MacKenzie Trophy for Top Band in the Class 3 grade were the Braemar Pipes & Drums from the Niagara Region, and the pipe major's name is Peter MacKenzie [a former member of the Clan Society], that is one way to keep things in the family!

Jimmy also mentioned that he was leaving with his pipe band for Scotland, where "we'll be playing for the Queen at Balmoral and the Edinburgh Tattoo on the Friday night after. We also have the upcoming 13th annual McKenzie Open Golf Tournament on Sep. 25/04." Jimmy extends an invitation to all MacKenzies their families and friends and its a great day. If you would like to attend contact Jimmy at [Jimmysmckenzie@aol.com](mailto:Jimmysmckenzie@aol.com)

### **OBITUARY**

#### **ANGUS ANTHONY MACKENZIE**

APRIL 4, 1926 - JULY 8, 2004

(PAST PRESIDENT OF THE CLAN

**MACKENZIE SOCIETY OF NOVA SCOTIA)**

BY OLIVE BOWEN

The largely attended memorial mass for the late Angus Anthony "Tony" MacKenzie was held on July 11, 2004 at the St. Francis Xavier University Chapel, Antigonish conducted by Rev. Father Hugh Mac Donald, a long time friend.



*Commissioner Jimmy and Joyce McKenzie at Montreal. Jimmy clutches the Saltire!*

Sean Fraser, who Tony referred to as one of his Honorary grandchildren, played the pipes prior to the commencement of the service and while the mourners were leaving the Chapel; members of the History Department of St. Francis Xavier formed an honour guard. Margaret MacGregor MacDonald was soloist for the singing of "On Eagles Wings, Be Not Afraid," and a favourite Gaelic Song "Annra Chrana".

Tony died Thursday July 8, 2004 as a result of a motor vehicle accident.

Born in New Glasgow he was the son of the late Angus Stephen "Dux" and Annie MacEachern MacKenzie. He was a member of St. Andrew's Roman Catholic Church, Egerton. He was a graduate of St. Francis Xavier and Dalhousie Universities. He was a man for all seasons having worked in many areas. He was a lineman for Western Union, part-time farmer, taught school at East Pictou Rural High, Westville High School and for many years was a professor of history at St. Francis Xavier. He was an accomplished author and researcher completing such books as "The Irish in Cape Breton", "The Harvest Train", and "Scottish Lights", as well as two more books that are presently with Breton Books Publishers and should soon be on sale. He had a profound knowledge of genealogy and was a much sought after speaker, which highlighted his love of story telling; he was a strong promoter of the Gaelic language and all things Scottish. Tony was an avid fisherman and long time secretary-treasurer of the Eastern Angling Club, as well as a Past President of Clan MacKenzie Society of Nova Scotia.

Following the mass a reception was held at the Bloomfield Centre, interment of ashes followed in St. Andrew's Cemetery, Egerton. An "Open House" was held at the home of John and Sally Fraser in the evening when a large gathering of friends did what Tony liked best - sharing stories.

He will be missed by the Fraser family - it's not quite sure who "adopted" who, but a great deal of love and respect was shared among them. One of Tony's favourite expressions summed up his love of people and particularly when he was doing research on families "Caraid dhombe shein" - a relative of my own !!!

At the service bookmarks were given out with Tony's picture containing the Gaelic Blessing:

May you always be blessed,  
With walls for the wind

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A roof for the rain  
A warm cup of tea by the fire  
Laughter to cheer you  
Those you love near you

And all that your heart might desire.  
There were at least a thousand people in attendance at the funeral, and one of the things that struck me most was that here was this man without chick nor child and five rows of mourners entered the pews, of all varying walks of life and ages from the very young baby in arms to people who had great difficulty walking down the aisle.

*[Ed. Thanks go to Past President Olive Bowen of the Clan MacKenzie Society of Nova Scotia for this obituary. I met Tony a few times. He was a marvelous raconteur and wit, as well as being a real expert on Clan matters. He is a sad loss to the Clan.]*

#### NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members who joined recently:

Bruce Cole,  
Box 155, RR#4,  
Cobourg, ON K9A 4J7

Ruth Fox,  
889 Bray Circle,  
Newmarket, ON L3Y 8L5

Lane Heller,  
117 Bloomfield Dr.,  
London, ON N6G 1P4

Adam Hinkley,  
27 Fonthill Road,  
Hamilton, ON L9C 6A1

Hunter Larkin,  
133 Creditstone Road,  
Brampton, ON L6Y 4G3

Janet McConnach,  
52 Elgin Street,  
Lindsay, ON K9V 3W5

Doug McIvor,  
907 Tenth Street,  
Mississauga, ON L5E 1S8

Bill MacKenzie,  
41 Minonen Road,  
Udora, ON L0C 1L0

David Allen MacKenzie,  
405 Drew Street,  
Woodstock, ON N4S 4V3

Donald Charles Mackenzie,  
29 Highview Drive,  
St. Thomas, ON N5R 5E6

Duncan R. Mackenzie,  
273 Poyntz Ave.,  
Toronto, ON M2N 1J8

George McKenzie,  
41 Stanwood Crescent,  
Toronto, ON M9M 2A2

Ian A.B. MacKenzie,  
10 Plateau Crescent,  
Don Mills, ON M3C 1M8

Keith McKenzie,  
3152 Frances Stewart Rd.,  
Peterborough, ON K9H 7L4

Murdo MacKenzie,  
178 Windermere Road SW,  
Calgary, AB T3C 3K8

Richard S. Mackenzie,  
3715 SE 37th Street,  
Gainesville, FL 32641

Rob McKenzie,  
1506-171 Lees Avenue,  
Ottawa, ON K1S 5P3

Robin & Heather MacKenzie,  
725 King Street West, Ste 510,  
Toronto, ON M5V 2W9

Rosemary McKenzie,  
1312 Odessa Cr.,  
Oakville, ON L6H 1R8

Warren Mackenzie,  
708 - 80 Front Street East,  
Toronto. ON M5E 1T4

Phyllis (MacKenzie) O'Brien,  
872 East River Road,  
New Glasgow, N.S. B2H 3S7

Carolyn (MacKenzie ) Pearce,  
73 Wake Robin Drive,  
Kitchener, ON N2E 3L4

Jim & Betty Thwaites,  
New Zealand

Laura Wikston,  
355 Alberta Street,  
Welland, ON L3B 2W3

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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](http://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. Alan McKenzie"*

### **FERGUS HIGHLAND GAMES AND SCOTTISH FESTIVAL AUGUST 14, 2004**

This was another most enjoyable day at Fergus. Huge crowds, fine weather, and, believe it or not, a record attendance of 53 clans [Maxville please note!]

The tent was manned by Alan McKenzie, Norman MacKenzie and Ken Mackenzie, Alistair & Morag Mackenzie, Shawn MacKenzie, and help from Alan's brother-in-law and his wife, Michael and Judith Leach, who were on vacation from England.

We tried hard to win best tent for the third time at Fergus by adding a genealogical table with the 14 sheets of the Findon Tables on display. We failed with this enterprise to sway the judges who selected a new clan to Fergus, Clan Forbes, who were visiting from Michigan, as having the best clan tent. Having viewed all the tents we immediately recognized that we had fierce competition from Clan Forbes. They used the same layout as us with three tables in a U formation so that visitors could enter the tent and view the display. It was very attractive with some armour on display and although they were not up to our standard they were worthy winners.

We shall put our pictures of this event in the next newsletter as we are out of space in this issue.

Worthy of comment was our meeting with the Chief of Clan Fraser, Lady Saltoun. Another chief present was the Earl of Kintyre, Chief of Clan Keith.

Sales were moderately good and we added three new members.



*Paula and Steeve Lesperance were married on June 12th, 2004 at Burnside Manor in Victoria, B.C. Paula is the daughter of Ron and Ann Ship of Timmins, Ontario, and Steeve is the son of Diane Lesperance of Montreal, Quebec. A reception followed at the Esqualmit Army Base.*