



# Clan MacKenzie Society in the Americas

## Cabar Feidh

The Canadian Chapter Magazine



June, 2005

ISSN 1207-7232

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### THE CLAN MACKENZIE INTERNATIONAL

#### GATHERING

#### STRATHPEFFER - SCOTLAND

**8 - 14 AUGUST 2005**

The Gathering 2005 web site <http://www.clan-mackenzie.org.uk/clan/gathering.html> - will be updated as and when necessary with increasing frequency.

Any queries can be sent to Gathering Secretary Philippa Mackenzie:  
[cmsgathering2005@caleystream.co.uk](mailto:cmsgathering2005@caleystream.co.uk)

### PROGRAMME

**Monday 8th Daytime** – Come to the Community Centre at Strathpeffer to Register, Collect Tickets and Get Acquainted & Chat.

**Evening** - Torchlight Procession

**Tuesday 9th** Official Opening - Society Reports - Talks - Gaelic and Scottish Dance classes - Half Day Tours

**Wednesday 10th** (see 12th)

**Thursday 11th** (see 12th)

**Friday 12th Daytime** - During 3 days there will be a choice of half or full day guided coach tours, Gaelic & Country Dance Classes, and various Talks and Demonstrations.

On one of each **three Evenings** there will be a Dinner, a Ball, a Concert in Castle Leod. Alternatively an evening at a Distillery.

**Saturday 13th Morning** - Gaelic Classes.

**Afternoon** - Strathpeffer Highland Games. The Gathering will have its own large marquee there.

**Evening** - Ceilidh.

**Sunday 14th** Drumhead Service, followed by Sunday lunch and Closing Ceremony and Raspberry Tea.

**Throughout the week:** The Community Centre and School facilities will house the HQ, the Gathering Coffee Shop and the Genealogy Room.

Registration will be based there with separate rooms for demonstrations, lectures, sales areas, etc.

There will be a tree planting ceremony in the Gathering Grove at Castle Leod on a day to be decided.

### 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)  
Clan Web Pages: [www.clanmackenzie.com](http://www.clanmackenzie.com) & [www.electricscotland.com/mackenzie](http://www.electricscotland.com/mackenzie)

## TICKETS

### Admission Ticket:

If booked before June 1st 2005:  
Day Ticket £15 per day / Whole  
Week Ticket £75,

or,

If booked after June 1st 2005:  
Day Ticket £19 per day / Whole  
Week Ticket £90.

This Ticket gives admission to  
all Events as above APART FROM  
ADDITIONAL INDIVIDUALLY  
PRICED ITEMS BELOW

Child Concessions available.

We accept payment by cheque in  
sterling, Visa and MasterCard.

If you are only able to send non-  
sterling cheques, please add £7 to  
cover the cost of bank charges in  
UK.

Additional Individually Priced  
Tickets:

Highland Banquet (225 places) -  
£35.00

Concert in Castle Leod (limited  
places) - £30.00

Highland Ball (150 Double  
Tickets - £90.00 Double Ticket

Sunday Lunch - £12.00

Genealogy Sessions - To be  
arranged

Boat/Coach Trip Lochness - To  
be arranged

Any other Additional  
Alternative Item - To be arranged

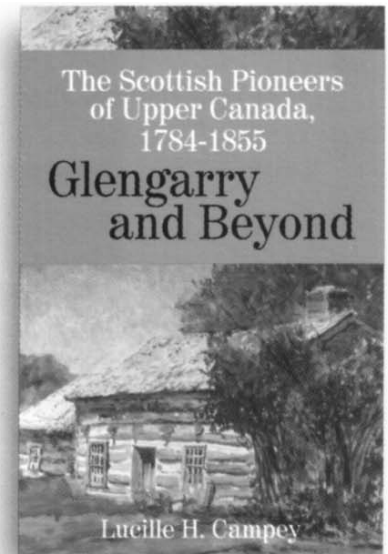
If you decide to book, payment  
can be accepted by  
Visa/MasterCard or by cheque in  
sterling (made payable to Clan  
Mackenzie Society of Scotland and  
UK).

For those on the internet there  
are fuller details and a number of  
questions answered at the web site  
<http://www.clan-mackenzie.org.uk/clan/gathering.html>

## A NEW PUBLICATION FOR ONTARIO GENEALOGISTS

### The Scottish Pioneers of Upper Canada, 1784-1855

Glengarry and Beyond  
Lucille H. Campey



Established in 1784 by Highlanders, Glengarry was Upper Canada's first major Scottish settlement. As economic conditions in Scotland worsened during the late 18th and early 19th centuries, destitute hand-loom weavers from around Glasgow and land-hungry Highlanders left Scotland for Upper Canada in increasing numbers. The success of these and other early settlers caused the exodus to mushroom as people from all parts of Scotland sought a better life. Once settled, they clung to their culture and identity and greatly influenced the social and economic development of what would become Ontario.

This book is the first comprehensive account of this great Scottish exodus to Upper Canada, telling the story of Scottish hardship, emigrant ship crossings and early pioneer settlements and providing new insights on the distinctive Scottish nature of these new communities. This is a story of courage, enterprise and rugged independence.

Drawing on new and wide-ranging sources, the book provides much descriptive information including all known passenger lists together with details of over 900 emigrant ship crossings – essential reading for both historians and genealogists.

Lucille H. Campey, a Canadian citizen currently living in England, has previously published four major works on early Scottish emigrants to Canada. This is her fifth book to be published by Natural Heritage.

1-897045-01-8 / trade paperback / 400 pages / 6 x 9 /  
illustrated / charts / ships lists / appendices / notes /  
bibliography / index /  
\$28.95 CAN / \$22.95 US / Publication date: May 2005

## COMING EVENTS

**June 11th Abbotsford, BC -**  
Sons of Scotland Games,  
Abbotsford.Info

[www.eteamz.com/sonsofscotland](http://www.eteamz.com/sonsofscotland)

**June 11th - Georgetown, Ontario**

**June 12th Hamilton, ON -**  
Hamilton International Tattoo.Info  
[www.hamiltontattoo.ca](http://www.hamiltontattoo.ca)

**June 25th - Hamilton Highland Games, Ontario**

**June 25th Coquitlam, BC - BC**  
united Scottish Highland Games &  
Festival.Info:

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

**July 1st - Embro, Ontario**

**July 2nd - Kincardine, Ontario**

**July 2nd Penticton, BC -**  
Penticton Highland Games.Info

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

**July 2nd Selkirk, MB.**

Manitoba Highland Games.Info  
[mbhg@lycos.com](mailto:mbhg@lycos.com)

**July 9th - Chatham-Kent**  
Supreme Highland Games,  
Ontario

**July 9 - Haliburton Highland Games**

**July 16th - Cambridge, Ontario**

**July 16th - Orillia Scottish Festival, Ontario**

**July 22nd-24th Fredericton, NB -**  
New Brunswick Highland Games.Info

[www.highlandgames.ca](http://www.highlandgames.ca)

**July 23rd-24th Kingston, ON -**  
Kingston Heritage Tattoo.Info  
[www.tattoo.kingston.on.ca](http://www.tattoo.kingston.on.ca)

**July 23rd - Fort York, Toronto**  
(Bands Only)

**July 23rd-24th Highlands of Durham Games, Uxbridge.** Info:  
[www.highlandsofdurhamgames.com](http://www.highlandsofdurhamgames.com)

**July 23rd-25th - Barrie Highland Games, Barrie**

**July 29/30 - Glengarry Highland Games, Maxville, Ontario**



*Here is a fine photo of a new baby. The father and mother, Mairi and Joe Sousa, are looking pleased with their new offspring. The baby is Nolan Mackenzie Sousa, born February 24 and weighing in at 9lbs 15 ozs. The baby's uncle is the present Mackenzie of Ballone who is currently living in Ontario.*

**July 31st - Montreal Highland Games, Quebec**

**Aug 13th - Fergus Scottish Festival, Ontario**

**Aug 20th - Sarnia Highland Games, Ontario.**

**Aug 20th - Almonte Games, Ontario**

**September 3rd Calgary, AB -**  
Calgary Highland Games.Info

[www.calgaryhighlandgames.org](http://www.calgaryhighlandgames.org)

**September 4th Canmore, AB -**  
Canmore Highland Games.Info

[www.canmorehighlandgames.ca](http://www.canmorehighlandgames.ca)

**September 11th Toronto (Black Creek Pioneer Village) AGM and Picnic**

**September 17 - Downsview Festival, Toronto, Ontario**

**September 16-18 - Owen Sound Celtic Festival**

## NEW MEMBERS

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

Compton MacKenzie,  
29 Wentworth Cres.,  
Calgary, AB T3H 5V2

John Edward MacKenzie,  
135 Margaret Avenue,  
Wallaceburg, ON N8A 2A2

Dr Ross MacKenzie,  
2261 Constance Drive,  
Oakville, ON L6J 5L8

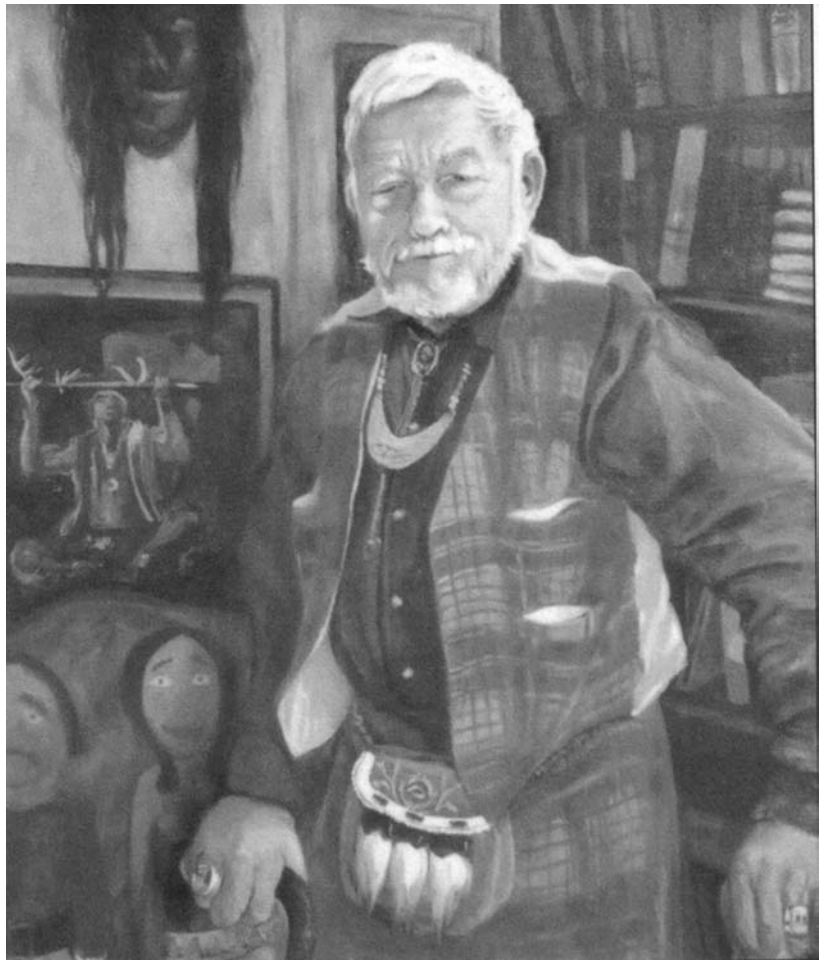
Ruth Smart Pidduck,  
275-51st Avenue,  
Lachine, QUE H8T 2W3

## ADVENTURES OF A PAPER SLEUTH

The title of this article is the title of a book by a friend of mine, Hugh P. MacMillan. His new book is published by Penumbra Press ([www.penumbra Press.com](http://www.penumbra Press.com)). Hugh, who now lives in Ottawa, was for a long time a governor of the Scottish Studies Foundation and a leading expert on the fur trade. I had several meetings with him and because of his access to several sources of information it was Hugh who obtained for me my first copy of Alexander Mackenzie's "History of the Mackenzies" published in 1894 and since reprinted by our society. He also obtained for us a fine reproduction photograph of the portrait of Sir Alexander Mackenzie, which we have often displayed at our clan tent

Hugh worked for many years as "a roving archivist" with the Ontario Archives and over a period of 25 years hunted down and secured the deposit of a huge mass of documentation. In 1967 his initiative to retrace the voyageur canoe routes and to re-enact fur trade history resulted in him being honoured with a Doctorate of Letters by Laurentian University, Sudbury.

I decided to buy his new book because I knew he was a great story teller and I was sure that his exploits would prove interesting reading. Indeed it has proved to be one of the most interesting and enjoyable books I have read for a long time. Many of his tales hunting down ancient archives were literally hilarious and he was equally devious in finding ways to get these invaluable documents and even films into the Ontario Archives.



*Portrait of Dr Hugh P. MacMillan*

I have selected a short piece as it relates to the view that some Canadians had of the Highlanders from Scotland.

"One of the more courageous and foolhardy politicians of the last century [actually the 19th century] was the Honourable Richard Cartwright, a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin, who started political life in Canada as a Conservative, crossed the floor after the Pacific Scandal, and became Canada's Minister of Finance in the new Liberal cabinet.

Cartwright's scandalous behaviour was reported in a pamphlet, published in 1877, which I acquired from Clarence Ostrom of Alexandria. Clarence's specialities were repairing watches and collect-

ing gossip and ephemera - transitory items not intended to have lasting value, but which can become valuable collectibles. The item read:

Whiles this gentleman and the others of the Ministry were travelling through the country, he made a very insulting reference to Sir John Macdonald and to Senator MacPherson in a speech he delivered in Aylmer, Ont. He averred that those two gentlemen are dishonest, and that they have the right to be so because they are Highlanders; and because, from time immemorial, the Highlanders have been plunderers and thieves.

Scots all over the country erupted in rage when word of this calumny reached them, and the Highlanders of Glengarry were so incensed that they sent a delegation to Senator David Lewis



MacPherson in Ottawa to thank him for bringing it to their attention, and for rebuking Cartwright to his face for daring to cast such unwarranted aspersions on a noble race.

In the blindness of his partisan rage [stated a Major Fraser, who read out the Glengarry delegation's address to the senator], Mr. Cartwright stigmatized us as having inherited dishonesty from our forefathers and in possessing 'predatory instincts' . . . that these instincts with us were stronger than reason and that we are compelled to be thieves, robbers and outcasts.

This monstrous assertion was made before thousands of people . . . and it is now being disseminated throughout the country.

Fraser went on to deplore "a whole race slandered to promote the ends of unscrupulous partisanship," and added that if it had not been for Highlanders it was doubtful "whether this Dominion would ever have belonged to the British Empire, or would have been preserved to it in 1812 and 1837-38."

In his reply, Senator MacPherson thanked them for coming "from a great distance . . . to vindicate the memories of our sires and the good names of their children." He brought them to their feet with his words, "A further duty remains to be performed - the punishment of our traducers! . . . In discharging that duty, not with the claymore, as of old, all of us must bear a part. It is most fitting that Glengarry, the Highland heart of Canada, should be the first to move and that her manly sons should send forth the fiery cross to . . . show that neither man nor government shall insult them with impunity."

A much longer peroration was delivered in the Gaelic tongue, followed by a reception for the men



from Glengarry. At the reception, Senator MacPherson pointed out, facetiously, that if Cartwright had wanted to insult Highlanders he could have done so without incurring their lifelong enmity. "If he had any imagination, he could have quoted the satirist and called us a motley crew of bare-legged beggars, McLeods, MacDonalds and Macgregors." If he'd wanted to get really insulting, he could have put it into broad Scots:

There's naught in the Highlands but syboes [onions] and leeks, And lang-leggit callants [fellows] gaun wanting the breeks.  
- Traditional, quoted by Sir Walter Scott, *Waverley*.

At the next election, in 1878, Richard Cartwright was defeated in the riding of Lennox and Addington and had to go looking for a new constituency with a scarcity of Scots among its voters.

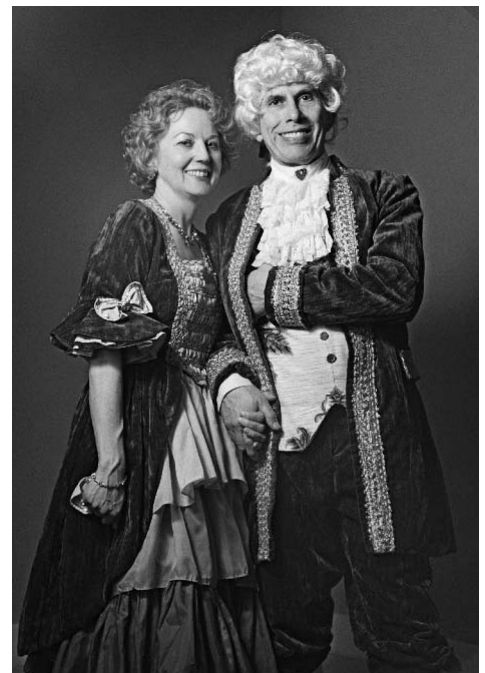
### CLAN MACKENZIE MEMBER IN B.C. MARRIES

Heather MacKenzie and Frank Norman wore costumes of Louis XIV French Court for their wedding on February 12, 2005 in Burnaby, B.C. They are surrounded by members of Heather's family

(future Clan members?) and other Clan members, William, Jennifer, Joan and Diane. (See photo above).

Heather says,

"People in picture are, from left to right back row: my niece Debra Hovey; her daughter Rebecca Hovey; my brother Donald MacKenzie (hidden behind Clan member Diane MacKenzie); nephew Kevin MacKenzie; the Groom, Frank Norman (sept of Clan MacLeod); BC Clan Commissioner, William MacKenzie: my son, Matthew Long; my son, Alexander Long; Sharon MacKenzie (wife of Kevin)



holding Nelson MacKenzie.

Front row: Marina MacKenzie (daughter of Kevin and Sharon); Clan member Diane MacKenzie; the Bride, Heather MacKenzie; my sister-in-law Diane MacKenzie (married to Donald MacKenzie); Jennifer MacKenzie (wife of Will) and Clan Commissioner, Joan MacKenzie."

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Seaforth Highlanders of Canada have invited me to accompany them to The Netherlands next month for the official celebrations of the 60th Anniversary of the Liberation by Canada of Holland from Nazi Germany. I shall be the only civilian. The Seaforths have been asked by the Dutch to lead the various parades, play at concerts and other celebration events and conduct remembrance ceremonies at Holland's Canadian War Cemeteries in which 7,600 Canadian soldiers are buried.

In 1945 the Seaforths liberated Amsterdam. For the 50th Anniversary in 1995 one million Dutch turned out to welcome the Seaforths parade back into Amsterdam. We are told even more Dutch will turn out this year.

So I'm off to The Netherlands April 21st, returning to Canada May 16th, and then back to Europe in July with Ruaridh. We're certainly observing the 60th Anniversary of our victory in WWII!

Best regards, Roddy  
*Roderick M. MacKenzie, a Past President of the Clan MacKenzie Society in the Americas and former Lieutenant to Cabarfeidh. See page 15 for a further report from Roddy.*

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Spotted in the Rum Doodle bar, Thamel, Kathmandu, Nepal:-  
Photo of Kieron MacKenzie on summit of Everest, dated 23rd May 2001.

*E-Mail from:*  
*Neil\_McKenzie@eu.fmo.com*

I was trailing a Metis resource website and on one of the message boards, the Red River Reunion was mentioned with members chatting up attending in mid August in Winnipeg area at Fort Garry. Many of our members might have connections to the Red River, so I thought a small mention in the next newsletter might be a good idea.

*E-mail from Commissioner Joan MacKenzie*

## AN OLD LETTER DISCOVERED

We are grateful to Ben Mackenzie, a descendant of Donald Mackenzie, King of the NorthWest, for sending us details of a copy of a letter from the Earl of Cromartie found among the family papers at Three Rivers "in October 1820."

The letter clearly relates to George Mackenzie, the 3rd Earl who took part in the 1745 Rebellion and was sentenced to death and later reprieved and banished to England where he lived until his death in 1766. The letter is not dated but would have been written sometime between 1746 and 1766.

Roderic McKenzie of Ahilibuy  
George McKenzie of Coigach  
Gentlemen:-

Your letter of the 22nd of August was delivered to me only the day before yesterday by Alexander Mackenzie of Bishopsgate. It gives me great pleasure to prove that my

friends in Coigach have not forgot me, and that ye think of the present condition of me and my family which could not be represented to you in a worse situation than what by experience we find it to be - Any aid of assistance from my friends will be a seasonable relief to us and it will be a double pleasure to have



it from my friends of Coigach, because it will be a testimony of their friendship and regard for me which cannot be more than that which I still retain for them. What they think fit to give may be sent to Medeal [Mackenzie of Meddat, Cromartie's factor], who will remit it to me, and at the time you may write me a letter with the names of those who do contribute affixing their several names with their place of abode; that I may know them to whom I am obliged, and I hope to live to be able to make a recompence to such as I shall be so obliged - believe me to be very sincerely,

Your humble servant & affectionate cousin,  
(signed) Cromartie

Despite the use of the title "Cromartie" the attained earl was now plain Mr George Mackenzie.

He was imprisoned in the Tower of London until February 1748. In August of the same year he had permission to live at Layhill in Devonshire. In September he wrote from Layhill to seek permission to find better housing as "the house is in a manner ruinous, not even necessary furniture in it, hardly a chair to sitt on." Perhaps this was the place he was living when he wrote that letter referring to his "worse situation."

George Mackenzie also sought aid from others in the Highlands including Sir Alexander Mackenzie of Gairloch, who was not sympathetic. He replied that he was sorry that Cromartie was obliged to solicit the aid of "small gentlemen" such as himself: "I much rather he had dyed sword in hand even where he was engaged then to be necessitate to act such a pairt." Cromartie was thus reduced to beggary and it is said that his eldest daughter was 'not too proud to perform the most menial tasks for the comfort of her parents and their younger children'.

In 1751 he complained to Meddat 'we are most excessively pinched for want of money'. Even as late as 1759 he wrote of his 'miserable situation' and the burden of his 'load of debts'. 'We feel daily the miserable situation we are in. I am afraid we shall be put to the utmost extremity soon, perhaps not to have a house to go into or a bed to lie on, and no hopes of any amendment in this our distressed situation for some time.'

It would be some years after George's death that the Cromartie estates came back to the family through his eldest son John Mackenzie, Lord Macleod. In the meantime the children moved into

the army or married into mercantile connections.

Other than the letter from Ben Mackenzie, the other references to the life of George Mackenzie and his family come from "Cromartie: Highland Life 1650-1914" by Eric Richards and Monica Clough, published by Aberdeen Press 1989.

## **HISTORICAL AND TRADITIONAL SKETCHES OF THE MACKENZIES OF REDCASTLE**

*The following is taken from an old book "Historical and Traditional Sketches of Highland Families and of the Highlands" by John Maclean, published in Dingwall in 1848.*

**T**his branch of the clan M'Kenzie, at one time numerous and powerful, may now be said to be extinct. In former days when violence, rapine, and war, was the all-absorbing business of men, the Mackenzies of Redcastle, occupied the southern portion of the County of Ross, and possessed in the frith of Beaully (which bounded their estate on the south) a natural barrier of great importance to protect them from sudden invasion or surprise, commanding a view of an extensive portion of the country of the Frasers and the Mackintoshes, were well situated to act as the scouts and warders of their clan, to communicate information to their chief and his adherents, and to harass and delay, if they could not effectually oppose, a hostile and invading army. In their capacity as sentinels of the clan, they were distinguished by watchfulness and bravery, and rendered important services to their friends. In times of peace, they were, however, charac-

terised by a spirit of tranquility, humanity, and benevolence, which was seldom evinced in the turbulent times in which they lived.

The period at which the Mackenzies became the proprietors and took possession of the estate of Redcastle, is very remote, and not known to the author. In the year 1590, Kenneth Mackenzie, then laird of Redcastle, a gentleman of great worth, and endeared to his friends, tenants, and dependants, by his amiable and engaging qualities, resided in the family Castle at Chapletown, situated a few hundred yards north of where the present castle stands. From his peaceable and impartial conduct to all with whom he came in contact, he obtained a character for integrity, intelligence, and justice, and the disputes of his more quarrelsome neighbours were referred to his decision. Not only was he esteemed and respected by those lairds and chiefs in his own county and immediate neighbourhood, but his acquaintance and friendship were solicited by many at a distance. He was particularly intimate, and a great favourite with the then chief of the clan Cameron, and on the invitation of the chief, paid frequent visits to the residence of Lochiel in Lochaber.

In the year 1598, the Earl of Huntly, created Marquis in the latter part of that year by James VI, went on a hunting excursion in the wilds of Lochaber. The Marquis was a keen sportsman, and devoted much of his time to that noblest of British, or perhaps of any sports, deer stalking, then pursued with an ardour and on a scale of greater extent and danger than in these degenerate days, although of late

years something of the spirit and enthusiasm of the olden times seem to be reviving, among those who devote themselves to this glorious pursuit. To receive so important a personage as the Marquis of Huntly with suitable respect, and to enable him to follow his favourite amusement on an extended and splendid scale, Lochiel, invited to the castle, not only gentlemen of his own clan, but several lairds and chiefs far and near, and amongst them Kenneth Mackenzie, Laird of Redcastle. The sport was carried on for several days with all the ardour, skill and success of practised sportsmen, and great was the destruction which the numerous party made, among the antlered monarchs, of the braes of Lochaber and the surrounding country.

On the return of the party one evening, after a fatiguing day's sport through hill and dale, the worthy chief as usual threw open his castle gates, and admitted the almost worn out party. They were received with the highest courtesy, and treated with the greatest respect; and on the pressing solicitation of Lochiel, Huntly and the other guests consented to pass the night under the chieftain's hospitable roof, for whom a splendid feast was ordered to be speedily prepared, to which a few of Lochiel's most respected neighbours were hastily summoned. At the groaning board, on the right of Huntly, sat their brave and hospitable host and son, and on his left Lochiel's lady and her lovely daughter. The piper, as customary, played during the repast, some family airs. All, with one exception, were as joyful and as happy as could be: the ruby cup passed round, relieved with some of Ossian's songs bursting powerfully

and melodiously on the ear, and at times the piobrach's stirring strains, resounded through the banquetting-hall. But there was one individual present for whom the cup held out no enticement, or the rapturous songs, delight, nor could the wild and marshal notes of the great bagpipe arouse him from his reverie. This solitary exception was Redcastle's son, who, from the first glance he got of Lochiel's beautiful daughter, became desperately in love with her; and although his father, who was surprised at his unusual silence, would now and then gently chide him, it had no effect in awakening him from his contemplative mood. Next morning as the guests were leaving the hospitable mansion, under the roof of which such an agreeable and happy night had been passed, each and all of them shook Lochiel and the rest of the family heartily by hand; and among the last to perform this mark of friendship was the Laird of Redcastle's son. He shook Lochiel and his lady with the accustomed cordiality and respect, but upon approaching Miss Cameron, the chief's daughter, to take his leave of her, there was a hesitation in his manner, his hand trembled, his cheek was flushed, and in the expression of his eye, there was an eloquence which told the throbbings of his heart, although his tongue was mute. The young lady was also much fluttered, her colour came and went, and she hung down her eyes upon the ground, until their hands separated, and the young Laird was about to depart, when she ventured to raise them, and they encountered his as they were taking a last lingering loving look of the object of his affections. The declaration on either part,

although not a word was spoken, was inexpressibly intelligent - the eyes spoke unutterable things, and the bond of mutual attachment was sealed. The young Laird departed in melancholy silence, and quickly rejoined his party, and a few more days saw himself and his father in safety at Redcastle.

Since the morning he had left Lochiel's, the young man was never known to be happy, and if he did smile, it was the smile of one who was a stranger to cheerfulness - a sort of melancholy seemed to have taken possession of his mind, and settled there. This state of matters could not long remain concealed from the eye of a fond and anxious parent, who became greatly alarmed, when he discovered traces of a decline in his son's countenance, and pressed him hard to know the cause. To his father's entreaties to be informed of the change in his manner, he at last yielded, and informed him of his attachment to Miss Cameron, and that without her he could not survive much longer, at the same time requesting his father to intercede for him with Lochiel. Finding that his son's attentions were irretrievably fixed on Miss Cameron, Redcastle, like a wise and prudent parent, entered into the feelings of his son, and instantly despatched a trusty messenger with a letter to Lochiel, acquainting him with the distressed condition of his son, stating, at the same time, that nothing on earth would give him greater pleasure than that chieftain would condescend to bestow his daughter on his son, and pointing out the disastrous results to himself (Redcastle,) in the event of his refusing to do so. Lochiel found his daughter in much the same state as Redcastle his son, and the sooner



the youthful pair were united, the better. Great was the joy of the son when Redcastle informed him of the import of the letter, and even the worthy parent could not refrain, from participating in his beloved son's happiness, at the approaching alliance with the daughter of the chief of a powerful clan.

Redcastle and his son, accompanied with a good many relatives, and a numerous body of followers, lost no time in setting out for the castle of Lochiel, where, in a few days after their arrival, the young and loving pair were united. In the evening of that eventful day, and for many after, the halls of Lochiel's castle overflowed with guests, all hearts joining in wishing happiness to the youthful couple, for which the latter seemed to entertain no fears for a bright future. During the marriage feast, the visitors were delighted with music, resounding through the extensive hall; while their followers, forgetting old animosities, betook themselves to sports and games upon the green, and were amply refreshed with plenty of home-brewed ale, &c.

After spending some weeks at Lochiel Castle, the happy pair, accompanied by their friends and followers, returned to Redcastle; Lochiel sending along with his daughter, his faithful and trusty valet, Donald Cameron, *an gille maol dhu*, or the bonnetless lad. Valets then, did not, as now, wear fine hats with gold and silver bands around them, neither were they dressed in any other livery than their plain clan tartan, and were not only bonnetless but shoeless. Now, although Donald Cameron held this menial situation under his chief, he was a member of one of the most respectable families in Lochaber,

and nearly allied to the chief himself. It was not generally the poorest who held the situation of the chief's *gille maol dhu*, and Donald being a stately, fine looking, powerful and faithful man, possessed no small share of Lochiel's confidence. Although Lochiel was overjoyed at his daughter's marriage with Redcastle's son, he had yet his fears for her safety, owing to an old feud that existed between the Black Isle people and those of Lochaber, especially the Glengarry men, and the horrible tragedy of Gilchrist not being yet effaced from the memory of the Black Islanders. What still more increased his apprehensions was, that some time previous to this, they were repeatedly harassed by a lawless band of cattle lifters from Lochaber - the Bains, or Macbeans, headed by their savage leader, Bengie Macbean, whose son, whilst quite a youth, became so disgusted with the barbarous life his father and his adherents led, that he fled from, and never returned to them again, but afterwards became one of the brightest ministers that Scotland could boast of since the days of the great Mr Welsh. As already stated, Lochiel being aware of a deep-rooted prejudice existing in the minds of the Black Isle people towards the Lochaber men, made him the more anxious of sending with his daughter the *gille maol dhu*, knowing full well that this trusty adherent, sword in hand, would die in defence of his young and beautiful mistress. The party at length, without the least occurrence worth mentioning, arrived in safety at Redcastle, where a sumptuous banquet was prepared, to which all the neighbouring gentry and farmers were invited, and a cordial wel-

come the young pair received to their future home from those assembled. The surrounding hills were all in flames, every knowe showed its bonfire in honour of the occasion, and as the blaze was reflected from the Beaully and Moray Firths, Donald Cameron was convinced, that for his young mistress, no danger need be apprehended from the Black Islanders, from this display of their attachment to the house of Redcastle. Donald was soon presented with a more civilised dress, with the additional appendages of bonnet and shoes. Being a remarkably good-looking young man, he attracted the attention of the housekeeper, who was also young and pretty. Honest Donald being aware of the bonnie damsel's partiality for him, like a good and true knight, could not suffer any lady to die for love of him, and they were soon united. Having now possessed himself of an agreeable and happy companion, Donald was resolved to return to "Lochaber no more," but fix his residence in the Black Isle, and by the kindness of his amiable mistress and her lord, he was enabled to enter into possession of the farm of Mulchaich in Ferrintosh, but was not long tenant of it when he was deprived of his wife - who left him, however, a legacy of seven beautiful daughters. Donald soon married again, and his second wife bore him seven sturdy sons, who grew up and married, so that the Black Isle was well supplied with the race of the *gille maol dhu*. He lived himself to a great age, and was interred in the church-yard of Ferrintosh, where also repose the ashes of many of his descendants. The descendants of the *gille maol dhu* were not only to be found in the Black Isle, but Ross-shire in general, and not a few

of them are to be found in the shires of Sutherland and Moray, and even in various parts of the globe, holding prominent stations in society, while a good many respectable and sturdy sons are yet to be found in Ferrintosh, their original soil.

But to return from this digression to the Mackenzies of Redcastle. The family continued to increase in wealth and power. The old castle became too old or too inconvenient, and the present castle was erected. It is situated on a small eminence within a few hundred yards of the sea, and commands one of the most extensive, varied and picturesque views in the north. Immediately in front is Loch Beaully, the whole of which, from the village of Beaully at the one end, to the ferry of Kessock at the other, can be seen from the castle windows. Beyond Loch Beaully, the Aird, Bunchrew, Muirtown, and Belladrum, rise in variegated splendour with their handsome seats, fruitful fields and beautiful plantations, while to the north the eye gleams along a fertile and cultivated country, until the view is bounded by the dark mountains of Strathorrin and Strathconan. The Castle itself is an extensive, commodious, and elegant structure, combining some of the conveniences of the modern mansion with the strength, the turrets, spires, loopholes, and battlements of the castles of the 16th century.

From the period when this castle was erected, the tide of prosperity which had hitherto attended the Mackenzies of Redcastle began to ebb. The superstition of the people of the country ascribed the decay of the family to the circumstances of a man having been buried alive below the foundation stone. It is unnecessary to say there can be no

grounds for a story which would reflect such diabolical disgrace on the family; but it may have arisen from the accidental death of one of the workmen engaged in his work. The people of the neighbourhood, perhaps the most superstitious in the kingdom, required then, and require even now, but very slender materials to impose upon themselves, and upon others, a tale of horror. Be this, however, as it may, certain it is, that from this period the family declined in prosperity, until it gradually became extinct. The Lairds of Redcastle, like their neighbours, took part in the civil commotions of the last century; and like most of those who were engaged in those commotions, suffered for their loyalty or disloyalty, whichever it may be called.

The last Laird of Redcastle of the name of Mackenzie, was Collector of Customs at Inverness and was well known to the narrator. He was a most amiable man, condescending in his manners, and arduous in the duties of his office, which he discharged satisfactorily for a considerable time, but from the circumstance of his oldest son Kenneth joining himself with a band of determined smugglers, the good old gentleman was viewed with a jealous eye. Kenneth was not long associated with this lawless band when he had the boldness to bring them with him to his father's Castle of Redcastle, and there, for safety, deposit their contraband goods.

The worthy Laird his father, who was residing at his post in Inverness, was not till then aware of the illegal and evil career his son was pursuing, although at the same time his hopes were far from being

sanguine regarding him, as from his youth upwards he was of an over-rambling disposition. However, there was now no alternative for Collector Mackenzie, but to resign his situation, a situation he filled with honour and integrity. He was much felt for and sympathised with by both high and low throughout the north, and particularly so by the inhabitants of Inverness. Kenneth, seeing what his folly brought his venerable parent to, like the prodigal son, immediately abandoned his iniquitous career. A short time after this he commenced the droving trade - a more lawful occupation - but not being successful, he soon gave it up for the more honourable one of fighting for his king and country, having got a commission in the 78th, or Ross-shire Highlanders. So keen and eager was he in enlistment, that he forced several poor fellows out of their beds on his father's estate, to accompany him to India's shores. This work of compulsion he even had the boldness to carry on in Inverness, where he trepanned not a few, among whom there was one of the name of Gunn, whose mother was a reputed witch, and whose awful imprecations were fearfully levelled against him and his family, for tearing away her only child. Sometime after, while with his regiment in India, he was charged at the instance of the Government with fraud, for which he was called home and confined for the rest of his lifetime in the Tower of London. In the midst of grief and sorrow, his venerable parent calmly and meekly resigned his spirit into the hand of his eternal Father, in whose mansions the cares, toils, and disappointments of this world below are not known. The estate subsequently became much burdened, and as the

second son John, who was also in the army, and was much beloved and respected by his brother officers, and every one who had the pleasure of his acquaintance, was not in circumstances to redeem it, it was put up for sale. A wealthy scion of the clan offered largely for it, and the only impediment in the way of getting it was his being the son of a tinker, (but he was a good and honest man although horn spoon-making, &c., was his calling.) It was, however, purchased by the Grants, then by Sir William Fettes, and after his death by the present proprietor, Col. Baillie of Tarradale, the Lord-Lieutenant of the county.

The last of the family of the Mackenzies of Redcastle, Miss Mary, or Molly, died at a very advanced age a few years ago, at Lettoch, in a house which she had occupied there for many years. She was a stately dignified old maiden lady, but somewhat eccentric in her habits, and if a story current of her in the neighbourhood be true, a little whimsical in her tastes. If the cooking of any dish did not please

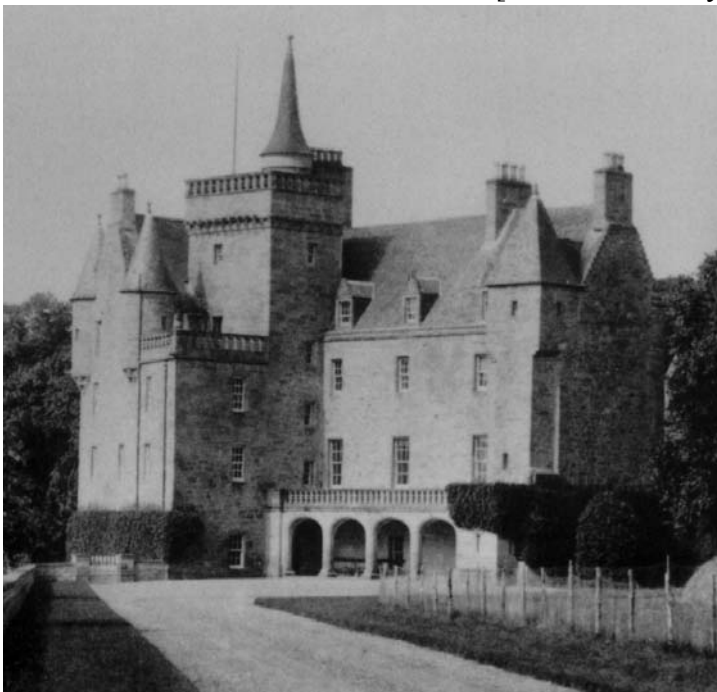
her, she invariably exclaimed "very good for servants, but don't like it for mysel'." So frequently did she give utterance to this expression, that for several years before her death the neighbours were in the habit of calling her by the title of "very good for servants, but don't like it for mysel'." Major Mackenzie of Kinraig is the lineal descendant and representative of the Mackenzies of Redcastle.

There is perhaps no property in Scotland which has been so much improved as the estate at Redcastle. Eighty years ago [Ed: about 1768] the estate was a naked barren waste, scarcely yielding any corn, except on what was called the mains. It is now one of the best cultivated properties in the kingdom, and so greatly and so rapidly did the value of the property increase in consequence of planting the hills and cultivating the plains, that although the property was purchased by the Grants a few years before the beginning of the present century, [the 19th century] for somewhere

about £20,000; it was in 1828 or 1829 sold to Sir William Fettes for the sum of £135,000 ! but the present proprietor purchased it for a smaller sum. One of its most valuable farms is the ferry of Kessock, which pays a rent of about £1,000 per annum, although not 60 years ago the toll was principally paid in bannocks ! ! It is still more gratifying to record that the comfort, intelligence, and morals of the inhabitants have improved in a ratio corresponding with the value of the soil.

Until within a late period superstition abounded in this and the neighbouring estate of Drynie. There is scarcely a bog, burn, or lonely spot, with which some tale of superstitious horror is not associated; and in addition to the ordinary witches, warlocks, ghosts, benches, and benaives, the superstitious have called to their aid the water horse and the water bull, - which are said to frequent Loch Drynie and Linne a Bhuic Bhain.

A very singular story is told of the Patersons of Kessock. It is said



*Redcastle as looked early on in the 20th century*



*Redcastle as it looked after some unspeakable owner took the roof off to save property taxes or death duties. Why didn't the Mackenzie Clan light a fiery cross to prevent this foul deed? Today such wanton destruction would never be allowed, but it has to be said that certain British governments after the war had little sympathy for "wealthy" people who owned large heritage properties.*

that one of them was fortunate and courageous enough to secure and take home a mermaid, which he kept for sometime in his house. But the nymph of the ocean, being eager to regain her native element, supplicated her captor for her release, and said that she would grant any three requests he would make, if he would permit her to depart. He agreed to this, and one of the three which he asked was, "that no Paterson would ever be drowned in the ferry of Kessock." The people of Kessock, Craigton, and Redcastle, firmly believe in this story, and their belief is strongly confirmed by the singular fact, that although many persons of the name of Paterson have for centuries been engaged on the ferry, such a circumstance as one being drowned was never known, and what is perhaps yet more singular is, that while the ferry was in their possession, no person was drowned in it.

Besides the above annoyance to the peaceable parishioners of Redcastle, they were often troubled, especially in their sojournings under cover of night with other and still more wicked demons, particularly whilst passing a burn about a mile to the east of Redcastle, for scarcely one could pass or repass it without being in danger of their life. The last individual who was attacked at this unhallowed spot, was a worthy man of the name of Paterson, reader and catechist of the parish. Episcopacy was then the entire creed of the district. He being at the time on a catechising mission in the west, and returning rather late to his own house at easter Kessock, was attacked whilst passing the said burn by a huge monster, and were it not for the repeated interposition of a faithful mastiff, he would never return to tell his tale. However,

after a severe struggle the poor man proceeded homewards, when there appeared as it were, a lighted torch or candle, as an emblem of the fiendish spirit being overcome, which light stuck by him until he arrived at his own house, a distance of four miles. He ordered his wife to give plenty of food to his faithful companion the dog, but next morning the poor animal was found dead, and the inference was, that although the evil spirit did not get power over the honest catechist, it assuredly got it over his companion. Nothing daunted, the worthy man repaired next night to the burn, travelling the long whole night up and down from one end to the other, carrying in his hand an open bible, and constantly engaged in prayer. From that time henceforward, the poor traveller was never known to meet with any impediment at this ill-fated spot.

"The prayer of the righteous availeth much."

However, the march of civilisation, religious and moral, has now, we may say, entirely banished all ideas of such supernatural beings out of our land.

#### **McKENZIE REUNION**

We have received an advice that there will be the 22nd McKenzie Reunion on July 23, 2005 at the Dromore Park from 2 - 7 p.m. A pot luck picnic supper is to be held and all are invited. We have no other details.

Contact is Jean Schiever, RR#3, Durham, ON N0G 1R0

#### **CANADIAN CENSUS 1881**

We have picked up the following article from the Mormons

Family Search web pages, (which are very interesting in their own right - see <http://www.family-search.org/>):

1881 Canadian Census on compact disc can now be purchased on line. This four-disc resource file includes a viewer disc that allows users to quickly search the database of approximately 4.3 million individuals. The discs contain a transcription of the original 1881 Canadian census, enumerated on 4 April 1881. Information from the following fields was extracted: name, age, gender, location at the time of the census, birthplace, ethnic origin, occupation, religious affiliation, marital status, and notations.

The census records enumerate individuals, grouped within households and institutions, for the Provinces of British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, and Quebec, and the Northwest Territories. (The Northwest Territories in 1881 contained the current provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan and parts of historical Manitoba, Quebec, and Ontario, plus the Territory of Yukon and the western part of the Territory of Nunavut.)

#### **MACKENZIE DNA PROJECT**

We now have 66 Mackenzies who have signed up to have their yDNA chromosomes analyzed. The results which have come in so far can be seen on our web page by going to [www.electricscotland.com/mackenzie](http://www.electricscotland.com/mackenzie) and click on "DNA results". It will be seen that there are groups of Mackenzies (McKenzies) around the world who are showing some very close matches indicating a common male

ancestor.

So far my own DNA had shown no match at all with anyone so I contacted a 4th cousin in New Zealand. We both claim descent from a McKenzie living in Easter Ross born around 1780. This cousin agreed to do a DNA test and the result showed us to be very close and sufficiently so for us to confirm our 4th cousin relationship - one of the useful aspect of DNA testing - it helps to prove (or disprove) relationships in the male line.

Many of those who have found a relationship through their DNA have started a process of communication with each other and sometimes I am copied on these emails, which I find very interesting. We are also getting emails from projects for other surnames where they are finding a similar groupings with Mackenzies. Here is one received quite recently from the Project Coordinator of the surname Taggart:

"My name is Patrick Tagert & I am the project coordinator for the newly formed Taggart DNA surname project. In reviewing clan histories, I recently discovered the remote connections between our ancestors. As you may know, the first Earls of Ross, of the O'Beollan line shared common ancestors with the MacKenzies. With that in mind, I did a quick comparison with our first few Tagert results to the MacKenzie project & couldn't help but notice the similarities in the haplotypes. The Tagert results are all from a single lineage, with at most seven generations of separations between participants. We all have a strongly documented paper trail, so in effect we are presenting a single modal haplotype with a few mutations over 4-7 generations. I did not include another participant who is an exact match for myself with 7 generations of separation.

I think that the variations that are obvious in comparing Tagert to MacKenzie results are about what would be predicted for the span of about 900-1,000 years which separate the two ancestral lines, according to the old genealogies. I just thought that I might present it to you for your thoughts, with a view to continued correspondence as our projects grow. I am confident that new haplotypes that will be added in the future will continue to support these findings. I am attaching a PDF file for your review. It is simply a snapshot that I created from Ysearch."

He sent an analysis which showed a group of three Tagerts with close DNA results to a group of Mackenzies.

I did mention in an earlier Newsletter that it is

unfortunate that surnames were very late in coming to the Highlands. Most of the Mackenzie ancestors of ours adopted the name of Mackenzie very late in the surname system - much later than the English who had surnames in existence for around one thousand years. The Highlanders had Gaelic names which were like miniature family trees and these were dropped and surnames adopted in more recent centuries. This makes it harder for Highlanders to connect to common male ancestors. The earliest Mackenzie chiefs bearing the name of Mackenzie go back to the 14th century and most of the land owning families of Mackenzies were directly related to each other. We have two such descendants in our project and their identity must remain confidential, of course. In due course we may discover if there are any other Mackenzies who might relate to these two chiefs-related families. That would be interesting. So far we do not have these two persons' DNA results in yet.

I shall be taking some DNA kits with me to Strathpeffer and will try to add some more candidates for DNA tests. The more Mac/McKenzies we get, the easier it will be to find common grouping of families showing a definite recent common ancestry.

If there are any male Mac/McKenzies who would like to join the project please contact me at my address at the bottom of page 1. You must be on email as that is the means of communication for the project. Cost for a 12-marker DNA kit is US\$99 plus US\$4 postage. Costs are higher for 25 or 37 markers but these can be added at a later date if you find an exact DNA match with 12 markers. An exact DNA match with 37 markers means that there is a 50% chance that you are directly related within only FIVE generations.

Mismatches are caused by mutations in the DNA. Since we all descend from a common ancestor the number of mutations will be very large between ourselves and that common ancestor who lived two million years ago. The fewer the mutations, the closer the relationship between two people.

## OBITUARY

### IAIN MACKENZIE-GRAY

We are very sad to report the death of Iain Mackenzie-Gray of Applecross. He was the direct descendant of the Mackenzies of Applecross and served briefly on our Ontario Committee with enthusi-



asm.

The following information came from his daughters Heather and Catriona:

“Dad was born Iain Donald MacKenzie-Gray September 6th, 1924, in Applecross, Scotland. He was the son of Robert James Gray and Mairie Mackenzie [the eldest daughter of Mackenzie of Applecross - he had no sons]. Dad spent his youth in Scotland before moving to Datchet, England. He entered The Royal Military College (Sandhurst) at age 18 and upon completion joined the Seaforth Highlanders (Infantry). During the Second World War he served with the Seaforths, the West African Frontier Force.

“During his tenure in West Africa he learned how to make a delicious West African curry. Dad would have annual curry parties that were very well attended. Dad was a good cook, when it suited him.

“After the war (1949) he was travelling through Canada on his way to Australia. However, he met our mother Barbara. Dad never did make it to Australia. It was always on his ‘to do’ list. Mom and Dad had a terrific marriage until Mom’s death in 1998.

“Once in Canada he moved up north, did some survey work and then went to work for Ontario Hydro as an electrical engineer. ( He retired in 1979).



*Toronto Commissioner Norman S. MacKenzie, Zoe McKenzie and Iain Mackenzie-Gray at a recent Highland Games.*

“Dad was an avid outdoorsman and shared his love of the outdoors with many Scouts (many of whom became leaders themselves). Catriona was made the scout mascot when she was four years old and was taken along and expected to keep up with the boys.

“He loved geared locomotives and had an awesome model scale layout with miniature buildings. We spent many summer vacations chasing locomotives all over Canada and the US. Every Victoria day weekend was spent in West Virginia at Cass Scenic railroad. Catriona and I managed to take father-daughter trips with Dad even after we were married. We have many wonderful memories of our times together.

“In 2000 Dad met a wonderful woman with whom he was totally besotted. Their meeting was serendipitous. Ada was the nurse that took care of Dad after a he suffered a stroke. They were married in 2003.

“He leaves his wife Ada Chung, daughters Heather (husband Brian) and Catriona (husband John). Catriona has two daughters (Dad’s grandchildren) Amelia and Alison. Amelia carries on the name MacKenzie.

“Dad loved to attend Scottish Games, Fairs, and the like. We have ended up at Highland Games in Glasgow, Kentucky, while Maxville and Fergus were favourites of his. Dad was a regular attendee at the Scottish festival in Trenton.

“Dad shared his love of Scotland with us. We travelled and visited several times. He made sure we understood and appreciated the history of the land.”

I first met Iain at a St. Andrews Ball dance rehearsal about ten years ago. He came over to me and asked if I was in the Seaforth Highlanders, as I was wearing a Seaforth badge in my bonnet. We got into conversation and I found out that he was the legitimate Mackenzie of Applecross. He told me that the lands were all gone now and all that was left of the original vast estate in Wester Ross was the the cemetery of Applecross.



Iain served as major in the Seaforth Highlanders, though, like me, he spoke with a decidedly English accent. I tried very hard to get him to join the Clan MacKenzie Society but he refused saying he was not “a joiner”. He did, however, pay for memberships in the Society for his two daughters. Many years later I ran into him again at a Highland Games. I told him I remembered him well as being the Mackenzie of Applecross who was not a joiner! He laughed and said, “give me an application form!” From that time he took an active interest in the Clan MacKenzie Society and attended some of the Highland Games and committee meetings, accompanied by his very young and delightful wife, Ada Chung.

Iain was a courteous delightful and dignified gentleman, almost, I would say, of the old-fashioned school. He will be sadly missed by his friends in the Clan MacKenzie and we pass on our sympathies to his widow Ada and his two married daughters, Heather Jane and Wendy Catriona.

*Alan McKenzie*

#### **RODDY MACKENZIE’S REPORT FROM HOLLAND**

*Roddy writes of his visit to Holland with the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Relief of Holland in WWII.*

No country has paid Canada greater honour, or shown Canadians a deeper level of affection and gratitude, than the Dutch poured out for us in their hun-

dreds of thousands in person and millions more through watching Dutch television in the first ten days of May 2005. This commenced with Queen Beatrix at the Canadian Military Cemetery at Groesbeek. It was followed by a series of major moving events including with Crown Prince Willem-Alexander at the Wageningen March Past and the March into Amsterdam. And it concluded with this truly extraordinary grand climax with Princess Margriet at the Apeldoorn March Past.

First, the setting. The main boulevard of Apeldoorn, on which was located the reviewing stand for Princess Margriet and our Governor General, is called Canadastraat (in English, Canada Street). For the length of the parade route, four or five times each block, ropes were strung across the width of each street used for the parade. Each rope had pinned to it the two top ends of Canadian flags. Three flags per rope effectively covered the whole width of each street like a giant welcoming arch of red maple leaves. The effect of so many such ropes, each with three flags, was a sea of huge Canadian flags the length of the route. As well, many homes and other building flew Canadian flags, so our flag flew everywhere.

About 150,000 Dutch descended on this town of what appeared to be about 30,000 people. So both sides of the road for the duration of the parade route were filled with eager and enthusiastic spectators. There was an atmosphere of great expectation, and great joy, in spite of the appalling weather. The weather during the March Past featured periods of sunshine punctuated by two hailstorms, about five cloudbursts of heavy rain, and cold winds. But none of this dampened the enthusiasm of the Dutch welcoming Canada’s veterans, nor the tremendous joy on the faces of Canada’s veterans as they rode or marched through this sea of appreciation and love by the Dutch.

The parade lasted far longer than the organizers had planned. This was for two reasons. First, a significantly larger number of Canadian veterans participated than the Dutch organizers had dared hope would come. Second, so many veterans paused, or even stopped, in front of Princess Margriet’s reviewing stand to salute her more formally, to wave at her, and sometimes to photograph her. The Dutch provided WWII military vehicles to carry all veterans who did not wish to march, or were unable to march. To accommodate everyone, it took 400 vehicles. I had no idea the Allies had such a remarkable variety of vehicles in WWII.



*Member Eleanor Thomson with three other Canadian veterans billeted on a farm outside of Bathman - which is a suburb of Deventer.*

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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. Allan McKenzie"*

My friend Eric and I began the day with the Seaforth Highlanders and other Canadian military travelling in a convoy of military buses from the Royal



*OMS Band in Diepenveen, Holland. This Canadian band composed of 26 Pipers and 16 Drummers plus one Drum Major was formed just for the trip. It was called the OMS Pipes and Drums - i.e. Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan Pipes & Drums.*

Dutch Military Barracks at Harskamp to beautiful Het Loo Palace on the outskirts of Apeldoorn. Het Loo Palace belongs to Holland's Royal Family and is lived in by HRH Princess Margriet. It is so beautiful that I mistakenly thought its stables were the palace - I discovered after I'd been there over an hour that the actual palace is a considerable distance beyond the stables. The whole site is surrounded by magnificent gardens kept open for the enjoyment of the public.

Dutch Scouts were everywhere. In the actual parade, they marched with the veterans carrying signs introducing each new unit of the parade. At Het Loo Palace they were our hosts and our guides. A Scout named Tom got fantastic coffee and the best apple pie I've ever tasted to entertain our Seaforth CO, his adjutant, Eric and me at pleasant seating on the grounds of Het Loo Palace. Tom stayed with us while we were at the Palace, and so we got to know him. He's a Costa Rican who was adopted by a Dutch couple and brought to Holland when he was four years old.

Eric and I were seated for the March Past in the VIP

stand directly to the left of the reviewing stand, just as we had been for the Day of Liberation March Past Crown Prince Willem-Alexander in Wageningen, so again we had a perfect view. The Seaforth bus left the Seaforths on the grounds of Het Loo Palace and drove Eric and me to the far end of the parade route where the bus was then parked. This ride gave Eric and me a great tour of Apeldoorn (the bus driver got lost) and where it was finally parked gave us the remarkable opportunity of walking along the middle of the street for pretty much the duration of the route, in order to get to our seating. This gave us a real taste of the atmosphere and what those marching in the parade would see and experience during the parade.

Early in the parade itself was the "Canadian Contingent" of marching soldiers and a massed band of military personnel from every Army regiment, Air Force squadron and Naval unit in Canada. Very impressive. The British Columbia Regiment was also impressive, including its great regimental band. A pipe band from Halifax wore the Nova Scotian tartan, and our Air Force pipe band wore the Canadian Air Force tartan. The Seaforth Highlanders of Canada yet again stole the show with their tremendous pipes and drums, and their super-smart marching contingent, all resplendent in MacKenzie tartan and insignia.

A wide range of Royal Dutch Armed Forces military units also participated. Lots of soldiers, lots of magnificent bands, lots of flags and lots of enthusiasm by both the marchers and the spectators. But it was the marching veterans, and the 400 WWII military vehicles filled with veterans, that won the hearts of the Dutch, and a massive outpouring of appreciation and affection by a tidal wave of enthusiastic spectators.

I asked several Seaforths what it was like for them personally marching in the Wageningen and Apeldoorn March Pasts. In each case, I got the same answer. These soldiers told me they felt swept along the duration of the parade route in both March Pasts in a state of euphoria created by the continuous applause and shouts of encouragement by a sea of Dutch spectators. They said the feelings that washed over them by the enthusiastic warmth of the huge crowds of Dutch were overwhelming. And one could see in the incredible joy in the faces of the Canadian veterans that our veterans felt all of this, and even more.

This incredible parade for the Apeldoorn March Past Princess Margriet also had a poignant finale. The second last group in this extraordinarily long parade

was a marching band of 190 teenagers from Burlington Ontario. All were beautifully dressed in red and white Canadian maple leaf uniforms. The final group was particularly touching. It was a huge choir of young Canadian preteens who were so swept up in the powerful emotions of the event that they spontaneously stopped in front of the reviewing stand and sang for Princess Margriet and our Governor General Canada's National Anthem.

And so ended a massive national outpouring of Dutch gratitude and affection for Canada, and especially for the Canadian veterans of WWII.

*In another message from Roddy we noted especially a comment he had concerning one of the March Pasts involving the Seaforth Highlanders which is particular interest:*

... our Seaforths were joined in this March Past by the Seaforths of Holland. They wear our MacKenzie kilts with WWII Seaforth military jackets. They are Dutch who so love the Seaforths they've formed a Seaforth Holland Regiment. They are incredibly fine people who have helped us so much all week. After the March Past, they were thrilled. They us they could not believe they could ever have played so well. Playing with our Seaforths inspired them to musical greatness they did not know was inside them. They said Marching Past the Crown Prince while playing pipes and drums with the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada was one of the happiest and most powerful moments of their lives.

*Thanks to Roddy for his messages, of which this extract was just a small portion from his enthusiastic reports. Ontario Clan MacKenzie Committee Member, Eleanor Thomson, who is a Canadian veteran, also travelled to Holland for the same celebrations in which she took part in a pipe band. Thanks to Eleanor for the photographs.*

## **McKENZIE GETS THE ACTING BUG - AGAIN**

**BY ALAN McKENZIE**

**N**ot many people know that I once was very active in amateur dramatics. That was in England and Hong Kong where I appeared in 28 plays and directed two others. My son Duncan and his wife Amy McKenzie have taken up the same interest and they are both successful professional actors, writers and, in Duncan's case, a television producer. Duncan and Amy were both script writers and performers in the success-

ful History Television series, "History Bites". Duncan has since become even more successful as Executive Producer for the Global Television series "Train 48" which recently celebrated its 300th episode. This series holds the Canadian record for most episodes in a drama or comedy series. Even my other son Ian produced graphics and special effects for "History Bites" and was instrumental in getting the series their only Gemini award for the Christopher Columbus episode. Incidentally, Ian was the film maker who filmed and made the two videos for the 1995 and 2000 Gatherings in Strathpeffer. Well, Duncan's dad has not turned professional but he has returned to the stage with the Mississauga Players playing five acting roles in three consecutive plays. Indeed, in April 2006 I will be returning to directing once more with Canadian playwright Norm Foster's very funny play, "Office Hours". Luckily most of these distractions from Clan MacKenzie business occur during the winter months, though it has been necessary to ask other commissioners to take on some of the Ontario Highland Games where there is a conflict.

Opposite are a couple of photos taken from recent performances.

#### LETTER FROM GRACE GIBBON

*Here is a newsy letter from Grace Gibbon in Penticton, B.C. which I thought might be interesting to others doing genealogical research in to their Mackenzie ancestors.*

I have been enjoying reading "The History of the MacKenzies", and have painstakingly transferred the names from the chapter "Mackenzies of Ord" and "Mackenzies of Cromarty" onto Family Group Sheets for genealogy purposes. Being as I am 91 and my energy diminishes fast, I get a bit blurry in the head as I figure out some of the descendancies.

I was wondering if there are available any printed out pedigree charts on genealogies for these families. I realise that as I go through the book there would be information from other areas connecting up with those of Ord, etc.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Genealogical Society, from their family history library in Salt Lake City, tell me that from 1500 back, most of the genealogies are recorded in their Medieval Ancestry Department, but I need to show a connection from my MacKenzie line to whatever one I want to



*Scene from "Whose Wives Are They Anyway?"*



*Alan as Archbishop of Reims in "Joan of Arc"*

see. Recently, on my late husband's line through his mother's TRAVIS line, we were able to get a direct line back to 849 A.D. through William the Conqueror. This was quite exciting, and it piqued my interest to get further of my dad's MacKenzie line. I have cousins in Scotland who I am trying to interest in their roots but they don't get very fired up. But I will keep trying.

We have a picture of Hector MacKenzie with his wife, and son & daughter, which my daughter has taped to her computer screen. His baleful eye looks out and goads her on to keep working at this task.

*continues on page 19*



## 100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

A big birthday celebration was held in Georgetown for the 100th birthday of our oldest Clan MacKenzie Society member, Jessie Mackenzie Dalziel Glynn. Almost 150 friends and relations attended and the Clan MacKenzie Society sent in a letter of Greetings and referred to her long support of the Clan MacKenzie and the Castle Leod Project. The Earl of Cromartie also sent a message which was included in a binder of messages.

The Clan was represented at the celebration by Ron McKenzie, the local committee member and his wife Margaret, who is also a nurse who looks after Jessie. Ron and Margaret presented a Mackenzie plaque with an engraved message from the Clan.

Clan member Kathy Gastle was the main organizer for this event and she reported: "Last minute details for special events always keeps one on edge. Well we weren't sure that the guest of honour, Jessie would make her party.....but I convinced her to travel in a wheelchair and enjoy! Enjoy she did! Jessie comes alive with the stimulation of people. All went very well and Ron and Margaret did an excellent job . . ."



*Margaret and Ron McKenzie present the Clan MacKenzie plaque to Jessie Mackenzie Glynn*

*Continued from page 18*



*The Clan MacKenzie Plaque and dedication on the reverse.*

In reading "The History" I was intrigued at the way in which our forebears dealt with their brethren and enemies, and the horrible ways in which some of them died. (Burning a church full of wedding guests, and beheadings willy-nilly!) My dad used to regale us as kids with some of the bits of history passed down in the family and taught us the Luceo Non Uro and the Tullach Ard war cry, but didn't tell us the bloody and horrible bits!

Now, I understand that there is the possibility of the family name having been used because of perhaps being part of a landowner's company of crofters or workers. Is there any way that some where along the line we find that is the case, by some notation in a birth certificate or other document, or do we never know? My grandfather, Alexander MacKenzie, is listed as a farmer and Hector, great grandfather, as a crofter.

*continues on page 20*

*This is just a part of this thoughtful letter from Grace Gibbon, but she raises several interesting questions to genealogists.*

*Firstly the reference to printed pedigree charts. There are 14 of these and they do include the Mackenzies of Ord and of Cromartie. We have copied these in the past together with a booklet which goes with them and we used to sell these. Candidly I hate copying them as they are huge and one has to find a printing shop that can handle such large copies. If there is enough demand we will sell a set for \$75 and individual sheets for \$10 with the proceeds going to Clan funds.*

*On the issue of the adoption of the MacKenzie name*

*I have never seen any reference to the adoption of the name, though there are several instances of the name Mackenzie being given in parish records but also recording an alias, usually an unusual surname which has generally disappeared. It is difficult to know why these aliases occur but it does appear to happen very frequently in the 18th century. I like to think that such name changes occur because the family in question feels they have a link to the main Mackenzie lines through some descent or other. However it may mean that they are living on Clan Mackenzie lands. This is a puzzle. I wish someone could find some reference to this. If anyone out there has an explanation, please let us know.*



*Congratulations to Kevin and Andrea Mackenzie of Mississauga on the birth of their son, Calum Stuart Andrew, on May 18th. He weighed in at a straight seven pounds.*