



Clan MacKenzie Society in the Americas

Cabar Feidh

The Canadian Chapter Magazine



September 2009

ISSN 1207-7232

In This Issue:

Dr James MacKenzie of Drumsheugh	2 - 7
Highland Games	1, 7 - 9, 18
New Members	9
The International Gathering of the Clans, Edinburgh	9, 16 - 18
Photograph Pages for the Gathering of the Clans and Highland Games Events	10 - 15, 19
Clan Mackenzie DNA Project	19
A pair of Mackenzie Seals	20



GAMES SEASON COMMENCES

The Highland Games Season commenced for us in Ontario with the **Georgetown Highland Games**, on May 13th at which we were represented by President Norman Mackenzie and Toronto Commissioner Shawn MacKenzie. There was a reasonable turnout of clans but activity at the clan tent was slow and no new members were recruited.

LINDSAY SCOTTISH FESTIVAL

MAY 27, 2009

This was the first Games to be held at Lindsay and in fact the MacKenzie Clan was not only the honoured Clan but Alan McKenzie was requested by the organizers to open the Festival in front of a large crowd in the grandstand.

We were placed with the other clans in a large building which also contained the vendors and so there was a good crowd of people passing through our tent. Unfortunately, however, these did not translate into any new members or sales of any note.

Manning the tent were President Norman MacKenzie, Alan McKenzie and Alex MacKenzie with additional help from Alan's friend, Susan Lessard from Hamilton.

Nevertheless it was an enjoyable bright sunny day and we stayed behind later to watch the massed bands.

See photos on page 10.

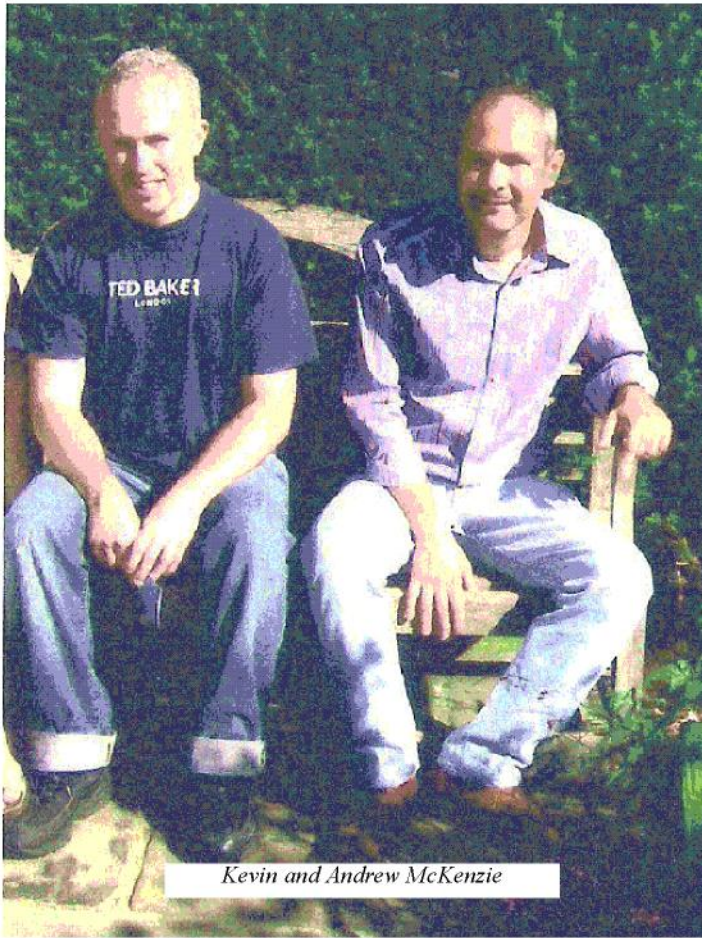


Cabar Feidh Newsletter:

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

A SERIES OF NEW ARTICLES ON THE MACKENZIE CLANS AND FAMILIES

It is our pleasure to reproduce the first part of a new article written specially for the Clan MacKenzie Society by brothers Andrew and Kevin McKenzie.



Kevin and Andrew McKenzie

We mentioned this article in the previous issue of this magazine and we remind you of the biographies of the authors:

Andrew and Kevin both live in London. Andrew is Director of the Old Master Paintings Department at Bonhams, the international fine art auctioneers; Kevin has his own law practice in Gray's Inn, London, specialising in Litigation and Immigration. After growing up in Sussex, Kevin studied Law at Oxford and Andrew

studied History at Cambridge. Kevin and Andrew have had a lifelong interest in family history and have spent much time exploring the old MacKenzie territories in Wester and Easter Ross. In the last couple of years, when much more information has been accessible, they were able to find out a great deal about their own ancestry as well as the clan as a whole. Tying these discoveries in with his original university dissertation on the last Lord Seaforth, Andrew is intending to publish a new History of the Mackenzie Clan which he believes challenges the traditional view of the MacKenzies in particular and of the Scottish Highlands in general. Kevin and Andrew encountered the fascinating life story of Dr. James MacKenzie when researching how their own ancestors came to be found in Birmingham in the eighteenth century.

DR JAMES MACKENZIE OF DRUMSHEUGH BY ANDREW AND KEVIN MCKENZIE

1. The Enlightened Highlander

History has traditionally depicted a fundamental gulf between the Highlands and Lowlands in the eighteenth century. Thus the Jacobite Rising of 1745-6 is still widely seen as the last-ditch bid on behalf of the Highlanders to preserve their own traditional way of life in the face of progress from the Lowlands and England. The Edinburgh Enlightenment, moreover, is generally perceived as the antithesis of Jacobitism and the backward, tribal clan system that has been deemed to be at its roots.

The story of the MacKenzies has crucially been seen as a tale of tragic but noble failure in the Highlanders struggle against changes imposed from the south. From being seen as

perpetually backing the wrong side and losing the fight against progress, their history has been dismissed as irrelevant by most serious historians, happy to allow the romantic novelists and screenwriters to make it their property. The pessimistic stance behind the celebrated legend of Seaforth's Doom further serves to reinforce the image of a benighted region whose clan chief and his family are doomed to fall victim to an inevitable curse, which is a blatant metaphor for historical progress. The words of Coinneach Odhar MacKenzie, better known as the Brahan Seer, tell us that by the time of the death of the last Lord Seaforth in 1815, there was no longer room for the Highland chief:

"I see into the far future, and I read the doom of the race of my oppressor. The long-descended line of Seaforth will, ere many generations have passed, end in extinction and sorrow. I see a chief, the last of his house, his broad lands shall pass away to the stranger, and his race shall come to an end."

An examination of the life of at least one Highlander from this period, however, fundamentally challenges this romantic perception of a

doomed race. Dr. James MacKenzie of Drumsheugh, who was born in remote Sutherland, in the far north of Scotland, blatantly defies the traditional stereotype, serving as a remarkable example of how a Highlander could participate successfully in Britain's wider history.

A scion of the MacKenzies of Gairloch, whose grandfather had settled in Strathnaver, the remote country of his kinsman, Lord Reay, Chief of Clan MacKay, Dr. James was not originally destined for the medical profession. He came from a family in which the ecclesiastical profession predominated. His great uncle, Murdoch MacKenzie, was Bishop of first Moray and then Orkney; his uncle (not his father as the nineteenth century historian, Alexander Mackenzie, mistakenly gives him) was minister for Inverness, thanks to the patronage of the Clan Chief, his cousin, the Earl of Seaforth; while his cousin Hector's two sons, Alexander and James, were both ministers in Edinburgh. The church career of this Alexander, also got under way with the benefit of clan patronage. Between 1715 and 1717 he was minister at New Tarbat, effectively the chapel to the Earl of

Cromartie's fine new country house, and in 1716 he was chaplain to the second Earl. Both Seaforth and Cromartie were Roman Catholics and Jacobites and the Rev. Alexander's involvement in the Jacobite Rising in 1715, thus meant that his fortunes followed those of his family's noble patrons and after 1717 we find him out of favour with the Presbyter of Tain and out of office.

It would appear that the patronage that had traditionally positioned his uncle, great uncle and two of his cousins in successful positions within the church was no longer an option for an ambitious MacKenzie cadet. The Glorious Revolution of 1688 had a devastating effect on numerous MacKenzie churchmen when it replaced the Episcopalian Kirk (the chosen denomination of most MacKenzies at this time) with the Presbyterian system. This doubtless led James to abandon his original theological studies and begin his career as a teacher, later taking up an astonishingly successful career in Medicine.

Like an increasing number of his family, he began his studies at Aberdeen. The University records state that the fee for Dr. James's M.D. at

Marischal College was not exacted, no doubt owing to either the favour of Lord Seaforth, who had been his uncle's patron, or the fact that his great-uncle, Bishop Murdoch had been the University's Visitor. By the seventeens his intellect had attracted the attention of that other influential cousin, the second Earl of Cromartie, who employed him as tutor to the future third Earl (the famous Jacobite rebel of the Forty-Five. The roll of undergraduates describes him as Tutor to the Lord Tarbat he being a gentleman of an established character and noted for his acquaintance with the belle letters and Mathematiks and particularly for his proficiency in Physick.

After practising in France for a short period, his lawyer cousin, Kenneth MacKenzie of Salterness, brought him into contact with his wife's Warwickshire family connections and James married the daughter of Lady Carrington's relative, Sir Charles Holte, Baronet, of nearby Aston Hall. Dr. James subsequently set up an extremely successful practice in the area, also collaborating with Lady Mary Wortley Montagu and becoming a pioneer in the promotion of inoculation for smallpox.

In 1745 he co-founded the Worcester Infirmary, where he served as attending physician until his retirement in 1751. By the close of his career, this physician was a household name as a medical authority: Lawrence Sterne, in his *Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy*, quoted Dr. James MacKenzie as an authority in the same breath as Hippocrates. In 1755, he achieved the ultimate recognition of his peers when he was elected honorary fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, an office that had previously been bestowed on the first Earl of Cromartie and the Earl's brother, Lord Prestonhall.

A brief biography in the preface to Dr. James's *Essays and Meditations on Various Subjects*, a pious volume published posthumously in 1762, explains how his career was finally crowned with a period of contemplation and reflection. After the most diligent and successful practice of physic, for more than twenty-six years, he resolved upon giving up the luxury of business, that he might find more leisure to mind the important concerns of another world (or, as he went to express it) to think where he was going. It further reported that after his retirement he gave his professional service to those whose narrow circumstances forbade their access to the best advice and proper medicine. Even when he was in his sixties he was famous for riding between thirty and fifty miles a day to visit patients. Known to the public as Benevolent MacKenzie his reputation as a philanthropist moved William Somerville, the poet who was a Warwickshire neighbour, to write the following flattering ode about the Doctor:

O thou! whose penetrating mind
Whose heart, benevolent and kind,
Is ever present in distress,
Glad to preserve, and proud to bless,
Wherer thy Makers image dwells,
In gilded roof or smoky cells,
The same thy zeal; o'erjoyed to save
Thy fellow creature from the grave
For well thy soul can understand
The poor man's call in God's command;
No frail, no transient good, his fee,
But heavn and blessd eternity.
Nor are they labours here in vain,
Thy pleasure overplays the pain.
True happiness (as understood)
Consists alone in doing good
Health, life, by Heavn's indulgency sent,
And thou the glorious instrument.

The rising financial predominance of such successful professionals in the clan is also evident from the family's letters. The MacKenzies of Delvine were a family of lawyers who kept up a prolific correspondence with a considerable number of family members from the late seventeenth century until the end of the eighteenth century. From that time their extensive correspondence remained hidden from the world in a cupboard, the door of which was papered over. Their accidental discovery by a butler in the last century shortly before Lady Muir MacKenzie gave up the Delvine family seat, allows some of history's lesser known players to speak for themselves for the first time in two centuries. Among this mine of family correspondence are numerous letters between Dr. James and his cousin, John MacKenzie of Delvine. When the Clan's Chief, Lord Fortrose, was in need of raising £2,000 he suggested selling one of his west coast estates to MacKenzie of Delvine's moneyed friends, if they incline for a Scotch Lairdship and, preferring a MacKenzie, proposed your brother's lady or Dr. James. From the will his cousin, John MacKenzie of Delvine, prepared for Dr. James, we see him in command of a fortune that would have been the envy of many of his landed cousins, leaving among other substantial legacies to nephews, cousins and nieces, a capital sum of £20,000 Scots and the fine estate of Drumsheugh, a country house with a park, orchards and summerhouse on the inner boundary of what was to become Edinburgh's fashionable New Town.

Around 1750, Dr. James's friend, Bishop Isaac Maddox of Worcester had succeeded in persuading him to retire and write books. Having invested in the property of Drumsheugh, just to the west of Edinburgh's present day Princes Street, he was to catch up

with his old circle of friends, who had come to establish themselves as luminaries in the movement that came to be known as the Edinburgh Enlightenment. In the Medical Faculty this included such men as John Rutherford, holder of the Chair of the practice of Medicine at Edinburgh. Dr. James's niece, Jean, was married to another doctor, Joshua MacKenzie, whose son, Henry was the celebrated writer of *The Man of Feeling*, regarded as the first Romantic novel, and an Edinburgh High School friend of the architect, Robert Adam, who himself attended Rutherford's lectures as well as being in turn a friend of the celebrated Enlightenment historians, William Robertson and Lord Kames. Dr. Joshua's first wife had been Margaret, daughter of Hugh Rose of Kilravock, another of whose daughters married Robert Adams' virtuoso friend, Sir Harry Munro of Foulis and it was when factor to Kilravock that Adam built his first private house for Dr. Joshua.

It is not surprising therefore to find the ideas promulgated by this enlightened circle reflected in Dr. James's own writings. Like other men of intellectual curiosity in his family, he took up the clan's obsession with the past. While this interest inevitably had its roots in the ancient oral traditions of the seannachies, Dr. James's achievement was to imbue his historical writing with a truly modern approach. In 1758 he published in Edinburgh a *History of Health and the Art of Preserving it*. The book quickly passed through three editions in English and one in French by the time of his death in 1761, later being republished in 1780 and 1812. A further example of the family interest in oriental civilization, first displayed by the first Earl of Cromartie, it is perhaps the earliest western study to give significant recog-

dition to the huge contribution made by Arabic medicine to modern civilization. But most importantly in the context of the Edinburgh Enlightenment, he adopted the same revolutionary structural approach that his colleagues, the historians, Lord Kames, David Hume and William Robertson were in the process of developing. In his *History*, Dr. James crucially discusses how man's diet and medical opinions changed in different epochs; he writes how after the introduction of agriculture, when man no longer lived from hand to mouth, the first approach towards more mild and wholesome diet among the Greeks and towards a fund of plenty for all seasons of the year, was made by tilling the ground.

This concern with the means of production as defining the process of historical change was later to inform the modern study of History, Anthropology and Sociology, and to have enormous influence on such important figures as Adam Smith, Hegel and, of course, Karl Marx.

Dr. James, David Hume, William Robertson and Adam Smith all subscribed to Kames's four-stage theory of civilization that traced human development through certain common stages of progress from barbarism to civility. Kames demonstrated that modern commercial society softens and polishes men, uniting people, disposing them to peace, by establishing in every state an order of citizens bound by their common desire of supplying their mutual wants. Dr. James reflected this modernist stance in his *History of Health*, in which he dismissed the Arcadian vision of a pastoral golden age, for such a splendid appellation could not, with any propriety be given with respect to the comforts and conveniences of life, which have been enjoyed in a much higher degree by succeeding ages, instructed in the knowledge

of arts and sciences. In this view the gradual advances made by the human mind in cultivating the sciences meant that English society represented a standard to which Scotland should aspire, linking commercial society with a more refined existence. In a letter to John MacKenzie of Delvine, he asserted that England indeed gives greater Encouragement to Industry than any other Nation I know. Thus, while feeling a strong obligation to use his influence to support those numerous nephews who hailed from Lord Reay's remote country in Strathnaver, his attitude towards them was ambivalent, frequently referring to them in his correspondence as useless blockheads, Brutes, worthless and a Rabble of Hottentots.

But the great irony of this world view was that by endorsing it, a Highlander such as Dr. James MacKenzie was a major participant in laying the seeds of an historical perspective that viewed the Highlands as part of an anachronistic culture. On the one hand many writers on Scotland from the middle of the eighteenth century came to regard the Highlanders as uncouth barbarians, fuelling the prejudice that came to demonise a stereotype spawned during the Forty-Five and its aftermath; while others conversely began to debate the cultural costs of capitalism. Enlightenment values thus sowed the seeds of a Romantic perception of the Highlands that was to transform later histories.

A further irony was that it was owing to Dr. James's Highland attachment to clanship that his career had an impact on the wider family. It is worth noting that a number of Dr. James's cousins followed him to Aston Hall and surrounding Birmingham, where they became business associates and married into the families of such men as Benjamin Franklin. In his

Essays and Meditations Dr. James expressed the importance of family obligations: not just towards ones wife and ones own children, but if a man has relations of merit who depend upon him, humanity requires (in case his estate be not sufficient to maintain them and himself) that he should defer his retirement, until he can settle them in a rational way of maintaining themselves by their own industry. First, in the 1720s, Dr. James found positions for his cousins, Colin and Thomas, at Aston Hall, where he was acting as guardian to his young Holte nephews. In 1756 we find him advising another cousin, Kenneth MacKenzie, who was seeking a post as a physician in the Worcestershire area in 1756. As the eighteenth century progressed into the nineteenth and the Birmingham of the Industrial Revolution ensconced on the rural charms of Aston, the Hall itself becoming the residence from which James Watt the Younger ran the engine-building business of Boulton, Watt and Sons, we find the sons of these cousins drawing more relatives who were beginning to appear in the commercial directories of Birmingham. These were amateur experimenters who formed the Lunar Society in Birmingham in the 1760s, imaginative individuals who manufactured the highly finished decorative arts based on the designs of Robert Adam, putting the economic philosophy of Adam Smith and the Edinburgh Enlightenment into practice and laying the foundations of the Industrial Revolution.

In my next article concerning Dr. James I shall show how, contrary to the widely accepted stereotype, many of the MacKenzies came to identify with Jacobite culture precisely because of their cosmopolitan and cultivated background, rather than as a reflection of any supposed backwardness. It is thus ironic that

the traditional approach to history, which has tended to view the Highlanders and Jacobites as having a peripheral culture that inspired them to resist progress, came itself out of a very different perspective that I have found to have belonged to a number of members of the MacKenzie family. This perspective viewed society in terms of a preferred social and economic structure (which, in fact, followed naturally out of an intellectual tradition that can be traced back to the writings and actions of the first Earl of Cromartie and Sir George MacKenzie of Rosehaugh at the end of the seventeenth century). This was a perspective that found its most articulate voice in both the career and writing of Dr. James MacKenzie, a man who can be placed right at the heart of the Enlightenment, a movement that laid the foundations of modern history and shaped the very way in which the modern age came to look at the world.

EMBRO HIGHLAND GAMES

JULY 1, 2009

These small Games in Embro are always held on Canada Day and good crowds turn up to this popular event. As usual the main interest aside from the bands and Highland dancing competitions was the tug-of-war contests which had the crowds cheering, so exciting were many of the matches.

We were pleased to be visited by our clan member, Dave MacKenzie, who is MP for Oxford. Dave is now Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Public Safety, a sensible appointment for a former Chief of Police. Dave was also good enough in purchasing a nice selection of Clan inventory as gifts for his family.

The tent was manned by Alan McKenzie and Commissioner Ken Mackenzie and helped

by Susan Lessard. One member who visited us later sent in his application to join, our first new member for some months. Photo page 10.

**KINCARDINE SCOTTISH
FESTIVAL
JULY 4, 2009**

It is always a pleasure to travel to Kincardine on Lake Huron, a pleasant lakeside community with deep Scottish roots. We had the added pleasure of some decent weather and being close to the band competitions we heard some great performances during the day.

We were well supported at the tent with Alan McKenzie and Susan Lessard with further assistance from Alan's daughter Catherine and her husband, Martin Jansen and their two small daughters. Dave Mackenzie helped us put the tent up and later in the day I visited his house where we looked at the genealogy and DNA reports he has accumulated. Dave also gave me some good family stories which will be used in future issues.

As usual there was a big parade through the town with the clans marching behind various pipe bands. Dave MacKenzie and I were accompanied by Dave's wife in the parade while the rest of the

team stayed behind to look after the tent.

Sales were modest and again no new members were recruited. Photos on Page 10.

**ORILLIA SCOTTISH FESTIVAL
JULY 18, 2009**

The President and three commissioners were present at the pleasant lakeside spot on Lake Couchiching in Orillia. Only three clans were present which may be a sign of the times. Despite many visitors to the grounds it was disappointing for so few clans to be able to attend. The Cambridge Highlands Games also took place on the same day so resources were split between two locations. We managed to get a new member - a lady related to the Mackenzies of Ballone (we already had two such members already! See also Page 20).

The weather was fine and President Norman was also acting as drum major for the Legion massed bands and we got a few shots of him as the band marched past our clan tent. This was the last occasion for Commissioner Rad MacKenzie to be available as he has finally decided to resign as Commissioner for Northern Ontario. He has always been a tower of strength at the Orillia Games

and we shall miss his enthusiastic presence. He will remain a member of the clan.

Alan and Shawn were also in attendance with the help of Susan Lessard once again. On Tuesday next Norman, Shawn and Alan depart for Scotland for the International Gathering of the Clans where they were to help man the Clan MacKenzie tent with assistance from representatives for the USA and New Zealand.

**GLENGARRY HIGHLAND
GAMES, MAXVILLE,
ONTARIO - AUGUST 1, 2009**

Commissioners Gary Mackenzie and Alistair Mackenzie were on hand with the clan van to be able to make the journey to Maxville for this large and ever popular Highland Games. This event took place a week after the International Gathering of the Clans in Edinburgh where a number of members from Canada were present. Nevertheless there was a good turnout and some 27 clans were present in the barns provided.

I have yet to learn what methods the two commissioners used to entice members to join as they enrolled six on the spot and at least one other member mailed in his membership later. Sales were

good.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the following new members who have joined recently:

Christopher MacKenzie
Barham,
478 Mayfair Ave.,
Ottawa, ON K1Y 0K6

Brian Chamberlain,
1626 Craig Henry Drive,
Ottawa, ON K2G 4M6

Heather Gauldie,
53 Tecumseth St.,
Orillia, ON L3V 1Y1

Barb Hadford,
232 Pinewind Rd NE,
Calgary, AB T1Y 2G9

John Hopkins,
20980 Purple Hill Rd., RR2,
Thorndale, ON N0M 2P0

Andy MacKenzie,
Box 1617,
Port Elgin, ON N0H 2C0

Colin M. Keillar,
22144 Old Hwy 2,
Bainsville, ON K0C 7E0

Daniel McKenzie,
39 Merlin St.,
Embrun, ON K0A 1W0

Daniel Bruce MacKenzie,
469 Dalmuir Mews,
Mississauga, ON M9W 1P1

Ken McKenzie,
208 ch. Lac Des Esclaves,
Harrington, QC J8G 2S8

Scott A. McKenzie,
94 Main Street, P.O. Box 286,
Morewood, ON K0A 2R0

Linda MacKenzie-Nicholas,
38 Hope St S.,
Port Hope, ON K1A 2M8

Sean Stanley,
158-B Henderson Ave.,
Ottawa, ON K1N 7P6

Melanie Tenney,
17 Marsh Rd.,
Willington, CT 06279

THE INTERNATIONAL GATHERING OF THE CLANS - EDINBURGH JULY 24/25, 2009

The Clan Mackenzie Society in Canada, the USA and New Zealand decided to support this unusual event despite the fact that the Scottish Clan Society did not. This was due, I understand, to the fact that Highland Clans should gather in the Highlands and Inverness would be the appropriate spot.

But in this day and age clans have come to mean something more than the 25 or so Highland Clans, of which the Mackenzies are one of the largest.

As it turned out, the considerable advertising by Scotland for this event and the personal efforts made by Lord Semple in visiting so many Highland Games in Canada and the

USA and elsewhere produced outstanding results. No less than 125 clans were present in Edinburgh for this event, probably the biggest such event since King George IV visited Edinburgh in 1824 and watched the huge spectacle put on by Sir Walter Scott and Macdonell of Glengarry, when the clans marched in full Highland gear to an astonished Edinburgh populace.

48,000 people attended this international Gathering and there were a profusion of feathered bonnets indicating a very large number of clan chiefs in attendance - about 100 I have heard.

I have to admit that I felt that the event could prove to be a disaster. Why would thousands of people turn up to see a lot of clan tents? I even took a book to read. Ha ha! Very funny! From eight o'clock in the morning we remained extremely busy all day. Almost 200 people signed our visitors book - the largest number we have ever seen. They were mostly Mackenzies, many of them from Scotland, but there were also some from England, Australia, Germany as well as the USA.

And what an interesting group of people they were!

Our tent was manned by



Alan on the left opening the Games at Lindsay



President Norman MacKenzie at Lindsay - directs attention to the Ontario Provincial Police Centennial Tattoo on September 12th in Oshawa



Above: Embro: Dave MacKenzie M.P. and his grandson with Susan Lessard.

Below: Clan Tent at Embro - Ken Mackenzie awaits customers - note the tables drawn together into the centre of the tent, as rain was expected.



Alistair MacKenzie centre with two from the MacLennan clan



Centre group of Clan member Dr Peggy Allan and her husband and son flanked by Susan Lessard and Alan McKenzie at the Clan dinner.



Two Lieutenants to Cabarfeidh at the Clan dinner at the Jewel and Esk College : Don McKenzie , US President and Alan McKenzie, Commissioner at Large, Canada



Howard Mackenzie, Principal of the Jewel & Esk College, Edinburgh with Scottish Past President Ian Blake at the Clan Dinner



The Earl of Cromartie says a few words at the Clan Dinner in Edinburgh.



The Earl of Cromartie is partnered by Eve and accompanied by Ian Blake, Susan Lessard and Alan McKenzie.



Cabarfeidh with two of his Lieutenants.



Col. Wayne Morgan and Don McKenzie make a presentation to Cabarfeidh.



Xavier from the Clan Mackenzie Society in France does a great dance to the piper in the next tent - the MacFarlands



Visitors at the clan tent view the DNA charts on the left wall



Just a few of the 130 clan tents



Brad MacKenzie (USA) leads the Mackenzie clan at the start of the march up the Royal Mile. Howard Mackenzie on the left carries the Scottish Society's flag with Alan carrying the Canadian clan flag and Don with the US banner (centre).



Alan McKenzie and past Scottish president Alexander Mackenzie from Dundee



The New Zealand table attracts visitors from down under!



Lots of chiefs' feathers on display



Norman MacKenzie leads the Massed Bands.



President Norman MacKenzie, Ben McKenzie (New Zealand), Toronto Commissioner Shawn MacKenzie (Canada) and Don McKenzie (US President) and Col. Wayne Morgan, USA.



Above, Col. Wayne Morgan chats with representatives from the Royal Highland Regiment

Below: Senior Drum Major Norman MacKenzie approaches some ladies who are hastily getting out of the way!





Some exotic animal sporrans



Above, The Clan Flag flies over our tent. Right: Alan and Xavier (France) with the Clan Chief,



The Clans start to assemble outside Holyrood Palace



Norman MacKenzie leads the Canadian Legion Massed Bands into position for the march up the Royal Mile



Clansmen and women looking for their clan!



The Mackenzie Clan are assembled and ready to go.



Packed seating at Edinburgh Castle for the evening pageant



End of the Pageant - Norman Mackenzie leads off the massed bands.



Col. Wayne Morgan and US Clan President Don McKenzie with Cabarfeidh in the Scottish Parliament.



Commissioners Ken and Shawn Mackenzie join the lineup for the entry of the clans at Fergus.

continued from page 9

three Clan MacKenzie groups from Canada, the United States and New Zealand. We each had a six foot table and since sales were not normally permitted our display was meant to be informative. In particular we put up the latest DNA results on a huge chart (actually six large charts stuck together) and that invited a lot of interest. Incidentally Family Tree DNA from Houston was present at the Gathering with their own display in the Genealogy area and they reported that they had never been so busy in all the many events they have attended around the world. I did get a chance to nip over and say hello to Bennett Greenspan, the President, but he was besieged by a large crowd of people interested in getting their DNAs done on the spot.

Don McKenzie, President of the Clan MacKenzie Society in the USA had a number of people assisting him at the USA table, including Col. Wayne Morgan, an impressive man of whom we shall hear a lot more in the future. Wayne is a retired Special Services officer and while he was in Scotland he attended Lord Lyon's place and had his Coat of Arms completed. He has also got approval for the establishment of a new sept of the Mackenzie Clan - the Morgan-Mackenzie sept along with its own tartan.

Ben and Lorna McKenzie manned the New Zealand table while at the Canadian table were Commissioners Alan McKenzie, Shawn MacKenzie, ably assisted by Susan Lessard and others from the clan. President Norman MacKenzie was able to spend some time with us but he was a very busy man at the Gathering as the Senior Drum Major and we managed to get some shots of him leading the massed bands and very smart he looked. As always he was a credit to the Clan Mackenzie Society worldwide.

Although the Clan Society in Scotland did not support the Gathering we noted at least three prominent members present. There was Alexander Mackenzie from Dundee, a former president of the Scottish Society who presided over the first Clan Gathering in Scotland in 1995. We also spoke to Jennifer Speirs, who many will know from the coach tours at MacKenzie clan gatherings in Strathpeffer. She has now qualified for her Ph.D. Also at the event was Howard Mackenzie, who organized the Clan Mackenzie Dinner at which our Chief, Cabarfeidh, was present. Howard is the principal of the Jewel and Esk College in Edinburgh. There are some photos in this magazine from that dinner.

In going through the signatures in our Visitors Book I have pulled out just a few of the names to show a sample of some of the interesting people present. They included: Georgia Ellison McKenzie; this lady started the very first Mackenzie DNA Project and I took it over from her when it had just four members. Bradley John MacKenzie from Colorado was a very colourful member who took the banner with "Mackenzie" on it and led our Clan in the march up the Royal Mile. More about him later. Both John and Alan Campbell looked by - they are the main organizers for the clans at the Fergus Games - and what a grand job they do too. We saw Dale MacKenzie Gross who we used to see at Stone Mountain when he was on the executive of the US Society. One surprise was a visit by FrankJan de Boone of the Seaforth Highlanders of Holland whose name was mentioned by Roddy MacKenzie in his article in the June issue of Cabar Feidh. William Mackenzie, Clan Commissioner from Coquitlam was present with his wife and also the novelist Diana Gabaldin who signed our book - her novels are largely built on the suspect history of the

Mackenzie clan. It was also a surprise to have a visit from Dr. Elizabeth Ewan, a professor in Scottish History at the University of Guelph. Still looking young and beautiful Elizabeth was at the Scottish Parliament to give her input on the debates about the clans and Scottish History. Trond Egil Nilsen, the new representative for the Clan Mackenzie Society of Norway was also a visitor and he stayed around for a bit and took part in the parade of the clans later in the day.

On the 24th of July, as mentioned, there was a Clan Parliament held with 100 clan chiefs participating, including our own chief, Cabarfeidh, accompanied by Don MacKenzie and Wayne Morgan for the US Clan MacKenzie Society. This was held in the new Scottish Parliament buildings, using desks normally occupied by the elected members of the Parliament. The morning panel included several prominent speakers: Professor James Hunter, President of the University of the Highlands and Islands in Inverness on Education; David Sellars, Lord Lyon King at Arms in Scotland on heraldry and its relationship to the clans; Robert McWilliam, Chairman Emeritus of the U.S. Council of Scottish Clans and Associations on Scottish heritage in the Diaspora, estimated at 40 million people; and Donald MacLaren of MacLaren, on the role of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs. Panel members then responded to questions from the floor and the visitor gallery after their presentations. I got this last part about the Parliament activities from the Clan Fraser newsletter so my thanks to Neil Fraser.

So, we got off to a great start. The weather was perfect for the whole of that first day and how very important that was. There had been so much rain on and off up to then that we were afraid the Gathering could have become a washout. But it stayed beautiful all day and

even for the parade of the clans and the pageant at the castle.

There are a selection of photos on some of the pages following.

We actually picked up a member for the Canadian Society from Calgary who was present so that was an unexpected surprise. If the Scottish Society had been present they would have been able to sign on dozens of new members, most of them living in or near Edinburgh.

Now to the march up the Royal Mile. This is a largely cobbled street and it runs for about one mile from Holyrood Palace, where Prince Charles was staying, up to Edinburgh Castle itself. And it is uphill all the way. We did wonder how some of the more elderly clanspeople would manage it.

In any event it was a complete delight. President Norman MacKenzie led the way with the Canadian Legion massed bands and there were five other pipe bands also involved in between large groups of clans. With 120 clans taking part in the march it was a huge affair. Vast numbers of clansmen and women started to gather in the hot sun near Holyrood Palace in the early evening. Eventually there were 8,000 of us and organizers ran among us handing out boards with a clan name so that people could look for their respective clans and join them. The clans were placed in alphabetical order so it was a question of seeing a clan banner and either moving in front of it or behind it. It was a heaving mass of humanity and it was all tremendous fun. At around 8 p.m. the lead band under Drum Major Norman Mackenzie set off with the first group of clans marching behind. I am told that the parade took two hours to pass the spectators along the route and I estimate there were around 100,000 people along the Royal Mile. Aside from the crowds on the street some folk hung out of windows, sometimes in perilous positions high over our

heads, cheering away with beer mugs in their hands. Sometimes we went by a particularly quiet group of watchers and that is where Bradley MacKenzie, our front man, came into his own. He was excellent at raising them up to cheer and his backchat to the crowds was hilarious.

The parade up the Royal Mile is something I will never forget. It was a great experience and our group of 35 Mackenzies received a fine ovation. Occasionally when we came to a standstill, some from the crowd would rush and join us for a photo. In one case it was a charming little Korean lady wearing a Mackenzie tartan scarf. At least she recognised it was our tartan and raced over to have her picture taken with us by a large group of smiling Koreans.

Behind Bradley with his sign I marched with our Clan MacKenzie flag, and beside me was US President Don McKenzie with their banner - "Mackenzie, USA" - and that got quite a few cheers too; alongside Don was Howard Mackenzie carrying one of the Clan flags of the Scottish Society which he managed to borrow.

Eventually we reached Edinburgh Castle and I was instructed to pass in the flag and was given a receipt and told to pick it up the next day at the missing children's tent!!!

We all were provided with seats to watch the pageant about to take place as nightfall began.

The pageant lasted a couple of hours, then Norman MacKenzie led on the massed pipes and drums to end the show. It was midnight. We joined the throng winding our way back down the Royal Mile and Susan and I managed to catch a bus to get back to our temporary home at the University residences.

It was the end of a terrific day.

The next and final day got off to a bad start with heavy rain and it was never so busy as the

first day. Later in the day the rain stopped and the sun came out and we finished a fine Gathering in glorious weather.

FERGUS HIGHLAND GAMES AND SCOTTISH FESTIVAL

AUGUST 8, 2009

We were very short of helpers at what is normally our biggest event of the year. President Norman MacKenzie was still in Scotland with the Canadian Legion Massed Bands on tour. So Alan McKenzie, Commissioner Ken Mackenzie and Commissioner Shawn MacKenzie with much needed help from Susan Lessard comprised the team to handle the crowds.

Last year, it will be remembered, was completely wrecked by a foul rain storm and we hoped this would not repeat itself. In fact the morning looked positively hopeful and we were kept busy. Around 2 p.m. the rain commenced but it was light and didn't cause us any bother. But as the afternoon wore on the rain got progressively heavier and by 4 p.m. we noticed that many of the clans around us had packed up and gone. For some reason we remained busy and were not able to pack until gone 5 o'clock.

In the end we were somewhat satisfied that we did add another three new members.

It does seem that Ontario in early August can be a treacherous time as far as weather is concerned. Most Fergus events have been held in bright sunshine and very high temperatures, but by the same token we have had an unduly large number of these Games washed out by very heavy rainstorms.

We had two and quarter pages of signatures in our Visitors Book - compare that with the 12 full pages we had in Edinburgh - and Fergus is our biggest event in Canada!



Toronto Commissioner Shawn MacKenzie holds the flag at Fergus



*Susan Lessard and her grandson, Sam, with the clan flag at Fergus!
Sam wasn't quite sure what to make of it!*

CLAN MACKENZIE DNA PROJECT

BY ALAN MCKENZIE

A brief update to let you know that I am still kept busy by enquiries and requests from Mackenzies around the world wishing to join the DNA Project. Recent new membership have brought our list to 231 Mackenzies/McKenzies and a handful of others who claim male line Mackenzie descent. Of the over 200 results that are in we can now show a core group of over 40 members who show a strong relationship with each other even though many can not yet connect to the others with their respective family trees. That might come in time as other new members join and provide the “missing link”.

What we want are more new members to join. We are looking for all males with the surname of Mackenzie or McKenzie or a variation of it. The DNA test will give the results of the y-chromosome which passes only from father to son in the same way that the surname does in most cases. Matching DNAs with 37 markers would indicate a very close relationship between two parties - as close as four or five generations apart. DNAs even in families do not always match exactly. The reason is that there have been some recent mutations to the DNA. Lots of differences (or mutations) between the two parties indicate that they are not closely related. Exact matches suggest a very close relationship.

We have some real experts in the clan who are looking closely at family groups trying to identify them. In particular the families listed in the Findon Tables contain vast numbers of Mackenzie who supposedly descend from the early Mackenzie chiefs of the Clan. At present we strongly believe that the core group of 40 plus are descendants of those chiefs. These were the first people to have the surname of Mackenzie.



SOME MACKENZIE SEALS

Heather Gauldie from Orillia is a new member and she dropped off this photo of two Mackenzie seals which had been in the possession of her Mackenzie relations. According to family tradition the family descended from the Earls of Seaforth and she believes that the family may be closely related to the Mackenzies of Ballone. Incidentally, since the present Mackenzie of Ballone lives in nearby Barrie, Ontario, I recommended that she get in touch with him. The seal on the left shows the initials AM probably from Alexander Mackenzie, a relation from the 19th century. The other seal shows a Mackenzie Coat of Arms with the Mackenzie stags head. The motto can not be read but it might be *Luceo Non Uro*. I think I am right in saying that this coat of arms may well have been that of the Earl of Seaforth but that family died out on the male line. However, certain it is that such a seal indicates that there may be an interesting background to this family but that requires a lot of genealogical work. The earliest record they have is of a Captain John Mackenzie. Any comments from you genealogists?