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In This Issue

Greetings!

We have had a busy summer full of vacations and travel, visiting and playing. During the hectic months, the Highland Games have come and gone. – did you make it out to one? If you did – send me a write up, I'll be happy to print it! Keeping that in mind, I have written a short blurb about my own Games experience and included it below. If you haven't been to the games, I highly recommend them... I have enjoyed every time I've ever gone!

Also in this issue you will see an announcement for the Gathering in Scotland. Mark your calendars – if you are going to Scotland in the near future, this could be the best time to go.

As always, I am looking for contributions. Please send them to me at mallalieu@schneider.com and will be happy to put them in print!

Thanks and enjoy

Sarah

Thanks to Our Contributors

This newsletter is for the entire clan, and any news that you may like to share is always welcome. Contributions can be made via e-mail through the website at www.clanmackay.ca or via mail to Sarah Mallalieu 741 Woodward Ave #2, Milton ON, L9T 3T6.

From the Desk of the President

Dear Clansfolk:

After a wonderful, warm and sometimes dry summer, the colors of Autumn begin to appear. Crisp days encourage you to step forward with resolve and purpose to assist those in need. Find someplace to volunteer. The reward is you have fun helping others.

The Fergus Scottish Games were a success for us again this year. Many Mackays dropped by our Clan tent and 5 new members were signed up. As well, our participation in the Walk of the Clans was great with about 20 faithful Clan Mackay members walking along, some carrying our flags and banners. Thanks to all who came out especially Jamie Mackay our Vice President and his good wife.

Many people asked about the foundation and meaning of the word SEPT. Sometimes a man would marry a Mackay lady, thus the name of the husband would become a Sept. A Sept, or branch of another clan, too small to protect itself against surrounding clans, might enter into a treaty with the neighbouring clan for protection. The agreement was known as a bond of manrent and the parties gave assurances of mutual assistance. The bond was usually qualified, however, to enable the subscribers to remain loyal to their own friends or to the King. Members of the Septs had to pay "Calpich" in the same manner as members of the Clan. "Calpich" was a payment to the Chief, as on the death of the head of the family, the children or executors were bound to send to their chief their "best Aucht whether it be a horse, mare or cow". Cain was another payment made by a clansman by way of rent and consisting of the first fruits of their portion of the land. Moral of the story: The rich get richer and the poor get poorer.

In the Highlands there were many of the same name and surname, the manner in all periods to distinguish them was to design them after their forefathers. Niel Mackay, was termed Niel Mack - Ean- Mack-William ie Niel son of John son of William. In this manner, Thomas Mackay and his two brethren are surnamed Neleson in place of Mackay, because their father was Niel. And in former times the family surname such as Mackay was applied only to the Chief of the Clan.

Scotland is gearing up to hold a huge party. HOMECOMING SCOTLAND 2009. The Chiefs of the different Clans, including Mackay, are in charge of this event and we will be hearing more about it in the year to come. Start saving your pennies and join the many good Scots that will return to Scotland to observe this huge undertaking. We will keep you posted on the Web site as well. They asked for our input and we sent along a host of ideas.

Our fall meeting will be held October 27, Saturday, 1:30 at 3665 Autumn Leaf Crescent. Mississauga, Ontario. Do try to come, just e-mail or telephone me.

And as Jane Howard says:

Call it a Clan, call it a network, call it a tribe, call it a family of, whatever you call it, whoever you are, you need one..... And we need Clan Mackay.

Sincerely

Mora Mackay Cairns, President.

Morabob@rogers.com 905-820-5715

Searching for Connections:

Here - in brief - is my connection. Niel MACKAY/McKAY had two children, that I know of, with Therese "SAUVAGESSE" who were baptised 19 July 1791 in Berthier-en-Haut, Quebec Marie Angelique (my ancestor) and Amable her brother. Marie was 2 years 3 months of age at that time, Amable was 4 years 3 months. Father "protestant" mother "savage". Parents promised to raise children as Catholics. I do believe that Niel was "stationed" at Fort Temiscaming, working for the Hudson Bay Company with his brother or brothers, but I've not been able to confirm this. If this is the case, his parents lived in the Montreal vicinity and had been for some time. "One of these days" I would love to find some link to Niel and his siblings and parents that could confirm, in as much as genealogical links can be confirmed, that these are his (and my) ancestors and relatives. Confirming that this is my Niel may be able to lead to where in Scotland this particular branch of the Mackay family came from.

Debra Clan Crawford

Trying to find your roots? Visit our website www.clanmackay.ca.

Halloween - thanks to the Scots?

I have done a lot of research into ancient religions in my studies, and it always surprises me to see how much of modern day is based on ancient Celtic (Scottish!) traditions. A case in point is Halloween (All Hallows' Eve)

Halloween was originally a harvest celebration to mark the end of summer (Turkey anyone? Sorry, bad joke) Anyway, this celebration was called Samhain. The ancient Celts believed that All Hallows' Eve was the night when the boundaries between this world and the next were the weakest and so this was the night to try and communicate with the departed. It was also the night that spirits walked the Earth.

Did you know that the Jack-o-Lantern that you put out to decorate your front step actually has a purpose? The original purpose of the Jack-o-lantern is to scare away the spirits of the departed. Actually, most of what North Americans celebrate at Halloween

was for that purpose! Costumes were meant as a disguise so as to fool the spirits into not recognizing their still-living relatives. And giving away candy? This actually was a further ruse. People would leave food on their doorsteps in order to discourage spirits from having to enter their homes.

The most interesting fact about Halloween for me? North Americans have only been celebrating it for about 150 years... about the same time that Scottish and Irish settlers came to this continent.

Famous Mackays

"LIEUTENANT-GOVERNORS of ONTARIO"

Henry William Stisted, July 1867-July 1868
 William Pearce Howland, July 1868-November 1873
 John Willoughby Crawford, November 1873- May 1875
 Donald Alexander Macdonald, May 1875-June 1880
 John Beverley Robinson, July 1880-May 1887
 Alexander Campbell, June 1887-May 1892
 George Airey Kirkpatrick, May 1892-November 1896
 Casimir Stanislaus Gzowski, November 1896-November 1897
 Oliver Mowat, November 1897-April 1903
 William Mortimer Clark, April 1903-September 1908
 John Morison Gibson, September 1908-September 1914
 John Strathearn Hendrie, October 1914-November 1919
 Lionel Herbert Clark, December 1919-January 1921
 Henry Cockshutt, September 1921-January 1927
 William Donald Ross, January 1927- October 1931
 William Mulock, October 1931-November 1932
 Herbert Alexander Bruce, November 1932-November 1937
 Albert Edward Matthews, November 1937-December 1946
 Ray Lawson, December 1946-February 1952
 Louis Orville Breithaupt, February 1952-December 1957

John Keiller MacKay , December 1957-May 1963

William Earl Rowe, May 1963- July 1968
 William Ross Macdonald, July 1968-April 1974
 Pauline M McGibbon, April 1974-September 1980
 John Black Aird, September 1980- September 1985
 Lincoln M. Alexander, September 1985- December 1991
 Henry N.R. Jackman, December 1991-January 1997
 Hilary M. Weston, January 1997-March 2002
 James K. Bartleman, March 2002- July 2007
 David Onley, July 2007- Present

Highland Games

Once again, I attended the Fergus Highland Games and Scottish Festival and once more I was able to get my annual requirement of bag pipes and tartan. The games were fantastic, again, and I was even more impressed as every year they seem to add a little more to the already jam-packed weekend.

In addition to the usual Heavy Events and Highland Dance competitions, there were demonstrations of spinning, shearing, quilting, weaponry ... heck, you name it, they had it. There were vendors selling everything from Tartan dog coats to family crests. My mother and I were fortunate to get a Clan Mackay hat badge (they are in demand and we missed out last year – the vendor sold out on Friday!).

We were also privileged to walk in the Opening Ceremonies with Mora this year. We had such a turnout of MacKays that the Master of Ceremonies actually commented on how many of us there were!

For those of you who have never been to the Festival, here are some insider tips... the bagpipes are not just for the classics. You haven't been to a true Scottish Festival until you've heard the theme song from Star Wars played on the pipes. That's when I knew that I was in Fergus.

While I have attended the Fergus Festival faithfully for many years, I realize that I may be a little partial to it. However, that said, I do think that there is a lot to recommend about this festival to anyone with an interest in anything Scottish. The Heritage and Genealogy tents are full of information and pictures. They have demonstrations on-going throughout the event at prescheduled times. The competitions for Dance and Heavy Events are also ongoing, giving you the option of sitting for a while to watch, or wandering around the grounds.

One of the additions that I have truly appreciated is the children's activity area. This area offers child-oriented activities for most of the day – everything from face-painting to games to crafts.

Septs and Honoured Names

Mackay Associated Names - Associated names have a hazy history. Sometimes they had more than one origin: also clouding the precise location of a particular surname might be that name's proscription or, of course, a migrant population. Even the spelling of surnames was subject to great variations, shifting from usually Latin or Gaelic and heeding rarely to consistent spelling. In early records there can be several spellings of the same name. Undoubtedly contributing to this inconsistency is the handwriting in official records, which was often open to more than one spelling interpretation. With regard to the 'Mac' prefix, this was, of course, from the Gaelic meaning, 'son of'. It

wasn't long before it was abbreviated to 'Mc' or 'M', until we have reached the position now where there are more 'Mc's' than 'Mac's'.

Alan	MacGee	McKie	Paul
Allan	MacGhie	MacPhail	Paull
Allen	MacGhee	MacPhial	Pole
Bain	McKai	MacPhiel	Polson
Bayne	MacKai	MacVail	Poleson
Kay	MacKay	Morgan	Paulson
Keay	MacKee	Neilson	Poulson
Macallan	MacKie	Nielson	Reay
MacBain	MacKey	Nilson	Scobie
MacCaw	McKay	Nelson	Scobbie
MacFail	McKey		Williamson
MacGaw			

*reprinted from our website

Gathering

The Gathering Edinburgh 2009

Join us at The Gathering Edinburgh 2009, Holyrood Park, Edinburgh, Scotland, the 25th and 26th July 2009.

The Gathering will take the form of an International Clan Gathering and the largest Highland Games ever held in Scotland, and will be one of the key events of Homecoming Scotland. This spectacular event will be made even more unique with a special Clan Parade on the Royal Mile culminating in a Commemorative Clan Pageant on the magnificent esplanade of Edinburgh Castle. It is hoped that all Clan and Scottish Associations will attend to celebrate Scotland's rich history and cultural traditions.

For further details please go to www.thegathering2009.com

The Gathering 2009 Ltd, 27 Queen Charlotte Street, Edinburgh EH6 6AX

Also if you plan to attend, let your Clan Mackay Association of Canada know as well, at morabob@rogers.com.