

A'BRATACH Bhan
the White Banner
the Newsletter of the Clan Mackay Association of Canada



A'Bratach Bhan (*The White Banner*) is published by The Clan Mackay Association of Canada

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Fall Newsletter 2008

Dear Clanfolk:

“LET’S GET
TOGETHER”, can there be any

nicer words in the English language. Well that is just what we did on June 14th. Our Annual meeting was topped with a Ceilidh and a dinner. We had an excellent turnout and the weather as well was perfect.

Our new slate of Officers and Directors for 2008-2009 is included on the side of this page. In looking back at the history of Clan Mackay, Canada, we have had three Presidents, William Mackay for 2 years, Grace Mackay Edgar, for 12 years, and at the end of my term in June, 2009, I will have served 15 years.

The hub of Clan Mackay is in and around the Toronto area. So if we have anyone in a wide radius of Toronto who would like to come on board and help us as a director or in any other field please phone or email me. We do realize our members are scattered all over Canada and the USA and cannot attend meetings, but you can assist us with suggestions, items for our newsletter and in other ways. Kinfolk, please keep up the great work.

The Scottish Homecoming 2009 - If anyone would like to attend, please let me send you out the information. So far we have about 10 people who will attend.

The Scottish Highland Games were well attended this year. At the Fergus Games, we had our 1st Vice President, Jamie Mackay, managing our part of the event. Also in Cambridge, and Fredericton NB, we had Mackays passing out literature and carrying our Banner. Thanks ever so much. It is nice to be a Proud Mackay.

Remember the good old days, when every bit of string was saved. Recycling is the in word. Save the Comics each day and wrap your gifts in this paper. Also purchase Shopping Bags to house your gifts, instead of Paper bags, again these can be used every day by your friends to pack their groceries.

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Always try to save on plastic bags, etc.

Our FALL meeting will be held on October 25, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. at 3665 Autumn Leaf Crescent, Mississauga. Phone me if you need directions. Anyone in this area can attend.

Barbara Mallalieu won the lucky draw for the "100,1000 Welcomes" plaque, donated by Leslie Kimove, the money from this drawer always goes to the Strachnaver Museum in Scotland.

Enjoy the Fall colours!

Mora Mackay Cairns

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The Culloden Battlefield Memorial:

Your Clan Mackay executive have purchased a double sized stone for the Culloden Walk in the Battlefield Memorial Centre. When you are in Scotland do try to have a look at our part of History.

More Scots fought against Bonnie Prince Charlie than for him during the course of this Campaign. As we know, Clan Mackay did not fight for Prince Charlie and was never a Jacobite supporter. Our Clan Chief and his clansmen always were loyal to the King of the day.

The Mackays that did fight that day were with the British army of the Duke of Cumberland. The Battle of Culloden was fought on April 16th 1746. On that day a 25 year old Charles Edward Stewart with some Polish blood and spurious Italian charm faced 25 year old Cumberland. Duke Cumberland was British but with strong German connections. He was a serious military tactician. In 40 minutes, 9000 Redcoats (British) had routed 5000 Jacobites (Prince Charlies' followers) and left about 1000 dead on the moor.

As a footnote: The Young Pretender took refuge on the Isle of Skye after he and his troops were routed at Culloden. He stayed here for 5 months. He was guided and protected by Flora Macdonald, a 19 year old girl from South Uist. The French eventually rescued the Prince from Borrodale, close to where he had hoisted his standard the previous year. Driven from Paris under the terms of the Anglo-French peace treaty, he set up house in Rome. Faithful old friends bore stoically with his arrogance and chronic alcoholism, while in Scotland the romantic legend of the "king over the water" took root. Even 100 years later, old fashioned lairds were still toasting the King's health. The toast goes like this "God bless the King –I mean the Faith's Defender / God bless (no harm in Blessing) the Pretender - But which the former is, and which the latter - God bless us all!

This is the first installment of an article submitted by Bert Mackay of Alberta:

The Story of the Three Mackays

James MacKay (1761 - 1822)

James MacKay was born on May 1st, 1761, at Arichlinie, Parish of Kildonan, in Sutherlandshire. Their family heritage went back to Lord Reay. And James' Great Grandfather, Great Murdoch MacKay was well known throughout Sutherland and Caithness for his personal strength and integrity at a time of constant clan battles and cattle thievery.

Eventually this died down, and in fact James' father George became a Clan Chief and Judge and was renowned for his fairness. At James birth in 1761, history decreed that favours were due the MacKays, as this was 16 years after the Battle of Culloden, and MacKays had fought on both sides of this conflict. The resultant bitter Highland Clearances and recriminations had created a minor genocide throughout Northern Scotland, and the Church was both a blessing and a curse. Non adherence was enough to be charged with blasphemy, but the "kirk" had decreed that everybody had to be able to read and write the Bible, giving Scotland the dubious distinction of being the most literate society in both Britain and Europe. 85% of all inhabitants could read and write.

James discovered as a child that learning came very easy to him. The family language was Gaelic, but at the small school he quickly picked up Latin and French and excelled in mathematics and geography. Musically he played the violin very well and was a good baritone singer.

In 1776, James and brother John met a trader from Canada who was looking for young men to emigrate and join the lucrative fur trade. The picture of adventure and prosperity persuaded them to sail on the 100-ton ship Andrew from Stromness, with a number of other Scots adventurers.

After 59 days at sea, the ship docked at St Johns Newfoundland to pick up supplies for the ongoing trip to Montreal.

Both James and brother John spent the next 20 years traveling and trading with many different nationalities as well as local natives. Both had a good knowledge of the outdoors, survival food, and probably best of all were able to pick up many aboriginal dialects. It was common for English, French, Gaelic, Native dialects, Spanish and other languages to be heard at the same time in the villages.

Both MacKays made their way south to the United States and James became very familiar with all the southern territories and its inhabitants. He easily conversed in their language. He knew their customs, and was highly regarded as a fair trader and one who could be trusted; he also had a great knowledge of medicine and helped many natives when illness struck. His travels led him to develop many maps with extreme precision. In fact he discovered the Yellowstone river and drew many trails for future travellers. His knowledge of astronomy ensured that he never got lost. His careful design and mapmaking was the basis for the famous Lewis and Clark expeditions throughout the Southern States.

The Federal Government recognized all of his many talents and made him Commandant of the St. Charles District of the Louisiana Territory.

James MacKay became one of the best known mapmakers and traders in the southern USA. His journals are now part of the distinct history of the early south, its

traders and travelers. James died in March 1822 after a short illness, a few years after his brother's accidental death. He left 7 children. Helmsdale Museum and the National Trust for Scotland have preserved his Scottish material and his entire story is captured in a fine book by Helen Ogden Widener titled "James MacKay, a Man to Cherish".

Highland Games - Georgetown, Ontario

The Georgetown highland games are a one day gathering in Georgetown ON in June of each year. There are all the draws of the larger festivals in a smaller venue. As expected, there is an avenue of the clans, vendors of all things Scottish (and British!) and the competitions that are always a part of every Scottish festival. In the true tradition of the Highland Games, there were dancing competitions throughout the day with every age from the smallest child to the almost adults - all of whom were highly skilled and entertaining. There was also an opening ceremony with the pipe bands and the marching of the clans - and all the associated tartans. All in all, it was an enjoyable outing which I am looking forward to repeating again next year!

Sarah Mallalieu

Cambridge, Ontario

The Cambridge Highland Games, held in July, features all of the events which we enjoy. There are pipe band marching, dancers competing, and athletes tossing heavy articles around in the Heavy Events. In spite of a weather forecast warning of rain, the Games were quite well attended, and even though it rained for a while in the afternoon, everyone seemed to have a good time. The Mackays attended this year for the first time, joining the other clans in the Avenue of the Clans where we met many Mackays who are live in the area, and signed up some new members for the Clan.

Barbara Bain Mallalieu



Colonel &

Mrs. John

P. Mackay Stillman

*The Clan Mackay Association of Canada
would like to offer their Congratulations and Best Wishes for the future to Colonel and Mrs
John P. Mackay Stillman on their recent wedding*



Cambridg

e Highland

Games

Pipe Bands on the move

RECIPES***SCONES***

3 cups all-purpose flour	3/4 cup Margarine
3/4 cup white sugar	1 egg
2 heaping teaspoons baking powder (don't level off)	3/4 cup milk (approximately)
1/4 teaspoon salt	Handful of raisins

Mix in a bowl. Using 2 knives or a pastry blender, cut in 2/3 cup margarine until mixture is crumbly. Break 1 egg into a measuring cup. Fill with milk to the 1 cup mark. Use a fork to mix egg and milk in the cup. Add to dry ingredients and mix. Add a handful (or so) of raisins or currants, if desired.

Use your hands to form mixture into a ball. (You may have to use more flour so that it isn't sticking to your fingers.) Cut the ball into 4 equal parts. Make each part into a small ball. Flatten small balls on a floured surface to make circle shapes about 3/4 inch thick. (I poke raisins into batter. If they're exposed, they tend to burn.) Score each circle shape into 4 parts.

Bake on a cookie sheet (I use one without sides. The recipe calls for a greased sheet but I've found it's not necessary.) in a 400 oven for about 18 minutes until lightly browned.

Makes 16 triangular pieces.

OAT CAKES

These little cookies are great with the Olive Spread that follows.

They keep nice and crunchy.

2 cups large flake rolled oats

1/2 cup walnut pieces

1 cup all purpose flour

1 tsp. baking powder

1/2 tsp. salt

1/2 cup cold butter

3/4 cup buttermilk

2 tbs. packed brown sugar

In food processor, pulse oats with walnuts until powdery yet with small pieces. Transfer to mixing bowl, Whisk in flour, sugar, baking powder and salt. Cut in butter until crumbly, stir in buttermilk to form stiff smooth dough.,

Form into ball, wrap and refrigerate for 30 minutes. On floured surface, roll out dough to scant 1/4 inch thickness. Cut cookies with 2 inch round cookie cutter. Place on parchment paper lined or greased baking sheets.

Bake 350 oven for about 28 minutes or until edges are crisp and golden. Store in Airtight container.

OLIVE-NUT SANDWICH SPREAD

6 ounces cream cheese (soft)
 1/2 cup chopped pecans
 1 cup chopped salad olives
 2 Tablespoons olive juice from the jar
 A dash of pepper (no salt)
 Mix all together, this will stay fresh in fridge for one week.
 Serve with Oatcakes or crackers.

NEW MEMBER / MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM
THE CLAN MACKAY ASSOCIATION OF CANADA
 C/O Mr. Harry McKay, Treasurer
 52 Mendota Street, Etobicoke, Ontario, M8Y 1G2
ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP
(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Street

Address: _____

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Home Phone: _____ Business Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Publish on our web directory: Name Phone #

E-Mail address Do not publish

Annual Membership Fee is \$15.00. Total Enclosed: \$_____

Why not consider paying two years at a time?

Please forward to the above address with your enclosed cheque.

Thank you for supporting The Clan Mackay Association of Canada.

<http://www.clanmackay.ca/>