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1

Tulach Ard

Clan MacKenzie Society in the Americas

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We still have about two dozen - or so - cookbooks left in stock, with several of our Tent Hosts and Vice Presidents having some on hand as well. So, if you haven't gotten your copy yet—contact us now; they'll make a great Christmas gift.

We were able to present a check to Cabarfeidh for \$2,315.00 along with a copy of the cookbook while we were in Scotland at the Gathering 2009. We also hope to be able to send another \$1,500.00 by the end of this year.

This edition of the *Tulach Ard* has an update on Castle Leod's restoration from Cabarfeidh including the most needed and urgent repair projects that could use our immediate support. Your continued personal contributions to the Castle Leod restoration Fund is always appreciated.

Results of Society Election

Dear Clan Members,

There were 195 ballots cast in the 2009 election. The results are as follows:

- Howard Mackenzie-Wright,
VP President Elect 194
- Jonathan M. Gordon, Secretary 189
- Jim Stump, Treasurer 188
- Claire Tobyne, VP Northeast 162
- Mimi Cook, VP Eastern 169
- Wayne Morgan, VP South 171
- Roy Poole, VP Southwest 165
- John McKenzie, VP Pacific/west 168
- Howard Mackenzie-Wright, VP Heartland 167

The discrepancy in the number of votes is due to the fact that some members chose not to vote for all of the candidates on the ballot. This is most evident in the totals for Regional Vice Presidents.

Respectfully yours,
James L. MacKenzie, Commissioner
Clan MacKenzie Society in the Americas

2009

Annual General Meeting Agenda
Clan MacKenzie in the Americas
Saturday, October 24, 2009 2:30 P.M.
Meadow Highland Games and Celtic Festival

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME:

Invocation:

READING OF THE MINUTES FROM 2008 AGM:

TREASURERS REPORT:

REPORT FROM CABARFEIDH:

REPORTS FROM REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS:

Northeast Region: Claire Tobyne

Eastern Region: Mike Lawler

Southern Region: Lynn McKenzie

Heartland Region: Howard MacKenzie-Wright

Southwest/Rocky Mountain Regions: Roy Poole

Western Region: John C. McKenzie

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

REGOGNITIONS:

INSTALLATION OF INCOMING PRESIDENT:

ADJOURNMENT:

Edinboro Scottish Festival

The Edinboro University of PA grounds were the setting for the annual Scottish Festival, but the date was different. Moving the Games from May to July meant that we had the usual gale force winds, but no wind chill. Amidst the usual heavy athletics, massed bands, highland dancers and good entertainment, I met a MacKenzie who was almost a neighbor!

Lisa Hughes and her family stopped by to introduce themselves and were gracious enough to take the banner and march in the opening parade. I couldn't leave the tent because I had to hold on to it so it wouldn't blow away. My son Dan was a big help as were Clan Hay and Clan MacAllister. We had four MacKenzies sign in, and I sold two cookbooks.



Historic 1st Clan Convention



The first ever Clan Convention, organized by the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs, was held in Edinburgh on Friday, July 24, 2009 in the Debating Chamber of the Scottish Parliament. Over 100 Clan Chiefs were present with about 300 of their international representatives to discuss how the Chiefs can use the clan system for increasing awareness of clan pride within Scotland, how to continue the growth of the clan societies abroad, improvement in the promotion of tourism to Scotland and other related subjects. It was recognized in Scotland that the Gathering provided for the largest assemblage of Scottish Chiefs since Sir Walter Scott's efforts at renewing Scottish identity after repeal of the Acts of Proscription and in conjunction with the State visit of George IV in 1822.

Col Wayne Morgan and I joined Cabarfeidh at the Scottish Parliament building that morning to begin the registration process and the opening of the program by Alex Ferguson MSP, Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament. His initial greeting was a "Welcome Home" Scottish Diaspora, in a heartfelt introduction that spoke of Scotland's long in coming recognition of the Diaspora, and its acknowledged importance to Scotland and the Scottish culture going into the 21st Century.

The opening presentations addressed subjects that would be discussed in the "breakout sessions" later in the day. These subjects were "The Role of the Clan in the 21st Century", "Scotland in the 21st Century", "The Global Scottish Community and its Clan and Kinship Links to Scotland" and "Clan Chiefs: Linking the Global Community to Modern Scotland". The comments were designed to "prime the pump" for active discussions in the smaller groups. In the final wrap-up session all of the comments and suggestions were summarized and presented by Danus Skene of Skene.

Our Chief, the Rt. Hon. The Earl of Cromartie, lead one of the afternoon sessions, assisted by the Chief of the Clan Leslie. Col Morgan and I were also in separate sessions of 30 to 40 attendees with each group having the same outline of discussion points.

Items covered: the recruitment through genealogy and clanship; fundraising for castles and lands; providing more information of clan history to instill even more pride in the family name; how to motivate and retain volunteers and how to increase international co-ordination. Points discussed on the subject of chiefs included: the importance of visitations to foreign societies at their Annual General Meetings and events; increase the exposure of the heir apparent to clan activities; certified genealogist networking with chiefs and members; perhaps a worldwide Council of Clan Societies working with the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs; how clan members should support and inspire the chiefs and the chiefs earning the members respect. An interesting perspective provided by a Clan Sutherland representative was their concern that the Sutherland Chiefs have been "wrongly identified" as being primarily responsible for the Highland Clearances, and hence a difficult time recruiting for their society... history remembered and alive.

The most problematic issue was how to increase awareness, pride and activity with the native Scots. Scotland, it's land and history, seem to be taken for granted. There is much more pride with identifying with one of the football clubs (soccer to us yanks) than with the family name. Many agreed that the further away from Scotland the stronger the ties to its history and heritage.

To me one of the biggest questions was how does this event and how the items discussed maintain momentum and begin to become finalized into action. Who will be responsible with continuing the discussion and encouraging the movement? While nothing definitive was indicated for the next step, I am hoping that the Standing Council of Chiefs has a plan for this, and that this plan includes the active members of the established Clan Societies.

It was absolutely a historic and significant "first step" and Col Morgan and I were proud and honored to be present representing the Clan MacKenzie Societies. Thank you for this opportunity.



Homecoming Scotland 2009

The Gathering 2009 was billed as the largest gathering of Scottish Clans and Chiefs since the 1822 visit to Edinburgh by King George IV. That event was instigated by the famous author, Sir Walter Scott with the help of a few of his friends.

This year's Gathering was attended by almost 100 Clan Chiefs and 125 clans and family societies, all assembled in Holyrood Park. The areas were well laid out with the Clan



Village, the athletic events and pipe bands and the performing groups all separated by enough distance as to not have any crossover of sound or activities.

The MacKenzie's began our events on Thursday evening with a wonderful Homecoming Diner at the Jewel & Esk College hosted by College Principal, Howard Mackenzie and his wife, Rachel. Our Guest of Honor was our Chief, the Rt. Hon. Earl of Cromartie, our Cabarfeidh.

Friday had the MacKenzie's split between attending the Clan Convention at the Scottish Parliament Building and preparing the MacKenzie tent in the Clan Village. We had representatives from Canada, New Zealand, Scotland, France, Norway and Col. Wayne Morgan and I with the USA society.



The tent was very busy with visitors beginning at 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. on Saturday. Lots of interest in the DNA project with Alan McKenzie from Canada on hand to field questions.

I did get out of the tent to watch Prince Charles officially open the games and to see our Drum Major Norman MacKenzie lead the massed bands before the Prince and Chiefs.

A surprise visit by Rod and Ruth MacKenzie's grandchildren highlighted our Saturday morning and the afternoon we were visited by fellow North Carolinians, Tim and Susan Arney. The Arney's elected to join the Clan MacKenzie there on the spot and we immediately put them to work hosting our USA table while Wayne and I attended the whisky tasting.

The estimated attendance for the two day event was 47,000 representing about 40 countries. Monday's newspapers indicated that plans were in the works for another similar event in 4 years time.

Saturday evening was the Clan March up the Royal Mile to Edinburgh Castle. While it began to look like "mass confusion" with us all cheek to jowl awaiting the beginning of the parade, which we felt began about one hour later than planned. It was quite a thrill to march together with approximately 8,000 various clan members to the cheering of the estimated 20,000 spectators along the mile and a half route. We had about 30 MacKenzie's in our group lead by Bradley MacKenzie from Colorado, who turned out to be quite a promoter of "cheers" for the MacKenzie's.



At the castle we were led to our assigned seats to witness a most moving performance, "Aisling's Children, Tales of the Homecoming". The mini-stories about generations of Scots and their role throughout history and in developing countries worldwide. Told by Aisling MacLean using her "powers of second sight" it is an allegorical trip through Scottish history, starting with the Declaration of Arbroath in 1320.

Sunday morning brought rain early on but the day cleared by 1:00 p.m. and the crowds once again came to the Clan Village to re-connect with their family name.

We had about 200 sign in the guest register with about 50% native Scots. We had brought 250 postcards, 200 bookmarks and 200 brochures from the USA Society and that stock was totally depleted by 3:00 Sunday afternoon.

Submitted by Don McKenzie