

THE SCOTS CANADIAN

Issue XI

Newsletter of the Scottish Studies Society: ISSN No. 1491-2759

Fall 2001

Scottish Studies Society Burns Night scheduled for January 26, 2002

The Scottish Studies Society is delighted to announce that the Toronto Colony Hotel has agreed to sponsor a Burns Supper on Saturday, January 26, 2002 with proceeds going to the Scottish Studies Foundation.

Arrangements are well in hand for an outstanding traditional evening with "worthies" already engaged for the "Address to the Haggis," the "Immortal Memory," and "The Lassies." To entertain us, we will have on hand, the Pipes & Drums of the 48th Highlanders, Highland dancers, fiddlers and singers.

The Festivities will run from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. and tickets, including a four-course dinner and entertainment, are \$75 per person available from Robert Stewart at 905-294-

4389 (e-mail: rstewart@pathcom.com).

Come and join us to celebrate in style the birth of the Scottish bard, Robert Burns. Book early to avoid disappointment. Special overnight rates (\$69) will be available at the hotel.

The event is the brainchild of Gordon Hepburn, a governor of the Scottish Studies Foundation. Many years ago while living in Scotland, Gordon was instrumental in organizing a series of famous Burns Suppers in Moscow in what was then known as the USSR. At a time when travel to and from Russia was fraught with problems, this was Gordon's contribution to international détente.

On one occasion, the event featured famous Scots actor John Cairney whose one-man show -- a re-enactment of Burns' life -- gained him word-wide acclaim. Gordon admits that despite the fact he emphasized to John that the Soviets would be primarily interested in hearing about Burns' egalitarian sentiments, John totally ignored this in



*Highland Dancer on board the Empire Sandy on Sept. 2
(More pictures on Page 6)*

favour of talking about Burns' more amorous adventures!

Secretary of State for Scotland attends Foundation's Fund- Raising Lunch

On October 23, the Foundation, in conjunction with the University of Guelph and the British Consulate-General, hosted a lunch in honour of the Right Honourable Helen Liddell, the Secretary of State for Scotland in the UK Parliament.

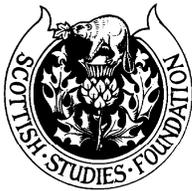
The lunch was aimed at raising the profile of the Scottish Studies Program at the University of Guelph with key individuals both in Canada and the UK.

Representatives from the University of Guelph and the Foundation explained that the fundraising campaign for Scottish Studies now underway at Guelph and has now made significant progress. In conjunction with the funds raised by the Foundation, the goal of establishing a Chair of Scottish Studies is almost within our grasp.

It was stressed to those present that they have a wonderful opportunity placed before them: A chance to put Scottish Studies on the map here in Canada and create an institution to stand the test of time. With their support, talents, creativity and ideas, our goal could well become a reality.

Scots Wha Hae

*a desire to nurture and preserve
their heritage in Canada
are invited to join*



THE SCOTTISH STUDIES FOUNDATION

*a charitable organization
dedicated to actively supporting the
Scottish Studies Program
at*

The University of Guelph

Charitable registration
No. 119253490 RR0001

Website: <http://www.scottishstudies.ca>



*Stamp issued in the former Soviet
Union to honour Robert Burns.*

Letter from the Chair

Dear Fellow Members,

Much has happened since my last letter and the world is a changed place since the terrible events of September 11. It's hard to believe that only a few days before, Foundation members and guests were enjoying themselves out on Lake Ontario on the *Empire Sandy* as you can see in the accompanying photographs (page 6).

Then it was easy to believe that the planes that flew overhead during the CNE Air Show might only be for our amusement -- spectacular displays of extreme sports, not instruments of war.

The stirring sounds of the pipes were for our enjoyment on the *Empire Sandy*. But a few days later their haunting strains took on a more sombre aspect as they accompanied the victims of the devastation in New York to their final resting places.

It's sad that we never seem to learn from the past. It's a long time indeed since Robert Burns expressed hope for the time ... "That man to man, the world o'er, shall brothers be for a' that."

But life goes on, and I am pleased to let you know that the campaign for Scottish Studies that is being coordinated by Bruce Hill and Rudy Putns of the University of Guelph's Development Office continues to bring in substantial sums of money that will go towards funding the Chair. Since the last newsletter, we have received gifts and/or pledges of over \$150,000.

In particular, we have received \$50,000 from the H.W. Kinnear Foundation, \$50,000 from the Wilson Foundation, \$25,000 from CAE Ltd., \$25,000 from Doug Reekie and \$3,000 from William and Nona Heaslip. We also received an anonymous donation of \$1,500.

This, of course, is absolutely wonderful and I am sure you will join me in thanking these donors for their support and generosity. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Hon.

Alastair Gillespie and Iain Ronald for their efforts in presenting our cause and soliciting support from potential donors.

Thanks is also due to Peter Agar and Stan Calder from the office of the British Consulate-General for their support in putting in us touch with the Right Honourable Helen Liddell, the Secretary of State for Scotland. Ms. Liddell was paying a brief visit to Canada and despite some last-minute changes to her schedule, we were able to organize a lunch at the National Club in Toronto to which potential donors were invited.

Ms. Liddell gave a very lively and informative talk bringing everyone up to date on the "new" Scotland in light of devolution and the Scottish Parliament which has been in place in Edinburgh for the last two years.

She explained how the role of the Scottish Secretary of State had changed since devolution.



Photo: Mary DiBiase Blaich, New York Times

The Pipes are Calling

The New York Fire Department Pipe Band in a funeral procession near Ground Zero, sadly a scene all too familiar to TV viewers throughout the world. The bravery of New York's firefighters won them international sympathy and respect.

"We have to march. We're there for the families, for the families of members." Joe Murphy, Piper, NYFD

"When I saw the devastation in New York I realized that, at times like these, whether we are Scottish, Canadian or American -- nationality does not matter. This is a crime against humanity." Rt. Hon. Helen Liddell, Secretary of State for Scotland.

As I mentioned to those attending the lunch, all of us are now living in what the experts are calling the "Information Society" and it seems to me that the business of Scottish Studies and establishing a Chair at Guelph ties in very nicely with this concept.

Culture is now an extremely complex activity. It's an industry involving many different disciplines -- academics, historians, artists, writers, musicians, archaeologists, geologists and so on. It now depends on the skills of those involved in an information infrastructure that can instantaneously make all types of information available to anyone anywhere in the world. It also generates a tremendous amount of business for the printing, travel and hospitality industries. Just one more reason for endorsing our cause.

In closing, I should mention that our Treasurer, Alan McKenzie, has just closed the Foundation's books for fiscal 2000-2001. In view of this, we would like to plan the next Annual General Meeting as soon as possible. We will be looking for volunteers to serve on the executive of both the Foundation and Society at that time, so if you would like to recommend anyone, please let us know. In the meantime, on behalf of the Foundation, I thank you all for your encouragement and support.

Sincerely,
David Hunter



The Right Honourable Helen Liddell, Secretary of State for Scotland with Dr. Ed Stewart, Past Chairman of the Scottish Studies Foundation and Dr. Kevin James from the Scottish Studies Program at the University of Guelph. A British attaché is in the background

Secretary of State for Scotland describes the "New Scotland"

On October 23, the Foundation, in conjunction with the University of Guelph and the British Consulate-General, hosted a lunch in honour of the Right Honourable Helen Liddell, the Secretary of State for Scotland in the UK Parliament. The following is an excerpt from her speech.

Two years ago Scotland established its own parliament for the first time in 300 years. Prior to that, the job of the Secretary of State (there's been one for the past 116 years, and I'm the first woman incidentally) was responsible for running what would be the equivalent of about 13 different departments of the United Kingdom government. Now my job is to work with the new Scottish Parliament to look after the areas of power that are still reserved for Westminster -- macroeconomic policy, defence, foreign affairs, pensions, social security and to be the voice of Scotland in Tony Blair's cabinet. I'm also the representative of that cabinet in Scotland.

The new Scottish Parliament has given a great boost to the Scottish economy and its morale. The logjam in getting Scottish legislation through Westminster is no longer an issue. Unemployment is at an all-time low and we now have one of the highest percentages per capita in the world of students enrolled in university.

Scotland has a very important market here in Canada. Canadians bought some 239 million pounds worth of goods and services from Scotland. But it's not just manufactured goods that are important -- tourism is crucial to our economy -- 150,000 Canadians came to Scotland last year and we want to welcome even more!

I've got the impression that some Canadians of Scottish extraction still have a picture of the old "smokestack" image of

Scottish industry. But now it is very much based on a "high tech" economy. Science-based industries such as biotechnology (remember Dolly the sheep was cloned in Scotland!), computer software, imaging and animation are thriving. 90 percent of the computers used in Europe are made in Scotland. Our fashion industry is huge (our cashmere is the best in the world). You only have to look at the Paris and Milan catwalks and you will see the best of Scottish fashion products there. Scotland is a vibrant and exciting place that now wants to do even more business with Canada.

We want to use all people of Scottish descent in Canada to open doors for us to ensure that the bond of friendship between the two nations is strengthened even further to our mutual advantage. My message to all Scots in Canada is to come and be part of this exciting new venture.

Calgary Tartan Design Competition

The City of Calgary has an extensive Scottish Heritage and takes its name from Calgary Bay on the Isle of Mull in Scotland. This area had family connections for Colonel James MacLeod of the North West Mounted Police, who actually named the city.

Over the years, many Scots or their descendents have played a prominent role in the growth of the city and in December 2000, the Calgary City Council endorsed the development of a Calgary tartan to recognize their contributions.

The St. Andrew - Caledonian Society, Calgary's oldest Scottish cultural organization, was asked by Council to undertake the task of coordinating this initiative. The Society was formed in 1884 and its first President, George Murdoch, became the first Mayor of the Town of Calgary.

The Society invites design



Rt. Hon. Helen Liddell in an enthusiastic discussion with Neil Carragher of the Canadian-Scottish Philharmonic Foundation

proposals from interested members of the public which will be evaluated by a selection committee, and the selected design will be proposed to City Council for adoption as the Calgary tartan. The selection committee consists of nine volunteer members of diverse backgrounds who represent a broad spectrum of the community.

The winning entry will receive \$1,000 at a presentation award to commemorate the special event.

Over the years, the City of Calgary has adopted a number of symbols. The city crest and flag come immediately to mind. The Society hopes to see widespread participation in this competition, with the end result being a tartan that citizens of Calgary, regardless of origin, can wear with pride.

Anyone interested in submitting a design may do so providing they are willing to waive the copyright of their design in the event that it is selected as the winning entry.

Please keep in mind that the primary use of a tartan is in producing a woven fabric. As such, only a maximum number of seven colours can readily be accommodated by commercial weaving looms without causing undue manufacturing problems.

Design proposals must be submitted to the St. Andrew-Caledonian Society of Calgary, PO Box 82003, Scarboro Postal Outlet, 1400 - 12th Avenue SW, Calgary AB, T3C 0N0 and be clearly marked *Calgary Tartan Proposal* on the outside of the envelope. Information on the competition is also posted on the Society's website at <http://www.standrew-caledonian.ab.ca>

Ed: Thanks to SSF member David Fionn Clarke of Calgary for letting us know about this.



Rt. Hon. Helen Liddell, in conversation with 1998 Scot of the Year and former CEO of the Royal Bank of Canada, John Cleghorn

News from the Scottish Studies Office

Fall Colloquium features regulation of Scotland's culture and society. *New Scottish History Magazine Launched*

by Rob Falconer

On October 13, 2001 the Scottish Studies Program at the University of Guelph hosted its annual Fall Colloquium. For the past 27 years, the Scottish Studies Fall Colloquium has highlighted key areas of research being undertaken in Scottish history and literature.

Once again, this year's Colloquium was attended by members and supporters of the Scottish-Canadian community, as well as leading academics in the fields of Scottish and Scottish-Canadian literature, history and politics.

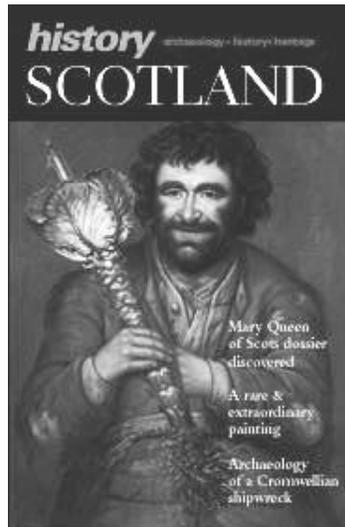
With speakers from Canada, the United States and Scotland, a variety of topics, including Scottish contributions to Canadian Literature, Scottish Health Policies, and the new Scottish Parliament underscored the Colloquium's theme: "Regulating Culture and Society in Scotland." As well, the Scottish Studies Program was pleased to have Professor Keith M. Brown as the Plenary Speaker; Dr. Brown was the recipient of the Frank Watson Book Prize. Professor Brown's paper on the Scottish Nobility in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Scotland made for a brilliant conclusion to an already remarkable day.

As always, the tremendous support of the Scottish Studies Foundation, the University of Guelph and the Scottish Studies Program made the day possible. For all who were in attendance this year and to those who were unable to attend, we hope that you will be to join us again next fall.



Jacqueline Murray, Dean of Arts at the University of Guelph presents the Right Honourable Helen Liddell with a copy of Jane Urquhart's novel, The Stonecarver. Ms. Urquhart is a Graduate of Guelph.

The annual Fall Colloquium of the Scottish Studies Program was also the venue for the North American launch of a new magazine, *History Scotland*, exploring Scottish history, archaeology and heritage. The magazine includes interviews with leading historians and explorations of important themes and



events in the development of Scottish culture and society. *History Scotland* is aimed at a wide readership, including not only professional historians, but also all people with an interest in Scotland's past. Free copies of the first issue of the magazine—a companion to the hugely successful *History*

Ireland—were distributed to all who attended the Fall Colloquium. The launch in Scotland in October, at the Royal Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh, was attended by nearly three hundred people, and was presided over by the Historiographer Royal, Professor T.C. Smout. Guelph was

selected at the site of the North American launch of the publication, which indicates the profile that the Scottish Studies Program at the

Ulster-Scots Funding Received

Following the January visit of the Chairman of the Ulster-Scots Agency, Lord Laird of Artigarvin to the University of Guelph, and subsequent visits by Professor John Wilson and Dr. Billy Kelly of the University of Ulster, the two universities concluded a funding agreement to support student research at Guelph.

Under provisions of the "Good Friday Agreement" aimed at promoting the study of cultural heritages in Ireland, the Department of History at the University of Guelph has received funding from the Ulster-Scots Agency and the Institute of Ulster-Scots Studies at the University of Ulster for a three-year post-doctoral fellowship.

The holder of the award will receive a stipend of between \$25,000-\$35,000 per year, and will have teaching opportunities within the Department. The holder will examine some aspect of the history of Scottish settlement in Ulster and/or the Ulster-Scots population abroad. Topics may include the structure of Ulster-Scots settlement in Canada; aspects of community development in Ulster or Canada in historical perspective, including relationships between Ulster-Scots and other populations; and the position of Ulster-Scots in the commercial, political and cultural framework of Ulster, Canada or elsewhere.

Professors Cathy Wilson and Kevin James in the Department of History at Guelph have both undertaken research on the nineteenth-century Ulster-Scots, who are descendants of Scottish settlers in Ireland who migrated across the Irish Sea, and who were particularly important during the plantation and settlement of Ulster in the seventeenth century.

The fellowship is currently being advertised, and the holder is expected to begin research at Guelph during this academic year. This funding agreement builds upon contacts between the Foundation, the University, and Scottish community in Canada and Ulster, and provides support for the continuing development of the Scottish Studies program at Guelph.

University of Guelph has abroad. Details of the publication and subscription information are available on the magazine's website: www.historyscotland.com.

Ulster-Scots in Canada

by Brian McConnell

Brian is a lawyer by profession but has been researching and writing about Ulster-Scots heritage in Canada for several years. Before completing a degree in law at Dalhousie in Halifax, he obtained an Honours Degree in History from Queen's University at Kingston, Ontario and was accepted into the M.A. program there but opted for law school.

Between the beginning of the colonial period and the end of the twentieth century it is estimated that more than 500,000 people arrived in Canada from Ulster.

The three Maritime Provinces of Canada, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, was where many of the Ulster immigrants first came and holds the record for a number of firsts because of this.

In 1760 the first large group of settlers from Ulster to come to Canada settled the Townships of Onslow and Truro, Nova Scotia and founded the town of Londonderry. Many had come from Londonderry, New Hampshire where they had settled approximately 40 years earlier after departing Londonderry, Ireland.

The founders of Londonderry, Nova Scotia were so-called Ulster-Scots, persons of northern Irish background whose forebears had previously lived in Scotland. Many had arrived in Ireland during the Plantation period of the seventeenth century although Scots had been coming to the north of Ireland for several hundred years prior to that. Two hundred and twenty-nine families with surnames such as McNutt, Kennedy, Taylor, Blair, McLellan, McCurdy, Morrison, and Wilson settled Londonderry, Onslow, and Truro Townships of Colchester County, Nova Scotia.

One of the most famous Nova Scotian political families was also included in this group of Ulster Scots who originally came from Londonderry, Ireland. This was the Archibald family and perhaps the most noteworthy descendant was Sir Adams George Archibald who was born in Truro,

Ulster refers to the old province of Ireland which at one time included three counties now in the present Republic of Ireland (Donegal, Cavan, and Monaghan) and six counties now in present-day Northern Ireland (Antrim, Armagh, Down, Londonderry, Tyrone, and Fermanagh).

Nova Scotia in 1814 and was a delegate to the Charlottetown, Quebec and London conferences that created Canada in 1867. Later he was Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Manitoba and then succeeded Joseph Howe as Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Nova Scotia.

Other well known members of the Archibald family included Samuel George William Archibald, who later became chief justice of the Province of Prince Edward Island and Charles Archibald who became President of the Bank of Nova Scotia in 1918. In recent years the family has been represented by Gordon Archibald, retired President of Maritime Telephone and Telegraph Corporation, and his son, George Archibald, Progressive Conservative member for Kings North in the Nova Scotia legislature.

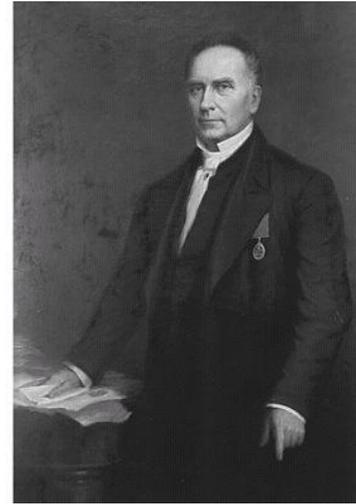
In the 1840's the first large number of immigrants arrived in Prince Edward Island from County Monaghan departing by the port of Belfast. By 1850 one quarter of the Island's population was Irish and in the capital of Charlottetown more than 40% were from Ulster.

Many of the Ulster immigrants to Canada continued to experience close involvement with Ireland. This link was demonstrated during the debate over Home Rule for Ireland early in the twentieth century, which had been largely opposed in Ulster. The beginning of World War I suspended the issue but after the war ended the debate continued in Canada and it was encouraged by the establishment in 1924 of the Self-determination League of Canada and Newfoundland in Toronto.

An immigrant of Ulster Scot ancestry, Lindsay Crawford, was elected President of the League at its first national convention. Crawford toured the Maritimes but received a rough reception. In Sydney, Nova Scotia supporters of the union of Ireland and Great Britain filled the hall he was to speak in and made it difficult for him to deliver his speech. In Fredericton, New Brunswick town officials simply barred him from speaking. The partition of Ireland into Northern Ireland and the Irish Free State (predecessor of the Republic of Ireland) caused the self-determination league to lose its relevance and fold.

Lindsay Crawford followed in the tradition of many Ulster Scot immigrants to Canada who became active politically. Robert Baldwin (1804-1858) who led the movement for responsible government in Upper Canada (now Ontario) was the son of Ulster-Scot settlers. James Boyle Uniacke, Nova Scotia's first Premier was the son of Ulster Scots.

The early Ulster immigrants were active in forming cultural associations and in supporting education. Once such association which still meets today is the Saint Patrick's



Ulster-Scot, Robert Baldwin (1804-1858), an Upper Canadian reformer who attained responsible government for his province in 1848

Society of Saint John, New Brunswick which was formed in 1819. The earliest of the Maritime Irish groups was the Charitable Irish Society of Halifax founded in 1786.

In the field of education, Ulster Scots immigrants also played a significant part in promoting and founding the establishment of educational facilities. One example was Charles Allison, a prominent merchant of Ulster-Scot descent who had left the Church of England to become a Methodist bought land at his own expense and opened a school in Sackville, New Brunswick in 1843. In 1858 Mount Allison's degrees received official recognition and in 1875 it granted the first degree ever to be received by a woman anywhere in the British Empire.

The history and traditions of the Ulster Scots immigrants to the Maritimes and other parts of Canada are promoted by the Ulster Scottish Society of Canada which was established in Halifax in 1995. This non-profit society which is also non-political and non-religious has members throughout Canada. Further information about the Society can be obtained by contacting its Secretary, Robert Fisher, at 2346 Agricola Street, Halifax, N.S. B3K 4B6 or its President, Brian McConnell, at P.O. Box 1239, Digby, N.S., BOV 1A0

"In Ireland there are three main divisions of the people, - the Irish, the Anglo-Irish, and the Scoto-Irish (or Ulster-Scots), which are represented by the three principal Churches, the Roman Catholic, the Protestant Episcopal, and the Presbyterian. These do not entirely coincide, as some of the Anglo-Irish are Catholic, and some of the Scoto-Irish have become Episcopalians, but roughly speaking the three divisions may be distinguished according to the Church to which each belongs. All these people are largely of Celtic origin." Source: Reverend James Barkley Woodburn, "The Ulster Scot: His History and Religion", London, H.R. Allenson, Limited, 1914

Perfect weather for Tall Ship Cruise

Blue skies and light winds made the perfect day for the Society's 10th Sailing Cruise on the *Empire Sandy* on September 2. Both morning and afternoon cruises were filled to capacity with everyone thoroughly enjoying themselves on the two voyages out on Lake Ontario. On board the ship we were treated to the stirring sound of the pipes of Bill Cockburn and John Wakefield and to the intricate steps of the Georgina Finlay Dancers.

The event raised over \$3,000 for our cause so a big round of applause is due to all members and friends who came out to give support. Special thanks is also due to Robert Stewart for publicizing the event, to Alan McKenzie for organizing it and to Ed and Anne Patrick for enduring the heat while keeping a track of tickets and bookings at the dockside.

The annual cruises commemorate the arrival of the "Hector" in Canada in 1773. The "Hector" carried the first wave of Scottish settlers to Pictou, Nova Scotia. In later years, that first wave became a flood of Scots to Canada.



Photos:

A full shipload of enthusiastic participants wait for the ship to sail from Toronto's Harbourfront (top right). Tall ship *Empire Sandy* rocks to the steps of traditional Highland and Scottish Country dancing (middle two on right). Ed and Anne Patrick on duty at the dock (bottom right). University of Guelph Scottish Studies professor Dr. Kevin James and his fiancée Monica Rieck (above) sun themselves on board the ship while listening to the stirring sounds from pipers Bill Cockburn and John Wakefield (top left).



From the Mailbox

Scottish Studies Society
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2482 Yonge Street,
Toronto, ON M4P 3E3
info@scottishstudies.ca

We need the words!

I thoroughly enjoyed my sail on the Empire Sandy last Sunday and have to congratulate the organizers for a great event. You made a good job of putting on first-class weather too. But here's a suggestion -- how about handing out song-sheets so we can have a good old singalong? Makes it easy when you know the words. Just a thought.

Mary Fletcher,
Oshawa, Ontario

Ed: OK will pass it on. Makes sense as long as we're all on the same page!

The mystery of the "mhic"

Just a note to the Editor: Thoroughly enjoy continuing receipt of *The Scots Canadian*. Thank you for the excellent quality.

Nevertheless, a wee quibble about *From the Mailbox* in the Summer edition. I believe that our Gaelic for Mac is *mac*, not *mhic* (which would require the pronunciation, at least in Uist, of "vichk"), when *mac* is used simply as the descriptive "son of". If one is addressing the *mac*, however, then one can make a better case for *mhic* - if you'll pardon the pun.

*leis gach beannachd bho Antony
Cunningham, Patron.
Toronto, Ontario*

Ed: Oops! Sorry about that Antony. I'm afraid my comment was a bit confusing. Here's another letter:

I agree with your analysis of the "Mac or Mc?" question in the Issue X letters. You might refer to Philip D. Smith's excellent *Tartan for Me!* (page 3). I note that Unicorn, Ltd., of Bruceton WV, an excellent Scottish book supplier, regularly uses the "M" convention. I disagree, however, with your addition, "Mac (in gaelic: mhic)." In gaelic (actually, "a' Ghàidhlig na h-Alba") it is still "mac." The "mhic" you provide is the genitive case, so you might see Anndra MacDhòmhnail mhic an t-Saoir, "Andrew, son of Donald the carpenter's son." (Remember, the final "i" in a masculine noun itself almost always represents the genitive case.)

To me, however, a bigger problem seems to be to be reflected in the two fine people on page 3: Kathy Macmillan and Michael MacMillan. Following the 1745 Stewart debacle, among the English reprisals was the forbidding of the Scottish custom of using the upper case in the middle of the patronymic word. As indicated above, the "Mac" introduces "son of"; so we should have MacAoidh (MacKay), son of Aodh; MacDhòmhnail (MacDonald), son of Donald. As this was clearly a Scottish, and more so a Highland, custom, it was anathema to the English and their subsequent imposition of a school system. It is they who

required that the upper case be dropped.

So, it would seem to me that, if we of Scottish descent wish to recognize our earlier Scottish customs, we should at least revert to the upper case convention. This is not that easy, however, in our computer age with its mail-merge systems. They do not like an upper case letter in the "middle" of a word. (Let's have the French with their "du-" and "de-" join us in this battle.) We have to fight to get mailers to use it. After all, "MacAoidh" just doesn't cut it.

So, let's see that upper case spelling. That is, of course, if we do not wish to use the Gaelic spelling of our names, as was my choice. Alba gu bràth!

*le deagh dhùrachd,
Andrew MacAoidh Jergens
Cincinnati, Ohio*

Ed: OK. Now that we seem to have got the Mac/Mc Scots/Irish issue straightened out, let's move on to the "mhic." (Although I have a sneaking suspicion that we will be hearing about the upper case/lower case issue soon!)

As Andrew MacAoidh points out, "mhic" is the genitive case which indicates possession. We encounter this frequently in Scottish place names and in complex patronymic (a name derived from the father or paternal ancestor) surnames.

For example, the name MacIntyre in Gaelic is Mac an t-Saoir (son of the carpenter). But Clan MacIntyre in Gaelic would be Clann Mhìc an t-Saoir (Clan (or children) of the MacIntyres.)

The vocative case of "mac" is also "mhic." So when calling or speaking to someone, one would say "a mhic" as Antony Cunningham points out in his letter.

Thanks to Rhoda MacRitchie of Willowdale, Ontario and Colin Blyth of Kingston, Ontario for their help with this.

A couple of famous Scottish "Mhics"



*Clach Mhic Leoid (MacLeod's
Stone)*

People first came to the Island of Harris during the Bronze Age leaving many standing stones which can now be visited. MacLeod's Stone (Clach Mhic Leoid) is a 3-metre high standing stone likely located on the site of a previous burial cairn. The stone seems to tilt in the direction of St Kilda. The island in the background is Taransay.



*Coire Mhic Fhearchair
(Farquharson's Corrie)*

On the north side of Beinne Eighe in the Torridon Highlands, it is one of the most impressive natural amphitheatres in Scotland. (By the way, a corrie is a steep-walled, bowl-shaped basin carved out of a mountain.)

Two Generation Patronymic Byname

Two-generation patronymic bynames were sometimes used in both Gaelic Scotland and Ireland. These bynames are formed from the names of the individual's father and grandfather (father's father).

The standard way to form a name using a two generation patronymic byname for men is:

<single given name> mac <father's given name>
mhic <grandfather's given name>

which means:

<given name> son <of father's given name>
(of) son <of grandfather's given name>

for example, Donnchadh who is the son of Fearchar mac Domhnaill would be: Donnchadh mac Fearchair mhic Dhomhnaill

which means:

Donnchadh son of Fearchar son of Domhnaill
or, fully Anglicized: Duncan son of Farquhar
son of Donald)



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