



Clan Pringle Newsletter

July 2020, Issue 2



Smailholm Tower

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Editorial Team



Derek



Erika



James M



Pam

From the Editorial Team:

Dear Friends,

I recall one morning while sitting in my High School classroom, the Principal dropped in to check on attendance. He simply called out each student's name and each responded "present" as usual. That morning, after the Principle left the room, one of my classmates said "Pringle you have a fancy name". I asked what did he mean to which he responded "It has that ring sound in it, as if it were spelled 'Priinnle' ". Our English teacher overheard the comment and said "His name is his identity. No one else in the classroom responds to that name". The teacher then added "Let's read today a very famous quote about your name". She proceeded to cite William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet and wrote these lines on the blackboard:

*What's in a name? That which we call a rose,
By any other name would smell as sweet
So Romeo would, were he not Romeo called,
Retain that dear perfection which he owes
Without that title. Romeo, doft thy name:
And for thy name, which is no part of thee
Take all thyself.*



It's a great question "What's in a name?". As my English teacher pointed out one aspect of it is my identity. And yes, it means much more than that. Sir Walter Scott wrote these words, "The honourable name of Pringle, or Hoppringle, is of great antiquity . . ." He was drawing attention to the fact of a long ancestral heritage reaching back to earliest records in the thirteenth century.

Our name distinguishes us from other names. In our case it also indicates the area of origin. The webpage describes it this way, "It is a Scottish place-name and is derived from the name of our original homestead 'Hoppringle' in the parish of Stow of Wedale...." Our Christian names were given to us individually in our families, but our surname came down to us through our ancestors from many generations before. We inherited it from our fathers. For some of us in this Association our link to Pringle heritage is through maternal ancestry. Either way, let us here say, all are welcome in our family.

So, in this issue of our quarterly newsletter we draw attention to 'name', and we are asking for what thoughts, feelings, identity awareness, etc. do you attach to your name? We invite your comments on this subject. We invite you to write a response sharing your thoughts or your stories about the "name".

The Editorial Team: *Derek, Erika, James and Pam*

CLAN PRINGLE ASSOCIATION UK

Annual General Meeting will be held virtually on Friday July 31, 2020. All members are invited to participate. Details on becoming a member (£15 sterling) are available on the website. We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to participate in the annual meeting and be involved in the Clan Association.

www.clanpringle.org.uk

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Pringle's in History – Abolition, Slavery, Plantations and Colonialism – Part 1

About thirty years ago, in Toronto I saw a sign that said *Pringle Jerk Pit*. Surprised by the name I thought I would venture in and see what they had for dinner. Jerk, is a Jamaican style of preparing meat which is tastily spicy. I asked the proprietor where the name of the restaurant came from and she said it was their family name and they came to Canada from Jamaica. I produced my driver's licence to prove my name and asked her if maybe we were related. She burst out laughing and said, "probably not".

Today you can do a quick search for the name Pringle on Wikipedia and discover a rich history of Pringle's that include a lot of traveling and adventure during colonial times. These include a prominent slavery abolitionist from Scotland (Thomas Pringle 1789- 1834) - who spent time in South Africa and a seemingly benevolent plantation owner in Jamaica (Sir John Pringle 1849-1925) that influenced the development of the country. There are many more. In the next few issues, I hope to explore this past in greater detail. Please send any tips you may have to garrypringle@yahoo.ca.

Garry Pringle, Toronto, CAN

A Pringle Voice of Yesteryear Speaks Directly to Our Time

Two hundred years ago, this year, a young man, by the name of Thomas Pringle, left his native Scotland and set out with a group of family members for South Africa. This was part of a public scheme to grant property to British people and settle them in that part of the world.

Because of a childhood accident Thomas Pringle was not able to engage in much physical labor. As a result, he spent most of his six years in South Africa travelling on horseback, writing extensively on his observations of the area and of the people he met there. Along with his regular writing and reporting he produced an extensive quantity of poetic verse, which earned him the title 'Father of South African Poetry'.

Before leaving South Africa, he wrote on his observations of the native African people and how they were being treated, or mistreated, by European immigrants and settlers. These writings caught the attention of some people back in England, such as Wilberforce and some others, who were already raising concerns about the slave trade and treatment of enslaved African peoples. After returning to England in 1826, Thomas Pringle was appointed Secretary of the Anti-Slavery Society. For the next eight years of his life this 'cause' became his prime purpose and passion. In this period, he is credited with producing at least half of all the written materials for this cause in Britain. In 1834 a document was published signed 'Thomas Pringle' reciting the Act of Abolition. Shortly after his death, which took place later that year, the British Parliament outlawed slavery.

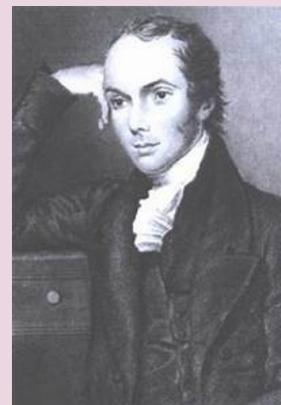
We learn that Thomas Pringle was a moral man of faith and humility, a man who taught and lived the principles of justice and equality. This year, with the killing of George Floyd in the US, the issue of racial justice and the treatment of African Americans has been brought forcefully to our attention. Thomas Pringle's moral voice speaks directly to this crisis in our time. Almost two hundred years ago the Pringle name was at the forefront in the cause of racial justice. Pringles today will do well to hold up his life, his Pringle name, as a model to emulate and an example to follow.

Thomas Pringle is buried in Bunhill Fields, London, his stone bears the following tribute:

*Sacred to the Memory
of
Thomas Pringle*

*...
In the walks of British literature he
was known as a man of genius:
In the domestic circle he was loved
as an affectionate relative and a
faithful friend:
In the wide sphere of humanity he
was revered as the advocate and
protector of the oppressed:*

*...
Having lived to witness the cause in
which he had ardently and energetically
laboured,
Triumph in the emancipation of
the (enslaved people)*



Thomas Pringle

*...
(The book "Thomas Pringle – Life and Poems" edited by William
Haye , J.C. Jutta & Co, 1912 was used as a source for this article.)*

Derek Pringle

Alexander Pringle—My Grandfather

At 70, I am the same age my grandfather, Alexander Pringle, was when I was born. He was 1st generation English, born in 1880 at Ponsborne Park, outside London. His father, John Robertson Pringle, head gardener at Ponsborne, was born near Edinburgh. His father, Alexander, was head gardener at Drum Estate, and an elder at Newton Kirk. Our Pringle family was centered for many generations in the Pencaitland area farming many different lands including Templehalls (my direct ancestors), Milton and Lampuckwells. They were descended from the Pringles of Fountainhall (Woodhead) who in turn were descended from the Pringles of Torwoodlee.

My grandfather led an adventurous and varied life. At 21 he became engaged to my grandmother, Edith Joyce. He emigrated to Saskatchewan, Canada to farm land acquired through the Canadian Homestead Act or the Dominion Lands Act. He met up with his brother Philip also "homesteading". He cleared the land for farming, assisted by locals and Indians he befriended. Seven years later, after constant correspondence, he returned to England, and married my grandmother. They sailed back to Canada to the farm. They had a daughter, Edith, but after 3 years of frozen and failed crops and a sickly child, they sold up and emigrated to Iliion NY where my grandmother's relatives had emigrated and were working at Remington Arms.

My grandfather worked at the "Arms" and then purchased and expanded a heating oil/auto/tire repair business in Herkimer NY. My mother Dorothy was born in 1921. The business flourished until the Depression. He returned to Remington, this time as a tool maker for Remington Typewriter. He retired in 1945 to a small farm outside Oneida NY, doing what made him happiest - growing things- flowers, gardens and livestock. He provided so many things for his family- the best sweet corn and tomatoes, asparagus, raspberries, fresh milk, meats, eggs, and his pride - an incredible tulip garden. This was my first home in 1950.

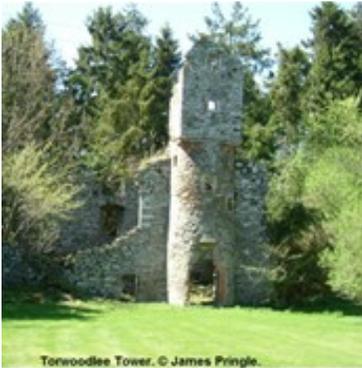
He, like his brother, was an amateur inventor, patenting a steam engine valve. When I was about 8 he built a beautiful cedar and redwood dinghy. He was proud of the over 500 brass screws used in its construction. Today, that same boat is now serving fun to his great great great grandchildren!

In 1970, I took my first trip to Europe spending time in England with relatives. I brought back stories and photos of things my grandfather had not experienced since leaving in 1908. He was

90 by this time and keen to re-live his memories through photos. He died at his farm in 1971, the last of his many siblings. I learned most of his Scottish history after he died. My mother and I have visited Scotland several times exploring, family, and records. My grandfather was quiet, industrious, curious, talented, and hard working- all things I have found so characteristic of the Scottish people I met. So even though my grandfather was born in England he certainly carried the Scottish Pringle aspects with pride and success in North America.

Bob Schneider Syracuse, NY

A Message From The Homeland:



Torwoodlee Tower. © James Pringle

Despite being locked-down for three months, I have been diligently working away at the next phase of rehabilitating Torwoodlee Tower. Some time ago I decided, with little or no evidence, that our Pringle forebears were most probably bright and civilised people who would have enjoyed attractive surroundings. This led me to wonder what should be planted around the ruin of

the Tower to replace the Norway Spruce and Lawson's Cedar, planted in my father's time, and which the estate staff (and I occasionally) felled and extracted during the winter of 2019-20.

I am hoping this coming winter to plant about 300 Scottish (preferably local) apples, pears and damsons to create the start of a larger orchard of heritage trees which might one day produce jams, chutneys, juice or ciders to raise some funds for the ongoing maintenance of the Tower; naturally only decent tasting local varieties will be considered!

I am in conversation with Historic Environment Scotland, who look after and control Scotland's heritage and ancient monuments among other duties. I hope they will agree this is an acceptable idea which I should be allowed to pursue.

I have an old hand-drawn map from 1780 (just as the Tower was abandoned for our nice new modern mansion, built in 1783) showing gardens on the south-facing slopes below the Tower and what could be gardens around the Tower itself. Whether that is the correct moment in history to choose to emulate is a debate I still have to have with the 'authorities', but I have hope that we might be able to persuade history that the Torwoodlee Pringles, at least, were sophisticated, peaceful souls unlike the 'Elliot, Armstrongs and other lawless clans' surrounding them!

The prospect of the addition of glorious blossom and the potential of a local skilled job or two in years to come allows me to remember that there will be a post-pandemic life to plan for and to enjoy. I hope that you will come to Torwoodlee to help me enjoy this reminder of simpler times.

James W Pringle. Torwoodlee, Scotland

Genealogy—Research Tips & Strategies

1. Since starting the Clan Pringle Association website around 15 years ago, many people have emailed me asking about their family trees. Unfortunately, I am not a genealogist and do not have the expertise to look up their family tree. Until recently there was a gentleman, by the name of Burt Pringle in America, who had spent years researching Birth, Marriage and Death certificates of Pringles around the world and had built up quite a genealogical resource. However, he has now retired and has

donated his documents to the LDS Church.

Many Pringles around the world have uploaded their Family Tree's onto: www.myheritage.com and www.ancestry.com. If you join these sites you will be able to link your tree with theirs and further extend yours. However, they are both pay sites and only members can see the information, so it would be helpful if Pringles would enter their family trees on to www.wikitree.com/genealogy/pringle which is a free site. By putting your own genealogical research onto this free website, you will help other Pringles, who may well be distant relative of yours, with their research and that will help us to link Pringles together worldwide.

If there are any Pringle Genealogists out there who would like to take a lead on Pringle Genealogy, either worldwide or in a specific country or even a specific branch of the Pringle family, please contact us as it would be greatly appreciated if someone would be prepared to help other Pringles with their genealogical issues and research.

James M Pringle, London England

2. When I decided to research my great grandmother, Elizabeth Pringle, I did a number of things. Firstly, I asked my father what he remembered about his grandmother. While that did not answer any in depth questions, it provided me with a sense of who she was as a person. This is important. It is a link to another generation and brings the person you are researching to life. I know this cannot always be the case for everyone you research but, if you do have someone who can link you to the past, take advantage of that.

With some groundwork laid, I got on my computer. I had a copy of Elizabeth's baptismal certificate. The handwriting was difficult to read. I wrote the letters I could make out on paper and then wrote them into Google. After a couple of tries, I had the exact location of where she lived in Ireland. From there, I joined Ancestry and plotted in the information I now knew. It was incredibly helpful in my search because I was able to find information about her family. I discovered she had siblings, which was a wonderful surprise, and I found her passenger papers from when she left Londonderry, Northern Ireland, and arrived in Ellis Island, NY, USA.

As I researched, if I got "stuck," I found it immensely helpful to switch to another branch of my family. My head would clear, and I could return to where I had been researching with renewed inspiration. I remember looking up various towns and villages in Ireland, Scotland and England. I saw pictures/artist renderings/drawings of places where my ancestors once lived, bringing home to me who they were during the years in which they had lived. I know it was a difficult life for Elizabeth's family, she emigrated to America for a better life. I do hope she found what she was looking for.

Erika Leonard, NJ US



Robert Pringle in Baitingbush, First Baron of Stichill

In the 1600s there were two contemporary Robert Pringles: Robert Pringle in Baitingbush, and Robert Pringle of Woodhead Writer to the Signet. While these two Roberts have sometimes been confused, documentation has helped us to identify the life and activities of Robert in Baitingbush.

Robert Pringle (b. c1581 and d.1649) lived in Baitingbush, in the debatable lands, for more than 25 years as Baillie to the Earl of Buchleuch. He married Catherine Hamilton of Silverton Hill. He

was the second son of George Pringle of Craigleith (d.1602) and Margaret Kerr. His elder brother was the second George Pringle of Craigleith (d.1631), leaving two sons: the elder James of Craigleith (d.1635), who in turn left a son Robert who died without issue in 1667; the younger was Robert in Caverton and later Newhall who died without issue in 1672. The lands of Craigleith, Caverton and Newhall then reverted to Robert Pringle in Baitingbush's male heirs. Robert in Baitingbush was Treasurer Depute Scotland in 1613 and MP for Roxburghshire (1639 -1641). In 1643 he was also appointed a collector of funds for the Scottish army in Ireland and a Commissioner of War for Roxburghshire and the Berwick shires.

He made his fortune by 'uplifting the fines and casualties' levied by the Jedburgh and Dumfries courts within the bounds of the Border Commission for the Treasurer. He was paid a percentage of revenues collected. So much did he make that he was able to purchase a number of estates in 1628 from Sir John Gordon of Lochinvar and the Greenknowe estate and tower before 1649 from the Marquis of Huntly.

Charters under the Great Seal of Scotland created the free Barony of Stichill which granted to Robert Pringle and to John Pringle his eldest son and his heirs and assignees whatsoever the lands and Barony of Stichill with the fortalice, manor, loch, mills etc. thereof, which he had acquired from Sir John Gordon of Lochinvar later Viscount Kenmure, Lord Lochinvar etc and John Belsches of Tofts by resignation by them dated 30 July 1628. Confirmed by them on 31 July 1628.

Parliamentary Ratification was given on 17 November 1641 of two charters, one to Robert Pringle then in Baitingbush and now in Stichill, and the other to John Pringle his eldest son of the whole of the lands and barony of Stichill his heirs and assignees whatsoever heritably and perpetually. The charters also contained the gift of *novodamus*, with the union of all in a whole and free barony to be called the Barony of Stichill.

By his wife Catherine Hamilton of Silverton Hill he had issue, four daughters and a son John who predeceased his father. John's son Robert was the second Baron of Stichill and first Baronet of Stichill. He married Margaret Scott, illegitimate daughter of the first Earl of Buccleuch.

Sir Norman Murray Pringle of that Ilk and Stichill, 10th Baronet

Sources: NAS, PA2/22, f.347r-347v, Burkes Peerage c2009, *Our Journal into Scotland* written by C Lowther on 5 Nov 1629, *Records of the Pringle or Hoppringles of the Scottish Border* by Alex Pringle, *The Pringles of Fountainhall and Soutra* by Alex Pringle, James Bruce Pringle

Comment Section

The Editorial Team were very pleased with the response to the first issue of the Pringle Newsletter. We are grateful for each response and very appreciative to those who submitted the various articles. This is the purpose of this Newsletter – to interact and engage with each other on items of common Pringle interest. Individual family stories and pieces of ancestry lore or information is what it's all about.

The following are comments made about the last issue:

- “Very nice Newsletter. I enjoyed it” (Jen)
- “Well done” (Howard)
- “Very interesting. A good read for all Pringles” (Doug)
- “Newsletter is great. Really well done. Fantastic job everyone” (Bill)
- “The Newsletter is fantastic, and I hope will bring the Pringle family closer, and with that a host of new members and anecdotes. Well done. Thank you” (James)
- “Many thanks for our team’s hard work in putting together the Newsletter” (Sir Murray)

We look forward to more comments, responses, or questions from all readers as we move forward. We would love to know where our readership is located, please use the link and share.

Comments, Questions & Locations

CPA New Zealand will be present again in "Clan Corner" at the HORORATA HIGHLAND GAMES November 7 in Canterbury. hororatahighlandgames.org.nz To connect with other Pringles in New Zealand contact dmprings@gmail.com David Pringle

CPNA Joins CASSOC

CPNA has renewed its membership in the Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada (CASSOC) for 2020. This is our 2nd year to be a member. CASSOC is a link between various Clans and Scottish Societies located primarily in Canada. They encourage the celebration of our Scottish Cultural Heritage and the promotion of Scottish Culture in all its aspects. Once the restrictions due to COVID-19 are lifted CPNA hopes to take a more active role in this organization. For information and their newsletter visit www.cassoc.ca. If you are a Pringle (or know any) in Canada) contact garrypringle@yahoo.ca



A 'GATHERING of PRINGLES' Clan Pringle Association of North America

November 7th 2020, Ch...

James W Pringle, Cl... Pringle, and 14th laird
The Pringle Est... Southern Borders, Scotland

- All... invited to attend.
- Pringle story from 13th century Hoppringill.
- ancient castles, towers, and other Pringle sites.

Find links to your Family Tree – and much more!
(Updates will be posted on the Clan Pringle NA Facebook page.)

INTERNATIONAL PRINGLE REUNION

Plans are already beginning for a special event to be held in the Scottish Borders. This will coordinate with the... hours of Pringle ancestral sites... and there will be special celebrations... appointment of our new Pringle Clan Chief, Sir Murray Pringle.



Postponed 'til further notice

Share Your Stories

- * You have a story to tell; how you found a family contact, a fun incident, a surprise find.
- * A unique Pringle man/woman – their noted accomplishments, good character, scandal.
- * Tell us about your primary interest in the overall Pringle story?
- * Offer ideas or suggestions about how to prevail with ancestry research.
- * You've got a question – perhaps some other Pringle reader has the answer.

Next Issue: October 2020. Please submit your article (**500 words or less**) by October 13 as a word document to the email below.

pringlenewsletter@gmail.com

Some of you may feel you are not authors

*But we say:
"Why not give it a whirl".
Share your Pringle story.*

The Editorial Team is ready to help/edit wherever it is needed.

Click [here](#) to have Newsletter sent to your email