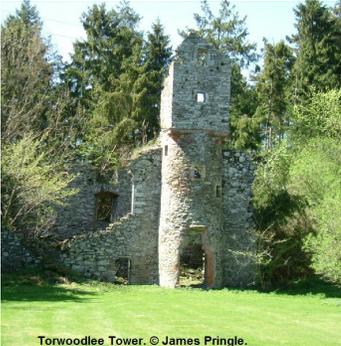




# Clan Pringle Newsletter

October 2020, Issue 3



Torwoodlee Tower. © James Pringle.

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## Editorial Team



Derek



Erika



James M



Pam

### From the Editorial Team:

Dear Friends:

In our last Pringle Newsletter, the editorial page focused on the theme “what’s in a Name?” We acknowledged that the origin of the Pringle surname comes from a specific location, Hop-ring-hill, in Southern Scotland. It was only in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century, or early 17<sup>th</sup>, that the name’s spelling settled as Pringle. Today, let us continue to ask whether there is anything unique or characteristic about the Pringle surname. We think there is!

The Pringle family motto for many generations has been inscribed in the Latin words “Amicitia Reddit Honores”. The usual translation is written as “Friendship gives Honours” Some have written it as “Friendship reflects Honour”. (Perhaps we have a reader who is a Latin scholar who may be able to give some further insight).

“Friendship” – that’s a beautiful thing, something each of us value in our circle of family and friends. There is a well known verse of a poem which describes it this way:

*“True friendship is a joyous thing and gives us happy hours.  
A friendless life would be so drear like gardens without flowers.”*

The great Scottish writer, Sir Walter Scott, wrote “When true friends meet in an adverse hour, tis like a sunbeam through a shower.” Most of us will agree that we value true friendships, those that last through hard times or whenever we have differences. Such friendships give us strength and a little “joi de vivre”

Well here’s a thought. We who have the surname Pringle, and all of Pringle descent – wouldn’t it be special if we were known by others around the world as being good friends? Can we, who claim this motto, practice it in all our relationships, particularly through the uncertain times of a pandemic when we do not shake hands, or through the period of a presidential election for example? The November 7<sup>th</sup> “Virtual Pringle Gathering” will give us opportunity to share friendship with each other and share possible ancestry connections and sources (see announcement on page 2).

So, what are your thoughts about our family motto? Do you see any pathways along which we could promote it? Could we make this part of the purpose or mission of our clan? We would like to hear your thoughts. Submit them [here](#)

We conclude with the words of a well-known Irish toast:

*“There are good ships, and there are wood ships, and ships that sail the sea.  
But the best ships are ‘Friendships’, and may they always be.”*

With friendship to all – The Editorial Team – Derek, Erika, James and Pam



### CPA Board of Trustees

<b>Chairman</b> - James W. Pringle of Torwoodlee, 14th Laird, Scotland	Alastair Pringle, England
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James M. Pringle, CPA Website Administrator	Derek Pringle, NA Rep. USA



# A Virtual Pringle Gathering

## Saturday, November 7, 2020

### 2:00 – 3:30pm

Hosted by Clan Pringle Association North America

*To all Pringles and Pringle descendants:*

- Come and join together VIRTUALLY for an informal Gathering
- Meet James Pringle 14th Laird of Torwoodlee, Scotland, Chairman of the Clan Pringle Association
- Share your family story/history
- Discover links to your family tree
- Make some new Pringle connections

*Please use the link below to register by November 1, 2020*

*Details and a link for the Gathering will be emailed to registered participants prior to the event*

[\*\*Register Here\*\*](#)

Just a year ago the CPANA Steering Committee began to make plans for a Pringle Gathering event. The planned location was Charleston, NC. Then the unexpected happened. As we saw more media talk about the dangers of covid-19 we decided to put plans on hold. By the time we reached June it was clear that the Fall in person Gathering would not be possible. Over the next few months many of us became familiar with doing meetings virtually, so when the suggestion was made to have a “Virtual Pringle Gathering” the steering committee unanimously agreed.

We can still meet and get to know other Pringles and Pringle descendants. Therefore, we are putting out a “friendly” Pringle invitation. We invite you to register now. The purpose of the Gathering is to get to know each other and to share family stories. Tell us about your Pringle connections and how far back you can trace your family tree. Through this sharing we will discover new links, new connections and have lots of fun.

Once you register, we will email you the link for the Virtual Gathering so you can join the conversation on November 7. Welcome All!!



## MY JOURNEY TO THE CHIEFSHIP

By Sir Norman Murray Archibald MacGregor Pringle of that Ilk and Stichill, 10<sup>th</sup> Baronet  
Chief of the Name and Arms of the Honourable Clan Pringle

On 5<sup>th</sup> January 1683 King Charles II granted letters patent to my ancestor Robert Pringle second Baron of Stichill, and “his male heirs from his body” the dignity, title, grade, and honour of Knight Baronet.

The Pringle Y-DNA Surname Project (the Project) started in April 2009 and was originally hosted by DNA Heritage. In April 2011 Family Tree DNA acquired DNA Heritage and the Project continues to this day. The Project incorporated a search for a Chief of the Clan (details are posted on the Clan Pringle website). Customarily, the Chief is the highest-ranking member of the family.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2013 an eminent forensic scientist provided an Expert Opinion concerning the Y-DNA results and evidence from the project, including the statement of Professor Dr James Dewey Watson. The expert opinion was to Court standards, and accompanied by a Statutory Declaration supporting my claim for succession to the Baronetcy of Pringle of Stichill.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2013, I lodged a Petition in the Lyon Court to matriculate the arms of Pringle of Stichill and to claim the Chiefship.

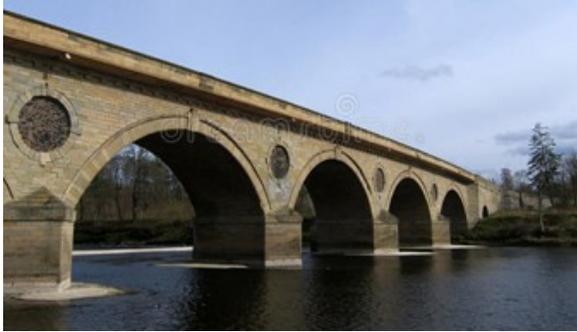
The Warrant of King Edward the Seventh dated 8<sup>th</sup> February 1910 provides that the Roll of Baronets can be revised and corrected from time to time. I delivered the documents comprising my claim to the Pringle of Stichill Baronetcy to the Assistant Registrar of the Peerage and Baronetage on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2013.

Subsequently, under section 4 of the Judicial Committee Act 1833, Her Majesty The Queen required the Board, comprised of seven Supreme Court judges, to advise as to (i) who is now entitled to be entered on the Official Roll of the Baronetage as the Baronet of Pringle of Stichill and (ii) whether the evidence resulting from DNA samples from the Pringle Y-DNA Surname Project should be admitted in order to determine the first question. The Board accepted the DNA evidence and concluded that Norman Murray Archibald MacGregor Pringle is the grandson of the eighth baronet and is, as the heir male of the first baronet, entitled to succeed to the baronetcy of Pringle of Stichill and advised Her Majesty accordingly on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2016. The Crown Office confirmed that DNA evidence has never before been used to settle any claim to a hereditary title.

Following my successful claim to the Baronetcy of Stichill, the Lyon Court heard my revised Petition for the Chiefship of Clan Pringle on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2019. My Petition was supported by the evidence of Mr Gordon MacGregor, genealogical researcher, with a successful outcome reached in the Lord Lyon’s Findings and Reasons published on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020. (See lists of Pringle Clan Chiefs on next page).



## Prioress Isabella Pringle



*Bridge on river Tweed at Coldstream*

In the 16<sup>th</sup> century a strong stone-built Abbey stood near the river Tweed at Coldstream in the border area between Scotland and England. During this period several cross-border battles took place. The Battle of Flodden occurred in 1513 with very heavy casualties. The Prioress of the Coldstream Abbey at that time was a Pringle woman named Isabella Hoppringle. When she learned of the casualties who fell at Flodden, she was determined to give them Christian burial in consecrated grounds.

In the first week of August each year, this act is commemorated. A sod is cut at the site of the battlefield and carried back to Coldstream in a moving ceremony to commemorate the actions of Prioress Isabella Hoppringle. Isabella was the daughter of Adam Pringle of Burnhouse.

In the same year, Queen Margaret fled and found protection at this Coldstream Abbey. She found Prioress Isabella to be a congenial and intelligent hostess. Later in 1523, Queen Margaret would urge her supporting troops to spare the Abbey “because the Prioress is one of the best spies we have in Scotland.” In our July newsletter we noted how Thomas Pringle, Secretary to the “Anti-Slavery Society”, was an example of moral character and active leadership in a worthy cause. In Prioress Isabella we have another Pringle of moral leadership as she arranges for the burial of fallen soldiers. Regarding Queen Margaret’s famous quote, some question whether she was a spy for the Queen and disloyal to her Scottish heritage. Perhaps she simply showed the Queen some Pringle “Friendship” and, in that she secured the protection and safety of the Abbey, demonstrated her ability as a competent and shrew diplomat!

The Pringle family produced four successive noteworthy Pringle Prioresses of Coldstream Abbey covering about one hundred years (1489-1588). In order: Margaret, Isabella, Janet and Elizabeth.

(More information on these accomplished Pringle women can be found on the Clan Pringle website under the “site map” section and “Coldstream”. Thanks to James B. Pringle for his research and writings on this area of interest.)



*Comemorative Cross, Flodden Battle site*

## CHIEFS OF CLAN PRINGLE

1. Robert: appears in a charter contained in the Chartulary of Soltre c.1265 in reign of Alexander III
2. Thomas: appears in a charter of Robert de Lauder, miles, Dominus de Quarlewood in reign of King Alexander III, according to Nisbet's System of Heraldry p.360.
3. Elias: appears as Elys de Obrinkel in the Ragman roll
4. Thomas: squire to William 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Douglas
5. Adam: squire to William 1st Earl of Douglas and James 2nd Earl of Douglas - he probably fell at Otterburn
6. William d. 1390/1: mentioned in the Great Chamberlain's account for year ended 1390/1 and first to be designated Hoppringill of that Ilk, a contemporary of Adam
7. Adam: received from Walter Haliburton of that Ilk by charter all his lands of Fawneys (Fans) as son of the late William
8. William d.1458/9: appeared as William of that Ilk on an inquest in Lauder on 31 October 1440 under Laurence of Abethnethy re lands of Samuelston (MSS Duke of Athol and Earl of Home)
9. Adam d. 1494: of Burnhouse, Royal Guardsman, grandson of Adam 2 inherited Fans and received by charter the lands of Caverton forfeited by Robert, Lord Boyd and recovered Hoppringill in 1480
10. Alexander d.1530
11. John d.1555 sons George and William household servants of James V, Robert prebender of Arniston
12. Thomas d.1566: sons James in the Bow, tutor, and Archibald of Torquhan
13. James d.1606
14. John d.1626
15. James d.1669
16. George d. 1684: sons James of Rowchester, John factor to the Earl of Lauderdale
17. John d.1737: daughter Margaret, heiress
18. Gilbert Pringle d.1765 by right of his wife Margaret
19. Sir Robert Pringle Bt (4<sup>th</sup> Baron of Stichill) d.1799
20. Col. Sir James Pringle Bt (5<sup>th</sup> Baron of Stichill) d.1809
21. Sir John Pringle Bt (6<sup>th</sup> Baron of Stichill) d.1869
22. Major Sir Norman Pringle Bt d.1870
23. Col. Sir Norman William Drummond Pringle Bt d.1897
24. Capt. Sir Norman Robert Pringle Bt d.1919
25. Sir Ronald Steuart Pringle Bt d.1968
26. Sir Norman Murray Archibald MacGregor Pringle Bt

*Sir Murray Pringle  
Clan Chief*

## COMMENTS MADE IN RESPONSE TO OUR LAST QUARTERLY PRINGLE NEWSLETTER (July 2020).

"I very much enjoyed reading the second Newsletter ...well done for all your work". (Priscilla)

"Great newsletter. Thank you ...nice group of articles". (Bob)

"Another fantastic Newsletter! Thanks to all who contributed!". (Bill)

Editor's comments; (1) Re Big Plans for the Torwoodlee Tower;

We were very excited to read Laird James W.'s article concerning his hopes and plans for "the next phase of rehabilitating Torwoodlee Tower". Having cleared the area around the Tower he now plans to plant as many as three hundred fruit trees, restoring the orchards and gardens to what was present in the eighteenth century. This is no doubt quite a large project with a number of interesting positive outcomes. (And we strongly applaud the need to secure these gardens so that those wild "Elliotts, Armstrongs, and other lawless clans" will not raid the property or steal the fruit !!)

When this Pandemic is all in the past, and life in the Scottish Borders is back to normal, it would be great to have an International Gathering of Pringles come assemble and celebrate at this grand old ancient Pringle heritage site, right there in the heart of Pringle country.

Editor's comments; (2) Regarding the proposal by James Michael, CPA website manager;

We want to support James M. in calling attention to the "WikiTree" site. There is a great deal of Pringle information on this site and it is free to all. We'd like to encourage all to take up James's suggestion. He wrote "it would be helpful if Pringles would enter their family trees on to [www.wikitree.com/genealogy/pringle](http://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 relatives of yours, with their research and that will help us to link Pringles worldwide."

Following reading James's suggestion, I visited this site and found myself browsing over its various sources of information. Then I took the step of inserting my name and four generations of ancestors.



Yes, why not give it a try? Even if you are able only to enter three or four generations, it's a start, and sometime, maybe soon, you may find yourself linked to another branch of the wider Pringle family.

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](#)



## Pringle's in History – Abolition, Slavery, Plantations and Colonialism – Part 2



Thomas Pringle (1789 to 1834) hailed from a small farmhouse south Kelso in the borderlands. The son of a tenant farmer whose roots were in the Whytbank area he suffered a physical disability and directed his talents towards journalism, poetry, and later activism. After university in Edinburgh he began his literary efforts by transcribing records while at a government position and then proceeding with start up journals and magazines along with his first published book of poetry (*The Autumnal Excursion*). Longing for nature and adventure his acquaintance Sir Walter Scott encouraged young Thomas to emigrate to South Africa as part of the Scottish diaspora and British colonization efforts.

Thomas led a group of over 20 Scots on a long ship journey to South Africa to establish a colony. Once the colony was successfully established, he embarked on a number of journeys which are described in his books *Narrative of a Residence in South Africa* and *African Sketches*. Although setting up a school and again starting up newspapers (which were censored by the Colonial government) he could not make a living as a teacher and journalist. He left South Africa but his experience with indigenous peoples and cultures left a strong impression. He went on to be a secretary at the Anti-Slavery Society which was instrumental in formulating the Slavery Abolition Act of 1833. If you are interested in Thomas Pringle search his name at <https://archive.org/> and you can freely download a number of his books.

Garry Pringle, Toronto, CAN

## 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:** January 2021. Please submit your article (**500 words or less**) by **January 1**  
*to the email below as a Word doc or within the body of your email*

[pringlenewsletter@gmail.com](mailto: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