



Clan Pringle Newsletter

January 2022, Issue 8

Smallholm Tower 2019 © James Pringle.



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Editorial Team



Derek



Erika



James M



Pam

From the Editorial Team:

Ancestry through the Ages

Dear Friends,

We are seeing a significant increase in interest in Ancestry in our generation. However, such interest is not totally new in human history. We can look back to a period in Judean Christian history, called the Patriarchal Period, four thousand years ago, and find how important it was to know who the ancestors were. In the Book of Genesis, for example, we meet with a great man called Abraham. We are given the names of his ancestors for eight generations before him. (Gen. 11). Abraham is given a unique role with a promise “I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations” (17, 5). This unique role is perpetuated through his son, Isaac, and his grandson, Jacob, who in turn fathered twelve sons, the heads of the twelve tribes of Israel.



Later on, around one thousand BC, we have a period when Israel is led in a monarchy system. King David is a great and successful king. His son Solomon succeeds him to the throne, and he is followed by his son, Rehoboam. But here the kingdom becomes divided. David’s descendants share his DNA of course but they do not have his vision or leadership competence. Historians, like to remind us of this weakness in a nation’s leadership system where responsibility is passed along to the descendants of a specific family. Similarly, this issue gets raised in Clan leadership where a Clan Chief’s son does not possess his father’s aptitudes or values, or perhaps has no interest in walking in his father’s footsteps. While we say “blood is thicker than water” descendants do not necessarily follow their ancestor’s footprints.

Again, if we look into the New Testament, we find continued attention to ancestry. There is a wonderful genealogical listing in Matthew 1. Here there is a record of fourteen generations from Abraham to David, and fourteen from David to the Exile, and again fourteen from the Exile to the time of Jesus. There is a little irony here in that the ancestry line for Jesus is traced down to Joseph, who of course has no DNA connection to Jesus.

Well, interest in ancestry has been around for four thousand years. It often delivers interesting and surprising tales. Sometimes we discover an ancestor who accomplished great things, or, on the other hand, we might discover the family’s secret scandal in the closet. As we find interest in the stories of our ancestors, we are reminded that how we live, and what we do, will paint the picture of a unique ancestor to be discovered by future descendants. Hopefully, they will be able to remember us kindly, in keeping with the guidance of that old ‘ancestral’ commandment, “honor your father and mother...”

If you have some thoughts on this aspect of human history, or on our clan’s ancestors, we invite you to [share them with us](#).

The Editorial Team

CPA Board of Trustees

Chairman - James W. Pringle of Torwoodlee, 14th Laird, Scotland	Alastair Pringle , England
Secretary - Sir Murray Pringle, 10th Bart. , England	Andrew Pringle, England
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James M. Pringle, CPA Website Administrator	Derek Pringle, NA Rep. USA

A Message from your Chairman:



Happy New Year to you all; and may 2022 be a more open and relaxed year that hopefully will lead to something resembling normality.

I recognise that we all may have hoped exactly that a year ago, but viruses are nothing if not survivors and one of their most successful strategies is mutation; Delta and now Omicron are the result and we can expect more greek lettered nasties to appear, albeit we hope they may continue the 'more contagious but less deadly' theme.

Because of that and the continued threat of transmission, our Trustees have debated and decided that the proposed Clan Gathering in the Scottish Borders in 2022 should be postponed (yet again) until the summer of 2023 when I hope that we might be able to gather together in real life and enjoy the fellowship of the global Pringle family. I much regret needing to make this decision but it is in all of our best interests to put off social gatherings until it is prudent and safe to enjoy wholeheartedly.

Here at Torwoodlee we have survived so far; we test regularly, meet fewer people than we might like but enjoy the meetings we feel safe with and are all as well vaccinated as we possibly can be. The weather will soon think about turning to spring and we'll be able to venture outside more to enjoy the good, clean Scottish air where any viruses tend to be blown away in the wind.

God Speed and Stay Safe.
James, 14th of Torwoodlee

HAPPY★NEW★YEAR

Note: There are eight members on the board of trustees of CPA. Chairman James, Sir Murray, James M and Derek you have met in previous issues of the Pringle Newsletter. The Editorial Team is asking the others to introduce themselves to our readers. This issue features a self-introduction from Andrew. Thank you, Andrew, and welcome to the Newsletter.

Andrew James Edward Pringle

A Self-Introduction

I have been on the board of trustees from the formation of Clan Pringle and the Scottish charity registration in 2012. Throughout my whole life my father, James Bruce Pringle, has been an avid genealogist and family historian and his research has been pivotal in providing documentation to help determine the Clan Chief (Sir Norman Murry Pringle) who is my father's brother. My first recollection of his keen interest was on a two-week visit to Scotland when I was around 8 years old. We visited Torwoodlee's estate, and I remember the warm friendly welcome and being given peacock feathers after seeing the amazing rooms in the house. We also explored the large gardens which included seeing Torwoodlee Tower.

We visited places associated with the Pringle surname, such as Smailholm Tower, Melrose Abbey, and Carla House, which was being renovated at the time. Unfortunately, I missed out on Buckholm Tower, however, my sisters, in particular, remember the tower as a place where people had been executed. This gave them nightmares for the next few days. (I was fortunate to see the tower myself during the Clan gathering in 2014.) Our trip continued northwards where we stayed a week in Edinburgh where my father took himself off to the Central library frequently to further his research.

Apart from the odd visit to Glasgow for work purposes, I did not visit Scotland as a tourist again until the summer of 2014 when many Pringles came together and stayed several nights at Broadmeadows in Selkirk. We also visited Carla House in Galashiels, which is now restored, where they discovered a painted ceiling that had been covered up for many years.

This trip was really the start of the Clan Pringle journey for me as it was where we met other Pringles from around the world and saw the history as an adult. It's disappointing that we cannot arrange a follow-up gathering this year but let's hope 2023 proves a little less problematic.



At Broadmeadows:
parents
James Bruce &
Rosemary Pringle,
with Eloise



Broadmeadows House



Eloise and I visited Melrose Abbey in June 2014

'PRINGLE COUNTRY' – SCOTLAND'S SOUTHERN BORDERS

In this map you can see the Pringle surname entered below Kelso on the Tweed River. The surnames in the surrounding area were of course Pringle neighbors – Youngs, Burns, Halls, etc. See also to the left the name Douglass to whom many Pringles served as squires for several generations.

Most of us will find that when we do the DNA test many of these names will appear as related to us. Many of these names appear with those settling in Northern Ireland in the early part of the seventeenth century. Again, as we know, many move on to the USA or Canada when they find out that they are disappointed by their livelihood in Ulster.

In this map you can also see the Cheviot Hills which throughout history served as that physical barrier between Scotland and England. And to the south you can see the historic Hadrian's Wall.

Derek

Map showing the Border Reivers



We want to thank Sir Murray for submitting an article on his personal life journey giving Pringles worldwide a chance to "Meet the Chief". Normally we suggest articles be under 500 words. What is offered here this month is 830 words and covers the first half of his very active life. Our April 2022 issue will continue this story.

THE UNUSUAL LIFE OF A SCOTTISH CLAN CHIEF

Sir Norman Murray Archibald MacGregor Pringle of that Ilk and Stichill Bt, Chief of the Honourable Clan Pringle

I was born in 1941 in Chunya on the Lupa Gold Field in the Mbeya Region of Tanganyika (now Tanzania). Rather eerily, I was responsible for legally making the Tanganyika Gold Company, Iron Ore Company, and Coal Company dormant some 35 years later, when I worked for The Commonwealth Development Corporation in London. My father was the 9th Baronet of Stichill, and the 25th Chief of Clan Pringle (judgement given in 2016 and 2020 backdated to when he was 14). The story of my journey to the Chiefship was published in the CPA Newsletter, April 2020.

At the age of six I went to the European preparatory boarding school in Mbeya. It had two terms, one five months and the other three. My mother had taught me to read, and encouraged by Headmaster Richard Archer Wallington MA (Cantab) OBE, I developed a lifelong love of literature. My secondary education was at Saint George's College, a Jesuit boarding school in Salisbury Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), where the late President Robert Mugabe's sons were educated. To ferry my brother James and I to and from school, along the length of Lake Nyasa (now Lake Malawi), my parents hired an Otter single engine plane with floats, piloted by a Polish WW2 veteran. We moved to Kenya when I was 14 and my brother and I attended St Mary's School in Nairobi, run by the Holy Ghost Fathers. The current President of Kenya, Uhuru Kenyatta, also attended St Mary's.

Like my father and all my uncles on both paternal and maternal sides, I worked as a tea planter with Brooke Bond. After 11 years in Kericho I was seconded as GM of a tea company in Nyeri. I married Lys Watkins-Pitchford, a Mombasa girl, in 1966. Lys, I, and the twins (aged 6 weeks) left Kenya in 1972 for the UK. I had qualified as a Chartered Secretary and was now to be a Group Internal Auditor in Brooke Bond's Head Office in London.

Within a year I found a job more to my liking with the Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC), the British overseas development statutory body. My first posting, for 2 years, was to the Swaziland Irrigation Scheme, initially as PA to the Project General Manager, Theo Jones OBE, and then as Project Secretary. I enjoyed Swaziland very much. I regularly attended the Sugar Board meetings with Theo. One of the highlights was being invited to a reception in honour of the Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini given by King Sobhuza II. Another was being appointed to the Board of the University Swaziland College of Technology.

In 1975, I was posted to CDC's Head Office in Mayfair, UK, as the Operations Executive responsible for overseeing the largest portfolio (electricity, water, dams, docks, etc). This was a period of major recession encompassing a wage freeze, a three-day work week



and high interest rates. Life was tough, but hours commuting on the train to London enabled me to complete my BA (OU). I was nominated as a “Young Manager of Britain” and attended a conference where I met HRH Prince Charles. Frustrated by the severity of the recession, a few of us got together to remind CDC management of its obligations under the 1948 and 1978 Acts to consult with its employees on matters concerning them. CDC then formed the Joint Consultative Committee, a staff/employer talking shop. John Stocker MVO and I were elected as the Executives Representatives. Needless to say, it did not do our careers a lot of good!

Following this two-and-a-half-year period in London, I worked as an Operations Executive for two years in Fiji (my favourite posting) with Tom Ford and Ron Hoyle, and stayed on to assist the new Regional Controller, David Lincoln-Gordon OBE. I remember drafting the telex to Head Office recommending that CDC proceed with the Higaturu oil palm project. I had the honour of meeting the Governor General HE Ratu Sir George Kadavulevu Cakobau, Tui Viti (King) of Fiji.

My next posting was Nairobi. I worked under the Regional Controller Alistair Boyd CMG with John Rhodes who I first met in Swaziland. I looked after various existing and prospective investments of CDC in the region, often sitting on the relevant companies boards. We lived in a Spanish style four-bedroom house on five acres in Lower Kabate next to one of Mama Ngina’s houses (wife of Jomo Kenyatta, the first President of Kenya).

On New Year’s Eve 1980, Lys and I attended a party at the New Stanley Hotel in Nairobi. The daughter of the Israeli Ambassador was at our table. To our surprise, Israeli Embassy security guards rushed in and took her away. The Norfolk Hotel, owned by the Jewish Block family, had just been bombed by terrorists. We all rushed out to see. The Norfolk was in flames. The attack killed 20 people and was thought to be retaliation for Kenya providing support to rescue the Israeli hostages in Uganda during ‘Operation Entebbe’. (To be continued in our April issue)

International Gathering of Pringles

Hopes had been high that 2022 would be the year for a ‘Grand Gathering of Pringles’ from various parts of the world, to meet in southern Scotland but alas, as Chairman James surveyed the trustees it was felt that because of the continued threat of covid-19 it has to be postponed to 2023. (see Chairman James’s article p.2).

Annual General Meeting

For the past two years the AGM has merely been the submission of written reports followed by ‘ticking the box’ via email with no discussion of issues, or CPA planning. Board of Trustees have yet to address whether this will be the method used this year.

Board of Trustees Meeting

Responding to an inquiry from the Newsletter whether Chairman James would be calling a meeting of the Trustees this year, James emailed the Board members “I would propose that we plan to do so, that we hold it live and use zoom...” However, the response was uncertain. James W. and Murray wonder if it might be possible to have a get together at Torwoodlee to coincide with the Braw Lads Day events in July 2022, as they say “stay tuned”.

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: April 2022. Please submit your article (**500 words or less**) by April 13 to the email below as a Word doc or within the body of your email

pringlenewsletter@gmail.com

Comments and Questions

Comments:

- I enjoy reading the Pringle Newsletter each Quarter, especially the articles from other Pringles around the world.
- Hamish Pringle’s article on the meaning of the Pringle motto in the Oct. issue was very informative. A Latin teacher in VA helped with translations. Together they produced some very interesting insight in a broader interpretation of “Amiticia Reddit Honores”, showing that amiticia (friendship) can lead to ‘peace’. See the article in the October issue available on the homepage of the [Clan Pringle website](#)
- The [NACPA Facebook](#) currently has a great ancestry discussion among Pringles in US and Ireland, checking out links to each other and back to Scotland. Join the discussion and discover new links for your family tree.

Questions:

- I have heard of the “Reivers” who were active in the Scottish Borders or in northern England or even in Ulster. I wonder if there is a Pringle who has researched these people and would write an article for the Newsletter. I would like to learn more about who they were, what did they do, and why? Were any Pringles involved? Thanks

Answer:

Yes we would welcome an article on the Reivers and their activities

In addition, as we invite written articles, perhaps we might also have a reader who would compose an article for the Newsletter on the name origin of Pringle Chips, or the Scottish Pringle Wool? Maybe you have read a little about these or know some sources of information? So why not pick up your writer’s pen and tell us about what you find.

Share your comments, responses, or questions for publication in the next issue. Ancestry questions are a great way to help each other extend family tree history.

[Comments & Questions](#)

CPA Membership

Membership subscriptions are due annually on April 1st. Full fee of £15/\$20 per household, to be paid to the CPA Treasurer Priscilla Pringle Dorman. Details for membership registration are on [Clan Pringle website](#) Click the Association tab, and scroll to the end of the page.

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