



Clan Pringle Newsletter

January 2023, Issue 12

Smallholm Tower 2019 © James Pringle.



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Editorial Team



Derek



Erika



James M



Pam

From the Editorial Team:

“Purpose”

Dear Friends:

This month we have a question for you, an important question. It is this: “What is the Purpose of Clan Pringle Association?” As the French might put it, what is our “raison d’être?” our reason for existence as an Association.

Last year, in one of the meetings of the Steering Committee of Clan Pringle North America, Jim, one of the members, raised this question as they were discussing what future plans or activities they might undertake. His point was very simple. He said “when an association or group like ours, knows what their purpose is, then they simply make plans, set goals, organize a program and so on, to achieve their purpose.”

Well, Jim’s point seemed fairly obvious. However, we have all seen groups; business, social, religious, etc., which forgot what it was they were about, and became dysfunctional. They lost their sense of direction, as they were unclear about their purpose.

On October 2, 2022, the C.P.A. Board of trustees held a zoom business meeting. One of the items on the agenda picked up this theme. It read “Review of our purpose or Mission Statement and Objectives.” This seemed most appropriate as the meeting coincided with the 10th anniversary of the founding of the current C.P.A. The meeting agreed to consider this matter during the coming year. At this point, Chairman James added, “you know reviewing the purpose and mission of the Clan Pringle Association is not limited to the input of Trustees only, we need to solicit input from all Pringles near and far.”

We all agreed with Chairman James, so here we put out the invitation to all Pringles and Pringle descendants. We want your opinions. We ask for your thoughts, your views. On the following page you will find the relevant sections copied from the CPA constitution. Review these sections. Is there anything you think should be changed or added? Do we need to clarify our stated purpose? Could we be more precise about C.P.A. goals or activities? What would bring new energy and excitement to C.P.A. as we begin our second decade? As Chairman James said “we solicit input from all Pringles near and far.” Your thoughts and words, be they critical or creative, are welcomed. Don’t be silent or passive – Pringles are a thinking people.

Thank you for participating in this discussion.

The Editorial Team



CPA Board of Trustees

- | | |
|--|--|
| Chairman – James W. Pringle of Torwoodlee, 14 th Laird, Scotland | Secretary – Alastair Pringle, England |
| Treasurer – Priscilla Dorman (nee Pringle) England | Andrew Pringle, England |
| Clan Chief – Sir Mumay Pringle, 10 th Bart., England | William Pringle III, NA Rep. USA |
| CPA Website Administrator – James M. Pringle, England | Derek Pringle, NA Rep. USA |

From C.P.A. Constitution 2019 (downloadable pdf on Association page of C.P.A. website)

ARTICLE 2: PURPOSE OF THE ASSOCIATION To preserve the Pringle family's traditions, sites, artifacts and records and to study its history, culture and relationships with other Scottish families and similar organisations by scientific, genealogical, archeological and other research and make the results available to interested parties. The work to advance the knowledge of Scotland's culture and heritage will be disseminated as widely as possible.

From Association page on C.P.A. Website

MISSION STATEMENT:

“To connect our family worldwide; to share, research and preserve its history.”

OBJECTIVES:

- To raise the public profile of the clan and highlight the honour of the [Pringle name](#).
- To promote Pringle history and to correct the [errors](#) of previous historians.
- To protect and preserve the historical sites that have been the home to Pringle's throughout history.
- To conduct Pringle genealogical research and [DNA](#) research.
- To include the worldwide Pringle diaspora in the Clan Pringle [Association](#).
- To provide a forum through which Pringle's can contact and communicate with each other.



In order to get our creative juices flowing, the Editorial team offers a few off-the-cuff ideas to get the ball rolling!

- To promote fellowship among those who share the same ancestral surname
- To create a permanent marker at the Hoppringle Heritage site
- To promote the sense of worth of family
- To raise funds to provide grants for education of orphaned Pringle children
- Activities to celebrate International Friendship Day July 30 as a way to promote the Pringle Family Motto “Friendship reflects honor”
- To arrange annual virtual Pringle Gatherings for clan leadership groups around the world to nurture support and cooperation

Please share your thoughts and comments by using the link below

[CPA Purpose, Mission, and Objectives](#)

Greetings from Torwoodlee

Happy New Year

Nearly three years have passed since we all became aware of a novel coronavirus spreading across the world and into our lives. Three years during which we have lost loved ones, been close to death, been separated from our friends and family and have endured more worry than is good for us. And yet we survive as a species and as a people....

It is extraordinary how resilient the human being is and how amazing the human spirit is. Most of us have learned to live with covid (I don't think it deserves a capital letter) and life continues to return to the new normal that has sprung up around us.

May 2023 be a better year for us all, especially those in Ukraine, and may recent history bring us all closer together bearing in mind that “a man's a man for a' that” to quote the late Rabbin Burns.

With all best wishes.

James of Torwoodlee, Scotland.



Luig cow Torwoodlee

Tips on doing Family Research

“To connect our family worldwide; to share, research and preserve its history”

Our Clan Mission Statement sums it perfectly! Our “Pringle Gathering” Zoom meeting (November 12, 2022) gave us the opportunity to share several aspects of our Clan. The one that resonates with me and my family is genealogy research. Over a period of 15+ years my mother and I have researched literally thousands of Pringles and their relatives. Our search centered on the Pencaitland area, southeast of Edinburgh, and predominantly the 1700’s. We found many direct relatives, several questionable connections, and more than a few errors of other research. We identified a constant family tree for every generation back to 1760. There we hit a wall that to this day remains a mystery. We have formulated several potential answers, however none have been verified. I’m sorry to say my mom, Dorothy Isobel Pringle Schneider, died without an answer- so I continue to search for that elusive, provable connection.



Scotland is one of the easier countries in which to do genealogy research. The following are “tools” I have found very useful.

Kirk (church) records, have been preserved and digitized well into the 1850’s. This includes the Church of Scotland, the Catholic church and other denominations. These are digitally searchable in several formats. The one I have used most often is “ScotlandsPeople.gov”. It is accessible online and is simple to use. There are costs involved for printing and verifying searches, but it is a wealth of information. The parish records are more complete in some parishes but give a good source for marriage, birth, and death records.

Scotland censuses. These can also now be found online and cover up to 1920. I’ve found the census to be a great verifying source using family member names.

Scottish naming pattern a helpful “tool” that was prevalent up until about the 1850’s. In naming children, the first-born son was named for the father’s father; the second born son was named for the mother’s father; the third son for the father; the first daughter for the mother’s mother; the second for the father’s mother; the third for the mother. Armed with this “map”, census can tell us father, mother and children living at an address. The ages show oldest (living at home etc.).

“The Records of the Pringles or Hoppingills of the Scottish Borders” by Alex Pringle. This book published in 1933, is an outstanding tool. This volume was hard to find until it was produced online recently. We were fortunate to find an original copy. I admit to enjoying leafing through page by page, instead of on a computer screen. But that’s just me! This book contains a vast wealth of information, the majority of which has been verified. Some errors have been found, but it is still a valuable source.

I would be happy to answer questions about “how to” and possibly even delve into my records to assist. A caveat though, most of our research is from Pencaitland, Dalkeith, Saltoun, and Newton kirks and areas.

Bob Schneider, NY, USA.
rkarslsch@aol.com

Clan Pringle Gathering NA, 2022

Pringles from around the world gathered virtually on November 12, 2022. This was the fourth Gathering hosted by the Clan Pringle North America (CPNA). There were in-person Gatherings in 2016 and 2018. A virtual Gathering was held in 2020. The 2022 virtual Gathering was the best attended with twenty-seven attendees. There was open conversation and exchange of “friendships” between the attendees.

The Zoom meeting was hosted by Derek and Pam Pringle with most attendees dialing in from the United States. Other attendees called in from New Zealand, Australia, Canada, Scotland, England and South Africa.

William Pringle, Clan Pringle trustee, opened the Gathering with greetings and welcome. We then proceeded to a round table of introductions. Clan Chief, Sir Norman Murray Pringle, provided some words on the Pringle DNA project and informed us that there are now 127 individual participants. James W. Pringle, Laird of Torwoodlee and CPA chairman, gave an overview of Clan Pringle organization and provided a heads-up of a possible in-person International Gathering of Pringles in Scotland in 2025. Clan Pringle’s webmaster, James M. Pringle gave us a history of how the website has evolved over the past decade with updating over the past year. This was followed by CPNA’s executive steering committee member Bob Schneider’s offering of tips and pointers gained from his own experience of researching Pringle genealogy.

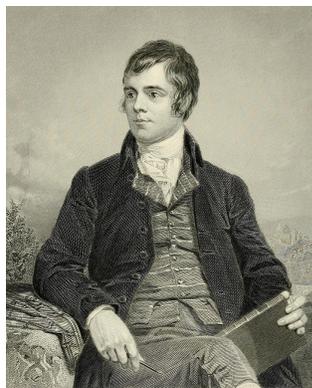
The Gathering concluded after about ninety minutes with participants asking to share contacts so that they could continue to follow-up with possible family connections.

Gary Pringle, Canada.



Robert Burns

1/25/1759—7/21/1796



Engraved version of the [Alexander Nasmyth](#) 1787 portrait

Robert (Rabbie) Burns is Scotland’s much loved poet. He is known across the globe for his poems on the universal themes of nature and love. January 25 each year is known as his national day. Special events are held on this day. Traditional Scottish dishes like haggis are served. The grace below is used prior to the meal and many of his best loved poems are recited during the event.

Maybe you would like to take a few moments before a meal this month and recite this traditional “Scottish Grace” :

Some hae meat and canna eat
An’ some wad eat that want it.
But we hae meat an’ we can eat
An’ sae the Lord be thankit.

Robert Burns

William Pringle, Sr

Born 1/22/1745

(This history was written by William Pringle, Jr., March 12, 1809, and later presented to Christian Shaffer.)

"William Pringle, Sr. was born in Scotland, January 22, 1745. His wife Mary Wertz was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, October 6, 1746. They were married December 20, 1765, in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

They were the parents of ten children. The first child, whose name we do not know, was born November 27, 1766, and died January 5, 1767. George was born 12/06/1767; Christina born 06/19/1770; Philip born 10/20/1772; Mary born 12/25/1776; Susannah born 02/08/1778; Elizabeth born 02/09/1781; Caty born 04/17/1783; Elba born 08/06/1785; William Jr. born 03/19/1790.

The first four children of William and Mary were born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. They then moved westward and settled in the Conococheague Valley, Maryland. It was here Mary was born and it was here they resided when William Sr. joined the 7th Maryland Regiment under the command of Captain Morris as a private in the Revolutionary War. He was a prisoner of war and later received a pension from the Government.

After his return from the war William and his family trekked north and settled in Frankstown in the Juniata Valley in Pennsylvania (then in Huntingdon County but now in Blair County). Here Susannah, Caty, Elba, and William, Jr. and Elizabeth were born. This is where William, Sr. and Mary finally settled and lived out their remaining days. William is listed in the tax rolls of Huntingdon County in 1788 as having 2 horses, 2 cattle, 200 acres of land - 50 acres by warrant and 150 acres by location. Value of property assessment 201 pounds. State tax 9 Shillings. County tax 4 Shillings 7 Pence.

Mr. Pringle was a very large man. He farmed, hunted and scouted. He was extremely light footed and crafty for one so large as he covered the territory still inhabited by native peoples. It was his ability as a scout that led to his being hired in 1790 to guide Samuel McClay, Timothy Matlock and John Adlum, who were appointed by the Governor of Pennsylvania to survey a road from Frankstown to the Conemaugh Valley, where in 1880 Joseph Johns laid out town lots and made a map of Conemaugh Old Town, as early Johnstown was first named.

It was over this trail that his sons, George and Philip, with their wives and two small children, travelled in April of 1796 to the Conemaugh Valley, where they founded a small settlement named Pringle Hill in Cambria County, 11 miles east of Johnstown.

This trail, now a paved highway some 180 years later, has been travelled over by eight generations of Pringle descendants, including myself, my children and my grandchildren.

Mary Wertz Pringle died September 5, 1822, at the age of 76. Her husband, William, lived to be 84 years of age and died June 22, 1829. They are buried in Old Frankstown Cemetery in Blair County, Pennsylvania.

Submitted by Margaret Humphries.

Excerpt from The Diary of Christian Shaffer

Comment Questions & Notes

- "Thanks for all your work in producing the newsletter and helping the Pringles to meet and swap experiences" (*Robert, Hampstead, UK*)
- "Thanks so much for the Pringle Zoom meeting. It was lovely meeting all the other Pringle's who joined". (*L.P.*)
- "Thanks to those who hosted the zoom Pringle Gathering. There was great conversations and the timing was just perfect" (*B.S.*)
- "It was gratifying that 27 Pringles appeared at the Zoom Pringle Gathering. I was particularly pleased to meet the South African Pringles. The Clan Pringle Y-DNA Project proved that the South African Pringles are descendants of the same line as mine. They were 1820 settlers who originally settled near Pringles Bay on the east coast of South Africa. The party was led by Thomas Pringle the poet and abolitionist (of the slave trade)". (*Sir Murray, Clan Chief*)
- *Finding your Roots* with Harvard Scholar, Henry Louis Gates Jr. This is a TV (PBS) series that explores the ancestry of many influential people in the U.S., from diverse backgrounds. This program offers us more tips on doing ancestry research.

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](#)

International Gathering of Pringles

Scottish Borders Summer 2025

Mark your calendars and plan to join this Gathering, visit key Pringle landmarks and meet other Pringles. More details to come as we get closer to the date.

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 2023. 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

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