



Clan Pringle Newsletter

Special Edition—July/August 2025, Issue 22

Scottish Borders



The International Pringle Gathering

Greeting Pringles/descendants around the world:

After two years in the planning, Pringles, from eight different countries, met each other in Southern Scotland. For some it was their first meeting as they introduced themselves and began to share their family stories. New friendships were born; new relationships took flight.

The first group event was on June 25 at the Torwoodlee Tower. A brass band played, a ride-out of some one hundred horses assembled on the Pringle Estate. The Braw Lad and Lass took a sod and a stone in the annual traditional rite as Laird James Pringle addressed the assembled crowd and acknowledged the presence of the International group of Pringles.

The main focus of the following day was visiting Pringle related historic sites. The Pringles have left their mark and their name in many places in this region over the many past generations.

Friday June 27 was our big event. We assembled at the Torwoodlee residence, welcomed by the rousing sound of the bagpipes. The A.G.M. was held in a marquee on the back lawn with about forty present. Everyone was identified with recognition of the country represented. Laird James, our host, extended gracious words of welcome to all. The details of the A.G.M. were sent out in the minutes of the meeting, click [Here](#)

At the conclusion of the meeting, James Michael gave an overview of the process resulting in the official recognition in 2020 of Sir Murray as Clan Chief and Sir Murray greeted the gathering. Membership Certificates, designed by trustee Adam, were presented to all in attendance. Then it was time for the Barbeque – wine, good food and fellowship.

Saturday was the highlight of the Braw Lads Festival enjoyed by all. For those still around, we had a concluding dinner celebration in the Townhouse Hotel in Melrose. Thanks to James Michael for coordinating this dinner and to Sir Murray for his remarks. Following dinner, we moved outside for a photo op – we chatted, said goodbyes a couple of times reluctant to part and go on our way.

It was a very special few days for all who attended. For those of you who were unable to attend we offer a few photos on the following pages to share with you a little of our experience of the first International Pringle Gathering.

“Amicitia” *Derek, CPA Chair*

Index

From the CPS Chair	1
Photo Scotland Gathering	1
Photos from June 25	2
Photos from June 26	3
Photos of AGM June 27	4
Message from NZ Pringles	4
Photos from June 28	5
A Pringle Wedding	5
Who was Alexander Pringle	6
Ian Douglas - new book	6
Cecil Thomas Pringle	6
Share your Stories	6
Scotland June 2025	6

Editorial Team



Derek



Erika



James M



Pam



CPA Board of Trustees

Chairman – Derek Pringle, NA Rep, USA

Treasurer – Priscilla Domman (nee Pringle) England

Secretary – Alastair Pringle, England

CPA Website Administrator – James M. Pringle, England

Clan Chief – Sir Murray Pringle, 10th Bart., England (*ex officio*)

Andrew Pringle, England

Garry Pringle, NA Rep. Canada

Adam Pringle Irish Rep

Dave Pringle New Zealand Rep

Rob Pringle South Africa Rep

Quotes from Folks who attended the Gathering

“So GREAT being with you all in Scotland” *Julie Pringle Riker*

“We had a wonderful time during the Clan Pringle Gathering and Braw Lads Festival. It was amazing to meet so many Pringles and now have those connections. We will keep spreading the word to other Pringles to join us.” *Linda Pringle Owings*

Wednesday June 25—Braw Lads and Lassie ceremony at Torwoodlee Tower



More than 100 riders took part in the traditional ride out to Torwoodlee Tower, historic seat of Clan Pringle. Laird James of Torwoodlee granted the Braw Lad and Lass a symbolic ‘Sod and Stone’. The Sod and Stone is symbolic of the feudal Act of Sasine commemorating the marriage of Margaret Tudor to James IV of Scotland in 1503. The sod and stone will be used in the ceremony at the Old Cross in Galashiels the following Saturday. In his remarks at the event Laird James recognized the International group of Pringles attending the event.

Photos: from top left: Laird James, Braw Lad and Lass, their attendants and Alice Pringle process to the Tower; Laird James provides Braw lass with stone from tower; Torwoodlee Tower, built 1601 by Laird James ancestor, and inset of Derek and Pam Pringle; Band at the event; rideout leaving Torwoodlee at conclusion of the event; the group of International Pringles attending the event at Torwoodlee

More Quotes

"Just a quick note from Australia to say what a memorable time Toni and I had at the gathering in June. It was wonderful to visit many of the Pringle sites and learn about our history. It was great to meet up with Irish Pringles cousins at the Gathering. Many thanks for the hospitality shown to us by Sir Murray, Laird James and all those who worked to bring us together. Loved Dave's Te Reo Maori welcome." *Christine Tuita*

Thursday June 26—Visiting Pringle Sites



Photos: from top left:
Buckholm Tower built 1582 by John Pringle;
Smailholm Tower with inset of Derek at door of tower;
Abbotsford, Sir Walter Scott's home;
Melrose Abbey burial place of many Pringles;
Pringle House in Hawick;
Gala House, Galashiels.



Built in the 1400s by Pringles, Smailholm has survived centuries of assault from border raiders and the elements. This formidable tower was home to the Pringle family and later to the ancestors of Sit William Scott.



Did you know...

Wikitree and FamilyTreeDNA are collaborating with each other? All the information is in an article on their site. Use the link below to access the information.

<https://blog.familytreedna.com/connect-wikitree-dna-matches/>

James M Pringle

More Quotes ...

"I was happy to host you all and I think we all enjoyed a great visit, well done to everyone involved for a successful Gathering"
James W of Torwoodlee

"I came away from the Pringle gathering feeling how valuable that meeting had been, and how worthy the cause, whether opportunity to connect with like-minded (and related) people, or the need to preserve what remains of our history and ar-

Friday June 27—AGM & Bar-b-que at Torwoodlee



<https://www.facebook.com/james.pringle.735/videos/4068868230037929?idortvantity=338289609659549>



Photos: from top left: *Torwoodlee, home of Laird James; Laird James & Dave; Bagpiper & link to video of Procession of Laird James & CPA Executive; AGM members; AGM Executive; mingling on back lawn.*

A Message of Thanks from the New Zealand Pringles

To all our fellow Pringles from across the globe

As the dust settles on an unforgettable International Gathering, we, 3 proud generations able to attend from New Zealand, want to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who made us feel so welcome after our long journey to our ancestral homeland of the Scottish Borders.

It was truly very special to stand together, descendants and namesakes from eight different countries, connected not only by heritage but by shared stories, laughter, and the joy of discovering new friendships in the lands of our ancestors. From the spirited Braw Lads Gathering in Galashiels to exploring historic places like Smailholm Tower, Torwoodlee and other corners of the beautiful Border country, every moment was a reminder of how far-reaching and warmly connected the Pringle name continues to be.

Thank you for the camaraderie, the hospitality, the kindness, and the memories. We carry them home with us, proud to be part of this global family. Until we meet again ... 'amicitia reddit honores'
With gratitude and aroha,

Dave, Julie, Aidan & Dylan Pringle (NZ)



Saturday June 27 Supper and Farewells



Photos: From top left:

Supper in The Townhouse Hotel in Melrose;

Outside the hotel following supper;

In the main square Saturday evening

(The group remained outside chatting and saying farewell until after 10:00pm. It was hard to say goodbye!)



Congratulations!!

Joshua and Victoria Pringle were married on August 26, 2025 at Trinity College Dublin, Ireland.

We wish them both well in their final year of College and Ordination in the Church of Ireland in June 2026.

Joshua is the brother of our Irish trustee Adam. Joshua, Adam and their Dad Kenneth were with us in Scotland.



Who was Alexander Pringle?

By Janis Pringle

I was born in Aberdeen, Scotland. My father's family came from Deeside, 48 miles inland. I knew the Pringle name came from The Borders, and wondered why we lived so far north. Various volunteer genealogists over the years had uncovered an 18th century ancestor called Alexander Pringle, but after that we were stuck. A photo of Alexander's gravestone in Inverness gave his death as 1845, aged 78. But that raised more questions: why was he in Inverness? Why was there no record of his birth in 1767? And why was he called Alexander, a name unknown in this family line?

The impasse continued until I called in a professional genealogist. (Andrew Armstrong, relativelyscottish.com). Alexander had called his first son Robert, so I suggested we start with traditional Scottish family naming structures. Might Alexander, following this tradition, have named his first son after his own father?

It worked! Andrew found that Alexander had been born in Eddleston, Peeblesshire, (28 miles from Melrose), not in 1767, but in 1765. His father Robert was a grieve, a farm or estate manager, and Alexander followed suit. His name first appears on an advert in 1805, as the person to contact for the post of contractor to construct 34 miles of road and 52 bridges in the Highlands: 'a plan of the road, with a distinct specification of the mode in which both road and bridges must be executed, are lodged with Alexander Pringle at Ardgour House.' (in Argyllshire).

In 1809 he was employed by The Duke and Duchess of Sutherland (as they came to be known) as grieve on their estate at Dunrobin Castle, Golspie. The Duchess was keen on the new idea of sheep ranches on her land. Wool could command high prices. Alexander's Borders background gave him the relevant experience. It must have seemed a great job opportunity. The problem for the Duchess was that first the land needed to be cleared of the cottars who had lived there as tenants for hundreds of years. The man who enforced this ruthlessly was Alexander's boss, the infamous Patrick Sellar.

The next year Alex married a local girl, Catherine McKay, and in 1811 Robert was born. In 1813 a second son arrived, and, again in keeping with tradition, he was named after Catherine's father, William McKay. That same year Alex and family left Golspie for Inverness, Perhaps he found the enforced evictions inhumane and intolerable as I know today's male family members would. It's also likely that he couldn't stand working with his boss, well known for lacking people skills. Alex and Catherine had eight more children, all born in Inverness.

So, how did my family come to be in Deeside? Family folklore has it that Robert (from whom I'm descended) and William headed south to live and work in Glen Muick (pronounced Mick), now part of the Balmoral estate, and their families must have lived in the cottages which are now holiday lets.

There's been a long tradition of Pringles working alongside aristocracy and royalty: Pringles were squires to the Earls of Douglas in the 14th century. Alexander worked for the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland in the 19th century. More recently second cousins have become close to the King and Queen in connection with charity work in Ballater.

And what was the origin of Alexander's unusual name? His mother's name was Margaret Whyte, and it seems likely he was named after her father Alexander Whyte. Traditionally this would mean he was the second son, but he was the eldest of 12. The reasons for this have been lost in the intervening 260 years, but perhaps high child mortality played a part: there may have been a child before him who died before he could be registered.

Devine, T.M. (2018) *The Scottish Clearances* Penguin, UK.

McKenzie, A. (2001) *The Highland Clearances*. Geddes and Grosset, New Lanark.

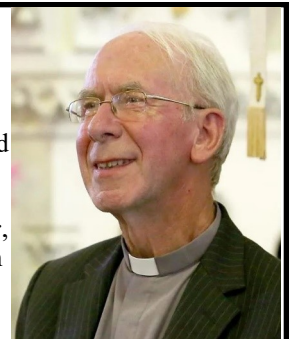


Ian Douglas has produced a substantially enlarged version of his book on the history of the Scottish Borders, under a revised title. This book outlines the history of the area from prehistoric times to the present day, illustrated with many color photos.

Smailholm Tower and the nearby Greenholm Tower, are covered in some depth. The Pringle Family is covered in the key Borders Family chapters. Currently available on Amazon, it will be possible to order from bookshops shortly.

Archdeacon Cecil Thomas Pringle

Cecil passed away July 29, 2025. He was born in Co. Monaghan Ireland, educated in Trinity College Dublin and ordained in the Church of Ireland in 1966. For most of his years he served in the cross border Diocese of Clogher, and for 25 years served as Archdeacon of the Diocese. Cecil was the older brother to our CPA Chairman, Derek.



Ancestry Queries

My great great grandfather was Leonhard Pringle. Left Scotland, we think, 1860-70s and married Marie Poppe a Belgian native. If anyone knows of connections to Leonhard, I would love to connect with you. Jo-Ann Robert Andre Anjoann88@proton.me

My father was Robert Henry Rogers. His biological father was Charles Philip Hope Pringle. I would love to find out more about this family and if I have cousins, uncles & aunts, etc. Chire Fulford chirefulford1@gmail.com

My mother's maiden name is Pringle, her paternal line traces back to Craster Pringle (b.1773) who spent most of his life in Chatton, Northumbria, parish of Makerstoun. He may be a match to a birth record in 1773 for Christo Pringle in Earlstoun Parish. His father's name was George Pringle. If anyone has information that would help me trace further back I would love to connect with you.

Richard Preston rncpreston@virginmedia.com

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 2025. Please submit your article (**500 words or less**) by **October 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