



Clan Pringle Newsletter

October 2025, Issue 23

Scottish Borders



June 25-28 2025

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From the Editorial Team:

REFLECTIONS

Dear Members and Friends,

We trust this Newsletter finds you, and all in your family, well and enjoying life.

Last month we sent an email to all who attended the International Pringle Gathering in Scotland, inviting them to offer their “reflections” of the event. Now, that we are four months after our Gathering, we wondered how people would be remembering the experience. We are grateful to those who responded, and now we are able to make Reflections the main theme of the Newsletter.

It was three years ago, in a meeting of the Board of Trustees, when James of Torwoodlee made the proposal that we convene an International Gathering of Pringles in the Southern Borders in 2025, and that it be scheduled to coordinate with the local annual Braw Lad and Lass Festival. All the Trustees agreed, and Sir Murray asked that we give notice and promotion through the Newsletter. It was also announced on our Website, the North American (and other) Facebook pages, and via direct email contacts.

Eventually, this past June, Pringles from eight different countries began arriving in Scotland. We are all most grateful to those who made the necessary arrangements: - a big “thank you” to Laird James for arranging the Barbeque team, the installation of the Marquee behind the Torwoodlee residence, and for engaging the Bagpiper for our event. Our thanks again also goes to Adam for designing and arranging the Membership Certificates, and to James Michael for coordinating the Saturday evening Farewell Dinner. All costs for the event have been paid from our CPA funds, which are generated from our membership fees. Even the Scottish weather cooperated and we were able to enjoy the AGM and the Barbeque outdoors, and visit many area Pringle-related historic sites.

For some of the attendees it was their first visit to Scotland in their search to explore the Family name origins and history. For each of us it was a first occasion to meet some Pringle cousins from a different part of the world. We met in the spirit of “amicitia”, and with the hope that some of the friendships established will last beyond the Gathering event.

To you who were unable to attend, we hope the following articles will help give you some more feeling of the Gathering experience.

Amicitia, Derek

Greetings from Laird James

I have said before that it was a pleasure to host such an eclectic gathering of Pringles this summer; the AGM and subsequent social gathering remain two of the highlights of our 2025.

While Torwoodlee may not be the historic centre of the Pringle Family, we remain a base to which many gravitate since there are still Pringles living here and loving the land and home we have held since Flodden and before.

I hope the spirit of the global Pringle Family will continue to hold fast to this place and that many Pringles from around the world will continue to come to visit and to brighten our lives with friendship and warmth.

With all best wishes for the coming years and centuries.

James, 14th Laird of Torwoodlee



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Reflections - Janis Pringle

I very much enjoyed the Gathering in June. It was lovely to meet people from around the world, united in an interest in our shared genealogy and a desire to reach out to members of our very extended family.



What did I particularly like?

The Braw Lads' Gathering was an education! Although I'd been a student in Edinburgh I had no idea that people kept such strong local traditions in the Borders only 30 miles away. I was impressed by how these reminders of historic events strengthened a sense of community-everyone seemed to take great pride in being involved and the atmosphere was happy and upbeat.

I was also surprised to discover how central a role the Pringle clan has in the Galashiels area-it was a privilege to be able to see the ceremony of the sod and stone acted out at Torwoodlee.-unbelievably dating back 520 years. We also discovered there was a Pringle room in the local museum, Gala House, giving some interesting information about Pringle history.

And what a special pleasure it was to be invited to Torwoodlee, somewhere I had only previously read about when trying to find out about my Pringle ancestry. Thank you to Laird James and Alice for your warm hospitality.

And so to the question: What could have been better?

I would have liked more group events to consolidate the new friendships we formed. Those from abroad might have enjoyed some Scottish dancing and/or singing for instance. And given the distant locations of the Pringle monuments an official tour might have been of benefit. Perhaps these ideas were investigated at the time and considered unsuitable for one reason or another.

But I would like to send a big thank you to those who planned the Gathering in the first place with the intention of bringing us all together. It was a great success and I just have one final question: when's the next one?



New Zealand to Scotland - David Pringle

Recently I had the challenge to "blow 87 candles " yet I can remember clearly, talking with a man who was born in 1868 !!! That man was my paternal Grandfather, David Pringle, who was born in the Teviot area of Scotland. He came to NZ with his siblings and parents at the age of 10.



When his wife died he came to live with his younger son, wife, daughter and me and would tell us of his younger days in Scotland. His stories were fascinating. Later in life my interest in Scotland increased and any opportunity to further such interests became important.

In 2018 my elder son Rodger and I travelled around Scotland for three weeks, a very enjoyable time. When the CPA gathering was planned for June of this year it was another chance to visit, this time with my only daughter Julie and Rodger's two sons, from NZ.

What a wonderful time it was to meet with other Pringles at the Clan Pringle gatherings, many who may have had similar stories. Invitation to CPA visitors to be part of the Braw Lads Festival made history of The Borders of Scotland become real while visiting the Teviothead area gave a sense of belonging.

My story is short yet for three generations of New Zealanders (kiwis) the impact of places, people and events are memorable. Thank you to all those who helped us to gather those memories.
David, Julie, Aidan, Dylan

Trip of a Lifetime - Aidan Pringle



I was lucky enough to attend the Pringle Gathering at Torwoodlee this year and what an amazing trip it was. I am the oldest grandson (brown hair) to David Pringle who is our New Zealand Clan Representative. I've taken it upon myself to help out with my millennial technological skills in starting to spread our name and image to other Pringles in our small country.

June 2025 - My first large overseas trip to the UK and something I will reminisce about for years to come! I left New Zealand and started my journey to our homeland on the other side of the globe...Scotland, land of the brave. I would be meeting with my Grandfather (David, NZ Pringle Clan Rep), Aunty Julie & younger brother Dylan. After many hours by plane/bus/train, we all arrived and soon settled into the Scottish way of life, immediately feeling very comfortable in this different yet familiar country, the scenery reminded us of being back in NZ accompanied with the friendliness of the local people.

The main reason for travelling to this beautiful part of the world was to attend the International Pringle Clan Gathering at Torwoodlee House in Galashiels. We were lucky enough to spend the day up at the amazing manor, owned by James Pringle who was a truly hospitable and educational host. James was kind enough to show us through the dining room of the Pringle Torwoodlee house, a room that felt like being in a time machine back 500 years, a direct link to parts of our ancestry. The room gave me chills just admiring all the portraits and feeling the presence of Pringles throughout history. As the day progressed we all shared little stories about ourselves, talk about Pringles worldwide!

The BBQ and meeting at Torwoodlee was an amazing day spent learning about where each Pringle family came from and a bit about their own history. It was inspiring to hear and tell our own stories about our ancestry and personal lives, who we were as people and knowing we had this deeper connection amongst us all. I can safely say after spending some time in Galashiels region - seeing Smailholm tower, Torwoodlee Tower, Torwoodlee House and conversing with Pringles from all over the world, it gave me a huge sense of belonging to this wonderful, historical part of the world. It was a greatly fulfilling experience to be with friends and family on such an unforgettable holiday.

Thanks to everyone who attended and was able to contribute to a gathering like no other. Coming back home has been difficult, I'm already planning a return trip!



Celebrating my Pringle Heritage Hilary Dodridge

Robin and I celebrated my Pringle Heritage with two unforgettable trips to Scotland this year. The first was our wonderful Clan gathering in The Borders which gave us the opportunity to meet fellow Pringles from all over the world to celebrate our rich heritage. We discovered we have so many things in common, not just our facial features! It was a great privilege to be hosted by James and Alice Pringle at the beautiful Torwoodlee estate for the AGM and barbecue. We so enjoyed experiencing the traditions of The Braw Lads and Braw Lassies of Galashiels, starting with the ceremony at Torwoodlee on Wednesday evening.



The highlights of the festival for us were the crossing of the Tweed by hundreds of riders and the spectacular gallop along the High Street at Galashiels.



Beyond the festivities, we enjoyed exploring Pringle places including Buckholm, Smailholm, and Melrose Abbey. We also spent a fascinating morning improving our knowledge of Scottish history at the Great Tapestry in Galashiels. While in the area we took the opportunity to visit the site of the Printing Works at Kelso where my great grandfather, Robert Pringle, started his working life. The conclusion of our visit was a very convivial dinner at the Townhouse Hotel in Melrose with our new Pringle friends. A big thank you to Derek and Pam and the committee for organising a great Clan Gathering.

Our second trip followed a visit to The Edinburgh Fringe where I was lucky enough to be singing. On our journey home we travelled to Ayrshire and Ardrossan to explore where some of my Pringle ancestors had lived. We managed to piece together more of my Pringle genealogy but, as usual, it produced more questions than answers!

We finished our trip to Ayrshire at Irvine where my Great Great Grandfather, Archibald Pringle, had died in The Poorhouse. There is a housing estate on the land now, but the developers have created a beautiful Memorial Garden and stone to commemorate the many people who had died there and had unmarked graves, including Archibald. It was a very poignant conclusion to a fascinating visit.



Reflections on UK Trip - Christine Tuita

Toni and I have given some thought to if/how arrangements for the Clan Gathering could have been made any differently, but we have agreed that everything was organized very well. We had a lengthy three month visit to the UK. Our Clan Gathering attendance was towards the end of our itinerary, by which time I think we were beginning to fade a little bit.



Hindsight being the wonderful thing that it is I think we would have done well to select accommodation closer to everyone else rather than indulge ourselves in a castle stay near Edinburgh. The drive back and forth wasn't too much of an issue but had we stayed closer to Galashiels/Melrose we would have been in a better position to attend the Braw Lads events so we do feel we missed out a little bit – we were trying to squeeze a lot into our week in Scotland!

The information provided about accommodation and places to see was very helpful and we thoroughly enjoyed visiting those sites and driving around the Scottish Borders. We usually prefer to see things in our own time and at our own pace, but it would've been nice to go to some of those places with other Pringles. I guess if we'd been staying near the majority of attendees that would've been an option as we would have met people earlier during the gathering week.

The venue choice for our dinner was excellent, the barbecue/meeting was wonderful and it was a real treat to meet Sir Murray, Laird James and all the other Pringles in attendance. We were so involved talking with everyone at the barbecue that we missed out on visiting inside the house to see portraits and any other Pringle memorabilia and we didn't get up to Torwoodlee Tower until the very end of the day!

We visited Jedburgh Abbey enroute to Edinburgh from England and found a Pringle headstone there. A little bit of research has been quite interesting. Joseph was married to Rev Thomas Somerville's second daughter (I think) who was named possibly Janet or Jenny, in December 1812, but following Joseph's death she married General George Henry Elliott.

Transcription of Headstone:

*'IN MEMORY OF JOSEPH PRINGLE,
Late His Britannic Majesty's consul at Madeira,
who died 23rd day of April 1817 in the house of
Thomas Somerville D.D. Father in Law
interred in this aisle'.*

The article linked below has a very unflattering entry on Joseph Pringle. Mr Veitch, who assisted Joseph and became consul afterwards has a much nicer entry, although other information I have come across suggests some interesting traits for Mr Veitch as well. You will find a couple of entries for Mr Pringle about halfway down the page and again towards the end of the article.

[Who was who in Madeira at the time of the second British occupation in 1807. - Free Online Library](#)



A trip across the Irish Sea – Gathering Reflections

Adam Pringle



On the 24th of June, my dad Kenneth, my brother Joshua and I set off on a long-planned trip to the International Pringle Gathering in Scotland. First, we drove over the border to Larne, in Northern Ireland, to catch a ferry to Cairnryan in Scotland. We headed east along the coast, catching a glimpse of the Isle of Man, pausing in the town of Castle Douglas before continuing through Dumfries towards Melrose.

The journey was long, taking 5 hours, but fascinating—coastal stretches, steep hills, and the magnificent Grey Mare's Tail Reserve, with sheep on the road and castles dotting along the whole route. It struck me that, unlike Ireland, where many pre-1700 castles were lost to conflict or repurposing, Scotland's are remarkably well-preserved. It was refreshing to be able to see buildings so old in good condition. I also expected Scotland to look more like Ireland, but it was slightly different, the hills were much steeper, and the landscapes seemed more extreme when compared to our rolling drumlins at home in Cavan.

We had met Derek and Pam in both Ireland and America, and amazingly this Gathering meant we met in 3 countries within 3 years without really planning to! Dad and I had also met Dennis Pringle before, but most faces were new—a nice mix of familiar and fresh introductions, and I was glad to see quite a strong Irish contingent!

The meeting at Torwoodlee Tower was the first time we got a sense of the Pringle connection to the lands around Galashiels. Having grown up not knowing any other Pringles, it felt surreal to stand at a tower they built, on land they owned, with Laird James leading the Braw Lads ceremony... like an alternate universe! I felt very proud to be part of the Clan and would love to go there again for another Braw Lads Festival.

This new feeling of “belonging” followed me for the rest of the trip, finding Pringle memorials at Melrose Abbey, the family crest hanging up in Sir Walter Scott's Abbotsford House, the Pringle shop in Hawick, spotting the family crest on the Burgh Flag during the Braw Lads procession, and witnessing Sir Murray being recognized as Clan Chief. I've seen many visitors in Ireland researching their roots become emotional about being back “home” where their family once was, and finally I can understand that feeling.

It was wonderful being able to put faces to names as I had corresponded with some at the Gathering previously, and as a Trustee had been discussing the events for a long time. Everyone was lovely and it was interesting to hear how everyone's Pringles had spread around the world. I even found out about a new Irish-linked Pringle family while at Torwoodlee! Our AGM and barbeque made for a relaxing evening, and the dinner in Melrose the next day topped it all off brilliantly. Thanks to everyone who helped organise the events and hopefully it's not long before we see each other again.

Ancestry Queries

- **Barb Pringle** - I am interested in a little help with my family genealogy. Trying to figure out if we came from William Pringle, or which branch. My father was Paul Edwin Prindle, his father was Harold Prindle, Harold's father was Carl Edwin Prindle - all in the Boston, MA area. I would welcome any help or information that could help me make more connections. I may visit Scotland again. I was there 20 years ago.
barbprindle@gmail.com
- **Kathleen Allen** - I am interested in where the burial records can be found for the private lair and chapel where the Pringle of Stichil family were buried. My relationship to the family is only through marriage. Elizabeth MacLeod (1748-1826) daughter of Norman Macleod 22nd of Macleod was the wife of Colonel Sir James Pringle (1726-1809). Her sister Ann MacLeod (c 1849-1801) was my 4 x great grandmother. Ann married Professor John Hill of St Andrews and Edinburgh universities and their younger son, John, died at Stichil in 1805 a few months before his father. I think John jr. was staying with his aunt and possibly being educated with his Pringle cousins at Stichil. His mother had died several years earlier. John was not buried in the family grave at Greyfriars, Edinburgh nor at St Andrews so I am wondering if he was buried in the Pringle vault. I would be grateful for any assistance. keallen@gmx.co.uk
- **Sam Orsak and Raymond Pringle** - My GGG-Grandfather is Abraham Pringle, b.1 Oct 1776 in Sumter District, South Carolina, d.2 Dec 1858 in Lauderdale County, Mississippi. His father was William Pringle, of Camden District, SC. Does anyone know of any research that has been conducted and/or published that documents either South Carolina Pringle Family Trees or Pringle immigrants from Scotland prior to 1776? My Pringle cousin and I are interested in attending the next North American Pringle Clan Association meeting. samorsak@yahoo.com
- **Vaughan Watt-Pringle** I was born and grew up in Southern Rhodesia, then displaced to South Africa as a result of the war. Now in England for the past 10 years. My ancestors relocated to South Africa with the 1820 settlers, Pringles of Eildon. William Pringle born 1780 married Ann Scott born 1801. I would welcome any information. I am very keen to come to grips with my ancestry. vaughanpringle@outlook.com

Articles held for January 2026 Newsletter

- **Adam**—with help of DNA exploring the Scots-Irish Pringle family lines.
- **Jean-Jacques** - looking at origins of family lines in different parts of the world. Sourced from documents on archeological excavations concerning our ancestors.
- **Ray** - planning to represent Clan Pringle at the 2026 New Hampshire Highland Games.
- **Appreciation** - A big “Thank You” to those who submitted the articles for this Newsletter issue.

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 2026. Please submit your article (**500 words or less**) by **January 13**
to the email below as a Word doc or within the body of your email

pringlenewsletter@gmail.com

Editorial Team: *If you are interested in joining the Editorial team, send us an email*

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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.