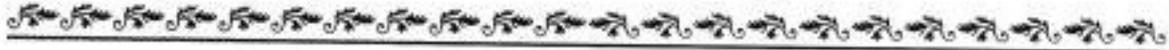
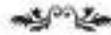


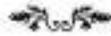
COVER



A HISTORY
of the
NORTH EASTHOPE PIONEERS
COUNTY OF PERTH
ONTARIO, CANADA
from
PERTHSHIRE, SCOTLAND



COMPILED BY
MARY LOUISE McLENNAN



WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY
DONALD SCOTT, ESQ.
Senior Chieftain of the Gaelic Society of Perth, Scotland

PRINTED 1937



PREFACE



THESE sketches were originally hand written and assembled in Scrap Book form. They were first submitted to the Chieftain of the Gaelic Society of Perth, Mr. Donald Scott, who in acknowledging them kindly wrote:

"Many, many thanks for sending me the most interesting Scrap Book which you were so good to prepare at the request of my good friend—Col. Alexander Fraser, Deputy Minister of Archives, and sent to the Gaelic Library of the Gaelic Society of Perth, a Society of which he was the first Secretary, and in fact the organizer. This book I am sure will be often consulted by many. Your work in this get-up must have been colossal. Being a labour of love brings its own reward, and I am sure those interviewed will have been delighted at the tactful way you have brought to life much that would otherwise be lost. It is splendid. The stories are so life-like that they stand out in such a way that one sees them just as they occurred."

In the Autumn of 1934, the Scrap Book was formally presented to the Sandeman Gaelic Library of Perth, and received by Lady Helen Tod, Chieftainess and sister of the Duke of Atholl.

When my brother, the late Sir John Cunningham McLennan, of London, England, saw the sketches at Perth in August, 1935, he was keenly disappointed that they were not in a more permanent form, and he expressed his intention of seeing that they were printed. Five weeks later my brother, while on a mission in France, passed suddenly from this life. It is now just a year since he and I were together in the Sandeman Library, and I am comforted in the thought that I am now carrying out his wish as expressed at that time.

It is a source of deep satisfaction to me that a large Cairn was erected in May of this year, in North Easthope Township, to the memory of all Pioneers of that Township, the great majority of whom were from Perthshire, Scotland.

A detailed story of the Cairn and its dedication by Lord Tweedsmuir will be found as an Appendix to this volume.

Faithfully yours,

Mary L. McLennan

203 William Street,
Stratford, Ontario, Canada.
August 7, 1936.

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PIONEERS TO NORTH EASTHOPE, COUNTY OF PERTH, PROVINCE OF ONTARIO, DOMINION OF CANADA, AND GRANDSONS OF PIONEERS TO NORTH EASTHOPE FROM PERTHSHIRE, SCOTLAND.

I. ANNIE MENZIES MERRYLEES,* aged 95 years, April 29, 1934. Pioneer from Glenquaich, Perthshire, Scotland.

II. WILLIAM CRERAR,† aged 83 years, Tax Collector, North Easthope. Grandson of Pioneer John Crerar, from Amulree, Scotland.

III. GEORGE MCCALLUM,‡ aged 86 years, Retired Farmer, Shakespeare and North Easthope. Grandson of Pioneer George McCallum from Auchnafauld, Perthshire.

IV. JOHN CAMERON STEWART, 60 to 70 years, Retired Farmer, Stratford and North Easthope. Grandson of Pioneer John Stewart, from Glenquaich.

V. ALEXANDER MCGILLAWEE, 50 to 60 years, Farmer, Lot 21, Concession 5, North Easthope. Grandson of Pioneer Alexander McGillawee, Glenquaich, Amulree, Perthshire.

VI. ALEXANDER FISHER, aged 50 to 60 years, Retired Farmer, Stratford and North Easthope. Grandson of Pioneer Alexander Fisher, Kenmore, Perthshire.

VII. DR. LORNE ROBERTSON, 50 to 60 years, Prominent Physician and Surgeon, Stratford. Grandson of Pioneer James Robertson, from Luncarty, Perthshire.

VIII. DR. DONALD FRASER, aged 40 to 50 years, Physician and Surgeon, Stratford. Grandson of Pioneer John Fraser, from Glenquaich.

IX. PETER SINCLAIR, aged about 60 years. Grandson of Pioneer Peter Sinclair, from Shian, Glenquaich, Perthshire.

X. JOHN MCTAVISH. Grandson of Pioneer Peter McTavish, from Glenquaich, Perthshire.

XI. HUGH CAMERON. Grandson of Pioneer Donald Cameron, from Aberfeldy, Perthshire.

XII. DOUGALL MCMILLAN. Grandson of Pioneer Alexander McMillan, from Glenquaich, Perthshire.

Note 1—The farms, owned one time in North Easthope by Pioneers from Perthshire, Scotland, and their descendants, are many of them passed on to other owners, principally German settlers, and the once Scottish settlement is very much a German settlement. The Scottish settler descendants have nearly all passed from this life, or gone into the big wide world, Manitoba principally; Chicago, United States; Toronto, and Stratford, Ontario.

Note 2—This book contains just a few photos of gravestones of Perthshire Pioneers buried in St. Andrew's Churchyard, North Easthope, the favourite graveyard, which is nearly filled with Perthshire settlers.

*Annie Menzies Merrylees died August, 1935. †William Crerar died December, 1935. ‡George McCallum died December, 1935.

NOTE

The previous four pages and the following pages were recreated from the original publication A history of the North Easthope pioneers, County of Perth, Ontario, Canada, from Perthshire, Scotland by Mary Louise McLennan.

The pages that follow are only Part 1 pertaining to Annie Menzies Merrylees.

The entire publication is online at
<http://www.ourroots.ca/e/toc.aspx?id=12404>

I

ANNIE MENZIES MERRYLEES

(Died August 1935 one year and two months after this article.)

Annie Menzies Merrylees, as a bride, and her husband, George Merrylees.



*"The year's at the Spring
And day's at the morn;
Morning's at seven;
The hillside's dew pearled!
The lark's on the wings;
The snail's on the thorn;
God's in His Heaven—
All's right with the world!"*



Annie Menzies Merrylees in her 96th year, and George Merrylees.

*"Grow old along with me,
The best is yet to be;
The last of life,
For which the first was made."*

ANNIE MENZIES MERRYLESS

*"Glen where the sheep are, Glenquaich,
Where lives brave hardy heroes,
Thine equal is not to be found,
Grey hens and wild pigeons and grouse from the moors,
And roe-bucks so agile roam over the hills,
The Cuckoo and mavis in the beautiful woodlands,
In the shelter of the mountains
Sing music on each bough."*

"Up with the White and Red" "Geal is Dearg a Suas" is the war-cry of the Menzies. The mountain ash is their badge. The name Menzies (Gaelic Mengues) is among the first surnames adopted in Scotland in the reign of Malcolm III. In the reign of David II, William Menzies was keeper of the Royal Forest of Alythe in Kincardineshire. Under the same reign Alexander Menzies held the lands of Reidhall in Perthshire.

In 1745 the fighting force of the Clan was three hundred men and they followed Prince Charlie. They also followed the first Pretender and were present at the famous indecisive battle of Sheriffmuir. Menzies of Shian took the place of the head of the Clan Menzies of Castle Weem who was ill. When the first Pretender fled after that battle, some of the chiefs of the clan were tried, and Menzies of Culdares was tried in London and condemned to death. He was reprieved and so he did not follow "Prince Charlie".

When Prince Charlie arrived, the head of the clan, Menzies of Weem, decided to follow him, but as he was lame and not fit for the field, Menzies of Shian took his place. The Shian Menzies was a big stout man, and it was his son who commanded the clan. With 700 men he followed Charlie as far as Preston, where they met Johnny Cope of the song, and defeated him. Many prisoners were taken of the English army, and Menzies returned with them to Strathroy; and then by agreement of Murray of Athole, Menzies raised more of the clan and with 700 to 1,000 men followed Prince Charlie till the final clash at Cullodan. He lost Shian and Breaddalbane both, and gradually the Menzies were cleared out of the Glen. To-day there is not one left.

In 1738, Menzies of Culdares, brought from the Tyrol Mountains in his travelling bag, seven little saplings of the first Larch Tree ever seen in Scotland, which he planted in the Dunkeld grounds of the Duke of Atholl, and they are the most gigantic specimens in the country.

In the western area of Perthshire, Scotland, in a glen high up between rolling mountains called Glenquaich, Annie Menzies Merryless, wife of George Merryless, retired from Lot 35, Concession 6, North Easthope, now residing on William Street, Stratford (Ontario), was born April 29, 1839, at Shian, Glenquaich.

Wildly beautiful with its sparkling Loch Freuchie, its silvery Quaich rive, its heather, its gorse and the mountains on either side, her birth-place and home-glen are forever enshrined in the history of the Township of North Easthope, in the County of Perth, Ontario, because many of her fellow countrymen came before her and after her from that Glen as Pioneers to mthis fair Township, to make a home in the New World.

Tall, erect, dignified, still active in her daily home duties, what a privilege it is to sit beside her, this saintly cherished wife and mother, and listen to her beautiful, gentle and melodious voice as she tells her life story.

HER BIRTHPLACE

"I was born at Shian, Glenquaich, not far from Amulree, Perthshire, Scotland, and I will, if spared, be ninety-five years of age on the twenty-ninth of this month (April, 1934). My father was a school teachers at Dull, nearby, where my father's uncle was a minister at one time.

"In Scotland I had three brothers, William, Donald and Archie, and two sisters, Lizzie (Mrs. Thomson), and Bella (Mrs. MacNaughton). I was the youngest of the family until we came to Canada in October, 1842, where two brothers, John and Robert, were born.

"To live in Glenquaich and raise his family, it was necessary for my father to give two cartloads of peat, so many skeins of wool, and linen, so many pounds of butter and cheese, and £16 of money every year, to the owner of the estate.

"I was three years of age when we sailed for Canada, sailing from Glasgow in 1842. It was a long and stormy voyage, and three times we were driven back to the coast of Ireland. Everyone did their own cooking on the ship, bringing their food with them. There were no luxuries then as now on shipboard, and there was much sickness."

ARRIVAL IN CANADA

"After many weeks on the sea we reached Quebec, where my mother had an uncle, with whom we stopped for a week or two. Then we came to Hamilton, where we were quarantined for measles, sleeping while there, in the dock-sheds.

"My father and brothers went on ahead into North Easthope, to Amulree, to my uncle, John Livingstone, my mother's brother, who came out earlier. My uncle sent a teamster with oxen and wagon to Hamilton to meet us. Our boxes filled the wagon. There was only one seat, which had room on it sufficient only for the driver, an old aunt who came out with us, and her little grandson. There was no room for me, so they tried tying me to one of the boxes, but the jolting was too much and the walking was better, so I walked beside my mother nearly all the way from Hamilton to Bell's Corner (Shakespeare), Ontario.

"As we neared Bell's Corner, my mother saw a woman hurriedly running to meet us, who on meeting us, flung her arms around my mother's neck and took us all to her home for supper and for the night. She was Mrs. Capling, who was so kind to us. That was a Saturday night. That following morning Mr. Capling took us to the corner and showed us the road to Amulree, in North Easthope. We had not walked very far, in the silence of that October Sunday morning - a silence broken only by the rustling of the leaves at our feet - when a sound that thrills me to this day was heard. Someone was calling. We did not know who it was because we could not see for the trees, but my mother answered each call. Nearer and nearer it came, and just where the Avon River crosses the Twentieth Line Road leading to Amulree, North Easthope (named after Amulree, Perthshire, Scotland, by James Crerar, Pioneer in 1833) my uncle, John Livingstone, met us. What a joyous meeting that was for us!

"My uncle took us to his home on Lot 22, Concession 7, North Easthope, a good shanty with a roof and windows. At Christmas, we moved to our own shanty, Lot 37, Fourth Concession, right behind that of Rev. Daniel Allan, a Free Church Minister from Scotland.

"When we moved to our new home there was no door or window in the shanty. They came afterwards, and there my brother John was born.

"For chairs, we used three-legged stools made from saplings, and for tables we used the packing boxes brought from Scotland. Our cooking was done over a fire-place, but later, when stoves were peddled around, my father bought one, and tore out the fire-place, and then we were warm.

"My father, assisted by my brothers and neighbours, cleared one hundred acres of bushland. The Reverend Daniel Allan was a good friend to my father, and he it was who taught my father how to cut a tree properly. How we all did work! People nowadays don't know what work is."

LAND OF PLENTY

"To us, North Easthope was a land of milk and honey, but we had to work for it. In the spring we gathered the sap, and made every year about 300 pounds of maple sugar and 20 gallons of molasses. With this we preserved the wild berries which grew in abundance. With yarn spun from the wool of our own sheep both men and women knitted, for we had to make everything we wore, wearing wool in summer as well as in winter. The year I was married (Christmas) 1867, I spun 60 lbs of wool and made two pairs of blankets and a fancy web plaid.

"Yes, I have seen Stratford grow from a few shanties to a beautiful city and an important railroad centre. In the early days, many a time I walked six miles to Stratford market, carrying my basket of eggs and pail of butter, and paying one penny for the privilege of selling it there.

"My brother used to walk six miles from North Easthope to the Little Lakes, and home, while he was helping the building of the Grand Trunk Railway into Stratford.

"I saw the Prince of Wales (the late King Edward), shortly after the railway was built as far as Stratford. And what a poky little station it was then! We stood on raised logs in order to see the Prince. His presence in this city at that time recalled to my memory a story my mother used to tell us about an incident that happened at far away Glenquaich. One day there was a knock at the door of our home in Shian, Glenquaich. My mother answered it, and in walked a lady. My mother was churning at the time, and being hospitable, offered the unknown visitor some refreshment in the nature of 'crowdy', a mixture of churned cream, sprinkled with oatmeal. The lady ate it and enjoyed it, and said that she would come again next day. 'Oh no,' said my mother, 'there will be no more cream.' However someone called the next day and delivered a parcel for my mother. She opened it, and found a beautiful Rob Roy (shoulder) Paisley shawl, a gift from Queen Victoria, who, unknown to my mother, was the royal visitor the previous day."

[NOTE re. 'Crowdy' or 'Crowdie' - Crowdie is a Scottish cream cheese, or the term less often refers to a type of brose (an uncooked porridge). The cheese is often eaten with oatcakes, and recommended before a ceilidh as it is said to alleviate the effects of whisky-drinking. The texture is soft and crumbly, the taste slightly sour. Like cottage cheese it is very low in fat, being made from skimmed milk. Also, in Scotland, a thick gruel of oatmeal and milk or water.]

EARLY-DAY DOCTORS

"I can remember many doctors in Stratford: Dr. Moore, down by the present Y.M.C.A., Dr. Waugh, Dr. Shaver, Dr. Hyde, Dr. Smith, Dr. Nicol, Dr. J. A. Robertson, Dr. D. M. Fraser and Dr. D. B. Fraser especially.

"I well remember the day that Dr. Robertson and Dr. D. B. Fraser performed a lung operation on my son John, on the kitchen table. I shall never forget the kindness of the neighbours at that time, for they were very kind in the pioneer days, when they came in two's every night to sit by the bedside of my very sick son, John, for many weeks, until he was on the way to recovery."

PASTORS OF ST. ANDREWS

"All my life in Canada, I have been connected with St. Andrew's Church, Stratford, and I have sat under eleven ministers in that time: The Reverend Allan, Bell, Miller, George (who married me 66 years ago), Wilkinson, Wallace, Waters, Panton, Thompson, Rowland, Matheson, and my present pastor, Dr. Duncan.

"As children we thought nothing of walking six miles to St. Andrew's Church, Stratford, which we usually did, every Sunday morning, sometimes in our bare feet, carrying our shoes as far as the city limits. People did remember the Sabbath in those days, and did go to church. The main country road was well filled with all denominations, walking to church on a Sunday morning."

(Signed) ANNIE MENZIES MERRYLEES

As she sits opposite her most devoted husband, beside the south window of her home, the view from which she enjoys so much - the River Avon - which she first saw ninety-two years ago, the passers-by on the Waterloo Street bridge, the attractive Lakeside Park, and the city beyond, she sheds an inexpressible peace, radiance, and happiness, which cannot fail to make her children - George, San Atonia, Texas; Chrstitina (Mrs. Makins), Lot 36 and 37, Concession Five, North Easthope; and, John, of Starford, rise up and call her blessed. She truly typifies Browning's lines:

*"Grow old along with me,
The best is yet to be;
The last of life, for which the first was made."*