Tulach Ard

Volume 10 Number 2

Spring 2014

In This Issue:

Summer Games	1
President's Letter	2
AGM 2014	3
Rocky Mountain MacKenzie Explorers	4
Castle Leo Update	10
Regional Reports	12
Treasurer Report	15
Officers	16

FRONT PICTURE

This Seaforth Highlander kilt was worn in WWI. The medals were awarded to the highlander who wore this kilt. It has been on display in Colorado & Wyoming. It will be on display at the AGM in Hamilton MT.

Photo: Irene Martin, Cheyenne WY

Clan MacKenzie Society in the United States Inc



Celebrate our Scottish Heritage at a Festival Near You!

For much of the country, summertime is Games Season! While in the south, you are just completing your annual games. Attending the games is fun and great family entertainment. Every event has a different feel and flavor based on local traditions and strengths. Some Games host the Athletic Competitions, sometimes even including jousting. Others are all about music, from Music Festivals to Harp, Pipe, Fiddle and Dance Displays or Competitions.

Everywhere there is great food, better company, and enough activities to keep everyone in the family engaged throughout the day. For many of us, our favorite place is the Clan Tent! The warmth of friendship, the cool of the shade, and always the meeting of old friends, and the making of new ones. ENJOY THE GAMES!!!

Tulach Ard Spring 2014 page 2 of 16

President's Letter

The thought of composing a nice spring image to begin this letter crossed my mind. I'd create a picture of new buds on the trees, the first shoots of crab grass coming up in my lawn, but no, I've got a lot to tell you!



Games season has begun here. I hope you attend the games in your area, and if there is a Clan Mackenzie tent at that game, go and introduce yourself there. It encourages our local representatives when members come to the tent and say hello. These folks might also like a short break from their duties, or your help at the set-up, or take-down at the end of the day. As always, any and all help is welcomed.

Next, our Annual General Meeting is being held August 23 and 24, in Hamilton, Montana. This is a first for us. We have never held an AGM in Montana, and I hear that the Bitterroot Valley and its surrounding area is nothing short of spectacular. But, while scenery is nice, and the business meeting is necessary, an AGM is not only about those things.

An AGM is about us. Us, coming together. Us, making new friends, and seeing old friends. Us, picking up where we left off in Charleston, SC last year, and us planning for Scotland next year. From one point of view, the word "clan" might be a synonym for "us." Please consider this an invitation to join us in Montana!

There is another item of business to which we must attend. The position of Vice President/President Elect is open and we must hold a special election to fill this vacancy. Moving toward this end, I have appointed a nominating committee made up of Commissioner Jim Mackenzie, V.P. Douglas Mackenzie-Wright, and myself. None of us will be a candidate for office in this election.

Given the unpredictable delivery dates of our Tulach Ard, nominations for this election will be open until July 30, 2014. In that some currently serving officers and commissioners may be running for this position, I am asking that all nominations, or self nominations be sent to: PO Box 300603, Waterford, MI 48330. The nominees may write a 10-line statement to be printed in the Tulach Ard. All candidates must have been a member of the Society for two years, and have served as an officer or commissioner for two years. Election procedure and dates will be announced in the next issue of the Tulach Ard. This election is necessary so that we have a smooth transition for the incoming President.

President's Letter - Con't

To me, the best part of this letter is to remind you that our World Gathering will be held in Strathpeffer, Ross-Shire, Scotland from August fifth through ninth of 2015. If you have never been to a World Gathering in Scotland, it is an opportunity that you should not miss! The schedule begins with the sign-in and welcome on the Tuesday morning the 4th. Possible side trips include Fort George, Dunrobin Castle and gardens, the Cullodin Visitors Center, and perhaps some gold panning in Helmsdale. The Strathpeffer Games are held on Saturday and followed by a formal dinner in the marquee in the evening. On Sunday morning there will likely be a Kirking of the Tartan, followed by the AGM, lunch and farewell.

As with any trip, the planning is half of the fun! Before or after the Gathering concludes you may wish to add a couple of days to your holiday and do some site seeing. The website "Undiscovered Scotland," is a great place to fuel travel ideas and it is loaded with places to see and things to do. It includes information from Carlisle in the south to Shetland in the north and Barra to Aberdeen. "Visit Scotland" can also be a very helpful website. As with any Mackenzie gathering, it is a great time to renew old acquaintances, and make new friends.

I hope you will enjoy your local games, and I look forward to seeing you in Montana. Thank you clan-folk. I'm really grateful for each one of you.

Howard Mackenzie-Wright, FSA Scot

page 3 of 16 Spring 2014 Tulach Ard



The Clan MacKenzie is the Honored Clan for the August 23-24, 2014 Festival

Host Hotel Information

TOWNHOUSE INN of HAMILTON

1113 N 1st Street, Hamilton, MT 59840 406-363-6600 http://www.townhouseinnhamilton.com/

MacKenzie Society room rate \$74.99 + taxes

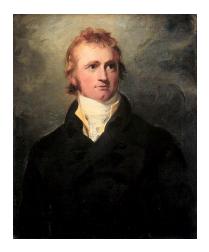


Trapper Peak Bitterroot Mountains

Tulach Ard Spring 2014 page 4 of 16

Mackenzie's WHO EXPLORED THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS

Sir Alexander Mackenzie (1764 - 03/11/1820) Born at Stornoway on the Isle of Lewis, a son of Kenneth Mackenzie, of Melbrost farm and Isabella Maciver. Alexander sailed with his father and 2 aunts for North America in 1774.



Sir Alexander Mackenzie

By 1779 Alexander was in Montreal and joined his first trading company. Five years later he was offered a share in the business and assignment to Grand Portage (MN). His cousin Roderick Mackenzie was newly arrived from Scotland and accepted a clerk position in the Montreal office. In 1785 Alexander was assigned to the English (Churchill) River in Saskatchewan. In Oct 1787 he arrived at the Athabaska River with Peter Pond from whose experience he learned much.

In summer 1789 he embarked on an assignment in search of a passage by water through the northwest continent of America from Athabaska to the Pacific Ocean. He left on

this first voyage from the newly built Fort Chipewyan on the south shore of Lake Athabaska. This Fort was built by Roderick who was now serving with Alexander.



Mackenzie River northeast of the Mackenzie Mountains

On July 12, 1789 they reached the (Beaufort) Sea after having traveled about 1075 miles of the Mackenzie River in only 14 days at an average speed of 75 miles a day. Four days later they began the return trip and reached Fort Chipewyan on September 12th.



Mackenzie River Delta draining into the Beaufort Sea

page 5 of 16 Spring 2014 Tulach Ard

Alexander's second voyage was begun on October 10, 1792 from Fort Athabaska arrived at the junction of the Peace and Smoky Rivers and built Fort Fork, which was used as a winter base camp. On May 9, 1793 they departed in their birch bark canoes. dimensions were twenty-five feet long within, exclusive of curves of stem and stern, twentysix inches hold, and four feet nine inches He traveled on this trip with a beam." compass, a chronometer a sextant, and a large telescope Alexander lead his party on the rivers which now bear the names of Parsnip River, James Creek, McGregor River, and the Fraser River. After four days travel down the Fraser, he reached the future site of Fort Alexander (British Columbia) which was named for him.

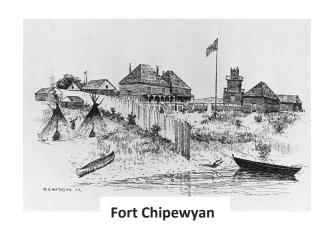
Reluctantly following the advice of the Native Americans he encountered, he turned back up river to the junction of the Fraser and West Road River. Here they cached the canoe and surplus supplies, and began the trek on foot to the west coast. Mackenzie's own load consisted of pemmican, and other supplies weighting 70 pounds, in addition to arms, ammunition, and his telescope. His trail lead him up the Ulgako Creek, to the Tanya Lakes, crossed Mackenzie Pass (6000 feet) and south down the Bella Coola.

On July 19, 1793 he found six curious Native American houses built on 25 foot stilts. Mackenzie wrote, "From these houses I could perceive the termination of the river, and its discharge into a narrow arm of the

sea." He secured a canoe, paddled down North Bentinck and on July 21st the party slept on a large rock in Dean Channel. Mackenzie "mixed up some vermilion and melted grease" and wrote this inscription: "Alexander Mackenzie, from Canada, by land, the twenty-second day of July one-thousand seven hundred and ninety-three."

Mackenzie's party began their return journey on July 23, 1793 and arrived at Fort Chipewyan on August 24, 1793. On this return trek over known trails and with caches left behind he averaged 25 miles a day from Bella Coola to the Fraser River. Of the remaining 860 miles by water, he averaged 36 miles day including portages.

Thus Alexander Mackenzie became the first recorded European to reach the Pacific Ocean by way of a transcontinental crossing of North America north of Mexico. He remained involved in the fur trade until 1799 when he left for England. He worked on publishing accounts of his travels. On February 10, 1801 he was knighted.



Tulach Ard Spring 2014 page 6 of 16

Sir Roderick Mackenzie (1761 - 08/15/1844) Born near Inverness, Scotland the eldest son of Alexander Mackenzie and Catherine. Donald Mackenzie was a younger brother, and Sir Alexander Mackenzie a cousin. He died in Tennebonne, Lower Canada.



Sir Roderick Mackenzie

He joined his cousin Alexander as Clerk in Quebec in 1784 and was later sent to establish and put in charge of the Fort on the southwestern end of Lake Athabasca. He later became a partner in the North West Company.

Following his return from a furlough to the east in 1798-99, he rediscovered an old canoe route that had been used by the French. This discovery allowed the North West Company to shift its trans-shipment base from Grand Portage (MN), which had become American territory, to Kaministiquia (Thunder Bay, Ontario).

Roderick Mackenzie latter received a number of appointments including an appointment to the Legislative Council of Lower Canada in 1817.

Donald McKenzie (06/15/1783 - 01/20/1851) Born in Scotland a son of Alexander Mackenzie and Catherine. In 1800 he followed his brothers Roderick, Henry & James to Canada. He died in Mayville, NY.

He began his career as a fur trader and explorer in March 1801 working as a clerk with the North West Company. In 1810 he became one of the original partners in the Pacific Fur Company which was begun by John Jacob Astor. He assisted Wilson Hunt with the command of the Overland Astorian Party which departed from St Louis, MO that summer. The expedition was headed for the mouth of the Columbia River.



Donald McKenzie

page 7 of 16 Spring 2014 Tulach Ard

The group traveled up the Missouri River and set-up winter camp on Nodaway Island in Andrew County, MO. The following April they broke winter camp and in May 1811 Hunt decided not to follow the Lewis & Clark route any further up the Missouri to avoid troubles with the *Blackfeet*. By mid-July 1811 Hunt obtained horses and left the *Arikara* in North Dakota. The remaining party traveled through South Dakota and Wyoming and accumulated 6000 pounds of dried buffalo meat northwest of Pinedale, Wyoming.

In September 1811 the party abandoned their horses to begin the decent of the Snake River. This proved to be a bad choice as there were many rapids, and they were forced to abandon this mode of travel. It was in southern Idaho neart Shoshone Falls & Twin Falls that the group divided.

One group of explorers was lead by Hunt and the second group of explorers was lead by McKenzie. A third group of Trappers also split off at this time.

Donald Mackenzie's group struck north and found the Salmon and Clearwater Rivers. They proceeded down the lower Snake River and Columbia River by canoe. They were the first Overland Astorians to reach Fort Astoria (OR) on January 18, 1812.

Donald McKenzie returned to New York for a time. In 1816 McKenzie was again in the Columbia and spent five years developing the Snake River country expeditions.

He had a reputation for being fearless and astute in his dealings with the tribes of that region. In 1818 he established Fort Nez Perces (Walla Walla, WA)

Donald was made Factor at Fort Garry on the Red River of the North in 1824 and in 1825 became Governor of the Red River Colony. Throughout the 1820s McKenzie was praised for his management of the Red River colony. His "firmness, sound judgment and energy" were credited with mitigating the devastating effects of the flood of 1826, and in 1829

(The Red River flows south to north. When the spring thaw comes, the melt water is flowing over the frozen river, causing flooding.)

During a 1832 trip, McKenzie chose Mayville, NY as his place of retirement. After a short leave of absence due to health, he officially retired in 1835.



White Water on the McKenzie River - OR

See Also: *Tularch Ard* Spring 2012 Vol 8 Issue

Tulach Ard Spring 2014 page 8 of 16



Glacier National Park - Montana



North Cascades National Park - Washington



Lewis and Clark National Historical Park - Oregon



Sawtooth Trail Big 5 Lakes Sequoia
California National Parks



Sequoia Natl Park



Great Basin National Park - Nevada



Arches National Park - Delicate Arch - Utah



Great Salt Lake - Utah

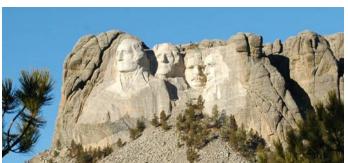
page 9 of 16 Spring 2014 Tulach Ard

PLANNING YOUR TRIP TO HAMILTON MONTANA ENJOY SOME OF THE COUNTRIES BEST SIGHTS





THEODORE ROOSEVELT NAT'L PARK - ND



MOUNT RUSHMORE NATL MEMORIAL - SD



Yellowstone National Park - Wyoming (above) (below) Rocky Mountain National Park - Colorado



Tulach Ard Spring 2014 page 10 of 16

Castle Leod Update May 2014

Much has been happening over the last twelve months at Castle Leod. With an increase in publicity due largely to our website (www.castleleod.org.uk) and to our Facebook page, we have been having more Private tours, weddings and community events within the castle and grounds.

A new Business plan has been drawn up and we should shortly be submitting another Heritage Lottery application to help fund a study/tea room where the current estate office is. Visitor numbers to the general area are quite low which reflects on our public Open Days and to that end we are hoping to get new Tourist Signs produced. These will be on the approach to the Maryburgh roundabout south of Dingwall and to the north at Contin so that potential visitors to Strathpeffer are aware of its many attractions which of course includes the castle.

Community ventures at the castle include 50 Strathpeffer primary school children in the Great Hall for a 'Storytelling', a Vintage Bentley rally where we entertained 74 superb old cars and over 100 drivers, a public lecture by Stephen Venables

(the first Britain to summit Everest without oxygen and via the enormous Kanshung face too), an archaeological and historical 'app' plus several other community events that included concerts, tree walks and of course our 'Culloden Afternoon'.



The Private Tours, which are private in name only, are organised groups under a tour guide, or else smaller family groups, who pay considerably more than on an Open Day. They spend two hours with me, getting a solid history of the castle and its colourful characters, together with a good dram of Malt to wash it all down with. I enjoy these tours greatly as most of my tour visitors are so enthusiastic and fun themselves.



Welcome to Castle Leod 'Ceud mile Failte'

www.castleleod.org.uk

Several small slit trenches were dug on the front lawn, plus another adjacent to the castle walls on the west side, by Ross and Cromarty Archaeological services. The trenches on the lawn proved that the castle is built on a rock mount – the original 'motte' – on which both a Pictish fort and subsequent Viking castle were based, both of which, if anything remains of them, would now lie within the walls of the present day castle, which is largely 15th century. The trench next to the walls excavated down nearly 1.5m which reached the bedrock.

At different levels - first 16th century glass, probably from Venice was found, then deeper down earlier glass and pottery shards plus a jet bead were excavated. All of which still have to be dated. Of interest was the discovery of a medieval drain that still appears to work! This has waterwashed stones and appears to be draining from the wall itself but the source of the water is a mystery unless it is from some long lost internal well.

Until we can raise significant sums, our repairs to the upper level stonework on the castle will remain piecemeal. Although if our Lottery application is successful, then the conversion of the current office can go ahead. Funds continue to mount however, and we now have a growing list of Patrons of Castle Leod, as well as subscriptions to the Book of Honour, both of which are kept on public display in the old Tower. A new notice board has been put to one side of the white gate on the front drive which has a potted history of the building and will give walkers a good vantage point for photographs.

I, together with some other chiefs and our CEO of the Clan Mackenzie Society, Graeme Mackenzie, who is also CEO of the Association of Highland Clans and Societies, have been invited by the

page 11 of 16 Spring 2014 Tulach Ard

Scottish Minister of Tourism to serve on the Scottish Clan Forum to continue the work which the Highland Clans Partnership Group started. I have been chairing or co-chairing this group since its inception here at Castle Leod and it is good to know that this is a Mackenzie initiative!

As some of you might know through the US based COSCA (who will also be represented on the Forum), we have secured government money to assist individual Clan Societies to hold their own international clan gatherings, provided there is an additional element to them that can also benefit the local community. Since most, if not all, of these gatherings do benefit their local community, this additional sum of money (up to £5000 per gathering per year) can help turn small events into more ambitious ones and will, we hope, grow year by year.

This I think brings you up to date with current progress. Do follow further developments on our website and in the meantime remember that our own International Gathering will be held here in August 2015, 5th to 9th inclusive with information on the Clan Mackenzie Society website as well as our own. Let's make this a great Gathering with lots of Mackenzie's and their Septs world-wide enjoying their clan heritage.

Duràchdan, Cabarfeidh



Tulach Ard Spring 2014 page 12 of 16

REGIONAL REPORTS



SW Region VP Peter McKenna

Ah! New Mexico. Land of Enchantment. Carlsbad Caverns. Santa Fe's San Miquel Chapel, built in 1610. Los Alamos Research facility. And Chaco Canyon, created by the Ancestral Pueblo peoples

New Mexico is home to no less than five bagpipe bands! Not bad for a state with only 17 people per square mile. It is also home to two Scottish Highland Games, one in the Albuquerque area, and one near Farmington, New Mexico.

The Games in Albuquerque are known as the Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival. On May 17th and 18th, they celebrated their 26th year of bringing a wee bit of Scotland to the Land of Enchantment. We're happy to say the Clan MacKenzie was there to join in the celebrations.

Thanks to New Mexico resident and our Southwest Regional VP for the Clan MacKenzie Society, Peter McKenna, there's a welcoming tent telling all about the history of the Clan. Clan MacKenzie Society member Roy Poole drove down from the Denvermetro area to join Peter, and his wife, Janet, for the weekend in the MacKenzie tent.

For those of you on the crowded East Coast, that's just a "little" weekend excursion of 458 miles - each way - to have fun at a "nearby" Scottish festival.

The Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival is always held on the third weekend in May, before the weather heats up. We had enjoyable days in the high 80's with a light breeze and low humidity. Perfect weather for kilts, dancers, and athletes.

The Festival is held on the grounds of Balloon Fiesta Park, home to the largest hot air balloon event in the world. If you haven't been to the Balloon Fiesta, plan ahead, and bring lots of film. You'll enjoy nine days and over 750 hot air balloons in all shapes and sizes.

One part of the story of the Celtic Festival is yet to be told: Peter McKenna not only represents Clan MacKenzie, but serves as Treasurer on the board which puts on this event. Now, this job is anything but a darkened room for counting money. Throughout the festival, Peter is making sure the entertainers are paid promptly, and when athletes set a national record (twice, this year), they promptly receive their prize money. This attention to detail, even when he'd rather be relaxing in the MacKenzie tent, is a key reason the festival is on solid footing. Well done, Peter!

The Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival is a fantastic event for MacKenzies. Be sure to put it on your 2015 calendar - May 16th and 17th. Clan MacKenzie will be waiting for you at the Festival!

Submitted by: Roy Poole

Savannah Scottish Games - GA

Excitement was in the air at the new location of the 38th Annual Savannah Scottish Games. This year the games were held at Bynuh's Field at Bethesda Academy. The MacKenzie tent was overflowing with MacKenzies and friends all day. The weather was great with a sunny 84 degrees. Our shaded tent was set up under a beautiful old oak tree. We enjoyed a nice breeze flowing off the Moon River.

We welcomed three new members! Derek Smart's name was a topic of discussion. Smart is a Sept of Clan MacKenzie. This generated a good conversation about Clan MacKenzie Sept names. Another new member, Christina McKenzie Palmer, said her MacKenzie heritage can be traced back to Kenneth MacKenzie 7th in Scotland. David M. Thomas, also a new member, was a volunteer at the games, and was able to stop in briefly at the tent to talk about the Kirkin' O' the Tartans.

The Bynuh's field is located at Bethesda Academy further down the road from our previous site. The story of how the field got its name is a good one. According to the Savannah Games Program, in 1862, during the Civil War, The Union Society of Bethesda Orphan Home, founded in 1765, purchased for \$5,000 Confederate dollars a 175 acre plantation in Bethany, GA, about 100 miles northwest of Savannah. They evacuated 35 Bethesda orphaned boys to Bethany for the remainder of the war. When the Yankee Brigadier General Judson Kilpatrick's cavalry rode out to Bethesda intent on plunder. The officer in charge encountered "Bynuh," an elderly man left by the Bethesda Superintendent as the caretaker. "Whose home is

this, old man?" Bynuh was asked, "it belongs to the Union Society," replied the old man. The Yankee officer assumed that the property already belonged to the Union, i.e., the federal government, and he and his men galloped away. Today, one of Bethesda's fields is fondly referred to as "Bynuh's Field."

Next year on May 1, 2015 Savannah Scottish Games will host the Annual Kilted Golf Classic at Henderson Golf Club, Savannah, GA. So far, Robert I. McKenzie has agreed to play for the McKenzie's. Save the date if you are interested in playing in the Kilted Golf Classic.

Submitted by: Linda McKenzie-Lash



Linda McKenzie-Lash & Christina McKenzie-Palmer

Tulach Ard Spring 2014 page 14 of 16

Northeast Kirkin' O' The Tartan Saint Paul's Episcopal Church

On April 6, 2014 in Newburyport, MA Rector Martha Hubbard presided over the Kirkin' O' The Tartan Service and Celebration. There were eleven Clans participating and over 200 folks present to join in the celebration.



Piper Adam Holdaway & Rector Hubbard

Those outside waiting in the beautiful weather, for the ceremonial procession, were entertained by piping until it was time for the Clans to process into the church. Caroline Ramm played the Fiddle for those waiting inside for the Clans procession.

Claire Tobyne, NE Region VP, welcomed those assembled and described the hisotry of the Kirkin' O The Tartan Service. In additional comments she talked about the bagpipe being considered an implement of war as well as for entertainment, and also gave a short history of the Act of Proscription.

Rector Hubbard and Assistant Rector Jones were presented with Clergy Tartans in appreciation for their work officiating at the special service. The 23rd Psalm was read in Broad Scots and was clearly appreciated.



Caroline Ramm, Fiddle Player

Following the service there was piping outside and a time of fellowship with good Scottish treats.



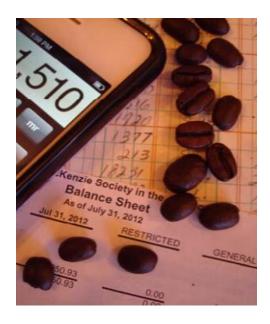
Submitted by: Claire & Mark Tobyne



Cheyenne WY Kirkin' O' The Tartan
on the
Historic Depot Plaza

page 15 of 16 Spring 2014 Tulach Ard

Bean Counter's Corner

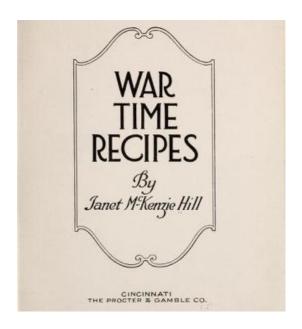


THANK YOU to the following Donors for your extra gifts during the past quarter.

DONATIONS TO CASTLE LEOD Robert A McKenzie (SC) Margaret Rogers (NV) William Ted McKenzie (AL)

CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS \$100-\$199
Dr Jann MacKenzie Steel-Lane (CA)

DONATIONS to the SCHOLARSHIP FUND Dr Jann MacKenzie Steel-Lane (CA)



A World War I Cookbook published by Proctor & Gamble and available on line at:

https://archive.org/details/wartimerecipes00hill

A lot of the recipes use rice flour, barley flour, corn flour or potato flour. Clearly a sign the US Army needed a lot of wheat flour to feed the troops. One of the recipes that brought back memories, is on page 37, "Finnan Haddie Balls." Finnan Haddie is a smoked haddock, and I recall my mother pouring milk over it, in order to re-hydrate it and pull a lot of the salt out, before cooking.

Submitted by: Roy Poole

To The New MacKenzie Society Members From Your Tent Hosts & Hostesses CEUD MILE FAILTE (100,000 Welcomes)

Christina McKenzie Palmer, Savannah, GA David M. Thomas, Savannah, GA Derek Smart, Richmond Hill, GA

Julie Dumas, Portland, MI Ian MacKenzie, Livonia, MI

REMEMBER TO GET YOUR NEW MEMBERS TO THE TREASURER AS SOON AS YOUR EVENT IS OVER!!

Tulach Ard Spring 2014 page 16 of 16

SOCIETY OFFICERS - Spring 2014

PRESIDENT

Howard Mackenzie-Wright, FSA Scot

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PAST PRESIDENT Asa Gene McKenzie (Annette)

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TULACH ARD EDITOR - Open