



The Cromartie Reunion News

August 3, 2011

The President's Corner

Dear Kindred Cromarties,

It is hard to believe that our "Reunion 2011" is only about 60 days away. Since "Reunion 2010," your Executive Board and Committee Chairpersons have been hard at work to accomplish the goals we established for ourselves last year.



Bob Cromartie

Scott Cromartie of the South River Presbyterian Church Trustees has been working on the establishment of an entity with which to accept a donation of the Church and grounds from the Presbytery. In May, the South River Historical Foundation, Inc. was established for that purpose. Scott is working on the By-Laws and should be filing for non-profit status of the Corporation prior to the Reunion. On June 9th, your Executive Board also filed the Articles of Incorporation for the Cromartie Family Association, Inc. This non-profit 501(c)(3) entity will become the vehicle for administrative management of the growing membership and functions of our Cromartie Family Association and Reunion. Last year, the Executive Board ratified a motion to institute a nominal annual membership fee beginning in 2012 to cover the cost of membership administration, postage, publications, Reunion costs, professional fees and website maintenance. Membership forms will be made available to all on our mailing lists and at the Reunion.

Your Vice President, Taylor Cromartie and I have been working on an internet presence for the Cromartie Family Association which is nearing completion and should be launched online prior to the Reunion. In addition to documenting the history of our family, the website promises to help grow our membership by providing new networking opportunities with other William Cromartie descendants across America. The website will also feature a Membership Section to provide an easy method for family members to join the Association and give our extended Cromartie family a sense of belonging to a family with a documented history much larger than they previously knew. While other collective work has been published on Cromartie genealogy, today's internet technology has enhanced both our resources and the scope from which to draw information.

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Reunion Plans 2011-Sun Oct 9th

Have you been to Orkney, Scotland and sensed the spirit of our initial immigrant ancestor, William Cromartie? No? Then there's a real treat in store for you at our 82nd Reunion.

You will recall our Clan Chief Kenneth Urquhart extended a cordial invitation to us to join him in the 2011 Clan Urquhart Gathering & Tour honoring the 400th Anniversary of the Birth of the Great Sir Thomas Urquhart of Cromarty (1611-1660) and to tour the Orkney Island, the land of our William's birth. Dr. Sam Cromartie and family have taken him up on that invitation and will present a slideshow of their travels with Chief Urquhart for our Reunion program on October 9th. With the Chief's access to attractions off the usual tour routes, this will be an unusual experience through our Scottish heritage and give us a feel for the land of our forefathers.

Following the program, we will celebrate with a catered lunch on the grounds and catch up on family talk.

The Bladen County Historical Society has been invited to have their books available at the Reunion for purchase.

The Reunion post card reminders will be sent out about three weeks prior to the Reunion date. We will ask for an RSVP so we can get a good estimate of our catered lunch needs. Please RSVP to our Hospitality Committee by Thursday, October 6th. RSVP by phone to Ann at 910-395-9326 – by email to Sara at dhoneycutt1@ec.rr.com Thanks Ann and Sara for setting this up.

Preserving Our History

One of the joys of being associated with the Cromartie Reunion is the discovery of family stories. Certainly that is the case with our lead article on the Rev. Archibald MacFadyen. We want to thank Jonathan for taking time out from his busy schedule to write it up for us. We think these family stories add much to what our Cromartie Reunion is all about. We know there are many stories out there and we would like for you to share them with us. Thank you for your help and enjoy learning about the Rev. Archibald MacFadyen.

*A Sketch of Archibald MacFadyen by
Jonathan B. Hall.*

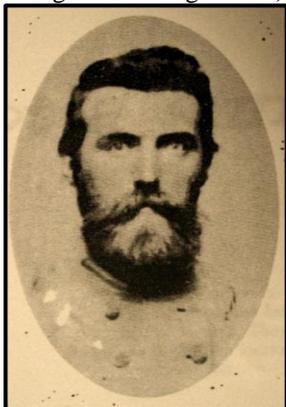
There were five Archibald MacFadyens (or McFadyens) in a row, starting with the Archibald who came to North Carolina from Islay in 1785, and ending with his great-great grandson, Archibald Pelham MacFadyen, my grandmother's brother, who died in 1975. This account deals with the third Archibald, often called Archibald McNeill McFadyen (his mother was Christian McNeill, 1810-1890). The eldest Archie is buried in Longstreet Cemetery on the grounds of Fort Bragg.

Archibald "the third" was born on April 6, 1836, in Fayetteville. (Some printed records give his birth date as 1838, but in his own handwriting, in a letter to his former seminary, he corrected this.) He was early attracted to the ministry, and among his early achievements was the co-founding of the YMCA at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He graduated in the Class of 1862. His autograph book (the precursor of the modern yearbook) reflects his politics as well as his faith. "Good luck fighting the Devil (Yankees)", one friend wrote!

On Jun 17, 1862, McFadyen enrolled in the Fifth North Carolina Cavalry, also known as the Sixty-Third State Troops. More specifically, he was in Captain James H. McNeill's Company—shades of his mother's maiden name.

His election to Third Lieutenant took place around November or December of 1862. His January, 1863 muster roll indicates that he was away on "recruiting service." He was eventually promoted to First Lieutenant.

The remarkable point in MacFadyen's career comes just after the Battle of Gettysburg, in which he took part. In Hagerstown, Maryland, on July 12, 1863, he was captured by George Armstrong Custer, and sent to Johnson's Island,



Lt. Archibald McFadyen
ca. 1863

the officers prison camp in Sandusky, Ohio. During his captivity, he took part in an improvised theological class, satisfying his desire to study for the ordained ministry. The northern church sent supplies—both religious—and mundane—from Philadelphia. After the War, he took graduate courses at Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, though he did not finish a masters degree in divinity. He was ordained,

and spent the balance of his career ministering in Bladen and Robeson Counties; mainly in small congregations, and also as a chaplain to the Bladen County Confederate Veterans.

On November 18, 1867, MacFadyen married Miriam Eliza Cromartie, She was the daughter of George Cromartie, 1804-1892, and Mary Jane Hendon, 1808-1857. George Cromartie was the son of Alexander Cromartie and Elizabeth DeVane. Miriam Eliza Cromartie was born April 17, 1844, in Elizabethtown. She died in Clarkton February 7, 1907.

Their eldest son, Archibald Hendon MacFadyen, 1869-1941, is my great-grandfather. Of particular note is their son Henry Richard, 1877-1964—who always spelled his name the old way, with Mc rather than Mac. He followed his father into the ordained ministry, and is remembered today for his hymn text "The Lone Wild Bird." This is found in the current Presbyterian hymnal and other sources, and is often simply identified as a "Southern folksong." It may be that, but it's also a family heirloom. Henry Richard published an insightful memoir of his father in *Presbyterian Survey* in January, 1961. It includes the above photograph of the future Rev. Archibald in his grey Confederate uniform, resplendent in a full beard, eyes full of Scottish fire.

Rev. MacFadyen died April 27, 1911, and is buried in Clarkton, along with his wife, Miriam Eliza Cromartie.



**The Rev. Archibald
McFadyen**

I am presently working on a transcription of MacFadyen's wedding records, preserved at Chapel Hill, which I hope to publish along with a longer and more complete biography. Let me just conclude that I only discovered this Southern and Confederate side of my heritage a few years ago. My grandmother, Virginia MacFadyen came to New York in 1920 to seek fame as a writer and actress.

There she met a man named Hall, and their marriage, I regret to say, lasted less than a decade. My North Carolina roots, long scarcely known to me, represent something about which I intend to learn a great deal more. (Jonathan also wrote about Archibald McFadyen in the

A Sketch of Archibald McFadyen-Conti.

March/April 2009 issue of *Roots and Remembrances*, The Southeastern North Carolina Genealogical Society. Though some information overlaps, this article was written independently of the former one. Jonathan's membership in the Sons of the American Revolution is through descent from William Cromartie.) Photo credits: Lt. McFadyen, reproduced in *Presbyterian Survey*, January 1961. The elderly Rev. MacFadyen, original in the Clarkton church, courtesy John Williamson of the Northeastern South Carolina Genealogical Society.

Thanks to Ann Myhre of the North Carolina Presbyterian Historical Society for kindly sending information on the McFadyens from the state library in Raleigh, and Archibald's military muster records from Footnote.com. Thanks to Sue-Ellen de Beer, Amanda Cook Gilbert, Jasper Parham, Joy and Ed Bulluck, Betty and Allen Johannes, and many others for information on MacFadyen, Cromartie, and allied families.

Report on Our Last Reunion

The 81st Annual Cromartie Reunion was held Oct 10, 2010 at the South River Presbyterian Church near Garland, NC. It was a beautiful fall day with over eighty in attendance. Our speaker was Dr. Chris Fonvielle, Assistant Professor of History, UNC-Wilmington, who presented the story of the Revolutionary Battle at Moores Creek Bridge on Feb. 27, 1776. Chris's story was especially meaningful to us because it gave the broader context to the story of one of our ancestors.

It was the story of the times of our first American ancestor – William Cromartie of Orkney. Twenty years before the Revolutionary battle, William had made a life changing decision - taking the perilous voyage from Scotland to the wilderness of the Cape Fear River where he prospered. Now he faced another life changing decision – America was in rebellion and he had to once again choose between the old familiar ways or the unknown path of a new independent nation. He chose the unknown.

The best known actions of the Revolution took place in the early years of the War in the northern colonies – Lexington, Concord, Boston, etc. where the Continental Army fought the British red coats and consistently lost.

Early on in the southern colonies it was a different type war - a civil war where neighbors fought neighbors in citizen soldier militia units. The Battle of Moores Creek Bridge was about 1600 loyalist militia from Cross Creek (Fayetteville)

marching to Wilmington to join British troops there in an effort to retake North Carolina for the Crown. A 1,000 strong patriot militia under Col. Richard Caswell sought to stop them at Moores Creek Bridge, twenty miles from Wilmington. It was an ideal defensive position – essentially a choke point surrounded by difficult swamps on either side of the road. On the morning of Feb. 27th the loyalists, some in their Scottish kilts with broad swords drawn, attacked only to discover the bridge flooring had been removed and the supporting log stringers greased with lard. Gingerly crossing the creek on the greased stringer, they received devastating rifle fire and fire from two small artillery pieces sweeping the road. Within minutes it was over. The loyalists suffered 30 killed and 40 wounded – the patriots, one killed. Most of the loyalists, their supplies and funds were captured in the following days.

It was a minor skirmish but significant victory because of its psychological effects in persuading loyalists to abandon their cause, and because it encouraged North Carolina to become the first delegation to vote for independence from Britain at the Continental Congress in Philadelphia on April 12, 1776.

Our William of Orkney later mustered into Coleman's Company of the Continental Army on 5 December, 1781 as a fifty plus year old volunteer.

Activities Reported by our Members

A Report from our Scotland Tourists

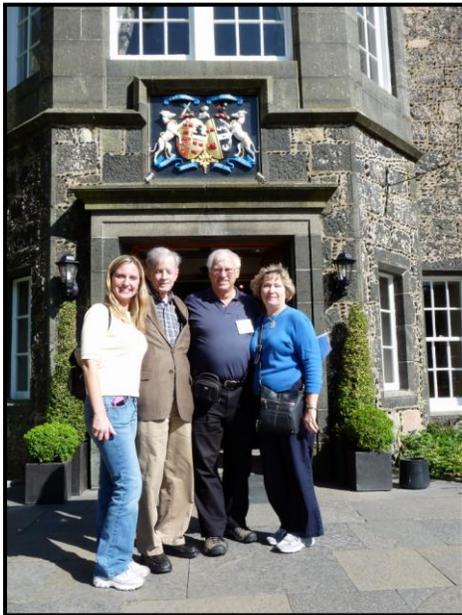
Dr. Sam, our program speaker for this coming Reunion reports – “My wife Elaine, daughter Kim, son Sam, Sam's fiancé Melissa, and I are attending the Urquhart Clan Gathering in Scotland. We began our journey on July 22 with a flight from Orlando to London, arriving with no bags, but fortunately they appeared the next afternoon. The train brought us to Glasgow on July 26, and we spent last night in Banff on the northeast coast and came to Inverness today via the battlefield of Culloden. The town of Cromarty, the Black Isle, and areas of importance to the Urquhart Clan await us but the climax of the trip should be the Orkney Islands, birthplace of William Cromartie.

“Traditionally the Cromartie Family has held status as a sept of Clan MacKenzie, whose chief at this time bears the title Earl of Cromarty and lives in the Ross and Cromarty area of the Highlands of Scotland. In 2000, the Chief of Clan Urquhart recognized the Cromartie Family as a sept of Clan Urquhart. Members of the family thus had the option of declaring their allegiance to either of these clans and

at our 2008 Reunion we declared for Clan Urquhart based on research by Bob Cromartie and Susan Cromartie.

“The family name of Cromarty or Cromartie historically has not been found in the region of the Highlands that bears that name. The first Cromarty of record appears in the Orkney Islands approximately 1450. Historians believe that he came from Cromarty, taking the name of that region as his new last name. At that time, the lords and hereditary sheriffs of Cromarty were Urquharts.”

Scenes from Scotland.-
At Meldrum House in Aberdeen.



L to R Kimberly Cromartie, Kenneth Urquhart (Chief of Clan Urquhart), Sam and Elaine Cromartie



St Peters Church on South Ronaldshay Island (2000) Headed there soon!

The President's Corner Conti.

Our Cromartie Family Association Genealogist, Amanda Gilbert has again spent thousands of hours this year on her book researching and compiling the most complete work of Cromartie history ever put into print. With contributions from other Genealogy Committee members, the first volume of *The History & Genealogy of the William Cromartie Family in America* is due to be published in 2012.

Amanda is our “go to” person with any questions or requests by members for genealogical information. For an example of her contributions of this nature check out the Special Thanks article about the Suttons on page 5. She played a major role in identifying the children’s Cromartie family relationship and search for living relatives.

Former President, History Committee Chairman and Sleuth Extraordinaire, Tom Lennon has been on the road again this year researching and documenting his project, "The Cromartie Heritage Trail." The self-guided, GPS-documented, automobile tour currently features twenty-four sites including five Historic Register sites, a Battlefield, Cromartie homes, cemeteries, churches, a river landing, and other types of structures.

The program at this year's Reunion promises to be an interesting one. You won't want to miss Sam Cromartie's account of his trip to Scotland and Orkney... as he and his family, accompanied by Clan Chief, Kenneth Urquhart of Urquhart, retrace some of the steps of our William Cromartie ancestor. See you at South River on October 9th!

Yours aye,

Bob

Bob Cromartie
President

Welcome to new members.

We extend a warm welcome to those new members on our mailing lists. We look forward to seeing you at the Reunion and getting to know you. If you know of other Cromartie family members that would like to be involved, please let us know their email or snail mail address – both if possible.

As with all membership lists, there is a continuing need to update addresses that don't work. A listing of our most recent rejects for both emails and snail mail will be sent out seeking your help. Thanks for your help.

Help Wanted. In his above article, Bob mentioned the efforts of the History Committee to develop a Cromartie Heritage Trail and make it available for the enjoyment of our members as a self-guided auto tour. There are also a few sites identified as easy walk-in paths through wooded areas. The objective is to identify sites that have some documented connection with the Cromartie family and preserve that knowledge for us and future generations to enjoy as we travel about the land of our ancestors. Most of the effort has been within Bladen County and we know of several sites in nearby counties. If you have knowledge of such sites please contact Tom Lennon at tomdottvelen@covad.net or (703)980-9296.

Help Wanted. During our Reunion program we recognize Cromartie family members that have gone to their glory. Our family members are scattered across the U.S. and around the world so it is difficult for us to be knowledgeable about obituary notices. If you have such information please share it with Bob. (See contact information in Officers article.)

Behind the Scenes

One of those “behind the scene” persons in our Reunion is Margaret Calhoun. For years she has put together our program bulletin and printed it for the Reunion. Her talent in selection and blending fonts, layout and material is pure artistry. For those of you who weren’t able to experience the Reunion here’s a picture of what she created last year. Thanks, Margaret, for your many contributions over the years! I’ve framed this one! Sorry this scanned reproduction doesn’t do it credit.

The Battle of Moores Creek Bridge



Photo courtesy National Park Service; artist, Gil Cohen

The 81st Cromartie Reunion
South River Presbyterian Church
October 10, 2010

A Special Thanks

We would like to express a special thanks to Don and Nyda Sutton for the care and concern for details they have demonstrated in restoring “Cederville.” A recent incident tells that story best. Sometime after the Cromartie family lost the property in the Great Depression, the headstones in the family cemetery were moved to the South River Presbyterian Church. But by some oversight two small stones for children remained behind. Don found those stones and went a-hunting. Contacts with Fred Butler, Scott Cromartie and Amanda Gilbert determined who the children were and their relationship to the family. Unable to locate any close living relative, it was determined they rightfully belonged at SRPC and the Suttons corrected an oversight made many years ago. Thanks folks – “Cederville” is in good hands.

Our Snapfish Website

We now have 121 members signed on to The William Cromartie group room. Photos from last years Reunion have been added so check it out at: <http://thewilliamcromartiefamily.snapfish.com/snapfish> room code: **1929reunion** Enjoy and share **your** photos-leave a message!

Cromartie Reunion Officers (2011 - 2012)

President – Bob Cromartie
Vice President – Taylor Cromartie
Recording Secretary – Jane Ross
Corresponding Secretary-Sandra Lennon
Treasurer - Len Clark
Standing Committees:
Catering – Ann Butler & Sarah Honeycutt
Genealogy - Amanda Cook Gilbert
History – Margaret Calhoun, Tom Lennon
If you have questions, comments or suggestions about Reunion activities contact Bob at racromartie@aol.com or 352-208-3126
Please send email and postal address changes or additions to Sandra at (703) 475-7233 or selennon@yahoo.com.
Thanks.

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Site of the Cromartie Reunions



81st Cromartie Family Reunion, October 10, 2010

The South River Presbyterian Church

Built in 1851

Located between Elizabethtown and Garland, North Carolina

*It is on the north side of State 210, approximately one and a half miles
southeast of the intersection of US 701 and State 210.*