

PICTOU COUNTY ROOTS SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume 1 / Issue 2

DATES TO REMEMBER

- ❖ 2pm Wednesday, April 8th
Pictou County Roots
Monthly Meeting. Guest
Speaker from the
Colchester Historium
- ❖ For the Month of April, the
scrapbooks of Mary
(MacLeod) Sutherland will
be on display in the
Heritage Room.
- ❖ 2pm Wednesday, May 13th
Pictou County Roots
Society Monthly Meeting

QUESTIONS!

Some common questions that we have been fielding. If you have a brick wall question, submit to eacoadyDNA@yahoo.com to be included in future editions!

Q: Looking for proof of birth?

A: You can download the birth registration from the Historic Vital Statistics at the Nova Scotia Archives.

A: Church records have baptism records – these can be viewed but not copied at both the NS Archives and Church of Latter-Day Saints Research Rooms.

A: Library and Archives Canada (LAC) holds a small collection of church parish registers and other records related to births, baptisms, marriages, deaths and burials. Some are original records, and some are typed or handwritten transcripts. Others are microfilm copies of collections held in other institutions. <https://www.canada.ca/en/library-archives/collection/research-help/genealogy-family-history/birth-marriage-death-records/parish.html>

“History remembers only the celebrated, genealogy remembers them all.” – Lawrence Overmire

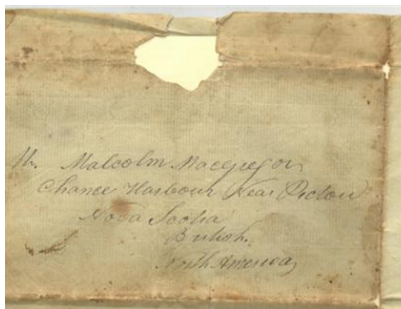
Q: Do records exist for the church in Churchville?

A: There was a church near where the community center is located on the Irish Mountain Road until about 1846. Who was the minister? Did any records survive?

WHERE TO START WITH DNA?

Choosing a test: *Unless testing for Y-DNA or MT-DNA the cheapest is often the best starting point!*

- ✚ Ancestry: a UK based company and has the largest autosomal database, does not support importing tests. A subscription is required to view trees from other members. Subscriptions can be monthly. User Friendly.
- ✚ MyHeritage: a US based company. Autosomal tests can be ordered through the site. DNA site is user friendly. Subscription is required to view trees. Subscriptions are renewed annually. The tree without a subscription is limited to 250 people. Has a feature to compare segments on each chromosome.
- ✚ Family Tree DNA (FTDNA): a Texas based company, has the option to test Autosomal, Y-DNA (Male line), or MT-DNA (Female line). Site is not as user friendly as others. There are more technical features available. No subscription required. Test results can be imported. Trees can be linked from MyHeritage or Wiki Tree.
- ✚ LivingDNA is a UK Based Company. Database is still small. Tests can be imported. User-friendly.



Addressed enclosure of a letter from John MacGregor to Malcolm MacGregor, dated May 8, 1818. Source: McGregor Family Letters Collection, St. Francis Xavier University.

Contact Us

Pictou County Roots Society

In the New Glasgow Branch of the Pictou – Antigonish Regional Library

<https://www.pictoucountyroots.ca/>



Gail Denver

Author of the blog GENEALOGY À LA CARTE <https://genealogyalacarte.ca/>

GENEALOGY À LA CARTE

Related to the McGregor/MacGregor family from Pictou, Nova Scotia? These 19th-century letters may interest you

Posted on [February 5, 2026](#) by [Gail Dever](#)
https://genealogyalacarte.ca/?page_id=16851

The Angus L. Macdonald Library at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia has uploaded a new collection of 19th-century digitized letters that are available to view on the [university's website](#). (<https://stfx.scholaris.ca/collections/6eab0e36-3b41-4e49-a962-77b01f586193/search> Scroll down the linked page to see the itemized letters.)

This collection of letters, dating from 1805 to 1842, was donated to the Angus L. Macdonald Library by George and Elizabeth MacKenzie of Truro, Nova Scotia.

George was a descendent of Malcolm McGregor, who had emigrated from Scotland to Pictou in 1801 with his wife Isobel and two children. As Malcolm and Isobel built a new life in Nova Scotia, friends and relatives in Scotland wrote letters conveying family news (marriages, births and deaths) and updates on everyday life.

The letters also describe general social and economic conditions in Scotland. Britain experienced economic challenges after the Napoleonic wars, and this is reflected in the frequent descriptions of low prices for livestock, high rents, and the constant threat of losing one's tenancy, which would leave a family homeless and destitute.

There are requests in these letters for financial assistance, and several family members seek advice about emigrating to Nova Scotia. The letters portray the struggles which led many Scottish Highlanders to leave their homeland and undergo the difficult journey to Canada, but also the hope they had to find more independence and security.

For example, a letter from John Menzies to John McGregor in 1805, informing John McGregor of the death of his brother, Robert McGregor, provides a state of account, funeral charges, and the distribution of his deceased brother's belongings.

The letter writers and names mentioned include John McGregor/MacGregor, Donald McGregor, John Menzies, and Christian Campbell.

Transcriptions

The letters have been transcribed and encoded, with permission, by students, along with two librarians. Unfortunately, the transcripts have not been posted online. Instead, one must [contact Dr. Estill](#) (<https://www.stfx.ca/faculty-staff/laura-estill>) to request a transcription of a letter.

Genealogy & Library Update

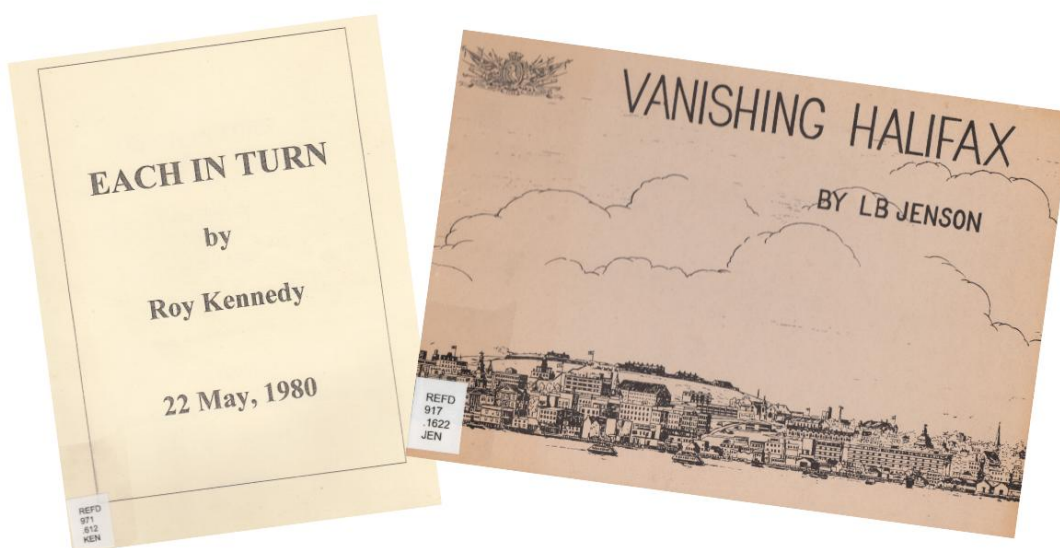
Heritage Room Updates since last meeting:

The New Glasgow Library will now be closed year-round on Sundays starting April 1st. This is due to funding cuts from the provincial government. Any complaints or concerns over the reduced hours can be sent to your MLA.

Genealogy wise, there have been several requests coming in from the United States asking for help to prove Canadian ancestry in order to apply for Canadian citizenship. One request was received for the Arnold family of Dartmouth, who possibly had one family member born in New Glasgow in 1852.

Four books were added to the Glass Cabinets:

- *The Descendants of John McKay, Hector MacKay, and Alexander Murray*
- *The Old Nuttby House*
- *Each in Turn* (about Tatamagouche)
- *Vanishing Halifax* by L.B. Jensen.



A collection of scrapbooks from the late Mary Sutherland (nee MacLeod) were donated to the Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library. The scrapbooks will be on display in the Heritage Room for the month of April. Here is a sample of one of the pages. Mary was born in Blue Mountain and lived in Rossfield with her husband Donald Sutherland. When the books are not on display, contact Library Staff to view.

1949 June
**Pretty Wedding
 Solemnized
 At St. George's**

NEW GLASGOW—St. George's Anglican Church, New Glasgow, was the scene of a pretty wedding on Saturday afternoon, July 30, when Irene Isabelle, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Martell, New Glasgow, and John Robert, son of Mr. and Mrs. George McKay, Trenton, were united in marriage. Rev. Joseph Abbott officiated at the ceremony.

They were attended by the bride's sister, Miss Margaret Martell of New Glasgow, and Ernest Jenkins of Trenton.

The bride was becomingly gowned in a pale blue wool crepe suit with white accessories and corsage of pink roses.

After the ceremony the party left by car for the bride's home where supper was served to some fifty guests.

Immediately following the supper the happy couple left by car for a trip to Halifax and the Annapolis Valley. On their return they will reside in Trenton, where the groom is employed.

Mr. and Mrs. McKay were the recipients of many lovely gifts, including an electric stove.

Out of town guests included two sisters of the bride, Mrs. Howard O. Lunn, Calais, Maine, and Mrs. Robert Russell of Pine Tree, N. S.

June 30 1949

1949
**Married In
 Ceremony At
 New Glasgow**

NEW GLASGOW — A pretty wedding took place recently at 273 Fraser Street, New Glasgow, when Violet Ella, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Adams of Cape George Point was united in marriage with John Donald, son of Mrs. Sutherland and the late W. J. Sutherland of Barney's River.

Rev. A. T. MacDonald of Merigomish, performed the marriage ceremony in the presence of immediate relatives of both families.

The bride looked charming in a teal blue gabardine suit with which she wore white accessories and a corsage of red roses. She was attended by her sister, Mary Adams of Merigomish who chose a powder blue jersey dress with white accessories.

The groom was supported by Lloyd Phillips of Green Oak, Colchester Co.

The bride has been a successful school teacher in various sections of Antigonish, Pictou and Cumberland Counties.

Immediately following the ceremony the happy couple left on a motor trip through the Maritime provinces.

1949

1949
**Couple Wed
 Friday At
 Kenzieville**

BARNEY'S RIVER STATION— On the afternoon of Friday, August 5, 1949, at 3 p. m., a quiet but pretty marriage ceremony was solemnized at the Kenzieville Presbyterian Manse, when Rev. C. W. Quinn united in marriage, Margaret Ruth, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Allan R. Bannerman, Barney's River Station, and Herbert Iver, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. John J. MacDermid, Kenzieville, N. S.

The bride was most becoming in a mist grey suit of summer worsted. Her hat was from fine braided straw of matching shade, with turn-up brim and long-side contour accented by pink roses. Her gloves were white and she wore white suede pumps. Her corsage was of white gardenias and maiden hair fern.

She was attended by her sister, Mrs. John MacDermid, who wore a suit of navy moire taffeta, with white accessories. Her corsage was of American Beauty roses.

John MacDermid, only brother of the groom, acted as groomsman.

Following the ceremony a buffet luncheon was served at the home of the bride's parents, where members of the immediate families of the bride and groom were in attendance. The beautifully decorated three-tier wedding cake was cut in traditional fashion by the bride and groom.

Later amid showers of confetti and good wishes Mr. and Mrs. MacDermid left by motor for a wedding trip throughout the Eastern United States.

A host of friends join in extending to this popular young couple, hearty congratulations and much happiness through the years.

Aug 5 - 1949

**County
 Couple
 Married**

MAITLAND—A pretty wedding was solemnized at the United Church Manse, Maitland, on June 9th at 5 o'clock when Jessie Margaret, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John J. Fraser, Garden of Eden, and Walter MacInnes, son of the late James W. and Mrs. MacInnes, of Meiklefield, were united in marriage.

Rev. Harold MacDonald officiated at the ceremony.

The bride wore a street length dress of blue taffeta with grey accessories, corsage of roses and carnations and a pearl necklace, the gift of the groom. She was attended by her sister, Miss Dorothy Fraser who wore grey taffeta with grey accessories to match and corsage of roses and carnations.

James McCulloch, of McPherson's Mills, supported the groom.

Following the ceremony, the bridal party were invited to the home of Miss Dorothy MacKenzie, cousin of the bride, where supper was served before leaving for a short trip through the Valley. They will reside in Meiklefield.

MARRIED

McDERMID — BANNERMAN — Mr. and Mrs. Allan R. Bannerman, Barney's River Station, announce the marriage of their daughter, Margaret Ruth to Herbert Iver McDermid, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. McDermid, Barney's River. Marriage took place Aug. 5th.