

**·THE·
·SCOTTISH·
·KILT WEARERS·**

A HISTORY OF
THE MURRAY AND EWART FAMILIES
AND THEIR DESCENDANTS

1798 - 2008

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INTRODUCTION

The descendants of Maurice and Isabell Finucane have now held three family reunions, the first in 1985, the second in 1996 and the third in 2009. We have had a lot of fun at these events but concerns were raised about the passing on of our history to the younger generations, and so I have attempted to compile not only factual history but also the memoirs of family members.

I want to dedicate my efforts to Aunty Rene who told me many stories about my Grandma and their family. She never failed to have something new for me to explore, and without her and my trusty note book I wouldn't have even half of what I know.

Jennifer Finucane

The Murrays take their name from the great province of Moray, once a local kingdom. Its name in Gaelic is *Moireabh*, in charter-Latin *Moravia*, from the early Celtic *mori-treb* of “sea settlement”. It was brought forcibly under the expanding Scottish realm in the 12th Century. The descendants usually added their provincial dynasty so that they became Murray of Lennox, or Atholl or Dunbar etc etc. The senior line of the Murrays took the surname of Sutherland and became earls of Sutherland by about 1235.

One of the clan was Sir Andrew of Murray, who was the brilliant young general who led the Scots in 1297 in their first great rising against the English conquerors, but was mortally wounded in his famous victory at Stirling Bridge – after which his junior colleague, Sir William Wallace, fought on galliantly as an immortal guerrilla leader but without the same success in pitched battle.

Some of the Murrays lived in the lowland areas, but generally the Murray clan is associated with the highlands of Scotland.

It is difficult to know which Murray crest best suits our family but some of the mottos are:

Am Moireach Mor which means ‘the Great Murray’

Furth Fortune and Fill the Fetters which commemorates the capture of the last Lord of the Isles in 1475

Tout Pret means to plan and prepare, or to be ready

The Ewart’s most famous son is Charles Ewart, or Ensign Ewart who took the colours at Waterloo. He is buried on the esplanade of Edinburgh Castle. A mannequin dressed in the uniform that he would have wearing is displayed in the British War Museum. At present time I have not yet established whether Ensign Ewart is directly related to our family line.

MURRAY FAMILY DETAILS

James Mitchell and Elspet nee Mitchell (hopefully not cousins!) were the parents of Margaret Mitchell born 1815 and died 4 May 1858. Margaret married Peter Murray christened 16 June 1798 and died 13 November 1861.

Margaret Mitchell and Peter Murray produced 7 children: Peter, Elspet, Elizabeth, William, John, George and Alexander Cruickshank.

The order of births appears to be

Peter c 11 November 1840

Elspet c 11 November 1840

Elizabeth b 19 September 1841

William b 7 April 1847

John b 1 October 1850

Alexander Cruickshank 24 April 1853

George – can't find a birth but I hazard a guess its between 1841 and 1847. I know he exists because he is the signatory to both his parents death certificates.

Peter who is christened 11 November 1840 is our Peter who is the father of Alec Murray and the husband who books the passage out to New Zealand in 1874.