



Clan Munro Australia

Newsletter of the Clan Munro (Association) Australia

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Have you visited our Website at <http://clanmunroassociation.org.au>

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Next Newsletter

Ian Munro has written the story of his ancestor Hugh Munro of the 4th Light horse and we will feature that.

Anna Munro - Suffragette

We will have the story of Rob Mor Rearquhar - The strong man from Loch Glass Side.

Don

Chat

We continue with our dna theme and this month we have Mark Monroe's story of President James Monroe which tells how dna is connecting him to the house of Foulis. A number of Munros who have been tested have been found to also descend from that line and they living in countries that span the globe – Scotland, Chile, USA and Australia. It is all very interesting and adds another dimension to our family research. I hope these articles encourage more of us to go down the dna line to help our research.

Patricia and Ken Cotter have once again represented us at a Celtic gathering. This time at the Celtic festival in Sydney under the Sydney harbour bridge. Our thanks to Patricia and Ken for their dedication – hopefully we might get a few new members from those who showed interest – I will email those who left their email addresses. Patricia's report is included in the newsletter on page 13.

What a thrill it must have been for Alison Borchers to have taken part in the Edinburgh Military Tattoo. You can read Alison's story on page 10.

On Feb 19, I switched on channel 2 to watch the Dr Blake Mysteries and caught the end of 7.30. Imagine my surprise when I saw that they were talking about the Australian girls who had written to Otto Frank, father of Ann Frank whose diaries I am sure you will know about. Why should that have surprised me you might ask? Well, I was just completing this newsletter and it features a letter from Diana Maclean telling me that she was one of the Australian girls who had written to Otto Frank!! Diana's letter is on page 12.

If you are thinking about visiting Foulis Castle here is an update about what you must do. Mrs E Munro of Foulis conducts tours of the castle and as she has just turned 90, has decided to allocate Tuesdays as the only day on which she will show visitors around and asks that you give her at least three weeks notice of your intended visit. Times are either 10.30am or 3.00pm. There is no charge for your visit but a donation put in the Clan Munro Association box for the castle restoration fund is appreciated. An appointment to visit the outside and the grounds is not required but please let the Castle when you intend to visit.

Contact our webmaster Ian Munro at info@clanmunro.org.uk and he will arrange your visit.

Visit the Clan Munro website at www.clanmunro.org.uk where you will find lots of interesting information about what is happening at Foulis.

.Morse (1791 - 1872)



PRESIDENT MONROE & DNA RESEARCH

By Mark Monroe

President James Monroe's great-great grandfather and immigrant paternal ancestor was Andrew Monroe. Many have researched the ancestry of Andrew and much has been written on the subject. The noted Monroe researcher, George Harrison Sanford King, wrote, "It is certain that he was a scion of the House of Foulis." The connection of President James Monroe's ancestors to the Foulis-Munro line is the traditional view, however, proof of that connection has been elusive.

The Munro DNA project is able to confirm the connection of President James Monroe to the Foulis-Munro line because the project has 67-marker Y-DNA test results from two participants who have proven their genealogy to George Munro of Obsdale, the son of Robert Mor Munro the fifteenth Baron of Foulis.

The 67-marker Y-DNA test for Thomas Patrick Monroe was only 1 mutation different from one participant and 2 mutations different from the other participant. Based upon the estimated mutation rates for the 2 markers that were different and adjusting for the fact that the most recent common ancestor of Thomas Patrick and the other participant must have been earlier than the immigrant Andrew, there is a roughly 80 percent probability that the most recent common Munro ancestor was either Andrew's father, grandfather, great-grandfather, or great great grandfather. For the connection to have been within those generations based upon the genealogy of the participants, the most recent common ancestor would have been Robert Mor Munro or a descendant of his within two or three generations.

Assuming Thomas Patrick and the deceased President share the same Y-DNA, then there is roughly an 80 percent probability that President James Monroe's most recent common Munro ancestor with the other participants would have been from Robert Mor Munro or a near Descendant. However, there is a 20 percent chance that the most recent common Munro ancestor extends back to Robert Munro the fourteenth Baron of Foulis or his near ancestors. So while it can be celebrated that through DNA research there is proof that President Monroe was of the Foulis- Munro line, the identity of the most recent common ancestor is still unresolved. As more participants join the Munro Y-DNA Project, we hope to be able to acquire more information to help identify the generations where the mutations occurred and, possibly, someday identify the Scottish ancestors of President James Monroe with much more specificity.

Special thanks go to Thomas Patrick Monroe for agreeing to provide a DNA sample for the Munro DNA project, and also to all the others who have participated in the Y-DNA project, helping all of us find clues to our ancestry. The Munro DNA project now has evidence confirming the belief that the past President was a descendant of someone in the Foulis-Munro line. The evidence is a 67-marker Y-DNA sample from Thomas Patrick Monroe, a male descendant of William Monroe, the great-grandfather of President James Monroe. Our CMA clan genealogist, Allen Alger, has verified the pedigree of Thomas Patrick Monroe.

As each male receives his Y-DNA from his father, who inherited it from his father, and so on, Thomas Patrick Monroe's 67-marker Y-DNA test results would be expected to be essentially the same as the 67-marker Y-DNA of the deceased President James Monroe. The term "essentially" is used because the markers in the Y-DNA test occasionally mutate, roughly 1 marker in the total of 67 would be expected to mutate every 7 generations on average. The use of Y-DNA markers to identify distant ancestors is relatively new and such things as the rates of marker mutations are still being studied.

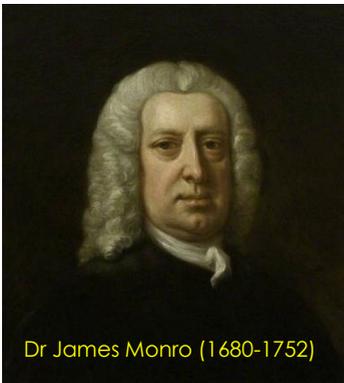
King, George Harrison Sanford; "President James Monroe's Scottish Ancestry"; Clan Munro Magazine, # 6, 1959. (It is greatly appreciated that Chief Hector Munro of Foulis shared this article.)

Editor's note: Many thanks for the participation of Thomas Patrick Monroe in the Munro DNA Project. Additionally, Allen Alger's help has been invaluable

Anatomists, 'Mad' Doctors and Bonesetters

As I said in our April Newsletter, I have been given permission to use stories from "Anatomists, 'mad' doctors and bonesetters" which was originally published in *Surgeons' News*; membership magazine of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, December 2013. The article is the first of a two-part series in which Iain Macintyre and Alexander Munro trace the origins of a remarkable medical dynasty. This month we publish the second item – 'Mad' Doctors." The doctors themselves were not mad, of course – they treated mental illness.

Monros in London – The 'Mad' Monros



Dr James Monro (1680-1752)

Dr James Monro (1680-1752) 8th of Fyrish, a descendant, 10 generations on, of Hugh Munro, the 9th baron, was an almost exact contemporary of his distant cousin, the surgeon John Monro described previously. James was the son of Rev Alexander Monro (d1698) of Fyrish who became Principal of Edinburgh University before moving to London. James graduated from Balliol College, Oxford, and became Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians (FRCP). In 1728 he was appointed physician to Bethlem (or Bedlam), England's

oldest public hospital for the insane, becoming the first of four generations of his family to hold this office. The post of physician was largely an honorary one, which carried a small salary and required only occasional visits. Although he did not write on the treatment of mental illness, he enjoyed fame and status through his Bethlem appointment and acquired a large private practice.

His son John Monro (1715-1791), after prolonged studies at St John's College, Oxford, Edinburgh and Leiden, graduated MD from Oxford in 1747. He was appointed joint physician to the Bethlem alongside his father, becoming sole physician from 1752. Although his approach to mental illness could be conservative, Monro presided over many of the Bethlem reforms of the 1760s and wrote that 'care ... depends on management as

much as medicine'. As the foremost doctor treating insanity, he was asked to assess many prominent people, including King George III during his first bout of 'madness'.

Monro emulated his father in three respects: he built up a large private practice, running the private asylum Brooke House, which allowed him to indulge his hobby as a connoisseur and a patron of literature and fine art; he wrote virtually nothing about the treatment of mental illness; and, as his father had done for him, he arranged that his son Thomas should succeed him, a nepotistic tradition which bore an uncanny resemblance to that of their cousins, the Edinburgh anatomists.

After schooling at Harrow, Thomas Monro (1759–1833), graduated MD from Oxford in 1787 and was elected FRCP. He followed the now familiar career pathway with appointment as assistant physician to his father at the Bridewell and Bethlem. He also inherited from his father the private asylum Brooke House, which his father had established in Hackney and he too was invited to give an opinion on the madness of George III.

Like his father and grandfather, he was regarded as an authority on madness because of his Bethlem appointment, rather than his writing on the subject, because, like his forebears, he wrote little about madness. Rather, he is remembered for his attitude to the treatment of madness which emerged from his evidence at a parliamentary enquiry into abuse of patients at the Bethlem. He regarded restraint by chains appropriate for the 'mad poor' in the Bethlem, but did not allow it in Brooke House. He was accused of 'wanting in humanity' and his treatment variously described as old fashioned, 'cruel' and 'useless'. As a result of these allegations, he resigned his Bethlem post in 1816 and indulged himself in his true passion; fine art. Indeed his legacy as a gifted amateur artist, art connoisseur and patron was more significant than his achievements in medicine. He is widely regarded as a founder of the British school of watercolourists, and JMW Turner was amongst the many artists whom he supported and encouraged.

Despite his resignation from the Bethlem under a shadow, he was able to ensure that his son Edward Thomas Monro (1790-1856) succeeded in the family tradition of being appointed as physician to the Bethlem in 1816. Edward Thomas pursued the well trodden family path graduating MD from

Oriel College Oxford, becoming FRCP and progressing to Censor and Treasurer of the RCP. Under his charge, conditions at the Bethlem changed for the better with one visitor in 1844 describing an atmosphere of 'humanity and benevolence'.

His son Henry Monro (1817-1891) represented the fifth and final generation to serve as physician treating mental illness. He too took the traditional family career pathway of education at Harrow and a medical degree from Oxford, election as FRCP and service as RCP Censor. Henry broke with family tradition in two ways: he was appointed physician to St Luke's Hospital, for long the rival of the Bethlem, and he was the first of the dynasty to write several papers and a major work on mental illness – Remarks on Insanity (1851). Yet like all his forebears he had a large private practice, having inherited the family business, the private madhouse Brooke House in Clapton. Whilst regarded as a reformer at St Luke's, his treatment of private patients came in for a volley of criticism reminiscent of that directed against his grandfather, with Brooke House described as 'old-fashioned and dilapidated'. Yet in the spirit of Victorian philanthropy, he is credited with founding the House of Charity, a home for the destitute in Soho Square, which he supported for 40 years. In the family tradition, he was an art collector and competent amateur artist. The portraits which he painted of himself and his father were presented to the Royal College of Physicians, to join those of Alexander, John and Thomas.

Henry's death in 1891 marked the end of a 125 year dynasty of doctors who treated madness in London, matching almost exactly the 126 years during which their distant cousins held the chair of anatomy in Edinburgh.

The Bonesetter Munros

It is interesting to note that I printed the story of Donald Munro, Bonesetter of Knockancuirn in an earlier Newsletter. Note below that Monro changed to Munro – that is not me, it is in the article.

Monros in Knockancuirn – The Bonesetter Monros

The bonesetter Munros were descended from Hugh Munro 4th of Fyrish and were tacksmen (tenants) of farms in the heartlands of Clan Munro.

Robert Munro (1774-1836), son of Ian Mor Munro (d1790), was tenant farmer at Knockancuirn (pronounced locally as Knonkan) on the Foulis estate, who became widely known as a bonesetter. His skills were in great demand in the productive farming communities of Easter Ross and the Black Isle where, in addition to setting broken bones, he would have been involved in treating backache and performing manipulation for a variety of common chronic conditions. Robert died in 1836 from typhus fever and he was succeeded as tenant on the farm by his oldest son, John.

John Munro (1805-1877) inherited healing skills from his father. Alexander McKenzie, the historian of the Munro Clan, records that 'he was a famous bonesetter and his services in that direction were much sought after.' John died, unmarried in 1877 and was succeeded both in the farm and in the bonesetting practice by his brother Donald, known locally as "Danny Knochan".

Donald Munro (1824-1911) became famous all over the north of Scotland and much further afield, attracting patients from John o'Groats in the north of Scotland to Plymouth in the south of England. He is reputed never to have charged a fee for his efforts, choosing instead to live off the proceeds of his farm. On one occasion, whilst returning home from curling at a bonspiel in Inverness, he was told that a patient required his services in Alness 30 miles away. He went to see and treat the patient, not arriving home till the next morning and as a result of this adventure was "laid up" in bed for some weeks. Donald rented a room in a Dingwall hotel on "sale" days so that the farming community at the market could attend his clinics.

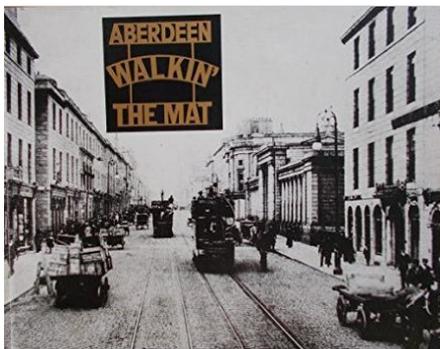
He was held in such high esteem that that he received many handsome testimonials. In 1895, hundreds of subscribers contributed to the purchase of a pony trap and harness while in 1909 he was presented with a fur coat and a cheque. Donald Munro died in 1911. He had no offspring so the bonesetting skills which were practiced for around 100 years at Knockancuirn died with him.

A close relative of the bonesetting Munros and great grandson of Iain Mor Munro, Dr Robert Munro (1835-1920) was born in the same parish as his bonesetting relatives. He qualified as a doctor in Edinburgh and settled into a busy general practice in Kilmarnock, where he was a keen amateur archaeologist. When the nearby Lochlee crannog (a 1st century man-

made island) was discovered, he was asked to superintend the excavation and preserve whatever relics were discovered. His hobby became a consuming interest and eventually he gave up medicine to concentrate on archaeology/ anthropology.

In 1882 he published *Ancient Scottish Lake Dwellings* to great acclaim. He spent a number of years travelling on the continent to study lake dwellings. He was awarded honorary degrees by Edinburgh and St Andrews universities and was honoured by many foreign learned societies. He endowed an annual lectureship at Edinburgh University in 1910 called the Munro Lectures on Anthropology and Archaeology which recently celebrated its centenary. Dr Robert Munro is recognised as one of the major international pioneers in Anthropology/Archaeology.

Walking the Mat



While putting together my wife, Bet's, Merrilees family story, one of her cousins told me that her Mum & Dad had met while "walking the mat." I had not heard of this, so I looked it up and found this on an Aberdeen website.

Aberdonians fondly reminisce of 'walking the mat' on the main avenue, Union Street. It is only about a mile in length, and on a Saturday night, all the young lads and lassies

would put on their 'finery', and stroll its length socialising and 'chatting each other up.' Even young people from the surrounding areas would catch a bus into Aberdeen, to 'walk the mat'. It was a happy and cheerful way to meet people, and the tradition was known to be responsible for a large number of marriages in the town, and the surrounding areas as well!

Alison at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo

Some time ago Wendy Borchers told me that her neice, Alison Borchers, would be taking part in the Edinburgh Military Tattoo as a drummer in the spectacular massed pipe bands. We all know how exciting this event is to watch but how much more exciting it must have been to have taken part. This is Alison's story.



Last year I was invited by the Pipes and Drums of Christchurch City band to take part in the 2015 Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. This was a really exciting invitation – it's every pipe band player's ultimate dream event!



I am a side (or snare) drummer. Each band had three side drummers, one tenor drummer, a bass drummer and thirteen pipers per performance. We were in Edinburgh for a month and our band stayed at the University of Edinburgh. There were 25 tattoo performances and every night was a sellout. Over 220,000 people saw the 2015 66th Tattoo.

There were five days of rehearsals, most of which were on the huge parade ground at the Redford Army Barracks. The rehearsals at Edinburgh Castle itself were absolutely mind blowing. That castle must be one of the most magnificent buildings in the world and its esplanade is where the Tattoo takes place. The theme of this year's tattoo was "East Meets West" - a theme of "universal harmony". There were performers from China and India, as well as England, Canada, the USA, Australia



and Germany.

The massed pipes and drums were under the command of Senior Drum Major Michael Hay and Captain Stevie Small. They were terrific leaders who inspired everyone to play their best. Pipes and drum scores had been sent to all the bands in 2014 so we could learn them thoroughly before arriving Edinburgh. The first time all the bands played the tunes together was a brilliant experience – even if it sounded a bit ragged. Not because we didn't know the scores, it was just a bit of a shock! We soon got used to it and played the pieces well.

A big part of the massed pipes and drums' performance is the "choreography" or drill we must learn to present disciplined, military formations. Our dressing – that is, our alignment across the bands which is what the audience sees – is given a lot of work by the organisers. As we were reminded again and again, people have paid a lot of money to attend and they expect an excellent spectacle.

We were lucky enough to have only one night when it rained. The organisers told us there have been tattoos where there was only one night it **DIDN'T** rain!



Christchurch City Pipe and Drum Band

In August, Edinburgh puts on its big Fringe Festival, an arts festival with performers from all around the world. There are shows for everyone – from mighty operas to comedy, street performances

and one man plays. Edinburgh itself is a beautiful city, with its cobbled streets and gorgeous historic buildings.

The opportunity to meet people from all over the world, see the beautiful city of Edinburgh and parts of lovely Scotland, was one I will never forget. I would thoroughly recommend a trip to Scotland in August. Book in to see the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, enjoy a dinner of haggis, neeps and tatties and you'll feel thoroughly Scottish!

Alison Borchers, November 2015



Welcome Matilda Rose Munro

This bonnie wee lass arrived on September 29, 2015, a very welcome addition to the family of Tom and Tammy Munro. There must be something good in that wine!!

Letter from New Zealand

Bet and I received a lovely Christmas letter from Diana MacLean, one of our New Zealand members and there are a couple of things in it with reference to her husband Norman and herself, that I would like to share with you.

First: "Norman was unexpectedly honoured in the Queen's birthday awards in June, becoming a Member of the NZ Order of Merit. Although a reluctant recipient, this was a fine



Diana & Norman's Grandchildren, Briar, Connor & MacLean holding Poppy

recognition of his lifetime work in obstetrics & gynaecology in Southland. We then had a weekend in Wellington (in September) for his investiture, which was both exciting and humbling all at the same time." Congratulations to Norman for this well deserved honour.

Second: Diana said "I had some unexpected excitement upon my return from overseas as a result of a search for five Australian women who had corresponded with Mr Otto Frank (father of the WW11 diarist, Anne) as teenagers. Just how they located me is a story in itself, but the search had originated from Amsterdam because the Anne Frank House Museum are wanting to gather any outstanding correspondence by Mr Frank once and for all. After the war, he replied to thousands of young people all over the world who had been touched by his daughter's diary and written to him. I was one of those teenagers, and still had the two letters I'd received from him over 50 years ago! The Museum people were ecstatic! I have now agreed to donate my letters, so will go to Sydney (to the Jewish Museum) in March to hand them over "officially" and I also have an invitation to the Amsterdam Museum as a VIP guest whenever I choose to visit." How exciting is that!!

Celtic Festival - Sydney

Once again Patricia and Ken Cotter represented us at a Celtic festival. This time it was Patricia & Ken Cotters the Celtic Festival held in Sydney on Australia Day. Patricia had computer problems but still managed to get a report to me in time for the newsletter.

The Australia Day Celtic Festival in Sydney was held in the picturesque setting of Bradfield Park which is under north arm of Sydney Harbour bridge. We had Celtic representation from Irish, Manx, Scottish and Welsh clubs and there was excellent entertainment including dancing and musical items. The general public showed great interest in all the events and really enjoyed themselves. Special events were a Ferrython on the harbour and a 21 gun salute. An array of people visited the Scottish House tent and people of Munro descent were given Clan Munro joining forms. Dignitaries who



Patricia & Ken Cotter

spoke at the event were Jilly Gibson Major of North Sydney, Hon Jillian Skinner MP Patron of the Manx Society NSW and Margaret Sharpe T En E, Convenor, Celtic Council of Australia. It was a great day enjoyed by all who attended.

Patricia and Pat will also be representing us at Berry & Bundanoon so pop in & say hello to them there.

Old Obituaries

Another in our series of old obituaries. This one is for Mr. Donald Munro and is taken from the Northern Star Lismore, NSW on Monday, July 6 1931. As usual, let us know if this is one of your ancestors.

The death occurred of Mr. Donald Munro, at the age of 97 years, at Maclean, early on Friday morning. The late Donald Munro, from the time he first arrived on the Clarence River in 1854 until he retired in 1918, was closely identified for a period of 6 1/2 years with the farming and grazing industries of the district. He was born at Snizort, in the Isle of Skye, Scotland, and was the eldest son of the late Charles and Mrs. Munro, who came to this State with members of their family on December 19, 1852. Two years later he arrived at Grafton where he soon obtained employment clearing a block of land in Dobie Street, the site being where Weippert's orchard stands. On the advice of the late W. A. B. Greaves, who was a surveyor at that time, he was prevailed upon to take a five years' clearing lease of farms at Clarenza, owned by the late John Piper McKenzie, of Sydney, who in the early days was well known in Sydney as official assignee. After he had completed his clearing lease and rented the farms from Mr. McKenzie at Clarenza, Mr. Munro sent for his parents and brothers and sisters, who arrived on the river early in 1860 and assisted him in working the farm.

With the introduction of the Sir John Robertson Act, Mr. Munro selected two further blocks on the South Arm, being the property now held by Mr. R. Page. His brother, Hugh, at this time had selected a property on the Woodford Dale side of Woodford Island and was the first selector under the Act.

Mr. Munro had his troubles and losses through floods, but being a man of indomitable will, persevered and, besides farming, turned his efforts to breeding and grazing. In addition to breeding cattle, Mr. Munro was a noted breeder of Clydesdale draught horses and the "D.M." brand of horses was noted throughout the State. Mr. Munro exhibited horses and cattle bred by him at the early Grafton shows. He was one of the original members of the C.P. and A. Society, being one who went around with a list to get the society established at Grafton. He married Susan McDonald, a daughter of the late Allan and Mrs. McDonald, formerly of Maclean and Palmer's Channel. Mrs. Munro survives, also three sons and one daughter. Mrs. Alexander Munro, of Steve King Plains, Richmond River, is the only survivor of the Munro family who came out to Australia in 1852.

Can You Help?

Donna Mack's grand parents were Donald Munro born abt. 1889 & Annie Alexander – they were both born in Australia. They farmed in Daysdale, NSW and moved to Yarrawonga, Vic when they retired. Their children were Joyce (Munro) Skewes born 1925, Donald Alexander born 1927, & AudreyJean (Munro) Fergusson born 1929. Donna's father, Donald Alexander married Beverley Isabel Rhodes born in 1935 and they had six children. If you know this family & can help with the tree, please contact Donna on donnamareem@gmail.com

Membership

Annual Membership:	\$25.00	Spouse or children of member under 18 years	\$8.00**
Three Years:	\$55.00	Spouse or children of member under 18 years	\$20.00**
Ten Years:	\$160.00	Spouse or children of member under 18 years	\$70.00**
Life Membership is calculated according to age as follows: -			
Up to Age 40:	3 X 10 Year Dues		\$480.00
Age 40 to 50:	2 X 10 Year Dues		\$320.00
Age 50 to 60:	1½ X 10 Year Dues		\$240.00
Age 60 and over:	Same as 10 Year Dues		\$160.00
Age 80 and over:	Half Ten Year Dues		\$80.00

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The stories printed in this newsletter are as presented by the writers and are accepted by the editor on that basis. Where necessary they have been abridged to fit the newsletter.

