

Murray Clan Society of NSW



Newsletter - November 2021



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Welcome

Greetings everyone. Here is our Newsletter for November. Many will be welcoming the relaxing of some of the restrictions imposed on travel and other activities, especially those of us who have been unable to visit our families.

At this stage, though, there are still uncertainties which have affected our planning for next year and which I refer to below.

I do not have much pictorial material for this edition, so my apologies for the amount of uninterrupted print.

We wish all of you well and hope that we can get back to regular gatherings before too long. As this will be our last Newsletter for the year, we also wish you all the best for the Christmas / New Year season.

Annual Gathering 2022

Your Committee has been doing some hard thinking about next year. In our last Newsletter, we indicated that we were planning to hold a function with Malcolm Murray, Earl of Dunmore, as our special guest. With the continuing uncertainty about the Covid situation the Committee has reluctantly decided at our September meeting that we cannot yet commit to a formal function in 2022, so Malcolm's visit has been deferred for now.

A big factor is that we don't yet know who will be able to attend next year's Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival. It is possible that only double vaccinated people will be permitted to attend, with unvaccinated people remaining in lockdown. That seems to be the way the NSW Government is planning things at present. If everyone is permitted to attend, there are likely to be people who will refrain for attending in order to avoid contact with unvaccinated people. Until we are in receipt of more information, we feel that we cannot commit to a formal function.

The Committee will be meeting early in the New Year to review the situation in the light of the rules applying at that time. You will be advised as soon as possible after a decision is made.

What we can assure you is that the Murray Clan Society will be participating in the Bonnie Wingham Scottish Festival on 4 June 2022. Everybody is welcome to drop in at the Murray tent.

Annual General Meeting, June 2022

The next AGM marks the end of the three-year term of the current Committee so all positions will be declared vacant. I am hopeful that we will be able to make more use of technology in future (eg *Zoom*) to make it easier for members from outside the Manning District to participate in the Committee. Please have a think about whether you would like to have a greater role in the Clan Society.

The present Committee works well, but most of us are getting on a bit and we are not going to live forever (not here anyway) so we will eventually need replacing.

Another point to consider is that we have not had a Clan Society Patron since Alec Murray passed away in 2016, and we have only one Life Member (Bob Murray). You might like to think about nominating people for these positions at the next AGM. We have members who have been involved continuously since the Clan Society was formed in 1979.

Bonnie Wingham 2021



Four generations of Murray Clan enthusiasts: Ian Murray (Vice President), with mother Joyce (Committee member), daughter Kylie (long-term supporter and caterer extraordinaire) and grand-daughter Timalee James (Treasurer)

Committee members Alma Murray, Joyce Murray and Jean Paterson





Ross Murray at the Murray tent

Clan Finances

Generally speaking, the Murray Clan Society does not have significant expenses. Our insurance costs are about \$250 a year and we generally cover any shortfall on our gatherings with membership fees and occasional donations for which we are extremely thankful.

The reality is, though, that most members pay their fees in conjunction with the gatherings and we have not held those for the past two years. We have never insisted that members be financial in order to receive the Newsletter (after all, it costs us nothing to email them out) and we only send out reminders via the Newsletter so we don't expect everyone to be up to date so long as we can cover our expenses.

For the benefit of members, I would like to mention that over the next twelve months we will have some additional expenses. The Clan tent (more of a gazebo) that we use for the Wingham festivals is needing replacement. Also, the ten-year registration of our website domain name comes up for renewal in September 2022. It was last registered in 2012 at a cost of \$349, so I am assuming it will be a similar amount to register it for another ten years.

At our recent Committee meeting it was decided to notify the membership of these needs, and to invite people to pay their subscriptions for the 2021 calendar year. Our fees are set at \$5 for an individual and \$10 a family. We fully realise that some members are fully paid up and we have already received some donations for which we are very thankful. We are also aware that not everyone is in a financial position to contribute and such folk should feel under no obligation whatever.

If you would like to pay a subscription or make a donation to the Clan Society, our bank details are:

Account name: Murray Clan Association

Bank: Westpac

BSB: 032-590

Account number: 651482

Please use your name as the “reference” so we know who has contributed. The Clan Society is not a tax deductible charity.

At the Committee meeting on 18th September, members of the Committee themselves made substantial donations towards the above expenses. I think that this is the first time we have ever requested donations from our members and I hope it will be a one-off. The past two years have been very unusual in terms of income and we hope that members will understand the reasons for this request.

Death Report – Margaret Elizabeth Murray (nee Douglas)

John Murray 1824-1886



John Murray was the eldest of Isabella Murray’s ten children. He was granted approval to migrate to Australia in 1848 with five of his siblings but did not take up the opportunity, preferring to remain in Scotland with his widowed mother and her five youngest children. He migrated three years later when the rest of the family was granted assisted passages. He was a prominent citizen of Tinonee for many years (he ran the *Ferry Inn* at the ferry crossing) before establishing a very successful career in Sydney.

I came across the death notice of his first wife Margaret (nee Douglas) several years ago when doing research on a related subject. This report from *The Manning River News* on Saturday 9th February, 1867 is interesting from a number of points of view. “Consumption” was another name for tuberculosis, a bacterial disease that attacked the lungs and which was a major cause of death at the time. What I find interesting is the elevated (perhaps rather quaint to our ears) language of the announcement and the assumption of Christian belief. It seems evident from the description that Margaret was buried at the family cemetery at Camphouse, Killawarra. There is no marker for her grave, probably one of several burials there that are not marked. Here is the report from *The Manning River News*:

For the last five years this village [Tinonee] has been unvisited by Death, but as if to demonstrate the universality of his sway, and that no township or hamlet is so inconsiderable as to escape his notice, the Rider upon the Pale Horse has been among us this week, selecting as his victim the wife of Mr John Murray of the Ferry Inn. We are informed that the disease under which Mrs Murray laboured for many months past, and to which she at length succumbed, was consumption – an incurable affection under any circumstances, although remedial means were, we understand, used up to the very day of her death – she herself having preferred the homaeopathic treatment of a Maitland practitioner.

During the protracted period of suffering to which Mrs Murray was subjected, she exhibited great patience, and some hours before her departure, whilst yet in her right mind, gave directions as to the disposition to be made of her remains after death. She was buried on Thursday, at “Green Hill” and notwithstanding the distance of this place from Tinonee, a very large number of sorrowing friends and relations accompanied the body to its final resting place, in a secluded spot where lie other deceased members of her husband’s family, in which after suitable services had been performed by the Rev. Mr Laing of the Presbyterian Church, it was committed to the earth, there to await the final resurrection of the just.

Four little children have been rendered motherless by this dispensation of Providence.

Murray Family Tree DNA Project

The Murray Family Tree DNA project (<https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/murray/about/news>) is a huge undertaking and is managed in the USA by an Australian historian Alexandrina Murray (alexandrina.murray@gmail.com). Leigh Murray and I have both done the tests, which have proved among other things that we are descended from the very first identifiable Murray, Archibald de Moravia (c. 1250 AD).

I have invited Leigh to contribute his thoughts on the project. Here is his very welcome response:

YDNA Testing and the Murray Family DNA Project

We all know the Murray family is a BIG family.

Of course, we all believe every Murray is related.

I am writing this today to let you know that we may not ALL be related.

No, I am not referring to the illegitimate ways that can occur – but yes that is also possible.

What I am referring to is the way our name came to be.

Thankfully, like many Scottish clans, we have a very proud history, indeed, a very rich history. There is a great deal written about the Murrays and it seems the Murray name goes back at least to around 1200 AD.

It was around that time, the people in the British Isles started using and passing on the surname as we do today.

Before that time, the names people used could have come about by the location where they lived; it could be based on the area they fought for, controlled and farmed; it could have arisen because they were forced to join a marauding clan for their “safety”; it could be they took the name of the clan’s chieftain ... the methods for naming were many and varied.

Of course, we all know of famous Murrays from those eras – people recorded their names, people recorded their family trees, a history was created. A history we believed to be true.

Today, we have many family trees that claim descent from royalty, or from someone famous. Sadly, many of those family trees are wrong, just plain wrong.

You see, no-one did a genetic test before being accepted as a Murray; no-one did a genetic test before being accepted as a Stuart (or is that a Stewart?). No-one did a genetic test before being accepted as a Campbell, or Cameron, or Ross, etc..

The reality is every surname contains people who are not genetically related.

There is, however, some good news. Ross Murray and I have very similar genetics on our Y Chromosome. Which means that the Murray line (which can only be proven from the Y Chromosome) from John Murray (1784-1845) who died in Scotland, and his wife Isabella, nee Scott (1801-1866) who came to Australia in 1851, appears to be confirmed.

With another match we have there seems to be a connection back to the John Murray who was born in 1670.



Leigh Murray

You will note that I am using terms like “appears to be” and “seems to be”. That is because at the moment we really need to have some more males (those with a Y Chromosome) agree to undertake a YDNA test with “Family Tree DNA” to confirm our line and then to ascertain where the branching of our family occurs.

To make it clear, YDNA is passed from Father to Son – the Y Chromosome is passed from one male to their sons (possibly with a mutation – which occurs about every 80 years).

So, the haplogroup to which Ross and I belong originated between say 250 and 500 years ago. The next main branching we see on our tree occurred about 2,000 years earlier. We have nothing to tell us of any other split in our tree for that 2,500 years...but we know people named Morrow, Waldron, and one or two others had the same ancestors at some point. Right now, we don't even know when we arrived in Scotland.

We also aren't that sure who came before the John Murray born in 1669 (the one we refer to as John Murray 1) because there were four generations of John Murray before our line came to Australia. Yes, there are some theories as to who John Murray 1's father was, but we aren't certain.

It would be great if we had more male Murrays tested, particularly those who are descended from John Murray 1 or John Murray 2 or John Murray 3 but not from John Murray 4, although 1 or 2 more John Murray 4 descendants would not hurt.

Murrays, Morrows, Waldrons and any other people whose ancestors may be from Belgium or the Netherlands and nearby countries might also help us to break up that unknown 2000 years.

Other surnames of interest include: Moray, Case, Laws, Love, Shelton, Slaton, Peel, Fenner, Bolin, Bulley, Hall, and of course many others. They are the names of people whose DNA results show that they may be more closely related to us, although that relationship may be from a long time ago.

We also need to have two men at least to confirm the results before the experts believe a branching did occur.

Now, I know that some people have reservations about doing DNA tests but there is really nothing to be afraid of. A big positive is contributing to our knowledge of where we came from. You do not have to share your results. If for any reason you are unhappy with what you discover, you don't have to tell anyone. Not Ross' name, nor my name, is recorded on our individual results. But should you decide to contact your matches then it is you making your details more public, even if only slightly.

The full Y700 is expensive. As I write this, the current price in US dollars for a Y700 test is, to quote FTDNA, “only \$USD449”, which is equivalent to about \$AUD600 on current exchange rates.

As new “testers” match with you, all of your records will automatically be updated – so that one test does keep on giving.

The YDNA test is not the same as the ancestry tests offered by the other genealogical companies. What they are offering is called an autosomal test and it can only identify “recent” relatives – ie from the last few generations.

FTDNA (Family Tree DNA) do offer those tests too. If you do follow that path you will no doubt find lots of unpronounceable names of people to whom you are supposedly related. You will also find a number of adopted people seeking their close family. You never know, you could be the person that can help them.

Another test available through FTDNA is the Mitochondrial DNA test which follows your mother's line – however it is far more difficult to find close relatives with that test. Your group, identified through the mitochondrial DNA test, could be 20,000 years old. The Mitochondrial test can be done by men and women, and FTDNA are encouraging more people to undertake the Full Sequence Test so they can create a tree similar to the YDNA tree – with a hierarchy, branches, etc.

If you do the YDNA test you do not need to do the autosomal test (called “Family Finder”) or the mitochondrial test unless you wish to do so.

At this time, only FTDNA do the Y700 test, and FTDNA are where the mitochondrial tests need to be done to grow the mitochondrial DNA tree.

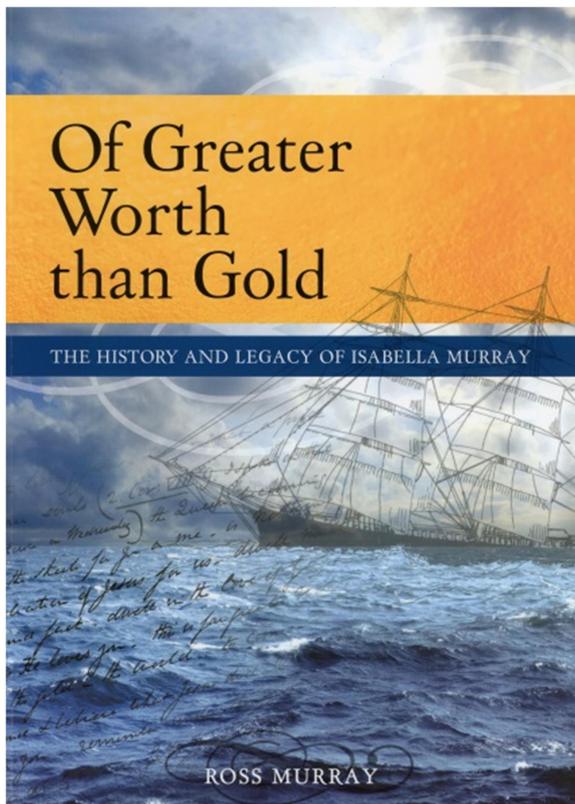
The FTDNA test requires only a cheek swab which you do yourself at home. It is easy and simple, but it does take a long time for your sample to get back to the USA for testing. Unfortunately, the actual testing too can take some months – possibly 3 to 4 months.

With all of that said, if you are interested in confirming your part in the Murray family, please seriously consider undertaking, or asking, kindly of course, a male member of your family, or some of the other families mentioned, to do the YDNA test.

Ross and I would appreciate more people being tested and it will help to fill in OUR FAMILY'S STORY. You can wait for the sales - that isn't an issue - but if you can join us, or encourage others from the Edinburgh area or Europe to join us in this journey, it will be greatly welcomed.

Leigh Murray

Clearance Sale



Next year it will be ten years since the launch of *Of Greater Worth than Gold*, the story of Isabella Murray and her family's migration to Australia. In that time over 300 copies have gone to happy homes but I still have some surplus copies which I really want to dispose of.

As of now I am letting them go for \$10, including packaging and postage (\$5 if they don't need posting). That is way below the cost of production, but the time has come to clear them out. If you have relatives who might want one, or if you need extra copies for extended family members, please let me know. I'd rather give them away than have to recycle them.

Account Name: R D & P M MURRAY
Account Number: BSB: 812-170
Account Ref: 100013004
Email: murrayr46@gmail.com

Just for Fun



Used with permission:
<https://www.redbubble.com/i/mouse-pad/Scottish-Summer-by-jimbairn/86779816.G1FH6>

....a double scotch on the rocks?



An Entertaining Three Minutes

Click on this link for a display of incredible Scottish ice skating. (It starts with an advertisement that you can skip after a few seconds)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=on3F4e7B5eo>

All the best to everyone,
Ross Murray
President

