

THE MURRAY FAMILY

The Scottish Clan

Early History

1. Scotland
2. Pictou - Nova Scotia
3. Nebraska



## The Origin of the Murray Clan

The surname of Murray is Scottish in origin.

### Origin of Name

Place-name, Morayshire

The Gaelic Name: Mac Mhurich

The Motto: Tout Pret (Quite Ready)

The Chest Badge: A mermaid holding in her dexter hand a mirror, and in the sinister a comb all proper. This crest is that of the ancient families who lay claim to the chiefship of Murray.

The language is Gaelic or belongs to the Celtic or Keltic inhabitants of the Scottish Highlands.

Plant Badge: Butcher's broom - Juniper

Pipe Music: Atholl Highlander

### The Scottish Clan - Early History - by Robert Bains

This powerful clan had its origin in one of the ancient tribes of the Province of Mory. The Murray clan name is found in many districts of Scotland. The principal family is said to be descended from Freskin who received lands in Moray from David I. His grandson, William de Moravia, because of extensive possessions in Moray acquired the land of Bothwell and also in South of Scotland other sons founded other houses, including the Murrays of Tullibardine. He died in 1226, and his son, Sir Walter, was the first described as of Bothwell. Sir William de Moravia died in 1293, and was succeeded by his brother, Sir Andrew, who was the celebrated patriot and staunch supporter of Sir William Wallace. He was Regent of Scotland after the death of Robert the Bruce, and died in 1338.

Sir William de Moravia acquired the land of Tullibardine in Perthshire in 1282 through his marriage with a daughter of Malise, seneschal (steward) of Strathearn. Sir William Murray of Tullibardine, who succeeded in 1446, had seventeen sons, many of whom founded prominent families of Murray. Sir John, 12th of Tullibardine, was created Lord Murray in 1604, and Earl in 1606. William, 2nd Earl of Tullibardine, claimed the Earldom of Atholl by right of his wife, but died before the patent was granted. His son, John, however, obtained the title of Earl of Atholl in 1629, and became the first Earl of the Murray branch. The Earldom of



Tullibardine was conferred on his uncle, Sir Patrick Murray. Atholl was a staunch Royalist, and his son John, 2nd Earl, strongly supported Charles I. He married Lady Amelia Stanley, daughter of the Earl of Derby, through whom he acquired the lordship of the Isle of Man. In 1670 he succeeded to the Earldom of Tullibardine, and in 1676 he was created Marquis of Atholl. Disappointed at his reception by William of Orange, he joined the Jacobites. He died in 1703. John, 2nd Marquis, was created Duke of Atholl in 1703, and was a bitter opponent of the Union of 1707. He died in 1724 and was succeeded by his third son, Manes. James, 2nd Duke of Atholl, claimed the English barony of Strange through the line of the Earl of Derby. He was succeeded by his daughter, Charlotte, who married her cousin, John Murray, eldest son of Lord George Murray of Jacobite fame. John Murray succeeded his uncle as 3rd Duke of Atholl and holder of many other titles of the Murray family.

Other branches of the Clan include the Murrays of Polmaise, of Abercairney, of Auchtertyre, of Eliband, the Earls of Dunmore, the Earls Mansfield, and many others.

The Duke of Atholl, formerly Lord James Stewart Murray, lives at Blair Castle, historic citadel of the Murrays and Stewarts in Perthshire, Scotland - a devoted family archivist.

This widespread Scottish clan derives its name from the ancient province of Moray, which at one time included Inverness as well as the present shires of Mory at Nairn.

The clan claims to be descended from the ancient Picts who inhabited Scotland prior to the 6th century. But the chief's family is said to descend from Freskin, believed to be of Flemish origin, who settled in West Lothian during the reign of David I (1124-1153).

In 1130 a serious rebellion in Moray was subdued by the king, who installed Freskin as his viceroy there. From Freskin's grandson, known as William the Moravia, are descended the many branches of the Moray or Murray family; the



later spelling of the name was adopted during the 16th century.

Of the Bothwell branch was Sir Andrew Moray, who was one of the first to join the patriot, William Wallace, in his effort to free Scotland from English dominion.

About 1290 the well known Murrays, of Atholl, probably the larger branch of the family, were established when William, son of Malcolm Moray, by marrying the daughter of the Mormaer of Strethearn, obtained the lands of Tullibardine.

The Atholl Murrays played an active part in both the 1715 and 1745 risings which attempted to restore the Stewart family to the British throne.

Branches of this Scottish clan are to be found in Ireland, particularly in the north, but there is also a native Irish family of the name. Its Gaelic name, Muircadhaigh, has been anglicized to both Murry and Murray; both these English versions often use the prefix "O" or "Mc".

This Irish family, whose ancient lands were in Leitrim and Roscommon is not related to the Scottish Murrays.

(By Reg Willis, care of the Traveler - Detroit)

#### Highland Settlement in Pictou, Nova Scotia

"What noble courage must their hearts have fired  
How great the ardor which their souls inspired,  
Who leaving far beyond their native plain  
Have sought a home beyond the western main;  
And braved the perils of the stormy seas  
In search of wealth, of freedom, and of ease.  
Oh, none can tell, but those who sadly share,  
The bosom's anguish, and its wild despair,  
What dire distress awaits the hardy bands,  
That venture first on bleak and desert lands;  
How great the pain, the danger and the toil  
Which mark the first rude culture of the soil.  
When looking round, the lonely settler sees  
His home amid a wilderness of trees;  
How sinks his heart in those deep solitudes,  
Where not a voice upon his ear intrudes;  
Where solemn silence all the waste pervades,  
Heightening the horror of its gloomy shades;  
Save where the sturdy woodman's strokes resound  
That strew the fallen forest on the ground."

-H. Glodsmith



The second settlement of Highlanders in British America was at Pictou, Nova Scotia. The stream of Scottish emigration which flowed in after years, not only over the county of Pictou, but also over the greater portion of eastern Nova Scotia, Cape Breton, Prince Edward Island, and even the upper provinces of Canada, was largely due to this settlement ; for the emigrants in after years, communicated with their friends and induced them to take up their abode in the new country. The stream once started did not take long to deepen and widen.

A brief early history of the Gaelic speaking emigrant from the Highland of Scotland to Scotsburn and Pictou, Nova Scotia, Canada from 1767 to 1885 which includes a brief background of the Murray family

The Micmac tribe of Indians were the inhabitants of Pictou up until 1767. No Englishman had made his appearance in this part of this country till after the Treaty of Paris had been signed in 1763. In that treaty, France had ceded to Great Britain all her possessions in North America, with the exception of Louisiana and the small islands on the southern shores of Newfoundland. As soon as this treaty was signed the British Government took measures for the settlement of Prince Edward Island, and the northern shores of Nova Scotia, by British subjects.

It was the Philadelphia Company that sent the first ship "Hope" to Pictou in June 10, 1767 with thirty-five passengers. These were the pioneer settlers of Pictou County. All but one was of the Presbyterian faith, and he was a Catholic.

On the 15th day of September 1773, six years and three months after the "Hope" arrived in Pictou harbour, the second immigrant vessel - the famous ship "Hector" arrived, and was the first immigrant ship from Scotland to Pictou. The ship "Hector" sailed from Lochbroom, Rosshire, Scotland July 10, 1773, and arrived in Pictou Harbour September 15th with 189 passengers on board.

There was no provision made for their shelter, food; they had no money and insufficient clothing. Their condition was a most deplorable one. To obtain food for their families, they had to go to Truro, through the trackless forest in deep



snow and there obtain a bushel or two of potatoes and perhaps a little flour in exchange for their labour. Then they would return to their families, carrying this little supply on their backs or dragging it on a hand sled.

It was indeed a terrible experience through which these immigrants lived during their first winter in this country. By spring the McNutt Grant of land was open for settlement. This grant contained one hundredthousand acres of the most desirable land in the County for immigrants to settle upon. These immigrants suffered many hardships for years, but by labour and thrift, they became more and more prosperous year by year. The rivers abounded in trout and salmon, herring and cod; the surrounding forest in deer, moose, and game. Food and fuel were abundant and with the building of warm log houses they were more happily situated than they had been in their native land. These settlers were land holders of the soil they cultivated, instead of tenants on small farms and having to pay an exorbitant annual rent to an absentee landlord as they did in Scotland. Quite early in the history of Pictou County, the settlers began to take an interest in lumbering and ship building, as the whole country was covered with timber, such as oak, birch, pine, and spruce. The first saw-mill was built in the year 1769. In due time bridges, roads, and dams were approved and built. With this new aid in transportation the lumber business became profitable business.

The American Revolution, 1776-1783, and the French Revolution in 1792-1815 created a large demand for timber and vessels of all kinds. The timber was more valuable than the soil, so many farmers became lumbermen. The timber trade was active from 1774 to 1820. By 1820 it began to decline and ceased altogether between 1860 and 1870. By then the original forest of Pictou was nearly all destroyed at home or shipped abroad. While it gave a large amount of employment and circulated a large amount of money, it destroyed the magnificent forest by which the whole face of the country was originally covered.

The pioneer settlers of Scotsburn were, with a few exceptions, from the Highlands of Scotland. They were born either in Ross-Shire or Sutherlandshire, but chiefly in Sutherlandshire, and in one or the other of four or five parishes: