

GALLUS

Glasgow Ancestry Links the Likes of Us

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Menzies Surname and Clan

Editor – Earlier this year I was contacted by one of our members, Anthony ‘Randy’ Hare, North American coordinator of the Clan Menzies society who is based in Williamsburg, telling me about their DNA project. Below we print the details he sent. Anthony’s Menzies’ connection is through his great great grandmother – Jennie Menzies, and he can trace that line back to about 1690 to a Walter Menzies of Renfrewshire.

The MINGUS Project was launched in 2019 to investigate the ancestry of the surname Menzies, and other names associated, and connections with other Clans. The project seeks to answer basic questions about the origin of the clan and surnames, where ancestral lands were located, and archiving data for all time.

In order to answer these questions, we have established a three-pronged approach: centralize worldwide Menzies’ family tree data onto a single online accessible platform; institute and identify key y-DNA (male) line individuals for genetic testing; and preserve documentary and anecdotal history for all time.

The MINGUS, Inc. Project, which is short for the (Menzies International

Genealogy Under Study, Inc.) Project, has been initiated.

The Clan uses an online genetic database program called WikiTree. It currently has several thousand profiles of individual Menzies, and other names associated profiles from around the world and the data base continues to grow on a daily basis. We would love for anyone that has any family genealogy data to contact us so that we may incorporate this information into the Menzies genealogical story. Even the most seemingly insignificant detail may contain the key to unite lost family ancestral connections. Please provide your photos, stories, family trees, etc. to our genealogical coordinators listed below. Also, follow the WikiTree link



Representatives of the Menzies family at the East Gate of Castle Menzies, Perthshire, 1898

below and perhaps your family line, or a portion of it, is already established within the WikiTree database.

For example, a seemingly insignificant detail can in fact be a key piece of information that unifies several disparate database individual profiles into a family tree. Our genealogists were recently told that someone's 2 x grandfather was the brother of an individual profile that we had already established within WikiTree. Upon incorporating that information we were able to knit together into an ancestral line that began in Dull, Perthshire, Scotland around 1740. The line emigrated to Connecticut in the 1890's where one individual established a plumbing business that continued for over 100 years. Another individual ultimately moved to Hollywood, California to establish a stellar career in motion pictures special effects. Yes, that individual was Charles Cameron Menzies. As you see the information exists, it just needs unification.

The Y-DNA initiative is a bold project aimed at answering the most elusive but basic questions of genealogy. Where did we come from? Genetic testing techniques have evolved and continue to evolve almost daily. Genetic testing of a continuous line of male descendants now provides us with information about our ancestors that can go back thousands of



Castle Menzies near Aberfeldy Perthshire, originally the Palace of Weem. During WWII it was used as a Polish Medical supplies depot, became derelict but was restored by the Clan Menzies Society in 1957. However Menzies Castle was not the ancestral home of the Chiefs. The Clan had quite a few other castles.

years, thereby providing previously unimaginable answers to our past.

It involves testing markers on your Y chromosome that can help to answer mysteries that paper trails and autosomal (maternal line) tests cannot. It doesn't replace them, but it does answer additional questions. For example, it allows you to discover relationships beyond your paper trail; if you want to build estimates on the age of your lineage; if you want to find out what is your lineage on the human tree and trace its path to genetic Adam.

DNA testing really helps us map out our lineage and complete our Clan history, thereby providing a lasting record of all who make our Clan great. And best of all, by documenting Clan heritage, we leave a lasting legacy to future generations. Our organization would be most happy to consult with other clans or organizations on the mechanics of our business model, so that the model might be replicated thereby allowing more people to benefit. Since inception of the program we receive almost daily inquiries from individuals seeking aid in the discovery of their lost family heritage.

The Clan was without a chief until Col. Ronald Steuart Menzies of Culdares, Grant of Arndilly and Stewart of Cardney, the lineal heir of Colonel James Menzies of Culdares, a prominent Covenanting officer and cousin of the first Baronet, petitioned Lyon Court in 1957 and obtained arms in the title of "The Menzies of Menzies". His son, David Steuart Menzies of Menzies is the present Chief having taken over in 1961.

The Clan WikiTree landing page is located at:

www.wikitree.com/wiki/Category:Clan_Menzies



Jennie (Menzies) Jacobson

8 Apr 1869 - 29 Apr 1917
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Sister of [John Menzies](#), [Marion Emily Menzies](#), [Johanna Menzies](#) and [William Menzies](#)

Wife of [Petter August \(Jakobsson\) Jacobson](#)

Mother of [Lillian Marion Jacobson](#), [Hilda May Jacobson](#), [Violet \(Jacobson\) Rutsis](#) and [Martha Gustina Jacobson](#)

Part of An

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Secretary: Menzies I
Genealogy Under Study, Inc.
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John Menzies †
abt 1837 -
Renfrewshire, Scotland, United Kingdom



Marion Weir Pearson †
19 Apr 1839 -
Barony, Lanarkshire, Scotland, United Kingdom

James Menzies †
29 Oct 1810 -
Greenock, Renfrewshire, Scotland,
United Kingdom



Jane Geddes †
abt 1815 -
Scotland



William Pearson †
01 Jan 1803 -
Lauder, Berwickshire, Scotland, United Kingdom



Marion Aitken Pattison †
05 Dec 1807 - bef 31 Dec 1862
Gorbals, Lanarkshire, Scotland

Part of Anthony's family tree showing Menzies branch

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