

2020 Winter Newsletter

MMCA 100th Reunion Outreach

Hello Clan Members!

Hope this letter finds everyone well! Below is some information about the next reunion.

Saturday, August 1, 2020 will be the 100th annual Reunion of the Micum McIntire Clan Association, and to mark that occasion the Association will be holding a Ceilidh (“kay-lee” --a Scottish party) to celebrate. All descendants of Micum McIntire, Philip McIntire (Micum’s brother), Robert Junkins (Micum’s best friend), and MacIntyres of every variety, as well as anyone interested in the lives of the Scottish prisoners of wars sent to New England in 1650-51, are invited to attend. You do not need to be a member of the Clan Association to attend (though we encourage you to join), just interested.

Beginning at 9:00 a.m., the Association will hold its regular annual reunion, business meeting, and a bring-your-own picnic lunch at Moody Hall in the First Parish Church in historic York Village. The shared desserts are always to die for. York’s First Parish Meetinghouse was one of the places where a circuit-riding young lawyer named John Adams learned his trade.

The meeting and lunch will be followed by a brief presentation on the life of Micum McIntire, to prime the pump for what’s coming next. In the early afternoon, participants will gather at the Maxwell-McIntire Garrison in the Scotland District of York, with a tour of the building and a group photo for posterity (or notoriety). A bus will be available – parking on site is limited.

The rest of Saturday’s activity centers on Durham, NH, and folks can use the bus or go by car. Mid-afternoon interested participants will gather at the Three Chimneys Inn in Durham for a guided walking tour of nearby sites in the Oyster River (Durham) settlement associated with Micum’s life – including the inn itself, which began as the home of Valentine Hill, who owned the indenture of Micum, Robert Junkins, and other Scottish prisoners. Oyster River is where Micum and several fellow Scottish prisoners of war worked and lived during and for a few years after their seven-year indentures ended. We will be joined by members of the Durham Historical Society and others who will make other historical presentations regarding Micum and the other prisoners.

In late afternoon-early evening, participants will gather at the Three Chimneys Inn itself for the 100th Anniversary Reunion Ceilidh (“kaylee” = a Scottish party). The ceilidh will begin with brief remarks, followed by drinks, a great New England dinner, and lively Scottish music provided by a band with a fiddler and piper, with dancing for all ages and abilities. A few buffet dinner options (of varying costs) and a cash bar will be available. It’s going to be a great party!!

On Sunday morning, August 2, those who are interested will have the opportunity to repeat the walking tour in Durham, or to attend a local religious service. People can obtain lunch on their own.

In the early afternoon, interested participants will gather at the Old Berwick Historical Society museum in South Berwick, Maine, for a guided exhibit with a short video on the “Dunbar Boys” – the Scottish prisoners (including Micum) who worked at the mills in that community. That will be followed by a walk around the site of the Quamphegan Mills – one of the mills where Micum and other former Dunbar and Worcester prisoners worked after their indentures ended, when they were accumulating up resources with which to settle. The location of Micum’s first land grant will also be indicated, allowing for ‘drive-by’ viewings – there will be no tours of the property, which is a privately-owned farm.

In mid-afternoon, those interested may gather at Strawberry Banke (yes, that’s the way they used to spell it) in Portsmouth, New Hampshire for a walking tour of that remarkable historic district. Strawberry Banke was the first area of Portsmouth settled by early English immigrants, beginning as a fishing settlement in 1623. It was the home base for families of many of the English land proprietors and entrepreneurs who acquired the indentures of Scottish prisoners.

Next door to Strawberry Banke is the harborside mooring for The Gundalow Company. They operate an exact replica of the gundalows (medium-sized sailboats) used to transport people and goods from Durham to the sea in Micum’s time. The Company gives regular cruises of the Piscataqua River (Portsmouth Harbor), a body of water that many Scottish prisoners would have known intimately.

Specific information on events and times, along with registration information and costs, will be provided in subsequent posts. Those interested are encouraged to locate and book lodging in the area for the appropriate evenings in a timely manner.

Descendants of Micum McIntire or those interested in the work of the Micum McIntire Clan Association are encouraged to join the Association. Annual dues for new members are \$20. Annual dues for renewing members (anyone who has ever been a member) are \$15.

Micum McIntire Clan Association membership applications can be obtained by contacting Denise Threlkeld, Clan Secretary, at mcintireclan@comcast.net.

Hope everyone can make it! It sounds like a good time to be had by all!

Cruachan!

Denise Threlkeld
Clan Secretary