

President's Corner ~ What a year 2020 was! And hang onto your hats as we swing into 2021! Isolated and masked in our own "bubbles" thanks to a tiny virus, we watch the *Perseverance* rover land on Mars! No one can say we don't live in interesting times.

We hope this finds our McIntire cousins doing well and staying safe. We want ALL of Micum's descendants to stay hale and hearty in this new year so you can join us for our *August 2021 reunion online*, and for the 100th Anniversary bash *in-person in 2022* (and every year thereafter!). Covid has been so tenacious that we decided this was our safest option, much as we hate to postpone being together in person!

Our clan motto, *Per Ardua*, means that we McIntires know how to survive "through difficulty." For centuries, in the face of disease, sacrifice, violent conflict, and involuntary transport to distant lands, we have survived to come out safe and well on the the other side of whatever difficulties we have faced. We survive because we face it together – we're family. We can do this!

Your Board and Council members have been giving lots of thought to how we can not only survive these two years of virtual reunions, but dare to *flourish!* We want to encourage clansfolk to get to know each other better, explore common interests, and enjoy learning about our Scottish heritage. We are very excited to share some of our ideas in this newsletter, and we are eager for your input and thoughts as well with our **Future Directions Survey** (attached). Your ideas and interests are *essential* to help guide our path and strengthen our clan through the coming years.

Covid has launched us into cyberspace with a vengeance, but that opens wonderful new opportunities for us to stay in touch as a clan through our new fabulous website, our FaceBook page, and Zoom. In addition to our newsletters and in-person annual meetings, we can now work together throughout the year on genealogy projects, learning from one another and guest experts through via Zoom on anything from updating the family tree, to how to bake Scottish shortbread or scones! We can collaborate on video/photography projects to honor our elders and preserve our family stories. The list is almost endless!

With perseverance, imagination, and ingenuity (thank you Micum and Dorothy!), we'll get through this pandemic together! Hang in there, do your part for herd immunity (aka the Fauci Ouchie), and please do stay safe!

Cruachan!
Jan Maier, MMCA President
Comments/questions? jemsong7@icloud.com, 781-301-1821



Tried Everything?→Explore Your Family’s Scottish Roots ~ Sick and tired of your own four walls? Have you already:

- ...taken every safely-distanced walk you can within a 20-mile radius?
- ...binged on Netflix movies till you can’t stand it anymore?
- ...run out of jigsaw puzzles?
- ...started having dreams in Zoom-like “Hollywood Squares”?
- ...watched every episode of “Outlander” on Starz (or, even better, read the books) more than once, trying to escape the isolation?

We have a solution! Try on some real Scottish history – the history of your own family! Are you (for instance) descended from Micum’s son John, or from his son Micum Jr.? Do you know who all your second cousins are? (Do you know what a second cousin *is*?)*

You can begin today by using the enclosed Family History Form (either hard copy or email attachment) for each person in your line. Starting with yourself and your parents, document what you know from the list, so you can find your roots back to Micum!

Need help getting started or along the way? You can get help online here:

<https://micummcintireclanassociation.org/micum-mcintire-genealogy-questions/>.

Or you can email us for help at: mcintireclan@comcast.net

If you can’t get online, snail mail your request for help to: Denise Threlkeld, Clan Secretary, 62 Autumn Drive, Centerville, MA 02632 – Denise will pass on your request.

We can give you pointers on how to chase down ancestors online, and we offer the Micum McIntire genealogies (the Red Book) from 1940 and 1983 (revised edition) for sale on our website at: <https://micummcintireclanassociation.org/shop/>.

At some point, we hope to update our existing genealogy (the 1983 edition of the Red Book), but we are not asking you to provide us with that information yet. Just get started gathering or updating your own family history. When it comes time to update the Micum genealogy, we will have a secure place online for your information. In the meantime, good hunting!!

The 2021 Gathering ~ Because of the continuing uncertainty generated by the pandemic and how long it will take for vaccine distribution to have a useful effect, the Council has decided to plan for an interesting and worthwhile ONLINE Zoom gathering for this coming August 2021, including a brief business meeting, but no in-person gathering. At this point, it is simply not possible to know what will be safe by this August 2021, and because of the economic impacts of the pandemic, fewer people than ever will have the disposable income to contemplate spending money on travel and recreation. It makes more sense to wait and give everyone time to recover.

We’re not going to give it away yet, but at the 2021 gathering we’re going to try to offer information on Micum’s history in new ways, by taking advantage of our new website. Life and communication increasingly occur online – that’s a simple fact of life – and the Clan needs to keep pace. Online is also where our children and grandchildren increasingly conduct their lives, and if we want their interest and engagement – as we have said for decades that we do – then we need to go where they are living.

The 2022 Gathering: The 100th!! ~ We are aiming our serious planning efforts for a traditional in-person 100th Anniversary of the Micum McIntire Clan Reunion celebration in August of 2022. We feel more confident that the pandemic will be in hand by then, and that Clan members will be better able to more confidently make and afford travel plans. We'll keep you posted on progress.

Future Directions Survey ~ To help us guide the Clan's future, please take the time to complete and return the new Future Directions Survey. We are exploring some new ways to get to know one another and pursue projects for those with common interests. The former survey has been expanded and allows you to check specific suggestions or add your own. Pursuing these options is even more possible now that we have our website and can Zoom to communicate between annual in-person gatherings. We want to know what matters to YOU. This *new* survey is the way to tell us. Thank You!

The Future Directions Survey is found enclosed or attached, and on our website:

<http://micummcintireclanassociation.org/>.

How You Receive Newsletters ~ We need your help. What with postage, copying, envelopes, and the rest, it can cost as much as \$100 each time we mail out our quarterly newsletters. With a limited budget, that makes other things harder to do and to pay for. If you are an MMCA member who has email but receives these newsletters by snail mail, **please email Denise** (mcintireclan@comcast.net) your name and that you'd like to receive clan correspondence by email. We will always continue to send snail-mail newsletters to those who don't have email.

Treasury Notes ~ Our new PayPal account is working great on the website – thank you David and Jeannette! **Many Thanks** to those who have donated for the \$100 for the 100th campaign. Those donations will go toward our 100th anniversary reunion in 2022. We will revive the campaign later as we get closer. We are still missing 2020-2021 dues from a number of our regular members and would appreciate your catching up! It's easy to forget when you're used to paying during the annual meeting. Our dues form is attached for your convenience, and a big **Thank You** to those are current.

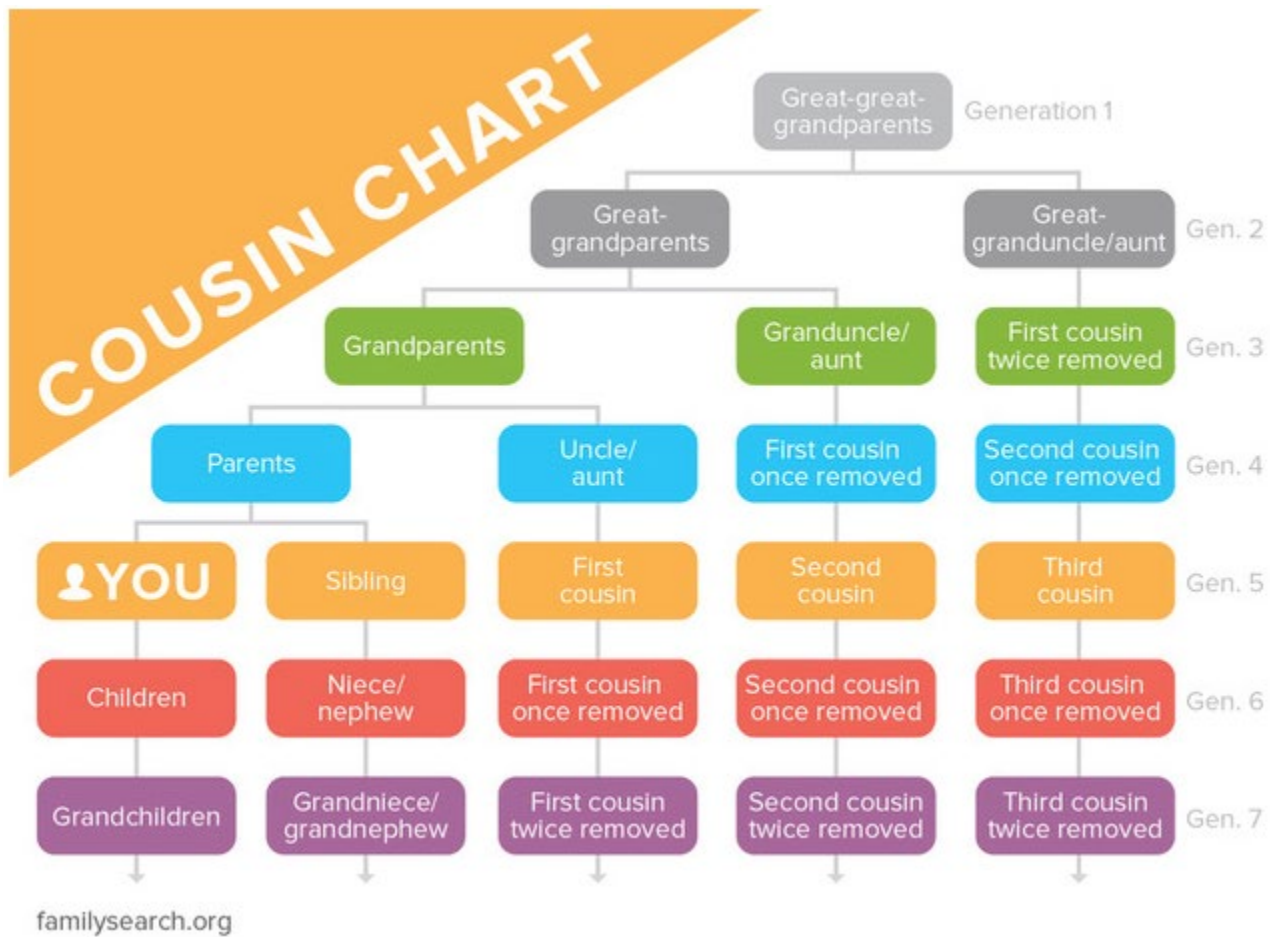
Website Updates ~ To help you get to know the clan leadership, we will be posting our bios on the website. We also have a **sale in the Gift Shop**, and you can pay by PayPal or check. David is building a password-protected area for us to upload family genealogy information – there we can share what we've found, and find out who our new cousins are! We also want to have a place online for people to share important milestones in a timely way such as births, marriages, and to honor those who have passed, our "Flowers of the Field" tradition.

What's Next? ~ Our next Spring Newsletter will review results of the Future Directions Survey, provide notice of and more details about our 2021 Annual Reunion in Zoom, will prepare you for upcoming elections and any Bylaw changes, and share how we'll be moving forward with Clan projects.

Stay Safe ~ This is a critical time in the progress of this long pandemic. Vaccines are on their way, but even when you get vaccinated (we hope you do), please be safe with social distancing and masks until we achieve “herd immunity”! This will end. We want you to be there when it does.

In the meantime, stay safe and enjoy this new year!
MMCA Council

*A second cousin is someone who shares the same great grandparent as you. See Cousin Chart on <https://www.familysearch.org/blog/en/what-is-a-second-cousin/>



Attachments:

- Family History Form
- Future Directions Survey
- Dues Payment Form