

An Litir Bheag

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

An Litir Bheag is a shortened and simplified version of Ruairidh's Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh (also available on the BBC website), designed for those who are at an earlier stage of learning Gaelic. The topic each week is the same as Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh so that, once the Litir Bheag is mastered, a student of the language might wish to try the full Litir. This is Litir Bheag 882 (which corresponds to Litir 1,186). Ruairidh can be contacted at fios@learngaelic.scot.

I was telling you about the Mackenzies of Coul and Sir George Steuart Mackenzie. It's Sir George that built Coul House in Contin in 1821. It's now a hotel called Coul House Hotel. George married twice. He had eleven children.

His fourth son was Robert Ramsay Mackenzie. He was born in Coul. At the age of twenty he emigrated to New South Wales in Australia. His brother James was already there.

Robert and James bought a farm together. But they weren't successful. Robert got more money from his family in Scotland.

He didn't make progress, however. He was declared bankrupt in 1844.

At the end of the fifties, Robert was living in the north of New South Wales. A new colony was created there – Queensland. Robert got involved in politics. He was the government's Treasurer. That wasn't bad for a man who was bankrupt a few years before!

Bha mi ag innse dhuibh mu Chlann 'ic Coinnich na Cùile agus mun Ridire Seòras Stiùbhart MacCoinnich. 'S e Sir Seòras a thog Taigh mòr na Cùile ann an Cunndainn ann an ochd ceud deug, fichead 's a h-aon (1821). Tha e a-nise na thaigh-òsta air a bheil Coul House Hotel. Phòs Seòras dà thuras. Bha aon duine deug de chloinn aige.

B' e an ceathramh mac aige Raibeart Ramsay MacCoinnich. Rugadh e anns a' Chùil. Aig aois fichead rinn e eilthreachd a Chuimrigh Nuadh a Deas ann an Astràilia. Bha a bhràthair Seumas ann mu thràth.

Cheannaich Raibeart agus Seumas tuathanas còmhla. Ach cha deach gu math leotha. Fhuair Raibeart tuilleadh airgid bhon teaghlach aige ann an Alba.

Cha do rinn e adhartas, ge-tà. Chaidh a chomharrachadh mar bhanca-briste ann an ochd ceud deug, ceathrad 's a ceithir (1844).

Aig deireadh nan caogadan, bha Raibeart a' fuireach ann an ceann a tuath Cuimrigh Nuadh a Deas. Chaidh tuineachadh ùr a dhèanamh an sin – Tìr na Banrigh. Chaidh Raibeart an sàs ann am poilitics. Bha e na Ionmhasair aig an riaghaltas. Cha robh sin dona airson fear a bha banca-briste beagan bhliadhnaichean roimhe!

He rose to become Premier in Queensland in 1867. He was in post for only sixteen months. He got the baronetcy when his brother William died. He returned to live in Scotland in 1871.

I was considering place names containing MacKenzie. In Queensland, Mackenzie is a suburb in Brisbane. And there is the area of Mackenzie – in a division of the state known as Central Highlands. That’s fitting!

The name comes from the river, the Mackenzie River. It was named by the explorer, Ludwig Leichhardt, after his friend Evan Mackenzie from Kilcoy Station. Evan belonged to Kilcoy in Easter Ross in Scotland.

And Mackenzie in Brisbane? It was named after Colonel W Mackenzie who was growing sugar there.

Dh’èirich e gu bhith na Phrìomhaire ann an Tìr na Banrigh ann an ochd ceud deug, seasgad ’s a seachd (1867). Bha e anns an dreuchd airson dìreach sia mìosan deug. Fhuair e an tìghearnas, no *baronetcy*, nuair a chaochail a bhràthair Uilleam. Thill e a dh’fhuireach ann an Alba ann an ochd ceud deug, seachdad ’s a h-aon (1871).

Bha mi a’ beachdachadh air ainmean-àite le *Mackenzie* annta. Ann an Tìr na Banrigh, tha *Mackenzie*, fo-bhaile ann am Brisbane. Agus tha sgìre *Mackenzie* ann – ann an roinn dhen stàite ris an canar *Central Highlands*. Tha sin iomchaidh!

Tha an t-ainm a’ tighinn bhon abhainn, *the Mackenzie River*. Chaidh a h-ainmeachadh leis an neach-rannsachaidh, Ludwig Leichhardt, an dèidh a charaid, Eòghan MacCoinnich à *Kilcoy Station*. Bhuineadh Eòghan do Chùil Challaidh – *Kilcoy* – ann an Ros an Ear ann an Alba.

Agus Mackenzie ann am Brisbane? Chaidh ainmeachadh an dèidh a’ Chòirneil W MacCoinnich a bha a’ fàs siùcar ann.