

McCrimmons so I had carried on and finally drove in through the gate of a McQueen family. They were having a Sunday clan gathering. I told them who I was and that my grandfather had been born in the area. And they knew who I was immediately! And that I went back in Glengarry for generations! "Yes, yes," they said, "you're cousin Angus's grandson."

They were all distantly related, and the McQueens sent me onwards to McLeod relatives near the village of McCrimmon. And they were having a family reunion as well!

So here I am my first day back in Glengarry and I'm at the second family reunion!

The McLeods I met for the first time included Hamish McLeod, a second cousin, and his daughter was home from New York, and there was a Madeline Hardy from New York, another cousin, and they were all at the Ross McLeod's. They eat phenomenally well at these functions, so I ate again. Then they said I had to go to the "home farm," which was the McCrimmon farm at Boreraig. I turned in that long lane and Kate McCrimmon met me at the gate.

Her husband was my father's first cousin. She was a second cousin by marriage. I told her who I was and she said, "Yes, Uncle Angus's grandson. That's fine. Come right in. Sign the guest book."

They have a guest book and McCrimmons from all over North America come and sign. Very often McCrimmons from all over will write to the little post office at McCrimmon [now defunct] and ask for genealogical information and the post will always send it on to the McCrimmons at Boreraig.

Kate asked me about myself, how many universities I'd been to and what I was doing, and when I was finished with all that she said, "Now this is your home forever. As it is with any McCrimmon who comes to Boreraig to visit."

So you can see why the Scots did so well. Even though they travelled away thousands of miles, the Scottish people maintain the strong feeling of a family and belonging, which still exists today.



*There are very few Bicentennial farms left in the Ottawa Valley, but one of these belongs to Archie and Isabel Macdonnell, near Williamstown in Glengarry County. The farm was settled after the American Revolution in 1784 and has been passed down through the family for seven generations.*

*Whether they began in Glengarry or some other Scottish settlement in Canada, the Scots have produced explorers and surveyors, economists and bankers, doctors and lawyers, politicians and educators. Farms like Archie MacDonnell's, where the generations remain on the land, are becoming increasingly rare as the young people turn towards the urban lifestyles. But even though many of them have left their roots to gain education and seek their fortunes, many farms in Glengarry have been bought by former Glengarrians or by Montreal Scots, who restore the old farmhouses for their weekend retreats and as places for retirement later on.*

*It is said that close to a hundred Air Canada pilots now have holdings in Glengarry and commute to Dorval International Airport for work. A goodly number of Montreal professionals live in Glengarry and commute to work as well.*

*In Glengarry I interviewed people on a wide range of socioeconomic levels, but almost all of them manifested as a common denominator a sense of clan loyalty, a pride in history, and sometimes an astounding knowledge of their genealogy.*