



# In Search of Our Scottish Roots

It is estimated that over four million Canadians can claim Scots ancestry.

By Rob & Wendy Lindsay

The magnificent red sandstone tower and front entrance of Edzell Castle, the seat of Clan Lindsay power for hundreds of years.



Clan Chief, Lord Robert Alexander Lindsay welcomes Canadian clan visitor Rob Lindsay. The grand manor house behind them was begun in 1580, with towers and wings added over the centuries.

With bagpipes skirling in the background, we watched nimble tartan-clad highland dancers and marvelled at incredibly strong men tossing cabers the size of telephone poles. Later, wandering the "Avenue of the Clans" at the Scottish Festival and Highland Games (held every August in Fergus, Ont.), we spied a Clan Lindsay booth and stopped to investigate. That's when we started dreaming of going to Scotland to trace our Lindsay roots.

A clan map of Scotland indicated lowland and highland areas that had once been Lindsay land. The kilt-clad folks manning the booth showed us the clan crest, which bears a swan rising from a gold coronet and the motto "Endure Forr" (endure with strength). The rich maroon Lindsay tartan, officially described as crimson, blue and green, is a beauty.

Intrigued by the idea of searching

out our family history, we headed for the genealogy tent sponsored by the University of Guelph. Inside, guides assisted people with computers linked to Web sites such as [www.ElectricScotland.com](http://www.ElectricScotland.com) and handed out bibliographies of books helpful in genealogy research. Onstage was guest speaker David R. Ross – an ardent Scot and the author of five books on Scottish history.

When we talked with Ross later about his research and our quest to discover more about the Lindsays, he was very emphatic: the only way to truly get a feel for one's ancestry, he told us, is to walk where they walked, see where they lived and experience the countryside that shaped their lives. So when the next airline seat sale came along, we bought tickets to Scotland.

Our search for Lindsay land was the catalyst for a fascinating tour of Edinburgh and the highways and

byways of Scotland. A self-catering apartment became our headquarters, and we revelled in exploring Edinburgh's Royal Mile, with its historic castles at either end, and walking the city's cobblestone streets. These wanderings gave us a feel for this fascinating land, but we knew that our quest would take us into the countryside, and we had a rental car at the ready.

Our first step was an appointment with registered genealogist Tony Reid. Back in 1984, Tony and his son Stuart established a small genealogy research company, Scottish Roots. Their little team (each member has at least 10 years' experience) relishes delving into the past and discovering nuggets of ancestral history for clients. Tony was a consultant to the travel organization Visit Scotland as it set up and launched its new Web site ([www.ancestralscotland.com](http://www.ancestralscotland.com)) this