

Touch Not – Magazine of the Clan Chattan Association



John E Mackfall. Chairman of the CCA

Chairman's Welcome 2018

Dear Fellow Clansfolk,

I am now well into my second year of office and it has been an eventful and successful 2017. The association's council meetings have been well attended and debate has been to a high level in all our meetings. I do prefer to chair meetings where all the council members will speak their mind and consider proposals in detail before taking decisions. I have to say your current council continue to do this, which makes my role a lot easier when everyone is so enthusiastic.

Our annual gathering in August around Inverness proved to be a successful event with good attendance and a well run Annual General Meeting. We had the pleasure of listening and watching for the first time a pre recorded video of John Mackintosh of Mackintosh sent in his absence with a warm and friendly welcome from his home in Singapore. Allan MacLean of Dochgarroch presided over the meeting with his usual calm and dignified approach. He welcomed Iain MacGillivray to the meeting and invited him to join the Council. Iain later came forward to introduce himself to the members present. One of the highlights of the meeting was the presentation to Cindi McIntosh Behr who became our official Association Piper. Cindi was presented with association ribbons and pipe bag cover for her pipes and I think it

may be an understatement but I think Cindi was very pleased with our appreciation of her loyalty and dedication to the Clan Chattan Association. We were also honoured with the attendance of Cluny and his very welcome closing remarks which have become a tradition at our AGMs.

Our gathering at the Field Fair at Moy saw a very wet and muddy couple of days. However attendance was good in the clan tent and the refreshments very much appreciated. A big thank you as always to Celia Mackintosh of Mackintosh, for her warm hospitality at her home at Moy, which we very much appreciate.

Later in the year we held our first autumn gathering of friends in Edinburgh on a Friday evening. The event was a great success with around thirty Clan members and friends joining the council for an evening of chat and drinks. My understanding from some of those who attended was that it was a friendly and enjoyable evening in one of the most beautiful cities in Britain. I hope the council will consider holding another evening event next year where more of you could come along and take a break in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

Your council are also trying to create an environment where our events are intended to involve the whole family from small children to the more preserved members of the association. We are looking into how we attract and keep younger members interested in our history and events so that they will one day keep our traditions and heritage alive well into the future. If any of you have any ideas on how we do this mammoth task please feel free to let us have your ideas.

I must thank Donald and Denise for the long hours and hard dedicated work they perform on our behalf. They are the ones who prepare everything for the events and who do the work on the day to ensure that we can all come along and join in the fun and enjoy the events which all run extremely smoothly and without fuss. I personally thank them both. I would also like to thank Allan Maclean of Dochgarroch for being so supportive and giving much of his time to keep me on the right path as I can be a handful at times, and for ensuring

that our traditions and heritage are protected throughout all our events and proceedings, it is very much appreciated.

In conclusion I must report the death of John Shaw of Tordarroch, Chief of Clan Shaw, who died in November of last year. An obituary is included in this issue of the magazine.

I wish you all a very interesting and prosperous 2018 and hope we will see you at our AGM in August.

Yours faithfully

John E Mackfall.
Chairman of the CCA.



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And more...

New Members Mar 2017 – Feb 2018

A Huge welcome to you all!!

Douglas Dean	UK
Sally Hastings	USA
David J McPherson	Australia
David A McPherson	Australia
Jane Mathis	USA
Brad Mills	Canada
Ellen McIntosh	USA
Kimberly Alfano	USA
Don McFall	USA
Iain Donald MacGillivray	UK
Gregory Mackintosh	Canada
Alan Shaw	USA
Euan Grassie	UK
Diana Collins	USA
Laura Deck	USA
Dave McIntosh	USA
Boyd Tarin	USA
Charles McIntosh	USA
Kim Formosa	Australia
Lynette Cornelissen	Australia
Leanne Haines	Australia
Sydney Regehr	USA
Zola Denio	USA
Brenden Harvey	Australia
Moray Cattanach	UK
Joyce Cattanach	UK
Yorke McGillivray	USA
Alan Caig	UK
Graeme McQueen	UK
Christine Ruthe Chisholm	UK
Sheena MacPherson	UK
W McIntosh	UK

Keeping you in the Loop.....

Over the years I have watched the Association develop. When Mary McIntosh was the membership secretary she hand wrote all letters and kept each members details on file cards in a special file box.

Twenty years ago, when I became Membership secretary I learned to use the computer to write letters and quickly found out how to use spreadsheets and databases to keep information.

E-mail has become the communication of choice. I can keep in touch with fellow members and distribute information through e-mails and now through our website and Facebook.

However it is understandable that some clan folk do not have access to a computer or the internet and I still contact them via the postal system.

This brings me to the most import section of this wee article. I need your up to date details. If you have not let me have your e-mail address please drop me a line on clanchattanassociation@btinternet.com. If you are not sure e-mail me anyway!!

Likewise if you move house, I need your mailing address.

So please don't be a 'Gone, unknown' and have your details frozen and unused because your magazine has been returned to me with no reason.

Keep in touch so that we can keep you in the loop.

Remember that all details are kept on computer and are covered by the current Data Protection rules.

Thank you for your help.

Denise McIntosh

Unleash your potential.....

This Association needs to re-structure the work of the Council.

To enable us to offer an up to date service to our members we need to split up some of the work that a few do at the moment. The Council is an enthusiastic team lead by their Chairman. The main base of the Council is in Scotland, although there are council members in USA, Canada and Australia.

A bit of background first. – The Association has members throughout the world. Offering membership as annual, 5 year and life. Members' details are kept on the Association computer and maintained by the Membership Secretary who is also the main first contact for those wanting any information on the Association.

Each year the Association hosts a Gathering in Inverness and are looking to increase events to other times of the year and in different areas. The Association is also represented at other Clan related meetings such as the Inverness Highland Games. These events are currently co-ordinated by the Membership secretary.

The Association has a web site that over the last couple of years has been updated but still needs some work. Currently maintained by the Editor of Touch Not and the membership secretary. The Association also communicates through Facebook.

The council meets at least 3 times a year. These meetings are held in Scotland, one of them being at the annual Gathering in Inverness.

Do you have the potential and interest to fill any of the following positions?

After 20 years in the post, the Membership secretary would like to step down. This post needs to be filled.

Web site co-ordinator –to regularly update information and photographs on the CCA website and deal with orders from the shop that is attached to it.

Events co-ordinator – to co-ordinate the Gathering and other events during the year.

General Council Members – There is always a need for new faces to create fresh ideas, to help take the Association forward over the coming years.

Friday 3rd and Saturday 4th August 2018

THE HIGHLAND FIELD SPORTS, MOY

THE CLAN TENT

Relax and enjoy some Highland hospitality in the Clan Tent. Browse through some of the past journals and visit the museum or take a walk up to the Lachlan Mackintosh memorial and enjoy the view.

The Clan Tent will be open

Friday 3rd August 10am - 5pm

Saturday 4th August 10 am - 2pm

Please note that there is an entry fee for the Field Sports
(cash only)

There is no charge for car parking



Remember to fill in your reservation form
and send it off with your remittance
as soon as possible.

Or go to www.clanchattan.org.uk and pay on-line



Clan Gathering 2018

THE ANNUAL GATHERING OF THE CLAN CHATTAN ASSOCIATION

2nd - 4th August 2018

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING THE LOCHARDIL HOUSE HOTEL, INVERNESS

Thursday 2nd August 2018

- 4pm:** Gather together.
Light refreshments
will be available
- 5pm:** The AGM of the Clan
Chattan Association
- 7pm:** Clan Chattan
Association Dinner

£30.00

John Shaw of Tordarroch (1 March 1937 - 22 October 2017).

Obituary

John Shaw of Tordarroch (born 1 March, 1937), died peacefully at his home in Mallorca, on 22 October 2017, aged 80. He was 22nd chief of Clan Shaw, and 17th chief of Clan Ay. He was a vice president in the Clan Chattan Association. John was born in London on 1 March 1937 to Lilian ('B') Shaw-Mackenzie (née Elford) and Major Charles John (Iain) Shaw-Mackenzie, 21st Chief of Clan Shaw.

John was deeply interested in clan history and related Highland culture, many details of which were recorded in his father's book, *A History of Clan Shaw* (1983, Phillimore & Co Ltd), which John edited posthumously. His clan's progenitor, Shaw MacDuff, was son of Duncan the Thane of Fife and keeper of Inverness Castle in 1163. The first chief of the Clan Shaw was John-Angus, second son of Angus Mackintosh, sixth chief of Clan Mackintosh, and Eva, daughter of the chief of Clan Chattan. The Shaws fought for Robert Bruce at Bannockburn in 1314 and participated in the wars of Scottish Independence in 1318 and 1319. John-Angus' grandson, Shaw Mor, led Clan Chattan to victory at the battle of the North Inch of Perth in 1396, for which he was awarded lands at Rothiemurchus, possibly already in the family by 1226. The (now ruined) castle on Loch An Eilean was lost to the Grants in 1567, following which the Shaws were represented by the seat of Clan Ay at Tordarroch under a 'Wadset' from the Mackintosh Estates and reclaimed by them in the 1790s. The Clan Shaw supported the 18th century Jacobite rebellions but following heavy casualties during the 1715 rising and the severe sanctions that followed, the clan could not participate directly in the 1745 battle of Culloden, despite individual support extended to the Jacobite Stuarts: Angus (Aeneas) Shaw of Tordarroch, was transported as an indentured slave to the Virginian plantations for his role in the 1715 rising and had to pledge allegiance to the new regime on his release. His brother Robert, however, died unmarried, in Newgate prison. Through an act of entailment in 1842, the clan seat moved to Newhall in the Black Isle. It was not until 1957 that Tordarroch was reacquired for the family by John's father, Major Charles John Shaw-Mackenzie, who was recognised by Lord Lyon King of Arms as 'Shaw of Tordarroch and 16th chief of Clan Ay', and in 1970, as 21st chief of Clan Shaw.

For nearly 180 years, Newhall has been home to the Shaw family. Many of John's forefathers divided their lives between here and the former British colonies in Asia and the Americas following the irreversible changes to Highland life that were enforced after the 1745 rebellion. John's own father spent years in India in the Seaforth Highlanders, and his love of the region had a profound impact on John's own imagination, as did his harrowing experiences as a WWII prisoner of war. His father's interest in Himalayan flora was reflected in the exotic plants in Newhall garden, cultivated by John's mother, Lilian, whose own family had close links with South Asia. Lilian grew up with her mother, Ethel (née Fitzmayer Stephen), at the nearby Rosehaugh estate which was owned by James Douglas Fletcher and Lilian Maud Fletcher (Lilian's aunt). The estate's capital was based on tea and rubber plantations in Ceylon where Lilian's (later estranged) father, John Farley Elford, worked as a Planter and Manager. John visited Rosehaugh as a child and was always impressed by the large East Asian Buddha sculptures on the verandah. After his great aunt's death in 1953 the estate was sold to Eagle Star who had the house demolished.

John's great great grandfather, John Andrew Shaw (born in India in 1797) became, in 1842, the first Shaw-Mackenzie of Newhall, having succeeded as heir of entail in right of his paternal grandmother. John Andrew was the eldest son of Major General John Shaw and Anna Nesbitt (John's great great great grand parents) who also met and married in India. It was through Anna that John could trace, with some pride, his Armenian ancestry. Anna's mother, born in Isfahan in present-day Iran in 1744, had fled with her Christian family to Bombay during the turbulent reign (1736-47) of Nadir Shah whose invasion in 1739 of the Mughal capital, Delhi, had led to bloodshed and plundering (including the famous Koh-i-noor diamond) on such a scale that taxation in the Persian homelands was ceased for three years. Major General John Shaw's father, Alexander Shaw of Tordarroch (son of the aforementioned Angus who fought in the 1715 rising), became Governor of Isle of Man (1790-1804), having previously fought in the American Revolutionary wars of the 1750s, as did Alexander's brother, Major General Aeneas Shaw, who retreated later to Toronto, and in 1784, built the town's first timber frame house. He named it Oak hill after the family's ancestral lands at Tordarroch.

John Andrew Shaw-Mackenzie had no children, so after his death in 1886, Newhall passed to his nephew, Charles Forbes Hodson Shaw-Mackenzie (a judge in Bombay), eldest son of John Andrew's brother, Alexander Nesbitt Shaw (1804-72). His eldest son, John Alexander Shaw-Mackenzie (John's grandfather) was also born in India in 1857, the year of the Indian Mutiny which (mirroring to some degree the sanctions that followed the 1745 Jacobite rebellion) led to radical changes in British-India relations, including the dissolution of the East India Company and the incorporation of its domains into the British Crown. John Alexander became a doctor specialising in cancer research, based at the India-focussed Ross Institute and Hospital for Tropical Diseases (later incorporated into the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine). His published research was instrumental in the development of enzyme based treatments for inoperable cancer.



John spent his formative years at Newhall, with his parents and two sisters, Eve and Jean, together with many pet cats, dogs, horses and donkeys. The house was full of things and objects of art that encapsulated its colourful family history and heritage with which John so identified. He often recounted stories from his childhood, recalling local characters, and family tales of adventures set here and in distant lands, the magical 'walled garden', and his beloved coastline around Udale Bay, and the Cromarty and Beaully firths, where he often walked, painted landscapes, or went birdwatching. These interests were encouraged and influenced by the birdwatcher and painter, Peter Scott, the Rev. John Lees of Avoch Parish, and the art restorer, Tom Keating, who when tried for forgery famously referred the Prosecution to the words 'NOT BY' hidden by the frame of the offending paintings! John's many other interests, including languages, etymology, poetry, music, history, archaeology, mountain walking and seafaring, were all to some degree rooted in the Highland landscape of his childhood, and its place within the wider world. He was devoted to his mother, Lilian, whose magical kitchen (with its scent of freshly made scones, pancakes and Indo-Chinese tea) remains a treasured memory that binds family members and visitors to the house.

He was educated for a while at Newhall primary school, becoming in 1945 a boarder at Cargilfield prep school in Edinburgh and later, Eton College. In 1955 he was conscribed for National Service as a reservist with the Seaforth Highlanders, later reading Land Economy at Magdalene College, Cambridge, and graduating in 1960. It was in Cambridge, at a party held for the poet, Kathleen Raine, that he met his wife, Silvia Margaret Silian Jones, daughter of Bertha (Bobby) Alcock and the Rev. David John Silian Jones, Rector of the Welsh Anglican Church in Overton-on-Dee, Erbistock and Knolton Bryn. John and Silvia married in Overton on 24 September 1960. John's formal training equipped him for when he eventually took over the agricultural estate at Tordarroch, but his heart and mind at Cambridge lay in art and literature. There he came under the influence of Jim Ede, the art collector and creator of Kettles Yard, and Juan Mascaró, the Mallorcan scholar of comparative literature who translated into English several of the key texts of the ancient Sanskrit and Pali traditions. This association and friendship shaped John's subsequent lifelong connection with Mallorca, Juan's family home prior to the Spanish Civil War. John and Silvia spent several years in Mallorca in the 1960s, returning there permanently in the late 1990s. Between 1970 and 1986 they lived at Tordarroch, moving afterwards with the family to John's childhood home of Newhall. John was responsible for the running of large and often challenging agricultural businesses on both estates. In 1980 he was admitted to the Royal Company of Archers. For some years, he was also Convenor of The Northern Meeting in Inverness.

John spent nearly twenty happy years with Silvia in Mallorca, becoming immersed in local life and culture and interacting with their many friends there. Right up until several weeks before his death, he swam daily in the sea during summer, and enjoyed his walks, bicycle rides and boat trips around the island. He was much loved in their village.

John travelled extensively, both in Europe and further afield. On several occasions, he and Silvia were invited as guests of honour at Highland Games in North America and Australia, many of which John was asked to open, and he and Silvia frequently welcomed into their home Clan Shaw visitors from these countries, and Canada. He was closely involved in his four children's lives and shared enthusiastically each of their individual pursuits and interests as well as influencing in subtle ways their life-direction through his own worldviews and perspectives. This engagement took him and Silvia on adventures all over the world including India, Thailand, Hong-Kong, Korea and Japan. He also partook in tandem paragliding flights with his son, Iain. His own practical experience in mountain walking, seafaring, and navigation helped to instil in his family a love for nature and open spaces, whilst his ever-enquiring mind, and knowledge of so many subjects inspired many people. He was a 'man of letters' although unfortunately circumstances were such that he was never able to pursue his interests professionally. He carried within him a curious mixture of respect for tradition, and rejection of conventionality. He was dignified always in the face of adversity, and above all he was a kind and generous man whose giving nature was rarely coloured by discrimination or prejudice. He had the time of day for people from all walks of life and had the rare gift of being able to find a connection with, and source of goodness within, each and every person that he met. He had a great sense of humour and enjoyed a good joke as much as history or politics!

John is deeply missed by his wife Silvia, four children, Rebecca, Iain, Julia and Fiona, and 12 grandchildren. A beautiful funeral was held in Mallorca, where Silvia continues to live, in the days following his death. The position of 23rd Clan Chief is now held by his son, Iain Shaw of Tordarroch who lives in Castellon de la Plana, Comunidad Valenciana, Spain, and has two daughters and two sons. Rebecca has lived at Newhall since 1998 and has armorial rights to the Shaw-Mackenzie branch of the family. In 2014, John appointed Julia (a writer and university lecturer in South Asian Archaeology) as Ard Seannachaidh, and Fiona (who runs a beach resort in southern Thailand) as Outrider, via the Court of Lord Lyon.

Julia Shaw of Tordarroch, 27 February 2018



We went 'Over the Hills' to Braemar

Royal Deeside – a spectacular area of Scotland, encompassing the valley of the River Dee and stretching to the Cairngorm Mountains.

This is where the Braemar Gathering takes place and is often regarded as the 'Mother' of all Highland Gatherings. Indeed many games worldwide have been modelled on Braemar.

The Braemar Highland Society was created around 1815 with the first games taking place in 1832. In 1844 Queen Victoria attended the Gathering at Invercauld (Farquharson Country).

In 1866 the 'Royal' was added to the title and in 1906 land was given in Braemar to allow a permanent home for the games.

Since Queen Victorias' time the reigning Monarch has been the patron for the Braemar Royal Highland Society. The games are, traditionally, attended by members of the British Royal Family.

The Braemar Games attract Pipe bands from near and far and many top class athletes in their chosen disciplines. Track

events, heavy lifting, long jump, caber tossing and of course dancing.

A tent was set up for Overseas visitors and has more recently become the Clan Tent as well. The Clan Chattan Association was invited in 2017 to participate with a few other societies, in the Clan Tent.

Denise and I were delighted to attend and represent The Clan Chattan Association. We had our customary exhibit set up and displayed and talked about our worldwide confederation of clans.

On a warm and sunny day, Braemar welcomed over 15,000 visitors from home and around the world. Captain Alwyne Farquharson of Invercauld, vice Patron to the Braemar Royal Highland Games and a vice president of the Clan Chattan Association, visited our tent and Denise and I were able to speak, for some time to him and his wife, Patricia. At 98 years old he is quite a remarkable man.

Plans for a new Highland Games Heritage Centre have been given the green light and work will have started as you read this. This venue will tell the story of Highland Games and the people involved with them and display regalia, medals and trophies much of which has never been seen by the

public before. The centre, will for the first time provide a central location to display some of these important elements of Scottish history. The Scottish Tartans Authority will contribute to the collection and be an important part in this venture. The centre will be completed in readiness for the 2018 Gathering.

Come 'Over the Hills' next year to the Braemar Royal Highland Gathering, Saturday 1st September 2018.

Donald McIntosh
Vice Chairman, Clan Chattan Association



Donald and Invercauld

New Heritage Centre for Braemar.

An iconic new heritage centre at the home of the world-famous Braemar Gathering will tell the story of Highland Games and Gatherings while providing a major new tourist attraction in the north-east of Scotland. Plans have been approved for the first purpose-built centre of its kind, with construction to start shortly after the [September 2, 2017] Braemar Gathering.

The £2.2million development is to be funded by Braemar Royal Highland Society and private donations, with a lead donor having committed £700,000 to construction costs. A major fundraising campaign is ongoing to help meet the final target.

Incorporating a gallery, exhibition hall, café, and gift shop, the new centre will not only tell the story of Royal links to Braemar but of the early beginnings of Highland Games across Scotland.

Exhibits will include paraphernalia from Highland Games and Gatherings, such as medals and trophies, and partner The Scottish Tartans Authority will also contribute to the collection. It is hoped that the building will represent a valuable resource for organisers of Highland Games across the world.

David Geddes, President of Braemar Royal Highland Society, said "Following years of planning, Braemar Royal Highland Charity's vision is becoming reality. The new centre will allow us to tell the world the story of the Braemar Highland Gathering and the wider Highland Games circuit. I feel this will be a major boost to tourism in Deeside and the National Park and will help the future of the sport and Highland traditions."

The facility, which has gained favour from villagers and the backing of the Cairngorms National Park Authority, will also provide a new headquarters for the Braemar Royal Highland Charity.

The development is supported by HRH The Prince Charles, Duke of Rothesay, through two of his charities, Dumfries House Trust and The Prince's Foundation for Building Community, with the latter responsible for the design of the new centre. The structure will be located at the Princess Royal and Duke of Fife Memorial Park, home to the Braemar Gathering since the early 1900s, with the design influenced by the setting of the venue in the Cairngorms National Park and the classic theme of architecture found around the venue and the village of Braemar itself.

For more information, contact:

Braemar Royal Highland Society -
Secretary, Jim Wood
(secretary@braemargathering.org)

Prince's Foundation - Associate Director
of Projects, Michael Harris
(michael.harris@princesfoundation.org)

Clan Maclean

Every five years the Clan Maclean has an international Gathering on the Island of Mull. Last year, the 2017 Gathering was arranged by Anne Maclean of Dochgarroch, and 750 people attended, culminating in the Clan Gathering at Duart Castle. This is the seventh of the present series of Gatherings, started in 1986, over 30 years ago. Each time the logistics become more complicated, with innumerable requirements for Health and Safety etc. The Clan was the recipient of a large grant

from the Scottish Clan Event Fund from Visit Scotland, which allowed a large marquee to be erected at Duart. There was also a week of activities in Mull and Morvern, including boat and bus excursions, whisky tastings, ceilidhs and dances, as well as helicopter trips around the island.

Duart Castle is the ancestral home of the chiefs of Clan Maclean, and is at present being repaired, it being over 100 years since it was restored after 150 years as a ruin. One of the trustees of the appeal for funding is Ian MacLean, Nova Scotia, who

is a member of Clan Chattan Association, being by descent a Maclean of the North, with a family coming from Glenurquhart. As well as Anne arranging the whole event, the Dochgarroch Macleans, with cousins and clanspeople from the North, were well represented at the gathering. CCA Council Member, Augusta Maclean, had a stall in the marquee to sell her paintings, and she specially painted and donated a painting towards the Castle Appeal.

Allan Maclean of Dochgarroch



Macleans of Dochgarroch



Ian Maclean



Augustas' paintings

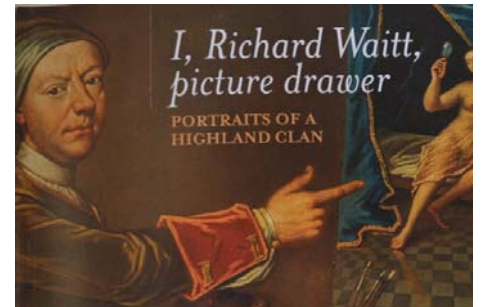
Association of Highland Clans and Societies

Some twenty associated clans, including our own Clan Chattan, as well as Macphersons, Davidsons and Macleans, participated in the "Clan Village" at Inverness Highland Games and Gala in July. The attendance was high with visitors, both local and from all parts of the world, keen to find out more about their heritage or the history of Scotland and its Clans.

In October a visit by AHCS to Grantown on Spey began with a visit to the Clan Grant Museum where we were hosted and guided by Lord Strathspey and Fiona Grant of Monymusk. Lunch at a local hotel was followed by a guided tour of the portraits painted by Richard Waitt which had been specially curated at the Grantown Museum.

All the news of AHCS is included in their newsletter, which should reach all CCA members who have email.

The next event will be in Inverness on 13th April. An illustrated talk by Gregor Ewing: "Charlie, Meg and me - Following in Prince Charlie's footsteps after the battle of Culloden" Details from Anne Maclean – highlandclans@aol.com

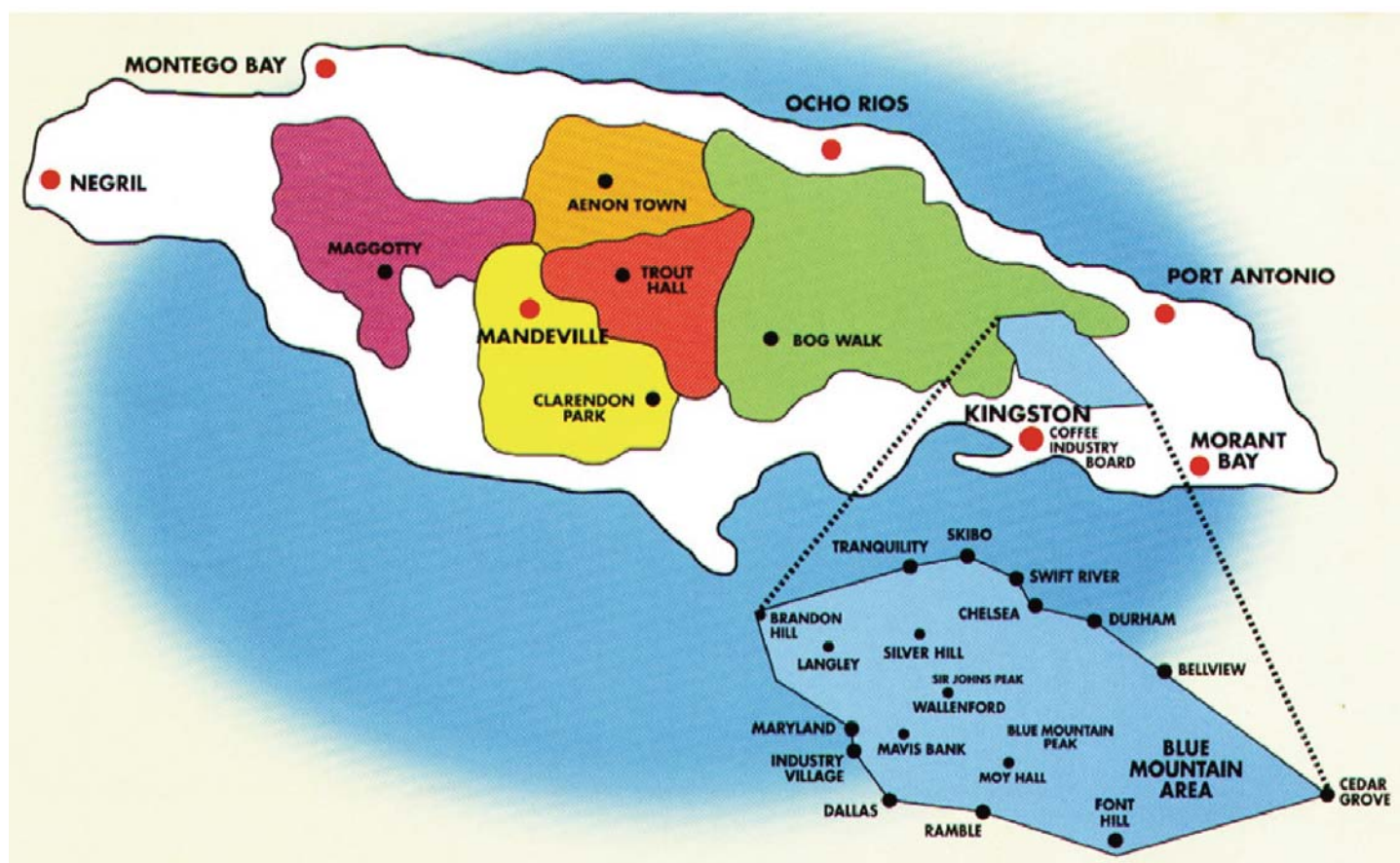


Clan Grant museum

Touch Not Cover 2018

Last year's cover was inspired by the exploits of Angus Mackintosh (1755-1833) in North America prior to him becoming 25th Chief of Clan Mackintosh, 26th Chief of Clan Chattan and the Moy Hall he built in Canada. This year's cover is inspired by the exploits of his elder brother, Alexander Mackintosh (1753-1827) in the Caribbean prior to him becoming 24th Chief of Clan Mackintosh, 25th Chief of Clan Chattan and the Moy Hall he built in Jamaica.

Moy Hall in Jamaica is located in the famous Blue Mountain region (see map) This is a stunningly beautiful area where some of the finest coffee in the world is produced.



Jamaican Blue Mountain Coffee Region

Alexander succeeded his second cousin Aeneas the 23rd chief in 1820. He was the eldest son in the family of nine of Duncan Mackintosh of Castle Leathers, a farm in the Inshes area on the eastern outskirts of Inverness. As a young man he would have had no expectation of inheriting the chiefship, and the depressed state of the Highlands in the second half of the eighteenth century following the Jacobite risings probably account for him going to Jamaica where he became a merchant. He built a house there which he called Moy Hall. When in his late sixties, so many of Sir Aeneas's closer relatives having died childless, he succeeded. Returning to Scotland he built Daviot House, on the bank of the River Nairn, and lived there because the widow of the late chief had the life rent of Moy Hall. He died unmarried in 1827.*

* Margaret Mackintosh of Mackintosh, The History of Clan Mackintosh and the Clan Chattan, p. 68

It is quite remarkable how the two brothers Alexander and Angus were each a successful trader, how they went on to establish their own Moy Hall in different parts of the Americas and how they eventually and unexpectedly returned home to take up the duties of the clan chief.

Nigel James Mac-Fall

Members Challenge

I would like to receive from members some photographs which will be suitable to put into future magazines or even onto the website. These photos could be of a favourite place, or from a recent holiday or maybe just a shot from your house or garden. What about your pet? Be imaginative. I am sure that other members will be interested and fascinated to see images from around the world. The photograph should be of good quality in jpeg. format, with a title, name of place and relevant details of the shot or the person or people in it.

e-mail your photos to Donald on clanchattanassociation@btinternet.com

Happy Snapping

The Clan Macpherson Memorial Cairn - Donna Rucks



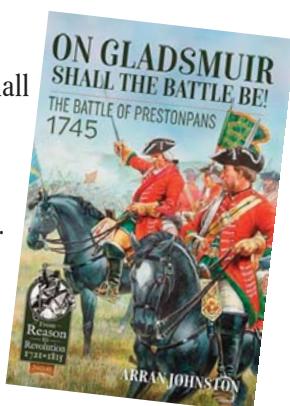
The Battle of Prestonpans 1745

Denise and I attended the Penicuik Historical Society earlier this year to listen to Arran Johnstons' presentation about the battle of Prestonpans. With a slide show and excellent narrative, he presented a fascinating account of the events leading up to and during the battle. The Battle was known by many names: The Battle of Tranent, The Battle of Gladsmuir, but is best and most widely known as the Battle of Prestonpans.

In September this year, over the weekend 14th, 15th, 16th, East Lothian hosts the Triennial Battle re-enactment in Prestonpans.

More information about this can be found at: www.battleofprestonpans1745.org/heritagetrust

A new book entitled 'On Gladsmuir Shall The Battle Be' by Arran Johnston is now available.



Photographic exhibition in Boston Mass. USA

Boston Massachusetts: In the fall of 2017 the owner of the Real Deal restaurant added an art gallery to his restaurant in order to celebrate the work of local artist. Rob MacIntosh was invited to be one of nine Boston area street photographers to participate in the inaugural exhibition.

Rob's work reflects his passion for capturing people as they move through the journey of their lives. He patiently studies the flow, interaction and environments of people as they go about the day. This enables him to capture extraordinary moments that for a split second stand apart from the otherwise ordinary. Additional examples of Rob's work can be found at: robmacintosh.smugmug.com
Photo by Rob MacIntosh at the Isabella Gardner Museum in Boston, entitled 'Three Portraits'.



News from the Clan Davidson....another busy year.

Nick Hide, Clan Davidson Association

In the UK, the 2017 Clan Davidson Association Gathering/AGM weekend was held at Beaumont Hotel, Hexham during the last weekend of September. This was first time the Clan Davidson has met in Northumberland, an area with many Davidson families and associated historic references. 65 members and guests took part in this very successful event. The weather was a bit mixed but the hotel management and staff looked after us very well. Our distinguished clan piper Dr Lindsay Davidson flew in from his home in Poland to take part in this event. This year our Chairman's Charity raised funds for the Hexham based Tyndale Hospice at Home charity.

Throughout the year we have met up with several overseas Davidson visitors from Portugal, France, Canada, USA, Bermuda and Australia, representing the wide range of the many different Davidson families who have migrated from Scotland, England, and Ireland over the past centuries.

We also took part in the Inverness Clans Tent event which forms part of the annual Inverness Highland Gathering [unfortunately another very wet July day], and the Clan Chattan AGM/Dinner and the Moy Field Sports events at the beginning of August.



Grant Davidson being presented with the specially engraved set of beer glasses by Dave Chagnon, the Sennachie of the Clan Davidson Society of North America.

In the USA this year, the Clan Davidson Society of North America held their long planned International Gathering in June in Kentucky. The Chief of Clan Davidson



Charity Presentation at the Hexham AGM/Gathering

Grant Guthrie Davidson and his wife Brenda from New Zealand were guests of honour at a series of both formal and informal events held in conjunction with the local Highland Games.

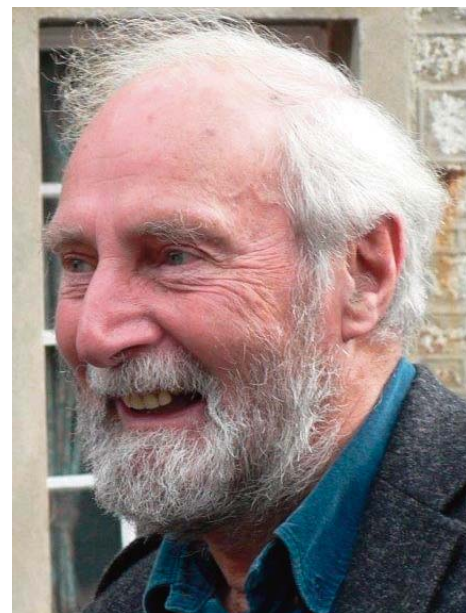
Dave Chagnon, the Sennachie of the Clan Davidson Society of North America has shared reports and many photos taken during this event. One of the photos published in the latest edition *The Sporan*, involved the Chief, Grant Davidson taking part in the "Bonnie Knees Competition"...and taking 3rd Prize. Clearly the weekend was a great success with everyone having a lot of fun. Dave Chagnon and his team should be congratulated for their tireless planning work over many months leading up to this event.



Grant Davidson taking part in the "Bonnie Knees Competition."

It is with great sadness to report the death of James Duncan Gordon Davidson OBE, MVO, one of the founders and a former president of the Clan Davidson Association, and also a member of the

Clan Chattan Association for many years. He died in July at his home in Newtonmore in the Central Highlands. The national newspapers in Scotland and England included lengthy obituaries.

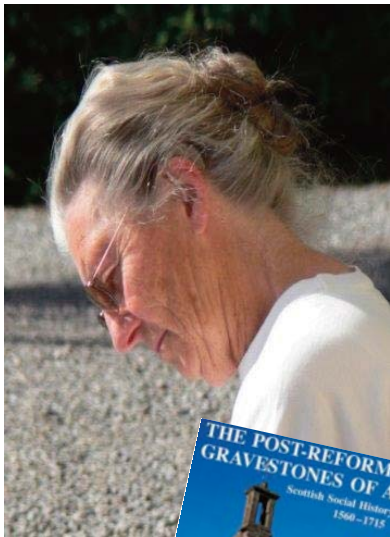


James Duncan Gordon Davidson 1927-1917

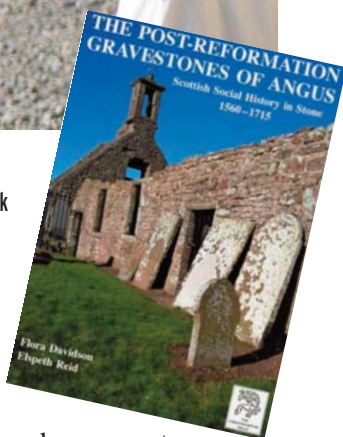
James Davidson was born in 1927, and came from a distinguished Aberdeenshire family whose early records indicate that they originate from near Tarland in Western Aberdeenshire. He enjoyed a series of distinguished and separate careers; a junior Royal Navy Officer who was present at the surrender of the Japanese in Tokyo Bay in 1945; a military attache and diplomat in Moscow at the time of Stalin's death in 1953; a hill farmer at Tillychety, a run-down farm which he inherited in Western Aberdeenshire; a prominent Liberal MP; a TV presenter for a long running Scottish TV programme

about farming; the Chief Executive of the Royal Highland Agricultural Society; an energetic environmentalist, and a busy author. This was a man of many talents. His passing is a great loss to his family and to his many friends.

Flora Davidson, one of the founder members of the Clan Davidson Association and the editor of *The Pheon*, the Clan Davidson's annual journal for over 15 years, published a new book, *The Post Reformation Gravestones of Angus: Scottish Social History in Stone 1560-1715* with her daughter Elspet Reid. This is a very well designed and illustrated publication based on Flora's much acclaimed original research work completed in the 1970s and 1980s with her late husband. In recent years, Flora has revisited all the historic Angus graveyards with her daughter and brought this research project up to date.

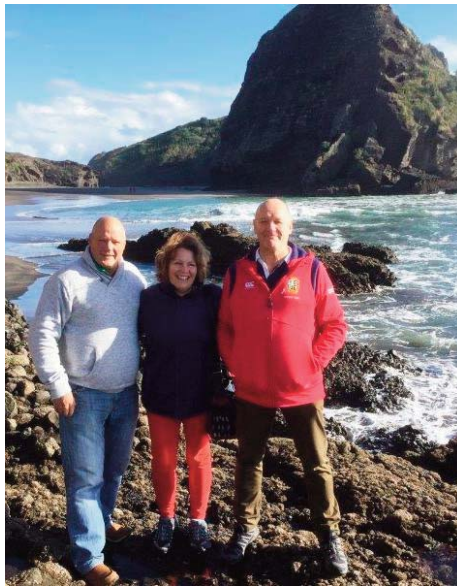


Flora Davidson
& Her New Book



CDA

Members and our event organisers Colin Davidson and Sonia Clark spent much of the summer touring 'down under' with the British Lions Rugby Tour in New Zealand and visiting relatives in Australia. Whilst they were in New Zealand, they met up with the Chief of the Clan Davidson, Grant Davidson and his wife Brenda... and also stayed at their beach house near Auckland as well as roaring on The Lions.



Left to right... Grant Davidson, Sonia Clark, & Colin Davidson

In mid-August, CDA member, Hugh Davidson donated to the Caithness Archives a major collection of his family's historic papers, photographs and portraits which he has been collating and researching in recent years. Hugh Davidson's family have been prominent in Caithness for several hundred years.

With help from the Caithness Archivist, Gordon Reid, everything was carefully taken from Hugh Davidson's home near Wick and delivered to the recently opened Nucleus Archive building located alongside Wick Airport. Later Hugh and his wife Brenda were given a private tour of this new state-of-the-art archive building and saw where these important Davidson papers will be stored.



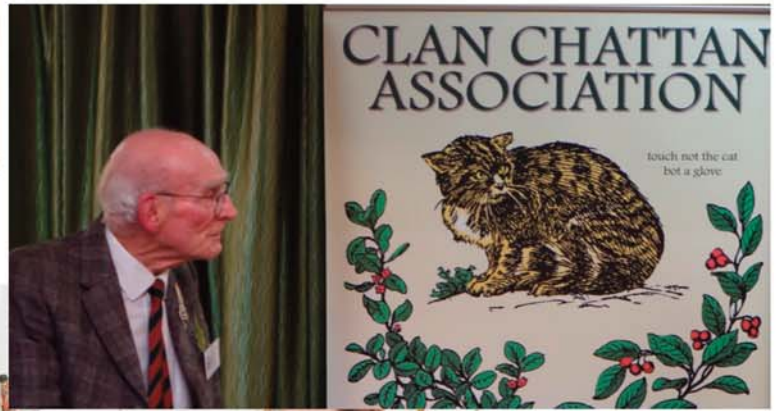
Left to right: Hugh Davidson, Gordon Reid, Brenda Davidson

The Clan Davidson has had another good year for contributions to our Archives. Members and other parties have continued to share important family documents, portraits, and artefacts. One such example came in from the USA where the descendants of Dr Anstruther Davidson 1860-1832 have sent us a photograph of what appears to be his homemade heraldic banner. Dr Anstruther Davidson was a native of Caithness and a graduate of the University of Glasgow. He settled in California in 1897, where he practiced medicine. He was a member of the Clan Dhail, the forerunner of the current Clan Davidson Association. He later gained fame as a serious botanist with several newly discovered plant species named after him.



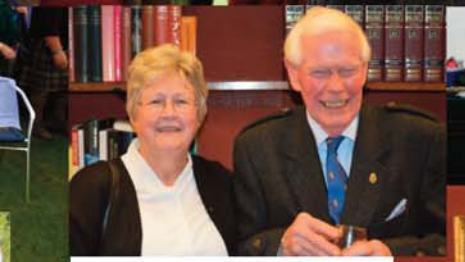
Heraldic Banner used by Dr Anstruther Davidson 1860-1932

PHOTO



GALLERY

Events in 2017



Clan MacIntyre Gathering 2018

MacIntyres from around the globe are heading to Oban and Taynuilt for the World Gathering of MacIntyres from 17th to 22nd of July 2018. All MacIntyres and descendants of MacIntyres (which includes spelling variants such as McIntyre, Macintyre, MacEntire; and septs such as Wrights Glenoe, MacCoiseam, Tyrie (also Tyree) MacTeer, and MacTear) are invited to gather with their Clansfolk from all over the world.

From Tuesday to Friday, the schedule includes a welcome reception, family group reunions facilitated by DNA and genealogical research, coach tours, boat tours, ceilidhs, hikes, and a grand banquet. We are excited to have Àdhamh Ó Broin, the Gaelic consultant to the Outlander, joining us for two days of tours and public talks. On Saturday 21st the Gathering will attend as special guests of the Taynuilt Highland Games, with the Clan marching onto the field and participating in events. On Sunday 22nd the Gathering will come to an end with our final event: MacIntyres at Glenoe. The Clan will travel by boat up Loch Etive to their ancestral lands of Glenoe for a ceremony at the Cairn of the Chiefs of Clan MacIntyre, an afternoon hog roast, and some free time to hike and explore.

This is a rare opportunity to congregate with our kinsfolk in the lands of our ancestors. Further information, the Gathering schedule, registration, and ticket sales are available at www.macintyregathering.com. We look forward to meeting you in the summer!

Clan Macpherson Association Members Honoured

On the 13th May 2017 the Military and Hospitaller Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem held their Investiture in the Church of the Holy Rude Stirling where along with the investing of postulants various promotions and awards were also made.



Gordon Casely on the left with Mary & Norman McPherson from Aberdeen.

Norman (ex-chairman of the CMA Scottish Branch and current member of CCA council) and his wife Mary were honoured with awards of merit entitling them both to display the postnominals of OMLJ in addition to their existing OLJ (Officers of St Lazarus of Jerusalem). Gordon was promoted to a Knight of Justice.

The Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem is amongst the most ancient of the

European Order of chivalry, dating back to at least the time of the Crusades. From its foundation in the 12th century, members of the Order were dedicated to two ideals: providing aid to those suffering from the dreadful disease of leprosy, and defending the Christian faith. In the British Isles, the Order was granted various charters from King Henry II of England in 1155, 1159 and 1176. Further grants by Roger de Mowbray, circa 1135, established a hospital at Burton Lazars in Leicestershire, whilst in 1146, land was donated to the Order by William D'Albini, Earl of Arundel (known as Strong Hand"). In Scotland, the Order acquired considerable prestige under Robert the Bruce. A Commandary was founded by Royal Charter, issued by Alexander II (1214-49) and administered from Linlithgow where it had its headquarters. Lazar Houses were founded in various parts of the kingdom. The modern day Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem" survived not only the fall of the Kingdom of Jerusalem to the forces of Islam, but also the machinations of centuries in which the notion of high chivalry has waxed and waned. In theory, the Order has remained a military one, but with the exception of a brief period in the 17th century it played no military role after 1291.

Today the military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem is an international, self-governing and independent body with an established

Constitution; according to which, the Order is non-political and ecumenical (or nondenominational). membership is open to all men and women who are practising members of the Christian faith and in good standing with their particular Church. The international membership of the Order comprises Roman Catholic, Anglican, Lutheran, Orthodox, Methodist and other Christians, upholding in their lives a sound faith, and honouring the principle of Christianity. Organised Christian chivalric Order, its Spiritual protector is the Catholic Greek Melkite Patriarch of Antioch, Alexandria, Jerusalem, and All the East.

It is both a Military Order of mercy and a Hospitaller Order, dedicated to the care and assistance of the poor and sick, its aims being to prevent and defend the Christian faith, to guard, assist, succour help the poor, the sick and the dying. Also to promote and maintain the principles of Christian chivalry and to follow the teachings of Christ and His Holy Church in all its works.

With the exception of the present day Teutonic Knights ("Deutscher Orden"), the Order of Saint Lazarus is the smallest of the present day Orders of Christian chivalry. having approximately six thousand members across five continents.

The Scottish Grand Bailiwick plays a full part in the work of the international Order as well as supporting many local Scottish Charities.

A Storm in a Tartan Teacup!

Bagpipes, whether you like them or loathe them, generally stir some emotion in the beholder. It's the same with the wearing of the kilt. This story involves both and like many good tales started during a wee dram with a great family friend last August when we were both up for the Moy weekend.

As my friend was casually leafing through his Bonham's Auction catalogue, as you do, as an accompaniment to his early evening swally, he came across a set of magnificent bagpipes for sale. "Do you recognise these?" he asked, with a knowing smile. They were none other than The Wandering Highlander, Hugh Macpherson's gold and ivory mounted pipes made for him by his own company. Hugh will be remembered by many in the Association not only for his love of piping, but of Scottish culture in general, and for helping to organise a Clan Gathering in 1951.

"You won't remember this," says my friend, "but Hugh was inadvertently party to one of the greatest carriages of libellous injustice ever perpetrated on Scottish soil in the 20th Century." How could this be?, I pondered over my second glass of excellent tippie. Who could have been the unfortunate soul to receive such unwarranted opprobrium: a gentle minister of the Kirk, a well meaning politician, someone misrepresented in the debate to rid Edinburgh's streets of the archaic trams? "No, you daft gowk,*" says my friend (he always likened my mental faculties to a piece of wood), "it was your Dad. He was accused of attacking the wearing of the kilt."

Well, you could have knocked me down with a length of four by two! No, seriously, you could, and it would have hurt. However, I digress. With astonishment and bewilderment etched across my face, and an impending headache from the metaphorical four by two, I anxiously waited for an explanation from this font of knowledge, (even as a long-forgotten memory began to stir...).

You see, for as long as I can remember, my parents, Mary and David, had thoroughly enjoyed the fellowship of belonging to the Clan Chattan Association (CCA) and the wearing of their tartan. They were

stalwarts of the Edinburgh branch and would host garden parties at home in Primrose Bank Road. One such early occasion was reported in the press thus, "peats, buttonholes, home baking and a miscellany of other articles were in demand last Saturday at the very successful coffee morning and garden party held by the Edinburgh Branch of the Clan Chattan Association at the home of Mr and Mrs D.A. McIntosh." The reporter even suggested more funds could have been raised if Mum and Dad had charged people for "the privilege of going into the house to see the superb view across the Forth from one of the second floor windows." The event was held to raise funds to help pay for a bus to take members up to the Moy Gathering that August. The guests were a veritable Who's Who of CCA members, Lt-Colonel A.K. Macpherson of Pitmain, a vice president and St Clair Shaw, the chairman of the branch, to name but two, along with one Mrs Hugh Macpherson.

So you get the picture; there were these people enjoying themselves in the common pursuit of friendship and society. What could possibly go wrong? As it turned out, quite a lot. For fun, it had been decided that during the next CCA branch meeting in February, they would hold a debate on the motion "Is the kilt an outmoded form of attire?" Hugh Macpherson, a Kilt Maker, would naturally oppose such a motion and my Dad manfully stepped up where others feared to tread and proposed the motion. Dad, tongue in cheek and attired in lounge suit, argued that the kilt was out of place in towns, does not conform to present day requirements, is no longer a symbol of national pride, is far too dear for the average man's purse and anyway, Scotsmen are either too fat, too thin, too short or too tall to swagger about in kilts. So, in conclusion, the kilt should only be seen in a museum (gales of laughter).

Hugh replied that the kilt gives a feeling of well-being, is a symbol of our wonderful past, is not too dear, cuts down colds, gives protection where it is needed, around the tummy and small of the back, and gives the wearer a sense of kinship.

Not surprisingly, the motion was happily defeated and a good time was had by all. Or so it seemed.

The local press initially reported the debate in largely noncommittal, unbiased language. However, this soon changed when one of the more scabrous newspapers reported a "David McIntosh started a row which sounded like the wailing roar of a thousand bagpipes." Soon, it appears most of the English speaking world had heard this wailing roar. The Daily Record, reporting shortly after the debate, comments, "This comparatively unknown city chartered accountant has been widely quoted in the press across the Atlantic," (way to go, Dad! You were comparatively well known after that). Soon things got out of hand. One of the more petulant letters to the papers claimed Dad's remarks during the debate were made "without due thought and consideration, and a great disservice has been done not only to his clan, but also to his country." The writer also had the temerity to claim that Dad had dishonoured the memory of those who had fallen in the defence of King and Country whilst wearing the "garb of old Gaul." The Philadelphia Inquirer was "up in arms" over the attack on the kilt and screamed "out with the man" under a header "Don't Kill the Kilt." The Winnipeg Tribune, after reporting on the debate, received statistics showing kilt sales were rocketing - way to go, Dad! One American gentleman accused Dad of being an iconoclast - I imagine Dad reaching for the dictionary at that point, as I had to. Another said he would "do him in" if he ever met up with Dad. They did meet in the Clan tent at Moy several years after the 'kilt affair' and had a good laugh about it, as any sensible person would! It was many years later that I became aware of this rather strange episode in my parents' life and I seem to remember there was a degree of pride in the way Mum told it. I had largely forgotten the 'Kilt Debate' - until my friend said "do you recognise these?" showing me a picture of Hugh's bagpipes.

*an awkward or foolish person (often used as a general term of abuse).

**K.A. McIntosh.
MA(Hons) MBA**

Clan MacGillivray First Year as Commander

Well, 2017 has been a turbulent and exciting year for the Clan MacGillivray all round.

After 2016, finishing with the 40th Anniversary of the Clan MacGillivray Society in Australia, the end of this year has once again been one filled with more anniversaries and special occasions in all corners of the globe.

Starting in Australia last year, and continuing throughout this year, the BBC Alba team, under Solus Productions, have been following me around with my Clan endeavours, filming at all these events as well as day to day functions up at Calrossie Farm and catching the competitions at various Highland Games.



Gianni Lombardi and Iain in Rome

In May I went to visit our Italian Commissioner and long time seminal Clan member, Gianni Lombardi MacGillivray in Rome, Italy. I was over there, initially, on a piping mission to the Scots College. Having performed for them back in January at probably one of the most illustrious and decorous Burns' Night's I'd ever had to play for, I received another special piping invitation to play for the Ordination of a seminarian and long time friend, now soon to become a priest. It was fascinating to experience the oldest institution outside Scotland and to learn about the timeline of the old Faith in Scotland, as well as it's strong Jacobite connections.

Then on to meet Gianni and his wonderful wife Patricia, who took me to the Vatican, where we had the opportunity of seeing the Stuart Monarchy and Clementina Sobieska Monuments, located inside the Basilica itself. Interestingly enough, the rightful royal family whom we fought to restore, are the only Royal Family of any kind, past or present, to have a monument dedicated to them in their honour by the



Clan MacGillivray Holland

Vatican. Gianni, Patricia and I laid down a beautiful wreath at its base. Afterwards we experienced some lovely hospitality within their own homely walls, where Gianni proudly showed us an astonishing array of curtains, carpets, tables, chairs and jackets all decked in MacGillivray tartan; a truly wonderful site. Gianni epitomises the true Clan stalwart. Distance and time have not dimmed the brightness of his 'fiery cross'!

In mid July, I went over for the first time as Commander, to attend the Clan MacGillivray Society USA Gathering, held in Portland, Oregon. This was truly a blast and very brilliant occasion. The three day event was marked with a series of social gatherings, dinner events, gift presenting, a ceilidh and the elections of three Clan MacG Commissioners for the USA. Those were Dan McGillivray Hyde of St. Louis, Missouri, Jack McGillivray of Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Ron McGillivray of Boston, Massachusetts. Ironically enough, I had previously met Ron for the first time earlier that year in April, when I was in New York for Tartan Day, I saw this man walking through the parade with a MacGillivray Banner; and there I was meeting Ron for the first time! I even told him that he should have been Commander that day, for he was dressed up in full Highland garb, and I looked like I'd just come from spectating a football game! For, being a surprise 30th Birthday present from a friend, I didn't know where I was going till the night before, and only realised, while on the journey to New York, that Tartan Day was happening, unbeknown to both of us; so I really wasn't prepared at all! But meeting Ron then, just made it so special!

My mother Jane-Marie, being an American, made her way over from Michigan and presented the Clan MacG USA with the historical gift of an old WWII American flag with only 48 stars; the significance of which you can only find in a museum these days!

So the three day event climaxed with the Portland Highland Games, attracting a crowd of 25,000 to 30,000 people. We had a beautifully displayed Clan tent set up, and were the honorary Clan that day, so we led the March of the Clans in the parade around the track and field stadium, receiving a magnificent reception. It was such an honour. To top it all off, there was a Kilted Mile race, in which I decided to participate for a bit of sport. Given that Eugene, Oregon; also known as 'track town USA' was just down the road in one direction, and the Nike Headquarters in the other, I was thinking I would be lucky to win the race with all the talent present. I tell you, I shocked myself and everyone there, when I won the race on the final lap and came across the line under the belting Oregon sunshine. I was presented with a giant Braveheart sword for winning the Kilted Mile. I told them, "Boy I've won many things at Highland Games, from money to medals to trophies...but never a two handed Claymore before!" Some of the Clan were crying with tears of happiness, they were so overjoyed. It was just a really blessed occasion and that was the icing on the cake for sure! I had been in training for the Highland Games season at home, and it must have paid off!



Portland Highland Games

A week after that, I was hospital bound, having come back to Scotland on the back of such a high from the USA, I was close to losing my life on a routine fencing job back on the farm. Without my knowing, the colleague I was working with didn't have the pins in the front loader of the tractor (weighing around a ton) which kept it secure to the vehicle. This machine crashed right on top of me, crushing the L1 Lumbar vertebrae in my spine and putting me in hospital for a week. I also had to call the ambulance myself. The doctors described it as a miracle that I came out of it in the way I did, without death, let alone, from being paralysed. Good MacGillivray genes I say, and currently on the mend.

I wasn't going to let it deter me, for only a day after being released from Raigmore Hospital, I managed to gather my strength to attend the Clan Chattan Annual Dinner where it was a real honour to be inducted into the Clan Chattan Confederation as a lifetime member and very proud to be one also.



Clan MacGillivray Holland

Later in October, I travelled to Nootdorp, Holland, along with my sister Annia (my carer for then) for their annual Clan MacGillivray Association Nederlands Gathering. My mother and father Duncan and Jane-Marie joined us there for the day and we had the most wonderful weekend. Commissioner James MacGilvary and Vice-Commissioner Sean MacGilvary, put on the biggest display with a wonderfully depicted Highland Games outside the Scout huts of the event. It was a brilliant day with over 300 people in attendance and the young folk were having such a blast with all the games they had put on. The effort and enthusiasm they put into this event was just brilliant and they made it so enjoyable for everyone. It marked a special event, for this was the inauguration of the Dutch MacGillavrys as an official association, despite meeting up as a close tied large family for decades; them all being

descended from the one man; a certain William MacGillavry who was a Scottish soldier for the British Army during the Napoleonic Wars. He settled in the Netherlands with the woman who nursed him after injury. It was a great privilege to see this unique family becoming an official association of the Clan MacGillivray and with their strong Indonesian connection, it makes for a very diverse MacGillivray entity. Congratulations to James, Sean and their team for marking the occasion so memorably. Yet more Clan stalwarts!

Finally, to climax the whole year off in late October, was our trip to Thunder Bay, Ontario in Canada where we celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the MacGillivray Pipe Band in full strength.

Again this was a three day event, which began with a social dinner at the Canadian Naval Base where the band practice every Sunday. We had a great time socialising and getting to know the band, have a few drinks with some lovely food and some display of piping virtuosos. I fortunately had my father Duncan, not only as caretaker, but also as esteemed piper, whom knowing of his reputation, many were keen to hear and play with.

The next day, we met our Western Canadian Commissioner Murray McGillivray and lovely wife Georgina. We were to learn that Murray had survived, both a stroke and heart attack around the same time as my accident, which makes his attendance all the more admirable. Another Clan stalwart and also a walking miracle!

Officially closed on weekends, I managed to arrange a special scheduled tour of Fort William, the fur trading post named after the prominent Canadian historical figure William McGillivray. Born in Dunlichity, Scotland, he and his brothers Duncan and Simon, pioneered the North West Company at the height of the fur trade on the shores of Lake Superior. He established himself successfully among the local Native indigenous population, and was held in high regard. It was a fabulous tour; we lit off canons, fired muskets, threw tomahawks, had a Pow-wow ceremony inside a Teepee with Two Feathers; a genuine Native 'medicine' lady, as well as witnessing all these replicas of fur from such diverse animals as beavers, coyotes, otters, mink, foxes, bear, moose, caribou, wolves amongst others; the fashions of the day. It was a stunning tour!

The highlight of the weekend came on the Sunday where the gathering celebrated the Centenary of the MacGillivray Pipe Band, which attracted a crowd of 700 plus people, including the local mayor and provincial governor, along with members of the two other collegiate Pipe Bands within the vicinity. We learned more about the band, the name bearing reference to it's founders Peter Fraser and T. D Macgillivray, (father of our late Commander George B. Macgillivray, who hailed from Thunder Bay, Ontario), and to the legacy of William McGillivray the famous fur-trader. It was founded in 1917 to provide a send-off to young troops enlisting in the Canadian military during the First World War campaign in Europe. The band performed some great selections, especially a peerless rendition of 'The Black Bear' and it was an incredible occasion and one to remember and cherish for a lifetime! My sister Mary had also come up from Minnesota where she works at the Mayo Clinic. She was accompanied by Celtic Folk group 'Eira' with whom she plays and who I had hired to perform for the occasion (I used to play with them during my academic years in Duluth, Minnesota when they were called 'McInnis' Kitchen!') So this was a very special reunion on all levels.

So what a way to conclude the end of such an amazing and turbulent year with an abundance of significant and historical occasions. The BBC Alba programme is due to be broadcasted between Christmas and New Year and titled 'The Young Commander'. You will get a taste of all these events as they were captured in motion, by the roving film crew.



Fort William

Clan Tour of Scotland 2016

"The Scotland Tour of a Lifetime"

Part 2, "The House of Grimmet," Ayrshire

By Peter McIlwain

Photos by Scott McElvain

The Fall 2016 issue of the Register contained our account of the Clan MacBean's first ever Clan-sponsored tour in Scotland, 3-10 August 2016, in which some 22 Members from the US, Canada, Australia and the UK participated. This is an account of a four day "extended tour," 10-13 August, in Ayrshire specifically for those with ancestry linking back to a hero of the Battle of Bannockburn, Sir Nigellius McIlvain, the first documented Laird and founder of "the House of Grimmet."



Grimmet Farm - one of the original McElvain lands. This view shows where the road led up to where the road led up to the original castle.

The stalwart group of eight included four who had been to the sites in Ayrshire several times previously our Clan Association President, Col. Pete McIlwain and his wife, Beverly, Clan Vice President Major Scott McElvain, and Edward McIlwain, as well as "first timers" Barry Culhane, the Clan's Regional Commissioner for Australia and New Zealand and his wife Barbara, Lisa Culhane, Regional Commissioner in Washington State and her daughter Ella.

Nigellius was said to have been in charge of the King's baggage train at the Battle of Bannockburn and is credited with organising the hastily armed cooks and mule skinnners and leading them in a furious counter-attack during a critical moment in the battle. For his leadership and courageous action Nigellius was later knighted by King Robert the Bruce and given a grant of land in Carrick (later Ayrshire) on a hill near Dalmellington overlooking the valley of the River Doon. Nigellius named the place Grimmet, meaning "fortified hill" and built a small moated castle there.

In view of old Nigellius' achievement therefore, it was only fitting that the

"extended tour" begin at the fabulous new Battle of Bannockburn Centre. There we bid farewell to the homeward bound members of the main tour and were met by the Scotland Tours' local representative, the fabulous Maurice McKendrick, who would be our driver and guide for the Ayrshire adventure. Maurice turned out resplendently for the occasion in tweed jacket and plaid trues, setting a "classy" tone for all that followed.

We were pleased to learn that Maurice was a life-long resident of Ayrshire and recently retired as a senior officer from a career with the Police Service of Scotland. In anticipation of our needs Maurice had taken it upon himself to research the locations of McElvain sites in the area. Knowing the area so intimately anyway, he was able to take us everywhere with no "assistance" needed from us. Maurice was simply a jewel.

Maurice took us straight away to the hotel which would be our base for the four days; the Piersland House Hotel in Kilmarnock, just south of Troon. The hotel was comprised of a large main building surrounded by guest cottages, where the group was lodged. We were intrigued to learn that the main part of the hotel was a mansion built in 1908 as residence of Sir James Stevenson, who for decades was the Managing Director of the Johnnie Walker Distillery in nearby Kilmarnock. The mansion was converted into a hotel catering to the golf tour trade after the Stevenson estate was sold off in 1997. Although Johnnie Walker is no longer distilled in Kilmarnock, you can probably guess the brand of whisky most prominently featured in the hotel bar.

After a delightful Scottish breakfast the next morning we travelled to the site of the Battle of Lady Cross, which occurred in December 1601 as a consequence of a bitter family feud between the Kennedy Earls of Cassillis and their cousins, the Kennedy House of Barganay. Patrick McIlvain, fourth generation heir to Nigellius as Laird of Grimmet, was related to the Earl of Cassillis by marriage and was a major figure in the battle, which began as an ambush of the party of the Laird of Barganay as they proceeded south from the town of Ayr near the Earl of Cassillis' Culzean Castle. Gilbert Kennedy, Laird of Barganay, was killed and Patrick McIlvain's son, John, was seriously wounded, but survived to succeed his father as Laird of Grimmet in 1612. Four hundred

and four years on, a small and hard to find commemorative plaque by a dirt road and stream in a clearing in the woods is all that remains to mark battle.



Culzean Castle

Next, we toured Culzean Castle, known as "one of Scotland's Greatest Houses", which the Kennedy Earl of Cassilis of the day, and 7th Marquess, donated to the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) in 1954. Culzean is well worth spending some time for a walk-through, especially for Americans perhaps, to see the flat of rooms in the castle which were gifted to General Dwight Eisenhower as a "thank offering", and where he stayed with wife, Mame, on a visit in 1946.

The Kennedy family history booklet on sale at the castle notes that when Sir John Kennedy succeeded as earl in 1710 he employed as Factor on the estate John McIlvane Younger of Grimmet, who resided in Thomaston Castle, just to the North of Culzean. John was by all accounts something of a rogue. The history noted John McIlvane had "quite a large business" as a merchant in wines and spirits, suggesting that Sir John and John McIlvane were partners, engaged in smuggling in avoidance of import tariffs-with the goods being brought ashore from small boats and hidden in the seaside caves beneath Culzean.

Sir John died in 1744, succeeded by his younger brother Sir Thomas. By that time also John McIlvane had succeeded his father, Quentin McIlvane, as Laird of Grimmet. Sir Thomas dismissed John as Factor of the Kennedy estate. John McIlvane died in 1747 without heir and Thomaston Castle was inherited by his widow Anne Cunningham. There is some question as to whether John Anne were actually married. Apparently not as there is a record of John being excommunicated from the church for living with Anne while she was married to a William Cunningham of Maybole. In any event, Thomaston passed forever from the McIlvains upon the death of John. The castle

and associated lands soon reverted to ownership of the Kennedy family (Sir Thomas), and remains part of the Kennedy estate to this day.



Thomaston Castle

After visiting Culzean our next stop had to be the ruin of Thomaston Castle very nearby. Thomaston might be a physical symbol of the relationship between the Kennedys and the McIlvains--literally for centuries. Thomaston was said to have been built in the time of King Robert the Bruce and was acquired by John McIlvain, Laird of Grimmet (McIlvain the Younger wounded fighting for the Earl of Cassilis at the Battle of Lady Cross- above) as dowry from marriage to the Kennedy-related Anne Cory about 1620. Consequently, Thomaston was owned and occupied by the Lairds of Grimmet for the next 127 years. However, there is no record of Thomaston being lived-in since the death of the last Laird, John McIlvane in 1747, and the castle's reversion to ownership by the Kennedys. In any case, Thomaston has been a total ruin since at least the beginning of the 20th century.

So, what has become of Thomaston? For many years, the Kennedys raised pigs in a large barn just by the castle and grazed cattle in the fenced-in area round about. However, sometime in the last decade the Kennedys clearly found bird hunters more profitable than raising pigs and cows. Consequently, the swinery is long gone, replaced by a large kennel with runs for hunting dogs and a parking lot in front for the hunters. An eight-foot wooden fence has been erected around the two sides of the castle facing the kennels and a considerable amount of trash was found thrown between the wooden fence and the castle wall; a sad and disappointing development indeed.

Our next stop was nearby Crossraguel Abbey, which was founded by the Cluniac order in the 1200's and occupied for the next 400 years. The abbey has had many connections to the McIlvain family and the

Lairds of Grimmet over that time. One of the early Abbots was a McIlvain. The Abbey was associated with King Robert the Bruce, also Earl of Carrick, during the Wars of Independence, when Nigellius McIlvain, first Laird of Grimmett was supporter of the Abbey. Quentin Kennedy, younger brother of Gilbert, 2nd Earl of Cassilis, became Abbot there in 1520. In 1564, post Reformation time, Gilbert, 4th Earl of Cassilis, took title to the Abbey lands and buildings while the Abbey continued to operate until 1617. By that time, the last resident monks had passed away and the abbey as a religious establishment had come to an end. Although today in carefully groomed ruins an air of the spiritual seems somehow to cling to the Abbey's stones--certainly worth a visit.



Crossraguel Abbey



Attiquin Farm

The next stop was Attiquin Farm, northeast of Maybole. Attiquin was part of the property of the Lairds of Grimmet for more than 200 years, but passed from family possession about the same time as Thomaston. Up through the 1990's there was a large farm house on the top of the hill, with attached stables and barns in the back. For a time in the 1990's the farmer even operated a bed and breakfast there, too. However, times have changed. We were told the property and surrounding farmland had been sold to a commercial farming conglomerate some time ago. While the corridor of huge, very ancient and magnificent oaks still line the drive from the main road up to the farm house on the top of the hill, the farm house itself clearly has been unoccupied for quite some time and is falling into a state of ruin. Furthermore, a huge steel water tank had

been erected on the hill not far from the farmhouse. Sad, really.

The next stop was Grimmet Farm, on the site of the former castle, near the town of Dalmellington and on a ridge line on the western edge of the Doon River Valley. The castle built by Nigellius was torn down in the 1930's and replaced by a modern farm house and farm out-buildings, barns and equipment garages. However, a large block of stone carved with Nigellius' arms was noted by clansmen visiting as late as the mid-1970's, and a wooden staircase from the castle had been incorporated into the new farm house, for those visitors to see who were lucky enough to catch the Farmer at home and in a mood to receive visitors. He even maintained a book for visiting McIlvains to sign. While the keystone with the Nigellius' arms vanished, sometime in the 50's perhaps, the old approach road to what was the castle gate and the berms of the old moat were still to be seen.

On this visit we found that the gentleman who had owned the property and farmed there for a generation had died. His widow still lived in the farm house but was said to be ill herself. The farmland had been sold to an agricultural corporation and lots near the entrance to the farm had been sold- and two houses built on what had been the approach road to the old castle. While the view down to the River Doon remains magnificent, there is nothing to be seen of the old Grimmet. It is no more.



Brig O' Doon

On a light-hearted note, on the way back to Troon, we stopped at the old stone bridge arching gracefully over the Doon just to the south of the town of Ayr. It is easy to imagine that this is the very bridge which Gilbert Kennedy, Laird of Bargañay, crossed with his party of mounted knights in route to his fatal encounter with Patrick McIlvain in 1601. But as we walked to the apex of the lovely old bridge (no vehicles allowed), we recalled this bridge ("THE BrIlg O' Doon"?) also may have inspired Robert Burns, who lived in

Ayr, in the composition of Tam O'Shanter, commonly accepted as one of Burns' finest works, a grimly humorous legend of a hard-drinking Irishman (not a Scotsman, of course. Heaven forbid!), who ignores his wife's warning he will be "catch'd wi' warlocks" for his soddan misdeeds someday:

On Friday morning, August 12th, we struck out to the north from Troon to visit the town of Largs and the Battle of Largs Battlefield. Some historians say this battle in 1263 between about 800 Norwegian Viking raiders under King Haakon, who attempted to land at Largs, and a much larger Scottish army under King Alexander III, was little more than an inconclusive skirmish, or at least a draw. However, from a strategic perspective, King Haakon needed to win. He did not. As a result, Viking domination over Scotland effectively ended. According to Burke's Landed Gentry, King Alexander III granted Alan MacAylwin, Baron of Wigtown, land for his "bravery and fealty" at the Battle of Largs.

The afternoon also saw us returning to the Maybole area for a special treat, which was for some the most memorable event on the

"extended tour". You may recall from the forgoing account that the Kennedys (the 7th Marquis) signed over Culzean Castle to the NTS in 1954. Where did they go to live? Northeast of Culzean, along a tributary of the Doon the Kennedy's had another holding- called Casillis House. This is a six-story medieval castle keep fortress of classic Scottish design, on the front of which in the 19th century the Kennedys grafted a four-story mansion. When Charles Kennedy, the 8th Marquis, died without issue in 2014 his brother inherited. However, the bother seems interested in nothing but farming and thus sold Casillis House to an Australian couple, who spent the next two years and probably northwards of two million pounds on a complete and immaculate restoration and renovation.

Maurice mentioned that he had heard the Casillis House was up for sale and our colleague on the tour, cousin Edward McIlwain, arranged through his solicitor in Edinburgh, for our group to tour the house as if we (actually Edward) might be interested in a purchase. It was a

fascinating tour. Even if the knock dead discounted price of 5.5 million pounds offered by an unbelievably motivated seller was a bit beyond the size of our wallets, the thought of the McIlvains purchasing the Kennedy's last "big" residence, Casillis House, struck us as an ultimate irony, delicious to contemplate. Maybe next time?

On Saturday, August 13 we left Troon to go our separate ways home, with memories aplenty of a great trip, and meeting wonderful people wherever we went. So, Ayr is checked-off the "bucket list". Where next, Laddies?



Casillis Castle

The Cromdale Brooch

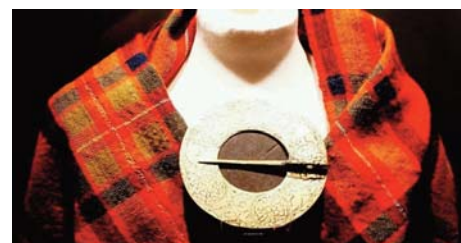
Brooches were commonly worn by women in the Highlands to fasten their shawls or 'Arisaids'. Womens' shawls could be plain white, striped or sometimes tartan, and fastened at the breast with a ring brooch. These brooches varied from very simple rings made from brass or copper to large ornate pieces of jewellery.

This outstanding example of a ring brooch dates from the 1600's and was found at Cromdale, near Grantown on Spey. The finely engraved detail of wild cats suggest it may have a connection to the Clan Chattan.



Detail on the Brooch

This brooch is exhibited at the museum in Grantown on Spey.



The Cromdale Brooch

CCA Future Events 2018

April 14th

**Culloden Memorial Service, meet at the Visitors Centre 10.30a.m.
Lunch, Botanical Gardens, Inverness. 1p.m.
Highland Archive Centre, will be open 2p.m.-4p.m.**

July 21st

Inverness Gathering, Bught Park. Clan Village.

August 2nd- 4th

Clan Chattan Association Gathering. See page 3 for details.

September 1st

Braemar Gathering. Clan Tables in the Overseas Visitors tent.

**For more information e-mail clanchattanassociation@btinternet.com or visit
www.clanchattan.org.uk**

Clan MacThomas Society International Gathering 2017

Wednesday 23rd August

Wednesday afternoon saw the arrival of most of the visitors to our 2017 International Gathering based at Scotland's Hotel in Pitlochry. For the lucky ones, who had told us the arrival time of their train, there was an immediate "wow" factor – Ron Thom, the Chief's personal piper, was standing on the platform of Pitlochry Station in full Highland regalia playing his pipes to welcome them to Scotland! A group of willing helpers assisted with luggage and accompanied them on the short walk to the hotel.

Members and guests were greeted at the hotel by Council Members, Robin Thoms, Jon Hedges and Rob McComas. They were given welcome packs consisting of a specially produced jute bags printed with the MacThomas Clan Crest and containing all the information, tickets and name badges they would need over the next few days. As a bonus there was a small pack of shortbread and a miniature bottle of Scotch whisky. The new merchandising manager, Mike Thoms, and his son Fergus, were on hand to offer all the best in MacThomas goods, including a very popular new item – a dark blue polo shirt with the MacThomas crest. The air was filled with the sound of bagpipe music from Ron, Ian Coombs and a detachment of the Ems pipers who were outside the hotel to help generate a buzz of excitement as old friends met up and new members were introduced. This really set the mood for the days to come.

At the evening Welcoming Reception Vice President, Robin Thoms said a few words and briefly outlined the Gathering Programme. This was followed by a delicious buffet dinner and the MacThomas Party. McNab's Bar in the hotel was the venue and it gave a warm Highland welcome to all those gatherers accommodated at the Hotel or close by. A professional accordionist provided a selection of traditional Scottish music while the barman provided the Scottish fayre. The ice was well and truly broken with old acquaintances renewed and new ones established. Midnight came all too soon, but tomorrow would be a long day.

Thursday 24th August

On Thursday morning some members chose to enjoy two presentations by Clan members. The first was by US member, Judith McCombs, who entertained us with readings of Scottish poems. The second presentation was by Clan Sennachie, Grahame Thom, who produced some interesting information about Angus, the 10th Chief, and then explained how DNA can be used in Family History Research.

Two coaches had been laid on to go to Edinburgh for the Military Tattoo. The first coach departed at 12:30 and was led by tour leader, Mike Thoms. On arrival at Edinburgh, Mike provided a commentary for an hour long tour of the city, pointing out all the significant places of interest and linking them to the rich history of the capital. This was followed by a walking tour, again led by Mike, covering mainly the medieval areas and finishing at Greyfriars Churchyard. These tours were extremely interesting and were kept alive by Mike's amazing knowledge and his keen sense of humour. The second coach left mid-afternoon with V/P Robin Thoms providing commentary. Mike had negotiated a special price for dinner at one of Edinburgh's top Italian Restaurants close to the castle and those taking advantage of the deal were rewarded by a most enjoyable meal set to fuel them through the Tattoo.

For the first time ever in the history of the event, it had been decided that individual clans would march onto the arena of Edinburgh Castle at the start of the evening, providing a "Splash of Tartan". Happily, it coincided very conveniently with our International Gathering and provided many of us with a truly once in a life-time experience. We had been asked to be punctual and we were. Walking up the Royal Mile towards the Lawnmarket, our designated meeting place, we certainly drew admiring and curious glances from the many tourists gathered there on this the last week of the world famous Edinburgh Festival. Waiting for us, looking very distinctive and distinguished in his eagle crested bonnet, was our Chief, Andrew MacThomas of Finegand. Some forty-five members from all over the world had chosen to take part in the Tattoo, with many others preferring to watch from the stands.

After showing our security bands we walked through the entrance of Edinburgh Castle, up the narrow, cobbled street until ushered into the cavernous and historic Great Hall to join the other participating clan, Clan Carmichael. We were welcomed by the Tattoo Producer, Brigadier Allfrey, who then invited the respective Chiefs of Clans MacThomas and Carmichael to speak to the assembled company. The vaulted wooden ceiling dwarfed us as we were then literally given our marching orders by a fairly scary Sergeant Major. There was no room for error we were informed and all eyes would be on us. And then it was time to go and solemnly, three abreast, we walked out of the Great Hall to the stirring sound of the bagpipes. Into the courtyard and down the cobbled way to the arena entrance we marched, past applauding bandmen and dancers and then, finally, through the arch and over the drawbridge out into the floodlit arena in front of some 8,000 cheering spectators. What a fantastic moment that was!

Once the two clans were assembled by the red carpet, in the centre of the Castle esplanade, the two Clan Chiefs greeted Admiral Caulfield of the U.S. Navy, the special guest for the evening. After taking the salute, the three men raised a toast in whisky to Edinburgh Castle and to all those who served there, drinking from small silver quaichs – the traditional Scottish drinking vessel. We were all then invited to take our seats in the arena for a thrilling Tattoo performance. It was hard not to be moved by the occasion with such a great sense of history all around. It was an unforgettable experience and I am sure this sentiment is shared by all of us who were fortunate enough to take part in this very special event - the 2017 Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.



Clan marches at Edinburgh Castle

Those who were returning to Pitlochry then returned to the coaches arriving back at Scotland's Hotel just before 1.00 am. It had been a memorable day!

Friday 25th August

On Friday morning, after a hearty Scottish breakfast, Clan members boarded coaches for the Clan Tour. Entitled "The Lands and Homes of the early MacThomas Chiefs", a special booklet, prepared by V/P Robin Thoms, with information on all the sites, was given to each of those taking part (additional copies can still be purchased through the Clan Shop). Commentaries were expertly provided by Robin and Mike Thoms. There were two options available – a visit to a whisky distillery followed by the Tour, or a visit to Killicrankie followed by the Tour. The majority opted for the whisky distillery and certainly were not disappointed. Blair Atholl Distillery, on the outskirts of Pitlochry, is well set up for tour parties and has excellent guides who ensure the experience is a memorable one. This distillery produces Blair Atholl malt whisky which is used as the main ingredient of Bells Whisky – one of the market leaders in blended whisky. The other group headed for the Killicrankie Visitor Centre to the site of the "Soldiers Leap" where, in 1689, a charge by the Highland Jacobites took the Government forces by surprise and completely overwhelmed them in only 10 minutes. One of the King's soldiers, having lost the contest, is said to have leapt 5.5 meters (18 ft.) across the gorge of the River Garry to escape capture.

The first part of the tour covered Glenshee and Glenn Begg, while the second part (on Sunday afternoon) covered Glenisla. In total some thirty locations were pointed out, or described in the booklet, all being connected to the early Clan Chiefs from 1450 to 1600. To see these places with one's own eyes and hear the stories relating to them, brought to life the meaning of our common quest to find out who our ancestors were and where they came from. There was an excellent lunch provided at the Glenshee Ski Centre, with an optional chairlift ride to the top of the Cairnwell to see breath-taking views of the MacThomas' lands. In spite of the drizzle and the mist, Iain Coombs carried his pipes to the summit and entertained us with Highland music in this most unusual setting.

Returning to the hotel there was time to

make further purchases of Clan Merchandise, with tartan ladies' clutch bags proving very popular, before getting ready to welcome the Chief to Pitlochry. At 6.30 p.m., Andrew MacThomas of Finegand made his grand entry to Scotland's Hotel as he and his family were led down Bonnethill Road by the Ems Highland Pipes and Drums. After passing through the VIP portal and into the hotel, the Chief and his Lady personally shook hands and greeted all those who were gathering. With well over a hundred people present, this was a very well-attended Clan event.

The long day had whetted everyone's appetite and we were all more than ready to tuck into an extensive and tasty buffet supper laid on by the hotel. Dinner over it was time to flex our dancing muscles and practice all the Scottish dances and reels we would be trying out at the Clan Ceilidh on Sunday evening. A very patient lady with the help of a microphone talked us through and, where necessary, demonstrated several dances including the Eightsome Reel, Dashing White Sergeant and Strip the Willow (everyone's favourite!) All good fun and a very good way of getting to know each other. Those who had the stamina then repaired to McNab's Bar, for a dram or three before finally calling it a day.

Saturday 26th August

While Highland weather can be notoriously difficult to predict, Saturday, happily, dawned fine and mild. With the Strathardle Highland Games dominating the day this was good news to all concerned.

After breakfast many of us attended the Clan AGM, chaired by Finegand. After covering official business, the Chief pointed out that the next Gathering in 2020 would be the 50th anniversary of his accession. While this is without doubt a great achievement, Finegand emphasised that it was now up to the younger generation to assume responsibility for continuing and building on what had been achieved during his stewardship. Judging by the camaraderie and enthusiasm shown by younger members of the Clan during the weekend, I feel very optimistic that the future of the Clan MacThomas will be in good hands and look forward to new developments over the coming years.

Coaches had been laid on to transport us the few miles over the hill to Kirkmichael where the Strathardle Highland Games

were to take place for their 130th year! A new and most welcome addition at our Gathering this year was the attendance of the Ems Pipe and Drum Highland Band from Germany, under the expert guidance of their leader, Sebastian Thomas. They looked fantastic in full MacThomas tartan and played most professionally. This year, along with our Clan pipers, Ron Thom and Iain Coombs, they were invited to join the "Games" Pipe Band and play in the official opening march of the games. This included Finegand, Young Finegand, Vice Presidents Robin Thoms and Ian Thomson, and all those MacThomas clansfolk who were fully dressed in tartan.

Treasurer, Jon Hedges and our new North American Convenor, Rob McComas, visiting Scotland for the first time, had done an excellent job of preparing the Clan MacThomas' tent at the Games, our largest yet! A most interesting photographic archive display had been put up as well as a large information desk complete with Clan literature and stuffed wild cat! We were all treated to lunch here with an excellent soup and extensive range of sandwiches and rolls being served to keep hunger pangs at bay. For the rest of the afternoon we were free to explore all the Games had to offer, from livestock to archery, Scottish country dancing, sponsored by the Clan MacThomas, to tossing the caber and other athletic events, award winning cakes to vintage cars - something for all!

Saturday evening saw us all dressing up in our finery for the formal Clan Society Dinner. One hundred and ten people sat down with family and friends – old and new - in the Faskally Restaurant to enjoy a delicious three course dinner during which Finegand expressed his appreciation for all the help and support he had received over the past three years since our last Gathering and in particular for the invaluable contribution made to the Clan by his Vice President, Robin Thoms and Treasurer, Jon Hedges, who had done so much to ensure the Gathering ran as smoothly as it did. Ian Thomson Sr gave the toast to the Society and absent friends. It is always so heartening to see large numbers of Clan members from around the world at these special Society events.

Sunday 27th August 2017

The weekend seemed to have sped past far too fast. It was Sunday already! Happily,

there was still much to enjoy with the iconic gathering at the Clach na Coileach (the Cockstane) in Glenshee, followed by historical re-enactments of key events in the Clan's past, culminating with the sampling of Scotland's national dish – the haggis – and a suitably frenzied Ceilidh in the evening.

Once again the weather had stayed fine and Scotland was looking at its most lovely. Driving over to Glenshee one was struck at every turn with wonderful views. It is fascinating to see how the area around the Cockstane changes each time one visits. Having planted dozens of new trees – a mixture of coniferous and deciduous – ten years ago, we are now being rewarded with a healthy, well-designed tree-landscape that frames the historic stone and contrasts fittingly with the wide-open spaces of the moors and hills beyond.



Piping to the Cockstane

At ten thirty the Chief's arrival was announced with the stirring sound of the Ems Pipe and Drum Band before Finegand and his entourage appeared, piped into the Cockstane arena by Clan Piper, Iain Coombs. The hundred strong crowd of onlookers stood silently appreciating the mournful and evocative notes being played, reminding us all of the hardships and tragedies suffered by our ancestors in the past in this rugged spot. Finegand eloquently addressed those gathering before his personal piper, Ron Thom, played a lament. A most realistic re-enactment of two incidents in Clan History followed



Clan MacThomas stand to attention



At the Cockstane

involving a lot of skillful swordplay and more than one "dead" body!

In the afternoon the action moved to Glenisla, another beautiful spot just a few miles from Glenshee, where further dramatic re-enactments were performed by the Earl of Loudoun's Regiment and Re-enactors for our entertainment, including a notorious skirmish between members of the Farquarson and MacThomas Clans. It made one glad to live in the 21st century! A plentiful lunch was again laid on for all participants to keep us going until the final evening event – the Ceilidh!

It started in unforgettable style with an exemplary and riveting Address to the Haggis by Vice President, Robin Thoms. He really made Rabbin Burns words come to life and deservedly gained a long and loud round of applause from everyone in the room. We were then served delicious portions of haggis, neeps (turnips) and tatties with drams of whisky to help with the overall experience. Now suitably

warmed up, the dancing began. We were entertained by the Bill Smith Ceilidh Band, who had us dancing, reeling, jigging and waltzing in no time. Having rehearsed our steps a couple of days earlier certainly seemed to add to the overall confidence of the occasion and it was lovely to see everyone on the floor in a marvellous show of international friendship and cooperation.

But all good things must come to an end and at midnight – like Cinderella – after a rousing rendition of Auld Lang Syne, the music fell silent and people started to slip away into the night. Some heading for bed and a good night's sleep, some for a final wee night-cap at McNab's Bar. I overheard so many visitors declaring what a good time they had had and that they hoped to return. That was certainly my impression too. The best Clan Gathering yet? I think so. Haste ye back!

Mary Grundberg
European Secretary

Romancing the Stone

Our 20th wedding anniversary was imminent, I googled wildly trying to find an original present to give my dear wife Andrea and came across this crazy mineral, Macfallite.



Macfallite

Macfallite was named in honor of Russell P. MacFall (1903-1983) who was an American amateur mineralogist and author. Macfallite is a rare mineral found in the United States at the Manganese mine in Michigan, at the Wasaka mine in Hokkaido, Japan and at the Cerchiara mine in Liguria, Italy.

As luck would have it Macfallite is found in quartz crystal which can be cut into cabochons, polished and turned into fine gemstone. I managed to secure a 32.93 carat piece about the size and shape of a Foxes Glacier Mint and had it mounted

into a gold ring which was beautifully made by master jeweller Mike Shorer – job done.



Macfallite ring by Mike Shorer
mike@mikeshorerjewellery.com

I was pleased to discover Mackintoshite, Macphersonite, and Davidsonite also exist (apparently, the Mackintoshite is an altered, metamict, uranothorite and may be radioactive? - which figures)



Mackintoshite



Macphersonite



Davidsonite

Nigel James Mac-Fall

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Members who have passed away in the last year

Mrs Marie Epstein from Victoria, Australia, had been a member since 1999.

Evan Cattanach, sadly died in 2016 but we did not learn of his death until later in 2017. He had been a member of the association since 1998. Having lived most of his life in the Highlands, he spent 33 years in the Whisky business. Late on in his life he moved to New York where he passed away.

James Davidson from Newtonmore, Scotland. Was one of the earlier members of the Clan Chattan Association having joined in 1959, and was a founder member of the revived Clan Davidson Association. The Scottish Davidson Family heritage going back centuries. He contributed articles to the Clan Chattan journal on several occasions over many years.

There is more information regarding James in Nick Hides' report on Clan Davidson elsewhere in this Magazine.

John Shaw of Tordarroch – 22nd Chief of Clan Shaw. Passed away at his beautiful home in Mallorca in November 2017. He was a vice President of the Clan Chattan Association having joined in 1959. There is a full Obituary in this magazine.