

# Touch Not - Magazine of the Clan Chattan Association

## Welcome to Kyla Mackintosh of Mackintosh



John, Vanessa and Kyla

**M**any thanks to you all for your good wishes for Kyla, Vanessa and myself. It has been a wonderful few months getting to know Kyla. A new experience, while

sometimes tiring, yet always rewarding and a great personal pleasure. Each day begins when she greets us with a smile in the morning, and ends with us watching her happily drift to where her dreams take her each night. She has become very communicative recently, cooing and babbling, and we listen to her with endless delight. And she's often smiling and laughing, reassuring us that despite our worries and insecurities, we must be doing something right at least some of the time! We look forward to the day when she begins to crawl or walk and explore more of the world around her. And we look forward to introducing her to you all, and am sure that she will charm you, just as she has charmed us from the day she was born.

**John Mackintosh of Mackintosh**

## Chairman's Welcome 2020

**W**elcome to this edition of Touch Not, the first where I find myself as Chair of the CCA. Given some of my predecessors and the contribution they have made it is a slightly daunting proposition. My main priority is to try and not undo their good work!

I have been a member of the CCA for some years and will have met some of you at the Gathering and Moy. But for those of you I have yet ~~had the pleasure to meet~~ it may be of interest to provide a bit of background on myself.

As anyone who has heard me speak may guess I was brought up on the eastern edge of London and currently reside at that end of the District Line. My father, who was born in Inverness, and started school just around the corner from the Lochardil Hotel where we hold the CCA annual dinner is kind enough to assist me with guidance on the correct pronunciation of Scottish names and places. Due to family connections I have been a regular visitor to Scotland throughout my life. A pleasure I have also inflicted on my family, who are now suitably conditioned to enjoy the wonder of summer in the north.

One of my great interests is history and, many years ago now, much of my formal studies involved emigration from the Highlands, particularly to Canada. One of the most impressive aspects of the CCA is its ability to maintain international links with the Highland Diaspora. I also recognise the important role



David Mackintosh with his family

it plays in helping preserve and develop the history of its constituent clans alongside the culture, crafts and traditions associated with the Highlands. While our membership numbers are, in many ways, impressive, we need to continually consider how we can attract new members, especially those who can help bring fresh perspectives. Recently our council meetings have embraced digital communications to allow participation from around the world. There must be scope to develop our offer to members by embracing new technology. Suggestions please on a postcard to the CCA. And please do think about what you may have to contribute to Touch Not for future editions.

I am also keen to see the CCA develop its routes in its historic heartlands be that through bringing in local performers to our annual gathering or supporting access and understanding to the history in the Clan Chattan region. We are uniquely placed to do so and the CCA has a proud record of this kind of work to build on. All of our membership, existing and those yet to be recruited have a role to play here.



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Long lazy days of retirement

Champion Clog Dancer of the World

Picture Gallery

The Scottish Flag

New Face of the Association

A visit to Chennai

News from Clan MacThomas

News from Clan Davidson

A treasure trove

News from Clan Maclean

And more.....

So, you may ask, what do I do when not basking in the Moy sunshine and eating smokies? Well I have been at the City of London Corporation for nearly twenty years, working mainly in drug and alcohol policy work and am now Head of Community Safety. I also do some work for the Greater London Authority and am currently a trustee of two charities. Previously I worked in the Civil Service and in the increasingly distant past the Post Office, Bass Brewers and Ford's. A long-suffering West Ham United FC supporter (something else I have inflicted on the family). They get some measure of revenge by kicking me while training karate. I have amassed a fairly sizeable library, which I am told is disproportionate for a house of our size. I also have a fondness for rock music.

So now you know who I am. Hopefully I will get the opportunity to meet and hear from many of you. The CCA is in a good place, thanks to those on Council, but especially Denise and Donald. But it is dependent on you to develop and flourish. Be in touch.

**David Mackintosh**

# The Long Lazy Days of Retirement

(A follow on, to the article “Members of Clan Macpherson Association Honoured”) published in Touch Not 2018

**Norman G. McPherson**

This is how I imagined it would be when I would decide to retire from working on the offshore drilling rigs and platforms. I would hang up my marsh funnel and mud scales, cast aside my coveralls and throw off my work boots to lead a life where I would dictate what I would do, when I would do it, or even if I would do it. There would be no deadlines to meet which had always been the one thing in my working life which had caused me the most concern with that all-encompassing command, “It must be done now” no matter how busy with other things you were, and this even included sleep.



Norman on an oil rig

Actually, this was not how it turned out. Promotion to a new position in the office, where rig visits were reduced to very seldom and very few times was personal protective equipment required, I could now be that voice in other people’s minds which demanded immediate action and no excuses of being tired or busy were permitted. This was a half way house as you might say as no physical effort was now needed and no longer was I away from home regularly. That was until I found out that those guilt laying voices continued, but now from higher authorities within the company and reactions to these affecting so many more people.

Fortunately or unfortunately the decision on retiring was taken out of my hands by health concerns. At the time it was decided that I would shortly need a rather big operation which they likened to installing a zip from breastbone to crotch. I was advised that this would involve an extended recovery period of up to 2 years where I would not be able to drive or do anything remotely physical and also held major risks. With this information and in discussions with my wife Mary I decided that yes, I would retire immediately in January 2005 and enjoy at least a short while of the ideal in the title of this piece. Of course, like everyone else, before I was forced to be laid

low, I had a list of tasks, but always believed that whatever happened I would be able to sit back and relax as soon as I had completed them and of course no rush as retirement did mean long lazy days.

Mid 2005 while still waiting for my operation I became an independent consultant at home preparing and managing contracts for drilling wells in the Irish sea and worked a couple of days a week at my old company designing and implementing a competency system for Halliburton mud engineers. This was basically just to fill in until I had the operation.

In the latter half of 2005 “The best laid plans o’ mice and men gang aft a glae” Other consultancy contracts followed and over a couple of years I worked on contracts in Angola, Qatar, Irish Sea, India and continued with the specialist competency programme design, here at home. After the Indian adventures I was asked to take on a much bigger contract of around a year’s work in Goa but decided enough was enough considering I was retired and was still intent on living the ideal.

Fate then intervened and before I could get my operation, the senior consultant handling my case, up and emigrated to Australia and his replacement decided that he thought he could treat me with keyhole surgery which would virtually rule out the extended recovery period. To do this he required to get research funding as it had never been done before. This he obtained and “Hey Presto” an unmitigated success followed in 2008 which saw me up and about and driving within three weeks. Time for that bit of lazing around now after I finished the tasks list, which I had just started before I had the operation. My plans were torn up when my old company asked me if I would do some further consulting work for them and in my mind the money would come in handy for the, slightly delayed, life of leisure I was going to enjoy as this would only be a temporary delay.

When I now had a little time on my hands and my list of tasks to be done around the house were not really started in earnest. While doing a little more on my family history and tree I felt some time could be enjoyed by Mary and I, attending Clan Macpherson Association Rallies and events as I had been a member since 1973 and Mary since 1978. Prior to this we had never been able to attend these events because of pressures of work and family. This led to me after a couple of years becoming Scotland Branch Chairman for a three-year tenure then continuing in several committees within the Association and as a Guardian of the MacPherson Museum ultimately being honoured by Cluny to be his personal banner man which title I still carry today.



Macpherson Rally

By 2011, and after the debacle of the 2009 Homecoming of the Clans a meeting with the then Minister of tourism was held of all the highland clans to ensure that the clans would not be treated like that again and out of that was formed The Highland Clan Partnership Group. I was asked by Fergus to be one of six founder members in the formation of the small liaison group between the clans and the Government/Tourist agencies etc. Shortly after this the Association of Highland Clan Societies was formed, and I was asked to serve on their committee which I duly did.



Norman Coat of Arms

2013 saw me joining the Clan Chattan Association to expand my involvement in The Clan of the Cat with the Confederacy. By embracing the cat, the theory that a cat has nine lives also must have been instilled in me. This became more apparent as time passed. The last half of 2013 was fraught with health issues where I was diagnosed with Idiopathic Chronic Pulmonary Fibrosis requiring me to use oxygen at all times. The first half of 2014 did not start any better as I was found to be infected by a bug called Mycobacterium avium which is believed to be the source bug for TB. Fortunately, this is not infectious but required me to be treated with the full TB course of drug treatment for the next 2 years. This helped me greatly and I was able to come off oxygen all together.

Limited in any energetic activity I became interested in heraldry, obtained my own Coat of Arms, and joined the Scottish Heraldry Society.

Heraldry and Chivalry go hand in hand, so it was not long before both Mary and I joined the Order of St Lazarus as officers in 2014.

This then led to us being asked to join the Confraternity of Knights of the Most Holy Trinity where I became a Knight and Mary a Dame.





Norman and Mary McPherson



Norman Cross of Nicodemus

In 2015 I was inducted as a Burgess of Guild of the City and Royal Burgh of Aberdeen.

I also received an order of merit with the Cross of St Nicodemus within the order of the Most Holy Trinity, was elected on to the Clan Chattan Council and became a Fellow of the Scottish Antiquaries (Scot).

2016 I had a heart operation to cure a persistent arrhythmia with increasing instances of supraventricular tachycardia. My lung problems again come to the fore when the ongoing treatment was cut short, thinking I was cured of the infection, only for it to come back within a couple of months.

It was around this time that our interest in Robert Burns led us to become members of the Aberdeen Burns Club with its once a month social evenings and very convivial company from which we were home around 10pm. Was this the start of the great slowdown of retirement?

Not a bit of it ! 2017 saw both Mary and I awarded orders of Officers of merit in St Lazarus.



Norman and Mary Order of St Lazarus

I then went on to become a member of The Order of St Lazarus Council while Mary became a member of The Order of St Lazarus Social Committee. We then were incorporated into the committee for the Burns World Federation Schools competition and help with administration at the annual event. With my lung infection back, it was necessary to start again from the beginning with another 2-year course of treatment initiated with three months of three days a week having intravenous infusions at the hospital.

In 2018 ~~Both~~ Mary and I were promoted to Commanders in the Order of St Lazarus and I was elected as President of the Aberdeen Burns Club.



Order of the Scottish Samurai

We were both awarded by the Order of the Scottish Samurai with the grade of Legendary Samurai for our work to medical charities joining other awardees such as The Lord Lyon. Joanna Lumley, Chay Blythe and several Past lord Provosts of Aberdeen to name but a few.

In December lung problems continued to dog me when I suffered a spontaneous pneumothorax or collapsed lung and it felt like I had used up another of my nine lives.

In the second half of 2018 we were asked to become members of the Order of St John which we accepted, and this was announced in the London Gazette in the Queens awards in December and will be fully ratified at the St John Festival & Investiture in St Andrews Cathedral, Inverness on the 21st June 2019

As you can see I am not taking on too much and still waiting for, and have not given up hope of, being able to relax without the worries of commitments but is it, maybe, a pipe dream, a complete misconception or just me ? Hopefully I may yet settle back to a long lazy retirement and find out for sure.

By the way, my list of tasks which was drawn up when I first retired, still sits with only a couple completed but my full intention of completing the list is still alive, as long as I am.

Norman McPherson Esq. CLJ, OMLJ and Mary McPherson CLJ, OMLJ Representing St Lazarus Aberdeen Group present a cheque for a £500.00 donation to present a cheque for a £500.00

donation to Mr Neil Powers, NERVS Founder & Chairman The Aberdeen Leprosy Mission

(North East Riders Volunteers Scotland )

Monies raised at the Aberdeen St Lazarus Dinner 2018

## Clan Chattan Association Coat of Arms

There has been some debate and discussion over the past few years on whether the Association should have its' own Coat of Arms.

In 2019 a decision was made to go ahead and have designs submitted. Designs created by Norman McPherson, incorporating images and symbols relevant to this Association were eventually sent to the Lord Lyon for support and approval.

In order to take the next step towards having our own Coat of Arms, a lodging fee for Petition for Patent of Arms has been made.

This is an exciting and historic phase for the Association and we look forward to its completion in due course. We will keep you informed.

**Donald McIntosh**  
Vice Chairman

## Important Notice

### Change of e-mail address:

The e-mail address for the Clan Chattan Association is changing to:

[clanchattanassociation@gmail.com](mailto:clanchattanassociation@gmail.com)

Please remember  
to change your contacts list.

Mailing address is:

Clan Chattan Association,  
36 Rullion Road,  
Penicuik, EH26 9HX. Scotland.

Website: [www.clanchattan.org.uk](http://www.clanchattan.org.uk)



# Clan Chattan Association Annual Gathering and Moy Field Sports

Joyce and Moray Cattanach

## A Cattanach point of view!



Moray Cattanach at Lochardil

Moray's family originally came from Newtonmore but moved up to Moray (hence the name); the family had Blacksmiths across the Moray area including Duffus and Knockando. Moray and I have been attending events for about 2 years now; this was our 2nd Annual Gathering at the Lochardil House Hotel. We are always so pleased to come along and the welcome received is wonderful; it really is like meeting friends now, catching up on the news and finding out what has been happening in each other's lives. The time before dinner is the chance to do all the catching up with those we already know, along with meeting new people and finding out about their links to the Association. I'm always amazed about how far people travel to join in these events, showing how proud they are of their Clan affiliations.

I'm a relative newcomer to Clan history but really enjoy reading up and finding out more. I even discovered that my own family on my Mother's side, the Nairn's, are descended from the McIntosh clan so I'm really interested in finding out more about that connection! McLean is also a family name on my Father's side, but possibly through the maternal line so there also may be a wee connection there – more investigation and reading required for me then!

The dinner itself was wonderful; service and hospitality from the hotel is always good and they go out of their way to make you feel comfortable and are happy to help. It was amazing to see and hear Bonnie pipe us in for dinner, especially as it was revealed that she had a broken foot, a broken thumb and goodness knows what other injuries! I love how each year we are all so carefully seated with a good combination of those we already know and those we don't. Conversation was very mixed around the table and full of laughter as we discovered new information about each other and found common bonds. We were sitting with Norman & Mary McPherson, Chris & Margaret Gillies and Robert and Coleen McPherson. It was sometimes hard to keep up with the flow of information but that showed how well the evening was going.

We all moved through to the lounge area to hear the entertainment for the evening. They were a wonderful group of young people from the local area who sang and played beautifully and led us all in a heart-warming rendition of Dougie Mclean's Caledonia. This was a very sociable part of the evening, with another chance to catch up with old friends, make new ones and to put names to faces that I had heard but couldn't place – always good to be sat beside someone who knows everyone!

## Moy Game Fair & Field Sports

This was our 3rd time at the Sports; twice as members of Clan Chattan, which makes it even better! The weather yet again was wonderful, there had been a couple of showers, but the sun came out and it was glorious. We enjoy

having the clan tent as a base for the day; we have a look round as we make our way to the tent and mark out what we want to go back to and what events we want to watch.

The welcome at the tent is friendly and inviting - Denise with her merchandise and information stall, Cheryl with the refreshments, Anne with all her information from the Highland Archive Centre and the guys from the Aigas Field centre who are protecting the future of the Scottish Wildcat – the UK's only native feline and most endangered mammal. I like to think that in some way, through the Clan support we are doing our bit for their survival.

We do like to have a wee look at the Mackintosh Museum at Moy Hall in which you can always find something new to look at, read or want to find out more about. We haven't made it up to the Lachlan Mackintosh memorial yet but there's always next year!

I love watching the birds of prey display, the farriers shoeing the horses, the terrier racing at the end of the day and anything else I can get to in between! Having a wander round is always good fun, seeing the retrievers at work, watching the fishing which is the most peaceful part of the day – sitting on the grass bank looking out over the loch with maybe a wee ice-cream. Then it's round to the noisy part of the estate with the guns – great to watch the skills and speed as the clays are blasted into smithereens – maybe next time I'll have a go at firing a musket!

We didn't stay for the Sunday as we had other places to visit on our travels but are so looking forward to the next event – will keep an eye on the website for details!



Pipe Band at Moy



## News from Clan MacThomas



Portrait of Finegand

In August 2020, the Clan MacThomas will be holding a special gathering in Pitlochry and Glenshee to celebrate the achievements over the last 50 years of Andrew MacThomas of Finegand with his family and Clan members from around the world. Members of Clan Chattan are most welcome to attend the formal celebratory dinner at Scotlands Spa Hotel in Pitlochry on the evening of Saturday 22 August and/or the official Gathering of the Clan at the Cockstane in Glenshee at 10.45 am on Sunday 23 August.

**Clan Chattan Members are welcome to join the special Clan MacThomas Gathering in Pitlochry and Glenshee on 22 & 23 August 2020 to celebrate Andrew MacThomas of Finegand's 50 years as Chief of the Clan**

**For more information, please e-mail enquiries@clanmacthomas.com**

Andrew MacThomas of Finegand inherited the MacThomas Chiefship from his father in 1970 at the young age of 27 and, since then, he had dedicated much of his time to promoting his Clan, which is a member of the Clan Chattan Confederation.

During the past 50 years, the 19th Chief has developed the Clan MacThomas and its Society, which was founded in 1954 by his grandfather. In the early years of his Chiefship, Finegand arranged for the Clan's ancient gathering place Clach na Coileach (the Cockstane) in Glenshee, which was owned by a member of his family, to be given to the Clan MacThomas Society in perpetuity.

In 1973, he represented the Clan MacThomas at the International Gathering of the Clans that took place in Edinburgh that summer where he witnessed his personal standard flying over Princess Street. Following which, the Chief made his first of many visits to the United States where he has been the Guest of Honour, at many Scottish events, including two of the largest, the Grandfather and Stone Mountain Highland Games on several occasions. Also, Finegand attended the International Clan Gathering in Nova Scotia, Canada in the late 1970s.

When a new bridge over the River Shee was suggested in the late 70s, the Chief led the discussions with Tayside Regional Council, which resulted in the new crossing in Glenshee being named the "MacThomas Bridge", thus successfully re-establishing the Clan's historic link with that part of Scotland.

The Australian Scottish Heritage Council invited Finegand to visit Sydney in 1982 where he attracted over 10,000 people to the Opera House on his last day. In 1986, he visited Cape Town to promote the Clan in South Africa.

In the early 1990s, the Chief took the opportunity to purchase all the immediate land in Glenshee around Clach na Coileach for the Clan Society, which led, a few years later, to the re-design of the whole gathering area. This included the planting of a selection of new trees and a new car park.

After two years work, in 2009, Finegand personally published an up to date "History of the Clan MacThomas". That same year, saw The MacThomas involved in that year's International Gathering of the Clans in Edinburgh, which culminated in him marching his Clansfolk up the Royal Mile to cheering crowds.



Finegand and with his lady

The following year, he was elected, by his peers, to the Executive of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs on which he still serves, where he is able to represent Clan Chattan. In August 2017, the Chief led his Clan onto the esplanade of Edinburgh Castle and was one of three dignitaries taking the salute at the start of that night's Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

Often putting the Clan before his own self-interest, Finegand's dedication to his Clan

over the last 50 years has literally put the Clan MacThomas "back on the map". Whenever overseas, Finegand has always not only promoted his own Clan but also Clan Chattan. Not only has he supported the Scottish communities around the world, but also he has brought many people to the Highlands of Scotland and particularly to Glenshee, who would have never visited the Clan's ancient territory on the border of Angus and Perthshire.

### The Clan MacThomas Society

## Dan Durrant - CMNA Colorado



Dan Durrant

I am fairly new to association and its history. Over the last couple of years I have been doing a lot of work on my family tree. I feel very fortunate that I have been able to trace lines to a few of the associated clans (Mackintosh, MacThomas, MacPherson, MacGilvray). I have learned a lot over the last year after finding out my connections to Clan Chattan. I also convene for Clan Mackintosh of North America (CMNA) in Colorado. When setting up my displays in the hospitality tent throughout the year, I keep an area for CCA material that I've compiled. We have been fairly successful in rallying the different clans here in Colorado, as well as educating various individuals about CCA. With the help of Ian Hughes (Clan MacPherson), and Diana DeBrohun (Clan Phail), we were able to get eight of the twelve clans together at our last highland games of the year in Estes Park, CO.

I look forward to meeting all of you at the gathering in 2020!

# The Scottish Flag Trust

By Moray Cattanaich



The Scottish Flag Trust is a registered Scottish charity which maintains the Saltire Memorial and the Flag Heritage Centre at Athelstaneford and promotes the proper use of the Saltire.

## Scotland's Flag:

There are many reasons why Scotland is fortunate to have as its national flag the St Andrew's Cross or Saltire. The flag, a white diagonal cross on a blue field, is the oldest in Europe, and it is considered by the foremost authority, The Flag Institute, to be one of the world's classic flags.

The Saltire is instantly recognisable everywhere – no other national flag is remotely similar. Jack McConnell, when First Minister, commissioned a study to find out how best to promote the country overseas, and its findings were that no other symbol associated with Scotland, whether tartan, the thistle or whisky, came close to the Saltire in terms of universal recognition.

The Saltire, moreover, is the flag of the people, all the people, unlike the Lion Rampant which is the flag of the monarch. The Saltire's status was confirmed by Lord Lyon, Sir Thomas Innes of Learney, who stated: - "The Cross of St Andrew is the flag which any Scot is entitled to fly or wear as evidence of their national identity or patriotism".

## St Andrew's Cross:

Scotland's flag is directly linked to the country's patron saint, St Andrew, the first called of Christ's disciples. It is said that Andrew, who was martyred in the Greek city of Patras, felt unworthy to meet his death on a cross of the same shape as his Lord's, and so was crucified on a diagonal cross. Part of that tradition was that St Andrew wore blue, and so the white of the wooden cross against the blue of his robes gives us the colours of our national flag.

## The Battle of Athelstaneford:

But there is another legend which had its birth a long way from Greece in the village of Athelstaneford in East Lothian. It is believed that the battle took place in the year 832AD.

An army of Picts under Angus mac Fergus, High King of Alba, and aided by a contingent of Scots led by Eochaidh (Kenneth mac Alpin's grandfather) had been on a punitive raid into Lothian (then and for long afterwards Northumbrian territory), and were being pursued by a larger force of Angles and Saxons under one Athelstan.

The Albannach/Scots were caught and stood to face their pursuers in the area of Markle, near East Linton. This is to the north of the modern village of Athelstaneford (which was re-sited on higher ground in the 18th century), where the Peffer, which flows into the Firth of Forth at Aberlady forms a wide vale. Being then wholly undrained, the Peffer presented a major obstacle to crossing and the two armies came together at the ford near the present-day farm of Prora (one of the field names there is still the Bloody Lands).



Athelstaneford

Fearing the outcome of the encounter, King Angus led prayers for deliverance and was rewarded by seeing a cloud formation of a white saltire (the diagonal cross on which St Andrew had been martyred) against a blue sky. The king vowed that if, with the saint's help, he gained the victory, then Andrew would thereafter be the patron saint of Scotland. The Picts/Scots were indeed inspired to victory, and the story of this 9th century battle and of the cross of St Andrew appearing in the sky was subsequently confirmed in print by every one of Scotland's early medieval writers and the Saltire became the flag of Scotland.

When Kenneth mac Alpin, who may have been present with his grandfather at the battle, later united Picts and Scots and named the entity Scotland, Andrew did indeed become the patron saint of the united realm. Kenneth mac Alpin, King of Scots and Picts, Ard-righ Albainn, was laid to rest on Iona in 860AD.

## Commemorating the Birthplace:

Historian Nigel Tranter was in no doubt about the special significance of Athelstaneford and the need to recognise it in an appropriate way: "It can be given to few, if any nations, other than Scotland, to be able to point to a locality where its nationhood was conceived, if not yet born, its patron saint adopted, and its national flag established".

Restoration of the birthplace of Scotland's Flag  
Unique site tells the history of Scotland's national flag

Saturday 30 November 2019, The Scottish Flag Trust announced an ambitious fundraising drive to restore and upgrade the birthplace of the Saltire, Scotland's national flag.

The Scottish Flag Trust aims to raise £100,000 through crowdfunded donations, individual and corporate donations from Scots across the world.

Today the flag flies proudly all year round from the Saltire Memorial in Athelstaneford Parish Church to celebrate the special connection. The history of the battle and the adoption of the Saltire as the symbol of Scotland is told in the Flag Heritage Centre through a unique audio-visual presentation.

Commenting, David Williamson, Chair of the Scottish Flag Trust said:

"The Saltire is a welcoming symbol for all Scots whether they are Scots by birth, by choice or through their family roots. The Saltire memorial and Flag Heritage Centre celebrate the connection Athelstaneford and East Lothian has as the Birthplace of the Saltire. Our new fundraising programme aims to restore and renew this unique visitor attraction so that more people can learn about the history of Scotland's national flag"

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/saltire>

## Restoration and renewal

The restoration and renewal project will see a new accessible pathway with interpretive timeline telling the history and adoption of Scotland's national flag from 834AD to the present.

New landscaping and engraved paving around the Saltire Memorial will tell the story of St Andrew's and Scot's societies across the globe.

A new immersive audio-visual experience telling the story of the Battle of Athelstaneford and the creation and adoption of Scotland's national flag.



The Doocot

Reharming of the 16th Century lectern doocot which houses the Flag Heritage Centre will maintain this important historic building and keep it safe for the future.



## Note from the editor :

This was submitted after the 2019 magazine deadline, I feel it is important to include it now.

## New member first impressions Clan Chattan Association Gathering 2018

In 2017 I first became aware of the Clan Chattan Association. Visiting friends near Forres we visited a bookshop with a 2nd hand section on Scottish history. The first thing I picked up was a copy of the Clan Chattan Journal and the opening article by Br Pascal Downs OSB was about my own family, the Macphails. For the first time I saw an account in writing of something I'd only heard about as a child. Namely that we couldn't go back beyond 1746 because our direct ancestor, a young boy called James Macphail, was found orphaned at the Battle of Culloden. I bought that copy (Vol X11 – No 2 2008) and several others and read about the Association. It spurred me on and I contacted Denise and Donald McIntosh and was told about the Clan Chattan Gathering the following August 2018. My youngest daughter, Emily, offered to accompany me to the meeting.

In the interim Emily had moved from the south of England to Edinburgh and we decided to spend a week in the highlands doing family history before and after the Gathering. We went initially to Oban to visit Ardchattan and Eriska where earlier pre 1291 generations of Macphails had lived and then via the Great Glen to the MacPhail area south of Inverness and Moy, including Dunclity church to see the plaque put up in 2000 commemorating the Macphails of Inverarnie.

We then attended the AGM and Dinner at Lochardill House Hotel and met many new people. We were made so welcome by Donald and Denise McIntosh and introduced to John Mackfall whose table we joined and where we also met other Mcfalls and Glen Cook from the USA. Everyone was so helpful and to my amazement we realised John Mackfall and I had grown up in the same village in N.Yorkshire and he being much younger than me had known my brother Richard at school. What a small world.

Next day we attended the Field Fair at Moy Hall and met more members in the Clan Tent. We were delighted to visit the Mackintosh Museum at Moy Hall and also to buy many books about Clan Chattan and related subjects as well as John Mackfalls book The Clan Phail. The History of a people.

Anne Fraser Macquarrie gave me a great boost as she took our family's details and offered to look up the parents of James Macphail in the archives.

A week later she emailed me her findings. Wonderful news for us as she had found where they were married and that they had another child, Margaret after James. This was a real breakthrough. The next day we went to Culloden and in the family history section and also in the book "No Quarter given ". We think we have established that James' father John MacPhail was not killed but surrendered after Culloden and was transported to north America. This all has to be followed up now in the USA. We were staying in Nairn where my great, great grandfather John Sinclair MacPhail was buried and over the next 2 days visited Forres, Findhorn and Elgin where they had ministered to the people as Free Church ministers. On our last day we went to Pluscarden Abbey where Simeon Ross Macphail, brother to John Sinclair, had written the definitive history of Pluscarden still quoted today. A History of the Religious House of Pluscarden (Edinburgh 1881)

In 2009 my husband, Iain and I visited the hospital in Madras where, Alexandrina Matilda Macphail worked as a missionary doctor (my great, grandfather Samuael Rutherfrd Macphail's sister.) and where other cousins worked in the Madras Christian College.

### Christine Rutherford Chisholm



Christine with John & Cheryl

## New members March 2019- Feb 2020

Denise	Lagundzin	Canada
Brent	McQueen	USA
Emma	Chattin	USA
Amy	Wall	USA
Paul	McGillivray	Switzerland
David	Geddes	UK
Ian	Hughes	USA
Rhys	Semanko	USA
Christine	Crerar	USA
Michael	Baker	USA
Diana	De Brohun	USA
Gretchen	Van Walterop	USA
Barry	McPhail	USA
Yvonne	Coats	USA
Claire	Shaw	UK
Steven	Cosgrove	USA
Jon	Niehaus	USA
Claire	Dustin	UK
Stephen	Giesecke	USA
Kaye	Nicholson	USA
Emanuel	Meyer	Switzerland
Ian	Macpherson	UK
Brian	McPhail	USA
Steven	McPhail	USA
Kent	McPhail	USA
Kathy	Eisel	USA
Marion	McPherson	USA
Lawrence	Hatter	UK
Karen	Garman	USA



Tent or wall Banner

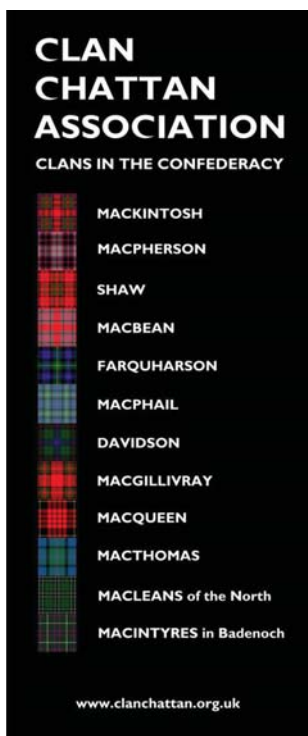
## The Changing Face of the Clan Chattan Association

One of the major decisions made by your council last year was to re-think and develop a new family of images to give us a more unified identity.

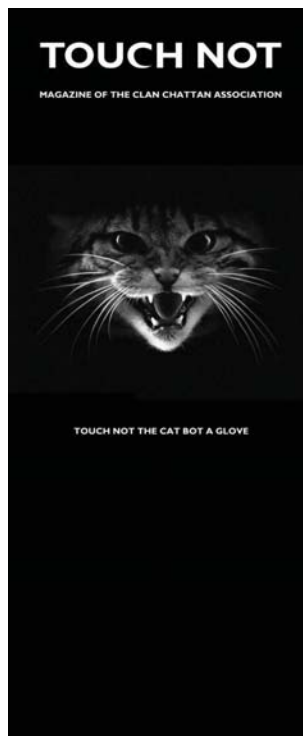
At home here in Scotland we have over the years used various different banners, flags and pop-ups, to show visitors who we are.

Overseas and especially in the USA, coast to coast, where our enthusiastic members have arranged their own displays and banners at various Highland Games, has resulted in many different styles, sizes, colours and messages creating some confusion. What was needed was a 'Corporate Image' and one that would be recognised no matter where it was seen in the world. It had to look the same and it had to have impact.

The following images have been designed and produced by Nigel Mac-Fall to form the new family of promotional material. It is hoped that we can have these ready to use over the summer months.



Pop Up Banner showing the Clans and Tartans of the Confederation



Pop-Up Banner for Touch Not Magazine



Flags for extra impact for outdoors and indoors

## Cover story:

The cover for this years magazine is an image of Loch Moy at Sunset. The image was captured from a drone.

The photo was taken by Sophie Radcliffe, she is an outward bound adventurer who runs an organisation called 'TrailBlazers'.





## The Final Year

The Story of HMS Nancy, Alexander Mackintosh, Miller Worsley and Events of the War of 1812

You may recall from our 2017 Touch Not Magazine and the story of 'HMS Nancy' and its' guns. There is now a book which is described below.

**T**he Final Year. The Story of HMS Nancy, Alexander Mackintosh, Miller Worsley and events of the War of 1812. by Walter Weckers.

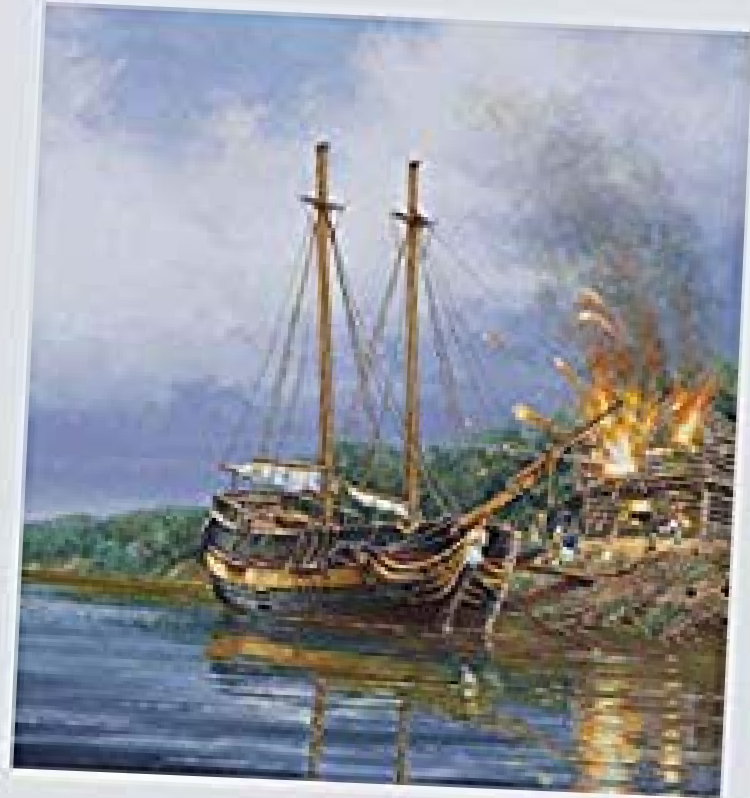
The Final Year follows the Master of HMS Nancy, ~~twenty-six~~ year old Alexander Mackintosh, ~~relying~~ on excerpts from his log, from late July 1813 until the end of the War of 1812. It includes the events after Lieutenant Miller Worsley of the Royal Navy took command of the vessel in 1814, the ~~American~~ attack on the ship, and its dramatic aftermath.

Although the story is fictional, it adheres to known facts and is set within the larger context of the war in Upper Canada, such as General Procter's attacks on Forts Meigs and Stephenson, the Battle of Lake Erie (Put-in-Bay), and Moraviantown. The Nancy was to deliver critical supplies to Fort Mackinac in northern Lake Huron, exposed to the risk of fierce Lake Huron storms as well as enemy attacks. The Final Year also touches on the contributions of Chief Tecumseh and his Con-federacy, and Chief Assiginack (later of Manitoulin Island) during the conflict.

Along the way, the reader is introduced to aboriginal names then in use, including Lake Manitoulin, which was named Georgian Bay in 1822, when the lake was first surveyed, and Potagonnissing, later named Drummond Island, after the Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada during the war.

During the summer months the wreck of HMS Nancy can be visited at Nancy Island, in the Nottawasaga River, Wasaga Beach, Ontario.

**Walter Weckers**



### *The Final Year*

*The Story of HMS Nancy,  
Alexander Mackintosh, Miller Worsley  
and Events of the War of 1812*

*Walter Weckers*

## Gone but not forgotten

During the past year we have learned of the passing of some of our long standing members.

Mr T F McCombie, from Broadstone in Dorset, UK, had been a member since around 1959.

Mr R L McBane from Lilburn, Georgia, USA had been a member since 1962.

These members will be fondly remembered.



2019



The Gathering



# Other Events





# A visit to Chennai and the Macphail connections

Christine Rutherford Chisholm.



Chennai Hospital

I would like to share a very special trip my husband and I were fortunate to be able to make to South India and although we also visited other places the main focus was to visit Chennai, (old Madras) to explore my maternal Grandfather's aunt, Alexandrina Matilda Macphail and the Macphail connections at the Christina Rainy Hospital and the Madras Christian College. We contacted the Christina Rainy Hospital ahead of our visit, where Alexandrina Matilda Macphail had worked from the 1880's for over 40 years, the first woman medical missionary for the Free Church of Scotland), and were thrilled with our visit and the other connections we made whilst there.



Bust of Dr Macphail

Matilda Macphail in the entrance. She had short curly hair and an open necked blouse and looked very modern. We were told she was asked to sit for it just before she left in 1928. The growth from a Dispensary at the back of the church in 1888 to the hospital which finally opened on this site in 1914 was amazing. It is now a multi-specialty hospital but still a mission hospital (run by the Church of South India) but also supported by the Church of Scotland.

Miss Christina Rainy, an educationalist for the Church of Scotland, recognised in 1887 that, although there was provision for men to be seen by doctors there was no one to treat the women and that a female doctor was needed. Alexandrina, daughter of the Rev. John Sinclair Macphail, who was born on Skye on the 3rd June in 1860 and had graduated as a doctor 1887 at the London School of Medicine for Women responded to this call. Alexandrina was newly qualified but unable to practice medicine in Scotland at that time so, within a year of qualifying, this young woman came out to Madras. I read a wonderful account of how she would exasperate her house keeper by going out at 6am in her horse and trap, saying she'd be back for breakfast and seeing women in labour in the slums and not returning till after lunch and then go out again twice more that day on home visits to whoever needed her next. Unlike most European women she never went up to the hills or Shimla in the hot season but stayed in Madras all year round only taking leave back to Scotland after the hospital was up and running.



Hospital Staff

It was unfortunate timing as she returned to the UK in 1917 during the First World War where she then worked for the Scottish Women's Hospitals for Foreign Service as a Chief Medical Officer for the Manchester unit for the Serbian refugees and in 1918 organised their Tuberculosis Sanatorium at Sallanches in the Haute Savoie, France. She returned to Madras after the war and continued to see the hospital grow. The reports I read said she had endless energy and enthusiasm and worked tirelessly to improve the facilities and train young local women to become the future doctors and nurses. I quote from the Medical director Dr Christopher Roy's words "The hospital was initially established to treat women and children but gradually started accepting male patients and soon people from all sections of society started to attend. The hospital helped people to slowly overcome their caste and class prejudices by providing medical care to everyone under the same roof, regardless of religious or social background. Along with the provision of medical care the early seeds of medical and nursing education were sowed and in 1923 the Nursing School was established." In 1918

Dr Macphail was also involved with setting up and teaching at the first Women's Medical College at Vellore.

Whilst visiting the hospital we were invited to have morning tea with the medical staff and Director of nursing and then, unexpectedly, to plant a tree to commemorate our visit. We were then shown round the hospital, and visited the large School of Nursing. This had an enormous impact on us. At the end of our visit we were in the Medical director's office and it was fascinating to see the large oil painting of Christina Rainy in a beautiful long yellow Victorian dress – such a contrast to Alexandrina in her simple working attire.



Christina Rainy

She gave her working life to support the needs of the people of Southern India and received for her work there the Kaiser Hind Medal in 1912, with a bar added in 1918, and the OBE in 1930. She returned to Scotland and retired in 1929. She never married, retiring

to Edinburgh where she died on November 6th 1946. I was born only a few years later and would have loved to have met her; what an inspirational woman. All through my teenage years I knew I wanted to go to India as a nurse but in 1971, whilst doing my post graduate Tropical Diseases Course in London I met my future husband and never got to work in India but instead went to join him and lived and worked in the Solomon Islands in the Western Pacific.

Later when we took Dr Roy and his wife out for dinner, we talked about the other Macphail connections and he offered to set up a meeting with the principal at the Madras Christian College when we returned a week or so later. We then went away to Pondicherry, Mysore and Bangalore and a Game Reserve before returning to see Dr Roy again. He had arranged for us to have tea with the principal at the Madras Christian Collage. Again, we were made so welcome and after tea and being given a book about the Founders and principals we were shown around by Joshua Kalapati.

The Madras Christian College (MCC) was founded by Rev John Anderson, initially as a school. He is considered the pioneer of Higher education in South India. He was inspired by a



talk from Alexander Duff, the first missionary from the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland to India. Anderson arrived in Madras in February 1837 and opened the School in April 1837- by 1841 there were over 400 pupils including a Girls day school which by 1847 had become a Boarding school for girls. He died in 1855. Later this work was continued by Dr William Miller, who came to Madras in 1862 and he also became the first principal when it became the Madras Christian College. He retired in 1907 and his cousin, Dr Earle Monteith Macphail, who was the 2nd son of Rev James Calder Macphail came out at his invitation to MCC from 1886-87, as a temporary professor, before returning to Scotland for 2 years where was ordained. He then returned to the MCC until he left in 1923 to become Vice-Chancellor of Madras University. He was also on the University Legislative Council, and by 1924 also on the Council of State at Dehli and Shimla and the next year went to the Lower House, the Legislative Assembly as the elected representative of Madras. He married in 1892 to Mary Stuart and had 2 children. He finally retired from India in 1927, having also given over 40 years to India – having arrived in Madras a year before his cousin Alexandrina Matilda Macphail he also retired the year before her. He died in Edinburgh in 1937 just as the MCC was moving to a larger site out of town at Tambaram. What conversations they must have had both in Madras and later back in Edinburgh.

Whilst being shown around the MCC we went into the Refectory – modelled on a Scottish College with panelled walls and past principals staring down at us from the walls. We saw not only Earle Monteith but were amazed to see another Dr James Russel Macphail, principal from 1956-1962. I believe he was not directly related to my family but born in Bihar where his father, J.R. Macphail, ran an Eye Hospital. During his Theology studies at New College, Edinburgh he interrupted the course to go to Madras in 1924 to teach English. He returned to Scotland for another 2 years to complete his studies and returned to MCC as professor of English where he remained for 43 years, as a teacher, Warden, Bursar and Vice Chancellor. He never married but was a kind and generous man. On leaving MCC in 1967 after the successful treatment for Cancer at Vellore he gave a large sum of money for the College reserve fund and did not want it publicised. We noticed as we were shown around both a Macphail Sports Hall and a Macphail Arts Centre. He came back to Edinburgh in 1967 and died in 1968.

What a wonderful legacy these 3 selfless Macphails left behind them in south India and their students went on to serve all over India.

I came away from this trip feeling immensely humbled but also proud of these pioneering men and women. It was amazing that they stemmed from a little boy, James Macphail, found wandering after Culloden and taken in and brought up and educated by a family in Wick. Within three generations his descendants were either ministers of the church or doctors and the women the wives of the same or as in Alexandrina's case a doctor herself. What an inspiration. With the help of Anne Fraser Macquarie, Family Historian at the Inverness Highland Archives and Council member we have made a real breakthrough with our own Macphail searches and have now been able to go back two more generations. The search continues; but that's another story.

If anyone wishes to support the work of The Christina Rainy hospital please donate through the Church of Scotland (Foreign Mission) 121, George St, Edinburgh 2.

## Champion Clog Dancer of the World

By: Vivienne Dunstan

I'm a genealogist by hobby, and one of the websites I use regularly is ScottishIndexes.com, which indexes lots of unusual records, including mental health admissions, prison registers and court cases, and paternity cases. One of the paternity cases that I stumbled across there involved George McIntosh, who was described in the court case records as "Champion Clog Dancer of the World". This was in 1903, and at the time he lived at 8 Windmillhill Street, Motherwell, but before then had been at New Camp Rows, Motherwell.

Checking the 1901 census found him at the latter address, aged 20, living with parents Joseph, a coal hewer, and Mary, both born in Ireland, and other children, all the children born in Lanarkshire.

Joseph McIntosh married Mary Parker at Bothwell, Lanarkshire in 1871. Joseph was born circa 1852 in Ireland, son of John McIntosh and Bridget Devlin. I found that this earlier couple had another child baptised at Clonoe, County Tyrone in 1836, but otherwise I couldn't trace the family further back. Mary Parker was baptised at Fermoy in County Cork, daughter of William Parker and Eliza O'Hare.

Clog dancing as a competitive sport originated in the north of England in the mid nineteenth century. As well as being highly skilled it was a visual spectacle. Competitions were usually held in local theatres, and competitors wore velvet knee breeches and a velvet waistcoat plus a sash. Competitors were judged on a number

of criteria, including the number and difficulty of steps performed. Prizes could be money or championship belts, which winners would have worn with pride.

George McIntosh won the world championship by 1903. At the time of the 1911 census he was living in South Shields, England, recorded as George Macintosh, age 30, born Motherwell, music hall artist, single, with a Christina Mackintosh living with him. She was recorded as aged just 4, but this may well be an error. From newspapers we know that George frequently appeared on stage as a comedian and dancer with his partner Tina Royal, and they apparently married, though I have not been able to trace a marriage record for them - Tina may have performed using a stage name. The photo shows the couple together.

Later George was a judge at clog dancing competitions, and was still performing on stage as late as 1935. From the locations reported for him it does seem that he settled in the Newcastle area, but I have not yet traced a death for him.

Whether George and Tina had children together is unknown, but from the paternity case we know that George seemingly had a child born in 1901. And checking the birth records finds her birth certificate: Mary Parker McIntosh (i.e. named after George's mother), illegitimate daughter of coal miner George McIntosh and domestic servant Bessie Baillie, both of whom signed the 1901 birth certificate. The birth certificate includes a later correction relating to the 1903 paternity case, finding that George McIntosh "Champion Clog Dancer of the World" was the child's father. Mary Parker McIntosh married coal miner Joseph McMillan at Motherwell in 1920, though the couple later divorced.

If any readers know more of George's story, or have more information about his Irish ancestors before they settled in Scotland, I would be very interested to hear from them.



George Mackintosh



# The Clan Davidson Association

## The Stirling Gathering and Annual General Meeting

The 2019 Clan Davidson Association held its Gathering and AGM at the Stirling Highland Hotel located close to Stirling Castle during the first weekend of October. The weekend was a great success. We welcomed over 70 members and their guests including several overseas members. Frank Davidson from Australia, Nick Peters from New Zealand came with his parents from the Isle of Wight, Marlou Meuleman and Anne Bitter came over from the Netherlands with their children Sammy Steenvoorden and Rieks Staal, Chris Davidson and Marleen Veervort from Belgium, and Marilyn Davidson and John Elliott from Halifax, Canada.



Friday Night Quiz Night

Throughout Friday and Saturday Nick Hide with help from other members managed the reception desk and busy memorabilia stall. On Friday evening we were set a devilish hard quiz by Sonia Clark and Colin Davidson leaving several teams scratching their heads, but great fun.



Church of the Holy Rude

On Saturday morning local member CDA member Mike Makower led to group of members to the nearby Church of the Holy Rude, they were

given a conducted tour of this historic Church by local guide Brian Morrison.

On Saturday afternoon, we held our AGM. Minutes of this meeting are included as a separate note with this Newsletter. After the formal business was concluded Colin Davidson introduced Julie Christie, a representative from the Start up Stirling, [the Association's selected charity for the year] who made a presentation describing the important work which the organisation undertakes in the Stirling area.



AGM Clan Davidson Council

Following the AGM and Start Up Stirling presentation, Nick Hide gave an illustrated talk which included details about the historic Davidson connections with the Stirling and Fife area and also from further afield. Local connections were particularly relevant as the descendants of one of the families were present namely



Left to right John Elliott etc

Frank Davidson from Australia and Marilyn Davidson Elliott from Canada, whose ancestors came from Boarhills on the east coast of Fife, met for the first time.



Clan Davidson Association Dinner



Dancing to 'The Skelpit Lug'



Marilyn Davidson Elliott



The Blind Mechanic

# Historic Davidson Dress on display in Edinburgh

During a visit to The Wild & Majestic summer exhibition at the National Museum of Scotland, CDA member Catherine Buchanan spotted an important dress on display. This item was worn by Sara Justina Davidson, the youngest daughter of Henry Davidson of Tulloch, following her marriage to Euan MacPherson of Cluny, the Chief of the Clan Macpherson, in 1832. This high-quality silk dress exemplifies the growing popularity of tartan in women's fashion during the early 19th century.



Sara Justina Davidson's dress

## News from Nova Scotia, Canada

In June CDA Member Marilyn Davidson Elliott from Nova Scotia won the Robbie Robertson Dartmouth Book Award for her biography about her father Eric Davidson, *The Blind Mechanic*. This award was made for the book which best celebrates Nova Scotia and its people.





The Lochardi House Hotel

# THE ANNUAL GATHERING OF THE CLAN CHATTAN ASSOCIATION

6th-8th August 2020

## THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING THE LOCHARDIL HOUSE HOTEL INVERNESS

Thursday 6th August 2020

4pm: Gather together.  
Light refreshments will be available

5pm: The AGM of the Clan Chattan Association

7pm: Clan Chattan Association Dinner

**£35.00**

## Friday 7th and Saturday 8th August 2020

### 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 7th August 10am - 5pm**

**Saturday 8th 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](http://www.clanchattan.org.uk) and pay on-line.



# A Treasure Trove

by Dee McPherson

A treasure trove of history lies at our fingertips, and it can be found right here in our Clan Macpherson Museum Library in Newtonmore. I recently spent a few hours in the Museum Library, organizing and shelving nine decades of treasures: The Clan Chattan Journals.

“At all times the Journal seeks to promote a knowledge of Clan Chattan - its past, present and future.” (quote taken from current issue of On the trail of Clan Chattan)

Starting with the 1930s and ending with the current issues, these journals are full of good reading: stories, maps, history, and advertisements. It took much longer than I thought to get these journals chronologically organized, because I stopped more than a few times to explore the stories and photos.

Stories like the one about the Wild Cat . . . and here’s an excerpt!



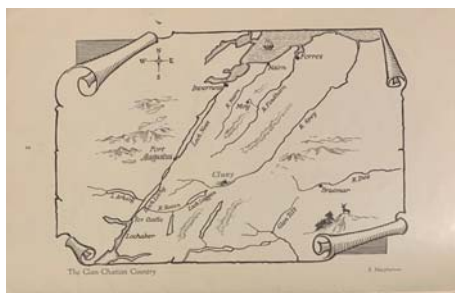
Array of Journals

“Just how and why the Clan Chattan ever adopted the Wild Cat as its emblem and called itself the “Clan of the Great Cat” is not fully known.

The true Wild Cat is *Felis Silvestris*, and at one time was widely distributed all over the British Isles contemporary with such carnivora as the wolf, fox, and probably a species of bear. The advent of man and the growth of civilization and industries are the entire factors responsible for its partial disappearance.

Regarded as vermin, the Wild Cat suffered under the vigilance of gamekeepers. There exists a chart of the number of wild cats killed by one gamekeeper between 1869 and 1880. During the first six years he killed 23, but during the remaining six, only three.”

Maps like this old one of Clan Chattan country . . . and here’s the map!



Clan Map

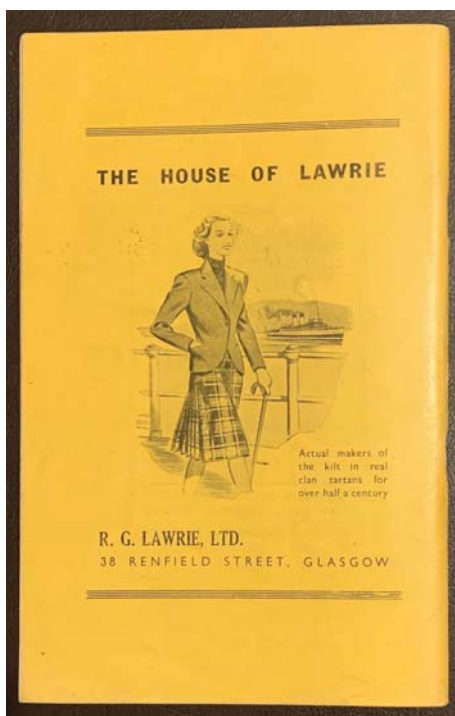
Here’s an excerpt of the beginnings of the third Clan Chattan Association, written at the time of inception . . .

“Since the inaugural meeting held at the St. Andrews Club on the 15th of December 1933, with the Rt. Hon. Sir Ian Macpherson, Bt., P.C., M.P., in the chair, a provisional committee has been hard at work drafting the rules and constitution, arranging matters of finance, and getting into touch with Clan Chattan men all the world over.

Press letters have been published in over 120 newspapers, ranging over Great Britain, Canada, U.S.A., India, Africa, Malay States, and the West Indies. Further, several interested London and other newspapers published references to the Association.”

Advertisements like this one from The House of Lawrie . . . and here’s the photo!

When you have some time, consider visiting the Clan Macpherson Museum in Newtonmore to spend a few hours in the Library perusing The Clan Chattan Journals. Enjoy your walk back into history! (Closed now for the winter months, the Museum opens again April 1, 2020)

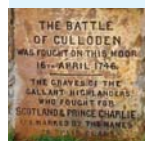


House of Lawrie

# A Pick of the Events in Scotland. 2020.

27th March - 26th April.  
700th Anniversary of the Declaration of Arbroath.

To celebrate, the famous document will go on display for the first time in 15 years, at the National Museum of Scotland.



18th April 2020.  
The Culloden Memorial Service.  
Meet at the Culloden visitors centre at 10.30 am.

18th July 2020. Inverness Highland Games at Bought Park

18th July 2020. Association of Highland Clans and Societies Annual General Meeting  
- Eden Court Inverness

23rd July 2020. Mull Highland Games  
- Clan Maclean

July 31st - 3rd August 2020 - Clan Macpherson Association Gathering  
- Newtonmore. See the Clan Macpherson Association web site for more info



15th- 19th July 2020,  
The Clan MacGillivray Gathering. - Inverness

30th July 2020, 'Ossian Originals'  
An opportunity to view the books of Legend at the Inverness Library at 3.00pm

1st August 2020 Aboyne Highland Games  
- Clan Farquharson

6th-8th August The Annual Gathering of the Clan Chattan Association 2020 - Inverness

21st - 24th August 2020  
MacThomas Clan Gathering Weekend



13th August 2020.  
Ballater Highland Games  
- Clan Farquharson

5th September 2020  
Braemar Gathering 2020  
- Clan Farquharson



## Discovering McFalls Kin

By Diana Whaley DeBrohun

**D**o my American McFalls ancestors connect with MacPhails in Scotland? While I have not yet been able to answer this question, my explorations have resulted in joining the Clan Chattan Association and in discovering a new branch of the McFall/s family in Colorado!

First a bit about my ancestry. I am descended from the pioneer settlers of the Great Smoky Mountains in eastern Tennessee and western North Carolina. I come from a small town in which we joke that everyone is related to everyone else, but for us the truth is in our DNA! Arthur McFalls, my fifth great-grandfather, followed the Great Wagon Road along with many Scots-Irish immigrants from Virginia, where he was born in 1750, to western North Carolina. We speculate that his father, John McFalls, immigrated with relatives from Northern Ireland in the 1740s. What we know for sure is that Arthur served in the American Revolution (on both sides!), was married multiple times and therefore has lots of descendants -- mostly in the Great Smoky Mountains.

Thanks to a member of the Clan Chattan Association, I met one of Arthur McFalls' descendants at the Long's Peak Scottish-Irish Festival in Estes Park, Colorado, in September 2019. Dan Durrant, Colorado convener for Clan Mackintosh of North America, is an all-around excellent convener not only for Clan Mackintosh but also for the Clan Chattan Association. He has a large banner listing all the Clan Chattan associated clans, including MacPhail, that he puts up on his festival tent. This banner attracted the attention of Keelan McFall during the Long's Peak festival. Dan was struck not only by Keelan's last name, but also by his resemblance to me, and promptly introduced us. (Side note: I help host the Clan Anderson tent at Colorado festivals as my husband is a descendant of Anderson and Ross immigrants, so Dan had to go out of his way to make sure Keelan and I met!)

Keelan and I exchanged contact information not knowing of our common ancestor but being struck by some similarities in our features. I immediately sent the photograph to my mother, Linda McFalls, as she is the amateur genealogy expert in our family. Within a short time, she had established that Keelan and I are fifth cousins once removed! Arthur McFalls is Keelan's sixth great-grandfather! Keelan had

never met any McFall/s relatives outside of Colorado but had been told by his grandmother that the family had connections to the Great Smoky Mountains.

While my search for a direct connection to Scotland continues, I am happy to have more relatives to help with that search thanks to the Clan Chattan Association (and Dan Durrant!).



Keelan and Diana

## Tartan day in Melbourne 2019

Rob McIntosh  
(council member in Australia)

**O**n a dry but cold Sunday in July 2019, Melbourne, Australia hosted the Tartan Day Celebrations.

The March included Pipe Bands, dancers and of course wee Scottie Dogs strutting around amongst the crowd. Linda, my wife and I joined the crowd and enjoyed the sound of the pipes and the dancers put on a great performance.

I met up with a member of the Victorian Gaelic Society who was interested in hearing more about the Clan Chattan Association and what we do.

Here is a newspaper clipping

Simon Blackshaw Jr on the bagpipes with Bridget Rae, Hayley Winter, Bernadette Rae and Clarissa Spencer (right); and Elka, Chance and Poppy. Pictures: MARK STEWART

### GREAT SCOTT, IT'S TIME FOR BAGPIPES AND TARTAN

**PROVING** that tartan is a fashion staple for everyone this winter, Scottish terriers Elka, Chance and Poppy are rocking the trend to celebrate their heritage.

The Melbourne Tartan Festival is set to bring texture and colour to the city streets this July to commemorate Scottish culture.

Festival Co-ordinator Carol Davis

**ANGELICA SNOWDEN** said the festival would celebrate all things Scottish, from a gala dinner that would serve haggis, to a traditional pipe band parade on Collins St.

"We want to bring contemporary Scottish culture to Melbourne," Mrs Davis said.

"The festival will add another colourful layer to the wonderful cultural mix we have in Victoria," she said.

Organisers of the Melbourne festival took inspiration from the New York Tartan Day Parade that was celebrated in April.

The festival will run from July 12-21.

**TO BOOK TICKETS TO ANY OF THE EVENTS, VISIT**  
melbournetartanfestival.com.au

Clipping for Tartan Day



# News from the Macleans

The Macleans were to the fore at the Tercentenary of the Battle of Glenshiel last June. Anne chaired the committee that organised the ceremony, Allan led the prayers, and Augusta carried one of the banners. The latter two are both on the Clan Chattan Council. Although the Clan Maclean as a whole declined the invitation that was sent to Mull in 1719 to raise the clan, the Macleans of Dochgarroch were closely connected with the Mackintoshes of Borlum, both by marriage, and territorially, so, along with Donald and Denise McIntosh, the family were pleased to remember the Brigadier and his involvement in the battle. The Brigadier was captured and was incarcerated in Edinburgh Castle for the next 25 years.



Augusta carrying the Banner



Allan Maclean at Glenshiel



2 x Moy Museum Tours

As well as the Commemorative Day at Glenshiel, there was a weekend of activities arranged by the Association of Highland Clans and Societies, jointly with the 1745 Association and Clan Mackenzie. On the Friday, among the activities arranged, was a visit to the cairn at the site of the Rout of Moy [1746] followed by a visit to the Museum at Moy, guided by Donald and Denise, and a visit to Moy Churchyard to see the grave of Donald Fraser, who repulsed the Hanoverian troops. At Moy we were surprised and delighted to be welcomed by John Mackintosh of Mackintosh.

On the Sunday Allan arranged, along with the minister, the Rev Peter Nimmo, for a "Kirkin' o' the tartan" in the historic Old High Kirk in Inverness. There are many Mackintosh and Clan Chattan memorials in the church, including one to the historian and great supporter of the Clan Chattan, Charles Fraser Mackintosh MP.



Outside Old High Kirk

After five years as founding secretary of the Association of Highland Clans and Societies Anne Maclean of Dochgarroch has stepped down. Others noticed that she might have time on her hands, and she was promptly elected as President of the Clan Maclean Association. Already there are facebook entries and emails darting round the world. The Clan Maclean Association has about 4000 names on its database, with separate branches in different countries.

**Allan Maclean of Dochgarroch**

## Announcement

The forthcoming wedding of Hector Maclean of Dochgarroch and Dr Jeannie Van Luyn, will take place in Edinburgh in April 2020. On behalf of all the members of the Clan Chattan Association, we wish Hector and Jeannie all the very best of health and happiness for the future.



Hector and Jeannie



## Bills Story

Is it just me? Every time I am in Scotland, time seems to take a bend and fold and take a funny turn. Seven, seventeen and forty years go by, but it still seems like I had just left. Things that happened three hundred years ago seem like they happened three decades ago.

Last summer, thanks to the creative urging of my wife Mary, I had the opportunity for a wonderful and impromptu trip back home to the Highlands. It was a rich and joyous reunion, with good friends old and new. It was also a regathering with the land of my ancestors, and with myself!

Happily enough, somehow most of my Scottish sojourns seem to start at the supper table of my friends Denise and Donald McIntosh! No matter how many years have slipped away, wrapped in their warm friendship, it always seems that we had just been together a week before!

A few days later, I was quietly walking the lands and pastures at Crathienaird in Deeside and Easter Lair in Glenshee. As I did so, I had a *deja vue*-esque feeling of joyous homecoming, of comfort, and of a fierce and deep peace as I looked with my own eyes at the lands that they had looked at hundreds of years ago with pride with their own eyes...where they worked, raised families in, worried over, and even fought for.

It was the same second sight feeling of 'reunion' as I walked, crept, snuck, scampered or hiked to other nearby Shaw holdings in Glenshee and Glenisla...Auchavan, Dalnaglar, The Balloch, Crandard, Cray, Blacklunans, Auchenleish, Broughdeargh, Rinavey, the Westerton,



Norman and William



Noble Forter

Drumfork, Dalrulzian, Dalvanie, Presnerb, and the entire Shaw 'village' of Auchenree.

With wild heraldic banners flying in the brisk wind, I and several other local Glenisla and Glenshee armigers cheerfully formed up at Forter Castle. We gathered under the kind hospitality of the owner of Forter, Mr. Robert Pooley and his family. With a wee dram, some nibbles and the excitement that together we were renewing a processional tradition that was last done in 1914, we all became fast friends.

As the bagpipers began to fired up, we all colorfully formed up and marched the mile or so down to The Haugh for the 150th annual Glenisla Highland and Friendly Society's Glenisla Highland Games. Accompanied by the pipers, we walked and laughed and talked in a heraldic rainbow of color. But withing the celebration, many of us whose families were from the glens could not help but also feel the spirits of our ancestors there marching shoulder to shoulder with us.. Hundreds of years ago they too marched the same route along the Isla as we did - to a ceilidh or community gathering, to shinty matches, to harvest and work and wall building and to tend herds and to war. Indeed, we were not alone.

As a kindness, the local Seannachaidh, the talented Mr. Kevin Grieg, had gifted me with the cromagh of James Shaw of Auchenree. James was one of the founders of the games in 1856. As Kevin and I walked the lands of Auchenree, I first held that old and beautifully worn simple cromagh. When I did so, I felt a small electric spark that arced across time from 1856 to that day in 2019. Again, I felt was not alone. And, to honour 'cousin James' I a foreigner from across the world, had to do what I could to help in my own way, keep his mission alive.

Ten days later, I was standing in the exact spot that my ancestor the Reverend William George Shaw, Minister of Saint John the Evangelist of Forfar had stood. He was the Rector of Glamis, and was a friend of the then Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorne. In 1871, Reverend Shaw posed with the Earl and his family on the left side of the front porch of the castle. Like the Reverend was in the 1860's, I too was a home-spun Seannachaidh and historian for my sept. Later on, as I laid some







Two Seannachaidhean

heather, a white rose and some boxwood on his grave, I propped my new and old cromagh on the side of the monument, and I felt his kind presence. And, as I too have done what I could to help keep the Reverend's mission to tender the history of the family and clan alive, I felt he was pleased.

And, it's funny. It also seems like many of my good Scottish sojourns just also happen to end with a happy flourish and a meal and a craic with my longtime Clan Chattan partners in crime, Louisa and Stuart Cross! And, when we laughed and hugged and chatted over lunch, Scottish time again payed it's tricks on us. It had been seven years but it seemed like we had just seen each other!

My old friend Rex Davidson said many years ago: 'In Clan Chattan, we find each other'. With the kindness, friendship and generosity that I have found in the Clan Chattan and the Clan Shaw lands and its people, that is certainly the case!



Cromag

## The McBane Event

Organised by Mike Smith of The Cat's Glove School of Traditional Defence, in association with Maestro Paul Macdonald of The Macdonald Academy of Arms, this occurs at the end of June; in honour of the last duel undertaken by Donald McBane, Master Swordsman, in Edinburgh, when he was 63yrs of age – which took place, according to the Edinburgh Evening Courant, on the 23rd of June 1726, against a 28yr old Irish challenger. McBane won, inflicting seven wounds on his opponent, and receiving none himself.

Prior to 2018, the McBane Event took the form a Pub Crawl, from the top of the Royal Mile, to the bottom – finishing at the very pub outside which the duel took place – but from 2018, the Event has become a weekend of swordsmanship training, with a formal dinner, in honour of McBane; including training in McBane's Scottish Back Sword method (although it may be that the Pub Crawl still takes place – I'm saying nothing!)

Other than a chance of surname, what is the connection to Clan MacBean? Well, James McBain of McBain, 22nd hereditary Chief of the Ancient Clan MacBean, was invited to be the Patron of the event; and was delighted to accept. And how about me? As the Chief, and Richard McBain of McBain the Younger, our Tánaiste, were unable to attend the event, I had offered to represent him. I was honoured to be appointed a Chieftain of the Clan MacBean, for the period of the event – in both 2018, and 2019 – as the personal representative of the Chief.

It's my intent to provide a much fuller report on McBane, and the McBane Event, in next year's Touch Not – with more photos, and information on Historical European Martial Arts (HEMA).

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Allan MacBain



Cats Glove School