

Clanswoman of the Year Honored at Salado AGM

Some say that the clansman is the peacock of Scotland. This may be true, but then the clanswomen must be the flowers. Roses and daffodils, heather and peonies are all beautiful but hearty creations. We recognize this truth each year by awarding the Clanswoman of the Year honor to one of these blooms. The woman for whom this award was named gracefully displayed this beautiful strength during her life as noted by the engraving upon her headstone which reads "The Real Steel Magnolia."

The Audrey Peebles McLean Award for the Clanswoman of the year was presented by Robert McLean in honor of his mother. Bob says he always remembers something special about his mother when he presents this award. She was



a very imposing figure to him when he was growing up. At the time he remarked that he was sure that she could lift a



locomotive, read his mind and hear what all teachers around the world said.

The Executive Committee chooses the Clanswoman that has overcome the most obstacles and performed the tasks for the clan that were indispensable.

This year the selection was made early because one of the nominees lived in Texas and everyone thought it would be nice to have the presentation at the Salado AGM. There was little doubt about her being at the games. After all, she was the convenor.

Maybe some have guessed already, the Clanswoman of

the Year for 2008 is Mrs. Ruth Kirmser. Ruth did a first rate job with preparations for the AGM. She admits that she was a little apprehensive at first. So many things to do and so little time, but everything went off like clockwork and everyone had a great time. Ruth has been active in the Clan for many years and has been our representative in Texas and Arkansas. She receives some help from her husband, Kent, and sons, Jamie and Cam, but it is her own unique ability to stand strong in her representation of Clan Maclean that has gained her this well-earned title of 2009 Clanswoman of the Year.

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NEW ADDRESS

Clan Gillean has a new address for all of your needs. Please use this address for all future correspondence.

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A Wee Lassie's Impressions of the U.S.A.

WOW! I have just returned from an awesome trip to the United States! I had no idea what to expect from my first business trip, but the only two things I knew I had to see were, a raccoon and a mailbox! Not only did I get pictures of both, but I found a whole new family too! I only recently found out that I am related to the MacLeans (my granny is a Rankine), I had met Clarence and Bobbye Greek when they were in Scotland.

I came to America with my mum and her business partner Paul – or Slug as he is more commonly known – to attend the Stone Mountain Highland Games, in Atlanta. Together my mum and Paul are “McLean Scotland”, they arrange vacations, mainly tours, of Scotland. I had worked with them before to help plan a renewal of wedding vows on the beautiful Isle of Mull, so naturally when I heard that they were coming to the games, I begged them to take me with them!

After a lot of persuasion they finally agreed!



The clan tent looked fabulous and so did the MacLeans themselves (their outfits were by far the prettiest at the games)! Everyone was so friendly and welcoming that I instantly felt at home. The homemade goodies were pretty awesome too– I can't believe I ate white trash! And they all thought it was hilarious that all I wanted to see was a mailbox and a raccoon, so I was pretty amused when Bob– my adopted “Grumps”– bought an actual raccoon tail, which is now a permanent feature of my tartan kilt!

When the games began I could instantly tell that they were not going to be like the games I was used to in Scotland. For one the park was huge, secondly people were dressed in traditional highland outfits, which was lovely as it reminded me of my true heritage. I have never seen sporrans quite like it– I am sure one man was wearing a baboon! And secondly, the American highland games are so much larger than the games we hold in Scotland! I even took part in the parade of tartans, which made me feel really proud to be a MacLean!

After being in Atlanta I was lucky to spend some time with Marla and Shawn Baswell in their home and experience my first mailbox! I so wish we had them in Scotland. I had great fun exploring their refrigerator! I ate biscuits and gravy for breakfast, which was quite similar to our “dumplings”, but a lot lighter.

We spent a night in the gorgeous Blue Ridge Mountains–raccoon spotting– but only found dead ones, however I was still delighted! I had a great time with my new found family, got a chance to improve my Southern drawl and had my first experience driving an American pickup truck (Yeehaa!).

After my mum managed to drag me away from the mailbox, we had to leave the lovely MacLeans to go home, via New York for a spot of retail therapy! My American experience was absolutely amazing and I hope to see y'all real soon!

By Shona Gillespie, Perth, Scotland.

From the President

Greetings from your president this 2009!

To say that the year is off to a rocky start for all Americans would certainly be an understatement. The economic climate is such that sacrifices will no doubt have to be made in all parts of our society. For our part, we of Clan Gillean USA intend to “keep on keeping on” as we have in past years. We will continue to cover as many highland games and gatherings as possible and sincerely hope that you as members will endeavor to continue your support also. Even if you are only able to attend a game nearby your home, I am sure that your support will be appreciated. We look forward to seeing our members and (hopefully) signing up many new members in the coming months. Please note for your calendar that our Annual General Meeting this year will be held at the Stone Mountain Games in Georgia. Those games are scheduled for October 16-18, 2009.

On a happier note, I am pleased to inform those of you who travel by air on Delta Airlines of an article of interest in the airline’s *Sky* magazine. This article was written by Mickey McLean of Greensboro, North Carolina and chronicles his trip to The Gathering on Mull back in 2007. Mickey is the former Managing Editor of *Sky* magazine and has done an excellent job of capturing the essence of what a visit to Duart Castle on Mull means to most Macleans. Keep a lookout for Mickey’s article when you fly. If you’re not flying anytime soon, you can find his article on line at

http://www.delta-sky.com/sections/index.php/travel/my_ancestral_home/

I look forward to seeing many of you at games this year.

Claude Hicks
President
Clan Gillean USA

What's Coming Up For the Clan?

EVENT	LOCATION	DATE	CONVENOR
Missouri Tartan Days	St. Louis, MO	April 3-5, 2009	Herb McLain
Loch Norman Highland Games	Huntersville, NC	April 17-19, 2009	Betsy McLean
Arkansas Scottish Festival	Batesville, AR	April 17-19, 2009	Jamie Kirmser
Triad Highland Games	Greensboro, NC	CANCELLED	CANCELLED
Bathabra Celtic Festival	Winston-Salem, NC	May 9, 2009	Betsy McLean
Houston Highland Games	Houston, TX	May 16-17, 2009	
Gatlinburg Scottish Festival	Gatlinburg, TN	May 15-17, 2009	Mark Lane
Glasgow Highland Games	Glasgow, KY	May 28-31, 2009	Mark Lane
Greenville Highland Games	Greenville, SC	June 5-6, 2009	Bob McLean
Potomac Celtic Festival	Leesburg, VA	June 13-14, 2009	Joseph Schaub
Grandfather Mountain	Linville, NC	July 9-12, 2009	Betsy McLean

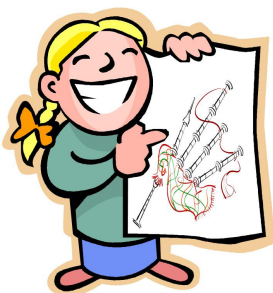




Help Wanted

Have you ever looked at your copy of *The Pipings* and said to yourself, "They should put something about so and so in here?"

Well, here is your chance. Send a short article to the editor. All submissions are welcomed: A picture of a sign with Maclean on it, something about your family that pertains to the clan, local history about prominent Macleans, anything at all. We cannot guarantee that all submissions will be published, but all will be considered for future *Pipings* issues.



Do you have an original drawing or composition from a child or a grand-child? Send it to the Clan *Pipings*. We will try to publish it.

New Members for 2008

Mr. Michael McLane Dearing	Orlando, FL
Ms Jan MacLean	Jacksonville, FL
Mr. Sam Stephen McAbee	Virginia Beach, VA
Mr. David Lynn McLean	Gastonia, NC
Mr. Donald Wade Gauthier	Jacksonville, FL
Mrs. Sylvia J. DeCosta	Orange Park, FL
Mr. Dennis A. McLean	Ft. Bragg, NC
Mr. Jeremy Scott Morris	Greensboro, NC
Mr. Michael Edward Shaddock	Cary, NC
Mr. Walter A. DeCosta	Orange Park, FL
Mr. Robert H. Greene	Knoxville, TN
Mr. Lawrence Andrew Proffitt	Gatlinburg, TN
Mr. Bill Rankin	Sanford, NC
Mr. C. Dan Rankin	Seneca, SC
Mr. Tony McVay	Little Switzerland, NC
Ms. Alice McBryde Coppedge	Asheville, NC
Dr. James Martin McLean	Winston-Salem, NC
Mr. Dennis John Horne	Hubert, NC
Ms. Kay McLean Woolford	Corpus Christe, TX
Mr. William Daniel Pate	Southern Pines, NC
Mrs. Virginia Karlina Dougherty	Knoxville, TN
Mr. Patrick Martin Batey	Pelham, AL
Mrs. Cynthia Dawn Carpenter	Stafford, VA
Mr. Timothy Breen	Washington, DC
Mr. Dorian Dan Lain	Knoxville, TN
Ms. Blanche Elizabeth Caty	Putney, VT
Mrs. Patricia Murchison London	San Pedro, CA
Mr. Neil K. McLean	Cleveland, GA
Mr. Bradley Whitman	Crestview, FL
Mr. Terry McClean	Tucker, GA
Mrs. Lynn Hayward Bisbee	Camden, SC
Mr. Leslie A. McLean	Tallahassee, FL
Mrs. Patricia Leigh London	San Pedro, CA

May those who love us, love us

And those who don't love us, May God turn their hearts

And if he doesn't turn their hearts, may he turn their ankles

So we will know them by their limping!!!

Not all Macleans/Maclaines can be considered heroes or even upright citizens for that matter. Some have gained legendary status through less than honorable behavior. Such is the case of "The Wild McLeans" of Canadian folklore about which a song was written and recorded by Canadian singer/songwriter Ian Tyson.

In December of 1879, "The Wild McLeans," consisting of brothers Allan, Charles and Archie and their friend Alex Hare, went on a drunken rampage of thievery and terror among the populous of British Columbia, culminating in the gunning down of police constable Johnny Ussher and a settler who refused to give them food. Ussher had formed a posse to arrest the boys who had stolen a prize stallion owned by William Palmer. The McLeans were sons of Donald McLean, a reputable trader, who had died some fourteen years earlier. After Ussher's death in the gun battle with the McLeans, the boys were cornered and captured by the authorities, brought to trial, and convicted. Because of a technicality, a second trial was required, but the results were the same. On January 31, 1881, all four were hanged. Allan and Charles were in their mid-twenties; Alex Hare was seventeen; and, Archie McLean was only fifteen, earning him the dubious distinction of being the youngest person ever executed in British Columbia.

As a footnote, George McLean, a son of one of "The Wild McLeans," distinguished himself in World War I in 1917 for an extraordinary feat of valor at the Battle of Vimy where he killed nineteen Germans and captured fourteen. Ian Tyson's ballad appears on the 1964 Vanguard recording *Northern Journey* by Ian and Sylvia and is entitled *Four Rode By*.

FOUR RODE BY

Willie Palmer's stallion was no twenty dollar cayuse
 And when the wild ones stole him he hightailed it into town
 Ussher in those days was keeping order in the district
 But before he'd ridden thirty miles the McLean boys shot him down

Chorus: Four rode by, rode through here
 Three Mclean boys and that wild Alex Hare
 They were armed, all were armed
 It was them I'd have known them anywhere

A shepherd known as Kelly saw the wild bunch as they passed
 They shot him with a rifle and took his watch and chain
 When the posse found them there in the lonely cabin
 A hunger took their fight away and no one else was slain

Chorus

They hung the boys in January eighteen eighty-one
 First time in that province that they'd strung up brothers three
 And the son killed nineteen Germans cross the seas back in seventeen
 One thing that's for damned sure *they're a wild old family*

Chorus

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