

## New President Elected at AGM

Anyone who claims that it is always warm and beautiful in Georgia in October should enjoy the “pleasure” of running around in the woods 30 degree rainy weather to see if Georgia really is all sunshine and smiles.

In spite of this lack-luster weather, the Annual General Meeting for Clan Gillean convened without a single casualty of over-exposure or frostbite. All new business was completed including the presentation of an amendment to the by-laws which would change the date of office for all officers elected at a AGM to January 1<sup>st</sup> of the following calendar year. Elections were held and James C. McLane III of Houston, TX was reelected as Region 2 Director. Robert Stanley McLean, hailing from Raleigh, NC was elected to a 3-year term as President. Robert McLean then made a brief recommendation that Reverend Patrick Maclean be appointed by the executive committee to fill the one year unexpired term of vice-president. In other business, it was decided that Clan Gillean will present Maclean Heritage Trust with a donation of \$500 and an additional \$250 will be donated to a scholarship fund in the name of Lady Mary Maclean.



Of course the highlight of the year and the AGM is the presentation of Clanswoman of the Year Award. The Audrey Peebles McLean Memorial Award is presented to a woman of the clan who has demonstrated the exceptional investment of time, effort and service to Clan Gillean for the past year and many years before. This year’s trophy was presented to Ms. Betsy Renee McLean for her countless hours of loving service to the clan both at clan events and behind the scenes. Betsy’s mother, Pat, was the recipient of the award in 2007 making the receipt of this award a true family affair and a wonderful end to a sensational (albeit soggy) AGM.

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## Attorney Needed

Clan Gillean USA, Inc. needs a good lawyer. No, we have not stolen any cattle or sheep and we have not assaulted the Campbells.

We need to file documents with the IRS to obtain 501C3 status. This will allow donations to Clan Gillean USA, Inc. to be claimed as a income tax exemption.

Unfortunately, we don't have the funds to hire an attorney to file the forms. So if you know of anyone wanting to perform a little pro bono work, please get in touch with one of the officers listed on the back page.

## The Scottish Pikemen

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The word, **pike**, (Gaelic *gaedus*, later, *pic*) almost always refers to a spear carried by foot soldiers, and used en masse. It tends to be long – the *sarissa* of the Macedonian phalanxes of Alexander was said to have been from 17' to 22'. Some references to the pikes used to protect musketeers have them at 26'. The Swiss gained a reputation of invincibility for some 200 years based on their combination of 15' – 20' pikes, and the halberd, a long hafted combination axe/spike weapon.

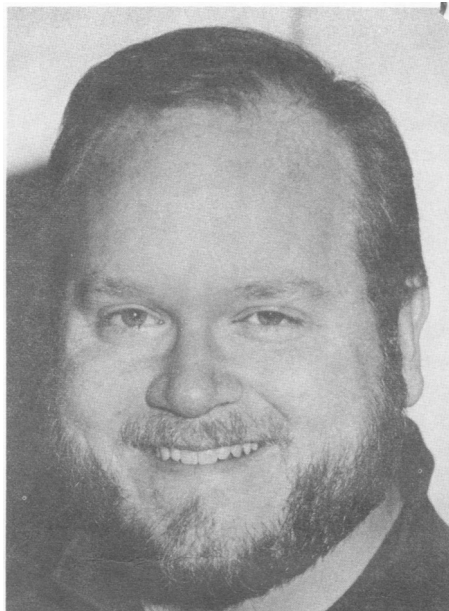
The preferred wood in Europe for spear shafts was almost universally accepted as ash. Indeed, the Norse word, *aesc* was a kenning, a poetic word, for spear. However, other woods might be used, such as oak, linden, or other hardwoods. Butt caps might be present to prevent splintering of the butt.

The original pike of the schiltrons was anywhere from 9' – 12', with a variety of head shapes, many made by local smiths. This might have been the norm since the time of the Picts, who were known to have used masses of pikemen. However, a relatively small head eventually came to be preferred, for its efficiency in penetrating mail, or the joints in plate armor. The quality of the socket varied widely, but most would have been made to withstand hard use. Languets, the metal straps running back from the socket along the shaft, might be welded to the socket, separate, or missing. When present, they protected the shaft from sword/axe cuts. Butt caps for pikes would not normally be pointed, since they could wound men in the second or third ranks if they were forced back, or up, from impact.

The tactical use of pikes did not change much over the centuries, but the Swiss and the Scots were the prime examples from the 14<sup>th</sup> Century onwards. Against enemy footmen, the front three or four ranks would level their pikes at shoulder height, hands gripping the shaft rather widely apart, so as to deliver a slightly downward thrust, according to Professor Oman. With the momentum of the charge, there were few troops who could withstand such an attack without extra support. If a stalemate did occur, as against another body of pikemen, the front ranks might open up for the halberdiers to come through. This was often the bloodiest phase of the battle. The Scots' schiltrons were often weak in this aspect, although Lochaber & Jeddart axes would have been ideal in the role.

(continued in the February, 2010 issue)

Imagine, if you will, an issue of *The Pipings* containing an article about the election of Patrick R. Maclean



to the office of vice-president held at the AGM at Stone Mountain, Georgia. This article reports that the newly-elected Patrick is a native Floridian and a Lifetime Member of Clan Gillean USA. It praises his many writing contributions to *The Pipings* covering a range of interests from clan history to Scottish Music. It mentions that Patrick is a trained actor, director and theatrical educator who has worked at all levels in dramatic arts including the directorial staff of the Colorado Shakespeare Festival as well as his work with London and New York direc-



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tors. Of course this article would not be complete without mention of Patrick's marriage to the former Laura Elizabeth Pertusi or the fact that the Macleans make their home in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Such an article would sound perfectly normal and not at all out of the ordinary for anyone even remotely familiar with Patrick Maclean. So what is so unusual about that article? Well, it was published in *The Pipings* in 1993. Over the last 15 years some things change and other things stay the same. Patrick is now Father Patrick with the addition of a white collar and a stylish pair of spectacles, but much of the story has remained the same. Patrick's contributions of history, knowledge and service are still a foundational force for Clan Gillean. And for that, we thank you, Father Patrick. . . for then and for now.

### LOCH NESS

Mr John MacLean 1938

From the Half Way House Tea Room, now the Altsaigh Youth Hostel. A sighting of a head and neck at a range of only 20 yards (18m). Mr MacLean claims that the creature was in the process of swallowing and did so in the manner of a cormorant. Shortly afterwards the entire length of the monster with two humps and a tail became visible. The whole animal then lay on the surface for several minutes.

## What's Coming Up For the Clan?

EVENT	LOCATION	DATE
Alexandria Christmas Walk	Alexandria, VA	December 4, 2009
Central Florida Highland Games	Winter Springs, FL	January 16-17, 2010
Northeast Florida Highland Games	Jacksonville, FL	February 27, 2010
Arizona Scottish Gathering	Mesa, AZ	February 27, 2010





## Ceud Mile Failte from Kansas!

The 16th Annual McPherson Scottish Festival held the weekend of August 25-27th 2009 in McPherson Kansas celebrated the Year of the Clans and Families of Scotland. Joining in the spirit of family unity we were honored to have Carol McClain-Beck and her family with us next to the clan tent for their family reunion. Heavy rains cancelled the fire lighting ceremony on Friday night but mouths watered as they carried the roasted hog indoors for a generous feast with all the trimmings. A bright sun greeted us on Saturday morning as we were joined by several members for the midday parade with a hearty "Another for Hector" being shouted when our clan name was called. Sunday's Kirking of the Tartans service brought with it a message to honor our family by remembering WHO we are with a passage from Numbers 1:2 "The Lord spoke to Moses....take a census of the whole Israelite community by their clans and families." Blessed are we WHO are part of the clans and families of God. May he continue to bless and give us those special people who organize and support these events.



Thanks go to Kyle Webb McLean of Wisconsin for his service to our country and for a safe return from overseas duty. Kyle stopped by to show us his clan pride by removing his shirt to reveal a color tattoo on his back of the McLean crest and motto "Virtue Mine Honour". Murdock Trembly was again taking on his competition with an excellent performance in the heavy athletics. Of course we always have a bit of silliness and fun with the children who drop by to get their passports stamped for the children's games. Parents are not forgotten as they received a recipe for Spiced Drambuie Peaches. After a day of following lil ones around many told us they were going to leave out the peaches and just go for the drambuie. It has been said...many times I might add, that there is nothing like the sight of a man in a kilt. Unless you look over to see a row of men with their kilts pulled up over their knees and a sweet lass inspecting them for the "Knobby Knee" contest! Congratulations to the winner and which one of you brave MacLeans will challenge his title next year?

It is with great pleasure we announce that the MacLeans will be the host clan for the McPherson Games in 2010. This will be a double honor as next year we celebrate our 10th anniversary with the festival. We would like to invite everyone to join us in the hospitality tent for a weekend of fellowship and fun.

## ON THE TARTAN TRAIL

*Nancy Hendreschke*

Lochcarron is famous for its wonderful tartans, knits and cashmere products. The mill is located in the village of Selkirk, in the border region of Scotland. This location is fairly new for Lochcarron, as it was previously housed in several buildings in Galashiels.

There are tours offered at various times, but the best time to visit is on Friday. The mill operates on a four day work week, with workers putting in ten hour shifts per day. Since we visited on a Friday, the mill wasn't operating and we were able to walk all through the work area. Our guide was "Alwyn", a very knowledgeable gentleman who patiently answered all of our questions.

Since Lochcarron dyes all of its own yarns, they are able to have consistency in color batches. The loom is set up for a particular tartan, and some tartans are much more complex than others. The loom master runs the loom for about twelve inches, then stops the loom and does a thread count. If there is an error, he is able to correct it before more tartan is woven. Lochcarron doesn't sell "seconds"; if several yards of tartan are woven with an error, workers either pull out a thread or weave in a missing thread by hand. Needless to say, it is very laborious! This also helps explain why tartan is so expensive.

It was quite a sight to see shelf after shelf full of beautiful tartans. The showroom was full of beautiful scarves, sweaters and throws. There were two changing rooms that were shaped like tents. I was thrilled to see that one of these tents was entirely constructed of our beautiful Weathered Maclean tartan! I purchased a Pendleton skirt several years ago that I fell in love with the moment I saw it. I hadn't realized at the time that it was Weathered Maclean. We made a few purchases (of course), and then moved on to the tea room for much needed refreshment.

If you have an opportunity to visit the Borders, please take some time to tour Lochcarron—you won't be disappointed.

## CLAN MACLEAN GATHERING, JUNE 2012 ON THE ISLE OF MULL, SCOTLAND

Join us and many other Maclean's for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary gathering.



MCLEANSOTLAND offer fully packaged tours of Scotland all year round. We book accommodation, transport, ferries, everything you need for a memorable vacation to the homeland! Any number of people, any number of nights. Why not add to your trip by staying overnight in a castle?

MCLEANSOTLAND are now taking bookings for the Clan Gathering on Mull in 2012. We are offering self drive tours with auto shift vehicles working with you on your itinerary so you see the real Scotland. We provide maps and excellent tour notes with our personal recommendations on where to eat and visit etc. Or we can arrange a personal tour with a Scottish driver guide. We are also offering a 10 day escorted coach tour hosted by Liz and Paul (left) with whisky tasting, distillery tour, castles, Culloden Battlefield, Loch Ness & Loch Lomond, lots of fun and free time for golf, shopping and relaxation. Hotels in Glasgow, Mull, Strathpeffer and Pitlochry.

"You made this a very special trip for us. There was attention to every detail and it showed throughout our trip. Your hospitality is unmatched! You are not just a travel agency to us, we consider you family and good friends. Count us in for 2012!" Mark & Julie Lane, 2007 Gathering Tour.

**Who better to work with  
than another McLean?**

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**The Pippings  
Clan Gillean USA**

**We're on the WEB**  
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