

# The Pippings

## Of MACLEAN

NEWSLETTER OF THE MACLEANS, MACLAINES  
& RELATED FAMILIES  
SIR LACHLAN HECTOR MACLEAN OF DUART AND MORVERN BT., CVO, DL  
Twenty-Eighth Chief of Clan Gillean

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## Letter from New President

The first day of 2010 indeed a day of great happiness for me. For those of you unfamiliar with my rambling or my photo, allow me to introduce myself as Robert Stanley McLean, your clan president for the next three years. It is my great honor to have been chosen by the member-



ship to lead this special organization. Perhaps the only person who could be any happier about the election is Claude W. Hicks Jr. who has held this job well and nobly for four years and is now ready to hand the reins over to someone else.

Claude can look back over his last four years of service with pride. He has presided over the association during both trying and prosperous times. He has overseen many new ideas and updates of old processes. Thank you, Claude, for your hard work, dedication and leadership. You have set a presidential standard that will be a challenge to match for years to come.

As we look forward, we face a sizeable challenge as members of the Maclean Clan. Today's economy does not allow for much disposable income which is the "bucket" from which most of us pay for our clan activities. My goal for Clan Maclean is to increase membership nationwide and to do that we must grab the attention of young people. We have created a Facebook group page to connect to the online community and are searching for other options to attract the younger generation to the benefits of clan membership. This new technology is a great asset, but our conveners are still the front line of clan growth. Anyone with an interest in becoming a convener or deputy convener is encouraged to contact a member of the executive committee or board of directors. We can always use more represen-

tation at the various Scottish games and festivals across our country. If you know of an event in your area where Clan Maclean is not represented, please let us know! Together maybe we can change that for the better.

Looking forward provides another exciting event for all Macleans at The Gathering at Duart Castle on Mull Island, Scotland in June of 2012. This event may be two years away, but that is not too early to start the planning process. This gathering holds special significance as it is centennial year celebration of the castle's restoration, and you won't want to miss it.

As I begin this time of clan service, I look forward to meeting many new friends over the next few years. If I can be of any assistance to you, please call me or send me an e-mail.

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# WEAPONS OF CLAN MACLEAN

By ROBERT FORSMAN

## The Scottish Pikemen

(Continued from November 2009 Issue)

Neither Scots nor Swiss would deign to stand on defense against other footmen. But against horse, the front few ranks would ground their pikes, with the point at the level of the riders, with the later ranks grasping the shaft at waist to chest level. This allowed for an upward thrust toward the rider and mount. The few instances where some mighty warrior might force his horse through the pikes are remembered in honor of his futile, and final, act of bravery.

The main weakness of properly deployed pike formations lay in their vulnerability to missile weapons. The Swiss finally “bit the bullet” at the Battle of Marignano (AD 1515), and the Scots always had to contend with Sassenach archers. The other weakness lay in the need to maintain a compact formation. If a charge had to be

made over rough terrain, the formation might be opened up, with sometimes disastrous results. Two examples of exploitation of the latter weakness were the Roman defeat of Macedon at the Battle of Pydna (168 BC), and the Spanish slaughter of the Swiss pikemen in the service of France at the Battle of Ravenna (AD 1512).

The great defeat at Flodden (AD 1513) was partly due to those conditions. Another factor might be due to James IV’s use of advisors. He outfitted his troops with 15’ **Swiss pikes**, some small hand targes, and some body armor, and 40 French captains to train his troops. Some might say that the last item was his biggest mistake. The French generals for over 200 years almost uniformly misunderstood how to use pike tactics and how to defend against them. James paid dearly for this. Accounts differ, but some say he discarded his **half-pike** during

the battle and died in the front ranks. “Going to war without the French is like going deer hunting without your accordion” made the rounds just prior to the second Iraq action.

At least two sources I have found say that the half-pike was the **spontoon**, a spear of 7’ – 9’ usually with cross bars behind the head, much like some boar spears. The British army used them as leading staves up through the 1700’s, symbols of rank. Of course, it might just refer to the shorter pike used in earlier centuries.

By the end of the 1500’s, pikes began to be relegated to the defense of musketeers while they reloaded, and were no longer the battle-winners of earlier times. As muskets became more efficient, and faster loading, and with the increased use of the bayonet, the pike gradually became obsolete.

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### ***Drambuie Ice Cream***

#### **Ingredients:**

4oz/125g caster sugar (fine granulated sugar)  
6 egg yolks  
3 tablespoons Drambuie

6 tablespoons water  
7 fluid ounces (210ml) double cream, lightly whipped

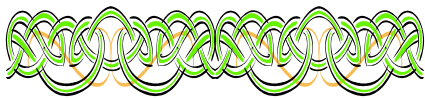
*Note: In Britain a tablespoon holds 17.7 ml while in America it holds 14.2 ml; all measurements in this section are in British values.)*

#### **Method:**

Bring the water and sugar to the boil in a small saucepan and then set aside. Whisk the egg yolks over a bain marie. Once they are light in colour, add the water and sugar mixture and whisk until it forms a ribbon. Then remove from the heat and continue to whisk until it is cool. Add the Drambuie and the lightly whipped cream. Freeze overnight.

*Then and Now*

My name is Nancy McLean Hendreschke, and I'm excited to be associated with Clan Gillean USA as your Secretary. My husband



(Gene) and I have three great sons in far flung locations. Andrew and Kim are in Highlands Ranch, Co. Tyson and April are in Dubai, UAE, and Eric is in Bozeman, Montana. Gene makes a

great barbeque, and has been given the official title of "Chief Cook and Bottle Washer" of Clan Gillean USA. I enjoy singing as part of a Praise Team, gardening and reading.

Scottish culture is a great thing, and it tends to draw in scattered descendants in a magnetic sort of way. I didn't know much about my Scottish roots until they were pointed out by a college professor. He gave me a map of Scotland that showed the ancient Maclean land holdings. The light finally dawned when I went to my first Scottish festival in western Maryland many years later. There wasn't a Maclean tent, but there was the "Scottish Ancestry" type of tent. I came away with a true sense of belonging, and a wonderful longing to know more.

I joined Frederick County Scottish Association, and attended many festivals and games in Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania. Since Scots tend to seek each

other out, my husband and I have attended functions ranging from Enumclaw, Washington, Pikes Peak Highland Games in Estes Park, Colorado, and of course the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games. We have always been warmly welcomed as "cousins". The warmest welcome (by far) has been by the Clan Gillean USA cousins. I truly miss my friends in Clan Gillean when we haven't gotten together over the winter months.

As part of your Executive Committee, it's our goal to increase membership in areas where there isn't much "Maclean presence". Please try to attend as many Clan functions as possible this coming season; you'll always find a warm welcome from your cousins!

Our Clan Gathering is coming up in 2012 in Scotland. It's a tremendous thrill seeing Duart Castle for the first time – it's a magnificent place! Begin planning for this wonderful event.

Q. What's the difference between a bagpipe and an onion?  
A. No one cries when you chop up a bagpipe.

Q. Why do bagpipers walk when they play?  
A. Moving targets are harder to hit.

Nowadays the Scots do not play bagpipes to frighten their enemies.

They do it to annoy their neighbors

Q. Why is a bagpipe like a SCUD missile?  
A. Both are offensive and inaccurate



# MUSIC AND THE MACLEANS

Claude Hicks FSA Scot

One of the most popular contemporary songs of Scotland is *Caledonia*. This song was written by a Maclean— Dougie Maclean, a Scottish singer-songwriter, composer and multi-instrumentalist. Since his earliest days as a solo artist, Maclean has penned numerous songs about his beloved homeland. Prior to striking out on his own in 1981, he played with the well-known Scottish bands Silly Wizard and The Tannahill Weavers.

*Caledonia* is truly a love song— a song that expresses Maclean's love for his country. He tells the story of how *Caledonia* came about: he had been performing (translate "bumming around") in Europe while in his early twenties and wrote the song while with friends on a beach in France. He says that at the time, he was genuinely homesick for Scotland. He wrote the song and played it for his friends who likewise became homesick. The next morning, they all got up and left for their homeland!

I can personally attest to the reverence that Scots have for *Caledonia*. On my first trip to Scotland several years ago, I stopped into a pub in the basement of Balnain House, a folk center in Inverness, where music was being sung and played by a small number of individuals while others listened. I have long been involved with folk and bluegrass music and at that time had only recently begun to sing and perform Scottish songs. These kind folks invited me to sing and play along with them. I was amazed at their knowledge of some of my "American" songs; they seemed to be equally amazed that I knew quite a few of their songs. A good time was had by all. At the end of the session, Dougie Maclean's *Caledonia* was sung by everyone present. I could literally see the emotion in their eyes as they sang!

Dougie Maclean has been quoted as saying that *Caledonia* "touches not just Scots, it's huge in Ireland and it is a big song in America too. So it is not just about being Scottish, it is that sense of belonging that touches the nerve on people." In the Homecoming Scotland gathering in 2009, *Caledonia* was chosen to be the theme song. Indeed, it has become a second national anthem of Scotland!



By Dougie MacLean

I don't know if you can see  
The changes that have come over me.  
In these last few days I've been afraid that I might drift  
away;

So I've been telling old stories, singing songs  
That make me think about where I came from  
And that's the reason why I seem so far away today.

(Chorus)

Oh, but let me tell you that I love you  
That I think about you all the time;  
Caledonia you're calling me and now I'm going home  
If I should become a stranger  
You know that it would make me more than sad  
Caledonia's been everything I've ever had.

Now I have moved and I've kept on moving,  
Proved the points that I needed proving,  
Lost the friends that I needed losing,  
Found others on the way;  
I have kissed the ladies and left them crying,  
Stolen dreams, yes there's no denying  
I have traveled hard with coattails flying  
Somewhere in the wind.

(Chorus)

Now I'm sitting here before the fire,  
The empty room, the forest choir;  
The flames that could not get any higher,  
They've withered now they've gone;  
But I'm steady thinking my way is clear  
And I know what I will do tomorrow  
When the hands are shaken and the kisses flow,  
Then I will disappear.

(Chorus)



# Clan Gillean U.S.A. Treasurer In for a Penny, in for a Pound

Mark Allen Lane has served as clan Treasurer since January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009.



In addition to serving as treasurer, he is also the Tennessee Convener for the clan and Deputy Convener for Western North Carolina. The native

Knoxville, Tennesseean has been employed with Darlington, SC based Diamond Hill Plywood for the past twenty-four years.

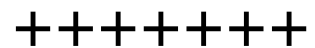
An impromptu getaway weekend trip to the Stone Mountain Highland Games in 2004 peaked his interest in his own genealogy and Scottish heritage. It was there that he first visited the Clan Gillean, USA tent and discovered the rich history and proud heritage of the Clan MacLean. Mark credits his mentors, Clarence and Bobbye Greek, with helping to develop and cultivate that interest.

Mark's personal goal is to get as many people, especially young people, interested in their Scottish heritage. It is very rewarding for him to see

the excitement on the faces of those who have come by the tent and find that they do have Scottish roots. It is even more rewarding when they are MacLeans!

As active members of the Scottish Society of Knoxville, TN and the Highland Rim Scottish Society of Tullahoma, TN, Mark and wife Julie enjoy attending various society functions throughout the year. When time permits, he also enjoys fishing and scuba diving.

Mark and Julie currently reside in Lenoir City, TN and are the proud parents of daughters Sara, Molly, and Meghan and son, Mark. They also share their home with their lovable Beagles, Wallace and Dixie.



The "Curse of Scotland" is the name given to a playing card, the nine of diamonds. The Duke of Cumberland is said to have scribbled the order to give "no quarter" on such a card before the Battle of Culloden. Others say that the derivation is from the coat of arms of John Dalrymple, 1st Earl of Stair who signed the order for the

## What's Happening

### Upcoming Clan Events

EVENT	LOCATION	DATE
Columbia Tartan Fest	Columbia, SC	April 3, 2010
Missouri Tartan Days	St. Louis, MO	April 9-11, 2010
Rural Hills Scottish Festival and Loch Norman Highland Games	Huntersville, NC	April 16-18, 2010
Arkansas Scottish Festival	Batesville, AR	April 23-25, 2010
Triad Highland Games	Greensboro, NC	May 1, 2010
Bathabara Celtic Festival	Winston-Salem, NC	May 8, 2010
Gatlinburg Scottish Festival and Games	Gatlinburg, TB	May 15-17, 2010
Houston Highland Games and Celtic Festival	Houston, TX	May 15-16, 2010
Greenville Scottish Games	Greenville, SC	May 28-29, 2010
Glasgow Highland Games	Glasgow, KY	June 4-6, 2010
Potomac Celtic Festival	Leesville, VA	June 12-13, 2010
North Alabama Highland Games	Scottsboro, AL	June 18-19, 2010
Grandfather Mountain Highland Games	Linville, NC	July 8-11, 2010

As a bagpiper, I play many gigs. Recently I was asked by a funeral director to play at a grave side service for a homeless man. He had no family or friends, so the service was to be at a pauper's cemetery in the Kentucky back-country. As I was not familiar with the backwoods, I got lost; and being a typical man I didn't stop for directions. I finally arrived an hour late and saw the funeral guy had evidently gone and the hearse was nowhere in sight.

There were only the diggers and crew left and they were eating lunch. I felt badly and apologized to the men for being late. I went to the side of the grave and looked down and the vault lid was already in place. I didn't know what else to do, so I started to play.

The workers put down their lunches and began to gather around. I played out my heart and soul for this man with no family and friends. I played like I've never played before for this homeless man. And as I played 'Amazing Grace,' the workers began to weep. They wept, I wept, we all wept together. When I finished I packed up my bagpipes and started for my car. Though my head hung low my heart was full. As I was opening the door to my car, I heard one of the workers say, "Sweet Mother of Jesus, I never seen nothin' like that before and I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years."

When Hector's cat died he asked the minister if he could bury it in the church cemetery. "Certainly not" said the minister. Hector then asked the Anglican minister and got the same answer. The next day Hector met his own minister who asked if he was still trying to bury his cat. Hector told him that in desperation he had even offered the Jewish Rabbi fifty pounds to bury him but he had refused too. The minister's face immediately lit up. "Why didn't you tell me it was a Church of Scotland cat?"



**The Pippings  
Clan Gillean USA**

**We're on the WEB**  
www.maclean.org  
www.clangilleanus.org

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