

The Pippings



Clan Gillean U.S.A.

In 2010 the new officers set an agenda for the coming year that included a visit from Clan Maclean's chief, Sir Lachlan Maclean. Arriving on April 15th, 2011, he and Lady Rosemary attended the Rural Hill Scottish Festival and Loch Norman Highland Games, Huntersville, North Carolina.

Approximately one hundred of the Maclean clansmen participated in the events of the weekend celebrating our Scottish heritage through competitions in piping, dance and sports. As always, some liquid refreshment was shared along with huge amounts of great food—both Southern and Scottish.

The President of Clan Maclean International Ian McLean and wife, Marjorie travelled from Nova Scotia to welcome the Chief and meet clan members from Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Texas, Tennessee, Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and North Carolina. Despite the record breaking number of tornadic events recorded that day, the games went on as scheduled with only a slight rain delay.

The reception held at The Ranson House allowed the lads and lassies to don their finest Scottish attire and visit in a more intimate setting with the honored guests. All of the entertainment was provided by members of Clan Gillean. Two of the younger clan members, dancer Caitlin McLean, Delaware, and piper

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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Cameron Gabriel, South Carolina, demonstrated their talents. Creating the festive mood on the piano was Laura MacLean. Claude and Lyn Hicks provided vocals accompanied by his guitar.

An event such as this requires much planning and details. Chairing the Event Committee was Reverend Patrick MacLean assisted by Connie Sutton, Betsy McLean, Pat McLean and many other volunteers including Shawn and Marla Baswell, Alison List, Joshua List, Bob Forsman and Matthew List, Eph and Jane McLean. Without their efforts this event could not have been as successful. A thousand thank yous to all that contributed to a memorable occasion.

We look forward to The Gathering next year at Duart Castle to spend time renewing friendships and remembering this very special visit.

Fare thee well, Haste ye back!

You will find in this envelope two documents. One is this copy of The Pippings. The other is a copy of The Battleaxe, the annual newsletter of Clan Maclean International Association. If you have not indicated that you wish to receive the newsletter via the internet then we mail both documents to you. We feel that this is one of your benefits as a dues paying member of Clan Gillean USA. However the printing and mailing is a very large expense for our budget.

If you so choose, you may request that we make both available to you on our website. Just send an E-mail to pippings@clangilleanusa.org and ask that we change your delivery method. You will save us money and you will get a newsletter with color and much better resolution.....editor



"All of us will have been saddened by the news of Duncan McLean's passing away recently. My friend, whom I called "our MacLean Leprechaun", may have been small in size, but was a true friend with a giant personality. His infectious smile and dynamic personality will be sorely missed. Ian and I sat and chatted a few weeks ago when the Chief visited the US and shared stories of Duncan. He was one of the six American and Canadian Association Presidents who participated in our North American summit in Chicago in the early 1990's. He and Scott McLean, President of the PNW Branch who died several years ago, were instrumental in the forging of the alliance between the various worldwide associations and worked with other key players such as Col. Donald and Donald (Chorleywood) to grow CMIA. I believe that Duncan was the first CMIA President who resided out of the UK. Duncan was always supportive of "things MacLean" and will be sorely missed. One of his last initiatives was the contact and support of MacLeans in South America and his desire to assist them in forming an association.

O. Kirk Lane

Past-president, Clan Gillean U.S.A.

April 15-17, 2011



Sir Lachlan and Lady Maclean arrive to open the Rural Hill Scottish Festival.



The Chief officially declares the games open.



The honored guests arriving at reception



The Chief and USA clan president Bob McLean visit the first of many clan tents at the games.

In addition to receiving the North Carolina pottery tea set, Sir Lachlan and Lady Rosemary became adoptive "parents" of Lachlan Hector, a custom Cabbage Patch soft sculpture baby, presented by Margaret McLean, Director of Communication. This special delivery was accompanied by the rare signature of Xavier Roberts, founder of Cabbage Patch Kids. For more information about the story of Lachlan Hector see clangilleanusa.org home page







Castle Duart U.S.A.

The Fort Dewart Project, by Ian MacLean, CMHT

Some of you will have read my piece on Castle Duart, Pennsylvania, more commonly known as Fort Dewart. It is a redoubt (small fort) built in 1758 by Captain Sir Allan Maclean and his clansmen, when they were serving with Montgomery's Highlanders. Others of you have heard me "going on" about it at the recent Rural Hills games. Your President, Bob McLean, my wife, and I had the opportunity to visit the site, and meet the local owners, supporters and historians. What a visit it was!

Many of you will have heard of Fort Ligonier, - home of the Fort Ligonier Games, and also in Pennsylvania. Phil Light, a local Mayor, AND a big supporter of anything that will spread the word about Fort Dewart and the Forbes Road (of which Dewart was a part) had arranged for us to have a personal tour of the Fort. It was originally built at the same time as Fort Dewart, and is an excellent and accurate reconstruction. We were briefed on the French Indian War, and the importance of the Forbes Road in the defeat of the French and their Indian allies at Fort Duquesne, - now Pittsburgh. The tour was lead initially by Martin West, the Executive Director of Fort Ligonier. He handed us off to, one of the Historical Interpreters, Jeff Graham who took us around the grounds. Not only was the tour fascinating in it's own right, but both these experts were able to give us insights into how Fort Dewart, the next Fort in the chain, - would have been constructed and defended.

Off to the Fort Dewart site, with many detours so Phil could show us remnants of the Forbes Road. Much to our pleasure and excitement, there were not the couple of folks to meet us that we expected, but approximately a dozen people, - at least four in reenactment gear. We took a short walk back through the woods, and found the site. It is marked by a huge stone marker, which was raised in 1930. The outline of the star shaped redoubt was very clear, and the walls and ditch, although greatly reduced after 250 years, was evident. I would estimate that the ditch is still a foot or so deep, and the wall a couple of feet high. A program had been planned to both welcome us, and inform us of the history of the site, and the efforts to maintain and preserve it. Peter Folen, the past President of the Folmont Property Owners Group, and one of the reenactors started it off. He had been the person that the Pennsylvania Historical Commission had referred me to about a year ago. Bob and I were pleased, and a bit surprised, when he described the visit of we Macleans as a "miracle". Macleans are not always so popular! Seriously, he was very moved, as he and many others had been working on the preservation of the site for many years. He admitted to having been a bit discouraged as he felt interest was lagging, and the group had been plagued with "four wheelers" chewing up the trail. As a result, the Property Owners were forced to restrict public access. Now he felt the corner had been turned and all Dewart's supporters were reenergized.

Peter paid special tribute to Jack Finnigan, a former scout leader who had not only worked hard for 40 years to preserve the site, and parts of the Road, but also had his scouts work on the road and often cleaned up the site. They were rewarded, as we were with Fort Dewart merit badges. Jack was there, even though he is over 80, and needed to have his oxygen tank with him. He wasn't going to miss this occasion. He told us how very pleased he was that the Road and Fort Dewart might now get the recognition he had always sought for them. Later we were shown artifacts that had been collected from the site, and Bob and I were both presented with musket balls found near Fort Dewart.

Dr Walt Powell, one of the historians who has been employed by the Property Owners Group, gave us a brief history of the Forbes campaign, the building of Dewart, and it's importance and purpose. I, of course had to chime in, and explain why the name of the Fort would have been so important to Sir Allan and his clansmen. After all, not only were they a long way from home, but they had lost much of their lands, notably Duart Castle, with little hope of recovery. This Castle Duart seemed to me to be symbolic of that homesickness, and their desire to transport something of home to this new and wild land. I know there are Scottish names transplanted to many places worldwide for the same reasons. The ceremony ended with a three-musket salute from the reenactors. We were honored.

We had a short business meeting where fund raising was discussed. The local folks had a number of ideas as to how the money for the historians who are going to put together the exhaustive details and documentation needed, will be raised. At this point they are not asking the Trust or Clan Gillean for funds. They may well ask us as individuals to contribute, or perhaps buy a sketch of what Fort Dewart would have looked like. That is only one of the ideas. The group do hope that the CMHT and Clan Gillean will help when the time comes to erect story boards, a plaque commemorating the contributions of Sir Allan and his Macleans, and to have a celebration of the confirmation of Fort Dewart as a national U.S. Historic Site.

That evening, Marjorie and I were taken to view the escarpment form below, - to the east where the Road had come from. What a task it must have been, as the land rose to a height of 3000 feet in a very short distance. Coming from the west, we had not appreciated the steepness of the mountain over which the road had been built, and canons and wagons had to be dragged.

A social evening with all the available members of the council, and their spouses, again illustrated the importance that the owners place on the site and our visit. I learned that Bill & Helga, who had bought the land and started the development, had ensured in covenants, that the Fort, and large portions of the Forbes road were protected. The Property Owners jointly own these historic places, and so they can not be developed. I also found out that many had assumed that the name Dewart must be French, not knowing the Maclean Scottish connection.

Both Bob and I feel that the local folks, and the Property Owners will make great partners with the Clan Maclean Heritage Trust and Clan Gillean in remembering, commemorating, and preserving this unique American and Maclean historic site.

Onwards and Upwards!!

Another for Hector

HAPPENINGS

EVENT	LOCATION	DATE
Grandfather Mountain Highland Games	Linville, NC	July 7-10, 2011
Maine Highland Games	Brunswick, ME	August 20, 2011
Virginia Scottish Games and Festival	The Plains, VA	September 3-4, 2011
Ligonier Highland Games	Ligonier, PA	September 10-11, 2011
Sycamore Shoals Celtic Festival	Sycamore Shoals, TN	September 10-11, 2011
New Hampshire Highland Games	Loon Mountain, NH	September 23-25, 2011
McPhearson Scottish Festival	McPhearson, KS	September 24-25, 2011
St. Louis Scottish Games and Cultural Festival	St. Louis, MO	Sept 30—Oct 1, 2011
North Alabama Scottish Festival	Scottsboro, AL	October 1, 2011
Virginia Celtic Gathering and Highland Games	Williamsburg, VA	October 1, 2011
Scotland County Highland Games	Laurinburg, NC	October 1, 2011

Maclean Mart

A collection of the best photos from the Chief and Lady Maclean's visit to The Rural Hill Games. The CD contains 70 photographs selected from those taken by six different Maclean photographers. The charge for the CD is \$12.50, which includes shipping and handling.



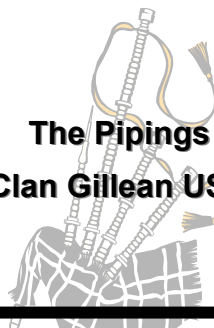
As a memento of the Chief's visit the organizers designed a commemorative pin for the occasion. The pin is 1 1/4 inches in diameter and is antique brass in color. The emblem is taken from the Clan Maclean clansman's badge superimposed over a map of North Carolina. Very nice accessory for men and women. The price is \$7.50, which includes shipping and handling.

To purchase these items, visit our website <http://www.clangilleanus.org>. Use the link to PayPal. No account is required if a credit card is used.

In the alternative, you may contact Maclean Mart via an E-mail to macleanmart@clangilleanus.org or call 1-919-553-0191.

**The Pippings
Clan Gillean USA**

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The Pippings is a publication of Clan Gillean USA—Member of Clan Maclean International, a nonprofit organization. Subscription is included with the membership fee.

Editor (temporary) **Bob McLean**
E-mail: pippings@clangilleanus.org



Executive Committee (as of 1/1/2010)

President (2012)

Robert S. McLean
 1333 Pine Trail
 Clayton, NC 27520-9345
 (919) 553-0191
 E-mail: robertsmclean@gmail.com

Vice President (2013)

Rev. Fr. Patrick Maclean
 13903 Cinnabar Pl.
 Huntersville, NC 28078
 (704) 947-3194
 Email: pmacnc1@aol.com

Secretary (2013)

Nancy Hendreschke
 1005 Julius Dr.
 Suwanee, GA 30024
 (678) 455-6445
 Email: newsong54321@bellsouth.net

Treasurer (2014)

Mark A. Lane
 P.O. Box 1280
 Lenoir City, TN 37771-1280
 (865) 680-6720
 Email: deepbluediver99@aol.com

Past President

Claude W. Hicks, Jr.
 P.O. Box 48
 Macon, GA 31202
 (478)752-8125 (Day)
 (478) 745-3270 (Night)
 Email: claukehicks@cox.net

President Emeritus

Clarence Norman Greek
 2519 Regency Park Dr.
 Murfreesboro, TN 37129
 (615) 895-7635
 Email: cngreek@aol.com

Board of Directors (as of 1/1/2010)

Region 1 (2015)

AZ MT NM CO UT WY
 Charles Daniel McLane
 P.O. Box 6942
 Phoenix, AZ 85005
 (602) 326-1338 (Day)
 (602) 457-9764 (Night)
 Email: cdmclane@hotmail.com

Region 2 (2014)

AR KS LA NE MO MS OK TX
 James C. McLane III
 9318 Willow Meadow Drive
 Houston, TX 77031
 (713) 774-6339
 Email: themclane@hotmail.com

Region 3 (2012)

IA IL IN MI MN ND OH SD WI
 Rev. Colleen C. McLain
 10 Bay St.
 Tonka Bay, MN 55331
 (612)-868-0693
 Email: rev.mclain@cmclain.com

Region 4 (2016)

AL DC FL GA KY NC SC TN VA WV
 Dr. Ephraim R. McLean 3rd
 2257 Old Brooke Point
 Dunwoody, GA 30338
 (770) 396-5280
 Email: emclean@qsu.edu

Region 5 (2013)

CT DE MA MD NH NJ NY PA RI VT
 Gregory MacLean
 44 Townsend St.
 Fitchburg, MA 01420
 (978) 348-2416
 Email: gmaqilean@yahoo.com