



The Pippings

OF MACLEAN



NEWSLETTER OF THE MACLEANS, MACLAINES & RELATED FAMILIES
SIR LACHLAN HECTOR MACLEAN OF DUART AND MORVERN BT., CVO,
TWENTY-EIGHTH CHIEF OF CLAN GILLEAN

March 2012

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2012 Centenary Gathering

An invitation to a 100 Year Tradition

By Margaret McLean of Clan Gillean USA

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Sir Lachlan Maclean of Duart and Morvern, Bt., CVO, DL., Duart Castle, of the Isle of Mull, Scotland, and Lady Rosemary invite you to their home for the 2012 Centenary Gathering for the 100 year celebration of the restoration of Duart Castle from June 18th to June 24th.

This journey to the ancestral home of the Macleans can be as inspirational today for members of the Maclean Clan as it was to the Chief's great grandfather, Sir Fitzroy Maclean, 26th Chief. Raised most of his early life in Gibraltar, Naples and Malta, where his father was stationed in the army, he then joined the army himself and made a pilgrimage to Scotland with his father and sisters in 1870. It was then that he dreamed of someday restoring the castle on the Isle of Mull. In 1911 at the age of 77, he realized his dream of bringing the castle back into the family.

Carrying on a heritage and tradition all Macleans can be proud of, our 28th Chief, Sir



Duart Castle on the Isle of Mull jutting proudly out into the Sound. Photo by Ian Maclean

Lachlan said, "When Sir Fitzroy purchased the ruined Duart Castle from the Guthrie's at Torosay in 1911, he said he was restoring it for his family, the Clan. Duart has always been a focal point for the Clan and I do feel that the 100th Anniversary Gathering this summer will be a fitting

celebration to both Sir Fitzroy who restored the Castle, and my father who between them were Chiefs for over 80 years of the centenary period."

With the quick wit and

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Centenary Gathering 2012 – Programme

By Ian Maclean of Clan Maclean Atlantic

Aros Hall, Tobermory will be open throughout the Gathering. It will house the reception center (where you check in & get your Gathering packages/tickets). It will also host the Clan (Scotland) Association Shop; the Heritage Trust

Stand; a Genealogy resource; Coffee Shop and other Stalls. It tends to be a place to meet and greet other Macleans. It will open on Monday June 18th, and will remain open for the week.

Tuesday 19th June
There are **two major clan land trips** planned:
The first trip is one to the **Isle of Coll**, where amongst

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other things a visit has been arranged to the restored Maclean of Coll Castle, Breachacha. The arrangements on the Island and hospitality there are thanks to Nicholas and Lavinia Maclean-Bristol and their family. They are the folks who have restored and now live in Breachacha. Many of you will know that Nicholas is a noted Maclean historian and author. Numbers, unfortunately, have to be limited. Note that this involves a two hour boat trip each way. There may be some room on the boat for those who are not visiting the castle.

The second is a day long (bus) trip to **Iona**. The ferry to Iona is at the other end of Mull, and for those who have not experienced one track roads, it is not a quick trip. That being said the scenery is spectacular! This tour includes a visit to the site of St Columba's monastery, the medieval abbey and ruins. You will see many very old Iona school effigies, including some Macleans. This tour will involve some walking, as the bus is not able to go on the ferry to Iona. Iona however is not very big, and the walk would probably be not more than a kilometer.

Booking and fees must be paid for these tours in advance.

In the evening there will be a **historical talk** in Aros Hall. Please note that while speakers have not yet been confirmed, in the past, topics have included Maclean castles, emigration patterns, and similar topics of interest to those who enjoy clan history.

Wednesday 20th June

The visits to **Coll** and **Iona** are repeated, and are de-

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SGIANS – the small knives

By Bob Forsman—Past Vice President and Florida Convener

The Gaelic word for knife, in general, was **sgian/skene** (& other variant spellings.) It was applied to anything from tiny pen knives to massive dirks and seaxes.

Small utility knives are common to all cultures, but the Scots came up with some non-standard ways of carrying them. The first noted was the **sgian aglais/achlais/ochlais**, the “armpit knife.” Huddleston posits it was carried in the lining of a jacket sleeve, but it might have been suspended from a mini-baldric under or over the shirt.

Early models might have rounded, rather than sharp points. The jimping (filed notches) found on the back of the blades of later sgians was often missing.

There are several versions of why the sgian migrated to the stocking (left or right) but I will refer you to the last paragraph. It is all conjecture, anyway, but makes for some interesting reading. By the way, ladies (yes, Scots ladies can carry knives) have other options: At the waist, or bodice (don't go for the stag handled version) were common positions.

There are two versions known to me of why it is named the **sgian dubh** (pronounced “skeen doo” - the “bh” used to be vocalized as a “v” sound many centuries ago.) One says that it is because it was black-handled (*dubh* = black/dark), although many were not. The more

logical reason was explained to me by one of our Gaelic-speaking Maclean cousins (on the website back in the '90s): “black” is a metaphor

everything from string to copper wire to fingers, and is of good steel. The sambar stag handle is utilitarian, keeps my hand from slipping and is not uncomfortable, as it first appears, unless you have delicate hands.

The middle sgian, a common style nowadays, has a harp crest & stainless blade. Mine with the Clan crest was lost at Stone Mtn.

The fourth is also of modern handle style, but has a faux cairngorm on the pommel. The last is of a style used by some Scottish regiments (with the addition of a regimental crest on the grip.)

If you are planning to buy one, and want to shop on the 'net, feel

free to contact me at:

forsmanr@bellsouth.net.

I will be glad to list companies I have done business with, and can recommend. If you want good steel, I suggest you make your own - contact me.

For those of you who have had your appetite “whetted”, I suggest you go on the ‘net to Wikipedia and type in “sgian” for a more extensive article. It will also have a link to Joe Huddleston's *The sgian-dubh*, originally published in the *Highlander* magazine in the early '90s, which I think was the source for the Wikipedia article. Scottie Thompson's *So you're going to wear the kilt, Rev 3rd Ed*, has a readable section on sgians, and the protocol thereunto appertaining.

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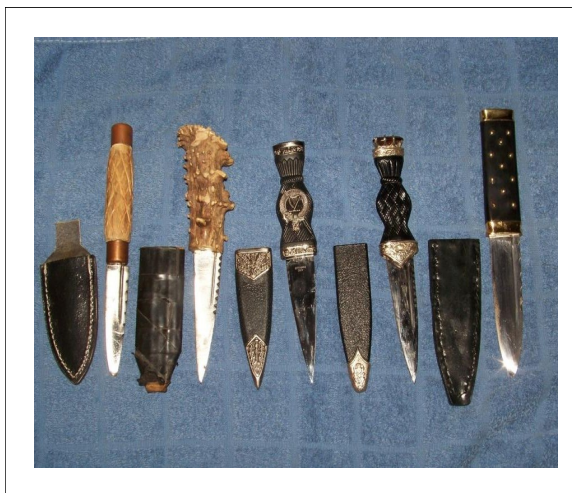


Photo By Bob Forsman

for “hidden” in mediaeval Gaelic. This might also have reference to the fact that it was originally found in a less-than-obvious position, the armpit.

By the end of the 18th Century, the *sgian dubh* had begun to be degraded in its utility. Since Victorian times it has become mostly an ornament of dress, and the glass pommel stones of various colors are far from the cairngorm stones found on some early versions.

There are various grip-styles - some very simple, some elaborate. The accompanying photo is of my display collection. They are in (roughly) historical order from left to right:

sgian aglais: I assembled this one after seeing a picture in Harold Peterson's book, *American knives*.

Stag handled sgian: My working knife. It has cut

President's Message

Robert McLean

Clan Gillean U.S.A.



Hello to all Clansmen and Clanswomen,

So, another year added to the history of Clan Gillean U.S.A. and a very good one, too. The visit to the U.S. by Sir Lachlan and Lady Rosemary was, of course, the highlight of 2011. Everything went well with all of the preparations and functions at The Rural Hill Scottish Festival, especially the formal reception on Saturday night. It is really a sight to see all of the lovely ladies in their evening wear and some of the men cleaned up fairly well. We collected over \$750 for the Clan Maclean Heritage trust. The Chief and Lady were very pleased with everything and promised to return as soon as possible. As you will see later in this letter, that may be sooner than we had expected.

We have experienced a good year within Clan Gillean. Some medical problems have slowed me down for a few months, but hopefully I am functioning, if not at 100 percent. The Maclean Gathering is approaching and I need to be in good shape for that. Because I have been a bit under the weather, The Pipings has taken a little rest as well. I apologize for the lateness of the newsletter. Thanks to our Secretary Nancy Hendreschke and new editor, Margaret McLean we have this great publication back on schedule. You can help keep it that way. If you would like to receive your copy via the internet and are not already doing so, let us know via E-mail to Pipings@clangilleanusa.org. This saves us a significant amount of money. In addition we always need topics and/or articles for the newsletter. Please send any material that you would like to see published to me at Clan Gillean USA, 1333 Pine Trl, Clayton, NC 27520 and I will see to it getting to the right person. Digital photos or articles can be E-mailed to pipings@clangilleanusa.org

What's happening in 2012? Well the biggest event is the Centennial Gathering of the Macleans on Mull during the week of June 18-24. Lots of Events and tours and parties, culminating with the gathering of all the Clan at Duart Castle on June 23.

Every Maclean needs To experience this at least once and the centennial is a once in a lifetime occasion. Other things going on

are the Annual General Meeting or AGM. This is the time for all business to come before the association. This year's AGM will be held at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games on July 14, 2012. We will be electing our President and Treasurer and at least one member of the board of Directors. Put this on your calendar, as well as all of the festivals and games mentioned in this newsletter and on our website. We really have fun and fellowship whenever we get together.

Future plans include an ongoing project in a partnership with the Maclean heritage Trust and a property owner's association near the site of Ft. Dewart. Ft. Dewart is the site of a fort built during the French and Indian war. It is located near Ligoneer Pennsylvania, in western Pennsylvania. Ft. Dewart was built under the direction of Sir Allan Maclean of Brolas the 21st chief of Clan Maclean. It is the intention of all parties to have the site declared a national historic site by the U.S. government and we have proposed that Clan Gillean and the Maclean Heritage Trust erect a monument to honor Sir Allan and all of the clan who participated in the building and manning of the fort. The plans are moving and we are hoping to schedule the memorial ceremony during the Ligoneer Highland games in September of 2013. We will post updates as all of this moves forward at a snail's pace.

In closing, thank you all for giving me the opportunity to serve as your president. It has truly been an honor. I look forward to working with all of the new officers for many years to come. See y'all at the Highland Games.



Matthew List's depiction of his summer vacation in Scotland.

Grandpa's Fond Memories

President Bob McLean's grandson, Matthew List was 5 years old when he attended the Gathering in 2007 on the Isle of Mull.

When the little fellow was asked to draw a picture of his summer vacation at the beginning of the school year, he submitted the following. .

A picture is worth a thousand words.

Bob admits that young Matthew got a little help from his mom Alison List with the writing.

Bob is bringing his entire family to Mull for the 2012 Gathering.

"Wouldn't miss it for the world," Bob said.

An Invitation to a 100 year tradition (Continued pg.1)

humor that puts so many of the family members at ease, the newly married, 67-year-old Chief added with a smile in his eyes, "It is unlikely that many of us will have the opportunity to celebrate the 200th Anniversary; so I strongly feel you should come this summer. I very much look forward to seeing you at Duart this summer."

A foundation for future generations, the castle symbolically protects the tradition of our family's roots, and offers a historical link from the present to the past. Imagine following the footsteps of the 700 clans people around the world, who came to the first gathering in 1912. Your pres-

ence this year will leave an imprint for those who come to the next Centenary Gathering. It's a rich heritage of fierce military battles, extreme loyalties, and the strength of will to survive tough conditions.

Macleans have indeed survived, settled, adapted, and raised families all around the world. The Gathering of the Maclean Clan, Gaelic for Family, can be considered a grand Family Reunion. Homecoming will be exciting. Unlike most Scottish towns, which have a tendency to look somber, Tobermory is a colorful village facing the harbor and an open sea. When the Macleans "gather" you will see the familiar deep hues of

the hunter green tartan, the oldest tartan registered in Scotland, the red dress tartan and the ancient Maclean tartan of Duart as scarves, ties, vests and of course, kilts. In addition to the planned events, pubs, restaurants and small shops offer the perfect environment to make new friends, discover shared pasts, exchange stories of distant lands, and the path that ultimately brings family home.

"I recall at the 2002 Gathering seeing a distinguished older man, dressed quite formally in his Maclean tartan kilt and a sombrero! At the 2007 Gathering, I met a young man with his Maclean kilt on, wearing a yarmulke," said Ian Maclean of Clan Maclean Atlantic Canada.

A large number of Macleans were known to settle in the U.S., Canada, New Zealand, and Australia, but the gentlemen noted were from Mexico and Israel. In addition to many Macleans attending from England, France and countries known to have large numbers, the family expects Macleans from South Africa, Chile and other exotic locales.

Most impressive is Duart Castle. For most, the first



Sir Lachlan and Lady Rosemary Maclean

With the quick wit and humor that puts so many of the family members at ease, the newly married, 67-year-old Chief added with a smile in his eyes,

"It is unlikely that many of us will have the opportunity to celebrate the 200th Anniversary; so I strongly feel you should come this summer. I very much look forward to seeing you at Duart this summer."

Sir Lachlan Maclean

28th Chief

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Preparing to march to Duart Castle.

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scribed above.

A 3rd option on Wednesday is a tour around **North Mull** (includes Calgary and Dervaig). This is a half day trip which will include visits to, and information about historical sites associated with Macleans. A fee is required for these tours, and they must be booked in advance. Again, there will be a **historical talk** at Aros hall.

Thursday 21st June Clan Maclean Heritage Trust Day.

Friends (financial supporters) of the Clan Trust, will be taken for a **visit to Lichlee**, the site of the historic Maclean victory over the MacDonalds. (beside Loch na Keal) at approximately 1:00 (exact time still to be determined). Following this visit there will be a **Reception for Friends of the Heritage Trust**. For those of you who are not yet "Friends", I encourage

you to do so. Not only will you be eligible for the above mentioned tour and reception, but more importantly you will be supporting the ongoing work of the Trust. Single Friends membership for a year is 15 pounds, and Family membership is 25 pounds. Again there will be a historical talk at Aros hall.

Friday 22nd June

The **Clan Congress** will be held at the Maclean Marquee, Tobermory, at 11am. This is an opportunity for all to have input

into the Clan Maclean, Clan Associations, and our presence worldwide. The theme will be "Looking at the future of the Clan".

For those of us who are not "experienced" Scottish country dancers, in the afternoon, there will be an **"introduction to and practice**

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Programme

Continued pg.4

of the Scottish reels for the dance on Saturday". Well worth while, and guaranteed to be fun!

Chief's Grand Ceilidh

(singing, dancing, and storytelling) will be held in the evening at Duart Castle, unlike at past Gatherings. (Transport departs Tobermory 7pm and returns from Duart 11pm). This will be an open air concert, so dress accordingly. (Payment necessary)

Saturday 23rd June

Main Clan Gathering at Duart Castle from 11am to 4pm (includes a commemorative Medallion) transport will be available from Tobermory. Plans for the day include a Clan march to the castle, Welcome from the Chief, re-enactments, piping,

beer tents, refreshments, shops, stalls, Highland Games activities, tours of the castle, group photograph and more!! (Payment necessary)

Grand Dance, Maclean Marquee, Tobermory at 8pm, until midnight. Scottish dances and reels.

Sunday 24th June

Church Service 'Kirking of the Tartan', Tobermory 11am
Chief's Farewell (includes lunch,) Duart at 1pm (time to be confirmed)

Dress at the Centenary Gathering. This is largely a matter of choice, but the Dress at previous Gatherings has varied enormously from full kilt to very casual. The advice is as follows – The Dress during the Clan land Visits and the Evening Talks should be casual and warm. However, it would be nice if at

least some tartan was worn at the Ceilidh, Dance and the Main Gathering at Duart. This could be a Maclean tie or scarf, but the important thing is that you all attend and are comfortable. Also be aware for outdoor events, or those in the marquee, that in the evening there may be midges (nasty tiny insects that seem to love those who are not Scottish!), and that during the day temperatures may not be as warm as Atlantic Canada, and also (like us) you may experience showers.

Unorganized Fun

The main street of Tobermory is full of Maclean tartan and kilts. The pubs, restaurants, B & B's are all full of Macleans, so say hello, introduce yourself, and prepare to make friends. It is great fun to meet fellow Macleans from

all over the world, and if you are fortunate the friends you make may become lifelong friends. Tobermory is a small town, the locals Scots are very friendly, the atmosphere is up beat, and you will have fun!

Booking of Accommodation.

It is anticipated that there will be a heavy demand for accommodation on Mull during the Gathering. It is up to those attending to make their own arrangements and this can be done by contacting:

Craignure Tourist Information Centre - Isle of Mull, Argyll PA65 6AX, UKTel: 01680 812377

Fax: 01680 812497

Email: mull@visitscotland.com
VisitScotland - www.visitscotland.com and www.holidaymull.co.uk

If you still have trouble finding accommodations, Ian MacLean ianmac-lean@seasidehighspeed.com has a complete list of accommodations as of [May 2011](#).

Registration and Booking for the Gathering.

An online booking and payment system is available via the Clan website. If you do not use a computer, please contact Ian MacLean 902 661-0032, and a hard copy form can be forwarded to you.

Email Addresses. Please remember to include your email address so that you can be kept up to date with information on extra events and any changes to the arrangements. The email addresses of those booking online are received automatically.

An Invitation to a 100 year tradition (Continued pg.4)

glimpse of the castle is from the deck of the ferry from Oban. Ruggedly robust, Duart will awaken every nerve and grab the heart of a Maclean. Jutting out of rock into the Sound of Mull, the castle is exactly what many would envision as command central of a Highland Chief. It is a massive fortress wrapping its strong arms protec-

tively around the Maclean Clan and their history. Dating back to the 12th Century, Duart has walls twenty-nine feet high and nearly ten feet thick.

"It doesn't seem possible that so much time has passed since my family was at the Maclean Gathering, but it has been five years. I guess the memories have made it seem not so long ago. It was a very special occasion for all of my family, but especially for myself and my wife Johnnie. 2007 was the year of our 40th wedding anniversary and I surprised her by getting all of the family over to Scotland for renewal of our Wedding Vows. Sir Lachlan and the late Lady Mary were very kind to allow us to celebrate the event at Duart Castle. Everything went off without a hitch and my lovely bride was surprised by the many special things done in her honor, such as rings, dress, flowers, wedding cake and her shoes from the first

time that she walked down the aisle in 1967. "

"All of our family will be on Mull for the 2012 gathering. We wouldn't miss it," said Bob McLean, President, Clan Gillean U.S.A.

Join the week-long celebration which includes opportunities to take historic tours, enjoy traditional Scottish fare. Attend the Main Clan Gathering, meet the Chief and Lady Rosemary at the Grand Ceilidh at Duart. Also, take the opportunity to join the Clan Maclean Heritage Trust in their quest to preserve items and landmarks throughout the world.

www.maclean.org/maclean-associations/cma-scotland/cmas/clan-maclean-mull-2012.php. For reservations or more information, please visit the website.

The Pippings Clan Gillean USA

We're on the WEB
www.maclean.org
www.clangilleanusa.org



Bob and Johnnie McLean renewing their vows at Duart Castle in 2007.



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Calendar of Events 2012

NAME	LOCATION	CONVENER	DATE(s)
Arizona Scottish Gathering	Mesa, AZ		March 24 - 25, 2012
Columbia Tartan Fest 	Columbia, SC		March 30 - 31, 2012
Tallahassee Highland Games & Celtic Festival	Tallahassee, FL	Jan McLean	date not determined
Missouri Tartan Days 	St. Charles, MO	Herb McLain Lake St Louis, MO	April 13-15, 2012
Rural Hill Scottish Festival and Loch Norman Highland Games 	Huntersville, NC	Betsy McLean Raleigh, NC	April 20-22, 2012
Arkansas Scottish Festival	Batesville, AK		April 13 - 15, 2012
Bathabara Celtic Festival	Winston-Salem, NC	Betsy McLean Raleigh, NC	May 12, 2012
Smoky Mountains Highland Game (formerly Gatlinburg Scottish Festival and Games) 	Maryville, TN	Mark Lane Lenoir City, TN	May 18 - 20, 2012
Greenville Scottish Games & Festival 	Greenville, SC	Bob McLean Clayton, NC	May 25 - 27, 2012
Glasgow Highland Games 	Glasgow, KY	Mark Lane Lenoir City, TN	June 1 - 3, 2012
Blairsville Scottish Games	Blairsville, GA	Nancy Hendreschke	June 9 - 10, 2012

It is important to keep up with Family Matters which is what keeps us connected. We look forward to sharing news about what is happening in the lives of Maclean family and friends. Since this is about you, please contribute - We want to know about births, graduations, promotions or any interesting stories concerning Macleans Matters.

Amelia Miyoko Hendreschke born on Sept. 11, 2011, weighing 7 lbs.,

Maclean Family Matters

3.5 ounces, to parents Kim and Andrew Hendreschke of Highlands Ranch, Colorado. Clan Gillean USA Secretary Nancy Hendreschke and husband Gene of Suwanee, Georgia, were thrilled to hold their first grandchild.

Quick to wrap Amelia in a MacLean tartan, Nancy and Gene offered to babysit to give parents their first night out alone. Planning to spend precious time alone with Amelia, Nancy and Gene found they had a constant companion in the



Amelia Miyoko Hendreschke

family dog, Kakoa, which means Brave or courageous. Her fuzzy presence always just inches away, she was quick to establish herself as Amelia's personal guard dog.