



The Pippings

Clan MacLean Association in the United States Quarterly Newsletter

Sir Lachlan Hector Charles MacLean

CVO, 28th Chief and 12th Baronet of Duart and Morvern

Flowers of the Forest: Remembering Robert S. McLean

By Alison List

According to a popular quote, “We are Scottish not because we were born in Scotland but because Scotland was born in us.” This past year our Clan MacLean family bid farewell to a truly fine Scotsman at heart when Robert Stanley “Bob” McLean passed away peacefully on November 19, 2018 in North Carolina.

Bob McLean was a wonderful husband, a fabulous father, a fine friend, and a true champion of Clan MacLean. He served in many official clan capacities over the years including Vice President and President of Clan MacLean USA, Vice President of Clan MacLean International, and stalwart supporter and spokesman with Ian McLean in the pursuit and eventual success of Fort Dewart’s official National Historical Registry classification. It is with great pride that I share my father’s story.

Bob was born in Itta Bena, Mississippi on December 21, 1944 to Robert Sinclair McLean and Audrey Peebles McLean, and he served in the Navy from 1962 to 1966 on the USS Stoddard. Bob married his wonderful wife, Johnnie Faye McLean, on January 28, 1967 and had two beautiful daughters, Alison List and Marla Baswell. When Bob wasn’t working on computers as an IBM computer engineer, he spent his free time in his wood-working shop as a as a skilled carpenter and all-around handy guy.

In 1998 my family discovered Scottish clan life at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games when my sister, Marla, ran “The Bear” five-mile race to the summit of Grandfather

Mountain. Wearing a Clan MacLean tee shirt, she ran through the clan tents circling the track and heard the cheers of her “people” coming from the MacLean tent. She later met these people who would become her family—and then Dad’s family and mine.

My father loved everything about the highland games and his Scottish heritage. He loved the people, the sight of so many kilts and costumes, the pride in his family tartan, the food, the music, the comradery, and the sound of bagpipes swirling on the mountain.

Continued on Page 2



*Robert S. McLean, 1944-2018,
Past President, Clan MacLean
Association in the U.S.*



A young Bob McLean with wife, Johnnie McLean

Inside This Issue

Flowers (continued)	Page 2
Announcements & Events	Page 2
Presidential Pen	Page 3
Meet the Editor	Page 3
Duart Appeal Update	Page 4





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Flowers of the Forest (continued from cover)



Bob and Johnnie McLean, Isle of Mull, 2007

He studied Scottish history, read up on everything from tartans to tams, and became a self-taught wealth of knowledge on Scotland in general and the superiority of MacLeans in particular. He began a wonderful friendship with local Raleigh clan members Betsy McLean, Pat McLean, and Connie McLean Sutton as well as countless other friends of the clan and the games--many of whom are fondly remembered though dearly departed. He supported MacLeans through his work within the clan, whether pipers, highland dancers, or musicians. He valued his family history and that of Clan MacLean. He attended two Clan Gatherings and as he toured Scotland, relished the privilege of standing in the midst of historical sites like Culloden, Loch Lomond, and Duart Castle on the Isle of Mull. In the summer of 2007 he gained a reputation as the clan's most romantic man by planning a surprise wedding vow renewal ceremony at the castle that included custom designed celtic wedding

rings, an award-winning celtic-inspired wedding dress designed and created by Connie McLean Sutton, and a cake decorated with MacLean tartan fondant and a miniature replica of Duart Castle.

Dad was proud and grateful to be a MacLean. He worked to support the Clan MacLean Association to encourage others to find pride and gratitude in their McLean heritage. He was always happy to share his MacLean knowledge in the hopes of igniting a passion for clan heritage in others. I love my Scottish heritage now because my dad loved it first. I am proud to call Bob McLean my father and grateful to him for the legacy he left to my sons and future generations of MacLeans.

He will be greatly missed, but the McLean name will live on strong and proud thanks in part to him. There is no better way for him to be remembered than as a marvelous MacLean.

Winter Announcements & Events

- **WELCOME** Anne Redding as our new Editor! Huge thank you to her and her family for taking on this role and for joining us this past year in New York and Virginia.
- **THANK YOU** to Heather Henneman for her service as Clan Secretary, she has resigned her position and we wish her the best of luck on her future endeavors.
- **JOIN US:** Saturday April 6th, 2019 for the New York Tartan Day Parade! Contact Les McLean if you plan to attend. Visit <http://nyctartanweek.org> for information on all Tartan Week events.
- **NEWS:** Clan MacLean Heritage Trust has begun discussions about an International Clan Gathering to be held in Scotland in 2020 to honor the 130th anniversary of the Clan MacLean Association. More information will be available in the coming months.
- **GET INVOLVED:** Attend a local event, volunteer for a highland games or host a clan tent: Contact your Region Clan Rep, or Lead Convener Betsy McLean (BMc1071071@aol.com).
- **SHARE:** Want to write for The Pippings? Share your Clan Maclean events, stories and pictures in the quarterly newsletter! Contact Anne Redding (editor@maclean.us.org).



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Presidential Pen

By Dr. Les McLean, CMAUS

Yes, it's winter - at least, here in Delaware. It's cold outside and a big storm is coming, but it's warm inside with family and friends. In our big, extended family, Clan Maclean Association in the United States, I have made many dear, special friends. We may live far apart, but when we get together we start right where we left off.

Bob McLean was one of those very dear special friends - a Maclean whom I met at a Highland game, as many of you have done. More than the phenomenal work he did for the Association as President, we all knew he was our joyful, confident, protective leader. I remember Bob's hot Louisiana gumbo with cold potato salad on the edge of the bowl. I remember his strut, like a Philadelphia Mummer, around our group of Macleans marching in the Alexandria Walk.

I remember his joy as he showed us the pictures of when he surprised Johnnie, his beautiful bride of 40 plus years, with his proposal to renew their vows at Duart Castle. I will miss his laughter. Bob Mclean was a very dear friend to us all.

We all know how much Bob loved us and our ancestral home, Duart Castle. With deepest appreciation to Robert McLean, our departed leader, Clan Maclean Association in the U.S. is making a \$1,000 donation to the Duart Castle Restoration Appeal. We welcome all members of the clan to join us by making a donation "In Honor and Memory of Robert S. McLean." (Instructions for donations are on page 4.)

In the family, in the Clan;
Les/Doc

Meet the Editor

By Anne Redding

When Les asked me to take over the role as Editor of *The Pipings* I was a little hesitant knowing how much work goes into publishing a newsletter, but I must admit it has been a true pleasure to put this issue together. I'm very proud of my MacLean heritage and I'm honored to be able to serve the clan in this capacity. I hope you enjoy the new look and I promise even more content in the next issue!

I joined CMAUS two years ago after returning from a family trip to Scotland. I attended the NY Tartan Day Parade last spring and hosted my first Clan MacLean tent at the Virginia Scottish Games this past September. I love meeting so many MacLean cousins and I look forward to getting to know you all.



Anne Redding, Editor, *The Pipings*; New York Tartan Day Parade, 2018

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Interested in hosting a Clan MacLean tent? Contact:
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Visit us on the web: [https:// maclean.us.org](https://maclean.us.org) • www.facebook.com/groups/clangillean/

Duart Appeal Update from Chief MacLean

Clan Maclean Congress at the International Gathering in 2012 gave its unanimous support to help me raise funds to repair Duart Castle to make it watertight.

I am very pleased to report that the Appeal, launched in 2014, has raised or had pledged £585,000 by the end of October 2018. I remain overwhelmed and very grateful to those donors for their strong support.

However, more funds need to be raised. Since 2014, the first four phases of the restoration at a cost of £1.01 million have been completed.

Historic Environment Scotland contributed approximately £470,000 to this work, while the Appeal and my family each provided £270,000. Phases 5, 6 & 7 have been planned at an estimated cost of £1 million.

Historic Environment Scotland is to contribute approximately £400,000 with the expectation that this work will be completed by June 2021. To achieve this end the Appeal is to raise a further £270,000 by June 2020 and the family will contribute £50,000

How to Donate:

Visit www.duartappeal.org for details on donation and sponsorship levels. U.S. donors may make **tax-deductible donations** in USD online using PayPal via the website or by check made payable to **Clan Maclean Association – California** (mail to: 748 South Meadows Parkway, Suite A9, P. M. Box 144, Reno, NV 89521), which is a non-profit Section 501 (c)(3) corporation supporting Scottish cultural outreach. On the check Memo line note “CMAUS Member - Duart Appeal”.



Chief Sir Lachlan MacLean, Clan MacLean

Another for Hector!

Do you know a family member interested in joining the Clan? Invite them to visit:

<https://maclean.us.org/membership/application>

Need to renew your membership? Visit:

<https://maclean.us.org/membership/renew>

Thank you for your continued membership and commitment to keeping our Clan active!

