



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



Brandon and Annie McLean receive wedding gift of lifetime membership to Clan MacLean Association in the U.S.

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Armory Insider: History of the Claymore

By Van Shoemaker, CMAUS Weapons Master

The word "claymore" comes from Gaelic "claidheamh mòr, meaning 'great sword'. The weapon itself is a two-handed cutting sword used in the highlands of Scotland and by Scottish mercenaries in Ireland between the early 15th to 17th centuries. The word later came to be used to describe the eighteenth-century Scottish basket-hilted sword.

The claymore was not the biggest of the European broadswords – a huge lethal-looking sixteenth-century blade from Switzerland or Germany in the Fitzwilliam Museum makes it look almost tame by comparison. However, it was a brutally efficient weapon, as a contemporary account of the battle of Killiecrankie, 1689, testifies.

"...the enemy lay in heaps almost in the order they were posted: but so disfigured with wounds, and hashed and mangled, that even the victors could not look upon the amazing proofs of their own agility and strength without surprise and horror.

"Many had their heads divided into two halves by one blow, others had their skulls cut off above the ears by a backstroke, like a night-cap. Their thick buffe-belts were not sufficient to defend their shoulders from such deep gashes as almost disclosed their entrails. Several pikes, small-swords, and the like weapons were cut quite through, and some that wore skull caps had them so beat into their brains that they died upon the spot."

This was one of the last times that the two-handed claymore was used in battle. The development of the firearm neutralized even this powerful weapon.



With an average blade length 42"-55", grip handle 13" and weighing 4.9-6.2lbs, the claymore is a two-handed sword, used for heavy cutting and thrusting attacks whereas the broadsword is a one or two-handed sword depending on its usage.

Used by William Wallace, the claymore became well known through the writings of Sir Walter Scott in the 19th Century, along with the kilt, strongly associated with the rise in Scottish romanticism.





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First Highland Games of 2024

By Stephanie Hodges, CMAUS Member

In mid-January, the 46th annual Central Florida Scottish Highland Games kicked off the highland games here in Winter Springs, Florida with a two-day event.

Year after year this game grows larger, even surpassing the attendance at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in some years. This year, there was a huge attendance. We met lots of MacLeans and loved catching up with our “old” MacLean friends we only see at this game.

My favorite part of the games is sharing my love for whiskey. I brought several bottles to share and anyone that came to visit got a wee dram or two or three. I told them about Clan MacLean and our Scottish

history. The little kids enjoyed the highland coo decorations as well as the arts and crafts.

This year we had a much larger presence in the tartan parade. A big special shout out to Russ Weaver and his service dog (I believe his name is murphy) for holding down the fort while we walked in the parade. Thank you to everyone who came to visit and share in our treats and whiskey.

The convener kit allows me to convene several games in Florida. I use everything in the kit as well as some of my own items. My next games to convene are the Tallahassee games and the Jacksonville games. Hope to see some of you at a future game!



Clan MacLean Announcements & Events

• UPCOMING GAMES & EVENTS:

April 6, 2024—Tartan Day South, Cayce, SC (tartandaysouth.com)

April 6-7, 2024*—San Antonio Highland Games & Celtic Music Festival, Helotes, TX (www.sahga.org)

April 20-21, 2024—Loch Norman Highland Games, Huntersville, NC (lochnorman.com)

April 20-21, 2024*—Lone Star Celtic Festival & Highland Games, McKinney, TX (lonestarceltic.org)

April 27, 2024—Central Carolina Highland Games, Oxford, NC (www.centralhighlandgames.com)

April 29, 2024*—Southern Maryland Celtic Festival, Saint Leonard, MD (www.cssm.org)

May 4, 2024—Savannah Scottish Games, Savannah, GA (www.savannahscottishgames.com)

May 4-5, 2024*—Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival, Albuquerque, NM (www.celtfestabq.com/schedule)

May 11, 2024*—Loch Badin Celtic Festival, Badin, NC (better-badin.org)

May 18, 2024*—Fair Hill Scottish Games, Elkton, MD (www.fairhillscottishgames.org)

May 18-19, 2024—Smoky Mountain Scottish Festival, Townsend, TN (www.smokymountaingames.org)

• New York Tartan Day Parade: April 6, 2024 (www.nyctartanweek.org)

• 2024 CMAUS Annual General Meeting: July 13th at The Pineola in Newland, NC (details to come).

**Needs conveners. Contact Lead Convenor Mary Sue Wyatt (bummers56@gmail.com) for more information.*

Clan MacLean Executive Committee



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Presidential Ponderings

By Dr. Les McLean, CMAUS President

Thank goodness the days are now getting longer. I can now go to work in my car as the sun is coming up. That means that the games will be happening soon. Hogmanay was a bright light in the darkness, with good friends gathered to celebrate our togetherness. In January we celebrated our bard with dinners all around. Go represent MacLean at one of these events and enjoy the camaraderie. Moreover, get out your kilts and regalia, and plan to attend one or

more of the games this spring or summer. In fact, check to see if Clan MacLean already has a tent at those games. If not, we need you to be the MacLean convenor at those games. We have a starter convenor kit and experts to help you be the convenor for our clan. We pay for the registration - it's fun and easy. As always, be proud because we are noble warrior poets. Thank god we are MacLeans!

-Doc/Les McLean

2023 CMAUS Executive Committee Update

By Jennifer McLean, CMAUS Secretary

The Clan MacLean Association in the US (CMAUS) continues to hold steadfast at 400+ members, spread across 45 states. In 2024, we are committed to seeing that number grow.

The CMAUS Membership Committee, chaired by Vice President Jason Wamsley, met multiple times to discuss growth strategies. Special thanks to Elizabeth McQueen for her assistance in analyzing and mapping current membership geographic trends and patterns.

Utilizing this information, the Membership Committee is focused on developing approaches to both maintain current affiliates as well as attract new members.

Historic trends have shown that participation in Highland Games is a catalyst for clan awareness and increasing membership. Thus, the CMAUS primary

goal for 2024 is to identify and participate in three Highland Games in where CMAUS has had limited, or no, past presence and work with the current members in that area to invite local MacLeans to participate.

Committee Member Scott Lane Huling has generated a list of potential games that are most accessible for current members to invite others to participate. The Games list and geographic area may be expanded in 2025 for further outreach and growth.

If you have any suggestions, comments, or questions about the Membership Committee feel free to email vice-president@maclean.us.org. If there is a Highland Game near you that you

would like to see convened by CMAUS please reach out to the above email address or any of the Executive Committee.

Clan MacLean Board of Directors

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Rep: Vacant

Region 3 - North Central U.S.

(IL, IN, IA, KY, MI, MO, MN, NE, ND, OH, SD, TN, WI)
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The Piping's Newsletter

Editor: Anne Redding

*Photos/Articles may be submitted to:
editor@maclean.us.org*





Represent Clan MacLean Using One of Our Convener Kits

By Connie McLean Sutton, CMAUS Treasurer

Have you ever been to a highland game and seen all the people convening in various clan tents and said to yourself that looks like a lot of fun! I would like to do that! Now is your chance to convene a game for Clan MacLean!

CMAUS has five convener kits. These kits consist of everything you will need to pull off convening a game. The kit includes numerous MacLean items including a vinyl display banner, a tartan flag and parade banner, a table runner, laminated sheets of facts, laminated photos of different tartans, laminated photos of weapons, and a binder of documents which includes a membership application, visitor's log, and a request for reimbursement. If you are up to date on dues and would like to convene a game in

your area, please contact our Lead Convener, Mary Sue Wyatt at bummerms56@gmail.com. She will send you a convener kit through the U.S. mail. Once you have convened your game, return the kit to Mary Sue. The reimbursement form and receipt for event registration (may include tent and table) should be sent to Treasurer Connie Sutton. You will be reimbursed for both the convener fee and for return postage of the kit.

Members currently convening use their personal MacLean items as well. If you have additional items, great. If not, the convener kit items are sufficient.

The Executive Committee and Board of Directors cannot be at every game throughout CMAUS territory. As a part of Clan MacLean, we need your help! Find a game in your area and convene a game for Clan MacLean!

MacLeans in the News!



Nolan McLean is a two-way player drafted by the NY Mets in July 2023. He is a North Carolina native and second cousin of our treasurer, Connie McLean Sutton.



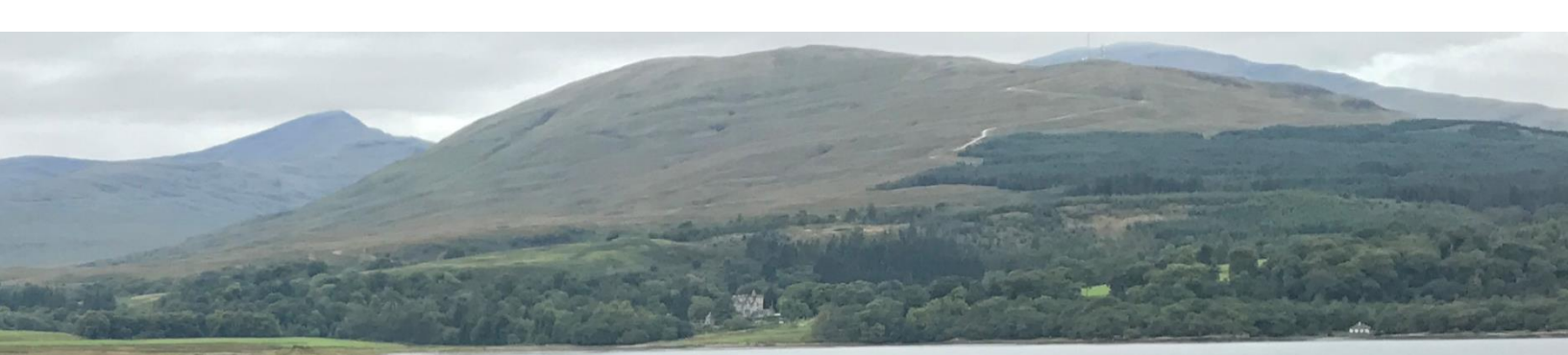
Sample Table display with informational MacLean Banner. Banners can be hung with cord or zip ties to keep them secure.



Above: Convenor Kits come ready to use!

Right: Kits include cards showing the different MacLean Tartans.





Plan Now for Grandfather Mountain

By Jennifer McLean, CMAUS Secretary

The 2024 Grandfather Mountain Highland Games will be held July 11-14 at MacRae Meadows near Linville, NC. Each year, this event surpasses the prior year's attendance. I expect this year to follow the same.

Accommodations: It's not too early to find a place to stay. The host hotel is the Best Western Mountain Lodge in Banner Elk, N.C.

Tickets: Tickets are on sale. Buy tickets in advance at: <https://gmhg.org/prices/>

Parking: Unless you buy a patron package to

park on the mountain, your next best option is riding the shuttle bus.

There are four parking and shuttle bus locations: Sugar Mountain Resort, Linville parking lot, Avery County High School and Millers Gap lot. The cost for the shuttle is \$10 round trip for ages 13+ and \$5 for ages 5-12. The shuttle bus only accepts cash: <https://gmhg.org/parking/>

AGM: The 2024 Annual General Meeting of Clan MacLean Association in the U.S. will be held on the evening of Saturday, July 13th at The Pineola in Newland, N.C. More details will be available in next newsletter.

Brandon MacLean Wedding

By Jason Wamsley, CMAUS Vice President

In early January a message came through the Clan MacLean US website from a gentleman who was having trouble paying for a lifetime membership, it seems we had a temporary issue with the PayPal link. That's not the important part, however. The important aspect of this story is that Mr. Albert Ciuksza Jr. wanted to buy his friend, Brandon McLean, a lifetime membership to

our great association as a wedding gift. At the time Brandon was not a member. Members of the Executive Committee exchanged emails and information with Mr. Ciuksza to get the new membership packet put together and how he could pay quickly, and safely, so that we could get this wonderful gift to him before the wedding, which was quickly approaching.

I'm happy to report that the membership packet was delivered and gifted on time. Albert Ciuksza Jr. was happy to share some photos, with permission, from the wedding (left) where Mr. McLean is proudly wearing his MacLean hunting kilt and his bride sporting a tartan rosette. We look forward to having Brandon McLean and his bride as new members of CMAUS. Hopefully we'll see them at some upcoming Highland Games. Best Wishes from Clan MacLean!



Kid's Corner: Caber Toss



The caber is made from a long tree trunk that has been trimmed down so one end is slightly wider than the other.

The caber is placed in front of the thrower with the large end up (like a telephone pole). The thrower picks up the heavy caber, takes a short run then stops to push the caber so that the large end hits the ground and the small end flips over and faces away from the thrower.

The goal is for the caber to land at 12:00 (like on a clock face).

You can try this at home with pool noodles for a safer and easier version! One pool noodle may be a little unstable to get a proper throw: Try taping 3 noodles together. You now have a caber to toss. You can also try cardboard tubes from wrapping paper.

Have fun!



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Visit us on the web: [https:// maclean.us.org](https://maclean.us.org) • www.facebook.com/groups/clanmaclean/

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Donor Levels:

Guardians: £200 GBP (\$244 USD) & above will receive a Duart Castle Guardian badge and certificate.

Life Guardians: £1,000 GBP (\$1,219 USD) & above will receive Guardians' gifts, a signed photograph of the chief and be granted lifetime access to the public areas of the Castle during opening hours.

Patrons: £5,000 GBP (\$6,096 USD) & above will receive all of the recognition of Life Guardians and a Clan MacLean Crest.

Chief's Circle: £25,000 GBP (\$30,480 USD) & above will receive all of the recognition of Life Guardians and an engraved Quaich.

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!

The Duart Appeal

The first nine phases of the restoration have been completed at a cost of £2.67 million with contributions coming from the Appeal but also from Historic Environment Scotland and my family. The focus is now on completing Phase 10 which includes the state bedroom, dressing room and walls containing the front door.

The final phase (11) will begin in April 2024 and mainly covers the embattlement walkways. To finish the project in 2025, the Appeal needs to raise an additional £300,000. Please continue your financial support to allow us to complete the restoration of Duart Castle for the Clan.

How to Donate:

Visit duartappeal.org for details on donation and sponsorship levels. U.S. donors may make **tax-deductible donations** online using PayPal via the website or by check made payable to **Clan Maclean Association** (mail to: P.O. Box 112, Monument, CO, 80132), which is a non-profit Section 501 (c)(3) corporation supporting Scottish cultural outreach. Note the updated mailing address. On the check memo line note "CMAUS Member - Duart Appeal".



Chief Sir Lachlan Maclean, Clan MacLean

