



# 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

## By-law change to sixth generation

By Jason Wamsley, CMAUS President

At the Clan Maclean International meeting, held on June 17, 2025, it was said that our chief, Sir Lachlan Maclean, supports recognizing up to the sixth generation for regular membership, if Associations so choose to amend their by-laws to reflect this. Currently, the fourth generation rule as described in Article III, Section 2, Category B in the by-laws of Clan Maclean Association in the United States (CMAUS) reads:

SURNAMES OTHER THAN  
MACLEAN/MACLAINE WITH  
MACLEAN/MACLAINE KINSHIP. Persons bearing a surname other than MacLean/MacLaine but whose maternal parent, grandparent or great-grandparent bore either the name MacLean or MacLaine shall be eligible for Life or Regular Membership.

If CMAUS continues to hold to the fourth generation rule, our Association may possibly suffer from a membership shortage. When this by-law change was brought up for discussion at the 2025 Annual General Meeting (AGM), all feedback was positive. A vote was then planned via Zoom on September 8, 2025. A quorum was not achieved and the vote was postponed.

At the 2026 AGM scheduled for July 11, 2026 at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, CMAUS will vote to amend the above by-law to allow up to the sixth generation or a great-great-great-grandparent connection.

The CMAUS Executive Committee proposes to amend Article III, Section 2, Category B of our by-law to reflect Regular and Life memberships to those whose maternal parent, grandparent, great-grandparent, great-great-grandparent, or great-great-great-grandparent bore either the name Maclean, or MacLaine (regardless of spelling), and that this change be extended to all Maclean septs. This rule change will also retroactively award those Associate members who are within the sixth generation with a Regular membership.



The first game of 2026 was the Central Florida Scottish Highland Games in January. Clan Maclean was there!

### Inside This Issue

By-law change	Page 1
GMHG in July	Page 2
Announcements & Events	Page 2
Presidential Pen	Page 3
Executive Committee Changes	Page 3
Family History	Page 4





# Clan MacLean Executive Committee



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## Plan now for the Grandfather Mountain Games in July

The 2026 Grandfather Mountain Highland Games will be held July 9-12 at MacRae Meadows near Linville, NC. There were a 109 clan tents at last year's games – a record-breaking number. This event continues to get larger with more people and clans attending each year.

It's not too early to find a place to stay. Book early as options fill up fast. Tickets are on sale now. You may buy tickets online at <https://gmhg.org>. Click on "General and Patron tickets are on sale now."

The 2026 Clan Maclean Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held during the GMHG and is tentatively scheduled for July 11<sup>th</sup>. Stay tuned as details are being worked out.

President Jason Wamsley has put a poll on Facebook asking for input from members as to which game event they would

like to see a future AGM take place. Looking ahead, the Executive Committee feels it is important to move the AGM around to other games. You can also email Jason at [president@maclean.us.org](mailto:president@maclean.us.org) with ideas regarding a future location for the AGM.

The Executive Committee hopes to see many Clan Maclean members this summer at the AGM!



## Clan Maclean Announcements & Events

### • 2026 UPCOMING GAMES AND EVENTS

- Mar 26-29**—Tartan Day South, Cayce, SC ([tartandaysouth.com](http://tartandaysouth.com))
- March 28** – San Antonio Highland Games, Helotes, TX ([sahga.org](http://sahga.org))
- April 10-12**—Indoor Scottish Games, Manchester, NH ([nhssa.org/indoor-scottish-festival](http://nhssa.org/indoor-scottish-festival))
- April 11**—Dunedin Highland Games, Dunedin, FL ([dunedinsafoundation.com](http://dunedinsafoundation.com))
- \*April 11**—New York City Tartan Day Parade, NYC ([nytartanweek.org/participate](http://nytartanweek.org/participate))
- April 18-19** – Loch Norman Highland Games, Huntersville, NC ([lochnorman.com](http://lochnorman.com))
- May 2** – Savannah Scottish Games, Savannah, GA ([savannahscottishgames.com](http://savannahscottishgames.com))
- \*May 16** – St. Louis Scottish Games, Manchester, MO ([stlouis-scottishgames.com](http://stlouis-scottishgames.com))
- \*May 16** – Fair Hills Scottish Games, Elkton, MD ([fairhillscottishgames.com](http://fairhillscottishgames.com))
- May 16-17** – Smoky Mountain Scottish Games, Townsend, TN ([smokymountaingames.org](http://smokymountaingames.org))
- May 23** – Greenville Scottish Games, Greenville, SC ([gallabrae.com](http://gallabrae.com))
- May 30** – Port City Highland Games, Wilmington, NC ([portcityhighlandgames.com](http://portcityhighlandgames.com))
- June 12-13** – Chicago Scots Festival, Wheaton, IL ([chicagoscots.org/highland](http://chicagoscots.org/highland))

*\*Needs conveners. Contact Lead Convenor Mary Sue Wyatt ([bummers56@gmail.com](mailto:bummers56@gmail.com)) for more information.*

# Clan MacLean Executive Committee



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## Presidential Pen

By Jason Wamsley, CMAUS President

Are you looking for more ways to learn about Clan Maclean? You may, or may not, have heard of the Clan Maclean Heritage Trust. The Trust is a wonderful non-profit association that was created in 1996 to maintain and preserve Maclean history. The Trust works to memorialize important Maclean events and places as well as maintains the Maclean Library at the Isle of Mull Museum in Tobermory.

Projects of the Trust have included erecting a cairn on the site of the Battle of Inverkeithing, a plaque to recognize the work of Dr. John Angus McLean at Alfred Hospital in Melbourne Australia, and a cairn at Fort Ticonderoga. The Trust has produced several publications about Clan Maclean.

The Trust is comprised of twelve

Macleans from around the world, including our Chief, Sir Lachlan Maclean. It is supported by various means, one of which is from folks like you. For a small yearly fee, you can become a Friend of the Clan Maclean Heritage Trust and will receive a newsletter detailing all completed projects for the year as well as upcoming plans. The newsletter is also filled with articles concerning the history of Macleans worldwide. If you want to dive deeper into the history of our great clan and learn more, consider becoming a Friend of the Clan Maclean Heritage Trust. You can help the Trust do the great things they do. Join online at <https://maclean.org>.

In the past, Clan Maclean Association in the United States has raised money to support the Trust's endeavors. I hope to continue this effort in 2026.

## Executive Committee changes

Effective February 23, 2026, Cale Holloway has been named as the new Vice-President of CMAUS. Scott Huling had to resign due to work conflicts. Cale will hold this position till the term for Vice-President is up for re-election in 2028.

As of May 1, 2026, Jennifer McLean will become Secretary. Megan Connolly will resign at the end of April. Jennifer will hold this position till the term for Secretary is up for re-election in 2026.

The Executive Committee thanks both Scott and Megan for their contributions to Clan Maclean in the United States.

## Clan MacLean Board of Directors

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### The Pippings Newsletter

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## Writing my family history – it is a journey

By Craig McLean

Historians know that the Macleans are one of the oldest clans in the Scottish Highlands and that they owned large tracts of land in Argyllshire as well as the Inner Hebrides. Clan Maclean can with some certainty trace its origin back to Old Dougall of Scone, who lived in the late 11<sup>th</sup> century and died after 1100 AD. Early Macleans became famous for their honor, strength, and courage in battle, as our motto, “Virtue Mine Honor,” denotes. We were involved in clan skirmishes with other clans such as the Camerons, MacDonalds, and Campbells. We were also involved in all of the Jacobite risings.

Much of the power of the chiefs of Clan Maclean was derived from their marriage connections with the Lords of the Isles, for whom they often acted as chamberlains of their households and as their chief lieutenants. We loyally supported the Lordship of the Isles until it was dissolved in 1493, when we became an independent clan, as did other clans. Since the Clan Donald also broke up into separate clans at this same time, the Macleans became the most powerful island clan.

So prior to starting on this quest for my McLean ancestors, I knew that we had this ancient heritage, but I soon realized that accurately tracing direct lineage becomes much more difficult the further one goes back in time, so I chose to focus on the generations that have been on North American soil.

For ten years now, I have been researching my family history in order to create a book about my McLean history. My McLean line came to North Carolina in 1749 from the Isle of Jura (meaning “dear island”), Scotland and settled along the Cape Fear River region in what was then northern Bladen county, from which Cumberland county was created in 1754, and by 1855,

due to more county divisions, the area of my McLean’s home place was in Harnett county, near present day Lillington, N. C., just south of Wake County. In my years of research, I have spent much time visiting cemeteries in and around northern Harnett and southern Wake counties. Thousands of hours have been spent researching and reading through Wake County land grant documents and deeds from the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Genealogy research has proven to be very time consuming. Over the years, I have found online research to be both helpful and a hindrance. [Ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com), [Newspapers.com](http://Newspapers.com), [FamilySearch.org](http://FamilySearch.org), and [Findagrave.com](http://Findagrave.com) offer lots of valuable information. However, there are many inaccuracies and obvious errors within these sites, so the researcher must be diligent in recognizing this reality. Recognize also that even documents like deeds, birth/death records, etc. have errors in them. [Digitalnc.org](http://Digitalnc.org) is useful for finding historical books, professional and city directories, family histories, and minute books for churches and Masonic lodges. The web site, [usgenweb.org](http://usgenweb.org), is especially valuable with probing the historical formation of counties within our states. [Wikitree.com](http://Wikitree.com) is another somewhat useful site.

There is also a “MacLean/MacLaine Group Project” within the website FamilyTreeDNA.com that can be useful. The objective of the “MacLean/MacLaine DNA Project” is to use DNA testing to help project members to identify where their ancestors originated and to put them in touch with others whose DNA profile matches them most closely. This group also has a private Facebook presence.

When researching information online, I always search for the original document. This has included such documents as census records, marriage bonds/certificates, church records, Wills & Testaments, probate records, birth/death records, military records, land grants, and deeds. A document offers proof that the information is original, (continued page 5)



## Family history continued

not a transcription; however, there still may be inaccuracies in these primary documents, especially census enumerations, since humans created them, and humans make mistakes; additionally, those who were filling in these various documents were relying on someone telling them what information to include, and those being interviewed might not “remember” accurately. In doing any genealogy research, one must verify everything. Many of my files include the electronic copy of the original documents.

There are many other history-related and genealogical websites that one could use, and, of course one could also visit state archives, county clerk’s offices, local libraries and museums, and the history rooms of old churches. One never knows where or when they will find documents pertaining to or photographs of one’s ancestors. The pursuit can be frustrating and disappointing, but persistence usually pays off. Most importantly, talk to your older relatives while you still can. **It will be too late when they are gone.** Also, stress the importance of family lineage and history to your children and to anyone who will listen. We only pass this way once, so let us cherish our time and remember those who passed this way once and brought us into

being.

In writing a book about one’s family genealogy, at some point the author will have to decide at what generation does one stop. As of now, I have traced ancestors back eight generations within the United States; researching beyond those eight generations and finding accurate data, records, and ancestral linkages in Scotland becomes an even greater challenge. Research of recent generations can also prove more difficult due to divorces and multiple marriages involved. Married women not changing their name has also caused me problems. Regardless, one day, I’ll finish at a certain point and self-publish the book. I will share my work with family members or anyone who wants a copy.

I have organized my book beginning with the earliest generation in this country—my sixth Great-grandparents—Hugh and Margaret McArthur McLean, who came here with their children in 1749, as a result of the Scottish loss to Britain at the Battle of Culloden in 1746. From them I have chronicled as best I can each succeeding generation, leading to my generation’s children, i.e., my children and my first cousins, once removed or, numerically, our 10<sup>th</sup> generation in North America. (continued on page 6)

## 2027 Clan Maclean International Gathering

The International Gathering is scheduled for Tuesday, June 22 through Saturday, June 26, 2027 on the Isle of Mull, Scotland. Make plans now to attend this event. Once the program and schedule of events are announced, they will be printed in the newsletter. We hope to see a large turnout of CMAUS members at the International Gathering!





## Family history continued

My goal in writing my family history is to write a story, as best and as accurately as I can, about our ancestors and the descendants (only briefly) of my generation based on my research, recollections, family member interviews, and observations. I hope to describe their lives and times and bring some shape and form—some humanness to them, not just cite dates and list descendants. I wanted to know where they lived, what they did, what their schooling was, their hardships, their accomplishments, the migratory paths of their descendants. Along the way, I have vicariously experienced, along with my ancestors and kin, uncertainty like that which Hugh and Margaret McArthur, along with their 8 children, must have felt as they sailed in 1749 from Scotland to a new land; or the joy and pride that my second Great-grandfather must have felt upon becoming a doctor during the Civil War era, or the utter despair that a 17 year-old cousin's death in Merkel, Texas brought to her family and the community when she drove home from high school one day in 1952, only to go two blocks and be struck by a Texas & Pacific freight train passing through Merkel; approximately 1,200 people attended her funeral; or the dark place my grandmother Unomia McLean must have been in when her husband, John Bartlett McLean, was killed by his brother in 1924, in Fuquay Springs, N.C., leaving her a 39-year old widow with 9 children. These are only 4 of the many events in the lives of my ancestors and kin that I have captured in my attempt to bring life to my family.

I do this as a recognition of and tribute to their lives, their dreams, and to their existence along the familial path that led to us. My hope is that some will find this interesting, informative, and, moreover, an acclamation of our family. It does not matter that we did not know, touch, laugh with, grieve with, and struggle with these who make up our blood line, for they are ours without knowing.

They came from those before them; they flow in us; we leave our progeny.

*"As the leaves fall . . . a time for generation . . ."*

If your goal is to explore your family, celebrate your heritage, and write a book about them or even create a web site, know that you can do it, but it takes dedication, curiosity, objectivity, perseverance, and time.



Hugh and Margaret McArthur McLean, parents of my line's John "Sober John" McLean; my generation's Sixth Great-grandparents, and our first ancestors on North American soil. Buried at Summerville Presbyterian Church (formerly Tirzah) near Lillington, Harnett Co., N. C.

Right: John "Sober John" McLean and Effie McCranie McLean, McLean-Murchison Family Cemetery, Harnett Co., N. C. (Revolutionary War Captain)





## Family history photos



Above: McLean-Murchison Family Cemetery, Harnett Co., N. C.



Above: This is my generation's second Great-grand parents, Mary Ann Rowland and Dr. John Alexander McLean. Finding their burial location took me years of research and logical deductions to locate where I thought they might be buried. Some digging proved my research and logic correct. Note the impression in the soil from the stone when I unearthed and turned over the buried stone.



Left: The famous McLean twins of Harnett Co., N.C. Many newspaper articles were written about them in the late 1800s. Hugh (left) and Hector McLean, 3<sup>rd</sup> Great uncles, brothers to my third Great-grandfather, Coll McAlester McLean, father of John Alexander McLean, my second Great-grandfather.

### Other web sites for the McLean researcher:

Clan Maclean Association in the United States:

[maclean.us.org](http://maclean.us.org)

Maclean Clan Worldwide

[maclean.org](http://maclean.org)

MACLEAN HISTORY PROJECT:

[macleanhistory.org](http://macleanhistory.org)

Clan Maclean Heritage Trust:

[facebook.com/ClanMacleanHeritageTrust](https://facebook.com/ClanMacleanHeritageTrust)

SCOTCLANS : (commercial)

[scotclans.com/scottish-clans/clan-maclean/](http://scotclans.com/scottish-clans/clan-maclean/)

Electric Scotland: (commercial)

[electricscotland.com](http://electricscotland.com)

National Library of Scotland: Histories of Scottish Families

[digital.nls.uk/histories-of-scottish-families/](http://digital.nls.uk/histories-of-scottish-families/)

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

#### 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:

[maclean.us.org/join](https://maclean.us.org/join)

Need to renew your membership? Visit:

[maclean.us.org/renew](https://maclean.us.org/renew)

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

## The Duart Appeal

The castle will open for the season on April 1, 2026. Phases 1-11 of the restoration have been completed. All the scaffolding has been removed from the outside of the castle to welcome Maclean visitors from around the world.

Please continue your financial support for present and future restoration projects of Duart Castle. The castle's long-term future depends on donations from Macleans from around the world. Consider becoming a donor. The Duart Appeal appreciates all support at any donor level.

#### How to Donate:

Visit [duartappeal.org](https://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

