



Association of Highland Clans & Societies

Newsletter: March 2017



Over 2,600 Members of 57 Clans To provide A Splash of Tartan at Tattoo

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo's invitation to celebrate *The Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology* with "A Splash of Tartan" is proving a great hit with the clans. Jamie Macnab of Macnab, who is co-ordinating the clans' involvement on behalf of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs, reported recently that at the deadline for clan allocations (end of February) some 2,617 members of 57 clans had actually committed to the event, with about 230 tickets on hold for the Atholl and Lonach Highlanders.

Though that works out at an average of about 46 tickets sold per clan, some are way over that, and many are lagging well behind. Top of the table are the Carmichaels with 136 tickets bought, followed by the Bruces at 126, the MacMillans at 113, the MacKenzies at 108, and the Macphersons at 104. The rest of the top ten were the Sinclairs at 100, the Hendersons at 98, the Macnabs at 93, and the MacThomases & Robertsons both at 87.

Other members of the AHCS who'll be there are the Frasers, the MacDonalds, the MacAulays, the Macleans, the Urquharts, the Macraes, the Stewarts, the Mathesons, the Curries, the Buchanans, the MacLennans, and the Camerons.

The non-participation of some clans, and the disappointing numbers for a few that will be there, can in part be attributed to the last-minute nature of the invitation, and the fact that in some cases clans are already committed to major gatherings before or after August of this year. This suggests that lessons from the Homecoming gatherings, about planning all-clan events sufficiently far ahead, have yet fully to be learnt.

Problems have also arisen from the limit that we've been told may be imposed on the number of clanspeople that can march into the arena with their chief. Since this is the main attraction for many overseas clanspeople, the limit has caused near mutiny in the ranks of at least one of the clans due to have a particularly large turnout. Another potentially vexing issue was the initial exclusion of clans without a chief.

All this is being tackled with patience and goodwill by the SCSC and the army officers who run the show; and of course by the foot-soldiers in the clan societies who have to explain matters beyond our control to our members. Despite the problems, the clans are looking forward to what we know will be memorable evenings for us all.

News from the Association and Member Clans



OUR ACTING SECRETARY

Fiona Grant, Chair of the Clan Grant Society, kindly agreed at July's AGM of the Association to act as our Secretary while Anne Maclean was busy organising this year's Clan Maclean International Gathering. Fiona gave the AGM a briefing on her experience working with Event Scotland to get a grant from the Clan Events Fund, saying how helpful they were in dealing with the rather daunting application form. She also sang the praises of Adrian Moar, the young website designer who was assisting the Grants to create a new website for Clan Grant visitors. Adrian has written a piece about his experience working with the clan, which can be found elsewhere in the newsletter in a feature on the Grants.

MACLEANS' AMBITIOUS GATHERING

As a brief glance at the programme on the Clan Maclean website shows, Anne will indeed have her hands full organising their gathering. While they're not expecting anything like the 1,000 who attended 2012's special anniversary events, they are hoping for a few hundred; and will get them since they have such a great record running regular gatherings.



Margaret Saunders (left) current President of the Clan Mackenzie Society of Scotland and the UK, with Anne Maclean of Dochgarroch at the Culloden Commemoration Service, where Margaret laid the wreath on behalf of those AHCS clans not otherwise represented.

Clan Macpherson Association

by Iris Macpherson

Our Clan has had a very busy and enjoyable year, the highlight of which was our Clan Macpherson Annual Gathering (Platinum Dhubh) which was held to commemorate the 70th year of the Clan Macpherson Association. Over 350 members attended from 14 countries. Our programme included the Highland Ball, Supper and Ceilidh, Church Service and a Whisky Tasting. Unfortunately the special ceilidh planned for Ruthven Barracks had to be cancelled due to high winds and rain, but was replaced by a performance in the marquee. We attended the Newtonmore Highland Games where Chairman Jean Macpherson-Duffy proudly led 186 kilted members onto the Games field. The Macpherson Clan March is one of the main attractions of the Games

On Saturday 8th October 2016 we were delighted to host the AHCS Autumn Event which included a tour of the Clan Macpherson Museum.



Pictured above are most of the members of AHCS who joined our autumn outing to the Clan Macpherson Museum. George MacMillan of MacMillan & Knap had come up from Renfrewshire to join us, and is pictured above (centre right in the blazer) with Celia Macintosh of Macintosh to his left and Allan Maclean of Dochgarroch to his right. AHCS were pleased to make a donation of £100 to the museum who welcomed us there very warmly indeed.

CULLODEN CROWDS CONTINUE TO RISE

The annual Battle of Culloden Commemoration Service organised by the Gaelic Society of Inverness attracts more people each year. Last year's service marked the 270th anniversary of the battle, and was therefore particularly well attended.

Professor Hugh Cheape of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig (Gaelic College on Skye) gave a particularly interesting Chieftain's Address on behalf of the Gaelic Society. It can be found, along with various videos of the surrounding ceremonies, on You Tube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D-WCc2Kp88U>

CULLODEN EVENT PLANNED FOR 2017

The 1745 Association and the National Trust Scotland's joint Annual Culloden Lecture will be delivered on the afternoon of Friday 14th April by Dr Christopher Duffy, Hon. Vice Chairman of The 1745 Association. His title will be "Writing the Jacobite '45."

In Search of a Commander for Clan MacGillivray



Clan MacGillivray's new Commander, (forefront), with his father the famous piper Duncan MacGillivray.

In common with many clans, the MacGillivrays are what is known as an "armigerous clan"; in other words it is a recognised clan but one which does not have a chief accepted by the Lyon Court. There has been no Chief of the Clan since 1942. However, Colonel George B. MacGillivray of Thunder Bay in Canada, having unsuccessfully petitioned the Lord Lyon to be recognised as chief, was commissioned as the Commander of Clan in 1989; a position he held until his death in 1994. Since then there has been no leader of the MacGillivrays.

This is not a good situation for a clan with active Associations in the UK, America, Canada, Australia and Holland. The committee of the Scottish-based Clan MacGillivray International Association felt therefore that it was time at least to try and put in place a new Commander. There is always the hope that a hereditary Chief might emerge.

On the face of it the procedure is straight forward, and Elizabeth McGillivray, a Dundee lawyer and Secretary to the International Association, took on the task with enthusiasm; though it was rather different from the usual kind of work she does.

With the backing of the Associations, she presented a formal Petition to the Lyon Court of Scotland for consent to convene a *derbhfine* or Family Convention. For other clans considering going down this route, there is helpful guidance on the Lyon Court website and the Office of the Lord Lyon is very supportive.

The rules which applied to a *derbhfine* in the old days meant that the heads or representatives of the leading branches of a family would meet and decide who a Commander could be; but nowadays finding substantial land owners and armigers is not easy, something which is recognised by the Lord Lyon.

There are no hard and fast rules for how a Family Convention is to work, but the procedure must be transparent and fair. To ensure this the Lord Lyon appoints a Reporting Officer to oversee the Convention and report to him with a recommendation as to whether or not the party approved by the Convention as a possible Commander should be so appointed. The guidance from the Lord Lyon indicates that it is preferable a Commander should have the surname of the clan and be resident in Scotland; that the Convention itself should take place in Scotland and recommend unanimously the person whose name is to go forward to the Lord Lyon. The number participating in the Family Convention should ideally be between ten and twenty five people.

The MacGillivray *derbhfine* was held on the 15th April 2016 in the Robertson Room at Culloden, so those attending could take part in the procession the following day on the 270th Anniversary of the Battle. There were four applications for the position which had been widely publicised through the various associations. Two representatives from each Association were given voting rights, with those from Australia & Canada participating by Skype. Other senior members of the Clan attended and the total number voting was just over twenty.

Two of the candidates presented their applications by electronic link, and the other two, one American and one local, attended in person. The unanimous decision was in favour of Iain MacGillivray, a member of a local farming family whose links with the Clan go back many generations. The Reporting Officer submitted her report and Iain was subsequently appointed by the Lord Lyon.

Iain and his family, along with Elizabeth, representatives of Clan Chattan, and others, attended at the Lord Lyon's Office later in the year for a formal presentation to the new

Commander of his Commission, which is for an initial period of five years. It can be renewed for a further five years, and after that if there is still no evidence of a hereditary Chief, Commander Iain can apply to the Lord Lyon to be recognised as Chief. If so recognised, however, the position remains open to challenge for a further twenty years lest a hereditary Chief should emerge. In that case the Commander who has become Chief must step aside.

All of the foregoing would indicate that this was a smooth process. Sadly, that was not entirely the case, with protests being lodged by someone in Canada who appeared not to understand the rules. There is some evidence there of a member of the old Chiefly line, but since that person cannot establish legitimate links they cannot be recognised as the Chief of the Clan (chiefs must demonstrate legitimate links in the same way as a hereditary monarch).

As a result of this dispute, Elizabeth, in particular, has been subjected to some very difficult and distressing comments from the person concerned. The complainer lodged protests not only with the Lord Lyon, but also with the First Minister, and even HM the Queen. However, these protests were not successful.

Clan MacGillivray is delighted to have a new leader. Commander Iain has already visited clan members in Holland and Australia, and he will continue to rally the clan this year with visits to America and Canada.

Our thanks to Elizabeth McGillivray for her account of these proceedings.



Iain receives his commission from the Lord Lyon King of Arms, Dr Joseph Morrow QC.

More News from The Clans



MACFIE COMMANDER ON THE MEND

The Macfies were amongst the first members of the AHCS and their Commander, Iain Macfie, and his wife Fiona, attended most of our earliest events (they're pictured left at the Inverness Highland Games in 2014). They've been missed at recent events because Iain is in hospital in Glasgow recovering from spinal surgery. An update on the Macfie website says that he is doing well in what will be a long process of rehabilitation. His clan in the meantime will be holding their 20th International Gathering and 12th Clan Parliament at Stirling from the 6th to the 10th of September this year.

GUNN COMMANDER BECOMES CHIEF

Iain Gunn of Banniskirk, who had served for 40 years as the Commander of Clan Gunn, has become Iain Gunn of Gunn. The Lord Lyon accepted a petition requesting his recognition as Chief, after a Family Convention in 2015.

Iain was invested as Chief on the 16th of April 2016 in the Merchant's Hall, Edinburgh, on the 900th anniversary of the death of St Magnus, a Patron Saint of Clan Gunn. The Lord Lyon was there in person to present Iain Gunn with the Grant of Arms as Chief of Clan Gunn. A full account of the Gunns' progress from Commander to Chief can be found on their society's website at: www.clangunnsociety.org/chiefship/. Clan Gunn is not currently a member of AHCS.

CURRIES SEEK NEW COMMANDER

The Curries (or MacMhuirichs), some of whom call themselves a "Learned Family" rather than a Clan, are holding a Family Convention in Glasgow on the 15th of August 2017 to choose a candidate to be their Commander. The Curries are AHCS members.

LORD LYON TO LECTURE IN INVERNESS IN MARCH

Dr Joseph Morrow will deliver the Annual Clan Donald Society Lecture at the Spectrum Centre, Farraline Park, Inverness, at 10.30am on Saturday 18th March. The title of his lecture will be "From 14th to 21st Century".

STEWARTS CELEBRATE FRENCH ANCESTRY

The High Stewards of the Scots kings, who went on to become the royal house of Stuart, trace their ancestry back to the hereditary stewards of the Bishop of Dol in the Duchy of Brittany. The Stewart Society celebrated their French connection last year by attending a Franco-Scottish Festival. Jenn Scott, Secretary of The Stewart Society, sent us this brief account:

We had an excellent Gathering in July in Aubigny sur Nere which is sometime called *La cite des Stuarts* - so you can see why we went! The title of Lord of Aubigny (amongst others) was given to John Stewart of Darnley after the Battle of Bauge in 1421 and the Stuarts remained there about 300 years. The town now holds an annual *Fete Franco Ecossoise* to celebrate their Scottish links.

The town is festooned in tartan. It is well worth visiting. The Camerons were there too. I recommend other clans seeing if they have French links or a French branch who are interested. There are also strong Jacobite links in the area. The Stuarts had a great time attending this, visiting the Chateau de Verriere built by Bernard Stuart who fought all over Europe including at Bosworth, enjoying a superb dinner at a Michelin-starred restaurant in Aubigny, and leading all the clans through cheering crowds on the Sunday.



The Stuarts (left) and the MacKinnons at Aubigny sur Nere in July

LOVAT WEDDING

We have received this news from Malcolm Fraser, representative of the Lovat Frasers:

Simon Fraser, Chief of the Clan Fraser of Lovat, married the model Petra Palumbo in St Stephens Church in London on the 14th May 2016, and we are all delighted to welcome the lovely Petra as Lady Lovat into the Clan !!

EASTER RULES OUT AHCS PRE-CULLODEN EVENING EVENT THIS YEAR

Since Friday 14th April is Good Friday, AHCS will not be organising a pre-Culloden event this year.

Clan Cameron will be holding their usual post-Culloden lunch at The Cawdor Tavern on the 15th.

The Grants, their town, journey planner, and clan centre

Grantown 250

The celebrations marking the 250th Anniversary of the founding of Grantown-on-Spey, began in the morning of Sunday 21 June 2015 with a midsummer festival at the remains of the old village of Grantown, now in a grassy field within the grounds of Castle Grant.

The Chief, his brother the Hon. Michael Grant, Judy Lewis, Sir Archie and Fiona Grant attended on behalf of the Clan Grant Society.

Local people were dressed in period costume of the 16th Century and included the founder of the town the Good Sir James – portrayed by another James Grant, who looked remarkably like the founder himself!

Everyone then travelled to new Grantown – some via horse and cart – for the unveiling of the newly rebuilt *mercato cross* in the town square (missing since 1765) and the official opening of the Grantown 250 week of events.



Sir Archibald Grant, Lord Strathspey (Clan Chief), James Grant (in costume), and Sir Patrick Grant

Clan Grant Centre

In 1986 Gerald Brandon-Bravo from Whitebridge, gave the old church at Duthil to the Clan Grant Society.

In 1993 the building was handed over to a Trust which is now officially known as: Clan Grant Centre Trust [Scottish Charity No: SC021615].

“The first idea was to develop the building as a museum, but this project hinged upon Lottery funding for which we were unsuccessful, so it was then decided to use it principally as a **Clan Centre** although we are able to continue with the original intention of including a Museum function.”

This imposing listed building has been renovated by the Society and is used as a Clan Centre and Museum. There are several projects still ongoing to improve both the fabric and interior of the centre further- but progress is and will continue to be dependent on funds becoming available.

Inside, two glass display cabinets dedicated to the Métis and the Cherokees have recently been installed by the Chief and Judy, as well as many paintings, photos and other Clan memorabilia displayed on the walls. Important and valuable weapons and artefacts of the Clan are held in storage by the National Museums of Scotland, and we have begun to display some of these items in the Centre. Meanwhile we are also able to store material for the Society and to host (with some constraints) meetings of the Society and other events.

Account from the Clan Grant Society Website



The Clan Grant Centre is in the old church at Duthil near Carrbridge, a few miles west of Grantown-on-Spey



The first line read ‘You might be the person we are looking for?’ That was the email Lyndsay MacColl the Employment Skills Officer at Moray College forwarded to all students advertising a short term internship. The opportunity was being offered by Fiona Grant, the Chair of the Clan Grant Society UK.

Fiona had successfully secured funding for a project to create an online Journey Planner designed to help visiting Grant kinsmen. The Journey Planner was to help them with transport, accommodation and advice on planning a trip, but most importantly provide easily accessible information about Clan Grant associated sites and how to research their own clan family links.

Fiona had been working with Moray College to find someone with the right research and IT skills to take up this challenge.

As a mature computing student at Moray College and a web designer (www.moarwebdesigns.co.uk) I thought this was a great idea, as I have always been interested in my own family history and have American relatives who visit on a regular basis. I have seen the difficulty they have sometimes experienced trying to find information or guides to some historical sites.

Following an application and interview I was offered the position. Since then I have been working with Fiona to create a very interactive website which allows visitors to see on a map of Scotland, where the different type of clan sites are located, along with images, historical information, access information and directions.

I am looking forward to working with Fiona to complete the website and hope that Clan Grant’s visitors will find it essential in helping them to plan a journey to Scotland and research their own family links.

We hope the project will be successful and would be delighted to offer the same service to other clans, should they be interested.

Adrian Moar

Moar Web Designs

8 Spey Avenue, Fochabers, IV32 7QR.

The Clans and their Histories Online



ANCESTRY CLANS

Members who attended our AGM will recall Norman McPherson's pleas to submit the questionnaires devised by Visit Scotland [VS] so they could gather more accurate information about clans and their lands for their website. The response to Norman's plea was good, and members of AHCS predominated amongst the questionnaires sent in. The first twenty clans can now be found up at: www.visitscotland.com/info/see-do/search-results?prodtypes=attr&loc=Scotland&cat=clanattr.

Having myself submitted forms for MacKenzies and MacMillans I was surprised to find that VS had ignored what I had sent them about the MacMillans and had put up instead a version of the clans history that echoed that to be found in Way & Squires *Scottish Clan and Family Encyclopaedia*. It contained claims that (quite unusually when dealing with the early history of highland clans) can actually be shown to be wrong.

VS have apologised and said they will amend it as soon as I send them the corrected material, and they

are keen to emphasise that the same is true for any other clans that have problems with what they put up.

However VS can only work with what is sent them, so it is up to us to look at what they have done and send them corrections where required; and indeed to complete and send in the questionnaires so they can work on the next twenty clans to be added.

The initial discussions with VS about this project suggested they might work with a map showing clan territories all together - though in fact they have now plumped for a different method. Their first idea prompted me to consider the problems of such an approach, and to think about alternatives. As part of that process I did the analysis of surnames in parishes that appears on the next three pages; and then I went on to demonstrate another alternative, which can now be seen, in a fairly crude form, on our own website: www.highlandclans.org/clans-map.htm.

One outstanding issue, which I discussed with VS after the recent meeting of the Scottish Ancestral Tourism Group, is that of septs and other non-clan surnames. At the moment the VS website is still linking to the *ScotClans* list of names; but I hope we can create a non-commercial alternative to that.

Graeme Mackenzie.

In order that members can judge for themselves what VS is putting up, here's what they have to say about one of us:

CLAN DONALD (MACDONALD)

Clan Donald is one of the largest Scottish clans, once controlling lands and waterways in the west highlands and the Hebrides. Its ancient chiefs were known as 'Lord of the Isles'.

Clan history

The chiefs of Clan Donald, or Clan Macdonald, were for centuries the largest landowners and most powerful lords in the whole British Isles after the Kings of England and Scotland. The chief of the Donald clan was known as the 'Lord of the Isles' (Scottish Gaelic: Triath nan Eilean or Rìgh Inne Gall) an ancient title with roots that stretch back beyond the Kingdom of Scotland. The realm of the Lord of Isles was made up of the lands of the Scotland's west coast, the islands and the waterways between them, and geography made these a kingdom separate from the rest of Scotland: from here the interior of the mainland was hard to reach, being mountainous and thickly forested. But the seaboard realm was easy to access for Gaelic and Viking tribes with their skilled sailors and fleets of galleys (birlinns). And so the coastal land and islands became a kingdom ruled by a series of hybrid Viking/Gaelic rulers. In theory they were, at various times, vassals of the Kings of Norway, Ireland, or Scotland, but the island chiefs essential were independent for many centuries. Their territory included the Hebrides, (Skye and Ross from 1438), Knoydart, Ardnamurchan, and the Kintyre peninsula.

In 1263 Alexander III of Scotland defeated Haakon IV of Norway at the Battle of Largs. The Clan Donald chief, Aonghas Mor and his clan had technically been vassals of Haakon and so the king of Scots became their new overlord, as confirmed in the Treaty of Perth.

As you might expect from such a large clan, they have played a major role in battles and political manoeuvres throughout the centuries. During the Wars of Scottish Independence, clan chief Aonghus Óg of Islay supported Robert the Bruce at the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314. King Robert the Bruce was so pleased with Clan Donald's loyalty that he swore they would always occupy the honoured position on the right wing of the Scottish army.

In 1493, John MacDonald forfeited his estates and titles to King James IV of Scotland. Thereafter, the title 'Lord of the Isles' has been held by the Duke of Rothesay, the eldest son and heir apparent of the King of Scotland, and later Great Britain. Prince Charles is therefore the current Lord of the Isles. The MacDonalds sole remaining possession from their once vast realm is the tiny island of Cara off Kintyre, which is owned by the MacDonalds of Largie.

Other Online Sources of MacDonald History



As one might expect there is a great deal of material online about Clan Donald. The *Clan Donald Heritage* site has a lot of information, and some excellent maps and other illustrations; but the views of the compiler about his clan's place in the history of Scotland are sometimes a little extreme:

www.clandonald-heritage.com/

Clan Donald Skye is the website for the Clan Donald Centre at Armadale: www.clandonald.com/

The High Council of Clan Donald also have a website at: www.highcouncilofclandonald.org/

The Clan Donald Society of the Highlands & Islands: www.clandonald.org/

Mapping the Clans and their Lands

One of the projects that Association members have been involved with this past year has been Visit Scotland's attempt to map the lands of the clans for their website, and to provide basic information on it about the clans, their lands, and the places associated with them. Sir Malcolm MacGregor, the Convener of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs, has been working on this with Vineet Lal, the Marketing Manager of Visit Scotland, along with our own Norman McPherson and myself.

Most members will probably know the famous map of clan lands produced many decades ago by the late Sir Iain Moncrieffe of that Ilk and the heraldic artist Don Pottinger (shown right - and henceforth "MP Map"). It was published originally by Bartholomews, and a version of it is still available on paper from Collins. Fringed with the coats of arms of the chiefs, the hard copy is an attractive piece of work; but it's also a very misleading piece of history.

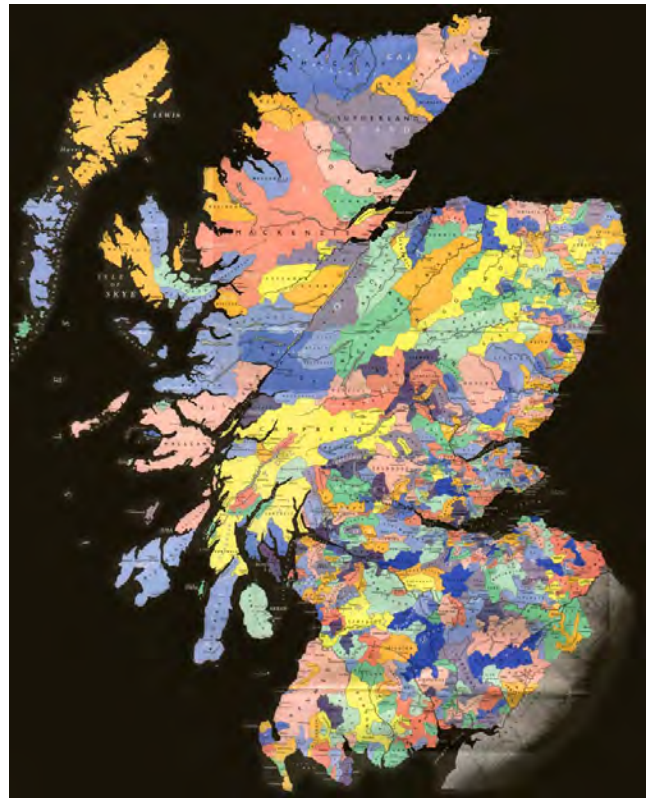
Though many clans like to claim that they have held their *dùthchas* forever, very few indeed can be found possessing the same lands in the 17th and 18th centuries that their ancestors had lived on in medieval times. Clann Donnchaidh (the Robertsons), as the successors of the original Earls of Atholl, might justifiably make that claim; as might smaller clans such as the Brodies. However, most clans rose and fell, splintered into far-flung branches - that often evolved into separate clans - and of course conquered and lost lands from and to their rivals over the centuries.

So, simply to quote the most obvious examples, the Campbells took much of Lorn from the MacDougalls, Knapdale from the MacMillans, Kintyre and Islay from the MacDonalds - who themselves had taken Glencoe from the "Hendersons" - and Cawdor from the Calders or Cawdors. The Camerons took Lochaber from the original Clan Chattan, and many members of the later Clan Chattan Confederation are said to have left their original homes in order to "take the protection" of Macintosh in Strathnairn and Strathdearn. The MacLeods probably took Lewis from the MacNicol, then the MacKenzies took it from them, along with Gairloch and Assynt; and also took Lochalsh from the MacDonalds. And so on.

Apart from the distortions inherent in any single map, which can only be a snapshot in time, the MP Map is also flawed by too often being based on who had the feudal superiority of lands, rather than who possessed them as lairds (either with a feu charter or a wadset), not to mention who actually lived on them.

To be fair to these very distinguished heralds, this is a distortion that also echoes through the written histories of many clans, especially those like the Campbells, MacKenzies, Camerons, Frasers, and Gordons, who rose to great heights on the conquest or grant of lands long-held, and often continuing to be possessed, by older kindreds - the members of whom were pressured, when surnames became required by the authorities, to call themselves after their new overlords.

Thus we have the old lairds of Craignish with the gyronny of eight hung on their ancestral galley like a great conquering sail as McCouls become Campbells; the pointless arguments over whether the gallant Roderick who gave his life for Bonnie Prince Charlie in Glenmoriston in July 1746 was really a Murchison rather than a MacKenzie; the virtual disappearance on Lochiel's lands, and indeed in most of Scotland (though not, interestingly, in the New



World) of old names such as MacMartin and MacGillony; and the birth in the Inverness area of the "Boll o' Meal" Frasers [note, "boll" - an ancient measure - not "bowl"].

Inherent in most of the above examples is the vexed question of septs, since that is how some of the older clans mentioned above - those who refused to take the name of their conquerors - are now regarded. Many of these "septs" were great clans in their own right long before the clans that later subordinated them had even come into existence; and where are their names on such clan maps?

Take MacInnes for example. The origin of the clan remains uncertain, but whether one believes their name - *MacAonghais* - derives from the 6th century son of Erc of Dalriada, or the 12th century son of Somerled of the Isles, tradition asserts that Clan MacInnes were a power on the mainland, particularly in Morvern, long before the successors of Somerled's grandson Donald got a foothold in Lochaber. Yet this once great clan are claimed as a sept of Clan Donald, and appear on the MP Map simply as a written-in name on the pink shading that represents the Maclean's lands in Morvern (though strangely they don't actually seem to be claimed as a sept by the Macleans).

The Clan Donald sept-list is a thing of wonder, based as it is (and therefore with some historical justification) on the fact that they once ruled so much of the western highlands and islands. So it is, for instance that we find them claiming the names of [Mac]Baxter and Blue in Knapdale and Kintyre, though local traditions clearly connect these names with the MacMillans. When we look for the name MacMillan on the MP Map, it too is just a write-in; and not on the territory of the MacDonalds, who they did once follow as Lords of the Isles, but on that of the Campbells. The fact that the MacMillans also had substantial branches in Lochaber and Galloway (where MacMillan was one of the most common of all surnames) simply never registers on the Moncrieffe-Pottinger map.

It's all too easy for the historian of one clan to claim discrimination against his kindred; and I could indeed also point to places where the later conquests of the MacKenzies are not shown (Lochbroom, Gairloch and Lochalsh for instance). On that basis of course the Campbells' already huge swatch of yellow would be even larger; and again largely at the expense of the MacDonalds. If one goes back rather than forward in time, the MacDougalls are grossly under-represented with their little bit of Lorn; and where are the MacRuaries (once as powerful as the MacDougalls and MacDonalds) and the MacSweens (who held the Isle of Arran, and indeed Knapdale even before the MacMillans)?

Traditions are not the same as historical facts - even in this age of "alternative facts" - and most of the above is open to dispute by other historians; so what does data about surname distribution tell us? Unfortunately it's not until 1841 that we have a complete count of all the inhabitants of Scotland using their surnames. By then emigration from the highlands was in full swing; and it's probable that those most prone to emigration were the members of conquered clans who could not expect to get whatever tenancies were left on their traditional clan lands in the age of clearances. Nevertheless, the table below makes for interesting reading.

Surnames in some parishes in 1841 with *Moncrieffe & Pottinger* clan(s) in italics

SUTHERLAND			Tain:	Ross	829	Dingwall:	<i>M'kenzie</i>	239
Assynt:	<i>M'leod</i>	1083	MacCulloch	Munro	308	Bain	M'donald	221
MacLeod	M'kenzie	688		M'kenzie	181	MacKenzie	Munro	107
	Matheson	79		M'leod	98		Ross	105
	M'rae	75		M'donald	90		Cameron	99
				<i>M'culloch</i>	30		Urquhart	83
							<i>Bain/Bayne</i>	57
ROSS & CROMARTY			Tarbat:	<i>Ross</i>	472	Urquhart	<i>M'kenzie</i>	481
Lochbroom:	<i>M'kenzie</i>	1283	Ross	Munro	155	& Logie W:	M'donald	350
MacDonell	M'leod	934		M'kenzie	92	MacKenzie	<i>Urquhart</i>	154
MacKenzie	<i>M'donald</i>	274		M'leod	44	Urquhart	Cameron	114
	Campbell	222					Munro	100
	M'rae	151	Fearn:	<i>Ross</i>	596		Ross	97
Gairloch:	<i>M'kenzie</i>	1377	Ross	M'kenzie	166	Resolis:	M'kenzie	134
MacLeod	M'lennan	761		Munro	130	Urquhart	Ross	93
MacKenzie	M'donald	264		M'leod	36		Munro	91
	M'rae	183		M'culloch	23		<i>Urquhart</i>	81
	Campbell	177	Nigg:	<i>Ross</i>	406	Cromarty:	Ross	325
	<i>M'leod</i>	116	Ross	Munro	118	Urquhart	M'kenzie	173
Lochcarron:	<i>M'kenzie</i>	391		M'leod	118		Munro	116
MacKenzie	M'lennan	268		M'kenzie	87		M'donald	71
	M'donald	175	Logie	<i>Ross</i>	290		<i>Urquhart</i>	65
	M'rae	166	Easter:	M'kenzie	112		<i>Bain/Bayne</i>	59
Lochalsh:	M'rae	619	Ross	Munro	91	ISLE OF LEWIS		
MacDonell	<i>Matheson</i>	406		M'leod	29	Barvas:	<i>M'leod</i>	565
(Matheson)	M'lennan	339	Kilmuir	<i>Ross</i>	328	MacLeod	Morrison	438
	M'kenzie	254	Easter:	Munro	186		M'iver	234
	<i>M'donald</i>	87	Ross	M'kenzie	137		Campbell	198
Kintail:	M'rae	569					M'kenzie	119
MacKenzie	<i>M'lennan</i>	92	Rosskeen:	Ross	716	Lochs &	<i>M'leod</i>	1985
(MacLennan)	M'donald	92	Munro	<i>Munro</i>	613	Stornoway:	M'kenzie	940
	<i>M'kenzie</i>	33		M'kenzie	251	MacLeod	Morrison	550
Glenshiel:	<i>M'rae</i>	393	Alness:	<i>Munro</i>	328		M'iver	550
MacKenzie	M'lennan	53	Munro	Ross	149		M'aulay	290
(Macrae)	M'donald	53		M'kenzie	79	Uig:	<i>M'leod</i>	445
	<i>M'kenzie</i>	26				MacLeod	M'iver	301
Glenelg:	M'donald	523	Kiltearn:	<i>Munro</i>	389		M'aulay	272
MacLeod	<i>M'leod</i>	139	Munro	M'kenzie	159		Morrison	159
	M'rae	124		Ross	112		M'kenzie	94
	M'kinnon	87		Urquhart	50			
				<i>Bain/Bayne</i>	39			

The clan[s] shown on the MP Map as possessing a parish are given in italics (with write-in clans in brackets) under the name of the parish. The most numerous names in the parish are listed on the right, with the possessor clan italicised. In most cases I have only included the top three or four names, but where the MP clan comes way down the list for that parish I have often included all those down to it.

Space only allows me to mention a few of the most significant results. If the MacKenzie majority in MacDonell Lochbroom is notable for its size, the dominance of the Macraes, Mathesons, and MacLennans (all just write-in clans on the map) in Lochalsh, Kintail and Glenshiel is striking. The Cameron dominance of Ardgour and Morvern is perhaps not unexpected, and the same may be said for the results from the whole of Islay, where the Campbells (776), MacDougalls (415), and Macleans (368) all outnumber the MacDonalds (209). However, even this MacMillan historian was astonished to discover how they dominated Kintyre: MacMillan 1047, Campbell 462, MacNeil 340, MacDonald 207. The most striking result however concerns Glassary in Argyll, which is shown on the MP Map as belonging to Clan Scrymgeour - not one member of whom was resident there in 1841, or indeed anywhere else in Argyll.

ARGYLL							
Ardnam'chan	Cameron	973	South	<i>M'millan</i>	104	Kinloch- spelvie:	<i>M'lean</i> 110 Campbell 81
Sunart and	<i>M'donald</i>	949	Knapdale:	<i>Campbell</i>	93	& Torosay	M'dougall 54
Strontian:	<i>M'millan</i>	154	Campbell	<i>M'alister</i>	42	Maclean	M'donald 39
Clanranald	<i>M'phee/M'fie</i>	131	(MacMillan)	M'donald 27		(Maclaine)	Cameron 21
(i.e. Mac- Donald)	<i>M'innes</i>	96		<i>M'lean</i>	19		<i>M'kinnon</i> 15
	<i>M'master</i>	82		Blue 10			
Corran of	Cameron	324	Kilberry & Kilcalmonel:	<i>Campbell</i>	152	Kilfinichen	<i>M'lean</i> 333
Ardgour:	<i>M'lean</i>	87	Campbell	<i>M'millan</i>	138	& Kilvickeon	M'donald 316
Maclean	<i>M'innes</i>	61	MacDonell	<i>M'lean</i>	92	Maclean	M'kinnon 202
(MacMaster)	<i>M'gillivray</i>	55	(MacAlister)	<i>M'alister</i>	65		Campbell 188
	<i>M'donald</i>	53		Blue 34			<i>M'gillivray</i> 183
	<i>M'millan</i>	40		<i>M'donald</i>	19		Cameron 62
	<i>M'master</i>	02		Currie 18			<i>M'dougall</i> 42
							<i>M'quarrie</i> 30
Morvern:	Cameron	296	Saddell & Skipness:	<i>M'millan</i>	137	Iona:	<i>M'donald</i> 114
Maclean	<i>M'innes</i>	108	Campbell	<i>Campbell:</i>	56	MacDonell	<i>M'lean</i> 74
(MacInnes)	<i>M'lean</i>	102	MacDonell	Brown 31			Campbell 72
	<i>M'donald</i>	91		<i>M'alister</i>	27		<i>M'gillivray</i> 26
	Campbell 33			Blue 24			
	<i>M'master</i> 32			<i>M'lean</i> 21			
Ardchattan:	<i>Campbell</i>	104	Killean & Kilchenzie:	<i>M'millan</i>	168	ISLES OF	<i>M'lean</i> 1351
Campbell	<i>M'gregor</i>	52	MacDonell	<i>M'lean</i>	75	COLL & TYREE:	M'donald 788
	<i>M'donald</i>	79		<i>M'donald</i>	50	Maclean	Campbell 299
	<i>M'callum</i>	65		Campbell 44			Cameron 177
				<i>M'neil</i> 39			<i>M'dougall</i> 119
				<i>M'alister</i> 35			<i>M'neil</i> 103
Muckairn:	<i>M'callum</i>	85	Campbel- town:	<i>M'millan</i>	554	ISLE OF ISLAY	
Campbell	<i>M'dougall</i>	39	MacDonell	<i>M'neil</i>	241	Bowmore/	Campbell 211
MacCor- quodale	<i>Campbell</i>	35		Campbell 172		Killarow:	<i>M'dougall</i> 109
	<i>M'corquodale</i>	07		<i>M'lean</i> 168		MacDonell	<i>M'lean</i> 81
Glenorchy	<i>Campbell</i>	180		<i>M'eachran</i> 114			<i>M'donald</i> 78
& Inishail:	<i>M'callum</i>	77		<i>M'donald</i> 107			Cameron 72
Campbell	<i>M'donald</i>	42		<i>M'alister</i> 94			<i>M'eachan</i> 64
MacGregor	<i>M'nab</i>	21		<i>M'eachan</i> 75			<i>M'millan</i> 63
	<i>M'gregor</i>	15					<i>M'eachran</i> 56
							<i>M'gillivray</i> 55
Kilmore	<i>M'donald</i>	421	Southend:	<i>M'millan</i>	50	Kilchoman:	<i>M'lean</i> 144
& Kilbride:	<i>Campbell</i>	286	MacDonell	<i>M'neil</i>	49	MacDonell	Campbell 130
MacDougall	<i>M'dougall</i>	260		Campbell 38			<i>M'eachan</i> 123
& Campbell	<i>M'callum</i>	164		<i>M'donald</i> 31			<i>M'eachran</i> 111
	<i>M'gregor</i>	70		<i>M'eachran</i> 40			Bell 56
	<i>M'millan</i>	57		Brown 25			<i>M'millan</i> 45
	<i>M'corquodale</i>	44					<i>M'donald</i> 38
Kilchrenan:	<i>Campbell</i>	84	ISLE OF MULL				
Campbell	<i>M'corquodale</i>	43	Tobermory:	<i>M'kinnon</i>	149	Portnahaven:	<i>M'lean</i> 68
MacCor- quodale	<i>M'gregor</i>	27	MacKinnon	Campbell 83		MacDonell	<i>M'alister</i> 43
	<i>M'dougall</i>	25	Maclean	<i>M'lean/laine</i>	95		Campbell 40
				<i>M'donald</i> 71			<i>M'donald</i> 30
				Cameron 60			
				<i>M'millan</i> 20			
Glassary:	Campbell	209	Kilninian:	<i>M'lean</i>	472	Kilmeny:	<i>M'dougall</i> 117
Scrymgeour	<i>M'callum</i>	161	Maclean	<i>M'donald</i>	421	MacDonell	Campbell 116
MacLachlan	<i>M'lachlan</i>	69	MacQuarrie	Campbell 286			<i>M'eachan</i> 108
	<i>M'dougall</i>	40		<i>M'kinnon</i> 229			<i>M'eachran</i> 76
	Scrymgeour 00			<i>M'quarrie</i> 130			Bell 63
Kilmartin:	<i>Campbell</i>	107		Cameron 95			<i>M'donald</i> 48
Campbell	<i>M'callum</i>	85		<i>M'millan</i> 57			<i>M'lean</i> 47
(Malcolm)	<i>M'lachlan</i>	21		<i>M'neil</i> 41			
	<i>M'dougall</i>	20					
North	<i>Campbell</i>	272	Salen:	<i>M'lean</i>	74	Kildalton	Campbell 246
Knapdale:	<i>M'neil</i>	180	Maclean	<i>M'kinnon</i>	71	& Oa:	<i>M'dougall</i> 189
Campbell	<i>M'lean</i>	107		<i>M'donald</i>	41	MacDonell	<i>M'millan</i> 143
MacNeil	Blue 32			Campbell 37			Cameron 80
	<i>M'donald</i> 27			Cameron 21			<i>M'alister</i> 36
	<i>M'millan</i> 26			<i>M'quarrie</i> 19			<i>M'kay</i> 34
				<i>M'quarrie</i> 19			<i>M'gillivray</i> 31
				<i>M'gillivray</i> 13			<i>M'lean</i> 28
							<i>M'neil</i> 27
							<i>M'eachan</i> 26
							<i>M'eachran</i> 21
							<i>M'donald</i> 15

Inverness Highland Games 2016



The Inverness Highland Games are the only ones in Scotland to feature a multitude of clans. Most games only have one or two local clans, if that. This year they were held on Saturday 16th July at Bught Park. Once again Highland Council did us proud, with an even larger tent to house our excellent turn-out of clans and other events that evening and on the Sunday of what is now a weekend-long festival. Our thanks to Gerry Reynolds, Highland Council's Events Officer, and the committee.



The MacLennans were set up in front of the stage on which the musicians were to perform for the ceilidh in the evening.



The Davidson banner was prominent as usual.



The MacMillans were among the many clans to attract overseas visitors. This couple were from South Australia.



The Clan Donald Society of the Highlands and Islands represent a kindred with five chiefs, and branches all over Scotland.



The Grants not only have a colourful banner, but a website full of history.



The MacAulays are another clan that have branches in different parts of the country - in the Western Isles and in The Lennox.



The Urquharts' crest features the mermaid who is said to have inhabited the seas around their Black Isle lands.



The Frasers have strawberry leaves on their banner and always come to the games with a bowl of the fruit.



Juliette Chisholm-Broomfield (above left) organised the clans at these games before the foundation of the AHCS.

Time for Scotland's clans to reclaim their heritage from purveyors of hate

Shocking documentary on the Klu Klux Klan should make us think as we prepare to follow our chiefs up the Royal Mile for August's "Splash of Tartan" at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo

Graeme Mackenzie

Last October, whilst attending the launch of the 2017 Year of History, Heritage, & Archaeology, I was asked if I had seen the BBC documentary aired the previous evening about the Klu Klux Klan. It was, quite rightly, a pointed question, since the film highlighted the symbolic role of Stone Mountain in the history of that hateful organisation, at a time when I was campaigning for VisitScotland to join Tourism Ireland in sponsoring the Stone Mountain Highland Games. I'd not seen it then, but I have now, and it's something everyone involved with our clans should see - at www.youtube.com/watch?v=TIecqwBp4Lg, or search for "Scotland and the Klan" on *You Tube*.

As a historian of the Highland clans, and a student of American history, I knew of the Klan's Scottish connection; and, as a frequent traveller to the USA, I soon learnt that I was entering the country to attend a family gathering rather than a "clan" event. I'd also heard rumours years ago, when I first attended the festivities at Stone Mountain, that one of the high heid yins of the games was a "grand wizard" or whatever of the KKK. Whatever the truth of that, there was no sign of Klan activity at the games then, and nor have I ever seen any evidence of them there during my many subsequent visits to the games - which are now presided over by a new generation of officials.

What I was not aware of, however, until I saw this film, was that the mountain itself had been the scene of the relaunch of the KKK in 1915, which was the first occasion that a fiery cross had been used as their symbol. The relaunch is said to have been inspired by the release of D. W. Griffiths film "The Birth of a Nation", which was based on a book published in 1905 called "The Clansman: A Historical Romance of the Klu Klux Klan". The inspiration for parts of it are said to have been the novels of Sir Walter Scott.

"Scotland and the Klan" reminds us of the murderous brutalities of the KKK, with scenes of beatings and lynchings that are familiar from fictional accounts such as "Mississippi Burning" and "A Time to Kill". More surprising however is the footage of the march of 25,000 costumed members of the Klan in Washington DC in 1925, done with all the precision and pomp of a Nazi rally; and it's shocking to learn that revered "progressive" figures such as Woodrow Wilson - the American President who promoted the League of Nations - tolerated, indeed may even have supported, the Klan. That's why some students at Princeton are asking for Wilson's name to be removed from university buildings.



Kriss Akabusi, an Honorary Member of Clan MacKenzie, leads the 2014 torch-lit parade in Inverness celebrating the clans' inclusiveness

"Scotland and the Klan" is presented by Neil Oliver, who for once eschews his "look at me" style of presentation and comes across as a Scot genuinely baffled by how the inclusive values of the country he has grown-up in could be associated with these purveyors of hate, division, and violence. He also shows, with telling interviews, that the values of the Klan are shared by other groups claiming Celtic and Anglo-Saxon superiority and promoting racial conflict.

So, with the current KKK Imperial Wizard giving his support to the new US President, are we going to accept a situation where traditional symbols of Scottish clanship are associated with his ethos of hate and division? If not, what are we going to do about it?

Scottish clanspeople, especially in the southern States, listen to their chiefs. Would it be too much therefore to ask the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs [SCSC] to issue a statement, signed by all its members, deploring the views of the KKK and like-minded organisations claiming to represent Scottish or Celtic peoples, and making it clear that the fiery cross and other symbols of Scottish clanship should not be used to promote hatred and division? If the SCSC considered that to be too "political", then maybe the many chiefs who do believe the KKK and all it stands for to be totally alien to the true spirit of Scottish clanship could get together to sign an unofficial declaration along those lines. If it was sent to all their clan societies in the States - and if it was supported, as I'm sure it would be, by a similar declaration by the Scottish government - then maybe the message would get through to some at least of those who have such a perverted view of what clanship is all about.

The SCSC have done a fine job co-ordinating the clans' projected participation in the "Splash of Tartan", and it would be good if the chiefs could act together before then to make us, their Scottish clansfolk, proud to follow them, along with our overseas cousins, up to the castle in August.

About the AHCS

Full membership is open to all clans judged by their peers in the AHCS to be "Highland" – whether represented by a Society, Commander, or Chief. Non-Highland clans and families may become Associate Members, and thus enjoy preferable rates at our events and a voice, but no vote, in our Council. Highlanders with no clan organisation may become Individual Members, on the same terms as Associate Members. Our events are intended to be open to all clans and families, but where space is limited preference will be given firstly to Full Members, and secondly to Associate Members. The full constitution, details of current membership fees, contact details for the clans, and for the Association's officers, can be found on our website: www.highlandclans.org.

FULL MEMBERS (subject to renewal for 2017-18):

Buchanan

Cameron (M'Gillonie, M'Martin, M'Sorlie of Glen Nevis, M'Lachlan of Coruanan, Cumming of Achdaliu).

Chattan (Mackintosh, Shaw, Farquharson, M'Bean/Bain, M'Phail, M'Gillivray, M'Queen, M'Thomas, Macintyre in Badenoch).

Chisholm

Currie/MacMhuirich

Davidson

Donald (representing Clanranald, MacDonell of Glengarry, MacDonald of Keppoch, MacDonald of Sleat, etc).

Donnachaidh (Robertson)

Fraser of Lovat

Grant

Iver/MacIver

MacAulay

MacFarlane

Macfie

MacKenzie

Maclean

MacLennan

MacMillan

Macpherson

Macrae

Matheson

Munro

Stewart

Sutherland

Urquhart

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:

Clan Fraser Society of Scotland & the UK

Clan MacKinnon Society (USA)

Iain McIntyre-Younger of Culmullin

Events in 2017 to be attended by AHCS or a Member Clan (mostly on the basis of last year's attendances):

18 March: **Clan Donald Society Annual Lecture: The Lord Lyon.** 10.30am at the Spectrum Centre, Inverness.

15 April: **Battle of Culloden Commemoration** organised on battlefield by the Gaelic Society of Inverness at 11.00am.

20-25 June: **Clan Maclean International Gathering** in Oban and on the Isle of Mull.

1 July: **Gairloch Highland Gathering.** Clan MacKenzie.

8 July: **Stewart Highland Games & Ceilidh at Ballone Castle, Portmahomack, near Tain.**

Details from Jenn Scott: info@stewartsociety.org

15 July: **Inverness Highland Games:** 20 pitches in AHCS tent will probably be available (sharing may be possible).

To be followed by tea (5.00pm) and the Annual General Meeting of the AHCS (5.30pm) – Maclean Room at Eden Court.

20 July: **Mull Highland Games at Tobermory.** Clan Maclean.

26 July: **Arisaig Highland Games.** Clanranald (Clan Donald).

4-5 Aug: **Moy Game Fair.** Clan Chattan.

5 Aug: **Newtonmore Highland Games.** Clan Macpherson.

10 Aug: **Ballater Highland Games.** Clan Farquharson.

12 Aug: **Strathpeffer Highland Gathering.** Clan MacKenzie.

12 Aug: **Abernethy Highland Games.** Clan Grant.

19 Aug: **Glenfinnan Gathering & Highland Games.** Clans Cameron & Donald.

Any additions or corrections to the above listings should be communicated to the Secretary (listings will also be available on our website).

Please also notify the Secretary of any special events – International Gatherings etc. – that your clan will be involved with.

Association of Highland Clans & Societies, Estate Office, Monymusk, Inverurie, AB51 7HL.

Telephone: 01467-651333 office; 01467-651220 home.

Chairman: Graeme Mackenzie. Email: graeme@highlandroots.org

Dep. Chair: Ruairidh MacLennan of MacLennan. Email: chief@clanmaclennan-worldwide.com

Treasurer: Rossie Macrae. Email: rossie.macrae@hotmail.co.uk

Acting-Secretary: Fiona Grant. Email: fiona@monymusk.com.

Committee: Very Rev. Allan Maclean of Dochgarroch. Email: dochgarroch@aol.com

Duncan Cameron. Email: duncan-cameron1@btconnect.com

Norman McPherson. Email: mcperson.norman@gmail.com

Donald McIntosh. Email: donald.mcintosh@btinternet.com