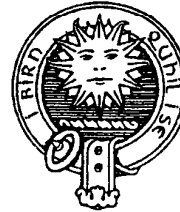
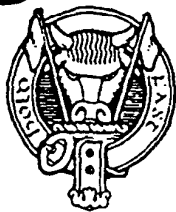


The Clan MacLeod Newsletter



Clan MacLeod Society USA ★

<http://www.clanmacleodusa.org> ★

Spring/Summer 2012

In this issue

Please note that this issue of the newsletter is heavily dominated by exciting information about the upcoming North American Gathering. For that reason, we have had to temporarily reduce our "Features" section – it will be back next issue!

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THIS CROWD BELOW who made it to last year's adventurous CMS USA AGM in California expects to see **YOU** in Washington this summer for the **2012 North American Gathering!**

PHOTO BY BRIAN VAWTER



*PS: If nearby Alexandria is a great MacLeod destination in winter (you can tell this is true, based on the photos below of our mid-year Meeting in December 2011), you can bet it will be **TOTALLY** awesome in the warm weather!*





Clan MacLeod Society, U.S.A., Inc.

The Society Founded in 1954



WELCOME TO THE CLAN MACLEOD USA

We hope our newsletter provides useful information to prospective members and the latest news and photos for current members. The Clan MacLeod USA Newsletter is published twice a year, in concert with the semi-annual Clan MacLeod Magazine and additional international, regional, and local publications.

The Clan MacLeod Society, USA was founded in 1954 to establish a foundation for charitable, historical and educational pursuits for Clan members living in the United States. Since then it has grown to have members in all fifty states, which the Society has divided into thirteen administrative regions, each led by a Regional Vice President (see page 9).

The Society conducts its charitable functions through its Dunvegan Foundation. This body supports a broad range of scholarships, historical research, programs in the Scottish arts and language, and historic preservation of sites of significance to the Clan MacLeod. Both the Clan MacLeod Society as a whole and the Dunvegan Foundation are listed as 501(c)(3) organizations by the IRS. Our newsletter is published semi-annually, and mailed to all members in good standing of CMS USA. We welcome contributions and comments, which should be directed to the newsletter editor, Dorna Caskie, at the address below.

For more information on the Society's activities and a description of events, magazines, newsletters and membership benefits, please contact the Regional Vice President (RVP) for your area, or join us at the Clan MacLeod tent, which can be found at most highland games in the USA. Further information about the Clan MacLeod USA as well as our membership application can be found on our website, <http://www.clanmacleodusa.org>. We will be delighted to hear from you.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Mother Nature must have flipped two calendar pages at once by mistake! We've enjoyed many days in the 80's this March. It's like we

jumped from Winter into Summer, and the Midwest highland games have yet to start!

Earlier, in January, Judy and I traveled to Florida and spent some time with our Southeastern RVP John and Anne McLeod, our Migration Director. On the way there, we stopped in Moultrie, GA. There we visited the Odom Library. Ellen Payne left a legacy to establish a wing there, which includes a fine genealogy section and also holds records for many Scottish Clans including the Clan MacLeod USA's historical papers. It is worth a stop if you

live nearby and have ancestors from the South, or want an interesting stop 30 minutes West of I-75.

In February I attended my first ACMS meeting in Edinburgh. It's always welcoming to go "home". I enjoyed the meeting and the fabulous dinner hosted by the Clan MacLeod Scotland under the leadership of Ruari Halford-MacLeod and others. It was great to connect with our overseas MacLeods. It was also a chance to promote the upcoming NAG, to be held in Washington DC from June 28th to July 1st. Steve MacLeod and his team have many great activities planned for the NAG. Getting to see your Clan Society organization in action and experience our Nation's capital is a wonderful family vacation! We hope many of you will join us there. Please get your reservations in as soon as possible!!

The attached photo of Chief John is just to remember that it's been five years since his untimely death in 2007. We miss his smile and spirit that he brought to our Clan!!

Hold Fast,

John N. MacLeod

President, Clan MacLeod USA

★★★★★★★★★★★★

Editor's note: "We all get started on this journey at some point"

Belonging to the Caskies started when I was very young, and continues to this day. Vivid memories include being car sick en route to Michigan when I was six years old, for my first massive Caskie family reunion. It's all a blur of Army surplus tents with cots set up next to cornfields, lots of grownups with red hair, and a treasure trove of kids my own age. No bagpipes, no kilts, but lots of Scots - the personal connections were hugely important.

Growing up, my immediate family assembled every Sunday during the summer at my Caskie grandparents' farm in New Hampshire. It was a sweetly aging building, bursting with relatives who crowded around the dinner table. Distant cousins from Toronto, from Scotland, from Chicago - where our family had first lived after Greenock - always seemed to be passing through.

My grandfather had a standing offer, that any of his grandchildren who could play "Parade of the Wooden Soldiers" on the piano before he or she turned 14 would receive an award of \$5.00. That was a windfall, back then. Sadly, my piano playing was not up to snuff, and at age 14 I fell among the riffraff of my generation. But this all changed when I decided - on my own - to write an eighth grade World History report on Scotland.

It was an enormous amount of work. The final document was probably three or four times longer than it was supposed to be. But as the story of Scotland drew me in, I became convinced that things like the details of Kenneth of Alpin's life in 843 needed to be included in my loopy longhand scrawl.

My grandfather read the report, "every word". He asked to speak to me one-on-one, something I had never known him to request of any grandchild. I remember him leaning forward in "his" chair in the living room. The volume of the Red Sox television broadcast was turned way down for the occasion, and the small juice glass with a neat bit of Scotch - something we never saw him touch - hovered on the table beside him.

He spoke directly to me for what seemed a long time. He said my report was important, that Scotland was important, and that I

should never forget it.

While all of his elder siblings had been born in Scotland, he was the first to be born here, so he mostly talked about the people of Scotland and what I should know about them. He said I was a Scot, and that I had descended from people who were very skilled and worked very hard, a family of engineers. He made quite an impression. Then he handed me \$5.00.

Among the Caskies, I was immediately elevated from riffraff to The-Girl-Who-Wrote-the-Report-about-Scotland. Elders bragged of my achievement, everyone was very pleased; there were further expectations of my education. And my Great Aunt Margaret promised to take me back to visit Scotland with her the very next summer. She gave me her copy of "The Tartans of the Clans and Families of Scotland" by Innes of Learney, so I would know what tartan to wear.

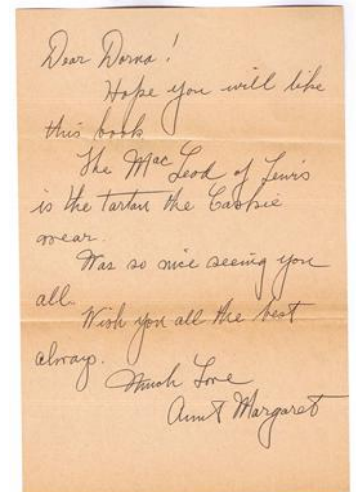
Unfortunately, she passed away that winter so I didn't make it "back" to Scotland until many years later. But before then, my journey back had already started. We have all taken this journey - don't forget to share yours with your family, and with your Clan.

Still shining and birning,

Dorna Caskie

Newsletter Editor, Clan MacLeod USA

★★★★★★★★★★★★



FEATURED ARTICLES

Septs of MacLeod – Beaton

Compiled by Weeden Nichols, F.S.A. Scot.

Disclaimer: This seventh in my series of non-scholarly pieces on the septs that comprise a significant part of Clan MacLeod is assembled from our Clan MacLeod Society USA website originally created and maintained and by my esteemed former colleague William G. MacLeod, from any of many diverse sources I could find that were not patently absurd or implausible, and (sometimes) from my own recollections.

The purpose of the series is to reinforce knowledge of our septs for all MacLeod members, and to remind them that our septs are completely and importantly a part of the clan. The purpose is, also, to reinforce for our sept members that they are in no way “second-class” participants in the life of the clan.

Beaton/Bethune, is, to me, a very interesting sept for two reasons. One has to do with the variants. It has always appeared to me that, for most septs, the name variants developed from one name of origin, whether or not that exact name is known. The Beaton sept does have variants that developed in this way – Beton and Bethea. What interests me here is that the two major versions (Beaton and Bethune) may have started out separate, then merged as the Beaton/Bethune sept. The other aspect of Beaton/Bethune that I find interesting is that, unlike most of the MacLeod septs, the process whereby it became a sept occurred, more or less observably, in relatively modern times, not somewhere in the mists of ancient times.

It appears that it is at least possible that the Beatons on Skye back in the 16th century may have been variants of

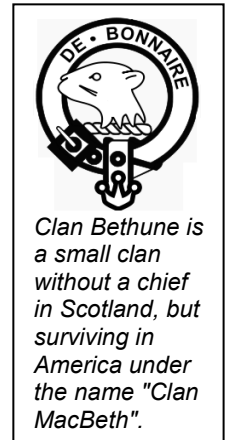
MacBeth, and that the Bethunes who practiced medicine on Skye in the 16th century were from Fife, the name Bethune possibly referring to a place name in France. It is

possible that the names merged into a single family entity. There is, of course, no legal process whereby a family, having met certain requirements, is named officially a sept. It appears, however, since Beaton became a sept during the most recent four centuries, that the sept status occurred gradually and fairly observably. The Beatons and Bethunes became established, valued, and respected on Skye, became associated with MacLeod, perhaps as physicians to the chief, intermarried with other Skye families, and ultimately simply were a sept, on a par with the old Norse families that had been, seemingly always, associated with MacLeod.

I should point, as always, the other clan options possessed by bearers of the Beaton/Bethune name and variants. In the Beaton/Bethune case, bearers and descendants of are entitled to the tartan of MacBeth, on the understanding, right or wrong, that Beaton is an Anglicization of “MacBeath.”

To name only two Beatons known to all of us, Alexander William MacLeod Beaton is a treasured Scottish-American folksinger whom we encounter at festivals, and Doug Beaton is an RVP of CMSUSA, who is quite active in our Clan Society.

★★★★★★★★★★★★



Jeptha Rode That Mule

Submitted by John W. MacLeod

Jeptha McLeod, well-known farmer up Pidcock way, was in town the other day wearing a cast on his leg which was broken in two places, the cast having been fashioned by him. He was the victim of a peculiar accident and the way he told it, to his good friend Sheriff Clanton, was that he turned a mule out to graze in the yard and that the mule with a halter and chain on had wandered into the cornfield.

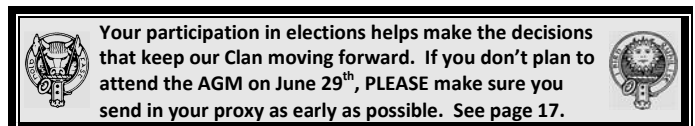
Jeptha went after the mule and undertook to pull up by the chain to get aboard the critter and ride it back to the house. The mule bucked and he fell off and the mule stepped on his leg below the knee and broke it. He crawled around, found wire and tied the leg up and mounted again and again he fell off, breaking the foot of the same leg.

He tied the mule to a cherry tree, crawled back to the house, got some tin snips and fashioned himself a very

serviceable cast for the disabled limb. Securing his walking stick and a saddle he proceeded to the field, mounted the mule and rode him to the house.

As Sheriff Clanton was telling the tale and seeing a strained look on faces he hastened to explain that Jeptha's legs were both artificial, he having lost his feet in an accident some years ago.

It seems he was a car inspector in the Thomasville railroad yards once and a train backed over him. It was the train's fault, or at least it looked that way to the jury, and Jeptha got a right smart sum for damages but by the time he divided it with his lawyers and helped out a good many friends who stood terribly in need of funds, he did not have such a lot left. He kind of po'-managed the money, said the sheriff, but he's done well in every other way and has raised



some fine children.

He has a lot of mechanical ingenuity and back on the farm at Pidcock he got him some good blackgum and made his first artificial limbs with hinges at the joints and managed wonderfully well and was very cheerful.

It takes a lot of hard luck to really get one of the highlander breed down and as you may have gathered, Jephtha is Scottish. When he was wearing home-made limbs he used to come to see the sheriff when in town. "Well, how you doing, Jep?" the sheriff would say and Jep would reply: "I'm doing pretty good if I can just keep the termites from eating my feet off."

Jephtha's grandpa was Murdoch McLeod and he once lived in Swainsboro. He was a great man for figgers and was never stumped by a problem. One of his friends died and left a will with a note attached saying if they couldn't figure it out to send for Murdoch. The will directed that 17 horses be divided among three sons as follows: First son to have half; second son one third; third son one ninth.

No one could see how the horses could be divided with cutting one of them in half so they sent for Murdoch. So Murdoch mounted his own nag and rode up to Swainsboro and looked the situation over and said; "What you need is a common denominator. I'll let my hoss be it and put him in the pen with the seventeen." "Ye'll lose yer hoss, Murdoch," they said but he didn't. So there were eighteen horses in the pen.

To No. 1 son he said, "Take nine horses and leave

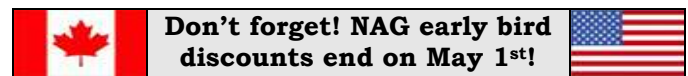
mine," and he did. To No. 2 son he said, "Take six horses and leave mine," and he did. To No. 3 he said, "Take two horses and leave mine," and he did, and Murdoch still had his own horse. With a grandpa like that, Jephtha figured he could manage to get around one.... and he did.

-- Extracted from the *Quitman Free Press*,
written by Edna Cain Daniel

Granddad lost both of his legs in that train accident. One was cut off below the knee and the other just above the knee. His legs were probably quite heavy in relation to modern prosthetics. They had steel hinges that required oiling every day. Granddad kept a can of 3in1 oil beside the bed so he could oil his legs first thing in the morning. He could still be heard coming because by day's end the oil had worn away and his joints would start squeaking.

Granddad got his driving license after he lost his legs. The examiner did not question whether he had all of his limbs. So, when Granddad passed the test he got his license. I never saw him drive but was told stories about him driving his old model A truck. It had no floor boards to speak of but that did not stop him. After the truck wore out, Granddad walked everywhere. He would accept rides from friends and neighbors and the school bus would stop for him as it made its rounds and take him into Dixie, Georgia. What a man he was!

★★★★★★★★★★★★



A smashing financial opportunity

By Tammie Vawter, Pacific Region, Clan MacLeod, USA

This story was shared with me by Chief John during 2006 Parliament. It continues to amuse my Clansfolk when shared at Games throughout California. I loved this story, was thrilled that he had shared it with me and my family. The memory still serves as a bright spot to us all, and I thought it might be fun to share with all of you.

Back when Chief John's daughter's Elena was about 5 years old, a funny occurrence happened in the castle. Now, you must realize that the Chief was in residence at the Castle at the time. One evening, while cooking up dinner, he had decided to make mashed potatoes. Accordingly, he was looking everywhere throughout the kitchen for the "potato smasher"-his phrase. After searching fruitlessly, he decided to give up the search and go for baked potatoes in exchange for a more prompt dinner time. A few days passed and the missing "smasher" fell from his thoughts.

For those of you who may not be aware of the layout of the rooms in the Castle, the dungeon is located near the dining room. The dungeon is honed down into the rock beneath the Castle, and has a floor-level grate covering the top. This meant that those imprisoned beneath were forced to smell the foods served far above. No longer in use, in modern times it is commonplace for visitors to treat this dungeon opening rather like a wishing well and drop spare pocket change down below.

One afternoon, one of the docents came forward and shared, rather sheepishly, the following tale. It unfolds that the young daughter was caught "red-handed" using the missing smasher along with some string to supplement her allowance. She had tied the string onto the handle and was swinging it back and forth, sweeping up the change and then pulling it up through the grate.

Now Chief John shared that, while the largesse was routinely collected and given to the poor within the township, he was both appalled and amused that she, at 5, had seen this opportunity and, in modern parlance, gone for it!

Just to reassure everyone: Elena MacLeod has grown up to be a lovely and accomplished woman, and after receiving her honors law degree has successfully practiced family law in London, where she lives with her partner and son.

- Ed



Elena MacLeod

★★★★★★★★★★★★

Clan MacLeod Societies of USA and Canada – North American Gathering June 28th to 1st July, 2012 Crowne Plaza Hotel, Alexandria, Virginia

Thursday, June 28th

2pm – 6pm	Registration check-in Crowne Plaza Hotel, Alexandria VA. Silent auction item drop off.
6:30pm – 8:30pm	NAG opening welcome & picnic at Holiday Inn outdoor patio (2½-blocks away).
7:30pm – 7:50pm	Bagpiping & Highland dance performance at the Holiday Inn outdoor patio.
8:30pm onward	Time at leisure.

Friday, June 29th

8am – 1pm	Registration check-in continues. Silent auction item drop off as needed.
8:30am – 9:30am	Dunvegan Foundation meeting.
10am – 12 noon	Clan MacLeod Society USA business meeting (open to all).
10am – 12 noon	Clan MacLeod Society Canada business meeting (open to all).
1pm – 1:45pm	Workshop – Great Lake stories & music by Lee Murdoch singer/songwriter.
2pm – 4pm	Associated Clan MacLeod Societies (ACMS) meeting (open to all).
6:30pm – 7:30pm	Crowne Plaza shuttle bus to Market Square, Alexandria. See note 1.
7:45pm	Boarding of “Cherry Blossom” split stern wheeler boat at Old Town Alexandria dock.
8:15pm	NAG group photo aboard “Cherry Blossom” starboard side while at dock. See note 2.
8:20pm – 10:45pm	“Cherry Blossom” departs for 2 ½ hour after dinner cruise of Potomac River. Water, soft drinks, coffee, light food fare and desserts provided. Cash Bar for Wine & Beer. - Vegas Time Gaming (1 st deck) - Singer and songwriter Lee Murdoch (2 nd deck)
11pm – mid Night	Crowne Plaza shuttle bus return from Market Square to Crowne Plaza Hotel. See note 1.

Saturday, June 30th

9am – 9:45am	Workshop – Genealogy research tips, pitfalls, and discussion.
10am – 10:45am	Workshop – Gaelic language and speaking 101.
11am – 11:45am	Workshop – Kilt making discussion/demo with ladies tartan sash styles.
1pm – 1:30pm	Dunvegan Downstairs – Stories from servant’s hall with Jessie Mary Heron.
2pm – 3pm	Workshop – Scottish country dancing demo/instruction.
4pm – 5:30pm	Workshop – Whisky tasting.
6pm – 8pm	Silent auction item preview and bids.
7pm – 8pm	Banquet cocktail hour. Attire: Highland Evening Dress, Military Dress, or Black Tie.
8pm – 11pm	Banquet with live music and guest speaker.
11pm – mid Night	Silent auction item payment & pick-up as needed.

Sunday, July 1st (Canada Day)

10am – 11:15am	Kirkin of the Tartan Church Service in the Crowne Plaza. See note 3.
11:15am onward	Farewells/Hotel Checkouts/Departures.

- Notes. 1. The Crowne Plaza Hotel free shuttle buses drop off & pick up hotel guests at Market Square “Old Town” Alexandria. Market Square is 4 blocks (10min walk) to/from the “Cherry Blossom” boarding dock.
2. The 2012 NAG group photo & “Cherry Blossom” after dinner cruise will not be delayed. Please plan accordingly and suggest all parties be in the dockside vicinity for immediate boarding at 7:45pm.
3. Recognition of Canada Day will be incorporated during the NAG. Specifics TBD and will be posted.

Workshop & meeting times may vary due to content and participation. All changes will be posted in advance.



Registration Form

2012 North American Gathering

Shining a Light on the Capital

Alexandria, VA June 28 - July 1, 2012



Name: _____ Title: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City: _____ State/Prov.: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____

Country: _____ E-mail: _____

Others attending:

Name: _____ Hometown: _____ Title: _____

Name: _____ Hometown: _____ Title: _____

Registration Fee INCLUDES: Thursday welcoming picnic, Friday evening riverboat cruise, Saturday evening banquet, entertainment, use of hotel facilities, classes /workshops, and group photo.

Category	Early bird fee rec'vd by 1 May	Fee after 1 May		Total
Adult (15 & over)	\$175	\$200	x	\$
Youth (7 – 14)	\$85	\$100	x	\$
Children (6 & under)	Free	Free	x	\$
Donations	Clan MacLeod Society USA is a 501(c)(3) tax deductible organization			\$
Please Make Checks Payable in US Dollars to:		"NAG Clan MacLeod Society"		TOTAL: \$

For those attending **ONLY** the Saturday night banquet please indicate below:

Banquet – Sat	Fee	# to attend	Total
Adult (15 & over)	\$80		\$
Youth (7 – 14)	\$40		\$
Children under 6	Free		\$
Donations	Clan MacLeod Society USA is a 501(c)(3) tax deductible organization		\$
Please Make Checks Payable in US Dollars to: “NAG Clan MacLeod Society”			TOTAL: \$

Please select banquet meal and #: Filet Mignon _____ Seared Salmon _____ Portobello Mushroom Tower _____

For Credit Card use via PayPal please send payment to: sdrakem@aol.com Follow the NAG website link to PayPal.

Note: There is a \$3 service fee to use this payment method. Example: \$175 + \$3 = \$178 for a pre 1 May registration.

See the NAG website for more event details and hotel information: www.wix.com/sdrakem/2012-nag

Hotel accommodations available at \$99.00/night plus tax with the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Reserve on-line using the NAG website hotel link or call for reservations: Crowne Plaza | 901 N. Fairfax | Alexandria, VA | 22308 | Tel # (888) 233-9527

Mail Form to: 2012 NAG, attn: Steve MacLeod | 8820 Fort Hunt Road | Alexandria, VA | 22308

E-mail questions to: sdrakem@aol.com Phone: (703)-725-2679

FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

Arthur James Nicol

July 20, 1918 – December 20, 2011



Former Upper Midwest V.P. and 2005 Clansman of the Year, Art Nicol of Minnetonka, Minnesota passed away December 20 at age 93, after a year of failing health and pain. A service celebrating his life was held on January 7th, 2012 and was attended by numerous MacLeod and other clan members.

Art was active not only in Clan MacLeod but also the Minnesota Coalition of Clans where he served for several years. He participated in many other civic and church activities. A World War II veteran, he was one of three known survivors of the original crew of the USAAF 1st Combat Camera Unit based in Bari, Italy with the 15th Air Force.

A "Proud MacLeod", he touched many lives and considered fellow clan members family. He enjoyed the many games he and Audrey attended in their region over a 20+ year period manning the MacLeod tent, sharing his passion for Scottish heritage and genealogy with anyone willing to listen. The Christmas Walk in Alexandria was also a favorite where he could be seen walking ahead of or to the side of parade participants snapping pictures.

Art leaves his legacy to his wife of 68 years, Audrey, son John, daughter Joan Nicol-Hoium (Bob Hoium), nine grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, and many cousins in the U.S., Canada and Scotland. He was preceded in death by his son Bruce in 2004.

★★★★★★★★★★★★

E. Michael "Mike" Kenneley

October 7, 1934 - January 5, 2012



E. Michael "Mike" Kenneley, 77, of Chester Township, passed away at Hillcrest Hospital in Mayfield Heights. He had previously been battling cancer. Born in Cleveland, he had lived in Willowick before moving to Chester Township 25 years ago.

Mike served in the United States Navy from 1952 to 1956. He was a loyal member for 54 years of IBEW Local 38, and

foreman for Martin Electric Company for many years. He

volunteered at Geauga West Library, Western Reserve Historical Society, and was a member of the Irish-American Club East Side Inc.

A man with a booming laugh and a great sense of humor, Mike is survived by a large and loving family, including his wife of 54 years, Amy. Amy is active in the Great Lakes Region of the Clan MacLeod USA, and famously made the 100+ MacLeod fans that were given out at the games in the Great Lakes Region last year.

Mike was buried at Western Reserve Memorial Gardens, across the street from the home where Mike and Amy had lived for many years.

★★★★★★★★★★★★

Roderick Kingman MacLeod

July 23, 1936 - December 3, 2010

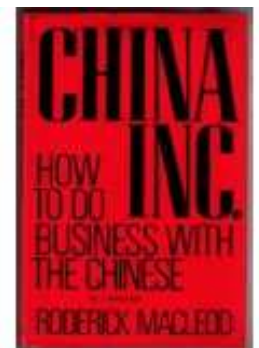
Roderick Kingman MacLeod was born in Cleveland, Ohio, on 23 July 1926, the third child of Caro Kingman Macleod and John Holmes Macleod. He attended the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kingspoint, NY and served in the Merchant Marines during WWII. His service in the U.S. Navy included sea duty based in Shanghai and Tsingtao, China. His education continued at Harvard College where he graduated magna cum laude in 1950.

Caro and John (Jack/Skipper) lived on South Main Street in Wallingford, Vt. Kingman's siblings, Caro (Allin) Turner, John (Dede), Libby (John) Hagan and their progeny came to view Wallingford as home. Kingman and his brother John used parts of the family schooner "The Acoma" to build a family getaway by Elfin Lake - now the home of son Greg and Carol Macleod. Subsequent generations have spent many a "happy hour" at Elfin Lake.

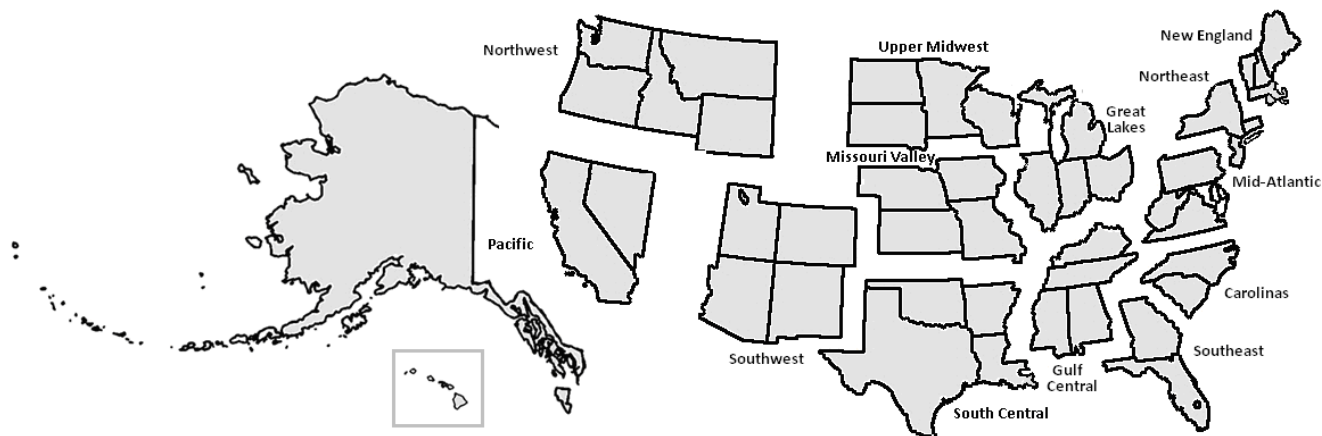
Roderick joined Coopers & Lybrand in 1950 and rose to senior managing partner of the firm's Boston office. During his career, he served as Lecturer at Stanford University Graduate Business School. In 1980, he became the first foreign accountant to be registered in China since 1949. His book "CHINA, INC." was published in 1988. He was founder and owner of I.T.D.C., a computer software company, based in Shanghai, China.

In addition to his outstanding business achievements and personal adventures, he will be remembered for his devotion to family and friends. Roderick is survived by his wife of 24 years, Jennifer; Roderick's children, Virginia Westbrook (Nicholas), Rick Macleod, Samantha Macleod (Clifford Barker), "adopted son" and friend Terry Solomon, and three grandsons, Benjamin and Samuel Westbrook and Tim Thomson.

★★★★★★★★★★★★



REGIONAL NEWS



Please note that the contact details for our Regional VPs and correspondents appear above the news for each region, below.



New England Region

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Website: <http://www.macleodnewengland.org>



Please note that the Events page on the New England regional website will be updated for 2012 in May. - Ed

★★★★★★★★★★★★

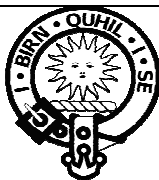
Northeast Region

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The Northeast Region's RVP position is open. If you know of an individual who might be able to fill this position, please contact Nominations Chair Don Mack, who can be reached using the information on the Council Directory on page 2. - Ed

★★★★★★★★★★★★

DUNVEGAN FOUNDATION OPENING

There is an opening on the DF Class of 2017, as noted on the proxy on page 17. For more information contact Council member John Tutterow about DF duties, or Don Mack about the nomination process. (Council contact info is on page 2.)

Mid-Atlantic Region

Send your news and photos to:

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The Mid-Atlantic Region will be hosting the Clan MacLeod Society North American Gathering (NAG) in Alexandria, Virginia from 28 Jun-1 Jul 2012. Alexandria, Virginia is situated on the Potomac River across from Washington, DC. Please visit the 2012 NAG website for more information: <http://www.wix.com/sdrakem/2012-nag>.

For those who have not been to Washington DC and Northern Virginia, you'll likely be surprised at how easy it is to get here! Three airports are nearby, and serviced by all major and discount airlines vying for your travel dollars. This means you'll find reasonable airfares.

★ Reagan National Int'l Airport (DCA) - 3 miles away.

★ Dulles Int'l Airport (IAD) - 22 miles away.

★ Baltimore Int'l Airport (BWI) - 45 miles away.

Once here, it's even easier to get around both Alexandria, VA and Washington, DC using the Public Metro Transit System.

The Crowne Plaza Hotel in Alexandria, VA has been contracted for a room rate of \$99/night plus tax for 28th, 29th, and 30th of June, 2012. Those staying a few days before and/or after the NAG this rate still applies but subject to availability so don't delay. The hotel is taking reservations now! Please call (888) 233-9527 and ask for the "MacLeod Society" event rate.

For those who like museums, you will not find a more concentrated area of museums and galleries within walking distance of each other in the world! Entry to ALL national

museums is FREE!

For those who like to simply walk around the immediate hotel area, "Old Town" Alexandria shops are an easy 3/4 mile walk away (or can be accessed using the free hotel shuttle bus) with just about every type of eatery and shopping you need... and don't need!

For those who like to venture out a bit, you'll find that within a one hour drive in any direction you can be at several Virginia Vineyards, or along the Chesapeake Bay in Annapolis, Maryland having crab-cakes for lunch, or the Shenandoah Valley antiquing for a piece of Americana, etc.

The 2012 NAG schedule has built in lots of "time on your own" for these reasons. Whatever you like to do when on vacation I'm quite sure you'll find it here! The Mid-Atlantic Region looks forward to hosting the 2012 NAG but more importantly looking forward to seeing you and your friends!

Best regards and "Hold Fast"!

Stephen MacLeod, sdrakem@aol.com

Home (703) 360-2436 / Cell (703) 725-2679

★★★★★★★★★★★★

Carolinas Region

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★★★★★★★★★★★★

Southeast Region

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Central Florida Highland Games and Celtic Festival January 15/16, 2012

Virginia "Frenchy" Bisiaux joined us after spending a tour in Iraq. We were so happy to see her again. It has been two years since she was able to compete in the games due to her military commitments. She is going to be with us for only a short time before deploying to Afghanistan. May God be with her and the rest of her military and Clan MacLeod family. Frenchy placed third in the three events in which she participated.

Bob Kilminster was back with again too. He is still recovering from hip replacement. He too has not been able to compete for over two years. We wish him a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing him compete in future games in the Florida area. Bob is one of the gentle giants of our time. He always takes the time to come visit with us at the Clan MacLeod tent and his presence fills the tent with joy.

A third athlete signed in with us but we forgot to get his

name. You will find his picture in the gallery.

Central Florida was a pleasant surprise for us. We have not manned a tent at the games in the past so we had no idea of what to expect. Eight current Clan MacLeod members joined us during the two days of the games. We had two members renew their membership at the games and we had eight strong potential members sign in. Over the two days we had thirty-six guests sign in with us. We were not always free to talk with everyone who came by but hope that we will see those people again next year or later this year at another of the games.

Our Clan MacLeod Migration Director, Ann, got input from several people who stopped in at the tent. I found one cousin there! I didn't realize it until we got home and downloaded his family tree. What a wonderful surprise for us! We have Great-Great-Great Grandfather Norman McLeod in common.

North East Florida Highland Games and Celtic Festival, February 25, 2012

Tom "Rowdy" Lewis was waiting for me to finish signing the register first thing Saturday morning. Tom joined us at Stone Mountain two years ago. He is a retired Air Force officer who served twenty-eight years.

Visitors to the tent totaled twenty-six but I am sure that we missed almost as many. My magnet, Ann, was busy every time I took a break to walk around the arena. I think she goes out and snags people as they walk past the tent.

Jeff Nager and his family joined us for the games. You can see the family on the web site. Kylie, Kaleb and Kambrie were there with their parents. Or was it Jeff and Katrina were guests of Kylie, Kaleb and Kambrie? We did enjoy the time spent with you and the children. They were a hit with everyone. We are looking forward to seeing you again next year and, Kaleb, Kylie and Kambrie; don't forget to bring your parents!

The three sisters were with us too. Karen McDonald, Sharon Grenet, and JoAnn Crook joined us not only for the parade of Tartans but Clan MacLeod Society USA too! New members and renewals are the life blood on our society. We had a great time visiting with the sisters during the waiting time for the parade and then when they came by the tent. They reminded me of my own cousins. They seemed so close and so full of the joy of life! What a refreshing breath of humanity they are.

Donald Emery stopped by and renewed his membership in the Clan. Don and his wife teach dance at the games and he took time out from his busy day to come by and chat for a moment. Thank you, Don. I just wish that I had a little more time to have spent with you. If anyone goes to the games and you see their dance platform, stop and learn a little bit about highland dance and enjoy practicing a few steps with them.

Late in the afternoon Ann went on a walk about and snagged Hal and Diane McLeod. She spied the tartan and tapped them on the shoulder with an inquiry about whether they had been by the Clan MacLeod tent. They did come by and joined the Clan!

Other members who dropped by, and we may not have gotten pictures of you, were David Tomlinson and Sherry Bruner. Thank you both for visiting with us.

Rick Norred was with us too. He was not competing but did judge events. Rick travels quite a bit for the games. He is from South Carolina but then many of the athletes and judges come from all over the Southeast. I had a short conversation with Rick toward the end of the day. He seems to be another of the gentle giants, soft spoken and friendly.

One other athlete, Jeff Nager, spoke with me toward the end of the day. I am so sorry that I did not get more information but he did tell me that he won the sheaf toss. Next time we are at the same games, stop by again. I would like to get to know you better.

Our extended family keeps growing. We may not always recognize you as you walk up but then a little anecdotal information on where we last saw you will always trigger the wayward memory cells. So, please forgive us if we don't immediately acknowledge you right off. Brain cells tend to go to sleep or take naps as we get older.

Looking Ahead

Our games schedule is reduced a bit from last year but our schedule of activities seems to continually grow. We are now preparing for the annual McLeod/Corley family reunion at our house. The reunion usually takes place on the first Saturday in April but this year we have had to delay for three weeks. We will be looking for family on April 21st this year. We honor one or more people from the family each year and sadly one of the ones we honored last year has passed away. She holds fond memories for me. The first year that I wore a kilt at the reunion she insisted on having a picture taken with me. I felt something sliding up my leg and discovered that it was her hand! I guess she was trying to find out what a Scot wears under his kilt. I shall truly miss you, Sister!

Our next Clan MacLeod activity is not until March 31st. We are heading to Dade City, Florida for the games at the Pioneer Museum grounds. This venue offers a lot for all members of the family. We follow that up with games in Savannah, Georgia on May 5th and in Blairsville, Georgia on June 9th and 10th. We don't know yet if there will be games in Ocala, Florida this year. As soon as we know, you will know. We wind up our year at Stone Mountain, Georgia. This event takes place the third week-end of October (20/21 October) and is a great way to wind up the season. We always have a Clan MacLeod Family Reunion there. So many of you come to the games and enjoy time with each other. Ann and I really enjoy being your host/hostess for all of the games that we represent Clan MacLeod Society USA.

We are especially looking forward to seeing Clan MacLeod members at the North American Gathering in June/July this year. Washington DC is a great place to visit and there is free time built into the schedule of events at the NAG, so come join us!

Hold Fast!

John W. McLeod

★★★★★★★★★★★★

Gulf Central Region

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Website: <http://www.macleodgulfcentral.org>

★★★★★★★★★★★★

Great Lakes Region

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Website: <http://www.macleodgreatlakes.org>

Even though I write this in February, in the middle of winter, 2012 has already started out as a good and promising year for the Great Lakes Region. We started off the year with the annual Robert Burns Supper in January. In past years we have attended these in the Chicago area; however Sandy and I have committed to visit the other states in the region to enjoy these events with our more distant members. This year we took off right after a major snowfall and headed for Ohio to enjoy this supper with our Ohio members. We were joined by our Ohio Commissioner Bonnie Overton and her husband Jeff at the event hosted by the Scottish Heritage Society of Northeast Ohio. There were probably about 350 in attendance with three pipe bands, highland dancing as well as Scottish Country dancing as well as wonderful Burns poetry. It was a very enjoyable and entertaining evening. Next January we plan to go to either Michigan or Indiana. Please consider joining us at one of the suppers.

Our warm weather events kick off in May with the Springfield, Illinois (Chatham) games. These are in the middle of the state and while there you can visit many of the historical Lincoln sites.

Over the Memorial Day weekend, May 26-27, we travel to Alma Michigan for this very large two-day event held at Alma College. In addition to the games a large parade and craft show is also held. With its close proximity to Canada, they attract a large number of American and Canadian pipe bands. It is also at this event that Clan MacLeod presents two trophies, one for dancing and one for piping.

Over the Fathers Day weekend, June 17-18 we will be at the Chicago games. This will be the second year at a very large venue in the western suburb of Itasca. At this event we present the Founder's trophy for piping. Very visitor friendly, they even have parking decks!

Four Sons of Skye by James G.H. McKay is a new non-fiction book about the Tolmie Sept. A single MacLeod family changed their name to Tolmie, and its generations have had adventures across the globe. 270 pages, over 150 B&W photos, maps, and genealogy charts. To order, email jimi-sarah@vodafone.co.nz

The following weekend we will be in Wellington, Ohio for the Lorain County games. At this event, we won best clan tent last year. We are proud to present the McCrimmon piping medal here.

The weekend after that, we will be in Alexandria, Va. for the North American gathering. Not only will there be a group of our Canadian brethren there I also understand members from the UK and Australia will be there as well. This is an event not to be missed. I would encourage you to join us if at all possible.

We take a break in July and then on August 6 will be in Livonia, Michigan to attend the longest running Scottish festival in the Country, 163 years. If you missed it last year, Michigan co-commissioner Erica McLeod blew away the competition in the ladies haggis tossing event! We expect a repeat win this year.

On the 25th of August we will attend the Kalamazoo, Michigan festival. This is a smaller and very friendly event half way between Detroit and Chicago

On September 8-9 a two day event is held in Columbus, Indiana. For those of you in southern Indiana, this is a nice event especially if you like dogs. Over the two days there is serious Border Collie herding competition.

We wind up the games season on October 13 in Indianapolis. This will be their third year and already they have outgrown the original venue. This year it will be held at German Park. Drawing from a large metropolitan area, sure these games will continue to prosper.

As you can see we have an event filled year ahead of us with at least one game convenient to all.

I would like to welcome all the new members that joined in 2011. We look forward to seeing you again this summer. I hope all of our members can get out this summer to at least one game. We are always looking for help manning the tents and it's a lot of fun. If you would be available, please let me know.

Bob McLeod

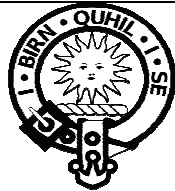
Great Lakes Region VP

★★★★★★★★★★★★

Upper Midwest Region

Send your news and photos to:

Pamela M. Captain
1431 Kings Run Dr. NW
Rochester, MN 55901
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Email: pcaptain41@hotmail.com

Our report is opening with a lot of sadness as we said goodbye to one of the Clan's oldest and dearest members, Art Nicol, past Regional Vice President of the Upper Midwest, this last December. (Please see page 8 for more information about Art's life and accomplishments.) He was at the wonderful age of 93 and we all will miss him greatly. Friends celebrated his incredible life with his wife of 68 years, Audrey, their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, at a memorial service on January 7, 2012 in Excelsior, MN. The shared memories made us all realize

how missed he will be.

Spring has come early to the Upper Midwest this year and the various Highland games in our region should have wonderful weather! However, this is snow country after all and one never knows what to expect. The Minnesota Games at Farmington have had interesting weather for the last two years; cold rain and high winds for 2010 and cold rain and some snow for 2011. But a good Friend of the MacLeods, Gary Anderson, saved the day and helped out. He had always helped Art and Audrey at the tent and was there both years for yours truly. Thank you, thank you, Gary. The games will be on Saturday, May 19th at the Dakota Fair Grounds in Farmington. But this year you will find the MacLeods at a booth inside instead of on the field. Of course, this year, the weather will most likely be perfect!

The Milwaukee and the Wisconsin Games fared much better! Sun with just a touch of coolness and a bit of rain, which sounds like Scotland. Our new Wisconsin Commissioners, Eugene and Jackie MacLeod, (who deserve a big Thank You for volunteering for these positions) will be welcoming you at the Milwaukee Highland Games, Hart Park in Wauwatosa, WI on, June 2nd and at the Wisconsin Highland Games at Waukesha County Expo during the weekend of August 31 to September 2. Plan to stop by the tents and say hello to fellow MacLeods! But we all expect to see you at the MacLeod Tents at all the games.

I did set up a MacLeod booth at the Northeast South Dakota Celtic Faire and Games last September but will not be at the games this year. They will be held in Aberdeen, SD on the third Saturday of September. But this last February the weather was good enough that I could get up to St. Paul for the Scottish Ramble and help out a bit at the Minnesota Coalition of Scottish Clans booth. It was quite an event! Everything but the athletic events indoors! Don't miss it next year. The Coalition will also be hosting a booth at the Minnesota Renaissance Festival during the Highland Fling Weekend on September 8 – 9. Wear the tartan and stop by the booth to say hello.

The winters in the Upper Midwest can put a damper on travel for any occasion. So I would like to hear from our regional members with ideas for any get-togethers and activities during those snow-bound months. This year was an exception but I'm sure we will be back to snow as usual next winter!

Meanwhile, I hope to see all of you at the 2012 North American Gathering in Alexandria, VA and Washington, DC this summer. Plan to come and meet members from the US and Canada! 'Till we meet then, Hold Fast!

Pam Captain

★★★★★★★★★★★★

	<p>CLAN MACLEOD NAME BADGES AVAILABLE IN PLASTIC, TWO STYLES</p> <p>Business card size, either pin or magnetic attachment. The cost is \$4.95 plus shipping. Contact SE/RVP John W. McLeod if interested (see page 10).</p>
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Missouri Valley Region

Send your news and photos to:

Ian Good
Regional Vice President
9832 Madison Ave
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Email: sara-ian@sbcglobal.net

Website: <http://www.macleodmovalley.org>

There seems to be quite the conversation these days regarding Scottish Independence and Referendum put forth to the House of Lords. Recently, I find many people asking me my thoughts pertaining to the supposed potential of independence. My response is always the same, and then the real conversation ensues. My initial response is "Do you think there are more pro's or con's to Scotland gaining its independence?"

I myself have a hard time determining if I want the independence or not. A large part of me wants the independence that our ancestors fought for. Many think that the Acts of Union 305 years ago was a bribery – that we were bought with English gold. Even the great Robert Burns thought this as he demonstrated in some of his writings.

The Scot in me wants desperately to scream – FREEEEEEDOMM – just as Wallace did (as acted out in Braveheart), then there is the other side of my mind that screams - - FINANCIAL SECURITYYYYYYYY. Let's be realistic for one second and play this scenario out. Will we really gain "freedom" if we do gain the independence? For 305+ years, we have relied on the money from the English Crown to provide for us – because we needed it. Scotland, financially, is in no better financial shape to take care of itself then it was 300 years ago. It is true, we had, and still do have some great exports that can help fund our great nation. Just the money made on Scotch alone you would think would provide some serious dollars. It unfortunately does not. I would love to think that we could sustain our beloved country on the efforts and revenue generated within our borders, but I am scared that it would not, considering the financial status of many European countries, and overall financial problem of today's Global market. The question is not – do we "want" independence – the real question is could we "survive" independence.

If you ask the current residence of Scotland their thoughts – you may be surprised. There are more against independence today then you may imagine. Support for independence is somewhere between 32% and 38% - actually down from where it was at the start of the Scottish National Party's last term in office as a minority government. A poll conducted in April 2011 put support lower than that - at 28% - with - 57% opposed.

I would invite you all to research and dive deep this question. It is easy for us – who sit thousands of miles away to scream out for our Freedom, and independence, but is that the best thing for our beloved Scotland? Search the internet, search the news, search your hearts and see what you come up with.

Hold Fast,
Ian Good

★★★★★★★★★★★★

South Central Region

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★★★★★★★★★★★★

Southwest Region

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Southwest Region commissioners are working hard to get ready for this year's activities and games schedule. Anyone in New Mexico who would be interested in taking over the games there for the clan tent, please contact Michael Barger and me. We'd really like to talk with you. Call me or email me so we can talk about the job in New Mexico. Gary Spivey, commissioner for Arizona will be at the Flagstaff Games held in July so please look him up at those games.

We hope to have clan tents this spring and summer at the festivals and games listed below. Hope to see all of you at the games in the region.

Judy McClure Wisehart

2012 Spring/summer events schedule

MAR	25-26	Caledonian Scottish Festival, Steele Indian School Park, Scottsdale, AZ
MAY	12-13	Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival, Balloon Fiesta Park - Albuquerque, NM
JUN	8-9	Utah Scottish Festival & Highland Games, Thanksgiving Point, Lehi, UT
JULY	13-14	Payson Scottish Festival, Memorial Park, Payson, UT
	21-22	Elizabeth Celtic Festival, Casey Jones Park, Elizabeth, CO
AUG	4-5	Colorado Scottish Festival & Rocky Mountain Highland Games, Highland Heritage Park, Highland's Ranch, CO
	25	Cache Celtic Highland Games & Festival, American West Heritage Center, Wellsville, UT
SEPT	6-9	Long's Peak Scottish/Irish Festival, Stanley Park Fairground, Estes Park, CO

★★★★★★★★★★★★

MCCLURE TARTAN

All McClures! Please contact me if you are still interested in purchasing McClure Tartan fabric. (Ignore the previously published deadline in the last newsletter.)

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Northwest Region

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The Pacific Northwest has had its share of winter snowstorms, ice storms, rains and flooding, power outages, and Mother Nature's wrath. Thank goodness for indoor events during the winter and spring.

Burn's Night events are the most popular of these events but the most unusual is Gung Haggis Fat Choy in Seattle, WA. It is a meld of Burn's dinner and the Chinese New Year. Toddish McWong, aka Todd Wong, a fifth generation Chinese Canadian, created the cross-cultural event in 1999 in Vancouver, BC. While a student at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia, he often helped out at the Burn's supper and grew to enjoy the poetry and the presentation of the haggis. As this event grew in popularity, it earned him an introduction to the Scottish First Minister. Upon meeting a member of the Seattle Caledonian and St. Andrews Society, he brought the event south to Seattle in 2007. He is often photographed in a "Loud" MacLeod kilt, among his other tartans, presiding over the supper featuring haggis won-tons, dim sum, and other delectable creations featuring haggis. The entertainment features not only bagpipers, Scottish dancers and musicians but also the Dragon Boat team, Chinese Lion Dancers and martial arts demonstrations. Toddish McWong has even been known to duet with Scottish troubadour Red McWilliams.

The Celtic Arts Foundation introduced a new event, Scotch and Chocolate pairing, just in time for Valentine's Day. The Theo Chocolates Factory in Seattle was the scene for an evening of tasting. Some of Scotland's renowned single malt whiskies were paired with raspberry, milk, bitter and dark chocolates. A Master of Whisky from the Diageo spirit company lead the evening with descriptions, jokes, and toasts. Tours of the plant were included showing the fair trade company off in style. Live traditional Scottish music and kilts gave the event a lively spirit.

There is an upcoming event that no one will want to miss; Disney Pixar's new 3D fantasy adventure, *Brave*. The movie animators not only visited Scotland, but wore Kilts to

staff meetings, learned sword fighting, and archery. Set in Scotland, Princess Merida defies the age old customs of her parents and takes advice from the Wise Woman. Fate, destiny and tradition are tested. Scottish heritage takes the forefront with music from Scottish singer, Julie Fowlis. There is at least one Kilted Night Out taking place in Washington that includes the premier showing of the movie accompanied by pipers.

As a side note, Congratulations are in order for a new clan member. Eric and Sarah Williamson of Spokane, WA welcomed Gavin John in December 2011. Having both a good Scottish name and a wee kilt, he's ready for his grandmother, Washington Commissioner Debi Williamson, to take him to the games!

The MacLeod tent will be seen at most of the upcoming 2012 events in the calendar below.

Hold fast,
 Susan Norman Slade

2012 Spring/summer events schedule

APR	14	Oregon Scottish Heritage Festival. Linn County Fair & Expo, 3700 Knox Butte Rd, Albany, OR. http://www.oregonscottishsociety.com
	19	Eugene Scottish Festival. Peace Presbyterian Church, 3060 River Rd, Eugene OR. http://www.eugenescottishfestival.com
MAY	2-3	Bellingham Highland Games. Hovander Homestead Park, Ferndale, WA. http://www.bhga.org
	8-10	Newport Celtic Festival and Highland Games. Lincoln County Fairgrounds, Newport, OR. http://www.nfchg.com
	16	Prosser Highland Games and Scottish Festival. Port of Benton Food and Wine Park, Prosser, WA.
	22-23	Yellowstone Highland Games @Zoo Montana. Billings, MT. http://www.yellowstonehighlandgames.us
JUN	23	Tacoma Highland Games. Frontier Park @ 217 th and Meridian Highway 161, Graham, WA. http://www.tacomagames.org
	30	Alaska Scottish Highland Games. Alaskan Scottish Club, Eagle River, AK. http://www.alaskascottish.org
	14-15	Skagit Valley Highland Games. Edgewater Park, Mt. Vernon WA. http://www.celticarts.org
JUL	14-15	Athena Caledonian Games. Athena City Park, Athena OR. http://www.athenacaledoniangames.org
	21	Portland Highland Games. Mt. Hood Community College, Gresham WA. http://www.phga.org
	28-29	Seattle Scottish Highland Games. Expo Center (formerly King County Fairgrounds), Enumclaw, WA. Visit http://www.sshga.org
AUG	04	Spokane Highland Games. Spokane County Fair & Expo Center, South Lawn, Spokane WA. http://www.spokanehighlandgames.org
	11	High Desert Celtic Festival and Scottish Highland Games. Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Madras, OR. http://www.hdcs.net
	11	Whidbey Island Highland Games. Greenbank Farm, Whidbey Island, WA. http://www.wihg.org

2012 Spring/summer events schedule

	17-18	Jackson Hole Scottish Festival. Teton County Fairgrounds, Jackson, WY. http://www.wyohighlanders.net
	17-19	Douglas County Scottish Highland Games. Riverbend Park, Winston, OR. http://www.dcscots.org
	24-26	Celtic Fest and Clan Gathering. Eastern Oregon Pioneer Park, La Grande, OR. http://www.facebook.com/neoregoncelts
	24-26	Bitterroot Scottish Irish Festival. Marcus Daly Mansion Grounds, Hamilton, MT. http://www.bitterrootscottishirishfestival.org
	24-26	Highland Community Days. Tieton Square, Tieton, WA.
SEP	01-02	Hood Canal Highland Celtic Festival. Theler Community Center, Belfair, WA. http://www.HoodCanalHighlandFest.org
	08-09	Kelso Highlander Festival Highland Games. Tam O'Shanter Park, Kelso, WA. http://www.highlander.kelso.gov
	29	Treasure Valley Celtic Festival and Highland Games. Western Idaho Fairgrounds, Boise, ID. http://www.idahoscots.org

★★★★★★★★★★★★

Pacific Region**Send your news and photos to:**

Tammie Vawter
Regional Vice President
5065 E. Washington Ave
Fresno, CA 93727-3147
Phone: (559) 255-4926

**Email:** mrs_califmacleod@yahoo.com**Website:** <http://www.macleodpacific.webs.com/>

The Pacific Region, as with many other Regions, is just

starting up with Games and Get-Togethers. Our season begins in February and ends in October. The winter break is over, with all of the Burns Suppers in various parts of the State and now the Games have begun! The first Game was on the Queen Mary - alas, the Hotel Staff in charge of the Clan outreach changed, without warning, the way in which the Clan sets up and because of the unreliable weather in February, we opted out.

There are Games in the Sonora area that are coming back stronger, but, again, we have not gone to those in a few years - they are held at a great site and had originally been more of a Renaissance Fair than a Scottish Game - but excitingly this could be in the process of change. This may be a Game for us to revisit in the next few years. Bakersfield is coming up and probably will have been held by the time you read this. Sacramento will be an exciting outing - we welcome members, Jon and Carol Swindle to Commissioner Status - they will be hosting the Games tent, as well as the later Dixon event.

We would like to recommend our members to check out our <http://www.macleodpacific.webs.com/> site for up to the minute Games information and other bits of Clan history and information.

Tammie Vawter

Pacific Region, Clan MacLeod, USA

★★★★★★★★★★★★

You can advertise in the Clan MacLeod USA newsletter!

Ads are available on our black and white pages only, and need to be submitted at copy deadline. Costs are: full page \$500, half page \$250, quarter page \$125. If you are interested, contact the Editor (see page 2).

Once again! Why come to the AGM? Why come to the NAG?

Besides the fact that ANY MacLeod Gathering is a fantastic opportunity to meet people from all over your country – and yes, very often the world – the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Clan MacLeod Society USA will give you some insights into how this organization runs itself – and why.

The Clan MacLeod Society celebrates both the heritage of Scotland and the achievements of its sons and daughters all over the world. This year's North American Gathering and the CMS USA AGM offer you an opportunity to take the first step in forming true family friendships throughout the world.

In addition to the fabulous entertainment that will be part of the North American Gathering (see full schedule of events on page 6), we will conduct more formal business at our AGM. Recording Secretary Judy MacLeod expects that discussions during the upcoming Annual General Meeting agenda will include:

- Ian Good will introduce us to the new Clan MacLeod

USA website that he has been working on.

- Dorna Caskie will bring us up to date on the new newsletter publisher, and share suggestions that CMS members have made to help the newsletter become a more effective tool for recruiting and maintaining Society membership.
- Hear a report on the 2013 AGM plans for San Antonio, Texas from Doug Beaton.
- Ann McLeod will demonstrate her plans for the migration information on the new website.
- John W. McLeod will share his idea for issuing collectable MacLeod coins.

If these subjects sound intriguing – combined with the purposes and activities you already associate with the Clan MacLeod – consider joining us in Washington, and helping the organization meet its objectives, and grow.

★★★★★★★★★★★★

The Dunvegan Foundation

Of the Clan MacLeod Society USA, Inc.

A fully tax deductible way of saying, "I am a proud MacLeod".
Make a gift in memory of a family member for whom being a MacLeod was always special.
A wonderful way to say thanks for the great heritage of Scotland.

Our mission

"To preserve, protect and promote the unique heritage of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, as reflected through the history and migration of Clan MacLeod, by pooling our resources as a tax-exempt organization, to enable the support of activities which further these goals."

Some of our ongoing projects

- Support for the Ellen Payne Odom Genealogy Library
- The Clan MacLeod Society Migration Project, including the Clan MacLeod Society Migration Project Book Collection housed at the Taos Public Library in Taos, NM.
- Many scholarships for piping, dancing, and the Scottish arts, all funded by the Dunvegan Foundation and administered by the institutions for which they were established.

Special grants and international work

- Houston Highland Games Association
- Mastery of Scottish Arts Program
- Slighe nan Gaidheal
- American Piping Foundation
- Duirinish Parish Church Music Fund (Isle of Skye)
- Iona Community - Dame Flora Scholarship
- Historic Assynt Organization - Ardvreck Castle Preservation Project

Please check our web pages for further details on the range and quality of projects in which the Dunvegan Foundation is engaged.

<http://www.clanmacleodusa.org/DunveganFoundationWelcome.htm>

The Dunvegan Foundation welcomes contributions in any amount, and planned giving arrangements are also welcome. Donations can be designated for specific projects, the endowment fund, or unrestricted. Please send your contribution to:

The Dunvegan Foundation
Box 17303
Raleigh, North Carolina 27619-7303

PROXY FOR AGM, CLAN MACLEOD SOCIETY USA, INC.

Annual General Meeting Friday June 29, 2012

Instructions: Date and sign this proxy and insert "X" in the boxes next to the appropriate directive.

The undersigned member in good standing of the Clan MacLeod Society USA, Inc. (the "Society"), a New York not-for-profit corporation, appoints as proxy:

Please mark one of the following:

<input type="checkbox"/>	John N. MacLeod and Anne L. MacLeod, or either of them,
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>If desired, in the large box to the left please write the name and residential address of an alternative proxy who will be present to cast your vote at the meeting. Don't forget to check the small box next to it, too.</i>

with full power of substitution proxies to vote on all matters on which the undersigned would be entitled to vote if personally present at the Annual General Meeting of the members of the Society, to be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Alexandria, Virginia USA, on or about Friday June 29, 2012, and at any adjournments thereof. This proxy will be voted in the manner directed below. If no direction is made, this Proxy will be voted for all nominees and proposals listed below.

1. ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

PRESIDENT John N. MacLeod Naperville, IL	PIPING Norman P. Livermore Marietta, GA	VP NEW ENGLAND R. J. Hoagland Barrington, RI	VP GREAT LAKES Robert J. McLeod Darien, IL
VICE PRESIDENT Weeden Nichols Las Cruces, NM	CHAPLAIN Rev. John McClure Good Florissant, MO	VP NORTHEAST [vacant]	VP UPPER MIDWEST Pamela M. Captain Rochester, MN
SECRETARY Anne L. MacLeod West Valley City, UT	MIGRATION DIRECTOR Ann McLeod Madison, FL.	VP MID-ATLANTIC Stephen D. MacLeod Alexandria, VA	VP MISSOURI VALLEY Ian Good Rock Hill, MO
TREASURER Richard A. MacLeod Dowagiac, MI	RVP ADVISOR William C. MacLeod Naperville, IL.	VP CAROLINAS W. Franklin Wyatt III Sanford, NC	VP SOUTH CENTRAL Douglas Beaton Sugar Land, TX
COUNSEL John MacLeod Tutterow Fayetteville, NC	DANCING Norman P. Livermore Marietta, GA	VP SOUTHEAST John W. McLeod Madison, FL	VP SOUTHWEST Judy McClure Wisehart Broomfield, CO
NEWSLETTER EDITOR Dorna Caskie Groveland, MA	PUBLICIST Judy MacLeod Naperville, IL	VP GULF CENTRAL Jack Lewis Mount Vernon, KY	VP NORTHWEST Susan Slade East Olympia, WA
INTERNET MANAGER [vacant]	NOMINATION CHAIR Don Mack McLeod Boling, TX		VP PACIFIC REGION Tammie Vawter Fresno, CA

Please mark one of the following:

<input type="checkbox"/>	TO VOTE FOR ALL NOMINEES LISTED (except as marked below to the contrary)
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TO WITHHOLD AUTHORITY TO VOTE FOR ALL NOMINEES LISTED

To withhold authority to vote for any INDIVIDUAL nominee, write such name(s) in the space below.

2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

PRESIDENT John N. MacLeod Naperville, IL	VICE PRESIDENT Weeden Nichols Las Cruces, NM	SECRETARY Anne L. MacLeod West Valley City, UT	TREASURER Richard A. MacLeod Dowagiac, MI
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Please mark one of the following:

<input type="checkbox"/>	TO VOTE FOR ALL NOMINEES LISTED (except as marked below to the contrary)
<input type="checkbox"/>	TO WITHHOLD AUTHORITY TO VOTE FOR ALL NOMINEES LISTED

To withhold authority to vote for any INDIVIDUAL nominee, write such name(s) in the space below.

3. RATIFICATION OF COUNCIL'S APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES OF THE DUNVEGAN FOUNDATION

CLASS OF 2013:	Ian Good, Rock Hill, MO; James Blount MacLeod, Raleigh, NC; Katherine McLeod, Boling, TX
CLASS OF 2014:	Larry R. Sears, San Antonio, TX; William F. MacLeod, San Diego, CA; Charlene Boyes, Columbia, MO
CLASS OF 2015:	Judy MacLeod, Naperville, IL.; Don McLeod, Boling, TX; Sarah Piepgrass, Canton, MA
CLASS OF 2016:	Bonnie Thompson, Cumberland, RI.; Weeden Nichols, Las Cruces, NM; John MacLeod Tutterow, Fayetteville, NC
CLASS OF 2017:	Judy Wisehart, Broomfield, CO; Richard A. MacLeod, Dowagiac, MI

Please mark one of the following:

<input type="checkbox"/>	TO VOTE FOR ALL NOMINEES LISTED (except as marked below to the contrary)
<input type="checkbox"/>	TO WITHHOLD AUTHORITY TO VOTE FOR ALL NOMINEES LISTED

To withhold authority to vote for any INDIVIDUAL nominee, write such name(s) in the space below:

Member signature	Date
Please also print your name on the line above	

4. THIS DOCUMENT MAY BE HAND-DELIVERED TO THE AGM BY THE NAMED PROXY, OR ELSE MAILED VIA POST OR EMAILED TO ANY ONE OF THE PERSONS INDICATED BELOW:

PRESIDENT John N. MacLeod 1276 Whittingham Naperville, IL 60540 Email: johnmacleod@aol.com	SECRETARY Anne L. MacLeod P.O. Box 70928 West Valley City, UT 84170-0928 Email: annelmacleod@comcast.net	PAST PRESIDENT John B. MacLeod 1718 Priscilla Drive Silver Spring, MD 20904 Email: blackolav@gmail.com
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CLAN MACLEOD SOCIETY USA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Purpose of the Society

The Clan MacLeod Society USA embodies a desire to preserve and perpetuate the traditions and heritage of Americans of Scottish ancestry (principally MacLeods and Septs of MacLeod). To further this heritage, the Society promotes cultural (e.g. piping and dancing) and educational (e.g. Gaelic scholarship, awards for excellence in competition, seminars, participations in gatherings and events (e.g. Highland Games, Festivals), two publications (a National and an International Newsletter), plus sustained library collections, meetings (the Annual General Meeting [AGM], Parliament) and internet web sites. In addition to these benefits for members, we offer wonderful camaraderie and an opportunity to form true family friendships throughout the world...particularly in your area. We are a non-profit organization having achieved the 501(c)(3) status.

Eligibility for membership

- All persons having the name of MacLeod (however spelled), and all persons directly connected by marriage or descent.
- All persons having the name of a Sept of the Clan MacLeod (however spelled), and all persons directly connected by marriage or descent.
- Friends of the Clan MacLeod

Application for membership

APPLICANT INFORMATION					
Applicant Name:		Date of birth (mm/dd/yy):		Sept, if applicable:	
Spouse name :		Date of birth (mm/dd/yy):		Sept, if applicable:	
Occupation(s)		Phone:			
Street address:		Email:			
Town or city:		State and ZIP:			
CHILDREN (FOR YOUTH MEMBERSHIP)					
First child:		Date of birth (mm/dd/yy):		Sept, if applicable:	
Second child:		Date of birth (mm/dd/yy):		Sept, if applicable:	
Third child:		Date of birth (mm/dd/yy):		Sept, if applicable:	
Fourth child:		Date of birth (mm/dd/yy):		Sept, if applicable:	
<i>Please add additional children's names, etc., on a separate piece of paper.</i>					
YEARLY DUES FOR APPLICANT AND FAMILY					
Applicant, per year:	\$ 25 x	=		Lifetime under 30:	\$1,000.00 x
Spouse, per year:	\$ 25 x	=		Lifetime 30-49:	\$ 750.00 x
Youth, per year (under 18):	\$ 10 x	=		Lifetime Over 50:	\$ 500.00 x
Total amount enclosed:				Please check:	Renewal: <input type="checkbox"/> New: <input type="checkbox"/>
Applicant signature:				Date of application:	

Checks in US funds are preferred; your check is your receipt. Make checks payable to CLAN MacLEOD SOCIETY, USA, Inc., and mail to: CLAN MacLEOD SOCIETY, USA Inc., P. O. Box 70928, West Valley City, UT 84170-0928.

Credit cards can be used online for membership payments

You now have the ability to join or renew your membership in Clan MacLeod USA on line with a credit card or PayPal. The goal is to make the process as convenient and secure as possible. Your information will be secured by using encryption software, fraud protection services and additional security supplied by the PayPal web site. With the online membership process you will save a few steps, compared to the mail in renewal method.

The on-line credit card membership can be accessed by going to the Clan MacLeod USA web site and linking to the "Membership" page. You can pay by: Visa, Master Card, American Express, Discover or PayPal. The one year membership or donations to the Clan can be made on line. This is just one way of joining or keeping your membership current. You can, as before, apply by mail with a check, or through your local Clan MacLeod representative at your local highland games.

NORTHWEST REGION



Gung Haggis Fat Choy



Dragon at Gung Haggis

SOUTHEAST REGION

NE Florida Highland Games



Rick Norred



Triples with Mom and Dad



Clan MacLeod



Nager family

Central Florida Games



*Shortbread Winner
Carey Carbeck*



Rich Shader and daughter



Jay McClure and friends



*Bob Kilminster back
after hip replacement*

The Clan MacLeod Newsletter

P. O. Box 70928
West Valley City, Utah 84170-0928

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

UPCOMING EVENTS - CLAN MACLEOD USA IS INVITED!

"SHINING A LIGHT ON THE CAPITAL" 2012 NORTH AMERICAN GATHERING



The NAG will take place in the Alexandria, VA and Washington DC areas from June 28 – July 1 2012, and has a fabulous program of activities taking advantage of the entertainment, culture, and history on display in the Nation's capitol. Details start on page 7 of this newsletter.

2012 ANNUAL MID-YEAR MEETING AND ALEXANDRIA CHRISTMAS WALK



The CMS USA Mid Year meeting will take place on the first weekend in December, surrounding the events of the Campagna Center's famous Scottish-themed holiday activities.
<http://www.scottishchristmaswalk.com>.

CLAN MACLEOD WORLD GATHERING NEW ZEALAND 2013



Clan MacLeod New Zealand has recently announced that it is exploring hosting a World Gathering in 2013. No information is yet available, but an announcement will eventually appear on the ACMS website <http://www.clanmacleod.org>.

2012 ANNUAL MEETING CLAN MACLEOD SOCIETY GERMANY



The 14th Annual Highland Games and the Peine International Pipe Band Championships will take place in Germany on May 5-6, at the same time as the annual gathering of the Clan MacLeod Society Germany. Secretary Dirk Löchel of CMS Germany reminds us that all Friends and Members of the Clan MacLeod worldwide are warmly welcomed to join them in Peine for the weekend, where there are likely to be additional, informal activities for visiting clansfolk. Please do not hesitate to ask Dirk for further information or advice at sekretariat@clan-macleod.de. Here are links to the hotel and official event information:
<http://www.scottish-culture-club.de/>,
<http://www.highlandgathering-peine.de/>, and
<http://www.balladins-hotels.com/>.

CLAN MACLEOD WORLD GATHERING PARLIAMENT 2014



The dates for our 17th Clan MacLeod Parliament have been announced. Parliament week will take place in Dunvegan from Saturday 26th July 2014 to Saturday 2nd August 2014. The North Room Group service project will take place during the week before Parliament, and will be based on Skye. There will be no pre-Parliament trip in 2014.