



DUM SPIRO SPERO
WHILE I BREATHE, I HOPE.

MCLAN MACLENNAN

NEWSLETTER
CANADA

Central Ontario Branch

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year to all and all the best for 2007. Weather wise, March came in like a lion but definite signs of spring are evident so our groundhog may be right for once this year. The "winter" has been short and nasty down in the banana belt- we had a lot more snow than usual but I guess we can accept that for about 7-8 weeks. The ice wine makers were happy- unlike people in B.C. where nobody welcomed the gales they received.

News from Scotland (via Max in the Aussie Newsletter) – Kirsteen (Chief Ruairidh's sister) and James Eckersley were married at Drumtochty, about 30 miles south of Aberdeen, on the 16th December, 2006. It was described as a "Fairytale Highland Wedding" and those interested can go to the photographer's site at www.jonlaing.co.uk, go into "Gallery" and see for yourselves. Chief Ruairidh will celebrate his 30th birthday on 22nd April and Kirsteen's birthday is on the 23rd, so we send our best wishes.

We are checking for the dates of this year's Games to let you know as soon as possible. At Fergus, they had a dinner for Clansfolk on the grounds. We had thought of trying to go this year but an e-mail came saying that it has been cancelled due to budget constraints. The idea came up rather late last year and we had already made other arrangements, but we shall watch for future developments. Those interested in their Scots forebears should check James Russell's account of his visit to Scotland. He took a large number of photos at many sites and, if an area name rings a bell, there could be a clue to an ancestor among them.

An e-mail from Max (Australia) in October advised that the proposed World Gathering for 2007 had been cancelled "due to unavoidable circumstances preventing the organization of this event. -There is a possibility that it may be held in 2008. "DUM SPIRO SPERO". I hope this will not affect any holiday plans as we did not have any firm dates to pass on to you. Apparently, the year 2007 has been designated Scotland's Year of Highland Culture, so there may be a lot going on in Inverness this year. In fact, Elizabeth had a brochure on a Highland Summer School session in July this year, including clanship, Culloden (1746) and the impact of the Highland Clearances. The last topic would have touched some raw nerves in the past and it is surprising how memories have been passed down through generations. I will be going over in May and may manage to get more info on various events

We heard of the death of a long time member late last year. Louise MacLennan (Boardman, Ohio) left us after a long struggle. She used to join the Clan Parade through Fergus with great enthusiasm and we missed her when she had to stay home for treatment. Our sympathy goes to Donald, her husband, and sister-in law Cynthia (Stratford). An Obituary Notice is included in this letter.

Time for my usual rant! We have to keep reminding folk that our financial year begins on August 1st, just **BEFORE** the AGM at Fergus. That was nearly seven months ago and we are still waiting for dues for 2006-2007 from **32 members**. This is double the number at the same time last year. Maybe you could allocate a wee bit of your tax refund (if you can find one) to our worthy cause- we would be most appreciative. A reminder is attached to this letter because there will only two more of them before the financial year closes on 31st July, 2007- so please RSVP (Remember send vun (one) present) **now**.

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Elizabeth Prebble, Burlington, ON
David MacLennan, Dundas,
Melanie MacLennan, Guelph, ON

EDITOR'S NOTES

The first letter of the year always seems a hard one to start. I guess a good idea might be to give the dates of Games and, as we have members from coast to coast, Games outside the home area are included:

British Columbia

Jun 9	Delta
Jun 30	Coquitlam
July 7	Penticton

Nova Scotia

Jun 31	Pugwash
July 7	Halifax
July 20-22	Antigonish
Aug 8-13	Pictou

Ontario

Jun 9	Georgetown
Jun 23	Hamilton(Ancaster)
Jun 23	Coburg
Jul 1	Embrow (London)
Jul 6-8	Kincardine
July 14	Chatham
July 20	Orillia
July 20-21	Cambridge
Jul 21-22	Uxbridge
Aug 3-4	Maxville
Aug 10-11	Fergus
Aug 25	Almonte

These are Games where the Clans are a feature. There are also Celtic Festivals but these do not, as a rule, include the Clans. The Sarnia games were cancelled last year and Fort Erie has reverted to a Festival.

We are considering where we can take the tent this year. Hamilton, Maxville, Fergus and Almonte are at the top of our list as they have good Clan attendance. Georgetown, Coburg and Cambridge are handy as our members have family connections nearby. Karen goes to Kincardine if she doesn't have to work on the day, which leaves Georgetown and Uxbridge for possible reconnaissance trips. Chief Ruairidh may be in Halifax in early

July, not as a guest but as a member of a pipe band.

It is becoming evident that the expenses of putting on the games are being scrutinized more closely against returns. This is also reflected in fewer bands attending, higher insurance costs and fewer vendors- food vendors excepted. We will soldier on and would love to meet more members, particularly at Fergus, so come and see us.

Personally as an editor, I would welcome some e-mail accounts of family events, holidays and suggestions you would like to share. The Aussie Letter has a great letter section and gives you the feeling that the Clan is a big part of member's lives. The cost of postage is a consideration now but electronic communication is virtually free, I may have to edit a wee bit, because space is a problem everyone has, but I like to keep the sense of happiness that comes through letters that people want to share. While pictures can tell a lot, bear in mind that, with the best will in the world, black and white copying cannot convey great detail and putting out the news in colour is beyond our resources. Some pictures may convey definite information, like the ones James and Vince' took in Scotland last year, If you know of an ancestor that lived in a particular place, contact them to check the web site and see for yourself- then download it to keep. We had a lot of photos in the last letter of 2006 and, believe me, the editing and printing was a pain because the photos had to be reduced, cropped and enhanced for contrast to make them suitable for printing. Scotland is not a particularly sunny land- the cloud effects may be great, but that is not what you want to see. I am sure you can get more legible copies by enlarging the originals.

Statement of receipts and Disbursements
August 1, 2006-March 17, 2007

Receipts

Bank Balance Aug 1, 2006		1,650.83	
Member's Dues			
-2005-2006	20.00		
-2006-2010	<u>165.00</u>	185.00	
Clan Sales			
-Maxville	27.50		
-Fergus	<u>48.00</u>	75.50	
Fergus Dinner Draw		70.00	
G.I.C. Interest		<u>17.00</u>	<u>347.50</u>
			1,998.33

Disbursements

October Newsletter			
-Copy	64.18		
-Postage	72.23		
-Envelopes	<u>9.11</u>	145.52	
Service Charges		<u>3.00</u>	<u>148.52</u>
Bank Balance March 17, 2007			1,849.81
Royal Bank G.I.C.			<u>2,000.00</u>
Branch Total			3,849.81

Membership

Owing 2006-2007	32
Paid 2006-2010	40
Comp.	<u>3</u>
Total	75

MEMBER'S NEWS

From: James Russell <jimrussell@cox.net>
 Hope all is well with you folks up there in Canada. My wife, Vince', and I took a trip to England and Scotland last year. Our primary reason for the visit was to visit the Scottish areas where Jim's ancestors emigrated from in 1802 on the ship Neptune. We flew into Glasgow, rented a car and visited Stirling Castle then on to Dundee for the night. Next morning we traveled to Aviemore, visiting Glamis and Braemar Castles on the way. The next day we took a return trip on the steam train from Aviemore to Boat of Garten, then headed on to Inverness to meet Alistair McLeod, a genealogist at the public library. He was very informative, telling us a lot about the MacLennan clan and where we could find MacLennan graves.

The next day we headed off to Dornie where we found a B&B within sight of Eilean Donan Castle, visiting Auldearn Battlefield, Lord Seaforth's Estate, where MacLennans leased property and were buried at Strathconon, Garve and Kinlochewe. We

made Dornie our base for a few days, seeing Eilean Donan Castle, the cemetery at Kirkton then on to Dunvegan Castle. We also visited cemeteries at Killilan, Kilmore and Glenelg. We left Dornie and headed south to Oban, seeing Fort William and Inverlochy Castle. The last leg back to Glasgow included stops at the castles of Dunstaffnage, Kilchurn and Inveraray.

We mention all the cemeteries because I took pictures of many MacLennan headstones, which I have uploaded onto a free web site called Snapfish. This is a safe web site which I have used for many years. The pictures are all labeled, including the headstones as best as I could make them out. Most of them I have no idea if they are directly related to me or not, but there may be some MacLennans out there that might find a long lost relative's headstone. If people are interested, please send me an e-mail and I can go to Snapfish and invite them to see the photos.

Dum Spiro Spero, Jim & Vincie' Russell

Ed's. note: For those who may not be familiar with places in Scotland, the trip started in Glasgow, went northeast to Dundee, then NNW to Aviemore and Inverness. Dornie is west across country from Inverness, but the route first goes north before turning towards the west. Dunvegan and Kilmore are on Skye, while Glenelg has a summer-only ferry that used to operate before the Skye bridge was built. The trip then turned south back to Glasgow. Dornie and the south shore of Loch Duich are the traditional lands of the MacLennans in Wester Ross, while Strathconon is in Easter Ross.

From Cynthia McLennan (Stratford), sister of Donald (Boardman, Ohio). Notice from the London Free Press Sept. 29, 2006

McLennan, Louise (Wylie) passed away peacefully on Thursday, September 21 in her 80th year. An expert needleworker, she was one of the master teachers of the American Needlepoint Guild and many beautiful works will live long after her. She is survived by her husband, Donald, two children, five step children and thirteen grandchildren. Donations in her name may be made to the Canadian Cancer Society.

Family History – Sharing the Past

By: David MacLennan (Ottawa)

To research the family history is a long and drawn out matter. I am a retired teacher so this quest should be a simple process of looking information up on ones family. Not so, as I have found out time and time again. The main purpose of this section of the newsletter is to share problems and solutions when researching our family history.

Introduction

For those that don't have any idea as to who I am, here is some info for you about me so we can at least start the Family research process on the right foot.

You already know that I am a MacLennan by my surname and a retired teacher. I live in the Nation's Capitol, Ottawa Ontario. My origins begin with a long, Canadian line of Mac / McLennans from the counties of Glengarry and Prescott, Ontario. My interests, as I progress down life's path is a passion for my family's history.

I have been working on my past for about 10 years now and have accumulated a fair amount of data and information, both oral and written, concerning both of my parent's families. This knowledge has been stored in the usual boxes, categorized, and finally transcribed into a database which is the basis for 200 page book titled as the first edition of, "Our Family's Legacy".

After 10 years of research I have located over 6 000 members of my mother's and father's families going back as far as the early 1300's and the late 1700's!!!

Why the two dates?

Problem #1.

The first and foremost reason for the two dates; I only planned on dealing with the MacLennans and got sidetracked when the trail got cold. It also meant that I would require travelling to places outside of Ottawa plus a lot more reading about the same surname but different branches of the McLennans. The reality of it all, I was getting to know my mother's side of the family and then my dad's mother's side of the family. I found myself totally sidetracked on the easier research. It's not as if I didn't want to research my dad's male side of the family, it just got a lot more interesting finding about everyone else.

Subsequently I can now trace some lines of my mother's family back to the 1300's while on my dad's side, I have been stuck in the late 1700's still trying to locate my great (3) grandfather MacLennan.

Solution # 1.

Plan the direction of your research and stick to it until your goal is achieved. In my case I should have stayed with the male side of my dad's Mac / MacLennan branch of the family until I at least got to the point of when and where they migrated to Canada.

As you can readily see, the researcher has to make some decisions before he or she begins the process. A simple trip to library or archives doesn't seem to do the trick.

Next article; for those that are thinking about starting out I would like to share a few suggestions for beginning your research. For those that are right into the research and want to share with the rest of the Clan please get in touch with me with problems, solutions or both at dmac44@rogers.com until then, happy hunting.

Members Directory Changes

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MacLennan, Donald Park Vista, Apt. 311, 1216 Fifth Ave., Youngstown, Ohio 44504 USA

These changes will be incorporated in the next issue of the Directory in September, 2007

THE EVOLUTION OF THE KILT-PART 1

THE FEILIDH-MHOR

(Condensed from articles in The Scottish Banner, Aug.-Oct 2006, by Matthew Newsome, FSA Scot., GTS.)

The kilt is perhaps the most well known emblem of Scottish heritage. The real history of the kilt is not so ancient as many would like to believe, but is worthy of being told. We will begin with the earliest form of anything that we may call a kilt- the grandfather of the modern kilt, the *feilidh-mhor*. In Gaelic, its name means "great wrap". At this stage, there were no clan tartans, as individual tartans bore no significance as far as clan, family or district

In common parlance this garment is typically referred to as a "great kilt" though I prefer the term "belted plaid". In its most basic form it was a length of cloth, usually (but not always) tartan, was referred to as a *plaid*. It was wide enough to reach from the knees to above the head (usually 50" to 60") and was usually about four yards in length. This length was gathered into folds and belted at the waist – hence the name "belted plaid" The bottom fell to the knee, and the upper portion was brought up over the head or shoulders and fastened in any number of ways. The earliest definitive record of this style of dress is an Irish account from 1594 describing a group of Hebridean soldiers in the service of Red Hugh O'Donnell "...for their exterior dress was mottled cloaks to the calf of the leg with ties and fastenings. Their girdles were over the loins outside the cloaks." This clearly describes the belts (girdles) as being worn outside of the cloaks (plaids or mantles), which is the hallmark of the belted plaid.

Another account, published in 1581, contained this description: "Their ancestors wore plaids of many colours, but the majority now prefer a dark brown, imitating nearly the leaves of the heather, that when lying upon the heath in the day, they may not be discovered by the appearance of their clothes. In these, wrapped rather covered, they brave the severest storms in the open air, and sometimes lay themselves down to sleep even in the midst of snow."

It is important to realize that there are many accounts of Highland dress from the sixteenth century, and none of the mention anything like the *feilidh-mhor*. The first illustration of the belted plaid appears in a travel book from the first decade of the seventeenth century. For whatever reason, this style quickly spread across the Highlands and became the characteristic costume of the rugged Highlander. It was perfectly suited to being outside in the Highland environment because, in addition to providing a tough outer layer of clothing, protecting from wind and rain, it served other purposes. As the untailed garment was essentially a blanket wrapped or belted around the body, it was used as a blanket for sleeping at night. It was also a form of luggage, its many folds being used to hold goods for easy transport. One surprising use is that of camouflage. Historically, tartan was often used to be hidden, the interlocking stripes serving to break up the outline of the wearer in the same way as a tiger's stripes.

The proper length of this garment needs some discussion, as no fewer than nine yards of cloth are often mentioned. This may be because the modern tailored kilt has eight or even nine yards, depending on the size. A more likely explanation comes from eighteenth century military records showing soldiers being issued nine yards of cloth for their belted plaids. However, it must be understood that the cloth was single width (typically 25" and 30" wide) and two widths would be sewn together to get the desired width of the belted plaid. In other words, a nine-yard length of cloth would be cut in half, and the two resulting pieces would be joined to make a single garment some 4.5 yards long.

When one realizes that the *feilidh-mhor* was constructed of two single width lengths of cloth joined together, it makes the transition to the *feilidh-beag* ("little wrap") more logical. If the *feilidh-mhor* is the grandfather of the modern kilt, then the *feilidh-beag* is the father of the modern tailored kilt.

