



DUM SPIRO SPERO
WHILE I BREATHE, I HOPE.

CLAN MACLENNAN NEWSLETTER NO.69.Julv.2007

MACLENNAN

NEWSLETTER
Central Ontario Branch
CANADA

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

The summer heat is really here now, just after I got back from Scotland. It was sunny two weeks out of three over there, which is pretty good. We rented a car for the middle week for a trip around Fort William, Kyle, over to Dingwall and Inverness, then we hoped to have a trip round the small east coast ports. This was abandoned after a couple of days of solid rain, but we did get over to Edinburgh, Dunblane and St. Andrews later. We also had three days in Dublin and, on the Saturday before I flew home, we were given a tour of a nuclear submarine. It has four decks below the conning tower and the crew's quarters were literally in spaces between all the machinery. We had a quick drive around the base later, including seeing a Canadian sub, the "Collingwood", tied up there. The tour was arranged by a friend at our local pub, who is in the navy and works at the base.

Back to Clan matters. The Highland Games program has started and Fergus is coming up soon. We hope to see more members at the Games, particularly at Fergus, which is our home base. It is probably the biggest show around Ontario and certainly the most varied, with bands, pageantry, dancers, athletic events and a wide selection of Scottish souvenirs, from the tacky right up to elegant pieces. We have our AGM in the Centre on the grounds, all members are welcome and we are going to the Angel Diner again for the Clan Dinner. The Games Committee had hoped to have a Clan Dinner on the grounds but decided it might be too expensive. Anyway, this is the best occasion to meet your kinsmen so we hope as many as possible will come. Look for our tent in the Avenue of the Clans, which is on the town side of the field, drop in and let us know if you can come to the dinner so that we can reserve places at the Diner. Details of the events in which we take part are listed on the next page and allow plenty of time to take in the attractions on the field.

Your Executive has already been busy visiting other Games, with Elizabeth & Bob at Georgetown, John & Barbara at Coburg, Eileen and I are going to Maxville and we hope to hear about Cambridge as well. As mentioned in the last letter, Hamilton was cancelled this year and Fort Erie is now a "Scottish Festival", which probably means fewer bands and dancers. It appears that grants from many sources, including local and provincial authorities are drying up. This means that organizers often have to increase entry fees and cut out unprofitable events. So far, the clans are considered attractions that incur minimum expense and increase attendance, but a message from Doug. In B.C. indicated the Clans were being considered as "Vendors", being charged fees and tent rental charges. The few items we do sell at the tent hardly justify such a classification, so we hope this will not become normal practice.

Melanie had an e-mail from Graeme McLennan in Australia advising that the Clan MacLennan Association (NSW & ACT) has been wound up. This is a sad blow to all of us but I guess it is inevitable; Melbourne was helping them with their Newsletters for a while but unless new volunteers come in to take over the older ones cannot continue indefinitely. The same thing has happened in Canada- Nova Scotia and Vancouver were our latest casualties. Max and Mary in Melbourne are doing a wonderful job keeping OZ in the forefront of Clan activities- long may they continue.

If you want to explore how the Clan is doing internationally, you should visit our web site, as well as the chatroom and the international websites, which are listed in the newsletters and the Clan Directory. Although we try to cater for the majority of our members who live in Ontario, many also live literally all over North America and use e-mail to stay in touch. This is the primary reason that we encourage you to share YOUR news with us- the Melbourne Newsletter has news from so many countries and we would like to follow their example- so put us on your mailing list, because I don't do shorthand.

This is the last letter before the AGM, so unpaid dues will become one year in arrears on 31st July,2007. Please send your payment in promptly so that we can close our books for the year on a happy note. The renewal fee is only \$10 per address because, at that fee, our expenses allow us to make a princely profit of about \$100 PER YEAR, so we do not have much margin for error. If anyone likes to help, we would welcome more prizes for the draw at the dinner. The main prize is Elizabeth's embroidered brick, which is treasured by all winners almost like a family heirloom.

Hope to see you at the Games,

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

EDITORS NOTES

Let's start with the Fergus details:

Friday Aug.10
7.00-10.0 Tattoo
(Adults \$18, Seniors & Students \$15)

Saturday Aug.11
12.00 Opening & Clan Parade
4.00 AGM in Centre on grounds
(Adults \$22, Seniors & Students \$17)
6.00 Dinner at Angel Diner

Sunday Aug.12
10.00 Kirkin at St. Andrews Church

The Tattoo is really worth seeing but it runs on until about 10.30 or later. It starts with a concert before the bands come on and ends with the Clans in the lighting ceremony.

On Saturday, the tent is open quite early in the morning but we usually pack up about 3.30 pm to go over to the Centre for the AGM. This lasts about an hour so we can get to the Diner.

The Games continue on Sunday but the tent is not manned because we usually head for home after the Kirkin at St. Andrews Church, which is the one at the top of the hill if you come into Fergus from Highway 6 from Guelph.

If you are staying in Fergus, it is a good idea to take the shuttle bus up to the Games. It is free, leaves every 20 mins. and saves the hassle of finding a parking spot. The stops are indicated by boards on the sidewalk but drivers usually stop if you give a wave.

Remember to keep your wrist band on all day as you can wander out and come back if you have it on.

The financial account included here is up to July 5th and the accounts up to the end of July will be tabled at the AGM at Fergus and included in our next letter at the end of our "active" season. As we are unlikely to have major expenses in the near future, we are proposing that we put some more into GIC's and this will also be put to the AGM.

The only cloud on the horizon is the possibility of the Clans being used to generate revenue at the Games. The organizers of the games are being faced with rising costs of attracting bands and athletic competitors, which is a sign of success internationally, as well as greater insurance premiums and are looking

round for likely sources. Our main defence is that our clan sales are tiny, while Clan tents attract more visitors, so please drop in to see us- your name in the visitors book could be useful. Apart from this, we would love to see you and hope you can come to the dinner also.

Receipts & Disbursements Aug. 1,2006- July 5,2007

Receipts

Bank Balance Aug 1,2006		1,650.83
Member's Dues		
-2005-2006	30.00	
-2006-2010	<u>520.00</u>	550.00

Clan Sales

-Maxville	27.50	
- Fergus	<u>48.00</u>	75.50

Fergus Dinner Draw		70.00
G.I.C. Interest		42.00
U.S. exchange	<u>1.73</u>	<u>739.23</u>
		2390.06

Disbursements

October/ March Newsletters		
-Copy	114.91	
-Postage	111.33	
-Envelopes	<u>9.11</u>	235.35

Fergus Ave. Clans	68.00	
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Service Charges	<u>5.00</u>	<u>308.35</u>
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Bank Balance July 5,2007		2,081.71
Royal Bank G.I.C.		<u>2,000.00</u>
Branch Total		4,081.71

Members- 76

Owing 2006-2007	14
Paid 2006-2007	40
Paid 2007-2010	19
Comp.	<u>3</u>
	76

Important Note

Please check all the details against your name in the **Directory, which will be updated with the next Newsletter.** If there are any changes or additions, we need to make them by early September so that we can start the new Clan year correct. Any changes after that will be noted in the 2008 newsletters.

Family History Part 2-Sharing the Past By David MacLennan (Ottawa)

The following are questions for use in an interview or to write a biography. They concern personal history and the historical context of the lifetime. Try for complete and honest answers, but if the question appears to be too personal or threatening to the interviewee, feel free to skip that question and move on or he/she may not continue to be open.

1. What is your full name (also maiden name) ?
2. Were you named after another person?
3. Did you have a nickname when young?
4. If so, why were you called that?
5. Did you have other nicknames as an adult?
6. When and where were you born?
7. Were you initiated into a religion (i.e. baptized)?
8. What was the religion of your parents/ grandparents?
9. Do you attend church?
10. Where was your first home?
11. What are your earliest memories of home, your parents/ grandparents?
12. Any memory of brothers or sisters?
13. What did the family enjoy doing when you were young?
14. Any chores you hated as a child?
15. Where did you attend grade school/high school?
16. What were your schools like?
17. Did you get any awards in school?
18. How many years of education did you complete?
19. Did you have any post school college/ training?
20. Do you have a degree(s)? In what field?
21. As a child, what did you want to become?
22. What was your first job?
23. How did you decide on a career?
24. How old were you when you retired?
25. Any military service? When/where/duties?
26. Any injuries? How sustained?
27. When, where and how did you meet your spouse?
28. Describe the attraction.
29. When and where married? (date,place etc.)
30. How long married?
31. When/ where did your spouse die?
32. How many children did you have?
33. What were their names/ birthdates/birthplaces?
34. Why did you give them the names you did?
35. Where did your spouse's parents live?
36. When and where did your parents die? What do you remember about it?
37. What about your spouses parents?
38. Did you know your grandparents? Anything about their lives?
39. Anything about your great-grandparents?
40. Who was the oldest person you remember as a child?
41. Did you have any "childhood" diseases?
42. Any health problems considered hereditary? What?
43. Have you ever been a crime victim?
44. Ever been in a serious accident?
45. Has anyone ever saved your life?
46. Have you been hospitalized? What for?
47. Have you ever had surgery? What for?
48. What do you consider the most important inventions during your life? Do you remember the first time you saw television, cars or refrigerators?
49. How is the world different from when you were a child?
50. Did your family discuss world events or politics?
51. Do you remember anything of the effects of prohibition, the depression, World War 2, Korea, Vietnam?
52. What organizations or groups did you join?
53. As an adult, what activities have you enjoyed?
54. What are your hobbies?
55. Any special awards or prizes as an adult? Which?

It is extremely important that the person understands how valuable their answers can be to family research. You can change the questions to suit the personality and your relationship to the interviewee, because you may know what is agreeable and what may be taboo. You may add at the end something like, "Thanks again for your cooperation and, if you agree, I will preserve this record and make it available to other family members." Some of the questions ask for simple facts while others can evoke possible details of other relatives. In the next article, the importance of documentation and, once validated, what to do with it, will be discussed.

As always, contact me with problems, solutions, or whatever at dmac44@rogers.com and happy hunting`-Dave

THE EVOLUTION OF THE KILT-PART 3 The Modern Tailored Kilt

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

In the past two installments, we learned of the *feilidh-mhor* (literally large wrap), the grandfather of the modern kilt and the *feilidh beag* (literally small wrap), the father of the modern kilt. Neither of these are tailored garments.

We will now deal with the modern tailored kilt, by which I mean a kilt with the pleats permanently sewn into place. In some instances, earlier kilts may have had pleats tacked in but not sewn down from waist to hip as is the modern kilt. The earliest tailored kilt that we know was a Gordon Highlanders regimental kilt. This kilt is made from three yards and two inches of cloth and is box pleated to the yellow stripe. Some interesting features of this early kilt are that the pleats are sewn down on the inside as well as the outside, for there is no inner lining. There are also no straps or buckles, or closures of any kind (the kilt would have been held on with pins or with a belt. There is also no waist band at the top, for the kilt was made selvedge-to-selvedge, from 25" wide cloth, so there was no cut end. The two apron ends are self-fringed.

Most of the early kilts that survive contain approximately four yards of cloth and are box pleated. Military kilts were pleated to the line, while civilian kilts were pleated to no line at all. Beginning around 1815, civilian kilts began to adopt the military style and be pleated to the stripe as well. The Gordon kilt described above actually had 21 box pleats, but this is very much more than the norm, due to the very small sett repeat of the tartan it is made from. The style of pleating remained fluid throughout the nineteenth century, knife pleating being introduced by the Gordon Highland regiment in 1854. This would grow to be the standard form of kilt pleating today.

Most kilts in the nineteenth century were pleated to the stripe (also called pleating to the line). This simply means that the same stripe is centered on each pleat in the kilt. Some kilts, as said before, were pleated to no pattern at all. When Stuart Ruardri Erskine wrote *The Kilt and How to Wear it* in 1901, he spoke of a "new" style of pleating where the entire pattern of the tartan was revealed in the pleats. The style he described would later become known as pleating to the sett ("sett" being short for the setting, or pattern of the tartan.) Today, this is the most common form of pleating for civilian kilts.

Military kilts continue to be pleated to the stripe, and it also remains a popular alternative for civilian wear.

The amount of cloth also increased as the century went on. Many today assume eight yards is the standard length for a man's kilt – and in most cases when one is buying a civilian kilt from one of the major Highland outfitters, this is not far from the truth.

Suffice it to say that, by the end of the nineteenth century, the typical kilt we think of today (made from eight yards of cloth, knife pleated to sett or stripe, with a lining, tapered hips and some form of closure system) was common. However, the first tailored kilts of the eighteenth century, made from only four yards of cloth and box pleated, were just as much tailored kilts as the later developments. All that has changed is the style. In fact, one could attend a Scottish event wearing a tailored kilt made in the style of the early nineteenth century of the early twenty-first and be just as accepted – and indeed just as well dressed – as any gentleman present. Most people, I dare say, wouldn't even notice the difference. It doesn't matter that more than two centuries separate the styles. Just try that with a pair of pants.

TARTAN SASHES

This item came up at a meeting when Barb (Kitchener) mentioned that Burnetts in Barrie had sashes in the Maclellan Tartan and she asked how they were worn. Lois (Dundas) came up with the answer, so here is the info.

SASHES- Available in two lengths- 11" wide by 57" long at \$40

11" wide by 90 long at \$70

Burnetts at Barrie can be reached at 705-728-3232 or email carol@burnetts-struth.com

When and how should a Lady Wear a Sash?

For formal or eveningwear, you may choose to wear a kilt, but you shouldn't wear a Sash with the kilt. A shawl or stole is acceptable. You may, however, wear a Sash with a ball gown. When the Sash is worn over the left shoulder, it signifies that the woman is the wife of a Chief or Chieftain, is herself a Chief or Chieftain, or the wife of the Colonel of a Scottish Regiment. The left side is also that of the Sovereign.

The Sash, which may be purchased ready made or custom made, is about ninety inches long and eleven inches wide. It is worn crossed over the right shoulder, drawn diagonally across the breast, under the left arm, across the back and pinned in place on the right shoulder with a suitable Scottish design, a badge, crest or cairngorm. The fringed ends may hang down, one in the front and one in back, or both in back. They should be either the same length or the back end slightly longer.

From "The wearing of the Tartan" compiled by M. E. Franklin with the assistance of Mrs. Isobel MacAulay, Petheric Press, 1979 pp.37-41. Submitted by Lois Walton.

(Editors Note- Sashes may also be worn at the Clan Parade to signify your ancestry- it is kinder than the kilt in the heat.)