



# CLAN MACINNES ARCHER

The International Association of Clan MacInnes  
Summer 2019



**The Onich Store MacInnes Plaque with thistle and bee restored**  
Article Page 13

Angus | Canch | Cansh | Caunce | Hanse | MacAinsh | MacAneiss | MacAngus | MacAninch | MacAninsh | MacAnish  
MacAnsh | MacAonghais | MacAonghuis | MacCainsh | MacCance | MacCanchie | MacCanis | MacCans | MacCansh  
MacEnys | MacGinnes | MacGinnis | MacGuenis | Machans | MacHinch | MacInch | MacIninch | MacInish | MacInnes  
MacInnis | MacInnish | MacInnisch | MacKance | MacKants | MacKinnes | MacKinnis | MacKinnish | MacKynes  
MacMaster | MacMasters | MacNeice | MacNeish | MacNesh | MacNess | MacNichie | MacNinsh | MacNish |  
MacQuinnes | Magennis | Masters | Masterson | McAinsh | McAneiss | McAngus | McAninch | McAnish | McAnsh |  
McCainsh | McCance | McCanchie | McCanish | McCans | McCansh | McCants | McEnys | McGinnes | McGinnis |  
McGuenis | McHinch | McIninch | McInish | McInnes | McInnisch | McInnish | McInnis | McInsh | McKance | McKinnes  
McKinness | McKinnis | McKinniss | McKinnish | McKynes | McMaster | McMasters | McNeice | McNeish  
McNinch | McNinsh | Kinnes | Kinnis | Kynnes

## President's Message Summer 2019

Kenneth McInnis



### CONTENTS

President's Message	Pages 2-3
Culloden Commemoration	Pages 4-5
A Fugitive in Heather	Pages 5-6
Member news	Page 6
AGM Picnic	Page 7
Australia Beat	Page 8
Canada Beat	Pages 9-10
Scotland Beat	Pages 11-12
Scholarships	Pages 12-13
Wildcats in Scotland?	Pages 13-14
Farewell to Fuinary	Pages 14-15
The Bee Above the Door	Pages 16-25
Officers Directory	Page 26
Flowers of the Forest	Page 27

Greetings from Catlett, Virginia.

Well, the last couple of issues I've been going back and forth regarding the proper use/display of our crest. Fortunately, that's all behind us now and we have our approval from The Court of Lord Lyon to use the strap and buckle crest. That's not saying I'm through on this topic – I will soon be writing the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs in an attempt to get them to recognize the IACM's crest as the most appropriate crest for all MacInnes' to wear. Yes, I've always loved "stirring the pot". More to come...

The Grandfather Mountain Highland Games and our Annual Meeting is right around the corner. There is further info on our picnic/meeting in this issue (see article and picnic registration on Page 7). However, I definitely am looking forward to a wonderful – casual – week in the mountains of North Carolina with all of my family and MacInnes kin. It will give us a good chance to get together over a wee dram and talk about our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – yes, 50<sup>th</sup> – next year. Folks, start marking your calendar now because I promise you – we are going all out! You will not want to miss the extravaganza.

#### **On to a couple "business" items – Membership.**

Folks, we are in a lull right now. Haven't really had a lot of new members added to our rosters and we have quite a few who are delinquent. If you are uncertain whether or not you are delinquent – just send me a note. Only takes me a second – with our new MembershipWorks database – to check. Speaking of membership, I've recently sent an email to all the

members of the former "Associate Division" overseas to let them know we're thinking of them – and we are starting to get a few of those members back into the ranks. That, I believe, is simply wonderful. So, since this is OUR Clan Society, reach out to your family and get them to join. Ha – I was guilty of this as well, i.e., your 30-year-old kids should probably obtain their own membership... Just a thought.

**The other "business" item – Merchandise.** The board and I will be working on this matter in the near future. We are in the process of reviewing our inventory and deciding how we want to go forward. If you are on the fence on whether or not to purchase certain items – like the military style shirt that Cabela's no longer offers – you might want to take the plunge. We will have a fairly good selection at Grandfather this year and once they are sold – that's it. We do have a couple ideas that we will discuss further at our AGM at Grandfather this summer.

Finally, our Armiger list is growing. My son Scot has applied and his request for a matriculation of Arms with

suitable differencing has been granted. My younger son Ross – who just graduated from Carson Newman University on May 3<sup>rd</sup> – will be applying for his as soon as CNU sends him his diploma – as I said in a previous article – the Court of Lord Lyon needs “proof” of everything. As for Malcom and myself, well, we were approved for arms around Thanksgiving 2017. The final blazons (description of arms) were approved around May 2018. Yes, we are still waiting to be advised that the painted Letters Patent are ready for presentation. I am starting to think “my” motto should have been: Patience, Take a Breath, Patience. It really is exciting – soon we’ll have bonnets with a feather throughout our Clan tent.

See yall at Grandfather!

Yours Aye, Ken McInnis  
President, IACM

*President Ken with sons, Ross on left and Scot on right.*



## MEET THE PRESIDENT!

President Ken McInnis will host a Clan MacInnes tent at two Highland Games early this autumn: Virginia Scottish Games Aug. 31-Sept. 1 at Great Meadow, The Plains, VA and Scotland County Highland Games Oct. 5 at North Carolina Rural Heritage Center, Laurinburg, NC. And of course, President Ken will welcome members and visitors to the Clan’s Annual Meeting at Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in Linville, NC July 12-14.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

### Ross Kenneth McInnis, then and now



Many MacInnes members will remember young Ross from Grandfather Mountain and other U.S. Southeast Highland Games. Ross graduated from Carson-Newman University on May 3 with a B.A. in Psychology, with a concentration in Criminal Justice. Ross is the youngest son of President Ken and Lori McInnis, Catlett, VA. *(Photo courtesy of Ken McInnis)*



## CORRECTION

In the Winter 2018 issue, the Archer apologizes for having misspelled the name of a new member as Ian Bode of Columbus, Michigan. Ian’s correct last name is Boden. Once more, we say welcome to Ian!

### Editor’s Note: Steve & Donna McKinnis, Acting Editors

Summer brings games, games and more Highland Games. The Archer hopes you will attend a Highland Games near or far. Summer is also the season of travel, and we’ve included some unique spots in Canada and Scotland in this issue. Finally, it’s exciting to present the story of the MacInnes thistle and bee plaque created for a store in Onich, Scotland, the store’s history, the plaque’s deterioration – and now its outstanding restoration. Members traveling to Scotland may want to include the Onich shop, especially if they’re in the Fort William or Ballachulish area. Happy Summer to one and all!



# Culloden Commemoration

by Brian MacAngus

*The Archer* is pleased to share this Facebook post and photos by Brian MacAngus after his visit to the Battle of Culloden site in Scotland on April 13. This historic battle was fought on April 16, 1746 on Drumossie Moor, northeast of Inverness. Culloden was the last full-scale pitched battle on British soil, and where the mighty Highland Clan culture of Scotland sang its last song for over 250 years.

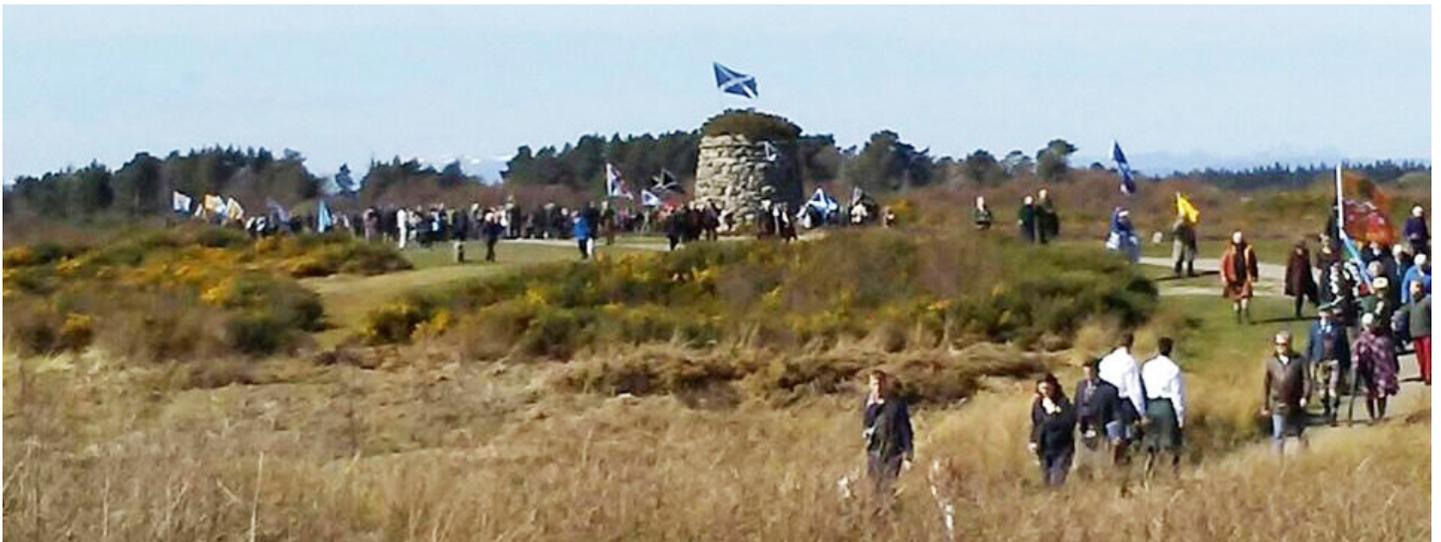
Hi all. Today's commemoration at Culloden was just beautiful. The whole service and gathering was truly beautiful. There were so many folk there...tartan clad...pipes...Gaelic...blue...bonnets...swords...targes...flags...Chiefs...etc...just a magnificent day.

I laid our bouquet and placed all your stones beside it at the cairn. We all had to say who we were, so I said that this was in remembrance of all MacInnes folk who fought and died alongside the Stewarts of Appin. I finished by saying: *Irid Ghìpt Dhe Agus An Rìgh*, or "here by the grace of God and the King" in Gaelic.

I met up with the Mackinnons, Mackenzies, MacIntosh and Iain Donald MacGillivray the Commander of His Clan, and a very nice lady from Appin who appreciated me mentioning the Appin Stewarts.

We need a Clan flag. It was magnificent to see all the clan banners fluttering. Next year we will do the same.

*Editor's note: Brian had graciously asked on Facebook if anyone would like for him to carry a pearl pebble to represent their clan (right).*

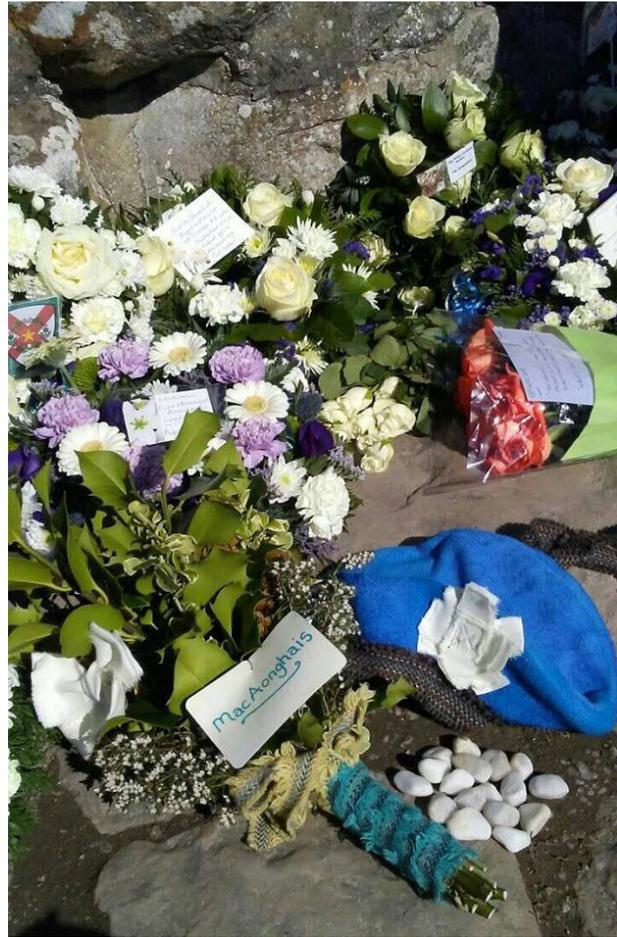


*Culloden battlefield*

*Continued on page 5*



*Commemoration ceremony at Culloden Cairn*



*MacAonghais/MacInnes bouquet and stones laid at the cairn*



## A Fugitive in the Heather

by Dawna Southern

The Battle of Culloden, April 16, 1746, was not just a battle between King George supporters and Charles Edward Stewart (Bonnie Prince Charlie) supporters. Historians have proclaimed it a Civil War, a political war and a religious war. I think we must also add that it was a “mission,” a mission to rid Scotland of barbarians.

Many books and articles have been written covering the Battle of Culloden. It is distinguished as “the last battle to be fought on English soil.” This battle lasted only one hour and eight minutes. It left in its wake 1,500 Jacobites, mostly Scottish Highlanders, and 50 British soldiers lying dead or wounded on the Moor. Although the battle itself ended quickly, the mission was just starting. Acting on orders and war mentality, British soldiers butchered or maimed over 100 innocent countrymen as they rode into Inverness. Among the dead was a two-month-old baby snatched from his mother’s arms and slammed against the rocks, the mother shot in the head.

It was estimated that over half of the Jacobite soldiers were Scottish Highlanders who did not speak English, nor did they have an outlying interest in the battle. They were sent into service as human rent by the wealthy land owners, who, indeed, had an interest in the outcome of the battle. Two days after the battle ended, English soldiers were ordered to return to the Moor and kill any living Jacobite. This included any Highlander, man, woman or child, who had come to find their dead or wounded. The moans and cries of the wounded and dying clansmen on the Moor would soon be silenced. The battle was over, but the mission of ridding Scotland of the barbarians who occupied the Highlands was just beginning.

As a result of the defeat at Culloden the Highlanders lost the right to wear their plaid, play the bagpipes or publically meet as a family group. A proclamation from King George’s military stated, “The Highlander threatens our culture, our peace and our commerce.”

*Continued on page 6*

They are aliens, Gaelic-speaking Catholics in an English-speaking Protestant country. They must perish by famine or sword – a just reward.” Highlanders could be killed on sight for any cause. Many were forced to flee their homes and hide in the hills and caves.

The atrocities of war are certainly horrific, men killing men under orders of some high-ranking official, but how much worse the atrocities committed due to hatred? How is it that one human being can convince another to murder and torture a brother, a neighbor, a fellow countryman, for no other reason than they are “different”? The “crime” of the Highlander was, “He talks different, wears different clothes and has uncouth and barbarian practices.”

Hatred and mob mentality are spurred by ignorance; a lack of understanding; an unwillingness to recognize another way. Innocent people have perished throughout history based only on differences, fueled by fear and carried out from hatred. Look at religion and the witch hunts, Americans against the Indians, Germans against the Jews, and the list goes on.

The Highland land chiefs were “encouraged” to replace the Highland farmer with sheep. This would further displace any remnant of the barbarian Highlanders. Families were reduced to homeless,

unwanted oddities. They left for the canning industries of the north, the disease-ridden slums of the south, the lumber camps of Canada, and the stockyards of Australia. One can be certain wherever the Highlander went, he took with him his dress, his poetry, his language and his children.

Today husbands, fathers, brothers and sons wrap the plaid tartan of the Highlands proudly around their bodies. We carry the traditions of our Scottish ancestry with pride. America, Canada, Australia and many other places may be our homeland, but Scotland will always be our Motherland. Every year when the calendar turns another April, we can remember the real cost to the Highlanders as we pay homage to the men, including the 22 MacInneses who were on the muster roles. We can give thanks to men like Brian MacAngus for laying white stones at the monument of the Battle of Culloden. Brian unselfishly volunteered to intercede with this token, forever remembering the price that was paid. We can challenge ourselves to break the cycle of hatred through education, understanding and love.

If ever we are privileged to visit the Culloden site as we walk upon the Moor, in the stillness of our hearts we listen for the sounds of bagpipes in the distance and know that the Highlander will live on through us.



## Member News



**Left** – Alex McInnis of Fort Mill, SC proudly wears his MacInnes tartan tie at a fancy dinner in Durham, SC with his high school band in April. His dad is Clan Piper Randy McInnis, one of the early Clan MacInnes scholarship recipients. *(Photo courtesy Of Randy McInnis)*

**Right** – Southwest Commissioner John McInnis squeaked into the summer issue with this photo and comment: "As proof that Texas Highland Games are not always a 100° sweat-storm, May 11 was the coolest-ever TxScotFest. The games were held in Decatur, TX, following a major overnight rainstorm and late spring norther. Temperatures hovered around 60° all day." Shown here, left to right: Larry Jackson, Roy & Dee McKinnis, Dan McInnes and John McInnis. Larry and Suse Jackson of LaGrange, TX hosted the Clan MacInnes tent with enthusiastic help from Roy & Dee McKinnis and their daughter Debbie Lapham, all of Dallas area.



# Clan MacInnes 2019 AGM

## *Scottish Picnic in the Park*

The 49th Annual General Meeting or AGM of Clan MacInnes will be a casual picnic on Saturday evening, July 13 during the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in Linville, NC.

A buffet of tasty Scottish dishes will be served: garden fresh summer salad with assorted dressings, choice of hot Shepherd's Pie or Chicken Cottage Potpie, Gingerbread Cake with Lemon Curd, and iced tea or chilled bottled water. The Child Choice includes fried chicken fingers, mac 'n cheese, salad, chocolate chip oatcakes, and juice box. Or BYOB.      \$25 Adult      \$13 children under 12

Note: there is no group rate at Best Western this year because they were totally booked in January. For condo rentals nearest Grandfather, try <https://seesugar.com/derekas-sugar-mountain-accommodations-center/> or check the Super Eight hotels in Boone or Blowing Rock, NC.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact Donna McKinnis: [dmackmick@gmail.com](mailto:dmackmick@gmail.com) or 520-290-1268 (PDST).

WHAT: 2019 AGM – SCOTTISH PICNIC IN THE PARK  
WHEN: Saturday, July 13, 2019  
TIME: 6:30 P.M.

WHERE: Sugar Mountain Village Park – Linville, NC  
COST: \$26 adult      \$13 children under 12  
NOTE: Picnic Pavilion is covered and has concrete floor, electricity and restrooms.

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### RESERVATION FORM:      SCOTTISH PICNIC - 2019 AGM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of adult tickets for Celtic Picnic @ \$26 each

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of child meals (under 12) @ \$13 each

\_\_\_\_\_ \*Vegetarian/special needs meal by advance request, same prices as above

\_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED

**THIS FORM & PAYMENT MUST ARRIVE BY JUNE 29.**  
**Mail to: Treasurer Karal Perry, 14 Jakes Lane, Dexter, ME 04930**



**Faith and Ray McInnes**  
Co-Commissioners  
Australia & New Zealand

Tartan Day is celebrated on 1st July each year in Australia and New Zealand rather than 6th April as is the case elsewhere. Most community celebrations

take place on a weekend close to that day. Over two million Australians claim to have Scottish heritage, so it is always a good opportunity for them to don their tartan and celebrate in style. The skirl of bagpipes will fill the air whether you are in Maclean New South Wales, Kilmore Victoria or Brisbane Queensland – go and get your Scottish on!

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo is coming to Australian shores again! Lock in the dates of 17th – 19th October 2019 at the ANZ Stadium Sydney! Featuring over 1,400 performers from around the world, this is a show not to be missed!

**Calendar**

**June 7-10**

**The National Celtic Festival** – Portarlington, Victoria, Australia  
Enjoy the three-day event that hosts a diverse range of Celtic music and events.

<https://www.nationalcelticfestival.com>

**June 14-18**

**Scottish Week 2019** – Sydney, Australia

A variety of Scottish themed events held across Sydney, presented by The Scottish Australian Heritage Council with honoured guest Dr Joseph Morrow the current Lord Lyon, in common conjunction with The Australian Heraldry Society. Highlights are two history talks Friday 14th June & Mon 17th June and a luncheon and historical tour of Old Government House, Parramatta Sat 15th June.

<http://www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au>

or ring Nea on 040 899 0413.

**June 28-30**

**The Kilmore Celtic Festival** – Kilmore, Victoria, Australia

A celebration of the early settlers who came here from Ireland, Scotland, Cornwall & Wales, featuring Celtic music and events in historic Kilmore.

<https://www.kilmorecelticfestival.org.au>

**June 29**

**Auckland Region Ball** – Auckland, New Zealand Scottish country dance event and ball.

<http://www.aucklandscd.org.nz>



**July 1**

**Tartan Day – Nationwide Australia and New Zealand**

An international event which celebrates the lifting of the English ban that prevented the wearing of tartan from 1746 to 1782. Wear some tartan with pride today!

**July 6**

**Aberdeen Highland Games** – Aberdeen, NSW, Australia  
Throughout the day there will be fun for all the family – Highland and Country Dancing, Pipe Band displays, Strong Man events with the Tartan Warriors, as well as tug-of-war, three-legged races, and the famed Kilted Dash. The 2019 Games will be a very special event marking its 20th Anniversary.

<https://www.aberdeenhighlandgames.com>

or 02 6540 1300

**July 6**

**Scottish Masonic Charitable Foundation of WA Tartan Ball** – Fremantle, WA, Australia

Celebrate International Tartan Day in Scottish style with an Address to the Haggis, Perth Metro Pipe Band, and Heel and Toe Ceilidh Band at the Esplanade Hotel.

0433 707 716 or <https://www.smcfwa.com.au>

**July 12**

**Scottish Fiddle Club Night**

7:30 PM - 11:00 PM at St Luke's Church, 130 Remuera Rd., Auckland, New Zealand.

<https://www.freewebs.com/aucklandscottishfiddleclub>

**August 25**

**Toowoomba Ceilidh** – Berry, NSW, Australia

**August 31**

**Red Hill Community Ceilidh** – Red Hill, Queensland, Australia

**September 1**

**Armadale Gathering/Perth Kilt Run** – Armadale, WA, Australia



## A Bit from Bonnie



Bonnie MacInnis  
Commissioner,  
Eastern Canada

Hi Everyone,

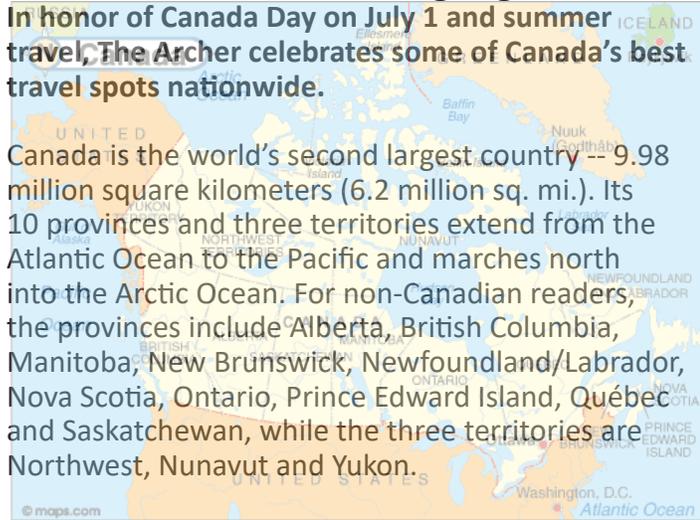
Our Scottish festival season is beginning in Eastern Canada. During the next few months there will be numerous festivals celebrating our Scottish heritage. My hometown Antigonish will host the 156th Antigonish Highland Games the second week in July, the oldest continuous games outside of Scotland. Other games will be held in communities throughout Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island, all in Eastern Canada.

If anyone has any questions or needs information on any of the games in Eastern Canada, please contact me. I will be glad to help. I will have more news at the end of the summer.

[bonnie@macinnes.org](mailto:bonnie@macinnes.org) or 902-863-2487

## Canada Travel Highlights

In honor of Canada Day on July 1 and summer travel, The Archer celebrates some of Canada's best travel spots nationwide.



Canada is the world's second largest country -- 9.98 million square kilometers (6.2 million sq. mi.). Its 10 provinces and three territories extend from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific and marches north into the Arctic Ocean. For non-Canadian readers, the provinces include Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Newfoundland/Labrador, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Québec and Saskatchewan, while the three territories are Northwest, Nunavut and Yukon.

**Western Canada:** Vancouver with its skyscrapers, extensive East Asian culture and beautiful Stanley Park...Canadian Rockies with Banff National Park and its scenic Lake Louise...Whistler Ski Resort two hours from Vancouver...Victoria's quaint colonial English heritage, the famed Empress Hotel with its traditional



Victoria,  
British  
Columbia



high tea, and gorgeous Butchart Gardens... Calgary's Old West spirit and its annual July rodeo, the Calgary Stampede.

**Central Canada:** Spectacular Niagara Falls opposite New York state, Canada's most famous natural attraction...Ottawa's Neo-Gothic Parliament buildings and genteel architecture...biggest city and financial center Toronto's mega multi-culture, elegant Victorian architecture and iconic CNN Tower...Montreal with its Old City set between mountains and waterfront...and French-speaking Québec, its capital of Old Québec City a World Heritage Site and the only fortified city in North America.



Québec City, capital of Québec

**Maritime Provinces:** New Brunswick's historic St Johns and Bay of Fundy with world's highest tides...Newfoundland's Gros Morne National Park with glacier, cliffs, waterfalls and unique rock formations...Nova Scotia's charming capital city Halifax, scenic Cabot Trail, and well-preserved Gaelic and Celtic influence on Cape Breton and Prince Edward Islands especially music and language.

*Continued on page 10*



*Gros Morne National Park in Newfoundland*

**Canadian North:** Manitoba's far north memorable scenery where rivers flow into the Arctic Ocean, Churchill town the "Polar Bear Capital of the World", and capital city Winnipeg's Canadian Museum of Human rights...Northwest Territory's Nahanni National Park Reserve offering white-water rivers and wildlife...Yukon Territory's town of Whitehorse with views of northern lights in winter and Takhini mineral springs.



*Polar bears near Churchill, Manitoba*

**Nationwide:** First Nations indigenous peoples host colorful, cultural Pow Wows in summer and early Autumn...Grand railway hotels built in "chateau style", especially Lake Louise, Québec City, Ottawa, Banff and Montebello, western Québec.

*Editor's Note: The Archer invites your suggestions for travel for future articles, especially from our Canadian members who probably have favorites and maybe secret spots to share.*

Sources: <https://www.usnews.com>  
<https://www.touropia.com>  
<https://NationalGeographic.com>

## Highland Games & Coming Events

- June 8: Georgetown Highland Games, Georgetown, ON
- June 14-15: British Columbia Highland Games, Coquitlam, BC and Coburg Scottish Festival, Coburg, ON
- June 15: Water Valley Celtic Folk Festival, Water Valley, AB and Greater Moncton Highland Games, NB
- June 21-22 Caledonia Celtic Festival, Caledonia, ON
- June 22: Kingsville Highland Games, Kingsville, ON
- June 23: Edmonton Scottish Highland Gathering, Edmonton, AB
- June 28-July 7: Kitchenfest, several venues Cape Breton, NS
- June 29-July 6: Royal Nova Scotia Int'l Tattoo, Halifax, NS
- July 1: Canada Day nationwide!  
also Cambridge Scottish Festival, Cambridge, ON  
and Embro Highland Games, Embro, ON
- July 3-7: Feile Seamus Creagh, in St Johns, Ferryland, Bay Bulls, and Freshwater, NL
- July 5: Kincardine Scottish Festival & Highland Games, Kincardine, ON
- July 5-7: Almonte Celtic Festival, Almonte, ON
- July 6: Penticton Scottish Festival, Penticton, BC
- July 6-14: Antigonish Highland Games, Antigonish, NS  
\*Meet Commissioner Bonnie in Clan MacInnes tent!
- July 10-14: Festival of Tartans & Highland Games, New Glasgow, NS
- July 10-Aug 31: Ireland Meets Scotland Celtic Music & Dance, Orwell, PEI
- July 18-21: Irish Festival of the Miramichi, Miramichi, NB
- July 19: Orilla Scottish Festival, Orilla, ON
- July 19-20: Cambridge Scottish Festival, Cambridge, ON
- July 20: 63rd Festival of the Tartans, Pictou County, NS
- July 25-28: New Brunswick Highland Games, Fredericton, NB
- July 27-28: Okanagan Military Tattoo, Vernon, BC
- Aug 2-3: Glengarry Highland Games-Military Tattoo, Maxville, ON
- Aug 3: Highlands Village Day, Iona, Cape Breton, NS
- Aug 4: Montreal Highland Games, Verdun, QC
- Aug 9-11: Fergus Festival & Highland Games, Fergus, ON  
and Goderich Celtic Roots Festival, Goderich, ON
- Aug 31-Sep 1: Canmore Highland Games, Canmore, AB
- Sept 6-9: Festival Celtique du Québec, La Cite-Limoilou, QC
- Sept 8: Trenton Scottish Irish Festival, Quinte West, ON
- Sept 8-9: Beach Celtic Festival, Toronto, ON



It's summer. Midges and iffy weather aside, it's travel time. Here, *The Archer* offers some unusual travel spots across Scotland.

### Church Offers Prayers, Pints and Rooms

The Crask Inn in Sutherland may be the most unusual Scottish Episcopal church on the planet. Located between Lairg and Altnaharra, this area has no streetlights or wifi, but the pub has four renovated rooms to let, plus it holds daily evening prayer at 5pm, a casual noon service on the third Thursday, and 5pm evening service the first Saturday in its dining room. Built in 1815 as a drover's inn, the pub's previous owner retired and donated it to the church. All profits go to the church, amen.

### 5-Star Scottish Parliament Tour

The one-hour free tour of Scotland's Parliament boasts a 5-star rating from Visit Scotland, the national tourism agency. Although the tour is free, it must be booked in advance. The 2004 building at the foot of the Royal Mile in Edinburgh features a vaulted garden lobby, Parliament's history and work, rotating exhibits and a café. <https://www.parliament.com>

### Celtic Rainforests

No need to fly to Brazil. Scotland has its own rainforests in the Atlantic woodlands, known as "temperate rainforests" — a rare habitat worldwide — even rarer than more tropical rainforests! Along Scotland's west coast, rich, mysterious habitats of moss and lichen await. National Nature Reserve locations include Ariundle near Strontian, Taynish in Knapdale, Glen Nant at Taynuilt, Culag Woods at Lochinver and Coille Mhòr on Balmacara Estate east of Kyle of Lochalsh.

<http://www.plantlife.org.uk>



### Scotland's Secret Bunker

A bunker six miles from St Andrews was kept secret for 50+ years. Built by the Royal Air Force in 1953, RAF Troywood is a relic left over from

# SCOTLAND BEAT

by Donna Copen McKinnis

the Cold War, 100 ft. underground, the entrance hidden in an unsuspecting farmhouse. The bunker's 24,000 sq. ft. holds the latest radar technology from that era, dormitory, command centre with plotting rooms, broadcast studio staffed by BBC, chapel that had resident clergy, and canteen that served 300 personnel daily. Today the chapel is a café for visitors.

<http://www.secretbunker.co.uk>

### World's Oldest Post Office

The Sanquhar Post Office in Dumfries and Galloway dates to 1712. At 72 years old, Manzoor Alum, a stamp collector and postal historian, purchased the building, renovated, and re-opened it as postmaster in 2015. Today Alum, his wife and daughter hand-stamp mail bearing the legend "World's Oldest Post Office" for stamp and postal enthusiasts. The post office is recognized by Guinness World Records as the world's oldest, after Stockholm and Chile.



Postmaster Alum (Photo courtesy of The Scotsman)

*Continued on page 12*

## Scotland Beat

### Coming Events & Highland Games

6-8 June: Hawick Common Riding

9 June: Strathmore Highland Games,  
Glamis Castle & Ardrossan Highland Games

15 June: Lesmahagow Highland Games,  
Lanarkshire

16 June: Aberdeen & Cupar Highland Games

20-23 June: Royal Highland Show, Edinburgh

22 June: Drumtochty Highland Games,  
Drumtochty Castle

29 June: Piping Inverness-European Pipe Band  
Championships and  
Ceres Highland games

3 July: Kenmore Highland Games

6 July: Luss & Forres Highland Games

7-12 July: Ceòlas Summer School, Isle of Uist

7-20 July: HebCelt, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis

13 July: Loch Lomond, Alva & Morvern  
Highland Games

14 July: Rosneath Peninsula Highland Games

16 July: Inveraray Highland Games,  
Inveraray Castle

20 July: Balquidder/Locheearnhead/Strathrye,  
Lochcarron, Inverness & Tomintoul  
Highland Games and Battle of Falkirk  
Commemoration 2019, Falkirk

21 July: Stonehaven Peninsula Highland  
Games

27 July: Airth, Dufftown & Halkirk Highland  
Games

28 July: St Andrews Highland Games

31 July: Arisaig Highland Games

2 Aug: Dornoch Highland Gathering

2-24 Aug: 70th Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo,  
Edinburgh Castle

2-26 Aug: Edinburgh Fringe Festival &  
Edinburgh International Festival

3 Aug: Dundonald, Aboyne & Aberlour  
Strathspey Highland Games

and International Scottish Gin Day

4 Aug: Bridge of Allan Highland Games

7 Aug: Isle of Skye Highland Games &  
Killin Highland Gathering

8 Aug: Ballater Highland Games

9 Aug: Assynt Highland Games

9-10 Aug: Atholl & Breadalbane Highland Games

10 Aug: Abernethy & North Berwick Highland  
Games

10-16 Aug: Piping Live! Glasgow

11 Aug: Perth Highland Games

16-17 Aug: World Pipe Band Championships,  
Glasgow

17 Aug: Helmsdale & Sterling Highland  
Games

18 Aug: Crieff Highland Gathering

22 Aug: Oban, Argyllshire Gathering

23 Aug: Glenisla Highland Games

24 Aug: Bute, Glenurquhart, Strathardle &  
Lonach Highland Games

29-31 Aug: Cowal Highland Gathering, Dunoon

7 Sept: Braemar Gathering

8 Sept: Blairgowrie Highland Games

## **Two Dancers Win 2019 Clan Scholarships**

Hello Clan members,

We had a good number of applicants for this year's scholarship program. Unfortunately, a few came in past the deadline. We are updating the scholarship page and making a few changes, including highlighting the deadline date. We hope this will prevent late entrants.

The first Clan MacInnes Scholarship was awarded in 1972, and as then, the scholarships are given for the study of Scottish arts, such as learning or continuing Scottish dance, bagpipes, drums or Gaelic. We also have a special scholarship for those with MacInnes ancestors, the Mary Faulk Scholarship. The committee consists of three people: Susan McInnis Paradis, Karal Perry and Jason McInnis. We sorted through the applications and awarded two people this year.

First is Annaliese Poulin. Annaliese is 16 and from North Carolina. She will be attending the School of Scottish Arts in North Carolina. It is a week-long camp and she will be studying dance as well as serving as a counselor. Annaliese will be competing at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games

The second winner is Erika Bopp. She is 15 and from Albany, NY. Erika will be attending the Braemar Summer School of Highland Dance, a week-long camp in Troy, NY. She is a premier level dancer and hopes to place in the top 6 at the national championships.

We congratulate both of our winners and wish them the best of luck in their studies and in their competitions.

Yours Aye,  
Susan McInnis Paradis  
Scholarship Committee Chairman



*Annaliese Poulin*



*Erika Bopp*

## **Wildcats in Scotland? Yes, in Morvern, land of MacInnes!** by Torquil MacInnes

You are unlikely to meet a lion or tiger while on holiday in Scotland, but you might just meet their smaller cousin which is a native species. The Scottish wildcat is deemed to be generally the same as other European wildcats, although they were isolated in Britain about 7,000 to 9,000 years ago after Britain became an island.

Wildcats (*Felis silvestris silvestris*) roam freely in Scotland, mainly in the mixed woodland in the Highlands. They are larger than a domestic cat with a heavier skull and longer limbs, though with their striped fur they do not look dissimilar to a domestic tabby cat. The Scottish wildcat population is thought to be between 1,000 and 4,000. It is difficult to estimate, and it is further confused by inter-breeding with domestic cats. Wildcats used to be found all over Britain, but loss of habitat through urbanisation and persecution forced them into remote parts of Scotland and cut their numbers, so now they are classed as endangered. The effects of hybridisation with domestic cats mean that the number of pure wildcats is well below the estimate above.

A group called Scottish Wildcat Action or SWA (launched in 2013 and involving some 20 organisations) trap, vaccinate and neuter feral cats in selected areas in an attempt to preserve the genetic identity of wildcats.

So what does this have to do with MacInneses? Well one of the places where they still hang on is in the traditional MacInnes territory of Morvern. Here the trapping and neutering of feral cats has been taking place. Scottish Wildcat Action have set up cameras throughout these areas to measure and monitor the wildcat population.

In 2017 SWA set up a large camera-trap survey of the Morvern Wildcat Priority Area. This was particularly challenging owing to the remote, inaccessible locations, rough terrain and rougher weather. The paucity of roads in Morvern also made the survey difficult. In all, 142 cameras were set up. The traps had to be rebaited and SD cards in the cameras replaced every couple of weeks so there was a lot of work for the volunteers from Scottish Wildcat Action—and then they had to catalogue everything they captured on camera.

A total of 115,000 camera trap photographs showed red deer, pine martins, foxes, otters, Highland cows, barn owls, feral goats and wood mice. Fortunately, some of the photographs, 5,000 of them, were of

wildcats. They identified 19 individual wildcats mainly from the forested coastal area between Lochaline and Drimnin. Sadly, the number of individuals which could be classed as true wildcats was very low, which shows just how endangered the species is. After a number of stray and feral cats were identified, they were trapped, neutered and released so they can't interbreed with the wildcats. This is a job that will have to be done for several years.

So can you see wildcats when you visit Scotland? Well, you'll be lucky if you do, given their rarity and the size of territory they could be lost in. However, the Morvern wildcats are seen fairly frequently, enough that some of them are recognised and have been given names. So the next time you visit Kinlochaline Castle, go for a walk and keep your eyes open. You never know, you may see one.



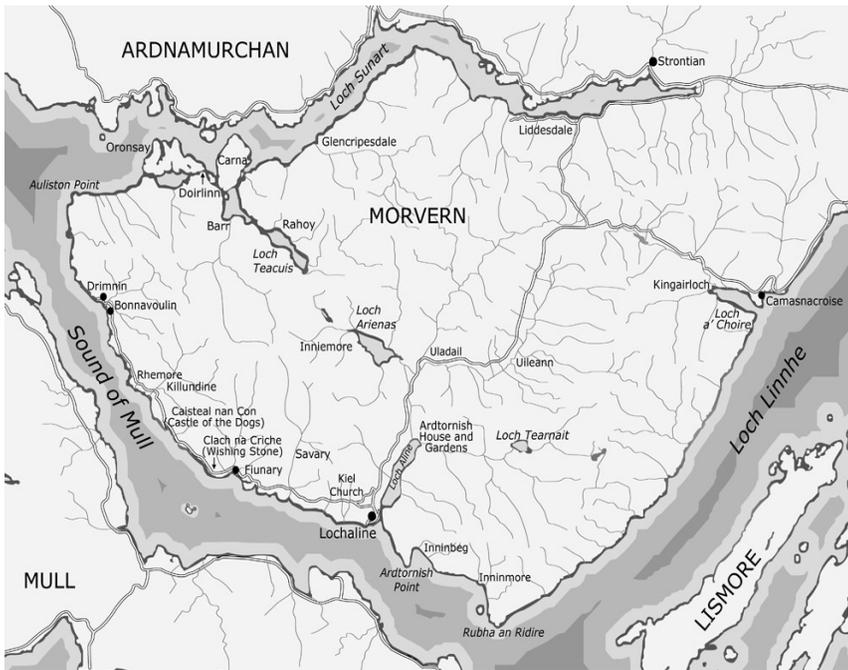
*Photo courtesy of Scottish Wildcat Action website*

## **A Song Link to MacInnes and Morvern: “Farewell to Fuinary” by Torquil MacInnes**

In the last autumn and winter editions of our Clan Association newsletter I wrote about the effects of the aftermath of the '45 rebellion on Morvern, its recovery and subsequent clearances off the land as people were pushed out to make way for sheep. I had also previously written about the preamble to the 1841 census of Morvern. It explained that the residents of the parish had decreased in number recently due to clearances, written by the local school master Samuel Cameron. The population of Morvern halved—either forced out or simply economic migrants who could not make a living in Morvern. Some of these dispossessed people would have gone to the likes of Glasgow, seeking work, and some would have boarded ships for an uncertain future in Canada, America or Australia. Some of you reading this will be descendants of these hardy souls.

About that time the minister in Morvern was Norman MacLeod (1783–1862) who was obviously touched by the plight of those cleared as he wrote a beautiful song reflecting their feelings. Norman MacLeod was known as “*Caraid nan Gaidheal*” (the friend of the Gaels), for his efforts getting help for the poor in the Highlands during the Potato Famines. As they say, it’s an ill wind that blows nobody any good. Something comes out of every bad situation. Small comfort that we got just a song, but it’s better than nothing!

*Continued on page 15*



The song is “Farewell to Fuinary”. It was written in English and later translated into Gaelic by Archibald Sinclair. Fuinary is a village in Morvern facing the Sound of Mull.

My copy of the “Scottish Minstrelsy” has eight verses, though often only three are sung. Here are the first, second and last verses, which are the ones I sing. Some of the English is seen as rather flowery for modern tastes and has been modified by various people. I give one alternative in brackets.

Map courtesy of <http://www.morvernheritagesociety.co.uk>

## Farewell to Fuinary

The air is clear the day is fine, and swiftly, swiftly flows the time  
 The boat is floating on the tide that wafts me off from Fuinary  
 (The boat lies waiting on the tide to carry me from Fuinary)

*Chorus:*

We must up and haste away, we must up and haste away  
 We must up and haste away, farewell, farewell tae Fuinary

A thousand, thousand tender ties awake this day my plaintive sighs  
 My heart within me almost dies, at thought of leaving Fuinary

*Chorus:*

But I must leave those happy vales, see how they fill, the spreading sails  
 Adieu, adieu, my native dales, farewell, farewell tae Fuinary.

## Soraidh slàn le Fionnairidh (the song in Gaelic)

Tha'n latha math, s'an soir-bheas ciùin; Tha'n uine 'ruidh s'an t-àm dhuinn dlùth,  
 Tha'm bàt' gam fheitheamh fo a siùl, gu'm thoirt a null o Fionnairidh

*Chorus:*

Eirich agus tiugainn O, Eirich agus tiugainn O, Eirich agus tiugainn O,  
 Mo shoraidh slàn le Fionnairidh

Tha ioma mìle ceangal blath, Mar shaidean ann am fèin an sàs,  
 Mo chridhe 'n impis a bhi sgàinnt', A chionn bhi 'fàgail Fhionnairidh.

Am feum mi siubhal uait gun dàil? Na siùil tha toghte ris a' bhat'  
 Soraididh le tir mo ghràidh, 'Us slàn gu bràth le Fionnairidh.

*Author's Note: Several recordings are available by searching the 'net if you want to learn a song with a genuine MacInnes connection for your next ceilidh or Clan gathering.*

# The Bee Above The Door

Article and Photos by W. A Cameron

At The Old Stores in Onich, Scotland stands a finely carved wooden thistle with a bumble bee sitting on top of its purple flower bud. It represents an important chapter in the history of Nether Lochaber and the Clan MacInnes.

The carving was proudly placed above the door to the Nether Lochaber Stores 145 years ago this year. A fine display of family pride from a bygone era, this unique oak plaque depicts the old motif of the Clan MacInnes - *Mhic Aonghais*, sons of Angus. It has survived outside in the challenging Lochaber climate for well over a century and now, after a recent restoration process, it has revealed an interesting history including various local family connections, the creation of the Clan MacInnes Hunting Tartan, Royal patronage and an unusual link with San Francisco.

Many thousands of people stopped in at The Stores during its 123 years of trading as a shop - selling everything from tartans, tweeds, papers, petrol, pegs, groceries and grain, to name but a few.

When days were lived at a slower and altogether more sensible pace, sheep and cattle were led along the then quiet A82 to pastures new in front of The Stores. With the advent of the motor car at the turn of last century, many more people would have stopped in to buy petrol from The Stores. However, most people would have failed to notice the distinctive plaque above the door depicting the old Clan MacInnes coat of arms showing a small bumble bee sitting on top of a thistle and the Latin motto 'Industria' written underneath.

*Earliest known photo of The Stores, believed to be during MacInnes ownership, 1874-1910*

*Continued on page 17*

## The MacInnes Family 1875-1910

It's not clear when exactly the Nether Lochaber Stores were formally set up. Early photographs show that the premises were established in 1875 and run by Onich man John MacInnes, or 'Tartan' John, as he would come to be known. Mr. MacInnes was a weaver, tailor, general merchant and Registrar for Nether Lochaber for 25 years. His well-stocked Store sold general provisions to the surrounding crofting community in Onich, Bunree and North Ballachulish, as well as trading in a variety of tweeds and tartan items to appeal to visitors to the area. We also know that John's father, Dugald MacInnes, was a merchant in Onich. So it could well be that the original Stores were established many years before by Mr MacInnes senior, then passed on to his only son.

It appears that John MacInnes was very proud of his clan ancestry. So much so that he was responsible for designing and manufacturing the distinctive dark green Hunting MacInnes tartan in 1908. He was also the first person to weave this tartan on his loom at the back of The Stores. The Hunting MacInnes tartan was subsequently recorded with the Scottish Tartan Register later in 1908.

As a result of this, The Stores have always been held in high regard by members of the Clan MacInnes - both here in Scotland, as well as worldwide because of the unique link with the



MacInnes tartan, and the distinctive MacInnes plaque that stood above the door to The Stores for over 135 years.

Born in Onich in 1851, John MacInnes was the only child of Jean McAlpin and Dugald MacInnes, Cuilchenna, Onich, and established his name above The Stores at the tender age of 24. We are not exactly sure how John acquired his skills as a tailor and weaver. They could have been passed on by a relative, or whilst working alongside another local tailor? What is clear is that he was 'a man of parts', managing to juggle a variety of important roles within the community and displaying a good head for business as a young man. He would have been well known in the area as the local storekeeper, as well as recording life's important milestones of births, marriages and deaths as the Registrar for Nether Lochaber.

John married Annabella MacAskill in March 1885 at Onich Free Church Manse - in what is now Glen Righ House. Annabella was the daughter of local shepherd Peter MacAskill and his wife Ann Macmillan. Rev Murdo Mackenzie, the minister of Kilmallie Free Church, officiated at the wedding. Their witnesses included a local man, also called John MacInnes, and Barbara Linton from Coruanan.

We have little in the way of personal anecdotes about John's character, other than what was written about him in the *Oban Times* newspaper. Incidentally, it's worth mentioning that this regional paper is still known by some locals as 'The Ballachulish Bible', as if a story was printed in this paper, then it was taken as gospel.

We read in a copy of the *Oban Times* in the early 1900s about the proposed remodelling and repairs to be carried out within the Onich Free Church, just a short distance from The Stores. The article outlines the work to be carried out and the tradesmen involved in doing it. It states: "any contributions will be gladly received by the minister, or by Mr John MacInnes, merchant, Onich."

The most notable articles featuring Mr MacInnes are in relation to items he sold to Royalty on various occasions over a number of years. Prince Edward, who would go on to be King Edward VII, visited Lochaber frequently at the turn of last century, and was involved in several pursuits, including deer stalking on the Mamores above Kinlochleven. An account of one of the King's visits to Kinlochleven was written up in the *Oban Times* in 1909. Within this news clipping we read of the Royal patronage John MacInnes and another local Fort William businessman, Archibald Macintyre, received during the King's visit to Lochaber.

*"Patronised by the King - During his Majesty's residence at Mamore Lodge, Mr Archd Macintyre, jeweller, Fort-William had the honour of submitting for the King's inspection a varied selection of jewellery, including Cairngorms and other valuable stones. After inspection, his Majesty was graciously pleased to express his approbation of the display, and made extensive purchases. This is the second occasion on which Mr Macintyre has been so honoured. On the same occasion Mr John MacInnes, clan tartan and tweed merchant, Onich by Royal command, exhibited patterns of tartans, in piece and rugs, Portree tweeds, Highland costume accoutrements etc, of which his Majesty made a large selection. This is now the fifth occasion on which Mr MacInnes has been patronised by Royalty".*

From stories passed down through the generations, it's believed that the fame and prestige of selling items to Royalty apparently went to John's head - and he became a little too big for his boots as a result of this Royal patronage. It was widely thought that the Clan MacInnes plaque above the door was in every respect John's own self-proclaimed version of a Royal Warrant in the form of a customised clan motif. This is set against the Royal Warrant holders who display highly decorative golden coats of arms above the doors to many luxury outlets - such as those found on the façade of London's exclusive Fortnum and Mason department store - known to many as the Royals' grocer.

It's not clear who was responsible for carving the detailed oakwood plaque that John MacInnes had installed above the door to The Stores. What has become clear is that the single piece of oakwood that makes up the thistle design has been carefully considered in both design and manufacture by a skilled wood carver and would no doubt have cost John a fair amount of money to produce back in the early 1870s.

During its recent restoration, many layers of paint and varnish that were applied over its 145-year history have been removed. Some of these coats were freshened up by my late grandparents and cousins over many years during the summer months. Although the paintwork was not always accurately applied, I believe that these layers of paint are what preserved the wooden plaque against the ravages of Lochaber's damp climate.

From 1874 to 1910, John and Annabella lived in the adjoining, long, two-storey house next to The Stores. With a byre [barn] at far end to The Stores, the MacInnes family may also have been involved in working the land behind the premises. In many of the old photographs The Stores appears to be built of solid stone, much like the adjoining house. However, it was in fact a timber-based building with a roof capped in local Ballachulish slate.

The entranceway to The Stores was specifically fashioned to elevate an ordinary doorway. Designed to replicate a classical Roman style threshold, it gives the impression of being made of solid stone. The highly detailed wooden surround includes a slanted open pediment, with the MacInnes plaque at the centre of it. This architectural feature was very much about making a statement. It also has the word 'Registrar' above the door and the year it was established -1875.

The design of the old MacInnes motif included a thistle with a bumble bee sitting on top of its purple flower. Its Latin inscription 'E Labore Dulcedo' translates as 'pleasure arises out of labour'. This was used for many years by the clan and relates to a well-known story passed down through the Clan MacInnes.

In that story, the chief of Clan MacInnes was

aware that he was under threat of being attacked by Viking invaders coming up The Sound of Mull. He and his men left Kinlochaline Castle and fell asleep outside whist waiting for the enemy to approach. As he rolled over in his sleep, a bumble bee on a thistle by which he was awakened, stung him. As a result, he got up and spotted the approaching enemy and was able to fend off the attack. It was the bee on the thistle that saved the Chief and his clan from being killed and so this was taken up as the family motif.

This motif was used for over a century, although it was never officially registered with the Lord Lyon. The Clan used the motif of a right arm holding a bow instead. This has its origins from a branch of the Clan MacInnes on Skye who were the official bowmen to the MacKinnon Clan.

The MacInnes Clan can be traced back many centuries living in and around West Lochaber. It is likely that John MacInnes had family connections to Morvern and was rightly proud of his long-established family history.

In utilising his family crest above the door to The Stores, John deviated from using the traditional Gaelic inscription, instead opting for a single Latin word. Underlining the thistle is a wooden ribbon-like band with the Latin word 'Industria' written on its surface. The Latin definition of this word relates to hard work, and also makes a link to the traditional MacInnes Gaelic motto.

Working long hours in his various jobs for over 25 years at The Stores, it seems that John and Annabella were looking for a better, or maybe slightly easier way of life. To this end they followed in the footsteps of Annabella's brother, Mr MacAskill who had emigrated to minister in America. The MacInnes family sold off most of their possessions and boarded the *SS Southwark* in Glasgow on June 25th, 1910, bound initially for Quebec, then onwards to San Francisco - leaving the community they had grown up in, as well as the house in which John had been brought up. They took a big risk in searching for a way of life that might be easier on the other side of The Pond. The only thing they left behind was the MacInnes plaque that John had placed above the

door to The Stores. This would be his legacy to Nether Lochaber and the Clan MacInnes - both ancestors and descendants.

John was registered as being 49 years old when he emigrated to America. In actual fact, he was 59. He kept up this pretence for the rest of his life. It's not quite clear why this was, possibly to make immigration requirements easier. John and Annabella stayed initially with her brother who had also emigrated to America. They lived in the Santa Cruz, California area. We don't know too much about what John and Annabella intended to do in America. He applied for permanent residency in 1917, seven years after arriving in the country. This official document makes for interesting reading, as it gives some details of the man himself and his life at that time.

His name is given as John McAlpin MacInnes, aged 56, when in fact he was 66, as he continued to take 10 years off his age. Residing in Oakland, California, he was described as being white, with a fair complexion, brown hair and blue eyes. He was five foot and five inches in height and weighed 130 pounds. In the section noting any distinctive features, it states that part of his left ear was missing. His occupation was given as a night watchman. It states that John was married to Annabella. However, they were living at different addresses, John in Oakland, and Annabella in Santa Cruz with her brother's family. Sadly, it turns out that the couple had divorced earlier that year. This was an unusual occurrence as they were both in their mid-60s.

*Within the official document quoted below, it asks the individual to renounce all their former allegiances to Britain if they wanted to become a citizen of the United States of America.*

*"It is my bona fide intention to renounce forever all fidelity to any foreign prince or potentate state or sovereignty and particularly to George V King of Great Britain of whom I am now a subject."*

There is a sad touch of irony in this declaration, as a number of years earlier John was very proud to have been patronised by Royalty when he sold a good number of items to King Edward over a number of years from The Stores at Onich. Yet

here he was, signing away any allegiance to the King.

Unfortunately, it seems that the grass was not greener on the other side of the pond for John. He appears to have fallen on hard times after his divorce from Annabella. He was employed as a night watchman for many years, and shortly before his death was employed as a retail assistant within a department store - returning to his first occupation. He died on the 21st of September 1920 in Alameda, California at the age of 69. His resting place remains unknown.

Annabella was employed as a nurse for a number of years from looking at the 1930 census record. She was cared for by her relatives, although in her later years she is recorded as living in the Laguna Honda Home. She died there on the 29th of October 1941 and was buried in the family plot at Odd Fellows Cemetery in Santa Cruz. Her obituary was recorded in the *Santa Cruz Evening News* in which her three nieces were mentioned.

### **MacKinnon Family at The Stores 1910-1920**

John and Annabella MacInnes sold The Stores when they left for America to John MacKinnon in 1910. John had worked previously as a shopkeeper in Invergarry, and together with his sister Margaret, the MacKinnons operated The Stores as a general store much like John and Annabella had done previously.

A black and white photograph of Margaret MacKinnon has survived from around 1910. It shows her as an elegant lady in her twenties standing alongside the entrance to The Stores with the MacInnes plaque clearly seen above the door. This image also shows that the MacKinnon family were still operating as Registrars for the Nether Lochaber area. On the righthand side window you can make out a series of clothes on display, as well as postcards of Highland views. These indicate how the shop was then catering for more visitors to the area.



*Margaret MacKinnon at entrance in 1910, with MacInnes plaque above the door.*

It's believed that the MacKinnons also took over the house next to The Stores. It was here that Margaret MacKinnon met the local policeman, Simon MacDonald, who was staying just along the road in a cottage in Onich village. They would go on to marry in 1913 and move up to the Cannich area where Simon continued to work as a policeman. Margaret and Simon had one child. Two of their grandchildren, Agnes Cameron and Margaret O'Donnell, would make Lochaber their home in later life. Both Margaret and Agnes worked as primary school teachers in schools across Lochaber.



*The Cameron Family outside The Stores at Onich, 1925*

I am grateful to both Marg and Agnes for providing an insight into their grandmother's and grand uncle's time at The Stores.

### **The Cameron Family at The Stores - 1920 to the present day**

In 1920 the MacKinnons sold The Stores to Angus and Catherine Cameron. Two years after the end of the First World War, the country was still struggling to get back on its feet, so not an easy time for this young couple to set up in business when people didn't have a lot of money to spend on provisions.

Angus Cameron had come from a large family at Gobshellach Farm near Acharacle. He had been part of the military campaign in Gallipoli during WW1 with The Royal Artillery. On his return to Scotland he served his time as a master grocer with Liptons in Oban. Here he learned how to cut and bone butcher meat, as well as acquiring the knowledge of how to keep a store well stocked and meeting the customers' ever-changing needs.

Catherine was brought up in Onich Village. The family home was called Woodlands, a solid stone two-storey property alongside the old Onich Post Office. Her father Seamus Cameron worked as the harbour master at the pier on Loch Leven. Her mother Ann hailed from Oban. Catherine was one of six children - Jean, Kirsty, Mary, Calum and James.

Taking on this established business with his new wife, Catherine, in 1920, Angus initially set up in partnership with his brother, Duncan Cameron. In one of the earliest photographs of the Stores taken during the Cameron years, it shows the shop sign – "D&A Cameron, Provision Merchants" clearly above the MacInnes plaque at the Stores. This business partnership would last only a couple of years, as Duncan would move on to another line of work near Glasgow. Angus and

*Continued on page 21*

Catherine continued to run The Stores by themselves, then with their family for the next 79 years.

With an ever-growing number of motor cars on the roads in the 1920s, Angus had the foresight to install two Shell petrol and diesel pumps in front of The Stores. This venture encouraged more people to stop in at The Stores after they had filled up their vehicles. As well as running the day to day business, Angus and Catherine went on to have a family of three boys: Angus, Hamish and Alexander. The family stayed initially in the upper storey above the stores itself, before they bought the adjoining house next to The Stores.

The Stores continued to diversify by selling a wide range of grocery supplies, as well as not so common items such as gas, paraffin, grain and other agricultural products required by customers in the surrounding villages. Angus also delivered groceries and papers down to North Ballachulish and Kinlochleven several times each week.

The small garden at the front of the house was always kept in good order with fine displays of coloured plants, as well as an array of small animal ornaments, including some colourful little gnomes. The façade of the Stores was freshened up annually during the summer months. The walls were painted white and the window surrounds were neatly finished in black gloss. Paint was also added to the MacInnes plaque above the door. This included applying lavish coats of green paint on the thistle leaves, purple on the flower and a combination of yellow and black on the small bumble bee. The little banner below was latterly painted pillar box red.

As the Cameron family grew up, the three boys attended the nearby Onich Primary School, then on to Fort William Senior Secondary School. They also helped their mother and father with work on the croft, the shop and serving fuel. Angus senior would go on to be a Justice of the Peace for the Nether Lochaber area.

At the outbreak of war in 1939, all three of the Cameron boys left to serve in the war overseas.

This would, no doubt, have been a worrying time for Angus and Catherine, since they didn't know if they would see their three boys again. Thankfully, Angus, Hamish and Alexander all returned home safely after the war.

As the boys went off to find their way in the world, they would follow different paths in life. Angus would go on to work in the British Aluminium factory in one of the laboratories. Hamish went to work for a number of years after the war in Malaysia. Alexander worked for Bulloch Lade Whisky as a salesman operating across the west coast.



*Angus and Catherine Cameron standing outside The Stores in 1960*

The Stores continued to be run by Angus and Catherine up until Angus's death at the age of 74 in December 1970. At this point Angus junior would take on his father's role at The Stores, helping his mother operate The Stores up until her death aged 85 in January 1980.

From 1980 Angus junior and his wife Rosemary ran the Stores, which continued to diversify with the petrol pumps being relocated to the other side of the road, as well as other ventures including vehicle insurance and a taxi service. Angus, Rosemary and their three children - Ann Marie, Catriona and Angus - all helped out with the running of the Stores, croft and The Filling Station. The Stores had very much become a hub for the community over these years.

When Angus passed away in 1994, Rosemary, Ann Marie and Catriona continued to operate The Stores and The Filling Station. Angus by this time was working at the Aluminium factory in Kinlochleven, although he continued to work the croft behind The Stores, as well as croft land in North Ballachulish.

As larger petrol stations opened in Fort William, namely Morrisons, The Filling Station bore the brunt of low-cost fuel becoming available in Fort William and so a decision was made by the family to close it. In 1997 The Stores would also close its doors for the last time after 135 years of serving the Onich community, as well as the many visitors who stopped in over the decades as they made their way along the A82. Throughout all these years the MacInnes plaque remained above the door to The Stores long after John MacInnes had it made back in the 1870s. After The Stores closed, the building remained dormant for a year or two before it was demolished. Fortunately, Rosemary Cameron had the foresight to ask the builders to keep the MacInnes plaque and put it in the byre at the other end of the building for safekeeping.

As The Stores were mainly constructed out of wood, the façade and roof trusses were easily disposed of, and the Ballachulish slates were saved and reused on new stone building constructed on the same footprint as the original Stores. This was designed as a new holiday home with two bedrooms, a lounge, kitchen and bathroom. The exterior of the building has been designed to fit in very closely to the adjoining original house. This has proved to be a successful business operated by Catriona Cameron.

In 2007, 10 years after The Stores had closed its doors, Rosemary called on Alisdair Campbell from Fort William to ask if he would like to have the MacInnes plaque. Alisdair's mother, Cathie, is a MacInnes from Bunree and he had a long-standing involvement in the Clan MacInnes Society here in Scotland. Rosemary rightly thought the plaque would be best looked after by him. Alisdair accepted the plaque, as he knew about its historical significance in relation to

Tartan John MacInnes, who, it turned out, was also a relative on his mothers' side of the family. He kept the plaque safely stored at his Fort William home for the next 10 years.



*Alisdair Campbell receives the MacInnes Plaque from Rosemary Cameron in 2007 for safe keeping.*

In January 2018, Alisdair mentioned to William Cameron from Inverlochry, a cousin on his mother's side of the family, that he had the MacInnes plaque which once stood above the door to The Stores in Onich where his late father, Alexander, had been brought up and offered it to William for safe keeping. William remembered the plaque from his childhood visits to The Stores and gladly accepted it.

### **Restoration of the MacInnes Plaque**

As a Technical teacher and someone interested in local history, William was keen to preserve this unique piece of woodwork and hopefully tell the story of the plaque's history. It would later turn out, thanks to genealogical research carried out by Alisdair Campbell, that not only did William have connections to the plaque through his late father's side of the family at The Stores, but also

through his mother's side of the family who were directly related to Tartan John MacInnes himself.



*MacInnes Plaque before restoration begins,  
February 2018*

In January 2018 William began the process of trying to save the plaque from further deterioration and preserve it for future generations. In order not to cause any further decay to the plaque, it was kept in a lined box for a period of weeks where it was allowed to gradually dry out. Over the years the structure had been painted many times, which resulted in cracking paint and very uneven surfaces on the thistle and its backboard. It was, in fact, the many coats of paint that seem to have protected the oak wood from becoming damaged. Initial inspection of the plaque highlighted some rotten wood on the backboard on which the plaque was mounted.

In order to see what was underneath the plaque, the two individual parts (thistle and ribbon) were removed from the backboard by taking out a series of long, rusty iron nails.

This showed that the back of the thistle was intact, however, where the nails had gone in showed some signs of decay.

With the thistle and ribbon removed, it was decided not to run the risk of using any chemicals to remove the paint in case it damaged the wood underneath. Instead, William opted for using a sharp chisel to gently scrape the many layers of paint away so that the wood surface would not become harmed. This process took a number of months when time was available, as the work

was slow to proceed and attention to detail was required so as not to harm the surface of the wood.

After months of scraping paint, the wooden carving underneath was revealed. It displayed highly detailed craftsmanship on the leaves of the thistle and the bulb of the flower. The ribbon where the MacInnes motto once was showed quite a few areas of decay at the back where water had got into the wood. Having removed the layers of paint, a coat of wood hardener was applied to those areas that showed decay. Fortunately, most of these were at the back of the plaque.

Unfortunately, the bumble bee that had once sat on top of the thistle had broken off many years before and had not been replaced. Only the stump of a rusty nail sticking out from the top of the thistle remained. No close-up photographs were available to see what the original bumble bee carving looked like. Instead of trying to make the plaque look modern and new, it was decided to keep any dents, holes or small broken bits of the thistle as they were, as this was all part of its history.

William experimented with various paint finishes on similar bits of oak wood before settling on applying a wash of coloured wood stain that would give the carvings a resemblance of a thistle, yet still clearly showing the intricate work that had been hidden away for many years by thick layers of paint.

With the backboard showing some signs of decay where the nails had gone through, it was taken back to the bare wood and again treated with wood hardener. Some cracks had also appeared on the wood where water had got in over the years. These were left as they were, and the board was finished with several coats of matt white paint.

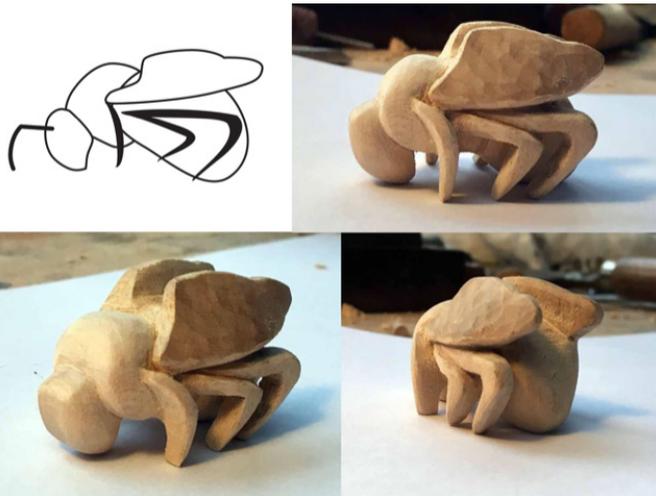
After removing the red paint from the ribbon at the bottom of the plaque, it revealed that it was once covered in varnish, but again showing some lovely detail which had been covered up by

*Continued on page 24*

paint. There was no evidence of the motto that could just be made out on a black and white photograph from 1910.

William tried to replicate the word 'Industria' on the surface, using sign writer's gold paint and a fine brush; however, the standard of finish was rather poor. William contacted his friend Hughie Davidson, a retired sign writer on the Isle of Skye, who skilfully applied the text; two small finials were inserted and a clear lacquer was applied to seal in the paintwork.

With the backboard, thistle and ribbon all complete, it was debated whether to just attach the three things together and finish up without the bumble bee. However, given the story of why the bumble bee was there in the first place, it was decided that a new one should be made.



*The new bumble bee begins to emerge*

As the carving was very small with lots of detail, William got in touch with Stuart Murdoch, a wood sculptor from Speyside to see if he could assist in creating a new bumble bee. Stuart was given exact measurements of the top of the thistle and the desired proportions of what the bumble bee should be in relation to the rest of the plaque. He worked from the measurements and sculpted a detailed bumble bee out of lime wood. This was chosen as it has a very tight grain and is relatively easy to work with. As the bumble bee would only really be seen from one side, it was decided to have the outward facing side highly detailed, whilst the side facing the backboard would not have as much detail. The bumble bee was then drilled for attaching to the top of the thistle, as

well as drilling two smaller holes in the head to attach two wire antennae. The bumble bee was painted, a clear lacquer applied to the surface, then attached onto the thistle.



*Newly created bumblebee, painted and perched*

Finally, as the thistle and ribbon had been attached with nails onto the backboard, it was decided not to put new nails into it. Instead the two carvings were attached using a silicone adhesive that allowed the parts to sit evenly on the backboard.

The MacInnes plaque was completed at the end of October 2018. William finished it just in time for the story of the plaque's history and restoration to be shared at the Lochaber Local History Society talk in November



*MacInnes, MacKinnon and Cameron families at November unveiling of the renovated MaInnes Plaque are, front row from left: Marg O'Donnell, Sandra Cameron, Rosemary Cameron, Agnes Cameron. Back row from left: Angus Cameron, Anne Munro, Marilyn MacDonald, author Bill Cameron, Catriona Cameron, Alisdair Campbell and Ann-Marie Cameron.*

At the end of this talk the MacInnes plaque stood on an easel, covered up with a length of Hunting MacInnes tartan that was designed by John MacInnes more than a hundred years before. Rosemary Cameron and Alasdair Campbell were asked to unveil the restored plaque to the audience. It was given a hearty response by the 104 people who came along for the illustrated talk.

Having covered nearly 145 years of history at The Stores at Onich, William recently offered the plaque back to his Cameron relatives at The Stores, where it is hoped the plaque will remain indoors for future generations to learn the story behind The Bee Above The Door.

#### *Author's Thanks*

*I am very grateful to Alisdair Campbell for all his genealogical work on piecing together the story of the MacInnes families from Onich, and for trusting me to take care of the plaque and tell its interesting history. I would like to thank both Rosemary Cameron and Alasdair Campbell for having the foresight to keep hold of what seemed like a crumbling piece of old wood and see the value in this local artefact. I am also grateful to Les Fraser from Inverlochry for providing advice during the restoration of the plaque. Thanks also to Stuart Murdoch for sculpting a new bumble bee for the plaque. The story of the MacInnes plaque was well worth telling before it was forgotten.*



*Restored MacInnes plaque rests on MacInnes Hunting Tartan, designed by Tartan John MacInnes in 1908, over 100 years ago.*

#### *Editors Note:*

*To the right is the plaque on the Onich Store in 2000 with bee missing.*



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# Flowers of the Forest

## Scotland loses “intellectual giant” after death of top Gaelic scholar

by Ilona Amos, *The Scotsman*



*Dr. John MacInnes*

Scotland’s leading authority on Gaelic language, tradition and culture has died aged 89.

Academic and author Dr. John MacInnes (Iain MacAonghuis) spent his life studying and championing Gaelic history, folklore, music and spoken word, and was considered “the last of the native scholars”.

He was born in Uig on Lewis, but grew up on Raasay. As well as his native tongue, he was fluent in many other languages.

MacInnes started at the University of Edinburgh in 1948 where he studied Old English and Old Norse.

He went on to work at the establishment’s School of Scottish Studies for more than 30 years before retiring in 1993. In 2006, his book *Dùchas nan Gàidheal* (Traditions of the Gael), won a Saltire Prize.

Friends and former colleagues have paid tribute.

“He really was the oracle, his loss to our scholarly community is incalculable,” said Dr Neill Martin, head of department at the School of Celtic and Scottish Studies. “We will sorely miss his genial presence, dazzling conversation and mischievous sense of humour – qualities for which he was also justly famed.”

Professor Rob Ó Maolalaigh, vice principal and head of the College of Arts at the University of Glasgow, said: “John carried his formidable traditional and formal learning very lightly. He was a gifted teacher and storyteller who gave generously of his time and knowledge.”

Professor Gary West, also of the University of Edinburgh, is a former student. He said: “Even as a teenager, I could tell we were in the presence of an intellectual giant.” MacInnes leaves behind his wife Wendy, son Ruairi, daughter Catriona and grand-children Sinead and Roddy.

*Added by the contributing author:*

*“Some 27 of the roughly 240 essays and articles by Dr. MacInnes, are gathered in *Dùthchas nan Gàidheal*, edited by Dr. Michael Newton, a present-day Gaelic scholar. Included is an essay on the Skye MacInnes family legends and traditions learned as a child principally from paternal great-uncles who were born in the period 1850-1870. Dr. MacInnes’ book is a true treasure of the Gael way of life experienced first-hand.”*

*(This obituary is printed in total from the May 19, 2019 issue of The Scotsman.)*



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## EDITOR'S NOTE

The next issue of the Clan MacInnes Archer will be the Fall 2019 issue. The deadline for all photos, articles, and notices will be August 15. Please make note of this date.

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