

# The URLAR

The Journal of the  
**CLAN MACPHERSON ASSOCIATION**  
United States Branch



## **Clan Macpherson Association Gathering August 2019**



**Number 173    Autumn 2019**

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**The Official Clan Macpherson Association**

# CLAN MACPHERSON ASSOCIATION UNITED STATES BRANCH

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# **THE URLAR 2019**

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## **Number 173, Autumn, An Foghar**

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Materials for the next issue must be received by **November 1, 2019**.

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**On the cover:** The "Macpherson Regiment" marches over the Spey River before taking the field at the Newtonmore Highland Games. Creag Dubh is clearly seen in the background.

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Dear Cousins,

We've just returned from the Annual Gathering in Scotland. The US Branch was well-represented with 24 members attending. We all had a great time! This year was especially meaningful as we celebrated Cluny's 50th year as our Chief.

At the Annual General Meeting there was a motion to change the levels of membership and the fees for them. These levels include Junior, Young Adult (18-25), Annual and Life. We will be discussing the potential changes to these fees at our US Branch Gathering in Dunedin in October.

Two things really impress me at every Gathering in Scotland. The first is the Clan March on Saturday afternoon onto the grounds of the Newtonmore Highland Games. Some say it represents the soldiers returning from battle. Others say it's strictly a formal way of escorting the Chief whenever he travels. Anyway, it's impressive and I still to this day feel a very strong

sense of pride when I march with all the Clan members. There is no other feeling like it, representing the US Branch, while marching and wearing the kilt. This year, I asked Sean Macpherson from California to carry the US sword. It was his first time to attend the Gathering and he represented us with pride and confidence.

The second most impressive thing is the number of cousins who stay longer and travel around Scotland. Some stay to investigate their genealogy and visit the areas from where their family originated. Our Vice Chairman R.T. MacPherson and his lady, Colleen, traveled the countryside after the AGM and posted on Facebook their photos, which greatly interested me.





# From the Editor's Chair

By George McPherson, Editor of *The Urlar*



Dear *Urlar* Readers,

Welcome to the Autumn issue of *The Urlar*. This issue contains an abundance of information about our Gathering in Scotland. There were more than 20 Americans there. It was a terrific show of support. I tried to include photos of most of the Americans that were over there. I hope you enjoy the photo spread from the Gathering, which is organized according to the different events that took place.

This issue has a Flowers Of The Forest for Marvin Smith. Marvin was a personal friend of mine. I will miss his laughter and friendship. He will be missed by many of the people that read his Flower Of The Forest. Rest in peace Marvin.

*The Fettle* has two really interesting stories.

The first is about an incredible geologic structure called Fingal's Cave. The second story is about a half man half wolf creature called Wulver. Read on!

As usual, our Branch Sennachie, has written an excellent history article. In this issue it is about William Wallace. The movie Braveheart does not do the Wallace story justice. Be sure to read the article by Angus.

Bonnie and I are working very hard so we have a very successful and enjoyable US Branch Gathering and Annual Meeting in Dunedin Florida. We already have 66 people registered for it. It promises to be one of the best Branch Gatherings ever held. We hope to see you there.

And that is how I see it from the Editor's Chair.



# Letter From The Chairman of The Clan Macpherson Association



Dear Cousins,  
Ah Autumn, the season of mellow fruitfulness. I always like the short poem, the antithesis of the Spring poem:

*Autumn's come  
The grass is sunk  
Have the birdies done a bunk?*

To me it epitomises the onward march of the seasons to winter: but Autumn brings with it those glorious Autumn colours where the dying leaves go out in a burst of glory. Something to look forward to.

Since the last edition we have had the CMA Gathering in Badenoch, Scotland. With 179 members enjoying each other's company. I was particularly pleased that 20 members of the US Branch made it over. It was good to see you all there, although not all were there in one piece as it were. How an airline can get three

suitcases from one check-in to three different locations is beyond me, but thanks are due to the family for managing to keep a smile on their faces throughout the visit.

As well as the fun of the Ball, the Games, the Ceilidh, the Pipes, the Walk and the Talks we had the business meetings. I am glad to say the governance of your Association is in good order. The new Constitution (that you will all have avidly read in Creag Dhubh of course) was unanimously agreed and now comes into effect. Also unanimously agreed, albeit with a bit of a sting in the tail, was the new fees structure. Good news for us all in the long term as the new subscriptions ensure the long- term viability of our Association, but a bit of pain as it means an increase in membership costs, particularly for those wanting Life membership. It has been the Life membership which has threatened our viability, with (thankfully) people living well beyond their paid span. We think we now have the balance right. The unequivocal good news is that there is a new "Young Adult" membership rate to try and encourage the Millennials to maintain their membership past Junior.

The next Clan event we all have to look forward to is the US AGM in Florida where Jan and I will join you in the festivities, and this year we will be able to stay to the end as there is no pressure to return to the UK. Having said that, it will be a very interesting time in UK politics and, as Confucius once said, "May the Lord protect me from living in interesting times!". It's a bit like flying: boring is good, I have been on exciting flights and they are not fun.

The activities over the days of the US AGM look full-on and I hope this old man will be able to survive the pace, but I will give it a very good try. It will be my first visit to Florida (the destination of so many Brits) so it will be interesting to see what it is like.

So, if you are going to be at the US AGM we look forward to meeting up with you; if you can't make it, be with us in spirit and raise a glass to our Chief and his Clan.

Until we meet again,  
Yours aye  
Bill

# Flowers Of The Forest

“Flowers Of The Forest” is a song frequently requested to play at solemn gatherings. This tune has haunting music that is well suited for the emotions of the occasion. *Words from the first verse of Flowers Of The Forest:*

I've seen the smiling of fortune beguiling,  
I've tasted her pleasures and felt her decay,  
Sweet was her blessing and kind her caressing,  
But now they are fled and are fled far away.

This section of *The Urlar* is dedicated to paying our last respects to cousins who have departed our midst. The Editor would be grateful if readers would forward such news so that it can be shared with the rest of the membership.

## Marvin Alfred Smith (R3767)



A loving father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, Marvin Alfred Smith, 75, passed away on Thursday, June 20, 2019, in Lubbock, Texas.

On February 28, 1944, Marvin was born in Kingfisher, OK and adopted by Willie Lockhart Smith and Thelma Lynn Berryman. He joined the US Air Force in February 1962 and was stationed in Alaska, working the flight line on a base in the Aleutian Islands until 1966. After his honorable discharge he moved to Fresno, California and started work at Pacific Gas and

Electric. Marvin received an accounting degree from Fresno City College.

Marvin met Jan through work and they were married on July 16, 1983. He worked in various field locations and San Francisco as an accountant. Marvin retired from PGE after thirty years. In 2006, he and his wife Jan moved to Roswell. Marvin loved Harley Davidson motorcycles and the Dallas Cowboys. Every holiday season he helped with Toys for Tots.

Marvin was a member of Chaves County Veterans, Elks Lodge, American Legion, Clan Macpherson Association and the Harley Davidson Group.



He loved watching movies of John Wayne. Marvin was also a fan of the Dallas Cowboys; when they had a winning team. He was deeply loved and will be profoundly missed not only by his family and friends but by all those fortunate enough to have known Marvin.

**SURVIVORS:** Those left to honor and cherish memories of Marvin are his wife, Jan Smith; daughters: DeAnna Smith Rivas (Jorge) of Lubbock, TX, Marvine Smith Blackburn (Hal) of BoysRanch, TX, Tana Smith Long of Lubbock, TX; grandchildren: Jordan of Lubbock, TX, Jacob of San Antonio, TX, Jennifer of Boys Ranch, TX, Sydney of Lubbock, TX; great-grandchildren: Hayden, and Maddison both of Lubbock, TX; close friends: Jim and Karen Bloodhart, the Thursday coffee gang; the people in the neighborhood and his loving pets: Alley, Gizmo, Ciara, Piper, and Max.

**PRECEDED:** Preceding Marvin in death: his parents, Willie Lockhart Smith (1968) and Thelma Lynn Berryman (1975).

**MEMORIALS:** In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in Marvin's honor to the Roswell Humane Society.



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# Clan Macpherson Association



## The Association Gathering 2019 Photo Memories

### The Formal Dinner and Dance



(Top right) Cluny welcomes the Clan Macpherson to the Formal Dinner and Ball and addresses the clan on the occasion of his 50th year as our Chief. (Bottom right) Barbara Clarke and her son Sam Leslie returned to the Gathering after many years. Sam was a child the last time they were here.



(Above) Jamie renews an old friendship with Bruce McPherson, Past California State Senator and Past California Secretary Of State.





**(Top left) Andrew McHugh his wife Nicola, say hello to all the US Branch members. (Top right) Cluny and his family enjoy their traditional family dance together. (Bottom left) George and Dee McPherson enjoy the music and dancing after the dinner. (Bottom right) US Branch Chairman Xerxes Herrington is shown with Sam Leslie, Vesper Herrington, and Jerry Gamblin.**





**(Top left) Alistair Pitmain and Association Vice-Chairman Bonnie McPherson enjoy a chat together after the formal dinner. (Top right) Us Branch Vice Chairman RT McPherson enjoys a dance with his wife Colleen. RT is quite a vigorous dancer. (Bottom left) Torquil Le Roy-Lewis pipes the attendees into the dining room. (Bottom right) This is a great shot of several generations of Clan Macpherson women. From L to R are Lara McPherson, Lucy Macpherson, Pauline MacGillvary, and Eliza Macpherson.**



## The Annual General Meeting



**(Top left) George McPherson and Bruce McPherson chat before the start of the Annual General Meeting in Newtonmore Village Hall. (Top right) Association Chairman Bill Macpherson kicks off the Annual General Meeting. (Bottom left) Cluny, with his son Jamie in support, addresses the Annual General Meeting. (Bottom right) Scotland and Northern Ireland Branch Chairman Rory Macpherson is shown with Association Vice Chairman Bonnie McPherson.**





**(Top left) US Branch Chairman Xerxes Herrington address the Annual General Meeting. (Top right) Fiona Brennan (Australia) and Bonnie have a chat after the Annual General Meeting.**

## The Clan March



**(Top left) Sergeant Major Frank MacGuire organizes the sword and standard bearers for the clan march. (Top right) Getting ready to march, Bruce McPherson is shown with his son in law Dave Kistler, and his grandson Cooper Kistler. (Left) The massed pipe bands lead the Clan Macpherson Regiment across the Spey River Bridge.**

**(Right) George McPherson and Bruce McPherson march together across the Spey River bridge.**



**(Left) US Branch Chairman Xerxes Herrington and US Branch Vice Chairman RT McPherson march together across the Spey River bridge.**

**(Right) Sam Leslie and Donald MacIntosh first met as young boys at a Gathering many years ago. They renewed their friendship this year, including a swim in the very cold waters of the Spey River.**



**(Below) Led by Norman Macpherson, carrying the standard of our Chief, the Clan Macpherson Regiment marches onto the field. Craig Dhubh is seen in the background.**





**(Top left) The Clan Macpherson regiment is presented to the Chieftain Of The Games. (Top right) Angus Macpherson, The Chieftain Of The Games, welcomes the Clan Macpherson Regiment. (Below) In a post-march photo, Jamie is shown with Bruce McPherson and his entire family. L to R: Mary McPherson, Sydney Kistler, Cooper Kistler, Bruce, and Tori Kistler.**



**(Right) US Branch Chairman Xerxes Herrington is pictured with Sean MacPherson. Sean carried the US Branch sword during the march.**



**(Above) Bonnie and Jamie, long-time friends, posed for a post-march photo.**

## **The Great Tug Of War (TOW) Competition**



**(Top left) Following a tradition from last year, a TOW team was formed**

**by the Association Chairman and one by the Vice Chairman. In this photo they verbally spar about the possible outcome of the evening before. (Top right) Weapon of war. Tug of war, that is.**



**(Left) The Chairman's TOW team is ready to compete.**



**(Above) The Vice Chairman's TOW team is ready to compete.**

**(Right) The Chairman exhorts his team to pull harder.**



**(Below) The Vice Chairman exhorts her team to pull harder.**





(Above left) The judges monitor the position of a piece of tape on the rope. When the tape reaches the walking stick, victory is declared. (Top right)



Judges Dave Garman and Angus Macpherson are shown with the Chairman and Vice Chairman. The Vice Chairman team won the 2 out of 3 matches and was declared victors. This is the third year in a row, the Vice Chairman team has won!

## The Ceilidh



(Right) Sandy Macpherson and his family always offer one of the most lively and fun Ceilidh acts.



(Left) Cluny and Lady Hilary join in singing a Ceilidh song. (Right) Three of the best pipers I have ever heard. L to R Donald MacIntosh, Torquil Le Roy- Lewis, and his father Jerome Le Roy-Lewis.



## Sunday Morning Church Service



(Left) In a light rain, the Macphersons gather to socialize outside of St. Columba's church in Kingussie.

(Below) Bonnie is shown with Alistair Pitmain and his lovely wife Penny.



(Above) Clan Macpherson children play in the churchyard after the service.

(Right) A Celtic cross in the church cemetery.



## “At Home” With Our Chief



(Above) Newton Castle, the home of our Chief. It contains many features of a castle, but is actually a fortified home. (Below left) A Coat Of Arms above the garden gate. (Bottom right) A Coat Of Arms above the main entrance.





**(Above) The Macphersons gather in “the barn” for the At Home celebration. A clan crest, carved by RT McPherson is hung on the left wall. (Below) Jamie prepares to lead a large group on a tour of Newton Castle.**





**(Top left) The Standard of our Chief is displayed during the gathering of the Macphersons. (Top right) Alistair Noble, Donna McPherson Rucks, John Macpherson, and Sandy Macpherson enjoy fellowship together.**

**(Right) Angus Macpherson, Cluny's youngest grandchild, serves sausage rolls to his guests.**



**(Below left) Discussing the success of the Gathering with Jamie are RT McPherson, Jack Raines, Colleen McPherson, and Alistair Noble. (Below right) Andrew McHugh talks with CMA Chairman Bill Macpherson and CMA Registrar and Creag Dhubh Editor Jan Macpherson.**



## “At Home” Mini Ceilidh



(Top left) Ewen Macpherson and Andrew McHugh perform together. (Top right) Always a favorite. Ewen plays a tune on the “nose organ.”

(Bottom left). William Macpherson, Cluny’s oldest grandchild, has taken up the pipes. Well done! (Bottom right) Torquil Le Roy-Lewis plays a tune on the pipes while RT McPherson watches.



## Lasting Images of Macpherson Country



(Top left) the clan crest on the gate of the cairn to Cluny of 45.  
(Top right) one of many varieties of thistle in Scotland.

(Right ) The mantle  
on the main  
fireplace in the  
Duke Of Gordon  
Hotel is carved  
with a beautiful  
Clan Macpherson  
Coat Of Arms  
flanked by two  
stags.



(Left) Ruthven  
Barracks, even  
after being  
burned in 1846, is  
still a dominating  
and impressive  
structure.

# Loch Arkaig Gold

By Carol Gillis Ouellette

The Jacobite rebellion, or the war of the British succession, was a series of uprisings, rebellions and in Great Britain wars and Ireland between 1688-1746.

Jacobites were followers of the exiled branch of the House of Stuart who sought Scottish thrones after the Glorious Revolution of 1698. They take the name from the Latin form (Jacobus) of the names James.

In 1745 Bonnie Prince Charles landed in Scotland to reclaim the British throne for his father. In the beginning he was very successful; however, the British forces crushed this rebellion and regained full control over Scotland after the Battle of Culloden. Thousands of (mostly Scottish Highlanders) were killed.

Charles spent five months as a fugitive in the Western Highlands. Charles was supported by France, but limited financial support was supplied by both Spain and the Pope. However, getting this gold to the rebel army was the difficulty.

The first installment was dispatched in 1745 and a French sloop successfully landed its monies on the west coast of Scotland. Unfortunately for the Jacobites, the riches were captured by Clan Mackay, who were loyal to King George.

In April of 1746 another Spanish installment, plus a large French supplement, arrived on the ships Mars and Bellona. Seven caskets of gold arrived, but one was stolen by McDonald of Barrisdale, s men. As the Jacobite cause was by then lost, with the army scattered and the Prince and his Lieutenants in hiding, the gold was to be used to assist the Jacobite clansmen and to facilitate the escape of leading Jacobites to the continent. Six caskets were brought to Loch Arkaig (just north of Fort William) and hidden. The secret was entrusted to **Murray of Broughton (pictured right)** and when he was apprehended, the treasure was entrusted first to Lionel, Chief of the Clan Cameron, then to Macpherson of Cluny of Clan Macpherson.



Cluny was hiding in a cave at Ben Alder, which came to be known as “the cage”. **(Pictured below) The view from Cluny Cave looking down on Loch Ericht.**

He was able to escape capture by government troops for 9 years even though a large reward was offered for his capture. **(Next page) A solid silver candelabra in the Clan Macpherson Museum portrays a British Officer searching for Cluny.** He offers a shilling for information. The servant is Cluny.





Cluny escaped to France in 1755. Charles briefly joined him there. Cluny had control of the gold which was still hidden in Arkaig.

Charles escaped Scotland on a French ship and arrived back in France in September of 1746. However, the fate of the gold is not clear. Cluny is believed to have retained control of it, and during his long years as a fugitive was the center of various futile plots to finance other uprisings. He remained in hiding in his "Highland cage" for the next 8 years. Meanwhile, a cash strapped Charles was constantly looking for his gold and at least some of it came to him later. However, it is said that all of the gold never was recovered. Charles, years later, accused Cluny of embezzlement. Whatever the case, the gold became a source of discord and grievance among the surviving Jacobites.

In June of 1753 the last Jacobite to be executed (Archibald Cameron) was hanged. The trail then goes cold. However, the Stuart's papers (now in the possession of Queen Elizabeth II) record a host of claims, counter-claims and accusations among the Highland Chiefs and Jacobites in exile, as does the fate of the gold. Some French coins were found buried in a nearby woods in the 1850's. Only one leather bag of gold coins has ever been recovered and the gold is still out there, worth in excess of ten million pounds.

The Arkaig treasure is featured in Nigel Tranter's historical fiction novel "Gold for Prince Charles".

Cluny Castle, about five miles southwest of Newtonmore in Badenoch, is a stronghold of the clan. The original castle dated from the 14th century, but was razed by the Duke of Cumberland after the Jacobite Rising of 1745 which the Macphersons had supported. **(Right) The present Cluny Castle is in fact the 19th century mansion that was built on the site of the original stronghold.**



Originally I saw a program on television about the lost treasure. As I was a member of Clan Macpherson, I received *The Urlar* and didn't remember ever seeing anything about this in the Journal, so wrote the Editor on same. His reply was if I wanted to do the research, write the article and submit it, he would publish it - so here it is. Most of the information I got off the internet. I am very proud to be a member of Clan Macpherson and hope you enjoy this bit of history.

# The Fettle

*A Newsletter Dedicated to the Macpherson Bairns*

## **Greetings everyone:**

Where has 2019 gone? School has already started for another year, and Fall weather will soon be upon us. Fall is a beautiful season with the tree leaves changing from green to orange, yellow and red.

In school, we have music in various ways, such as Orchestra, Band and Choir. In Scotland, they have a place that's ringing with music. Let's read on...

## **Fingal's Cave**

Staffa is an uninhabited island of the Inner Hebrides. They say the place called Fingal's Cave looks like it is man-made and something to be seen only in dreams. However, it is a real place made by completely natural processes.

The name is linked with ancient Scottish and Irish lore. If you remember, we discussed the Scottish poet and historian James Macpherson. In "Ossian", his collection of epic poems had mentioned a giant named Finn mac Cumhaill or Fingal. The sea cave was named after this giant.

A lot of famous people have visited this spot. Felix Mendelssohn visited the cave and it inspired him to compose "The Outer Hebrides, Op. 26, or Fingal's Cave Overture." This aided in other famous people visiting and also being inspired, such as: author Jules Verne, poets John Keats, William Wordsworth and Alfred Lord Tennyson, romantic artist J. M. W. Turner, playwright August Strindberg, prolific Scottish writer Sir Walter Scott, Queen Victoria, artist Matthew Barney and Pink Floyd.

It was part of the Ulva estate of the Clan MacQuarrie until 1777. Sir Joseph Banks, who was an 18th Century naturalist, brought it to the attention of the world in 1772.

What is Fingal's Cave? **(Left) It is a sea cave comprised of multiple basalt columns, joined in hexagonal shapes.** Some refer to them as looking like saluting soldiers. When first



looking at it, it has a large arched opening.

The defining characteristic of Fingal's Cave is that it has incredible natural acoustics. The naturally formed roof with the unique motion of the ocean makes the waves sound like they are singing. They sing in hypnotic melodic keys, and often compared to the sounds you would hear throughout a cathedral.

If you wish to see the caves, there are several sightseeing cruises that can be taken by local businesses. They pass the entrance to the cave from April to September. It is my understanding, that some of these cruises will allow the boat to stop at the island's landing place in calm conditions. People can walk the short distance to the cave. **(Right) There is a place where a row of fractured columns forms a walkway just above high-water level permitting exploration on foot.**



That concludes our story about the Fingal's cave. In the Fall season, we enjoy the holiday of Halloween. Yes, a time for dressing up for Trick or Treat, and also a great time to read and/or watch movies about Frankenstein, vampires and werewolves. Did you know that not all werewolves are mean or evil? Let's move on to our next story which is about the kindhearted Shetland werewolf.

## **Wulver – The Kindhearted Shetland Werewolf**

As stated earlier, most people consider the werewolf to be evil. Those who want to terrify people and/or make them become werewolves too. The "Wulver" is actually a kindhearted and generous werewolf. He is known to help some of the most unfortunate people in the country.

The Wulver come from the Shetland Island which is north of the Scottish mainland. **(Right) He has a man's body but the head of a wolf.** Wulver is covered in a layer of thick brown hair. What makes him different? He was never human. He was not human and turns into werewolf whenever there is a full moon. Ancient Celts believed that the Wulver actually evolved from wolves, and are symbolic of the in-between state of man and wolf.



There isn't much documentation that can be found of the Wulver. In fact, the last sighting was back in the early twentieth century. The Wulver was said to be living alone in a cave on Shetland and enjoying the peaceful life.

Wulver could be frequently spotted fishing for its daily meal from a rock dubbed "The Wulver's Stane". As long as people leave the Wulver alone, they will not pose any risk to humans. If he does intervene with humans, it is by his choice. When he

intervenes, it will be to perform generous and kindly acts.

The Wulver is known to help lost travelers by guiding them to nearby towns and villages. It is reported that they will leave fish on the windowsills of poor families. If a Wulver found out that a family was dealing with hardships and was without food, he will supply the family with a steady supply of fish. It has also been said that a family dealing with sickness and death, the Wulver can be seen mourning and paying his respects outside their homes.

There are some accounts that say the Wulver is an immortal spirit. None have been reported for more than 100 years. Some theories in modern times state a Wulver was someone suffering from "Hypertrichosis". This is a condition in which the entire body is covered in hair. Another theory is that someone is suffering from the psychological condition of Lycanthropy". This is where they believe they are a wolf or another animal. Do they exist? Whether they existed or not, the superstitions attached to the Wulver still remain to this time.

If anyone has more information in regards to the Fingal's Cave or on the Wulver, please write and let us know about it. We can use it in the next issue of *The Fettle!*

<https://theculturetrip.com/europe/united-kingdom/scotland/articles/all-you-need-to-know-about-exploring-fingals-cave-in-scotland/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fingal%27s\\_Cave](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fingal%27s_Cave)

<https://www.transceltic.com/scottish/wulver-shetlands-kind-and-generous-werewolf>

<https://www.scotsman.com/lifestyle-2-15039/scottish-myths-wulver-the-kindhearted-shetland-werewolf-1-4025249>

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# Welcome to New Members

Autumn 2019

By Kathleen G. Sterba, Membership Secretary

Greetings Cousins,

Though the long HOT Summer is upon us, our festival Conveners have been busy enrolling new members! Since my report in Summer edition, our membership has increased by a total of 13. We now have two new Life Memberships, and 11 Annuals. I would like to mention that Ricky McPherson, who joined this Spring, signed up his wife and son and then all 3 registered for the AGM in Dunedin. We look forward to meeting Ricky and his family during the course of the many AGM events.

Xerxes reported that there were lengthy discussions regarding membership fees at the August Gathering in Scotland. As you can imagine, the US Branch member dues will be a main topic of discussion at our AGM in Dunedin. Accordingly, I have been informed that effective August 15, 2019 no new applications for Life membership will be accepted until January 1, 2020.

Congratulations to the following cousins for their commitment to CMA:

Mbr #	Name	City	St	Region
<b>New Life</b>				
L0763	William Cody Brinkley	New Bern	NC	South East
L0764	LTC David R. McPherson, Ret	Sturgis	SD	Mid West

Mbr #	Name	City	St	Region
<b>New Annual</b>				
R5689	Steve Sprowls	Fort Worth	TX	South West
R5690	Pamela A. Murdock	Haltom City	TX	South West
R5691	Debbye Sprowls	Haltom City	TX	South West
R5692	James Carl Foster	Inman	SC	South East
R5693	Eric Andrew Dodson	Wyandotte	MI	Mid West
R5694	Anne McPherson Arthurs	Elk Grove Village	IL	Mid West
R5695	Kimberly Sue McPherson (Wife of Ricky R5672)	Watauga	TX	South West
R5696	Zachary Joseph McPherson (Son of Ricky R5672)	Watauga	TX	South West
R5697	Mimi Filer	Columbus	OH	Mid West
R5698	Claudia Wilson Anderson	Belvidere	NJ	North East
R5699	Thomas A. Smith, III	Brevard	NC	South East

Lastly, if you have changed your mailing address, email address or phone number, PLEASE convey these revisions to me via [unitedstates.membership@clan-macpherson.org](mailto:unitedstates.membership@clan-macpherson.org) or 972-989-2783. It is important this information is kept up to date so that you will continue to receive your CMA publications.

It is a pleasure to serve as your Membership Secretary.

Le deagh dhurachd,

Kathy

# Sennachie's Scottish History

## William Wallace

By Angus MacPherson

In previous stories, I oft told of Robert The Bruce; this time I'm going to tell you about his contemporary, William Wallace. Most of you are familiar with the name, thanks to the motion picture "Braveheart". Surprisingly, prior to the movie, few had ever heard of this Scottish hero outside of Scotland. Even centuries old monuments to the man had been neglected so that even the Scots were beginning to forget him. By the point of view of a Sennachie, the film is embellished by much old Scottish lore and many modern fictitious plot elements.

(Such as the romantic liaison between Wallace and the wife of Edward II, **Isabella**, pictured right, daughter of Philip IV of France, born in 1295, who would have been about 3 at the time. She married Edward in 1308 when she was 13.) Let me tell you briefly what historians know.

William Wallace was born c. 1270, likely in Ayrshire. His father was Alan Wallace lesser son of a powerful family but not himself a noble. Alan was listed in rolls as a 'crown tenant' in Ayrshire. By today's standards – middle class. William is believed to have been well educated at the local abbey, as was

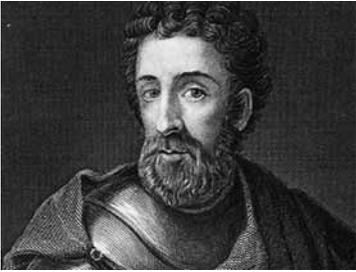


the way for boys of his social status. **(Left) He is always described as a large, powerful man of great height.** Some believe he may have served as an archer in Edward I's army in Wales where he received his military training. Again, a logical career choice for a boy of his class. However, this is speculation based on the bow on William Wallace's personal seal, which exists. It proves William was a bowman however. A true Scottish Robin Hood.



The first written records from Scotland relating his deeds was by "Blind Harry"(c. 1440-1492) an epic poem published by a noted bard of that era (c. 1470). (Note this was 172 years after Falkirk.) This bardic story, was how the history was transmitted in those days. In another early version of the tale we learn of "Marion Braidfoot", the wife whose murder spurs William to turn murderer and outlaw. Another variation has him siring a girl child by Marion. There are no actual contemporary records of her existence or a marriage or a child. Clearly the author of "Braveheart", Randall Wallace had researched the old tales in developing his story, but took plenty of liberties with history for sake of story.

Blind Harry says William's father was Sir Malcolm Wallace of Elderslie, this is now considered an invention. Some still hold to this old account, saying William was born in Elderslie in Renfrewshire. Evidence now indicates his father was Alan, second son of a minor noble family, of which William was a second son, as previously mentioned. Blind Harry also claimed Wallace was 7 feet tall. Modern



estimates say he may have been 6'6". Whether the old oral then bardic written tale is accurate is still open to debate. But what we know for sure is this.

Official records show he killed **William de Heselrig the English High Sheriff of Lanark** (pictured left) in May of 1297, and became an outlaw. Some say William was already on the wrong side of the law, already part of the growing rebellion. Rebellions were common in Scotland

during that period after the English occupation of Scotland following the death of King Alexander III in 1286. Wallace was soon leading a band of rebels who eventually linked up with William 'The Hardy', Lord of Douglas and Andrew Moray, the rebellious nobles', armies. Wallace became the top field commander of the army, and conducted several successful engagements with the English at Scone and Ancrum.

On 11 September 1297 the Scottish Army under Wallace and Andrew Moray met the English Army under John de Warenne, 6th Earl of Surry, at Sterling Bridge. In those days, the bridge was a wooden structure built on stone pylons, and was very narrow. The existing old stone bridge you see in pictures was built centuries later at a different location. Anyway, the Scots allowed about 1000 English cavalry and some infantry to cross before attacking suddenly. The English, caught on

boggy ground, unable to maneuver and without further reinforcements, were slaughtered. **It is reported the bridge finally collapsed under the weight of retreating Englishmen** (illustrated right). Hugh Cressingham, Edward's High Treasurer for Scotland was killed at the battle and legend tells Wallace had a baldric for his sword made from Hugh's skin.



After the victory at Sterling, Wallace and Moray were made Guardians of Scotland. However, Andrew Moray died soon after from injuries suffered at the battle, leaving William Wallace as the sole Guardian. Wallace then led raids into Northumberland and Cumberland slaughtering numerous innocent English, and committing horrendous war crimes according to English chronicles. How much of the biased English reports of his barbarity were accurate or hyperbola we cannot tell. We can be certain that it was rather unpleasant for all who encountered the enraged Scots.

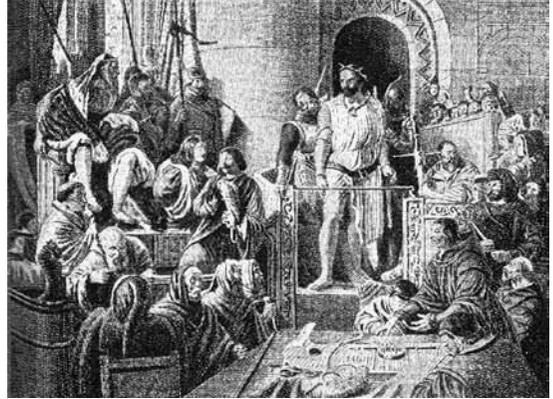
Upon his return to Scotland Wallace was knighted by the Scottish Earls in Selkirk. In April 1298, Edward I led the English Army north to re-capture Scotland. After a few months of cat and mouse campaigning, eventually they caught up with Wallace's Scottish Army at Falkirk on 22 July 1298.

The Scots, using the schiltron tactics Wallace is credited in developing, prepared for the usual cavalry charge for which the English were famous. But Edward had

brought thousands of Welsh archers, by which to overcome the emplaced Scots. This new tactic worked well and became the standard for the English army for the next hundred years. The Light Scottish cavalry retreated leaving the infantry to be slaughtered. Wallace escaped, but ten thousand Scots were killed.

Following the defeat, Wallace resigned the Guardianship to Robert The Bruce (Earl of Carrick) and John III Comyn (Lord of Badenoch). Shortly thereafter, Wallace traveled to Europe and engaged in diplomatic overtures to the French court and the Pope on behalf of Scotland. He is known to be in France in 1300 and believed to have returned to Scotland by 1304, where it is said he participated in the fighting at Haprew and Earnside.

Wallace was by this time, England's most wanted individual. He was betrayed by John de Menteith, a Scottish Knight, who William believed was loyal to Scotland, but was in fact a paid spy for Edward, "Hammer of the Scots". Wallace was captured on 5 August 1305 and taken to London, briefly imprisoned in The Tower, taken to Westminster Hall for trial (23 August 1305) and execution. **(Right) A depiction of his trial.** His defense was that



he was not a "traitor" since he never declared loyalty to Edward. This defense did not sway the English court and the verdict was swift and the sentence of death carried out immediately.

Even today, centuries later, his story inspires Scottish Nationalism and patriotism in native Scots as well as we dispersed descendants of Alba.

## Hunting or Photo Safari in Africa or Canada



Contact Xerxes Herrington  
Phone: 703-341-9588  
email: [xerxes.zeno@gmail.com](mailto:xerxes.zeno@gmail.com)

# The US Branch Clan Calendar

Please direct material for any new events or for any event changes to the Editor.  
Material may be emailed to [georgemcphrsn@aol.com](mailto:georgemcphrsn@aol.com).

## October 2019

### **Southeast Region**

October 5 Scotland Country Highland Games, John Blue Home & Historical Complex, Laurinburg, NC  
[www.schgnc.org](http://www.schgnc.org)

### **Mid-Atlantic Region**

October 5 & 6 Chesapeake Celtic Festival, Furnace Town Living History Museum, Snow Hill, MD  
[www.celticfest.net](http://www.celticfest.net)  
Convener: Needed

### **US Branch Annual General Meeting & Gathering**

October 10 – 15 Dunedin, Florida  
[www.clan-macpherson.org/us](http://www.clan-macpherson.org/us)  
Conveners: Bonnie & George McPherson

### **Midwest Region**

October 12 Indianapolis Highland Games, German Park, Indianapolis, IN  
[www.indyscotgamesandfest.com](http://www.indyscotgamesandfest.com)  
Conveners: Lorraine Murdock, Jon Scott Smith, Rob and Kim Haggerty

### **Pacific South Region**

October 12 & 13 Seaside Highland Games  
Seaside Park, Ventura, CA  
[www.seaside-games.com](http://www.seaside-games.com)  
Conveners: Annie & Rod Shrekengost

### **New England Region**

October 13 Scotland Connecticut Highland Games  
96 Waldo Road, Scotland CT  
[www.scotlandgames.org](http://www.scotlandgames.org)  
Convener: Needed

### **Southeast Region**

October 18 – 20 Stone Mountain Highland Games  
Stone Mountain Park, Atlanta GA  
[www.smhg.org](http://www.smhg.org)  
Conveners: Don & Dodie McPherson

## November 2019

### **Southeast Region**

November 1 – 3 Sycamore Shoals Celtic Festival, Sycamore Shoals, TN  
[www.sycamoreshoalstn.org](http://www.sycamoreshoalstn.org)  
Conveners: Bill and June McPherson

### **Southeast Region**

November 2 Charleston Scottish Games Boone Hall Plantation, Mt. Pleasant, SC  
[www.charlestonscots.org](http://www.charlestonscots.org)

### **Southeast Region**

November 2 Murray Highland Festival Murray City Park, Murray, KY  
[www.murraykyhighlandgames.com/](http://www.murraykyhighlandgames.com/)

### **Pacific Central Region**

November 1 – 3 Moab "Scots On The Rocks" Celtic Festival, Moab, UT  
[www.scotsontherocksmoab.com](http://www.scotsontherocksmoab.com)

### **Pacific South Region**

November 1 – 3 Tucson Celtic Festival & Scottish Highland Games  
Rillito Raceway Park, Tucson, AZ  
[www.tucsoncelticfestival.org](http://www.tucsoncelticfestival.org)

### **Southwest Region**

November 8 – 10 Salado Clan Gathering & Highland Games  
Civic Center, Salado, TX  
[www.saladomuseum.org](http://www.saladomuseum.org)  
Conveners: Bruce & Kathy Sterba

### **Southeast Region**

November 16 & 17 Mount Dora Highland Games  
**Clan Macpherson is the honored clan.**  
Downtown, Mount Dora, FL  
Conveners: George & Bonnie McPherson

## December 2019

### Pacific Central Region

December 7 Scots Candlelight Christmas Walk, Volcano, CA

[www.motherlodescots.com](http://www.motherlodescots.com)

### Southeast Region

December 7 Clan Macpherson Christmas Party, Invitations Will Be Sent

Hosted by Bonnie & George McPherson

### Southwest Region

December 7 Clan Macpherson Christmas Party

From Across The Pond (restaurant), North Richland Hills, TX

Hosted by Bruce & Kathy Sterba

## January 2020

### Southeast Region

January 18 & 19 Central Florida Highland Games

Winter Springs, FL

[www.flascot.com](http://www.flascot.com)

Conveners: George & Bonnie McPherson

## February 2020

### Southeast Region

February 1 Sarasota Highland Games Sarasota Fairgrounds, Sarasota, FL

[www.sarasotahighlandgames.com](http://www.sarasotahighlandgames.com)

Convener: Needed

### Pacific South Region

February 16 & 17 Queen Mary Scotfest At the Queen Mary, Long Beach, CA

[www.queenmary.com/events/scotsfestival](http://www.queenmary.com/events/scotsfestival)

Conveners: Dave & Corkie MacPherson

### Southeast Region

February 24 Northeast Florida Highland Games

Clay County Fairgrounds

Green Cove Springs, FL

[www.neflgames.com](http://www.neflgames.com)

Conveners: Tim & Laurie Christie

## March 2020

### Pacific Central Region

March 6 – 8 Sonora Celtic Faire Motherlode Fairgrounds, Sonora, CA

[www.sonoracelticfaire.com](http://www.sonoracelticfaire.com)

Conveners: Ken & Carolyn Croker

### Southeast Region

March 7 Southeast Florida Highland Games

Snyder Park, Ft Lauderdale, FL

[www.sassf.org](http://www.sassf.org)

Convener: Needed

### Southeast Region

March 7 & 8 Panama City Scottish Festival

Frank Brown Park, Panama City, FL

[www.pcbeachscotfestival.com](http://www.pcbeachscotfestival.com)

Convener: Needed

### Southeast Region

March 14 & 15 St Augustine Celtic Music Festival

Francis Field, St Augustine, FL

[www.celticstaugustine.com](http://www.celticstaugustine.com)

Conveners: George & Bonnie McPherson

# Regional Reports

## Northeast Region

By Donald McPherson Gentile

Greetings Cousins,

The Alleghany County Celtic Festival in Western New York is the first event for our Region on June 1. Graham and Debby Gillespie were the Conveners.

Next, June 15 was the Day of Scots located on the grounds of Fort Ticonderoga. This event honors the men of the 42nd Highland regiment (The Black Watch), who fought in the bloody battle to capture the fort from the French forces on July 8, 1758. The Black Watch was the only regiment to breach the defensive ditch-works, known as the "French Lines". The 42nd held their position but were recalled as the British decided to retreat, after six hours of fighting, 645 brave Scotsmen were either killed or wounded. Combined losses of the entire British force was estimated at 2,000. History has recorded that the defeat of the British in this battle was due to poor generalship on the part of their commanding general, James Abercrombie. He was a political appointment. His forces numbered close to 16,000 troops, as compared to the French, who had a mere 3,500 all totaled. His biggest mistake was to make a full frontal assault on the fort without the use of artillery. Order in the ranks broke to chaos, and panic set in and a mass retreat began. They dropped



everything and ran, leaving the dead where they fell. The true significance of this battle was the bravery of the Black Watch penetrating the French lines and holding their position. This they could do for only a short time, they needed support from the rest of the army who was too busy running from the field like a bunch of frightened birds.

The wreath laying ceremony is a solemn affair. It starts with Clans and spectators led by a

pipe band, this year it was the Plattsburg Police Pipe band, up the road about a mile in length to the stone cairn. The cairn contains stones from 36 districts in Scotland signifying that the Black Watch was made up with 36 different Clans. Clan MacPherson's stone came from the front garden of the MacPherson Clan Museum in Newtonmore. A second stone was collected from the top of Mt. Marcy, the highest peak in the New York State; 5,344 ft. This stone was contributed by C. Peter McPherson Fish, Keen, New York.

The Dundee Scottish Festival, July 13 at Dundee, New York with Graham and Debbie Gillespie and Ryan Smith as Conveners.

On July 20, Chuck Alsdorf and I filled in for Angus MacPherson at the Glasgow Lands Scottish Festival in Northampton, Mass. at Look Park. This is a grand place to have a Scottish event. This park has open and wooded areas, babbling brooks, and covered bridges. The weather was very hot, temps. were approaching

100 degrees. I guess it was better than rain. We had many cousins and visitors at the tent. A very good turnout indeed.



**(Pictured left) Alex MacPherson, Don Gentile McPherson, Graham & Debby Gillespie, and Larry Ellis.**

On a final note my appreciation goes out to Sandy Ellis for getting this report computer ready. Both Sandy and Larry are a great aid to me in our Scottish Games. Graham and Debby Gillespie are the Stalwarts of Western and Central New York, without them there would be no coverage at all.

My deepest appreciation to you

both. I salute Chuck Alsdorf, my sidekick and friend for all the hard work he has given me.

Well cousins, I wish you all a good rest of the summer and hope to see many of you in the upcoming Scottish Games.

Slainte,

Donald MacPherson Gentile

## **Southeast Region**

### **Greenville Scottish Games & Highland Festival, May 24 & 25, 2019**

**by Debra Jones, Pamela Smith**

The 15th annual Greenville Scottish Games & Highland Festival 'Gallabrae', was held Memorial Day weekend, May 24 -25, 2019 in downtown Greenville, SC and at Furman University, Travelers Rest, SC. The unseasonably hot weather did not deter our hardy Scots from supporting and attending the weekend's planned events.

On Friday evening in downtown Greenville, The Great Scot! Parade was led the Game's Honor Guard - eight (8) select members from The Royal Highland Fusiliers (2SCOTS). Sixty-four (64) groups participated in the parade and included celebrities, bands, floats, and marchers. **(Next page) Our Macphersons were led by Josh Smith, our Parade Coordinator, his wife, Christin, daughter, Alice and Cousin Amy Robinson.** It's great to have representation in the parades again. Josh has volunteered to coordinate our participation in the parades for 2020.

On Saturday May 25th, 41 Clans marched in the Opening Ceremonies. Honored Chief of the Games was, Lieutenant Colonel D C Close (Campbell), Commanding Officer, The Royal Highland Fusiliers 2nd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of



Scotland (2 SCOTS). We were also honored to have the Drum Major of the 2 SCOTS Pipes and Drums in attendance. The Military Tribute honored the military forces of the United States and Scotland. All veterans in attendance were given special recognition. Parachutists dropped onto the main field carrying flags of the U.S., Scotland, Great Britain, and the SC National Guard.

2019 was the third year Pamela's authentic Scottish shortbreads and oatmeal cookies along with the recipes have been offered. They certainly draw a crowd. Several visitors recalled the flavor of these special cookies

from the previous three (3) years and stopped by just to have another taste or two...or three. **(Right) Pamela Smith takes care of the tent during the parade.** Many cousins were very interested in learning more about the ancient history of Clan Macpherson.

Overall, the weekend was fun, educational, and we Macphersons enjoyed the company of our Cousins, both old and new. We look forward to the 2020 Gallabrae.



## **Southeast Region 64th Grandfather Mountain Highland Games By Bill & June McPherson**

These are truly games like no others. With the opening ceremonies on Thursday Night, Tom McPherson gave the call for Clan Macpherson, as part of the calling of the clans, the torch light ceremony. With 3 days of events, is plenty to enjoy.

We Welcomed lots of "first timer" and a couple of new members, Claudia Wilson Anderson (membership) and her husband Keith and William Cody Brinkley (life member).



**(Left) We had a great crowd to march in the Parade of Tartans on Sunday.** We missed some of our "regulars" that we normally see here, but look forward to seeing them next year.

**(Next page) We had large crowds all three days** and the weather cooperated to make it a fun weekend.



Fantastic Music and top-notch athletes, a marathon that runs the Mountain roads from down near Boone and finishing on the field as well as “The Bear” a 5 mile footrace that climbs 1568 in elevation from Linville to the summit of Grandfather Mountain.

The MacPherson tents were convened by several generations

of the JT and Lucy McPherson family as they have been doing for many years. Thanks to all the people that visited with us and the generations of family that helped convene the Macpherson tent, and make this year’s games a great event. Looking forward to the next one.

Thank You,  
Bill and June McPherson

**Southeast Region  
Lake Norman Highland Games  
By Bill & June McPherson**

Greetings,

The 2019 Lake Norman Games were held on April 12th thru 14th In Historic Rural Hill NC. The weekend started out with “wee bit of Scottish Mist” and cancelled the Opening Ceremonies. These are fun games to attend, good crowds, good food, great athletics and amazing music. We visited with a lot of Macpherson cousins and visited with



all of our Scottish friends.

Thanks to Marty McMahan for helping us get set up and helping out with the tent. **(Above) Catie Crain was awesome as always, full of information to help people as they try to find their Scottish connection.** Looking forward to these games in 2020, don’t miss it!

**(Left) Marty McMahan, Catie Crain, June McPherson and Bill McPherson.**



**Southeast Region  
Tartan Day  
By Bill & June McPherson**

Greetings,

On April the 6th the Upper East Tennessee Celtic Society held it's Tartan Day celebration at the Tipton-Haynes Historic Site in Johnson City TN.

We had nice weather and a good crowd. It is always nice to help, we had a couple that stopped by and said they weren't Scottish, so we started asking them questions and checking old family names and found out that they were way more Scottish then they ever knew. We are looking forward to the upcoming festival Sept 13th and 14th. **(Pictured above) June and Bill McPherson.**



**Rocky Mountain Region  
By Ruthe McPherson**

Summer is finally in Colorado. In June I was off to Cheyenne for their "new" games. We had more clans in attendance this year, but it was cold with a brisk north breeze. Again, it was long-johns weather on Saturday.

The tent lay-out was better this year with the clans set between the athletics and the center stage. My time was spent greeting a few Macphersons and answering questions from children getting their passports stamped.

The weather sent the guests home early when two rounds of hail swept through. Overnight rain soaked everything.

Sunday was a bit slow and only saw one Macpherson, a long chat which I hope was productive. Would like to see more members from Northern Colorado at these games. Entrance is FREE.

Elizabeth Games started out in the middle of a heat wave. Denver had 100 degrees F. Clan tents are on a hill with tall pines, so we catch every breeze so kept cool. This year we had over 40 clans. It's great to re-connect with old friends and make some new.

Saturday was well attended with folks from the farming communities as well as Colorado Springs and Denver. The few Macphersons who showed strong interest in the clan. Hope they join.

There's plenty to do at this event: heavy athletics, sheepherding, reenactors from the Norse & Romans through the Civil War, a large children's play area, Highland Dancing, entertainment on two stages, and vendors who sell mainly Celtic items. All this and not very expensive.

I would like to see more members from the Denver area show up.

The tent is YOURS. Bring lunch (or try some good Celtic food) and a chair. You'll have a place to "park yourself" and chat as well.

As of this writing I will be off to Edgewater – first weekend in August. Then, the weekend after Labor Day I will be returning to Estes Park for the Longs Peak Games.

## Southwest Region By Bruce Sterba

Greetings Cousins,

In their infinite wisdom, the organizers of the Texas Scottish Festival & Highland Games again scheduled the event over the Mother's Day weekend (May 10-12). Based on our 2018 experience, this conflict really hurts the Sunday attendance. I reiterated my displeasure to the ones in charge, and as our form of protest, we only convened on Friday and Saturday. Kathy really appreciated having Sunday free to enjoy the day with her family. I apologize to any cousins that came on Sunday and couldn't find the CMA tent. **It turned out that Saturday was a red-letter day for recruiting! We enrolled Hearld**



**Gillespie from Decatur, TX as an Annual member and Hailey McPherson from Prosper, TX as a Life member.** Hailey is the second child of Franklin McPherson that went from being a Junior member directly to Life. If you recall, his son, Garrett, upgraded last year.

Since my last report, there have also been 5 new Annual members who joined via the CMA website. They were: Steve Spowls from Fort Worth, TX; Paula Murdock from Haltom City, TX; Debbye Spowls from Haltom City, TX; Kimberly McPherson and her son, Zachary McPherson, both from Watauga, TX. I look forward to meeting Kimberly and Zachary at the AGM in Dunedin, FL, and the other new members at an upcoming CMA event- hopefully our Christmas party!

For all members in the Houston area, please be advised the Houston Highland Games has been rescheduled for September 21. It will only be a one-day event, and the new venue is the Humble Civic Center and Arena at 8233 Will Clayton Pkwy, Humble, TX. It is my understanding the clan and vendor area is under roof so inclement weather should not be a problem. At this time, no CMA convener is available.

Next up is the AGM in Dunedin, FL and Conveners, George and Bonnie McPherson, have planned what sounds like a truly unique six-day event. We plan to partake in everything except the deep-sea fishing excursion and micro-brewery tour. Kathy and I are running again for re-election as Membership Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. However, we are both looking for an assistant with the understanding that they will assume our positions in 2 years. If anyone is interested, please contact us for more information. Remember the CMA will only stay viable if all its members participate and get involved!

The following is a list of the upcoming Scottish events where Kathy and I will be hosting:

- Sept. 13-15, SCOTFEST, Chisholm Trail South Park, Broken Arrow, OK
- Nov. 8-10, Scottish Gathering & Highland Games, Civic Center, Salado TX

- Dec. 7, Christmas Dinner and Party, From Across the Pond, North Richland Hills, TX
  - Jan. 18, 2020, Robert Burns Memorial Supper, St. Mark's Church, Arlington, TX
- Please mark your calendars and join us if at all possible. I will be sending out email reminders with RSVPs prior to the Christmas and Robert Burns dinners. Lastly, Kathy and I want to wish everyone and their families a very Happy Thanksgiving.

Best regards,  
Bruce

## **Pacific North Region**

### **By R. T. McPherson**

We have made it through our summer and what a great summer it was. I'm hoping your summer in the Pacific North West was great as well. We have had a little chatter here at the games, but the social gatherings have been quite enjoyable, seeing old friends as well as CMA members that venture out.

We visited the Tacoma Games in Graham Washington. Chatted with two CMA members and various personal friends. **(Right) We even had the excitement to see our friend's 5-year-old daughter Katelynn McGuire debut in Highland dancing** before leaving on a voyage on the Lady Washington out of the Port of Tacoma.

Since our last article we have traveled around Washington to the newly named Bellingham Games in Ferndale WA near Blain and the Canadian border. They have downsized to a one-day event but are keeping the games on the 1st weekend in June. The vendors and Clan tents were very few in numbers as many of those from the past events just didn't hear of the events return.

We were not able to visit the Mt. Vernon or Portland games due to hiking and kayaking trips scheduled in advance prior to these games and being short on hands to assist with manning those tents.

The Pacific Northwest Highland Games in Enumclaw Washington had a great turn out this year. We were able to visit only Saturday but met up with a minimum of 21 CMA members. Socializing with all the members, family and friends from around the region made the day go by very fast. We were able to see many familiar vendors and musicians, especially David Brewer and Rebecca Lomnicky of *The Fire*. David is also with the Group Molly's Revenge that many of you may remember. We attempted to convince William and Marion Paul of Kerr's Imports to join us at the Florida AGM. They are marking their calendar as a hopeful destination because they were missed at the Portland AGM in 2018.

We had to cut our visit short to the Enumclaw games due to us leaving for the Annual meeting in Kingussie Scotland. This was Colleens first trip traveling across the pond. We hit the ground running and didn't stop until we flew home 8 days later. We visited every place between Kingussie and Blairgowrie. From here it's to Florida for our 2019 AGM.

We hope you have enjoyed your summer. Don't forget please send me any stories and pictures of your adventures that you would like to share with the association. We are sure Kathy & George would be happy to publish your stories



in the *Urlars*. We would all really like to see you at the AGM this year October 10th-15th in Dunedin Florida. Please come and join in the fun!

**Pacific Central Region  
By Kathy McPherson**

Always enjoy the beginning of what I call the second half of Games & Festival season. After a long summer break, we start back up with the Monterey Games. It's always nice on the coast and everyone is so excited getting back to the Games and seeing everyone.

**(Pictured right) Scott & Gina MacPherson, Pam Johnson, Kathy & Dave McPherson, and Heather & Steve English.**



Our banner was just created and received in the mail just the night before. The local news came by and this is the tent they chose to capture in their story!

**Pacific Central Region  
154th Annual Pleasanton Games  
By Kathy McPherson**

What an incredible weekend at the 154th annual games put on by the SF Caledonian Club. This is huge with competitors from afar and so many musicians, dancers, & vendors. Seems the reenactment groups are getting to be larger too.

These games have around 90 clan tents. The Chattan Confederation clans are always grouped near each other which brings together a great group of comrades.



The Macpherson clan had six tents. The middle two is to accommodate the meet and great area with our various Macpherson & Scottish décor and information.

The second tent contains our shirts for sale and our tables of raffle items that many bring in and donate each day. This draws quite the crowd!

The third tent is for the food and drink spread. We supply drinks and sandwich makings, and many bring whatever they fancy. At temperatures in the mid 90's the water is a grateful necessity.

**(Previous page) This brings together an amazing clan group each year that always feels like a big yearly family reunion.**

**(Right) Cora, the oldest of a gaggle of kids taking a turn being a fierce and proud Macpherson!**



After Pleasanton, we have a few more very nice games and festivals on the calendar:

- Sept. 21st: Fresno Highland Gathering & Games @ Kearney Park  
Conveners: Gina & Scott MacPherson
- Sept. 28th: Scottish Games: Dixon @ Dixon Fairgrounds  
Conveners: Karyl & Ken Clark
- Oct 12th & 13th: Escalon Scottish Games @ Hogan Ennis Field  
Conveners: Gina & Scott MacPherson
- 1st weekend in Dec: Candle Light Christmas Walk @ Volcano, CA  
Mother Lode Scots

Dave and I hope to see many of you out at the games this year.

Cheers,

Kathy

## **Pacific South Region By Art Gillespie**

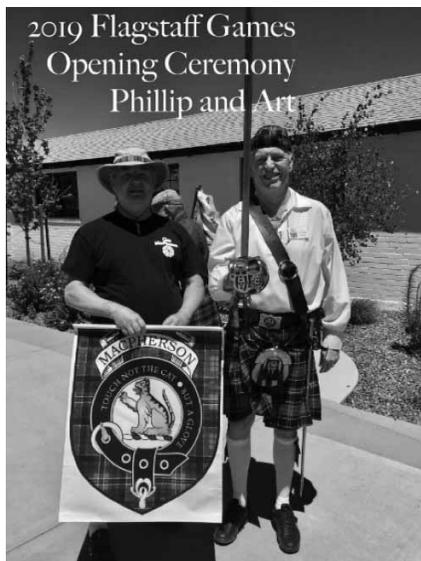
Welcome everyone to the Arizona Clan MacPherson update. We just finished the NACHS Arizona Highland Celtic Festival in Flagstaff 20-21 July 2019. As always, we had a great time in the new location at Ft Tuthill Flagstaff, the weather was near perfect. Of course, we met lots of new folks and renewed some old ones. Since a "Clan" is a family it is like a giant family reunion, lots of great food, amazing sporting competitions, and fun vendors. I would like to thank Phillip Gilles for joining us once again at the opening parade. Everyone is always invited to opening parades at all three locations, Phoenix, Tucson, and Flagstaff. A chance to wear your Scottish finery or just come as you are and proudly represent the clan. We can also use help with setup and tear down to those with the time and ability. Membership in the clan is encouraged, see <https://www.clan-macpherson.org/us/>.

The next games are the Prescott Highland Games 14-15 September 2019. Sadly we are unable to attend, but that doesn't mean you can't go to <https://prescottareacelticsociety.com/> for more information.

The final games of the year in Arizona will be the Tucson Celtic Festival and Scottish Highland Games **includes 19th Annual Scottish Master's Athletics Heavy Events World Championship** 1-3 November 2019. Here is their link: <http://tucsoncelticfestival.org/>.

Our last event of the year is The Clan Macpherson Association, US Branch, Annual General Meeting (AGM), October 10-15, 2019, Dunedin, Florida. Now is the time to get reservations go to <https://www.clan-macpherson.org/us> and click on Special Events. Look forward to seeing you there, if you plan on coming let me know and we can meet there.

Art Gillespie, 520-206-0119



### **Pacific South Region Costa Mesa Games By Anne Schrekengost**

The Costa Mesa Games were the last weekend in May, and we had a great turnout, in spite of being at the very end of Clan Row. Weather held up, and we had help, from some regulars, and met new cousins. On Sunday, started a little

slow, and had a small burst of rainfall but, that didn't deter anyone from coming. We met some cousins from Scotland, that live down the road from our beloved Clan Chief, Sir Cluny! One of the highlights of the weekend is when they salute the Armed Forces, and those who served, and those are serving, and those who have gone. It's very moving and you are reminded of the sacrifices these brave men and women made



us free! **Pictured above, Mary, Rose, Jeff, Nancy, and Kathy McPherson.** They had a great time at our tent, and were happy to see us represented.

## CLAN MACPHERSON or CLANN MHUIRICH



- Chief:** The Honorable Sir William Alan Macpherson of Cluny and Blairgowrie, TD
- His Heir:** James Brodie Macpherson (by Tanistry).
- Clan Country:** Badenoch, the upper reaches of Strathearn and Strathnairn, and parts of old Castlelands of Inverness, and the Lordship of Pettie.
- Slogan (War-cry):** CREAG DHUBH CHLANN CHATAIN!  
The Black Rock of Clanchattan!  
(A reference to Creag Dhubh, a 2,350-foot hill which marks the boundary between upper and lower Badenoch.)
- Followers:** The Cattanachs, MacGilchynichs, (MacKenzies)\*, Clarks, Davidsons, Gillies, MacIntyres, and MacGregors in Badenoch; and certain families called MacVurich, MacMurrich, Macurrach or other variants of MacMhurich \*Not to be confused with the Clan MacKenzie of Northern Scotland.
- Plant Badge:** Sprig of white heather, boxwood, or whortelberry.
- Crest Badge:** The wildcat which forms the crest of the chief's coat of arms, within a strap and buckle bearing his motto: "Touch not the cat but a glove" (in Gaelic, "Na bean do'n chat gun lamhainn").
- Tartans:**
1. "Clan Macpherson" (red).
  2. "Hunting Macpherson" (grey).
  3. "Dress Cluny" (White).
  4. A variant of "Clan Chattan" or Cattanach".
- Clan Pipe Music:**
- Gathering:** Creag Dhubh Chlann Chatain (The Black Rock of Clanchattan)
- March:** 'Sfheudar dhomhfhinn a bhifalddhach aidh direach (I must myself be going home directly) more familiar in the Lowlands of Scotland as "Macpherson's Rant".
- Salute:** Failte Loch Duthaich (Welcome to Loch Duich)
- Lament:** Cumha Chlunaigh (Lament for Cluny Macpherson)

# Application for Membership 2019

## Clan Macpherson Association - United States Branch

[www.clan-macpherson.org/us](http://www.clan-macpherson.org/us)

I Wish to Become a Member of the Clan Macpherson Association\*

- |                          |                        |                       |          |
|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Regular Member         | (Annual Payment)      | \$ 50.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Life Member            | (Single Payment)      | TBD      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Junior Member under 18 | (One-time Payment) ♦♦ | \$ 20.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Renewal MBR # _____    | (Annual Payment)      | \$ 50.00 |

Please Print Your Application Information In Capital Letters.

First Name	MI	Last Name
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Address	City	State	Zip Code
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E-Mail Address	Clan Macpherson Green Initiative!
	<input type="checkbox"/> Check if you wish Printed <i>Urlar</i>

Home Telephone	Cell Phone	Date of Birth
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\*To qualify you can be a direct descendant of someone with a Clan Macpherson surname, either through your father or your mother. You can be a spouse of someone eligible and a member. You can be child of a member and become a junior member if under 18. Or if you are not eligible in one of these categories you can write a letter to our Chief, Sir William Macpherson requesting permission to join. If your surname is not Macpherson or one of the Clan associated families (any spelling), please state your grounds for claiming Clan Membership. (Grandfather was McPherson) All who are seeking membership are welcomed. Please feel free to ask for assistance to write your letter.

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♦♦Adult sponsor must remain current with their annual dues until the Junior turns 18 years old.

**OVER**

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**OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS**  
**Past Chairmen of the United States Branch**

1974 - 1976	Robert B. Macpherson .....	(Deceased)
1977 - 1984	W. Monroe Macpherson .....	(Deceased)
1985 - 1986	Herbert T. Armitt .....	(Deceased)
1987 - 1988	Roderick W. Clarke.....	(Deceased)
1989 - 1991	Kevin Rand Gillespie .....	(Deceased)
1992 - 1994	Larry McPherson .....	6227 Winter Run Drive SE, Ada, MI 49301
1995 - 1996	Richard T. Carson.....	(Deceased)
1997 - 1999	Robert G. McPherson.....	(Deceased)
2000 - 2002	Donald E. McPherson .....	395 Waverly Hall Dr., Roswell, GA 30075
2003 - 2005	William B. Smith .....	(Deceased)
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2007 - 2009	George McPherson .....	500 Sunset Ave., Umatilla, FL 32784
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