

the clan macleod magazine



No. 130 April 2020



the clan macleod magazine

Associated Clan MacLeod Societies



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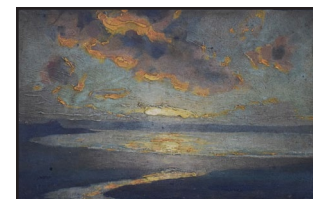
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Cover photo: 'The Studio' by William John MacLeod. Courtesy of Barbara Martin, The Studio, Raasay.

The Chief's Letter

Dear Clansfolk,

Despite all the Brexit division and uncertainty here in the UK which culminated in the Brexit themed election last December, Dunvegan Castle and the MacLeod Estate achieved a record-breaking year with just under 180,000 visitors being warmly welcomed through our doors. Part of this success is thanks to Skye becoming a truly global brand and destination of choice for hundreds of thousands of visitors from all over the world. This is due in part to social media and several feature films and promotional pop videos being shot on the island which has extended Skye's digital footprint way beyond geographical boundaries. If people don't know anything else about Scotland, they will likely have heard of Edinburgh, kilts and the Isle of Skye. Since 2008, our strategy has focused on aligning our market share with the increasing numbers of people who flock over the Sea to Skye and it appears to be working.

The icing on the cake at the tail end of our most successful season in our 800 year history, was winning our first high profile UK award last year, the 2019 Historic Houses Restoration Award sponsored by Sotheby's. This award rightly recognised the fantastic MacLeod Estate team who work so hard behind the scenes to make the impossible possible. This has been a team effort in every sense, and I am very proud of what we have achieved against all the odds. If I had gone to a bank in 2009 with a ten-year business plan saying that this was what we were going to accomplish by 2019, it would have been dismissed as fanciful or borderline insane. A bank would never have believed what the MacLeod Estate has managed to achieve over the last ten years with such limited resources. All the restoration works we have undertaken at Dunvegan have been largely accomplished in-house, with the help of a fantastic team of dedicated external contractors.

One of ingredients of the Estate's success story has been our consistent reinvestment of the seasonal fruits of our labours back into improving the visitor experience across the board. During winter (2018-19), we undertook major restoration works to the Castle's

gun court and Sea Gate rendering it safely accessible to visitors, we employed specialist masons to lime render the Fairy Tower and we added a large viewing screen in the corridor adjacent to the Chief's bedroom along with a reinforced glass platform over the Dungeon pit to improve the visibility of these wonderful medieval interiors, we refurbished the South Wing bathrooms and laid a new solid oak floor in the North Room, the Chief's bedroom, the 1st floor Entrance Hall galleries and turret rooms which were also re-decorated. In the gardens, we introduced more child friendly attractions with a new kids' Wild Wood Trail in the bluebell wood and a rotating 2.7 tonne giant Carrara marble sculpture in the Walled Garden we call 'The Dunvegan Pebble', which proved to be a huge hit with children and adults alike. We also made some further infrastructure improvements at Glenbrittle Campsite & Cafe, the St Kilda Shop was given a facelift and relaunched and further



Chief Hugh receives the award from Harry Dalmeny, Senior Director and UK Chair of Sotheby's.

improvements were made to our holiday cottages portfolio which is now available to be booked online via our website. All this hard work and investment contributed to the Estate retaining our coveted five star visitor attraction grading from VisitScotland and meeting the high expectations of our visitors.

All this investment in Dunvegan Castle and the MacLeod Estate does cost a lot of money so if any Clansfolk would like to contribute to our ongoing mission to preserve, develop and share our unique heritage, please apply for our Friends of Dunvegan membership on our website and/or you can make a donation to the dedicated estate account (below). All donations will be gratefully received because there remain many vital repairs and major restoration works to be undertaken. Thank you.

If you would like to keep up to date with all the latest news at Dunvegan, please go to www.dunvegancastle.com/news/ or follow us on our social media platforms.

Hold Fast!

Hugh MacLeod of MacLeod



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President's Address

Peter Macleod

ACMS President



Peter and Wendy showing the tartan on a South Pacific cruise in 2019.

The February ACMS Meeting is usually the main business meeting of the year and consequently it is very long. Representatives from all Clan MacLeod National Societies (except currently inactive South Africa) were represented in person, via Skype or by appointed proxies. In addition, by invitation Clan members from Belgium and Sweden attended. We looked at our aims, our progress and achievements. Thanks to our volunteer officers there is much to report.

The content of our website is being expanded. Our Internet Editor, Emma Halford-Forbes is also working

to give Clan MacLeod a presence on Social Media. The Dame Flora Communications Committee has a project to make back issues of The Clan MacLeod Magazine available to view via the internet or purchase as 'Print on Demand' paper copies. The project is going well but will take another year to complete.

Our Merchandise range is being re-vamped. Increased Postal Charges have made the sale of some items via mail order unviable. Merchandising Manager, Tammie Vawter, is exploring new products and new sources.

Planning our next Clan Parliament is underway. Coordinator, Rory McLeod has advised the dates, 23rd to 30th July 2022. An optional Pre-Parliament Tour, probably to Mull and Iona is being researched.

The February ACMS weekend is not all work and business. On Friday 14th, clansfolk enjoyed evening meals together and afterwards, a showing of the DVD MacLeod Music at The Royal Scots Club. Saturday evening saw over 50 gather at Royal Scots for The Clan MacLeod Society of Scotland Annual Dinner. A wonderful night with toasts, short speeches and great fellowship.

The weekend was a busy time, but I left Edinburgh with a feeling of accomplishment for what was achieved and satisfaction in knowing our bonds of clanship are flourishing all around the world.

Back home, in Australia, our Highland Games Season is starting. Although much less intense than the Games Season of the USA we have similarities. The Games offer a chance to meet clansfolk and recruit new members. We can immerse ourselves in Scottish culture and renew friendships with like minded folk. Clan MacLeod is prominent at many of these Games, and I thank those volunteers who make this possible.

Our Highland Games and Clan Society functions are a great way to stay in touch locally but we also have wider opportunities. Early next year the McLaren Vale Gathering from 14th to 18th April offers a wonderful excuse to visit 'Down Under'. The Gathering can be used as a start or finish to a wider tour but don't forget Australia is a big country so allow yourself plenty of time.

We Shall Hold a Light

Peter Macleod

Editorial

First a special message from the Editorial team about COVID-19/ Coronavirus. The Magazine is being prepared for issue at the same time as the evolving pandemic. Articles may have been written many weeks ago and events are being cancelled as I write. It is a constantly evolving situation. You must therefore not assume that events mentioned will take place as planned. Check with organisers. I pray that the situation does not turn out to be as dire as many fear for our health and economy, but most of all wish you well during the crisis. Stay Safe!

As you may already know, much work is going on behind the scenes in the 'Magazine Department' to improve what might be called 'back room operations'. I contribute to that work but of course concentrate mainly on the content of the Magazine. I usually start with a couple of articles that, for reasons of space, will have been omitted from the previous issue. That leaves many blank pages to be filled, but as if by magic, over the months, copy arrives and interesting stories appear, giving me an embarrassment of riches.

In this issue you can read about travellers from New Zealand going to Raasay and enjoy Steph McLeod's beautiful photographs. Also connected to Raasay, we feature the paintings of William John MacLeod whose work some of you will have seen on exhibition there. We also feature 'medical MacLeods' and a professor of brewing! The Clan can be rightly proud of these great people. Do you know of other worthy MacLeods we might feature?

Also in this issue there is an account of the great weekend that clansfolk enjoyed in and around the lovely city of Brugge in Belgium.

Enjoy the April 2020 issue.

Cha Smailear Mi!

Kevin John Tolmie



The Editor at Edinburgh Castle before the 2017 Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

Gàidhlig ionnsaich!

[Gaalik you-seech] *Learn Gaelic!*

by Caoimhín Iain Tholmaich

Gaelic is of course the language of our ancestors but by the end of the 20th Century it had come to a parlous state. It is currently enjoying a revival, benefitting from the policies of Scottish Governments since the re-establishment of the Scottish Parliament in 1999. A Gaelic language TV Channel, BBC **Alba** [Alapa] (*Scotland*) was launched in 2008. More importantly Gaelic education was expanded with Gaelic immersive classes in all subjects and schools started outside of the **Gàidhealtachd** [Ga-al-tacht] (*Highlands*).

In an occasional series, space permitting, I will introduce you to a few Gaelic words and phrases. Maybe you will be interested to find out more or even, like me, try to learn some Gaelic. I apologise in advance to those in the Clan who know more on the subject than I, in which case your corrections and other contributions are welcomed! There is much information on the internet - search 'Learn Gaelic'. Please be aware Gaelic pronunciation can be very different from English. This is largely because it only uses eighteen letters of the alphabet so familiar sounds are often made by what may seem unusual combinations of letters. Also look out for accents above vowels and hidden vowels. In order to give you some idea how to say words I include a phonetic version in brackets. Try these –

Haló [halo] = Hello/Hi

Ciamar a tha sibh? [kimmer uh ha shiv] = How are you?

Tha gu math [ha goo mah] = fine/good

Ciamar a tha thu fhèin? [kimmer a ha oo hein] = How are you? (in response)

Ceart gu leòr [karsht gu leyawr] = alright/OK

Gu ma bochd [goo ma bochk] = poorly/not good

Tapadh leat [tappuh let] = Thank you

Tìoraidh [cheerey] = Cheerio/ Bye for now

World Gathering 2021

by Alex McLeod

WG21 will offer fellowship, local tours and a time of celebration for all MacLeods. There will be a special focus on the historic connections of the MacLeods of Raasay with South Australia of which we are especially proud.

Location for WG21 is the town of McLaren Vale, centre of South Australia's wine producing region. It is a country town but the suburbs of Adelaide are rapidly approaching. Within a fifteen minute drive from the town centre there are many hotels, motels and self-catering properties. The area's speciality is Bed and Breakfast establishments catering for wine tourist 'getaways'. Wine tourism is a major part of the local economy. There are also many cafes in town and great restaurants around the locality.

McLaren Vale is served by a bus connecting with the railway to Adelaide. Overall there is limited public transport. Clansfolk are advised to have their own or a rental car and car share as much as possible.

Registration is on-line. Pre-ordering of merchandise is encouraged via our website. This will help the organisers ensure that you don't miss out! In order to minimise cash transactions there will be a facility to pay by the Australian eftpos system which accepts Visa and Mastercard.

Please see the provisional programme. Details may change. You can register and order now via our website cmssa.org.au. Check there and on Facebook for updates.

Young MacLeods Gathering 2021

April - South Australia

Calling for all Young MacLeods



Keen to discover MacLeod heritage Down Under?

Enjoy meeting new people?

Looking for an excuse to visit Australia?

Are you attending the Clan MacLeod Gathering - Scotland 2022?

What is Young MacLeods?

Anyone who wants to join in! (18+) Clan MacLeod Societies strive to provide meaningful and age-appropriate social and educational activities for their younger members and friends.

Why?

To keep our Clan alive and future driven. To maintain a world-wide network of friendships. To encourage younger people to attend the Dunvegan Parliament by providing an interim gathering. MacLeod Parliament endorses the Young MacLeods and supports our activities and involvement within the Clan.

South Australia is excited to hold the first Young MacLeods Gathering

The Aussie Gathering will host Young MacLeods with great opportunities to meet and greet new or old acquaintances and reunites people from across the world. (You don't need to be a MacLeod to join in). This will be a week long experience to discover Clan Heritage Down Under and explore the beautiful sights of South Australia. Held in conjunction with 2021 World Gathering - our programme accommodates younger interests, combining with some major activities of the World Gathering 2021.

Some things to look forward to, are:

- MacLeod Ceilidh
- MacLeod Grand Ball
- Moana Sands Conservation & Aboriginal Cultural Coastal Walk
- Urrimbirra Wildlife Park - lookout for those drop bears!
- Adelaide Oval - embrace Aussie Rules Football with a pie & a pint
- McLaren Vale Wineries - enjoy the delicious wine from local vineyards
- Beaches - endless views, walks & waves on South Aussie shores
- City Centre - Adelaide's CBD museums/ art/ shops/ bars/ restaurants etc.
- MacLeods of Raasay Pioneer Sites - bus tour
- MacLeods of Raasay Grave dedication - Adelaide city Cemetery

More information coming: cost, accommodation & defined itinerary.

Any inquiries or expressions of interest please contact

Bron McLeod (South Australia) via email: bron.mcleod@gmail.com

The Young MacLeods' Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/youngmacleods/>



Remembering Them - Staffin's WW2 Air Crash

by Kevin John Tolmie



On Tuesday 3 March 2020 at Staffin on Skye a ceremony took place. It was to commemorate the nine young American airmen who died exactly 75 years before when their B17 'Flying Fortress' crashed into Beinn Edra on their maiden voyage. It was early on a Saturday afternoon and the hills were shrouded in Skye's infamous mist. They were new air crew en route from Lincoln, Nebraska, USA to RAF Valley (Wales), via Iceland. Before their departure they proudly showed family and friends their new plane. Poignantly, girlfriend's names were etched into the fuselage.

BBC News interviewed local man Lachie Gillies. Then aged 14, he saw the plane shortly before the crash and thought to himself "If that plane does not come over more to the left, he is going to hit the hill". Tragically that is what happened. Five years ago, on the 70th anniversary, a commemorative plaque was commissioned and affixed to the existing War Memorial in the village. One of the ministers officiating was our own Rev Dr Rory MacLeod. The men's names joined those of many local men recorded there who had also given their lives in WW2, WW1 and even the Boer War. They are listed under the Gaelic words Gan Cuimhneachadh (Remembering Them). The aircrew were; Pilot: 2/Lt Paul M Overfield Jr, Co-Pilot: 2/Lt Leroy E Cagle, Navigator: 2/Lt Charles K Jeanblanc, Radio Operator: Cpl Arthur W Kopp Jr, Engineer: Cpl Harold D Blue, Gunners: Cpl John H Vaughan, Cpl Harold A Fahselt: Cpl George S Aldrich and Cpl Carter D Wilkinson. Perhaps on your next visit to Skye you will have time to visit the memorial and pay your respects.

A Future Clans Mackenzie and MacLeod Ceilidh

by Peter Macleod

At the 2017 Edinburgh Military Tattoo (EMT) Clan Mackenzie and Clan MacLeod marched through the famous portcullis and onto the Castle Esplanade together. The evening was charged with atmosphere but there was an historic importance to the occasion. Four hundred years ago these two clans had been mortal enemies. MacLeod lands were becoming Mackenzie lands. The Charter from the King of Scots to the MacLeods of Lewis had been forfeited and Mackenzie of Kintail (later, of Seaforth) became the legal owner of the Isle of Lewis. The MacLeods resisted and many battles took place. But, in 1613 the MacLeods finally gave way after the Siege of Berisay (Bearasaigh).

At the EMT some Mackenzies and MacLeods noted that over the centuries there had been no attempt at rapprochement. The initiative from the Mackenzies was to invite the MacLeods to a special Ceilidh at their Clan Gathering to be held on the Isle of Lewis in August this year. The invitation was formally made by Donald Mackenzie, their Events Organiser when he attended our MacLeod Dinner in Edinburgh in February. The Mackenzie Gathering 2020,



like so many other functions, has now been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Meanwhile the two Clans have already come together. In Vancouver, earlier this year Clan Mackenzie was welcomed by Clan MacLeod to a Burns Supper. A joint Mackenzie-MacLeod event was planned in Germany for August, although I suppose this must be now in doubt.

The two clans share the same culture. 'The Time of Feuds and Forays' passed. Peace came to the Highlands. Many Mackenzies and MacLeods became neighbours, living together in crofting communities until the next great upheaval, the Highland Clearances scattered them to the four corners of the World. We share the same migration stories. Our forebears became pioneers in their new lands and contributed mightily to the development and prosperity we see around us today.

There had been considerable planning for the Ceilidh. There was to be a banner parade and shared dram, followed by a barbeque and entertainment with pipers and dancers. The idea of an inter-clan event has not been abandoned, only postponed until present circumstances pass. After waiting over four hundred years for such a rapprochement, nobody can say we are impatient!



Clans MacLeod and Mackenzie assemble before the 'Splash of Tartan' event at Edinburgh Castle 2017.

McLeod Syndrome (and Medical MacLeods)

by Ian Campbell Harris

‘McLeod syndrome’ might well refer to the justified “Proud MacLeod” condition, in having great pride in the Clan heritage, whether from an historical and cultural point of view or a genetic one. However, there is a specific McLeod syndrome that has a distinct disadvantage. It is a rare and incurable genetic disease of the blood. Though by no means peculiar to the blood of MacLeods, the condition is named for one particular McLeod – a young man who in 1961 was studying dentistry at Harvard University in the United States, Hugh McLeod.

Following a blood donation by Hugh, a microscope examination of his red blood cells found that they were “spiky” (acanthocytic), which is now one indication of this X-chromosome genetic disorder that may not only affect the blood but also the heart, the muscles, the peripheral nerves, and the brain. This can lead to various other conditions such as neuropathy, cardiomyopathy and anaemia. Symptoms can include impairment of sensation and movement, breathlessness, tiredness and irregular heartbeat all of which can vary from mild to chronic. There is opinion that England’s infamous King Henry VIII may have had this condition. This could well explain his particular behaviour, and why many of his offspring by different wives and mistresses died prematurely (either before or soon after birth or otherwise early in life), which changed the course of History (with a big ‘H’).

This ‘McLeod syndrome’ is also known as ‘McLeod phenomenon’, but should not to be confused with an unrelated condition with the very similar name of ‘Macleod’s syndrome’, which is a rare lung disorder. It was found in the 1950s by a chest physician in England named William Mathieson Macleod (1911-1977), and at the same time in Canada by another physician, Paul Robert Swyer, and a radiologist, George James. Consequently, the disorder is also known as ‘Swyer-James-Macleod’s syndrome’.

Another Macleod prominent in the field of physiology was a Scottish professor named John James Rickard Macleod (1876-1935), who was even awarded a Nobel Prize in 1923 for his part in the discovery and isolation of insulin. He shared the prize with his Canadian colleague, Frederick Banting.

Yet another notable Macleod was Scottish professor and biochemist Anna McGillivray Macleod (1917-2004), who was the world’s first female Professor of Brewing and Biochemistry.

In the field of genetics, Colin Munro MacLeod (1909-1972) was a Canadian-American (born in Nova Scotia), who with two other scientists discovered that the molecule DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) was responsible for the transformation of bacteria’s physical characteristics, and this would lead to identifying DNA’s role in heredity.

Meanwhile, John George Macleod (1915-2006), elder brother of Anna above, was a doctor who authored medical textbooks.

Finally, I should mention that a ‘McLeod gauge’ is a scientific instrument to measure very low pressures (now largely rendered obsolete by electronic gauges). It was invented in 1874 by English chemist, Herbert McLeod (1841-1923).

X-linked recessive inheritance

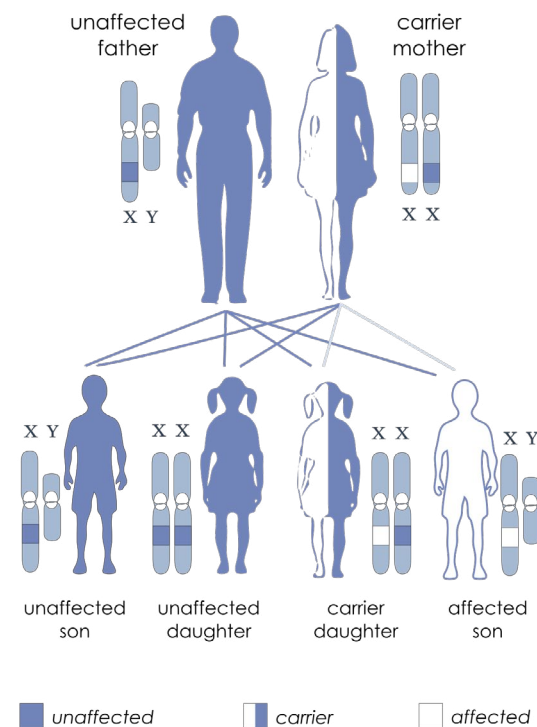


Diagram showing how the McLeod syndrome genetic disorder may be passed from parent to child.

Anna MacGillivray Macleod DSc

by Kevin John Tolmie

Anna MacGillivray Macleod (1917 – 2004) was a Scottish Academic, teacher and the first woman in the world to be appointed as a Professor of Brewing and Biochemistry. Most of her career was at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh.

Born in Kirkhill, Inverness-shire on 15 May 1917, she was the daughter of the Rev Alasdair MacGillivray Macleod and Margaret Ingram Sangster, MA. Her family are of the MacLeods of Pabbay and Uig on the Isle of Lewis. Her grandfather Rev George Macleod was the Minister of Garrabost and that is where her father was born. She was second cousin to the politician and former United Kingdom Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Right Hon. Iain Norman Macleod. Mention is made of her in 'The MacLeods – A Genealogy of a Clan - Volume 4' by Alick Morrison MA.

As her father died at an early age, Anna looked after her widowed mother and her two brothers, both of whom grew up to be medical practitioners. The elder was Dr John George Macleod, Editor of 'Davidson's Textbook of Medicine' and the author of 'Clinical Examination'. The younger was Dr Alasdair MacGillivray Macleod, a general practitioner in Linlithgow (see related article on McLeod syndrome).

Anna was educated at Invergordon Academy and Edinburgh Ladies' College. She graduated from Edinburgh University with a BSc in Botany. In 1945 she joined the faculty of Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, where she was until her retirement in 1977 although she returned to Edinburgh University in 1951 to study for a PhD. In the late 1960s she was awarded a Doctor of Science, also from Edinburgh University, for a thesis on the Germination of Barley.

In 1961 together with Leslie Samuel Cobley she co-edited 'Contemporary Botanical Thought', published by Oliver and Boyd. She edited the Journal of the Institute of Brewing from 1964 to 1976, and she was the first female President of the Institute of Brewing

from 1970 to 1972. In 1975 she was appointed Professor of Brewing at Heriot-Watt University. In 1976 one of the greatest honours in the Brewing industry was bestowed on her - the Horace Brown Medal. She retired in 1977, but continued as Professor Emeritus. In 1993, Heriot-Watt University awarded her an honorary Doctorate of Science for her discovery of Gibberellic Acid, which shortened the malting process. On that occasion, the Dean of the Faculty of Science, Professor Philip G. Harper said that Anna Macleod was recognised nationally and internationally with distinction as a university teacher, scholar, scientist, technologist and brewer.

Anna MacGillivray Macleod never married and died at St Raphael's Care Home, Edinburgh on 13 August 2004. Heriot-Watt University's Brewing and Distilling Department inaugurated the Anna Macleod Scholarship with her bequest.



Professor Anna Macleod. Courtesy of Heriot-Watt University Archive and Museum Service.

William John MacLeod

by Ruth MacLeod

Many of us have visited the Isle of Raasay and have had the pleasure of meeting Margaret MacLeod Moodie. You may not have been aware that her father William John MacLeod and her twin John are both renowned for their artistic talents. During our 2018 Parliament visit a wonderful exhibition was on display at the Raasay Gallery, a short walk from the Community Hall.

William John MacLeod was born in Kirkcaldy in 1891. He studied at Glasgow School of Art from age 18 and after winning a national competition, won a place for further study at Hospitalfield Residential Art School, Arbroath. At the age of 22 he gave this up to volunteer for the Army during World War 1. This was supposedly the War to end all Wars. William was invalided out and spent ten years recovering.

Based in London, he was appointed by the Government as Senior



Restoration Artist for Ancient Monuments. His restoration work is found in many landmark buildings, in a variety of locations and on diverse works of art. These included Chequers (the official country residence of UK Prime Ministers), Greenwich Naval College, Hampton Court Palace, Kensington Palace, Windsor Castle, Trefour Castle, Westminster Palace and Osborne House on the Isle of Wight.

On the outbreak of WW2 he became an official war artist. He painted many pictures of the bomb damage to the Houses of Parliament and his original work is hung on the walls in Westminster. They are in the UK Government's Art Collection and the Parliamentary Art Collection. Some can be seen in the Palace of Westminster as eleven of his paintings depicting the war-damaged Houses of Parliament hang there. This significant project offered a major challenge as it involved working on the ceiling of the Chapter House, and was said by others to be an impossible task.

William trained in the 'Old Masters' style and worked in watercolours and oil paintings. It is said his beautiful watercolours "capture the colours of his Fife origins" and some of his landscapes – the sun setting over a river, mountains in Switzerland, trees silhouetted against a dark sky – "are splendid and unsettling in equal measure".





Images: P20: Sunset, Jersey. P21: Old Farm Building, Sizewell. This page: top: Margaret Moodie admiring her father's paintings; bottom: Houses of Parliament, Members Lobby Bomb Damage. P23: Houses of Parliament on Fire. All images courtesy of Barbara Martin, The Studio Raasay.

As a paintings conservator and restorer his remarkable body of work chronicles several decades of British history. From the dazzling heyday of Glasgow's School of Art to the rubble of post-Blitz London and the beautiful solemnity of 1950s rural townships, his pen and paintbrushes capture more than just scenery and people. They convey a feeling of place. William John MacLeod was awarded the Imperial Service Medal (ISM) and was a prolific artist until his death in 1970.

The local artistic community on Raasay learned with surprise from Margaret of her very talented and gifted father. As a group they are conscious of the value of this collection to the community, on Raasay as well as further afield. Wouldn't it be wonderful if there was a small gallery on Raasay to exhibit these beautiful paintings and give everyone the opportunity to see the work of William John MacLeod.

Some paintings of the Houses of Parliament can be viewed on line @ artuk.org.

With thanks to contributors Margaret Moodie, Gordon Cheape, Christa Welser, Artemis Pana, Judy Evans, Barbara Martin and the West Highland Free Press.





Linking the Clan

Ruth MacLeod

ACMS Corresponding Secretary

Clan members continue to form active links within their home communities as well as the local Scottish communities, and indeed we hear more frequently of the links that are forming between far flung clansfolk. Many are searching for genealogy links, and discovering there are no barriers between continents as so many of our ancestors settled far away from the Highlands, and yet various family ended up in yet another district or country. We have often heard that Scotland's greatest export is "Scots", which is also said of other places such as Prince Edward Island, having sent workers all across Canada, and the USA with many to Boston and California, and then onwards to Australia and New Zealand. The various gold rushes have a lot to answer for, as there was major impetus to leave home and seek a fortune.

Our new ACMS website has been active over the past year, and a link to the Genealogy Resource Centre offers wonderful information and suggestions for those needing assistance when looking for family heritage. The South Australian Newsletter also has a long list of useful resources which upon request is easy to share via email. The USA Clan has long had a major project documenting the family histories of members, known as the Tribal Pages, with a huge database which continues to expand with information provided by a wide variety of sources. Help is offered to answer many queries which then ensures the accuracy of the database.

Social media sees many requests for help seeking ancestors, but there is not just one single link which will bring all the answers, and some sleuthing is needed with documenting basic family details. Readers will

recall there were a series of articles related to the MacLeod and Septs Project at Family Tree DNA, which is focused on Y-DNA as it follows the paternal genetic line, most useful in a surname project like our Clan MacLeod one.

Many clans join together to share and support events which benefits us all, with Highland Games, Ceilidhs, a Fiddle Club, and piping events bringing the Scots community together. In California they take great joy in sponsoring three awards with deserved recognition for new young dancers. Burns Suppers in Québec City, Arizona and Christchurch brought together many Scots, and in Vancouver Mackenzie clansfolk joined in.

The Alberta Newsletter features a 'Gaelic word of the day' which recently was 'bròns' (sorrow). In Western Australia they described the details surrounding the Declaration of Arbroath, while Christchurch included obituaries with details of pioneer life from 100 years ago. England's newsletter tells of the Historic Houses Restoration Award won by Dunvegan Castle & Gardens, with recognition that the Castle and Gardens is a world-class heritage attraction. News from New South Wales tells of MacLeods on Scalpay (Isle of Harris), and our ancestors singing while working. We welcome Clan office bearers Joy Tarrant, Rachel Hopkins, and Dale Lewis and offer thanks to Nicole Walters, Timm Herrod, Finn MacLeod, Bonnie Denka, and Scott Lewis.

The Celtic Heaven, or Tir-nan-og, lies somewhere to the west of the Hebrides, where the sun sets and is the Land of the Ever Young. We share sympathy with the families and loved ones of Graham McLeod (NZ & Queensland), Beryl Luscombe (Perth WA), Randy MacLeod (Calgary), Jane MacLeod (California), and Michael Röber (Germany).

CANADA

Calgary (Alberta) members gathered to raise a glass and reminisce while welcoming a new member. Family histories and interesting stories were recorded in Minutes and old letters which will now evolve into a new format. A summer BBQ and a booth at the Games in Calgary and Canmore will keep them busy, as well as the Carstairs Heritage Festival and the Celtic Festival. They plan to visit the Fort MacLeod Historical Society and discuss Memorial Plaques for former Presidents Randy and Alma.



Regional events included the usual Ceilidhs, and Curling in Glengarry. A BBQ in Duncan BC attracted local members. Trying something different in Toronto brought them together at a new venue for the Fall Ceilidh, and the potluck luncheon had good entertainment, fabulous company, and considered a great success.

SWITZERLAND

The Swiss AGM was another success, held on an historical cargo ship on the Rhine River with BBQ and live music from clan bagpipers. Back to the port for a fantastic party continuing late in the night. The annual BBQ with Highland Games was in Wallbach with members welcomed with a wee whisky from the clan quaich. The games included darts, bumping the stone, crossbow shooting, axe throwing and tossing the caber. Lots of fun on a sunny day with haggis and whisky.

NEW ZEALAND

Central/Wellington Region attended the Highland Square Day with many pipe bands and events. They supported Turakina Games, enjoyed an afternoon tea to watch 'MacLeod Battles', a café lunch, and St Andrew's Day church service. Several MacLeods with other local musicians participated in rehearsals before recording material for the next DVD, 'MacLeod Music'.

At the Hororata Games in Christchurch Clan set up a stall for a well organised and enjoyable day. They attended the Kirkin o' the Tartan and a Scottish Society Ceilidh for St Andrew's Day. At the AGM they welcomed new members, and shared a picnic lunch with Clan Cochrane. Otago Clan is revelling in the successful 30th Birthday celebrations with events and excursions in perfect weather. As we go to print we learn that the North Island Gathering in Wellington has been cancelled.

AUSTRALIA

The Mighty Mini Macs had a yearend gathering which

included chocolate, cricket, a scavenger hunt before swimming. Slightly older members enjoyed a Clan Breakfast, and will attend monthly events. The new SA District Tartan features five colours reminiscent of the State gemstone, the Desert Fire Opal. An ACMS Crest Badge has been devised, with a belt and buckle to indicate the wearer is a supporter of the ACMS. This crest will be on show on glassware at the World Gathering – and I dare say someone will make the usual t-shirt!

In Tasmania the Richmond Gathering included our Chiefs Donald of Lewes with Heather, and John of Raasay with Liz, who posed for photos along with a McGregor, a Nicholson, and an Edmiston. In NSW the weekend trips for fun – with a BBQ and shared dinner, some piping and lots of chat are enjoyed by many; the other weekend trips are more like work with much preparation for setting up at far away Games.

The Victorians gathered in rural Sale for a few days of fellowship and enjoyment and welcomed new members. A shared casserole supper kicked off festivities, which included a tour of a refurbished historic 1880s water tower. (Readers will be aware of the dramatic need for water in this region during those nasty fires.) Other visits included a magnificent Art Gallery and Library now transformed, as well as a swing bridge, the natural gas plant supplying three states in SE Australia, and Museum tour. Lunches, morning coffees, sausage sizzle and a pub dinner completed the weekend – as the tartaned crowd was photographed for the local newspaper.

The BBQ lunch at Hanging Rock was rather cold and wet but deemed a successful day with a good crowd including Chief John and Liz, with several Pipe Band families making the effort to join in. The postponement of the Tug of War was forgotten as all enjoyed a delicious lunch among new and old members with lively chatter and entertainment with Pipers.

A short AGM was held in Perth during a pub lunch, with another group welcoming a new member. Members gather for an occasional coffee or lunch and visitors will be welcomed when travel is permitted.

GERMANY

Regional meetings are held in various area of Germany, and they held their AGM in Brugge to support Belgian MacLeods who may establish a Clan Society. Similar to Germany there are many



Highland Games or Scottish festivals held in Belgium with a wide awareness in the community of Scottish customs. A few keen Belgian folk have been welcomed at ACMS and German meetings. Others from Sweden with clan heritage are similarly interested in how the clan works, and the many events in Germany gives Europeans an opportunity to socialise and to observe event organisation.

Activities for younger folk will be organised during holidays, with an exchange program being considered for young teens. A gathering near Marburg will mirror the Mackenzies and MacLeod celebrations on Lewis with a BBQ, music and some friendly banter among the participants.

SCOTLAND

Scots members keep us all in order with their many meetings to organise our various major events – for which we offer our thanks. They gathered for their AGM on St Andrew's Day, and will plan for a summer picnic to bring together local members. The recent ACMS meeting was attended by representatives from seven Societies, with two others via Skype, showing great tenacity not to fall asleep given huge time differences. A dinner with entertainment followed and included many visitors from other European countries as well as Clan Mackenzie.

UNITED STATES of AMERICA

Plans are proceeding for the NAG 2020, to be held soon near Detroit along with the St. Andrew's Highland Games, the oldest in USA. A newly joined clan member saw a Games event advertised, and being not too far away, felt it would be fun to attend. A great time was had making some wonderful new friends, and becoming a new Clan Office Bearer! And thus the "Clan career" begins!

We are sad to hear the NYC Tartan Day Parade is cancelled, as no doubt many other events will follow. There is a suggestion of a Virtual Tartan Day – maybe

we can flaunt the tartan while in our driveways close to home!

The Grandfather Mountain Highland Games featured Colin MacLeod who hosted a "Scottish Celtic Fiddle Workshop" and a mini fiddling concert at the Clan tent. The Winter AGM & Scottish Christmas Walk was another event with Colin's magic fiddle, along with pipe bands Shamrock & Thistle with Lewis tartan and Clan MacLeod Pipes & Drums wearing Raasay tartan. Houston Highland Games drew a good crowd for the Solo Piping Competition as many competitors are students and graduates of St. Thomas Episcopal School assisted by the Dunvegan Foundation awards for their piping program.

South West Region members are kept busy in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah with many Scottish Festivals and Highland Games to attend and support. Offers of assistance in these states to help carry the load will be appreciated as the season goes from March to November. Great to hear of local Gaelic classes with teachers from Skye. In Minnesota there was more excitement than expected while setting up the clan tent when a violent storm toppled and ripped adjacent tents. Brawny MacLeods grabbed tent poles and spent most of the morning HOLDING FAST!

FRANCE

A gathering with all the Maclots from two generations living in the Lorraine area brought together 42 members of the family. The festivities lasted two days with visits to several places where their ancestors played a noteworthy role. The Clan Society was mentioned with enthusiasm, and new memberships welcomed. They enjoy occasional forays into Scotland to visit with old friends, keeping the ties of kinship well and truly alive.

ENGLAND

Great rejoicing as new members have joined recently, with welcome youthful exuberance, as well as couples and families! A lunch in London was planned to provide an opportunity for all members to get together socially. It is to include the AGM, with reports shared from the recent ACMS Edinburgh meeting. I understand members have difficulty getting together due to travel distance – we fear it may not proceed. Travel is difficult for many members however several made a real effort to gather in far away Cyprus!

Dates for your Diary

**COVID-19/CORONAVIRUS: MANY EVENTS
CANCELLED OR POSTPONED. CHECK FIRST!**

2020

July 18	Tattoo Parade, Basel SWITZERLAND
July 18-19	Scottish Fair and Highland Games, Central Park, Eagan MN USA
August 1-2	Rocky Mountain Highland Games, Denver CO USA
August 15	Summer Picnic & BBQ, Doune SCOTLAND
Date tbc	Clan Gathering of all Scottish Clans in GERMANY
September 6-7	Highland Games, Wallbach, SWITZERLAND
September 11-13	Long's Peak Irish and Scottish Highland Games and Festival CO USA
September 25-27	Prescott Highland Games. Arizona, USA
October 3-4	Aztec Highland Games. New Mexico, USA
October 24	Clan AGM Landgasthof, Hessenmuehle, Fulda, GERMANY
November 6-8	Celtic Festival Scots on the Rocks, Moab UT USA
December 6	Hanging Rock Picnic, Bendigo, Victoria AUSTRALIA
December 6-7	Scottish Christmas Walk & Meeting, Alexandria VA USA

2021

April 14-18	"Under the Southern Sky" Clan MacLeod World Gathering, including Young MacLeods (NRG) SOUTH AUSTRALIA
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2022

July 23-30	Parliament, Dunvegan SCOTLAND
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Dame Flora Scholarship Fund

by Mary Clark

New local groups of the Clan MacLeod Society of New Zealand were founded in the 1950s following Dame Flora's visits there. Some New Zealand members were able to attend Clan MacLeod Parliaments at Dunvegan Castle in 1956 and 1959. However, New Zealand is so far from Scotland, the distance and cost to travel there was prohibitive for many. To encourage young NZ MacLeods to visit Dunvegan the Dame Flora Scholarship Fund was established. Money was raised for a national investment fund. Events were held and donations made to a capital fund managed by CMSNZ. The fund's interest would be available for young MacLeod members to apply for assistance with the cost of travel to Dunvegan. In the years that no grants were made the interest was reinvested.

As over time fewer young MacLeods were applying for grants, the fund was opened to all members. One of the criteria for the award of a grant was that the recipient would report back to the CMSNZ AGM. It was also hoped that the recipient would continue to serve the Clan to further the values and kinship the Clan stands for.

Over the years more international Clan MacLeod gatherings were being held, such as, the North American Gatherings and World Gatherings in Australia and New Zealand. Therefore the rules for the DF Scholarship Fund were changed again to allow attendance at these events or to research Clan history and culture for benefit the Clan as a whole.

In 2018, two grants were awarded, one to Valmai Hall who had been a member for many years and who was going to 2018 Clan Parliament and the other to Steph McLeod of Helensville to research more of her family history on Raasay. Their reports are published in this edition of the Magazine.

Journey of Choice

by Valmai Hall

Many of our forebears, of necessity, chose to journey in diverse directions in their search for a better life for their families and the generations thereafter. One wonders today what we would have chosen to do. Was there really a choice for them? If they had known of the dangers and challenges would they still have made the same choice?

In 2018, thanks to the Dame Flora Scholarship, I travelled from my home in New Zealand to the Isles of Skye, Raasay, Lewis and Harris. I now have a better understanding of how life there was very difficult. I have always had a great admiration for my ancestors but now I am in awe of their achievements. How brave and courageous they were in undertaking such dangerous and risky journeys, sailing across stormy seas and enduring such hardships. They were disciplined and determined to succeed, bringing with them family traditions, skills and other qualities which are still evident today. Qualities such as industry and innovation, with strong ethics, faith, beliefs, and a dedication to the wellbeing of their families.

We are fortunate to have access to historical sites and records. Also, thanks to Dame Flora, a wonderful clanship and worldwide camaraderie has ensued. Dame Flora made a brief visit to our home in Auckland in 1953 on her way to Waipu. We felt honoured at the time but had no concept of where her plans would lead us. What vision and passion this very special lady had, followed by a



Valmai and Rona on Calum's Road.

positive plan.

It was a great privilege and enormous fun to share in the 2018 Clan Parliament. My sister, Rona, and I felt we were following in our mother Gladys' (Leys) footsteps as she and her three sisters (Jeanne Perrett, Tui Parsons and Huia Flaus) had attended the 1978 Parliament. No doubt this was as memorable for them as it was for us in 2018. Congratulations and heartfelt thanks to everyone who was part of the team of volunteer organisers. You did us proud. It was a thrill to be part of the worldwide family and to share in the activities. We discovered a new family with whom we had so much in common. There were even people from other parts of New Zealand who I hadn't met before. I was especially pleased to see how Chiefs John and Donald and their families participated and contributed such a lot to the success of Parliament. I am so happy that I chose to attend and I am sorry that many others could not. I really appreciated the friendship, the music, bagpipes, dancing, Gaelic singing, celebrations and being reminded of my roots. One of the things that delighted me at Parliament was the way in which the children were catered for and their obvious pleasure participating in their own creative activities, the dancing and the ceilidhs. We got to know numbers of our fellow clansfolk and shared such happy times together. It is now obvious to me that it's the people who are the most important and not the buildings and places or even the history.

It was great to see families enjoying things together. I was very impressed also with the North Room Group (NRG) presentations and their assistance with many practical projects. One could not help but be excited for the children from South Australia as they passionately shared their Mighty Mini MacLeod (MMM) activities to date and of their future plans. Certainly it seems, looking forward, that the Clan MacLeod Worldwide will flourish as these young folk choose to journey in the footsteps of those who have gone before. They are so well able to utilise information technology to their benefit and ours.

A special memory for me was when, after driving to Calum's Road on the Isle of Raasay, Rona unexpectedly took her recorder from her bag and played "Calum's Road" (Calum was our grandfather's cousin). He decided to build almost two miles (three kilometres) of road to his village with almost no help. This was a great achievement.

It is hard to imagine anyone today choosing to embark on such a task. We loved our visit to Raasay and appreciated the Islanders' warm welcome and hospitality. Congratulations to everyone for the progress that has been and is being made on the Island, especially the walled garden at Raasay House. My recollection of who won the tug-of-war is a bit vague but there certainly was much energy and passion involved on both sides. Was it younger versus older or Lewis versus Raasay? Whoever, all teams were greatly encouraged by the many spectators.

My husband, Alvin, and I visited both Skye and Raasay for the first time in 2000. History came alive visiting Dunvegan. It was everything that I had expected and more. However, this 2018 visit also excelled and it was good to observe the improvements which have been made to date and to hear about Chief Hugh's aspirations for the future.

One of the reasons I was keen to visit was to have first-hand experience of Parliament which could then be shared with our children and grandchildren who, then, may be able to carry on some of the traditions and may have a greater appreciation of their roots and forebears. At the same time I felt sad that our own five children had few opportunities to experience the traditions and interactions.

Decisions were made and plans were adopted at Parliament and I look forward to hearing of their progress. For instance the NRG name change to The Young MacLeods and a proposed Gathering in Australia in 2021; the continued and regular information updates in the Clan MacLeod Magazine; commencing Parliament with a rousing and colourful Parade from the Parish Church; the growth of the newly planted Clan MacLeod Woodland at the Emigration Wall, Orbost, etc. It is very reassuring to know that the journey together will continue and I am confident that it will go on from strength to strength.

About the Author: Valmai Hall is a fourth generation New Zealander, proud of her Scottish heritage, living in Gisborne with husband, Alvin. She is a retired nurse, a lifelong member of CMS and was awarded a Queen's Service Medal in 2015 for community service and continues to be a volunteer in church and community activities.

Sheilings on Raasay

by Stephanie (Steph) Mcleod

In my application for the Dame Flora Scholarship, I wrote about loss, belonging, and connections to history. In New Zealand, we have Scottish-named towns, streets, and rivers. We have statues of the Scottish poet, Robert Burns, and people with Scottish names passed down through generations. We still belong to Clans, and discuss the Highland Clearances, for that is how many came to be here. For me, visiting Scotland completed a circle that began with my ancestors in the mid-19th century, and gave me a better understanding of the 'Scotland' we Kiwis imagine from the other side of the world. My project was to find and photograph more connections to this history, specifically, what remained of the homes left behind after the Clearances. The idea of a home suggests stability and permanence, whether a turf hut or a city apartment. It is poignant that one and a half centuries later these former homes remain. Some are still standing, a village still roughly in formation,

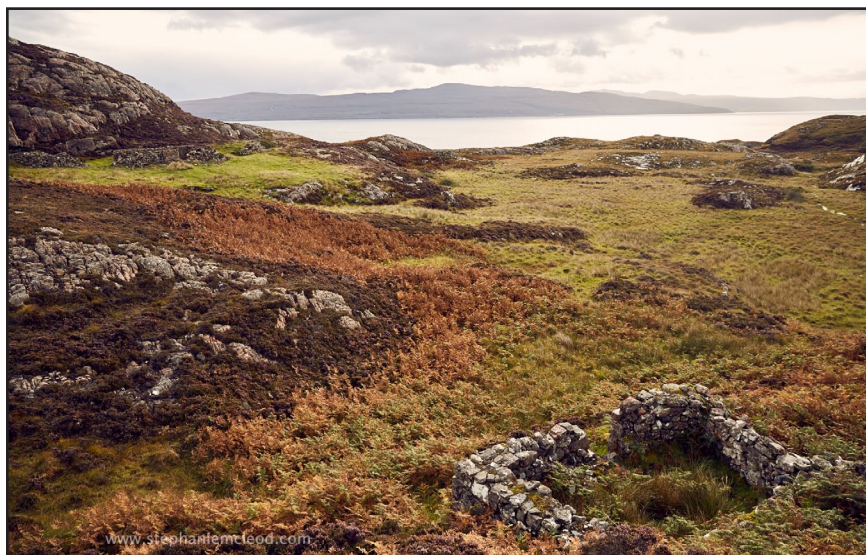


a scattered mass of walls and rocks often referred to as sheilings although this term more properly describes settlements inhabited only in summer. They lie across heather-covered hills and down rocky slopes like ribs, the skeleton of a community. Despite the people being removed from the land, the bones remain, and in Raasay thanks to tourism and innovative local businesses, life is returning. I see this as a symbol of resilience and defiance.

It was early September. The rain began pattering down as my boyfriend and I left Inverness, increasing in intensity the closer we came to Skye. My plans of camping and hiking, constructed mid-heatwave from our London flat, became less and less feasible. Whisky in hand, we watched from the pub at Sligachan as our tent flexed and billowed in the wind. We slept in the car that night! Our arrival on Raasay early the next morning was more propitious. Moments of sun warmed the puddles and we followed a hand-made sign to the community hall for tea and cake. Plied with squares of lemon drizzle and mugs of tea, we chatted to the residents. We found kind, friendly people, and of course, distant cousins. Travellers dressed head to toe in Gore-Tex asking about family history were familiar, and we were introduced to Margaret Moodie, local historian and all round excellent woman. She invited us to visit her the following day, and so we spent that afternoon

exploring.

The first of my ancestors to be evicted during the Clearances were Malcolm and Margaret MacLeod. I am not sure when my family acquired the current, unusual spelling McLeod. They lived in the small community of Manish, in the north-west corner of Raasay. I planned to visit the area, and photograph the ruins of the village. There had been three settlements, Manish More, Manish Beg, and Manish Point. Manish More appeared to be the most accessible, so we parked our car, and bog-hopped our way down the slope as the wind gusted across the Sound of Raasay. Sheltering with the sheep in the heather, we watched the sky change colour, and in the rain-free breaks, we continued. The ruins appeared below us, clustered between the base of a hill and the steep bank of Manish More Burn. It was our first proper look at the structures we had come to see. Many of the drystone walls were intact with features still visible. Climbing through former doorways and windows, we peered into old fireplaces and tried to imagine life there. The animal enclosures were larger than the buildings, long and rectangular. The placements of the houses were chosen for shelter and drainage. The thick stone walls still felt sturdy, blocking some of the wind coming from the Sound, and, in that moment of warm, late afternoon sunlight, it was idyllic.



The forecast for the following day was calm, so we planned our walk to Manish Beg. Here I believe Malcolm and Margaret MacLeod lived with their sons. Driving again to the north, we then walked, vaguely following a red line drawn on a map from Nick Fairweather's excellent book, 'Exploring Raasay'. We clambered through peat-stained water and wiry heather under an occasionally blue sky. The first ruins began at the crest of a hill. Nestled on a small plateau, they were sheltered from the prevailing wind by rocky crags rising to the west. The grass here was a saturated green, neatly trimmed by the ever-present sheep which were often the cause of removal of the people. The shielings spread down the lumpy hills toward the Manishbeg Burn, tucked in behind small ridges and larger rocks. It was beautiful. The entire expanse was purple with blooming heather, and the sheltered area where the shielings were centered was meadow-like, with wild flowers and grasses. I tried to be systematic in my documenting, but ended up wandering. I followed sheep paths that were probably earlier human paths, thinking about those who had walked here centuries before. Malcolm and Margaret had seven sons born in Manish, one of whom was my GGG-grandfather, Murdoch.

Following the Manishbeg Burn to the sea, we spotted walls, rigs, field banks and drains. The terrain got wetter and wetter as we went downhill. We ended up at a small cove, where numerous burns fed



their dark water into the sea. We hiked north around Manish Point, and looped back to the main road via Loch Na Cuilce, and Loch Na Bronn. Dry socks and food were first, then a visit to Margaret Moodie. We spent a fascinating afternoon with Margaret. She is an incredibly knowledgeable and inspiring woman. We learnt much about the history of the island, and about life in general. Thank you Margaret!

That evening we treated ourselves to dinner and a bunk for the night at Raasay House. Although completely modernised inside, there were hints of the architectural extravagance of Mac Ghille Chaluim XII. He had otherwise been a responsible and conscientious chief. The agricultural revolution was inevitable and Island life as it was in the late 1700's could not remain unchanged but he tried to manage it as best he could. While recognizing the trauma and hardship suffered by his people, the cruel aftermath of his ruin turned out well for some when they and their descendants found better lives overseas.

Our final adventure on Raasay was more immersive. We drove further north to the end of Calum's Road at Arnish. From there, we walked. We were heading to the bothy, Taigh Thormoid Dhuibh (Black Norman's House). The path is well built in some sections, and vague in others. It naturally follows the landscape, and is clearly a path that has been used for centuries, probably much longer. Stone



structures are visible a few metres away from the track, blending into the rocky landscape, tucked away behind crags and hills. We were nearing sight of Rona, where Malcolm, Margaret, their children and grandchildren went in 1863 during the Clearances, a period associated with George Rainey who had bought Raasay in 1846. We reached the northern tip of Raasay in the late afternoon. Rona lay across a short channel, windswept and barren, yet looking beautiful in the late afternoon light. It was on Rona, where Murdoch met and married Jessie Graham. They had five sons then some time shortly after the birth of the sixth, on the fourth of August 1862, Jessie died.

Back at the bothy, we burned the fuel we had carried in from Arnish, and spent the evening reading by lamplight. We shared the bothy with a group of intrepid sea kayakers. The five of us huddled together between half metre thick stone walls, wood smoke settling into our bedding, woollen socks strung up to dry. We were transported to the 19th century Raasay we'd been searching for.

Walking from the northern tip of Raasay back to Arnish, we were following the journey of Malcolm and Margaret. Malcolm had



secured a croft when Arnish was broken into shares, and relocated there from Rona. They had land, one cow, five sheep and, I hope, some contentment. A bereaved Murdoch and his five sons followed a few years later. Taking assisted passage, they continued on the path, and in September 1864 aboard the *Viscount Canning*, they left Scotland, bound for New Zealand.

In my research on Manish prior to our visit, I found an archaeological survey carried out in 1999, but little other information, and few photographs. I used the Dame Flora Scholarship to fund my journey to Raasay in order to photograph the ruins of the buildings and provide a resource for anyone interested. Images can be viewed and downloaded for personal use here by typing the following into your web browser: stephaniemcleod.com/project/raasay-2018

About the Author: Steph Mcleod is a photographer. Originally from New Zealand, she currently lives in London. Steph visits Scotland as often as she can, it reminds her of home. Next time, she hopes to make it to Rona.



Images: P39: Doorway of abandoned sheiling, Manish Beg. P40: Abandoned sheiling, North Raasay, looking towards Skye. P41: North Raasay. P42: Bothy, North Raasay. P43: Manishmore Burn and sheiling. P44: Sheiling, Manish Beg. In background, The Storr, Skye. P45: Shore at Manish Beg.

Meet the Clan: John W McLeod

I was born in Norfolk, Virginia, USA in 1946. My father, an electrician by trade, moved my family to northern Florida before I was a year old. I graduated from Technical High School in Jacksonville in 1965. At 19 I was drafted into the US Military. I volunteered for service in the Air Force, serving for twenty years. During that time, I lived in various states in the USA, also in West Germany (Darmstadt and Augsburg) and the United Kingdom (RAF Chicksands). I am a Vietnam veteran, having served at Da Nang during 1966 and 1967. For the first sixteen years of my service, I was in Intelligence both as a collection agent and an analyst. In the Air Force I worked toward my Bachelor of Science Degree in Industrial Technology. I had begun in 1973 and finally graduated in 1989 managing study and service at the same time over those many years.

My retirement from the Air Force did not end my military life. My wife, Ann, had obtained a commission as an officer in the US Air Force six years before my retirement from active duty. I then accompanied Ann on her assignments and worked at what I like to call “fun” jobs as a security guard, a team manager at a well-known amusement park, and in retail stores.

I first joined Clan MacLeod Society USA (CMSUSA) in 1968 while stationed in southern Maryland. Shortly after joining, I moved my family to West Germany. The Society lost track of me during the ensuing forty years. After Ann retired from the US Air Force, we moved into the house we had built in northern Florida. While visiting family on the east coast, we discovered that there was to be a Scottish Festival the following weekend. There we found Clan MacLeod was represented. On that occasion we merely looked around, watched the games, and visited the vendors where I found a kilt maker. I ordered my first kilt at that festival in 2007. The next year we again visited the festival, this time with me proudly wearing my kilt.

Now for an amusing story; well it amused me! Leaving the MacLeod

tent we wandered around and came upon that of Clan MacRae. I recalled that we might have MacRaes in our family line so approached with the opening line “I think we might be related.” We were! The tent’s custodian had a third great-grandmother who was sister to my third great-grandfather. John Wayne MacRae invited me to march with them in the parade of tartans. I was happy to do so even though I was a bit conspicuous. There was I wearing the MacLeod of Lewis tartan marching with the MacRaes in their red. As we passed the reviewing stand, I glanced up and saw the Presbyterian minister who had given the invocation. He was wearing vestments with the MacLeod of Lewis tartan decoration. The next year, as Regional Vice President, I was running the MacLeod tent at the same festival. I saw Pastor Lewis approaching the tent and prepared to greet him appropriately. “I remember you”, he announced. We have been cordial friends since. Also, David Tomlinson, who I met at the Clan MacLeod tent that day proved to be an exceptional gentleman and a staunch supporter of our Clan.

You remember I lost contact with the Society for forty years. In 2008, I rejoined at the same festival in northern Florida, and received my first CMSUSA Newsletter. We registered for the Annual General Meeting in St. Louis, Missouri. I had been stationed very near St. Louis during my final years in the Air Force. Ann and I decided to travel there for the AGM and also visit old haunts. I was approached to become the Regional Vice President for the Southeast Region. I accepted. During the next few years, Ann and I represented CMSUSA at many festivals, made new friends, and learned even more about my Scottish heritage. What drives us to find out more about our ancestors? In my case, it was my grandfather. He was among the group of MacLeods who gathered together with Dame Flora to establish the Southeast Region of CMSUSA. He was very proud of his Scottish heritage and, even though he did not speak about it very much, he instilled in me that “pride of ownership”. I have frequently spoken at gatherings about my experiences with CMSUSA and my own Scottish heritage.

My wife and I very much enjoy traveling, seeing new things and places while experiencing the wonders of God’s creation. We often joke about having seen more of Europe than we have of our own nation. Now, with CMSUSA we are seeing the wonders

and experiencing the joys of discovery in our travels within North America and Europe. My first visit to Scotland was for Parliament 2018. I found it to be like “coming home”.

In addition to my involvement as current President of CMSUSA, I am a Deacon of my church and Bible study teacher, AWANA (Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed) program which is a religious based program for children up to about 12 years old, and the Sons of Confederate Veterans in which I serve as the camp Lt Commander.



Meet the Clan: Annie McLeod

You may have seen me mentioned already if you have read my husband's biography in the previous pages. My name is Annie Mae Epps McLeod, named after my two grandmothers, Annie Epps & Mae Townsend Jones. The eldest of eight children, I was born in Jacksonville, Florida and lived there until I married John William McLeod, also known as Bill, in 1966. He was deployed to Vietnam shortly after we were married. While Bill was gone, I started college classes at the Florida Junior College in Jacksonville.

Bill and I began our connection to the Clan MacLeod in the late 1960's when he was assigned to the National Security Agency. He received an invitation to attend a dinner where Dame Flora MacLeod was to be. We didn't know much about the Clan at that time but were excited about meeting people with the same name. However, it did not seem right for us at the time. We realized this when we received a letter asking us to bring our children and their nanny so that she could take the children home! At that time, we certainly did not make enough money to have a nanny. So, we decided it wasn't meant for us! It was about forty years later that we reconnected with the Clan.

I loved college but travelling with Bill to all his different assignments meant I could not continue, at least for then. It was not until after our return from RAF Chicksands, England that I was able to start again. I attended the University of Maryland first getting my Associates Degree and once Bill was assigned to Homestead Air Force Base again, I was able to complete my bachelor's degree in business.

As a child I had always wanted to join the military, but it was not appropriate in the eyes of my Dad. He made it known that he believed women were supposed to get married and have children—so I married a military man instead and had our two sons (Patrick and Tracy). After earning my bachelor's degree and now with Dad's blessings I applied to the Air Force and was commissioned in 1980. I loved being in the military and although it was often a challenge, I

would not have changed that at all. I served from 1980 through 2006 and still highly recommend the military to many young men and women. It provided me the opportunity to earn two master's degrees, serve in such places as Korea, the Pentagon, Headquarters Military Airlift Command (Illinois), Headquarters European Command (Stuttgart, Germany), etc.; travel to many different countries, and represent the USA at such things as Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe meetings. I was proud to retire as an Air Force Colonel.

Once I retired from the military, Bill and I settled in Madison, Florida. While exploring what I could do after I retired, I got "hooked" on genealogy. When we settled in Madison, we began to learn more about the Clan MacLeod members and very soon after joined the Clan. Bill accepted the position of Regional Vice President for the Southeast which effectively meant I did too! I later accepted the challenge of being the Clan Migration Director. As you may have read, Bill has now moved up to the position of President of CMSUSA which is keeping us busy. I am constantly researching the genealogy of the USA MacLeods (and septs), the citizens of Madison, Florida, the pioneers of Wiregrass Georgia, and the soldiers who served in the Civil War (through the United Daughters of the Confederacy). I not only research/track this information but write monthly newsletters for the Madison County and Wiregrass organizations.

Although I am not a trained historian nor a genealogist, I thoroughly enjoy trying to support our Clan members research their family trees. I receive requests for help from MacLeods almost daily and try to help them by encouraging them to join the Clan. Once they have joined, I do my best to help them with their research directly or by giving them access to our data. Bill and I very much have enjoyed travelling and meeting people from all over the world. Supporting Clan MacLeod is another way to continue the sort of experiences we had and loved when in the military.



Contact Request

Susan Ensor is a member of CMS Canterbury (New Zealand) living in London, England, looking to contact clansfolk who share her McLeod heritage. She is descended from Alexander McLeod who came to New Zealand in 1857 on the ship *Glentanner* with his wife Mary (Matheson). Alexander born 1832, was the son of Alexander McLeod (weaver) and Margaret Urquhart. Alexander the younger married Mary Matheson in 1857 at Moy Bridge, registered at Urray Church, Ross-shire. In NZ he became the Head Shepherd for Mount Peel Station, Canterbury. Please email: sueensor13@icloud.com

Target

by Rona Cooper and Lyn MacDonald

How many words of four letters or more can you make? Each letter must be used only once and all words must contain the centre letter. No proper nouns are allowed. There are at least four, seven letter words.

	L	E
M	A	C
O		D

Good = 20
Very good = 30
Excellent = 50+

How did you do?
Do let us know.

MacLeods in Belgium

by Kevin John Tolmie

Last October fifty or so MacLeods gathered in the ancient and beautiful city of Brugge (Bruges) in Flanders, Belgium. The occasion was the AGM of the Clan MacLeod Society of Germany. Now having Belgian members it was decided, for the first time, to move the meeting out of Germany. MacLeods came not only from Germany but also Sweden, Switzerland, Scotland and England as well as Belgium of course. Hosts were locals William de Baes and Steyn Nollet. Also joining us, representing North America was ACMS Secretary, Dorna Caskie. Base for the week-end of events was the pleasant Green Park Hotel, aptly named, set amongst lovely parkland.

A highlight of the activities was a canal tour of the city often described as the Venice of the North. For lunch we sampled the famous Belgian frites and mayonnaise with the local addition of fried onions on top. This was followed by a tour and varied beer tasting at the Bourgogne des Flandres Brewery. Belgium is well known for its excellent beers. The meal that evening was a buffet with as much food and beer (yes beer!) as you wanted.

On Sunday some toured WW1 memorials and cemeteries, including Black Watch Corner. Lunch was taken at a pub close to Buttes Cemetery. A local seeing our kilts thanked us for what



our forefathers did for Belgium in the Great War. We were moved. Wandering through one cemetery, the grave of Rifleman A McLeod was found - a New Zealander who died far from home; one wonders if his grave has ever been visited by a relative?

Belgium is also famous for its great chocolate. Every time I was about to enter a chocolate shop William would say "no - wait until the supermarket - it's cheaper". The problem being the chance to visit the supermarket did not arise! Ah well - another reason to return to this charming country.



Opposite: Group outside Green Park Hotel. Above Black Watch Corner. Left: The Belfort. Bottom: Canal, Brugge. (Holger Bleckert and Kevin Tolmie).

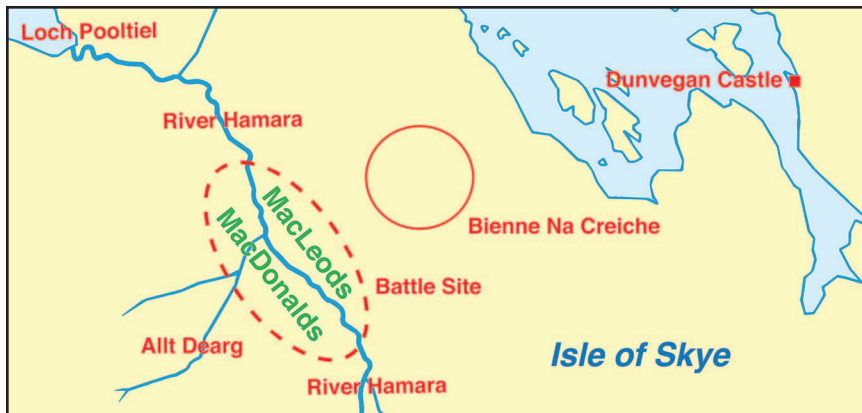
The Battle of Glendale

by Peter Macleod

In the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, from the late 1400s until the early 1600s, Clan warfare was at its worst. The authority of the Lordship of the Isles had collapsed. The King of Scots was sovereign but unable to exercise control. Clan Chiefs openly defied the King. Against this background the Battle of Glendale took place, in the Isle of Skye on the banks of the the River Hamara. The year is debated but most likely it was 1490. It is said to be the biggest battle ever fought on Skye with more than 1,000 MacDonalds and only slightly fewer MacLeods.

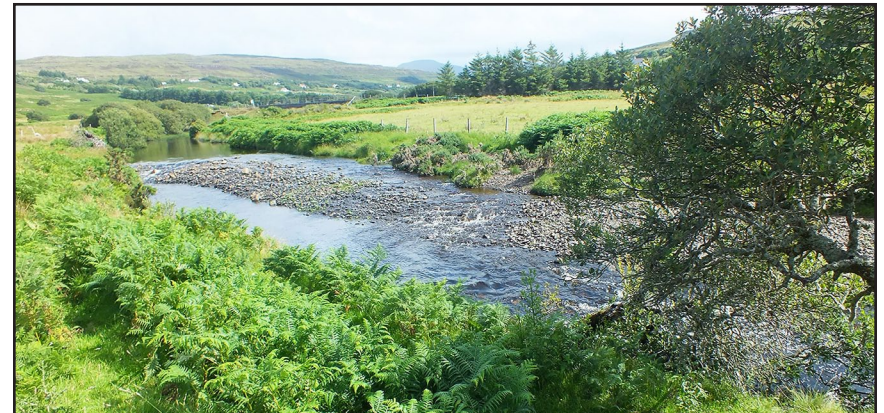
The MacDonald Commander was Donald Gruamach MacDonald and his second in command was Allen MacDonald of Moidart. Together, they led a force of MacDonalds from the Scottish Mainland and the Outer Isles superior in numbers than any the MacLeods could collect. The MacDonald galleys landed at Loch Eynort, on Skye's west coast. They marched north ravaging Minginish, Bracadale and Duirinish to the gates of Dunvegan Castle then on into Glendale.

While they were engaged in this grim endeavour word was sent to Alastair Crotach, the MacLeod Chief of Harris and Dunvegan.



He was in the Isle of Harris but urgently needed to lead the Clan. Alasdair hastened from Harris and landed at Glendale. His relatively small band of MacLeods drew up on a hill with the River Hamara in front. This defensive position made it difficult for the MacDonalds to attack. Here, the opponents eyed each other for two days. Alasdair was then joined by his half-brother and second in command at the battle, Donald Mor of Meidle. Donald had gathered the great body of the Clan MacLeod from the Isle of Skye. Further reinforcements came from the MacLeods of Lewis who landed their galleys at Loch Pooltiel. When he was ready, Alasdair took the offensive and attacked across the river.

Place names have given clues to the battle site. There is an Allt Dearg meaning Red or Bloody Stream, and also Beinne na Creiche - Hill of the Raid. We know the MacLeod's Fairy Flag was taken into the battle. We know also Alasdair's mother had insisted on seeing the battle and was probably on Beinne na Creiche with bodyguards. It was a tremendous battle. Donald Mor of Meidle was slain with several hundreds of the MacLeods. The MacLeods were faltering. Alasdair's mother commanded the Fairy Flag be waved. Combat was renewed with redoubled fury and slaughter on both sides. A party of MacDonalds under the command of Allen of Moidart rushed into the midst of the MacLeods and separated Alasdair and the Fairy Flag escort from the rest of the Clan. As Tormod Paul Dubh, the hereditary banner bearer waved the Fairy Flag, Murdo MacAskill cut down Donald Gruamach, the MacDonald leader. Donald's head was held aloft on the point of a spear for all to see and the MacLeod pipers were instructed to play the MacDonald's Lament. The sound



of this ill-omened music and the gruesome sight of their leader's head struck a panic into the MacDonalds. They began to give way on all sides. Allen of Moidart tried to rally them. He killed Murdo MacAskill in single combat and then three of Murdo's brothers but it was in vain. The MacDonalds were already in retreat but it was no rout. The MacLeod ranks were so depleted and exhausted they were incapable of giving chase. The remnants of the great MacDonald raiding party, now lead by Allen of Moidart returned to their galleys and sailed away without further harassment. The day belonged to the MacLeods but with such losses it could hardly be claimed as a victory. It is said the only winners were the Glendale ravens who feasted on the MacDonald corpses. The MacLeods occupied the field of battle and would have recovered their dead for an honourable burial.

Alasdair Crotach

The 8th Chief of the MacLeods of Harris and Dunvegan was Alasdair Crotach, or Alasdair the Humped Back. Alasdair's hump back was the result of a sword wound in an earlier battle. He was born about 1450 and long before his death in 1547 had a magnificent tomb built for himself in St Clement's Church at Rodel on the Isle of Harris. He was the first MacLeod Chief of Harris and Dunvegan not to be buried on Iona.

The Standard Bearer's Tomb

The hereditary bearer of the Fairy Flag at the Battle of Glendale was Tormod Paul Dubh MacLeod, Norman son of Black Paul. He was struck down after waving the Fairy Flag. Alasdair wanted him buried with the greatest honour possible so he ordered a special tomb be built in the north east corner of St Clement's. In the tomb, about 30cm below the top an iron grate was installed. Tormod's remains were placed on the grate and the coffin closed.

The position of Standard Bearer was hereditary and this became the burying place of Tormod's succeeding standard bearers. As each passed away the coffin lid was lifted and the remains of the previous standard bearer shaken down. The new occupant was placed on the grate and coffin closed. The practice started with Tormod Paul Dubh MacLeod and was discontinued in the 1700s when he had no more male descendants. At around that time the coffin was removed.



The MacLeod's Fairy Flag

How did the Fairy Flag come to the MacLeods? Three stories told by Dame Flora are: Iain Ciar, 4th Chief, was given it as a present when his fairy wife, after twenty years, returned to Fairyland.

A fairy used it to warm Ian Borb, 6th Chief, when as a baby he kicked off his blanket.

The flag was the Battle Standard of the Norse King, Harold Hadrada and it was handed down to his descendants, the MacLeod Chiefs.

All legends agree, the Fairy Flag will save the Clan three times when waved, but if waved again it will bring disaster. Today, the Fairy Flag is framed and hangs in Dunvegan Castle on the Isle of Skye.

Peter Macleod and his wife, Wendy have produced a DVD, MacLeod Battles, videoed at the sites of the battles (Aust. \$20 plus post and packing). The Battle of Glendale is one of five battles featured – See advert in The Clan MacLeod Magazine No. 129, April 2019 or email peter.macleod@exemail.com.au

*p54: Map of battle site. p55: River Hamara.
This page Top: Alasdair Crotach's Tomb.
Middle: Artist's impression of Banner
Bearer's Tomb. Bottom: The Fairy Flag.*

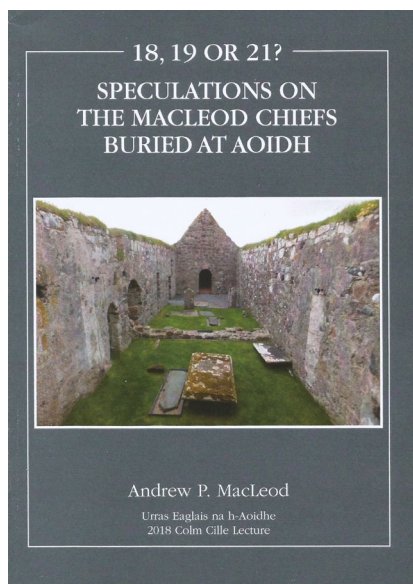
Book Reviews

by Kevin J Tolmie

18, 19 or 21?

by Andrew P MacLeod

On 7 September 2018 our own Clan Genealogist, Andrew P MacLeod was invited by Urras Eaglais na h-Aoidhe (Ui Church Trust) to deliver the annual Colm Cille Lecture at Garrabost, Isle of Lewis. The subject was 'Speculations on the MacLeod Chiefs Buried at Aoidh'. This is the sub-title of his subsequent 40 page, A5 booklet '18, 19 or 21?' adapted from the lecture. The book addresses the confused history of the Chiefs of the MacLeods of Lewis which means that scholars over time have disagreed as to how many of them were buried at Aoidhe. As well as giving insight to that turbulent history, Andrew explores the lines of descent and speculates on what conclusions can be drawn. He frankly points out that it is impossible to know things for certain such is the paucity of evidence. However, his own scholarly work (freely acknowledging that of others too) enables him to extrapolate reasonable conclusions. The book is highly recommended for anyone with an interest in the MacLeods of Lewis. Available from Ui Church Trust www.uichurch.co.uk for £3 plus postage.

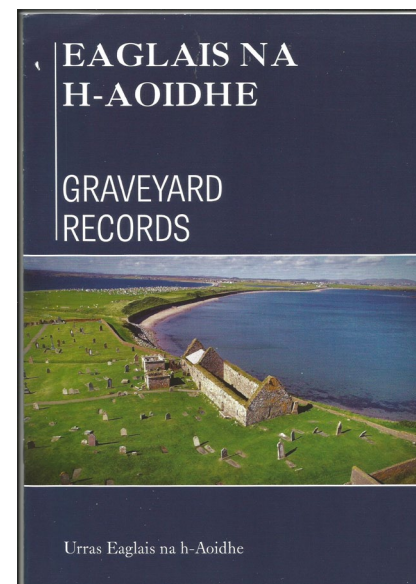


Eaglais na h-Aoidhe Graveyard Records

by Liz Chaplin, Donald Macleod and Helen Macdonald

This book is a record of the burials at the historic Ui Church. Its 52 A4 pages are more than mere lists, there is much additional information about the people that lie there. This first edition contains plans, photographs and the beautiful drawings of Helen Macdonald. Researcher Donald Macleod continues his work and a second edition is planned.

Available from Ui Church Trust www.uichurch.co.uk for £8 plus postage.



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DVD Review

by Dr Ian D MacLeod

MacLeod Music

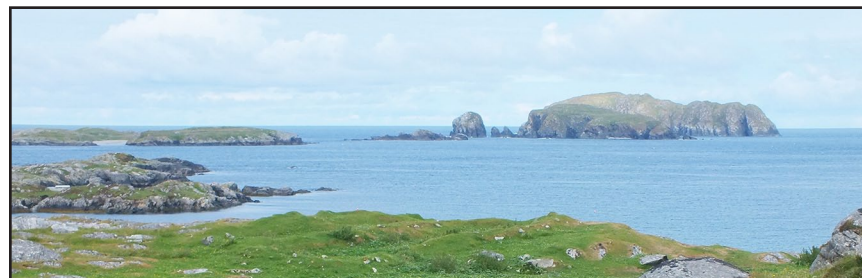
The music cleverly produced in this compilation DVD MacLeod Music was composed by, related to or performed by a loyal member of Clan MacLeod. The musicians are Rona and Jeremy Cooper with the nimbly and eminently able Glenice McLeod Saunders making magical contributions on her fiddle. A superbly balanced set of integrations with the bass drum and contributions by the Bodhrán, flutes and guitars of the other MacLeod musicians make up the rich and varied sounds.

Many of the songs are a modern composition from the recent 150 years! Great original tunes such as *Calum's Road* blend in with the more traditional *Skye Boat Song* and *Road to the Isles*. For our clan brethren in New Zealand there is *The Waipu Settlers* telling of the Rev Norman MacLeod's migration and restless wanderings. For lovers of pipe music there is an ample selection including *Green Hills of Tyrol*.

The background images include locations in the Inner and Outer Hebrides, gorgeous highland cattle and windswept cascading waterfalls. Clan history and the chronologies associated with the Chiefs run as seamless commentary in this unique collection of live performances, in a ceilidh setting. The living room carpet took a gentle beating as I responded to the snappy tunes and was even heard singing along with the band then get up and "Rise to follow Charlie"!

I give huge applause for Peter and Wendy Macleod and colleagues for hours of research. The performers have put this show together to satisfy all tastes in Scottish music. Perfect for a summer barbeque or a winter casserole as we toast the Chief(s) as well as the performers and the gallant production crew who make this music come alive.

Isle of Berisay and the MacLeods of Lewis



The Isle of Berisay (Bearasay) viewed from Great Bernera, west of the Isle of Lewis.

Scene of the last stand of the MacLeods of Lewis before their eviction in 1613 by the MacKenzies of Kintail. Neil MacLeod and forty of his supporters held out on this rocky island for two and a half years before being forced to surrender after the MacKenzies took their wives and children hostage. During their time on Berisay the MacLeods constructed an artificial loch to catch rainwater and conducted raids into the Isle of Lewis. (Peter Macleod)

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- Calum's Road
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Produced by: Peter & Wendy Macleod
19 Viewpoint Dve, Toukley NSW 2263
Australia Phone 61 2 4397 3161



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