

# the clan macleod magazine



No. 131 October 2020



# the clan macleod magazine

Associated Clan MacLeod Societies



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Cover photo: *Ardvreck Castle, Assynt*



# The Chief's Letter

Dear Clansfolk,

What are we going to do today? This is perhaps an international anthem given the lockdowns and restrictions that we are all under at the time of writing. It is almost impossible to find words to describe the current worldwide situation – and I am rarely lost for words. Even if one were to comment, as I write this letter in August, by the time you get to read it, the content will likely be out of date. I hope and pray that by the time we are in print, we and the world will be in a much better and safer place.

Usually the Chief's letter is all about what has happened recently in family and Clan matters and events and looks forward to future Clan activities. Although there were many Clan events since the last report, the only ones involving my attendance were the Richmond (Tasmania) Highland Gathering and the Hanging Rock Picnic, the latter hosted by CMS Victoria. Thanks to Clan Gregor contacts, Richmond featured in the USA Newsletter of the Council of Scottish Clans and Associations (COSCA). The picnic was one of the wettest ever. We had to cram into a shelter to keep dry during lunch. This was well before the social distancing rules that now apply.

Thankfully, in late 2019 before restrictions applied, we did travel to England to spend time with our daughter Hannah and her family. We also had several visits to see son Alastair and family in Victoria, Australia. The chances to see both families again in the near future



seem quite remote. However, the list of things that we were going to do this year and next but have been postponed or cancelled, is much greater. One such event that Liz and I were particularly looking forward to this year was the Mackenzie/MacLeod Gathering on Lewis. It is a pity they did not cancel this 400 years ago!

Even the Edinburgh Military Tattoo is to be a virtual performance for this year.

Perhaps the saddest lost Clan event for me and maybe for all in the Southern Hemisphere, was the World Gathering 2021 in South Australia, due in part to my family's early connection with the state. It would also have been the first Australian gathering since Bendigo 1999.

The previous Clan Magazine (130) featured Raasay articles on the works of Margaret Moodie's father, William John MacLeod, on view at the 2018 Parliament, and the journeys by Steph McLeod and Valmai Hall. To answer Valmai's question – there is no mistake who won the Tug O' War – Raasay!

We also saw a first with that issue made available electronically by the Magazine team before distribution via the usual postal system. This was a great initiative to ensure the Magazine was available even under the difficult circumstances created by COVID-19.

Thankfully, the numerous email delivered newsletters from Clan Societies and groups to their members, maintain those important Clan communications. This is particularly important at a time like this. Credit must go to all those editors and contributors who assist with their production. While we all miss terribly the intimate contact



Left: Chief John (centre) with Elizabeth and Frank MacGregor of Clan Gregor at Richmond. Right: Chief John with Helen Dickie MacLeod and Geoff MacLeod at Hanging Rock.



with our immediate families, the availability of various internet and other electronic linkages does offer reasonable communications, but just not like the “real thing”.

Naturally, for Liz and myself our closest interest and communications are with the UK and the rest of Australia. At the time of writing it appears that the world may well not change much, let alone be back to what we call “normal” for some time.

With regards to the pandemic, Tasmania, with our natural moat to protect us, is in a good place at present but we must remember that things can change very quickly.

The Highlands of Scotland, including Skye and Raasay, have until recently been shielded from visitors by Government restrictions. While affording safety for the population this, as we have heard from Chief Hugh MacLeod, comes at a high economic cost. These areas rely heavily on international tourism, without which businesses, communities and the Scottish economy suffer.

It appears that Raasay House will not open until 2021, the Raasay Distillery operates from an online portal and Dunvegan has opened the Gardens, café, and shop, but not the Castle at this stage. I can personally recommend the Raasay gin and have become a Friend of Dunvegan in support of these, our traditional Clan places. Do check out the Raasay Walled Garden website to see what great work has been undertaken since 2018, testament to the work of the local community volunteers.

Closer to home I continue to investigate the preservation of the Raasay Macleod gravesite in Adelaide, South Australia. While discussions continue between stonemasons and heritage and cemetery authorities, the pandemic has added to the cost and extended the timeline. Not being able to meet with the various interested parties personally on site in Adelaide as originally planned has hindered negotiations to move the project forward. I am most grateful to the Dunvegan Foundation and an anonymous donor for their financial support and patience. It will happen!

We must remain positive for the future and stay safe.

It is a most appropriate time to “Hold Fast”.

**John Macleod of Raasay**

# President's Address

Peter Macleod

ACMS President



*The President and Wendy with Johnny MacLeod of Glendale at Parliament 2002 (Penny DeGraff)*

In our April Magazine I wrote with anticipation of coming International events of MacLeod significance. We were looking forward to the North American Gathering at Livonia and the Mackenzie-MacLeod Ceilidh and celebration of friendship on the Isle of Lewis. Sadly, shortly after our April Magazine went to press both were cancelled.

Closer to home for us was the World Gathering 2021 to be held at McLaren Vale in South Australia and now, this too, has met the same fate.

Around the World, Highland Games, clan social gatherings, family celebrations and practically everything else has been impacted by this dreadful COVID-19 pandemic. We can only hope it passes as quickly as possible and afterwards, our lives can get back to something like normal.

The ACMS is impacted too. We can't meet personally, but continue to function and prepare for a life after

COVID-19.

Our Officers are all “tech savvy” so our financial and secretarial operations carry on mostly via email. The Clan MacLeod Magazine is still produced to its high standard. Our ACMS website is expanded and our Social Media pages maintained.

The Dame Flora Communication Committee’s project to make all back issues of the Clan MacLeod Magazine available to view or as print on demand paper copies is progressing well. When we finish clansfolk will be able to read Magazine articles dating back to the first issue in 1935.

We have not been able to hold an ACMS meeting with personal attendance since February and we’re not sure when we will be able to again. But, we held a full ACMS Skype meeting in May and another is scheduled for November - so our business goes on. Physical meetings interspersed with others on Skype may become the new norm.

With a turbulent 800 years of history behind us, we have survived worse and we look forward with the knowledge and confidence that bright days will come again.

Dates for Clan Parliament at Dunvegan in 2022 have been set, Saturday 23rd to Saturday 30th July. We may not yet be able to book but we can plan and dream. A Pre-Parliament trip has been suggested for Mull and Iona.

When our Highland Games and Clan Society functions resume clansfolk should give these all the support they can, if we don’t use them, we will lose them, and what a shame that would be.

Not long after our April Clan Magazine was published we were saddened to hear of the passing of John MacLeod of the Glendale family. John was a great worker for Clan MacLeod who accomplished much but always without any fuss. More on his life appears later in the Magazine. Condolences to his family.

Best wishes for the health and well being of all MacLeod clansfolk and friends of Clan MacLeod.

**We Shall Hold a Light**

**Peter Macleod**

# Editorial

**H**ow are you? I hope this pandemic has not affected you and yours too badly. My prayers are with those who have suffered loss. I am fortunate that my only loss has been income, there being no tour work until August when Scotland’s lockdown eased sufficiently for me to guide again.

I have therefore had more time for other interests, one of which is Gaelic. Again I include some phrases you may find of interest. I do not mind sharing my discovery of free Gaelic learning on-line with Duolingo.

In this issue we have a few stories from World War Two marking the 75th Anniversary of the end of that conflict. I should have invited contributions when I wrote the Editorial for CMM 130 but I confess I had not thought of it then! My thanks to National Presidents for later disseminating my appeal for stories.

My father Douglas and his elder brother, Alf were both in the RAF



*Douglas Tolmie in 1943, aged 20. Douglas (right) with Alf, Ceylon, 1943.*

during WW2. As it happens they were posted relatively close to each other on islands in the Indian Ocean. My father was at RAF Trincomalee in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka). My uncle Alf was on the Cocos Keeling Islands – a veritable tropical paradise judging by the photos. So they both had a “good” war, far from action and in pleasant surroundings. Although I later learned that the Ceylonese soldiers on the islands mutinied so maybe things were not so peaceful after all. I do so wish I had asked more questions of them when I had the chance. My photo is of them both when Alf visited Ceylon.

Other articles feature a remarkable story of collaboration that saved many Gaelic songs from oblivion; another genealogical story from our stalwart Ian Campbell Harris listing the bounteous progeny of “The Berneray Tribe”. In current affairs we learn how the Assynt Foundation in Scotland works.

Enjoy the October 2020 issue.

**Yours in clanship**

**Kevin John Tolmie**

**Cha Smailear Mi**



Dr. Don and Nurse Christine wear the finest MacLeod facemasks at work every day. Many months working through the pandemic without time off and always trying to catch up. Dr Don says “We encourage everyone to wear masks when leaving home.

Viruses and other sources of infections will continue to plague our ever increasing world population.” Thank you to Don and Christine and all medical and support workers throughout the world working to keep us all safe - Ed

# Dunvegan Estate Update

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## Dear Clansfolk

I hope that you and your families are keeping safe and well in these turbulent times.

The Editor of the Magazine kindly asked me to give an update on the current situation at Dunvegan. As you know, the estate has weathered many existential crises in the past, the most recent of which was the Potato Famine (1846-1851). Norman MacLeod (25th Chief) was financially ruined by the stress of providing food and work for his people and was forced to leave Dunvegan at the age of 39 to take a job as a clerk at the Victoria & Albert Museum in London to support his young family. To his credit, not one person died on the MacLeod Estate during the famine that devastated Highland communities. Of course, today’s crisis is entirely different because both the health and economic repercussions are global in scale.

Although there are still many ‘known unknowns’ about the pandemic and when a sustainable global recovery will be able to take root, I have been Holding Fast at Dunvegan and doing whatever I can to manage an unmanageable situation with the support of my great team. Having placed the MacLeod Estate into a state of quasi-hibernation with 75% of staff on furlough leave earlier this year, we partially reopened the Gardens, holiday cottages, gift shop and Glenbrittle Campsite on the 1st August. This decision was taken to mitigate some of the damage to the estate’s finances by reducing the amount we will need to borrow to replace the gaping hole where our seasonal income used to be. Although the estate managed to avoid operating at a loss last month, August 2020 trade income was 70% down on the same month last year. We received 10,448 visitors to 31st August this year, compared with our record breaking



146,902 from 1 April to 31st August in 2019.

After months of lobbying, we secured two emergency government grants totalling £105,000. While we are grateful for this support, it equates to just 14% of our projected trading loss this year. As a result of this, and the stark reality that the estate is still facing a 94% drop in income this year, we were obliged to restructure and make 6 of the estate's 20 permanent staff redundant in July, as well as implementing salary reductions and cutting expenditure wherever possible. Some of the retained staff were placed on reduced working hours due to budgetary constraints, so we currently employ 12 full-time equivalent staff instead of the 20 strong team we had in March. We are also in the process of refinancing the estate's rolling annual overdraft facility with a five-year £900,000 loan which we hope to have in place later this month. This loan is in addition to the legacy debt incurred when we restored Dunvegan Castle's roof in 2010 and undertook major repair and refurbishments projects across the estate to enhance the visitor experience to the 5\* standard it is today. This additional loan will ensure that the estate can survive intact this year and bridge to the recovery phase, but it is impossible to predict what will happen in 2021 which will be a make or break year for many individuals and businesses alike. I remain hypervigilant and will take whatever decisions are required to ensure that Dunvegan avoids becoming overextended in these uncertain times.

Subject to government guidelines on social distancing next year, the Estate's exit strategy will focus on protecting staff and visitors alike with a phased reopening of the Castle and more parts of the business. Even if that is possible which is not guaranteed, next season will be a world away from what it was last year. Visitor numbers are likely to reverse to levels not seen since 1975, when Dunvegan Castle received 66,000 visitors. If we are lucky enough to welcome even that number of visitors in 2021 with a scaled back operation, the Castle admission prices may have to be reduced which creates other challenges for the future viability of the estate. It is clear to me that the estate's income is going to take many years to recover and its survival is not guaranteed.

With circa £2.5 million worth of future restoration and repair projects to address, and our capacity to fund these essential

works severely curtailed for the foreseeable future, I hope you will consider supporting the estate, either by purchasing a Friends of Dunvegan Castle membership on our website, purchasing an item from our new online shop which is launching shortly, or by making a donation to the dedicated MacLeod Estate account below.

So far, generous clansfolk have donated £1,617 via an ACMS appeal earlier this year, for which I am very grateful. Any donations large or small will be gratefully received. Thank you.

**Hold Fast and stay safe**  
**Hugh MacLeod of MacLeod**



Account: Dunvegan Castle Appeal Account  
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Edinburgh EH1 2AS

# Obituary: John Campbell MacLeod

John “Johnny Glendale” MacLeod succeeded his brother and sister-in-law, Donald and Rosemary MacLeod of Glendale, as Editor of the Clan MacLeod Magazine in 1994. He introduced a distinctive Celtic pattern to the cover of the Magazine. He was steeped in the lore of the Clan and particularly loved stories of Alasdair Crotach who was one of his heroes. During his tenure he featured many historical articles. He also covered important Clan events including the coming of age of Hugh MacLeod of MacLeod and the 1994 and 2002 Parliaments. John also painted the first banners for Parliament. These featured the Chief’s Bull’s head Crest and the Arms of leading Clansfolk.

John edited twenty issues of the Magazine over the next ten years. In his time there were many “firsts”. In 1995 there was the first diary of Highland Games in Scotland and North America. In 1996 John wrote about the Zoffany portraits at the Castle. The “Yellow Pages” – giving the names and addresses of Clan MacLeod Society office bearers was introduced in 1997. In 2003 there was a report of the inaugural meeting of the Clan MacLeod Society of Germany. In his last Magazine, in April 2004, John featured the journey that he, Donald and Rosemary made from Barra to the Butt of Lewis.

John was born in Edinburgh in 1943 and attended the Edinburgh Academy, Strathallan School and the College of Art at Hammersmith, London. He worked with the Special Projects Unit at Honeywell Ltd of London and was appointed Deputy Chief Design Consultant for the Southern Command of the Army. He was also a Major in the Territorial Army with the Black Watch.

John was descended from Donald MacLeod of Arnisdale, 1706-1793, and was the son of Colonel Colin MacLeod of Glendale, for

many years President of the Clan MacLeod Society of Scotland. John matriculated arms at Lyon Court in 1962. His genealogy appears in Section Three of The MacLeods – The Genealogy of a Clan.

A fine designer, he later started his own business and was appointed a Governor of Edinburgh College of Art. Indeed he pursued many artistic interests. He also loved shooting with colleagues from Army HQ Scotland at Craigiehall. He enjoyed time as a Tour Guide, researched the history of the Dunvegan Cup and gained a degree in history at Edinburgh University.

John was briefly married. He was always positive and never seemed sad. He was involved in Clan life from an early age, including the early days of NRG and was close to Dame Flora. Many remember his youthful exuberance at Parliament in the the 1960s. He lived a fulfilled life until his later years were marred by dementia. He



*John 'Johnny' Campbell MacLeod of Glendale.*

was finally settled at the Elms Nursing Home in Edinburgh, where he was very happy. Staff and residents there, like so many MacLeods and others before, enjoyed his gentlemanly manner: courteous, cheerful, humorous and kind.

John died at the nursing home in April 2020 and is much missed by his thirteen great nieces and nephews. He is buried in the family plot at Grange Cemetery.



# The Berneray Tribe

by Ian Campbell Harris

“The Berneray Tribe” is an appellation given to the extensive family of Donald Roy MacLeod (1692-1781), who leased the Isle of Berneray from his relative, the Chief of MacLeod at Dunvegan Castle. For more on the Berneray MacLeods see CMM 124. Donald MacLeod was a colourful figure and had a long and eventful life, which included being an active Jacobite, and fighting in the fateful Battle of Culloden. As a result, Donald came to be known as “The Old Trojan of Berneray”. He begat twenty-nine children. Twenty were by his first wife, Anne, who was the only daughter and only surviving child of the 19th Chief of MacLeod. Her uncle succeeded to the chiefship. The other nine children were by his third wife, Margaret, of the Greshornish MacLeods [CMM 121], who was aged only 16 when she married Donald then aged 75. There was no issue in Donald’s second marriage of nineteen years to Janet, the granddaughter of a MacDonald Chief. It is a remarkable progeny and has given rise to countless descendants.

Much, but not all, of what is written here can be found in the MacLeod Genealogies published by ACMS. Some information therein is contradictory. I have attempted to highlight areas of doubt.

The twenty-nine children of “The Berneray Tribe” were as follows, though not necessarily born in the order listed:

## The twenty children of Donald and Anne:

**1. Norman** (1715-1803) the eldest son of the first marriage, was born at Unish, in Waternish, Skye, while his father was the tacksman (leaseholder) of the Unish Estate. In 1738, Norman succeeded to the lease of Unish. The following year he became involved in the notorious scheme to kidnap local folk and sell them as slaves in America. He afterwards hid in Ireland until the Jacobite uprising of 1745, when his cousin, the MacLeod Chief, procured

him a Captaincy in the Government forces. During that time this “unnatural and heartless” son hunted his fugitive Jacobite father. On the latter’s death in 1781, Norman succeeded him in Berneray, which estate he ran very successfully, as well as humanely. He married his second cousin Margaret, daughter of the MacNeil Chief, with whom he had fourteen children. Five died in infancy and all his sons predeceased him without issue. Norman died in Berneray a very wealthy man and was succeeded on the estate by the eldest of his three surviving daughters, who later purchased the Orbst property in Skye. Another of these daughters was co-progenitor of the Bernisdale MacLeods, among whom were two Commanders-in-Chief of Burma (as well as Knight Commanders of the Indian Empire) and the great pioneer of Gippsland in south-east Australia.

**2. Alexander** (1716-1790) was the second eldest son, and also born at Unish. He entered the service of the East India Company as a cadet in 1734, and later became the Captain of the merchant ships, *Marlborough* and *Lord Mansfield* during which time he participated in Clive’s re-capture of Calcutta [Kolkatta]. Alexander retired with a “noble fortune” and was able to extend substantial loans to his cousin, the MacLeod Chief, who in 1779 sold him the entire estate of Harris which included Berneray. In 1782 Alexander became a Member of Parliament in London, and as the ‘1st of Harris’, he was a progressive laird, investing a great deal of money and zeal improving the local economy and the people’s welfare. His far-sighted plans were not altogether successful, however, and his health broke down. He went to Harrow in England to convalesce and there he died. His wife was probably the daughter of Abraham Hume, a Glasgow merchant. With her, Alexander had a son and two daughters. One of the latter married the wealthy MacLeod Laird of Cadboll, Ross-shire, whose family seat was Invergordon Castle. She subsequently bore his successor, and her grandchildren included the influential Victorian economist, Henry Dunning Macleod, and his sister, the Baroness de Virte de Rathsamhausen de Ehenweyer. A great-grandson was Sir Norman Cranstoun MacLeod, Chief Justice of Bombay (who in 1923 signed the order cancelling Mahatma Gandhi’s licence to practise as a barrister after he was convicted of sedition). Alexander’s son duly succeeded him as 2nd of Harris after holding an appointment in

India with the Nizam of Hyderabad (a local Prince), and he was followed in turn as 3rd of Harris by his own son.

**3. Roderick, 4. William and 5. John** of whom no further details are known.

**6. Janet** in 1740 married the Rev John Macpherson, minister of the Isle of Barra, and later of Sleat in Skye. He also published a dissertation on early Scottish history, as well as Latin verse, having graduated in classics at King's College in Aberdeen. His two sons with Janet also graduated from King's College while its Principal was their Talisker MacLeod kinsman [CMM 122]. The elder brother became Purser on his uncle's ship, the *Lord Mansfield* (see above), and in India he was agent for the Nawab of the Carnatic (a native ruler), and later served in the East India Company. After being appointed by the Prime Minister, Lord North, to the Supreme Council at Calcutta, he eventually became India's second Governor-General after succeeding Warren Hastings in 1785. He was later created a Baronet as well as Lord Rector of Aberdeen University, and was furthermore a Member of Parliament in London (viz. Sir John Macpherson). He also became a very close friend of Prince George (later King George IV), and of the Holy Roman Emperor

Leopold II. Janet's younger son followed his father in the Ministry and in Sleat parish. He twice met the eminent scholar, Dr Samuel Johnson and his biographer James Boswell, who were much impressed by his literary talents, as Boswell's famous Journal records. At the manse, Dr Johnson also met Janet's daughter, who so pleased the illustrious Doctor that he sent her a copy of his 'Rasselas' from London as a gift (and evidently other books and letters as well).

**7. Isabella** (died 1802) in 1743 married her kinsman, the Rev William MacLeod of the Ullinish MacLeods [CMM 119], who was minister of Bracadale, Skye, and later of Campbeltown, Kintyre. They had seven sons and ten daughters.

**8. Christian** (died 1814) married her kinsman, William MacLeod, the tacksman of the Ose Estate in Bracadale, Skye. Although he had a good income from the tack and as factor (manager) on the MacLeod Chief's estates, it seems he financially embarrassed his family by unwise involvement in the cattle trade. With him, Christian had three sons and ten daughters, and died at Ose. A contradictory statement has it that Christian's husband was named Roderick MacLeod, but this might be a confusion with William's father,



*A depiction of the Battle of Culloden in which Donald MacLeod "The Old Trojan" of Berneray fought and narrowly escaped death, later to father 29 children with numerous descendants. The painting is titled 'An Incident in the Rebellion of 1745' by Davis Morier and is in The Royal Collection.*

brother or son, all three of whom were Roderick.

**9. Margaret** likewise married a kinsman, namely Alexander MacLeod, the tacksman of the Ferinlea Estate, also in Bracadale, Skye. He was the elder brother of her own brother-in-law (married to her sister, Christian - see above). Margaret received Dr Johnson and James Boswell at Ferinlea, as is mentioned in the latter's Journal. However, it seems that Margaret had no issue.

**10. Sibella** married Captain Allan MacDonald, 4th of the MacDonalds of Knock, in Sleat, Skye, who was a fanatical supporter of the Hanoverian Government during the Jacobite rebellion of 1745-6. With him she had two sons and two daughters. The younger son rose to the rank of General as well as being Lieutenant-Governor of Fort William, Inverness-shire.

**11. Flora** whose husband was John Campbell of the Campbells of Ensay, and became the mother of three sons and two daughters. One of the younger sons attained the rank of Colonel.

**12.** A daughter who wed a MacLean of Trean.

**13.** A daughter who apparently had no issue. According to one reference, her husband was named only as Major MacDonald of Achnagoyle (sic). However, other references indicate that the husband was Major Donald MacLeod who in 1795 purchased the Auchagoyle Estate near Inveraray, Argyllshire. The confusion may have come about over the "Donald" part of the two names, but Donald MacLeod would seem the more likely, as he was closely related to this daughter's nephew, Sir John Macpherson, Governor-General of India (see above), and indeed he himself rose to the rank of Colonel serving in India during the same period. He was also made a Freeman of Glasgow together with this daughter's older brother, Captain Alexander MacLeod (later 1st of Harris - see above), from whose son he subsequently purchased St Kilda.

**14.- 20.** There were seven other children born of the first marriage, who appear to have all died in childhood. It should be noted that they are interspersed with the survivors. It was not thirteen healthy followed by seven sickly.

#### **The nine children of Donald and Margaret:**

**21. John** (1766-1851) was the eldest son of the third marriage. He

saw much action in the Army and rose to the rank of Lieutenant-General. He was created a Companion of the Bath (CB), and later knighted. In 1814 he married Jane Gordon Finlayson, daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel Finlayson of Aberdeen, and she bore him a son and two daughters, the son becoming a Major, and the younger daughter marrying a Major. Sir John MacLeod died in London.

**22. Donald**, like his elder half-brother, Alexander, commanded a merchant ship. He married the daughter of an attorney in Cheltenham, England, named Gignnet. They had one son, who died young.

**23. Charles** (died 1853) entered the Indian Army, and like his older brother John, he attained the rank of Lieutenant-General. His active service included a campaign in India under the future Duke of Wellington. Charles was created a Knight Commander of the Bath (KCB), and registered Arms in the Lyon Court in Edinburgh. He was said to have been strikingly handsome and married an artist's daughter named Mary Chinnery, with no issue. Sir Charles also died in London.

**24. Alexandrina** (Lexie) was the eldest daughter of the third marriage, and wed her kinsman, Norman MacLeod, 7th of the MacLeods of Drynoch, Skye. He became the tacksman of the Knock Estate in Sleat, Skye. They had nine sons, all but one becoming army officers, and serving in many parts of the world, as well as often seeing very active service, such as the captures of Java and the Cape of Good Hope. One of them founded a settlement in Ontario, Canada, duly called 'Drynoch'. Norman and Lexie also had six daughters, all said to be extraordinarily good-looking. Of Lexie's grandsons, Lieutenant-Colonel James Farquharson Macleod was one of the first Commissioners of the famous North West Mounted Police in Canada, and gave the names to Fort Macleod and Fort Calgary, now the city of Calgary. He was appointed to the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories and was furthermore created a Companion of the Order of St Michael & St George (GCMG). One of Lexie's great-grandchildren was knighted for his services to journalism and as Manager of the 'Argus' in Australia (Sir Lauchlan Charles MacKinnon). Among further descendants, one married a son of the Earl of Cawdor, and another a daughter of the Earl of Dunmore (whose family purchased Berneray and Harris from



Lexie's grand-nephew – see above).

**25. Anne** wed Kenneth Campbell of the Campbells of Strond, Harris, bearing him six sons and five daughters. One of the latter married her kinsman, the famous physician of the Highlands & Islands, Dr Alexander MacLeod; and one of their sons and a number of grandsons subsequently became doctors, surgeons or consultants. One even became Honorary Physician to King George V (Surgeon-Colonel Kenneth MacLeod), while another grandson, Charles Campbell MacLeod, was chairman of the National Bank of India and later knighted and created a Baronet.

**26. Marion** (c1776-1855) married her kinsman Major Alexander MacLeod, 1st of Dalvey, who purchased the Dalvey Estate in Morayshire [CMM 118]. He earlier served in the Indian Army and was ADC (Aide-de-Camp) to his relative, Major-General Norman MacLeod, 23rd Chief of MacLeod. Marion and Alexander had eleven children and many descendants, including Chiefs of MacKintosh [CMM 127] and Clan Chattan, as well as this article's author.

**27. Janet** (Jessie) (died 1863) in 1797 married her third cousin, John MacLean, Laird of Drimnin & 13th of Boreray. Their eldest son and heir married her niece, Margaret of the Dalvey MacLeods (see above). Jessie also had a further five sons and five daughters. The third son attained the rank of Major-General and succeeded his brother as 15th of Boreray; while the fourth son became ADC to the Governor-General of India, Lord Ellenborough. The sixth and youngest son succeeded in turn as 16th of Boreray. He was William Campbell MacLean, and rose to be Surgeon-General and Honorary Surgeon to Queen Victoria, and created a Companion of the Bath. He published an autobiography, "Memories of a Long Life". His own son duly followed as 17th of Boreray, but was the last of the line. Another of Jessie's grandsons became an eminent High Court Judge, and was knighted as Sir William Macpherson.

**28. Christina** (died 1835) married a distant relative, Major James MacDonald of the MacDonalds of Boisdale, South Uist, who held the tack of Askernish there. With him she had two sons and two daughters. Christina and her husband are buried at Rothesay, Isle of Bute.

**29.** A daughter who did not survive infancy.

# Pilot Officer John Bruce MacLeod

**This story is adapted by the Editor, based on initial information sent to our regular contributor Ian Campbell Harris by his friend William McHardy**

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John Bruce MacLeod was the only son of Dr and Mrs John Farquhar MacLeod of Eastleigh, Peterculter, Aberdeenshire. Born in South Bank, near Middlesborough, England, in August 1920, he moved with his family to London in 1924 and attended his first school in Dulwich. Later the family came to Scotland where John continued his education firstly at Culter and then at Aberdeen Grammar School. He was keen on sport, playing rugby for the school 2nd XV. He took a keen interest in Scouting and with the Scouts visited Scandinavia.

After leaving school in 1939 and not wanting to follow his father's profession, he worked for a year with his Uncle, John Bruce at Marshall & Company Limited, preserved provision manufacturers, Aberdeen. In September 1940 he volunteered for the RAF. He gained his "wings" and was commissioned as a Pilot Officer in July 1941.

He was the pilot of a Bristol Blenheim of 110 Squadron based at RAF Lossiemouth, in the north of Scotland. The squadron was tasked with taking part in "Operation Archery". This was a large combined land, sea and air attack by British and Norwegian forces on the German bases on the islands of Vaagso and Maaloy off the Norwegian coast. It took place on 27 December 1941 and it was in these northern waters that John's aircraft was lost. The tribute paid by his Group Captain was a fitting epitaph: "Efficient and resolute in his devotion to duty".


The outcome of the operation at the time was regarded as a success with the destruction of facilities for manufacture of explosives, coastal defences, power station, nine merchant ships and four

**Continued on page 36...**

# Linking the Clan

Ruth MacLeod

ACMS Corresponding Secretary



Looking forward, looking back seems to be the theme of Clan life in recent months. While doing some research perusing old Magazines, I found a lengthy article featuring the 50 years since the end of WW2, with letters written by Dame Flora from Dunvegan Castle during those War years. She was a prolific letter writer and far flung Clan often comment on these treasured keepsakes. We have now honoured 75 years since WW2 with clan pipers around the world playing similar tunes at the same time, while in the backyard, on driveways or in the local park. Tucked away in a Clan book, I discovered invitations our Chief sent to Clan Youth coming to Parliament in the early days of NRG and I have a good memory of the little gathering when Dame Flora recorded *Stories Told by the Chief*. We were upstairs in the Castle and I recall the sun lit sitting room, with all quite enthralled and hanging on to her every word.

Clan youth have made significant contributions over the years, and I noticed that those attending in 1974 came from all six ACMS Societies, and all have maintained strong links to local and international efforts taking on duties, becoming office bearers and attending Gatherings. There would be similar responsibilities taken on from many other NRG groups.

Clan gathered earlier this year with Burns Suppers in Milwaukee, Tallahassee and Sarasota (Florida), Germany and Winnipeg, however the Tartan Day Parades and Church Services were cancelled. New members bolster the Clan in Wisconsin, Victoria and Tasmania (Aust) and Auckland, with enquiries to other groups. To keep awareness that the flags are

flying high, a new flag was designed for the Isle of Skye, and a banner with ACMS Arms will be raised for major events.

I appreciated the commiserations from correspondents in trying to put together this clan news column and offer thanks to all who sent updated information, from Lockdown London and New Zealand to California and my home region with 'everyone locked out at the state border'. How life has changed for so many of us, missing these many months of meeting, greeting, partying, and attending clan events and Games. Among those many other important everyday aspects, living the high life is merely a vague memory.

While confined to barracks folk around the world have shared many similar coping mechanisms and experiences. Zoom meetings with clan members took place in Scotland and England with great success and we know the Clan MacLeod network is still active around the world via Newsletters, email, Skype, Facebook and social media. What surprised us? Home schooling, college courses all on-line, young adults 'moving home', dealing with cancelled travel plans, empty shop shelves, 'dining out' becoming Drive Thru, Take Away, or Delivered to the Doorstep.

Over the months we learned of "virtual" events – Highland Games in Melbourne and Vancouver Island BC showcased the resilience of Highland and Celtic Spirit, with Clans, Athletes, Dancers, Pipers, Musicians, and many supporters involved and successfully entertaining those at home, live streaming locally and overseas. The Melbourne Tartan Festival gave online links to amazing music by skilled artists with accordion, the fiddle and piping. Whisky tasting had notes and samples sent in advance. Group exercise guidance came via TV or online, entertainment with home ceilidhs like the olden times, weekly family trivia nights via Zoom, doing a jigsaw of Dunvegan Castle, learning Gaelic, video recording Skye Boat Song in multiple locations.

Thanks for Newsletters which often include a photo with familiar clan faces enjoying a meal in good company. A wide variety of events, issues, and history is offered from more than 20 Societies and local groups, and Newsletters can be shared easily via email. Lunches were enjoyed in Vancouver, Auckland 'Before Lockdown' then 'Unlocked' in Christchurch. The Victoria (Aust)



News included the story of the Silver Chanter and the young MacCrimmon, while the USA News told of Norman 22nd Chief “The Red Man” as well as the many 2019 Highland Games attended. NZ wrote of the 700th Anniversary of the Declaration of Arbroath and famous authors influenced by Scotland, J.M. Barrie, Robert Louis Stevenson among others. The German Newsletter is full of colour photos, it includes touring dates of well known musicians, bands, Tattoo performances, Highland Shows and whisky tastings, and tells of The Road to the Isles and Ardveck Castle. South Australian News shared that fundraising at Broadford Primary School on Skye put £1,200 towards those affected by the devastating Australian bushfires at Broadford Primary School in Victoria. The NSW Digest of Miscellaneous MacLeodery offered a tour around the Isle of Harris and a story on Admiral Norman MacLeod of the Royal Dutch Navy.

We welcome new correspondents and office bearers Sasha Macleod, Marni Macdonald, Anne-Marie Maclot, and offer thanks to Tracy Eklund (Alberta), Tom Macleod (Missouri Valley) and Ghislaine MacLeod-Poirier (France). Thanks go to Jeroen Roskam who has been so helpful at Dunvegan Castle. And also to dear Magazine readers, who offered positive feedback for the efforts of the Editorial Team.

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 Isabel Betty MacLeod (Maryland), Jim McLeod (USA Past President, Bellingham Wash), Alister MacLeod (Melbourne), Madeleine McCrimmon (Glengarry) John MacLeod of Glendale (Edinburgh) and Rick Pugliese (Ontario).

#### **ENGLAND**

In common with many other events the cancelled AGM became a very good ‘virtual’ video conference.

All members were invited, and resulted in a better attendance online than offline and one of the highest in recent years. Old friends were present and messages were received from many others. They will consider including online options for future meetings. The Society is offering family connections currently non-members to be included as ‘email members’ with no obligation to participate. This might encourage many, particularly younger people, to remain aware of activities.

#### **CANADA**

MacLeods of Glengarry (Ontario) had a social golf day and regret having no meal nor social time. A committee is making an effort to update the local genealogy, a tracking task made difficult with unlisted mobile phones, private addresses and everyone working. The huge collection in storage is valuable and all are encouraged to contribute information, time, and energy to assist. Winnipeg clan are ‘active’ in a virtual sense, in that they maintain the local links by phone and offer a warm welcome to all visitors. The Victoria ‘virtual’ Games might have been a great success however, while enjoying the comforts of home, some missed the wonderful Scottish food. A Simon Fraser University symposium “Coastal Scots: A Scholarly Overview” explored the lives and experiences over 300 years of Scottish peoples and communities.

Toronto hosted the annual Kilt Skate, a sold out event on a cold and blustery day, so the indoor climate proved popular as all enjoyed flaunting the tartan. ‘Men In Kilts’ on Vancouver Island are offering to pick up and deliver groceries to seniors and those housebound.

#### **SWITZERLAND**

The Swiss Society has stopped all activities for the moment but look forward to the general assembly to be held in 2021 possibly in June.

#### **NEW ZEALAND**

Members were able to attend Canterbury Pipe Band Contest in March, before the long gap in activity until the July Tartan Day Lunch. After the Haggis was piped in all were challenged to write a fun story using as many pipe tune titles as possible from the supplied list. They look forward to the Hororata Games, as Auckland and Wellington regional groups plan for functions in coming months.





Central Region / Wellington folk were disappointed as the NZ Gathering was cancelled. A chance café encounter led to meeting the McLeod family descendants of the first NZ policeman who was shot, with MacLeod tartan now worn by the NZ Police Pipe Band.

Auckland and Helensville clan were welcomed and farewelled for a festive lunch with pipes, as all enjoyed a catch-up after a long lockdown. They met again for Kirking of the Tartan and the Clan MacLeod Church service in Auckland will precede lunch at the Highland Bar.

### **AUSTRALIA**

Victorian folk have had it tougher than other Australians recently, and survivors are busting to get out there. Anywhere. And they expect it to be soon. They plan for the Clan picnic and BBQ to proceed albeit with social distancing rules, using communal barbeques and masks. A concerted effort is being made to include and promote the clan in Tasmania with a lunch held in Hobart. In New South Wales a small Council meeting included a BBQ lunch. The AGM saw the clan enjoying another BBQ along with the Clan MacLeod Pipe Band offering lively entertainment. When Highland Games resume they will fly two ACMS flags above the Clan Tent, ensuring a colourful presentation, while inside a new Isle of Skye flag will decorate. They look forward to a trip to the country for the Annual Gundy BBQ weekend next March.

Our National Coordinator has noted Australians have been through tough times with widespread drought, devastating fires and flood and cyclones in diverse places, albeit with some having good seasons. Disaster and bounty have tested the community mettle and way of life. An antidote is hope, so HOLD FAST. West Australia has been noted as free of

the virus, so folk can participate in normal activities – but without leaving the state. A series of coming events will include a morning tea, a birthday party, the BBQ in the Hills, and a small Highland Games in the Swan Valley.

### **GERMANY**

A highlight was the Annual Edinburgh Dinner, again in the Royal Scots Club. Eleven members from Germany and Belgium attended. The main event was the ACMS Meeting but there was also time for shopping and sight-seeing during the week-end.

When meetings became difficult, activity evenings were organised with Skype or Zoom. Whisky-to-go orders were offered with online tasting notes as members were supplied with sample bottles. Handmade pralines with whisky was a delicious alternative. Scottish films and documentaries were offered with download links. Clan pipers suffering from cancelled gigs and competitions entertained in Seniors social facilities. They hope to meet for the annual general meeting near Hessen – minus the customary warm embracing. Several Scots clans plan to visit Ypres for a Last Post Ceremony.

### **SCOTLAND**

Committee meetings will continue successfully with Zoom, along with emails to members. Following praise for the artistic efforts of William MacLeod featured in the recent Clan Magazine, a book of his life story with many photos of his artworks was published on Raasay. The Scotland Shop in Edinburgh featured MacLeods as Clan of the Month with interviews, tales and tartans, shared widely on social media.

### **UNITED STATES of AMERICA**

In Washington the Skagit Valley Games were replaced with the virtual concerts and lectures raising funds and keeping Scots connected. Featured Cape Breton artists included a famous fiddler and piper, with a slideshow of Games' highlights over 25 years. A Gaelic class was taught from Cape Breton and British Columbia, while a weekly céilidh included participants from all over North America. The MacCrimmon Quaich pibroch competition has great support at Games, and the Pacific Region assists promoting Scottish ancestry with awards for dancers. The Migration Project receives



many referrals from social media enquiries and offers resources and links for Genealogy research.

South Central Region makes a great effort to connect with everyone and the MacLeod Global Project video of Skye Boat Song was most successful on YouTube. The SouthWest region enjoyed the Games in Phoenix before others were cancelled. Utah's "Scots on the Rocks" Moab Games might proceed in November, and they look forward to a robust 2021 schedule and would love to have visitors from afar.

### FRANCE

A small gathering of the clan was scheduled in Lorraine near Pont-à-Mousson, east of Paris. A change in office bearers was noted as 'a transfer of power' but in typical Clan matters a 'take over' is rarely contested – and indeed the efforts of all are greatly welcomed. The history of the Clan in France relates to Lorraine from 1565 with the MacLeod / Maclot family settling there. The family descendants are largely from this area in eastern France, towards the border with Belgium.

**Until we meet again, keep safe, be positive and phone a friend.**

**As the Pope reminded us on Palm Sunday, Hold Fast.**

You will have seen Chief Hugh's request for financial support for Dunvegan Castle on pages 11-13. As it is not cost efficient to send money via Foreign Exchange in small amounts some regional groups are collecting contributions locally whether large or small. CMS Western Australia and New South Wales are organising raffles and accepting donations for the Castle Fund. This could be as a tribute for a special occasion, birthday, anniversary or whatever. What a good idea! - Ed

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# Dates for your Diary

Few events are expected to take place as most folk are unable to travel out of their home regions. Clan members and readers are advised to check with local sources for any events in your area – there are phone numbers and email addresses in the Yellow Pages, and some web site addresses or Facebook pages.

Ones in the near months that might proceed include the Celtic Scots on the Rocks (UT USA, November 6-8) and Hanging Rock Picnic (Bendigo, Australia, December 6). The USA Alexandria Gathering scheduled for December 6-7 will likely be held on a virtual basis - similar to many other meetings. CMS Scotland plan a Virtual Quiz on 13 February 2021 at 2000 GMT. It is hoped the North American Gathering can take place on the re-scheduled dates of August 7-8 2021.

The Editorial team of the Magazine will endeavour to provide any assistance we can as the situation changes, please feel free to maintain contact with us.

## Slouch Hat

by Peter MacLeod

This WW1 postcard was donated to the Army Museum Tasmania. The artist was a Norman McLeod from Toowoomba, Queensland, serving in the Australian Imperial Force. It is a humorous suggestion of how the distinctive Australian "Slouch Hat" turns up at the side. The real reason more likely being to avoid hitting the hat when ordered to "shoulder arms!"



## Continued from page 23

Heinkel aircraft. Although overall Allied casualties were considered relatively light, for Bomber and Coastal Commands it proved a costly exercise with the loss of eleven aircraft and thirty-one airmen killed.

The name of Pilot Officer John Bruce MacLeod is on the War Memorials at Peterculter and also Stornoway where his grandparents lived.



Pilot Officer John B MacLeod RAF. Leading Seaman Murdo MacLeod.

# Murdo MacLeod

by William Cumming

Murdo Macleod (1909 – 1996) was the second of seven children born to Donald Macleod and Mary Murray of 25 Swordale, Lewis. He was known as ‘Tenant’.

Murdo had a distinguished time in the Royal Navy during WW2. His bravery was evident from episodes before the war. Once, when he was fourteen he rescued his friend’s younger brother from the sea. As a young man Murdo joined the Merchant Navy. Before that he worked on his uncle’s fishing boat out of Peterhead. He fell overboard but showed great presence of mind and was rescued. These tales will be recounted in greater detail on another occasion; for now I relate his WW2 story.

In November 1939 Murdo had left the Merchant Navy and was on his way home when he heard that the *HMS Rawalpindi* had sunk and that his younger brother Norman had drowned. He managed a visit home for just a few days before going off with the Royal Navy. He was sent to Lowestoft to get his Mates’ certificate and then put on minesweepers.

At first Murdo was around the Thames and then off the west coast of Scotland. He was a Leading Seaman serving on *HMT Gunner* when he was nominated for the Distinguished Service Medal. The boat was a peacetime trawler (HMT = His Majesty’s Trawler) converted to a minesweeper for the duration. She joined the 41st M/S in 1940 and it was probably during that period that Murdo received the commendation. He was gazetted and invested with his award early in 1941:

“For outstanding zeal, patience and cheerfulness, and for never failing to set an example of wholehearted devotion to duty, without which the high tradition of the Royal Navy could not have been upheld.”

It was for shooting down an enemy plane from the minesweeper. He then helped rescue the survivors of the German crew. His sister Anna – the author’s grandmother – accompanied Murdo to the ceremony and recalled that King George VI was a ‘nice man with a small stutter’. However, the honour of the award was tempered by the sorrow of having lost Norman just over a year previously.

After the war, as a civilian, Murdo skippered the *Sea Flower*, *Venture* and *Ocean Gain*. He married Murdina Macdonald of Bayble, Isle of Lewis, and they had three children together.

Murdo loved Swordale, the village of his birth, and talked of it fondly. He suffered a number of heart attacks and strokes towards the end of his life and his short term memory failed badly. He died on 26 June 1996, one week after his good friend and neighbour Hector Maciver. Some said that it was this sorrow, rather than failing health, which finally took him.

I remember him as a quiet but loving great-uncle. He liked nothing better than to sit in his porch, scanning the Minch with his binoculars. He always said, ‘I feel safe if my bottom is in a boat’.

# ***The Gesto Collection:***

## **Celebrating the Collaboration of Dr Keith Norman MacDonald and Miss Frances Tolmie**

by Dr William Lamb

**K**eith Norman MacDonald's volume, *The Gesto Collection of Highland Music* (1895) ranks amongst the premiere sources of Gaelic song and music. With this and his other music books, MacDonald provided us with a wealth of source material. *The Gesto Collection* is best known for its Appendix. In it are numerous songs contributed by one of the most important early Gaelic song collectors, Miss Frances Tolmie. Indeed, the songs she collected had their first public airing there. This is the story of their collaboration on *The Gesto Collection*.

MacDonald was born in Sleat, Skye, in 1834. He was the third son of Lt. Charles MacDonald, of Ord, and Ann MacLeod, the daughter of Captain Neil MacLeod, of Gesto. Captain MacLeod, his grandfather, was the Laird of Gesto, who is renowned for his *Collection* of canntaireachd – the vocal system of singing bagpipe notation. He produced this from Iain Dubh MacCrimmon, one of the last of those hereditary pipers. Herein lies the name of MacDonald's *Collection* as he dedicates it to the MacLeods of Gesto, especially to his maternal uncle, Kenneth MacLeod, who built the Gesto Hospital [see CMM 129].

In his early twenties, MacDonald studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh, returning to Skye in 1858 to practice for two years. About this time he began to play the fiddle in earnest. He spent the next thirty years in a variety of locations in the UK and overseas. He was a physician and amateur musician with a great interest in his fellow man. He was an agnostic when many considered this heresy. His work life was impressive, but he was devoted to his friends and family. From the 1880s, he took a semi-professional interest in traditional Scottish music, publishing *The Skye Collection* in 1887. Traditional musicians will know of this book's enormous impact on Scottish traditional music in Scotland and Nova Scotia. In 1890,

aged 56 he returned to Skye to be the Resident Medical Officer at the Gesto Hospital and began work on *The Gesto Collection*.

MacDonald became quite deaf. This did not stop him playing music and writing about it. He ended his days in Edinburgh, becoming a close friend of Alasdair MacGhille Mhicheil, or Alexander Carmichael, of Carmina Gadelica fame. While he was working on *The Gesto Collection*, MacDonald anticipated bringing out at least one appendix of additional material. Seeking co-conspirators for the appendix, he sought the help of Skye poetess, Mairi MacPherson (Màiri Mhòr nan Òran). She suggested that he contact Miss Frances Tolmie.

Frances Tolmie was the archetypal, fascinating spinster-aunt; intelligent, independent, and stately. She left a positive impression wherever she went. She was born in 1840, at Uiginish near Dunvegan. Like MacDonald, Frances was of tacksman class. Her father, grandfather and great-grandfather were all tacksmen to MacLeod of Dunvegan, and her mother's family - MacAskills - were associated with Eigg, Skye (particularly Rubh' an Dùnain) and Coll. After her father died in 1844, when Frances was only four years of age, her family moved to Minginish, first to Talisker House, then to Glenbrittle House.

These were crucial years for her; Minginish was isolated, maintaining practices that had died out elsewhere in the Gàidhealtachd such as waulking the cloth. This bilingual household, headed by her maternal uncle, Hugh MacAskill, was a ceilidh house of renown. It was a musical environment. Frances heard the fiddle, dance songs and saw waulkings. She carried vivid memories of this time into adulthood. Due to her perspicacity, she realised that this culture would soon disappear. This motivated her to collect and learn the old songs. The ones that particularly fascinated her were the songs that had been around her growing up – the luinneagan: working songs, lullabies and dance songs. These had, until then, mostly escaped the notice of other collectors and were mainly known to older women during her time. Frances was helped in her future endeavours greatly by three older, solitary women; more of them later.

When Frances was fourteen, her brother became Minister in



Strontian, Ardnamurchan. Her mother took Frances, her younger brother Allan, and her sister Mary with her to live there and keep house, as he was still a bachelor. They stayed for two years then moved back to Skye, to Bracadale.

In Bracadale, waulking was more a remembered tradition rather than an active one. Frances begged her mother to teach her the old songs that she had learned in her youth. At this time, Frances had not yet learnt how to notate music, but she had begun to actively learn songs. Many of the songs eventually published were from her mother.

When Frances was seventeen, she spent a winter in Edinburgh with Miss Matilda Wench, a woman of many interests, including schooling in the Highlands. While staying there Frances spent days in language and music lessons, learning how to notate music and play the piano. This was a formative time. Without it, Frances would probably not have had the ability to do what she eventually did. Not long after, back in Skye, something transformed her understanding of Gaelic culture.



Top: Dr Keith Norman MacDonald.  
Bottom: Miss Frances Tolmie.

When Frances was about eighteen, Miss Emily MacLeod of MacLeod, the Chief's sister received a contract to supply one thousand pairs of socks for a Highland regiment. For this she employed women across a large part of Skye. Distributing the wool and collecting the finished product would be challenging. Miss Frances Tolmie seemed the perfect person to coordinate it. Frances' mother agreed, with the proviso that Frances be accompanied. Frances' choice of companion was unusual; rather than another young woman, she chose an older lady, Oighrig (Effie) Ross. Effie's

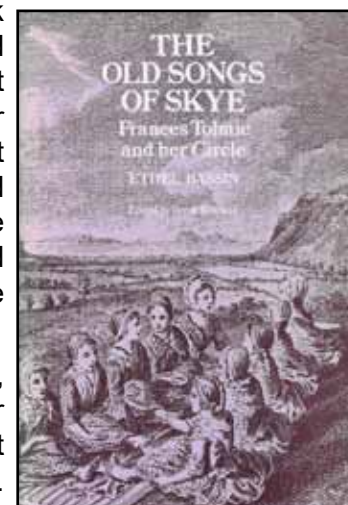
conversation was often of ancient lore and to Frances' delight, Oighrig taught her old waulking songs as they went.

Her next companion, Margaret Gillies (Mairead bheag, nighean Dòmhnail 'ic Ruairidh) was, like Oighrig, an older, solitary, bothy-dwelling woman. She also enjoyed singing old Gaelic songs, and taught Frances any she wanted to learn. Around this time, folklorist Alexander Carmichael (see above), encouraged Frances to document the songs she was learning.

Frances spent the next ten years back and forth between Edinburgh and Skye, with time in Nairn and North Uist as well, at Newton Farm. During her time in Portree she met 'Tall' Margaret MacLeod, (Mairearad Mhòr), a maid in her older sister Jane's house. She knew several Ossianic ballads, and other songs. She was the third of the older women mentioned above.

Over the next twenty-two years, Frances did little or no work on her manuscripts. She spent one year at Cambridge University, from 1873-1874. This was an indication of her fortitude and independence. Women had only recently been allowed to study at the University. She then spent twenty-one years, from 1874-1895 in Coniston, England as a companion for an elderly woman, Miss Harriet Rigbye. She describes this time period in her *Reminiscences* as a "deep slumber" during which she did no work that we know of on her *Collection*.

In 1895, after Harriet Rigbye died, Frances moved to Oban to be with her sister, Mary. Their maid, also Mary (Ross) from Trotternish,



Top: Cover of "The Gesto Collection". Bottom: The cover of "The Old Songs of Skye"

had joined the Tolmie household many years prior when they lived in Portree.

Although never known as a singer, Mary Ross was a tradition bearer extraordinaire. She had spent time at the waulking board herself when young. Though she didn't have much English, her Gaelic was consummate.

Frances began notating and consulting with Mary about songs, transcribing several known only to Mary. This was a fortuitous time to have rekindled her interest in Gaelic song; it was only a few years before *The Gesto Collection* was published.

Now we return to Keith Norman MacDonald. As we mentioned, around 1895 Màiri Mhòr – Mary MacPherson – suggested to MacDonald that he get in touch with Frances. He asked for her help and she gave him around forty-five songs.

Frances had thought her songs would appear in a second edition of *The Gesto Collection*. Instead they appeared in the two intended appendices in 1898 and 1902. This disappointed her for the rest of her days. As was the practice of the time, Frances received little attribution in the book with only a few footnotes making reference to MacDonald's appreciation to her – such as:

“I am much indebted to Miss Frances Tolmie of Skye for all the following waulking songs, and most of the other airs, many of which would have been lost, had she not preserved them as sung of old.”

The book was poorly edited and had no common theme. For example, whilst most pieces have a Highland provenance, some do not. Frances wrote:

“I do not acknowledge the Gesto Coll. as truly representing what I think such a work should be.”

Her collecting had been a labour of love. She appreciated how rare and important her songs were. She wanted them to be given due respect. Her disappointment with *The Gesto Collection* was considerable but was surpassed when MacDonald published the remainder of the songs she had given to him.

This was in *Puirt-à-Beul*, a slim book of Gaelic dance song or mouth music, published by the Oban Times in 1901. Here Frances contributed lullabies and waulking songs. She wrote:

“After I had made his acquaintance the conviction dawned on me that the good Doctor was not quite sane on his favourite subject & I was certain of this when he hurried the '*Puirt-à-Beul*'.”

The author of this article worked on *Puirt-à-Beul* over many years, and republished a corrected and expanded version in 2012 with *Taigh na Teud*.

*Puirt-à-Beul* was more cohesive than *Gesto* by far. Nonetheless, while Frances at least received some attribution in *The Gesto Collection*, she received none in *Puirt-à-Beul*. Surely this galled her. When *Puirt-à-Beul* was reprinted in 1931, twenty years after MacDonald's death, and five years after Frances', the publishers tried to redress this with a note saying, 'We desire to acknowledge several songs supplied by Miss Frances Tolmie to Dr MacDonald for inclusion in *The Gesto Collection* and *Puirt-à-Beul*.'

Frances seemed to believe no sane man would have included things like lullabies and waulking songs in *Puirt-à-Beul*. His *Collection* does indicate hasty preparation. However, MacDonald probably thought Frances' songs were never going to be published if he did not do it, and realised the tragedy that would have been. It is possible he had suffered a nervous breakdown. In any case, Frances had compassion for him, and attributes his lack of editorial professionalism to his 'suffering'.

There is a happy conclusion. Frances Tolmie's manuscripts were eventually published in a way consistent with her standards and expectations. Whilst visiting Alexander Carmichael at Taynuilt near Oban, she met Rev George Henderson, a young Gaelic scholar.

Henderson was thrilled by her singing of old Gaelic songs, and was interested to hear of her 'rolled-up bundle of manuscripts'. Carmichael and Henderson exhorted her to write down as many songs as she could remember, and she did this in several manuscript books.

She also wrote background notes, creating an impressive, and very personal collection. Frances gave her manuscripts to George Henderson circa 1903, in the hope that he would find a suitable publisher. This happened in 1907, when he was giving Gaelic lessons to a young Miss Winifred Parker, who was a member of the Folk-Song Society. Lucy Broadwood, who was the honorary

secretary of the Society, had been collecting Gaelic songs and wrote to Parker, asking if she knew anyone who could help her fit the Gaelic words to the tunes, and provide translations. Parker asked Henderson, and the connection to Frances Tolmie was made.

The Folk-Song Society agreed to publish Frances' collection in March 1908. After various delays it finally went to print in 1911, as Journal Number 16 with the title: 'One Hundred and Five Songs of Occupation from the Western Isles of Scotland'. Frances was then about 70 years old. Great effort was expended on the Journal. It included introductory essays from Lucy Broadwood, on its cultural context, and from Anne Gilchrist, on its musicology. There are also biographical notes from Frances. It is one of the best collections of Gaelic song. Llanerch Publishers republished this Journal in 1997 as a single volume. Today, it is available free of charge to anyone with access to JSTOR, the on-line journal database.

There is much more that could be written about Frances Tolmie [see CMM 122], Keith Norman MacDonald and *The Gesto Collection*.

The author wishes to acknowledge the book *The Old Songs of Skye* by Ethel Bassin as a main reference for this article. I thank Dr Priscilla Scott, who provided many helpful details about Frances Tolmie, including transcriptions that she made of letters in the National Library of Scotland. Recordings of Frances singing were digitised recently by the Centre of Research Collections of the University of Edinburgh Library.

**About the Author:** William Lamb is a Senior Lecturer in Celtic and Scottish Studies at the University of Edinburgh. Prior to joining the University in 2010, he was a lecturer at the University of the Highlands and Islands (LCC Benbecula) and an Honorary Research Fellow of Glasgow University. William's research interests range from oral tradition to computational linguistics. While editing his 2012 book, Keith Norman MacDonald's *Puirt-à-Beul*, William became interested in the history of dance song in Scotland, and its connection to early instrumental music. It was through this research that he grew familiar with the shared history of Keith Norman MacDonald and Frances Tolmie.



## Meet the Clan: Elizabeth of Raasay

I had been aware of Clan MacLeod long before I met my husband John, 18th Chief of Raasay, as I grew up knowing his father and grandfather. I have memories of both from an early age, so the introduction to the Clan came easily for me.

We became more involved in Clan activities after John's father, Roderick 17th Chief of Raasay resigned the Arms of Macleod of Raasay in 1999 in John's favour. Our son Alastair will be the 19th Chief of Raasay, to be followed by one of his sons. It is exciting for us to have a positive Macleod of Raasay succession plan.

I grew up on a large farming property in Tasmania, educated at boarding schools in both Tasmania and Victoria. John and I had our own farm running merino sheep and an Arabian pony stud, as well as breeding Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, all very enjoyable. I also established a successful clothing business.

We have two children, Hannah, living near Cambridge, UK who many of you will have met at Clan Parliaments with her husband James and two children Charlie and Freya, and Alastair living in



Alastair,  
Phoebe, Jack,  
Elizabeth,  
Charlie,  
James, Freya,  
Hannah  
and Raasay  
(before  
Hamish's  
arrival in  
2019).



Victoria, Australia with his wife Phoebe and their two children Jack and Hamish. The 2018 Clan Parliament was a very special one for me as all our family could attend.

With the Chief and I both working full time, the children's education and the timing of Parliaments not being ideal for us, we were unable to attend until our first in 2002, the year after Roderick's death. Since then, we seemed to have made up for lost time!

I have enjoyed my involvement in Clan activities and events and have been fortunate to meet many fellow Clan members both in Australia and overseas.

The Chief and I have been to all Clan Parliaments since 2002, and Clan MacLeod Gatherings in Christchurch, New Zealand in 2003 and Ottawa, Canada in 2008. I thoroughly enjoyed the generosity and hospitality of the organisers of the Stone Mountain Games in Atlanta and that of CMSUSA when John opened the Games in 2018.

We enjoy the annual picnic at Hanging Rock hosted by CMS Victoria, also various events and Clan celebrations in South Australia including visits to the original Macleod settlement at Nalang.

I am not sure which I would regard as the highlight of my involvement in Clan MacLeod matters. Perhaps with John leading the Clan up the Royal Mile alongside Chief Hugh during the Clan Gathering in Edinburgh in 2009, or when, with Chief John Mackenzie, we led the two Clans at the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo in 2017.

Over the years we have visited the Isle of Raasay many times. In fact we missed only three years in the past twenty. Our frequent visits are due to a combination of Clan Parliament and John's involvement in the restoration of Raasay House. We made many friends and have a great appreciation of this special island. One of the lovely links to have with Raasay is that of the well-known tune Mrs MacLeod of Raasay. It is a great association and made quite special when it featured at the 2017 Edinburgh Military Tattoo in which the MacLeods played a part.

Thinking positively and with the lifting of travel restrictions, I look forward to being together with the Clan at the July 2022 Parliament.

## Meet the Clan: Al McLeod

**M**y name is Alasdair (known as Al) and I live in London, UK. I work as East Africa Regional Manager for a charity, Deaf Child Worldwide. Although I am based in London my team are in Nairobi so I travel a lot with my work, mainly to Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. I have a son, Pete (27) who works for Crystal Palace Football Club.

I have worked most of my life in International Development, managing programme delivery of projects through local teams. In my time I've worked for organisations like Save the Children and Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) and through this work I've been fortunate to live and work all over the world including Ethiopia, Senegal, Namibia, Ecuador, Malawi, and Angola. I've travelled for work in most countries in South and Central America, and much of Africa but my experiences in Namibia and Ecuador were highlights of my life.

I've been part of the Clan MacLeod Society of England since the mid-2000s, and its membership secretary since 2012, but my family connections stretch back further. My grandparents, Eric and Winifred McLeod, were original life members of the London Branch of the Clan MacLeod Society which formed in 1937. In January 1938, with my grandfather's younger sister Enid, they attended the inaugural London Gathering, attended by Dame Flora and some



*Left: A recent photo of Al. Right: A very young Al with grandfather Eric on an English beach in the 1950s.*

350 MacLeods. Looking through some old family papers recently, I discovered their programme for the Empire Ballroom Gathering and the menu for the evening with all the signatures of their table members on the back. Also there were items of correspondence with Dame Flora including a personal note from her in 1953 which referenced my grandparents' attendance at the 'Overseas Gathering' at Dunvegan in 1951. The last time I was in the library at Dunvegan Castle I discovered a signed copy of a book published in 1938 called 'Heloise' written by my great aunt, the aforementioned Enid McLeod. My father Ian visited Dunvegan in August 1950 and even though the Castle was closed, on saying his name he was invited in and enjoyed tea with Dame Flora. Finally and sadly there's a note of condolence to my grandmother from Kenneth W. MacLeod, the England Society's Hon. Secretary in 1962, following the death of my grandfather Eric (see photo).

Further back, I traced my family for eight generations to James McLeod born in Durisdeer in Dumfriesshire in 1747. James was a wright or carpenter and his name is recorded in Durisdeer Kirk Session records, mainly in respect of payments for carpentry for the Kirk including two shillings and six pence "for setting up and taking down the Tent at the Sacrament" on 7th June 1773. Beyond that, written records crumble and fragment. In my years of research I've sought the 'golden link' of verifiable evidence that could make the connection back to Skye and the Western Isles. Thus far it has proved elusive.

In 2007 I was Y chromosome DNA tested through the MacLeod study to see if there were any DNA links to other MacLeods that might take these connections further back. In the 13 years since then, the science of DNA has developed exponentially and my original YDNA-67 test has become YDNA-700. Connections near and far have emerged including a cousin in Queensland, Australia, Victor McLeod, who is an exact DNA match but whom I had never heard of pre-DNA, and Swedish cousins Karl-Axel and Anna in the same wider DNA grouping whom I now see regularly at ACMS meetings and who have joined CMS Scotland! I met with Victor and his wife Tracie in 2018. We toured the north east of England and to Dumfriesshire together on a joint ancestral quest, before they headed to Skye. These are wonderful connections through

MacLeod DNA which has truly linked me with clansfolk and others all over the world.

Although I still have no idea how my McLeod family came to be working on the land in beautiful Nithsdale north of Dumfries in the 1740s, the lives of the eight generations since then have slowly emerged from the archives. My great-grandfather Alexander McLeod was born in Glasgow in 1858, the first of seven children, and his father William brought his young family south in the 1860s to Manchester, seeking a new life and new opportunities. I'm still seeking links with the descendants of this Manchester based family. Alexander then came further south to Bristol in the 1890s where my grandfather Eric and his sister Enid, the original Clan MacLeod England Society connections, were born.

At the 2014 Parliament I volunteered to be ACMS Treasurer, was elected and began a four year role that was the beginning of the consolidation and overhaul of the ACMS and Heritage Trust accounts in the UK and in North America. I also worked with colleagues on the ACMS Council to put the membership and Magazine subscription system onto a more coherent basis.

At the 2018 Parliament I relinquished the post of Treasurer to David MacLeod and was elected Executive Vice President. My main contribution since then has been as chair of the Website Steering Group which supported and facilitated the team that developed our new website at [clanmacleod.org](http://clanmacleod.org) This new site remains a testament to the many people across Clan MacLeod who worked tirelessly on the project. There is always more to do. For now full time work and the aftermath of moving house in January consume my energy but I hope there will come a time when I can work to promote wider interest in MacLeod DNA as another way of bringing the Clan together... we'll see!

As I write this in late May during Coronavirus lockdown, it is difficult to imagine what the future may be like. Whatever it is, I am sure the bonds of kinship that bind Clan MacLeod Societies across the world will continue to Hold Fast! We will support our societies, connecting existing members and welcoming new ones. And to echo some words that in Britain at least have acquired new currency in these troubled times, 'we will meet again'.

# The Assynt Foundation

## An Interview with Claire Belshaw, Chair of the Assynt Foundation, August 2020

by Kevin John Tolmie

It may be helpful to explain first that the The Scottish Land Reform Act 2003, often called the 'Community Buy Out Legislation' enables communities to have first option to buy local land as a collective. A value is set by the Government, who may give a grant, the remainder being raised by the community through applying for additional grants and raising funds locally. The land is then transferred. It may also be helpful if readers know that deer overpopulation is a controversial subject in Scotland. There is much argument about how best to manage the situation. So if people are concerned about shooting "Bambi" perhaps that helps give context - Ed

Editor. Hello Claire and thank you for agreeing to be interviewed via Skype. As you may know the land of Assynt, like Skye, Lewis, etc, is of historic interest to MacLeods. We have lots of history in our Magazine but it is good to know what is happening now in our ancient lands. What can you tell me about the Assynt Foundation and your role?

Claire Belshaw. The Assynt Foundation (AF) is a community organisation that manages 18,000 hectares of land for mutual benefit. This is in contrast to the previous situation where the land was privately owned and was solely for that owner's benefit. My role is as Chairperson. I am one of five current committee members although there could be as many as nine. We are all volunteers. I am a crofter and have lived here for thirty years. AF was established in 2005 following the Scottish Government's Land Reform Act (see above). We bought the Glencanisp and Drumrunie Estates. I believe we were one of the first such purchases, certainly on the mainland. However, here in Assynt, we were following the precedent of the Assynt Crofters who bought their land in 1993; that was before the modern Scottish Parliament was established

and without external assistance.

Ed. Altogether how many people are involved?

CB: There are about 250 members. It is important to point out that none of us live on the actual land at present, but in the area. It is a requirement that members live in Assynt.

Ed: Are there tenants?

CB: Not at present. We plan to establish crofts, probably close to Lochinver and Elphin. This could mean new houses but they may or may not need them. There could be other affordable housing for young families too. We are also considering small-holdings or leasing plots, depending on demand. All this would help arrest population decline as we have lost 10% during my time here. We have two local people running businesses from buildings behind the Lodge. There is Fergus Stewart, a world-renowned ceramacist and Chris Goodman, a green-wood turner.

Ed: So you have plans to build homes?

CB: No, that is not really our role. We are an enabling organisation. There are other organisations active in the area, many of which we partner with. For housing it would be the Assynt Development Trust that would obtain planning permission and build homes. But we also work with many others. Those that don't come up in discussion I would want to mention at the end.

Ed: What is the aim of the Assynt Foundation (AF)?

CB: Our aims are to manage community land, advance public education about the land, safeguard natural and cultural heritage and to ensure sustainability. We have ideas which we are taking forward but our resources are limited - money and people. We are, as I said, volunteers. There is no pay and we don't even claim expenses when we travel to represent the AF.

Ed. Does AF receive financial support?

CB: We have had help from Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Climate Challenge Fund through Keep Scotland Beautiful, Coigach and Assynt Living Landscape/National Lottery Fund and the Scottish Government for planting trees and managing moorland. These are all specific grants and are not continuous



funding streams.

Ed: What is AF doing?

CB: We are restoring natural woodland, re-establishing peat bog, managing the deer population, developing tourism and generally looking to start community enhancement projects that will make the area more attractive to live in and to visit. We are not trying to return to a time when this was pristine land untouched by humans. Neither are we trying to recreate the time before mass emigration when there were probably too many people on the land. We want to create a future where a healthy population live in harmony on and around their own productive land.

Ed: You mentioned deer management and natural reforestation which are intrinsically linked. Please tell me more.

CB: We are working on a small scale with the Woodland Trust Scotland to expand existing remnants of native woodland. Our main success has been planting near Glencanisp Lodge and at Ledbeg but we want to repeat this with other remnants allowing them to naturally expand as we reduce deer numbers. A combination of planting within new fences and allowing natural regeneration by reducing the deer numbers will hopefully allow a mixture of woods and scrub to develop across the hill where the soil is suitable.

Ed: How do you re-establish peat bog?

CB: By blocking the drains that were installed in the 1970s to drain the land for agriculture. The aim is to keep the peat wet so that carbon is conserved and not given off as CO<sub>2</sub>.

Ed: So how are you reducing deer numbers?

CB: Of course the deer roam freely across our and neighbouring land so it is difficult to say accurately but there are about 4 per square km on Drumrunie which is a European designated site, and 8 per square km on Glencanisp which is not designated. A stalker has a lease to manage the deer. He has clients that pay him to shoot the deer as sport. This would not be sufficient in itself. He therefore culls additional numbers himself. The cull is set in discussion with Scottish Natural Heritage and is dependent on the results of monitoring the vegetation. If the plants of the wet and dry heaths, blanket bogs and alpine regions are flowering and setting

seed and there is regeneration of trees and shrubs then the cull is about right. It is not an exact science as deer from other estates can move in depending on the weather conditions and new plantations. Restoring all habitats is important to conserve the soil, and increase productivity and biodiversity. Then people can use and enjoy the land and deer can live in their natural wooded habitat sharing the place with seasonal grazing of farm animals.

Ed: Is there a figure in mind as a sustainable density of deer?

CB: We are aiming for 4 deer per square km overall which is what we already have at Drumrunie as I mentioned before. That is what this land on the west coast can support but we will always be adapting that to the resulting vegetation. It all depends on the objectives and we want a healthy deer population living in and around the woods which is their natural habitat.

Ed: Do sheep graze the land?

CB: Yes, in one relatively small area near to Lochinver.

Ed: What about tourism?

CB: Our main interface with tourism has been our ownership of Glencanisp Lodge. This is



Images: Ardvreck Castle from the loch shore, Clachtoll area beach and Suilven by Ian D MacLeod; Glencanisp Lodge (copyright John Lord).

a 19th century hunting lodge, typical of the Highlands. We have been renting it out as holiday accommodation. However, we have decided that henceforth it will be much easier for us if we lease the property long term. The lessor will then manage the lettings (assuming that is what they would do) and we will collect an annual rent from them. One difficulty though is the poor state of the road to the Lodge – not good for your car's suspension!

Ed: Anything else to help with tourism?

CB: Even as it is, this is an area of great beauty. Being remote with interesting hills it attracts hill-walkers in particular. A couple of years ago the John Muir Trust organised improvements to the path up Suilven. AF is committed to maintaining and repairing the path which is heavily used.

Ed: I have been told about a walled garden. Can you tell me more?

CB: This is close to the Lodge but will not be part of that lease. We have developed it to be a community garden with funding from the Climate Challenge Fund in order to produce food locally. Four people have taken plots and we have given one plot to the Lochinver Primary School. Unfortunately the children have not actually visited yet as, due to COVID-19, they have not been at school this past five months returning only yesterday (12 August).

Ed: Talking of COVID-19 how has it been for you?

CB: It has not affected us badly. The restrictions on travel imposed by the Scottish Government ensured that we, as a small remote community, were insulated to a large extent. Now restrictions are eased, we are seeing the return of tourists and the path to Suilven is particularly busy.

Ed: Finally, you said you wanted to mention your partner organisations. We talked of the Assynt Development Trust, the John Muir Trust and Woodland Trust Scotland – what others?

CB: I would mention Coigach and Assynt Living Landscape, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Scottish Natural Heritage.

Ed: Thank you again for your time Claire. I am sure I speak for Clan MacLeod when I wish you and the Assynt Foundation great success.

# Under Occupation on British Soil

by Peter MacLeod (Jersey)

**N**ever having married, I live alone in a retirement apartment in St Martin, Jersey, one of the Channel Islands which are British islands close to the French coast. This period of living on Jersey has been since 1970, but I was there in earlier, more troubled times.

My father Duncan MacLeod was born in 1893, one of six children to Donald and Isabella living at Dunain Gardens, Inverness, Scotland which my grandfather ran as a small market garden until his death in 1925. Tragically this was only a month or so after the death of his spouse. This left my father with the business as he was the only son still in Scotland.

Duncan continued at the market garden in Inverness, acquiring a high reputation for his strawberries, most of which sold at a local market stall although by that time he had a delivery van. By 1929 Duncan had become engaged to Georgina MacLean from nearby Lower Dunain, eventually tying the knot. A short time after their marriage the couple joined his remaining brother on Long Island, New York, where they too settled. Duncan got work as an estate manager on Long Island just outside Glen Cove. The job came with a house on the estate so Duncan and his wife Joe (as she liked to be called) moved. I have a picture of the place with lawns right down to the beach. All went well, I was born in 1932 and the next five years went by quite peacefully. In 1938 the estate ran into financial troubles like so many places during the depression. The owner eventually gave up, demolishing all buildings on the estate to avoid taxes and leaving staff and their families homeless. My mother was by that time expecting the arrival of her second baby and she decided to go back home to Dunain. By June of that year, safe in Inverness, the baby (my brother Alaister) had arrived. Dad had stayed behind in NY hoping to find work but by end of the year he too was back in Inverness.

By this time I was in school and I can't say I enjoyed it much. In the New Year Dad met someone with a property on the Island of Jersey who offered him a job there. So off the family went, new baby and all, to Jersey. This must have been sometime in February 1939. I remember Mother remarking how the farmers were planting early potatoes. This new job didn't last very long. There was disagreement over the method of garden care and my father quit. Another job arose as head gardener at St Saviour's Hospital. This must have been about the time war was declared. I recall our family was given a staff house near the hospital which had recently been vacated by another family anxious to get back to England while they could. I remember moving into the house which was very new, having been built about the time that the Duchess of Kent, Princess Marina was living in Gorey Village (so they were called the Marina Cottages). I would gaze out of my bedroom window at the very low flying German aircraft swooping down as the hospital carpenters were putting white flags out all the windows and pasting strips of brown paper on the windows (supposedly to keep glass from scattering everywhere). The people who left were evidently in a hurry as there was a room packed full of their abandoned belongings. My mother spent many hours queuing for tickets to board the last evacuation boat to leave the island, but without success.

Under occupation for the next five years there was nothing new to be had. It was scavenging and fixing. Or perhaps at the market you could exchange. The Germans had Deutsche Marks but we had to make do with a valueless currency created by the States of Jersey (the Jersey Government). I remember the ten shilling note. These notes are now collectors' items.

Potatoes (famous from the island) could be had if you were quick at digging them up before anybody else! Flour was only from scavenged grains left over and milled in a mincer! Real tea and coffee did not exist for the inhabitants. Efforts were made to create substitutes from acorns, and even sliced and dried turnips – yuk! More successful was making syrup from sugar beets. We were not allowed to go to the sea shore as it was a forbidden zone. But we did get containers of sea water to make our own salt.

Travel to my school, St Saviour's Elementary, had been by bus. Now there was no bus, only a rather long walk. On occasion, the

farmer (of the hospital farm) picked up the children by horse and cart. I later attended a small private school with one teacher and one room shared between all age groups. The buses were running but on charcoal so they did not have enough power to get up hills and passengers had to get out and push! Everything was a challenge. Life was hard.

After about three years things were desperate. That is when a cargo vessel with Red Cross parcels finally arrived. We could see that they had come from Australia and Canada. The children helped collect and distribute the parcels at the hospital for patients and staff. There were things we had not seen for years. We had forgotten the taste of chocolate and sweets. Some younger children had never even seen such delights.

In June 1944, at a good vantage point, explosions could be heard and smoke seen coming from the coast of France. It gave us such hope.

I have no pictures of the war years as cameras, like radios were confiscated by the occupiers.

In May 1945 landing craft arrived with British and American soldiers. It was an unforgettable sight. What joy!



*From top: Location map of Jersey (copyright TUBS and NordNordWest); Duncan and Joe with Joe's brother, Eck, 1960s; Duncan's van in Inverness 1920s; St Saviour's Hospital, Jersey, today (copyright Danrok).*



# Book Review

by Kevin John Tolmie

## The MacLeods of Garrabost Revisited and

## The Torquils of Point, Lewis

by William Cumming

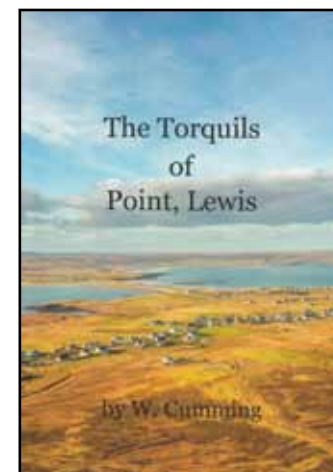
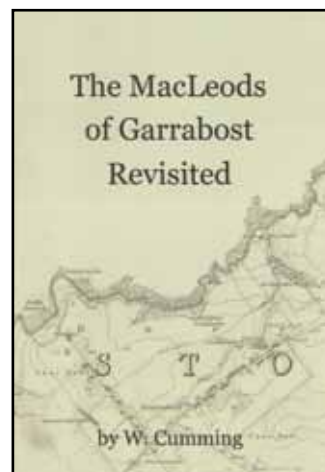
For those interested in the MacLeods of Lewis, and the story of how the Chiefly line was lost for hundreds of years, two new books are available. Both explore the history of notable Lewis families in this context, written by William Cumming, himself a descendant of MacLeods from Lewis. The books, like *18, 19 or 21* by Andrew P MacLeod (Reviewed CMM 130), explore the history and genealogies of notable MacLeod families on Lewis.

The smaller (A5 30 pages), ***The MacLeods of Garrabost Revisited***, develops themes first aired by the Rev William Matheson, seeking, inter alia, to find answers to the question of how MacLeods managed to survive in Lewis under Mackenzie rule. It is a scholarly book with the appendices forming the greater part.

***The Torquils of Point, Lewis*** is a more impressive looking volume with 70 A4 pages, including many colour illustrations, photographs, maps, charts and genealogies. Again, as a scholarly work, the appendices are substantial. Interesting stories are told of Lewis families and individuals including the Crichtons of Swordale, MacLeods of Knock and Sheshader and John MacLeod of Goathill.

Both books should appeal to anyone who has MacLeod of Lewis blood, encouraging them to participate in the MacLeod DNA Project. I hope MacLeods do. In any case we can probably expect more books from this and other authors on a fascinating subject.

These books are recommended for those interested in the MacLeods of Lewis or indeed Lewis.



William was able to produce the books through a crowd-funding scheme by Kickstarter. They are not on general sale but are available from the author for £6 and £15 respectively via his own web site: <http://imwe.co.uk/genealogy/wac.htm>



Past President of CMS USA, Weeden Nichols sent the Editor an account of his test run with his new skateboard: "I am delighted with the skateboard. I was able to figure out very quickly the adjustment of the suspension, and, with a little practice, pretty well mastered directional control. At 80 years old, I push Rosalie in her wheelchair for 45 minutes every day on the

New Mexico State University campus, which has some nice downhill runs. I use the skateboard in conjunction with the wheelchair, which has independent left and right hand brakes, as well as auxiliary brake controls that my wife can use in case the wheelchair gets away from me. She is in no danger at all, and I don't think I am in much danger. And I really have fun!" Well done Weeden! - Ed

# Gàidhlig ionnsaich!

## [Gaalik you-seech] Learn Gaelic!

by Caoimhìn Iain Tolmach

Thank you to those who wrote that they enjoyed the first Gaelic lesson. Would you like to know more and reply to a couple of basic Gaelic questions? Below are two questions with many possible answers. Some of these phrases, words and names may not be as you have read elsewhere. Gaelic spelling is notoriously imprecise! If no phonetic is given below, you read the name in Gaelic the same as you would in English. I apologise if your name or country is not mentioned in the examples. If you want to know what your answer would be or have any other question email me at the Editor's email address. Again, Gaelic scholars are invited to correct or contribute.

**Dè 'n t-ainm a th' ort?** [jay an tenim a horsht] = What is your name?

**Is mise...** [ish misha] = I am...

**Anndra** = Andrew, **Cailean** [Kalan] = Colin, **Daibhidh** [Dai-vee] = David, **Ealasaid** [Elasitch] = Elizabeth, **Eilidh** [Ay-lee] = Helen, **Iain** = John, **Mairead** [Mai-rit] = Margaret, **Màiri** [Maa-ri] = Mary

In Gaelic how you speak directly to someone (vocative case) is different to how you would talk about yourself or somebody else. For instance:

**Is mise Seumas** [Shay-mis] = I am James

**Tha Seumas toilichte?** [ha Shay-mis tolich-tchuh] = Is James happy?

**Halò Sheumais** [Hamish] = Hello James

Now you have said your name, you might be asked where you are from.

**Cò às a tha thu?** [ko aa-ss a ha oo] = Where are you from?



**Tha mi à...** [ha me aa] = I am from...

**Alba** [Alapa] = Scotland, **Australia** = Australia, **Canada**, **An Eilbheis** [In Yilivish] = Switzerland, **An Fhraing** [Uh Raa-eeng] = France,

**A' Gheamailt** [A Yeramaltch] = Germany, **Sasainn** = [England], **Sealainn Nuadh** [See-line Noo-ah] = New Zealand, **Na Stàitean Aonaichte aig Aimearaga** [Na Staat-chen Yonich-tchu ike Imerika] = United States of America.

# Target - Answers

by Rona Cooper and Lyn MacDonald

	L	E
M	A	C
O		D

How did you do? Did you invest in a bigger dictionary to find those obscure words? Here are a few of the more impressive and obscure:

7 letters: cladome, cloamed

6 letters: macled, calmed

5 letters: cameo, comal, decal, medal

4 letters: clam, coal, coda, dale, lade, mace, mead

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