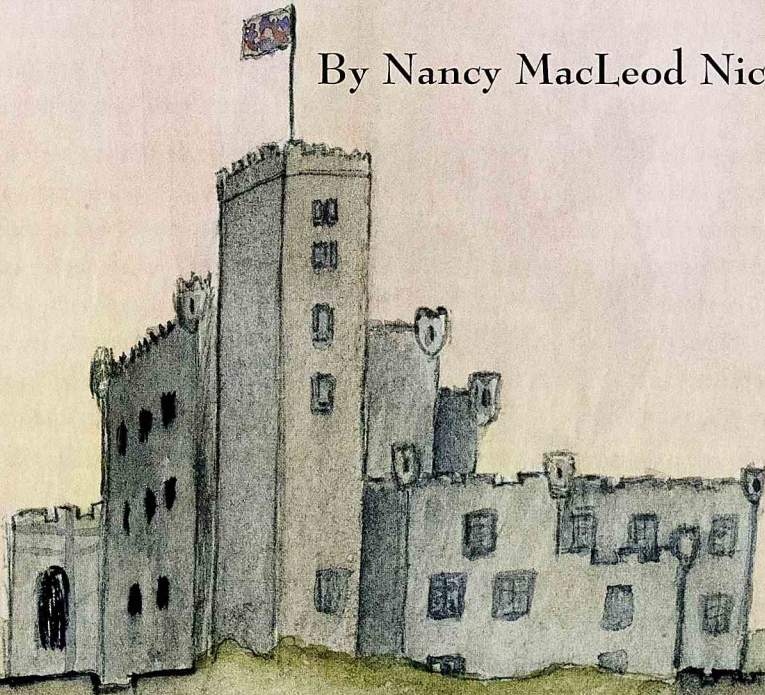


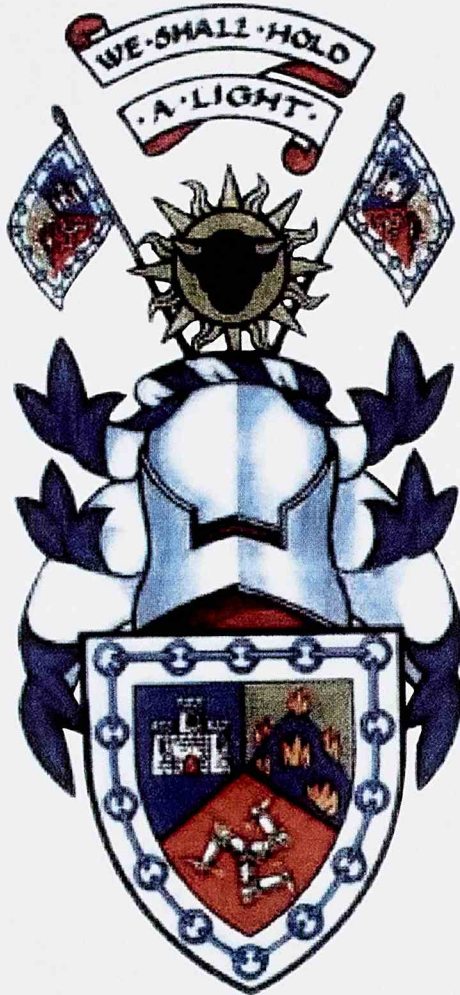
# TELL YOUR CHILDREN ABOUT THE STONES

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE  
CLAN MACLEOD SOCIETY

By Nancy MacLeod Nicol



WITH A FOREWORD BY JOHN MACLEOD OF MACLEOD 29TH CHIEF



*The Arms of the Associated Clan MacLeod Societies  
Granted by the Court of Lord Lyon 1993*

# Foreword

We are indebted to the Clan MacLeod Society of America, which originally asked Nancy to give the Stanley McLeod Memorial Lecture on the “History of the Clan MacLeod Society” at their AGM in Seattle in 2001. The hard work of research, which Nancy found herself compelled to undertake for this purpose, has proved the genesis of an invaluable resource. The slim volume, in which results, brings together in most effective fashion the different strands of cultural and familial pressure, which has been the historical experience of thousands of clansmen and women throughout the last century. In the last three centuries like all highland clans, the MacLeods suffered a dispersal of immense magnitude. Yet the same period has witnessed the transformation of a highland clan occupying a relatively small area of Scotland into an international clan family of MacLeods. To effect such a change could not have been achieved without individual clansmen and women of the past 110 years, recognising that the formation of a clan society in the “modern” Victorian world, was an essential prerequisite for the retention of the heritage shared by all MacLeods.

This book sets out something of the trials and tribulations, successes and joys of this process since it’s inception originally in Glasgow, from hence to Edinburgh and the gradual spreading of its wings as the idea took root in far distant lands. I have to admire the commitment shown by so many over these years, whilst appreciating even more that this commitment is not ideological. It is fired by a true sense of self – who am I, who has ancestors as I have, and who possesses a common heritage shared with so many? It seem to me that this is the element, which means that the sense of family and kinship, remains fundamental essence of any gathering of MacLeods, even when meeting as constitutionally organised democratic societies. I regard this as a truly remarkable achievement.

I am proud to read how closely and keenly involved my own immediate ancestors have been with this process. Not only my grandmother, whose frequent travels around the world in the 1950’s and 1960’s were obviously seminal and justly celebrated, but also how her father and his older brother, Norman Magnus kept a close contact with the burgeoning Clan MacLeod Society. I believe that the Clan MacLeod has prospered through this historically close connection between Chief and Society, and I also believe that during this period the Clan has been guided by men and women of vision. Nancy has written an excellent testimonial to their efforts. But an individual highlander becoming a democrat marks a sea-change in cultural identity, the natural stresses and strains of which may linger with Clan Societies for years. The book helps to prove that for the sake of the Clan, the effort to achieve that sea-change is thoroughly worth while.

Hold Fast

John MacLeod of MacLeod

# SCOTLAND'S BADGE – MADE IN THE U.S.A.

Nancy MacLeod Nicol – President of the CMS Scotland in this Centenary year  
tells the story behind her badge of office.



Early in 1989 Donald Alistair, the then President thought it would be a good idea for Scotland's President to have a badge of honour to wear on special occasions especially with Parliament and the Centenary on the horizon.

This proved one of the most difficult tasks DA had undertaken. Initially, DA met with Ruairidh Halford Macleod who designed a badge incorporating both the crests of Harris and Lewis. Finding a craftsman to make it in silver was virtually impossible – no-one in Edinburgh or surrounding areas felt they could execute this assignment – one was persuaded but his price was £1,300!

Further discussion with the Society and the ACMS ensued and mindful that the Clan was worldwide someone struck on the idea of contacting Olive Bell in Albuquerque in New Mexico – yes the Americans came up trumps. Olive, armed with diagrams and appropriate colours found a craftsman to make the badge.

The badge was brought over for Parliament but as it was to be worn on a ribbon this delayed the presentation. However, the presentation was made to me, as President, at the CMS Scotland's Annual Dinner in January by the Chief, John MacLeod of MacLeod.

# Preface

In 2001 I was invited, by the Clan MacLeod Society of U.S.A., to give the Stanley McLeod Memorial Lecture at their Annual General Meeting in Seattle. The topic was the History of the Clan MacLeod Society in the last 100 years. I readily accepted and then realised that nothing to date had been written on this subject.

Thanks to the Clan MacLeod Society of Scotland I was given access to their archives from which I was able to gain valuable information. This, with the Annual Reports (1891 to 1933), the Clan MacLeod Magazines (1935 to date) and my memories of the last fifty years, provided the essence of the talk.

Many people asked me for a copy of my lecture and it was suggested that I may publish my work to include the many illustrations – this booklet is the result. However, this would not have been possible without help and support and I am indebted to John MacLeod of MacLeod, Rose Fleming, John Lyall, Alyson Rintoul, Hector Russell, Hugh MacLeod, Mike Walker and the Dunvegan Estates for their assistance in preparing this booklet for publication.



MEMBERS OF THE CLAN MACLEOD SOCIETY  
KILKERRIE HOUSE  
1902

# THE MACLEODS:

A SHORT SKETCH OF THEIR CLAN,  
HISTORY, FOLK-LORE, TALES, AND  
BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES OF - - -  
SOME EMINENT CLANSMEN. - - -

BY THE

REV. R. C. MACLEOD  
OF MACLEOD.



PUBLISHED BY THE CLAN MACLEOD SOCIETY,  
EDINBURGH.

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1906.

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To my late father,  
James MacLeod Nicol  
Who told me about the stones

# Introduction

So many of us are fascinated by where we came from – what our forefathers did and why they moved away from what we call ‘the homeland’. This has given us an appetite for “social history” and especially the history of the Clan MacLeod Society.

Much has been written over the years telling us the origins of our first Chief – Loud and his descendants, down to the present Chief – John. There is very little documented about the Clan MacLeod Society itself. This paper attempts to highlight the important events of the Clan MacLeod Society from 1891 when it was formed to the present.

From this you will be able to “Tell your Children about the Stones”, the Milestones of the Society, the Chiefs and the Clan’s Personalities, in essence The History of the Clan MacLeod Society.

The booklet is written in five sections, each covering the “Milestones” which occurred during the reign of each of the five Chiefs. The first three sections tell of events chronologically whilst the latter two follow events that intertwine.



*25th Chief  
Norman MacLeod of MacLeod*

# Norman Macleod

## (1812 – 1895)

In 1891 the Chief was Norman Macleod who was born in 1812, and had succeeded his father as Chief in 1835 at the age of 23 years. He had married the honourable Louisa Barbara St. John and had four sons. Norman Magnus, Torquil Olave who died aged sixteen years., Reginald and Roderick Charles.

Most Societies in Scotland existed for charitable purposes. The modern type of Clan Society was formed mainly for social intercourse, and became active at the end of the 1880's. A Clan MacLeod Society had already been formed in Glasgow, but in the summer of 1891 a few Clansmen in Edinburgh devoted much time and trouble finding out the feelings of MacLeods living in Edinburgh. They looked up directories and personally went round to knock on the doors of Clansmen to ask for their support. The Directors of the Society, (those being the Society in Glasgow), gave permission for an Edinburgh branch to be formed.

An enthusiastic meeting was held in November 1891. Norman MacLeod of MacLeod became its Chief, whilst his son Reginald became President (a position he was to hold for 38 years). In 1893 Major Robert Crawford MacLeod (known as R.C. not to be confused with the Chief's son Roderick Charles who became a Canon in the Church of England referred to as Canon R.C.) was appointed Honorary Secretary. He devoted a lifetime to the Clan, fifty-six years as Secretary something I doubt that anyone would be willing to undertake today.

In 1894, the Glasgow Society ceased to exist whilst Edinburgh flourished and went under the name "The Clan MacLeod Society". Its President, Reginald MacLeod, who was working and living in Edinburgh until 1900 took an active part the Societies affairs and regularly attended meetings.



CLAN MACLEOD  
SOCIETY.

THIRD ANNUAL

**Social Gathering**

IN THE

ATHENAEUM HALL,

175 Buchanan Street, Glasgow,

*On Thursday Evening, 10th May, 1894,*

AT 7-30 P.M.

**MACLEOD of MACLEOD, Chief of the Clan,**

**IN THE CHAIR.**

PIPERS

Pipe-Major A. R. MACLEOD & ROBERT MACLEOD,

PIPERS TO THE SOCIETY.

**TICKETS, 6d. & 1s EACH,**

May be had from Members of the Society, or at the Door on the  
evening of the Concert.

ARCHD. SINCLAIR, PRINTER, 10 BOTHWELL STREET, GLASGOW.

## Clan MacLeod Society.

(EDINBURGH BRANCH).

AT

### GRANTON \* HOUSE,

On SATURDAY, 14th JULY 1894.

On arrival, the Guests will be shown up to the house, where they will be received by the PRESIDENT and LADY AGNES MACLEOD.

They will then be at liberty to roam about until about 4 o'Clock, when, on the ringing of a bell, the company will assemble in the "Field" for Tea. The Sports will begin immediately after tea.

#### I.—BOYS' RACE—(Handicap).

#### II.—GIRLS' RACE—(Handicap).

#### III.—POTATO RACE.

Competitors place their hats at given points. From these points potatoes are placed at intervals. On the word "Go" Competitors run to the potato furthest away, pick it up, return to and place it in the hat; they then return for the next furthest potato, and so on until all the potatoes are in the hat.

#### IV.—THREE-LEGGED RACE.

#### V.—EGG AND SPOON RACE.

1.—BOYS. 2.—GIRLS.

Spoons containing eggs are placed in a row about 10 paces from the starting point. Competitors stand with their backs to the spoons and eggs, and on the word "Go" must race backwards until they reach the spoons, when they turn round, pick up a spoon containing egg and run to the finishing point, carefully observing all obstacles on the way. Should the egg be allowed to drop it must be lifted again with the spoon, not helped with the hand.

#### VI.—WHEEL-BARROW RACE—(Blindfolded).

Competitors will be shown a point, after which they will be given a wheel-barrow, blindfolded, turned towards the point, and given the word "Go." The object is to trundle the barrow to the point, wheel round it, and return to the starting point.

#### VII.—MEN'S RACE.

#### VIII.—NEEDLE THREADING RACE (Girls).

This race requires the assistance of one or two gentlemen. These gentlemen stand at given points each holding a needle and thread. A girl runs to one from the starting point, takes the needle and threads it, and runs for the goal.

#### CRICKET—BOWLS—CROQUET—AUNT SALLY.

Instrumental and Pipe Music

DURING THE EVENING.

*Clan MacLeod Society.*

*Edinburgh Branch*

*The President & Lady Agnes MacLeod  
request the pleasure of*

*Company in the Grounds of Granton House,  
on Saturday July 14<sup>th</sup> 1894—3 to 7.*

*Weather permitting.*

*An answer is requested.*

P.T.O.

He came with his two little girls, Flora and Olive, they were very musical and played duets on the flute and viola. One of them, Flora, then a little girl with pigtails, remembered how much she enjoyed dancing reels with other young folk in the Clan. Little did she know what the Society was to mean to her or she to it in the future. Clans-folk were welcomed and were entertained at the President's home, Granton House”.

In 1895, Norman MacLeod of MacLeod died in Paris, where he lived part of the year with his second wife, Hanna von Ettingham. His body was brought to Dunvegan where he was laid to rest beside his first wife in the old churchyard at Kilmuir.

Some of you may have heard of the Island of St Kilda, which lies 50 miles west of Harris, in the Hebrides, and at that time was in the possession of the MacLeods. Communications were very difficult and it was only in the summer months, when the MacLeod's Factor came to collect the rent's that the inhabitants received news of the happenings in the 'Outside World'. When the Factor arrived in the early summer of 1896 he was surprised to be asked “is MacLeod of MacLeod dead for we have heard the Cuckoo sing?” The tradition of St. Kilda was that the Cuckoo only visited and sang when someone closely connected to the island had died.



*Reginald MacLeod of MacLeod with his daughters, Flora and Olive*

Dunvegan Castle,  
Isle of Skye, 5<sup>th</sup> February. 1895.

Sir,

My Father, Macleod of Macleod, died in Paris this Morning, and his Remains are to be interred in Duirinish Burying-Ground, on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> curt.

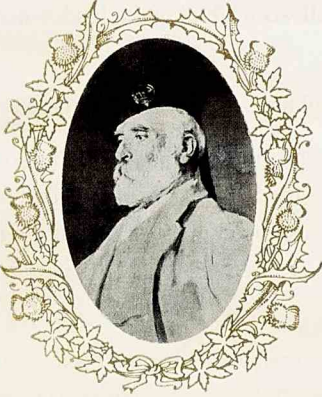
The favour of your presence here, at Two o'clock Afternoon on that day, to accompany the remains to the place of interment, is respectfully requested by,

Your obedient Servant,

Norman M. Macleod  
Of Macleod.



*26th Chief  
Norman Magnus MacLeod of MacLeod*



CLAN MACLEOD SOCIETY

## *Reception to the Chief*

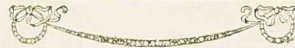
MACLEOD OF MACLEOD

C.M.G., D.L., J.P.

Egyptian Hall, 75 Queen St.

EDINBURGH

TUESDAY, 18th JULY 1911, at 7.30 p.m.



*Please show this card on entering*

### Clan Macleod Society, Edinburgh Branch.

THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING will be held in the  
ODDFELLOWS' HALL, Forrest Road, on *Monday, the 24th inst.*,  
at 8 P.M. You are specially desired to attend.

#### BUSINESS.

1. To adopt Report and Balance Sheet.
2. To elect Office-Bearers.
3. To make arrangements for Social Meeting.

J. D. MACLEOD,  
*Secretary.*

44 FREDERICK STREET,  
EDINBURGH, 14th October 1892.

# Norman Magnus

## (1839 – 1929)

Norman Magnus, who was born in 1839, became Chief on the death of his father in 1895 – he was 56 years old. He had made a career in the army before retiring to Dunvegan where he made improvements to the castle and built the village hall. As a Chief and a landowner he was greatly respected.

He married Emily Caroline Isham and they had two daughters – Emily and Margaret.

During his chieftanship Norman Magnus took a keen interest in the Clan MacLeod Society, attending gatherings and meetings in Edinburgh. Reading the Society minutes of this period it is interesting to note the language being used – so old fashioned in today's world. In the apologies for absence it is noted beside a name “he has a severe chill and the doctor forbade him to travel.”

Maybe not so dated, I read that a few notices sent out to members had come back “Gone – no address”. Not as bad as when, maybe 50 years on, Clan Magazines were sent out to have one returned “Dead”. Far worse – by some awful oversight a magazine had been sent to the same address the following year – it was returned marked “Still dead!”

In 1905, the Clan were delighted that King Edward VII had bestowed a knighthood on their president – now Sir Reginald MacLeod.

Clan Society membership continued to flourish with the nucleus of members being domiciled in Scotland, whilst some MacLeods from overseas had also joined.

In 1906 the Clan MacLeod Society was re-constituted and although this fact is not noted in the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of that year, the main alteration was the qualification for membership. Previously only “persons having the surname MacLeod shall be eligible as members”. The amendments changed the qualification for membership considerably now “All persons connected by marriage or other relationship with persons bearing the name MacLeod”. and “Septs or adherents of the Clan MacLeod” were also eligible.

In 1906 Norman Magnus and Emily MacLeod of MacLeod celebrated their silver wedding and received a pair of Silver Candelabra from the estate workers, which can now be seen in Dunvegan Castle.

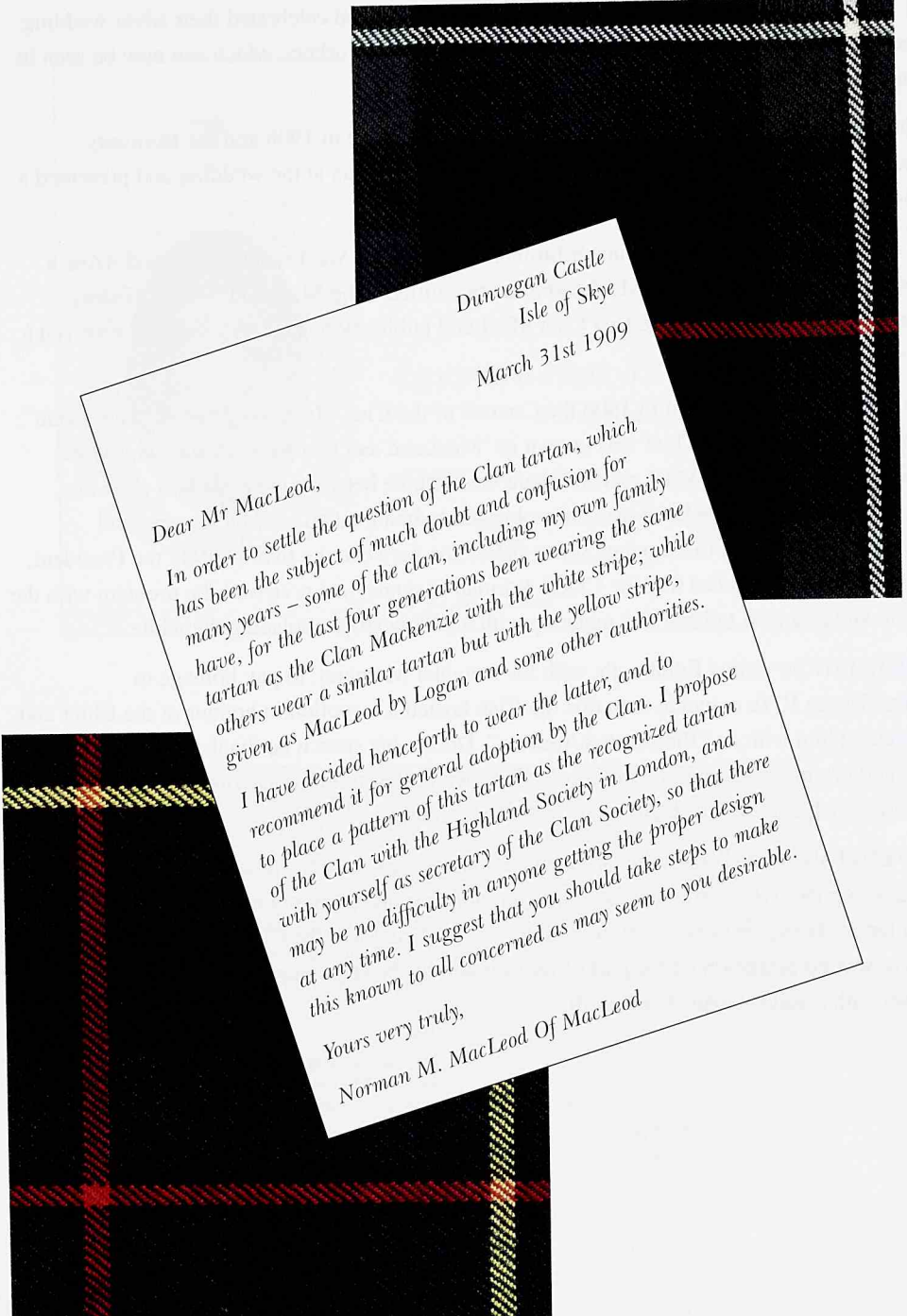
The Chief's daughter Emily married Nicol Martin of Skye in 1908 and the Honorary Secretary, R. C. MacLeod, was invited to represent the Clan at the wedding and presented a silver rose bowl to the couple from the Clan Society.

In the same year the Chiefs younger brother, Canon R. C. MacLeod of MacLeod wrote a book especially for the Clan MacLeod Society entitled "The MacLeods – their History and Traditions". This was the first Clan MacLeod publication and every member received a free copy!

It is interesting to note that in 1906 the Council of the Clan MacLeod debated "The Tartan". The tartan worn by the Chief was known as 'MacLeod and MacKenzie', the latter wore the same pattern as the MacLeod and there was dispute between the two clans as to the rightful ownership. MacLeod clansmen objected to being taken for MacKenzies and appealed to the Chief to introduce some distinction between the two. In 1908 the President, Sir Reginald, announced that the Chief, Norman Magnus, had reviewed the problem with the tartan and arranged to have one made up with a yellow stripe replacing the white.

In July 1911 he visited Edinburgh, with his daughter Margaret, to pay homage to King George V. To coincide with this the Clan hosted a reception in honour of the Chief and presented him with an "Illuminated Address". During his speech he thanked the Clan for the gift and promised it would be treasured, along with other things concerning the clan at The Castle which had been in Dunvegan Castle for centuries.

The Chief also talked about the tartan and confessed, it was with some reluctance that he gave up the 'white stripe' as his father, grandfather and great grandfather had all worn that tartan. However, it was very important that the Chief and the Clan wore the same tartan. There was no hesitation on the part of himself and his brothers agreeing to adopt the new tartan with a yellow stripe henceforth.



Dunvegan Castle  
Isle of Skye

March 31st 1909

Dear Mr MacLeod,

In order to settle the question of the Clan tartan, which has been the subject of much doubt and confusion for many years – some of the clan, including my own family have, for the last four generations been wearing the same tartan as the Clan Mackenzie with the white stripe; while others wear a similar tartan but with the yellow stripe, given as MacLeod by Logan and some other authorities.

I have decided henceforth to wear the latter, and to recommend it for general adoption by the Clan. I propose to place a pattern of this tartan as the recognized tartan of the Clan with the Highland Society in London, and with yourself as secretary of the Clan Society, so that there may be no difficulty in anyone getting the proper design at any time. I suggest that you should take steps to make this known to all concerned as may seem to you desirable.

Yours very truly,

Norman M. MacLeod Of MacLeod

He told the gathering of clans-folk that this was the first day he had worn the yellow striped tartan; he had put it on to pay his respects to the King at Holyrood House and to meet his fellow Clansmen in Edinburgh.

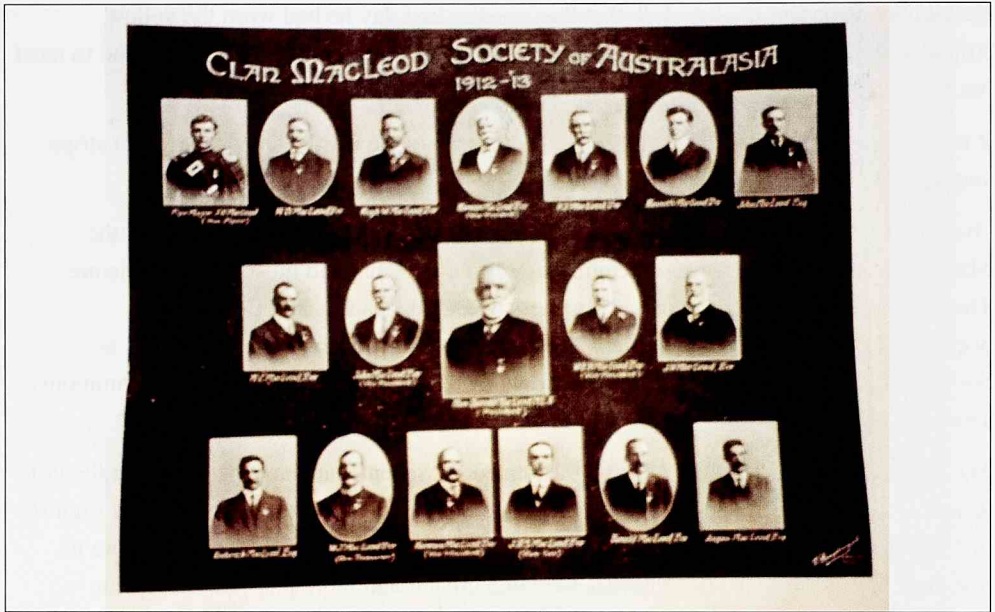
It is of interest to note that Norman Magnus' portrait, in the Castle, shows the white stripe very clearly. It was of course painted before 1911.

Over the years social events organised by the Society had been well cultivated and the MacLeod Clan Gatherings were recognised as of an informal and most enjoyable nature. These social events included Annual Business Meetings, Dances and Ceilidhs, Social Gatherings and Garden parties. Presentation of Papers covering such topics as Social conditions in the Highlands, The Tartan, St Kilda; The Bagpipe, The MacCrimmons, The MacLeods in the '45.

The Annual Report dated 16th March 1921 stated - "Seven years have passed since the last Report was issued and much has happened since that time. War burst upon us in the August of 1914 suspending fraternal and social gatherings for the sterner work that lay before us. Societies "died down" to rise 'Phoenix like' in a greater and more powerful institution - 'The Association of Highland Societies'. This Association did much good work by raising monies and making gifts for the war effort".

Many members were lost during the 1st World War, among whom was the prospective chief, Lieut. Ian Breac MacLeod, son of Canon R.C. MacLeod, who fell fighting in the Black Watch Regiment, the Battalion his great great grandfather had raised in 1780. Another clansman lost was Alan Arnett MacLeod, an officer serving in the Royal Canadian Air Force who was awarded the Victoria Cross for his bravery. He unfortunately died of pneumonia at the end of the war. In 1924 the Clan MacLeod Society funded and arranged for a Memorial Tablet in his memory to be placed in the Highlanders Memorial Church in Glasgow.

Another loss to the Clan at this time was the death of Lady Agnes MacLeod, wife of Sir Reginald and mother of Dame Flora and her sister Olive. She had suffered ill health for years and latterly was blind and so physically disabled that she lived the life of a prisoner in her own home.



*The first Clan Gathering of the MacLeods in Australia was held on 27th January 1912.  
Picture shows the Office Bearers at that time.*



*Ian Breac, only son of Canon R.C. MacLeod of MacLeod.*

1912 saw the formation of a Clan MacLeod Society in Australia which received enormous support from the clansmen in that country. Alas due to the 1st World War it went into abeyance, but was reformed in 1954.

The Clan MacLeod Society in Edinburgh continued to flourish with membership gradually increasing. The Chief took great interest in its affairs but latterly did not attend many events – as he wrote “I am only sorry that my age makes it difficult for me, living so far away from Edinburgh, to attend Clan meetings as I would like”. However, his brother Sir Reginald, the President, attended meetings regularly.

Norman Magnus passed away on 5th November 1929 to the great grief of clansmen and friends all over the world. The Secretary -Major R. C. MacLeod - officially represented the Clan at his funeral in Dunvegan. A handsome wreath composed of Juniper (which is in the Clan Badge) intertwined with Clan tartan was placed on the grave. His great interest in the Clan and people, and all that concerned them, his courteous, considerate and sympathetic nature – both genuine and practical – his gracious, dignified bearing made an impression on all that can never be forgotten - he was indeed ‘Father of his people’.



*27th Chief  
Sir Reginald MacLeod of MacLeod*

# Sir Reginald MacLeod (1847 – 1935)

Sir Reginald MacLeod became Chief in 1929 at the age of 82 years.. Born at Dunvegan in 1847 he was the best looking of the three brothers and on inheriting the Chieftanship he was as handsome as ever. He was well known to the Clan MacLeod Society as he had been President since its formation in 1891. A quote from the Annual Report at this time states -

“His unflinching courtesy, kindness and constant attendance at Clan Gatherings have won the respect and regard of all”. On Sir Reginald becoming Chief his elder daughter Flora succeeded him, as President.

He had married Agnes Northcote in 1877 and they celebrated their golden wedding shortly before her death in 1927. They had two daughters, Flora and Olive. Sir Reginald had lived in Dunvegan for several years and continued to do so for the remainder of his life. It is interesting to note that he swam daily in Loch Dunvegan.

In 1933 a memorial to the MacCrimmons was unveiled at Borrerraig, just across Loch Dunvegan from the Castle. Built in stone it bears a plaque stating -

“The Memorial Cairn of the MacCrimmon’s of whom ten generations were hereditary Pipers of MacLeod and were renowned as Composers, Performers and Instructors of Classical Music of the Bagpipe. Near this spot stood the MacCrimmon School of Music From 1500 to 1800.

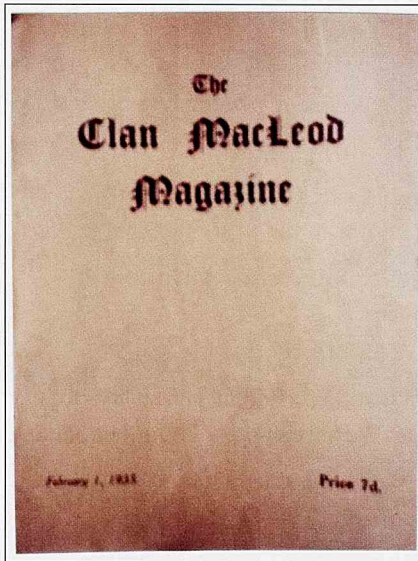
Hundreds of people attended the ceremony and the next day Sir Reginald hosted an “At Home” for over 200 at Dunvegan Castle.

In the same year the Duke and Duchess of York – later to become King George VI and Queen Elizabeth – visited Skye and were royally entertained by the Chief at Dunvegan Castle.

1935 saw the launch of the Clan MacLeod Magazine. As Sir Reginald wrote in his introductory letter:- “It is easy to start a Society but how difficult in these days of pressure to maintain it in useful vigour. Nothing can stand still. Committees must become more enterprising or disappear. We have chosen the former bolder course and we establish our Clan Magazine”.



*The Memorial Gates at the entrance to Dunvegan Castle.  
Opening Ceremony 1st July 1938*



*Front cover of the First Clan MacLeod Magazine  
1st February 1935*

The Magazine has continued on through the years as a link with Clans-people throughout the world. Initially it was published annually except for 1948, when the editor, R. C. MacLeod died suddenly at the age of 83 years. He was succeeded by the Rev Dr Donald McKinnon, followed by James MacLeod Nicol in 1962, who was editor until 1974.

After a period of almost forty years the fourth editor, Rhuiridh Halford MacLeod produced two magazines a year. This pattern has been followed ever since despite several changes of editor.

As the Societies grew the countries and smaller Societies have produced Newsletters. These are well circulated and give news of what is happening within the various Societies – and not just of obituaries as was often the main overseas news in earlier magazines.

An Comunn Gaidhealach held the 39th 'National Mod' in Edinburgh in 1935. One of the major attractions was a Grand Highland Feill (Fete / Fair / Sale) which was opened by the Chiefs daughter, Flora.

Sir Reginald's health was failing but he must have understood the exciting news of the arrival of the twins, John and Patrick, born to his granddaughter Joan on 10th August 1935 as he dictated a telegram to her saying "Great Joy".

Ten days later on August 20th Sir Reginald MacLeod of MacLeod, 27th Chief of his Clan, died at Dunvegan in the great four poster bed in which he had been born eighty eight years before. Sir Reginald was laid to rest in Kilmuir Church beside his father and brother.

It was a warm sunny day, the foothills were ablaze with purple heather and the MacLeod Tables had their 'tablecloths' on. A lone piper played 'The Lament for the Children' at the Chiefs graveside. On his stone are the words – "well done thou good and faithful servant".



*28th Chief  
Flora MacLeod of MacLeod*

# Flora MacLeod Of MacLeod (1878 – 1976)

The Clan was faced with the acceptance of a female heir for the first time in its history. Although Dunvegan Castle and the MacLeod estate were recognised as the property of the heir or heiress of the last owner – the Chief is accepted, or not accepted, by his Clans-people. In the case of the Clan MacLeod the choice was between – Hugh MacLeod of Talisker, who had long been established in Australia and was descended from the younger son of the famous Rory Mhor (16th Chief). Or Flora who was descended from the eldest son of Rory Mohr and a direct line from Leod (1st Chief).

Much press coverage was given to this matter and it was not until March 1936 – seven months after Sir Reginalds death – that the Council of the Clan MacLeod passed a resolution accepting Flora as their Chief. She was welcomed as the Chief by the Clan at a Gathering on 4th February 1937 and declared it to be “the greatest day of my life”.

Sir John Lorne MacLeod, a long-standing member and Vice President, now became President of the Society.

Flora had married Hubert Walter on 5th June 1901, they had a daughter Alice, born in 1902, and another daughter Joan, born in 1905. Alice married Archibald Corrie Macnab of Macnab, they had no children, while Joan married Captain Robert Wolrige Gordon and had three sons and a daughter. Robert, the eldest, who inherited his fathers estate at Esselmont in 1939 and twins John and Patrick. John, the elder of the twins, was elected heir to his grandmother. In 1951 he changed his name to MacLeod of MacLeod and in 1965 his grandmother by reason of advancing years asked him to shoulder the responsibility of Dunvegan Castle and what remained of the Dunvegan Estates.

A memorable gathering took place in 1936. This time in Dunvegan, Glengarry County, Canada, when MacLeods held a large family gathering at which the first Clan MacLeod Society in Canada was founded.

The following year was Coronation Year for King George VI and Queen Elizabeth and the Chief invited all MacLeods to come to Dunvegan Castle as part of the celebrations. One Robert J. MacLeod, from London, made the pilgrimage and thoroughly enjoyed the romance of the Castle and the hospitality of his hostess. On his journey home he called on the Secretary of the Society in Edinburgh. During their conversation the idea of forming a London Branch was discussed. The first meeting was held in November 1937 and a gathering was organised in January 1938 – the first of its kind to be held in England. Chief Flora attended along with 270 clans-folk. The Branch was known as ‘Clan MacLeod Society – London Branch’.

**Murus Atheneus**  
**Esto**



**Hold Fast**

A  
MacLeod Clan Gathering  
Saturday, July 4th, 1936  
at  
Dunvegan, Glengarry County

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In 1794 came the first MacLeods to Glengarry. Eighteen weeks they sailed before they sighted land, landing with a foot of ice on their decks at Prince Edward Island on October the eighteenth, 1793. They remained there all winter and the following April, Alexander MacLeod and "Big Norman" MacLeod with a number of their Clan engaged French schooners at St. Mary's Bay on the south side of the Island to take them to Montreal. From there they went up the St. Lawrence river in bateaux and landed in South Lancaster at the mouth of the Black River, later moving north in to what are now the townships of Lochiel and Kenyon. These were followed later by other families of the Clan.

At a meeting representative of different families of the Clan held in Dunvegan, November 3rd, 1935 it was decided to honour the memory of our sturdy pioneer forefathers and to afford an opportunity of meeting our kith and kin, by holding a family gathering in D. A. MacLeod's grove. The following officers were appointed to make arrangements for this event.

A historic gathering took place at Dunvegan Castle on Friday 1st July 1938. Tenants from the estate and Clansmen, from near and far, came to raise a fitting and lasting memorial to the memory of the three well loved brothers, the last male representatives in direct line of the ancient MacLeod Chiefs. The memorial – handsome ornamental gates had been erected at the head of the avenue leading from the main road to the Castle and bear the inscription:-

“IN HONOURED MEMORY OF THREE BROTHERS:-  
NORMAN MAGNUS MACLEOD OF MACLEOD CMG.  
26th CHIEF 1839-1929  
SIR REGINALD MACLEOD OF MACLEOD KCB.  
27th CHIEF 1847-1935  
CANON RODERICK CHARLES MACLEOD OF MACLEOD.  
HISTORIAN TO THE FAMILY – 1852-1934  
ERECTED BY TENANTS, CLANSMEN AND FRIENDS 1938.”

The gates were unlocked and Chief Flora along with Mrs Osbaldeston-Mitford, daughter of Canon R.C. MacLeod, and Mrs Charles Stewart, granddaughter of Norman Magnus MacLeod, walked through the gates to the Castle where they entertained everyone to afternoon tea.

Headlines in the Press, Telegrams, Phone Calls – all told the world of the Fire at Dunvegan Castle on 29th November 1938. The people of Skye were wonderful and did everything possible to prevent the Castle becoming a ruin. As it was the south wing was gutted and there was some other minor damage. However, good comes out of bad and the restoration included much needed kitchen premises and hot and cold water supplied to all the bedrooms. The work continued despite the War as there had been hopes of the Castle being used as a convalescent hospital for servicemen. As it turned out most of the coastline of Britain/Scotland was ‘out of bounds’ to the public so the idea never materialised.

The Chief

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Council and Members of

The Clan MacLeod Society

Request the pleasure of the company of

*M R Macleod*

at their Jubilee Gathering

The Meeting Place is the Royal Arch &  
Egyptian Rooms, 75 Queen Street, Edinburgh.

On Friday, 18th April 1947. 7-12 o'clock p.m.

R.S.V.P.

The Secretary,  
19 Scotland Street

Music  
Dancing



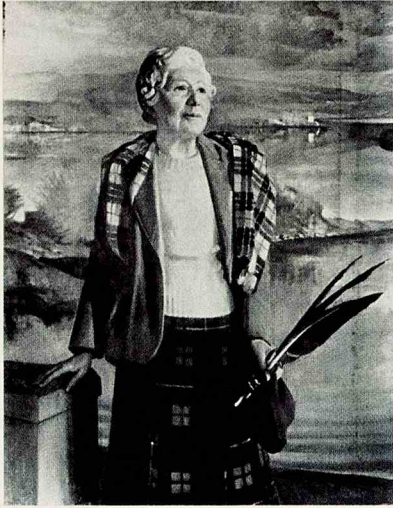
1941 was the Jubilee year of the Clan MacLeod Society but due to the war the celebrations had to be postponed.

Then in 1946 Sir John Lorne MacLeod, President of the Society, died. He had been a member since 1895. This gifted gentleman was a lawyer and was created a knight in 1917 for his services as Lord Provost of Edinburgh during the First World War. As a result of Sir John's death the celebrations were delayed again. However, in April 1947 Chief Flora, accompanied by her daughters, joined clans-folk in a happy evening when a presentation was made to Major R. C. MacLeod to mark the fifty four years of his being Secretary of the Clan MacLeod Society.

Early in 1948 Major R.C. MacLeod died aged 83years. He had been Secretary of the CMS since 1893 and Editor of the Clan Magazine since its inception in 1935. The combination of Sir John Lorne MacLeod as President and Major R.C. MacLeod as Secretary and Editor gave the Society inspiration, dignity and influence such that it was the envy of many other Clans. A gentleman, writing on receiving the first issue of the Clan Magazine wrote of RC – “ I can hardly believe that you are the same secretary who officiated when I was a small boy in Edinburgh, forty years ago, and attended a Garden Party at Granton House”.

During this difficult period for the Clan Society in losing both Secretary and President, the Society was most grateful to Miss Mena MacLeod Whigham, niece of the late John Lorne MacLeod, for her enthusiasm and support in keeping the Society together until new office bearers were appointed.

A new President was elected only the third in 50years of the Clan Macleod Societies history. He was Brigadier Torquil MacLeod, now retired. He fought in both world wars and was a Prisoner of the Japanese – both he and his wife, Susanne, suffered terribly during their captivity.

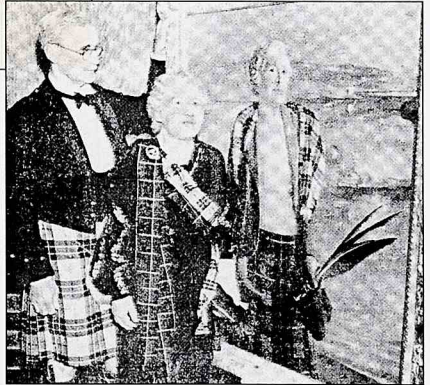


COPY OF PORTRAIT  
of  
**FLORA**, 28th Chief of **MACLEOD**  
by  
W. O. HUTCHISON, P.R.S.A.

PRESENTED BY CLASMEN AND FRIENDS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

1952

*"Leis Gach Deagh Dhùrachd"*



*Portrait of Flora, 28th Chief of MacLeod  
Presented by Clasmen and Friends throughout the world  
1952*

1947 also marked the first of the many overseas trips made by Chief Flora, on behalf of the Clan. She attended the 9th Gaelic Mod at St. Annes, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. Here she received a marvellous reception and was treated like Royalty throughout her visit.

After the war Chief Flora had been invited to serve on the Scottish Tourist Board and along with her neighbour and fellow Councillor, Major Iain Hilleary, she initiated a special 'Skye Week'. During the week events included – the Portree Games, Trotternish Day associated with Flora MacDonald, then Borreraig Day followed when Chief Flora sailed over Loch Dunvegan and walked up to the Cairn which commemorates the MacCrimmon's as pipers to the MacLeod. Skye week was a great success and continued for many years.

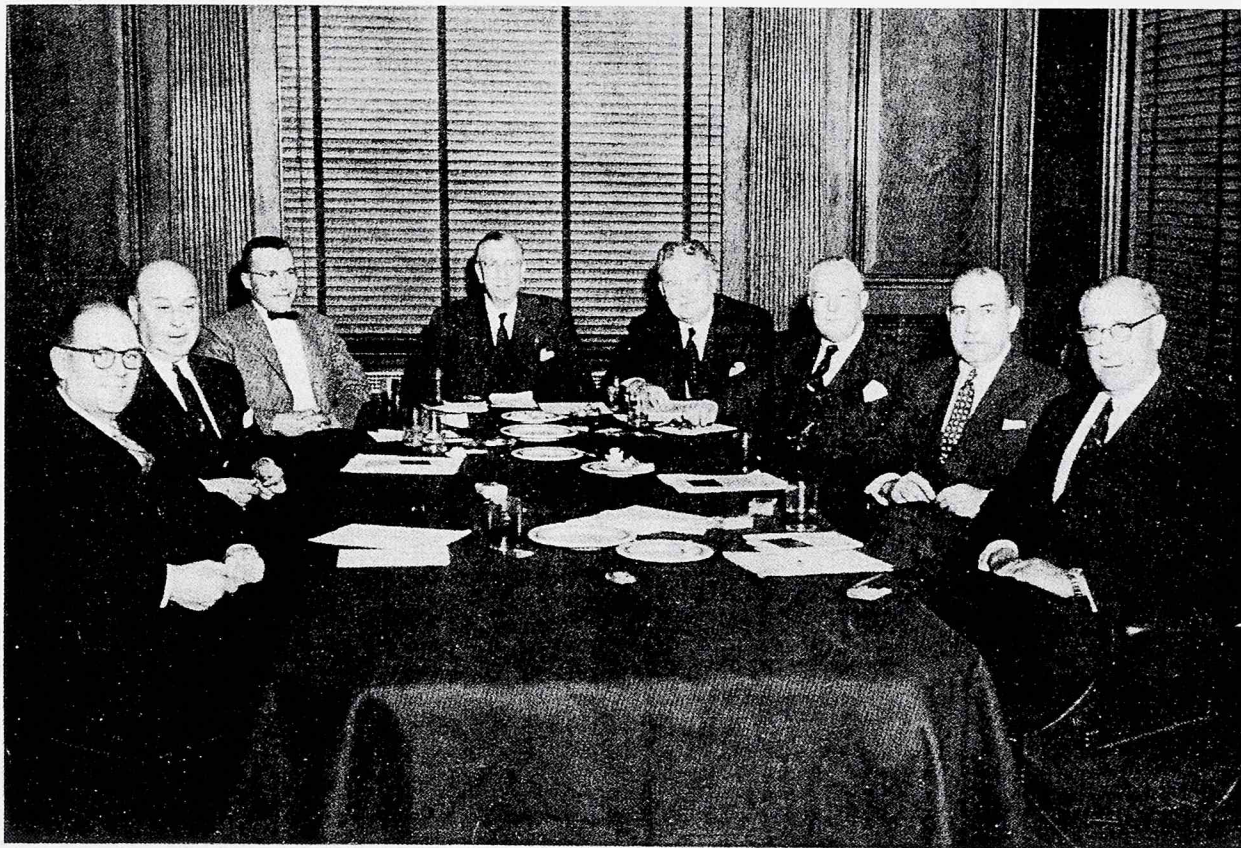
In July 1951 the Chief was off on her tours again. To Canada this time, accompanied by her daughter Joan and twin grandsons, John and Patrick. She visited Ottawa, Toronto, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Glengarry County. The welcome was no less enthusiastic than she had received in Nova Scotia on her previous visit in 1947.

She met hundreds of MacLeods and very soon further Societies were formed in Canada.

During the Festival of Britain a gathering of the Clans took place in Edinburgh in August 1951, for some the highlight of the year. Over 30 Clans participated and 1000 Pipers played as they made their way along Princes Street and out to Murrayfield Stadium where they gathered for the Highland Games. Chief Flora was there along with twelve other Chiefs.

Chief Flora was presented with her portrait, in 1952, by the President, Brigadier Torquil MacLeod, on behalf of Clansmen throughout the world. This portrait now hangs in Dunvegan Castle.

Also in 1952 Flora made her first visit to the USA where she visited John H. MacLeod in Vermont. He subsequently wrote to clansmen in the major cities of America asking whether they would welcome a visit from their chief. The response was overwhelming and a major tour was planned for the following year.



ORGANIZING COMMITTEE — CHICAGO, ILLINOIS — FEBRUARY 19 & 20, 1954

MR. HARRY M. MCLEOD, Lake Forest, Illinois—*Treasurer*; MR. LOUIS H. MACLEOD, Rockport, Mass.—*Vice President*; MR. N. DOUGLAS MACLEOD, JR., Rumford, Rhode Island—*Secretary*; MR. JOHN H. MACLEOD, Wallingford, Vermont—*President*; MR. THOMAS W. MACLEOD, Bayshore, Long Island, N. Y.—*Trustee*; MR. LAMAR W. MCLEOD, St. Louis, Missouri—*Vice President*; DR. JOHN MACLEOD, Huntington, Long Island, N. Y.—*Trustee*; MR. ANGUS MACLEOD, Dallas, Texas—*Trustee*.

In Coronation year Flora was made Dame Commander of the British Empire, in recognition of her social and public services to Scotland. Following which she was always referred to as 'Dame Flora'. Three months later Dame Flora, along with her daughter, Joan and the twins, sailed to America to start a mammoth tour – North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island and New York. The trip was an outstanding success. The result was a meeting in Chicago in February 1954 to organise the Clan MacLeod Society of America when John H. MacLeod was appointed President. A certificate of incorporation was drawn up and approved in July 1954. The Clan MacLeod Society of the USA was formed.

Also in 1954 Dame Flora ventured on her tours again - this time to Australia and New Zealand. Bruce MacLeod, a member of the Society who lived in Sydney, advertised in a Sydney newspaper asking for clansmen who would be interested to meet Chief Flora during her visit. They each subscribed £1.00s. and a plan was launched. By the time she arrived a new Society of 500 members had been formed! Her tour took her to Sydney, Adelaide, Melbourne, Canberra, Brisbane and Perth plus many rural areas along the way.

To commemorate Dame Flora's visit to Sydney a MacLeod Week was held and this has subsequently become an annual event in the Sydney Calendar.

A Clan MacLeod Society had been formed in Southland, New Zealand in 1953. Many New Zealanders were members of the Parent Society in Scotland and they had written to Dame Flora inviting her to visit them in New Zealand. She readily accepted and due to the enthusiasm of some Clans-people she toured both the North and South Islands. Amongst many events Dame Flora attended a Ceilidh at Waipu, the place where Rev. Norman MacLeod settled in New Zealand. She had celebrated the centenary of his departure from Nova Scotia, with his flock, in 1951 during her Canadian tour that year. Here she met two survivors of that great emigration, Jessie MacKenzie 102years and Joanne Macrae 98years. Her entire trip lasted from September 25th 1954 to March 1st 1955!!

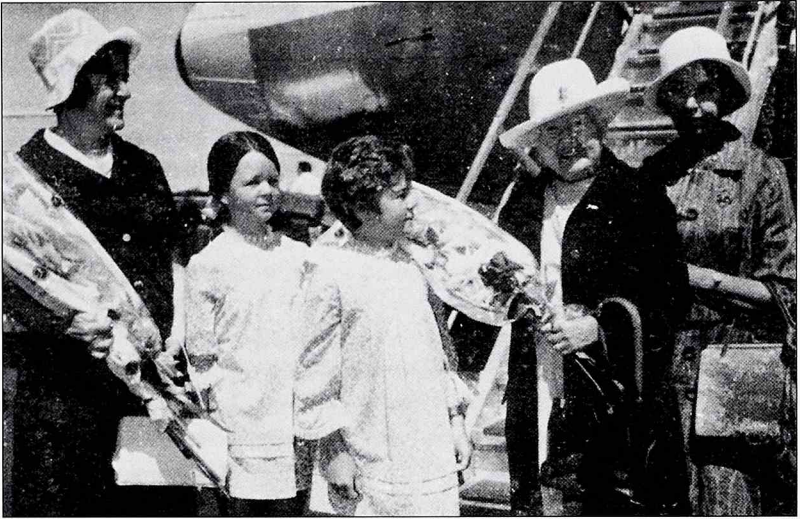
The Clan MacLeod Society of New Zealand, founded in 1953, was suitably launched – Dame Flora had succeeded in bringing about a Clan movement which now encircled the world. In Scotland a welcome home Ceilidh was held so that the Parent Society could hear of her wonderful trip and say 'Thank you for increasing the Clan Family'.



*Clan MacLeod of England  
Council Members at the 350th Anniversary of the Battle of Worcester 2001.*



*Clan MacLeod Society of Scotland finish their picnic lunch  
at the Clan Parliament  
1990*



*The Chief in New Zealand*

*Left to right: Mary Northcote, Anne and Juliet MacLeod,  
The Chief and Alison Mac Gibbon, President of the Canterbury Clan Society*



*The Chief in Australia*

*Left to right: Bruce MacLeod, President, The Chief, Rev. Gordon Powell,  
the minister of St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church where she attended  
morning service along with many members of the N.S.W. Society*



*The future Chief, John proves his manhood in draining the horn*



*The Queen meets clansfolk on the Castle Gunyard  
14th August 1956*

In 1956 Dame Flora planned great celebrations for the Clan. Firstly it was the year that her twin grandsons, John and Patrick came of age. Secondly she wanted to thank the Clanspeople she had met on her recent travels. She decided to hold a "Clan Parliament", so that Clansfolk from throughout the world could meet and discuss clan affairs. Thirdly, although not in her original plan, a visit from Her majesty Queen Elizabeth and their Royal Highnesses Prince Philip and Princess Margaret coincided with the dates of the other two events. Those attending were called 'delegates' and they came from Scotland, England, USA, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Northern Rhodesia and of course the Chief, her daughter Joan and her grandsons, John and Patrick.

The agenda included such items as reports from Branches, Organisation of Clan Societies, The Magazine, Clan History, Clan Activities and Clan Interests. It is interesting that this year the 14th Clan Parliament will be held at Dunvegan and the agenda bears a strong resemblance to the one held forty-five years ago. At this first Parliament it became evident that the social interactions were as important as the business meetings. Many clans-folk felt that they had met long lost cousins and friendships formed have stood the test of time. It was such a success it was agreed to hold a Parliament every three years.

During their visit Queen Elizabeth, Prince Philip and Princess Margaret had lunch at the Castle and met the clans-people on the Castle Gunyard before sailing on the Royal Yacht 'Britannia'.

For the next twenty years Dame Flora continued her tours to USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, encouraging the clans-folk to join the various Societies which had been established in these countries. She regularly attended the USA Annual Dinner and AGM held in New York which coincided with her birthday.



*The first North Room Group 1965.*

*John MacLeod (Scotland) John Davidson Kelly (Scotland) Tom Davidson Kelly (Scotland) Alison MacLeod (England) Kenneth MacLeod (Canada) Ian MacLeod (England) John MacLeod (England) Norman Davidson Kelly (Scotland) Margaret MacLeod (England) Barbara MacKintosh (Australia) Bonnie and Heather MacLeod (USA) Joan MacLeod and Ann MacKintosh (Australia). Also in the group but not in the photograph... Nancy and Noel Nicol (Scotland) Neil MacLeod (England) and Donald Warrington (New Zealand)*



*Joan Wöbridge Gordon takes the Chair at the Second Clan MacLeod Parliament in 1959*

Further Clan Parliaments were held in 1959 and 1962 when the first true 'Associated Clan MacLeod Societies' (ACMS) meeting took place – a Preliminary meeting had been held in February 1961. This body was to consist of Clan MacLeod Societies from throughout the world, to have MacLeod of MacLeod as Grand President, to have powers to levy subscriptions from member societies to meet incidental expenses, and to meet again at Parliament in approximately three years time.

The constitution, which had been drawn up after the last Parliament, was presented in its final draft which was accepted.

An administrative committee was established, which now continues under the title 'Management Committee'. All National Presidents were to be members and the money obtained from levies, of six pence per member, formed the nucleus of the 'Clan MacLeod Development Fund'.

At the fourth Clan Parliament in 1965 the Chief raised a proposal from Canada and the USA to hold a Young Peoples Clan Parliament. This bore fruit when eighteen young MacLeod's representing six countries met in the North Room of the Castle. This group used the name of its meeting place, hence "North Room Group". Subsequently using the initials 'NRG' as their title but are now known as 'Energy'.

It was also at this fourth Parliament that interest was first expressed in the restoration of Clan sites, with particular reference to the memorials to the Chiefs. The most recent being the restoration of the memorial in Edinburgh to Norman MacLeod, the 23rd Chief, known as 'The General' was completed in 2001.

Another major project stemming from that Parliament, a project that was to be driven by Joan Wolrige Gordon for the remainder of her life was the cataloguing of the documents in the Castle Muniment Room, which was a mammoth task. This not only ensured their preservation from potential dangers but also made them available to scholars and other interested people.

In 1959 Dr. Elsie Grant had written "The MacLeods - the History of a Clan". It was decided that this should be the first of a trilogy about the Clan. In 1968, after problems of authorship, Dr Alick Morrison wrote "The MacLeods – the Genealogy of a Clan – Section I". Later, four further sections were written. This publication was initially funded and published by Clan MacLeod Society of Scotland but in 1974 it was taken over by the ACMS. As with any genealogy it requires constant updating, but at present this is not an ACMS priority to undertake this huge task.



*Clansfolk at the International Clan gathering at Bendigo, Australia 1999*

Meanwhile the ACMS has commissioned Dr. James Hunter to write "The MacLeods – The Migration of a Clan" which it is hoped will be available in 2004. So fifty years on the trilogy will at last be complete.

Further Parliaments were held in 1968, 1971 and 1974. The numbers attending kept increasing, so while the first two Parliaments were held in Dunvegan Castle, the third was held in the Village Hall. Subsequent Parliaments took place in a marquee, initially in the Round Garden and latterly down by the Laundry Cottage, at the side of Loch Dunvegan.

At the 1974 Parliament it had been agreed that Parliament should be held every four years, instead of the customary three. So that clans-folk could meet more frequently it was decided that in the intervening two years a gathering should be held for Canada and America and one for Australia and New Zealand. So in 1976 the first North American Clan MacLeod Gathering took place in Glengarry, Canada, followed in 1980 at Dearborn, Michigan. Subsequent gatherings have been held in Sydney Nova Scotia in 1984; Chicago in 1988 and Vancouver in 1992. It was at this meeting in Vancouver that the first ACMS meeting took place outside the United Kingdom. In 1996 it was at West Point and in 2000 it was held in Guelph, Canada.

Our clans-folk in the Antipodes held a Clan gathering during MacLeod week in Sydney, Australia in 1980. About fifty clans-folk attended a most successful event. However, it was a further nineteen years before another gathering was held, this time in Bendigo when 500 MacLeods from all over the world, including the two Chiefs, attended. The organisers of this meeting had the unique idea of inviting each of those attending to bring a stone from their home area. These stones were ultimately built into a 'Friendship Cairn' in Bendigo's Botanic Gardens.

As travel became easier and cheaper the Clan MacLeod Society of USA decided to hold their AGM in a different region each year. It seems that with careful planning one can attend a Clan MacLeod Gathering, in some form or another, in a different country every year.



Dame Flora McLeod of McLeod  
D.B.E.

West Duirinish Parish Church

3 February 1878

4 November 1976



*Funeral of Dame Flora MacLeod of MacLeod  
9th November 1976*

On November 4th 1976 at the age of 98years Dame Flora MacLeod of MacLeod, 28th chief of the Clan died. She, like her father, uncle, grandfather and great grandfather before her, was laid to rest in the old kirkyard at Dunvegan. Everyone present was given a sprig of juniper to wear. The church in the village was packed and many folk were standing outside. The members of Dame Flora's family lead the mourners out of the church after the service. The coffin was carried out and laid on a wooden bier. Six kilted MacLeods were then the first to carry the coffin on the half-mile journey to the old church at Kilmuir. Pipers Seaumus MacNeill and John MacFadyen marched before the coffin playing the stirring piobroch 'MacLeods Salute'. More than one hundred men formed up in groups of three pairs every twenty or so yards to take their turn carrying the bier.

At the graveside John MacLeod of MacLeod stood at the head of the coffin and Robert Wolrige Gordon at the foot. On one side were Patrick Wolrige Gordon, Loudoun MacLeod, representing the ACMS, and Kenneth MacLeod of Harlosh. On the other side were Willie MacDonald, foreman of the MacLeod Estate, Milton MacLeod, representing the overseas clans-folk, and Lord MacDonald, the MacLeod's neighbouring chief. The eight pallbearers lowered the coffin into the grave. By tradition the new Chief, John MacLeod of MacLeod, led the mourners out of the church grave yard. Refreshments were provided for the village at one of the local hotels. About one hundred invited guests went to the Castle for a buffet lunch.

During the course of the meal a group of clansmen pledged their loyalty to the new chief. Whilst on the gun-yard Rory MacLeod Suardal played the pipes as the banner on the keep was raised from half mast, indicating to the world that Clan Macleod had a new Chief.



*20th Chief - John MacLeod of MacLeod*

# John MacLeod of MacLeod

John was born at Esslemont, Aberdeenshire on 10th August 1935, the second son of Captain Robert Wolrige Gordon and Joan Walters, daughter of Dame Flora MacLeod of MacLeod. He was educated at Eton, McGill University in Canada and the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art.

Although not brought up at Dunvegan from his early teens he was always involved with the estate, the castle and in particular sharing his grandmother's concern about its financial difficulties.

During his two years National Service as a Second Lieutenant in the Black Watch Regiment John saw active service in Kenya during the Mau Mau troubles. Following this he went to McGill University to study for a B.Com. He thoroughly enjoyed singing in the University musical 'My Fur Lady'! His strong feeling for acting and singing led him to further study in the Arts.

In 1961 he married Drusilla Shaw but the marriage was dissolved without issue. He secondly married Melita Koln, sadly this marriage came to an end in 1989.

John has three children, a natural son Stephan born in 1971 and two by his second marriage Hugh Magnus born in 1973 and Elena Mary Nadezhda in 1977

The Chief divided his life between working in London and supervising the running of the MacLeod Estates. He has always taken a keen interest in the Clan world-wide but in his early years as chief his work prevented him from undertaking tours like his grandmother.

In 1977 the Clan suffered another loss - Joan Wolrige Gordon, the younger daughter of Dame Flora MacLeod of MacLeod and mother of Chief John, who died in London.

She was a wonderful person who took a deep interest in the Clan. She went to live in Dunvegan Castle after her elder son, Robert, married in 1956 and for over 15 years was her mother's right hand in all Castle hospitality and on Clan tours. When Chief Flora broke her leg Joan went on a Clan tour by herself to Australia and New Zealand.

For several years she accompanied her mother to the Chief's Birthday Banquet in New York.



*Alice Macnab of Macnab and Joan Wolridge Gordon,  
daughters of Dame Flora MacLeod of MacLeod*



*John MacLeod of MacLeod 29th Chief with Torquil Roderick  
Chief of the Lewes at the North American Clan Gathering 1992*

At Dame Flora's request she presided at the first six Clan Parliaments. When her health failed she moved from the Castle to live in a flat in the family house which her parents had built in London in 1913.

It was only three years later that Alice Macnab of Macnab, Dame Flora's elder daughter died. As a child she had spent her holidays at Dunvegan. Following graduating from Girton College, Cambridge, she took some 'interesting holiday jobs' before setting off for India where she met and married Archibald Corrie Macnab. They lived abroad until 1949 and on their return lived in the Macnab ancestral home 'Kinnel', Killin, Perthshire. After her husband's death in 1970 and her sisters health began to fail she became much more active in Clan affairs. She made an extended Clan tour of Australia and New Zealand in 1973 and in 1975 and presented the Dame Flora Trophy at the Grandfather Mountain Games in North Carolina. The following year she was guest at the first North American Gathering in Glengarry. Since Dame Flora's death she had presided at the great 'Silver Chanter MacCrimmon' pibroch Competition at the Castle. In 1977 she was elected President of the ACMS and in that capacity presided over the 8th Clan Parliament. She was a great lady, always fun, always charming and sadly missed by the Clan world-wide.

In 1968 Torquil Bright MacLeod 16th of Raasay died at his home in Tasmania. He was succeeded by his son Torquil Roderick as 17th Chief of Raasay who in 1987 petitioned the Lyon Court for recognition in 'The Arms and Title of MacLeod of Lewes'. At the January 1988 ACMS meeting this was discussed. The Chief, John MacLeod of MacLeod was of the opinion that the Clan and the ACMS should accommodate a Chief of the Lewes. Indeed, given his own inability to travel as widely as the Clan would wish, there would be advantage in Torquil Roderick being able to undertake Chiefly duties in the Antipodies. However, he felt there was more to being a Chief than the possession of a title. He remained conscious that Dunvegan was regarded as the focus and heartland of the Clan and of the unique responsibilities towards the Clan that were his as inheritor of the Castle and the lands. The Chief withdrew from the meeting while the ACMS discussed the issue further.



*The elegant drawing room of Dunvegan Castle once again was the venue for the Silver Chanter Recital on August 6th 1984.*

*Pictured following the presentation of the Silver Chanter are left to right: John Burgess, Hugh MacCallum (the winner) John MacLeod of MacLeod and Major General Frank Richardson, who was one of the judges.*



*John MacLeod of MacLeod with John Laing, Chairman of the Dunvegan Community Hall at the Opening of the Dame Flora Lounge, 30th July 1990.*

It was agreed that the constitutional position of the ACMS would be unaffected by the addition of a Chief of the Lewes. The various Societies of the ACMS had been informed of the position and all but Australia were in favour. Australia felt two Chiefs would cause confusion in the Clan.

At the May 1988 meeting of the ACMS the Management Committee welcomed the news that the Court of the Lord Lyon had officially recognised Torquil Roderick as Chief, or Head, of the House of the Lewes. It was believed such a decision would not be divisive, in fact the presence of a second chief could be used positively for the good of the Clan MacLeod Societies, in a supportive role to Chief John.

Torquil Roderick visited Skye at the 1982 Parliament and paid a visit to his ancestral home in Raasay. He returned to Parliaments in 1990 and 1998 and also visited Lewis in 1989. He toured widely in Australia and New Zealand, in addition to attending the 1992 North American Gathering in Vancouver and the 1999 Clan Gathering in Bendigo. He died in March 2001 and is succeeded as MacLeod of the Lewes by his elder son Donald and his younger son John as MacLeod of Raasay.

Now there were two Chiefs in the Clan, and although it was recognised that MacLeod of MacLeod is Chief of the Clan, many clans-folk had Lewis connections. It was felt that this should be reflected in the badge used by the ACMS. After much discussion it was decided to petition for Arms for the ACMS which incorporated both the Harris and Lewis Arms. The final design was 'surrounded by a chain linking of the various Societies as one'. The ACMS Arms were granted in 1993.

Clan Parliaments continue to take place every four years each one having something different to add to the milestones of the Clan. At John's first Parliament as Chief in 1978 discussions took place as to what would be a suitable memorial to Dame Flora.

It was decided that the Old Square within the castle grounds could be converted into a Theatre, Conference Centre, Piping School etc. This has been a long running saga in the history of the Clan. However, after two years the idea was abandoned and instead the ACMS agreed to support work on the extension to the Village Hall which was to include an area dedicated to Dame Flora. The Clan donated £13,000.00 to this project. Things move slowly in Skye and another ten years were to pass before, at the 1990 Parliament 'The Dame Flora Lounge' was officially opened within the Village Hall.



*Leonard MacLeod and Ian MacLeod from South Africa  
at a Clan MacLeod Parliament*



*The Clan MacLeod Society at the Clan Parliament 1986*

At that time the "Square" was again the subject of discussion among MacLeods. This time not as memorial but as a Clan Centre. The topic has generated much discussion over the years, a plethora of negotiations and plenty of fund-raising efforts by the Societies. However, despite the very hard work, a great deal of travel and much expense on the part of Angus MacLeod, the then President of the ACMS, it was learnt at the 1998 Parliament that the Sponsorship from government bodies would not be available for this venture. Basically, like our ancestors, and certainly many of our Chiefs, we set our sights on things out-with our finances and alas we have no 'Family Silver' or Estates to sell to achieve our ambitions.

The recent report on the feasibility of creating a Clan MacLeod Centre has been discussed world-wide and the option of a Virtual Clan Centre, 'a web-site', was favoured. However, at an ACMS meeting in 2000 it was decided that the Clan overall could not support such a project.

In 1967 the 'Silver Chanter Competition', held within Dunvegan Castle every August, was set-up and in 1991 it's Silver Jubilee was celebrated. The Silver Chanter is considered the 'Blue Ribbon' of Piping. Recently it was said "The most lasting tribute and Memorial the Clan can show Dame Flora is in ensuring the 'Silver Chanter' never dies".

In recent years two further Societies have been added to the ACMS. In 1981 France formed their own society and about twenty members attended the Parliament in 1986. They are a small but flourishing Society which gathers twice a year for a meeting and a meal. Three years later a Society was established in South Africa, although plans for starting one had begun twenty years previously. We welcomed their members to the 1990 Parliament.



*The MacCrimmon Cairn at Borroraig*



*Clan MacLeod Parliament held in a marquee,  
August 1990*

**John MacLeod of MacLeod**  
invites you to celebrate the  
**21st Birthday of his Son**  
**HUGH**  
at a Buffet Dinner  
on Saturday 30th July 1994  
in Dunvegan Castle from 6.30 - 8.30pm  
followed by a Ceilidh Dance in  
Dunvegan Hall from 8.30 - 12.00pm

**R.S.V.P.**  
MacLeod Estate Office  
Dunvegan Castle  
Isle of Skye IV55 8WF

Day or evening wear  
Please bring this invitation with you



*Angus MacLeod, President of the Associated Clan MacLeod Societies  
presents Hugh with a Silver Quiache on the occasion of his 21st birthday*

## “INTERNATIONAL” CLAN ROMANCES



*Ruth MacLeod (Canada) and  
Ian MacLeod (Australia) with their  
daughters, Kirsteen and Shona*



*Tom MacLeod (New Zealand, front row,  
2nd from right) and Jean MacLeod (Canada,  
front row 2nd from left) with guests  
Suadal and Sheila*



*Chantel (France) and  
Leonard MacLeod (South Africa)*



*Rory MacLeod (Scotland) and  
Carolyn MacLeod (Canada)*

Back to Parliaments – this year we will be holding the 14th Parliament from 3rd to 10th August (2002). Each Parliament has something special about it to make it unique.

- 1956 The first one. Just one day, but linked with John and Patrick's 21st birthday and the Royal Visit.
- 1959 The decision to form the ACMS.
- 1962 Confirmed constitution of the ACMS constitution – now 40 years young!
- 1965 Formation of NRG.
- 1968 The Sunny Parliament!!!
- 1971 Parliament held in a Marquee in the Round Garden.
- 1974 Happy Parliament (weren't the others?? !!).
- 1978 232 delegates came despite the Ferry Strike.
- 1982 1st Parliament attended by Torquil Roderick.
- 1986 French Societies 1st Parliament, Alick Morrison's "Chiefs of the Clan MacLeod" was published.
- 1990 South Africa CMS attended; Dame Flora Lounge opened; Clan Centre discussions.
- 1994 Hugh Magnus' 21st birthday.
- 1998 'Wet-Wet-Wet' and Parliament sessions held in Dunvegan Church; Marquee site abandoned.

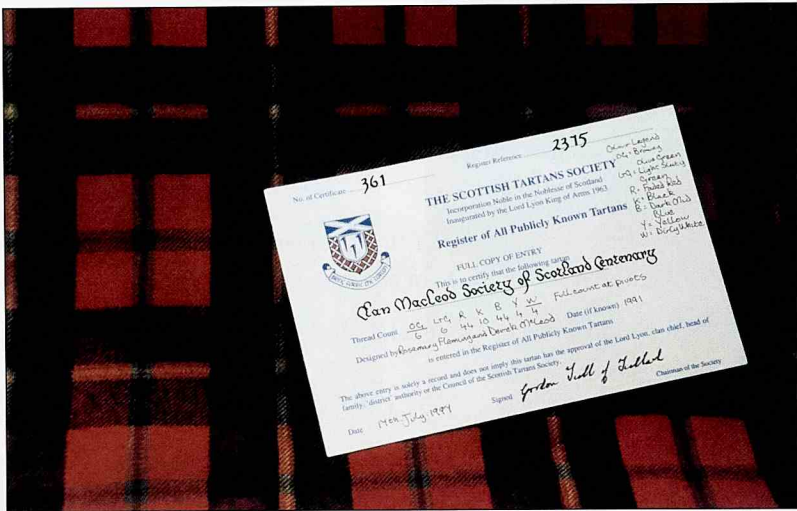
The Clan has been responsible for a number of 'International Romances' the socialising, so encouraged by Chief Flora, apparently does not end with the ferry home!

- 1978 Ruth MacLeod of Montreal, Canada -- married Ian MacLeod of Australia.
- 1987 Tom MacLeod of New Zealand – married Jean MacLeod of Canada.
- 1991 Leonard McLeod – married Chantal of France.
- 1999 Rory MacLeod (Suardal) of Scotland – married Carolyn MacLeod, Canada.

Many other clan romances may have occurred but these are the only ones recorded.



The Clan MacLeod of Scotland celebrate their Centenary in September 1991.



Clan MacLeod Society Centenary Tartan

In 1991 the Clan MacLeod Society celebrated its' Centenary. The main celebrations took place in Edinburgh and Glasgow and one hundred clans-folk, representing the eight countries, enjoyed a splendid long weekend of festivities. Many wearing the new Tartan designed by Rose Fleming, Secretary of the Clan MacLeod Society of Scotland, and registered with Lord Lyon as 'The Clan MacLeod Centenary Tartan'.

On the 13th August 1998 Chief John's grandson, Hugh Magnus' son Vincent Liam MacLeod, was born to his lady Frederique in Paris.

Ten years later in 2001 the ACMS celebrated its 40th birthday. This event was held in Edinburgh when educational, historical and entertaining occasions were enjoyed by about one hundred clans-folk, from six countries, including a group from Germany who are keen to form their own Society.



*The Associated Clan MacLeod Societies celebrate  
their 40th Anniversary in Edinburgh, February 2001.*



*Vincent MacLeod, son of Hugh Magnus MacLeod*



*Torquil Donald MacLeod of the Lewes and his wife Heather*

# CONCLUSION

## So what does the 21st century hold for Clan MacLeod?

On a personal point Chief John has an heir in Hugh who too has a son. The Estate is in a far better financial position than it was when John became Chief, 25 years ago. Although we were all saddened to learn of the proposed sale of the Cullin Estate to raise sufficient revenue to repair the ancestral home of the MacLeods – Dunvegan Castle – talks still go on regarding a new owner, while alas the condition of the Castle continues to deteriorate.

Earlier last year Torquil Roderick of the Lewes died but we welcome his son Donald as the new Chief.

The MacLeods in Germany hope to have their society up and running this year in order that they can be accepted into the ACMS at Parliament in 2002.

International Clan Gatherings continue and in 2004 the North American Gathering will be held in the USA and they will celebrate their Silver Jubilee.

One hundred and ten years ago our ancestors started building the Clan MacLeod Society which over the years has developed world-wide. Perhaps the two most important 'Milestones' in creating this flourishing organisation have been the establishment of The Magazine in 1935 and Dame Flora's determination and enthusiasm to call the Clan family back home to Dunvegan at regular intervals.

Just as our ancestors built the Castle on a rock, a good foundation, years on our predecessors have built a strong World-wide Association which we are privileged to continue, ensuring that we have "More Stones about which to tell our children".



*MacLeod's Tables, Dunvegan  
Isle of Skye*

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