



Volume 45, Number 2

Sgurr Uaran

CLAN MACRAE SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA
PO Box 2145, Palestine, TX 75802-2145

August 2021



Online at www.macrae.org
or find us on Facebook!

**We pray for all MacRaes worldwide to
be safe and sound in body and spirit!**

The President's Letter

Greetings Fellow MacRaes,

Here it is August and a few months ago I thought I could see the light at the end of the COVID tunnel, but alas it was just the light of another train coming towards us. We are all busting at the seams to get out and enjoy life and with a full festival schedule ahead of us, we just need to be wise as we enjoy our lives.

We had a wonderful time at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games last month. It was a huge success with up to 40,000 people attending the games! After dark on Thursday, I had the honor of carrying the Clan MacRae torch for the Torchlight Ceremony. It was a spectacular sight to see all the torches formed into a saltire cross on MacRae Meadows. Clan MacRae came out in full force for the weekend. On Friday we were literally overrun with MacRae visitors coming to our tent. Many joined our Society after seeing their family history in Larry Cates' Kith and Kin volumes while others just wanted to be a part of something bigger than themselves. We also had a wonderful time renewing old friendships as many members came by to visit. The entire weekend was a "family" event for the "Scattered Children of Kintail".

I am pleased also that many North Carolina members are stepping up to represent Clan MacRae at North Carolina games. North Carolina plays a huge part in the history of MacRae immigration to the US. Frankie McRae, Danny Ray and Don Odom have all answered the call to represent Clan MacRae in North Carolina. In October Don will be doing our tent at the Scotland County Highland Games in Laurinburg, NC for the first time and Frankie McRae will be taking over responsibility for our tent at the Grandfather Games. There are also brand-new games in Beaufort, NC in the Outer Banks in late October that we are hoping to have a presence.

We will also be represented at one or two new games in Florida next spring. Member Winter Guite will be representing Clan MacRae at those games. There are still many, many games throughout the US who do not have a Clan MacRae presence. Our Society's purpose is to educate on both Clan MacRae and Scottish history and to help MacRaes with their genealogy. We do that through our newsletter, our website, but especially through face-to-face contact at these festivals and games. You learn so much through doing these games and we reimburse you for the game fees. So, if you would like to volunteer to host a Clan MacRae tent as well, please drop me a line.

I have saved the best announcement for last. 2023 will be the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Clan MacRae Society of North America! We plan to have several celebrations throughout 2023 in different locales, but we need a team to help with the planning and execution. So, please contact Judy or me if you wish to assist.

In closing, please enjoy the rest of summer and stay safe. Exercise your freedom in a responsible way.

Sgurr Uaran,

Bruce W. McRae



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2021 and 2022 Clan MacRae Events

The Scottish festivals listed below will have a Clan MacRae tent hosted by one of our members. For a list of all Scottish festivals, go to www.asgf.org. If there is a local Scottish festival where you would like to be our Clan MacRae host, please contact Bruce McRae at brucewaynemcrae@gmail.com. We'll help you get started!

September 4-5, 2021 - Caledonian Club Scottish Highland Games, Pleasanton, CA www.thescottishgames.com Contact James McCrea at clanmacrae_na_sf@yahoo.com.

September 10-12, 2021 - Longs Peak Highland Festival, Estes Park, CO www.scotfest.com Contact Bruce McRae at brucewaynemcrae@gmail.com.

September 11, 2021 - Middle Tennessee Highlands Games, Nashville, TN www.midtenngames.com Contact Andy McRae at amcrae52@gmail.com

September 11-12, 2021 - Columbus Scottish Festival, Columbus, IN www.scottishfestival.org Contact Ray White at chan-naray@protonmail.com.

September 25-26, 2021 - Sherman Highland Games, Sherman, TX www.shermancelticfest.com Contact Ebby Darden at ebbydarden@msn.com.

October 2, 2021 - Scotland County Highland Games, Laurinburg, NC www.carolina-highlandgames.com Contact Donald Odom at odom282828@gmail.com.

October 15-17, 2021 - Stone Mountain Highland Games, Atlanta, GA www.smhg.org Contact David Ray at dhrray@charter.net.

November 6, 2021 - Charleston Scottish Games, Mount Pleasant, SC www.charlestonscots.org Contact Dean McCraw at dean_mccraw@bellsouth.net.

November 5-7, 2021 - Tucson Highland Games, Tucson, AZ www.tucsoncelticfestival.org Contact Sheila Schmidt at sschmidt99@msn.com.

November 12-14, 2021 - Salado Scottish Festival, Salado, TX www.saladoscottishfestival.com Contact Ebby Darden at ebbydarden@msn.com.

January 15-16, 2022 - Central Florida Highland Games, Winter Springs, FL www.flascot.com Contact Daniel McRae at dgmcrac@comcast.net.

February 5, 2022 - Sarasota Highland Games, Sarasota, FL www.sarasotahighlandgames.com Contact Winter Guite at win-terjg@gmail.com.

February 26, 2022 - NE Florida Highland Games, Green Cove Springs, FL www.neflgames.com Contact John Wayne McRae at jwwmc@comcast.net.

March 4-6, 2022 - North Texas Irish Festival, Dallas, TX www.ntif.org Contact Ebby Darden at ebbydarden@msn.com.

March 5-6, 2022 - Phoenix Scottish Games, Phoenix, AZ www.phoenixscottishgames.com Contact Patrick MacRae at patrick@patrickmacrae.org.

April 2, 2022 - Dunedin Highland Games, Dunedin, FL www.dunedinhighlandgames.com Contact Winter Guite at win-terjg@gmail.com.

April 2-3, 2022 - San Antonio Highland Games, San Antonio, TX www.sahga.org Contact Ronald Crowe at doccrowe@gmail.com.

April 9-10, 2022 - Loch Norman Highland Games, Huntersville, NC www.lochnorman.com Contact Leon Folsom at leon.folsom@prodigy.net.

April 9-10, 2022 - Las Vegas Highland Games, Las Vegas, NV www.lasvegascelticsociety.org Contact Patrick MacRae at patrick@patrickmacrae.org.

May 2022 - Smoky Mountain Scottish Festival, Maryville, TN www.smokymountaingames.org Contact Andy McRae at amcrae52@gmail.com.

May 7, 2022 - Savannah Scottish Games, Savannah, GA www.savannahscottishgames.com Contact Dean McCraw at dean_mccraw@bellsouth.net.

*Come out and join us at one or more of these festivals in
2021 and 2022 and meet your fellow MacRaes!*



2021 Grandfather Mountain Highland Games!



The Grandfather Mountain Games were a big success with up to 40,000 people attending and Clan MacRae had a big presence! Pictures going clockwise from top center: Frankie McRae and Bruce McRae prepare for Torchlight Ceremony; Judy McRae with member Robert McCrie from New York City; Holding swords are Jack Peters on left and Luke Peters, grandsons of member Cynthia Cree; Group picture left to right: Sandy Krebs, Chris McRae, Linda & Frankie McRae, Tina Alley, Judy & Bruce McRae, Pam & Danny Ray, Ebby Darden, Al McRae, John & Mary Gonzalez, Janet & Leon Folsom and Daniel Odom; The Grandfather Mountain Highlanders Pipe Band wearing the MacRae muted red tartan; Zack Taucher and Frankie McRae; Bruce McRae and Anna Lee Crowe, daughter of Ronald Crowe, who competed in seven Scottish dances placing in both Restricted Premier and Premier standings.



Other Member Happenings!



At left, Bruce McRae with member Paul Jarnagin at the Blueberry Festival in Nacogdoches, TX in June.

At right, Director Ronald Crowe presented a Handfasting ceremony at the wedding of Malorie née Boyd and his son, Evan Crowe. The event took place in Spicewood, TX in July.





Susan Matilda McCray

by Steve Trimm



There are no existing photographs of Susie as a young woman. This photo (left) was taken near the end of her life. This was one of Warren Trimm's favorite photos of Susie. About 6 months before Warren died in 1937, his son Lee - the baby born in the sod house 58 years earlier - recreated the black & white image in the form of a color oil painting. He gave the painting to Warren, who cherished it.

This is the story of a strong McCray woman, Susan Matilda McCray, my great grandmother. We don't know why Susan's ancestors left the Highlands. All that can be documented is that James McCray was born in Ayrshire, in the Scottish lowlands near the English border, around 1730.

Again, the circumstances are unclear, but, after James grew up and married, he moved his family to Ireland. That's where his son William was born in 1764. After coming of age, William McCray migrated to America. It was in America that he married Nancy Miles. William and Nancy's son Robert was born in northwest Pennsylvania, near what became Titusville, in 1804.

"Deacon Bob," as Robert McCray was known as an adult, married Nancy Ross. Nancy, by all accounts, was much younger than Deacon Bob. Tragically, Nancy died in childbirth. The baby, however, survived. Her name was Susan Matilda McCray.

It's theorized in my family that Susan's fierce devotion to her own children had much to do with never having known the love of her own mother.

Susan McCray married Warren Trimm in 1874. By April, 1879, they were the parents of two children, with a third on the way. When it came to taking on new challenges, Susie and Warren were a good match. Their adventuresome spirits had led them from Pennsylvania to a prairie homestead in Kansas.

Their new home, very much a work in progress, was in Ness County on the north fork of Pawnee Creek. Warren and Susie had built a sod house, a small barn and put in their first crop. Their nearest neighbors, the Dittons, lived five miles away. The Ditton farm was also on Pawnee Creek.

To fully understand what Susie went through, we must begin with what Warren acknowledged to be the worst blunder of his life. Here is the tale in his own words:

"There was a heavy bank of clouds gathering in the west and the sky was overcast. It looked as though we would get the first substantial rain of the season, which we had prayed for so fervently.

When I came in for supper, Susie had it ready and was happy with the prospect of rain. About nine o'clock, she began experiencing labor pains. "Go get Mrs. Ditton," she said. "I'm going to need her."

So I started. I could save time by going over the prairie rather than following the creek. I was in a desperate hurry, so I took the chance. The night was so dark, you couldn't see a thing, not a star or a tree to guide you. After an hour I realized I was totally lost.

I tried to find my way back to the creek, but by this time I was so bewildered that I had lost all sense of direction. Then I tried to circle, which only added to my confusion.

I had a terrible feeling of guilt that somehow I had neglected the one person who loved and trusted me and that she might be dying because of it. I had stood by her side at the birth of our first two children and knew how desperately she was suffering.

I recalled Olivia's birth, back in Pennsylvania, and how a friend had ridden seven miles on horseback to bring a doctor to save Susie's life. And here I was, helpless when she needed me most. If there was efficacy in prayer, God had mine – if He could untangle it and make sense out of my confusion.

I was still walking with no sense of direction when, at about five o'clock, I saw a light and headed for it. It was the Ditton place. When they heard my story they saddled a horse and Mrs. Ditton and I rode double, back to my place. We had no idea what we would find, but we feared the worst.

You can hardly imagine our surprise when we opened the door to see Susie smile and say "Come and look at your son." When she turned the blanket down, there was a twelve-pound boy, as completely cared for as a doctor or nurse could have done. Mrs. Ditton, who had been a nurse, went into action immediately. She examined the umbilical cord and found it successfully tied. Next came the examination of Susie and the bed, which was not badly soiled. Then she put her hand on Susie's head and said, "You did a wonderful job. Now it's my turn, so go to sleep and get some rest."

Late that afternoon, after a deep sleep, Susie was able to tell us her story. She said, "After you left I got everything ready for the birth, which I knew was imminent. I knew you'd be back soon with Mrs. Ditton, so I put a light in the window as a guide to hasten your coming.

When an hour had passed and you had not come, I built a fire in the stove and put the kettle on. And still you didn't come. I called Olivia to me and said, "I may get very sick before Daddy comes, but don't be scared. He is bringing Mrs. Ditton and everything will be all right."

When another hour passed and you still had not come, I realized that something bad had happened, but I couldn't imagine what it was. As my pains increased, so did my worries about you. Then came the horrible realization that I must face this thing alone.

First I got scissors and thread and placed them in easy reach. By that time I could not stifle my moans, so I told Olivia to get on her cot and cover her head and to pretend not to hear. Little George was sound asleep in his crib, thank heavens. I got two picket ropes and tied them to the post at the foot of the bed. By this time I could no longer stand.

What happened from then on is rather vague. Except once, when I was pulling on the ropes in my greatest pain, I thought I saw you standing by the bed holding my hands as you always had before. This image stayed with me until after the head was born. With the easing of the pain, I may have dropped to sleep, but if I did the cry of the baby brought me wide awake. I instinctively knew what to do and God gave me the strength to do it.

The next thing I remember was when you and Mrs. Ditton came into the room and how glad I was to see you."

The baby born in the sod house on Pawnee Creek on April 15, 1879, was my grandfather Lee.

Susan McCray Trimm showed amazing strength that night in 1879. She was then 23 years old. Her McCray strength never deserted her and it served and sustained her family until the day of her death in 1924.



"Mc", "Mac"... and Me!

Submitted by member Ralph White who is also a Bass Drummer

Growing up, I really never understood the differences in the prefixes for Celtic names. When I began genealogy work decades ago, curiosity got the better of me eventually, and I asked around and uncovered some details.

I have heard in the past that a Mac name denotes Scottish lineage, while a Mc name denotes Irish heritage. This is incorrect. Equally amiss is the notion that Mac names are Protestant, while Mc names are Catholic. The prefixes are equally used by families of either descent or religion.

The part following the prefix can be a name, a craft or profession, or an attribute (MacRae, Son of Grace). In the far past, there was also an unusual prefix for “daughter of” but these have fallen into disuse long ago. I occasionally see it in genealogy work. The daughter prefix was Nc, short for the Gaelic “nighean mhic” (Daughter of). Surnames for women, such as NcDonald, are normally found in the timeframe of 17th and 18th centuries. Even then, occurrences in records are uncommon. As soon as she was wed, the name disappeared from records. To even a lesser extent, “Vc” was used to denote “grandson of,” so that a person would have two surnames. This rendered cumbersome names such as John MacDonald Vcmaster. This naming convention is a rare duck even in genealogy work.

Mc” and “Mac” are prefixes that literally mean “son of.” Early human writing inconsistencies in records are what led to having both Mc and Mac prefixes. Mc is simply an abbreviation of Mac, and both sometimes shortened further to “M’”. This is sometimes seen in genealogy records, and causes problems when used inconsistently in old records (as it usually was by long-departed record -keepers). Too be honest, in my experience, church records are frequently the worst at erratic usage.. A tax record may one year record a specific person named “MacGregor” and the following year list the same man as “M’Gregor”.

Without knowledge and understanding of the possible variations, genealogists can get confused and sidetracked in their research. Another (admittedly off topic) foible of family research is that in Europe, records for Celtic names such as MacDonald are filed alphabetically under “D” not “M”. Consider yourself warned, fellow traveler.

“Mc and Mac” names typically (and logically) contain a second capital letter following the prefix. Since proper nouns are capitalized, you would write “son of Donald,” not “son of donald.” There are some rare exceptions, but such is the nature of genealogy and names... there are always exceptions to every rule. In old recordkeeping efforts (especially immigration records) changes crept in accidentally as misspellings, and in some families, and some “Macs” became “Mcs”. Sometimes, the second capital letter was dropped simply because an immigration clerk was unfamiliar with Celtic naming conventions.

As time passed by, in some cases the prefix was dropped from a Celtic name altogether. This happened as “Macs and Mcs” migrated to other countries, and other parts of their names were changed to be more easily pronounced by the people there. For example, MacDonald might become Donaldson.

{	Donald	= "Leader"
	Intosh	= "Noble"
	Millan	= "Bald"
	Lean	= "St. John"
	Phail	= "St. Paul"

Mc, Mac = "Son of"

Mac or MC?

Submitted by member Larry McRae, our previous Editor of 16 years.

After the 1715 Jacobite Rebellion collapsed, William MacKenzie, Earl of Seaforth, was stripped of his lands and titles and forced into exile in France. In the famous story, his tenants continued sending their rents to the Earl in his exile. As part of the proceedings of the MacKenzies to reclaim their holdings in Scotland, the British Crown assembled the Seaforth Rent Rolls. You can find them online at <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uc1.31175008430590&view=1up&seq=338>

This would be the earliest record of the spelling of either Mac or Mc that I know of. There were Mac/McRaes in the parishes of Loch Alsh, Kintail and Loch Carron. Both spellings appear, along with McRa, McCrae and MacCrae. By my count, "Mc" appears 58 times and "Mac" only 3 times. Of course, most of the Highlanders of the time were illiterate, so it's not clear who decided on the spelling.

I have heard speculation that "Mc," especially with the "c" elevated, is an abbreviation for "Mac," as is "M'," but I've also seen the spelling "M'c." The Gaelic is "mhic," pronounced, as I've heard it, something like "mkh," with the "kh" as in Russian -- a bit like clearing your throat. As to what it means: mostly we think of it as the patronymic, but some years ago the staff genealogist at the Inverness Public Library insisted to me that it also means "from," and that the use in "McRae" was more likely to mean "from good fortune" than "son" of anything. Since the name arose at several times in several places, it could mean several different things.

How the notion that "Mc" was Irish and "Mac" Scottish got started I don't know, but I've heard it all my life and have sometimes encountered people who assumed that I was Roman Catholic because of the spelling of the name. The father of a boyhood friend got so tired of this nonsense that he had the family name legally changed from "McDonald" to "MacDonald."



Also worth noting is that "MacCrae" and "McCrea" both appear in these rent rolls, suggesting that the family of the famous poet John McCrae of "In Flanders Fields" fame may have originated in Kintail. The late Reverend John McCrae insisted that nearly all McCraes were Scotch-Irish and that the poet was from a Lowland family. Other than the appearance of that spelling in Kintail in 1740 and the presence of the poet's brother at the dedication of the WWI monument on Cnoc a Clachan, I have no other evidence.

A note from the Editor:

2023 Will be our 50th Anniversary

Submitted by Judy McRae

It's never too early to start planning for a big celebration and 2023 is just around the corner. Our Clan MacRae Society of North America was birthed in 1973 at the Grandfather Mountain Games in North Carolina. And so we want 2023 to be a big year with celebrations in many locations throughout the year. We are going to need a team, so we are inviting you to join us in planning special events throughout the year of 2023! One thing we know for sure is that MacRaes like to get together and enjoy the history and culture and fun of being a MacRae. How would you like to celebrate in your region? It can be a multi-day celebration or just a one time "let's get together for a dinner"! Please contact either Bruce or Judy McRae (emails on page 1) with your ideas and to volunteer to help!



The Lord of the Isles and Earl of Ross by Michael McDonald

Why you may wonder is a member of Clan Donald writing an article in the MacRae newsletter *Sgurr Uaran*? Well, I had my Y-DNA tested and I am a member of a small group known as the McDonalds of Glenmoriston, which is the valley over from Clunes in Scotland. Now that my results have been loaded on the Alex Williamson Big Y Tree, it is clear that many McDonalds of Glenmoriston share the same Y-DNA as many members of Clan MacRae, right up to the last few markers. No doubt, if we were to go back to the 1400s or even earlier, we would find we were all one big happy family in Clunes before we headed in our own separate directions. Thus, my decision to become a member of the Clan MacRae Society. But for today, let's look at a time when we were all one big happy family fighting over lands and titles.

Many of us are familiar with how in 1539, Donald Gorm of Sleat led a group of Macdonalds in an assault on the Earldom of Ross and attacked Eilean Donan Castle in Wester Ross. Duncan MacRae, son of a previous constable, shot him in the knee with an arrow fired from the battlements. The wound might not have been so bad, but Donald Gorm impatiently wrenched out the arrow and the barbs fatally ripped an artery. What may be less known is why the Macdonalds were attacking the Earldom of Ross and what happened next. That is, what is the rest of the story?

Let's start by going back to the year 1411 when Donald of Harlaw, the Lord of the Isles is set to inherit the Earldom of Ross. The Lord of the Isles is a title he inherited from his Viking ancestors for Donald was a descendant of Somerled and Somerled was a son-in-law of Olaf the Red, the Viking King of the Isles. When Olaf was murdered in 1153, Thorfin, the Norwegian Earl of the Orkneys, asked Somerled to take charge in the Isles. Not everyone agreed with this, but when the dust settled, it was Somerled's son Reginald who was first named Lord of the Isles. And it was Reginald's oldest son, Donald of Islay, for whom Clan Donald would be named.

By 1411, Clan Donald was a vast Viking-Celtic powerhouse. Its leadership was Viking, but its members and culture were Celtic.

Through a strong family bond, profitable alliances, and well-placed marriages, Clan Donald grew to become the major power in the west of Scotland. This power rivaled that of King James I in the rest of Scotland.

In 1411, the west of Scotland was markedly different from east Scotland. Because of the Grampian Mountains, the west had escaped the onslaught of the Anglo invasions and it was still escaping much of the influence of Norman rule. In the west, the social order, the church, tribal governance, and language all remained Celtic. In the east, society had adopted the Anglo-Norman culture, the Roman church, a feudal monarchy, and the English tongue. To the Celts in the West, the Anglo-Normans of the East were viewed as interlopers in a land that was historically Celtic. The Celtic Highlanders felt they were witnessing a steady erosion of Celtic influence in a country increasingly controlled by "outsiders".

So, in 1411, the Earl of Ross Euphemia Leslie, shocked everyone when she elected to renounce her earthly possessions and enter a convent. Euphemia had inherited Ross when her father, Alexander, the Earl of Ross, died in 1402. By all rights, Euphemia's earthly possessions and titles should have passed to her next blood relation, her paternal aunt Lady Margaret Leslie, the wife of Donald, Lord of the Isles.



But this was not acceptable for the Kings of Scotland. Starting in 1342 under King David II, the old Celtic provincial leaders of Scotland were being replaced with relatives of the future Stewart kings under the Norman feudal system. They did not want the Earldom of Ross to revert to a Celtic clan possession. Further, if Donald, Lord of the Isles were to increase his territory to include Ross, which stretched from the Isle of Skye to Inverness, he would control as much land as King James I of Scotland, who as a child had been captured and was still being held prisoner in England. So, Scotland was under a regency where the Duke of Albany served in the King's stead. Albany had a son, the Earl of Buchan, who was related by marriage to Euphemia and Albany claimed that Euphemia wanted the Earldom of Ross to go to Buchan.

Donald and some of the Highland Celts could see the "writing on the wall" as the deck was being stacked against them. So, Donald raised a massive Celtic army willing to fight for his claim to the Earldom of Ross. His army first seized control of Ross and then marched south where on 24 July 1411 they met the Scottish Army under the Earl of Mar in a massive battle at Harlaw near Aberdeen. One could argue over who won the battle, but nevertheless, Donald retired from the battlefield and returned to the Isles where he later died in 1423. In 1424, the Earl of Buchan and Ross would be killed in a battle in France, and King James I would return to the Scottish throne and restore the Earldom of Ross as a feudal title to Donald's widow, Lady Margaret Leslie that same year. For the next 80 years, the Chief of Clan Donald was both the Lord of the Isles under the Celtic Clan system, and the Earl of Ross under the Norman feudal system. They added the eagle for the Earldom of Ross to their clan emblem which had simply been a galley.



To better understand what happens next, it helps to know that John, the grandson of Donald of Harlaw, was described by those who knew him as a "meek, modest man, more fit to be a churchman than to rule a large clan" and that he was probably easily swayed by ill-advice. In 1462 John of Islay, Lord of the Isles and Earl of Ross, hosted a meeting that included emissaries from the King of England where they plotted to overthrow King James III of Scotland and divide the kingdom amongst themselves. The plot failed and John apologized to the King. So there was no insurrection and to any observer, the events at Inverness were odd, but nothing more.

Then in 1474, King Henry VI of England was contemplating invading France and wanted to shore up his relations with King James III of Scotland. During their discussions, the conspiracy with John the Lord of the Isles came out and he was found guilty of treason. He threw himself upon the mercy of the King and agreed to give up the Earldom of Ross provided he could remain the Lord of the Isles. The King agreed but converted the Lord of the Isles to a feudal rank lower than any Earl, especially the Earl of Ross. The Earl of Ross title lay dormant until 1481 when it was given to James Stewart the second son of King James the III. The title was last held by King Charles I of England, Scotland and Ireland who was beheaded in 1649.

Angus Og and other Highlanders could not abide by these terms, perhaps seeing it as a significant loss of Celtic influence. Clan Donald split in two: those who felt they owed their loyalty to John as the ancestral Lord of the Isles, and those who looked to Angus Og as their last, best hope for the Celtic race. The two forces met in a fiercely contested sea battle, the Battle of Bloody Bay in 1484. It is not known who won, though shortly after the battle, Angus Og's baby son, Donald Dubh was abducted by the Campbells and held captive. Then in 1490, Angus Og was slain by an Irish harpist and Clan Donald lost all cohesion and fractured into various factions. One faction under Alexander of Lochalsh, John's nephew, invaded Ross now a Crown territory, and was soundly defeated by the Mackenzies at the Battle of Park in 1491. This invasion was seen as a new act of treason and John was forced to forfeit all his land and titles. Thus, ended the title Lordship of the Isles for Clan Donald as the title reverted to the Crown of Scotland. John would become a pensioner and die in a lodging-house in Dundee. The current holder of the title Lord of the Isles is Prince Charles, the son of Elizabeth II current Queen of England.

But the hopes to resurrect the glory of Clan Donald did not die. In 1503, the Macdonalds of Glencoe raided the Campbells and freed Donald Dubh who was now a young man. He at once went on the offensive but was captured in 1505 and imprisoned in Edinburgh Castle. In 1539, with Donald Dubh still regarded as the rightful heir, Donald Gorm, who was the Chief of the Macdonalds of Sleat on the Isle of Skye, tried to reclaim the Earldom of Ross for Donald Dubh, by laying siege to the Eilean Donan Castle. Since the MacRaes were called "MacKenzie's shirt of mail" and served as stewards of Eilean Donan Castle, they were involved in the defense of the castle. An arrow from Duncan MacRae, part of a force under John Mackenzie of Kintail, killed Donald Gorm and ended that rebellion. Unfortunately, Alexander, Chief of the Macdonalds of Glengarry, had aligned with Donald Gorm and would now suffer the consequences.

With the Isles in turmoil, King James V invited several Highland Chiefs to join him on a fishing trip along the west coast. John Mackenzie was not invited, but Alexander of Glengarry was. Once the King's ship had the Highland Chiefs aboard, it promptly sailed to Edinburgh where all were imprisoned in Edinburgh Castle. As part of his settlement with the King, Alexander of Glengarry was forced to give John Mackenzie a significant part of Glengarry Clan property. This sowed seeds of bitterness that would roil Wester Ross in violence for the next hundred years. But as they say, that is another part of the story, so stay tuned for Part II of this saga.



Ceud Mile Fáilte: 100,000 Welcomes to Our New Members!

We warmly welcome the new members to our Society!
We are all the more richer to have you in the family!

Bruce W. McCrae. President

#1606 Daniel V Miller Chapel Hill, NC	#1624 Gloria Shroyer Bonita Springs, FL
#1607 Tanya H Garwood Bullhead City, AZ	#1625 John Ray Unicoi, TN
#1608 Zachary Rae Windsor, CO	#1626 Catharine McCrae Chestertown, MD
#1609 Stephen Scott McCray San Jose, CA	#1627 Riley Creith Slidell, LA
#1610 John Alan Rhodes Petaluma, CA	#1628 Zachary Cole Nashville, TN
#1611 Shannon Osantowski Reese, MI	#1629 Mark McCraw Choctaw, OK
#1612 Charles W McCrae Wilmington, NC	#1630 Kim Lynch St Inigoes, MD
#1613 Winter J Guite Largo, FL	#1631 John B McCrae Burnsville, NC
#1614 William D MacRae Apex, NC	#1632 Donald Odum Hillsborough, NC
#1615 Laurie Macrae Nampa, ID	#1633 David MacRae St Pete Beach, FL
#1616 GERALYN CRANE Umpqua, OR	#1634 Bill Amos Box Elder, SD
#1617 Amanda Rae Hawley Eagle Point, OR	#1635 Dwane MacRae Leonardtown, MD
#1618 Brandi Hosmer Folkston, GA	#1636 Ronald McCrae New Bern, NC
#1619 Gil McCrae Clearwater, FL	#1637 Merry McCrae Cumming, GA
#1620 Daniel James Smith Reidsville, NC	#1638 Rebecca Slate Mobile, AL
#1621 James M McCrae Fredericksburg, TX	#1639 Matson L Roberts Richmond, VA
#1622 Susan E Savelli Richmond, TX	#1640 Justin McCray Ware Morgantown, WV
#1623 Andrew Ashford Mesa, AZ	

In Memoriam - Cheryl McCraw



Cheryl McCraw passed away peacefully on May 7, 2021 in Littleton, Colorado, in the presence of her husband Bill and sons Brent and Thomas. Cheryl was born in Great Falls, MT in 1945 and attended Montana State University where she graduated with a Home Economics Degree in 1971. She moved to Hawaii in 1968 and during her 38 years there, Cheryl loved and embraced the Hawaiian culture through performing Hula, Hawaiian Music, and teaching the many children on Maui, Kauai, and Oahu while following her husband Bill who was employed with the Sugar Industry.

When Bill and Cheryl later moved to Colorado, they became very involved with the Scottish Festivals in Estes Park, Snowmass and Denver. They loved all things Scottish and worked hard to make the Clan MacRae tent at those festivals a great success! They also attended three Clan MacRae Tours of Scotland in 2007, 2009 and 2015. Here they are seated in front of the Chapel of Scone Palace in 2015. They were a joy to have on the tours and made many lifelong MacRae friends.

Cheryl often would remind everyone to "Take the time to stop and smell the red roses" which is her favorite flower. We are grateful to have known her. Upon her passing she wanted to leave the following message "Believe in yourself and trust in God. Be kind to all and honor your family. Live each day with a smile on your face and grace in your heart. Laugh a lot, it's good for you!" Donations can be made to rockymountainlabrescue.com for Cheryl McCraw in honor of her many beloved yellow labs.



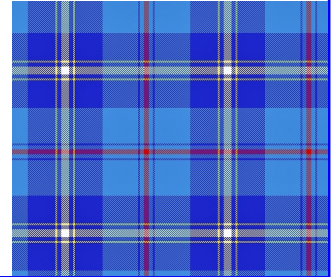
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Clan MacRae Society of North America
PO Box 2145
Palestine, TX 75802-2145

Taking orders now for our Clan MacRae North American Tartan Fabric!

It's official! We now have 45 yards of our Clan MacRae North American tartan fabric for you to order! The 13-ounce worsted wool is double width at 59", so only 4 yards are needed for a kilt. The fabric is \$70 a yard plus a small shipping cost (no tax). You may order any length which makes it ideal for scarves, crafts, etc. There are also professional kiltmakers who can make you a kilt or a scarf, etc. If you are interested in ordering our tartan fabric or having something made, please contact Judy at judymcrae777@gmail.com. Here is the meaning of our tartan:

"In our Society Tartan, the MacRae "Sett" is used, of course, as the basis of construction. The colours used were not randomly chosen, but have significance, viz.: The Base colour is the light blue with a white stripe as in the Saltire Flag. There is a somewhat darker blue/grey that symbolizes the Ocean crossed by "The scattered children of Kintail". Then we have the Stronger blue that, in combination with the Red and White stripes, symbolizes the colours of "The Stars and Stripes" of our American Flag. Finally, the White Stripe is supported on each side by a lining of Gold. This represents the "Golden Opportunity" that this country has represented to its vast number of immigrants who came seeking a better and more prosperous life."



Bob and Terry McRae of Tyler, Texas, were traveling in west Texas when they saw this road sign with his last name and her maiden last name side by side. It was meant to be!



"Great! One of us is going to have to go back home and change"



The
SCOTTISH VARIANT
At least you can hear it coming.