



Sgurr Uaran

CLAN MACRAE SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

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

**We pray for all MacRaes worldwide and
wish you all a very Merry Christmas!**

The President's Letter

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Greetings Fellow MacRaes,

Here we are once again at one of my favorite times of year! It is truly a time for family and friends, planning our gifts, choosing our tree and stringing our lights. One of the meanings for the word "clan" is a "large family" and how fortunate we are to have such a large extended family. So, with the below report of good news for Clan MacRae, we are sending you all the warmth and joy of this holiday season!

During our Director's meeting this year, we approved four new Commissioners for our Society - Frankie McRae of Fayetteville, NC, Winter Guite of Largo, FL, Mark McCraw of Choctaw, OK and James MacRae of Sacramento, CA. Please see their article in this issue. Clan MacRae will now have a presence at five new Scottish festivals! Please see the calendar on page 2 and start making plans for 2022 and please let me know if you want to host a Clan MacRae booth at your local games! We will help you get started. We also received word that our Commissioner Patrick MacRae was honored by AmeriCorps and President Joe Biden with the President's Lifetime Achievement Award for his "lifelong commitment to building a stronger nation through volunteer service." Excellent job Patrick and keep up the good work! And congratulations to Susan Irvine McRae who is our Commissioner Andy McRae's wife. She is now the new Chairman of the Clan Irwin Association! Andy and Susan will be very busy representing two clans as they move into 2022.

Lastly, Clan MacRae Canada has a new President! Owen MacRae has decided to hang up his spurs and turn over the reins to Dave McRae. So, if you know any of our northern cousins, send them a congratulations on their new President. We wish Dave all the best in his new position and we know he will do a fantastic job.

May I suggest a couple of Christmas presents for the MacRae in your family? Our Society has a MacRae DNA Project on the Family Tree DNA website with 655 members participating. We recommend purchasing the **Y-DNA111** test for MacRae males and the **mtFull Sequence** test for MacRae females. Here is the link to our project: www.familytreedna.com/group-join.aspx?Group=McRae

Another gift I recommend is the two-volume **Kith and Kin** books compiled by Larry Cates about the MacRaes that originated in the Southeastern US. **Kith and Kin Volume I** covers the descendants of Duncan & Donald McRae. **Kith and Kin Volume II** covers other McRae lineages including families settling in the Cape Fear and Pee Dee River valleys in North and South Carolina. These two volumes are available exclusively at www.lulu.com, a print-on-demand publisher based in North Carolina.

In closing, in this wonderful season where we celebrate the birth of Christ, let me wish you all a very Merry Christmas and may we all have a super prosperous and blessed Happy New Year!

Sgurr Uaran,
Bruce McRae, President



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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.highlandgamesandfestivals.com/u-s-events/. If you want to host a Clan MacRae tent at your local festival, please contact Bruce McRae at brucewaynemcrae@gmail.com. We'll help you get started!

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 4-6, 2022 - Phoenix Scottish Games, **Phoenix, AZ** www.phoenixscottishgames.com Contact Patrick MacRae at patrick@patrickmacrae.org.

March 19-20, 2022 - Sherman Celtic Festival, **Sherman, TX** www.shermancelticfest.com Contact Ebby Darden at ebbydarden@msn.com.

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.

Spring 2022 - Oklahoma Highland Gathering, **Midwest City, OK** www.unitedscotsok.com/event/scottish-festival Contact Mark McCraw at quickdraw_m@yahoo.com.

May 2022 - Bethabara Highland Games, **Winston-Salem, NC** <https://www.cityofws.org/2398/Highland-Games> Contact Larry McRae at mcraelt@gmail.com.

May 21-22, 2022 - Smoky Mountain Scottish Festival, **Townsend, 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.

June 3-5, 2022 - Glasgow Highland Games, **Glasgow, KY** www.glasgowhighlandgames.com Contact Andy McRae at amcrae52@gmail.com.

June 2022 - Ohio Scottish Games, **Berea, OH** www.ohioscottishgames.com Contact Darcee Olshavsky at darcillao@gmail.com.

June 25-26, 2022 - San Diego Scottish Games, **San Diego, CA** www.sdhighlandgames.org Contact Patrick MacRae at patrick@patrickmacrae.org.

July 7-10, 2022 - Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, **Linville, NC** Clan MacRae Dinner on Saturday, July 9th. www.gmhg.org Contact Frankie McRae at fmcrac@raidontactics.com.

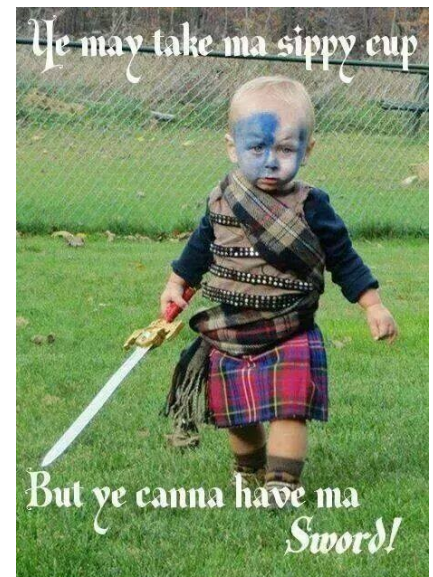
August 2022 - Colorado Scottish Festival, **Edgewater, CO** www.scottishgames.org Contact Bruce McRae at brucewaynemcrae@gmail.com.

September 3-4, 2022 - Caledonian Club Scottish Highland Games, **Pleasanton, CA** www.thescottishgames.com Contact James MacRae at macraejames9333@gmail.com.

September 9-11, 2022 - Longs Peak Highland Festival, **Estes Park, CO** www.scotfest.com Contact Bruce McRae at brucewaynemcrae@gmail.com.

September 10-11, 2022 - Columbus Scottish Festival, **Columbus, IN** www.scottishfestival.org Contact Ray White at channaray@protonmail.com.

*Join us at these festivals in 2022 and meet your fellow
MacRaes!*



2021 Games

It's been wonderful to finally have many of our games not only happen, but be well attended after a year of cancelled games.

The Longs Peak Colorado Games took place in September and it was exciting to have some new team members. Dave and Susan Mead from Conifer, CO joined the team as well as David and Debbie Cross who came from Livingston, MT. David and Debbie wore historically accurate outfits down to the smallest detail.



From left: Nicole Glojek, Dave Mead, Anna Glojek, Susan Mead, David and Debbie Cross and Bruce and Judy McRae. Nicole is Dave and Susan's daughter and Anna is their grand-daughter.



Parade down the main street of Estes Park



David Cross playing his hurdy-gurdy

The Scotland County NC Games took place early October and Clan MacRae was there for the very first time!



Frankie and Linda McRae with their daughter Jessica



Judy McRae representing Scottish Heritage

The Stone Mountain Games in GA took place later in October and was well attended!



From left: Janet Folsom, Abbey and Travis Ray, Linda and Al McRae and Briana, Carol and David Ray and Leon Folsom. This was taken after Andy McRae from Chattanooga had left who was very valuable in manning the tent! Travis is wearing his yellow t-shirt that he wore while representing Clan MacRae in the amateur athletics. He did very well!!



Clan MacRae marching with Frankie's brother and father, Chris and Al McRae carrying the parade banner.



Right: Don Odom and Frankie McRae are ready for the games!

Merry Christmas



Welcome our New Clan MacRae Society Commissioners!

We are thrilled to introduce our new Commissioners who will be hosting Clan MacRae tents at Scottish festivals across the US! Go to www.hIGHLANDGAMESANDFESTIVALS.com/u-s-events/ and see if there is a local Scottish festival in your area that needs a Clan MacRae presence and we will help you get started!



Frankie McRae - Fayetteville, NC

Hosting tents at the Grandfather Mountain and Scotland County, NC Games

Frankie McRae was born and raised in North Carolina and is married to Linda Rose for 32 wonderful years. They have two children, son Dakota stationed with the US Army at Arlington National Cemetery and Jessica, a nursing student at Gardner-Webb University. Frankie retired from 20 years in the US Army where he served as an Airborne Ranger in the 75th Ranger regiment for 4 years and then 16 years as a Green Beret with many combat tours in different theaters from Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. While in the US Army he was stationed all over the world from Savannah, GA to Okinawa, Japan. His hobbies are skydiving, riding jet skis and off-road driving. He has a love for his Scottish heritage and genealogy and learning about his ancestors as much as possible.

Winter Guite - Largo, FL

Hosting tents at the Dunedin and Sarasota, FL Games

Winter enlisted in the Air Force after high school where he flew rescue support for the experimental flight test and space shuttle programs. After the military he went into law enforcement where he was working when 9/11 happened and he re-enlisted in the Army Guard as a field artillery gunner. After the Army he got his Anthropology degree from the University of Wisconsin and worked for a time as an archaeologist excavating Native American and colonial sites. He currently manufactures and imports medical equipment as a government supplier for the VA medical system. He was a snare drummer for several years with a Shrine bagpipe band and currently owns nine kilts with another on the way! He's recently been exploring his previously unknown Scottish and Irish roots thanks to connections made on Ancestry DNA. He is fortunate to live in an area with vibrant Celtic communities and multiple highland games all within one or two hours and is looking forward to setting up tents for Clan MacRae.



Mark McCraw - Choctaw, OK

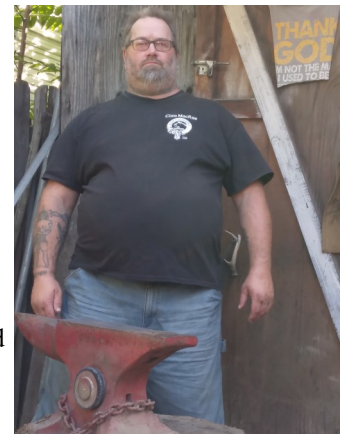
Hosting tents at the Broken Arrow and Midwest City, OK Games

Mark is very interested in his MacRae genealogy and his biggest hobby is tracing his ancestry and his family name. He has identified all the way from his youngest grandson who is only a month old to the line of Benjamin McCraw and then to William McCraw from the Isle of Skye, the ancestor that established the McCraw family in Virginia. Mark's grandmother was a McCraw who married a McGraw. Mark was in the military for 12 years and is currently a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Disabled American Vets, and is Membership Chairman of the Korean Defense Veterans Association. He has an Associate degree, Bachelor's degree, two Master's degrees, and over two years of doctoral courses. He is a former Adjunct Professor at a junior college and a former elementary school teacher. As a member of the United Scottish Clans of Oklahoma, it is his pleasure to represent Clan MacRae at events in Oklahoma.

James MacRae - Sacramento, CA

Hosting a tent at the Pleasanton, CA Games

James MacRae, a Lifetime member of our Society, is a 2nd generation American born in Wilmington, DE in 1971. He is the son of Alice McCrae born in Warren, OH and the grandson of William McCrae born in Airdrie, Scotland in 1903. He currently lives in Sacramento, CA where he is Knife maker and Blacksmith. James spent most of his life in either Delaware or Ohio before deciding to move to California. James was a Chef in the culinary business for 25 years before deciding that his hobby of being a Blacksmith would become his new business. He considers the lands around the San Francisco area God's playground due to its splendor and beauty. He richly enjoys the outdoors, being in the mountains and woods, hunting, fishing and bicycle riding. James is excited, nervous, honored and humbled to represent the Clan MacRae Society of North America in Northern California.



The Murder of Jane McCrea

by Steve Trimm



As a resident of Albany, New York, no matter what direction I travel from Albany, I encounter historical markers that commemorate events of the American Revolution. Fifty-four miles north of Albany in the village of Fort Edward, there's a marker honoring a woman named Jane McCrea.

Jane was not political. The fierce winds of revolution had not swept her up. The one thing she was passionate about was David Jones, her fiancé. As it happened, David *was* political. He was a Tory. At the outbreak of the war, he had evaded the revolutionists in upstate New York and fled north to Canada. There he had enlisted in the British army. By 1777, that army was on the move and its mission was to break the back of the Revolution.

Under General John Burgoyne, the army marched south from Montreal. Its goal was the capture of Albany. When a second British force coming north from New York City rendezvoused with Burgoyne at Albany, the rebellious colonies would be cut in two and each section could be conquered separately.

Week after week, the King's troops advanced. Everywhere, the American rebels gave ground and retreated. Burgoyne's military machine appeared to be unstoppable. It was obvious that the invaders would pass through Fort Edward.

Jane McCrea, determined to be reunited with David, decided to go to Fort Edward where her cousin Sara McNeill lived and wait for David there. By the time Jane reached Sara's home, Fort Edward was a ghost town. The Patriots had evacuated and the redcoats had yet to march in.

Native Americans, allies of the British, were scouting ahead of Burgoyne and they reached Fort Edward first. It isn't clear why they seized Jane and Sara. Nor is it clear why the warriors divided into two groups, one group claiming Sara, the other claiming Jane.



Alive and unharmed, Sara McNeill was brought by the Indians to the British camp. Jane McCrea never got there. For reasons unknown, her captors killed and scalped her. Jane McCrea was not a soldier. She was a political innocent. Her only "crime" was being in love with a man who was a Loyalist.



When word of her murder reached the rebels, something strange happened. They stopped retreating. Patriot reasoning went like this: There was no point in running from the invaders. When the British reached Patriot homes, they would kill everyone. Burgoyne had approved the killing of civilians, noncombatants. Sex did not matter, political beliefs or lack of them did not matter. If American soldiers did not stop the British advance, their wives and children would ultimately suffer the same fate as Jane McCrea.

Not only did the Patriots stop running, they turned and fought. Thousands converged on a ridge above the Hudson River at a place called Saratoga. And there they faced and destroyed Burgoyne's army. At Saratoga, the Revolution, so close to being crushed, was reborn. Jane McCrea did not intend to be a martyr to American freedom, but fate gave her that role. We should and we do remember her.

Hawaiians in the Highlands!

by Kai and Michelle Chapman



Aloha from your MacRae's in Hawaii! My wife Michelle and I visited Scotland in October for the first time and it did not disappoint! Our travel had us flying into Edinburgh, renting a car (we recommend something comfortable since we drove 18 hours in 9 days) and driving counterclockwise through the Highlands and Islands finishing in Edinburgh five days later. Before we get to that though, here's what our fellow clan members need to know regarding travel.

My wife and I are fully vaccinated, so forgive us that we don't know the procedures for non-vaccinated travelers. For us, we completed a registration on the UK Government site that had a simple questionnaire and where we also provided proof of vaccination. Once we landed at London Heathrow, we took and received a negative Covid test within 48 hours that we up-

loaded to the UK Gov site. That was it for it was all very simple and nothing to stress about especially since we had planned a three-night stay in London. Flying into Edinburgh from London required no additional tests/documentation. Mask rules are very similar to most of the US. There are no mandates but every business we went to required masks inside unless eating or drinking while seated. While outdoors, masks were not required. The only place where masks were strictly enforced was the airport and on flights. Now that we got that out of the way, on to our journey in Scotland!!!

Our first day in Edinburgh, we visited Kinloch Anderson, the official Scottish tailors for the Royal Family. We ordered some items in advance and had booked an appointment for me to get fitted for a kilt. I can't begin to express how excited I am to be able to purchase what will be a family heirloom. I had the kilt made in our Clan MacRae modern hunting tartan. We also purchased a wool weathered gray MacRae tartan blanket, scarves in modern dress and a few other items. It was a very special experience.

The next day we drove to Stirling to visit the William Wallace Monument. We had an early start and were the first two people to go up the tower. The Wallace Monument is atop a hill overlooking all of Stirling and the tower itself is another 220 feet. The 360 view from the crown of the tower was remarkable. It also helped that we were blessed with incredible weather for majority of the trip. From Stirling we drove past the Cairngorms National Park on our way to Inverness and went straight to Culloden Battlefield. It was a powerful experience to walk the grounds and place yourself back in 1746 amid the chaos and rippling effect that the battle ultimately had for all Highlanders.



View from atop the William Wallace Monument

The next day we drove down Loch Ness on our way to our ancestral castle, Eilean Donan. The history for Clan MacRae at this site was palpable. Walking the causeway toward Eilean Donan, you get an overwhelming sense of pride that you're tied to this place. Inside the castle there are rooms filled with history and a guide there to help you with questions as you walk from room to room. My wife had moved onto a separate room while I stayed and chatted with two guides in another. I explained that we were visiting for the first time and my great grandmother was Jean MacRae and her mother was Willamina MacKenzie. One of the guides went to the room where my wife was (he didn't know she was my wife) and told another guide "There's a MacRae MacKenzie downstairs." Michelle felt this was amusing but also incredibly cool that there's still some reverence to having descendants visit.



From Eilean Donan we drove to the Isle of Skye and explored Talisker Bay and Distillery and then went to Portree for a late lunch. Skye is absolutely beautiful and you can drive there, no ferry needed! The next day we drove from Inverness down to Kennacraig port terminal to get on the CalMac ferry to take us to Islay. It was simple process and about a 2-hour ferry ride. Islay is a very small island known for its incredible whisky. We stayed on the south side of Islay in Port Ellen and rented two E-bikes and spent the day on a walking/bike trail that takes you past all three distilleries - Laphroig, Lagavullin and Ardbeg. Being outdoors, exploring the distilleries away from crowds on this small island was one of the best days of the whole trip. We got some good windy and occasional rainy Scottish weather this day, but it didn't take away from our amazing experience.



We spent two nights in Port Ellen then went back by ferry to Kennacraig. From there we drove back to Edinburgh with a stop in Glasgow for lunch and a wee dram at the Pot Still pub which won best Scottish pub a few times in the last couple years. During the last leg of the trip we spent four nights in Edinburgh.



We took a day trip to St. Andrews and played a round of golf at the Jubilee Course, this was another one of those days that was right at the top of our trip! We spent the rest of our time in Edinburgh exploring the New Town, Old Town, the Royal Mile and a few other places.

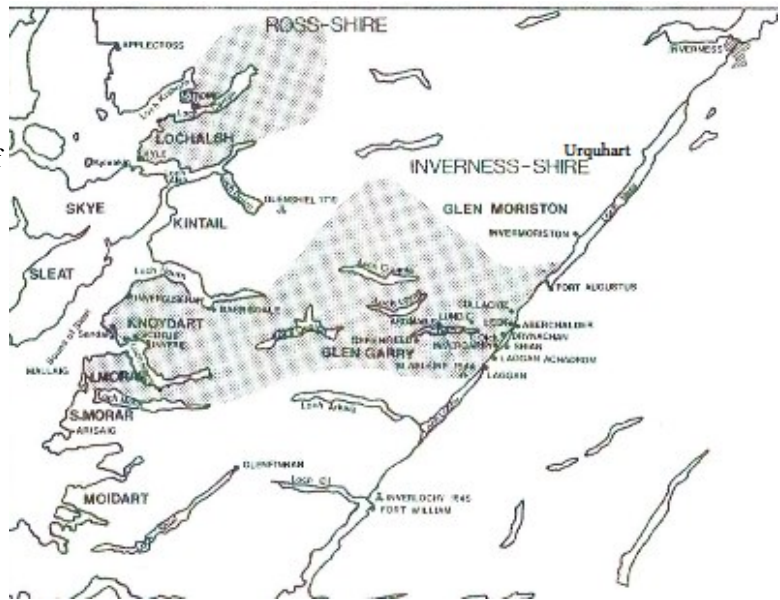
My wife and I absolutely loved our time in Scotland and plan to go back. Edinburgh was a must to visit, but the next time we go, we will spend more time in the Highlands, Islands and St. Andrews. We prefer the smaller towns and the people in them compared to the big cities, but that's just us. We are so grateful to be able to share our experiences with our fellow clan members and look forward to one day meeting all of you! Sgurr Uaran!!!

The Great Feud Between the MacKenzies of Kintail and the MacDonalds of Glengarry

by Michael McDonald

It has been said that the root cause of all Highland clan feuds was land. This was certainly true of the Great Feud in the late 16th Century between the MacKenzies of Kintail and the MacDonalds of Glengarry. But let's also note the changed view of land possession from being the common property of the clan, to instead becoming the personal property of the clan chief and the source of his wealth. And note also how the clan chiefs start to look to the Monarch's Privy Council in Edinburgh to settle disputes. Both developments will usher in major changes in the Highlands that will enable "the Clearances" that will start in some 100 years.

Though only two parties are mentioned in the title, there were three actors in this feud in Wester Ross. To start, there were the MacKenzies who were an old Kintail family, related to the Rosses who were the original Celtic earls and who gave the region its name. Among the territory controlled by the MacKenzies were Kintail and the area of Gairloch along the coast north of Lochalsh. When the MacKenzies entered into combat, their force encompassed the other allied families in Kintail, which included the MacRaes who had moved over from Clunes in Inverness-shire in the first half of the fourteenth century and served as MacKenzie's "Shirt of Mail" on the battlefield.



The second party to the feud were the Grants of Freuchie, a Norman family from Badenoch, south of Loch Ness. The Grants were the new owners of the glens of Moriston and Urquhart which lie just to the east of Kintail and Glengarry. As a frontier land between the Celtic clans of the west and the lands ruled by Anglo-Norman lords to the east, these glens were repeatedly ravaged by the Highlanders and turned no profit for the King. In 1509, he awarded these glens outright to Grant of Freuchie provided only that he pays the King yearly £101.



The third party to the feud were the MacDonalds of Glengarry whose land lies to the south of Kintail and was awarded to Clan Donald by Robert the Bruce in 1314. Ownership to much of the other land around Kintail was claimed by Clan Donald because of grants given by the King to the Vikings dating back to the time of their raids in Scotland. To the west, Clanranald, the part of Clan Donald who ruled the Northern Isles, was headquartered in Moidart and also controlled Morar and Knoydart. But it is important to note that in 1501 when King James IV of Scotland claimed title to all the lands in the Highlands, and rented the lands out to clan chiefs under Charters, that Clanranald did not participate - they said that they would protect their land with the sword and not the "sheepskin" - so they actually had no legal title to this land. Then to the north of Kintail lies Lochalsh. In the 1430s or 40, Clan Donald inherited Lochalsh from the MacPhees of Lochaber when the Lord of the Isles had a son with one of their daughters. In 1491, all male heirs to that land would be killed in one of the many Clan Donald uprisings. Half of Lochalsh, to include Strome Castle, would convey to Alexander of Glengarry's wife Margaret, a surviving co-heir, and half would be purchased by the MacKenzies.

Now, let's throw into the mix John of Moidart, the chief of Clanranald. John was the son of the chief of Clanranald and the daughter of one of his tenants. When his father passed, the clan made John the successor. He was chosen even though other legitimate heirs were available, to include his second-cousin Ranald Gallda who was the maternal grandson of Lord Fraser of Lovat, a powerful Norman lord from near Inverness.

Macdonald Lord of the Isles

Now, when Donald Gorm, the Chief of Clan Donald of Sleat, failed in his attempt to restore the Earldom of Ross to the Clan and he was killed by Duncan MacRae while attacking Eilean Donan Castle, several sympathetic Highland chiefs, including Alexander of Glengarry and John of Moidart, were arrested and sent to Edinburgh Castle. While John of Moidart was in prison, Lord Fraser and the Earl of Huntly made his grandson, Ranald Gallda, the 9th Chief of Clanranald, extending Norman influence into the leadership of one of the great Highland clans. When King James V of Scotland died in 1542 following the defeat to the English at Solway Moss, the Regent released the Highland Chiefs. Ranald Gallda immediately fled for Lovat and John of Moidart raised an army to chase after him. In the process, viewing Grant as Norman and aligned with Lord Fraser, they raided Glenmoriston and Urquhart and ravaged the countryside. The Earl of Huntly and Lord Fraser joined forces to attack John, but when they split their armies, John defeated Lord Fraser's force on a July day said to be so warm that the armies fought only wearing their shirts - the so-called "Battle of the Shirts."



Battle of the Shirts



Killed that day were Lord Fraser, his son and heir, and his grandson Ranald Gallda. To celebrate the victory, John returned to Glenmoriston and Urquhart for more spoils before returning to the "Rough Bounds" of Moidart where the terrain and the nearby presence of Clan Donald served to protect him. He would remain an ominous presence in the Western Highlands but would actually live out the rest of his life quietly and die peacefully in 1584.

This ravaging of Glenmoriston and Urquhart was considered particularly brutal even for this barbarous time. To compensate, the Privy Council awarded Grant all the lands owned by Glengarry both in Inverness-shire and Ross, to include Strome Castle. All Grant had to do was to take possession of the property.

It occurred to John Grant that he could form a better alliance with his neighbors if he could marry off his two daughters, one to each clan. To Colin MacKenzie, John Grant offered his daughter Barbara and some land up the coast. They did marry and have a son, Kenneth, who was Colin's successor. To Angus of Glengarry, John offered his daughter Helen to be the wife of Angus' son Donald and the legal restoration of all the lands Glengarry should have forfeited to Grant as compensation for the Clan Donald raid. But instead of marrying, Donald and Helen entered a Celtic "hand fast" arrangement where they lived together for a year to see if the union would bear fruit. In this case, it did – Helen bore Donald a son they named Angus Og (the "younger"), but the couple never married – Helen may have died in childbirth – so John Grant reclaimed his land saying that Glengarry had not fulfilled their part of the bargain.

Meanwhile, in Wester Ross, there was certainly high tension among the MacKenzies and MacDonalds because of the scattered possession of land. For Glengarry to man and provision Strome Castle, Glengarry men had to move through Mackenzie land which elicited frequent reports of violence against people and property. What started the feud in earnest though was when in 1581 a Glengarry hunter, known to be a poacher, was found dead and buried in a MacKenzie forest in Gairloch where a MacRae served as the forest warden. When the Glengarry demands for compensation went unanswered, some Glengarry men killed the warden's brother while he was plowing his fields. Colin MacKenzie reacted by capturing Donald of Glengarry and taking him to Strome Castle where he was threatened with grievous harm if the MacDonalds did not abandon the Castle immediately. They complied but brought their case to the Privy Council who ordered Colin MacKenzie to return Strome Castle to Glengarry. In reply, Colin MacKenzie admitted confusion, noting that the Council had previously awarded the Castle to John Grant – why then give it to Glengarry? The Council referred the matter to the Earl of Huntly, who was the Monarch's land manager in the North, and the Earl of Huntly returned the Castle to Glengarry.



Clan MacKenzie

For the next ten years, an uneasy peace reigned in Wester Ross. During this time, John Grant tried to convince his friend, Lord Mackintosh of Clan Chattan in Badenoch to take over Glengarry and rid the area of the MacDonalds, But Mackintosh never took the bait.

Then in 1601, Donald of Glengarry's son Angus, led a raid in Gairloch where they killed people and looted property. This led to several retaliatory attacks between the parties and matters heated to the point that Kenneth Mackenzie, the new Chief, feared a full-scale war with Clan Donald. So, he traveled to the Isle of Mull to get assurance from his brother-in-law, the Chief of Clan MacLean, that he would help in case Clan Donald decided to enter the fray. While he was away, Angus Og launched a raid not far from Eilean Donan Castle. At Eilean Donan Castle, Lady MacKenzie took charge of the defenses, and asked that big Duncan MacRae, the grandson of the Duncan MacRae who had earlier killed Donald Gorm, load two cannons from the castle on his galley and engage the enemy. Duncan's galley found the galley carrying Angus Og and sank it with a full broadside. Angus' body was retrieved and taken to Eilean Donan Castle where Lady MacKenzie had him buried in the MacKenzie family plot since, while he was a MacDonald, he was also Kenneth's cousin.

Meanwhile, Kenneth returned from Mull and launched a siege of Strome Castle. During the siege, a MacDonald who had been ordered to fill a vat with water, mistakenly poured the water into the vat holding the gunpowder. A prisoner of war in the Castle heard the hullabaloo caused by the mix-up and managed to escape and inform Clan MacKenzie of the ruined gunpowder. The MacDonalds, knowing that their predicament was known to the enemy, surrendered the Castle without a fight, and with it their rights to Lochalsh. Mackenzie took possession of the Castle and at some point, destroyed it where it remains a picturesque ruin on the shores of Loch Carron to this day.



Clan MacRae



And so ended the Great Feud between the MacKenzies and MacDonalds of Glengarry. In 1613, Glengarry would receive Knoydart from Clanranald uniting their area into a single continuous area which was much easier to manage.

As for Kenneth, he would be the last Lord MacKenzie of Kintail and his son and heir, Colin would be named the first Earl of Seaforth. The MacKenzie Clan would grow in importance to become one of the most powerful clans in the Highlands.

Strome Castle

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. McRae, President

#1641 Scott M Atchison Round Hill, VA	#1653 Gary McCray Tuscaloosa, AL
#1642 John Boley Kalamazoo, MI	#1654 David T McRae Jr Denton, TX
#1643 Debbie MacRae Cross Livingston, MT	#1655 Michael Chenoweth Codan, AL
#1644 Shane Carlson Chippewa Falls, WI	#1656 Jason Spencer Rexburg, ID
#1645 Ann Rea Harrington Patchogue, NY	#1657 Jessica Coggins Zirconia, NC
#1646 Chelsea Parker Fairfax, VA	#1658 Amber Pittman Dothan, AL
#1647 Kaiolohia Chapman Kaneohe, HI	#1659 Alexander J Wil- kinson Forsyth, GA
#1648 Don Stoner Beaumont, CA	#1660 Nancy Lee Hutchin Silver Spring, MD
#1649 Catherine Bailey Longmont, CO	#1661 Jonathan Farr Honolulu, HI
#1650 Judith Cree Shubert Carmichaels, PA	#1662 Jeanne McCrea Salado, TX
#1651 Camille Graham Wellington, CO	#1663 Kathryn Wright Schertz, TX
#1652 Keith D McCray Temcula, CA	#1664 Susan McCrea Blacksburg, VA

In Memoriam - Richard MacRae Atchison



Richard MacRae Atchison, Col. USAF (Ret) age 80, of Springfield, VA, passed away peacefully surrounded by family August 4, 2021. Richard served 32 years in the Air Force and as a commissioned officer, he lived out his boyhood dreams as an Electronic Warfare Officer, flying B-52s Crome-Dome missions, OV-10 Broncos (Pave Nail) in Vietnam, and F-4G Wild Weasel missions in Europe. Later in his career, he became the HQ USAF Director of Electronic Combat, eventually becoming the Deputy Director of Intelligence (J2) on the Joint Staff which included temporary duty as US Central Command Deputy Director of Intelligence for Operation Desert Storm. He lived a life of excellence and service. He and his wife Barbara parented with patience, love, and grace over 50 children in the foster care system. He served as the president of the Fairfax County Foster Parents Association as well as president of the Belvoir Bowhunters. Retirement gave him more opportunities to serve and it was his great joy to work with Wounded Warriors, adaptive sports, and the Warrior Transition Battalion of Fort Belvoir. Cherished father of Scott Michael Atchison who submitted this in honor of his father. Richard was interred at Arlington National Cemetery.



Notice: Moving soon or recently moved?
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Please email change of address or email to
judymcrae777@gmail.com or mail to
Clan MacRae Society of North America
PO Box 2145
Palestine, TX 75802-2145

New MacRae Ancient Hunting and White tartan fabric coming soon!

We've had many requests from our ladies for a lightweight MacRae fabric that can be made into skirts and shawls. Our Board of Directors just approved the weaving and purchase of 60 yards of a new washable poly-viscose fabric - 30 yards in MacRae Ancient Hunting and 30 yards in the MacRae Dress White tartan. This fabric will be available only to our members and will be sold for \$60 a yard. More details later, but if you are interested, please contact Judy at judymcrae777@gmail.com.

Our Clan MacRae North American tartan fabric still available!

Although it's going fast, you can still order our Clan MacRae North American tartan fabric. The 13-ounce wool is 59" wide, so only 4 yards make a kilt. It is \$70 a yard plus shipping with no tax. There are professional kiltmakers who can make you a kilt or a scarf, etc. If you are interested, please contact Judy at judymcrae777@gmail.com. Here is the meaning of our tartan: *The MacRae "Sett" is used as the basis of construction. The colours used were not randomly chosen for they have significance. 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" this country has represented to its vast number of immigrants who came seeking a better and more prosperous life.*

