



Volume 46, Number 2

Sgurr Uaran

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

August 2022



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

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Greetings Fellow MacRaes,

Hopefully, all of you are doing well so far this year. About a month ago, Judy and I came down with the new Covid variant, but we are totally well now. It is a different season for us because we placed our house on the market at the end of June. Please contact us if you know anyone wanting to relocate to Texas and we will send you the link to our listing. We had plans to attend the Grandfather Mountain Games, but just needed to stay available for showings of our home. At this point in time, it looks likely that we will not be able to attend the Colorado games in September. We do hope to sell our home soon and then get on with the next phase of life!

I am very pleased to report that our Clan MacRae Commissioners have been representing us quite well this year at all the Scottish festivals. We are very grateful for their inspiring and tireless work hosting Clan MacRae tents and they truly are the lifeblood of our organization in our communities. I believe we already have 14 festivals under our belt so far for 2022. One of the best ways you can make lifelong friends is by hosting a Clan MacRae tent. It takes some time, but it is so worthwhile and fun because of the fellow MacRaes you meet and team up with. We can't mention them all, but our Commissioner Frankie McRae and his wife Linda did an excellent job hosting our tent at the Grandfather Mountain Games in our absence. We also had first time hosts Danny and Pam Ray at the Bethabara Games in Winston-Salem. As I said earlier, all our tent hosts have done an excellent job so far this year and we have many more festivals coming up. A hearty thanks to you all!

An urgent need we have is for more volunteers. After we lost our Editor, Judy stepped in to put together both the April and this issue of our Sgurr Uaran newsletter. So, we still need an Editor, but we also need other volunteers! Some of those opportunities are written up in this issue, but I want to ask each of you, "What can you offer to our Clan MacRae Society as a volunteer?" We are growing as a Society and right now the bulk of the work of our organization is being carried by too few volunteers. We don't want anyone burning out, so let me hear from you!

In closing, remember 2023 is the 50th Anniversary of the founding of our Society. Next year will be a special time for us as Clan MacRae and we need volunteers to help plan for 2023 as well! It would be nice to have a special banquet or event of some sort at all of the festivals that we host Clan MacRae tents at. Put your thinking caps on and let's start planning!

Sgurr Uaran,
Bruce W. McRae
President



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Upcoming Clan MacRae Scottish 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 at brucewaynemcrae@gmail.com. We'll help you get started!

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

September 10-11, 2022 - Middle Tennessee Highland Games, Hendersonville, TN www.midtenngames.com Contact Andy McRae at amcrae52@gmail.com.

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

September 17, 2022 - Southwestern Indiana Highland Games, Evansville, IN Contact Ray White at channaray@protonmail.com.

September 24, 2022 - Scottish Heritage Education Day, Green Cove Springs, FL www.jaxsaintandrews.org/shed/ Contact John Wayne McRae at jwwmc@comcast.net.

September 24-25, 2022 Prescott Highland Games Prescott Valley, AZ www.prescottareacelticsociety.com Contact Elizabeth Crum-Warner at angeleiss6@gmail.com.

October 1, 2022 - Scotland County Highland Games, Laurinburg, NC www.carolina-highlandgames.com Contact Frankie McRae at fmcrae@raidontactics.com.

October 14-16, 2022 - Stone Mountain Highland Games, Atlanta, GA www.smhg.org Contact David Ray at dhray@charter.net.

October 14-16, 2022 Scots on the Rocks Moab, UT www.scotsontherocksmoab.org Contact Elizabeth Crum-Warner at angeleiss6@gmail.com.

October 21-23, 2022 - Oklahoma Highland Gathering, Choctaw, OK [www.https://unitedscotsok.com/scottish-festival/](https://unitedscotsok.com/scottish-festival/) Contact Mark McCraw at quickdraw_m@yahoo.com.

November 4-6, 2022 - Tucson Highland Games, Tucson, AZ www.tucsoncelticfestival.org Contact Sheila Schmidt at sschmidt99@msn.com.

November 5, 2022 - Charleston Scottish Games, Mount Pleasant, SC www.charlestonscottishgames.com Contact Dean McCraw at dean_mccraw@bellsouth.net.

November 11-13, 2022 - Salado Scottish Festival, Salado, TX www.saladoscottishfestival.com Contact Ebby Darden at ebbydarden@msn.com.

January 14-15, 2023 - Central Florida Highland Games, Winter Springs, FL www.flascot.com Contact Daniel McRae at dgmcrac@comcast.net.

February 2023 - Sarasota Highland Games, Sarasota, FL www.sarasotahighlandgames.com Contact Winter Guite at winterjg@gmail.com.

February 25, 2023 - NE Florida Highland Games, Green Cove Springs, FL www.neflgames.com Contact John Wayne McRae at jwwmc@comcast.net.

March 3-5, 2023 - North Texas Irish Festival, Dallas, TX www.ntif.org Contact Ebby Darden at ebbydarden@msn.com.

March 2023 - Sherman Celtic Festival, Sherman, TX www.shermancelticfest.com Contact Paul Jarnagin at ask4paul2@hotmail.com.

April 2023 - Dunedin Highland Games, Dunedin, FL www.dunedinhighlandgames.com Contact Winter Guite at winterjg@gmail.com.

April 2023 - San Antonio Highland Games, San Antonio, TX www.sahga.org Contact Ronald Crowe at doccrowe@gmail.com.

April 2023 - Houston Highland Games, Humble, TX www.houstonhighlandgames.com Contact Paul Jarnagin at ask4paul2@hotmail.com.

April 15-16, 2023 - Loch Norman Highland Games, Huntersville, NC www.lochnorman.com Contact Leon Folsom at leon.folsom@prodigy.net.



Join us at these festivals in 2022/2023 and meet your fellow MacRaes!

Member Happenings! Send Us Your News and Pictures!



Clockwise from top left:

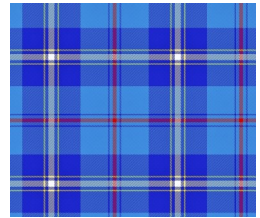
1. Commissioner Patrick and Karen MacRae and their tent at the April Las Vegas Games. 2. Member Frances Miller and her Grandson Aiden with members Danny and Pam Ray who hosted the Clan MacRae tent at the Bethabara Games in Winston-Salem, NC. 3. Marching in the Grandfather Mountain parade are Commissioner Frankie McRae, Forrest Bronson, Commissioner Andy McRae, Tamara Mackenthun and Bill Cocke. 4. Too many to name, but quite the team of MacRaes gathered at the Grandfather Games! 5. Bruce McRae and Paul Jarnigan both worked the Houston Highland Games in April. 6. Members Dave and Debbie Cross traveled to Scotland and posed in authentic dress in front of Eilean Donan Castle. 7. Dave and Debbie also attended the movie premiere of Murder at Yellowstone City in which David was cast as an extra! We can certainly understand why they wanted him as an extra!



Taking orders for our Clan MacRae North American Tartan Fabric!

It's official! We now have 45 yards of our Clan MacRae North American tartan fabric. Our tartan's design has great meaning:

"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."



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 shipping cost (no tax). You may order any length which makes it ideal for scarves, crafts, etc. We also have access to professional kilt-makers. If you are interested in ordering fabric or having something made, please contact Judy at judymcrae777@gmail.com.

New Clan MacRae Ancient Hunting and Dress White tartan fabric!

Good news! We now have the washable lightweight Clan MacRae tartan fabric available! There are yards available - 30 yards in MacRae Dress White and 30 yards in MacRae Ancient Hunting that can be made into skirts, shawls, etc. It is a new lighter weight washable poly-viscose fabric and they are both stunning to look at! This fabric is available only to our members and sells for \$60 a yard. Pictures below are of the actual fabric swatches. There are professional seamstresses available, so if you are interested in ordering fabric or having something made, please contact Judy at judymcrae777@gmail.com.



Newsletter Editor Needed!

We are in need of an Editor for our awesome Sgurr Uaran newsletter. The exact duties change with each issue, but we basically publish 3-4 issues a year of relevant content and news for our members. We currently use Publisher to assemble the newsletter, however we are open to change! For each issue, articles and news and photos come from multiple sources, but as Editor, you can creatively add content that you know our membership will enjoy! Our Membership Director provides accurate mailing lists for each issue and the print shop does the rest. We are looking for someone who enjoys working as a team and we will do everything in our power to make sure you are a great success as the next Editor of the Sgurr Uaran newsletter! Anyone interested should contact our President, Bruce McRae at brucewaynemcrae@gmail.com or at 720-793-7530.

Other Volunteers Needed!

Our Clan MacRae Society has awesome, incredible volunteers, but as we are growing, we are in need of more volunteers. We have a few members who are filling in where needed and some of them are burning out. Can we count on you to reinforce the ranks and volunteer in some needed areas? In addition to our need for an Editor of our awesome Sgurr Uaran newsletter, we also need help in the following areas:

Genealogy - No need to be a professional here, but we need some reinforcements who are willing to take the time to help some of our members with their ancestry. We have incredible back-up genealogists who you can lean on, but we need volunteers to help up front. It's a great way to meet our members, helping them with their lineage.

Festival Calendar Coordinator - As you can tell, we have lots of members hosting Clan MacRae tents at Scottish festivals and we need one volunteer to keep the calendar updated and to provide updates to the Webmaster and an updated calendar for each newsletter. Another great way to get to know our members who are hosting tents.

Website Revisions - We have an incredible website and an awesome volunteer Webmaster, but we need someone to consider rewriting some of the history and basically just making sure everything on the website is up to date.

If you are interested in helping in any of these areas, please contact Bruce McRae at brucewaynemcrae@gmail.com or at 720-793-7530.

Remembering our Fallen - In Flanders Field

by Janet Dieman

BEWARE, lest what happened to me happens to you.

We live in a small suburb of Cincinnati, OH. We have a Veteran's Memorial opposite our village center. Every year on November 11 at 11:00 o'clock, people gather to remember the Veterans who fought to secure our freedom and liberty.



A few years ago, the planning committee discovered that I had an ancestral link to Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae, the Canadian who wrote the now famous poem, In Flanders Fields. Actually, we've yet to find a direct link to John, but surely there is some connection. My mother's maiden name is McCrea.



I was surprised when a member of the planning committee called to invite me to read the poem at the upcoming Veterans Day program. I felt honored to be asked.

Until I read the poem aloud for the first time. In Flanders Fields is not easy to read.

It's awkward when you read it as written in poetic form. The depth of meaning is weakened by the phrasing of the words. Try reading it out loud. You'll see what I mean.

I decided the poem needed to be rephrased, to flow into the intensity of the message. But how?

I rewrote John's words several times. Read them out loud. Tried again. And again. The message was coming into focus but it still wasn't quite right.

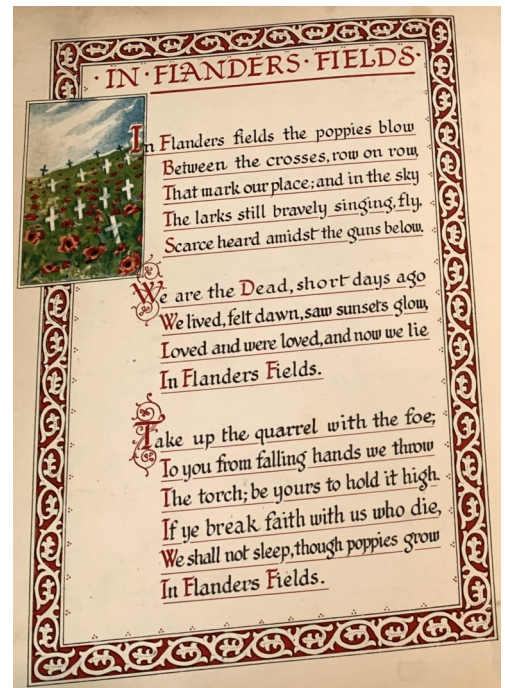
That's when I decided to see if I could find help online. I found readings based on the poetic form. I didn't like them any more than I liked my initial reading.



I continued searching.

Finally I found a rephrased version by Leonard Cohen. It was exactly what I needed. I listened to this recording over and over until I could recite the poem with a new emphasis. I was ready.

I've been asked to read John's poem every year since. In so doing, I include information about his life, I wear the tartan we identify as the McCrae colors, I elicit positive response from the audience. They now feel John's words. And his meaning.



Why wait to be asked to read this poem? Offer to read it for your Memorial Day or Veterans Day activities. It is an honor to release this poem from one of our own, Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae, in remembrance of our fallen soldiers.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cKoJvHeMLfc>

Wayne Trimm - 1923 to 2017 - Scotland's Newest Son

By Steve Trimm

Even though my Dad, Wayne Trimm, had MacRae blood, it meant little to him until much later in life. His grandmother was Susan McCray and I published an article on her in the August 2021 Sgurr Uaran issue. But more on that later.



My father Wayne was born in 1923 and he inherited his father's talent as an artist. Lee Trimm had been a farm boy who taught himself how to paint and in time made a good living as a portrait painter. Wayne's eye was just as good as Lee's, but my father's subject matter was different. Combining his artistic ability with training in the natural sciences at Kansas State, Cornell and Syracuse, he devoted his career to celebrating nature in all its diversity and beautiful complexity as an illustrator and painter.

Wayne's career spanned more than 70 years. His longest job was his last, when he served for 30 years as Art Editor of *The Conservationist*, a magazine produced by New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation. Most of Wayne's subjects - birds, animals, fishes, flowers, amphibians, insects and more - lived in New York state. He was often described as that region's John James Audubon, but he traveled across the country, and around the world, sketchbook and pencils always in hand, documenting

countless environments and their non-human inhabitants.



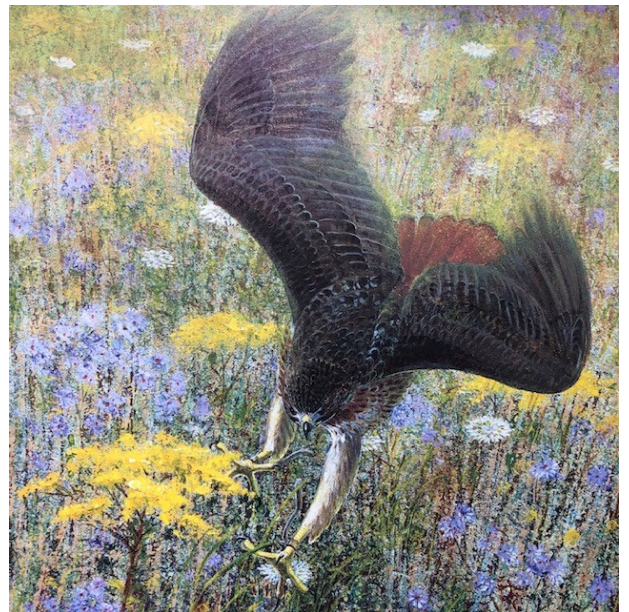
In the northern hemisphere he traveled as far north as Alaska, as far south as Central America and as far east as Scandinavia. His southern hemisphere trips took him to Africa. Midway between the hemispheres he visited the Galapagos Islands. Out of these travels came illustrations and paintings for many books and periodicals. My father thought several of these locations could vie for the title of "Most Beautiful Spot on Earth".



Then in 2005, our Scottish ancestry allowed me to cajole Dad into traveling to Scotland at age 83 for the 2005 Clan MacRae Gathering. When Dad saw the Highlands, he knew he had truly found the "Most Beautiful Spot on Earth".

But not only that, as he was introduced to Scots men and women, their culture and history, he suddenly recognized

himself as a Son of Scotland. When Dad began to understand what being a Scot and a MacRae *meant*, it changed his view of himself profoundly. When he heard people at the Gathering speak of "The Scattered Children of Kintail", the thought came instantly to him that "I once was lost, but now I'm found."



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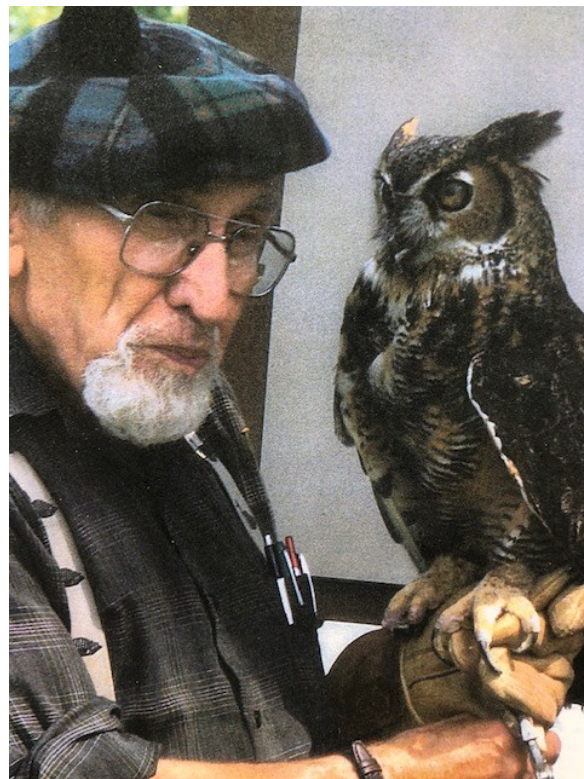


Within a few minutes of arriving at the castle, Dad began doing what he did best. The sketchbook and pencil came out of his pocket and he started recording what he was seeing. Dad's sketches of Eilean Donan Castle eventually led to his wonderful painting of Eilean Donan Castle with not only the piper present but with an eagle flying overhead.

During the final dozen years of his life, Dad read all he could about Scotland, a Scots flag flew over his home in Hoosick Falls, New York, and he never went out in public unless he was wearing his Clan MacRae tam in the Ancient Hunting tartan.

My Dad made a living painting pictures of

birds, animals and all things created by Mother Earth. He was an Outdoor Educator and his customary way of teaching was to come into a school, set up an easel, set an owl on his left arm and draw its portrait with his right hand, all the while telling students about owls and how they lived in the wild. He now did this with his MacRae tam on his head.



Dad spent the last 6 months of his life in a nursing home in the rural community of Hoosick Falls NY. While he was there, my stepmother Melodee and I decorated the nursing home with some of his paintings. Soon we were asked to give a talk about Dad's life and work. In the photo, I have plucked a painting from the wall and I'm explaining how Dad was able to sketch underwater. Behind us is a big painting of a bird and a field. Not only were Dad's paintings of birds and animals accurate in the most minute details, every flower, plant, weed and grass were accurately depicted too.



Dad died in the nursing home and his tam was on his bedside table the night he died at age 94. But he wasn't the first Hoosick Falls artist to pass away there. The first was Grandma Moses.

National Tartan Day

By Larry McRae

As all good Americans of Scottish ancestry know, April 6 is National Tartan Day, a day to recognize and commemorate the contributions Scots and those of Scottish descent have made to America's society, economy and technology. Long overdue, the occasion was first declared by the US Senate in 1997: "... this resolution honors the major role that Scottish Americans played in the founding of this Nation, such as the fact that almost half of the signers of the Declaration of Independence were of Scottish descent, the Governors in 9 of the original 13 States were of Scottish ancestry, Scottish Americans successfully helped shape this country in its

formative years and guided this Nation through its most troubled times ... this resolution recognizes the monumental achievements and invaluable contributions made by Scottish Americans that have led to America's preeminence in the fields of science, technology, medicine, government, politics, economics, architecture, literature, media, and visual and performing arts ..."

The House of Representatives adopted a similar resolution, and in 2008 President George W. Bush issued a proclamation which read in part: "Americans of Scottish descent have made enduring contributions to our Nation with their hard work, faith, and values. On National Tartan Day, we celebrate the spirit and character of Scottish Americans and recognize their many contributions to our culture and our way of life ... we are especially grateful for the service in our Armed Forces of Scottish Americans who have answered the call to protect our Nation."

These proclamations raise several questions: first, what contributions are they talking about? And how in the world did tartan, which is fundamentally and inextricably a Highland thing, get to be a symbol of all of Scotland? And why April 6, for heaven's sake? Let's take those in turn.

While people have busily and noisily celebrated the contributions of all sorts of people to America, the Scots have been quiet. We could write a book, but let's just mention the names of three Scottish-American men whose inventions and activities changed the world: Neal Armstrong, Alexander Graham Bell and Malcolm McLean. The last of these requires a word of explanation. Malcolm McLean was a farm boy from eastern North Carolina who started a trucking business; anyone of a certain age who lives in Piedmont North Carolina will remember the red cabs and trailers with the red "McLean Trucking Company" signs. But owning a trucking company didn't change the world. Malcom McLean invented shipping containers and that invention, by drastically lowering the cost of ocean shipping, made possible the globalization of manufacturing and trade, and that changed the world.

The rise of tartan, bagpipes and all that to be symbols of Scotland is at first glance puzzling because the Lowlanders despised and denigrated the Highlanders, and wearing tartan or playing the bagpipes was prohibited for some decades following the Battle of Culloden. The solution to the riddle is complex, involving a romance novelist, the prestige of the Highland regiments in the British army, and the inventiveness of an English entrepreneur.

First, to the matter of tartan: although its origins are obscure, illustrations from medieval manuscripts indicate that the Scots may have been wearing something like tartan as far back as AD 1500 or 1600. Certainly by the late 17th century, it had become the customary male garb of the Scottish Highlands, worn in the form of the *feileadh mor*, the great plaid, or the *feileadh beg*, the small plaid perhaps more suitable for summer wear. Why an English speaker heard "plaid" when a Gaelic speaker said "feileadh" is one of those unfathomable mysteries in line with why an English speaker heard "Japan" when the Japanese speaker said "Nihon." But those who've looked into it know that a plaid is simply a length of cloth, and the ancient Highlanders wrapped it around themselves and secured it with a belt. Kilts came later, around the middle of the 18th century. The kilt was invented by an Englishman named Thomas Rawlinson who attempted to start an iron mining and smelting operation northwest of Inverness in the years after Culloden. Frustrated by the amount of time that his mostly Highland workforce spent tugging at and adjusting their plaids, Rawlinson came up with the idea of a sewn garment made of tartan that would look like a plaid but not require constant adjustment. Thus the kilt was born, and it was soon adopted widely, particularly by the Highland regiments that were becoming the backbone of the British Empire's army. Certainly as weapons evolved from pikes to muskets and tactics from mad charges to careful drill and massed volleys, the kilt was a far more practical garment.



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Today tartan is generally associated with particular families, and certainly we are all proud to wear our MacRae tartan kilts. But the association appears to have come fairly late; the classic painting of the Battle of Culloden shows the Highlanders in all sorts of different tartan, not at all the uniformity we would expect. According to the Scottish Tartan Authority, the earliest known tartan that can be reliably associated with a particular clan or group is a piece of MacRae hunting tartan that was discovered decades



The Battle of Culloden by David Morier in 1746

events was the “Highland Ball” hosted by the Peers of Scotland. The invitations instructed that “no Gentleman is to be allowed to appear in anything but the ancient Highland costume,” and it was made clear that for the Clan Chiefs that meant they were to appear in their clan tartans. According to Bruce Durie, who is a well-known Scottish genealogist and family historian, the reaction of most of the Chiefs to this instruction was, “In my *what?*” Thus began for some a frantic search for a tartan sett to associate with the clan.

Scott had, at his own expense, had a Highland outfit made for King George, kilt, sporran, hose, the whole bit. The king was a portly sort, and it must have been quite a sight, as a portly MacRae of my acquaintance put it when asked why he didn’t wear a kilt: “Because I’d look like a whale in a blanket.” But the king didn’t mind, was in fact quite taken with the splendor of his new outfit, and the visit went off splendidly as the king paraded down the Royal Mile in his Highland regalia. Now, we’re all familiar with the idea that society will adopt fashions favored by celebrities, even such inane fashions as a business suit worn with an open collar and no tie. In 19th century Britain, there was no greater celebrity than the king, and the fashion of kilts and tartan was quickly established. In combination with the prestige of the Highland regiments in the British army, the coming of tartan as a symbol of all of Scotland was almost inevitable. The final seal was Queen Victoria’s infatuation with Scotland in the 1840s, although she probably knew very little about Scotland and its history. The custom grew, and today is firmly cemented, all the old animosities towards the Highlanders gone in the glamour and romance of kilts and tartans and bagpipes.

We are left with the question of why April 6. Well, of course, that is the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Arbroath, signed by a large group of Scottish nobles on April 6, 1320. The title “Declaration” is fairly recent; the document is actually a letter to the Roman Catholic Pope. The pope had excommunicated Robert the Bruce and seemed to be threatening to allow King Edward II of England to invade Scotland again. The nobles’ letter said, in effect, Robert is our king, we picked him: “Yet if he should give up what he has begun, and agree to make us or our kingdom subject to the King of England or the English, we should exert ourselves at once to drive him out as our enemy and a subverter of his own rights and ours, and make some other man who was well able to defend us our King ...” That is, the letter set forth the concept that the king ruled by consent of the governed, or at least by consent of



King George IV in Kilt by David Wilkie in 1829

(Continued from page 9)

the Peers of Scotland, and that they, the earls and barons of Scotland, had the right to replace him if they felt he was not ruling in their best interest. When most Americans think of our own Declaration of Independence, the first thing that comes to mind is “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness,” but the core of the document is, in Thomas Jefferson’s words: “That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.” While the Declaration of Arbroath refers to a specific action the king might take and the Declaration of Independence to a more general situation, the sentiment is the same, and that has led some to conclude that the Declaration of Arbroath is a precursor to our own Declaration of Independence.



That Arbroath contains the heart of Jefferson’s thought may seem a stretch, but it’s not completely crazy. In his late teens Jefferson studied for a couple of years at the College of William and Mary. While there he was greatly influenced by a Professor of Natural Philosophy named William Small. Jefferson had a good bit of social interaction with Dr. Small and learned from him,

so much that Jefferson himself wrote that, “It was my great good fortune and what probably fixed the destinies of my life that Dr. William Small of Scotland was then Professor of Mathematics ... a man of correct and gentlemanly manners and an enlarged and liberal mind ...” Small was a native Scot and graduate of the University of Aberdeen. He had been invited to teach at William and Mary and stayed there several years. He eventually returned to Britain, although to England not to Scotland. He carried with him a letter of introduction from Benjamin Franklin to Mathew Boulton, a prominent English industrialist and partner of the Scottish engineer James Watt. Small fit in well with the intellectual currents of England and became a leading light of the Lunar Club, an association of businessmen, academics and others interested in the life of the intellect. Small would certainly have been familiar with the Declaration of Arbroath, and he and Jefferson may well have discussed the principles embodied in that letter to the pope, a discussion that helped “fix the destinies” of Jefferson’s life and that surfaced a dozen years later when Jefferson was asked to draft a declaration setting forth the reasons and rationale for America’s break with the mother country.

So, when April 6 rolls around, think about those brave men who declared that

AS LONG AS BUT A HUNDRED OF US REMAIN ALIVE, NEVER WILL WE ON ANY CONDITIONS BE BROUGHT UNDER ENGLISH RULE. IT IS IN TRUTH NOT FOR GLORY, NOR RICHES, NOR HONOURS THAT WE ARE FIGHTING, BUT FOR FREEDOM - FOR THAT ALONE, WHICH NO HONEST MAN GIVES UP BUT WITH LIFE ITSELF.



April 6 National Tartan Day

Wear your tartan proudly, put on a bagpipe record, have a wee dram or two of single malt and think about the long arc that connects us as Americans with our Scottish homeland.



In Memoriam - James F. MacRae

January 29, 1944 - January 1, 2022



On Saturday January 1, 2022, James F. MacRae, loving husband of Judie, father of two children Sandy and Kathleen, and grandfather of four, passed away at the age of 77.

Jim was very active in playing bagpipes and was the primary sunset piper at Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa since its opening in Birmingham, AL. Jim also was an accomplished bagpiper playing in and in the formation of many pipe bands in the Midwest and Alabama. He is the

mentor and founder of the Alabama Pipes and Drums that is a Grade V pipe band based out of Birmingham. They remember Jim as the "heart and soul of our band. Words cannot fully express all that Jim MacRae has done for this band through almost three decades as a pillar and driving force behind this institution. We are all the richer for having had the privilege of knowing him, all the better from his tutelage, and greatly diminished by his passing."

The Alabama Pipes and Drums pipe band will be ordering new kilts in the MacRae Weathered Hunting tartan as a tribute to James MacRae. We certainly will follow them as they honor Jim and Clan MacRae in their MacRae kilts!

HIGHLANDER HOMECOMING



The wet and cold bites,
at me as I walk.
The claymores weight bears down,
the hill is steep, muscles balk.

I see a small light,
the crofts rock walls appear,
Snow covers the thatched roof,
the light is drawing me near.

Opening the wooden door I find,
a wife's healing touch.
A roaring fires welcome warmth,
the family I missed so much.

At the McRae gathering,
clansmen celebrate the battle win.
We relive our winter victory,
until the clan chieftain calls again.

FOREST REA 2018 Clan MacRae

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

We warmly welcome our new members to the Clan MacRae Society of North America!
We are all the more richer to have you as members! *Bruce W. McRae. President*

#1693 Gary Lee Fuller
Wauchula, FL

#1702 Alexander Black Rae
Drums, PA

#1708 Austin Williams
Saint Cloud, MN

#1712 Nancy Miller
Knoxville, TN

#1694 Melody McCrea
San Antonio, TX

#1703 Gayle Godard
Pleasant Hill, OR

#1709 Rebecca McCrea
Levittown, NY

#1713 Judith Jacobs
Bristol, VA

#1695 Lisa Scott
Falmouth, ME

#1704 Cheri McRae
Virgin, UT

#1710 Rebecca Mitchell
Fancy Gap, VA

#1714 Cheryl Morrison
Fairview, NC

#1696 Patricia Jones
Powder Springs, GA

#1705 Lauren Wilkinson
Commerce, GA

#1711 Rich McCrea
Tampa, FL

#1715 Judie MacRae
Davenport, FL

#1697 Mary Jane Mitchell
Penn Run, PA

#1706 Kiera Spadafora
Baldwinsville, NY

#1698 Bethany McCoy
Cleveland, TN

#1707 Ruth Holt
Chehalis, WA

#1699 Paul Lineback
Colbert, WA

#1700 William B Smith Jr
Mount Pleasant, SC

#1701 Margaret L Salyers
Concord, NC



Notice: Moving soon or recently moved?
Changed your email address recently?

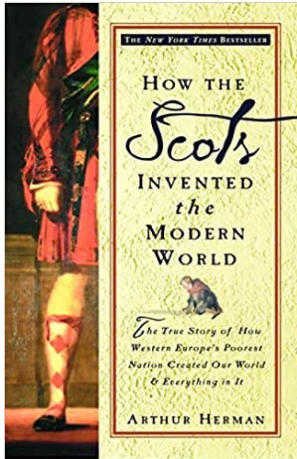
Please email change of address to
judymcrae777@gmail.com or mail to

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

A Wee Dram and a Braw Book - What are you reading and tasting?

Wee (adj, Scots) - a little bit

Braw (adj, Scots) - great, brilliant, pleasing



***How the Scots Invented the Modern World* by Arthur Herman**

Who formed the first literate society? Who invented our modern ideas of democracy and free market capitalism? The Scots. As historian and author Arthur Herman reveals, in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries Scotland made crucial contributions to science, philosophy, literature, education, medicine, commerce, and politics - contributions that have formed and nurtured the modern West ever since. *How the Scots Invented the Modern World* reveals how Scottish genius for creating the basic ideas and institutions of modern life stamped the lives of a series of remarkable historical figures, from James Watt and Adam Smith to Andrew Carnegie and Arthur Conan Doyle, and how Scottish heroes continue to inspire our contemporary culture, from William "Braveheart" Wallace to James Bond. And no one who takes this incredible historical trek will ever view the Scots - or the modern West—in the same way again.

Highland Park 18 Year Old Viking Pride

18 Year Old Viking Pride is Highland Park's most highly-awarded single malt whisky, being honoured with both a Gold and an Ultimate Recommendation in the 2021 International Spirits Challenge. Matured in a high proportion of first-fill sherry seasoned European and American oak casks, this superb 18 Year Old single malt pays tribute to the five keystones of production and presents a sophisticated medley of ripe cherries dusted with bittersweet cocoa, freshly harvested honeycomb and candied orange peel. There's a whisper of Orkney's salty seaspray in the aromatic peat smoke. This award-winning whisky is crafted at the Highland Park Distillery in Kirkwall, Orkney, in operation since 1798. Age, experience and respect for tradition may define Highland Park's whisky, but it's Orkney that sets it apart.

