

CLAN MACLEAN HERITAGE TRUST

MINUTES OF THE 20th MEETING

Held at 5 North Charlotte St, Edinburgh at 12.00 Noon
on the 9th September 2004

Attendees: Canon Allan Maclean of Dochgarroch.
Sir Lachlan Maclean of Duart and Morvern.
Lt. Col. Donald MacLean.
Mrs Fiona Maclean of Ardgour.
Dr. James MacLean. Treasurer.
Malcolm F MacLean. Secretary.

1. Apologies: Received from Marigold Maclean. Australia, Captain Marcus MacLean, Prof. Ephraim McLean. Atlanta, and Ian MacLean. Nova Scotia.

2. Minutes of the 19th Meeting: Accepted by all present.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes:

a. Correspondence with the RSPB at Traigh Ghruinneart

James How had replied to Mac's letter confirming that the display was still in its original position within the building. Mr How also wrote that the RSPB would be improving access to the Cairn itself by constructing a boardwalk across the ditch to the Cairn. This would be at no cost to the Trust, volunteer resources being used.

b. Copies of the Trust Deed.

Copies of the Deed of Trust together with papers on the Power and Duties of Trustees, Breach of Trust and the Trustee Investment Act 1961 will be posted with the Minutes to the recently appointed Trustees. Action Mac.

4. Finances:

a. Current Position

The Treasurer at the meeting gave the balance on account at September as £5,200+. A Balance Sheet as at 31/03/04 is attached.

Standing Order Forms are ready for 2005.

5. Books and Archive.

a. National Archives of Scotland.

Allan had met with a Dr. David Brown at the National Archives and had discussed the 4 older charters, one of which the 1625 MS needs conservation. It was agreed to remove the 3 later MS and have them digitally copied - and then deposit them on loan with N.A.S. as suggested by Dr Brown. The more recent MS are to go to Tobermory.

b. Papers at Mull Museum.

Allan has now completed the database index and transferred the remaining papers to the Mull Museum. Loan documents from the CMHT will shortly be completed and submitted for signature by Jean Whittaker. Approval was given for the purchase of acid-free boxes and pockets to house the collection.

c. Kaid Sir Harry Maclean's pistol.

Lachlan had said that the pistol was antique and in fact disabled. A letter will be forthcoming to confirm the status of the pistol. It would now be part of an exhibition of the Kaid's relics in the Museum at some later date.

e. Macquarrie archive.

Allan had been asked if the CMHT would provide acid-free boxes for the collection. The CMHT do not have ownership over the papers; and Allan was to have a word with Dr Munro. It was agreed to cover the cost of envelopes but not boxes.

6. Library.

a. Monitoring Library additions.

Allan raised the question did the Trust know what was going into the library year on year. The Trust was not currently made aware of any gifts of books or genealogies placed into the Library. Mac was asked to request an annual update of new additions to the Maclean library and archive.

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b. Items from Marigold.

Marigold had sent a copy of "The Clan Maclean Association in Australia Inc. The Second Decade 1994 - 2003", compiled and researched by Marigold. Also a Certificate of Recognition presented to Clan Maclean Families in recognition of their contribution to the Williamstown and Hobson's Bay Community over 167 years. Also a typed account of the new "Wall of Fame", a series of bronze plaques portraying famous Gippslanders. This included Allan McLean, Premier of Victoria, who CMHT commemorated with the plaque at Maffra in 2001. After being reviewed by the meeting Mac was asked to send on the documents to the Mull museum for safe keeping.

7. Genealogy:

Allan stated that he had not moved very much further with this problem since he cannot access the Maclean.org website. However he had obtained a copy of the Alasdair White article which had in effect proclaimed a new Chief of the Macleans of Coll. This seemed highly irregular being put about under the auspices of the CMIA. Allan was asked write to Alasdair White, in a pleasant letter, to challenge the content of the article with a copy of the letter going to the CMIA via Donald.

8. Promotion of the CMHT:

Eph had raised the point about promoting the CMHT with perhaps a hand-out to those who visited the Maclean Tent at shows. Mac put forward the idea of producing a brochure, much like many other places of interest do to promote interest. This was discussed in the meeting, but was rejected on the cost of putting such a professional leaflet into print. Currently the use of the existing web-site was critical with the information up to date, with a current Subscription Form that can be pulled off for payment. It would also be useful for the CMHT web-site to be designed as a sub-set of the current Maclean.org arrangement. Mac to look at how the current presentation of the CMHT on the web can be improved.

9. Friends of CMHT:

a. Current uptake

Mac reported that the current uptake had reached 40 in total for 2004. Mac's opinion was that the figure of 40 was very encouraging for continuing membership.

b. Application Form on the Website

Currently the website shows the 2003 subscription form, in spite of requests for this to be put right in November 2003 and January 2004.

c. 2004 Benefit.

Suggestions put forward for the 2004 were;

Heraldic hatchment from Canada.

1560 Charter.

Wooden Spurtals from Duart old wood beam.

Lead medallion from Duart lead.

Clansman in Highland Dress (via Marigold)

1963 London Branch Christmas card. (via Marigold)

Portrait of Sir Fitzroy Donald. (via Marigold)

Duart Barony translation. (via Ian)

Description of Clearances in Ardgour. English & Gaelic. (Via Fiona)

Photo of Chief unveiling Cairn at Gruinneart.

Following some discussion it was agreed that a digital photographic, special edition, of the heraldic hatchment of Major General Francis MacLean from Halifax, NS, together with a scholarly report on the heraldry and life work of Francis. Allan to discuss with Ian.

10. Secretary's Comments.

Following on with Eph's points, already partial discussed under promotion of the CMHT above, he asked the question on how he could remit dollars to the Trust. Donald in reply said that this situation had been overcome by using the currently available C.C. method. Which was to send two e-mails, the first offering the first eight digits of the card, and type of card, followed by a second e-mail giving the last eight digits of the number plus the expiry date and amount to be charged. Experience had proved to Donald that there were no problems or risks inherent in using this system.

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11. Current Projects.

a. Piping Book. (2006)

Donald promised significant progress by the next meeting. He explained that there was some 300+ tunes to be reviewed. It was felt that the possibility of financial aid might be forthcoming from the Scottish Arts Council. Allan will speak to Hugh Cheape for contact names within the SAC for Donald to make the formal approach. Lottery Funding was also to be considered but at this stage with little hope of success. Total cost of this project was now estimated at £4,300. CMA had agreed an interest free loan.

b. Lighting at Kiels. (No Date)

Iain Thornber had been in hospital, he had hoped to get the electricians working on the nearby Church to quote, but this did not materialise. Separate quotes are now being obtained, but Iain pointed out that the stones have now been "Scheduled", and permission might be required from Historic Scotland.

c. Piping Bursary. (2007)

The next piping bursary to be held to coincide with the 2007 gathering with an estimated £1000 spend. James mentioned the Sean Connery Trust Fund, which boasted of having an educational aspect could perhaps be contacted for possible funding. Lachlan to establish the contact and pass on the address and names for Donald to action.

d. Dr John Angus McLean, Australia. (2005?)

Marigold in a written report stated that this project in Australia is moving on. The plaque is to be similar in design to the Inverell plaque. The casting of the plaque will be paid by the CMHT, once cost approval is given. Mac to be contact with Marigold.

e. Brass Foot, Iona Abbey. (2005?)

Ian Fisher, from the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland [RCAHMS] has recently retired. It was his initial suggestion that we pay for the restoration of the Brass Foot, at an estimated cost of £100. Trustees of Iona Abbey had been handing over the building to Historic Scotland which had created a delay and for Ian Fisher a conflict of interest. The tomb has now been identified as that of Lachlan Lubanach Maclean, first of Duart, or his son, rather than the Macleod chief as stated in the guide books. The safest place for it would be in the actual matrix, which has recently been revealed now the altar carpet has been removed.

f. Memorial to Dr Hector Maclean at Erray. (2006?)

Lachlan to contact Mrs Elwes to explain that we will not continue with this project - and Allan to try and find the site of Dr Hector's Glasgow house.

g. Edition of Dr Hector Maclean's Genealogy. (2007)

Dr Hector Maclean of Gruline prepared a Genealogy of the Macleans for the Genealogist Walter Macfarlane in 1734. In all there appears to be at least 10 copies, with each family adding notes and corrections to their copy. An new edition of this work suitably annotated with the notes and corrections would be of great value. Allan is to write to Nicholas Maclean-Bristol to explain the project and perhaps enlist his help in getting access to the Crossapol version.

12. New Projects.

a. Moy Castle, Lochbuie. [Confidential Information]

Jim Corbett, the owner of the Lochbuie estate is going to make repairs to Moy Castle, the ancient castle of the MacLaines of Lochbuie. Funding for this will first be sought from Historic Scotland, costs are currently estimated at £350,000, with some monies being raised from clansmen. The meeting agreed that the CMHT would commit to the sum of £1,000 in support. Allan to write to Jim Corbett with this proposal.

b. General Allan Maclean of Torloisk. (2007)

Allan suggested that it might be an idea to commemorate Brigadier General Allan Maclean of Torloisk [1725-1797] a famous 18th century Maclean who raised the 84th or Royal Highland Emigrant Regiment and defended Quebec against General Arnold in 1775. The Trust could produce a plaque to be placed on some road-side boulder at Torloisk. This could all tie in with a visit to the house and tea in 2007.

c. Database of Ideas.

Suggestions for the data-base of ideas have come from Ian Maclean, Nova Scotia, noting Bard John {Iain} Maclean of Coll, Alexander Maclean Sinclair the Historian and Hon. Angus Maclean, WW2 hero and Premier of Prince Edward Island.

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He also suggested:

Consider marking the site at Duart where galleys and birlinns were beached along with a description of the clan connection with these vessels. This item was seen as private to Duart castle, and for Lachlan to decide whether or not to commemorate the possible site (which is in the 'private' part of the grounds).

However the idea of a Canadian project for 2006 was considered a good one - and Ian was asked to suggest a project in relation to Hon. Angus MacLean.

Allan suggested commemorating the Rankin School of Piping at Kilbrannan.

d. Tombstone at Killean.

A magnificent Maclean gravestone has been discovered and it was agreed that Allan and Lachlan should further the idea of a new fence round the site - and perhaps later a box over the stone.

e. The rest of the list at present stands at [but not in this order of priority]:

1. Cairn at Lichlee, Isle of Mull - Possibly an inscription on boulder.
2. Cairn at Knockmartin, Isle of Mull, rallying place for Macleans on the west side of Mull.
3. Memorial at Glenlivet, Battle at which Sir Lachlan Mor took a leading part.
4. Inscription at Breacachadh Castle, Coll
5. Memorial to Hector Maclean, Ballygrant, Islay. The great oral linguist.
6. Benjamin Franklin McLean, Kansas.

13. Date and Venue for next meeting

Wednesday 9th March 2005, Time: 12.00 Midday, Venue: The Western Club, Glasgow.

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