

Clan Maclean Heritage Trust

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Céad míle fáilte

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A hundred thousand welcomes to all Friends of the Clan Maclean Heritage Trust. We particularly welcome those of you who have joined us during the year.

The highlight of the year has been, for many of us, the Clan Gathering on Mull this summer. It was wonderful to be able

to meet our Friends and to join in the various excursions and activities, sharing our love of our clan's history and heritage.

This newsletter aims to provide an overview of some of the events of the year, and look at what might be possible in the year to come.

Sir Lachlan Mór's Grave

Sir Lachlan Mór Maclean (1558 – 5 August 1598) or Big Lachlan Maclean, was the 14th Clan Chief of Clan Maclean from late 1573 or early 1574 until 1598.

Sir Lachlan Mór Maclean harried the MacDonalds of Islay, causing such carnage that, in 1594, he and the Macdonald chief were declared outlaws by the Privy Council. Lachlan redeemed himself when he fought for the king at the Battle of Glenlivet in 1594. But the MacDonalds and the Macleans were soon back at war, and on 5 August 1598 in the Battle of Traigh Ghruinneart on the Island of Islay he was killed by the forces of Sir James MacDonald, 9th of Dunnyveg. His sons took revenge in the form of a



Memorial cairn commemorating the death of Sir Lachlan Mór at the Battle of Traigh Ghruinneart, erected by CMHT in 1998

massacre which is said to have lasted for 3 days.

His remains were left on the battlefield. A day or two after the battle, it is said that two women, of whom different accounts are given — some calling them strangers, some clanswomen, some relations of the dead —

grieving to think that the body of so notable a chief as Sir Lachlan Mór should be unburied and uncared for on the moorland, came from a distance in search of it. They hired a cart, the only one to be had in the neighborhood, and having found the corpse, proceeded to carry it to the nearest burying-grounds, about six miles distant. The way was rough, and the driver looking behind him saw the head of the great chief, which extended beyond the cart, nodding to him at every jolt, as if it had life, and were giving him directions. At the next heavy rut he looked again to please his savage soul with ferocious enjoyment. But this time the elder female, who

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The Trust at the International Clan Gathering, Isle of Mull, June 2017

*"230 guests
accepted our
invitation"*

Every five years, the Clan Maclean Heritage Trust hosts a reception for the Friends of the Trust. This year, we chose to do so at Duart Castle during the International Gathering, giving Friends the opportunity to inspect the restoration and meet the team responsible for the building work.

The Chief, who is also a Heritage Trust Trustee, greeted us as we sat down for a delicious tea provided by the Castle Tearoom. Previous receptions have seen fewer than 100 Friends attend, and our initial plans were based on this.

However, around 230 accepted the invitation, and so we amended our plans to ensure everyone could tour the castle and have tea. As a result, there was less time than we had wished for to enable the Trustees to meet the friends and thank them for supporting the Trust, and its work promoting and advancing the education of the public in the history, traditions and music of the Clan Maclean.

During their visit to the castle, Friends were able to inspect the Maclean history panels, funded by the Trust. At the Reception, the Sir Lachlan took the opportunity to congratulate Alastair Maclean, who had been awarded a bursary at The College of Piping in Glasgow, sponsored by the Heritage Trust. Alastair responded by entertaining us with some excellent playing, choosing a tune from the Heritage Trust publication, Pipe Music of Clan Maclean.

Music has featured in our activities this year. Among other activities, a grant was made to the Tobermory School Pipe Band to assist with the purchase of uniform. We were delighted to see them resplendent in their Maclean of Duart kilts when they entertained us during the Gathering.

Representatives of the Trust laid wreaths at Drimnin during the clan visit as part of the Gathering programme. The Trust had contributed to the cost of restoring the grave of Allan Maclean 'The Survivor', and we gathered there to view the work and commemorate his life.



CMHT Bursar,
Alastair Maclean
at Duart



The wreath at
Allan Maclean's tomb

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The Trust at the Gathering (continued)



Preparing for battle
at Lichd Lee

We had earlier laid a wreath at the memorial cairn to his father, Charles Maclean of Drimnin, situated on the shoreline. He did not survive Culloden; he had sent his son home to ensure the family line continued.

A third wreath was laid at Lichd Lee, where some Friends took the opportunity to sharpen their daggers, as our forebears had done before us. The Heritage Trust had erected a cairn there during the 2012 Clan Gathering.

The Trust had a stall in the Aros Hall, in Tobermory, and again at Duart Castle. This gave Trustees the opportunity to meet many of the Trust's Friends and exchange news and views.



Allan Maclean of Dochgarroch, (right)
Chairman of the Clan Maclean Heritage
Trust, with the Secretary,
William Douglas

Images: The Clan Maclean Association, Photographs by Ewan Baxter, Tobermory

Sir Lachlan Mór's Grave (continued)

had watched him, killed the brutal driver with the chieftain's dagger. Then, along with her companion, she brought the mortal remains of Sir Lachlan to the place where they still lie buried.

Sir Lachlan Mór MacLean is buried in the churchyard of Kilchoman on Islay, near the south wall of the church, and over his grave is laid a 'great stone'.



Sir Lachlan Mór's grave lies in the
long grass at the side of Kilchoman
Church

There is a churchyard, Kilnave, near the battle-field; but the body was taken to Kilchoman that it might be more honoured, for he was buried inside the church. When a new church was built there, around 1829, the wall was so constructed that the grave was left outside the church.

The Heritage Trust is keen to mark the grave as the 'great stone' is not actually Sir Lachlan's grave marker, but for someone else. The church walls are in a

parlous state, and the area around the church has been fenced off as a safety precaution. Access to the grave is, therefore, difficult as it lies within the fence. An additional concern is that, unlike the area outside the fence, the grass is not being maintained

The Trustees are seeking a solution that ensures this important Maclean warrior- chief's last resting place can be found by Macleans visiting Islay.



When Maclean's men saw that their chief was dead, some of them fled.

They took refuge in the heather-roofed church at Kilnave. The pursuing MacDonalds watched as they took sanctuary in the church.

They had the Macleans trapped. They set fire to the roof, and all but one of the men inside perished.

The present ruinous church, above, is thought to be on the site of the original medieval chapel.

Help us help those who follow

Help us remember the people, places and music that mean so much to us all in Clan Maclean.



The heritage of Clan Maclean is so close to all our hearts; our amazing forebears made tremendous contributions to our way of life, shaping Scotland and the countries they moved to and the places where they lived and worked.

As a Friend of the Clan Maclean Heritage Trust, you are helping to promote and advance the education of the public in the history, traditions and music of Clan Maclean.

CMHT:
Keeping our
heritage alive

Whether we live for one generation or three, we must do our bit to help those who follow remember the generations who went before us.

A gift in your will allows you to make a significant contribution to our work, which costs you nothing today. Our care of Clan Maclean's cultural heritage simply would not be possible without your support.

Thank you.

Honorary Friends of the Trust

The following have been elected as honorary Friends of the Clan Maclean Heritage Trust in recognition of the service to Clan Maclean heritage.

- Doug McLean - New Brunswick, Canada
- Curt Speight - Nova Scotia, Canada
- Marigold Maclean - Victoria, Australia
- Nicholas Maclean-Bristol, OBE, DL. - Argyll, Scotland
- Pat MacLean - West Midlands, England
- Sandra McLean - Western Australia



The Trust sponsored new Maclean tartan kilts for the Tobermory High School Pipe Band, who played for us at the International Gathering in June.

The band has been competing in various competitions this summer, and is making good progress and have already collected two trophies.

MacLean/MacLaine Y-DNA Surname Project

The MacLean/MacLaine Y-DNA Surname Project has the objective of using DNA testing to help project members to identify where their ancestors originated and to put them in touch with others whose DNA profile matches them most closely.

There is a team of volunteer administrators who can provide guidance on the interpretation of DNA test results and recommendations for further testing. Looking across the results of all project members helps discover which DNA profiles are most typical of Macleans etc and then trying to link that in to accepted clan history and conventional genealogy.

The project is open to :

- anyone who has our surname in any of its spelling variations, or any of the recognised clan septs;
- to have proven ancestors with our surname
- or to have close STR or SNP* matches with proven Macleans following Y-DNA testing



The clan's ancestral lands are in the Western Isles of Scotland and nearby parts of the Scottish mainland but clan members ended up in all parts of the world. DNA research also shows that not all Macleans/Maclaines have lineage to the highland clans. The clan's surname MacGille-Eoin references their patronymic "Servant of Saint John" but historically, Gille-Eoin was also a given name which meant "John's lad" or "John's boy" and this surname could have arisen anywhere in Scotland and Ireland as surnames evolved.

For all the different people who call themselves Maclean or any of its different variants the Maclean/MacLaine Y-DNA Surname Project hopes to help them establish their origins by moving beyond clan folklore and using scientific DNA comparison, studies of different haplogroups and subclades, but based on a firm understanding of Celtic kinship and Scottish history.

For new enquiries concerning the Project, the technologies deployed and expectations on what you may accomplish, please direct enquiries to the Administration team on:
macleandnaproject@gmail.com

STR is a Short Tandem Repeat; SNP is a Single Nucleotide Polymorphism

Website: www.familytreedna.com/groups/clanmaclean

The Heritage Trust Bookshop

The Trust has produced a **Map of Scotland** that highlights the history of the Clan Maclean.

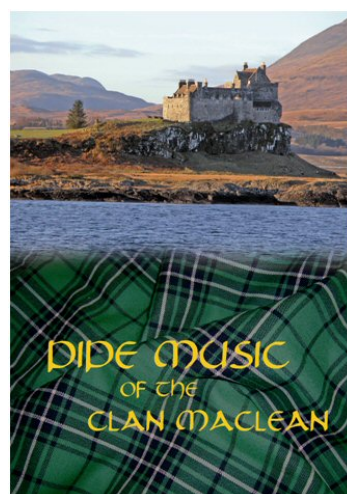


The map, which covers a period of 500 years starting in the mid-13th century, features the sites of castles that have Maclean connections, land areas that the Macleans held for at least some time, and battles. The major battles in which Macleans were involved are all listed, as are many of the more notable clan fights.

Pipe Music of the Clan Maclean, published in 2012, is the first new book of Maclean pipe music to be produced for over 100 years.

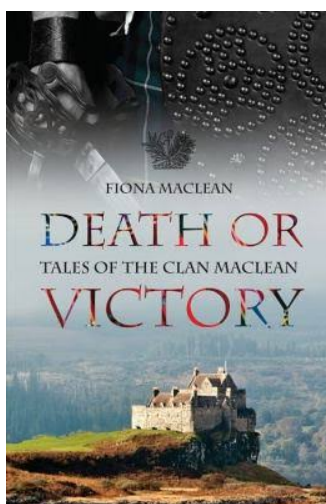
In addition to including a selection of music from the previous publication, David Glen's 1900 collection "The Music of Clan Maclean", this book collects together for the first time a selection of Maclean pipe music composed since then. Some of this more recent music has been composed by Macleans or by members of the septs of the Clan, such as the Beaton, MacFadyens and

Rankins. Other tunes are about individual Macleans or about Maclean lands, such as Mull, Coll, Tiree, Morvern, Ardgour, Muck and Glen Urquhart. The book demonstrates clearly the continuing strength of the Maclean piping tradition.



The map and books can be ordered from our bookshop:
<http://www.macleand.org/heritage-trust/bookshop.php>

- Map: £5
- Death or Victory £7.95
- Piping Book £10
- Maclean Kilties £12.80



Death or Victory, a light-hearted re-telling of twenty-one of the Clan's stories, was commissioned by the Clan Maclean Heritage Trust in memory of Sir Lachlan's first wife Mary, who died in 2007. Proceeds from the sale of the book will go to support further projects that reflect her keen interest in children.

Written by Fiona Maclean of Ardgour, the book traces the story of the Clan from Gillean of the Battleaxe right through until the re-possession of Duart Castle in 1912. The title is a reference to the Clan motto Vincere vel Mori, meaning "Conquer or die", demonstrated all too vividly by the stories of the battles of Harlaw, Inverkeithing and Culloden. Other tales include the story of how the Macleans won their lands

and reveal why visitors may still hear groans from the dungeons at Duart Castle. The book is delightfully illustrated, with twenty cartoons drawn by Brian Turnbull, and includes maps, a glossary of Gaelic words and a date chart.

Macleans at the Edinburgh Tattoo

It was wonderful to see so many of our Friends join the Chief at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo in August.

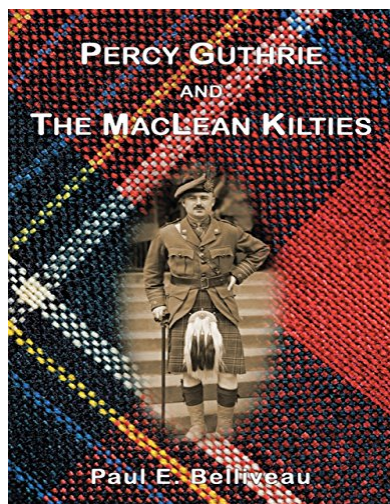


Above: Macleans gather in the top square, before marching through the castle.

Left: The Macleans, together with Clan Broun and Clan Wood, march out of the castle onto the Esplanade

Images: Ian Georgeson Photography

Bookshop (continued)



In June 1915, while lying in No. 2 Canadian Stationary Hospital in France recovering from multiple wounds received at the Battle of Festubert, Major Percy Guthrie heard the pipes and drums of a Scottish battalion as it passed on its way to the front and the idea of forming a kilted battalion in his home province of New Brunswick was conceived.

Percy Guthrie and the MacLean Kilties is the story of the political, military, and financial trials and tribulations Percy Guthrie had to overcome to form his all volunteer Highland Battalion in Fredericton, New Brunswick, which became affectionately known as the "MacLean Kilties". The book details Guthrie's innovative and imaginative clarion "call to arms" to all those with Scottish roots throughout Canada and in the American New England States. The story unfolds with the Kilties' transition from an untrained military unit in Fredericton to a highly skilled military battalion in Camp Seaford, England.

To order a signed copy of the book, please contact the Secretary: cmht@blae.net. Please note that just six signed copies remain.



Clan Maclean Heritage Trust

Trustees

The Very Rev Allan Maclean of Dochgarroch (Chairman)

Sir Lachlan Maclean of Duart and Morvern

Mrs Fiona Maclean of Ardgour

Mr Hector McLean

Mrs Vera MacLean

Mr Ian MacLean (Canada)

Mr Alan McLean (France)

Brigadier John MacFarlane

Mr William Douglas

Trust Representatives

Peter MacLean (Western Australia)

Marcus MacLean (New South Wales)

Pat McClean (Pacific North-West)

Gordon McLean (Clan Maclean Association in Australia Inc.)

Dr Leslie H. McLean (Clan Gillean USA).

Secretary and Treasurer

William Douglas is Secretary of the Clan Maclean Heritage Trust.

Email: cmht@maclean.org

The position of Treasurer lies vacant. The Secretary is the point of contact meantime.

Principal address

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