



Clan Maclean Heritage Trust

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Céad míle fáilte

Welcome to the Spring 2018 issue of the Clan Maclean Heritage Trust's newsletter.

This incorporates

elements of the Chairman's annual report for the financial year 2016/2017, with other news about the Trust and its activities

throughout the world.

In 2017, the Chief retired as the Trust's Chairman. We thank him for his years of service to the Trust.

M^cLeans of Drimnin

It was a wet and stormy day on 21st June 2017 when Friends of the Clan Maclean Heritage Trust visited Drimnin, having travelled on a specially chartered boat from Tobermory.

The Drimnin estate formed part of the ancient Maclean clan territory and the remains of the ancient Maclean castle, which guarded the entrance to the Sound of Mull, can be found alongside the Chapel of St Columba. However, Drimnin passed to the Campbells, along with other Maclean territory, including Mull.



The cairn at Drimnin pier, erected in 1996, commemorating Charles M^cLean of Drimnin

ty for other transactions and unredeemed for decades, if not centuries.

The Earl of Argyll, Chief of Clan Campbell, quietly bought up the Macleans' promissory notes towards the end of the 17th century, prosecuted them through his own courts in Argyllshire and was able to foreclose on all of the Maclean clan lands - and arrive with an army of 2,000 to enforce the law.

The M^cLeans of Drimnin are descended from John Garbh, elder son of John Dubh of Morvern by his third

(Continued on page 4)

The Bank of Scotland opened for business in 1695. Before that, the economy of Scotland depended upon notes of credit from landowners, many passing from hand to hand as securi-

Grants



The Mull Museum, which houses the Heritage Trust archives.

“commemorating and educating the public”

The annual award in memory of Lady Maclean was increased to £100 to help a local choir to go to the Mull and Iona Mod . In 2017, the award was made to Riona's Comunn Gaidhealach Mhuile, the Mod club run by Riona White who lives in Salen.

A grant was also made to the Mull Museum, which maintains the Trust Library and Archives. Friends of the Heritage Trust may access the Archives on request.

The Trustees are in discussions with the Museum over the long term arrangements for the safeguarding of this important element of Maclean heritage.

A grant of £500 was made to support the newly formed Tobermory High School Pipe Band to help them purchase uniforms. which are in Hunting Maclean tartan.

Duart Castle was awarded a grant of £500 to assist with the production of history banners.

A grant of £600 forwards the cost of commemorating and educating the public in the life of a Canadian, Private George Mclean, was made in advance of the commemoration of his role in World War I, held in April 2017.

Among the continuing activities of the Trust is updating the Register of Eminent Macleans; the Trust has also been involved in producing a record of those Macleans who served in the Commonwealth armed forces and who lost their lives during World War I

Although the Trust made no further grants during the year, it put in place significant support for piping in the following financial year, as well as preparing various other projects to coincide with the International Maclean Gathering in June 2017.



Tobermory High School Pipe Band in the Aros Hall

Private George McLean



We reported in the previous edition the story of Private George McLean, who fought in World War I with the Canadian 54th Battalion at the critical battle of Vimy Ridge. He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for his bravery.

Freda McLean, granddaughter of George McLean, and Ian MacLean of the Clan Maclean Heritage Trust, is seen here with the storyboards created for the Nicola Valley Museum and as a travelling exhibit, part funded by the Clan Maclean Heritage Trust.

The photo was taken by Susan Gearing-Edge and is provided courtesy of the Nicola Valley Museum.

Charitable purposes

Our purposes, as recorded in our Deed of Trust, are the promoting and advancing the education of the public in the history, traditions and music of the Clan Maclean.

In furtherance of these purposes the Trust undertakes the following activities:

- (a) it commemorates famous events in the history of the Clan by erecting cairns on relevant sites;
- (b) it records and publicises the significant contributions of Macleans in various fields by installing memorial plaques on buildings associated with them;
- (c) it contributes to the restoration of important buildings associated with the Clan;

it acquires, restores and preserves books and manuscripts about distinguished members of the Clan and its history, and makes them available to the public;

(e) it produces publications, and maintains a website, that educate the public in the history and traditions of the Clan Maclean, as well as promoting other educational activities relating to the history and culture of the Clan;

(f) it funds a piping bursary for young Macleans at the College of Piping in Glasgow; and

(g) it sponsors competitions in the playing and composition of pipe music and in Gaelic choral singing.

The Trust pays particular attention to activities aimed at younger members of the Clan and children generally.

The Trustees are making changes to wording of the Deed to ensure compliance with current regulations.

M^cLeans of Drimnin

(Continued from page 1)

Allan the elder had several siblings, one of whom was also called Allan

The restored tomb of
Alan McLean
'The survivor'



wife, Margaret. Charles MacAllan, as he was known, second son to Allan MacLean of Ardtornish, was the first of Ardnacross. He married Mary, eldest daughter of Allan, seventh MacLean of Ardgour, by whom he had Allan the elder. Charles of Ardnacross purchased Drimnin back from the Duke of Argyll, and he passed it to Allan the elder, now the first of Drimnin.

In due course, Drimnin passed to his grandson, Charles M^cLean of Drimnin, who was killed leading the Macleans at the battle of Culloden in 1746.

In 1745 when Prince Charles Edward Stuart landed in Scotland from France, the Maclean Chief, Sir Hector, was in Edinburgh, where he was arrested by the authorities and sent to London. This did not prevent 500 of the clan under M^cLean of Drimnin joining the rebellion. They were partnered by the Maclauchlans at the centre of the line at the Battle of Culloden and suffered severely.

"While seeking to rally his men, Drimnin was informed by one of his three sons, Ailean, that another, Lachlan, had been killed 'all, do not worry about me. If you value your life, take care of yourself.' Then shouting 'It shall not be for naught,' he rushed without wig or bonnet back into the battle and, encountering two English dragoons, killed one and wounded the other, before being himself cut down."

The Clan Maclean Association, in 1996, erected a cairn at the pier in memory of Charles M^clean of Drimnin. Here a wreath was laid by Nicolas Maclean of Pennycross on behalf of the clan.

Allan, 'The Survivor', returned to Drimnin, where he died in 1792. A tomb was erected in his memory, but the ravages of time resulted in trees growing within the compound and the wall was collapsing. This was repaired and restored in 2017 by the Clan Maclean Heritage Trust in conjunction with the estate, and a short ceremony has held, under umbrellas, during our visit.

The estate was bankrupt, and Allan's son Charles was forced to sell. A succession of short-lived owners, led to the acquisition of the estate by Sir Charles Gordon in 1835 for the sum of £5,000. Sir Charles was a leading Edinburgh lawyer and President of the Royal Scottish Agricultural Society.

(Continued on page 5)

Drimnin(continued)

The Gordon descendants struggled on until the Second World War but gave up in 1943, selling the estate to Miss Alice Horsman. The Horsman family cared for the estate until its sale to the current owners, the Lewis family, in 2002. It was they who were our hosts.



Friends of the Clan Maclean Heritage Trust gathered to witness the laying of a wreath by Nicolas Maclean of Pennycross at the cairn commemorating Charles M^cLean, who was killed leading the clan at Culloden in 1746,

Photographs above and below by Rhonda Newsham



Alan M^cLean's tomb before the trees were cut and the wall repaired (above) and as it is today (right)



Footnote:

Harry Aubrey de Vere Maclean, 'The Kaid', was the great-great grandson of Lt-Col Charles M^cLean of Drimnin who led the Clan at the Battle of Culloden in 1746. He was one of 12 children.

Ardgour
Coll
Dochgarroch
Duart
Kingairloch
Lochbuie

Drimnin
Dunconnel
Torloisk
Pennycross

The Six Maclean Families

The Clan Maclean's early history is still rather a puzzle and it is certainly not as simple as the old clan histories suggest. The amount of research, however, that is going on into that era and the realisation that chiefship did not always go to the eldest son, means that it may soon be possible to come to some firm conclusions about the Maclean descent.

What is certain is that, through the centuries, since early days, there have been six chiefly families in the clan; three descend from Lachlan Lubanach and three from Hector Reaganach.

There were, of course, over the centuries, other prominent Maclean families, such as the M'Leans of Drimnin, the Macleans of Torloisk and the Macleans of Pennycross, and they all connect in some way with one of the six principal families.

To show how the six families were probably connected in the early days, the following chart may be useful. Some dates are included. They are from contemporary characters, to give some idea of how the people fit into historical time.

The family of Maclean of Dunconnel was recognised as one of the chiefly branches of the Clan Maclean, by Lord Maclean of Duart and Morvern, in 1980.

The present Chiefs are:-

ARDGOUR: Robin Maclean of Ardgour (Ardgour)

COLL: In abeyance.

DOCHGARROCH: The Very Reverend Allan Maclean of Dochgarroch (Glen Urquhart).

DUART: Sir Lachlan Maclean of Duart and Morvern (Duart).

DUNCONNEL: Sir Charles Maclean of Dunconnel (Strachur).

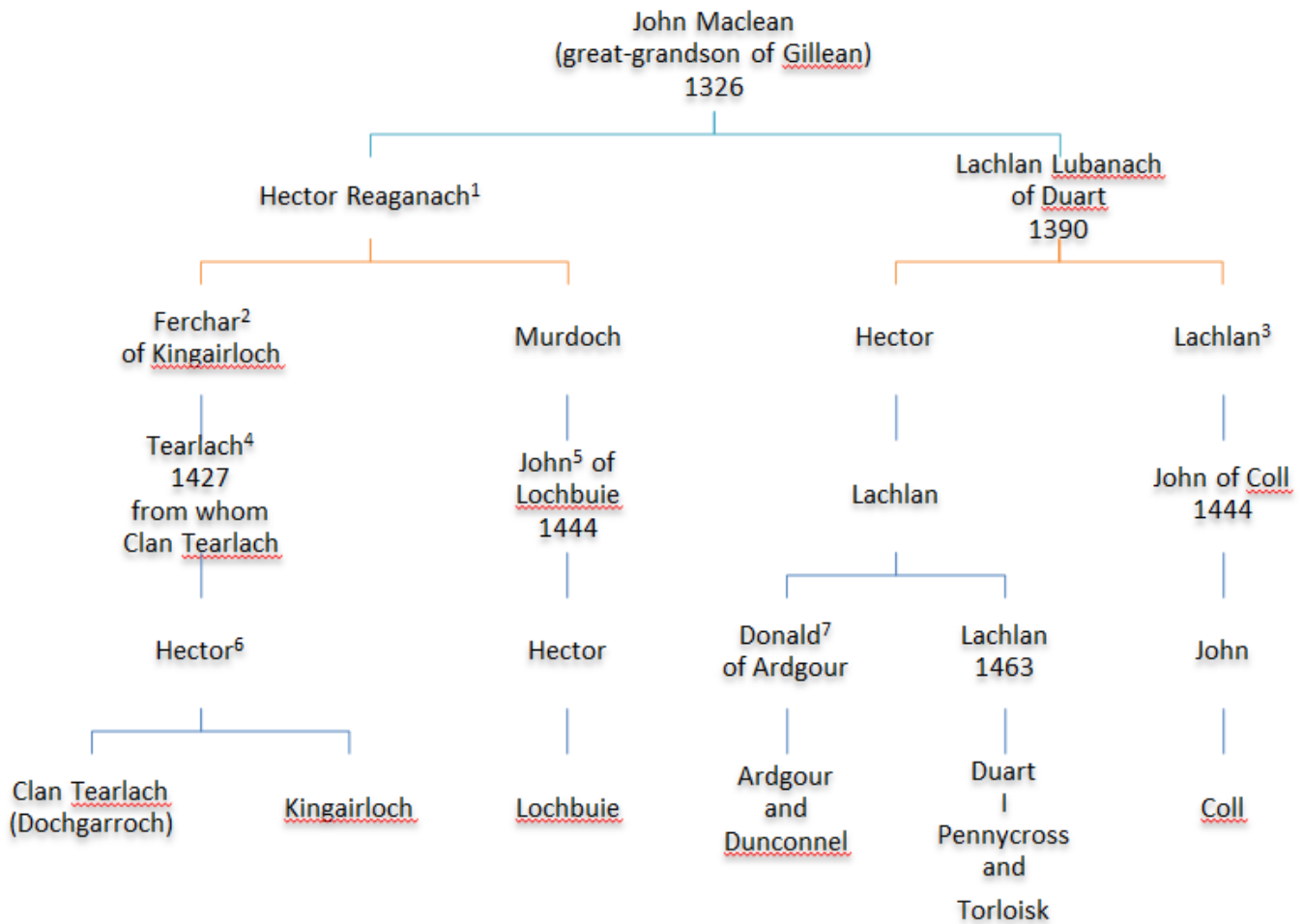
KINGAIRLOCH: Dr Malcolm Maclean of Kingairloch (Massachusetts).

LOCHBUIE: Lorne MacLaine of Lochbuie (South Africa).

PENNYCROSS: Nicolas Maclean of Pennycross.

TORLOISK: Richard Compton Maclean of Torloisk.

This article has been adapted from one which first appeared in an Association newsletter in 1984.



1. From the dates, it appears that Hector was the elder son, but Lachlan made the better marriage.
2. Ferchar was clearly the son by a first marriage. Ardgour tradition calls him 'of Kingairloch'.
3. This Lachlan is now suggested as the father of John of Coll, 1444.
4. Tearlach, after whom the Macleans of the North are called Clan Tearlach.
5. John is the first to be recorded 'of Lochbuie' (Kinlochbuie) in 1444.
6. This family split in two with Hector's grandchildren, one family remaining in the north and settling at Dochgarroch, and the other retaining Kingairloch.
7. Donald was the son of Lachlan by Margaret, daughter of Ferchar of Kingairloch.



The Chief, with his son and grandson on the steps of Duart.

Nurse Rena Maclean



Nurse Rena Maclean was killed when a hospital ship was sunk in 1918.

Rena Maud McLean of Souris, Pince Edward Island, who served in such places as Salonika in the Mediterranean Theatre of the First World War died when the hospital ship on which she was returning to Canada was sunk. The nurses were specially chosen to serve in the Canadian Army Medical Corps during the war. The conditions which they worked in were so bad that "By the summer of 1917 there was such a hue and cry in Canada about having nurses working in such hardship that all the nurses were recalled to England." It was after this that Rena then began nursing on medical ships that carried the wounded back to Halifax, Canada. Even though medical ships were well marked, her ship was sunk by an enemy submarine off the coast of Ireland.

The Heritage Trust is supporting the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of her death and with the production of storyboards.

Friends of the Heritage Trust

The number of Friends in the year to 31st March 2017 was 96, of whom 6 are honorary. The Friends' subscriptions help the finances of

the Trust, and it is intended to try to increase their number in the coming year, not least through an event on Mull at the International Gather-

ing. A newsletter is produced to keep them informed of the Trust's activities. Editors note: numbers did indeed increase during 2017.

The Sir Fitzroy Donald Maclean Bursary Fund

The Sir Fitzroy Donald Maclean Bursary Fund (FDM) was established in 1930 to allow young people to continue with their higher education at school, when family finances would otherwise have meant that

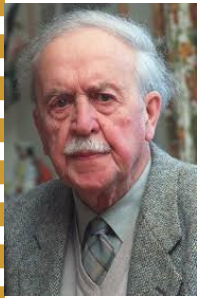
they had to go out to work.

By the 1980s and 1990s these objectives (which had been slightly amended) could no longer be fulfilled and consideration was given to winding up the FDM

Fund. It was decided instead to transfer the money in the Fund to the newly established Heritage Trust.

The Heritage Trust now administers this fund as part of its work promoting the clan's heritage.

Duart Castle, 1992



Sorley MacLean (Scottish Gaelic: Somhairle MacGill-Eain; 26 October 1911 – 24 November 1996) was one of the most significant Scottish poets of the 20th century. He wrote about love, heartbreak, the Cuillin, the Spanish Civil War, Hugh MacDiarmid, communism and nationalism, often several in the same poem. And he wrote about Duart Castle.

For Sir Lachlan Maclean of Duart on the 80th anniversary of the restoration of the Castle

Five years after Culloden
the secret information that reaches London
about the state and spirit of every clan
was that the Clan Maclean was rash and proud
with no great prudence of their worldly state,
with a boast that they never turned their backs
on enemies even ten times their number:
the Spartans of the North.

Duart Castle was then
a ruin with broken walls,
and its lord an exile, as was his father,
its company scattered,
with no gathering of the host in Aros,
except what was in the mouths of seanachaidhs
about the deeds of Lachlan Mor and Hector Roy;
where Donald Glas's body fell
and what Maclean of Boreray said on Leac an Li.

Duart Castle a ruin
for more than two hundred years,
and Mull going under sheep,
bracken, rushes and heather.

The Maclean chiefs unfortunate
in the eyes of the world.
but fortunate in the fame of generations:
that they never cleared tenantry from Mull,
from Morvern or from Tiree.
or from Iona.
or from any other place.

Duart Castle restored
by a generous and brave chief,
as was his grandson after him
from what I heard
from a brave Skyeman who was with him
in the last great war,
and from many another mouth.

Therefore the Castle of Duart
is young in its eighty years
and stainless from the generations
of three hundred years,
scoured from every blemish
left on any old building.

Sorley Maclean, 1992

Financial report



Income

The income for the Trust for the year ending 31st March 2017 is £3,415 compared to income of £10,485 in the year to 31st March 2016. This decrease represents a fall in donations.

The income from trading receipts was reduced as the sales of Death or Victory - Tales of the Clan Maclean and the clan maps have fallen in line with expectations.

Reserves

In April 2016, £20,000 was transferred to deposit accounts. The result for the year ending 31st March 2017 was a surplus of £978 compared with a surplus of £9,161 for the year ending 31st March 2016. The Trustees are confident that the Trust is in a sound financial state for the funding of future projects.

A copy of the accounts is available upon request.

Trust Representatives

Trust Representatives are appointed to represent the Trust in those Associations in which the Trust is not represented by a Trustee.

The role of a Trust Representative is to assist the Trust in the achievement of its objectives by:

- (a) Recruiting new Friends, encouraging donations and legacies, and promoting the sale of Trust books, maps and other merchandise, thus generating revenue for the Trust enabling new projects to be undertaken.
- (b) Identifying suitable projects in which the Trust could become involved, including watching for endangered Maclean heritage where protective action may be required.

The Trust Representatives

Peter MacLean (Western Australia),
 Marcus MacLean (New South Wales),
 Pat McClean (Pacific North-West),
 Gordon McLean (Clan Maclean Association in Australia)
 Dr. Leslie H. McLean (Clan Gillean USA)

Representing the
 Trust around the
 world

Macleans on Iona

Friends of the Heritage Trust were amongst those that travelled to Iona during the International Gathering last year. I, however, made my pilgrimage later in the year with a group from my church, when we stayed in the abbey. No trip to Iona would be complete for me without an examination of the Maclean connection.

J. P. MacLean's *A History of the Clan MacLean from Its First Settlement at Duard Castle* tells us *'the first positive evidence of the connection of the MacLeans with Iona, we have, is in the charter from Donald, Lord of the Isles, to Lachlan MacLean of Duard, under date of July 12, 1390, in which the latter is given the "Oibcium Fragamanache et Armanache in insula de Hy."* It would appear from this that the keeping of the island was given to Duard, with the title of Armanach. *Frag* means woman, and *man'ache* means monk. This does not give actual possession, but the interests of the monks and nuns were placed



under his care or jurisdiction.

Duard does not appear to have gained possession until 1571, when Mary Nikillean (doubtless Mary McClane) Prioress, with the consent of the convent, granted the lands which belonged to it in heritage to Hector McClane of Dowarde. The lands belonging to the nunnery lay in the isles of Mull, Inch Kenneth, Tiree, Canna, Coll, Skye, and Uist.' W.H.S.D.



Left: Said to be where a 'Maclean of Dowart' (Duart) is interred. That this warrior should be placed in front of the abbey's high altar is testament to his importance .

Centre: Maclean's Cross, where pilgrims filing up from the boats stopped to say a prayer on their way to Iona Abbey and St Columba's Shrine.

Right: Upper part of a grave marker for Prioress Anna Maclean, in the abbey museum,; she died in 1543.



Clan Maclean Heritage Trust

Trustees

Current Trustees

Very Rev Allan Maclean of Dochgarroch (Chairman)
Hon. Sir Lachlan Maclean of Duart and Morvern (Past Chairman)
Mrs Fiona Maclean of Ardgour
Mr Hector McLean
Mrs Vera MacLean
Mr Ian MacLean (Canada)
Mr Alan McLean (France)

Other Trustees who served during the year

Mr Nigel Alington LVO
who retired in March 2017

Judge Sandra McLean (USA)
Mr Noel Robinson (New Zealand),
whose term of office expired in June 2017.

Secretary and Treasurer

William Douglas has continued as Secretary of the Clan Maclean Heritage Trust.

The work of Treasurer has undertaken by William Douglas, supported by Nigel Alington.

Principal address

The Gables, Station Road, Balfron, Glasgow G63 0SX

The Clan Maclean Heritage Trust is a Scottish Charity, Registered No: SC024481