



# Clan Maclean Heritage Trust

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## Céad míle fáilte

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The Clan Maclean Heritage Trust has, in common with the rest of the world, been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Some of these are outlined within this newsletter. Nonetheless, it has

been heart warming to hear of clansmen and women maintaining contact and coming up with ideas to further the traditions and heritage of Clan Maclean, including a virtual whisky tasting!

The Trustees are investigating, with the Clan Maclean Association, an interim arrangement to fill the void left by the postponed International Gathering, and we hope to have details of this with you soon.

## Hero of Matagorda medals auctioned

An outstanding collection of medals awarded to General Sir Archibald Maclaine, K.C.B., the 'Hero of Matagorda', and his brothers have sold at auction for an amazing £104,780. They had been expected to sell for up to £40,000.

Archibald Maclaine was born on 13 January 1777, 2nd son of Gillean Maclaine of Scallasdale, himself the illegitimate son of John Maclaine, laird of Lochbuie, and a twin with his brother Murdoch, later a Captain in the 20th Foot and the only British officer to be killed at the battle of Maida, 6 July 1806.



Medals awarded to General Sir Archibald Maclaine, K.C.B., the 'Hero of Matagorda'.

His youngest brother John became a Major in the 73rd Foot and was killed in action at the battle of Waterloo; whilst his fourth brother, Hector, served with the 57th Foot in the Peninsula, won a Gold Medal at the battle of Nivelle and became a Colonel.

The family has longstanding links with Thornbury, in Gloucestershire, as well as the Isle of Mull.

The Heritage Trust had earlier attempted to buy Maclean of Penny-cross medals, but was outbidded.

# Black's Harbour: Discovering a Trust Project

Contributed by Ian MacLean (Trustee)

The Clan Maclean Heritage Trust is always looking for meaningful projects that are important, and interesting to Macleans, and sept members from around the world. Many of these present themselves. For example, even those with only a nodding acquaintance with Maclean history will have heard of the battle cry "Another for Hector", and know that it came from the slaughter of many clansmen at the battle of Inverkeithing. Most of us have heard of Bonnie Prince Charlie, and know the Macleans played a part in "the 45", - so commemorating Maclean involvement in such events is easy to understand.



Black's Harbour  
c1930

However many important projects are not so widely known. One such is happening right now. The Trust, at its last meeting in September 2020, approved their support of a project which will commemorate the critical and positive influence of two McLean brothers, and others from the same family, in both developing a town, and an industry, in New Brunswick, a province of Canada. Why is this noteworthy? Well for one thing, they then maintained the town and the business, - more importantly the workers and the inhabitants, through the "dirty thirties". Not many businessmen did that.

How did it come to the notice, and eventual approval of the Trust?

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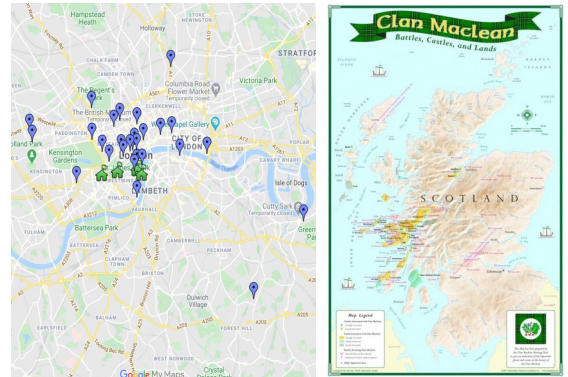
# Maclean maps

Some years ago, an interactive map was produced of locations in London associated with Clan Maclean. The Heritage Trust would like to build on this with a map of Mull, which would be of benefit particularly during International Gatherings.

We are seeking a volunteer who would be willing to take this forward. Please contact the Secretary.

To see the London map, do a web search for “Clan Maclean London Google map”

The Maclean map of Scotland (far right) can be ordered on the Heritage Trust Bookshop page of [www.maclean.org](http://www.maclean.org)



## 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.

The Trustees are making changes to the wording of the Deed to ensure compliance with current legislation. However, the aims and spirit will remain the same. 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;
- (d) 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.

## Black's Harbour - continued

*(Continued from page 2)*

Sometimes the stars just have to line up. My friend Doug McLean, a stalwart of our Association (Clan Maclean Atlantic), had mentioned that his family while originally from the Isle of Rum, via Cape Breton, had strong ties to a village in New Brunswick called Black's Harbour. I didn't think much about that, only being vaguely aware of where the village was, until one day he mentioned the family's involvement with sardines. That rang a bell with me.

Doug McLean, a stalwart of Clan Maclean Atlantic, who has strong ties with Black's Harbour, mentioned the family's involvement with sardines.

I remembered my Dad, who had been a travelling salesman in the middle of the century, talking about a town that was run by Macleans. They were good customers of his and he took great pride in

them being MacLeans. I remember he always brought back lots of cans of sardines. He and I loved the sardines. My mother not so much! I wondered if it could be the same town.

Doug enthusiastically told me that it was, and then more about the influence of the two Maclean brothers in saving that town. Might be an interesting story for our newsletter. I pressed Doug for more information about it, but in his usual reticent way, he referred me to his "Uncle" Edward, also a member of our association, but not known to me personally. Edward, it turns out, was the last McLean to have a major role in the story. The plot thickened.

The influence and positive role of the family started to unfold. Doug sent me a story, published by Macleans magazine, Canada's national journal, in the mid 50's about this remarkable family. This really whetted my appetite. It turns out the brothers had been lifelong close friends of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and had been widely recognized, one being given an honorary Doctorate, and the other being made a Senator representing New Brunswick. The more I learned, clearly the more important the story was, for many people, but certainly for Macleans.



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Maybe this should be a project for the Trust, - despite the fact that I had sworn that I had been involved in enough such projects. Before going any further, it obviously was important to contact people from Black's Harbour. I got a couple of contacts from Edward, (who by now had purchased a book written about FDR by one of the brothers, - more information!), and pressed on. Both the Village Council and the local museum were very keen on commemorating the very important role of the McLeans. I was hooked. The family wanted to proceed, as did the village. After one lukewarm reception from the Trust, - I have to admit that sardines don't have the same sex appeal as battleaxes and the like, - I was able to better present the story on my second attempt, and the Trust bought in, and we are a go.



Dr. Allan (left) and Senator Neil McLean (right) owned Black's Harbour for more than 30 years. Centre: Capt. Syd Thompson.

To whet your appetite for the story, here is one paragraph (from my presentation to the Trust) about how the McLeans dealt with the depression: *"The acid test for the McLeans, - from the standpoint of the fishermen and the staff, came in the early thirties. The McLeans said "If anybody goes broke, then we will all go broke together." They packed fish that they couldn't sell, and simply stored it; they built new and better bungalows; they extended the cannery; they built boats, and did other make work projects. They exhausted their personal and company reserves, but the town (now of 2,000 people) and the company survived. They could say through the depression that no one in their town had drawn government relief, or missed a meal! Neil, was a friend of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and clearly was influenced by his progressive thinking. In fact he wrote the book about his good friend FDR."*

Despite the pandemic, the partnership intends to research the history more thoroughly, find suitable pictures, and put together a storyboard that will be placed in the Museum to tell this story to any and all who might be interested. As importantly, to remind Macleans worldwide, that clannishness, and looking after others, is as much a Maclean trait as is our fighting spirit.

\* The village of Black's Harbour is located in Southwestern New Brunswick, on the North shore of the Bay of Fundy, approximately 44 miles southwest of the city of Saint John and 35 miles east of the United States border. The village occupies approximately 1394 acres in Charlotte County, a land characterized by rock outcrops, numerous low-lying areas and an irregular drainage pattern. The terrain is rugged with elevations ranging from sea-level to 950 feet above sea-level just north of Black's Harbour. The rocky island dotted shores of the Bay of Fundy along the coast of Charlotte County are a favourite feeding ground for small herring known as sardines.

# Macleans of Loch Lomond

How the Macleans came to settle on the 'Bonnie Banks' is open to conjecture, but the earliest recorded foray by 'maurauding Highlanders' in 1439 seems unlikely to have been the progenitors of the Macleans of Loch Lomond.



Inchmurrin  
Castle

*In 1439, Lachlan Bronnach exhibited a warlike character. James II was then on the throne, and engaged in practicing dissimulation among his nobles, who were contesting with one another, each engaged in accomplishing his self-purposes. " The people were afflicted by almost every scourge which could be let loose upon a devoted country: by internecine feuds, by a severe famine, and by a wide-spread and deadly pestilence. The fierce inhabitants of the Western*

*Isles, under the command of Lachlan MacLean and Murdoch Gibson, two leaders notorious for their spoliations and murders, broke in upon the continent; and, not content with the devastation of the coast, pushed forward into the heart of the Lennox, where they slew (on the island of Inchmurrin, Loch Lomond) Colquhoun of Luss in open battle, and reduced the whole district to the state of a blackened and depopulated district." (A history of the Clan MacLean, J.P. MacLean, p.45, quoting Tytler's History of Scotland) (Comment: Lachlan Bronnach and Lachlan MacLean are likely one and the same.)*

The suggestion that the Macleans did not 'arrive' in the area, but adopted the name following the purging of the MacGregors is without substantiation but is a possibility as the clan was notorious for their actions in the area.

*It was ordained that the name of MacGregor should be abolished and that the whole persons of that name should renounce their name and take some other name and that they nor none of their name and that they nor none of their posterity should call themselves Gregor or MacGregor under pain of death ... that any person or persons of the said clan who has already renounced their names or hereafter shall renounce their names or if any of their children or posterity shall at any time hereafter assume or take to themselves the*

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*name of Gregor or MacGregor ... that every such person or persons assuming or taking to themselves the said name ... shall incur the pain of death which pain shall be executed upon them without favour.* (Translated into modern English from an Act of the Scottish Parliament from 1617)

The earliest documented 'Maclean of Loch Lomond' is Robert McLean born in 1774/5, who married Jean, born in 1778, daughter of John McFarlane. Robert's father, William, may have been born in Kippen, Stirlingshire, making Robert the first Balmaha McLean. However, William, and his wife Mary McGrigor, are both buried in Buchanan Churchyard, which serves Balmaha, he latter on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1773.

Modern-day Balmaha, situated on the south-east bank of Loch Lomond, is surrounded by 10,000 acres of the Montrose or Buchanan Estates, owned by the Duke of Montrose, which throws up an interesting link. The Macleans were an important part of the Marquis of Montrose's army that won the Battle of Kilsyth in 1645. The army passed through Kippen on its way to the confrontation with the Covenanters.

My knowledge of who was involved is a bit hazy, but Maclean of Treshnish, the "Captain of Cairnburg"\* was commended for his actions. The Macleans of Ardgour and Brolas were also among those who formed Montrose's army. Perhaps one of these made a liaison in Kippen and returned after the battle?

Or perhaps a Maclean remained in Stirlingshire following the Battle of Sheriffmuir in 1715? In the 1715 rising, the Macleans fought at Sheriffmuir under their Chief Sir John Maclean of Duart. The battle has been declared a draw though both sides proclaimed themselves victorious. Strong forces of Hanoverian supporters in the Highlands made it difficult for the Macleans to make their way home after the battle. Perhaps not all did.

One such was an ancestor of the Macleans of Plantation, merchants and bailies of Glasgow, and founding office bearers of the Clan Maclean Association, now represented by Marcus MacLean, Australia,



Rob Roy MacGregor

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\* Cairnburg is now usually termed Carnaburg

## Macleans of Loch Lomond (Continued)

*(Continued from page 7)*

who claim descent from a clansman in the Buchanan/Drymen district, who is said by family tradition to have settled there after escaping from the Battle of Inverkeithing in 1651, or perhaps Kilsyth, 1645, and who did not get back to the west.

Another early arrival was Malcolm McLean, 1771-1860, a tailor from Lochgoilhead, who settled at Alexandria, beside Loch Lomond. He was the grandfather of John MacLane, Governor of New Hampshire from 1905 to 1907.

But, if we do not know with any certainty about the first Maclean of Loch Lomond's ancestors, we do something about their descendants. Robert and Jean McLean had seven children, four of whom we know provided grandchildren.

In 2009, The Clan Maclean Heritage Trust placed a plaque dedicated to Archibald Lang McLean in Sydney University, Australia in 2009. Archibald (Archie) Lang McLean was born in Balmain, Sydney in 1885. A great-grandson of Robert and Jean, he was the son of Duncan McLean (1818-1898) of Balmaha, Stirlingshire. He, with his aunt Jean, went to Australia in 1853. Archie had married Elizabeth (1820- ) daughter of Peter McNab, a physician in Balmaha.



Plaque erected by the Heritage Trust in Sydney University

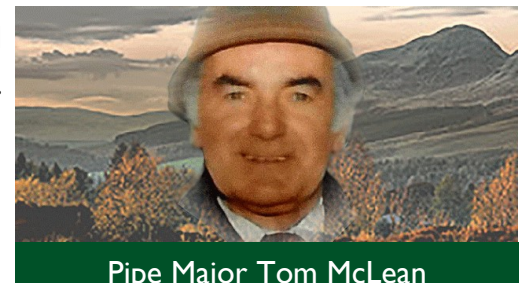
Archibald Lang Mclean (1885-1922) was Chief Medical Officer under Douglas Mawson for the first Australian Expedition to Antarctica in 1910. McLean's scientific findings during the expedition have formed the basis of much further research in Antarctica. When Mawson, Ninnis and Mertz were lost in Antarctica, McLean remained behind to search for the party. He was a gifted writer and his collaboration with Mawson towards 'Home of the Blizzard' created a work of inspiration for all

*(Continued on page 9)*

those interested in Antarctic exploration and adventure.

Archie was awarded the Military Cross for his service in France during World War I, first in the Royal Army Medical Corps and then in the Australian Army Medical Corps. He returned to Australia, where he was appointed Medical Officer at the Red Cross War Chest Farm Colony in Beelbangara, New South Wales. He died in 1922 of an illness contracted during the war and is buried in the Gore Hill Memorial Cemetery where there is an impressive family monument.

A more recent connection is Pipe Major Tom McLean, who died in 2018. Tom founded the Strathendrick Pipe Band in the 1940's. The band was affiliated to 'S' Company of the Home Guard and during its early days was kitted out in the Black Watch tartan and army tunics and was subsequently swallowed up as an Army band. Following the end of the Second World War it returned



Pipe Major Tom McLean

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BBC Masterchef winner and the first National Chef of Scotland Gary Maclean donned his chef whites and a kilt on the banks of Loch Lomond as part of his commitment to raise the profile of Scotch beef and other quality Scottish produce.



The MacLean brothers, Jamie, Ewan and Lachlan who make up team BROAR, were the first three brothers to row any ocean when they took on the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge, seen here during training on Loch Lomond.

## Financial report



### Income:

The income for the Trust for the year ending 31st March 2020 is £6,533, compared to £4,692 in the year to the 31st March 2019. This increase is partly due to additional income from Friends subscriptions and partly the result of an increase in sales through the Heritage Trust bookshop.

### Expenditure:

The increase in sales has a corresponding increase in printing costs. However, a significant feature of the year has been legal costs associated with the revision of the Trust's governing documentation.

### Reserves:

The result for the year ending 31st March 2020 was a deficit of £1,279 compared with a surplus of £1,090 for the year ending 31st March 2019. The Trustees are confident that the Trust is in a sound financial state with sufficient reserves for the funding of future projects.

## Macleans of Loch Lomond (Continued)

*(Continued from page 9)*



again to being called Strathendrick Pipe Band Association with Tom MacLean again as Pipe Major. The tartan now worn by the band is the Ancient Maclean of Duart and the band sports the Maclean of Duart crest on its regalia.

The Strathendrick Pipe Band plays in competitions, at Highland Games and in the villages around Loch Lomond. 2020, however, has not been a good year for the band as their activities have been severely restricted by the Covid-19 public health emergency.

Macleans play an active part in the community, and one, Anna MacLean, is Head of Communications at Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority. So our natural heritage is in good hands.

Contributed by William Douglas

## Grants

The Heritage Trust has over the past three years been making grants to the Argyll Piping Trust to further the piping skills of young learners throughout Mull. The current public health emergency has curtailed the programme, but more than 60 benefitted from lessons held in Tobermory, Dervaig, Salen, Loch Don and Bunessan. This Trust project has now run its course.

The Trust also supports young Gaelic singers through the Lady Mary Fund making grants to junior choirs at the Ardnamurchan and Mull Mòds.

The planned piping bursary providing specialist

week long tuition for a young piper had to be postponed, also because of the Covid-19 pandemic. We hope that circumstances will allow it to proceed in 2021.

There were no heritage projects completed during the year to which grants have been made, although funding has been allocated for future programmes, including Black's Harbour and Kilnave Church.

We have continued our support for the Mull Museum, in Tobermory, which houses the Heritage Trust archives.

## 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.

**Representing the  
Trust around the  
world**

### The Trust Representatives

Peter MacLean (Western Australia),

Marcus MacLean (New South Wales),

Pat McClean (Pacific North-West),

Gordon MacLean (Clan Maclean Association in Australia)



# Clan Maclean Heritage Trust

## 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 (Re-appointed March 2020)  
Mrs Anne Maclean of Dochgarroch (Appointed October 2019)  
Brigadier John Macfarlane  
Mr William Douglas  
Mr Ian MacLean (Canada)  
Mr Alan McLean (France)  
Mr Mark Myers (California)  
Mr Peter Maclean Docherty

## Secretary and Treasurer

William Douglas has continued as Secretary of the Clan Maclean Heritage Trust.  
The work of Treasurer has been undertaken by William Douglas.

## Trustees' Meetings

Meetings of the Trustees of the Clan Maclean Heritage Trust are usually held in Glasgow. twice-yearly. and on Mull during the International Gathering. However, our September 2020 meeting was held 'virtually' enabling Mark Myres to join us from California. This technological development may well impact on the future governance arrangements for the Trust and are warmly welcomed.

### Principal address

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