



THE GREEN BANNER

NEWSLETTER

Clan Macpherson Association Canadian Branch

Vol. 8 Number 3

September 2014

NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS

By Chantal McPherson, Registrar



Summer greetings Dear CMA Members

Even though fall weather seems to have arrived early, I hope all of you have enjoyed a good summer.

Welcome to four new annual members: Victoria MacPherson-Blencoe and her husband Robin Blencoe of Essex ON, who made the trip together to Scotland this summer to attend the Gathering, Donald W. MacPherson of Norwich ON, and William McNaught of Thornhill ON. William signed up at the Georgetown Highland Games and immediately helped out at other games in Ontario. Keep up the good work Bill!

I would also like to welcome back Dr. Brian Macpherson of Winnipeg, MB, who has rejoined us after a brief absence.

We have twelve annual members who did not renew for 2014. I have asked our Provincial Councilors to call these people to find out their intentions or reasons for not renewing.

Unfortunately, I must report two additions to the "Legion of the Lost" which appears on page 4. I hope some of you will have some information so we can contact these members.

You can still register for the Ottawa Gathering. If you hurry. See you soon!

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Irene and I have just returned from a memorable trip to Scotland. We attended the Association Gathering in Badenoch, renewing old acquaintances and meeting new cousins from all over the world. We had a marvellous time, a tremendous reminder of what a great extended Macpherson family we belong to. Cluny and family along with many cousins at the Gathering send their warm best wishes to the Canadian Branch.

I was very pleased and proud to report to the AGM at the Gathering that there were 16 Canadian Branch members in attendance: Past Branch Chairman Bob & Marlene Archibald, Vice Chair Jacqueline & daughter Jamie, Ken Gillis (our treasurer) and wife Ella, Bob Archibald (Honorary Secretary) & wife Sondra, Ed Smith (Councillor-at-large), plus new members Robin Blencoe & wife Victoria MacPherson Blencoe plus Duart Munro Letford & wife Beverly McPherson Letford, and last but not least our USA dual member Donna McPherson Rucks (Chicago). Our other USA member Stuart MacPherson had planned to be there also but had to cancel his trip at the last minute for medical reasons. I am pleased to advise that reports suggest Stuart is on the mend and we wish him a full and speedy recovery to full health. See "An Extra-Special Gathering on Page 3.

I also reported that Canadian Branch sponsorship (on behalf of the Association) continues, and that we now sponsor two wildcats at the Highland Wildlife Park in Kingussie. Past Chairman Bob Archibald during his trip to Scotland visited the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland and picked up the sponsorship certificate which was handed over for display in the Clan Museum. Further details of the wildcat sponsorship can be found later in the newsletter at page 5.

The Clan Museum continues to struggle financially and at the AGM a new initiative was rolled out "The Friends of the Clan Macpherson Museum". We will distribute details on this program in the near future but in the meantime, if anyone has an immediate interest, please get in touch and I can provide some information.

Our Branch fundraiser on behalf of the museum is proving very successful. (see "Jac and Bill Went Up the Hill" on page 5) I wish to take this opportunity to thank the sponsors for their support. Others who may wish to participate in this project can still do so.

I trust your summer has been relaxing and enjoyable. Irene joins me in sending best wishes to all branch members and your families and we look forward to seeing many of you in Ottawa.

Yours Aye, Bill Macpherson, Mississauga

TREASURER'S CORNER

By Ken Gillis Honorary Treasurer



The Branch continues in good shape financially as of the end of July. We have \$9,116 in our current account and \$11,010 in our Life Membership Fund.

I remitted our membership fees to Clan Macpherson Association to the end of July. I am not expecting any large expenses until our annual Gathering, where the plan is for revenue and expenses to be equal.

The really big news is the excellent level of support that was given to Bill Macpherson and Jacqueline Murdoch as they did the Creag Dhubh Hill Run at the Newtonmore Highland Games during the Gathering in Badenoch in support of the Clan Macpherson Museum. They raised \$1400 by the time the race was over.

BRUCE GILLIS RECEIVES RECOGNITION

Earlier this year, Bruce Gillis, our Councillor for Nova Scotia, was made an Honorary Life Member of the Nova Scotia Land Surveyors Association at their AGM. This is the professional body governing the practice of surveying in the province.

Bruce was recognized for his 35 years of service as the Barrister's Society's representative on the surveyors Board of Examiners, which sets the qualifications and approves the applications for licensing members to practice surveying in this province.

Well-done Bruce!

THE GREEN BANNER

Published three to four times each year to bring news to the members of the Canadian Branch of the Clan Macpherson Association.

RGM Macpherson CM, KStJ, **Honorary Chairman**

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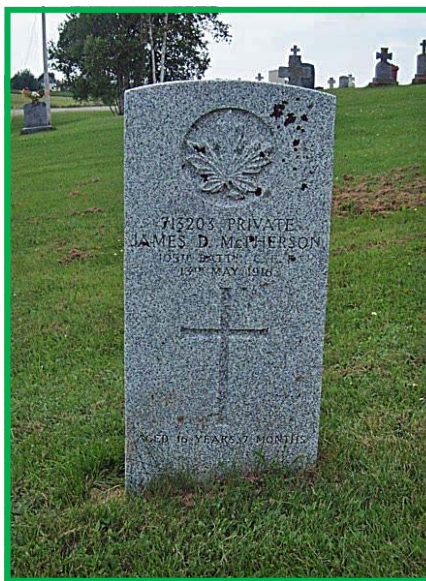
By Ewen S.L. MacPherson



According to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission database, one of the youngest Canadian servicemen to die during the Great War was Private James D. McPherson, aged 15. He served with the 105th Canadian Infantry Battalion (Prince Edward Island Highlanders) CEF.

The Museum Canadian Great War Project reveals that James was born 29 September 1900 at Peakes Station, Prince Edward Island, and his next of kin was his father, David McPherson of Launching, Prince Edward Island. He enlisted in the army on the 10 March 1916 but sadly died of illness on the 13 May 1916. His former occupation is shown as labourer. The religion of James is recorded as Roman Catholic and he is buried in St. George's Roman Catholic Cemetery, Prince Edward Island.

The Commonwealth War Graves database details his parents as James and Mary T. McPherson of Georgetown, Prince Edward Island and that he died of measles. However, a research note on the Canadian Great War Project shows that the 1911 census for Prince Edward Island has a Daniel or David McPherson, born September 1900, to James and Mary Ann McPherson. In the transcribed 1911 census the name is listed as David McPherson. On page 130 of the First World War Book of Remembrance in the Memorial Chamber of the Peace Tower in Ottawa he is shown as "Pte. James Daniel McPherson 105th Bn."



James McPherson grave marker located in PEI

three years in order to enlist in the army.

If any member of the Canadian Branch has additional information concerning young James who lost his life at the age of 16 years and 7 months or of his family, please get in touch with me through the Clan Museum.

The army attestation papers for James gives his date of birth as the 29 September 1897. According to the research note on the Canadian War Project website, "the mother's first name matches, the father's name matches, the month of birth matches and the religion matches". So it would seem that young James advanced his age by

AN EXTRA-SPECIAL GATHERING

By Jacqueline Murdoch, Branch Vice-Chair



This summer I had the pleasure to return to Scotland to attend the Clan Macpherson Gathering held every year on the first weekend in August in Newtonmore and Kingussie in Badenoch. It was a lovely return as I was able to reacquaint myself with old friends, and because I brought with me my youngest child

Jamie who had never been to Scotland.

Jamie and I arrived in Kingussie on July 31st and had dinner with a few members from the US Branch, including Jean Macpherson Duffy, CMA Vice Chair, and her husband. It was a relaxed start to what would be a very busy weekend.

The Highland Ball was fabulous. There were several Canadians in attendance as noted in the "Message from the Chairman" in this issue. The Ball was very memorable for Jamie who had been introduced to all of the under 24 crowd, and was whirled around the dance floor the entire evening. The highlight for me was Cluny and Lady Hilary getting up on the dance floor with their entire family to dance.

After the AGM on Saturday, everyone connected at the Highland Games where the men were piped-in to the field and greeted by Cluny, and Sir Tommy. The famous Creag Dhubh Hill Race followed, where Bill, our Chairman and I participated as promised. See "Jac and Bill Went up the Hill" on page 5 for more. For myself, I can

only say that it was the hardest race I have ever run and I have done many.

The Ceilidh on Saturday night was a first class event. There were stunning performances by a variety of bands, and several individual offerings ranging from poetry readings, to amazing singing by young Josie Macpherson from Scotland, and musical performances by Dee McPherson.

Many of the Canadians met on Sunday for a final dinner before we separated for the remainder of our vacations. We don't meet often enough, and this was a lovely casual dinner among friends. We have plans to arrange more regular meetings for our Branch.



Newton Castle Blairgowrie

Wednesday Jamie and I departed for Blairgowrie for lunch with Cluny and Lady Hilary to which many Clan members are invited as a final event for the Gathering. I had never been to their home and was quite looking forward to it. Because of a mix-up in our directions, we arrived at Blairgowrie two hours late. Lady Hilary made sure both Jamie and I had a sandwich and a glass of wine before taking a tour of their lovely home

led by Cluny and Hilary.

Our trip to Scotland was fabulous. For members who have not been, it is a trip of a lifetime, and while it may be expensive, it is worth every "pence".

65TH BRANCH GATHERING SEPTEMBER 19 – 21 IN OTTAWA

The Canadian Branch 65th Anniversary is almost here!!

There are a few places left, so don't miss out.

If you haven't already done so, book NOW!

The weekend begins with a lively Ceilidh on Friday night in the Daly Restaurant featuring local Ottawa talent, our official piper Hugh Macpherson, and our well known artist Dee McPherson from Chicago on vocals and keyboard. Ed Smith has arranged Scottish country dancing lessons to keep us moving through to the end of the evening.

After our AGM Saturday morning, Hugh Macpherson has arranged a special tour of the Canadian War Museum. The tour is specially tailored to the Macpherson efforts in the wars. If that isn't quite what you want, there is an optional tour of the

Parliament buildings, shopping in ByWard Market and the Rideau Centre, boat cruises, and children's activities.

Saturday evening features our 65th Anniversary formal highland dinner starting with a reception at 5:30pm. As usual our raffle will feature many fantastic prizes so bring your money! We will have a recording area for you to leave a message to Cluny. Gordon Macpherson is presenting us a special history of the Canadian Branch. And if that isn't enough, we will have highland dancing and more entertainment after dinner.

On Sunday, if you are able, rise and cheer on our own Vice-Chairman, Jacqueline, who will be running in the annual Army ½ Marathon. Church services are scheduled at the oldest church in Ottawa, St. Andrews Presbyterian at 11:00am,.

You won't want to miss this year.

CMA CHAIRMAN REPORT

By John Macpherson of Montrose



Cousins All,

I am writing this after a really busy time for Clan Macpherson. We had a stand at Bannockburn, a huge event with many thousands attending with over forty clans and societies in attendance. We had the pleasure of Cluny & Lady Hilary for a while and quite a number of visitors requested his permission to be photographed with a "Real Chief". This was graciously granted of course. We also managed to sell quite a number of Clan items and discuss families, family trees and Clan tartans.

Our August Clan Gathering was a big sell out with a near record crowd of around 170. We were delighted to meet the large contingent of fifteen Canadians including seven visiting for the first time. We always hope that they have found it a very rewarding experience and return sometime in the future. The rain held off for the Clan March but was annoyingly intermittent for the rest of the afternoon.

A large number of Clan members waited to see Canadian Chairman Bill Macpherson and Vice Chairman Jacqueline Murdoch finish the Creag Dhubh hill run. We have to give them our hearty congratulations on completing it. This must be the most arduous task that can be attempted locally at the games. For obvious reasons, I have never had the ambition to run up Creag Dhubh. Iris and I treated it as a hill walk many years ago and even found this quite difficult.

The Ceilidh was a great night with a large variety of acts. For me the star of the show was 6 year old Sarah, daughter of Jamie of Cluny, who sang every verse of Macpherson's Rant faultlessly.

The Church service was very well-attended. Cluny and I gave the readings and after the service many members stayed for a coffee and a chat. In the afternoon we enjoyed a picnic at the Cairn site in brilliant sunshine. Later Sunday afternoon, the tea at Craig Dhubh House was kindly hosted by Angus & Valerie Macpherson.

The Monday walk took place earlier than usual led by John B Barton. It started at the rear of the Duke of Gordon Hotel in Kingussie and finished at the village of Linchat.

After the lighter part of the Gathering, the World War One commemoration took place on Monday afternoon. This began with Cluny laying a wreath at Newtonmore War Memorial on behalf of all 499 Macphersons and related family names who gave their lives in that terrible conflict. This was followed by a short service at which Torquil, Cluny's grandson, played the pipes.

After the service the WW1 Exhibition at the Museum, researched and mounted by Ewen S L MacPherson of Tallashee, was formally opened by Sir Tommy Macpherson of Ballivil, the most decorated living British Army officer of the Second World War. A gazebo was set up in the museum garden for the catering and a crowd of about 100 enjoyed the



Newtonmore War Memorial after the wreath laying by Cluny

Lovely fare after looking round the exhibition. We had a nice sunny afternoon which was a fitting end to the official Gathering.

For those who were still available there was a "farewell" afternoon tea party at Newton Castle, Blairgowrie, by kind invitation of Cluny. The weather was slightly inclement but Cluny's barn is a very useful place for members to shelter in until the rain passes. On this occasion, Cluny gave new visitors a conducted tour of Newton Castle which dates back to the 16th century, and has been in Cluny's family over 200 years.

Iris and I have been catching up with a few things before we get ready to visit the Canadian Gathering in Ottawa and USA gathering in Albuquerque New Mexico. We had the pleasure of previously visiting Ottawa in 2000 which was a joint gathering with the USA. One great thing with the Clan is the warmth & friendship we find among members, no matter where we are.

Iris and I are looking forward to seeing all of you in Ottawa

LEGION OF THE LOST

In previous issues we noted the following members need to be located:

Mr. Roderick Ian MacPherson	Kanata, ON
Col. Glen W. McPherson	W. Vancouver, BC
Mr. John D. and Glenna McPherson	Vancouver, BC

This issue we have discovered two more:

Miss Joanne Macpherson	Regina, SK
Bruce MacPherson	Hamilton, ON

If any member knows where any of these lost members is presently residing, please send an email or note to:

Chantal McPherson, Registrar
991 Matheson E #13
Mississauga ON, L4W 2V3
Email: chantal@mdsscanada.com

JAC & BILL WENT UP THE HILL

By Bill Macpherson



Jac (leading) and Bill returning from the hill

Jac & Bill went up the hill
Creag Dhubh to try and conquer
Jac fell down and had to frown
As Bill came tumbling after

Up Jac got and fast did trot
To try and beat the weather
But she had to wait cause' Bill was late
So they crossed the line together

As you will have read in the last edition of the Green Banner, Vice Chair Jacqueline and I decided to participate in the Creag Dhubh Hill Race, which takes place during the

Newtonmore Highland Games, to raise funds for the Clan Museum in Scotland. I am pleased to report that currently donations exceed \$1400. Our sincere thanks to those that participated in the sponsorship and I remind members that it is not too late to participate if you wish to contribute to our principal cause.

Before the race the starter pointed out a few safety tips: 1) "It's raining so it's a wee bit slippery up there." What an understatement as the seat of my running shorts can attest to. 2) "On the way back don't take a short cut across the field it's amazing how getting hit with a hammer or caber can slow yae doon".

I have to confess this was the most torturous sporting trial I have ever undertaken. Jacqueline is a seasoned distance runner and has participated in a triathlon and she agrees. I have a new found admiration for hill runners especially the one that jumped over my head as I was climbing up and he was on his way back down.

But I am pleased to report that Jacqueline and I were allowed more time on the course than any of the other runners and what a marvellous lift we were given by the many cousins, including our Chief, who braved the weather and cheered us on to the finishing line.



Myrtle & Will Macpherson (England & Wales Branch) (left and right) also participated and the above photograph shows the four of us with Creag Dhubh in the background

Continued on page 9

TOUCH NOT THE CAT BUT A GLOVE

By Bill Macpherson



The Highland Wildcat appears in Macpherson Coats of Arms including those of our Chief, the Association, and most of our armigerous members. It is also found on the clansman's crest badge used on bonnet badges, kilt pins and countless Clan souvenir items.



It is a symbol that we all wear with pride and makes us instantly recognisable as part of the Macpherson family.

The Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, which operates the Highland Wildlife Park in Kingussie, highlights the Scottish wildcat also known as the highland tiger. One of the UK's most mysterious and endangered mammals, it is estimated that there are

now only about 400 pure breed wildcats in existence. Such is their concern, the Society plan to build an off-site, captive breeding centre at the Park starting in the autumn of this year. The idea is that this breeding centre will provide



Highland wildcat currently residing at the park

the wildcats a large area of protected, untamed land with absolutely minimum human interaction, so that when they are re-released into the wild, they will have the best possible chance of survival.

For the past 22 years the Canadian Branch, on behalf of the CMA, has sponsored a wildcat at the Highland Wildlife Park in Kingussie. This commitment was made during Gordon Macpherson's tenure as Association Chairman in the early 1990's. Bob Archibald reminded us recently that the donation amount has not been increased over the years so I am pleased to report that this year we have increased the annual donation amount to 160 pounds. Through the efforts of our Branch, the Association now proudly sponsors 2 wildcats.

It is fitting that our Clan Association should participate in this effort and we in the Canadian Branch can take pride in the part we play to save this ancient Macpherson symbol from extinction.

DEADLINE FOR NOVEMBER ISSUE

Please submit your notes and captioned photos before
OCTOBER 15, 2014.

HIGHLAND GAMES 2014

Bob and Marlene Archibald have completed their tour of the Canadian Highland Games as forecast in the last issue of the Green Banner. The following is an extract from Bob's report:

The Georgetown Games in June were well-attended with four members of the Branch staffing the Macpherson tent. Bill Macpherson, our Chairman. Bob Archibald, Ed Smith along with a very new member, Bill McNaught, took part on the opening ceremonies while Marlene Archibald remained at the tent.

Bill McNaught decided to join the CMA at Georgetown. There were other inquiries which may yet bear fruit.

At Cobourg the following week, Bill McNaught, along with his uncle joined Marlene and Bob to help with the tent. After some administrative confusion on the part of the organizers, the tent was set up. Bill and Bob represented the Clan in the opening ceremonies. These games were a little disappointing with the organization confusion and the low level of action at the tent.

In July the Clan was represented at the Highlands of Durham Games in Uxbridge. Bill McNaught appeared in his kilt accompanied by his uncle Bob. Bill McNaught and Bob Archibald participated in the Parade of Clans. Later on Jim and Marlene McPherson from Toronto joined the group and stayed to help with striking the tent at the end of the day. There was little interest in our exhibit at Uxbridge this year and overall attendance by the public seemed to be down.



Left to right, Bob Archibald, Chantal McPherson, Ed Smith at Fergus

On August 9 and 10, Clan Macpherson was represented at the Fergus Scottish Festival. In addition to Bob and Marlene, Ed Smith and Chantal arrived to help with setting up and staffing our tent. Bob, Ed, and Chantal participated in the Clan march where hearty cries of "Creag Dhubh" were issued to the delight of the crowd. We had some sales of clan articles and several inquiries

some of which looked promising. The Fergus games were lively in contrast to some others attended during the summer.

Bob is expecting a report from Peter Fish on the Glengarry Games at which he represented CMA. This will be in the November issue

THE BIRTH OF CMA

By RGM Macpherson, Honorary Chairman Canadian Branch



Members of CMA may not be familiar with the origins of the Clan Macpherson Association and that the original driving force was to recover Cluny Castle into Clan hands. From these beginnings our present international association has developed with a much broader mission to reach clanspeople across the world who are interested in our Clan and its long history. As we know the original objective was not achieved – but maybe someday...

A note from the Inverness Courier, Tuesday, June 13, 1939:

"BADENOCH NEWS - Clan Macpherson Association to be formed.

On Friday a meeting was held at the Duke of Gordon Arms, Kingussie, with the object of forming a Clan Macpherson Association.

The convener was a Mr. Thomas Macpherson of Macpherson, Train & Co, London, and among those present were:- Sir T. Stewart Macpherson, Newtonmore; Mr. Duncan Macpherson of Glentruim; Mr. Macpherson of Balavil; Capt. W. Cheyne-Macpherson, Inverness Mr John Macpherson, the Sports Stores, Inverness; Provost Cattanach, and Messrs John and Robert Macpherson, Kingussie

Some years ago - in 1933- Capt. Cheyne-Macpherson formed the present Clan Chattan Association in London, with the primary object of having an official body behind him in his self-imposed task of collecting funds to purchase Cluny Castle- the seat of the Macphersons- and the Clan relics. For this purpose he travelled to Australia and New Zealand and altogether over 11,000 pounds was collected towards the project.

Unfortunately, there was only a limited time within which to raise a sum of 15,000 pounds and with a cash purchaser appearing on the scene, the appeal fell through and the funds were returned to the subscribers. The would-be purchaser died and so the position was in statu quo.

The idea is already resurrected in the present movement, and already a piece of land at Biallid has been donated to the about-to be newly-formed Association.

A big inaugural meeting is to be held at Kingussie on Saturday, 16th September 1939, and meantime a provisional local committee has been formed, consisting, among others, of Mr. John Macpherson of the Sporting Store, Inverness, and Capt. Cheyne-Macpherson."

World War II intervened in September 1939 and the formation of the Association was postponed until 1947. Mr. Thomas Macpherson, later Lord Macpherson of Drumochter, became the first Chairman. In 1949 the first issue of Creag Dhubh was published.

GILLIS' PRESENTATION TO ROYALS

By Thom Gillis, Life Member

G In Victoria Day this year, my brother Timothy was asked by the Premier of Nova Scotia's Office to present flowers to the Duchess of Cornwall in Halifax. The presentation took place during a ceremony at the Grand Parade at which Prince Charles placed a wreath at the Cenotaph to commemorate the Canadian Servicemen who served and died during The Great War. The Ceremony marked the 100th Anniversary of the outbreak of World War I.

Tim was selected in recognition of, among other things, his many years contributing to minor hockey in the Annapolis Valley and his role as unofficial Goodwill Ambassador for the Town of Middleton .



Tim (centre) with brother Thom (left) acting as his aide, both resplendent in Gillis regalia, chatting with the Royal Couple, in the presence of the Premier of Nova Scotia, Stephen McNeil (facing HRH).

We hope that Tim will rejoin the CMA in the near future (ed).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Your Editor wishes to thank the following for their excellent contributions to the September issue: Robert J Archibald, Bruce Gillis Ken Gillis Thom Gillis, Bill Macpherson (Mississauga), Ewen SL Macpherson (Scotland), Gordon Macpherson John Macpherson (Montrose Scotland), Shelagh Macpherson-Noble, Scotland, Chantal McPherson, Dee McPherson-(USA), Jacqueline Murdoch

SCOTLAND TRIP

By Ken Gillis

Illa and I took a 14 day trip to Scotland in July and continued on to the Clan gathering in Badenoch.

We made a great loop around Scotland. Starting in Glasgow, to Stirling, on to Edinburgh, then north to Inverness, further north to Thurso and the Orkney Islands, west to Broadford on the Isle of Skye, south to the Isles of Mull and Iona and finally back to Glasgow.



Dunrobin Castle

One of the most interesting things I observed was difference in the castles of the winners and losers that fateful day on the Culloden field. We visited Dunrobin castle, home of the Duke of Sutherland. It is a magnificent building and has never been destroyed.



Eilean Donan

We also visited two of the loser's castles. Eilean Donan castle is probably one of the most recognizable Scottish landmarks. It was blown up using gunpowder from its magazine following the surrender of the Spanish garrison stationed in the castle. The castle was re-purchased by the Macraes in the early 1900's and restored.

Duart castle suffered much the same fate as the Eilean Donan. The castle was re-purchased by Clan Maclean in 1911 and restored over the next few years.

The two restored castles are not the norm as we saw the ruins of many of them.

A VISIT WITH SIR TOMMY

By Dee McPherson



I spent a month in Scotland this summer, giving some time to the Clan Macpherson Museum and attending the 2014 Gathering. I had some wonderful experiences, one of which was to go for a walk with Sir Tommy Macpherson.

At the Cluny picnic, which takes place following the Gathering in Blairgowrie at Newton Castle, Huntly and Avril Macpherson from South Africa asked me to deliver a thank-you gift from them to Sir Tommy and Lady Macpherson upon my return to Newtonmore. "With pleasure," I said.



Left to right; Lady Macpherson, Sir Tommy, Dee McPherson

Upon my arrival next day for a Museum visit, I enlisted the help of Ceit, the curator, who rang Lady Macpherson for me. She asked that I come now, and I drove the short distance to their house. I found Lady Macpherson clipping sweet peas in her flower garden, to make a small bouquet for the vase in Sir Tommy's room. I sat with Sir Tommy for a few minutes' visit in the sunroom, and then presented the small gift. He was delighted, we talked some more, and Lady Macpherson invited me to come back on Saturday, to go on a walk with Sir Tommy and stay for lunch. "With pleasure, thank you!"

Saturday arrived and we drove to attend a short memorial service at Banchor Cemetery. Before going to the cemetery, Lady Macpherson asked me to pin the medals on the jacket that Sir Tommy would be wearing when we arrived at the ceremony. On arrival we attended the service with Sir Tommy.

On return from the ceremony we had a lovely lunch of haddock, potatoes, and garden greens.



Sir Tommy's war decorations. The Military Cross with two bars on the left and the Croix de Guerre with two leaves on the right. The stars denote service in three theatres of war, North Africa, Italy, and Northwest Europe

Sir Tommy Macpherson is the most decorated living soldier of the British Army, with three Military Crosses, three Croix de Guerre, a Legion d'Honneur and a papal knighthood for his heroics during the Second World War. He was born in Edin-

burgh in 1920, celebrating his 94th birthday this year.

He attended the Newtonmore Games this year, and greeted the clansmen as Chieftain of the Games after the Clan March on the Eilan. He has been carrying out this function for several years. He is often seen going for his walk around Newtonmore, where townspeople go outside and give him a wave as he rolls by.

"Behind Enemy Lines" the autobiography written by Sir Tommy Macpherson was reviewed in the November 2011 Green Banner. You can purchase it from amazon.com for the full story of Tommy's life and war time exploits.

YOUR BRANCH NEEDS YOU

If you reside in New Brunswick, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, or BC, the Branch needs you as a Provincial Councillor.

In order to grow our Branch and make Clan Macpherson Association a truly national organization, we need a presence in each province where we have members,

The Provincial Councillor advises the Chairman on means to increase our membership and presence in the province in which he or she resides. The amount of work required will depend on the time available to the individual Councillor and the assistance they can obtain from local members.

This is an important executive level position, open to all members old or brand new. Please seriously consider joining the Branch Council. Contact Bill Macpherson at bill.macpherson@rogers.com

POEM OF THE TWO SISTERS

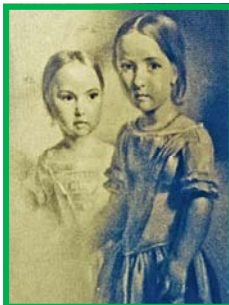
By Dee McPherson

1866. Fire.
Perished, two sisters gone
Charlotte and Jane Macpherson
Spinsters, interred in a cemetery for two
Dead tree, stripped by lightning, once grew
inside the decaying iron fence enclosure
Darkening skies, hastened
my departure.

There is a private cemetery in a cow pasture near the Crubenbeg B&B where I stayed this summer in Scotland. It was suggested I walk down to see it, because there are two Macphersons buried there. Two elderly ladies died in a house fire in 1866.

There are some marvelous mysterious sightings of the women, described in the book "A Strange and Wild Place" by Sandra Macpherson, late of Glentruim, who is an accomplished harpist and author living in Edinburgh. The book is available in the museum gift shop and online shop. These two spinster ladies were Sandra's late husband Euan's great-granddaunts.

I hope through this very short story and my poem, to encourage members of the Branch to ask more questions, and spark their interest to visit this unadvertised spot when they visit Scotland!



The two sisters, Jane and Charlotte as young girls



Their resting place today. Note dead tree mentioned in the poem in the back corner.

JAC & BILL WENT UP THE HILL

Continued from page 5

Thanks to our generous sponsors:

HEATHER; Janet Davies, Chris & Margaret Gillies, Ewan & Margaret Macpherson, Jim & Marlene McPherson, Norman & Mary McPherson.

SGIAN DHUBH; Bob & Marlene Archibald, Hilary Burnham, Marilyn & Ken Graham, Annie & Jerome Le Roy-Lewis, Bill & Jan Macpherson, Bruce & Michelle Macpherson, Hugh Macpherson, John & Iris Macpherson, Stuart MacPherson, Chantal McPherson, Alistair & Shelagh Noble

CLAYMORE; Angus & Valerie Macpherson

WILDCAT; Cluny, Bob & Sondra Archibald, John & Wendy Gillies, Ken & Ella Gillis, Gordon & Nancy Macpherson, Irene Macpherson, Mark & June Macpherson, Dee McPherson

DRIVING, ON THE CORRECT SIDE OF THE ROAD

as told to me by a Scotsman

By Dee McPherson

After a month in Scotland, this American Girl is driving confidently on the left. After my third day of this, it was told me exactly why the driving is on the correct side of the road in Britain, and on the right side of the road in America.

The British started driving on the correct side of the road:

Back in the early days of travel, the driver sat on the top of the carriage, on the right side, with the whip in the right hand. Most people were right-handed, and to crack the whip properly took skill. It was prudent not to flick the whip over the heads of the passengers. Positioning the team on the left side of the road gave the driver a better view to make sure there was enough room to pass when meeting other carriages on the road.



Driving on the British side in Badenoch

And then the French started driving:

The French driver would sit astride the left front horse of the team. Since most people were right-handed, the sword was worn on the left. Mounting the horse from the left side was done to keep the sword from flying around when mounting. No whip needed, the driver could influence the horse with spurs. Then positioning the team on the right side of the road was in order to make sure there would be room to pass an approaching team. The driver could gauge more accurately the distance between the teams.

And the Americans adopted the French way of driving on the right . . . it was around the time of the Revolution, and they didn't want anything to do with the British ways.

WANT A GOOD TIME?

September 19-21
Westin Hotel Ottawa
Annual CMA Gathering

It's GREAT!

See <http://www.clan-macpherson.org/canada/rally.html>

THE MACPHERSON "CORONATION SPRAT"

By Shelagh Macpherson Noble, Vice President Clan Macpherson Association



In 1887, my grandfather, John Macpherson from Newtonmore, purchased an Inverness sporting store from his uncle, Duncan Macpherson. All the family came from Clan Macpherson country i.e. Badenoch. Duncan wanted to return home to Kingussie, so he was delighted to sell the business to his nephew. The store became known as John Macpherson & Sons, Sporting Stores, Inverness and was famous as a supplier to the hunting, shooting & fishing estates throughout the Scottish highlands, including the royal family when they stayed at Balmoral. John and his two sons were all qualified gun and fishing tackle makers.

In the 1920s & 30s, Loch Ness was not only famous for being the home of the Loch Ness Monster, but for being an excellent early spring salmon fishing area.

The Inverness Firth held salmon on their voyage up the River Ness on their way to Loch Ness and those fish always returned to their home water. Some of the salmon could weigh as much as 25 or 28 lbs.

The principle lures were varied, but the most successful lure (bait) was generally found to be the common sprat, which was caught in great quantities in the Inverness Firth, and ranged in size from 3" to as much as 5 ½" in length.

Sprats, like a very small herring, are a natural colour which is silver, but it was discovered that salmon are attracted to gold, copper and red, and consequently John Macpherson & Sons used to supply many of the anglers with sprats, pickled in jars. The coloured sprats all proved to be very successful.

In 1937, the year of George VI's Coronation, one patriotic angler

asked John Macpherson if he would produce a "Coronation Sprat". John thought it a good idea to arrange for sprats to be dyed Coronation colours, namely red, white & blue, but the problem was, how do you dye a small sprat in 3 different colours?

John thought about this challenge over a weekend and on the Monday he intimated he thought it was feasible to turn out a 3 coloured sprat.

One of the store's staff was instructed to make 2 little receptacles of the appropriate dyes, and dip the head of the sprat and a third

of the body length into a red dye, take it out and put it into a setting lotion for a moment or two, and then take the same sprat and put it tail first into a blue dye for 1/3 of its length and that would leave the centre portion of each sprat to be the natural silver colour which was more or less white.

Prior to dyeing the sprats, they had to be washed, the surplus scales removed, then they were dyed the colours required and put into airtight glass jars, each holding 8 to 12 sprats according to the size. They were in a preservative and they could remain in that solution indefinitely, if it had been carefully prepared. Carelessness had to be avoided, because if any mistakes were made in the preserving and bottling process the sprats simply went rotten. It was an extremely labour intensive job.

Consequently the Macpherson Coronation Sprat was born, and it proved to be remarkably successful, not only during the Coronation year, but for many years afterwards.



IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

You can still help the Clan four-star rated museum by becoming a sponsor for the Creag Dhubh hill race. Let's get our total donation up to at least \$2000 Join the sponsors' list at any level you can. "Wildcat", the highest level, is anything from \$75 up. Send your cheque in favour of Clan Macpherson Association marked "Sponsor" to our Honorary Treasurer at:

Ken Gillis, Honorary Treasurer
698 Castleguard Cres.
Burlington ON L7N 2W6

BADENOCH 2014 PICTURE ALBUM



Photo by Bill Macpherson



Photo by Bill Macpherson



Photo by Dee McPherson



Photo by Jacqueline Murdoch



Photo by Dee McPherson



Photo by Dee McPherson



Photo by Dee McPherson

BADENOCH 2014 PICTURE ALBUM



Photo by Jaqueline Murdoch



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