

Creag Dhubh 2026

Number 79

Cluny ... Cluanaidh

The Annual of
The Clan Macpherson
Association

CREAG DHUBH

2026

NUMBER 79

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THE CLAN MACPHERSON ASSOCIATION

Cover tartan: *Macpherson Hunting*
Cover picture: *Cluny, courtesy of Annie Macpherson*

Image of Creag Dhubh, courtesy of Angus Macpherson of Biallid

CLAN MACPHERSON ASSOCIATION

CURRENT HONORARY PRESIDENT AND CHIEF OF THE CLAN

James Brodie Macpherson of Cluny and Blairgowrie

PREVIOUS HONORARY PRESIDENT AND CHIEF OF THE CLAN

The Honourable Sir William Macpherson of Cluny and Blairgowrie

HONORARY VICE PRESIDENTS

John P Macpherson
T A S Macpherson FRICS, FSA Scot
Ewen S L MacPherson MA, Chartered MCIPD
M Alastair F Macpherson of Pitmain
William R McPherson
George A Macpherson
Mrs Shelagh Macpherson Noble Dip Ed., MInstAM
Mrs Annie Le Roy-Lewis
Jean Macpherson Duffy
William J S Macpherson
Mrs Bonnie McPherson

PAST CHAIRMEN OF THE ASSOCIATION

Tom Macpherson 1946 - 1952 Died 1965
Lord Macpherson of Drumochter
Niall Macpherson 1952 - 1954 Died 1987
Lord Drumalbyn
Lt Col Allan Macpherson 1954 - 1957 Died 1958
Capt Hugh Macpherson 1957 - 1960 Died 1987
Hon J Gordon Macpherson 1960 - 1963 Died 2000
Hon. Macpherson of Drumochter
Allan G Macpherson 1963 - 1966 Died 1987
Lloyd Macpherson 1966 - 1969 Died 1988
A I S Macpherson 1969 - 1973 Died 1997
Ronald W G Macpherson 1973 - 1976 Died 2002
Kenneth McPherson 1976 - 1979 Died 1993
J Donald MacPherson 1979 - 1982 Died 2010
John P Macpherson 1982 - 1985
Monroe Macpherson 1985 - 1988 Died 1993
T A S Macpherson 1988 - 1991
R G M Macpherson 1991 - 1994 Died 2023
Ewen S L MacPherson 1994 - 1997
M Alastair F Macpherson of Pitmain 1997 - 2000
Larry Lee McPherson 2000 - 2003 Died 2021
Catherine M D Macpherson 2003 - 2006 Died 2024
William R McPherson 2006 - 2009
Shelagh Macpherson Noble 2009 - 2012
John Macpherson 2012 - 2015
Jean Macpherson Duffy 2015 - 2018
William J S Macpherson 2018 - 2021
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A NOTE FROM OUR CHIEF



As we move to distribute the Creag Dhubh out much earlier than usual and we still have the excitement of August ringing in our ears, along with the music of the Flamenco and forty-eight of our Spanish cousins still fresh in the memory, we can safely say it was another very successful Gathering.

Away from the Clan for a moment, and a personal highlight this year for us has been the announcement that our son, William, who was elected Left Hand Man for Melrose and in 2027 will become the Melrosian. A great honour and privilege of which we are most proud. It also occurs in the year Annie and I celebrate our 25th wedding anniversary, and Annie has a big birthday! So, an exciting 2027 beckons.

Extraordinarily, we also look to the 75th Anniversary of the Clan Macpherson Museum (our very own 'jewel in the crown') and the 300th Anniversary of the Clan Chattan, of which we play a huge part, which will be celebrated in style in the run up to our own annual reunion in August.

As always, Annie and I continue to extend an invitation to you all to visit us in Melrose, if passing through, with advance notice of course!

And I finish by sending you all much love and best wishes for 2027. To those people who have passed, we pray; to those people who have joined, we welcome you; and to those that do so much for our association and your branch, we give you thanks.

Yours aye,

Cluny

FROM THE DESK OF THE CMA CHAIRMAN



Greetings to all from Valerie and me.

Welcome to the first ever pre-Christmas Creag Dhubh. The aim is to relay to those that were not there the content of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) somewhat swifter than previously and give everyone a little longer to plan for their attendance at the next one or, at least, the next Gathering! As part of that process, we are exploring the possibility of making the next AGM online but not at this stage interactive. The latter may not sound so unusual, but in the technological backwater of Badenoch, it will be a massive leap forward!

As you may have heard me say before, “Clan means family,” and the Association co-ordinates that family. The Council sees these two changes as a step along the road of improving communication within the family. This year has been one of recruitment. Membership of the Association is healthy. There is plenty of new energy and youth coming through; it is always a delight to see so many at the Gathering, but we should avoid complacency. There are many competing attractions for the young, particularly Macpherson young!

Another keystone of the Clan is the Museum, which had a slightly rocky patch early in the early summer when the Custodian, Paul, left unexpectedly. Thanks to the hard work of Alex and his team, and Valerie in particular, the Museum is now going from strength to strength under the direction of its Museum Manager, Ellen. If you have not been there yet, you must put it onto your list of ‘things to do’.

Autumn is now in full flow. Leaves are beginning to change colour, and amongst the farming community, we are now beginning to reap what we have earlier sown. Calves and lambs going to market and silage being cut and stored to keep the next generation through the winter. We are also getting a fair dose of rain, a welcome ingredient after the dry summer, although Badenoch has maybe not been as hot as elsewhere.

It is also a time to reflect on the activities of the summer. It started with our son, Lochy, getting married at the beginning of May in Malaga, which gave an opportunity to meet the Spanish members of the Clan based in Cádiz. They reciprocated by making their once-in-a-decade visit to the Gathering. What colour and energy they brought with them! Next stop was Aubigny-sur-Nere near the River Loire in central France. For an inhabitant of Badenoch, it was immensely hot, over 40°C! We survived, thanks to a water spray that was adjacent to the Clan Macpherson tent. We also learnt

of a Jacobite connection to nearby Sancerre. Lord Nairne, the Commander of the Atholl Brigade, arrived there some five years after he made his escape via Sweden from Scotland. In his entourage was a Jane Macpherson. It was speculated by the recorder that Jane was Janet, wife of Ewen of the ’45. It is possible, but difficult to base on fact!

The Gathering was graced by good weather, an excellent turnout, and a full house from our Spanish kinsmen, who had us all dancing to flamenco at the ceilidh. A contrast to the more traditional reeling at the Ball the previous evening, which was just as energetic! As August was ending, we headed to Wuppertal near Düsseldorf to join the German contingent at their Highland Games. Again, something new to learn, a heavyweight competition between mixed teams of men and women: weaving cabers through fence posts; lifting heavy stones; tossing hay bales; pulling fence posts; putting shots, and much more.

Planning is now well underway for 2027. The Gathering in Badenoch is the keystone. It will follow its traditional format of Chief’s Reception, Dinner, and Highland Ball at the Duke of Gordon Hotel, Kingussie, AGM, Clan March at the Newtonmore Highland Games, Ceilidh, ecumenical church service with the parishioners of Laggan, Newtonmore, and Kingussie at St Columba’s Church, Kingussie, and picnic at the Memorial Cairn to Ewen of the ’45. We are also working on something new.

So too is planning underway for visits to all the branches. We have already achieved the European Branch in multiple locations, the Scotland and Northern Ireland branch, and the United States branch. We are signed up for the England and Wales Ball in November. Details are being pulled together for a visit to the African Branch in Malawi and South Africa in January. There are more tentative plans to attend Brigadoon in Bundanoon, Australia, and the Fergus Highland Games in Canada and hopefully New Zealand, but that is proving more elusive!

It still feels extraordinary that my mother died just over a year ago, but in the full circle of life, we are delighted that Tom and Alex have graced us with a fourth grandchild, Cecily.

Whatever we achieve, I look forward to having the opportunity of meeting you either at the Gathering or on your home turf.

Angus

EDITORIAL

2026 Number 79

Having attended the Gathering this year, we were reminded of how beautiful the Scottish Highlands are and how good it is to be reunited with family.

We flew in from Malawi and landed in Edinburgh on a drizzly evening. The car hire company refused to honour their rental agreement, and we were left to find an alternative means of transport. A charming bus driver offered to collect us when his shift was done and take us through to Limekilns. Fortunately, my hubby, who has the patience of Job, managed to secure a second car to hire, and we were off.

We spent our first night at the most delightful Coorie by the Sea, just outside Edinburgh. I can highly recommend it as a spot to stay. I was born a "beach bum" and live in a landlocked country, so an early morning walk along the Firth was food for the soul.



The view from our bedroom window.

You may be surprised to receive the Creag Dhubh in November, the second Creag Dhubh published in 2026. Looking forward, there is a plan afoot to release the magazine shortly after the AGM. A second edition, which will focus primarily on the Gathering, will be released early the following year, leaving you with enough time to book accommodation and plan your trip to the Highlands for the annual Clan Gathering.

As always, there are some fascinating articles within the pages of the magazine; look out for them in the "Articles of Interest" section. Sandy has supplied us with the answers to "The Great Macpherson Quiz," and there are some fun photos taken over the weekend of the Gathering.

Please feel free to send through articles and photos. You can contact me on cma.editor@clan-macpherson.org. I look forward to hearing from you.

Shannon

MINUTES OF 80th THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON THE 1st OF AUGUST 2026

NEWTONMORE VILLAGE HALL

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

Angus Macpherson welcomed Cluny and family, all clan members, family and guests to the meeting, the 80th AGM of the Clan Macpherson Association

ATTENDEES

Jamie Macpherson of Cluny, Annie Macpherson of Cluny, Angus Macpherson of Cluny, Lucy Macpherson of Cluny, John Macpherson (SandNI), Helen Barton (SandNI), Valerie Macpherson (SandNI), Angus Macpherson (SandNI), Ian Macpherson (E&W), Suzy Macpherson (E&W), Edward M Smith (Canada), William Macpherson (E&W), Iain Macpherson (Africa), Emma Conroy (Africa), Derek Macpherson (Africa), Shannon Macpherson (Africa), Suzy Macpherson (E&W), Ian Macpherson (E&W), Moray Cattanach (SandNI), Joyce Cattanach (SandNI), Natalie Williams (Australia), Doug Williams (Australia), Chris Cain (Canada), Jerome Le Roy-Lewis (SandNI), Eliza Le Roy-Lewis (E&W), Annie Le Roy-Lewis (SandNI), Chris Gillies (SandNI), Margaret Gillies (SandNI), Shelagh Macpherson Noble (SandNI), Alastair Noble (SandNI), Sylvia Macpherson (Canada), Bob Macpherson (Canada), Philip Howard (E&W), Donna McPherson Rucks (USA), Bonnie McPherson (USA), George McPherson (USA), Alex Macpherson of Pitmain (E&W), Charlie Macpherson of Pitmain (E&W), Lachlan Macpherson of Glentruim (SandNI), Linda Bult (USA), Flora Macpherson (SandNI), Oliver Macpherson of Glentruim (SandNI), Bill Macpherson (SandNI), Sandy (Sandra) Macpherson (SandNI), John M Bierens (USA), Alastair Macpherson of Pitmain (E&W), Bruce Macpherson (SandNI), Dorothy Pearson (E&W), Jim Love (SandNI), Christine Love (SandNI), Ewen S.L. MacPherson (SandNI), Ailsa Macpherson (SandNI), Richard Chadburn (SandNI), Margaret MacPherson (SandNI), Sandy Macpherson (SandNI), John Burgess (E&W)

APOLOGIES

Yves Guisan (Gibraltar), Fiona Cumming (S&NI), Tony McPherson (New Zealand), John & Iris Macpherson (S&NI), William Macpherson of Cluny (SandNI), Penelope Macpherson of Pitmain (England), Denise Lagundzin (Canada), Torquil Le Roy-Lewis (E&W), Euan Noble (Australia), Pam Rhemrev (Australia), Maree Ishbel Macpherson, Zander Macpherson of Glentruim, Ruis and Ceit Alcorn (SandNI), Dave Muzo (USA), Chris Smith

OBITUARIES

The following names were read out, followed by a minute's silence:

Australia
Neil Athol McPherson
Canada
Bruce Gillis
England and Wales
Barry Howarth
Scotland and Northern Ireland
Allan Robertson Macpherson
Dr Gordon Macpherson
Lady Jean Macpherson of Biallid
Andrew McHale
Sheena McDougall
United States of America
Donald M Gentile
Clifford A Glaspey
Alan Bruce Mackie
Francis Graham McGill
Lucy Helen (Repass) McPherson
Paul Pueblo III
Barbara Jean Smith

MINUTES OF THE 2025 79th AGM

These minutes were published in Creag Dhubh 2026 publication number 78. The motion to accept them as an accurate record was proposed by Shelagh Macpherson Noble and seconded by Annie Le Roy-Lewis.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

OFFICE BEARER'S REPORTS

All Officer reports appear later in the edition.

Chairman: Angus Macpherson presented his Chairman's Report.

Treasurer: The Income and Expenditure report was circulated to members. Annie Le Roy-Lewis presented her report. There were no questions arising from the report.

Registrar: The breakdown of the current membership figures was circulated to the members. Suzy Macpherson presented her report. There were no questions arising from the report.

Editor: Shannon Macpherson presented her report.

Webmaster: Angus Macpherson read the report sent by Dave Muxo

Clan Macpherson Museum Report: Alex Macpherson of Pitmain read his report.

Election of Clan Macpherson Museum Trustees: There were no proposals for election this year.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their reports and extended his and the Clan's special thanks to Suzy Macpherson and Dave Muxo for their work over the past years as Registrar and Webmaster, respectively. They are both stepping down at this AGM, although Dave is happy to stay on as Assistant Webmaster.

CLUNY'S REQUEST FOR THE CLAN MACPHERSON MARCH

Cluny reinforced the message that due to a change of timings, the Clan March would be starting earlier than previous years, and the meeting place would be closer to the games field. All those marching were required to dress within the code and to listen to instructions as to stepping out and keeping in formation.

CHAIRMAN'S PLANS FOR THE REST OF THE GATHERING WEEKEND

The Chairman went through the schedule for the rest of the weekend. Following the Games, there will be the Museum 'At Home', all invited to attend. Saturday evening brings the Stovies Supper and Ceilidh. Church at St Columba's in Kingussie at 10.00 am Sunday morning. The picnic at the Cairn will be from 1.00pm with a walk to a local viewpoint an option. There will then be tea on the lawn, at Creag Dhu. Allan Macpherson Fletcher will be delivering a presentation on Balavil House at 10.00 am Monday morning at the Museum.

Raffle tickets will be on sale over the course of the Saturday evening and will be drawn at the Ceilidh.

BRANCH REPORTS

All branch reports will appear later in the edition of the Creag Dhubh.

Africa: The report was presented by Derek Macpherson.

Australia: There was no report received.

Canada: The report was presented by Bob Macpherson on behalf of Denise Lagundzin.

England & Wales: The report was presented by Charlie Macpherson of Pitmain.

Europe: There was no report received.

New Zealand: The report was presented by Angus Macpherson.

Scotland and Northern Ireland: The report was presented by Moray Cattanach.

United States: The report was presented by John Bierens.

ELECTION OF CMA OFFICERS:

Angus Macpherson - Chairman
Derek Macpherson - Vice Chairman
Joyce Cattanach - Secretary
Annie Le Roy-Lewis - Treasurer
John Burgess - Editor
Christopher Smith – Webmaster
Dave Muxo – Assistant Webmaster

Motion to accept all proposed by Alastair Macpherson of Pitmain and seconded by Annie le Roy-Lewis

AOCB

Discussion around list for lifts to and from the March, picnic, tea, etc. Council members and Office Bearer group photographs to be taken. Museum Trustees: there will be a proposal made to have nominations for a member of the CMA to be voted onto the Board of Trustees.

CLUNY'S CLOSING REMARKS

Thanks were expressed to the Office Bearers and Volunteers who have made the Clan Gathering such a success and supported the work of the Clan over the past year. Special thanks were extended to the Museum Trustees, notably Alex and Valerie, who have worked so hard to keep the Museum staffed and open after the departure of Paul, the Custodian. Again, thanks were extended to Suzy for her tenure as Registrar and all the work that comes with this, and to Dave for his tenure as Webmaster, and to Annie for all her work in organising the Gathering.

Cluny expressed his personal sadness and the Clan's condolences over the death of Lady Jean to Angus and family.

A special welcome was extended to Alastair Macpherson of Pitmain with warmest regards sent to Penelope.

Cluny delivered William's apologies on not being able to attend as the weekend clashed with the Melrose Common Ridings in which he was taking part.

CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS

Angus expressed his thanks to Cluny and all attendees for making the Gathering such a success and looked forward to joining the European branch at the Wuppertal Highland Games, near Düsseldorf, at the end of the month.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Saturday 7th August 2027

Minutes completed on the 23rd of August, 2026
Joyce Cattanach - Secretary
Cma.secretary@clan-macpherson.org

OFFICE BEARER'S REPORTS

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cluny, fellow Clansmen, welcome to the 80th Annual General Meeting of the Clan Macpherson Museum. I write this concurrently with putting the finishing touches on this year's gathering – and the Newtonmore Highland Games! – and find myself astonished once again at how swiftly a year has passed! Without the supporting team of Annie, Joyce, Dave, Shannon, Suzy, and the Branch Chairmen, the show would have spun seriously off the rails. The sage advice of the Vice Chairman, Derek, is always invaluable, as is that of the President and Vice-Presidents. Thank you too, to Bill Glenfarg for providing in April General Data Protection training, increasingly important in these days of artificial intelligence.

Some of this team have felt it is now time to move on:

- Suzy has been Registrar for the Association. She has been admirably efficient in this very important role: resolving all my questions, keeping the membership contact details up to date and coming forward with excellent suggestions for improvement, which she has then implemented, including the introduction of the new membership trifold and the transition to providing the Creag Dhubh online. She will be much missed and has set a high bar for John Burgess to maintain. He is here today and very welcome.
- Dave Muxo has been the Webmaster for the Association. For a man who claimed, so many years ago, to know nothing about programming, he has shown considerable skills in that field, deftly dealing with any problems that I, an electronic ignoramus, have passed onto him. He has also been key in the transition of not only the Association website to a more modern WordPress one but also in helping with the transition of the Museum website. He too has set a high bar for his successor, Chris Smith, to follow.

Thank you to Suzy and Dave for all their service to the Association. I wish them well in their much-deserved retirement. I also wish to thank John and Chris for volunteering to take over these very key appointments. Thank you, too, to Dave for offering to continue his support to the Association as Assistant Webmaster.

This year, attendees to the Gathering are up by 20%. After last year's drop, this is good to see. Please remember that there are capacity limits. Please book early to avoid disappointment. Welcome to John Bierans, the US Chairman, on his first visit to Scotland, Charlie Pitmain, the recently elected Chairman of the England and Wales Branch, and the colourful Spanish contingent on their once-in-a-decade visit. All are most welcome.

Those that attended the Ball last night will have seen that there is plenty of energetic youth coming through, which is an excellent sign for the future. 2026 is the year of recruitment and retention. These tasks are vital for the long-term sustainability of the Association and should be an annual priority. In the army, they say it takes a soldier to recruit a soldier. For the Clan Association, it takes a Macpherson to recruit a Macpherson!

You may recall that the Council had approved a loan of some of its reserves to the Museum for investment. This proposal has now been implemented.

So too has the plan to distribute the Creag Dhubh electronically. In March it was e-mailed to every member of the Association for whom we have an address.

This year, further change is afoot: we are going to distribute Creag Dhubh before Christmas. So please send your articles to the Editor by the end of September. Further information on the distribution of hard copies, including how the additional cost will be recouped, will be available in the online magazine. Details of the 2027 Gathering will be distributed next year. Keep an eye on the website for details and to make your bookings. For those who wish them, Association badges are now available at the Museum, and ties will follow.

You will recall that one of my and Valerie's priorities was a desire to visit every branch during my tenure as Chairman. Fortunately, we have improved our performance on last year. We attended the Scottish AGM at the Highland Wildlife Park at Kincraig. We also made it to the United States AGM in Dunedin near Tampa, Florida, where we reminded the administration how members of the Clan Macpherson were key in establishing the colony of Florida! We then moved on to Stone Mountain in Georgia, one of the largest Highland Games in the US, where, in a dripping wood, I listened to the Canadian AGM! Thank you for the hospitality of the US Branch and in particular, George, Bonnie, Don, and Dodie for their kindness. I, a guest of the '45 Association, attended, in the rain, the 280th anniversary of the Skirmish at Clifton on the 18th of December, 2025, and laid a wreath in memory of the MacPhersons who were killed there.

2026 has had more of an European flavour. We had the good fortune to be hospitably entertained by the MacPhersons of Cádiz. They are one of the oldest established families in Cádiz. Integrated into shipping, their office, which has barely changed, including their maps for 100 years, was a marvel to behold. Thank you immensely to Guillermo for organising it. We attended the Franco-Scottish Festival at Aubigny-sur-Nère, central France - an astonishing event celebrating the Auld Alliance with 15 pipe bands and a march through an ancient Stewart stronghold. Not only did it test our French but also our endurance as the thermometer hovered around 40C throughout. Thank you to the European branch and in particular Anthony and Laura Roquet-MacPherson for organising it.

Looking forward, we are heading to the Wuppertal Highland Games near Düsseldorf at the end of August and the England and Wales branch Ball in London in November. We are hopeful of making it to Canada in the fall and Africa early in 2027, with visits to Australia and New Zealand thereafter! There is much hard work going on within the Association across the globe. Please let us know if you think there is any event to which we can come that could help your Branch recruitment or retention. We are very conscious that there are a lot of Branches to go!

It is good to welcome you all here in person at both this AGM and our other activities. We hope that includes for many of you the Clan March. Please note that the march is earlier this year and over a shorter distance, starting at Tigh na Drochaid (House on the Bridge). Please be there by 13:00 at the latest. Also, please remember that it is a parade where the Clan are demonstrating their support for their chief, Cluny, so kilted only, no pets, and no mobile phones. There is nothing worse than looking like a shambles and feeling the need to film it!

I look forward to seeing everyone at next year's AGM, at which I will be handing over to Derek, which may be streamed!

ANGUS MACPHERSON

CHAIRMAN

TREASURER'S REPORT

Good morning everyone. I know it's tempting to switch off when the Treasurer stands up to talk about money, but I hope to keep this report short and understandable!

You may remember that last year it was agreed that we would no longer prepare formal financial statements for the CMA as there was no real need for a membership association to compile accounts that include complicated balance sheets. It was agreed that the Treasurer would produce a synopsis of the accounts by way of an income and expenditure account, of which you should have a copy. It was also agreed that the previous Treasurer would check the figures on an annual basis to give the Association members peace of mind that the books balance and the money is actually in the bank.

The first column on the sheet shows the year to 31st of December, 2025. Membership was slightly lower, with management charges also lower. Last year the annual magazine was largely sent out to members by email, with the printing and posting charge providing hard copies to those who do not have email or who had requested a printed copy. The profit for membership income versus expenses was £1,723 - this is the line highlighted in green.

The Gathering in 2025 made a small profit of £702 and, added to the profits over the previous years since COVID, means that we hold a gathering fund of £4,158.

I reported at the recent Council meeting, held on the 20th of July, that there was £25,592 in the bank as detailed at the bottom of the sheet you are looking at. The Clan Macpherson Association also has £30,000 invested via the Museum investment portfolio. Income from this investment is donated to the Museum as a sensible way of making the most of the funds and supporting the Museum at the same time. The CMA also has a further £31,347 which has been donated to the Museum over many years. This would only be paid back in the event of the Museum closing.

You will also see at the bottom of the page that within the CMA's total assets are £4,158 of the rally fund and £35,000 as the life fund and £4,000 as the term fund. This is to ensure that these funds are not spent and last the life (or term) of the individual life or term member.

Please click the link below to view the accounts.

https://www.clan-macpherson.org/creag_dhubh/Income%20and%20Expenditure%20December%202025.pdf

ANNIE LE ROY-LEWIS

TREASURER

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

The current membership can be seen in the table below.

During the year we have had the following numbers of new members: Life: 3 (inc. 1 change from Annual and 1 change from Junior) Term: 1Annual: 40Young Adult: 1Junior: 6 Total: 51

As always, I would like to thank all the branch membership secretaries/registrars for their work and support in keeping our membership information up to date.

Branch	Life	Term	Annual	Young Adult	Junior	Total	2025	+/-
Africa	16	-	0	-	-	16	16	-
Australia	109	4	32	-	2	146	155	-9
Canada	110	2	33	1	-	146	135	11
England and Wales	247	4	43	3	8	305	310	-5
Europe	40	6	11	3	-	60	62	-2
New Zealand	9	1	6	-	-	16	19	-3
Scotland and N Ireland	208	5	25	11	-	249	254	-5
United States	439	17	228	8	36	728	-	-
Other Locations	3	2	-	-	-	5	6	-1
	1181	41	378	26	45	1671		

SUZY MACPHERSON

REGISTRAR

EDITOR'S REPORT

Good morning.

What a privilege it is to be standing here before you. Derek and I are thrilled to be back in Clan country.

This year, Creag Dhubh was posted onto the website at the end of February as a PDF. Once again, many thanks to Dave Muxo for all his help. I would like to thank the proofreaders for all their hard work and assistance in proofreading the articles for Creag Dhubh.

A copy of the magazine was sent to the printers in early March. A number were printed and sent to the members who are unable to receive the magazine online.

A separate document was created for the Gathering and posted to the website at a later date. I think this was a good idea as it managed to achieve several things:

- It kept members returning to the website for additional information, which I hope was a good thing.
- It allowed us to get the general magazine out earlier as we were not waiting for service providers to come back to us with costs.
- And it allowed time for the Chairman and the Gathering Committee to organise events without the pressure of having it all co-ordinated before the beginning of February, which I am sure you can understand is difficult to achieve.

There are plans afoot to have Creag Dhubh ready to go out in autumn this year. Pending Council confirmation, I hope to have something out before the end of November. The Gathering Pages will still go out as a separate PDF in 2027. As the details for the Gathering are ironed out, the information will be posted on the website.

If any member has a suggestion or would like to bring up an idea on how we can improve the magazine, please feel free to email me on the editor's email address, which can be found in the magazine. I would love to hear from you and work on a ways that we can improve our magazine.

Adverts published in Creag Dhubh help us to carry the cost of the printing and mailing of the magazine. If any member has a lead on a business that may like to advertise in our magazine, please feel free to email me with a contact and I am happy to follow it up from there.

I would love to meet more of you over the weekend. Please say "hi" and stop for a chat if you have the time.

SHANNON MACPHERSON

EDITOR

WEB MASTER'S REPORT

During the last three months, the Zen server has remained trouble-free, with no outages that I know of. However, due to a typing error by yours truly, a section of seven or eight pages dealing with the MEM malfunctioned for almost a week. Thankfully, a visitor to the Museum website followed a link to the MEM on our website and reported the error.

For the past three months Chris Smith, the Assistant Webmaster, and I have been learning WordPress and working on laying the foundation for a replacement of the CMA website with a WordPress version.

The pages of the current website will be replaced one page at a time for the next year or so by Chris, Vance (Canada Branch Webmaster) and myself. No changes will be made to the design or content of the current website, other than the normal updates in content which are made every day, except for Vance's changes and updates to the Canada Branch pages. The Canada pages will have many new pages and sweeping updates to the current pages.

Our problem for years has been that the languages used for the current website, advanced HTML and Perl, are not as widely known as WordPress and its various online forms plug-ins. Looking forward, we want to use more popular technologies to attract younger volunteers (younger than my 82 years old, at least).

A happy bonus of this project is that ,as Chris gradually takes over as the CMA Webmaster, and as I fulfil the duties of Assistant Webmaster, he will know more about the new website than I will. Eventually, we hope to find a new Assistant Webmaster to replace me.

Our current account with Zen allows us 50 CMA email addresses. We have reached that maximum and could use at least twenty more. Several years ago, Bonnie and I tried to find out from Zen how we could get more email accounts, to no avail. I will try again, now that we are up against the wall. Those who need this most are the growing number of assistants to various CMA and Branch officers, and to Regional Commissioners in Canada and the USA, who currently have to use forwarders to their personal email addresses. The Museum has been asking for a while for email accounts for more of its officers. An additional 50 addresses would probably do it for everyone who needs one.

I will defer to Bill to comment on our Facebook page, with many thanks to him and the Facebook Coordinators.

DAVE MUXO

DEREK MACPHERSON
African.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org

AFRICA



Cluny, Annie, Mr Chairman, Council, family and fellow Clansmen, it is a great joy, once again, to deliver the Africa Branch Annual Report to the AGM in person this year. I thank Eliza for doing so on my behalf in 2025.

Despite being barely perceptible at times, I am happy to report to you that the Africa Branch does still have a pulse!

In fact, contrary to our usual performance, we are well represented at this year's Rally. With us over the weekend is my Dad, Ewen. Sadly, he has not been able to join us for any of the events because he has been taken ill. This morning, his comment was 'I am sorry, this is simply not good enough'. He has wished us all the very best for the remainder of our weekend. They don't make them like that anymore! Dad is 88 and still actively farming livestock on our farm in Malawi. The last time he attended a Gathering was in 1996 for the Jubilee Rally. If he continues at this pace, we can expect to see him next in 2056!

This year is a poignant one for my family in as much as that, while we have been resident in Africa for 105 years, we have lived in Malawi for a full century and have been on our farm for 97 years. My Dad aims to be present and on duty when the farm turns 100 in 2029.

Also, here are my nephew Iain and his partner Emma, who are currently living in London. They are on loan to the England and Wales Branch. When you have finished with them, please return them!

From Cape Town, we have the joy of the company of Rory and Otto Macpherson, who are, respectively, the son and grandson of Lord Strathcarron, also present here with us over the weekend. I believe it is Rory and Otto's first Gathering - we extend a very warm welcome to you! They have also expressed an interest in joining the Africa Branch of the Association. I look forward to incorporating them - I am sure they will contribute to a stronger pulse!!

I have been asked to convey greetings to this assembly from Huntly Macpherson, who lives in Pretoria. He attended a number of Rallies with his late wife Avril and his family. I see Huntly from time to time on my travels to South Africa. Stuart and Jane MacPherson, who live in Cape Town, will be visiting Badenoch in a few weeks' time when they intend to visit the Museum.

Both of my daughters, Morgan and Meren, have expressed profound regret and, frankly, open jealousy that they cannot be here with us for the weekend.

By my reckoning, the Africa Branch has a total of 15 Life Members and zero members of other categories, soon to be swelled to a total of 17 under the current membership structure. I would like to thank Registrar Suzy for her support over the past few years and look forward to working with John Burgess in the future. Congratulations, John, on your appointment as Registrar.

By way of a final note on the subject of Africa Branch activity during the last year - in Malawi we have a strongly pro-Scotland British High Commission due to a still-strong legacy connection dating back to Dr David Livingstone and his exploits in that landscape during the 19th century. As a consequence, Burns' Night is celebrated with vigour at the High Commissioner's residence in Lilongwe. At some point, prior to the event last in January, it was leaked to the then new High Commissioner, Her Excellency Ms Leigh Stubblefield, that I play the pipes. Jerome might well tender that my description of 'play' is a generous adverb!! Nevertheless, the evening went off very well with a brief performance on my part. Now Bruce keeps an eye on the Malawian BHC Facebook page and shortly after the event reached out to me explaining that I featured in an article covering the Burns function. He then went on to relate that he has a friend who plays the pipes and loves to perform at both weddings and funerals. He has only one problem and that is that he can play only one tune, so he plays it fast at weddings and slow at funerals! I told Bruce that he now has two friends in that category!

Before closing, I would like to mention to the meeting that behind the scenes of the Association, the organisation of the Rally and the Museum, there is a cadre of dedicated volunteers who contribute a huge effort to keep all things running smoothly. In my capacity as the Africa Branch Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge all the hard work that is carried out on behalf of our members.

Thank you very much indeed.

DEREK MACPHERSON

PAM REMREV

Australian.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org

AUSTRALIA



Greetings from Australia to our cousins around the world.

The Australia Branch was among the Clans present at two of our local Highland Games.

On the 11th of October, 2025 we set up our tent at the Canberra Highland Gathering and carried the Clan Banner in the march.

On the 18th of April, 2026 we joined the Clan Circle at 'Bundanoon is Brigadoon'.

Along with his family, New South Wales member Doug Williams made his first visit to the annual Gathering in Badenoch, where he had the honour of carrying the Australian sword.

In conclusion, I thank the Australian Branch Committee for their support.

PAM

RHEMREV



DENISE C LAGUNDZIN

Canada.Chair@clan-macpherson.org

CANADA



Cluny and family, Mr Chairman, Officers and members of the Clan Macpherson Association, it is my honour to bring greetings from the Canadian Branch and to report on a year of steady engagement, membership growth, and renewed focus on how we serve Macphersons across Canada.

While I regret that I cannot be with you in person this year, I am grateful to Robert Macpherson of Cochrane, Alberta, for presenting this report and to Chris Cain of London, Ontario, for carrying our sword in the Clan March.

Mike and I are grateful for the kind notes of sympathy we received following the passing of my father, Denis Cleveland.



Debbie Gillis, Mary Margaret Gillis and myself. Debbie had a 7 hour lay over at the Toronto Airport on her way to Scotland. Mary Margaret and I kept her company until her next flight was ready.



Chris and Gina Cain at the Gathering in Newtonmore Scotland. Chris carried the Canadian sword in the March.

Branch Activity and Governance

The Canadian Branch continues to meet regularly by Zoom, support key Highland Games, strengthen member connections, and address the

practical challenges of serving a national membership across a country of immense scale.

Our Executive Zoom meetings have focused on the practical realities of organising clan activity across a country comparable in scale to Europe. We have also advanced two strategic priorities: strengthening youth engagement and demonstrating clear value for the annual $43.00 membership fee.

In addition, we are exploring genealogy support that respects multi-jurisdictional privacy requirements, and we continue to contribute actively to the Clan Macpherson Association website refresh under Vance McPherson, our Branch Webmaster.

Our next AGM will be held via Zoom on Saturday, the 7th of November, 2026. One item on the agenda will be the election of our Acting Vice Chairman, Vance McPherson.

Membership

Membership remains a strength of the Canadian Branch under the dedicated care of Beverly McPherson Letford, whose personal outreach continues to welcome newcomers and deepen local clan connections. Bev's commitment, energy, and hospitality are greatly appreciated.



Bruce Gillis and family



Douglas MacPherson

Canadian Branch membership now stands at 111, including eight new members. We are especially pleased to welcome Young Adult member Aaron Macpherson, son of Ewan Macpherson, one of our Clan Pipers, and grandson of the late Alan G. Macpherson, Seanachaidh.Member Recognition

We also recognise the late Bruce Gillis, who last year received the Sovereign's Volunteer Medal from the Governor General of Canada for outstanding volunteer service. We were saddened to learn of Bruce's passing in April, and we extend our sincere condolences to his wife, Deborah, and their family.

Carolyn MacPherson sends this message: "My Dad, Douglas MacPherson, had a wonderful 102nd birthday. He was so impressed with his signed congratulations from Charles and Camilla that he wanted it framed immediately! Thank you to everyone who took the time to send a card to acknowledge this milestone, and to Denise and the Canadian Branch of the Clan MacPherson Association for the beautiful fruit basket. Dad had a great day thanks to all of you!"



Left and below - Glengarry Games in Maxwell, Ontario. Mike and I were asked to attend by Graham and Cathy Macpherson.





Although I cannot be with you in person, I will be thinking of you and raising a dram to everyone's good health and to a successful and memorable Gathering.

In closing as Chairman of the Canadian Branch of the Clan MacPherson Association, I convey our continued fealty and allegiance to our Chief, Cluny, on behalf of myself and all members of the Canadian Branch.

DENISE LAGUNDZIN

CHARLIE MACPHERSON

EandW.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org

ENGLAND AND WALES



This summer saw a changing of the guard amongst the office bearers in the committee of the England and Wales branch. After eight years of excellent leadership, Will stepped down as chairman to make way for a new candidate. During Will's tenure, the E&W branch has organised a multitude of events, including the six London balls, gin tasting fundraising event, visits to Battersea Power Station, the Globe, and Churchill War Rooms, as well as efforts spearheaded by Ian to ensure the Macpherson's contribution to the Clifton Skirmish was adequately represented at the plaque on the Rebel Tree.

We are tremendously grateful to Will for his years of dedication and service to the clan, as we are also Bill and Dorothy, who stepped down from the committee. Bill was a longstanding Secretary of the E&W Branch who was integral to maintaining momentum, whilst Dorothy was an indefatigable committee member. Both will be greatly missed from the committee.

Charlie Macpherson of Pitmain was duly elected as the new Chair and was presented with the E&W donation certificate provided by the museum. Two new members also joined the committee in the form of Eliza and Deborah. As such, the committee stands at seven: Charlie, Hugo, Hamish (who stays on as treasurer), Will, Angus, Eliza, Deborah.

My first task as the new chairman is to organise the next London Ball. I'm pleased to say that plans are well underway and can confirm that it will take place on Friday, the 13th of November at London Scottish House. If you are interested in attending, then please email us at macphersonballassociation@gmail.com.

CHARLIE MACPHERSON

BODO SCMITZ

Europe.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org

EUROPE



Once again our membership numbers have remained stable. As well as taking part in all major events across Europe, we placed particular emphasis on promoting the Highland Games, where our athletes were very successful.

We have expanded our involvement in events aimed at the conservation and protection of the European wildcat. This is a key component of our German membership.

There will be some changes in the leadership of our European branch in the coming year when elections take place. Furthermore, many members will be travelling to the Gathering in 2027. We are already very much looking forward to it.

BODO BERND SCHMITZ

BELGIUM

The members in Belgium gathered at the the newly renovated Menin Gate to commemorate the 20th anniversary of our fallen clan members in Flanders.

GUY





GERMANY



This year, the Macpherson Clan attended the Highland Games in Trebsen, where the largest games in Germany are hosted annually. Numerous traders showcased their leather goods, woodwork, and Scottish items like kilts, sporrans, and glengarrys. Food and drink options were plentiful - even haggis was available. Pipe competitions, both individual and band, Highland Games and dancers provided entertainment throughout the event. On Friday evening a large clan introduction took place, with each clan introducing themselves. Saturday's march saw visitors lining the route, and we were warmly welcomed into the battle arena to thunderous applause. The Clan village was well-attended and allowed us to share our clan's story with interested visitors. We look forward to participating again.

MARION

FRANCE

The Clan was honoured at the opening ceremony of the Franco-Scottish Festival of Aubigny-sur-Nère, a major celebration of the Auld Alliance. The tartans were presented before the Château des Stuarts. Alison Christie Macpherson generously offered the Modern Hunting Tartan, symbolising the Clan's presence. Throughout the weekend, despite the intense heat, Anthony and Laura Rocquet Macpherson warmly welcomed visitors. They shared the Clan's history and paid tribute to legendary figures like Sir Tommy Macpherson and Cluny of the '45.

Homemade pastry sales raised £49 for the Clan Macpherson Museum. Proudly wearing the Macpherson colours, the Jura Highland Pipes & Drums performed *Macpherson's Lament* in front of the Clan tent. They also marched with us during the grand parade, embodying true Scottish brotherhood.

ANTHONY



TONY MCPHERSON

NewZealand.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org



New Zealand membership remains steady at around 20.

Over ten years ago, the formal New Zealand Branch went into recess. I was encouraged to take on a role of keeping the Branch active, which I have enjoyed but with limited success in increasing membership.

Membership is spread over the 3000kms of both main Islands.

2027 is planned to identify those who are willing to step up and rejuvenate the Branch. I'm still keen to be part of a support role, but in the background.

Just prior to leaving on my recent European trip, I received a call from Lochy Macpherson, son of our Clan Chair, Angus Macpherson. Lochy and his wife, Mariemme were on their honeymoon in New Zealand.

Lochy is the grandson of the late Sir Thomas Macpherson, better known as Tommy Macpherson, one of the United Kingdom's most decorated soldiers of the Second World War.

The release of a postage stamp commemorating "Tommy Macpherson"coincided with when wedding invitations were to be sent out. The stamps depicting Tommy Macpherson in battledress were used on the invitations.

TONY McPHERSON

MORAY CATTANACH

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SCOTLAND AND NORTHERN IRELAND



Warmest Greetings to Cluny, and all our clan family.

We currently have 255 members on our lists. We held our 2025 AGM and talk on Saturday the 11th of October. A well-attended event with members from ages 2 to 100 attending the Highland Wildlife Park at Kincraig.

As it was the day after the funeral of Jean, Lady Macpherson, we were pleased to welcome Angus and his family to a happier event. Unfortunately, Alison Christie, daughter of the founder, couldn't make it on the day, but we did have a message from her sister about their time growing up at the park, which was augmented by Angus sharing his family memories of Sunday walks in the area. The park put on a wonderful buffet, and refreshments were available all day in their purpose-built Learning Centre, The Hive. After a short talk by Helena Parsons from the Saving Wildcats Project we went to visit the cats that are on display, where we had our 'team' photo taken. The area was being renovated, so they apologised for the Clan MacPherson sign being missing but had provided a copy for our photo.



Macphersons in the Wildcat enclosure at the Highland Wildlife Park

We were extremely privileged to be given a behind-the-scenes tour of the operation's centre, which is usually off-limits to the public. Helena and her colleagues provided various items related to wildcats, which were greatly enjoyed by our younger members. Helena was delighted to hear that as a Parsons, she was entitled to join the Clan, and several members set about convincing her she should join.

After our successful AGM at the Highland Wildlife Park, we made an additional donation of £200.00 to the Saving Wildcats project.

We welcomed a new member to the committee - Mairi MacPherson. Our committee is going strong: with Helen Barton as Vice Chairman, Chris Gillies as Treasurer, Joyce Cattanach as Secretary, Annie Le Roy-Lewis, Margaret Gillies, Fiona MacPherson, Alison Simpson, Mairi MacPherson, and myself as Chairman.

We held a Spring Event at Innerpeffray Library, Crieff, on Saturday, the 28th of March, and welcomed 27 members. The library was Scotland's first free public lending library and was founded in 1680. Used by people from the local community until 1968, today you can still read the rare books in its diverse collection and trace the families who took the time to cross the fields in pursuit of knowledge, education, or just fun.

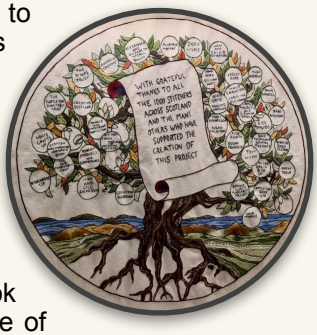


Helen relaxing in the library at Innerpeffray



Innerpeffray Library rare books collection

We had a wee wander through the graveyard to the medieval St Mary's Chapel of Innerpeffray to view some rare wall paintings and experience the timeless atmosphere and beautiful acoustics.



Our summer event on Saturday, the 13th of June, comprised a visit to the Great Tapestry of Scotland in Galashiels, where we enjoyed a look around the tapestry, followed by a light lunch. Some of

the group then went over to Melrose at the invitation of Cluny, Annie and family, where we very much enjoyed their hospitality with an amazing afternoon tea - all piped in by Cluny's son, Angus.

We attended the Inverness Highland Games on Saturday, the 11th of July, on behalf of the Clan Macpherson Association. We had a table set up in the Clan tent and took part in the AHCS March onto the Bught Park. Thanks to Valeire and Ellen, we had some museum items to sell. There was great interaction and engagement from the public with many people signing our visitors' book. Many thanks to Bill, Helen, Joyce, Sandy, and Mairi's family for helping on the day.

Our Facebook page is private, but we share information relevant to Clan Macpherson members alongside our events, stories, and photos.

Sandi, our knitted wildcat mascot, is home from his extended visit to the USA with Bo Gillie, where he enjoyed watching the Super Bowl spectacle, had a holiday in Portugal (pictured left), and was part of the Tartan Army for the World Cup.



Mairi and the Cat at Inverness Highland Games



Sandi on holiday in Portugal

Our AGM will be held at St Cecilia's Hall, Concert Room, and Music Museum in Edinburgh on Saturday the 17th of October.

I will be standing down as Chairman at the AGM, having served my time, and Helen Barton will take over the position.

MORAY CATTANACH

JOHN BIERENS

UnitedStates.Chairman@clan-macpherson.org



On behalf of the U.S. Branch, greetings to all CMA cousins in attendance and abroad. Thank you to our U.S. members who have made the trip over to experience and partake in the celebration. A special thank you to Cluny for your leadership and warm wishes, and best regards to you and your family.

We extend our appreciation to the CMA Chairman, Angus Macpherson. We enjoyed hosting Angus and Valerie at the 2025 US Branch AGM and Gathering in Dunedin, Florida. Part of a fun-filled two weeks that also included the Stone Mountain Highland Games in Georgia and a visit to the site where General James Birdseye McPherson was killed.

This year, the US Branch AGM will be a virtual AGM. For 2027, we are looking at possibly convening in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The US branch of the Clan Macpherson Association is represented year round at approximately 100 festivals in all corners of the nation. Congratulatory recognition to all the regional commissioners, tent conveners and their assistants, who show the flag and help recruit new members. Our twelve regions include not only the contiguous 48 states but Alaska and Hawaii as well and are home to over 750 Clan Macpherson Association members. The great news is that we are still growing.

We have published a new issue of the Clan Macpherson trifold hand-out. On the back page we have printed a QR code that takes a person directly to the US webpage to sign up or to renew as a member online. This has worked well for us.

Since the last report to you in August, 2025, we have the following new officers: US Branch Chairman; Membership Secretary; Assistant Membership Secretary; Recording Secretary and Assistant Treasurer. At the 2025 AGM, we reported some delays in mailing and receiving annual membership dues. This matter has been resolved.

Our Branch journal, “The Urlar”, is a tool for engagement and is invaluable for chronicling our history. Since the change of the publication to digital format, we have published 12 issues. This has saved the Branch a significant amount of money, which in turn has allowed us to redirect monies to focus on member development efforts.

In closing, the Officers, Council Members, and other members of the US Branch send wishes for a very successful Gathering weekend. Best wishes for a wonderful weekend of fellowship. Sláinte!

JOHN BIERENS

2026

THE GATHERING

PHOTOS AND ARTICLES



REGISTRATION AT THE DUKE OF GORDON

The Gathering begins on Friday morning, bright and early, with registration at the Duke of Gordon.

Below, Joyce Cattanach and Annie Le Roy-Lewis man the registration desk.





Shelagh pictured left, gives a welcome talk to first time gathering attendees.



Sandy Macpherson, right, addressed the members on Friday afternoon. We spent a very happy hour listening to his "Gathering Reminiscences".

DINNER AND THE BALL









Left - the Pipe Off. Torquill and Donald did a fabulous job of keeping us entertained.



Left and Below - the Spainards got everyone onto the dance floor.



THE MARCH





Three pipe bands led the Macpherson march to the Eilan.
Note the tiny piper on the right of the photo.









THE AT HOME

The At Home was held at the Museum on Saturday afternoon after the Clan March. This year, all the members received an invitation and the event was very well attended.





The At Home. The table was set up and manned by Helen Barton and Alison Simpson.



Left - A Look at the Garden Party through the window of the Library.

THE CEILIDH



Bruce did a fabulous job of hosting the ceilidh on Saturday evening in the ball room of the Duke of Gordon hotel. We were entertained by our clansmen and there was much merriment. Following are some photos of the memorable evening and a couple of transcribed poems.

THREE WAYS TO SPELL THE SAME DAMN NAME

Three ways to spell the same damn name,

And yet we all pronounce it just the same!

There's **Macpherson** - the proper, stately sort,
With a little 'p' and a ……capital M to report

There's **MacPherson** - now with a big P,
He's got a second wind, he wants you to SEE,
"My P is Important, my lineage is tall!"
He's proud of his big P as he walks down the hall.

And **McPherson -** like Bonnie and me - short, efficient, and slick,
The no-nonsense cousin, the shorthand trick.
We dropped the 'a' to save on ink,
"We're busy, we've got whisky to drink!"

We've fought over this for three hundred years,
In church books, census forms, and over drunken beers.
The clan chief shouts, "We're ONE clan, you fools!
Now stop correcting each other like you're back in primary schools!"

A little "p" will tell you his spelling is older,
The big "P" will say his spelling is bolder,
And those like Bonnie and me will shake their head,
We all will respond when 'Craig Dhubh!' is said.

So, write it how you like - with flourish or dash -
We're all sons of the Parson, by some mishmash.
We are all one among equals, no one betters,
But we will continue to argue forever, over two damn letters.



George, reciting his poem, "Three Ways to Spell the Same Damn Name".



Yes, that is a crow on Ewen's head!

The Clan Gathering is always a fun reminder that I have rather a lot of cousins!

Annie Weatherall, reading her poem, "Cousins"



COUSINS

Over 200 years ago, my great-great-great-grandfather, John Macpherson, was born. He was known by his Gaelic name, Iain Dubh "Black John" Mac-a-Phearsain, Tigh na Sroine, "Master of Strone" and more colloquially referred to as "The Cock of Strone" - a moniker typically bestowed upon an outspoken, fiercely defensive, or authoritative local leader.

According to records, he was an exceptional storyteller and Gaelic speaker, which is why he was also known natively as "The Orator".

John, known as Iain Dubh, Tigh na Sroine, The Orator and The Cock of Strone, had a son, James, known as Seamus Mor, a Newtonmore coal merchant.

James, known as Seamus Mor, had four children:

Thomas Stewart, known as Tom and later as Sir Stewart,
Katherine, known as Katie,
James Ian, known as Jim, later as Ian, Lord Strathcarron,
and John Donald, known as John, we think …
Tom, later known as Sir Stewart, was my great-grandfather. He married Helen, known as Nellie.

The family photograph below was taken at Speyville House in 1974, which, as Sandy (my first cousin once removed - whose name is actually Thomas Alexander) mentioned in his talk on the History of The Gathering, is a house in Newtonmore which still remains in the family.

As a babe in arms, I am the youngest in this photo perched on the lap of Helen, known as Nellie, my great-grandmother, and surrounded by my older siblings and a spattering of cousins.

So, my great-grandmother Helen, known as Nellie, married Thomas, known as Tom, and later as Sir Stewart (son of James known as Seamus Mor, the Newtonmore coal merchant, son of John, known as Iain Dubh, Tigh na Sroine, The Orator and The Cock of Strone).

COUSINS CONT…

And Tom and Nellie had SEVEN children!
James known as Little Jim,
George Philip Stewart known as GPS (and also called Phil),
Sheila known as Sheila,
Niall, my grandfather, known as Jolly Mac, because he wasn't,
Archibald known as Archie,
Helen Catriona known as Rhona,
And Ronald Thomas known as Tommy, later Sir Tommy

Niall, known as Jolly Mac, because he wasn't, my mother's father, married Margaret, known as Peggy, and … you'll need to keep up with this one because … Peggy's brother, Peter, also married a Macpherson - in fact, her husband's cousin, Fiona - daughter of James Ian, known as Jim, later as Ian, Lord Strathcarron, (son of James, known as

As a result of my grandfather Niall, known as Jolly Mac, because he wasn't, being one of SEVEN children of Thomas Stewart, known as Tom and later as Sir Stewart (son of James, known as Seamus Mor, the Newtonmore coal merchant), and Niall's wife Margaret known as Peggy - her brother Peter marrying her husband's cousin, Fiona, daughter of James Ian, known as Jim, later Ian, Lord Srathcarron (son of James, known as Seamus Mor, the Newtonmore coal merchant) - which, by the way tangles up branches of the family tree beautifully! …

The result of all this is …
I have rather a lot of cousins!



Speyville House 10 August 1974: Front row from left to right:
Alison Macpherson, Great Granny Nellie, me (Annie Weatherall), Duncan Macpherson, Sarah Weatherall, Niall Weatherall, Malcolm Duthie
Back row from Left to right:
Sandy Macpherson, Peggy Macpherson, Niall Macpherson, Catherine Macpherson, Jean Weatherall, Catriona Duthie, Alison Duthie, Gillie Duthie (hidden Alasdair Duthie) Mrs Laidlaw (Great Granny Nellie's Housekeeper).*



Left - Lucy, with her very able side-kick, Cluny.



Above - Jim, leading a sing-a-long.



Above- Ewen, playing the "nose" organ.



Above - Sandy and Alison, performing "The Scottish Midge".

THE PICNIC

Family games, enjoyed on a sunny Sunday afternoon.





Above, Shelagh and Donna at the Cairn.



Right, John Bierens and Cluny at the Cairn.



Above, the picnic at the Cairn was followed by tea at Creag Dhu House



MUSEUM CONVENOR'S REPORT TO THE AGM

Unfortunately, the trustees' plans for the season were thrown into turmoil when our custodian, Paul, abruptly resigned in May shortly after the start of the season. We did not foresee this. In the short term, the museum was kept open with limited disruption, thanks in large part to Valerie's efforts. She arranged for the paid assistants to cover Paul's absence. We currently have two or three days a week covered by volunteers, with four days of staffing paid at the Real Living Wage rate. Obviously, this is coming at a significant additional cost to the museum, but we reckoned that our first priority had to be to keep the museum open. We may have to spend money on staffing costs, which we had hoped to use to make improvements or on other projects.

The trustees met to discuss the way forward in June. This was then further discussed at a MAC meeting. The tentative consensus was to pay for reliable staff at the museum rather than to offer free accommodation as compensation. This should attract applicants of greater reliability and quality, as well as making it easier for the trustees to ensure compliance with the contractual requirements of a management role. It was agreed that we should aim to hire a museum manager who might take responsibility for the administration of the museum, including the responsibilities contained in the current custodian contract and the management of other staff. This manager will work on a part-time basis, perhaps two or three days per week, with the museum being staffed on other days by assistants/volunteers. The proposed museum manager will not be required to be a professional curator, as we cannot justify the cost of a professional curator on a regular basis. Instead, any professional curatorial support will be obtained from a specialist contractor for a few days each year, ideally in the closed season. One of our existing paid assistants is a possible candidate for museum manager. We have also had a recommendation from our Museum Mentor, Dan Cottam, as to possible curatorial support with the auditing process.

The great conundrum is what we should do with the flat above the museum. It is unclear whether we will need the flat for accommodation for a museum manager in the future. All possibilities have been discussed: letting out either commercially or as a holiday let, and even selling it. At this stage, it seems most likely that we will retain the flat in order, hopefully, to attract a volunteer staff member, but with a museum manager in place as well.

The museum's financial position remains sound. Our most recent accounts show that investment funds have increased in value and that the museum has significant reserves. For the last year, we had a surplus of income over expenditure. This income is heavily dependent upon donations. The immediate financial position is positive, and the increased

staffing costs are capable of being met.

The plans for further spending on the external fabric of the museum have been put on the back burner for now but will be revisited once the management of the museum is stabilised and we are sure that we can afford it. It is a high priority of the trustees to try to increase visitor numbers, in particular by boosting the museum's online presence. If anyone has any expertise in this area and could assist us with this, then do please get in touch.

We have a new proposal: to offer all CMA members "membership" of the museum. This membership would be free of charge and would involve the CMA members providing their email address and consenting to being contacted directly by the museum. Essentially, this would be a means of the museum communicating directly with members who are likely to be interested in the museum and its activities. It would enable the museum to build up a database of individuals which could be used to share news about the museum, to promote initiatives, to ask for volunteers/assistance/technical support, and to help with fundraising efforts.

The other activities undertaken this year included the museum accreditation effort completed successfully in August, 2025 with help from Ian, Donna, and Ewen. Ewen had his last trustee meeting at the end of October. It was when the trustees were trying to outsource his various responsibilities that we were reminded of the work he has done on behalf of us all for so long. Bruce led a team to deliver a new website in November, which is now being maintained by Morrigan. The new museum database, called eHive, is now in place after sterling work by Bonnie and Donna. And the "Adopt an Artefact" scheme is up and running with seven items having been adopted to date. Many are still available, and it makes the perfect present for that clansperson who has everything! Donna is leading a drone filming project which will be gathering footage this weekend and will create some beautiful videos of the museum's surroundings and the Gathering for display in the museum and online.



The Laggan side of the Museum, showing the new signage and the beautiful flower boxes.

Finally, a plea to please consider becoming a Friend of the museum, or nominating a relative on their behalf. A bargain at only £40 pa (£60 for a couple). The next best option is to spend big on Macpherson merchandise in the museum shop. Let's clear those shelves this weekend!

We look forward to seeing you all at the museum's "At Home" at 4.30pm this afternoon.

ALEXANDER MACPHERSON OF PITMAIN

1st of August 2026

THE BLACK CHANTER

THE BLACK CHANTER, A MAGICAL VICTORY … ONCE AGAIN

Andrew Gordon Macpherson, from Canada, is an inquisitive family historian. A professional musician believing in the magical qualities of music, Andrew happened upon the Black Chanter in his research of the Macpherson surname. It was an amazing and timely discovery for him. Once he read of its history, Andrew knew he needed some of the magic that the Black Chanter could give him! Upon further sleuthing around the Clan Macpherson Museum website, he found that the Black Chanter was one of the artefacts in the **Adopt An Artefact** programme. Though he wasn't ready to make the five-year adoption at the Platinum level, he was brave enough to offer a creative adoption solution that would benefit both the Museum and himself. He offered a generous donation to adopt the Black Chanter for a short period. His request was to see his name next to the Black Chanter 'for 15 days.' It was a 'good luck charm', a bit of magic, and he won!

In my interview with him, he said, "I was filled with wonder and gratitude when I received the email back from Donna saying, "Yes, we'll do it!" In just ten days from his adoption of the Black Chanter, the Canadian Screen Awards were to be happening. Andrew had been nominated for two awards, which he did not win. However, *Dark Side of the Ring*, a series he'd worked on, was nominated for Best Series, and won the award that night! Andrew told me "I was there when the announcement was made, and I screamed so loudly my voice was gone for three days. As the producers walked up to accept the award, one of them leaned down to me and said, 'You are coming with us!' So I found myself on that stage, holding the award for Best Series!"



Andrew and his wife, Vivian and the Canadian Screen Award for Best Series.

The Black Chanter had performed its magic!

Well done, Andrew!

DONNA McPHERSON RUCKS

ADOPT-AN-ARTEFACT POINT OF CONTACT

WELCOME JOHN AND ROSE

John & Rose Ingram visited the Clan Macpherson Museum in late July, while on their way north. Assistant Custodian Helen Armour gave them a warm Highland welcome and a tour. Upon learning that John is the nephew of Willie Macpherson, the 'Elgin Fiddler,' Helen introduced the Museum artefact 'Jamie's Fiddle' to them to their great delight.

Willie was an accomplished violinist, playing for the Scottish National Orchestra (SNO), and was a passionate advocate of the Scots fiddle tradition. He wrote many well-known fiddle tunes and even taught a few to Yehudi Menuhin.

Thanks for visiting, John & Rose, and we hope to see you again!

HELEN ARMOUR AND DONNA McPHERSON RUCKS



John and Rose along with Helen, standing next to 'Jamie's Fiddle' at the Clan Macpherson Museum.

Kim Formosa from Australia shared this article about their McPherson Family Bible. It was a gift from William McPherson's parents on his wedding day to Jemima Brown Hunter on the 24th of February, 1854 in Hobart Town, Tasmania. They were blessed with eleven children together. Kim is hoping to donate this beautiful bible to the Clan Macpherson Museum.

WILLIAM McPHERSON

Born on the 22nd of July 1822 in Paisley, Renfrewshire, Scotland

Passed away on the 26th of December 1913 in Abbotsford, Victoria, Australia

JEMIMA BROWN HUNTER

Born on the 9th of September, 1833 in Greenock, Renfrewshire, Scotland

Passed away on the 6th of December, 1918 at 27 Albert St, Abbotsford



Jemima arrived in Melbourne, Hobson's Bay, Sandridge one day before her 16th birthday in 1849.

Jemima's father encouraged her to marry a man who travelled to Australia from Glasgow on the 'Nerbudda' along with their family. However, Jemima moved to Hobart to live with relatives or friends, perhaps to avoid this proposal. It is not known when or how she met Captain McPherson, but he was a Master Mariner, 11 years older than her and had travelled the world. They got married in Hobart on the 24th of February, 1854, with Ann Taylor, possibly a servant of the house, in attendance. Jemima stated she was 'over 21', but she was only 20 years and 5 months old. She might not have had her parents' permission to marry, perhaps because they did not approve of a seafaring man! Their first child was born in Hobart nine months and a few days after their wedding.

Jemima is said to have made several seafaring trips with Captain McPherson during their marriage. However, she did not enjoy the sea and did not allow her children to talk about ships or the sea. She was very pleased when her eldest son, Daniel, did not want to follow in his father's footsteps. However, Daniel married the daughter of a hotel keeper, Isabelle Reeves, which upset his very temperate, church-going mother. Daniel worked as a compositor at the Melbourne Age.

At about 75, Jemima had a serious operation for bowel cancer, and all of them were sent for. She awoke from the anaesthetic to look around at their worried faces and say, 'I will be quite alright now - all you good people can go home!' Her daughter, Jemima, who was said to be 'simple-minded' and had never married, lived with her parents. She had over-polished the floor, and unfortunately, her mother, Jemima, slipped on the highly polished floor and broke her hip at age 85. The broken hip was too much for her, and she died on the 6th of December, 1918.

Below is a clipping from a newspaper (unknown) announcing her death.

'*Victoria mourns the passing of Mrs McPherson, the widow of the late Captain William McPherson, a well-known figure in Australian shipping during the early 1950s. Mrs McPherson passed away on the 6th of December at the age of 86 at her home on 27 Albert Street, Abbotsford, leaving behind 80 living descendants. She proudly claimed to be the first white woman to cross Prince's Bridge. When she shared some of her early memories with a friend, she recounted how, in 1849, there were no vehicles to meet the boat arriving from Glasgow at Hobsons Bay, and she and her parents, along with six other children, had to walk from Sandridge to the city. At that time, Princes Bridge was still under construction, and the contractors initially refused to allow the new arrivals to cross. After a lengthy discussion, the family was finally allowed to use the bridge, and one of the contractors told her that she was the first white woman to cross it. Eventually, the family moved into a house on Flinders Lane, but they were unfortunately displaced from their home by the great flood of 1849. Her father, Daniel Ross Hunter, was a City Councillor in Collingwood when the Duke of Edinburgh visited Australia. A few years after arriving in Australia, she married Captain McPherson and embarked on several voyages with him to the island, then known as Van Diemen's Land. Despite facing physical challenges, this remarkable woman dedicated herself to working for the soldiers. She became known for making hospital quilts as her Red Cross specialty and created 26 patchwork counterpanes for military cots. Letters received a few months before her death show how much her efforts were valued.'*

WILLIAM

He passed away on the 26th of December, 1913 in Victoria at the impressive age of ninety-one. He worked as a master mariner on the 'Emma Prescott', a coastal shipping vessel that travelled between Melbourne, Sydney and Hobart. He was also a pilot, exempt for Port Jackson, Port Phillip and Twofold Bay.He was also named as the captain of the 'Lady Emma'.

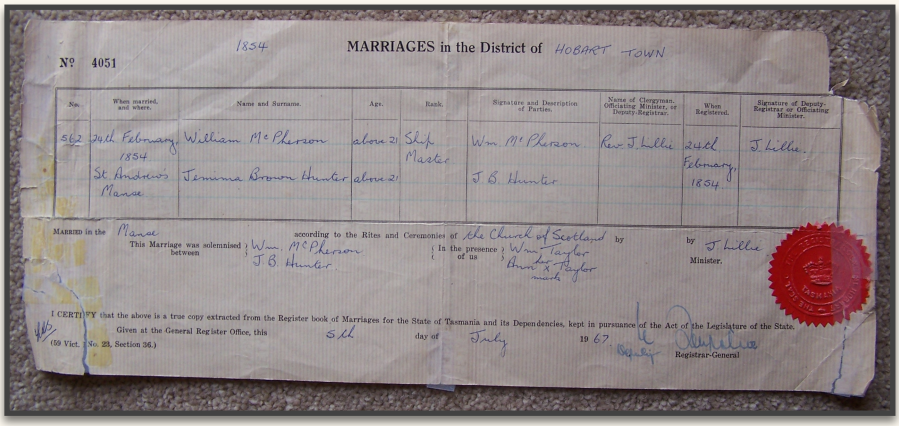
William and Jemima lived in Hobart for about two years before moving back to Victoria. There is mention of him being the captain of the 'Terror' in the Public Library's shipping records.

Captain McPherson was said to have been shipwrecked at some point, and his hair turned white overnight!

Their Golden Anniversary, was tarnished by the passing of a daughter, Williamina Shand, so this announcement was made in the local newspaper: *'I understand that, as the family were in mourning for Williamina, the Golden Wedding celebrations were kept to a tea for the family and descendants only'.*

William's death notice read:

'Abbotsford Church is deeply saddened by the passing of one of its original members, Mr William McPherson, who has peacefully passed away at the age of 91. His Scottish roots and the discipline he gained from life at sea set him on a path to becoming a master mariner through hard work and study. He knew the sea and its dangers well, becoming a safe and skilled pilot and commander. He was also well-versed in the early history of Melbourne and its harbour, and he proved to be a good and dedicated citizen. He understood the sea of life and the importance of a safe course and perfect pilot, leaving behind for his children and grandchildren the legacy of a life dedicated to God and ending in peace under His love. He was respected as an elder of the church and known for his diligence, faithfulness and consistency. He always showed a warm interest in the church's work and the well-being of his congregation. He was known for his honesty and knew how to remain silent when necessary. The congregation is filled with sympathy for those who are grieving and with gratitude to God for the many years Mr McPherson dedicated to Abbotsford Church during its early years.'William's father - ***Duncan McPherson*** *was born on the 25th of April, 1789 in Kilmichael Glassary, Argyll.*



1854 MARRIAGES in the District of HOBART TOWN

№ 4051

No.	When married, and where.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Rank.	Signature and Description of Parties.	Name of Clergyman, Officiating Minister, or Deputy-Registrar.	When Registered.	Signature of Deputy-Registrar or Officiating Minister.
562	26th February, 1854 St. Andrew's Manse	William McPherson	above 21	Ship Master	Wm McPherson	Rev J Lillie	22nd February, 1854.	J. Lillie.
		Jemima Brown Hunter	above 21		J B Hunter			

MARRIED in the Manse according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of Scotland by J Lillie Minister.

This Marriage was solemnised between Wm McPherson, J B Hunter. In the presence of us Wm Taylor, Brunton A Taylor, mark.

I CERTIFY that the above is a true copy extracted from the Register book of Marriages for the State of Tasmania and its Dependencies, kept in pursuance of the Act of the Legislature of the State.

Given at the General Register Office, this 5th day of July 19 67

Registrar-General

(59 Vict. No. 23, Section 36.)

- William's mother - Elizabeth Ferguson married Duncan on the 27th of October,1811 in Paisley, Renfrewshire.
- William's mother - Elizabeth Ferguson married Duncan on the 27th of October,1811 in Paisley, Renfrewshire.

MY RELATIONSHIP TO THEM

I come from Williamina McPherson, one of their daughters. She was born on the 12th of December, 1861 and passed away on the 19th of January, 1903 in Arthurs Creek, Victoria, at the age of 41.

Williamina married Thomas Innes Shand and they had a daughter, Maude Agnes, born on the 15th of May, 1884. Thomas tragically drowned in Sydney Harbour. Maude married Albert Charles Gilbert on the 6th of March, 1908 and they had nine children. Sadly, Maude passed away on the 28th of August, 1966 in Ouyen, Victoria, at the age of 82.

One of their children was Keith Alfred Gilbert, born on the 29th of December, 1923 in Ouyen, Victoria. He married Martha Adella Bennet. Keith passed away on the 5th of January, 2011 in Mildura, Victoria.

Keith and Martha had a daughter, Lynette, who married Ian Spooner, and I am Lynette's daughter, Kim. I married Anthony Formosa.



Kim, visiting the Museum in September 2026.

OBJECTS AND THEIR STORIES

NEW ADDITIONS

The Museum trustees are delighted to accept a number of artefacts offered to the Museum over the past twelve months. Sadly, the limitations of space mean that we cannot accept everything that is offered to us. It is always humbling to be approached, recognising the importance and very real personal value that such objects can hold for families and individuals. In considering an object, the trustees look at how it relates to Clan Macpherson, its provenance, whether we already hold a similar item and whether we could envisage displaying it at some stage.

We have brought into the collection two armorial shields presented by George McPherson. One is the hereditary shield plaque of John McPherson, George's fourth great-grandfather, who sailed from Stornoway in 1775 for the port of Philadelphia. The other is George's own shield. George is well known to us at the Museum through his long service as a member of the Museum Advisory Committee.

We have received a group of beautiful Macpherson-crested livery buttons found at Cluny Castle and donated by the former owner of Cluny, Richard Spencer. Their direct association with Cluny gives these small objects a particular resonance.

Another object with a direct connection to Cluny has come to us in rather unusual circumstances. Colin Hendry, a collector in East Lothian, approached the Museum after identifying what he believes to be the original blade from the Cluny Macpherson presentation sword already in our collection. The finely etched Victorian blade bears the Clan Macpherson badge and an inscription that corresponds word-for-word with one later engraved on the sword's scabbard. At some point after the sword left Cluny Castle in the 1940s, it appears that the original blade was removed and replaced with a standard Rifle Volunteers blade. The trustees were delighted to accept this offer, bringing together two parts of an object, which may have been separated for more than eighty years. Ewen wrote a Creag Dhubh article in 2001 in which he describes the work undertaken to purchase the original. To view the original article, please click the link below.

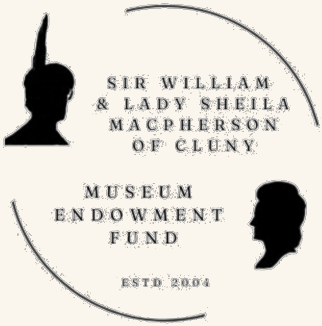
https://www.clan-macpherson.org/creag_dhubh/Old%20Cluny%E2%80%99s%20Sword.pdf

We are grateful to Jim Wilkie for donating a group of objects that bring us much closer to the everyday life of a Macpherson in the local community. They belonged to the late Ewan Macpherson, at one time the greengrocer in Laggan, who served with the Black Watch during the First World War. Following his service, he was presented by local people with a silver cigarette tin in recognition of it. Among the other objects is his 'war bible.' Some years ago, Jim also donated a small mail-coach pistol that had belonged to James Gillies and which is currently on display in the Drumochter Room.

These objects illustrate something of the breadth of the Museum's collection: the story of Macphersons who left the Highlands and made lives elsewhere. If you are considering offering something to the Museum, we would be delighted to hear its story.

SIR WILLIAM & LADY SHEILA MACPHERSON OF CLUNY MUSEUM ENDOWMENT FUND

Registered Scottish Charity Number SC035718



It has been 23 years since the passing of Sheila, Lady Cluny, on the 30th of October, 2003.

In the wake of her death, the Endowment Fund was generously initiated by Sir William Macpherson of Cluny, with the assistance of John Barton as the legal advisor, on the 14th of February, 2004.

Following the death of Sir William in 2021, by popular request the name of the Endowment Fund was changed to include Sir William. On the 1st of April 2026, Annie spearheaded a fundraiser on what would have been her father's 100th birthday.

Since the Fund's inception, it has been fundamental in helping support the work of the Museum trustees. Readers are reminded of the four objectives of this restricted fund:

- To provide professional curatorial support for the museum.
- To upgrade exhibitions of both a permanent and temporary nature within the museum.
- To promote scholarly research in relation to the Clan Macpherson using the resources of the museum.
- To support a student internship/attachment using the resources of the museum.

The capital sum invested stands at £107,510.76 Income received from this investment is transferred to the Clan Macpherson Museum Trust to assist with the objectives of the Endowment Fund.

All donations, large and small, are welcome and will be personally acknowledged. These may be sent online to:

SIR WILLIAM & LADY SHEILA MACPHERSON OF CLUNY MUSEUM ENDOWMENT FUND

Registered Scottish Charity Number SC035718
Bank Account No. 00157570
Sort Code 83-26-17

Please notify the treasurer of the donation by email to: museum.treasurer@clan-macpherson.org. Alternatively, donations may be sent by post to:

The Honorary Treasurer
Mrs Valerie Macpherson
c/o Clan Macpherson Museum, Main Street, Newtonmore, Inverness-shire, PH20 1DE.

Donations are eligible for Gift Aid in the UK, and US members may be able to claim a deduction from US taxes.

It was my great privilege to be nominated to succeed Ewen MacPherson as Chairman of the Endowment Fund when he stepped down from the role last year. Ewen served as Chairman since the fund was established and we thank him for his many years of service and his dedication to all matters relating to the Museum.

I also express my appreciation to family member trustee Annie Le Roy-Lewis and all eight chairmen of the Clan Macpherson Association who have served as ex-officio trustees during the lifetime of the Endowment Fund.

BRUCE JS MACPHERSON

ORIGIN OF THE AUSTRALIAN BRANCH OF THE CMA

Ewen SL MacPherson

On the 6th of June, 2026, Ross McPherson from Australia posted a newspaper clipping from *The Age of Melbourne* dated the 7th of April, 1977. The clipping had been found online by Ross's wife and was headed "*A braw nicht for those clanny Scots"* and told the story of how Gordon McPherson "went to Scotland for a gathering of the Clan Macpherson Association, got drunk, and agreed to set up a branch in Australia. And it should be a braw party when the Macphersons meet on Monday week, to set up a Victorian committee for the Association." It describes Gordon as a third-generation Australian and a semi-retired Melbourne engineer, who had already held meetings in Brisbane, Adelaide, and Perth. It was his ambition to spread the word of the Clan Association throughout Australia.

The clipping brought back happy memories of the 12th of May, 1973, when the England & Wales Branch of the Clan Association had a tent at the Richmond Highland Games in London. The Games were held on the hallowed turf of the London Scottish Rugby Club, where the late Sir William of Cluny had been a player, captain, and later President. The Branch report in the 1974 issue of *Creag Dhubh* reports "how plenteous were the bottles of this beverage (whisky) that had been gifted for the occasion by various members, including a full case of Macpherson's Cluny Whisky, as was first thought to come from our Chief, but really intended for delivery to him at the office of the London Scottish Football Club, but which had been misdirected to our tent. By the time Cluny arrived at our tent, not too many of his bottles had been broached, leaving him eventually with a generous supply to take home."

During the early afternoon, Gordon McPherson, who had never heard of the Clan Macpherson Association, accidentally stumbled across the tent and was made most welcome. Gordon immediately hit it off over a dram or two and a briefing on the Association by the then Vice President, Ronnie Macpherson. The Branch Chairman, Harry Macpherson-Symons, ably supported Ronnie together with Vice Chairman & Treasurer, J.P. Macpherson, and committee members Neil Macpherson, John Macpherson Martin, and the author, who was then the Honorary Secretary. The afternoon in the clan tent was happy and successful, with Gordon enrolling as a member of the Clan Association and, on departure, vowing to return home to Australia and do his best to form an Australian branch of the Clan Association.

Two months later, at the Clan Gathering in Badenoch, Ronnie was elected the Chairman of the Clan Association. We were delighted to see that Gordon was in attendance, having travelled from Australia, and was dressed in full Highland regalia. A head-and-shoulders photograph of Gordon appears as plate 13 in the 1974 *Creag Dhubh*.

On Saturday, the 4th of June, 1974, Sir William of Cluny was invited to be the Chieftain of the Richmond Highland Games. A Colour Party of four kilted clansmen with swords, led by Harry Macpherson

Symons, who carried Cluny's Personal Standard. A few minutes before the official opening ceremony, the Colour Party was discussing the procedure to be followed when, by surprise, Gordon, in full Highland dress, appeared at the entrance to the tent. Following a brief discussion, John Macpherson Martin volunteered to stand down as a member of the Colour Party and invited Gordon to take his place. A film of the event was taken, and may be viewed by clicking on the link below.

https://www.clan-macpherson.org/creag_dhubh/Richmond%20Highland%20Games%201974.mp4

The late Cluny and Sheila have the umbrella, and are approached by Sir Tommy and Lady Jean with their son Duncan. John Macpherson Martin, in the kilt, approaches them. Gordon is at the rear of the Standard Bearers with a young me! Ronnie is the man you see at the beginning of the video and in front of the Standard Bearer, Harry Macpherson Symons, in the procession. Neil is alongside him.

Gordon attended the 1974 Clan Gathering and explained that he was actively working on forming an Australian branch. At the Annual General Meeting, he was given a formal 'Charter' authorising him to found a new Branch in Australia.

Gordon McPherson was Chairman of the Australian Branch for many years, with his final report in the appearing in the 1993 issue of *Creag Dhubh*. He died on the 11th of January, 1995. In his obituary in *Creag Dhubh* 1996, he was described as "a true pioneer of the Clan Macpherson Association. Gordon broke new ground and will be sadly missed by all who came into contact with him." He established Clan Association Sub-Branches in Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia, and Victoria.

So, that chance meeting with Gordon McPherson at the Richmond Highland Games in 1973 brought so much enjoyment for so many clan members. You never know what may result from having a Clan Macpherson tent at your local Highland Games!



Front Row Left to Right: Ronnie Macpherson; Sarah Macpherson, wife of J.P., with two children; Barbara & Neil Macpherson with two children in yellow jumpers; Sir William of Cluny with Jamie, the present Cluny, aged 2 in the pushchair; the Mayor & Mayoress of Richmond upon Thames; Gordon Macpherson; Sheila, Lady Cluny; (male looking right); Eddie Grant (visitor); Ewen MacPherson; 2 children front right not known); Harry Macpherson-Symons is sitting on the ground next to the pushchair.

A NOTABLE WEDDING DRESS

Sandy Macpherson

Ewen, “Old Cluny”, the 20th Chief of Clan Macpherson, was undoubtedly one of the most outstanding Chiefs of his Clan. He lived among his people, spoke their language, and took a paternal interest in them all at a time when not all Clan Chiefs in the Highlands were so minded.

Born in 1804, he succeeded his father, “Duncan of the Kiln,” in 1817 and lived to a ripe old age, loved and respected by many.

He married Sarah Justina Davidson, daughter of Davidson of Tulloch. Theirs was a long marriage, which produced four sons, three of whom became Chiefs, and three daughters. It was commemorated by the presentation of a splendid silver epergne, now proudly displayed in our Clan Museum.

The wedding took place on the 20th of December, 1832 and was held in St George’s, Hanover Square, London. Following a wonderful reception, the happy couple set off for Leamington Spa, not returning home to Scotland until the following June.

The return to Cluny Castle was memorable: they were greeted by a large crowd of Clanspeople, who pulled their coach to the Castle, preceded by pipers playing “The Macpherson Gathering”.

The bride’s wedding dress was described as “Ivory moire silk trimmed with cream satin piping and white gauze ribbon, made in London and with a veil of Honiton lace.” The dress had large puffed sleeves which were balanced with a full short skirt. The effect of this made the waist appear very small.

The dress, as described, was to remain in Cluny Castle for over a century until the year 1934 when it was gifted to the National Museum of Scotland by Frances Eliza Rainsford Addington, who was the widow of Albert Cameron Macpherson, 23rd Chief, the youngest son of Ewen and Sarah.



Sarah in her wedding dress



The high waisted silk tartan gown - part of Sarah's trousseau

Also gifted to the Museum was part of Sarah's trousseau, consisting of a high-waisted gown of vivid silk tartan, trimmed with a profusion of lace across the bodice and sporting a pair of large, puffed sleeves. Worn with a detachable belt and embroidered with floral sprays of bright, coloured silk, the hem of the gown is padded, adding further weight and dimension to what is already an impressive and characterful garment.

The wedding dress was displayed in the Museum in 2002 in a temporary exhibition entitled "The Bride in her Time" and again in an exhibition called "Wild and Majestic".

During this period I was working in the Museum of Scotland as a volunteer part-time guide, a fascinating task which involved displaying some of the exhibits and telling the story of Scotland to visitors, many of whom came from all corners of the world.

In 2002, it was decided to hold a temporary exhibition in 2004 in the Clan Macpherson Museum based on "Old Cluny", being the two hundredth anniversary of his birth. I knew of the dresses in the Scottish Museum and, to help with the exhibits to be displayed, I wrote to the Director of the Scottish Museum requesting the short-term loan of the wedding dress for our summer exhibition. A protracted correspondence followed, the upshot being that we could have the dress on loan, but the conditions attached were very exacting, for example: special insurance, strict temperature and humidity controls, and the highest form of security day and night. These conditions were too onerous, and we had to regretfully withdraw our request.

The wedding dress and trousseau gown are currently not on public display but are safe in storage in Edinburgh; they can be viewed by special application.

It would be wonderful to have the wedding dress and trousseau gown on display in our Museum, but we can rest assured that they are in safe hands.

A footnote on the pipe tune "The Macpherson Gathering", played in 1832 at Cluny Castle. Does any reader know of the existence of this melody today? What a joy it would be to have it played at our August Gatherings!

THE GORDON CONNECTION

John Barton

Each year we gather in the “Duke of Gordon” Hotel in Kingussie…..but we never ask why it is that the Gordon family is celebrated in Macpherson country. Heading down the High Street towards the Church, there is Duke Street on our right. It is not only in Kingussie that we find the name of Gordon and the associated name of Huntly.

Immediately beyond Ruthven Barracks, there is the former farmhouse of Gordonhall, and two miles further there is Killiehuntly, and a farm that is still known as the Dell of Killiehuntly. Tavelling north-east towards Aviemore, there is the Duke of Gordon Monument on the summit of Tor Alvie.



The Duke as it is today.

The story begins in 1449 when Alexander Seton became the 1st Earl of Huntly. Two years later, King James II of Scotland granted him and his successors the Lordship of Badenoch and around 1457, he adopted the family name of Gordon. In due course, the 6th Earl became Marquess of Huntly, but his successor was executed in 1649 for supporting the ill-fated Charles I. In 1684, the 4th Marquess was created Duke of Gordon. It was the 4th Duke, Alexander, who married the celebrated Jane Maxwell. She died in 1812 and was buried at Kinrara. As these peerages had been created prior to Scotland’s union with England, Alexander did not have an absolute right to sit in the House of Lords. To remedy this and to confuse future historians, Alexander was created in 1784, Lord Gordon of Huntley in the county of Gloucestershire. He died in 1827. His son, George, who had been known as the Marquess of Huntly during his father’s lifetime, died in 1836. Having no heir, George was the last Duke.

The Gordon Estates were inherited by his eldest sister, Charlotte, Duchess of Richmond. In 1875, the title of Duke of Gordon was conferred on her grandson, the 6th Duke of Richmond; and he and his successors have since been known as the Duke of Richmond and Gordon. The present Marquess of Huntly is descended from George, the 2nd Marquess, who was executed in 1649.

In the 18th century, successive Dukes were one of the largest landowners in Badenoch, with ownership extending to Glen Feshie, Gaick, Drumochter, and Ben Alder (Alexander Macpherson's *Glimpses of Church and Social Life in the Highlands*, 1893, pp. 399 - 401). Gordonhall was the residence of the factor, who collected the rents. Exceptions to the Gordon holdings were the lands of Cluny Macpherson and Dunachton Estate, which was owned by the Mackintosh.

In 1728, representatives of the Church entered into an agreement with James Macpherson of Killiehuntly, Malcolm Macpherson of Ardbroilach, John Macpherson of Banchor, and others to build a bridge over the River Tromie, but such was the Gordon influence that the work did not proceed until the consent of the Duke had been obtained. The bridge was widened in 1832 and still provides an essential crossing.

In 1792, Alexander, the 4th Duke, acquired from the Government the ruined barracks at Ruthven, in exchange for property at Fort William, and in 1799, he laid out the new town of Kingussie.

A "tack" is a Scots word meaning a " lease", and a tacksman was a lessee. Most of the Gordon property in Badenoch was leased to tacksmen for a specified number of years, and much of the land was then sublet to individual smallholders. Many of the tacksmen in Badenoch were members of Macpherson families who had tenanted their respective holdings over many generations.

Were the Gordons good landlords? In his *Glimpses of Church and Social Life in the Highlands*, Alexander Macpherson illustrated the generosity of Alexander, 4th Duke of Gordon, towards William Macpherson, who was excused any further rent after he had been a tenant for fifty years. In contrast, Ewen MacPherson in his *The Clan Macpherson Trials, Triumphs & Treasures* (2022), describes the eviction of Duncan Macpherson of Breakachy and his wife Margaret, the only daughter of Cluny of the '45, by William Tod, the 4th Duke's resident factor.

From the 1790s, Alexander, the 4th Duke, his wife, Jane Maxwell, and their eldest son, George, the Marquess of Huntly, were all heavy spenders; and by 1800, the Gordon estates were in financial difficulty. Their reckless spending continued, with liabilities exceeding £400,000 and annual interest of over £16,000. By the time of George's death in 1836, the Gordon family had been compelled to sell the greater part of their property in Badenoch to lessen the financial pressure. Who were the buyers?

George Macpherson Grant of Ballindalloch, who had inherited the Invereshie Estate in 1812, purchased Glenfeshie in 1815, and in 1822 James Macpherson of Belleville, son of "Ossian", purchased the Banchor Estate. Notwithstanding these sales, when Alexander, the 4th Duke, died in 1827, the debts on his estate were more than £500,000.

In 1829, Ewen Macpherson, Old Cluny, purchased the Estate of Drumochter. Then in 1830, George Macpherson Grant acquired the farms of Gordonhall, Ruthven, Knappach, and Drumgellovie, together with upper Glentromie, known as "Gaick", for the sum of £15,000. Also around the same time, Old Cluny purchased

the farms of Uvie, Auchmore, Biallidmore, and shootings at Loch Ericht for £6,750; and for a further £2,100, he acquired the township of Balgowan.

Having returned from India with a significant fortune, Ewen Macpherson, a son of Lachlan Macpherson of Ralia, purchased lands at Breakachy, Shanvall, Nessintully, Crubenmore, Crubenbeg, and Presmuchrach for £18,000. Macpherson renamed Nessintully as “Glentruim” and built the substantial house which is still located there.

When slavery was abolished in 1834, James Evan Baillie (1781 - 1863) received about £100,000 as compensation. He used £69,610 of these funds to purchase Gordon lands, comprising farms in the upper Spey around Laggan, the lands from Ballachroan to Kerrowmeanach including the village of Kingussie, and the Alvie farms of Pitchurn, Pitourie and Delfour. Indeed, some of the lands around Kingussie are still owned by the family of James Evan Baillie. As David Taylor pointed out in his *The People are Not There,* Birlinn 2022, James Evan Baillie also attempted the purchase of lower Glentromie, but was outbid by George Macpherson Grant of Ballindalloch, who had been another beneficiary of the slave trade.

These sales did not include Kinrara. Around 1789, Alexander, the 4th Duke, had become estranged from Jane Maxwell. The house at Kinrara was completed in 1804, and until her death in 1812, Jane spent much of her time there. Thereafter, their son George, then known as the Marquess of Huntly, occupied the house; and on his death, such was the memory of George, that Old Cluny gathered together a committee, mostly of Macphersons, who raised funds to erect the outstanding monument on the summit of Tor Alvie, the prominent hill south-west of Aviemore.

In the late 18th and early 19th centuries, the hostelry serving Badenoch was at Pitmain, about a mile to the west of Kingussie. In 1842, a new inn was located in Kingussie by James Evan Baillie. In memory of George, the 5th Duke, who had died six years previously, it was named “The Gordon Arms” but also referred to as “The Duke of Gordon” or simply as “The Hotel”. Lord Cockburn had described Pitmain as an “Abominable Hostel”, and he was equally derogatory about the new building, recording that “it had the loudest bells and longest-teethed rats that I have ever encountered”. In 1874, the tenancy was taken over by William Pullar. For the next 30 years, it was known as “Pullar’s Hotel”, but on the retirement of William Pullar, the name reverted to “The Duke of Gordon Hotel”, otherwise simply as “The Duke”.



An advertisement in the 1925 edition of a local guide book with the title “Romantic Badenoch”.



Through our fundraising efforts and your generous donations the Clan Macpherson Museum has completed many projects in the past three years. We thought you would like to see a list of some of those accomplishments in 2024, 2025 and 2026:

1. **Hermitage** - installed storage shelving units and lighting, with a lock on the door.
2. **Two Wooden Benches** - purchased, installed and auctioned - located on the Laggan side of the Museum.
3. **Library** - installed three locks (2 on high cupboards, 1 on cupboard next to the window).
4. **Signage Project** - exterior signage designed by our in-house team, installed!
5. **Garden Stone Wall** - Laggan side completed.
6. **Garage Door** - installed up and over door, with electricity and lighting. Garage cleaned and organised.
7. **Two New Interior Doors** - installed at Perth and Laggan entrances.
8. **Accessible Toilet Upgrade** - accessibility for all, new interior fixtures, electronic door opening.
9. **Cat Logo Etching** - designed, installed, auctioned and sponsored.
10. **New Flag** - a new flag was ordered and received.
11. **Visitor Questionnaire** - refreshed, reprinted and put into use.
12. **New Website** - designed, created in-house and launched purposefully to coordinate with the Museum closing for the winter in 2025
13. **Adopt-An-Artefact** - a new fundraising program launched with the new website.
14. **Macpherson Places of Interest (MPOI)** - second edition published!
15. **eHive Database Storage** - launched, 3 databases migrated!
16. **The Drone Project** has begun.

INVERESHIE MACPHERSONS



By tradition, the Clan Macpherson has been represented by three main lineages, namely the Macphersons of Cluny, the Macphersons of Pitmain, and the Macphersons of Invereshie. Invereshie House is situated to the west of the river Feshie near its confluence with the Spey. At its peak, Invereshie Estate had Loch Insh and the river Spey as its northern boundary, the River Feshie on the east and the catchment area of the River Tromie on the west, extending south to the Aberdeenshire and Perthshire borders.

In 1731, George Macpherson of Invereshie married Grace, a daughter of Colonel William Grant of Ballindalloch. In 1806, George's grandson, also called George (born 1781) succeeded to the Estate of Ballindalloch. A condition of the Ballindalloch inheritance was that young George adopt the name "Grant", and in consequence he became George Macpherson Grant. George was a Member of Parliament for Sutherland, and in 1838 he was created a baronet, a form of knighthood which passes down the male line.

Sir George died in 1846 and was succeeded by his son Sir John Macpherson Grant (born 1804). Sir John died in 1850 at the age of 46. His son George (born 1839) succeeded him at the age of 11 and from this time a hyphen appears in the family name.* George lived at Ballindalloch. There was great celebration in 1859 when he came to Invereshie after a six year absence and visited his maiden aunts, the Miss Macpherson-Grant at "Milton", otherwise "Milton Cottage", and now known as "Old Milton" - a substantial house midway between Kingussie and Invereshie. At that time, before the arrival of the railways and the construction of a bridge at Kincraig, the practical distance between Ballindalloch and Invereshie was considerable, and a return visit two years later was sufficiently newsworthy to be reported in a Dundee newspaper.

Sir George Macpherson-Grant, the third baronet became an outstanding breeder of Aberdeen Angus cattle, and for a time he was also Member of Parliament for Elginshire and Nairn. He died in 1907. Sir George, his father and grandfather are all buried in the family mausoleum (illustrated) at Inveravon churchyard on the Ballindalloch Estate. His eldest son, John (otherwise known as "Ian") trained as an engineer, and from the time of his marriage in 1889 until he inherited from his father, he lived at Milton Cottage. When in Highland dress, John always wore Macpherson tartan. Sir John was the fourth baronet and died in 1914 at the age of 51.



Macpherson-Grant Mausoleum at Inveravon churchyard on the Ballindalloch Estate.

Sir John was succeeded by his son, George, born in London in 1890, who became the fifth baronet, as Sir George Macpherson-Grant. He was a Justice of the Peace for Banffshire and was age 60 when he died, unmarried, in London in 1951. His estate extended to 150,000 acres, much of which was in Badenoch.

The sixth, and last baronet was Sir Ewen George Macpherson-Grant (1907 - 1983), a grandson of Sir George, the third baronet.

In 1979, Sir Ewen George, transferred Ballindalloch Estate to his daughter Clare Russell (born 1944), who served as Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire until 2019. Her son, who is known as Guy Macpherson-Grant, moved to Ballindalloch in 2014, and now manages Ballindalloch Estate.

When George, who later become the first baronet, inherited Ballindalloch, he found it to be the more prosperous estate and this became his principal residence. It was about the same time that Highland estates began to let “shootings” to wealthy visitors from the south. Indeed Georgina, the Duchess of Bedford, a daughter of Jane Maxwell, the celebrated Duchess of Gordon, took the tenancy of Invereshie from 1818 to 1829. Not content with staying in Invereshie House, she set up less formal accommodation near the head of Glen Feshie, first at Ruigh Fiontaig and then at Ruidh Aiteachan. One of her guests there was the celebrated painter Edwin Landseer with whom Georgina had a particularly close relationship.



The gravestone of Sir George, in (Loch) Insh churchyard - then known as Tom Eunan churchyard.

In later years, the Macpherson-Grants let the estates of Glenfeshie, Invereshie and Gaick to separate shooting tenants, bringing in rents of £6000 in 1881. As David Taylor pointed out in his *“The People Are Not There”* (2022), the shooting activity caused restriction on access to hill grazing and a limitation on the numbers of sheep. In 1839, a decision was made to sell the whole of the sheep stock in Glenfeshie to facilitate shooting. This opposition to sheep grazing persisted and when the Deer Forest Commission was taking evidence in 1894, Sir George, the third baronet, explained that his land was more advantageously occupied by deer forests than by crofts or farms, adding that although sheep pasture could be got for some months in the year, the sheep had to be sent away to be wintered at considerable expense.

Another consequence of the shooting lets was that Invereshie House was not always available and the family made much use of Milton Cottage. For example, in 1884, marquees were erected in the grounds of Milton Cottage when Sir George, the third baronet, celebrated

the “coming of age” of is eldest son John. However, Sir John Macpherson-Grant celebrated his son George’s 21st birthday, in May 1911, with events at Invereshie House. As in 1884, corresponding events were also held in Ballindalloch.

The location of various burials also demonstrates that the Macpherson-Grants did not abandon their roots in Badenoch. Sir John, the fourth baronet, who died in 1914, and Sir George, the fifth baronet, who died 1951, are both buried in (Loch) Insh churchyard - then known as Tom Eunan churchyard - the gravestone being in the form of a cross (illustrated). The Insh graveyard also contains memorial stones to the following:

- George Bertram Macpherson-Grant of Craigo (1868 - 1932) second son of Sir George, the third baronet. [Craigo is near Montrose, in Angus].
- Alastair Macpherson-Grant (1874 - 1949), youngest son of Sir George the third baronet; and his wife Hester.
- Susan Macpherson-Grant (1910 -1975), daughter of Alastair and Hester.
- Mabel Lucy Madden (died 1951) daughter of Sir George, the third baronet.
- Mary Macpherson-Grant (1905 -1996), brother of Sir Ewan George, the sixth baronet; and her husband Colonel Andrew Fausset-Farquhar (1904 - 1987).

George Macpherson Grant, who was to become the first baronet, extended the lands that he had inherited with the purchase in 1814 of upper Glen Feshie - and the Gaick Estate in 1830 - both from the Gordon family. Following on the death of Sir George, the fifth baronet, there were significant sales. In particular, there was a sale to the Secretary of State for Scotland, for the then Forestry Commission, in 1954 of extensive lands extending from the river Feshie to the river Tromie. Other sales included Old Milton (1956), Glentromie and Gaick (1958), croft land in Drumguish (1960) and Glenfeshie Estate (1967). Finally in 1976, Mary Macpherson-Grant and her husband Colonel Andrew Fausset-Farquhar sold their house at Farr (overlooking Loch Insh), leaving the Macpherson-Grant family with no substantial holding in Badenoch.

*For example, there is no hyphen in the name of Sir George, the first baronet in a panel on the wall of the church overlooking Loch Insh, in which George commemorates Captain John Macpherson, his late father.

IN SEARCH OF JANE MACPHERSON

Charlotte Cory

I live in Sancerre, right in the middle of France, a tiny medieval hilltop town famed for its wines that have been grown on the slopes that head down to the River Loire since before Roman times. About forty minutes west (by car) is Aubigny-sur-Nère, the "City of the Stuarts" and for over seven centuries the centre of the Auld Alliance.

As a British writer and artist, I have long been aware of historical Scottish ties with the area. Our house is known locally as "the Malfuson house" because that family lived here from at least 1800 to 1965. One summer's day, about a decade ago, my dog started barking frantically in the courtyard. I went out to find an elderly couple in the street gazing intently up at my windows. "This was my family home," the gentleman said, introducing himself as Alain Malfuson. I whisked him and his wife, Muriel, inside and we toured the house his mother had sold some fifty years back. It was full of their memories and not much had changed.



This is the plaque on the wall of the house used as a Jacobite commune in Sancerre just to the right of the photograph between the window and the drainpipe.

We then went through to the back garden. There, standing before the sweeping view down to the River Loire, Alain Malfuson told me that his great-grandfather had written the famous book about the 1573 Siege of Sancerre. The book started by describing this view. He pointed to a couple of châteaux down in the valley that had been built by Scots and more immediately to a house in the winding street just below where a memorial stone set into the front wall commemorates the Scottish community who had taken refuge in the household of one Lord Nairne following the Battle of Culloden. He then said that the Malfusons had come at some point from Scotland and had Frenchified their name from Macpherson. This was the first, but by no means the last, time I heard this.

Sadly, Alain died a few months later, having apparently asked his family to give me the old grandfather clock that had stood in the house. He had visited Sancerre that summer, knowing he had terminal cancer and wanting to check on the state of his parents' grave in the cemetery. His daughter wrote to me that he had been thrilled to see the old home again and enjoy the view. The clock duly arrived - and so, too, many members of his family who visit regularly. Muriel confirmed that the aunt who lived in the rooms at the back of the house during the war had a little room in her attic (which I have preserved) where she bravely hid Jewish children. The Malfuson/Macpherson Scottish lineage is often repeated.

Aubigny-sur-Nère parades its Scottish heritage, quite literally, every July when the town is awash with tartan and bagpipes during the exuberant Fêtes Franco-Écossaises, a three-day festival that started back in 1931 and has grown in popularity ever since. Pipe bands from all over France and Belgium descend on Aubigny to compete in the Grand Concours, and each evening there is a Tattoo and a parade of the massed bands through the streets. Anyone with any Scottish ancestry buys a kilt or tartan tam o'shanter. Flags with the St Andrew's Cross flap alongside the tricolour from countless flagpoles. The bakery in the high street has bagpipes made of baguettes and cakes painted on its window and sells Shortbread d'Aubigny, while next door the butcher's window features a life-sized painted Highland cow. The Château des Stuarts in the middle of the town has an interpretation centre about the Auld Alliance. By contrast, Sancerre retains far fewer traces. There is a Rue Macdonald named after the son of one of the refugees who was born here and rose to become one of Napoleon's most trusted Maréchals (there is a statue of him outside the Louvre in Paris). The town no longer even knows for certain the whereabouts of the Scottish cemetery.

This summer I went with a friend to the Aubigny jamboree. It was dangerously hot, and how those pipe bands kept playing, I have no idea. When I noticed the Clan Macpherson had a stand handing out leaflets about the Museum at Newtonmore, I naturally bounced up and met Angus and told him that I lived in the Malfuson/Macpherson house in nearby Sancerre. I mentioned an old booklet published in 1919 about Sancerre's Scottish refugee community and said there was a Jane Macpherson listed among those buried in the missing cemetery. The writer, a local historian, Maurice Supplison, a local historian, claimed that a lady called Jane or Janet Macpherson who had lived in Lord Nairne's house and died there on 15 February 1766, was very likely the widow of Ewen Macpherson, the Jacobite son of the clan chief who had stayed hidden for nine years in a cave on his own domaine. He had evaded capture despite a bounty of 1000 pounds on his head. In 1755, he escaped to France and died at Dunkirk in 1756.

There followed an interesting exchange of emails, and as I was going to Scotland at the end of September, we made the trip to Newtonmore. I took Angus a copy of the Supplison booklet. You can well imagine my joy at discovering the riches in the Clan Museum, and in

particular the portrait of Margaret Macpherson, Ewen and Janet's daughter, who spent time in exile in France. I pictured her living here in Sancerre. I thought I ought to adopt her portrait, adopt her tartan for the Sancerre Scots, and write a play about her and her horse.

This soon turned out to be completely spurious fantasy on my part. Angus scrupulously checked it all out. My own Jane Macpherson, whoever she was, buried in the Scottish cemetery in Sancerre (that I have since located), was not the widow of the Clan Chief's son. Her beautiful daughter Margaret had nothing to do with Sancerre. Those noblewomen's fates are well documented. But who was she, this other Jane? Angus also questioned the Malfuson/Macpherson derivation. I had to admit that this is wholly based on hearsay, admittedly hearsay deeply rooted in local and family tradition. Research is to be continued at the Departmental archives in nearby Bourges.

As it happened, I went there last week as I was finishing this article, because they are installing an exhibition about the history of portrait photography in the Department. It is in the Musée de la Résistance et de la Déportation, which is fortuitously in the same building and under the same direction as the archives. The exhibition includes a Sancerre photographer, Marcelle Vatan, one of the first women in France to be awarded the diploma in photography in Paris. During lockdown, some French friends were emptying an old photographic studio that had been abandoned since 1976 and offered me all the glass plate negatives that had been stored there. It turned out she was a remarkable portrait artist, and her pictures of members of the local Resistance and German officers stationed in the town are now recognised as unique and important to French history. My book on her, Sancerre Lumière, was published just recently.

As I was leaving Angus and Valerie after a fascinating evening back in September, I leaned into my car thinking to hand them the copy of Sancerre Lumière that was on the back seat. I didn't do so because we had stayed long enough, and wartime Sancerre photographs had little to do with the Scots in Sancerre. Standing in the Musée on Friday afternoon, however, having delivered materials to accompany Marcelle Vatan's work, I stood chatting with the museum's director. I mentioned that I needed some help in their archives tracing anything about the Jacobite refugee community in Sancerre. I need to track down the origins of the Malfusons in Sancerre and anything about the community around Lord Nairne, especially a Jane Macpherson. The director kindly promised to help and mentioned a Scottish secret agent who ended up spending time in Bourges around the time of the Liberation in 1944. Idly I said "Not a Sir Tommy Macpherson, by any chance?" Yes, the Director said. We have photographs of him coming back to Bourges in years after. In a kilt. I will dig them out for you, if you like…. I certainly did like. I got out my phone and showed him the photos I had taken of said kilt in the Macpherson Clan Museum hundreds of miles to the north in Newtonmore.

To be continued…. Very much so.

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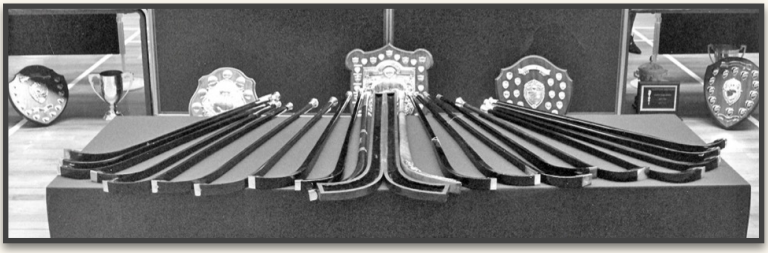
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MACPHERSON FAMILY SHINTY TROPHIES

Shelagh Macpherson Noble

In the late 1890s, John Macpherson, originally from Newtonmore, invented the hickory-shafted shinty stick, or caman, and the family's connection to shinty continues in the 21st century. In the early years and up until 1976, when the family sporting stores closed due to retirement, John, along with his sons, Allan and Hamish, awarded a silver-mounted caman to the captain of the winning team of the Camanachd Cup. These camans were considered prize possessions, and there are 28 of them held by retired players in Newtonmore.



A display of Macpherson Silver Mounted Camans

In 1937, John presented a cup to the winning team in the senior schools' competition, and in 1949, the Schools Camanachd Cup was presented by John's son, Hamish.



John's 1937 Cup



Hamish's 1949 Cup

In 2010, in his memory, Allan's family introduced a cup for the Badenoch primary schools, to encourage the children to follow their older siblings into the game.



The Allan Macpherson Memorial Cup

On Saturday, the 9th of May, 2025, five teams from Badenoch Primary Schools gathered on the Dr Johnnie Cattanach shinty pitch in Newtonmore to compete for the Allan Macpherson Memorial Cup. The age range is between 7 and 12 years, and despite the youngest being small in stature, the teams were well matched in speed and skill. A representative from The Camanachd Association was on hand to ensure fair play, and the referees were members of the senior schools' shinty team.

Parents, teachers, and coaches encouraged the children from the sidelines, and at the end of the tournament, the captain of the winning team received the cup, and medals were presented to members of the teams of winners and runners-up. All children received a 'sweetie' for taking part and being good sports.





Above - Although the sun shone it was cold

Left - A member of the winning team

The 1st Marquis of Montrose Society

The 1st Marquis of Montrose Society was founded in 1996 by the late Alan Macpherson, eldest son of past Clan Chief, Sir William Macpherson. Alan was a passionate and extremely well-informed follower of James Graham, 1st Marquis of Montrose. 'The Great Marquis' led the Royalist campaign in Scotland during the 'Wars of the Three Kingdoms'. His military exploits during this period passed into legend and established him as one of Scotland's most noble and militarily gifted leaders. Ultimately, however, Montrose was to succumb to overwhelming odds and to sacrifice all for his country and his king.

Alan formed the society to inspire a better understanding of these troubled times and to help promote and preserve the good name of the 1st Marquis of Montrose.

The Clan Macpherson proudly supported Montrose during this period, principally in the battles of 1644/5, in what was to become known as 'The Year of Miracles'.

The 1st Marquis of Montrose Society respectfully invites the members of Clan Macpherson to continue that support by joining our society. To learn more about our society and about this fascinating period of Scottish history, please see our website at: https://www.firstmarquisofmontrosesociety.co.uk or contact our secretary, Shelagh Macpherson Noble (1st.moms1650@gmail.com).

Registered Charity No. SC 041559

CHANGE OF MEMBER DETAILS

Notification of death and change of name and/or address should be sent to the Registrar and, if resident outside the UK, to your Branch's Membership Secretary/Registrar. Notice of death may also be sent to the Secretary for inclusion in the obituaries for the AGM, and to the Editor with an obituary for inclusion in Creag Dhubh.

DATA PROTECTION ACT

Personal data provided by a member to the Clan Macpherson Association (CMA) will be used solely for the purpose of communicating with the member about information and events relevant to the membership and matters related to the organisation of the CMA. It will not be passed to any third party for any other purpose unless this is required by law. Any member may apply to the Registrar at any time to ascertain the accuracy and content of data held. Any information found to be incorrect will be corrected as quickly as possible.

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