



Sgurr Uaran

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The President's Letter

Greetings to you. Since our last newsletter I am delighted to say that we now have a new Editor. Larry McRae from Boone, North Carolina, has stepped forward and offered his services to fill this post. It is, of course, a very vital one, and I am confident that Larry will excel in this Role. Please give him your support by sending in any news of events you may encounter for without such items, the Editor's task is a very difficult one indeed.

Grandfather Mountain Gathering for this year is now past but its memories linger on. At the AGM, much was discussed, and some very positive actions grew from it. The board decided that for the immediate future we shall pay the enrollment fee and basic Tent cost for Gatherings, at least as far as our budget will allow. For those of you considering running a Tent please call myself at 864-647-8080, and we shall discuss the arrangements.

The other important action by the Board is our decision to create a Trust Fund to be used for Charitable and Educational causes. We have had enquiries by members who would like to endow such a fund and accordingly we shall proceed with it. When the details have been completed we shall inform you. Hopefully this will be completed by the time our next newsletter is published in December.

As a final item I am delighted to tell you that Clan MacRae reigned supreme in the Parade of Tartans at Grandfather Mountain by winning the coveted "Clan of Excellence" Award from of field of the some 100 or more Clans participating. Next year we shall take the place of Honour by leading the Parade. Well done to all concerned. — *John MacRae-Hall*



A note from the new editor

Although there may have been just a hint of desperation in Captain John's action, I do appreciate his willingness to trust me, a new member of the Society, with editing *Sgurr Uaran*. I've already heard enough to know that the newsletter is important to the Society's members, and I will give it my best efforts.

About me: I live in Boone, NC, near Grandfather Mountain, and teach economics at Appalachian State University. I've been here about twenty-five years and before that was briefly on the faculty at the University of Florida. My BA is in Russian language and literature (University of South Florida) and my PhD in economics (UNC-Chapel Hill). I have a wife who also teaches economics, a grown son who kayaks and needs to find a real job, and a daughter who has just graduated from high school and will attend the University of St Andrews in the fall. I don't know that I have a hobby, but I enjoy working on my house, reading military history, walking battlefields, and paddling a canoe on the rare occasion when I get the chance.

My parents were both from South Georgia, my father from Morven, a hamlet in Brooks County, and my mother (whose ancestors were mostly English, Hendons and Williamses) from near Cairo in Grady County. My father's family came to the New World in the 1760's, settling originally in Robeson County, NC, and moving southwards around 1800. I grew up in central Florida; regrettably, the only trace left of our Scottish heritage was eating scones for breakfast and attending the Presbyterian Church.

About the newsletter: I've never done anything like this before, and I'm very conscious that this should be *your* newsletter. While I certainly can't do some of the things Colin MacRae did, I will try to find things that all who bear the name "MacRae" will find interesting. (Colin is a tough act to follow; I hope everyone realizes that I'm a bit intimidated.) But I will depend mostly on you, the readers and members of the Clan MacRae Society, to provide content for *Sgurr Uaran*. At some point, I'd like to begin publishing profiles of members and brief family histories or anecdotes. We are a far-flung lot, but we share a history, and it would

be wonderful to find out who we all are.

If you've got an interesting family story or can sketch your family's history, please send it to me. If you get a random letter from me asking about who you are, how your MacRaes came to America, and what they've done here, please respond. In the meantime, I depend on you to send in reports from the Games and other Scottish events all across North America. I would prefer that you send submissions by e-mail, as plain text or as a Word attachment, but I'll take anything including quill pen on parchment. My addresses are:

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625 Dogwood Road
Boone, NC 28607

e-mail: MRMCRAE@BOONE.NET

telephone: 828-264-0574
fax: 828-262-6105

Please understand that any submission may be edited for length or form, and that space constraints may determine what gets published when.

At the Bundanoon Games in New South Wales, a featured event is lifting the "Bundanoon Stones of Manhood." According to *Fortitudine*, the newsletter of Clan MacRae in Australia and New Zealand, "Modelled on the Maglashen Stones from Scotland they consist of a set of five round stones ranging in weight from 100 Kg to 150 Kg [220 to 330 lbs]. The history of the stones goes back over a thousand years to the highlands of Scotland when a boy was considered to have reached manhood when he could lift two stone in weight from the ground onto the top of a stone dyke. In the 1970's the lifting of the stones was revived with the introduction of the Maglashen Stones, five round stones from 90—140 Kg [198 — 308 lbs]. The Bundanoon Stones are lifted onto barrels, the fastest successful competitor declared Champion."

Reports and Correspondence

CLAN OF EXCELLENCE 2002 **Grandfather Mountain Highland Games**



President John MacRae-Hall accepts the Clan of Excellence Award.

Reports from the United States

Moultrie Scottish Weekend, February 15-17, 2002

The Clan MacRae Society was again represented at the Moultrie Scottish Weekend this year. This event is sponsored annually by the Ellen Payne Odum Genealogical Library, Moultrie, Georgia.

The weekend started on Friday night with a quail supper and ceilidh. Saturday brought several seminars of interest to the Scots community:

- *Aberdeen at War*, by Eric Duncan
- *Who was Scotland's Greatest King?* by Dr. Bob Edgar
- *Falconry*, by Kitty Carroll and her birds
- *The Historical Connections of Clans Wallace, Bruce & Douglas*, by John Douglas
- *The Swords of Wallace & Bruce*, by Dick Lucas
- The Tartan and Educational Cultural Association – Chuck Bearman
- *Musical Tribute to Robert Burns*, by Rixey and MacMillan
- *The Scottish 100*, by Duncan A. Bruce
- Scottish Heritage USA – Valerie Gray

Library Officials made several Recognitions of participants:

- Mr. Duncan A Bruce, FSA (Scot), Honoured Guest
- Scottish-American Military Society
- Centerville Fire Department Highland Bagpipes
- Honoured Clans: The Family of Bruce Society,

The Clan Douglas Society, The Clan Wallace (Worldwide)

Those at the Saturday night Banquet were entertained by:

- The Scottish-American Military Society
- Centerville Fire Department Highland Bagpipes
- Presentation to Honoured Guest, Mr. Duncan A Bruce
- Colin Grant-Adams
- Dr. Pat Talbert
- Eric Duncan
- Bobby Murray
- Carl Peterson
- Rixey and MacMillan

On Sunday our Worship Service was held at the First Presbyterian Church, Moultrie, the Reverend Hugh Buchanan Ward leading the service. A Kirkin' o' the Tartan concluded the service. I was privileged to carry Aruther Cree's Red MacRae banner for this weekend.

Participation at this event gives our Clan Society a presence among historians and genealogists of the Scots community.

Submitted by Leon Folsom

New Hampshire Games Leaving Loon Mountain

New Hampshire Highland Games to Relocate in 2003

Officials of the New Hampshire Gathering of the Scottish Clans, Inc., organizers of the New Hampshire Highland Games, and the Loon Mountain Recreation Corporation have confirmed that their joint efforts to stage the event would come to an end after this year's games scheduled 13-15 September 2002.

Whilst not ruling out the possibility that the

Games might return to Loon Mountain at some future date, Attorney Chuck Douglas, vice president and legal counsel for the Games, stated, "The Games have always been held on the second weekend after the Labor Day weekend. In 1997, after NASCAR introduced a second Winston Cup Race at NHIS on the same weekend, our event has been adversely impacted both from a traffic flow and an accommodation point of view. We concluded that the best option, all-around is to change the date of

the Games to the weekend following, beginning in 2003. Unfortunately this conflicts with the beginning of foliage season up north, and we were left with no choice other than to find an alternative location. We hope to make a further announcement on the location of the 2003 Games by mid July. Rick Kelley, general manager of the Loon Mountain Recreation Corporation said, "This is a sad day for all of us. You can't walk away from a 27-year relationship without having some regrets. We have seen the New Hampshire Highland Games grow from being a small clan picnic to one of the finest Scottish festivals in the world, and Loon is proud to have played its part in achieving this unique reputation. This situation is coming about through circumstances that are really outside our control and we wish the New Hampshire Highland Games continued success in their future location."

David Gooch, president of the New Hampshire Gathering of the Scottish Clans, echoed Kelley's comments, adding, "We have had great support from the people at Loon Mountain and the wider Lincoln Woodstock Community for nearly three decades. We are working on a plan to establish a permanent gesture of our appreciation to this community, to be announced at this year's Games."

Editor's Note: This is sad and ironic considering how many Winston Cup drivers are, to judge from their names, of Scottish extraction: Gordon, Stewart, Elliott, Martin, Wallace, and Hamilton, for example.

Brochures and Event schedules for this year's Games at Loon Mountain are now available. For inquiries and advance ticket orders, call the toll free ticket line at 1-800-358-SCOT (7268) or order online at www.nhscot.org. There is also a permanent Ticket Office located on the right side of the entrance bridge to Loon Mountain open 7 days a week from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

The New Hampshire Highland Games are sponsored by the Board of the New Hampshire Gathering of the Scottish Clans, Inc. (NHGSC) which also sponsors the NH School of the Scottish Arts and the Scottish Scholarship Fund of New Hampshire. Thanks to the success of the Games over the years, NHGSC and SSFNH have awarded over \$1.5 million for educational support and individual scholarships for study of Scottish cultural and performing arts.

From the New Hampshire Highland Games
Telephone: 603-229-1975

Viewing Note: One of the premiere drivers on the World Rally Championship circuit is Colin McRae, originally from Lanark, Scotland. He is known as what NASCAR fans would call a "hard charger": win or crash. If your cable or satellite service carries the Speed Channel, catch the action at 11:00 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

Loch Norman Games April 19-21, 2002

The Clan MacRae Society sponsored a tent at the Loch Norman Highland Games in April. This is the fifth year that MacRaes have been participants at these games.

The Loch Norman Highland Games are held at Historic Rural Hill Farm in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. Rural Hill, the homestead farm of Revolutionary War patriot, Major John Davidson, is located in the Catawba River Valley Historic Corridor. John arrived in Mecklenburg County about 1760. The farm continued as a working, pro-

ducing, and self-sufficient farm for more than 230 years. When the Davidsons left the farm in 1992, the stewardship of this historic property passed to Mecklenburg County and then to the Catawba Valley Scottish Society. Seasonal farming activities are being maintained, and a herd of highland cows is resident at the Farm.

Call to the Clans – As dusk fell on Friday evening of the games weekend, representative clansmen assembled at the edge of the games field. As they brought lighted torches onto the field they an-

nounced the presence of their Clan at the Games. I was honored to carry the torch for the Clan MacRae, and to give the hearty battle call, “Sgurr Uaran!” Torch bearers were then directed to one of the quadrants of the field. The lighted torches formed a large St Andrew’s Cross on the field in the darkness, an impressive sight.

On Saturday, athletic, musical and dancing competitions occurred throughout the day. Opening Ceremonies officially recognized the guests and participants. A presentation of the massed bands included the Grandfather Mountain Highlanders. The MacRae Clan Tent was located adjacent to the Menzies Clan Tent – our cousins through Donald MacRae of Atlanta. We enjoyed the camaraderie of this proximity. Several visitors expressed interest in things related to the MacRaes, membership application forms were given to the interested parties and one membership was paid on the spot.

The Rural Hill Burying Ground was the site of Sunday Worship, led by the Reverend Jeff Lowrance. Kirkin’ o’ the Tartans concluded the service and a procession of the worshippers to the games field was led by the honored guests and tartan bearers. Arthur Cree will be gratified to know that his banner was used for this service.

Later on Sunday, the several MacRaes (including some of our Menzies MacRae cousins) participated in the Parade of Tartans. While this is not conducted as precisely as the parade at Grandfather Mountain, we made a pretty spectacle marching around the games field.

A very moving ceremony for the retirement of American Flags that have served their useful lives was conducted by the Scottish American Military Society at the end of the Sunday afternoon events. All who were present appreciated the respect shown our flags.

Participation at these games is growing, and it remains a good site for the Clan MacRae Society to sponsor a Clan Tent.

Submitted by Leon Folsom

Update on the Clan MacRae Website

The Clan MacRae Society Web Site went live March 15, 2002, and as of July 30th it has been visited 5,483 times. The visits have occurred as follows:

March 2002 – 257 visitors
 April 2002 – 605 visitors
 May 2002 – 1274 visitors
 June 2002 – 1816 visitors
 July 2002 – 1531 visitors

Our site is also now registered with all of the major Internet search engines and will appear on their search results list when searching for “clan macrae”. This is how our site appears when using the following search engines:

LookSmart – Our site is #1 on the results list
 Google – Our site is #7 on the results list
 Netscape – Our site is #8 on the results list
 AltaVista – Our site is #11 on the results list

Ultimately we would like our site to appear at the top of the search results list when anyone searches for “clan macrae” and we will continue to work with the search engine vendors to achieve this goal.

Some Possible Enhancements For The Future

As we look for ways to improve our site, several ideas have been suggested including adding:

- Email addresses for selected Directors, Commissioners and Officers
- More links to other Scottish sites
- A “Recent Events” page showing pictures and text describing recent events at which our Society participated.

Our overall goal is to evolve the Clan MacRae web site into a “community meeting place” for all members of the Clan. If you have any suggestions as to how we can improve the site, please email them to webmaster@macrae.org

Submitted by Dewey and Jill Ray

The following letter was received from the Grandfather Mountain Highlanders
Grandfather Mountain Highlanders, Inc.

July 9, 2002

Dear Friends,

The Grandfather Mountain Highlanders want to express our gratitude, once again, for your continued generosity and support. We are proud to be associated with Clan MacRae and value our relationship.

Your gift of the tartan ties last fall was another example of your support. We will wear them as protocol allows with our uniform. We are often asked what tartan we wear and we always enjoy explaining to folks the reasons that we wear the MacRae tartan. The ties are a nice addition and will serve us well on various occasions.

In addition, we want to thank you for the annual contribution that you have been giving us for several years. It goes a long way in our annual expenses and is always put to very good use.

We look forward to seeing all of you at Grandfather this year. As usual, we would like to come by your dinner on Saturday night for a short performance. Please let us know if there is anything else you might need us for over the weekend. It is always our pleasure to be with you.


Sally Warburton

The Highlanders played a very pleasant short concert at the annual Clan Dinner and General Meeting and also made a splendid appearance at the Ceilidhs in Banner Elk. Our thanks to them.

South Bay Scottish Society

The Seanachie, newsletter of the South Bay Scottish Society in Santa Clara, California, carried a nice piece on Clan MacRae in its June — August 2002 issue. Under the title, “The Scattered Children of Kintail,” Cait Hutnik presented a brief history of the Clan, including the remarkable fact that there are more MacRaes listed in the Vancouver

telephone directory than in all of Kintail and Glen-shiel. Scattered Children indeed. For those on the West Coast who might be interested:

South Bay Scottish Society
4937 Avenida De Angelina
Santa Clara, CA 95054-1401
www.southbay.scott.org

Reports from Abroad

An Invitation to a Family Reunion "Down Under"

Dear Captain MacRae-Hall,

As Assistant Publicity Officer of the Committee arranging the Sesqui-Centenary Celebrations and Clan MacRae Gathering at Armidale, NSW on April 12th and 13th, 2003, it is my pleasant duty to invite you, your wife and members of the Clan MacRae Society of North America to join us on this special occasion.

While the occasion is being organized by and primarily for the descendants of John and Mary McRae who arrived at Moreton Bay, where Brisbane now stands, on January 11th in 1853, all MacRaes will be made most welcome.

If any of our Clansmen are planning to attend they should contact the Committee's Secretary, **Mrs Janice Browning, P.O. Box 467, Armidale, N.S.W. 2350, Australia.** before October 31st to express their interest. In January, 2003, the com-

mittee will be forwarding Registration Forms containing details of the costs of the lunches and dinner.

A brother of 'our' John McRae, according to family records, went to America, but no-one has been able to find a trace of him. We know him only as Ninnie, which is possibly an abbreviation of

Ninian. There would be an extremely remote chance that any present member of your Society would be a descendant.

We look forward to giving a warm welcome to any Clansfolk who should venture Down-Under for our Gathering.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,
(signed) Elma McRae

Does anyone have an ancestor called "Ninnie" or "Ninian" who came to America in the 1850's?

Nova Scotia International Gathering of the Clans

Every four years the International Gathering of the Clans has been held in Nova Scotia, starting in 1979. Next year the event will start on July 1, 2003 with the unfurling of the International flag at Pugwash, Nova Scotia. On July 4th Mayor Peter Kelly of Halifax will host all visiting Clan Chiefs and Clan dignitaries to a reception prior to the Nova Scotia International Tattoo, a yearly event in Nova Scotia. The Halifax Highland Games will be held on the Garrison Grounds on Saturday and the Kirking of the Tartans will be held on Sunday. Highland games will be held throughout the summer in Antigonish, New Glasgow, North Sydney, Middleton with various Celtic Concerts and Scottish events all summer long. The Shiretown of Pictou will host the Ship Hector Festival in August and the New Scotland Days in September while other locations will put on teas, Celtic music concerts, festivals and displays. Art shows will be held and all cities, towns and villages are being encouraged to get in on the events. Clans will be gathering, Lamonts, Hendersons, Chisholms, Ramsey,

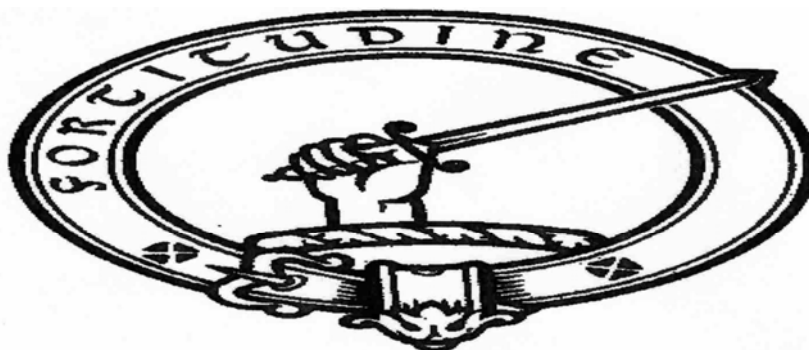
Murray, to name a few with a special invitation from Clan Lamont to all McKerchers and McKarchers to attend a special gathering.

Clan Sutherland will hold a special service at the Loch Broom Log Cabin Church and family picnics are planned. The Pipers Picnic will be held at Earltown the first Saturday in August.

The lowering of the International Flag will be held at Pictou with a special Celtic evening at the DeCoste Center. The Federation of Scottish Clans in Nova Scotia have an International Committee in place. For further information on lodging at colleges, hotels, etc., contact Check In Nova Scotia.

Received from

Jean MacKaracher Watson
485 Cobequid Road,
Lower Sackville, Nova Scotia
Canada, B4C 3Y7
Telephone: 902-864-8335
e-mail: jean.watson2@ns.sympatico.ca



Clan MacRae Society of Canada

'Applecross', 2099 Granite Street, Victoria, BC, V8S 3G5 Canada
Telephone 250-598-3140 applecross@telus.net

June 20, 2002

Captain. Jon MacRae-Hall
President, Clan MacRae Society of North America
P.O. Box 404, Westminster, South Carolina 29693-0404

Dear Captain Jon,

Greetings to you from the Clan MacRae Society of Canada. I send our congratulations on your election as President in the USA. I had the pleasure to meet your predecessor and your Clan Members at the Millennium Gathering in Kintail in 2000.

We have recently incorporated a Clan Society of Canada with registration in Nova Scotia. We are very much at the infant stage in our development but Members in Canada who attended the Millennium were determined to encourage 'The Scattered Children of Kintail' in Canada to incorporate in a distinctive Canadian expression of the Clan MacRae. To this end we are now advancing with our plan to expand the Clan here and encourage new Members.

I have written to Marigold MacRae in Scotland and to Ian McCrae in Australia/NZ and each has sent a greeting in anticipation of our first *Newsletter*. I am writing now to ask you to do the same, ie. would you be so kind as to send us greetings from your Clan Society to ours that would then be printed in our first *Newsletter* in autumn 2002? Our *Newsletter* is being prepared during the summer. Please feel free to respond via e.mail.

One other favour to ask – would you send to me your Newsletter, *Scurr Uaran*, (back issues would be very welcome!)? I would hope this might be the first of many possible future mutual exchanges of our respective Clan communications. It is my hope that we might collaborate on some programs where it seemed feasible and mutually beneficial. Clearly your organization is far advanced over ours and we could learn a great deal from your experience and resources. It would, of course, be wonderful to meet you at some time and discuss these possibilities.

Scurr Uran

Robert D. MacRae (The Ven. Dr.)
President

Ceud Mìle Failte

100,000 Welcomes to Our New Members

Ms Victoria L. Beckman-Wilson
9923 Cedar Crest Dr
Helotes, TX 78023

Ms. Marilyn Cherry
17050 Commons Creek Dr
Charlotte, NC 28277

Ms. Linda Dybwad
17023 NE 34th Pl.
Bellevue, WA 98008

Mr. & Mrs. Chris Edwards
708 French Collins Rd
Conway, SC 29526

Ms. Nancy Ellen Grell
35 Nathan Ln N #215
Plymouth, MN 55441-6357

Ms. Vickie Jensen
PO Box 536
Elmira, OR 97437

Mr. & Mrs. Michael B. Kelly
1844 Crestwood Dr.
Chattanooga, TN 37415

Mr. Rhonard Log MacRae
PO Box 247
Old Fort, NC 28762

Mr. Robert D. Macrae
Clan Macrae of Canada
Applecross, 2099 Granite St
Victoria, BC V8S 3G5 Canada

Mr. Thomas R. MacRae
3712 Dorrit Ave
Boynton Beach, FL 33436

Mr. Ian McCrae
Clan MacRae of Australia/New Zealand
56 Rowley St, Seven Sisters
Sydney, NSW 2147 Australia

Ms. Gail Bradley McRae
35 Main St #4
Garden City, GA 31408-1420

Mr. Joseph B. Ray
17155 Stormy Dr
Haymarket, VA 20169

Mr. Philip Joseph Smith
10453 Trailway Oak
San Antonio, TX 78240-5514

Mr. John T. Trabold
4937 Dunman Ave
Woodland Hills, CA 91364-2720

We welcome you to the Clan MacRae Society of North America. I encourage all present members to note those new members who may live in your communities. Call them and welcome them aboard.

