



CLAN MacRAE SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA
12623 Terrymill Drive, Herndon, VA 20170-2874

Sgurr Uaran

Volume 36, Number 2

July 2012

The President's Letter

Online at www.macrae.org

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Greetings to all of you. This, our summer Newsletter, always appears just after our AGM and Directors meeting, which is of course held in conjunction with the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games. This particular letter is being written on the morning after the opening ceremonies of the Olympic Games in London. These events have a common factor. Essentially they are a gathering together of tribes of people to celebrate their kinship in friendly trials of athletic prowess, with no ulterior motive or gain, other than bragging rights at the outcome. This is a truly Celtic trait and tradition, refreshing in today's world. The original Olympic games were held in Olympia Greece, commencing in 776 BC and ending in AD 393. Recent archaeological evidence found in Scotland, Wales and other parts of Great Britain is showing that British clans also gathered together at certain times of the year for similar mutual festivities many centuries before the original Greek event. No matter that they squabbled and fought over domestic issues, and still do so, they came together in harmony at these times.

It was not until 1894 that the modern IOC (International Olympic Committee) was formed, and the Fourth Olympic Games of the Modern Era were held in London in 1908. (It was here of course that the standard length of the marathon race was set: King Edward VII wished that his grandchildren might see the beginning of the race, and so it ran from Windsor Castle to the Olympic Stadium, a distance of 26 miles, 385 yards.) This year the host nation is again Great Britain. In the hundred and four years since those earlier games, during the course of two world wars and enormous changes in technology and communications, Britain has been displaced as the leading nation of the world and much criticised for its Imperialism and its Empire. One thing is certain however: Britain's was the greatest Empire the world has ever known and the most benign. What is so often overlooked by its detractors is the fact that it has been replaced by the British Commonwealth. A remarkably democratic institution, the Commonwealth currently consists of 54 Independent sovereign states, who are voluntary members, in which no government exercises power over others. The members have a combined population of 2.2 billion people, almost one third of the world's population, with sixteen member states having Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II as their Head of State. We clan members, all of Scottish descent or association, vicariously reflect this principle of true Democracy and can be justly proud of it.

I wish you all good fortune and on behalf of all, thank our members of the armed services and security forces for their everyday sacrifice to guard our precious freedoms.

— Capt. John M MacRae-Hall, KCTJ

Change of Address for the Clan MacRae Society

With sadness for the passing of years, we must report that, after many years of faithful and energetic service as our Society's Treasurer, Laura Belle Macrae feels that she can no longer continue those duties. (See Captain John's appreciation on page 10.) Her son Stuart Macrae has volunteered

to pick up the Treasurer's office, along with his current role as Membership Secretary. Dues payments, changes of address and new applications for membership should be addressed to Stuart:

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c/o Stuart Macrae
12623 Terrymill Drive
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Inside this issue:

Notes and Correspondence

- Upcoming Events
- Equipment for Clan Tents
- Literature for Clan Tents
- Scotland on Facebook
- More on the Titanic
- Gathering 2014 (15?)
- The Pylons (cont'd.)
- A Dancing MacRae
- Bruce MacRae elected as Director

Genealogy Corner: The Achnagart Connection

John C. McRae, Engraver

Ceud Mile Failte

Laura Belle

2

6

9

10

10

Notes and Correspondence

Upcoming Events

- Colorado Scottish Festival, August 4 — 5, 2012, Denver, CO. Contact Bruce McRae, McRaeBruce@aol.com. (There will probably not be a MacRae tent.)
- Caledonian Club of San Francisco, 147th Scottish Highland Gathering & Games, September 1 and 2, 2012, Alameda County Fairgrounds, Pleasanton, California. Contact James McCrea, clanmacrae_na_sf@yahoo.com or visit www.caledonian.org/home.html.
- Longs Peak Scottish & Irish Highland Festival, September 6 – 9, 2012, Estes Park, CO. Contact Rich McRae, rmcrae1845@comcast.net.
- Columbus Scottish Festival, September 8 – 9, 2012, Columbus, IN. Contact Murl McRae, murl@murlmcrae.com.
- Ocala Scottish Highland Games, October 6, 2012, Florida Horse Park, Ocala, FL. Contact John Wayne McRae, jwwmc@comcast.net.
- Scotland County Highland Games, Laurinburg, NC, October 6, 2012. Contact Brian Dodds, BeeDee42@gmail.com.
- Stone Mountain Scottish Festival and Highland Games, near Atlanta, GA, October 20-21, 2012. Contact Leon Folsom, leon.folsom@prodigy.net.

If you will be hosting a tent at any games, festival, fair or other venue, PLEASE let us know, so that we can note it in the newsletter. A one-sentence e-mail to mcralt@gmail.com will do. Also, if you've hosted or attended any games, festivals, dinners, etc. and have photos, please share them with us.

Equipment for Clan Tents

A reminder to anyone who may want to put up a Clan MacRae tent at any Games, Gatherings or Festivals: Society Director Ebby Darden will sell you a tent kit for \$60 that includes a banner, guest book and other items. Contact her at

Ms. Ebby Darden
213 Bexar Dr
Lewisville, TX 75067
Tel: 214-488-3419
E-mail: ebbydarden@msn.com

Literature for Clan Tents

A PDF file of a tri-fold leaflet “Clan MacRae: The Wild MacRaes” is available by e-mail from the Editor of *Sgurr Uaran*: e-mail mcralt@gmail.com, or we can send printed copies if you prefer for a small charge plus postage. Page 1 is shown below:



Clan MacRae: The Wild MacRaes

In English, the Gaelic name MhicRath may be rendered in any of the following ways:

CRAE • CRAY • CREA • CREE • MacARA • MacARRA
MacCRA • MacCRACH • MacCRAW • MacCRAE
MacCRAITH • MacCRAY • MacCREA • MacCREATH
MacCREE • MacCRIE • MacCROW • MacCROY
MacGRATH • MACHRAY • MacGRAW • MacRA
MacRAE • MacRACH • MacRAITH • MacRATH
MacRAW • MacRAY • MacRIE • McRAE • McRAY • RAE
RAITH • RAY • REA • REATH • WRAY

Some families use “Mac” and others “Mc,” but there is no actual distinction between the spellings, and other variants such as M'CRA and even WARMACK are also seen.

History of the MacRaes

“Rath” translates as “grace” or “good fortune” and “mhic” as “son of” or “from.” So “Son of Grace” may have originated in the church with a priest or holy man, or “From Good Fortune” may have been attached to a man who was simply thought lucky. Since the name appears to have arisen in several places at different times, it most likely carried both meanings. A MhicRath is first recorded in Ireland in AD 448, but in continuous use, the name MacRae appears in Scotland in the 1200's in the region of Clunes, west of Inverness. Sometime after 1300, the MacRaes left Clunes for unknown reasons. One group moved the short distance to Brahan and the Black Isle, but a larger group moved westward to Kintail. These movements brought the MacRaes into MacKenzie

Also, for anyone who may want one, I have assembled two posters with color photos from Scotland, one 24X30 inches and one 24X36 inches. They add a bit of Scottish color to clan tents, or they can be hung on a wall. I would prefer to e-mail them as PDF files; you should be

able to have them printed (I used my local UPS store) for \$20 - \$25 apiece. Just send me a request by e-mail, and be aware that the files are quite large – about 14 mb each.

If you have an impractically slow internet connection, I can send you a CD. The 24X30 poster is shown below.



Clachan Duich, "the Duich Community," at the head of Loch Duich. The ruins of the old Kintail Parish Church are in the center and the Monument to the men who fell in the Great War is at the top right.



Blue poppies at Attadale Gardens on Loch Carron



Neil MacRae conducts seafood cruises on Loch Carron; above, Neil shucks a scallop; below, a crate of freshly caught langoustine.



Church Service at Clachan Duich during MacRae Gathering, July 2009



Above Loch Long, the Kintail Parish school-house was used into the 1970's.



Left: Plockton on Loch Carron at low tide. Founded around 1800 to resettle people displaced by the Highland Clearances, Plockton is the Jewel in the Crown of the Scottish Ministry of Quaint and Scenic Villages.



Great War Monument: Robert McCrae, younger brother of Lt. Col. John McCrae, spoke at its dedication in 1924. "In Flanders fields the poppies blow..."



Doorway from the church, looking towards the graveyard beyond



Baroness Miranda van Leyden and her mother Marigold MacRae Jervis



Panel from the monument marking the location of the Battle of Glenshiel, in the campaign that led to destruction of the castle



Entrance to Eilean Donan Castle. The inscription reads: "If there is a MacRae within, no Fraser shall stand without."



Hairy Heeland Coos amble along the road to Plockton



Great Fun Dancing at the Celloidh



Himalayan rhododendron blossoms in Balamacara Gardens on Loch Aish



Eilean Donan Castle, at the confluence of Lochs Aish, Duich and Long, looking southeast towards Loch Duich

Keeping Up With Scotland via Facebook

The following communication came to us via e-mail from the British Embassy in Washington.

Hello everyone,

We're writing to let you know that the Scottish Government in the USA has a great Facebook page which is full of information on Scottish news, events and culture with a focus on the United States. With the Highland Games and festival season in full swing, now is a great time to connect with the Scottish Government in the USA to share information about your upcoming events and stay informed about all the great Scottish events happening

this summer. Also, our page has lots of information about the First Minister of Scotland's upcoming visit to California, which we're sure you will all find very interesting.

Our page is a fantastic place for you and all of your members to keep up to date on Scottish news and events in the US and in Scotland, as well as to connect with other Scots and Scottish organizations in the US. Here is the link to our Facebook page, and we would really appreciate it if you could pass it along to all your members:

<http://www.facebook.com/ScottishAffairsOfficeintheUSA>

Also, this is the link to the Scottish Government's press

release regarding the First Minister's visit to the US:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2012/06/fmusvisit03062012>

Everyone is more than welcome to post pictures and videos of your organization's Scottish events, especially now that the Highland Games season is here. We hope to connect with you all very soon and please let us know if you have any questions or feedback.

All the best,
Chris Paterson
Scottish Affairs Office
British Embassy
Washington, D.C.

Another McRae on the *Titanic*?

Australian sources record that an Alan McRae was a stoker aboard the *RMS Titanic*. He was born in 1889 in the Aldinga area of South Australia, a son of Colin and Mary McRae. The family headstone lists "Alan 1889—1912 Missing SS *Titanic*." It's not clear why Alan isn't listed elsewhere among those lost on the *Titanic*. Of course anyone who's wrestled with historic records won't be surprised by inconsistencies.

Thanks to Owen MacRae for passing this to us.

Events in Scotland in 2014 or 2015

The following announcement is posted on the UK Clan MacRae web site. We know that the Canadian society has favored a 2015 Gathering, especially since that year marks the hundredth anniversary of the publication of John McCrae's poem "In Flanders Fields." Those planning to go to Scotland in this time period may have a difficult choice to make. Sgurr Uaran will try to stay abreast of plans as they develop.

The next Clan MacRae Gathering had been planned for 2014, one year earlier than our usual schedule. This was so that our Clan Gathering would coincide with the next International Clan Gathering, due to be held in Stirling in 2014, possibly on the 700th Anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn. However, 2015 will be a very important year for Clan MacRae, being both the 300th Anniversary of the Battle of Sheriffmuir and the 100th Anniversary of the erection of our Clan MacRae Monument on Sheriffmuir. As we clearly cannot have a Clan Gathering on two successive years it has been decided that our Gathering should be held in 2015. The Sheriff-

muir Anniversary falls on 13th November when weather conditions can be difficult and daylight hours much reduced. While we will commemorate the Battle as we do every year on its date, 13th November, it might be preferable to have our Clan Gathering during one of the summer months. If you are interested in joining us in 2015, please tell us what you would like. It is your Clan and your Gathering!

We do not yet have any details of the 2014 International Gathering but we hope that Clan MacRae will be able to participate, as we did for the last International Gathering.

More details will be provided as soon as they become available.

For information or to comment on your preferences, e-mail to enquiries@clan-macrae.org.uk

Those Dancing MacRaes

Ebby Darden sent us the shot at right of her cousin Lindsey Hanks of Wyoming in her dancing kilt of MacRae Tartan. Ebby reports that Lindsey is doing very well in Highland Dance competitions.



New Director of CMSNA

At our AGM this year our Commissioner Bruce McRae of Golden, Colorado, was elected to join our Board of Directors by the Board members. He and his lovely wife Judy will be well known to many of you for their presence at various Games and for their outstanding work in putting together those recent MacRae tours to Scotland that have been so successful. Bruce and Judy were with us at Grandfather Mountain this year for the first time, and Bruce marched with us in the Parade of Tartans. We know that he will be a very useful addition to our Board and wish to him and Judy



The Continuing Saga of the Power Lines

As the monster pylons stretch across Scotland, a small roadblock has appeared in the Cairngorms National Park. Currently, older metal towers carry the electrical line through the park. In this area, the existing metal towers are to be removed but short wooden poles are to be substituted for the huge new metal pylons that will march the rest of the route, across Sheriffmuir and down past the Wallace Monument. It appears now, however, that placing the poles may interfere with the lives of three endangered species of ants: Scottish, narrow-headed and hairy wood ants. These ants are deemed vital to the forest ecosystem, and park officials have reported that, "...it appeared that no consideration had been given to the ants." Since the plan would remove the existing metal towers, park officials have no objection to its implementation but recommend that, "...efforts be made to protect wildlife."

This seems unlikely to provoke a major delay, but then permissions to restore Adam Smith's house in Edinburgh have been bogged down in planning and historical

every success.

Those who've met Bruce know of his passion for genealogy. While in North Carolina, he took the opportunity to visit with Mike McRae, a distant cousin, at Mike's firm, Scotia Metalwork, in Mint Hill, NC.



preservation procedures for four years now. The wheels of government everywhere do grind slowly.

Meanwhile, the Plean Community Trust is seeking residents to be Directors of the Trust. Plean is a village southeast of Bannockburn. According to a spokesman for the Trust, "At the present time there is a strong possibility that a substantial compensation package from the Denny to Beaully Pylon line will be available to help achieve long-awaited improvements in our village. It is important that Plean is appropriately represented in order to ensure that we take full advantage of this, for the benefit of our residents. We particularly ask those who have young children to help us improve the village for their future, by making Plean a place they will want to spend their life in, because it has so much to offer."

Sgurr Uaran wishes the Plean Community Trust well. 'Tis an ill wind indeed that blows no good at all.

Adapted from articles in the Stirling Observer and the BBC Online.

Genealogy Corner

Our Clan Society Genealogist, Larry Cates, was given a copy of a document that gives some clues to the tangled lineages of North Carolina and Georgia. He contributed the following article, based partly on this new information. We remind our members that Larry is the Keeper of the Archives and offers assistance with questions about MacRae genealogy. His contact information is on the masthead.

THE ACHNAGART CONNECTION: A Highland-Carolina Identification in Need of Development

For North Americans, a direct, verifiable Highland connection is a rare and precious thing. The traditional history, begun by Rev. John MacRa in his *Genealogy of the Clan MacRa* and extended by Rev. Alexander MacRae of London's *History of the Clan MacRae* (1899; 1910 supplement), provide pegs for several hundred families to make that leap based mainly on traditional, word-of-mouth evidence. In most cases, the problem lies in singling out a particular identified immigrant and pinning him down as identical to a documented ancestor. The task is complicated by a plethora of individuals bearing the same given name and the sparse details provided in the histories about the precise destination, dates, and family details of the immigrants. It should give us pause when we consider how many McRae families are entirely omitted from these revered sources.

However, it is also daunting to consider how little contemporaneous evidence exists for those who traveled to the Americas in the 1770s. We can expect very few ships' passenger lists and no naturalization records—since immigrants were simply traveling from one part of the British Empire to another. Port books, where they survive, are mainly concerned with the passage of dutiable goods. American tombstones rarely provide a more specific place of origin than a county or parish, if they survive at all. In Scotland, parish records are spotty for the period, testamentary records and records of land transfer (sasines) are practically useless to those of us whose ancestors lived on leases or sub-leases (i.e., the vast majority of Highlanders). That leaves the estate records of landlords, Presbyterian parish session records (where they exist), which rarely refer to parishioners individually, the records of the lower courts like the sheriff's courts and records of deeds (which include all manner of agreements—not necessarily those dealing with land). All of these are difficult to access from afar and often require some specialized knowledge of law, language and paleography.

That is why it raises spirits when we find a “new” source which mentions immigrants not listed in the usual histories. One of these was rediscovered recently in South Carolina thanks to the generosity of Nelson McLeod. The source in question was alluded to in the letterpress copy books of John MacRa of Camden, South Carolina, whose brother Colin, was the American publisher of *The Genealogy of the MacRas* manuscript (1874). In one letter, John mentioned that his brother had been communicating with an eager young man, Alexander Murdo MacRae (c. 1854-Oct 1879), a native of Tattnall County, GA, whose father Alexander McRae (1811-1855) was the immigrant to the United States (1829). Alexander had recently received a copy of a Scottish first cousin's description of his own family, then settled at Achnagart in Scotland. Colin and John, who were from the Conchra lineage, identified a few errors in the piece, but Colin agreed to print it in 1878. He sent copies to various correspondents, including Donald MacRae of Wilmington, NC. Yet, until just about a year ago, I had never seen a copy of this fourteen page imprint—produced, as was the earlier effort, on a small, hand-crank press. Then, a copy was located in the archives at Camden, SC, and my correspondent generously provided scans of the original, which I have now added to the Clan MacRae Society Archive.

The Genealogy of the Achnagart Family describes a select number of the descendants of Eonachan Dhu, third son of Alexander MacRae of Glenshiel, a scion of the Black MacRaes, and includes some details not mentioned in *The History of the Clan MacRae*. It was written by Murdoch McRae at Badachro, son of Annabella McRae (m. William McRae of Carr), sister of Alexander McRae, Sr. of Tattnall Co., GA. One of its revelations is the identification of Ann McRae McCrimmon, daughter of Alexander McRae and great granddaughter of Eonachan Dhu, as an early immigrant to Carolina. According to the text, Ann was married to “a Glenelg man,” a McCrimmon (first name not given). She had two children by him, Duncan McCrimmon (b. c. 1775) of Montgomery County, GA, and Margaret McCrimmon (b. c. 1774), who married a McLennan (Daniel, to be precise). Some of the children and grandchildren of Duncan McCrimmon married into other Georgia McRae families. Catherine McCrimmon (1819-c.1855) married Malcolm Nicholson McRae, son of Alexander Bain McRae, Charity McCrimmon (1827-1853) married Christopher McRae (1815-1897), son of John McRae of Mount Vernon, GA, and Kenneth McLennan married Ann McRae, daughter of Alexander Bain McRae.

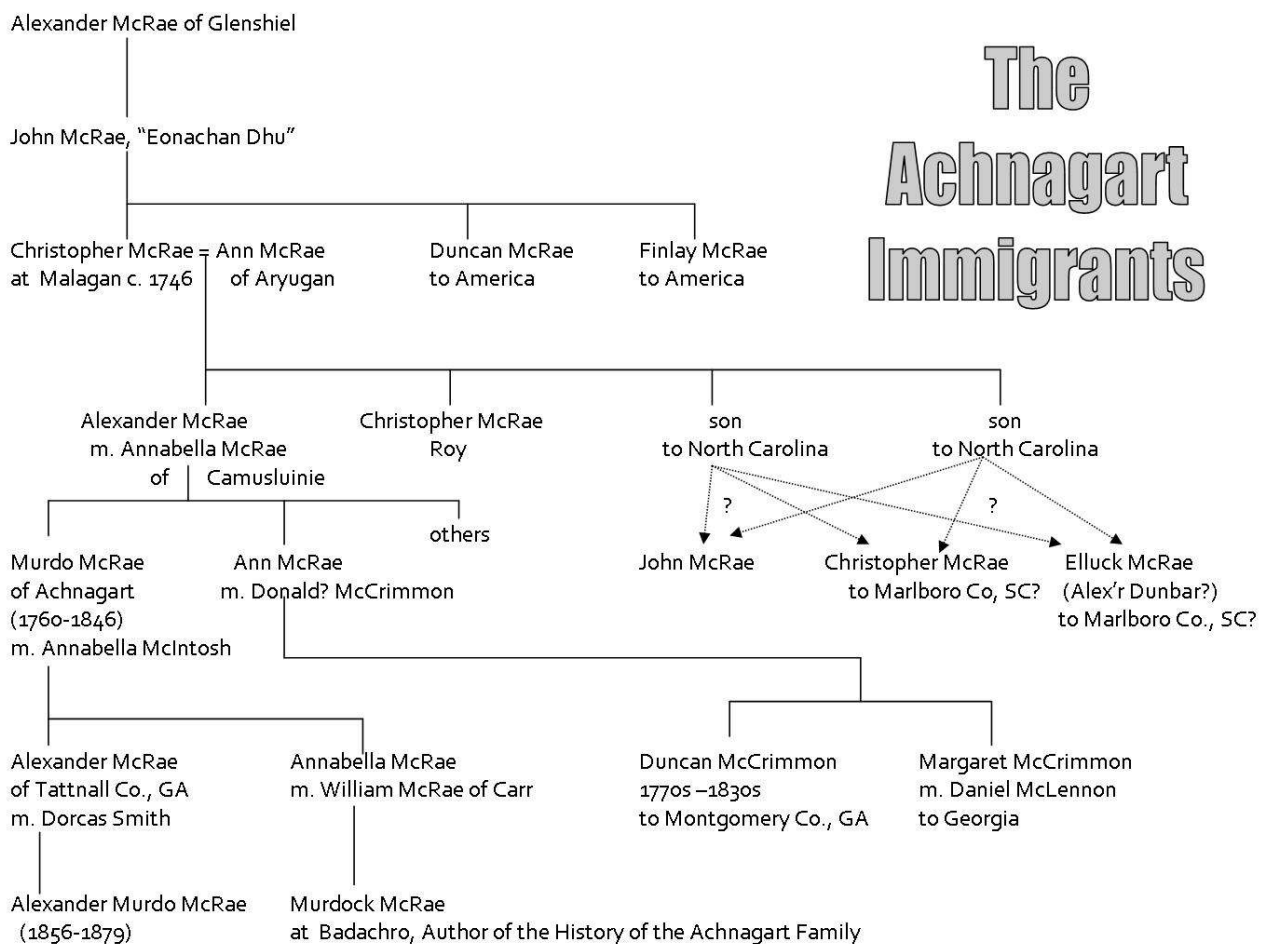
Concerning Ann McRae McCrimmon, family tradition states that her husband was a Loyalist during the Revolution and was killed during the course of that con-

flict. She, herself, died subsequently attempting to put out a cabin fire. This left her two children orphaned. They were taken in by McRae relatives in what is now Richmond County, NC. At least one indication suggests that Duncan McCrimmon also lived for a time in Marlboro District, SC, before coming to Georgia. By 1805, at least, Duncan McCrimmon appears in Montgomery Co., GA. So several questions naturally follow. Who was the husband of Ann McCrimmon? Who were the McRae relatives who took in her children? Did they also go to Georgia and would this explain why the children

vided. The document simply states, "Christopher, the eldest son of Eonachan Dhu, married a daughter of Murdo, son of Christopher that was at Arigugan,... and had four sons, Alexander, Christopher Og, and two others, who went to Carolina, U.S." These were doubtless the individuals whose families took in the orphans of Ann McCrimmon, and we can be relatively sure that their names were not Alexander and Christopher, since the brothers who remained in Scotland bore those names.

The document also states that Christopher at Malagan had two brothers, Duncan and Finley, the

The Achnagart Immigrants



ended up there? Do the later marriages of the McCrimmon children provide any clues to the identity of these McRae relations, since we know that our McRaes were so fond of marrying their cousins?

The Genealogy of the Achnagart Family does identify two potential immigrants to North Carolina, uncles of Ann McCrimmon. These were both sons of Christopher McRae at Malagan (c. 1746) and his wife Ann McRae of Aryugan, but their given names are not pro-

vided. The document simply states, "Christopher, the eldest son of Eonachan Dhu, married a daughter of Murdo, son of Christopher that was at Arigugan,... and had four sons, Alexander, Christopher Og, and two others, who went to Carolina, U.S." These were doubtless the individuals whose families took in the orphans of Ann McCrimmon, and we can be relatively sure that their names were not Alexander and Christopher, since the brothers who remained in Scotland bore those names.

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the presence of the McCrimmons or of the the two McRae uncles? The death of Ann McCrimmon and her husband may well have occurred before 1779, when Richmond County was formed. And we must remember that the Highland Scots, relatively recently arrived in America, with little property in many instances, and faced with a language barrier, tended to handle many of their concerns internally—especially if they were active Loyalists, as many, if not most, were. Under these circumstances, we would not expect to find a will or an estate record for Ann McCrimmon's husband. Also, many of the early records of Anson County were destroyed during the Civil War including early will books, court minutes (except for the set preceding the McRaes' arrival) and loose papers of all sorts. Two sources do remain, however.

One is a deed dated 4 Feb 1813 and recorded in Richmond County (Bk I, 81). Duncan McRae of Telfair County, GA, conveyed 100 acres to William Bostick. The land is described as a tract conveyed by Patrick Saunders to Christopher McRae and Donald McCrimmon in 1777. The original deed from Saunders to McCrimmon and McRae was recorded in Anson County in 1801, strangely (Bk H2:248) – long after Richmond County had been formed. This may suggest that the land had been transferred in Richmond County that year and the subsequent owner desired to have the previous deeds in the chain recorded. The land was sold for £60 on 9 July 1777 by Patrick and Mary Saunders and it consisted of 100 acres adjacent James Sanders, granted to Patrick by the King. The witnesses were Absalom Hindes, John McRae and John McRae, Sr. One of these Johns proved the deed in Anson County Court twenty four years later. The property itself, according to the original land grant, was probably half of 200 acres granted Saunders on Broom's Branch of Mountain Creek in 1775 adjacent to James Saunders. Although we know that Christopher McRae, in this case, could not have been the uncle of Ann McCrimmon, since her paternal uncle by that name remained in Scotland, it seems likely that Donald McCrimmon was her husband and that Christopher McRae was her relative, perhaps a son or son-in-law of one of her uncles. The fact that McCrimmon and McRae collaborated is strong evidence of kinship and probably reflects their need to pool resources so soon after arrival in America.

A second important and complementary source is the petition to form Richmond County from Anson, housed among North Carolina General Assembly session records. It was submitted in 1779 and contains signatures, arranged in three columns, of many early settlers. One portion of the document lists four names in a row, all signed in the same hand: "John McCray, Eluck McCray, Christofo McCray, Dannel McCrimmon." Other nearby signatures are in different hands. Petitions were often

circulated in a community by individuals traveling farmstead to farmstead. Sometimes, men gathered at a central point to sign them. In either case, relatives often signed together and one of their number may have signed for the others, especially if a few were illiterate. Even the person gathering the names may have signed for those who could not for themselves. The proximity of names in such a list is, therefore, significant. Almost certainly, this record refers to the joint owners of the Saunders tract (McCrimmon and Christopher McRae) and two others, probably their relatives. Patrick Saunders' own signature is just five names down the list from these and Absalom Hindes, the 1777 witness, signed seven places above. Christopher and Alexander were names of Ann's uncle and father, who both remained in Scotland, so perhaps John was her uncle and Aleck and Christopher, his sons, sons-in-law or nephews. Perhaps these men were connected to one of the great uncles, brothers of Christopher, Ann's grandfather—that is, Duncan or Finley. The possibilities are maddening.

So, what became of these men? It is my theory that Christopher McRae, McCrimmon's joint tenant, and perhaps the man who took in his children, is the individual who received a land grant for 100 acres on the Rocky Fork of Hitchcock Creek, including his plantation adjacent Duncan McColl. The land was entered in 1780 and the deed issued by the state in 1787 (Deed Bk D:494). When he sold this property in 1798 to Murdock McRae of Moore County (Deed Bk C:803), he lived in Marlboro County, SC, and signed by mark. His deed was witnessed by two individuals named Alexander McRae, one of these signing himself "Alex." In fact, the "Eluck" of the 1777 petition may well have been Alexander McRae (d. 1824) of Dunbar, Marlboro County, SC (wife Catherine). I have only seen a nearly identical spelling in one other place. An Eluxander or Ellick McCrae purchased 88 acres on Poplar Branch of Reedy Creek in Marlboro District from Charles Watson in 1800 (Marlboro Deed Book, F-1/166). Perhaps this is Dunbar Alexander.

Christopher of Marlboro is the one whose wife was named Nancy and seems to have been the father of Effie McRae (m. Alexander B. McRae), of John McRae of Mt. Vernon, GA, of Elizabeth, wife of Philip McRae of Lowndes Co., GA, or, perhaps, of Philip, himself, of Alexander McRae (a bachelor of Telfair Co., GA), and of Margaret McRae, wife of Roderick McRae of Marlboro Co., SC. A letter from Dunbar Alexander's grandson, Alexander Chisholm McRae, written in the 1850s from Clio, SC, addresses Christopher McRae (1815-1897) of Montgomery Co., GA, son of John of Mt. Vernon, as his cousin and refers to other cousins in the Roderick and Rev. Charles McRae families in Marlboro and it seems to strengthen this identification. It is also interesting that

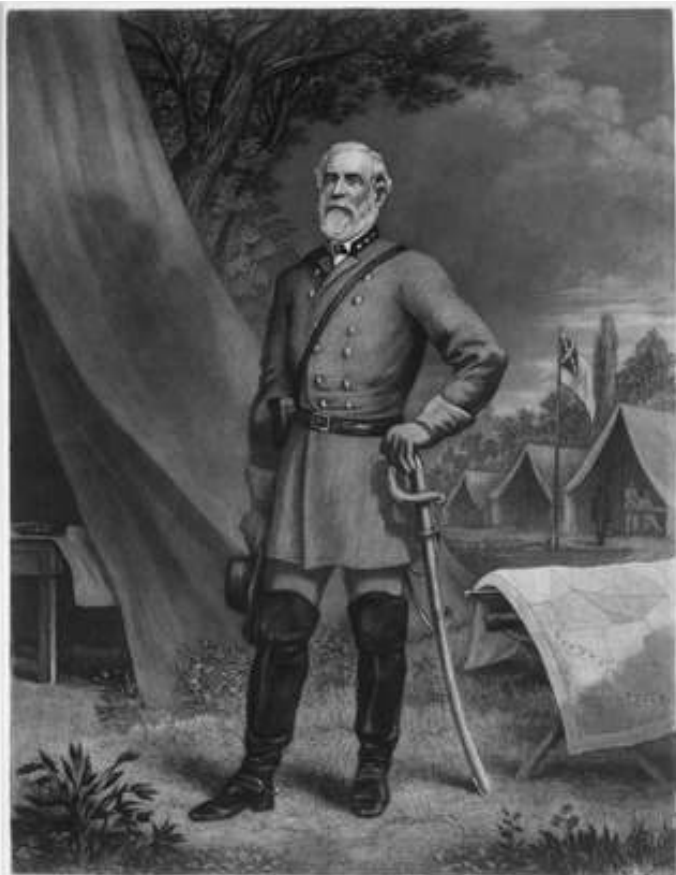
Dunbar Alexander's 1824 will in Marlboro appointed Christopher and Roderick McRae executors. These men both witnessed the will and Christopher signed by mark. If I am on the right track, all the McRae marriages of the McCrimmon grandchildren would have been contracted "within the family," so to speak. But this is just a theory at present, and it could well be a misinterpretation of limited evidence.

As far as I am concerned, the identities of Ann McCrimmon's uncles and great uncles remain contested, given the limits of our knowledge. But for anyone who can prove the linkage, a ready-made pedigree to Scotland awaits, complete with connections to the McRae families of Achnagart, Aryugan and Malagan. This should be an exciting prospect for any family of Carolina descent!



John C. McRae, Engraver

John C. McRae was a prolific engraver who worked in New York City in the middle years of the 19th Century.



Bob Linneman and Babs MacRae-Hall enjoyed a light moment at the annual clan dinner at the Eseeola Lodge. Carol Linneman is seated in the foreground.

He specialized in historical representations, taking his originals from paintings or, later, from photographs. His engravings included everything from Confederate flags to the frontispiece of the first edition of Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass*. Here are two striking images from among the hundreds he produced. The engraving of Robert E. Lee was based on a contemporary photograph, but details were added, and the background filled in with a sketch. The engraving of George Washington praying at Valley Forge is taken from an early 19th century painting.

So far we've been unable to find out anything at all about the personality or biography of John C. McRae. If anyone can point us to a reference, please do so.



Ceud Mìle Fàilte: 100,000 Welcomes to Our New Members

Ms. Fancy Grund
918 Havenhurst Dr, Apt 116
West Hollywood, CA 90046

Mr. and Mrs. Donald McRae
778 Wadeville Rd
Mt. Gilead, NC 27306

Ms. Wendy M. Medlin
317 Owen St
Gibsonville, NC 27249

Mr. Christopher C. Justus
6917 Cedar Brooke Dr
Oscoda, MI 48750

Mr. and Mrs. Kevin McKenzie
322 W. Glenview Dr
Salisbury, NC 28147

Ms. Linda Tunney
2962 Club Rd
Pebble Beach, CA 93953

Ms. Lynn Rae Kay
5756 Ridge Rd
Cortland, OH 44410

Mr. Robin Rae
3971 Bradley Brownlee Rd NE
Cortland, OH 44410

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.

—John MacRae-Hall



Laura Belle Macrae

Our dear friend Laura Belle was unable to be present at our Annual General Meeting at Grandfather Mountain this year. Prior to the occasion she had sent us a gracious letter explaining that she could not come for reasons of health and that she would also be stepping down from her position of Treasurer, a post she has held for many years. Our Vice President and Membership Officer, Stuart Macrae, was voted in by the Board of Directors to replace her in this capacity.

For so many years now Laura Belle has been a beacon of stability in our affairs. Since joining the Society in the 1970's, she and her late husband Bruce have made large and important contributions to the Society's activities. Her presence at the many and various Games and Gatherings she has attended exposed her to so many of us, that she has become an Icon of our Society. We owe much of our success to her diligence and care in conducting our business. A few years ago, in recognition of her services, we honoured her by installing her in the unique rank of Chancellor. She has proudly borne that title since and shall continue to do so.

A particularly fa-

avourite cause of hers has been the Grandfather Mountain Highlanders Pipe Band, among whom she is greatly revered. They, in company with all of us in our Society, will miss her presence greatly but shall remain comforted by the thought that she will be closely watching our proceedings with a caring love that age will not diminish.

God Bless you, Laura Belle. We salute you as we thank you for your great contributions over the years.

—Capt. John. M. MacRae-Hall, KCTJ



The Grandfather Mountain Highlanders play a tribute to Laura Belle at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in 2011.

WE INVITE YOU TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE CLAN MacRAE SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA. COMPLETE AND MAIL THIS FORM. IF YOU ARE NOW A MEMBER, COPY THIS APPLICATION FORM AND SEND IT TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO JOIN OUR SOCIETY.

THE CLAN MacRAE SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

Application for Membership

Qualifications for Membership: Any person bearing the name MacRae in any of its various forms and spellings or any Sept name of the Clan MacRae or the wife or descendant of such a person, including but not limited to the following:

MacRAE	MacARRA	MacCRAW	MacCRIE	MacRA	MacRAY	McRAY	REATH
CRAE	MacCRA	MacCRAY	MacCROW	MacRACH	MacRIE	RAE	WRAY
CREA	MacCRACH	MacCREA	MacCROY	MacRAITH	MACHRAY	RAITH	
CREE	MacCRAE	MacCREATH	MacGRATH	MacRATH	McCREA	RAY	
MacARA	MacCRAITH	MacCREE	MacGRAW	MacRAW	McRAE	REA	

Purposes: To enjoy Scottish clan traditions in friendly association with other MacRaes; to inform members of the history, traditions, culture and life of Clan MacRae; to maintain Eilean Donan Castle as the Clan Seat; to foster Scottish culture and traditions; to seek the recognition of a Chief of Clan MacRae; and to support various worthy charities.

Annual Dues:

Individual/Family Membership (includes spouse and minor children)..... \$30.00

Student Membership (up to age 21) \$15.00

Patron (including membership) \$100.00 or more

Life Membership (includes spouse and minor children)..... up through Age 61, \$500
62 to 69, \$350
70 and up, \$100

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ Zip: _____

PHONE: _____ E-Mail: _____

If your name does not show the basis for membership, please explain your MacRae connection. For example "My maternal grandmother was Mary MacRae."

Please indicate particular Clan MacRae interests:

- ☐ Clan MacRae social activities
☐ Attendance at Highland Games

- ☐ News of other MacRaes
☐ Genealogy
☐ Fund-raising

- ☐ Highland music, literature, etc.
☐ Other, please specify:

Enclosed: \$_____ my dues for _____, payable to "Clan MacRae Society of NA".

Return this form and your dues to:

**Clan MacRae Society of North America
12623 Terrymill Drive
Herndon, VA 20170-2874**

Revised 7/2012



Notice: Moving soon or recently moved? Please send change of address to:

Clan MacRae Society of North America
12623 Terrymill Drive
Herndon, VA 20170-2874



The Clan MacRae Society of North America



A visit to Mike McRae's shop is always fun; the anvil is early 19th Century, the laptop 21st Century. "If you are careless, you will bleed..."

The Grandfather Mountain Highlanders, almost 20 strong in their new kilts of muted MacRae red, serenade Clan MacRae on the lawn at the Eseeola Lodge in Linville.

