

THE LEOD VOICE



Clan MacLeod Societies of Canada

National Council Newsletter #79

Fall 2023



For More Information on Clan MacLeod in Canada

Please Visit:

www.clanmacleod-canada.com

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Carol MacCrimmon

Greetings to all clanfolk!!

After an early summer of Highland Games with my wee Highland dancer, granddaughter Sophia, here in Canada, I was fortunate to be able to travel to Scotland to attend the Clan MacLeod Parliament 2023. The village of Dunvegan, Isle of Skye comes alive with MacLeods from all corners of the world. Tartans from the many MacLeod septs are proudly worn in the form of kilts, hats, sashes, ties.....some traditional, others creative!!!

Twelve eager MacLeods enjoyed a pre-parliament trip to Mull and Iona led by Kevin Tolmie.

After morning worship at Duirinish Church, the clan participants gathered at the Dunvegan Village Hall for a delightful luncheon and Opening Ceremonies. Chief Hugh MacLeod of MacLeod formally opened the parliament. Chief Hugh spoke about the running of Dunvegan Castle and the Estates and offered free access to the castle, gardens and grounds to Parliament participants when wearing a 2023 Parliament Badge. Chief John MacLeod of Raasay welcomed the participants as well.

Unfortunately, Chief Torquil Donald MacLeod of the Lewes was unable to attend the Parliament. Calum MacCrimmon (born in Edmonton, living in Scotland) was appointed as the 11th Honourary Hereditary Piper of Clan MacLeod. (An article "Interview: Calum MacCrimmon" by Kevin Tolmie can be found in the Clan MacLeod Magazine / October 2022)

Clan MacLeod Canada had a small contingent attending this Parliament...15 of us. What we lacked in numbers, we made up with enthusiasm! Canada hosted the first morning tea, providing maple leaf cookies that were toted over in our luggage! We sported red and white T-shirts, and Canadiana-style hats along with banners, flags, and napkins with maple leaves. Plenty of trinkets were available for the children. Our group were also the bartenders and barmaids for the evening ceilidh and dance. Our CMSC

Treasurer, Karen, really knows how to 'pull the pints' of lager and ale. Harris Distillery Gin was delightful and VERY popular!

On Raasay Day we were welcomed at the ferry dock by Chief John and his wife Elizabeth. Tours of Raasay House and the gardens were enjoyed by many, while The Isle of Raasay Distillery was busy giving guided tours of the production areas followed by a whiskey tasting. Single Malt and Isle of Raasay Gin are their specialties. Small local businesses were open. Homemade soups and delectable goodies were provided for all visitors at the Community Centre. It was a most enjoyable day!

After the ceilidh dancing, Gaelic Singing, and Piping workshops, there were daily ACMS meetings, along with individual society meetings. I will list a few points of interest from these meetings.

- the next parliament will be held in 2026 - a 3 year gap to get back on cycle
- Sweden was formally accepted as an ACMS society
- Clan Magazine - edited by Kevin Tolmie since 2013 - 136 editions in print - working to get old magazines 'on demand'
- some published books are now available on Amazon e.g. "Tales of Dunvegan" and "Tartans and Septs"
- Worldwide Clan MacLeod memberships for 2023 -- 1695 members.

Elections: Thanks were given to the outgoing executive, and congratulations given to the members elected to new positions!

NEW MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

- Al McLeod, President ACMS
- John B. MacLeod, Executive Vice President ACMS
- Clare Moncrieff, Honorary Secretary ACMS
- David MacLeod, Honorary Treasurer ACMS
- Ruth MacLeod, Corresponding Secretary ACMS

- Tammie Vawter, Merchandising Manager ACMS
- Kevin Tolmie, Clan Parliament Coordinator – 2026
- Peter MacLeod, Dame Flora Communications Committee
- VACANT: Rory Mor Fund Development Committee
- VACANT: Youth Membership Coordinator
- Kevin Tolmie, Internet Editor, Magazine Editor
- Andrew P. MacLeod, Genealogy Co-ordinator.

As your CMSC President, I am privileged to represent you all at Parliament, society meetings and Clan activities. Please feel free to connect with me with questions or suggestions.

I would like to wrap up with a personal highlight of my trip back to Skye for Parliament. As I sat on the deck of our Coral Beach cottage, I had a panoramic view of the sunset over Harris and Lewis, the MacCrimmon Cairn at Borreraig, and my family's historical land in Galtrigal. I found myself overwhelmed with the feeling of calm, knowing that I was HOME!



Hold Fast!

As aye, Carol

CMS GLENGARRY NEWS

The Clan MacLeod Society of Glengarry continues to thrive and has had a very busy and active schedule of events over the past several months.

The Cairn

As many will know, in 1965 the Glengarry Society erected a stone cairn, on the land that was the assigned to Alexander MacLeod, to commemorate the settlement of MacLeods who came to Glengarry in 1794.

Recently, the Glengarry Society initiated some much needed repairs to The Cairn in order to maintain its construction integrity. The Clan MacLeod Society of Ottawa was pleased to be able to give financial support to this work thus further strengthening the long established 'family' relationship between the Ottawa and Glengarry Societies.



Curling Day

In January 2023 the Glengarry Society hosted their annual curling day at the Alexandria Curling Club. There were approximately 80 curlers who participated. Ian MacLeod "The Fiddler" organized the music entertainment which included The MacLeod Fiddlers, a performing group from 'The MacLeod School of Fiddling' - a foundation for the preservation of Scottish music and culture within Glengarry.

(<http://www.macleodfiddlers.com/>). Also present to celebrate the day were the Glengarry Pipe Band.

CLANS & SCOTTISH SOCIETIES OF CANADA



The Clan MacLeod Societies of Canada is a proud member of the Clans and Scottish Societies of Canada (CASSOC). This organization helps to connect clans and supports the promotion and maintenance of Scottish culture and heritage in Canada.

CASSOC's history dates back to 1975. A group of Canadian Scots, who had been loosely pulled together through the Information Booth for the Scottish World Festival which was set up at the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE), met in a hotel room in downtown Toronto. One of the original members was Jock MacLeod, a former President of the Clan MacLeod Societies of Canada.

Since its inception, CASSOC has been actively involved in a number of projects and ongoing initiatives. From Ceilidhs, to Heritage Balls to Kirkin O' the Tartans, CASSOC has been a lively group. In 1976, John MacLeod of MacLeod became a Patron of the organization.

CASSOC was also instrumental in getting April 6th recognized as Tartan Day here in Ontario and the rest of Canada.

For over 40 years, CASSOC has been producing a newsletter called An Drochaid ("the bridge")

Find copies of the An Drochaid at this site:

<http://www.cassoc.ca/frameset-e.htm>

Annual General Meeting: The Annual Meeting of the Glengarry Society was held at the Glengarry County Archives and the meeting was well attended. Alan McDonald, archivist, gave a brief history of the Archives – “preserving the past history is important for the future”.

Annual Picnic: On this past June 3rd we held our annual Clan MacLeod picnic at the Dunvegan Pioneer Museum. Approximately 60 people attended to enjoy music by the Quigley Highlanders Pipes & Drums Band and from the junior members of The MacLeod School of Fiddling. This is a perfect venue for their annual picnic as it is very close to where the original 1936 MacLeod Gathering was held.

Glengarry Highland Games: The Society participated as usual at the Glengarry Highland Games, Maxville, Ontario on August 4th and 5th. In the Clan Building, they had an information booth with various brochures and resources providing a valuable source for family history and renewing friendships. Included, was a large MacLeod contingent in the Clan Parade on Saturday.

Annual Golf Day: The Glengarry Society held their annual golf tournament at the Glengarry Golf and Country Club on September 17th with approximately 40 golfers of all ages attending, wearing kilts or tartans. The golf is always a fun day followed by a barbeque dinner.

A 'Wee' Bit of History

of the

Clan MacLeod Society of Glengarry

In the beginning,.....plus, the inclusive nature of MacLeods

It is with the greatest of heartwarming thanks to the late Madeleine McCrimmon, that the Clan MacLeod Society of Glengarry is in possession of the records of all the Society meetings from the very beginning – November 2, 1935 to the present day.

What follows here, is the word for word record of the full minutes of this first meeting, (with the exception of one missing sentence between the first and second pages of the actual minutes) of what would become the Clan MacLeod Society of Glengarry. You will also see to what great extent the MacLeods of the day made every effort to be inclusive to all people – including folks who's surname was not MacLeod, in their deliberations, decision making and direction setting. The **bolding** highlights this point.

The Minutes:

The first meeting of those interested in a Clan MacLeod gathering was held in the Orange Hall Dunvegan on the second of November, 1935.

*John D. **MacLeod** called the meeting to order by moving that Campbell **MacLeod** be chairman. Fred K. **MacLeod** seconded this motion. C. **MacLeod** accepted and in answer to his request for a secretary Ken N. **MacLeod** moved that Ian M. **MacLeod** be secretary. John W.D. **MacLeod** seconded this motion. It was carried.*

*The chairman called on John D. **MacLeod** to give information of a gathering of **MacLeods** in Erin, in Wellington County, Ontario. Then the chairman declared the meeting open for discussion and comments. N. K. **MacLeod** moved we organize and hold a gathering. This motion was seconded by J. W. D. **MacLeod** and was*

*carried. It was moved by John D. **MacLeod**(missing words).....be included.
This was carried.*

*John D. **MacLeod** moved that Rev. A. K. **MacLeod** be an honorary president. This motion was seconded by Fred K. **MacLeod** and was carried*

*A motion by Norm. K. **MacLeod** and seconded by J. W. D. **MacLeod** stated that Rev. Dr. P. A. **MacLeod** be an honorary president. Motion carried.*

*Ken N. **MacLeod** moved and J. W. N. **MacLeod** seconded that Rev. D. M. **MacLeod** be an Honorary president. Motion carried.*

*J. W. D. **MacLeod** moved that John D. **MacLeod** be president. This was seconded by Ken N. **MacLeod** & carried.*

*It was then moved by Rod. N. **MacLeod** and seconded by Norman Dan **MacLeod** that Wm. A. **MacLeod** be a vice-president. Motion was carried.*

*Next a motion by John W. D. **MacLeod** and seconded by N. K. **MacLeod** stated that John W. N. **MacLeod** by a vice-president. Motion was carried.*

*Fred K. **MacLeod** now moved and Dan D. **MacLeod** seconded that Margaret Ann **MacLeod** be a vice president. Carried.*

*Norm K. moved and Ken N. **MacLeod** seconded that Ian M. **MacLeod** be secretary-treasurer. Motion carried.*

*John D. **MacLeod** moved and Fred K. **MacLeod** seconded that Mrs. A. F. **MacQueen** be assistant secretary-treasurer. This motion was carried.*

.....Now, in the interest of full disclosure..... it is purely coincidental of course, that prior to her marriage to Adam (Addie) Fraser **MacQueen**, Mrs. A. F. **MacQueen** (the newly elected assistant secretary treasurer) was indeed, one Mary Maude **MacLeod** .

AUGUST 1-3, 2024 - LIVONIA, MI



**NORTH AMERICAN GATHERING
CLAN MACLEOD
SOCIETY
USA & CANADA**



EVENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO:

**EXPLORING THE PAST
THE LOST McLEOD SHIP;
THE STORY OF THE
MARQUETTE & BESSEMER 2**



**JURASSIC SCOTLAND
SEE A COLLECTION OF
DINOSAUR BONES
FOUND IN SCOTLAND**

**ENTERTAINMENT
TRADITIONAL
DANCING AND MUSIC**

**TOUR
HIGHLIGHTS OF DETROIT**

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THE DETROIT ST. ANDREWS SOCIETY HIGHLAND FESTIVAL**

WATCH FOR UPDATES ON OUR FACEBOOK EVENT PAGE

**CLAN MACLEOD SOCIETY USA
GREAT LAKES REGION**

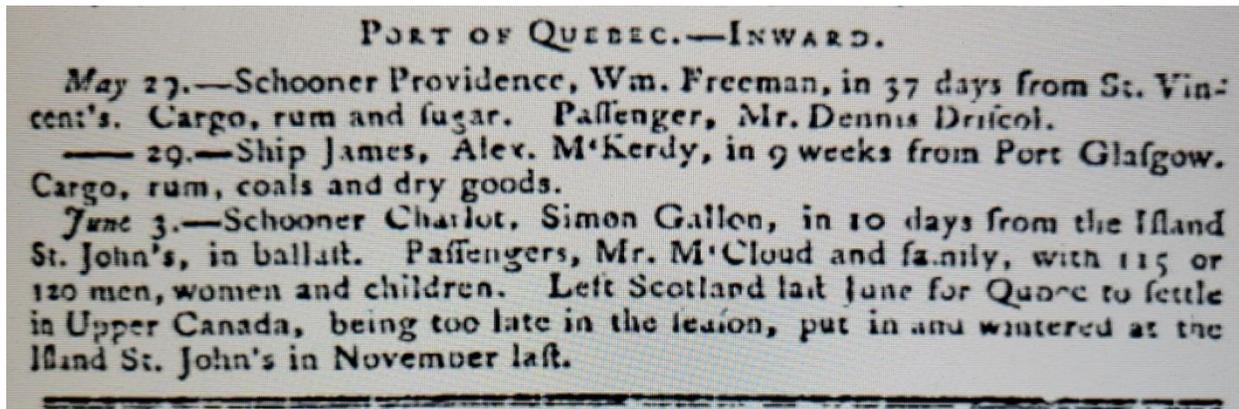
**MacLeod Prayer in Dunvegan
Castle Archives**

**Oh merciful God, grant us that we may
in some small degree,
be worthy of the high
esteem in which we hold ourselves.**

From Scotland to Glengarry,.....(Upper) Canada

MacLeods, led by Alexander MacLeod, after spending the 1793/94 winter on St. John's Island (now PEI) made their way to their original destination of Quebec City aboard a newly acquired ship, from where they travelled, to Glengarry County in Upper Canada. This ship landed at Quebec City on June 3, 1794

Below, is the announcement (with plain text below in blue box) of their arrival, from the June 5, 1794 edition of *The Quebec Gazette – Port of Quebec.– Inward.:*



THE QUEBEC GAZETTE

June 3 –Schooner Charlot, Simon Gallen, in 10 days from the Island St. John's, in ballast. Passengers Mr. McCloud and family, with 115 or 120 men, women and children. Left Scotland last June for Quebec to settle in Upper Canada, being too late in the season, put in and wintered at the Island St. John's in November last.



**Clan MacLeod Society of
Canada (CMSC)**

Tartan designed by:

Ian C. MacLeod

Richmond B. C.

EDITOR'S PAGE

Welcome everyone to this, the second edition of The Leod Voice that is being put together by members of Clan MacLeod who have taken up the shared editorial challenge since the much deserved retirement of Judy Tipple.

The editors for this Fall 2023 Edition of The Leod Voice has been a shared privilege by Neil F. MacLeod and Jim MacLeod. Both Neil and Jim are residence of Almonte Ontario. We in fact, live just a short walk from each other which can lend itself to a 'collaboration of convenience'.....right down to the last dram.



Neil and Jim with Loch Dunvegan in the background.

Stay Healthy.....

Now before we go any further with the Editor's notes I (Neil), think it pertinent to mention that we almost did not have a Leod Voice Fall edition rolling off the presses – at least not in a timely manner. It was agreed at one of our initial editorial meetings that we needed to establish a good 'pace' in order to 'make'r' to our set publishing deadline in an expedient manner. Prior to one of our scheduled editorial meetings, I received a somewhat brief call from Jim that he would not be able to make the meeting because he had a bit of an 'electrical' problem which needed to be resolved. I, of course assumed he either needed booster cables or an extension cord, so I jumped in my car to deliver them both. A return call to his good wife informed me however, that he had been hurriedly taken to receive medical attention. It suddenly dawned on me that he had perhaps taken our two objectives of 'pace' and 'make'r' a little too literally. Jim is now back to his former jovial self and has made an excellent recovery. I do however keep the booster cables on hand when he visits! But one question lingers: what does it mean when someone has a pacemaker installed on October 31st – Halloween?

Jim grew up in Dunvegan, Ontario, in Glengarry County. Jim's father, John D. MacLeod initiated the first Clan MacLeod Society outside of Scotland, on November 2, 1935. Both Jim and his sister Barbara Armstrong (2 terms) served as President, Clan MacLeod Societies of Canada. It has always been an honour and privilege to have lived and grown up in Glengarry where one's Scottish roots are celebrated and nurtured by the continued growth of celtic music and culture that flourishes continually to today. It is with pride that the Clan MacLeod Society of Glengarry initiated the creation of The Glengarry Pipe Band that led to the meeting that established the band, on Saturday, February 4, 1961, in the Community Hall, Maxville, Ontario.

Neil's folk are all from the Isle of Skye and he was brought up on Skye before moving to Glasgow and then Tiree where Neil's father was the local Church of Scotland minister. Neil completed his secondary education in Oban High School and the Rector at the time was Farquar MacIntosh. Coincidentally Farquar was also from Skye and went to school with Neil's father. They both came to the conclusion that High School didn't suit Neil and that he would be far better off in the Army! So off to the Army Neil did go and looking back this was indeed the right road, to this day as I marvel at the perception of these learned gentlemen! After joining up as a boy soldier in 1970 and serving for 15 years Neil then married Jane a young lassie from Hereford. Neil and Jane spent 10 years working in the Middle East before deciding on their next adventure which was to emigrate to Canada in 1997 with their two boys James and William. A decision they have never regretted especially after attending the Glengarry Highland Games!

You will notice that this edition of The Leod Voice has some focus on The Glengarry Society as well as on some history. It is always a good thing and of benefit to be aware of our past and benefit from it. The Glengarry Society was the first Clan MacLeod Society to be formed outside of Scotland. Since then, we now have Societies in Australia, Canada, England, France, Germany, New Zealand, Scotland, Sweden, Switzerland and USA. Also, the first North American Gathering (NAG) was organized by the Glengarry Clan MacLeod Society and was held in Cornwall, Ontario in 1976.

CANADA
AT
PARLIAMENT 2023



Canada, as you can see from this great picture was very well represented at the 19th Clan MacLeod Parliament held in Dunvegan, Scotland in July 2023.

Parliament was opened by Chief Hugh, MacLeod of MacLeod.

The next Parliament will be held in 2026.

Plan to attend!



Clan MacLeod Societies of Canada

CMSC WEB SITE

CHECK IT OUT – NOW!

WWW.CLANMACLEOD-CANADA.COM

Visiting the Web Site will give you a great deal of information about all things MacLeod, McLeod, McCloud.....or whatever the spelling, such as:

- The History of the Clan and its Chiefs, past and present;
- Learn about the Septs of the Clan;
- Trace your personal history from the Genealogy page;
- Be informed about Clan News;
- Read some interesting Stories;
- Get interactive though the Contact Us function.

30TH Chief

CLAN MACLEOD

**Hugh Magnus
MacLeod of MacLeod**

(Coat of Arms)



LEAVING HOME - 2023 CENTENARY YEAR

Neil Foster

Celebrates the Historic Hebridean Emigration to Canada in 1923 aboard the steamships The Marloch, The Matagama and The Canada.

Editor's Note – *Neil F. MacLeod has recently been involved with resurrecting two very old Almonte Pipe Bands. Through this piping connection Neil F MacLeod met Neil Foster a superb piper who used to play with MacEoin Ramsay pipe band which is once again up and running and winning competitions at Grade 4. Neil Foster and Neil F's both now play with MacEoin Ramsay and they are great friends. Neil Foster with many family members made the historic centennial journey back to Lewis and Harris for the Homecoming and afterwards of course to Skye and Raasay. Here follows Neil Foster's story with photos about this historic journey.*

(To preface, I'm not a MacLeod, but I'm fortunate to call several, great friends)

August past I was lucky enough to journey back home to Scotland, a trip I've been fortunate enough to make many times since emigrating to Canada in the early 1980's as a young lad. A major focus of my itinerary on this occasion, with my daughter, mother, sister and auntie in tow, was a trip to Lewis and Harris and Skye, one I've made before, but a new one for the rest of our crew.

The very reason for our visit was spurred by news of a bagpipe concert featuring Canada's 78th Fraser Highlanders Pipe Band, and as a piper myself, I thought it would be fantastic to see them play as they were gearing up for the 2023 World Pipe Band Championship the following week. The concert they put on was a major component of some very significant celebrations that were taking place in Stornoway over the course of our stay. The Tattoo Metagama and Grand Concert were the premier events in a nearly week-long celebration of the centenary of the historic Hebridean emigration that occurred in 1923-24. Three ships, The Metagama, The Marloch, and The Canada sailed from ports across the islands (the Metagama left Stornoway on April 23, 1923, carrying 300 passengers) bringing hopeful Scots across the Atlantic, full of hopes, toward the dream of a new and



78th Fraser Highlanders



**Young
MacLeod
to be
Published**

Some may remember Rowan as a "bump" in her mother's (Christina Macleod Gladish) belly during the 2000 NAG in Guelph, Ontario. In fact, there was lively betting as to whether she would arrive before the closing ceremonies. It was fortuitous that she waited, not wanting to upset her grandfather, Colin Macleod who was the event organizer.

At age 22, Rowan continues to be an active member of Central Ontario. A book of her poetry is in the works to be published in 2024 by Ace of Swords Publishing.

***A Mundane Life with you
is All I Ever Need
by Rowan Gladish***

**How beautiful is it
That we dance
Create language with our bodies
Art through movement
It doesn't have to be masterful
It doesn't even have to be good
I just think that you and me
Hands still soapy from unwashed
dishes
Twirling around the kitchen Is
magical**

prosperous life in Canada. Several MacLeod's, like passengers John and Murdo MacLeod, both from Leurbost on Lewis, left Stornoway on the Metagama, relatives of yours, perhaps?

Our entire stay in Stornoway, I was struck with the significance of this piece of history, feeling that somehow the impact the influx of these island inhabitants to Canada had actually shaped my own life. I mentioned previously that I'm a bagpiper, and the more than 1500 people that arrived in Canada from the islands helped shape the Celtic culture that thrives to this day in Canada, including the strong and growing bagpipe traditions we now enjoy. Another thing I was struck by was how many folk who shared the name MacLeod we had run into during our stay..... *(continued, pg. 20)*

LEAVING HOME

AR CÙL RIS AN DACHAIGH



15th April 1923 Lochboisdale 21st April 1923 Stornoway

The Sunday Post

THE DAILY MIRROR, Wednesday, April 25, 1923.
"A Debt of Honour"
 NO. 1923. (45 PAGES AT 10 PAGES)
The Daily Mirror
 NET SALE MUCH THE LARGEST OF ANY DAILY PICTURE NEWSPAPER

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED IN GLASGOW EVERY SUNDAY MORNING
 SUNDAY, APRIL 22, 1923.
UNPARALLELED SCENES AT STORNOWAY.
THE ISLESMEN'S BID FOR FORTUNE IN CANADA.
700 YOUNG MEN EMBARK ON THE METAGAMA.

PRAYER BEFORE LEAVING THE HOMELAND



Unparalleled scenes were witnessed at Stornoway yesterday when the great Canadian liner, Metagama, lay off the harbour of the capital of Lewis, and took on board 700 emigrants. These were mostly young men setting out from the lone shillings of our misty islands to seek fortune in a land of greater opportunity. The embarkation proceeded without a hitch. The scenes were not so poignant as was the case at Lochboisdale last week, where old men and women and families were included among the emigrants.

A big party of Scots from the Western Isles about to sail for the deck of the liner before they leave their native land. Steamship Metagama, which has carried...

DAILY HERALD
 LONDON, MONDAY, APRIL 23, 1923
 No. 1288 (No. 1282 - New Series)
HAS BRITAIN NO HOMES FOR HER MANHOOD?
YOUTH AND VIGOUR IN EXILE
GROWING STREAM OF EMIGRANTS PROVES ABROAD LEAD-LODGING
BIG WEEK-END EXODUS
EMIGRANTS' FAREWELL SCENES: WIG-LASHEN HEARTS

TELEGRAPH, TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 1923.
EMIGRANTS' FAREWELL TO STORNOWAY.



LEAVING HOME

AR CÙL RIS AN DACHAIGH



TATTOO METAGAMA

11th & 12th August 2023



1923



2023 78th Fraser Highlanders from Toronto



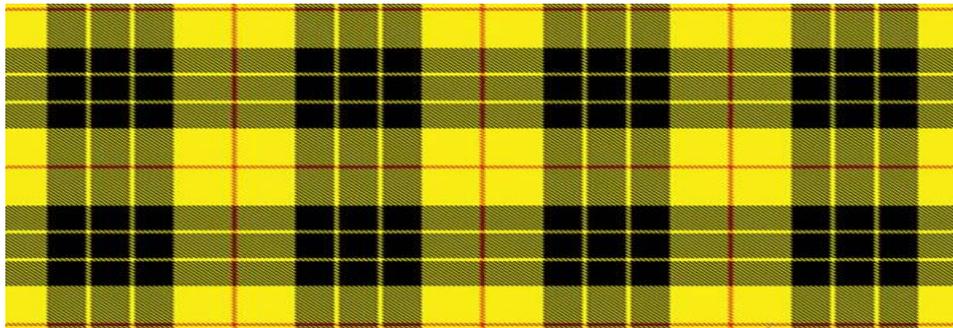
**78TH FRASERS HIGHLANDERS PIPE BAND
ISLAND PIPE BANDS
SAMBAYABAMBA
LION & DRAGON DANCE
DANCING
SINGING**



MACLEOD OF LEWIS



Lews Castle - Stornoway



.....and, **LEAVING HOME**, they did.....for **CANADA**.....



....*from pg. 16*)....After our incredible time traversing and exploring Lewis and Harris we headed to Skye to close out our road trip, taking the ferry from Tarbert to Uig. Now, anyone who has been to Skye during the summer in recent years will know that accommodations at this peak time can be scarce and extortionate, and with limited options we had booked ourselves at the fabulous Raasay House Hotel. By happy coincidence we were again tied to the MacLeod's, staying at the former seat of the MacLeod's of Raasay, which I would highly recommend to anyone planning a trip. Upon our arrival on Raasay, we were delighted to see that the sailing ship *The Thalassa* (Netherlands), which was in Stornoway, had followed us to Raasay and had anchored just off the pier below Raasay House (*pictured above*). Raasay itself is a magnificent little island to explore, with the added bonus of a great new(ish) distillery, which is beginning to produce some very excellent whisky since opening in 2017. The one regret I have on this past trip was not staying longer on Raasay, I'll certainly have to plan another visit to make sure that whisky is maturing nicely in a few more years.

No trip to Scotland is ever long enough for me, but I had to make my way back to Canada eventually to compete with MacEoin Ramsay Pipe Band at the North Lanark Highland Games for the last Saturday in August. And it was a fantastic games with a great crowd, and our band, MacEoin Ramsay Pipe Band, took a tie for second place in our very first year competing together! Thinking about it now, I'm again reminded at how some of those people gathered in Almonte to hear the pipes that day might very well have been descended from island roots, perhaps even passengers of the ships that sailed to Canada across the centuries, maybe even the Metagama.

Editor's Note: *Neil and his family also discovered Kit's Monument, on Raasay.* →

Kit's Monument

Temptation Hill

This stone is set on a prominent knoll at an elevation of 60m OD adjacent to the pathway on Temptation Hill to the north of Raasay House. It sits on a flat grassy platform from which the outlook to the west over Skye is stunning. Thoughtfully a bench seat has been provided for both recovery and contemplation.

The stone is an inelegant keyhole shaped grey granite slab standing 1.37m high, 0.55m wide at the bottom, 0.32m wide at the neck with a 0.52m diameter head. The slab is 0.13m thick. Within the circular head is carved a vertical cross with a circular boss at the centre. On each of the arms of the cross a Celtic knot is inset.

The stone was erected during the period when the island was owned by Baird & Co. and is reputed to be to the memory of a young lady who had been a frequent visitor to the island that she dearly loved. Local tradition relates that she died in Switzerland in 1917 and that she was a German countess.

The inscription on the shaft of the stone reads:

*In ever loving memory
of darling Kit
Aged 19 years.*

"He giveth his beloved sleep"

*"Sunrise over the hills of Skye
Sunrise over the sea.*

*There's not a place in all the world
In which I'd rather be.*

*For I call it the earthly paradise
Because it's like heaven to me
Raasay"*





Raasay House



Isle of Raasay Distillery

One MacLeod Family

Editor's Note: *In 1997 Neil F. MacLeod emigrated to Canada and worked for a company based in Ottawa called Newbridge Networks. While at Newbridge Neil worked on a regular basis with Mike Manson the head of the Network Management group. What Neil did not know at that time was that Mike is actually descended from a MacLeod family. It now makes perfect sense why Mike and Neil always worked well together they are both part of Clan MacLeod. Subsequently Mike and Neil worked together at another company and spent a number of years travelling back and forward to India. During our trips to India Mike told me about his Great Auntie Bobbie McLeod who had written a book "One McLeod Family". In Great Auntie Bobbie's own words she realized that she wanted to write about her own family a loving father and mother, four girls and two boys first living on an isolated farm in Alberta, then facing the wonders and perils of city life in British Columbia and finally venturing out, each on his or her own, to build careers, homes and families. And so Great Auntie Bobbie put pen to paper and documented 14 chapters of her life in the Clan McLeod which was published in December 1998. Here today, you can re-live chapter 1 & 2 of the book and it is hoped that we will be able to publish further extracts in upcoming Leod Voices.*

Such a small world and it is a tribute to the Clan that Mike and Neil remain firm friends to this day.



The Author

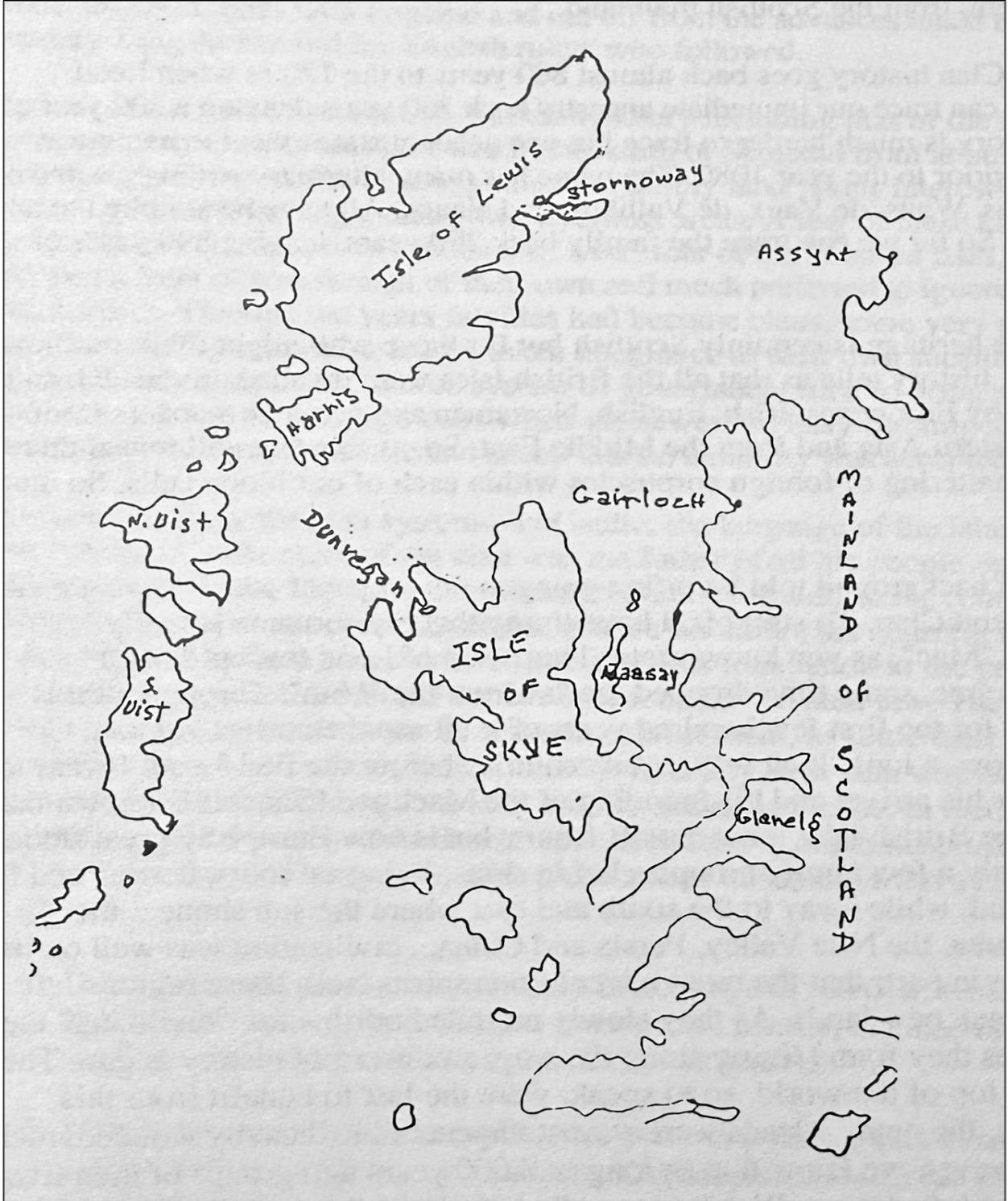
Great Auntie Bobbie McLeod

Upon the completion of her
book, at the young age of
91 yrs. In 2003

(with her Great Nephew
Mike Manson)

Chapter 1

The Clan MacLeod



**"CURMHNICH AIR NA DAOINE O'N
D'THAINIG THU"
(Remember the Men
from Whom You Are Sprung)**

Our ancestors were Scots—the McLeods from the Hebrides, the Vans family, my mother's people, from the Scottish mainland.

The McLeod Clan history goes back almost 800 years to the 1200's when Leod appeared. We can trace our immediate ancestry back 300 years, leaving a 500 year gap. The Vans history is much harder to trace but one account states that the name was first recorded prior to the year 1080. The name has many alternate spellings, some of which are Vaus, Waus, de Vaux, de Vallibus, and Vance. All have been linked to a common root. So far we can trace the family back 200 years, leaving 800 years of silence.

Our immediate heritage is certainly Scottish but for those who might think our blood is pure Scotch, history tells us that all the British Isles were invaded, inundated, and wandered into by Europeans, Irish, English, Norsemen and nomadic warriors from the Steppes of Western Asia and from the Middle East. So, as this tale will reveal there is more than a smattering of foreign corpuscles within each of our blood cells. So much for our blood!

With that bit of background told I am first going to put on paper what I have gleaned about the McLeod Clan. To start off, I have to say that my surname is really MacLeod—the "Mac", as you know, states I am a son of Leod (except I am a daughter). Someone, some time dropped the "a" from the "Mac". Throughout this tome or at least for the first few hundred years of it I'll use the correct version. Go back with me now, a long, long way, even centuries before the first Leod. I want to set the scene for his arrival and his founding of the MacLeod Clans. It is known that what are now the British Isles were cut off from what is now Europe by great floods, before which only a few family groups, clad in skins, living on roots, berries and fish, inhabited the land, while away to the south and east where the sun shone... the Mediterranean area, the Nile Valley, Persia and China... civilization was well on its way. This meant in part, that the more adventurous spirits from those regions left their homes to seek new lands. As they slowly migrated northward, "civilizing" the primitive peoples they found living along the way, a new era of history began. The Hebrides, at the top of the world, so to speak, were the last to benefit from this migration. There, the many islands were almost impenetrable, heavily wooded, rocky and rugged. However, we know that as long as 8,000 years ago groups of men lived, loved, laboured and died there. We also know that invaders did reach the Islands and left their mark. But there is no doubt that for many hundreds of years, isolated as the islands were, life there followed a more primitive way than that of those dwelling on the mainland of the British Isles.

Then, about 54 years before Christ, the Romans invaded Britain, conquering and subjecting all to their iron rule. All, that is, except the Scots, who stood up for their land and for their way of life. The Hebrides took little part in all this, separated as they were from the Scottish mainland. Besides they were beginning to feel pretty independent themselves and capable of running their own affairs. I know it can be said that the Scots were loyal and brave and even praiseworthy to put up such resistance to foreigners but, in the long run, their victory in keeping others out of their country worked to their disadvantage. Throughout the centuries Scotland remained on the outside, always at odds with England and cut off from the advances made by the legendary King Arthur and the English rulers who followed.

Of course, even with this isolation, Scottish history including that of the Hebrides, was being made. On the mainland and in the south of Scotland from about the year 800 A.D. a great succession of kings ruled the unruly land. Their interest was almost exclusively in the Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness areas. A few of these kings made rather half-hearted attempts to subdue the “wild” folk of the Western Isles, who had developed a form of government of their own and much preferred to ignore the Scottish kings. Through the years families had become clans, some very powerful. Many clan chiefs professed at least a token allegiance to their own substitute for a king, the “Lord of the Isles”, whose system of government tried to bring some order into the chaos of those long-ago days when clans were so busy fighting among themselves for turf and for cattle and sheep that no authority was accepted willingly.

A word or two about the clan system – in Gaelic, the language of the Islands, “clan” means “children”. The chief of the clan was the father of all his people, including his children, their children, his brothers and sisters and their families. He commanded their total loyalty, his land was theirs, their cattle were his cattle, his quarrels were theirs, their sorrows and suffering were his. The clan had its foundation in the principles of kindness, kinship and tradition, all far stronger than any written law. The chief’s first duty was to help his people when in need, to protect them, to settle their disputes fairly and to share with them a pride of family. In a way each clan was like an independent kingdom. Although we hear mostly about clan feuds, in fact, chiefs and their families visited back and forth with the traditional Scottish hospitality of great feasts, song and dance. There were other pleasures as this quote from a letter written in 1543 attests.

“Our delite and pleasour is not only in hunyng of red deir, wolfis, foxes and graies, whereof we abounde, and have greate plentie, but also in rynninge, leapinge, swmnyng, shootyng and throwing dartes.”

Scottish independence , with its years of hardship for everyone, years of treachery and intrigue, battles with other Scots and with the English, ended with the showdown between England and Scotland in 1745 at the most infamous battle of Culloden. As we all know, Scotland lost that struggle for self-rule, at great cost of pride and self-esteem in addition to the almost unbearable human suffering of thousands of individuals. One needs an open mind and a strong stomach to read of the atrocities of man against man after Culloden. “Man against man,” in this instance, means English against Scots.

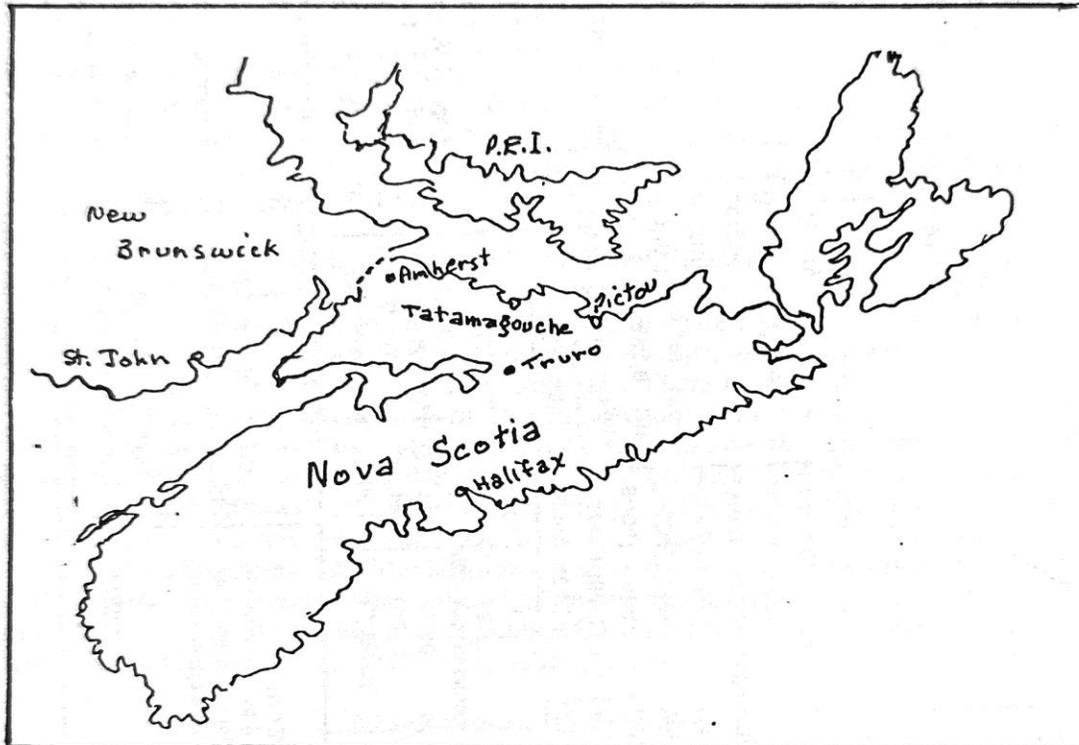
After Culloden and its unbelievably cruel aftermath by the English victors, the Scottish clan system disintegrated and before long died out. The wealthy English dominated the daily lives of the Highlanders. Wealthy English Lords seized the opportunity to enter the Islands, driving the “crofters” from their homes and land to accommodate their great flocks of sheep. This exploitation was termed “the clearances” and it changed the way of life for many thousands. It was a matter of pride to the MacLeods that their Chiefs never permitted any of their members to be forced off their land. This caring attitude was apparent through the crop failures of the mid-1800’s when MacLeod of Macleod (Norman the 25th Chief) had to take an office job in London to provide food and clothing for his Clan in far away Scotland.

There are MacLeod Chieftains to this day. There has even been a woman, Dame Flora MacLeod who took over in 1935. She travelled all over the world encouraging MacLeods to form social clubs, and inviting them to go to Skye to visit their other “home”, Dunvegan, assuring them of a warm welcome. The present chief (1997) is her grandson, John.

Well, to go back to 1745 and the dying out of Gaelic society and the power of the clans. There were rumors of a new lands, far across the seas – lands which held out the promise of a better life for one’s children. And so during the next fifty to a hundred years, the inevitable happened with thousands leaving their beloved Islands for the unknown. In 1803, one MacLeod, Donald, my great grandfather, embarked for Pictou, Nova Scotia.

Chapter 2

NOVA SCOTIA—The "New" Land



Nova Scotia, Canada

Donald with his older sister, Henrietta, disembarked at Pictou. Most likely they lived temporarily with "Clan" family or friends. That area has a history. In 1700 the Micmac Indians lived there. Soon the French Acadians moved in. In 1755 the English-French war reached Tatamagouche. England ordered "Destroy all Acadian settlements by fire and take the people prisoners". A few years later a man called Des Barres founded a "Manor" farm with himself as Lord of the Manor and new immigrants as tenants. His scheme failed. From the late 1700's the Scots began arriving to search for land, freedom and happiness. By the time he was twenty Donald stood for the first time on his own land. Soon after he and Jessie Morrison were married.

"CHA TILL MI TUILLE" ("I Shall Never Return")

Through the years we have all wondered about the circumstances surrounding my great-grandfather's arrival in Nova Scotia. Donald was only 9 years old. He was accompanied by his older sister, Henrietta. We know two older brothers Murdock and Malcolm followed Donald and Henrietta to Nova Scotia a few years later. They stayed there briefly and then travelled on to New Zealand, probably as followers of a Norman MacLeod, a minister of the Scottish church who had a large following throughout Nova Scotia in the early 1800's.

We have recently learned that Donald had another sister Janet B. McLeod, who came to Canada—we don't know in what year. Born in 1799 (5 years after Donald) she married a William Halliday and they lived in Nova Scotia. There are many descendants—Carsons, Smiths, Moodys, Murdochs, Holmes and Warwicks, many of them living in the Maritimes—all distant relatives of ours.

We are not sure of the name of the ship Donald and Henrietta travelled on but it may have been the "Kirkcaldy" which arrived in Pictou, N.S. in 1803. She sailed from Allapool. Unfortunately, the passenger list has disappeared. One wonders, too, why Donald's and Henrietta's parents sent their children to Canada—they would have known it was unlikely they'd ever see them again. There is no doubt times were desperate for the Highlanders. It seems most likely that great, great Grandpa Kenneth foresaw the fate awaiting his children and took steps to give them an opportunity for a better life. One hopes that old Kenneth and Mary lived to know that their children, Donald and Henrietta, reached Nova Scotia safely. One wonders, too, if as Donald's and Henrietta's ship left the Isles, "MacKrimmon's "Lament" ("Cha till mi tuille") was played on the pipes. The MacKrimmon's were the hereditary pipers to the Lairds of MacLeod. The Lament, written long before but famous throughout the Isles, was very often piped as the Highland emigrants left for far away lands, most never to return. Sir Walter Scott has written a touching poem.

MacKrimmon's Lament **Cha till mi tuille**

MacLeod's wizard flag from the grey castle sallies,
The rowers are seated, unmoor'd are the galleys;
Gleam war-axe and broadsword, clang target and quiver,
As MacKrimmon sings, "Farewell to Dunvegan for ever!
Farewell to each cliff, on which breakers are foaming;
Farewell each dark glen, in which red-deer are roaming;
Farewell, lonely Skye, to lake, mountain, and river,
MacLeod may return, but MacKrimmon shall never!

Where Henrietta and Donald first lived in Nova Scotia is not known. They may have joined friends or distant relatives. We're still trying to find out whom Henrietta married (someone named MacLean) and where they lived. Their children, and their

decendants might be able to tell us something of Donald's life from age 9 until he took land in Tatamagouche, N.S., married Jessie (Janet) Morrison and founded our Canadian MacLeod family. We have no first hand account of what kind of life Donald and Henrietta faced. Early in the 1800's things had settled down in Nova Scotia and colonies were cropping up everywhere as immigrants arrived. But life was far from serene or free of worry and the "better" life still far in the future.

So, how did Donald and Henrietta survive? Many Scottish immigrants spoke only Gaelic and had to learn English. Most MacLeods, including Donald and Henrietta, had both languages. All cleared land of trees by hand, made soap, sugar and fuel from maple trees; they spun thread and made clothes from hand woven material (most had brought from Scotland looms and spinning wheels as well as what garden tools they could bring). There were no schools, very few books and no mail service until 1820 (and then only weekly if weather was good). One Scot wrote:

"Tis true, that in this climate rude,
The mind resolved may happy be;
And may, with toil and solitude
Live independent and be free!"

There's no doubt life was always a struggle, everyone was poor, loneliness and longing for their homeland were always with them. Their remarkable courage and patience grew from hardship which could not be changed but must be lived through as they sought a better life.

About 1818 Donald was married to Jessie (also called Janet) Morrison. I have just recently learned the following about Jessie. Her father Captain John Morrison was born in 1725 in the Hebrides. In 1757 he married a Martha Anderson. They had 10 children, 4 girls and 6 boys. 5 of the boys married and had children—among them these 5 had 21 sons. In 1801 one of these 21 sons had a daughter named Jessie. Maybe some day I'll learn which son it was and then maybe I won't!

Well, Donald and Jessie started their life together in Tatamagouche which included, of course, starting their family. They cleared land by hand, built their house with logs they cut, planted potatoes and cabbage, etc. for food to be eaten in the winter. The children were born at home with no doctor present, just a neighbour woman with no midwifery training but hopefully some experience. At first there were just paths through the woods. Schooling the children received was at home. All the family had to help on the farm and in the woods. All learned to hunt animals, birds for food, and feathers, to fish for trout and cod, to trap lobsters, gather oysters and clams and to help pick wild berries. It was a cashless and tax-free age. Everyone was poor and all shared good luck and bad. New settlers were arriving every few days.

MacLeods were Church of Scotland followers as were many of the Scottish immigrants. Then itinerant missionaries visited, preached outdoors, in homes or in barns, administered communion and baptized babies. Baptisms were so important and mothers and fathers worried that their children might die before that rite could be

performed. This little quote from the "History of Tatamagouche" points up how important church and baptism were and how hard it was to follow tradition.

"On Sunday morning those going from ___ (a neighboring settlement) would arise early. A large boat with four sturdy oarsmen was made ready and in this they embarked. Swimming behind were two strong horses, while in the rear of the boat, holding the horse's reins, often to be seen was a woman with a baby on her lap. The boat landed at ___ where the men took out the saddles and dried the horses. Then they all proceeded on horseback, the women on side-saddle, often with a child before them. Along a blazed trail the men led the way through the tall dense forest and then followed the shore itself till the church was reached. After the service they spent the night as guests of local people and on Monday returned as they had come.

Folks from another settlement came by trail in summer and in winter by snowshoe through the forest or skated down the French River and then up the Waugh River to the church."

Surely it seems to us the trip would be long and tiring but according to one writer the services these "... lonely and often discouraged people took part in," seemed to them as "...a shadow of a great rock in a weary land."

The MacLeod children began arriving in 1819. The first son was named Donald Jr., of course! He married a Jane Ross and they produced 9 children. One, called Peter, apparently lived in Vancouver for years. Another, John, lived in B.C. (his wife was called Patience). Charles lived somewhere in Alberta and a grandson of his lived in Victoria. Howard, another of that family, died in Nova Scotia in the 1950's. I have his obituary from the local paper. He was a farmer and also sold cream separators (who could make a living on a Nova Scotian farm?). He was a "staunch supporter of the Conservative Party". (Glad he's not alive to know of its recent demise). His home was said to be the centre of true hospitality. He was a home-loving man, ready of wit, young in spirit and never happier than when surrounded by his children and grandchildren to each of whom he was truly a pal. A grandson, Francis MacLeod, cared for him in his last illness. I think I'd have liked Howard and I wish I had known him and his family.

Kenneth, old Donald's son #2, married a Mary McCully. They had seven children, the eldest, Annie, married a Nelson. I've just heard that a Park in Truro has been named "Nelson Park" after either Annie's husband or their son William. Donald's third son, Alexander, married Anne McConnell. I'm trying to learn more of Alex as you'll hear later. He moved to Minnesota. They had two girls, one of whom, Margaret Caswell, had several children. Some of her children eventually lived in Minneapolis—St. Paul, Denver, Alabama and California. I have tried to locate them without success.

Old Donald's four daughters stayed in Nova Scotia, I believe. Christina married a McCully (brother of Kenneth's wife), Nancy died young and Jessie married John Swan, a relation of Grandma McLeod. Mary married A. Munro and had 8 children, 4

--
of whom came to B.C.—Jessie, Grace, Arthur and John. One, called William, went to Alberta. I know nothing more of any of them and it seems too bad we weren't in touch. Old Donald's fourth son was named Roderick. In 1861 he married Annie Anderson. They had nine children about whom I have no information other than names and years born. The last son was William born in 1839. He married Elizabeth Swan. They had six children one of whom was my father, Leonard McLeod.

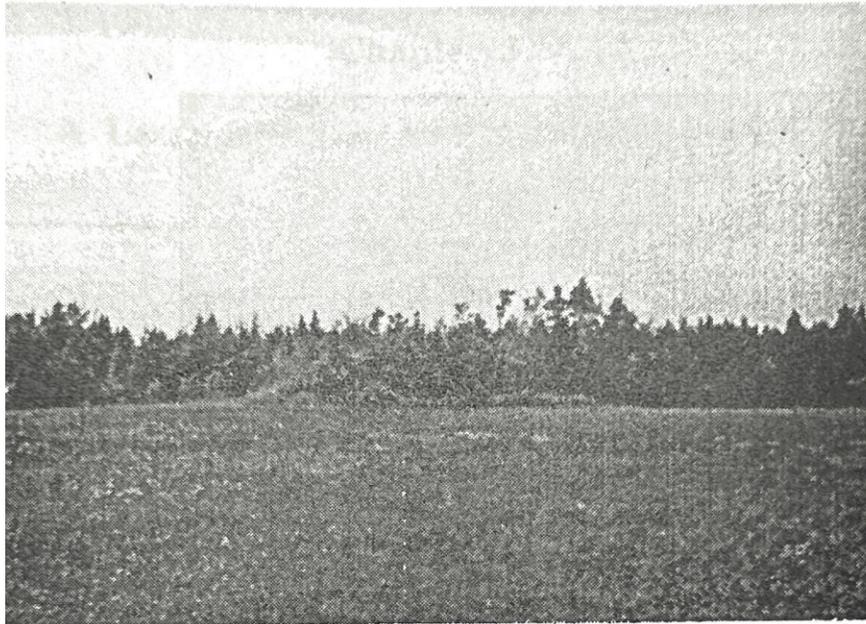
So ends, in this saga at least, the era of Donald MacLeod. His legacy was his children and their children and their children (numbering 68 at the time of his death) plus the home he had carved from the wilderness. He died, I hope peacefully and content, on August 28, 1896 at age 82, having made arrangements for the family burial plot and his tombstone. What a life he had lived! At age nine, taken from his Scottish home and his family and friends to make a perilous journey across the wide Atlantic, to land in a far off primitive land and somehow to grow to manhood, to muster courage, strength and determination to make a home for himself and his family. I salute him!

A Canadian Boat Song

From the lone shieling of
the misty island
Mountains divide us and the
waste of seas.
Yet still the blood is strong, the
heart is Highland
And we in dreams behold
the Hebrides.

Fair these broad meads, these
hoary woods are grand
But we are exiles from our
fathers' land.

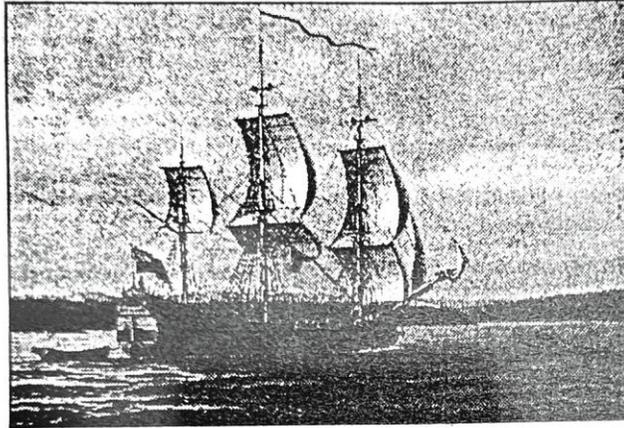
Anonymous



*Original Site of MacLeod Farm
Tatamagouche, N.S. c. 1820*



*The road to the hill above the farm, now owned by Jack Forsythe,
the great, great grandson of Donald MacLeod.*



Donald's Ship?



*1st School built on MacLeod land
is now a community centre.*

*It is believed that Donald helped to
build the first school and church.*



FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

Madeleine McCrimmon

July 7, 1917 - March 1, 2020



On March 1, 2020, The Clan MacLeod Society of Glengarry suffered a huge loss with the passing of our beloved Madeleine McCrimmon at the wonderful age of 102 years. She was born on July 7, 1917.

During her lifetime, Madeleine had devoted much of her time to all things MacLeod especially pertaining to The Clan MacLeod Society of Glengarry, but also to the Ottawa and Central Ontario Clan MacLeod Societies.

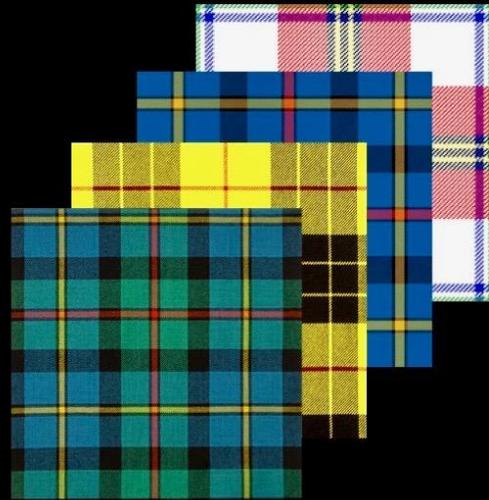
Madeleine had been a meticulous keeper of all things Glengarry MacLeod. She had stored the minute books and other historic items. The original minute books as well as other documents starting from the first Society meeting of November 2, 1935 to the present day were given to and are now in the very capable hands of the Glengarry Archives. Included in the papers was a Guest Book for gatherings and picnics including a list of the attendees at the first Gathering of July 4, 1936. These documents can be accessed at the Glengarry County Archives, Alexandria, Ontario: (www.glengarrycountyarchives.ca) – descriptions of items can be accessed on line.

**CMCS is looking for a
new Newsletter Editor**

**for the Lead Voice
If you are interested,
please contact**

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Thank you for reading.....

Neil & Jim

A
VERY
MERRY CHRISTMAS
TO EVERYONE

&

A
HAPPY
NEW YEAR

MAY YOU HAVE WALLS FOR THE WIND,

A ROOF FOR THE RAIN,

DRINKS TO CHEER YOU, AND

THOSE YOU LOVE NEAR YOU.

HOLD FAST AND SHINE BRIGHTLY WITH PEACE.

GOOD HEALTH AND CONTENTMENT

THROUGH THE NEW YEAR

(Author Unknown)