

CLAN MACKAY SOCIETY BRATACH BHAN



Mackays were warmly invited this year to visit Scotland and Edinburgh as part of the Home Coming 2009 Gathering of the Clans.

The Chief, Lady Reay and the Hon Elizabeth follow the Banner carried by our acting standard bearer, Ghillean Mackay at the start of the March of the Clans.



**STOP
PRESS**

**THIS IS OUR LAST NEWSLETTER TO BE POSTED.
SEE OUR WEB SITE FOR FUTURE EDITIONS**

Clan Mackay Society

**Notice of Annual General Meeting for the year ending 31 March 2009
to be held in St Ninian's Church Hall St Ninian's Road Edinburgh
on Saturday 14th November 2009 at 2.00 pm**

*The Annual Report for the year ending 31 March 2009 and a summary
of the Annual Accounts will be found inside this Newsletter on pages 3 to 19*

**ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS ARE WELCOME AND ARE INVITED
TO JOIN US FOR LUNCH AT 12.30PM IN THE
WEST EDINBURGH TOBY HOTEL CARVERY IN CORSTORPHINE**



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[BRATACH BHAN EDITION 19]

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◆ **2009 CLAN GATHERING -
INVASION FROM THE NORTH**

On Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th July, Frances Gunn, Dorothy Pritchard and Rachel Skene from Strathnaver Museum, attended "The Gathering" at Holyrood Park, Edinburgh.

The Museum was pleased that The Clan Mackay Society was receptive to our request to join with the Society in order to promote the museum, aiming in particular to highlight further "The Clan Mackay Room". The weekend was enjoyable and considered a success by all involved in manning "The Clan Mackay" Tent, within the Clan Village. Many visitors with Mackay connections visited the tent and were keen to learn more about the Clan and the Museum. New connections and friendships were made. .

The Invaders from the Clan Museum at Strathnaver with Lord Reay, our Clan Chief



◆ **2009 CLAN GATHERING,
HOLYROOD PARK EDINBURGH
Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 July**

This was the largest highland games ever held in Scotland, and was one of the key events of Homecoming Scotland. There were 80 clan tents, with around 7500 clan and Scottish association members from around the world. The Gathering attracted a further 30,000 people over the two days. It showcased competitors from all disciplines such as piping, dancing, and heavy athletics. Top quality vendors of Scottish produce, genealogists, children's entertainment and contemporary musicians were present. The special clan ceremony took the form of a clan parade on the Royal Mile culminating in a unique clan pageant on the magnificent esplanade of Edinburgh Castle.

The Clan Mackay Society strongly supported this event and enjoyed welcoming members of Clan Mackay from around the world to Edinburgh. Look up the site info@thegathering2009.com



EDITORIAL D.COLIN MACKAY

Pleasure mixed with sadness are the emotions that come to mind, as I pen the last editorial for the world wide Bratach Bhan . No longer can the society afford to print and post copies to the large circulation of members in so many countries. For a number of years we have made the Bratach Bhan available on our web-site and that will continue. Thanks are due to Ian Mackay, our secretary and David Hart our Web Master for enabling your council to continue making contact with so many friends in this way. The address is

clanmackaysociety.org

I have served on the Joint Council for fifty five years and enjoyed them all and now look forward to the next period of our Clan Society with as much enthusiasm as I had at the first gathering in 1951,
"Manu Forti" and Good Wishes.



◆ PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD

[HON ELIZABETH FAIRBAIRN]

I think we are all agreed that the Clan Gathering 2009 was a great success and the very best ever, certainly within the memory of most of us.



The Hon Elizabeth Fairbairn

The weather was a huge bonus but we have to take our hats off to the organisers, for conceiving and carrying out the seemingly impossible task of staging a world wide Highland event, in the heart of the Scottish Lowlands, and in the teeth of press apathy (by 'press', I mean the Scottish Press). The turnout was huge, way beyond the hopes and calculations of the organisers, which did lead to some problems of queuing, both to get in and to get lunch.

There was a tangible feeling of bonhomie and camaraderie, particularly in the Clan Village and also before and during the great parade up the Royal Mile. It was wonderful to take part in the Parade – I only wish I could have been in both places at the same time, and seen the different clans parading past !

Mackays did us proud by turning up from all corners of the globe, as did those from Scotland, the rest of the UK and Europe, particularly Germany.

I think it has boosted the Clan Mackay no end and done the world of good to us all. Our tent was well attended by members of the council and others. Congratulations and thanks to all who so assiduously stayed and talked to all and sundry who "dropped" in.

Thanks to each and every Council member, for doing his/her bit, in the run-up to the event, particularly to Sandra, who kept my feet to the fire,



Sandra with the pink hat served at her Garden Party for the Gathering at Champfleurie by Linlithgow

And thanks to everyone who has contributed in some way, greater or smaller, to the business of the Society over the year; with particular thanks to our office-bearers, Ian Mackay, who deals with correspondence ++, John S Mackay, treasurer, who has kept us in the black despite everything, and thanks very much indeed to Sheila Smith, our new minute secretary, who has dealt wondrously with our words and produced excellent minutes. It is thanks to you all that the society runs smoothly.

Thanks, as always, to D Colin Mackay for his very excellent work on the Bratach Bhan, and thanks again to our Seannachaidh, W Alex Mackay, who despite other commitments and difficulties with his computer/email address, still replies nobly to all the emails I pass on to him.

Thank you, thank you, everyone.



Hon Elizabeth dispenses her hospitality at 38 Moray Place



◆ THE MAIN OFFICE-BEARERS OF THE SOCIETY

Chief	The Right Hon Hugh William Mackay, Lord Reay	
Hon President	The Hon Elizabeth Fairbairn MBE	Edinburgh
Vice Presidents	D. Colin Mackay MBE	Edinburgh
	William C Mackay	Linlithgow Bridge
Seanachaidh	W. Alex Mackay	Edinburgh
Hon Grabhalair	William C Mackay	Linlithgow Bridge
Secretary	Ian F. Mackay	Glasgow
Also Membership Secretary		
Treasurer	John S. Mackay	Linlithgow
Editor of Bratach Bhan	D. Colin Mackay	Edinburgh

Council Members

Shiona Mackay, Magda Smith, Ghillean Mackay, Willie Mackay (“Peru”) Margaret Hambleton, John Mackay (“the post”) (all Edinburgh), Sandra Mackay (Linlithgow) Esme Mackay (Glasgow) Stuart W.D. Mackay, Sam Mackay, Jeannette Mackay, Fiona Mackay Smith, Roderick J. Mackay, (all External Members) Jan Mackay, Alex Mackay, Elizabeth Mackay, John T. Mackay (all Supplementary Members)

Bursary Trustees

Ian Mackay (Secretary), D.Colin Mackay, Bill Mackay, Ghillean Mackay, John S. Mackay (Treasurer)
Social Committee Shiona Mackay (Entertainment),

Honorary Standard Bearer	Vacant	
Bratach Bhan Standard Bearer	Roderick Mackay	Carlisle
Hon Piper	Alex Mackay	New Stevenston
Pipers Carol Ann Mackay (Rosshire)	Gordon Mackay (Glasgow)	Stewart Mackay (Ardross)
Valerie Mackay (Sutherland)		

Clan Mackay Society of Australia (NSW Branch)

President John Mackay Stanhope 13/24 Edensor Street, Epping, NSW 2121, Australia

Secretary Adelaide Mackay Agate P0 Box 1176 Auburn NSW 2144 or mackaynsw@bigpond.com

Clan Mackay Society of Australia (WA. Branch)

Brian F. McGee David Rank JP, Villa 11 Sandalwood, 26 Sulman Road, Wembley Downs, Western Australia, 6019, Australia or ClanMackayWA@people.net.au

Clan Mackay Association of Canada

Mora Mackay Cairns,(President), 3665 Autumn Leaf Crescent, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada L5L 1K7

Patricia McGhee, (Secretary), 29 Southport Street, Toronto, M65 4W7, Canada

Clan Mackay Society of USA

National President Michelle C. Sandelier, 31 State Street , Presque Isle, ME 04769, USA

Recording Secretary Rachel Lavoy 6 Montrose Avenue Daly City, CA 94015

Clan Mackay Society of Germany Siegfried Schierstedt-MacKay Lasbeck 25; Sophienburg D-48329 Havixbeck Germany info@siggie-mackay.de



◆ THE SEANACHAIDH'S YEAR 2009 [w. ALEX MACKAY]

Those attending the Homecoming Dinner at the Royal Overseas Club had a panoramic view of the steeple-lined silhouette of the Royal Mile. But, from these windows, they could also see buildings with links to our Clan.

There is Edinburgh Castle where Charles, first Chieftain of the Sandwood Mackays was born while his father, Donald 1st Lord Reay was being held prisoner there in 1644. At the West End of Princes Street inside St John's Episcopal Church is the wall plaque commemorating the first President of our Clan Mackay Society, Sheriff Aeneas Mackay of the Strathy Branch. In the other direction, past the National Art Galleries at the Mound, stands the Scott Monument. How many at the dinner knew it commemorated the grandson of a Mackay or that the intervention of two Mackay cousins was needed before this Gothic landmark could be completed?

When Sir Walter Scott died in 1832, it was decided to erect a monument in his honour. The aspirations of Edinburgh citizens, then as now, exceeded their finances. The unfinished Greek Temple on Calton Hill commemorating the Dead of the Napoleonic Wars has become the classic example of this tendency to underestimate the availability of funds. Initially, it was proposed to construct it in Charlotte Square, but later the Princes Street site was chosen. In 1844, however, when the lack of cash brought work on the half-built Scott Monument to a standstill, this time the venture was not abandoned. Mackays were called in to rescue it. The bankrupt monument committee turned to Alexander Mackay for

advice. For years he had been Scotts' next door neighbour and served with him in the Edinburgh Volunteer Cavalry. In 1822, during the first Tartan Assembly of the Clans in Edinburgh, Scott presented Alexander to King George IV. This was seven years before the Reay estate was sold, but there is no tradition of any other Mackay participating in the Gathering unless you count George, Chief of the Clan Gunn, who led the Sutherland contingent as the Duke representative. He was a descendent of Donald, Lord Reay's daughter Christina, and his mother was an Aberach Mackay from Clibrig.

Alexander belonged to the Skerray family of the Strathy Mackays and he was contacted because he was a successful businessman. Starting as a bookseller in Edinburgh, he was involved in the early days of several Scottish banks and insurance companies and later bought the Blackcastle estate just outside the capital. Our Clan knows him mainly as the author of the Blackcastle Manuscript and as we discovered during the bi-centenary of the 1806 McKay Society, he had been its Preses.

Alexander recommended the Monument Committee approach his cousin, who was one of London's most influential journalists and explain that the Scottish fountain had run dry and it was thought advisable to tap the richer fountains of London for the £3000 needed to complete the Monument. They got in touch with Dr Charles Mackay, [who was descended from



◆ THE SEANACHAIDH'S YEAR 2009 [W. ALEX MACKAY]

was descended from the Kirtomy cadets of the Strathy Branch] and he publicised the plight of Edinburgh in an article for the Morning Chronicle.

This led to Charles being asked to organise a Monument Committee in London and be its Secretary. He began by approaching celebrity Scots and thirty-seven notables joined his Committee. One of the first, however, was not a Scot, but a fellow journalist on the Chronicle, the novelist Charles Dickens and the Irish poet Thomas Moore soon joined him. The Duke of Sutherland declined to be its Chairman but donated £21, and agreed his name could be used to promote the subscription. His Royal Highness Prince Albert became its Patron on the understanding he would not have to attend any meetings.

Other aristocrats signing up included the Duke of Buccleuch, the Duke and Duchess of Somerset, Marquis of Northampton and various Earls. When the future Prime Minister, the Earl of Aberdeen enrolled, he expressed the popular opinion that our countrymen in the North have not acted very judiciously but it would disgrace us all if the monument to Scott should remain unfinished. The Leith born, Sir John Gladstone, whose son William Ewart also became Prime Minister, was the Committee's most enthusiastic member and he reflected a different attitude. In Edinburgh, he said, they have made their full share of effort, let the Scotch in London - the city that is the patron of mental power and the seat of the arts - not be left behind

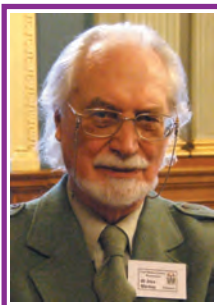
Parliament was represented by the Hebridean historian, Thomas Babington Macaulay, by

The Chisholm and James Loch of Strathnaver Clearances notoriety. Another was Sir James Matheson of the Lews, who was the grandson of the Aberach, Elizabeth Mackay, the mother of the one time Secretary to the United States Treasury. The Dukes of Wellington, of Richmond, of Portland, the Earl of Ellesmere and Sir Robert Peel refused to aid the cause without giving their reasons. Some of those approached were so hostile to the monument they subjected Charles to verbal abuse.

The design did not appeal to James Lockhart, Scott's son-in-law. He preferred a bronze equestrian statue to be erected in Castle Street, where Scott had lived for many years, rather than the shrine being erected in Princess Street. Charles reminded him equestrian statues, by tradition, were reserved for military men and kings. Lockhart retorted that Scott was a quasi-military having served as the quartermaster of the Edinburgh Volunteer Cavalry. One wag suggested that having been a Quartermaster Scott might merit being mounted on a mule. Lockhart approved the shrine as the design. Lockhart, the Editor of the Quarterly Review, had the support of the magazine's owner who argued that when the Committee decided to build this architectural embellishment for their city, they absolved his more distant admirers from concurring in an object so decidedly local. He suggested the citizens of the Scottish capital might feel resentful if English assistance were to become a sine qua non for the completion of a work so



◆ THE SEANACHAIDH'S YEAR 2009 [w. ALEX MACKAY]



W. Alex Mackay our Clan Seanachaidh is the son of a previous Seanachaidh, the late Willie John Mackay.

peculiarly Scottish, exclusively to ornament Edinburgh. This became the commonest excuse to avoid making a donation.

Sir Peter Laurie, a Scottish Lord Mayor of London on receiving Charles's invitation to subscribe responded there is a very strong feeling here that the Edinburgh bodies should pay for their own monument. He also attacked Charles personally suggesting the real meaning of a Scottish subscription is to form a London sub-committee, with a clever head and hand for honorary secretary to bleed the Cockneys. He realised, however, that joining the Committee could be politically expedient so he became a member.

The novelist Bulwer-Lytton used a variation of the Laurie excuse, saying the only monument Walter Scott needed was his works and if Edinburgh wanted a more exclusive memorial, it should pay for it. In any case, he had no sympathy with attempts to erect a stone gewgaw. Charles Dickens always sensitive to public opinion jumped on this bandwagon and withdrew telling Charles that there was an idea abroad that the Edinburgh or Scotch people, should finish their own monument. In spite of the influential character of the Committee, funds came in slowly. Gladstone suggested,

each member should add fifty percent to their individual subscriptions and increased his own by £25 fellow members ignored him. As a last resort, Charles organised a Fancy Dress Ball in London with Queen Victoria and Prince Albert as its Patrons. The guests were asked to dress up as a character from Scott's poems or novels

The ball was a success but the London receipts only totalled £1000, of that the actual subscriptions amounted to £269. Even so, the London Committee refused to hand over any money until they were assured it would only be used to build the monument to its intended height and not for statuettes in the niches. So although Charles had raised more cash than was needed to finish the monument, London unilaterally decided there was to be no statue of Scott or statuettes of his characters describing them as fanciful and superadded expenses incurred without our sanction.

For the next twenty-five years London's decree was enforced: the niches remained empty. Then Charles was invited to set up a New Committee in London and be its chairman. He accepted on condition he would not have to solicit contributions but could raise the money by organising another "Waverley" ball, under Royal patronage, to mark the centenary of Scott's birth in 1871. Although he hoped for wide support for the ball, Charles reflected Victorian class and economic divisions by stretching a rope across the centre of the ballroom, to separate hoipoloi from



◆ THE SEANACHAIDH'S YEAR 2009 [w. ALEX MACKAY]

aristocracy and important guests such as the Nawab Nazim of Bengal and the Turkish ambassador Musurus Bey. With the £600 raised, work started on the statuettes. Those awarded commissions reads like a roll of honour of the most eminent sculptors in Victorian Scotland, but this sculptural heritage was damaged by twentieth century sandblast cleaning techniques.

While Home Scots were slow to honour one of our nation's literary geniuses; those abroad seemed more patriotic or at least -- wealthier. Half a dozen met in New York, in the Scott centenary year, and over a glass of whisky, contributed the money to erect a Memorial to Scott in Central Park. It does not dominate its surroundings as the Princes Street monument does, but led to the claim that what had taken Edinburgh nearly half a century to accomplish, New York achieved in one night.

A TALE OF THE MACKAYS

A Farmer was driving a large flock of sheep along a road when when a young man, smartly dressed in Bergehaus and Gore-Tex marched up to him. "Fine bunch of sheep you've got there, he announced.. "Ay, no bad" said the farmer, cautiously. "Now" said the young man, "You have plenty of animals there. I am sure you could spare one for the pot. If I can tell you exactly how many there are, will you give me one?"

Eyeing the large and closely packed flock, the farmer could see no way anyone could come up with an instant correct answer. He indicated his agreement. "There are 231" said the young man correctly, to the farmer's astonishment, "and I think I'll take this one." He picked up the animal and put it under his arm. The farmer looked at him. I bet I can tell you" he said, "exactly what you do for a living. You're an

How was Sir Walter related to the Mackays The Rev Daniel Mackay according to FAST1 Mackay [the Church of Scotland's record of its Ministers], was a cadet of the Reay Family.

This was conventional terminology to indicate a descendent of one of Donald 1st Lord Reay's irregular progeny. Daniel was ordained to Fort William in 1692, later transferred to Inveraray and in 1707 moved to Jedburgh where he died in 1781. He married the daughter of the minister of Ancrum and had a daughter Anne. She married John Rutherford, the Professor of Medicine at Edinburgh. Their daughter another Anne married Walter Scott, the father of Sir Walter. From his Mackay grandmother he learned the Ballads and Tales, which permeated his poetry and novels.

WILLIAM A. MACKAY [PERU]

Economic Development Officer with the Highlands and Islands Enterprise." "How on earth did you know that?" asked the flabbergasted young man. "Well," replied the farmer, "If you put my dog down, I'll tell you"

So Willie Mackay [Peru] closed his Vote of Thanks at the dinner in the Royal Overseas League. He mentioned the Hon Elizabeth, Sandra Mackay and Colin Mackay who managed the evening so well, and Ian, John and Fiona for their sterling efforts. He praised Jean Mackay, our own Mod Gold Medallist for her entertainment and Stuart our Piper.

What wonderful weather all the Mackays had had to view Edinburgh Castle at the end of a Special Day.



◆ Magda Mackay Smith's day at the Gathering

a



Alex Salmond, First Minister of Scotland greets Magda



And then its the Lady Provost's chance

Lady Clashfern Lord Reay Lady Polworth John Mackay Stanhope

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Lord Polworth Elizabeth Fairbairn



Lord Mackay of Clashfern

Lady Reay

The Prince of Wales takes his turn but addresses our honoured clanswoman from above. Now what did he say to our Magda ?

The top table at our dinner in the Royal Overseas League in Edinburgh to celebrate the Homecoming Gathering and welcome Mackays from home and abroad to start their great weekend

**Clansmen, clanswomen,
We ask you to raise your glasses to the CLAN MACKAY.**



THE TENTED VILLAGE FIONA AND SHEILA MACKAY SMITH

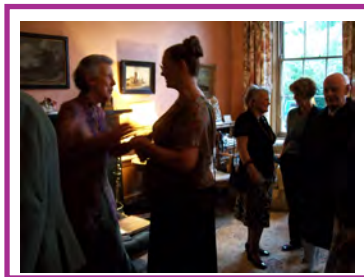
The Gathering was designed to give those people with a Scottish background the opportunity to met together and it succeeded. The weekend of 25th and 26th July saw nearly 40,000 attending events in the Queen's Park in Edinburgh where the Clan Village was constantly busy.

The Mackay Tent was a popular place - for hours at a time there were at least ten conversations going on between Council Members and visitors, the Groups were 7 feet deep inside the tent and the whole impression was one of kinship and happiness to be together.



All those who visited the tent were asked to sign the visitors' Book - over 250 signed! As expected, and despite the difficult economic climate, many came from North America with a good number from New Zealand and Australia - the Clan from Germany were especially welcome. It was gratifying to note the interest expressed by people from Edinburgh. Of special value were the team from the Strathnaver Museum in Farr, Sutherland. They brought great enthusiasm, good local knowledge and information about the Mackay country.

We were proud of the decorations. Special thanks to D. Colin for the banners made from former copies of the newsletter and for providing the floral display including bulrushes, which also graced the Dinner the evening before. Thanks to Dave Mackay, past president of the Clan Mackay Society of the Clan Mackay Society of the USA for acting as delivery boy



President Talk. USA and Scotland

When first proposed, it all seemed far too big, too fancy for our small group - then it became more real, we were committed - having paid for a Tent for the Gathering. So we had to think who would be involved, prepare duty schedules, work out what items were available to decorate the tent and deal with the complexities of passes and how to get to the venue. In the end it was all worth it - Clan Mackay members from near and far were able to meet together in lovely surroundings and to make and renew ties of kinship - exactly as planned

When is the next one? Can we use the ideas we picked up from other clan societies? Where did we put all the decorations? It was a great pleasure to meet so many people. Thanks to all.



THE CHIEF'S SPEECH [HUGH XIII LORD REAY]

It gives me great pleasure to be with you on the occasion of this “ Homecoming” week-end -an event which I assume has been dreamed up by the Scottish Tourist Board- or Visit Scotland I believe it is called now - and join with you in helping to put Edinburgh on the map. I have always had a soft spot for Edinburgh, the place of my birth, and still managing to hold it's place as, in my opinion, the most beautiful city in the entire United Kingdom. We will have a healthy exposure to it tomorrow.

I attended a sad ceremony in the House of Lords this week- the Farewell to the Law Lords.

In it's wisdom the Government had decided that, notwithstanding centuries of efficient British practice, it was time to remove the judiciary from all contact with the legislature, and establish the final Court of Appeal in their own new £50 m. Supreme Court Building. No doubt the Government was influenced in this in by continental practice, and the vanity of being seen to make lasting changes to our constitutional arrangements, however unnecessarily.

Whatever the effect on our judiciary will be, the change diminishes the House of Lords, where the extraordinarily distinguished contributions to legislative debate of generations of often famous judges has had a notable and often vital impact on the framing of our laws.

From a contemporary outrage, I should like to turn to an ancient and as yet more famous one- the Highland Clearances. I have been re

reading the accounts by Ian Grimble and John Prebble.

It is a melancholy, and almost unbearable, experience to read the story of the forcible and cruel eviction by the Sutherland agents of thousands of subsistence tenants, deeply attached to their homes, now to be burned to the ground, pushed off to the coast where they were optimistically expected to build a new home and scratch a living, perhaps in fishing, which none of them knew anything about and many drowned in attempting, or else to emigrate to Canada or the United States or Australia, which many did in abominable conditions and again often dying in the attempt, or go to fill the growing factories of Glasgow and other cities.

The Sutherland clearances were perhaps the most notorious of the clearances. But they were not the only ones by any means. Altogether the clearances took place over the better part of a hundred years and in Prebble's estimate were responsible for the dispersal of to 2/3 of the population of Caithness, Sutherland, Ross and Inverness.

Emigration from the Highlands had started several decades before the first clearances. The trouble began with the English reaction to the defeated Jacobite rebellion of 1745.

There was a determination to extirpate the Highland way of life. Arms were proscribed and the hereditary jurisdiction of the clan chiefs removed. So there remained no essential link between the chief and his clansmen.



THE CHIEF'S SPEECH [HUGH XIII LORD REAY]

The men being no longer the chief's to command, they became a superfluous population. It is easy to see how chiefs might be tempted, once the land became their only resource, when a multiple of the rent they had been receiving was now offered to them by the Cheviot sheepfarmers from the Lowlands, on condition the people living there were removed from the land.

No laws after all protected the tenant from eviction. So they were got rid of as callously as one might get rid of an influx of rabbits from one's garden.

And when the landlord came from outside as The Marquess of Stafford effectively did, after his marriage to the Countess of Sutherland, and had vast English interests, it is easy to understand that unscrupulous, ambitious young lawyers and agents, like Patrick Sellar and James Loch, could seize the opportunity to carve out profitable careers for themselves while shielding their employer from too great a knowledge of the barbaric methods they were using.

After all they were still advancing their employer's interests, and furthering his ambitions, in those very distant parts, raising the rents, building the modern infrastructure, improving the value and extent of the property. The distant landlord would have had no interest in inquiring more closely.

And the Countess, how directly involved was she? Donald Macleod the stonemason writes of her with elegant ambiguity:

"Her severity was felt, perhaps, far beyond her

own intentions, while her benevolence was intercepted by the instruments she employed

Did she speak Gaelic? Did Eric 11th Lord Reay speak Gaelic? Who was the last Lord Reay to speak Gaelic?

If the chiefs had ceased to speak Gaelic, their inhumanity, or at least their indifference, toward the fate of their clansmen becomes less incomprehensible.

Eric is not spared by Ian Grimble; he is in effect excoriated for abandoning his clansmen to their obvious fate by selling his entire estate to Lord Stafford.

At the same time he is quoted as having resisted earlier proposals of Patrick Sellar to effect a clearance. So the picture is not clear. Perhaps we can have an essay from you, Alex, on that interesting subject. It was not until 1886, a hundred years after the first clearances, that the British Parliament, so long pre-occupied with Ireland, could be stirred to pass legislation which finally gave Scottish crofters security of tenure.

Meanwhile the Chiefs lived out honoured lives. Eric for example in the 1840s was an elected Scottish peer at Westminster.

Although not on the scale of the Irish famine, the clearances were a great tragedy. As Eric Linklater wrote in his foreword to Ian Grimble's book, "The tragedy is indisputable, unrelieved and irreparable."

I would now like to return to the present and bring up a modern outrage, which I hope is not



THE CHIEF'S SPEECH [HUGH XIII LORD REAY]

irreparable, and is certainly not undisputed. I refer to windfarms. I consider it scandalous that the incomparably beautiful landscape of Scotland is being disfigured with windfarms.

If it was in the national interest it might be necessary to accept such inappropriate industrialisation. But wind turbines are inefficient and expensive and can only be installed by providing enormous subsidies, over £1 b. per annum currently, paid for by the consumer, and likely to rise 5 or 6 fold if the Government is to have any hope of meeting it's renewable energy targets. Each 2MW windturbine can now expect to receive up to £ m a year in subsidy.

The result is obscene profit for the fortunate owners of land in the right place, blight for the rest. They are inefficient because one 2000 MW low carbon nuclear, or gas or coal fired power station occupying at most 30 acres, provides as much electricity as 3,000 wind turbines, covering many hundreds of square miles, and at a fraction of the cost, at least a tenth, perhaps a twentieth.

And because the wind does not always blow, and the turbines are often idle, and certainly when the weather is at it's coldest, there must always be enough conventionally generated electricity to meet peak demand, so a full back-up must always be available. Windpower is therefore an optional extra, achieved at enormous expense, £100 b over the next 11 years on Government figures, payable by the consumer.

Because the electricity generated in Scotland by wind is wanted for the most part in the

South of England, further disfigurement of the countryside, and further expense, is caused by the new transmission lines they bring along in their wake.

Nor is it likely that they save CO2 emissions, once account is taken of those incurred in the construction erection and maintenance of them and the power stations that must back them up. And certainly not if they are built on peat, as windfarms in Scotland often are, as peat is a carbon sink, and if built upon releases huge amounts of carbon into the atmosphere.

Even if one believes in man-made climate change- which I see no evidence for- and that it is necessary to make a colossal sacrifice of our living standards in order to make an infinitesimal reduction in the world's carbon emissions, even then windpower is no solution.

It is a cul-de-sac, a will o'the wisp, a monumental folly and delusion, just the latest example of man's capacity for acts of collective insanity.

Unlike the Highland Clearances it is not a tragedy of man's inhumanity to man, but it has the makings of a tragedy for all that.

After that polemic, let me come back to the here and now and this pleasant opportunity we have to renew acquaintances and friendships, and recollect our common past.

We have once more gone to the cupboard and the closet, examined anxiously our kilts and stockings for moth-holes, punched in desperation



THE CHIEF'S SPEECH

extra holes into our kilt straps , pleaded with our wives to apply silver polish to our cherished heirlooms, and eventually stepped proudly forth in the garments, the vesture that denotes the identity and unity of the Scot, as powerfully as does the Declaration of Arbroath, and which denotes to-night the identity of our clan.

I feel honoured to be amongst you. Clansmen, clanswomen, I ask you to raise your glasses to the CLAN MACKAY.

THE SECRETARY'S REPORT IAN MACKAY

A great deal of my time this year was taken up with the Homecoming Event although Sandra Mackay did a tremendous amount in finding and organising the Royal Overseas Club for the Reception and Dinner. Hon. Elizabeth also did an enormous amount in co-ordinating with the Home Coming organisation. It was great to meet new friends and old friends from around the world at the reception.

The Clan tent in Holyrood Park, although a small one had a steady stream of visitors all day. The Team from the Clan Museum at Farr worked extremely hard at publishing the museum and their charm attracted lots of visitors. At our own reception, Guests were welcomed by the Clan Chief Lord Reay, Lady Reay and Hon. Elizabeth Fairbairn.

Guests came from far (and Farr) and near (Edinburgh) including Australia, France and U.S.A. Unfortunately a few did not arrive because their tour bus got held up. We then moved to the dining room, which was

was decorated by panels of Clan History. There was a clan mug and a miniature of whisky for each guest.

At table one were seated Lord and Lady Reay, the Hon. Elizabeth Fairbairn, Lord and Lady Mackay of Clashfern, Lord and Lady Polworth, Adelaide Mackay Agate and John Mackay Stanhope of New South Wales, Australia. Michelle Sandelier National President of the Clan Mackay Society of U.S.A made her first visit to Scotland.

The two seanachaidhs, Kenneth Bain of Fresno USA and our own William Alex. Mackay were to be seen in earnest (?) conversation with David R. Mackay ex President of the Clan Society of USA.

A Musical Interlude was given by Jean Mackay and by Stewart Mackay (piper) nephew of John S. Mackay.

A presentation was made by Elizabeth Fairbairn to Michelle Sandelier of A painting by Bill Mackay. A further Presentation of a painting by Bill Mackay was made to Elizabeth Fairbairn for the Museum at Farr by Magda Smith. A heartfelt and amusing vote of thanks was given by Willie (Peru).

Then following general socialisation (and a solid wall of happy chatter), a preliminary to meeting each other the next day in the Holyrood Park.



◆ **CLAN MACKAY SOCIETY [ACCOUNTS TO 31 MARCH 2009]**

General Fund	£1,407.49
Benevolent Fund	£2,105.29
Victoria & James Mackay Bursary Fund	£5,598.65
James Hayward Mackay Fund	£3,523.51
Clan Mackay Room at Farr Museum	£1,511.13
Library Account Fund	Closed - Nil
Helen W/Kenneth Mackay Education Fund	£2,371.08
Total Assets as at 31 March 2009	£16,517.15

I, the independent examiner, appointed by the Clan Mackay Society have examined the accounts of the Treasurer for the period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009 and find them correctly stated and sufficiently vouched. I hereby certify the above abstract to be in accordance therewith and correct.

Signed Sheila Mackenzie Date 30 October 2009



Was the weather at Holyrood not just perfect even if unseasonably Scottish ?



Jean Mackay
Mod Gold
Medallist

◆ **DONATIONS WELCOME**

Donations are always welcome to the Clan Society's Bursary and Benevolent Funds and may be made to the Hon Treasurer, John S. Mackay, The small Clan Bursaries were recently amalgamated into one larger bursary of £200 each year.

◆ **NEWSLETTER COSTS**
[JOHN S. MACKAY]

Our costs are high and contributions for postage may be sent to John S. Mackay
The Garden House 8 Champfleurie
Stables LINLITHGOW EH49 6NB



◆ **CLAN MACKAY SOCIETY [ACCOUNTS TO 31 MARCH 2009]**

1. GENERAL FUND

<u>Income</u>	£
Subscriptions/donations	901.50
Legacy (Sandy Mackay)	388.70
Homecoming Dinner	120.00
Sale of badges	74.00
Transfer from Library Account	12.82
Bank Interest	3.92
Total Income	1,500.94

<u>Expenditure</u>	£
Bratach Bhan	366.76
Website Upgrade	250.00
Website Domain Name	103.49
Meeting room hire	120.00
Badges	100.00
Total Expenditure	940.25

Surplus for period **560.69**

Add funds as at 1 April 2008 **846.80**

Balance **1,407.49**

Funds as at 31 March 2009 - Bank Current Account **1,407.49**

2. CLAN MACKAY SOCIETY BENEVOLENT FUND SCO 109733

<u>Bank and cash in hand:</u>	2009	2008
	£	£
Opening balances	732.30	671.30
Surplus/(deficit) for year	46.15	61.00
Closing balances	778.45	732.30
<u>Reserves:</u>		
General Funds	778.45	732.30
Investments 935.356 M&G Units	701.61	644.65
2191.485 M&G Units	625.23	636.19
Closing Balances	2105.29	2013.14
<u>Assets:</u>	Nil	Nil
All funds are restricted		



◆ **CLAN MACKAY SOCIETY [ACCOUNTS TO 31 MARCH 2009]**

5. **CLAN ROOM AT FARR MUSEUM FUND SCO 19739**

	2009	2008
	£	£
<u>Bank and cash in hand:</u>		
Opening balances	1,444.55	1430.43
Surplus/(deficit) for yea	66.58	14.12
Closing balances	1511.13	1444.55
<u>Reserves:</u>		
General Funds	1511.13	1444.55
Investments	Nil	Nil
Closing Balances	1511.13	1444.55
<u>Assets:</u>	Nil	Nil
All funds are restricted		

6. **CLAN MACKAY SOCIETY LIBRARY FUND SCO 109738**

	2009	2008
	£	£
<u>Bank and cash in hand:</u>		
Opening balances	12.72	12.61
Surplus/(deficit) for year	0.10	0.11
Closing balances	12.82	12.72
<u>Reserves:</u>		
General Funds	Nil	12.72
Investments	Nil	Nil
Closing Balances	Nil	12.72
<u>Assets:</u>	Nil	Nil
All funds are unrestricted		

7. **HELEN & W. KENNETH MACKAY EDUCATION FUND**

Income

Bank Interest	41.56
Total Income	41.56

Expenditure

Transfer to V&JM Mackay Fund	365.00
Total expenditure	365.00
Deficit for period	323.44
Add funds as at 1 April 2008	2,552.77
Funds as at 31 March 2009 –	
Building Soc Account	2,229.33
189 HBOS Shares at £0.75	141.75
Total Funds	2,371.08



NOTES AND NEWS



Norman and Moira Mackay Laing had a joyful Golden Wedding on the 26th of September 2009 Well Done !



Clan Chat - Secretary Ian and Treasurer John S. do their sums



Siegy and Rona Mackay of the German Branch of the Mackays



Young Katie Mackay from the USA at Linlithgow Palace



Mackays from the North and South man the Clan Tent - Fiona and the Strathnaver Group



Dave Mackay of the USA acts as delivery boy



2009 CLAN MACKAY GATHERING, EDINBURGH**Friday 24 - Monday 27 July****John Mackay Stanhope**

The highlight of the year has been the visit of your president and secretary to the 'Gathering of the Clans' in Edinburgh 24-25 July 2009.

The official events began with the Clan Mackay dinner held at the Royal Overseas League on 24 July. We were honoured by being seated at the top table with the chief Lord Reay, Lady Reay, Lord and Lady Mackay of Clashfern, and the Hon Elizabeth Fairbairn, the chief's sister and president of the Clan Mackay Society.

Lord Reay gave the main speech, majoring on the current parlous state of the British economy. He referred to 'Bad Eric', the 7th Lord Reay who sold the clan homeland to pay gambling debts. The new owner cleared the Mackay clan people to make way for sheep.

I was asked to speak in reply (because we had travelled farthest?). I thanked all who had arranged the dinner, and gave greetings from Australia. I explained that our roots (the secretary and me) had been traced only to Glasgow and Banff, not to the Strathnaver homeland. Economic hardship in Scotland had driven our ancestors to seek better prospects in Australia.

Employment prospects are improving now in Scotland, which is gaining population from business migrants.

After-dinner entertainment included piping by Stuart Mackay, a PowerPoint presentation by Rebecca (the curator) about the clan room in the Bettyhill Museum, and Gaelic songs sung by Jean Mackay.

We next attended the 'Scottish Diaspora Forum' held next morning in the rather ugly new Scottish parliament building. It is near Holyroodhouse Palace. The queen was in residence, and Charles and Camilla appeared at some activities, but we missed them. The forum was composed of a panel of experts presided over by the current and past presiding officers of the Parliament, Alex Ferguson and Lord David Steele.

In the afternoon we attended the sports, bands, dancing and clan tents in the park adjoining the palace. We met American, Canadian, German and other clan Mackay people there. Commencing about 8pm, we marched in clans by alphabet up the Royal Mile to the castle. Our white banner proved very effective, as we were greeted by bystanders with 'Aussie Aussie Aussie replying Oi Oi Oi'. The two of us were greatly outnumbered by the Scottish, American, Canadian and German contingents, but Mackays from Peru, Hong Kong, Spain and many other places asked if they could march with us. When we got to the top of the hill, we were asked 'Are all these people Australians?' to which we replied 'Yes, by adoption!' We reached our allocated seats in the castle forecourt by 9.30pm, and were entertained with a pageant depicting one family's heritage from the Declaration of Arbroath in 1320 to settling in Queensland on a farm.

John Mackay Stanhope**President****Adelaide Agate Secretary****Clan Mackay Society of****New South Wales**