



Clan MacLeod Society USA South Central Region



CLAN MACLEOD SOCIETY, USA, INC., SOUTH CENTRAL REGION EVENTS – Spring 2005

North Texas Irish Festival

The 23rd North Texas Irish Festival took place at Dallas Fair Park in Dallas, Texas, on March 4-6, 2005. This was the third year the Scottish Clans were invited to join in this Irish celebration. Nineteen Clans were represented this year and there will no doubt be more next year. This event is produced by the Southwest Celtic Music Association, a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to the performance, promotion and preservation of Celtic music and dance in the southwest. The festival has grown significantly in recent years and is not considered to be one of the largest Irish Festivals in the nation. Royce Perry is the Clan Coordinator for this event and we thank him for his fine leadership.

The Clan MacLeod was represented by Gloria McLeod, Publicist for the Clan MacLeod Society, and Jean North, who is responsible for including the Scottish Clans in the Huntsville Festival that was held on April 22-24th, 2005. Gloria and Jean reported they had many visitors to the McLeod tent where they visited with old and new friends. They welcomed Sarita Bullard Oerting and Warrant Strawn as new members of the Society.

We invite all the MacLeod and Septs to put this on their calendar for next year and come join us there. It is an exciting event.

Celtic Heritage Festival

The 14th Annual Celtic Heritage Festival was held on April 16-17, 2005, at their new location on the grounds of the Kilgore Intermediate School. The concrete, oil derricks and train tracks at the downtown location were replaced by fields of green grass and shade trees. There were rumors the space may be enlarged next year and athletics will be added to the current activities, which include pipe and drum performances, medieval combat, Scottish dancers and entertainers. Food and merchandise vendors offered up a good variety of items. The Clans were well represented at the Kirkin' O' the Tartans at the First Presbyterian Church on Sunday morning before returning to their tents for the afternoon activities.

The Clan MacLeod was represented by Gloria McLeod, Publicist for the Clan MacLeod Society. Gloria was born and raised in East Texas so it was with great delight that friends, and even relatives, dropped by to visit. Someone from another clan tent remarked that she had a crowd at her tent all time. It pays to be a native.

A special thanks goes to Robert MacDonald, the Coordinator of this event, who arranged to put up a tent for the MacLeods, which he also did last year. The feud between the MacDonalds and MacLeods has officially ended! Thanks, Robert.

The Kilgore Heritage Festival will be even bigger and better next year so come join us in April 2006.

Arkansas Scottish Festival

The 26th Annual Arkansas Scottish Festival was held on the campus of Lyon College, Batesville, Arkansas, on April 24-26, 2005. It was a cool, blustery, windy day but the sun was shining brightly and weather did not deter the excellent attendance. Tim Simpson, the MacLeod Arkansas Coordinator, had the tent set up and ready for business early on Saturday morning. He was assisted by Gloria McLeod, Publicist of the Clan MacLeod Society, from Houston. Ronnie McLeod from North Little Rock came with his collection of banners and flags to decorate the tent and it was easily recognizable with the "Loud MacLeod" tartan flying in the breeze. Ronnie heads up a group who come from Little Rock to display their vintage cars. Two of his group, James Peckham and brother John Peckham, joined the MacLeod Society last year and renewed their membership again this year. Tim Simpson renewed his



membership and Jason Trantham joined the Society for the first time. We welcome this new member and appreciate very much the renewals as it shows we're doing something right.

Lyon College has an excellent Scottish dance and pipe band program. Jack and Sue Stephens, long time members of the Clan MacLeod Society, chose several years ago to fund a scholarship for piping at Lyon College. For the past two years it was possible to add an additional scholarship, therefore, two scholarships are awarded each year at this event. The winners for this year are Tristen Dean, piping, and Brooke Hollis, dancing. Our congratulations go to these two fine performers and to Jimmy Bell, Band Director, for his leadership. The pipe band competition was outstanding. We would also like to thank Claudia Marsh, Director of Church Relations and Development Officer, for her assistance whenever we needed it. This is a first class event always. Hope to see many MacLeods there next year.

San Antonio Highland Game

The 7th annual highland game in San Antonio is now history. It was held April 2nd and 3rd. We had a good time, and the game was a success. Unfortunately between having to help with the game and trying to run a tent by myself I'm afraid I haven't any new members to report. I did talk to several McLeod's and had a good time. We setup three tents with the House of Stewart. We had a MacLeod tent, a House of Stewart tent and a tent in the middle for hospitality. We've used this setup for several games and it seems to work for us. This weekend the Stewarts actually signed up more members than Clan MacLeod. This is a first in the 4 years we have been doing this.

On the Friday night (April 1st) before the game we have a wreath laying ceremony at the Alamo. We do this to honor the Scots who gave their lives defending the Alamo. Many clans take part, and there where speeches and music. Clan MacLeod presented a wreath.

I am hoping to get to Arlington and Salado so I hope to see you folks there.

Photos – MACLEODS EVERYWHERE!



NTIF – Warren Strawn & granddaughter



NTIF – Grace & Don Hudnall & Gloria McLeod



NTIF Sarita Oertling



This picture is from the Kilgore Games. They are the family of Bill and Betty McLeod, formerly of San Antonio, now living in Murphy, Texas. LtoR: Malcolm and Julie McLeod, Betty and Bill McLeod, Gloria McLeod, Don Kiser Front: Kirby and Thomas McLeod.

Pictures from the Arkansas Festival and Games



Brooke Hollis, Tristen Dean, Jim Bell & Gloria



Gloria & Roderick MacLeod



Jim Peckham, Ronnie McLeod, Gloria McLeod, Tim Simpson



John and Valerie Peckham



MacLeods on Parade displaying the Loud MacLeod Tartan!



The new member is Jason Trantham posing with Arkansas Commissioner, Tim Simpson.



Proud MacLeods posed with the scholarship winners, Tristen Dean and Brooke Hollis. Here we have Jim Peckham, the winners, Gloria McLeod, Ronnie McLeod, and Tim Simpson

John Peckham is a member of the Society and his wife, Valerie. He and his brother, Jim, display vintage cars at this Festival along with long time member, Ronnie McLeod, whose in other pictures. John and Jim joined at the Festival last year and renewed their membership this year.