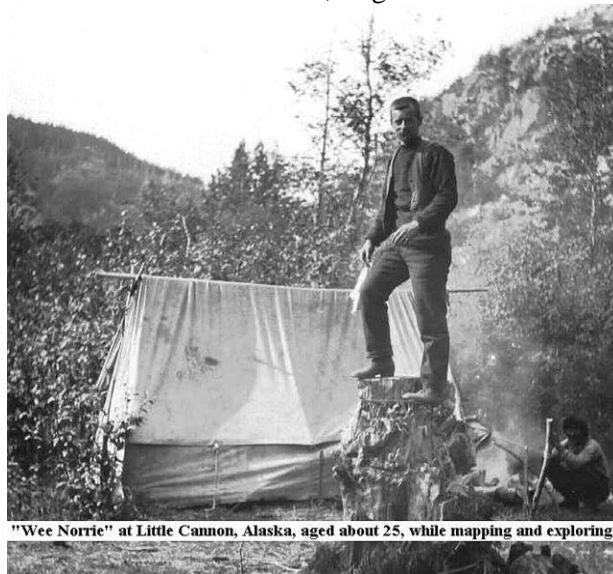


**(Dr) Norman Henry William MACLAREN** was born on 22 Jan 1880 in Ardenshaw, St Andrews Rd., Pollokshields, Glasgow, Scotland. He died on 22 Jun 1937 in Glasgow, Scotland. He married Mary Margaret GARNET in 1912. Mary was born in 1894 in Lancashire, England. She died in 1989 in Essex, England.

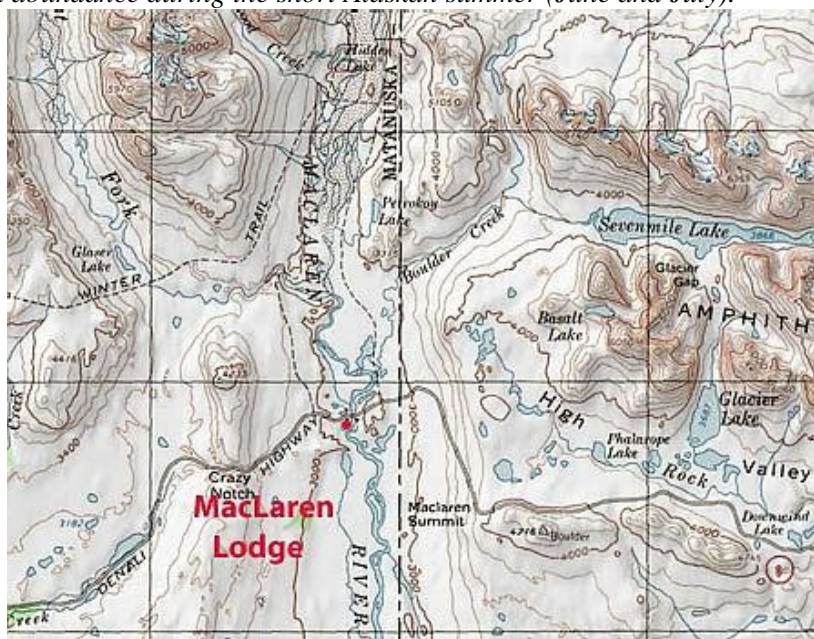


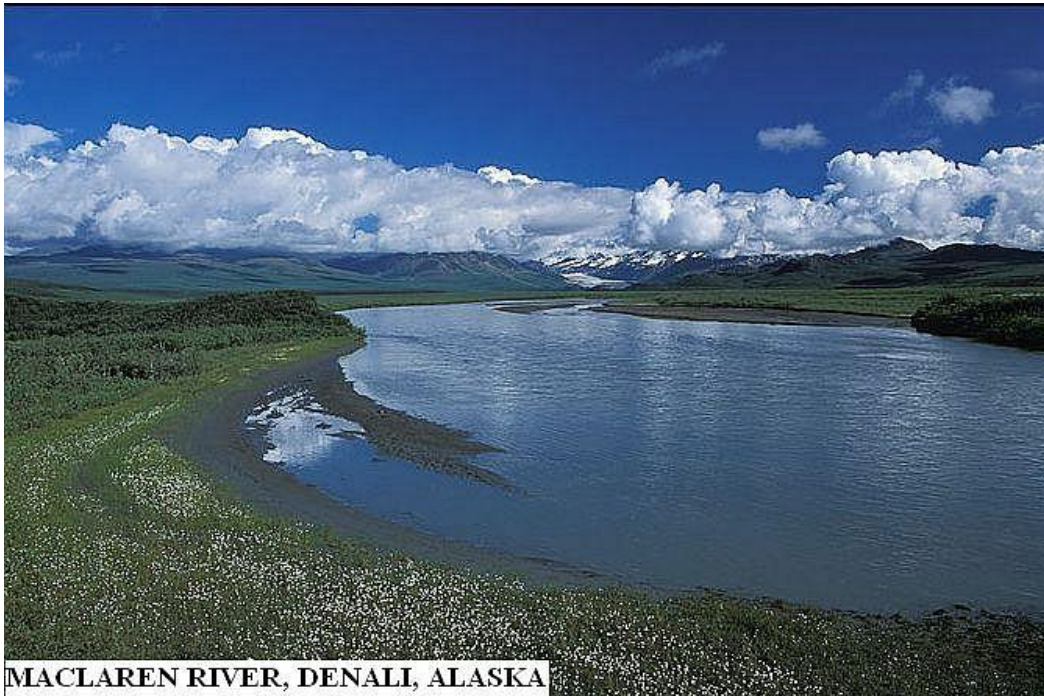
"Wee Norrie" at Little Cannon, Alaska, aged about 25, while mapping and exploring

Norman studied at Glasgow University and at the University of Heidelberg in Germany from where he received a Ph.D. He then worked at Glasgow University and did work for the Royal Geographic Society on trips to such places as the McKenzie river Alaska, Borneo, and Tibet. He became a fellow of the Royal Geographic Society and the Lincian Society. In the early 1900s Norman travelled through Alaska with a team of husky dogs and a Chinese cook, making the first map of large areas of Alaska, breaking an arm in a crevasse and setting it himself. Here is a note from Angela Elliott about the Maclaren River & Glacier.

*"I received info from the University in Juneau to the effect that the Maclaren Glacier and River were named for Norrie Maclaren, who had lead a party of gold prospectors up river. At a fork in the river the party split and Maclaren led the party up one arm, whilst his compatriot led a party up the other. Maclaren failed to find gold, but the other party were successful and the leader of that party named the river and glacier after Norrie Maclaren in recompense for his failure."*

From .... <http://www.ak.blm.gov/gdo/DenaliHwy/denali.html> Alaska Range and Maclaren River Viewpoint MP 37.0/98.0 "You are now at an elevation of about 4,000 feet, just a short distance from the Maclaren Summit (4,086'), the second highest highway summit in Alaska. Stop and enjoy the panoramic view of the Alaska Range. Mt. Hayes (13,832') and the Maclaren River and Glacier are dominant features, but Aurora Peak, Mt. Shand and Mt. Geist may also be seen. The Maclaren River flows from the Maclaren Glacier south to the Susitna River and then into Cook Inlet just west of Anchorage. Vegetation at this elevation is low-growing alpine tundra. Wildflowers bloom in abundance during the short Alaskan summer (June and July). "





MACLAREN RIVER, DENALI, ALASKA

*Hamish Maclaren continues ....*

"During WW1 the family moved to Glasgow for a couple of years as Grandfather (Norman Maclaren) was asked to work at Glasgow University as lecturer of anatomy. Out of this job he became very interested in embryology and that became his life's work. He made ovens to grow the embryos and developed thermostats to keep the temperature constant in the ovens. The development of these thermostats which they then sold to other universities became one of Norman's "little firms" of which he had several. Col. Robert Maclaren, one of his older brothers, (20 years older) put \$20,000.00 into the firm and then subsidized it for years. He never got a penny out of it. Maclarens as such never made a lot of money until IGM took charge after WWII."

**Obituary from the Glasgow Herald, 24th June 1937**

"LOSS TO GLASGOW UNIVERSITY. DEATH OF LECTURER IN EMBRYOLOGY .

The death occurred on Tuesday at his home, Cubrieshaw, West Kilbride, of Dr Norman H. W. Maclaren who has been lecturer in embryology in the Anatomy Department of Glasgow University since the end of the war. He played an important part in embryological research in this country during recent years. Dr Maclaren, who was about 55 years of age, belonged to Glasgow. While a student in Glasgow University he was attracted to biological science, and in his early manhood he occupied a post as demonstrator in the Department of Zoology at the University under the late Professor Young. Later he studied extensively abroad and travelled in various parts of the world conducting biological research. At Jena he worked as assistant to the famous Professor Haeckel, and also studied and worked in the marine biological station at Naples. He held the degree of Ph.D. of Heidelberg University.

As a lecturer in embryology, he was associated with Professor T.H. Bryce, who retired from the Chair of Anatomy 18 months ago, and took an important part with Professor Bryce in building up the collection of human and other mammalian embryos in the University. He also conducted important researches in the early stages of the development of several mammalian forms, reports of which were published in the proceedings of the Royal Society and elsewhere.

Dr Maclaren had an unrivalled knowledge of laboratory techniques and was of an inventive turn of mind. An example of his inventive powers was provided by a thermostatic control which he produced during his work at the University. He and his brother, the late Col. Robert Maclaren, patented the control and formed a company to market the invention, which is now extensively used for many purposes. The early experimental models to the control were tried out in connection with the biological ovens in the Anatomy Department of the University. Dr Maclaren is survived by his wife, three sons, and one daughter."

## STORIES

Stories we heard from our grandmother, Granny Maclaren, wife of Dr Norman Maclaren, our grandfather.



**The Husky.** - While in Alaska/Canada on one occasion he came across a group of men who were getting ready to shoot a very fine looking husky. Dr Norman asked what was going on and was told the dog was uncontrollable, and had tried on several occasions to attack its owners. Dr Norman agreed to buy it, but as soon as it was untied it attacked him and he had to knock it unconscious. He then tied the unconscious dog to a small tree by his tent and left a large bowl of food beside it. In the morning he awoke to find the dog sleeping beside him in the tent. It had eaten the food, chewed its way through the tree to release the rope, and crawled into his tent. From then on the dog was incredible loyal and was a superbly skilful lead dog for his sled.

**Royal Salute** - On one occasion Dr Norman, while wearing his kilt, was in a small canoe (in which he had become quite proficient during his travels in Canada and Alaska) in the middle of the Firth of Clyde using a plumb line to measure depths for a chart he was making of that section of the Clyde. The Royal Yacht of King George V came up the Clyde and passed close to Dr Norman, at which point Norman stood up in the canoe and saluted the king with his paddle. This got quite a bit of newspaper coverage and a day or two later Margaret Maclaren was at a "rather smart" cocktail party talking with a group of acquaintances and one asked, "Has anyone heard about that crazy man in a kilt, in a small canoe, in the middle of the Clyde, standing to salute the king with his paddle?" **Granny Mac remarked "Yes, he is my husband."**

**Pearls** - On one occasion Norman Maclaren went, with his wife into a jewellers shop in Glasgow to look at some pearls. The jeweller started talking about this wonderful article he had just read about pearls, and went on and on about how great it was. Granny Mac said she noticed a funny smile on Norman's face ... and when they left she asked him what he had been smiling at. **He explained that he had written the article.**

**Family Reunion?** - At one point, while Norrie was in Alaska, his brothers and sisters started to notice that no one had seen or heard from him for a long time. So one of his brothers went off to look for him. At one point looking through the window of a local bar in some very remote place, he saw Norrie partying with the locals. Apparently he had "gone native", so without even entering the building the brother turned round and returned to Scotland. He subsequently passed a brief message around the family, "Norrie is still alive." However, later, Norrie recounted a different version of the story. He had seen his brother approaching some way off, ridiculously over dressed, and with huge amounts of equipment and provisions, plus quite an assortment of servants and guides. Seeing incongruous group arriving, Norman had hidden until they had gone past!

Norman Maclaren 1860-1936

