



The Rowan Tree



Number 55

Clan Lachlan Association of Canada Inc.

www.clanlachlan.ca

Hon. Patron, Euan Maclachlan of Maclachlan, Chief of Clan Lachlan

President's Message

Greetings Clan Members,

Hope this finds you & yours well in these tumultuous epidemic times.

It is astonishing how quickly “work at home” and “social distancing” have become part of our lives. On-line sales and delivery are booming. On-Line Learning is becoming standard for institutions from schools to universities.

Zoom and other APPS are making world-wide meetings in person a reality.

I have some comments on the Society in this epidemic world. Notice there is no reference to branch membership. The society can run with no reference to Branches whose main advantage is organizing meetings which require a physical presence, say a clan tent at a gathering.

Fund raising is through the Lachlan Trust of Scotland and Lachlan Trust of Canada. Major funding sources have been Historic Scotland and the Heritage Lottery Fund. Fund-raising by Clan members is important as these bodies require evidence of public participation and support from “ancestral” tourists. (Note that Tax relief is only available for Donors who pay UK taxes)

Clan Lachlan Association of Canada

80% of membership fees are made as donations to the *Lachlan Trust of Canada* and receive a Tax Credit if you pay Canadian Tax. You only receive a tax credit for expenditures directly incurred for work on the Old Castle Lachlan site. We will compute the amounts involved and issue cumulative tax credits in 2021.

Use of the Lachlan Library Membership

This allows members to download in colour, current and past issues of the *Clan Lachlan Magazine*. It gives access to 250 E-books covering Clan Records and Genealogy Family records & memoirs, and Scottish Classics from major libraries.

A member's ISBN E-Book could be filed in the *Lachlan Library*, the Library and Archives Canada and the National Library of Scotland.

Library Membership can be obtained by membership in the *Clan Lachlan Association of Canada*. This is the Canadian Branch. It is a registered fund raiser for the *Lachlan Trust of Canada*.

Memberships are Annual \$25.00, and 5-Year Membership \$100.00. (Note: *To date we have treated all \$ Memberships at par for Canada, US , Australia, and NZ*).

I wish you well in the next phase of the epidemic and I would ask for assistance for David MacLachlan who is handling both the Clan Lachlan Society of Canada and the Lachlan Trust of Canada and has business burdens imposed by the Epidemic.

*Duncan MacLachlan - #41,
President and Chief's Commisioner*

Clan MacLachlan on Facebook

You might want to look at the CMS Facebook page, which enables you to post information, ask questions, and view updates (as they occur).

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

Another website which may be of interest to you is the
Scots Tongue Website

<http://www.cs.stir.ac.uk/~kjt/general/scots.html>

Ceud Mile Failte: 100,000 Welcomes to our New Members

Full Members

There are no new members to welcome for this Fall issue of "The Rowan Tree".

Note: Due to privacy concerns, stemming from new Federal legislation, we are no longer publishing full addresses of new members. However, should an individual member wish to contact another member, we can put both in touch with each other.

Flowers of the Forest

Thankfully, we have nothing to report in this section, for this issue. May you all continue to stay healthy during this global health crisis.

Submitted by Ken Godfrey - #802

Invitation to View Contents of Electric Scotland Website

Alastair has a huge amount of Scottish content on his web site, and you are most welcome to view and enjoy its offerings. There are tons of humour, stories, recipes, children's stories, general articles, and much more.

Alastair McIntyre FSA Scot
Electric Scotland
<http://www.electricscotland.com>
<http://www.electriccanadian.com>

Scottish Studies Foundation Fall Colloquium – 2020

As far as we know at the time of publication, the Fall Colloquium will be cancelled this year, due to the on-going Covid-19 health crisis.

Genealogy Research

For members on Instagram and missing a visit to Scotland this year — follow **bordersjourneys** by Ian Walker, and enjoy his beautiful and informative photos.

I met Ian in London, England at the 2014 Who Do You Think You Are Live show!, where we both attended the Association of Professional Genealogists' get-together.

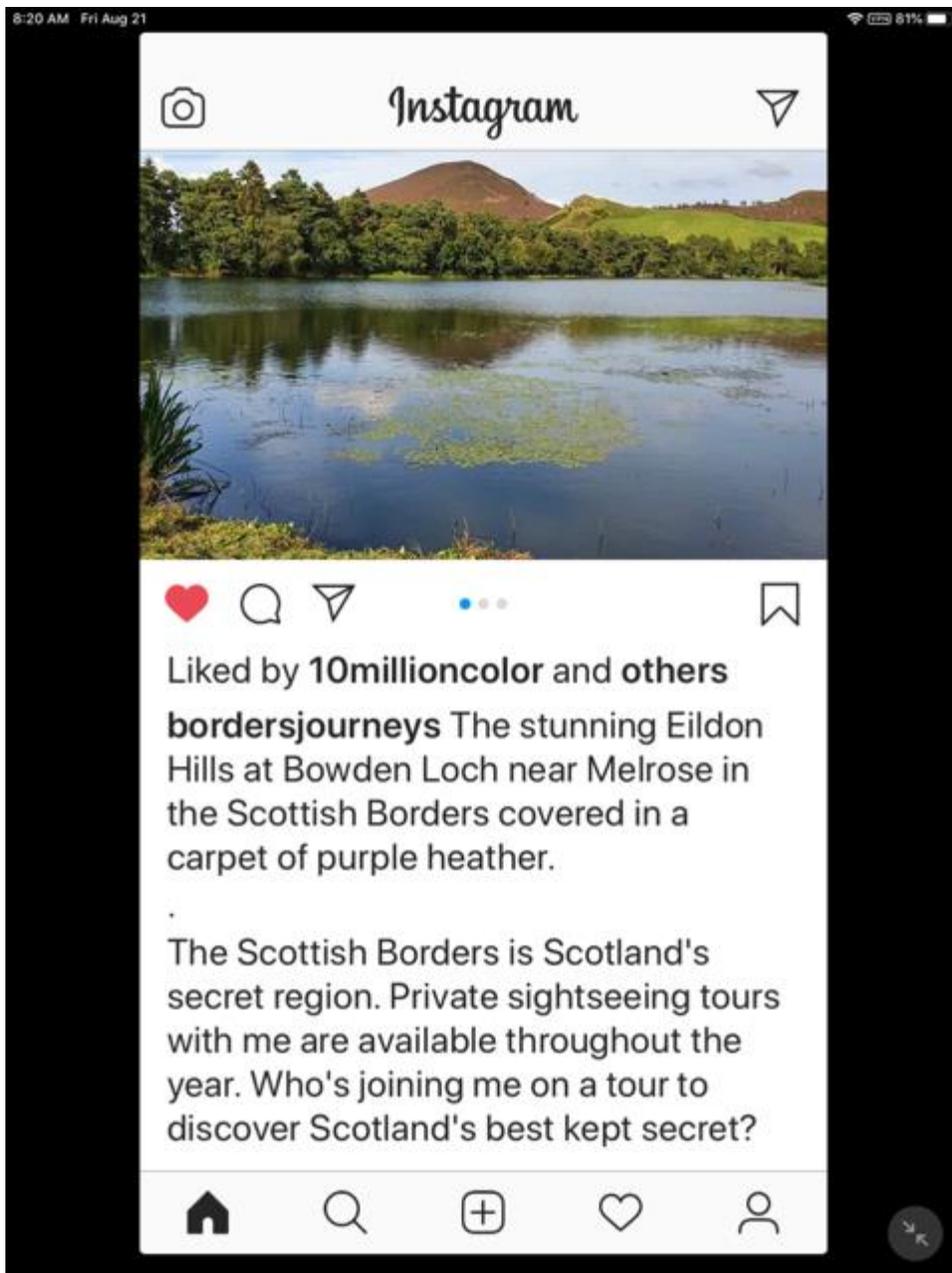
In 2018 I was drinking a lemonade overlooking Melrose Abbey, and I saw his van drive into the car park. I went over and asked how was business. He organizes custom tours to take clients to visit ancestral locations (after doing research to determine places of interest if needed), and he also works with Christine Woodcock who takes groups from Canada.





Ian Walker outside Melrose Abbey in 2018 (photograph by Jane Thompson)

Coincidentally, as I was adding Jane's item to my newsletter, Ian Walker posted the photo and note below, from Melrose on August 21st, 2020!



Submitted by Jane Thompson - #1475

Article from Jean and Neil Armstrong re Scotland Trip in 2001

[Reference: [http://www.bbc.com/travel/story/20200504-the-tiny-country-between-england-and-scotland?xtor=ES-213-\[BBC Features Newsletter\]-2020May15-\[Travel| Image\]](http://www.bbc.com/travel/story/20200504-the-tiny-country-between-england-and-scotland?xtor=ES-213-[BBC Features Newsletter]-2020May15-[Travel| Image])

In 2001 we spent a week + in the Debatable Lands staying in a B & B in Lockerbie with a local fireman & his wife, who had all the fire department photos of the 1988 Pan Am Flight 103 crash... and told us how it affected the community. We visited the memorial.

Previously we met 2 sisters from Lockerbie on holidays in Oban and were invited to their home for a wee dram.

Before we left home, we contacted and joined the two Armstrong Societies. The Clan Armstrong Trust (secretary - Betty & John Armstrong) invited us for tea. Fiona Armstrong, a Scottish Journalist, was president of the Trust. They did excellent research, making Armstrong history videos and had a museum in Langholm. Betty Armstrong was killed in a car accident 6 months after our visit. Her husband, John, did most of the upkeep of the Trust's museum. The Trust folded after John died and their museum items were moved to the Gilnockie Tower owned at one time by Ted Armstrong and taken over by the American Armstrong Clan Association.





Above: Gilnockie Tower – 2001

Neil Armstrong (right side in photo) at Gilnockie

The Armstrong Clan Association (Ted Armstrong) controlled the society for many years, and it then became mainly a US organization. Ted recently died. This association owns the Gilnockie Tower. In 2001 we made arrangements to meet Ted at the Tower. I made a trade with Ted for an Armstrong Rug (he assured me it was a rug not a blanket) for a copy of my Armstrong Family History. They had a large display on Neil Armstrong, the American astronaut in the Tower, but the tower was in need of repair when we were there.

The two Armstrong Societies did not get along. I wrote an article of Neil's family for the Trust and received a qualifying question if I had written anything for the Association, which I had not.

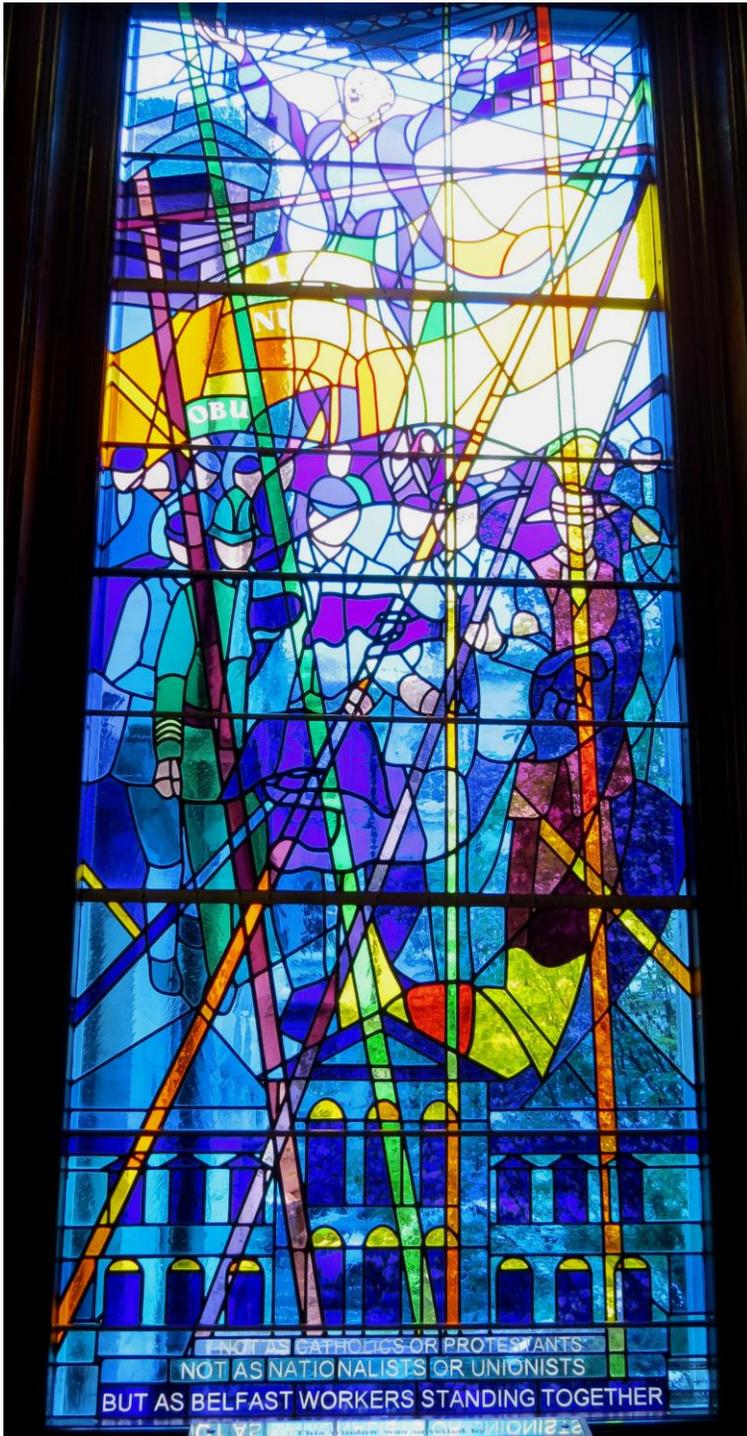
When we were in Salt Lake City a person helped us find the marriage bond for Neil's Great, Great, Great Grandfather, David Armstrong in 1811 in a parish in the Debatable Lands. We visited St Mary's Church in Sebergham, Cumbria where Neil's Great Great Grandparents were married. So, these people certainly went back and forth across the border.

In 2001 there was an outbreak of foot & mouth disease - especially bad in the Debatable Lands, so we were limited in the number of places we could enter. The hills in the Debatable Lands were empty of sheep for this reason. We were told that the government was paying 200 pounds / sheep which was more than they normally got for a sheep. For this reason, some farmers with infected sheep were sharing them with their neighbours!

We enjoyed our 29 days in Scotland and would love to return.

Submitted by Jean & Neil Armstrong - #1431

Stained Glass Window in Belfast



John McLaughlin Stained Glass Designer of the “The Dockers’ Strike Centenary Window 1907-2007” A window in Belfast City Hall (Ground floor, north east corridor) reads: NOT AS CATHOLICS OR PROTESTANTS, NOT AS NATIONALISTS OR UNIONISTS, BUT AS BELFAST WORKERS STANDING TOGETHER.

The artist of the window is John McLaughlin. In a statement he said, “I designed this window in 2007 to commemorate the Belfast Dockers’ Strike of 1907. The window shows a Protestant worker and a Catholic worker linked arm in arm, a woman representing the workers for the cigarette factory and a member of the Royal Irish Constabulary reminding us of their solidarity with the strikers. They are united in one cause as they stride forward together to demand fair rights for workers. The resonance of their actions roars like thunder in the present political world of Northern Ireland and the absolute need for workers and everyone else to stand together is personified in the image of the great orator James Larkin seen in typical stance at the top of the window, while his spirit guides the marchers. The lower segment of the window depicts the Custom House which is Belfast’s “Speakers’ Corner”, where “Big Jim” Larkin held many public meetings. On the steps I have placed a poster seen on the Falls Road at the time of the strike, with the words “Not As Catholics and Protestants, Not As Republicans and Unionists, but as Belfast Workers standing together”. Behind Larkin at the bottom of the picture we see a flurry of banners and flags of many colours which represent the different origins, beliefs and loyalties of the strikers. I first heard of Jim Larkin when my legs were so short that they dangled from the chair at the breakfast table, where my father taught us about the nobility of the trade union movement. He was a committed trade unionist and I dedicated this window to him.” Designed by John McLaughlin, the window was manufactured by Calderwood Glass Ltd. and was unveiled Thursday 10 May 2007 by The Right Honourable Lord Mayor, Pat McCarthy.

Submitted by Jean & Neil Armstrong - #1431

Do You Have a Wee Thirst?

In case you feel parched, and are seeking something to quench your thirst, a product from the Glengoyne Distillery in Scotland comes highly recommended by John MacLachlan and his wife Vicki. They visited this distillery after our last Clan Gathering, and no doubt sampled some of its offerings while there, and later!





Glengoyne Whisky Stills

Whisky Aging Barrels



John MacLachlan standing outside of the Glengoyne Distillery Complex

Submitted by John MacLachlan - #804

Report from Vancouver Island, British Columbia

Our Genealogical Society has kept going with meetings by Zoom through the summer. Normally, we wouldn't have meetings at all in the summer, but since no one is going anywhere, the club has used the time to get more familiar with doing meetings, workshops, and special interest groups by Zoom. I've also been watching Lisa Louise Cooke's free genealogy sessions "Elevenes" every Thursday morning, which I've found really interesting. They are then posted on her website so folks can go back and watch them again, to see any information that you want to review.

With so many more workshops, webinars, etc. being made free right now, I've tried to watch a number of them that are of interest to me.

Submitted by Cheryl Munkholm - #1715

Great Movies, or at least Great Sources!

We have been watching some videos from the past during our COVID lockdown these last few nights, of our trip to **Scotland and Ireland in 1993!!!** These were shot on Ken's Sony Handy Cam video camera. Remember when we would shoot 2 hours of film on a cassette tape! These older movies may be boring to some, but they are great memory-refreshers, and very possibly sources of information on (and by) friends and relatives who are no longer with us, so well worth a watch. There are now devices one can purchase to digitize these old 8mm movie films produced by both Super 8 film Cameras (usually with no sound track), and the later 8mm cassette video cameras, like the Handy Cam, providing both images and SOUND. If you are not technically inclined, then there are still commercial enterprises who can digitize these older media for you, but they are not inexpensive.

As well, if you have organized your past trip photos on your computer (either scanned older paper copies, or created them as digital originals), and wish to do a "slide-show" that can be watched by a larger number of people, then you can purchase an HDMI cable to connect your computer to your television set, and watch the photos together on its much larger screen. This experience might trigger recalled memories from those watching, that can add new data to your family histories, or provide a clue that might enable you to break down a long-standing "Brick Wall" in your research!.

Scotland in 1993

Our main reason for this trip was to attend a **Clan MacLachlan Gathering** at Castle Lachlan, where we met the then Chief, Madame Marjory Maclachlan (mother of our current Chief, Euan). We danced in the "new" castle's badminton court!, toured the "old" castle, then went on to Inverary Castle, Oban, Isle of Mull, Isle of Skye, Duart Castle, Glencoe (massacre by Campbells of the MacDonalds), Dunvegan, Eileen Donan Castle, and Doune Castle (where Monty Python filmed "*The Holy Grail*").

Then to **Ireland**: We saw the Giant's Causeway, did a whiskey tasting at Bushmills (and "Yes", "whiskey" has an "e" in Ireland!) then on to Galway, Sligo, Limerick, Cliffs of Moher, Bunratty Castle where we had a fantastic period-themed dinner with ladies dressed in velvet gowns and playing harps, and us drinking lots of mead! Then, we drove the Ring of Kerry and so much more, before returning home via Shannon Airport.

Wow - So much history! However, as these were "pre-digital" days, we still need to scan all of the 'still' pictures from this trip. At one B&B, a naked man came into our bedroom in the middle of the night to use our bathroom, and then tried to crawl into bed with Judy!!!! Great memories.

Canadian Maritimes in 1995

A few nights later, we watched some more 'home videos' - this time from 1995 - our visit to **PEI** for a **Clan MacLachlan Gathering** (which was also attended by our late former Sennachie, Tom McLachlan). Drove to PEI - but first stopped in Quebec City - saw the Laval Seminary, the Citadel, Plains of Abraham, etc.; then to Hopewell Rocks in NB, Charlottetown, (lots of historic sites), Cavendish Beach Park - scary cliffs, Green Gables, and Lucy Maud Montgomery's birth place. Had a visit with a former Carleton University friend of Ken, Mary

Robertson, at her cottage on PEI, then to Joggins Beach, famous for its fossils (where we ran into someone Ken knew from Carleton Place), Reversing Falls in St John, NB, King's Landing, NB - great spot - well worth a visit! Edmunston, Montreal (St. Joseph's Oratory, Notre Dame), and much, more... before arriving back home in Toronto.

So, if you are now stuck at home and unable to travel anywhere, maybe digging out those old home movies (whenever and however they were filmed) may be a source of joy and inspiration to you, until you can once again safely travel and enjoy our wonderful world. We are so glad we did much of our traveling when we were young(er) and healthy.

Submitted by Judy Gauthier

Wife of Ken Godfrey #802 – (with a few added comments by Ken)

Scottish Humour



Submitted by Judy Gauthier - #802



Editor's Message

Please tell me what you do and don't like about the items in "The Rowan Tree", so that we may try to improve its content. Remember, this is your newsletter, and it can only be as good as your input to it, so I welcome your submissions; especially those from new members, and those from outside of Ontario. It is only in this way, that we can expand the geographic appeal of the newsletter.

Ken Godfrey - #802

Remember: If you have moved recently, have you notified CLA of your new address, so you will receive all of your newsletters - i.e. *The Rowan Tree*, and your magazine - i.e. *Clan Lachlan*? Also, if you have recently changed your e-mail address, send any/all of your changes to David MacLachlan, our Treasurer, with a copy to Ken Godfrey, please, whose names and addresses appear below. Also, remember to keep your Membership Dues current as well. Thank you.

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