

**Western States**

**Clan MacLaren Society, Inc.**

The Western States Clan MacLaren Society (WSCMS) is a nonprofit Idaho corporation, formed in 2015.

The purpose of this organization is to foster and encourage interest in the history, culture, and traditions of Scotland in general and Clan MacLaren in particular, as well as in providing information and education regarding the same, and to promote collegiality and friendship among members.

This Society includes individuals in all states or Canadian Provinces either West of the Continental Divide or intersected by it, including Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, California, Alaska, Hawaii in the United States and British Columbia and Alberta in Canada. In

addition, in June 2018, WSCMS amended its bylaws stating: **[…membership may be offered to any person meeting the stated criteria of surname and/or interest in MacLaren, who resides outside the geographical boundaries of the Society as stated in Article 1 of these bylaws, who is recommended by a member in good standing and endorsed by an officer or board member]**

**Clan MacLaren History**

Clan MacLaren is from the area in and around Balquhidder. MacLarens have occupied the glen since at least the 12th century, and the area is known both for its exceptional beauty and as the Gateway to the Highlands.

Staunch Jacobites, the MacLarens fought in support of the Stewarts in all the rebellions and actions against the English, and with Prince Charlie at Culloden.

The men were also known for their extraordinary size, courage, and their fighting skills. MacLarens are noted for their exceptional stubbornness and for having a sixth sense.

The MacLaren Motto is Ab Origine Fidus (Faithful from the Beginning); the plant badge is the Laurel; the Clan war cry is

Creag an Tuirc (the Boar’s Rock – the ancient gathering place).

**White Cockade:**

Symbol of the Jacobites, the supporters of the Stewart Kings of Scotland and followers of Bonnie Prince Charlie. On the Culloden Moor in 1746, the Appin Stewarts and MacLarens were on the part of the Jacobite lines that actually broke through the Hanoverian (English) lines and then fought their way back through the English to their own line. The white cockade is worn with pride by descendants of these brave rebels who paid a terrible price for their loyalty to the Stewarts. MacLarens are asked to wear the white cockade to show you are from a Jacobite Clan. Men pin it on their bonnet, and women pin it on their blouse or dress, with or without the clan badge. The clan cap badge then is pinned over the center of the white cockade.

**Laurel:**

If you are able to locate a sprig of laurel, the plant badge of the MacLarens, also place it on the cockade to indicate which side they fought on in the rebellions.

**Boy Scouts:**

**The Boy Scouts were formed in England in 1907 by Major General Robert Baden- Powell and his friend Major Kenneth MacLaren – in 1919, William F. Dubois MacLaren, from Glasgow, Scotland purchased a derelict estate near London and presented Gilwell Park to the Scout Association as a training facility.**

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**Effective January 1, 2020**

**President – Norman L. English**

**P.O. Box 1583 Trees Ct.**

**Silverton, OR 97381**

**(503) 874-8101 (Home)**

**(503) 930-7074 (Cell)**

[**normengl@msn.com**](mailto:normengl@msn.com)

**Vice President – Nina Garcia**

[**nina.clanmaclaren@gmail.com**](mailto:nina.clanmaclaren@gmail.com)

**Secretary – Karen Woodall**

**18801 NW 47th Avenue Ridgefield, WA 98642**

**(360) 576-4969**

[**starcars8@comcast.net**](mailto:starcars8@comcast.net)

**Treasurer – Tracey Martin**

**(208) 421-3723**

[**traceymartin88@yahoo.com**](mailto:Kristophernartin98@outlook.com)

**Membership Secretary – Tim McLaren**

**11314 NE 36th Ave.**

**Vancouver, WA 98686**

**(360) 546-2271**

**drtmclaren@msn.com**

**Newsletter Editor –**

**Penny McLaren**

**(360) 546-2271**

[**ampmcomm@msn.com**](mailto:ampmcomm@msn.com)

**Fun Ways to Celebrate Your MacLaren Scottish Heritage**

* + **Come to one of our annual meetings held at a Scottish event**
  + **Join us at one of the events held around the Western United States**
  + **Volunteer to host a tent at one of the events (lots of advice, suggestions, and help provided)**
  + **Join a MacLaren group at a Burns Supper, a Scottish Tea, or Scottish Athletic Games**
* **To join WSCMS, send completed membership application to WSCMS Membership Secretary**

**Check out our Website at:** [**www.maclarenclan.org**](http://www.maclarenclan.org)

**NOTES**

(Revised 12/12/2021)