



Western States Clan MacLaren Society

SUMMER 2020
Volume 5, Issue 3

The Scottish Thistle



MEETING OF THE CLAN

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) for Western States Clan MacLaren Society was successfully held on June 12, but in a new way.

In spite of the cancellation of the McMinnville Scottish Festival which would have been linked with our meeting, we kept with the same schedule and met on the same date via Zoom, just like many other organizations around the world are doing. You can read the minutes starting on page 4.

Dealing with the effects of this pandemic-influenced world is such unknown territory. WSCMS will still keep forging ahead and will try to connect with MacLarens in whatever way we can.



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Norm English



President's Message

Hello Everyone!

For most of us, life over the past several months has been a bit unusual. Nearly everything has changed from what we once considered normal into what we have today. It's very likely that it has changed a number of things for us all; how we live our lives, such as:

- The places we go
- How often we leave our house
- Even what we wear (masks, gloves, etc.)
- How often we wash our hands, or apply hand sanitizer
- How close we stand to one another
- How we shop for groceries or other necessities (even what we shop for)
- Eating out (not every restaurant accepts regular dining)
- Haircuts

Many of these things were either not a concern previously or were second-nature. Perhaps you've experienced other differences in your life as well.

And, of course, even our own WSCMS organization's recent annual meeting (in June) took on a totally different look to it, as we conducted a remote 'virtual' Zoom gathering. It was nice to see several of your faces, but while that is wonderful technology, it's still not quite the same as being in the same room with other MacLarens, is it? Is this all part of the 'new normal?' That's a question that can only be answered over time.

However, thankfully, there are still some 'constants' for us, and I for one am grateful for that. Our Society gives us the opportunity to celebrate our Scottish roots and history, and to think back on some of our own special, direct ancestry. Clan MacLaren is from the area in and around Balquhiddy, having occupied the glen since at least the 12th century. This part of Scotland is known for its exceptional beauty and for being the Gateway to the Highlands. Of that we should continue to be proud, and no Covid-19 can change that part of our history. A pandemic can change a lot of how we live life, but we can always remain proud of who we are, even today. Our MacLaren ancestors fought in support of the Stewarts in rebellions and actions, and with Prince Charlie at Culloden. Let's be proud of who we are!

And let us continue to 'think ahead', looking towards the time when, hopefully, once again, we will be able to enjoy Scottish festivals and games, perhaps giving us the opportunity to enjoy each other's company in closer proximity. I, perhaps like you, long for that day.

Norm English – President

Know somebody to recruit?

Attending games and festivals is the traditional means of recruiting new members to our clan society. But in a year when not one of those events has been held, we need to expand our membership efforts in other ways.

Personal recruitment is one approach. Consider talking to relatives in the far reaches of your family who might be willing to join in support of western MacLarens. Our bylaws state that membership may be offered to anyone who has the surname or has an interest in MacLaren but lives outside the western states (the bylaws provide a more exact wording.)

A personal invitation is a great way to connect. Perhaps in this time of distancing when we don't have much social contact, someone you know might be delighted to hear from you by phone or email. You can forward this newsletter to them, too.

Or perhaps you have friends who have last names that match the many sept names of the MacLarens. These include Lowry, Law, Laughton, Patterson, Rorie, and others. If you would like a pdf file that has a comprehensive list of sept affiliations, contact the newsletter editor.

If you need a membership application, or any other supporting information, contact Membership Secretary Tim McLaren or President Norm English. (See contact listing on page 8.)

Games and festivals update

Our spring edition of the newsletter listed some Highland games usually held late in the year that were still on schedule.

Organizers of festivals normally held in fall waited to announce changes in the hope that the pandemic would ease. Now, the western games WSCMS could have attended have also been cancelled. Two favorites, the Treasure Valley festival in Idaho and the Kelso festival in Washington state were both cancelled.

In Pleasanton, California, the Caledonian Club of San Francisco cancelled their festival usually held Labor Day weekend. The Seaside Games in Ventura, California usually held in October also cancelled. However, in Colorado, the Longs Peak Highland Games is still on for September 11 to 13 at the present time.

Elsewhere in the U.S., two other large festivals were cancelled which had tried to continue last spring but then changed course, the Stone Mountain Games in Georgia and the Grandfather Mountain games in North Carolina.



Western States Clan MacLaren Society, Inc.
Annual General Meeting Minutes
Friday June 12, 2020
Virtual Conferencing via Zoom

Attendees:

Norman English
Nina Garcia
Tim McLaren
Kris Martin
Tracey Martin
Karen Woodall
Barbara Gard
Penny McLaren
Pete Woodall
Margaret English

Quorum was met by 25% of the total membership which is 17. 25% of 17 is 5 and we have 10 in attendance.

The meeting was called to order by the President at 7:09 PDT.

Approval of the Minutes:

The minutes from the previous meeting were included in the newsletter for review. There was one correction, the correct spelling of Kris Martin's name. Barbara moved that the minutes be approved with the correction. Penny seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurers Report:

Kris Martin gave the following report:

Beginning Account Balance: \$808.92

Income: \$170.32

Expenses: 0

Ending Account Balance: \$979.24

The report was unanimously accepted as presented.

Membership Report:

Tim McLaren reported that we currently have 17 members. Membership has been on the decline since 2017.

The report was unanimously accepted as presented.

Newsletter Report:

Penny McLaren reported that the spring newsletter is out and she is working on the summer issue. The lack of Highland games this year has impacted the information that is usually included in the newsletter. Penny is requesting items or stories for the newsletter. Norman commented on how nice the newsletter is visually and that it is very informative. He appreciates all her work on the newsletter.

Website Report:

Tracey reported that the renewal fee for the site is due in a couple of months. The Treasure Valley games so far is still a go. There was discussion regarding the website maintenance fee and the registration for the Idaho games should be an on-going expense. Tim moved that we approve them as on-going expenses. Kris seconded. The motion was unanimously approved. The Facebook page is wonderful with lots of interesting items, stories and photography of Scottish heritage. Encouraged everyone to visit the page.

Announcements:

The Kelso Highland Games is still a possibility for this year. It is usually the second weekend in September. It would be good if there were a least two games this year to erect the MacLaren Clan Tent.

Old Business:

Non-profit donation discussion was deferred until the next meeting.

New Business:

Barbara discussed the need to recruit new members. Possibilities are putting ads in magazines and having a tent at the two potential games. Next year perhaps we help out some Scottish heritage organizations or groups even though they may not be a charitable organization. We can think about what that would look like for our next meetings discussion.

2021 AGM:

Next year's meeting rotation is in Idaho. The Treasure Valley Games is usually the last weekend in September and the date would be Sept. 20-21st, however, there are factors that may change that. The fairgrounds has many events that need to be coordinated and the games have added the athletes which will also dictate the schedule.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Recording Secretary
Karen Woodall

Please share the word about WSCMS

Website: www.maclarenclan.org

Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/maclarensofidaho/>

Where to get MacLaren merchandise

By Tim McLaren

By now many of you would have been to a couple of Highland games this season. But not this year. You have missed your annual chance to check out and possibly buy some new Scottish and MacLaren themed items. So, what can you do for appropriate “retail therapy” as the Scottish tour guides put it?

I recently had reason to look up MacLaren tartan on the web. Boy, are there a lot of sites. In addition to traditional goods there are things available that I have not seen at any games. There are even clan tartan



MacLaren face mask from Love the World

masks for the current situation. Leave it to the Scottish vendors to take advantage of a new market.

I started my search using the words “MacLaren tartan.” I suppose I shouldn’t have been surprised that Amazon.com came up with a large selection of MacLaren tartan items. However, most of the items are not covered for free shipping with Amazon Prime. But then you don’t have to pay gate admission for a Highland games to get them.

You can also check out the website for your favorite local and/or Highland games vendors.

Click on the highlighted links below to find these websites. **Be sure to verify the tartan offered.** You can check with Lochcarron, a reputable Scottish tartan supplier. They also have some good merchandise. <https://www.lochcarron.co.uk/>

Some other sites to check out:

Scottish Shop

<https://www.scottishshop.co/products/> then search for the clan name

Love the World

<https://www.1sttheworld.com/products/> then search for the clan name

Kinloch Anderson

Good site for tartans. This one shows 12 variations of MacLaren tartan.

<https://www.kinlochanderson.com/tartan/macLaren>

Etsy

How about tartan wallpaper – for real walls, not your computer monitor?

https://www.etsy.com/market/macLaren_tartan

Tartan Shop

A few interesting items and a mostly accurate history

<https://tartanshop.com/collections/macLaren-tartan-shop>

Red Bubble

If you are into auto racing and know about McLaren cars, this is for you

<https://www.redbubble.com/shop/mcLaren+masks>

Café Press

Some interesting gifts. Just be sure the tartan is correct

<https://www.cafepress.com/+macLaren-clan+gifts>

WARNING Some sites have questionable information, and incorrectly identify the “MacLaren” tartan. As an example, this site seems pretty inaccurate.

<https://www.scotlandshop.com/us/tartan-finder/macLaren>

Some tartan cloth items have the pattern printed on, not woven. Since you can’t touch the fabric, be sure you know what you are getting. Disclaimer: Other than Amazon, I have no experience with the other sites. I have not checked any prices. So as always, “Buyer Beware.”



Clan related names in the news

Golf is one of the first sports that is returning to a tournament schedule since the pandemic shut down the pro golfing circuit in March. Now, a Scot with a MacLaren sept name is providing an opportunity for golf pros to play.

Pro golfer Paul Lawrie announced in July that he is starting a new golf tournament, the Tartan Pro Tour. It will feature visits to six golf links or courses in Scotland over eight weeks of play in August and September. The tournament is open to men and women pro players.

Paul Lawrie is from Aberdeen, Scotland. He still plays on the European tour circuit, but he also started a sports management and events company to promote golf events. And in the spirit of giving back, he created a foundation to help teach youth interested in golf.

Lawrie has played on the tour for some 30 years. He won his first major tournament in 1999 at Carnoustie Golf Links, which is north of the Saint Andrews course and east of Dundee. He has had a total of



Pro golfer Paul Lawrie

eight European golf tour wins and many other tournament achievements.

Lawrie's sports management company will handle the details of the Tartan Pro Tour. Lawrie chose Carnoustie Championship Course, where he won his first major, as the location for the first round of play. The second venue is his own Paul Lawrie Golf Centre near Aberdeen.

The tournament gives many pros (including his son Craig, just starting out on the European pro circuit) a chance to play golf after many months without competing.

The question one might ask, is Paul Lawrie a member of WSCMS, or has he acknowledged anywhere his MacLaren connection? Well,

sorry, but nope, and nope. But it's interesting to track where these MacLaren and related sept names pop up here and there, with the hope that it might trigger a connection to a surname among friends or family, someone who might want to support the goals of WSCMS to sustain the MacLaren heritage.

A sept of the MacLarens

Information based on the book "The MacLarens: A History of Clan Labhran" by Margaret MacLaren of MacLaren.

In about 500 A.D. Loarn or Laurin, a son of Erc, had acquired the lands of his father. These lands are currently known as Argyll. This is the first recorded occurrence of a name in this region that appears to be connected with the name of Lawrence. The name Loarn is written in Gaelic as Labhran and is pronounced in Gaelic as Lawrin. Abbot Laurence established his Celtic church in Perthshire during the 1300s, and he is considered as the founder of Clan MacLaren. Records of early Perthshire show that when surnames began to be used during the 12th century, the names Law, Lawson and Lawrence were found in the area.

Here are some names that are part of Clan MacLaren.

Law

Lawes

Lawrence

Lawrie

Lawry

Laws

Lawson

Lawton

Lawurence

Lawurie

TARTAN PRO TOUR SCHEDULE 2020

Aug. 5-6 The Carnoustie Challenge (Carnoustie Championship Course)

Aug. 8-9 Paul Lawrie Golf Centre Scottish Par 3 Championship presented by Farmfoods (PLGC Devenick Course)

Sept. 7-8 Royal Dornoch Masters presented by Gym Rental Company (Championship Course)

Sept. 10-11 The Pollok Open presented by Blue Group (Pollok Golf Club)

Sept. 15-16 St Andrews Classic presented by Cloucube (Jubilee & New Courses)

Sept. 23-24 Rowallan Castle Championship

WSCMS MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Thanks for being a member of WSCMS. We hope you will share information about this group with others who want to get together with MacLarens in the western parts of the U.S. and Canada.

Please contact Tim McLaren, via the contact information at right, if you would like him to send information to a prospective member, or if you have any questions. Dues are \$10 per year.

Have you changed any of your contact information? Email, phone number, address? If so, please send your changes to Tim McLaren, membership, at the contact information listed.



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***Western States
Clan MacLaren
Society, Inc.,***

***WSCMS, is a duly
registered non-
stock, non-profit
organization incor-
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der the laws of the
State of Idaho.***

***The Scottish Thistle
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