

Summer 1994

From the Seannachie's Archive

The Non Oblitus



Clan MacTavish • Thompson
Thomson • Thomas • Todd
Thomason • Tawesson • MacTause • MacLehose • MacLaws
Journal published in the Interest of the MacTavish • Thompson Families.

The Non Oblitus



Summer Edition

1994

The Chief's Message
Page 2

The Editor's Note
Page 2

Honour to the Clan
Page 3

Loon Mountain
Highland Games 1993
Page 4-6

Jean Lindokken
Page 7

Back to the Heather
Page 8



Loon Mountain



1993 Chieftan of the Games

Clan MacTavish was honoured at the 18th Annual Loon Mountain Games. This was just one of the great Scottish gatherings the clan attended last summer.

Summer 1994

From the Seannachie's Archive

1994 Officers of the Clan

Chief Dugald MacTavish
MacTavish of MacTavish and Dunardry
Phone (613) 523-0945 Fax (613) 523-6004

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Kenneth R. McTavish CA
Canadian High Commissioner

Malcolm MacTavish ☘
Canadian Commissioner

Heather MacTavish
Treasurer U.S.A.

Gary M. Thompson
United States High Commissioner

Jack McTavish ☘
United States Commissioner

Wm. Tim Skinner
Honourary Life Member
Editor "Non Oblitus"

Lt. Auxiliaries

| | |
|-------------------|------|
| Davis S. Thompson | OH ☘ |
| John McTavish | Man |
| Byron Milton | Man |
| Richard Green | Alta |

Editor's Notes

At this time we would like to extend a warm welcome to Heather MacTavish. Heather is not a member but also, as you may have noticed from the listing above the new U.S. Clan Treasurer. Her services are will be greatly appreciated by the clan as we expand our membership globally.

We would also like to mention that a much anticipated series will appear in the Non Oblitus starting next issue. We will be outlining the entire history of the Clan from the 11th century to present day. It should prove to be fascinating.

Message from the Chief



Dunardry with his dogs Duke and Baron

THIS ISSUE IS DEDICATED TO OUR 1993 EFFORTS OF CLAN TENTING AT HIGHLAND GAMES IN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES. BEING OUR FIRST YEAR WITH NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE AT CLAN TENTING, WE HAD A CHOICE OF EITHER, OBSERVING OUR CLANS AND SEE HOW THEY DO IT OR, DO WHAT WE FEEL IS THE BEST WAY FOR US. THE LATTER OF COURSE, IS A DIFFICULT CHOICE. FOR ONE NEVER KNOWS HOW CLANSMEN WORKING THE TENT, WILL "ACCEPT" THE "SIGN THEM UP THEN AND THERE" APPROACH.

MANY CLAN SOCIETIES MANNING TENTS AT HIGHLAND GAMES, LOVE TO HAND OUT MEMBERSHIP FORMS HOPING THAT THEY WILL BE TAKEN HOME AND RETURNED JOINING THE CLAN. THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS, LESS THAN 1% EVER ARRIVE. NOT BECAUSE THE POTENTIAL CLANSMAN HAS NO INTEREST, BUT RATHER, IT IS PUT ON THE "BACK BURNER" AND FORGOTTEN.

THE POTENTIAL CLANSMAN WHO APPROACHES ONE OF OUR TENTS, IS AT THEIR PEAK OF INTEREST AND EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO ASSIST THEM TO BECOME A SUPPORTING MEMBER. THIS IS THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF CLAN TENTING. THE VAST MAJORITY OF THESE PEOPLE HAVE NEVER SEEN "THEIR" CLAN REPRESENTED AT A SCOTTISH EVENT, EVER BEFORE, SO THIS IS THE IDEAL TIME TO SIT THEM DOWN AND LET THEM SEE THAT THEY ARE VALUED CLANSMEN AND THAT THE CLAN REQUEST, AND NEEDS THEIR SUPPORT TO ASSIST THE CLAN TO CARRY ON ITS MISSION.

OUR GOAL IS TO HAVE THE GREAT MacTAVISH-THOMPSON CLAN HISTORY LISTED CORRECTLY IN APPLICABLE SCOTTISH REFERENCE PUBLICATIONS WHICH, DUE TO THE LONG DORMANCY OF AN ORGANIZED MEMBERSHIP. THIS CAN BE, AND WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED, BY HAVE A STRONG VOICE OF 300 to 500 MEMBERSHIP.

OUR THANKS GO OUT TO ALL CLANSMEN WHO TOOK PART IN THE GAMES WE WERE REPRESENTED AT STARTING WITH THE COST MESA GAMES IN CALIFORNIA TO THE WILLIAMSBURG GAMES IN OCTOBER 1993. A JOB WELL DONE,

WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT HEATHER MacTAVISH OF SAN FRANCISCO IS APPOINTED AS TREASURE U.S.A. HEATHER HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE CLAN FROM DAY ONE AND WILL BE A BIG ASSET FOR THE CLAN IN OUR FUTURE PLANS. THANK YOU AGAIN HEATHER.

Dunardry

Honour To The Clan

Flt/Sgt. . George Thompson R.A.F.V.R.

George Thompson was born in Kinross Scotland, in 1921. after being educated at the Portmoak Public and Kinross Higher Grade School, he joined the Royal Air Force at age 20, as a ground wireless operator. In 1942 he was posted to Iraq and then to Teheran with the Ferry Command. after requesting being assigned to air crew, he was at last granted this wish and was sent back to England in June 1943, to train for air crew.

After graduating his course, he was attached to No.9 bomber squadron and was assigned to a Lancaster bomber "Anzac Flag" piloted by a Newzealander, Flying Officer, F.H.Denton. They became "operational" in the autumn of 1944 carrying out raids on Germany. On New Years day, 1945, they were part of a raid on another "special target" that the Lancastewr bomber were famous for. Their target this first day of 1945, was the Durtmund-Ems Canal, a daylight raid. Quite a start for the year!

Here was hell, compressed into nurerous mutilating minutes. The Lancaster swept towards the target, into the inevitable storm of shell fire (flak), almost as it were coming from above than from below. Denton kept the Anzac Flag flying straight down over the canal—Steady—Steady," Bombs Away", the Lancaster lept forward with the weight of the bomb load gone, but the improvement was short-lived, for as the bomber started to bmake a turn to port, a shell scored a direct hit just in front of the mid-upper turret.Fire broke out, dense smoke filled the fuselage. The nose of the aircraft was then struck as well, and the sudden in-rush of air cleared the smoke but revealed a scene of wholesale devastation. Most of the "perspex" nose of the aircraft had been blown away, gaping holes torn in the canopy over the pilots head and there was even a hugh hole in the floor of the aircraft. To make matters worse, one of the four engines was on fire and had to shut down.

From the moment the first shell struck, pilot Denton could not speak to his crew for the inter-com had been destroyed, he did not know the extent of damage. Bullets in the guns started to explode from the intese heat of the fire aboard, Denton thought this was the dunners returning enemy fire. all he could do was to concentrate on trying to get his aircraft and crew to safety.

At first, he did not think he could manage that as the airtcraft was slowly losiong altitude and was again attacked by FLAK near Arnhem.Denton did not know what was going on else-where aboard his aircraft . Flt/Sgt Thompson had already started his heroic work. The time for wireless messages was clearly past. Thompson saw that in the shambles, the mid-upper turret gunner was unconscious in the blazing turret. Without hesitation he went down the fuselage in the face of the fire and to the terrifying accompani-

ment of exploding ammunition, He pulled the inert gunner from his turret , and, edging his way around the hole in the floor of the fuselage, bore him away from the flames, with his bare hands, Thompson extinguished the gunners burning clothing. From this and from hauling the gunner from the turret, Thompson substained burns to his face, hands and legs. Thompson was in agony by this time but he then saw that the rear gun turret was also on fire and

he knew the gunner there was trapped.Despite his sever burns, he painfully worked his way back to the rear of the aircraft and found the rear gunner with his clothing on fire and overcome by the flames and the fumes. Thompson once again struggled to free the gunner from the incinerator of the turret and again, with burned hands, beat out the flames of his comrads clothing.

When the aircraft was first hit, Thompson could have devoted his efforts solely to quelling the fires, and to have contributed to his own safety, but he chose to go through fire for his friends, He knew that he would then be in no position to hear or heed an order to abandon the aircraft , he hazarded his own life to save the two gunners.

By now, nearly exhausted, the Scot knew he must report the the pilot of the condition of the aircraft. He made the perilous journey along the scorching fuselage, clinging with his badley burned hands, to the side of the fuselage to get across the gap in the floor. The flow of fridged air created more agony as frost-bite developed. So pitiful was his condition, his Captain failed to recognize him, yet his only concern was for the two gunners he had left in the rear of the aircraft.

In the copit with Denton, Flt/Sgt. Thompson saw how deperate the pilots plight had become as well, Forty more minutes passed. At one stage they were saved by a Spitfire pilot who chased away an enemy fightger. Several Spitfires has seen that the Lancaster was in dire trouble, and were directing the bomber to a nearby air-field. But Dentons endurance, or rather, his aircrafts was limited to yards rather than miles. They crashed landed just short of a Dutch village. Denton scrambled out through where his canopy should have been, and saw for the first time the terrible damage to his Lancaster. How it had flown for those forty minutes he would never know. Out came Thompson as well. When he clambered free of the appalling wreckage, Thompson still had no thought of himself or the frightening buirms all over him, he simply said " jolly good landing Skipper "

They were all taken to a nearby hospital as quickly as they could. Flt/Sgt. George Thompson's injuries proved too bad however, and three weeks after the crash, he died. The rest of the crew all survived.

Flt\Sgt. George Thompson was awarded the Victoria Cross, his countruy's highest award for gallantry, age, not quite 24 years old.



Flt/Sgt. . George Thompson R.A.F.V.R.

Clan Snapshots 1993 Summer Games



Kenneth McTavish "Piper"



Frank and Melinda Leasure becoming new members with Earnest Williams
Costa Mesa California



Campbell piper about to lead the Chieftain's Party to the opening of the games at Loon Mt.
Gary Thompson, Dugald, Bob Coquilllette, Malcolm MacTavish



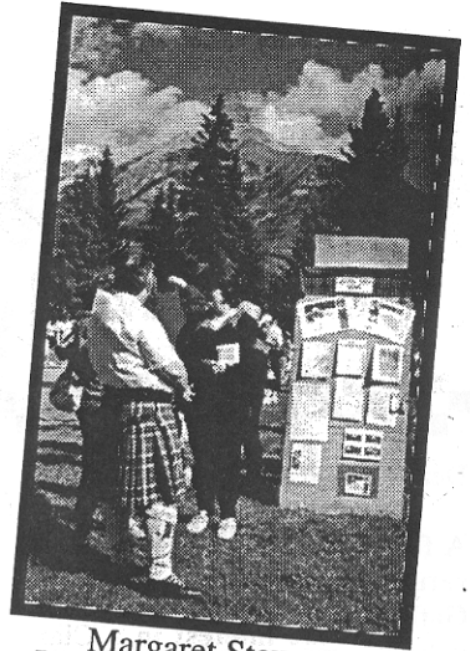
Canadian High Commissioner Kenneth McTavish presenting Agnes Thomson Honourary Membership on her 104th Birthday.



Forest, Cassie & Ernest Williams
Santa Rosa California



U.S High Commissioner
Gary Thompson
and Francis Lawrence



Margaret Stewart
Joining in Canmore B.C.



Kirking the Tartans
Loon Mt.



Forest signing up John and Jennifer Thomson
in Costa Mesa California



Barbara (MacTavish) Peterson
Flag Bearer Parade of Tartans, pressed into service 5
minutes after signing up.



Clan Gatherings 1995/1997



Dear Clansman

A few months ago many of you returned the "Worldwide Gathering" questionnaire indicating some interest in a Clan Gathering in 1995 back on Dunardry soil. In all, 33 showed interest in a trip at that time. Before we start preparations to put together such a trip, I feel I should bring you all up-to-date with plans, later this year to start a campaign for building a MacTavish-Thompson cultural Clan Centre on Dunardry soil. We propose that we will have a "ribbon cutting ceremony" for the first stage, in late 1997 and therefore, many of you may feel this to be much more an important event to attend but may not be able to attend both within two years. The Canadian campaign for the "MTTT" CLAN CENTRE ASSC." will kick off this fall, with an American, Australian, New Zealand and United Kingdom Campaigns to follow later in the year.

An artist conception of the Clan Centre is attached and the information on the Campaign will be sent to all members in the next issue of the journal.. This is an

ambitious undertaking and will require many hours of hard work by the Campaign committee but we believe we will accomplish this and are spurred on with the

The Canadian campaign for the "MTTT" CLAN CENTRE ASSC." will kick off this fall, with an American, Australian, New Zealand and United Kingdom Campaigns to follow later in the year.

realization of the importance of this endeavour will mean to the Clan.

If you will let me know if you, like I, feel this ribbon cutting ceremony may take precedence over the planned Gathering in 1995, please let me know. By waiting till 1997, we will have many more members and will

have a really large attendance. We of course could have as our first Gathering, in 1995, here in Canada or U.S.A., followed up by the 1997 extravaganza.

Please let me know your feelings about this, write me a note, fax me or phone.

FAX # 613- 523-6004
PHONE 613 523-0945

WRITE,
CLAN MacTAVISH-
THOMPSON
PO BOX 27072
OTTAWA ONT.
K1J 9L9

In regards to the gatherings, there is another possibility. We could have the 95 gathering in North America followed by the 97 gathering in Scotland. Please contact us as soon as possible and let us know your feelings on this or any other matters regarding the Clan. Your early comments will ensure that we can make use of this information now during the planning stages. Use the address or fax & phone numbers provided above.

Letters to the Editor

Editor :

Wanting to attend some Highland Games, now that I'M a supporting member of the Clan, I find it difficult as a senior citizen, to justify the cost of a full highland outfit. What would be proper to wear to show allegiance to the Clan?

Mr. D. Holaway
Virginia U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Holaway

A balmoral with the Clan Crest and perhaps a MacTavish or Thomson tie would be sufficient. In your case, the Red Dress MacTavish tie would be appropriate. The Ties, Balmorals and Clan Crest are available from the Clan at a special Clan price. I might add that

the chief hope that all Clansmen will wear the "White Cockade" behind the Clan Crest. This signifies that our Clan fought for Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Highlander Army in the Battle of Culloden April the 16, 1746. Before the battle he picked a white rose from the roadside and placed it behind his cap badge. To this day the White Cockade represents allegiance to the Highlander Army. As true Highlanders we should continue this tradition.

T.S.

This space is available for your question, suggestions or inquiries.

Please write in.

The Jean Lindokken Story

Part One (Part Two in the Winter Edition)

Jean MacTavish was born in MacTavish Manitoba in 1910, daughter of James and Sarah MacTavish. James was the youngest of four sons who, with their father, Edward MacTavish, left Bowmanville Ont. about 1876 to "homestead" the farm in Manitoba. The eldest brother, Robert took his medical degree and served the community for 40 years until his death in 1918. Edward found he did not care for farming, and went into the real estate business. Brother John lived in Morris Manitoba, 7 1/2 miles from the homestead. and ran the grain elevator, but James liked farming, and ran the family's farms. and it was his influence that organized the passing of a petition for the railway to build a station at the place called MacTavish. The name was suggested by Sir William Whyte, CPR Vice President, and so the little siding with a grain elevator. a post office and a store with a few houses, came into being, MacTavish Manitoba.

Jeanette became a nurse and secured a position at the Fort Qu Appelle Sanatorium, a little over a year, she returned to Manitoba to help finance and run a small grocery store and lunch counter with her brother. While in Winnipeg on a visit, she was offered a position to escort the three week old son of the Hudson Bay Posts Manager at Deer Lake. For a young nurse just turned 20, this was an adventure to the north that she was excited about and accepted.

The journey started by steam boat up to the mouth of the Berens River then by canoe over portages, (there were 86 of them) up the Berens River to Little Grand Rapids. From there, the route was overland from lake to lake, to river etc. to the west end of Deer Lake. The Hudson Bay Post was 25 miles east on the north shore of Deer Lake.

Jeanette had planned to return to Winnipeg before the "freeze-up" but the journey up had taken longer than

planned and as a result, the last "fleet" of canoes had arrived and would not be returning south until spring. so she would have to wait for the ice to be safe to travel on, and go by dog team. The district Manager asked her to stay till summer as he felt it would be good for the personnel to have a nurse there as well as, to take care of the child, she stayed!

Her future husband, Oskar Lindokken was trapping some 35 miles away and it was at Deer Lake trading post that he would come to sell his furs and buy his much needed supplies. It was on one of these trips that he met Jeanette and the following summer, in Winnipeg On July 21 1933, they were married. By August 15th. they were headed back to Deer Lake, Jeanette had caught "North Fever", and knew that she could not tolerate life in the big city, waiting for better times! (it was mid-depression), so they headed back north to start their life together.

Postscripts...

LATER THIS YEAR, THE CLAN WILL "KICK OFF" THE, "MTT CLAN CENTRE FUND" THE PURPOSE OF THIS IS TO ERECT A "DUNARDRY" CLAN CENTRE AND HALL OF FAME, INCLUDING A FAMILY HISTORY CENTRE, TO BE ERRECTED ON DUNARDRY SOIL IN ARGYLL SCOTLAND.

THIS INFORMATION WILL BE PASSED ON TO YOU, IN ITS ENTIRETY, IN THE SEPTEMBER CLAN JOURNAL. A CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE IS NOW BEING FORMED. THIS CAMPAIGN WILL COVER CANADA, THE UNITED STATES, THE UNITED KINGDOM AS WELL AS AUSTRAILA AND NEW ZEALAND, THIS INFOIRMATION, WILL BE OF GREAT INTEREST TO CLANSMEN. PRESENT CLAN MEMBERS WILL NOT BE EXPECTED TO CONTRIBUTE FUNDS TO THIS FUNDRAISING EFFORT BUT RATHER THIS IS TO KEEP YOU INFORMED AS TO THE PLANS OF THE CLAN.
WATCH FOR IT

Of interest to Toronto and area residents.

On November 25, 1994 the Annual St. Andrew's Ball Gala is being held at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto. Information can be had by calling: Mr. Michael Noble (416) 449-8070 or Martha MacTavish at (416) 322-0394.

Martha is a recent supporting member of the Clan and Chairperson of the St. Andrew's Ball. If possible support you local St. Andrew's efforts.

The New Hampshire Loon Mountain Games will be held September 16,17 & 18 this year. As with last year the Chief will be attending and looks forward to seeing any members interested in coming out to say hello or lend a helping hand at the MacTavish-Thompson tent. When at Loon Mountain the Chief can be reach at Wheelock Motor Court Lodge in Woodstock NH

Back to the Heather

Stanley MacTavish
1913-1993

It is with sadness that we report that we have just learned of the passing of Stanley Dougald MacTavish on the 31st. of December 1993. Stanley went out to shovel snow from the drive and had a cornerary, as his wife Leontina said," he didn't live to see the new year in".

Stanley will always be remembered by me when I first saw him at the Glengarry Games at Maxville Ont. July 31st. 1993. I was standing behind the table at our Clan tent, and noticed this gentleman, 6 feet from the table, with a very large smile on his face, he looked at our banner then at me, then back to the banner. I said to him, "can I give you some information?", he looked at me again and said "I have waited all my life to see our name represented at a scottish gathering". I will not forget the way he said this, for it was right from the heart, and before I could say anything, he said. "where do I join?"

The Clan has lost a wonderful Clansman, but I know that Stanley is still "supporting" HIS cLAN, THAT HE WAS SO PROUD OF.

In addition it is of interest that Stanley's grandson Peter MacTavish has recently become a member of the Clan to carry on the tradition set by his grandfather. Peter informs us that his grandfather was buried wearing his MacTavish tie.