

Winter 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



Winter
Edition
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Our Noble Past



KNAPDALIA

The ancient MacTavish lands are illustrated in this historic map of Scotland, described on pages 5 and 6.

1994 Officers of the Clan

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

.....
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

This month we begin our look at the history of the Clan. I think you will really enjoy this. We will be presenting a step by step anthology unlike anything you will find in any one publication in the world. It is quite possibly the most exhaustive study ever undertaken on the Clan and its history. In addition we will look at the future of the Clan and share with you plans for future endeavors.

Don't miss part two of the Jean Lindokken story on page 3. "Great Stride" outlines some of the steps taken to set the record straight in terms of historical inaccuracies pertaining to the Clan. I hope you enjoy this issue and as always I look forward to hearing your ideas and opinions.

Message from the Chief



Dunardry with his dogs Duke and Baron

Again it is time to extend season greetings to all. 1995 is the 250th anniversary of the "45" and as a Highland Clan we should be very proud of the heritage of the past and our Clan's participation in the events leading up to the "45" and the insuring battle of Culloden and even though Bonnie Prince Charlie's Highlanders lost the days (16th April 1746), they did not "lose the war" for the spirit and determination is still very much alive. As I have requested, I would hope that all our clansmen would wear the "WHITE COCKADE" to show our pride as a Highlander Clan.

WE have made great strides this year. Our Membership has grown to 169 members and our first step towards filling some of the gaps in our Clan's history is being realized (see article on page 7).

It is only a small step but it is the first step and I'm sure you will find it as exciting as I do. If we are to double our membership this coming year, we would make great strides in having more of our Clans history brought up to date in other publications. I urge you to ask a relative to take out membership and support the Clan. By having a larger membership we will make even greater strides and will realize the hopes of putting our Clan's proud heritage into the proper publications so that it never again is misplaced from its due recognition. As Chief of this proud Clan I can only do so much, as voice of the Clan. But only because of you each and every one of you, by showing support can we get our mission accomplished. I thank you all.

At this time I would like to acknowledge the efforts of John McTavish and Byron Milton in Winnipeg, Manitoba for their efforts, they put into the arrangements of the trip to Winnipeg this summer. John was instrumental in setting up the Heritage games in Winnipeg and the Selkirk games and Byron made it possible for me being received by the Lt. Governor of Manitoba the Honourable Yvon Dumont, Premier Gary Filmon and her Worship Susan Thompson mayor of Winnipeg. Your efforts made the trip very successful. The Clan thanks you and Byron and his wife Jo, for putting me up, or should I say putting up with me. Also for all the others who helped at the Glengarry games, the St. Lambert games and Loon Mountain games in New Hampshire, thank you all! I also want to thank the member who sent in the generous donation in her and her father's name to help defray the costs the Clan has put out in order to continue our work. I thank you both for your thoughtfulness.

Dunardry

Honour To The Clan

The Jean Lindokken Story (Part Two)

The continuation of the Jean Lindokken Story from last issue...

Jeanette much of the time alone at the trapping cabin during the fall and winter, while Oskar was attending to his trap lines, but she was so busy she says that she never felt lonely. She had a few short traplines of her own as well as rabbit lines, to get meat for the table and also food for her dog "PUP-PUP", the most wonderful dog that ever lived. There was water to be carried, wood to saw and stack, (not with a power saw), we had a "buck Saw" and I used it every day, also, I made bread etc, laundry as well as all the other household chores that go to making a one room cabin into a home!"

In 1936 we moved closer to accomodate the natives. Our trapping cabin was ten miles inland from Deer Lake where the natives gathered each summer. They had been asking Oskar to start a "free trade" trading post and so in the spring we moved all are worldly goods to the shore of Deer Lake, about a mile east of the Hudson Bay Post. and so began a new way of life for us. It was here that the natives found a place to come to where they were treated as human beings and equal to white men. it was here too, that they came for help during accidents, sickness, deaths and even, for a coffin and directions for burials. Everything free!, my husband and I did what we could when the need called for, and, it called often! Oskar was the dentist and I the nurse. Our home was a "hospital" whenever that was required, and these people became "family" for us.

By 1939, the Indian Agency transferred from Manitoba into Ontario and the old "Keewatin District" became part of north western Ontario. For the first time, we had an Indian Agency in Ontario (Sioux Lookout), as well as a superintendent of Indian Affairs covering our area. On his first visit to our place, he realized how neglected these people had been and when he told me he was sending a new pair of tooth forceps, etc for Oskar to work with and a shipment of drugs and medical supplies as a starter for me, to which I could make further requisitions of what was needed, we no longer needed to buy medical supplies on our own!

There was only one industry for natives to make a living, this was trapping, and the season for this was from the first of November to end of February, but was mainly only two

months, November and December, by January the animals did not move a great deal, due to the cold. y February 28th., all winter trapping season was over and spring trapping of beaver and muskrats, began in the last two weeks of April and ended by May 31st. All "fur purchases" ended by May 31st. To give them more income, we began commercial fishing, and purchased the fish by the pound from the natives. We also put up a tourist camp and my husband taught the native men how to guide American tourists,. This improved the natives way of life greatly as they were able to have much better food, clothing, equipment etc. however, these ventures used our money , so, it took many years to accomplish and I am not listing the set backs caused by "government" of which there were many!!!

The one thing I have not mentioned is the state of health I found the natives in..This is what made us literally "roll up our sleeves" and do what we could to help them., and teach them and fight for them! So in 1940, our native village was 85% positive T>B>! but we had no hospital to send them to at the time.As well, we had no doctors visits with exceptions of, the yearly one day when the treaty party came to give out the treaty money!! This amounted to \$5.00 per head. The treaty party consisted of, the superintendent of Indian Affairs, an RCMP constable, a doctor and a native interpreter. Later in the 1940's, they brought in an Xray team and everyone was X-ray'ed but it was not until the later part of the 1940's, after the end of WW2, that we had an established zone hospital in Souix Lookout for natives to be sent to. That brought wonderful changes for health, for i was authorized to send anyone out to the hospital that I felt was suspected of having T.B. or any other serious condition.How wonderful that was and health was on the upswing then. You will notice (I refer "our" and "we" is used in reference to the volunteer work done, without my husbands help, and encouragement and influence among the people, it would have been very difficult.

By 1961, I was a very sick but fortunately b y this time we had the Mennonite mission there and I was able to turn my work over to a nurse among them. By this time also, we had a small school with a very good (full time) teacher. A few years later we had a lovely big school built and a number of excellent teachers.Our dreams were coming true. The only thing missing was a nursing station.

Continued on page 7



Jean Lindokken with her father.



A Noble Past

Long before the coming of the Dalriadic Scots from Ireland, there lived a people throughout the entire area who were known to the Romans as the Epidii or "HORSE TRIBE". There is good reason to believe that their descendants are the MacEachrans or "SONS OF THE HORSE LORDS", once numerous in Craignish and the Mull of Kintyre.

The soil of Knapdale is pretty poor for growing crops but appears to be ideally suited for grazing. At one time it was famous throughout the Highlands for breeding horses and this is borne out by an old saying, "feumaidh do chur do chnapadal fare a bheil iad a' cur tuir anns na h-eich" (you must be sent to Knapdale where they put sense into the horses). On the other hand, the natives of south Ulst did not think there was much wealth in Knapdale when they said "tha fo lic ann an circedal gibhtna's fhearr na cnapadal" (there is under a tombstone in Kirkiedale a better gift than Knapdale).

The colonization of the Dalriadic Scots was followed by a zealous band of missionaries from different parts of Ireland who had a profound influence over their own countrymen so much so that even after a thousand years have gone by their names are still enshrined in the topography of those places where they had laboured faithfully. One is astounded at the number of missionaries who visited Knapdale. One of the many was ST. Cormac.

The Norse settlement of Knapdale took place during the second half of the ninth century. Traces of their language are to be found in a number of place-names such as Skipness, Ormsary, Ulva, Fascalda and Dana. It is obvious from the last name those Scandinavian settlers were of Danish stock. Indeed, Tradition has it the Sweeno, King of Denmark, Who fled in 1004, built Castle Sween on the site

of an earlier fortress, but evidence shows that the castle is more likely to have derived its name from Suibhne Ruadh (Red-haired Sween), of royal Dalriadic stock, who owned it at the end of twelfth century. It was during the twelfth century that the Norsemen were driven out of Kintyre and Knapdale by Somhairie Mor Ghille Bhrighde (GREAT SOMERLED, SON OF GILBRIDE), he received considerable support from his kinsman Sween, son of Dunslebhe, who held extensive lands in Glassary, Knapdale, Cowal and Kintyre. Sween's daughter married Giollsbuig and bore two son's, Tause (Tavis) and Iver (Ivor),.

Sween the red's lands were well fortified, Castle Sween dominating the western sea board and aptly called 'the key of Knapdale', also Skipness Castle, built by him, which dominated the eastern approaches to his lands in the Tarbert and Cowal areas, One of Sween's daughters married Giollsbuig O'Duibne and this union produced two son's, Tause and Iver.

Giollsbuig O'Duibne (Archibald Black), later repudiated the boy's mother in order to make a more powerful alliance with Eail, a niece of Alexander the First (1107-1124) understandably the boy's turned against their Father for treating their Mother this way Tavis became the progenitor of Clan Tavis and Iver of Clan Iver. Tavis had a son who was known as Mac (gaelic for son of) Tavis, MACTAVIS.

When searching records at Lyons Court, many Gaelic spellings appear over the centuries on documented records.

MacTamhais	MacTause	McTaveis	McCavis
McCause	McTawys	McCawis	McKavis
M'Ktaus	McKnavis	MacAnish	MacTavifh

The first spellin MacTamhais is the earliest spelling we find.



A Glorious Future

Lord Lyons records show that this was the gaelic spelling and a form of MacThamhais "SON OF TAMMAS" the lowlands Scots form of THOMAS. As English was replacing Gaelic, many different spellings were recorded in the court records of "The Commons of Argyll" where much of this information was found. As we can see, the names THOMPSON and THOMSON DERIVE FROM THE MACTAMHAIS as well as THOMAS, TAWESSON and THOMASON. The other names being part of our Clan are, MacTAUSE, MacLAWS, MacLEHOSE and TODD.

Some other Gaelic words which will appear in our story will have more meaning if you are familiar with their English meaning.

<u>Gaelic</u>	<u>Pronounced</u>	<u>English</u>
DUN	DUNE	STONE FORT
ARD	AIRD	HIGH
AIRIGH	AIRY	"A SHIELING" GRAZING
DUNANS	DUNE=ANS	"LITTLE FORT"
CRUACH	CREW-ACK	
MOR	MORE	

Due to records long gone we find very little on the Clan and rather than surmise or concoct an interesting tale, we shall only write what we can substantiate.

All we find on Tause Coir, "A powerful and warlike man who took most of COWLL from the LAMONTS. Of him the

Clan TAVISH, such as the families of Scanish, Rudale, Dunardary, are descended". "The name Tause is said not to be an ancient Celtic one, that is, it is not like Colin, Goillaesbuig (Alexander) Donald Etc. but only appears in Scotland and the Highland where it was previously and utterly unknown".

There is no recorded name for Tause's son but his grandson was named Thomas MacTamais who appears about 1270 as a witness to a Lamont charter. About 1290 he is witness to an undated charter by John son of Sir Walter, Earl of Menteith. At Berwick he swore fealty to Edward 1st. of England with a vast number of Scottish Barons. Soon afterwards he went over to Bruce, having been made a prisoner by Edward 1st. His exchange took place for another prisoner or hostage.

On the 25th. August 1355. Duncan MacTamais appears as one of the Barons of Argyll at a great Inquisition held in the presence of the Sheriff of Argyll at Inverleccan (now Furnace) on Loch Fyne. He was undoubtedly the Chief of Dunardarie of the period.

The next generation again no name is recorded until, on July 17th. 1456 a Ean "Gorum" MacTawys witnesses a charter to the Friars Preachers of Glasgow from Donald MacLachlane, Lord of Strathlachlan. After this we have one unbroken li of the Chgiefs of Dunardarie.

Duncan MacTavish of Dunardarie, son of Ean, appears in 1490 and in 1498, as well as a certain Allan MacTaus, presumably his brother or a very near kinsman. Duncan's son is named Ean after his grandfather, and he is recorded as a witness to an Argyll charter (to the 2nd. Earl) 18th. November 1510, just before the battle of Flodden, where he and the Earl were killed. *More on the History of our Clan next issue.*

Postscripts...

MTT Clan Centre Campaign Report

The first stage of the campaign has been completed i.e. the make-up of the Canada Campaign Committee has been completed. Those who make up the committee are Robert B. Campbell, Ottawa, Alexa Thompson, Halifax, Donald C. Thompson, Williamsburg, Ontario, Glen R. Thompson, Mississauga, Ontario David J. Thompson, Thompson Manitoba and

James H. Thompson, Calgary Alberta. The next stage in the campaign is to put together the USA Campaign Committee. This is expected to take until the end of June 1995, as negotiations must be carried out in such a way that 9 different regions are represented on the committee. The canvassing in the USA is to start first and this will begin soon after the USA Committee has been put together. Canvassing in Canada will not start until about a month after USA contributions start coming in.

Note from the editor: Important to Remember

Please remember that all membership dues should be paid by the end of the year. These are important to ensure that we can continue to research the Clan and bring you this newsletter. Your membership is important to us and we appreciate your co-operation. Thanks T.S.

The Jean Lindokken Story

(continued from page 3)

We retired in 1974 and had our retirement cottage ready for us. We moved into it in May. I was not really ready to quit but I knew Oskar had been fading and he wanted to enjoy his hunting and fishing. By 19787 he no longer hunted and his health was slipping fast, so fast that we moved to Red Lake by December 1 1980 and six weeks later, he was gone, (cancer). The following summer a beautiful nursing station was built in Deer Lake and the native people had it named "Jeanette and Oskar Lindokken Nursing Station" My only regret is that my husband was not here to see their appreciation expressed this way.

" Now, fifty years is a long time, I have tried to make this brief, but it has been difficult. So much untold, and yet, I have spent day's trying to write this. I did not mention the growing up of my son, how he learned to speak, read and write in the "Oge Cree" language, how his schooling was by correspondence and his teacher, was myself. How he flew our airplane for us for 9 years and was killed in it. How we had a two week search by all of our wonderful friends, before one found him. He left a 23 year old wife, a son of four years and a daughter of two. Yes, he left us blessings and we



THE ORDER OF ONTARIO
L'ORDRE DE L'ONTARIO

are still a close family. " A daughter " and two Grand Children, to help heal our wounds, but for them, I don't know how we would have gone on....but they, needed us...I think you might understand what I mean?

PS: In 1932, when I first went to Deer Lake there were aprox. 10 families, and a total of some 30_35 souls. The number was much the same in 1942, due to the T.B. and sanitation conditions.

Today...Deer Lake is a reserve. The total number is not definite but has been quoted at 800 to 900 people, quite an increase!! Of course both my

husband and I learned to speak the native tongue fluently, it was necessary as no one could speak any other language. I have lost most of it as most all speak english, but still joke and laugh in "oge Cree" whenever we meet. I am still "MA" or "GRAN-MA" to them, and wouldn't have it any other way! JL

Jeanette (MacTavish) Lindokken was awarded the "GOOD CITIZENSHIP OF ontario" medal on June 29th, 1979 presented to her by Premier Bill Davis and Lieutenant Governor Pauline McGibbons.

Congratulations Jeannette, (and Oskar) You and your family, have brought Honor to the Clan, well done.

Jeanettes story I'm sure is most interesting to the "Clansmen" and I invite any of you that have a story of your family, to send it in to the CLan, and it maybe used in the future.

If you have found the Jeanette Lindokken story inspiring, I'm sure she would enjoy hearing from you, her address is,

Mrs. Jeanette Lindokken
PO Box #2, Red Lake-Ontario,
POV 2M0 Canada.

Letters to the Editor

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THING YOU'VE ALWAYS WONERED ABOUT.

MAYBE YOU CAN ANSWER A QUESTION RE:THE MACTAVISH DRESS RED TARTAN AND THE BLUE DRESS THOMPSON TARTAN. WHEN A CLAN HAS TWO TARTANS OF DIFFERENT COLORS, WHICH IS THE CORRECT TARTAN TO WEAR OR DOES IT MATTER? SOME CLANS SEEM TO HAVE MANY DIFFERENT TARTANS AND COLORS I HAVE OFTEN WONDERED HOW ONE DECIDES ON WHAT TO WEAR,OR MAYBE ITS JUST DEPENDS ON THE COLOR ONE LIKES BEST. CAN YOU MAKE THIS CLEARER TO ME?

JOHN THOMPSON
ANAHEIM CA.

DEAR CLANSMAN THOMPSON THIS IS A VERY GOOD QUESTION SAND I WILL TRY TO CLEAR UP THE MATTER OF "DIFFERENT TARTANS" YOU SPEAK ABOUT. FIRST, THE RED DRESS MACTAVISH TARTAN IS THE CORRECT TARTAN FOR ALL CLANSMEN TO WEAR AS A MEMBER OF THE MACTAVISH/THOMPSON CLAN. THE BLUE THOMSON TARTAN (NOTE SPELLING) WAS REGISTERED BY LORD THOMSON OF FLEET, THE NEWSPAPER MAGNATE, REGISTERED THE BLUE THOMSON AS A FAMILY TARTAN HOWEVER THE LORD LYON OF THE DAY, 1958 INSURED THAT THE TARTAN MUST BE OF THE SAME "SETT" (PATTERN) as THE MACTAVISH DUE TO THE FACT THAT THOMSON IS A "SEPT" OF MACVTAVISH. CHIEF DUGALD IS GOING TO RE REGISTER THE BLUE THOMSON AS AN AUTHENTIC CLAN TARTAN RATHER THAN SUBMIT A NEW TARTAN SEEING THAT MANY PEOPLE OVER THE YEARS DO IN FACT HAVE A BLUE THOMSON. I HOPE THAT THIS CLEARS THINGS UP FOR YOU.

T.S.

AS ALWAYS WE WELCOME YOUR LETTERS AND THOUGHTS ON THE CLAN, MAYBE WE CAN HELP GARIFY SOME-

PICTURED BELOW IS A PHOTOGRAPH OF DUNARDRY LOCK ON THE CRINAN CANAL. IN THE BACKGROUND IS "CRUACH MOR", COMMONLY KNOWN TODAY AS DUNARDY HILL.

