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CLAN MACKAY BANNER



February 2020



Let's Vote!

This year we will be electing our vice president and secretary. Our current VP is Don McGee and our current Secretary is Andrea Cable. Both have done a great job and have served the clan well.

Here is the ballot. Something a little new that I hope will help you vote in a timely manner. When you click the link, the results will go straight to our President, John Grogan to be tallied. **Voting will be closed February 15.**

Office of Vice President

John Wells If your vote is yes, [click this link](#)

Office of Secretary

Andrea Cable If your vote is yes, [click this link](#)

Thank you! Your votes keep Clan Mackay USA going strong!



Smoo Cave/ Durness -- Photo taken by John Grogan

ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

[John Grogan](#), GA

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

[Doug McCoy](#), GA

NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

[Dr. Donald McGee](#), FL

TREASURER

[Doug McCoy](#), GA

SECRETARY

[Andrea Cable](#), CT

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS

North East: [Madelynne Cable](#), CT

South East: John Allen, FL

Mid-West: [Ann McDonough](#), OH

Rocky Mountain: [Jamey White](#), CO

Central: [John Wells](#), TX

Western: [Jaime Chambers](#), CA

Mid-Atlantic: [David B. McKay](#), VA

APPOINTED OFFICERS

Membership Chair: [Sandy Wheeler](#), CO/
[Jon Flint](#), TX

Banner Editor: [Jaime Chambers](#), CA

Scholarship Chair: [Cheryl McKay](#) MI

Web Master: [John Grogan](#), GA

Seanachaidh & Genealogist:

Chaplain: [Mark W. Polson](#), OK

Aeneas Simon Mackay, 15th Lord Reay

Just under one year ago our Chieftain, Aeneas Mackay, 15th Lord Reay was voted into the House of Lords. In this position he has opportunity to use his skill and talents to affect

Here is an excerpt: *"As Mackay clan chief, I am delighted to join my distinguished kinsman, my noble and learned friend Lord Mackay of Clashfern. Some noble Lords may recall my father Hugh, who—like my grandfather, Shimi Lovat—served this House. I am proud to follow in their footsteps.*

It is almost 390 years since my ancestor Donald Mackay was raised to the peerage. His was a doughty spirit, typical of the highlanders he lived among, and he loved a battle. Charles I was wise enough to harness rather than resist Donald's energies, and he sent him and his men to fight overseas in the Thirty Years' War on the side of the Swedish King Gustavus Adolphus. Thanks to their many victories, most notably at the pass of Oldenburg, Mackay and his men became known as the "Scottish Invincibles". I point out, however, that while Charles I was generous with titles, he was not so ready with his cash. The lack of payment for troops left Mackay in severe financial difficulties, from which he barely recovered.

For several centuries the Mackay clan colonised Sutherland on the north coast of Scotland, an area of the country renowned for majestic scenery and excellent salmon rivers. It has recently become the prospective site of Britain's first international space station. Large numbers of the clan were soldiers. Since it was easier in those days to travel to Scandinavia and the Netherlands by sea than to go inland, they fought abroad. Many married into Dutch families and one member of the family, Aeneas Mackay, became Prime Minister of the Netherlands."

Thank you Lord Reay, not only for your service in the House of Lords but for your service to us, your grateful clan!

A Giant Leap for Mackay

It is one small step for man and one giant leap for clan Mackay: the first Scot to go into space has taken his family tartan with him!

As a child growing up in the Highlands, Dave "Mac" Mackay used to stare up at the heavens and dream of leaving the earth. Decades later, at the age of 61, he has finally achieved his ambition. Last year Mac soared more than 50 miles above the planet as chief pilot of a test flight for Virgin Galactic, the private space travel company founded by Sir Richard Branson. Mac said, "It is amazingly satisfying!"



My husband and I had the privilege of spending our 40th anniversary in Netherlands at [Kasteel Ophemert](#). What a lovely place. I would encourage you to go and stay if you are in that part of the world. I especially love the larger than life portrait of our 13th Lord Reay!

As you know our 2020 AGM (Annual General Meeting) will be held in Scotland! This will be an exciting time for us to get together. Our President, John Grogan has been working with the Mackay Society in Scotland and others, to make this a very special trip.

John has set up a private Facebook site specially designed to give you more information: Clan Mackay AGM 2020. Simply request to join the group and you will find out more details about the upcoming trip!

A Burns Night Supper



The Burns Supper is an institution of Scottish life: a night to celebrate the life and works of the national Bard. Suppers can range from an informal gathering of friends to a huge, formal dinner full of pomp and circumstance.

The first Burns supper was held in July 1801 when nine of Burns' close friends got together to mark the fifth anniversary of their friend's death. Taking place at Burns Cottage in Alloway, the night included a tasty meal (haggis, of course!), performances of Burns' work and a speech in honor of the great Bard (now known as the Immortal Memory). The night was such a resounding success they decided to hold it again (this time in honor of Rabbie's birthday on January 25), beginning the tradition we still enjoy to this day.

and tributes are made to the great Bard. Each Burns supper is individual, but the running order normally goes something like this:

To start – everyone gathers, the host says a few words, everyone sits and the Selkirk Grace is said.

The meal – the starter is served, the haggis is piped in, the host performs Address to a Haggis, everyone toasts the haggis and the main meal is served, followed by dessert.

After the meal – the first Burns recital is performed, the Immortal Memory (the main tribute speech to Burns) is given, the second Burns recital is performed, then there's a Toast to the Lassies, followed by a Reply to the Toast to the Lassies, before the final Burns recital is performed.

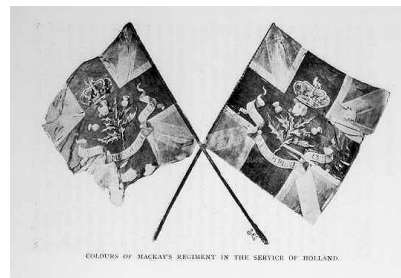
To end the night – the host gives a vote of thanks, everyone stands and sings Auld Lang Syne, crossing their arms and joining hands at the line 'And there's a hand, my trusty fere!'.

But remember – if you hold your own, you can follow as much or as little of this running order as you like. Just make sure to have a great time!

How the Dutch Mackay Regiment Came to be

Until the late-18th century, it was customary to name regiments after their colonel. Hugh Mackay of Scourie (c.1640-1692) began his military career in his early 20's when he joined Douglas's (Dumbarton's) regiment of the English army and, when it was lent by Charles II to Louis XIV, accompanied it to France. Despite succeeding to the family estates after the deaths of two elder brothers, he continued to serve overseas. In 1672 he fought with the French in their invasion of Holland but, after marrying Clara de Bie of Gelderland, he had a change of heart and resigned his commission to take a captaincy in a Scottish regiment in the Dutch army. He was a Major-General of the Scots Brigade in 1685 when it was called to England to help suppress the Duke of Monmouth's rebellion and was Commander-in-Chief of the Brigade in the army of William of Orange which landed in Britain in 1688.

The Mackay connections to this regiment were strengthened when, in order to bolster troop numbers in Scotland to face the first Jacobite revolt under Graham of Claverhouse, General Mackay called upon the other staunchly Protestant noblemen of Sutherland, Lord Reay and Lord Strathnaver, to supply him with men and weapons.



in Inverness and in Perthshire. Lord Strathnaver's men were quartered in Inverness and Elgin.



Traditional Scottish Recipes: Scottish Cranachan

Ingredients

2 oz steel-cut oatmeal

8 oz fresh raspberries

1 pint heavy cream (or double cream)

Steps:

Heat a large heavy heavy-based frying skillet on the stove until hot, but not burning.

Add the oats and continually stirring, toast the oats until they have a light, nutty smell and are only just beginning to change color. Do not leave the oats unattended as the oatmeal can quickly burn, so they will need constant attention. Once toasted, remove immediately from the pan.

Keeping a handful of the raspberries to one side, place the remainder into a food processor and whiz once or twice to create a thick purée. Do not over blend. It's okay if there are a few bigger lumps of fruits.

Alternatively, you can simply crush the raspberries with a fork, if you prefer. This will give you a more rustic-looking dish.

In a large, clean bowl, whisk the cream and whisky to form firm peaks. Take care not to over whip.

Finally, fold in the honey (if using), followed by the toasted oatmeal.

In either a large glass trifle bowl or into individual serving glasses, layer the dessert.

You can start with a layer of the cream or raspberries; it is up to you.

Always finish with a layer of the cream and oatmeal. If you wish you can even sprinkle a little oatmeal on the top for decoration.

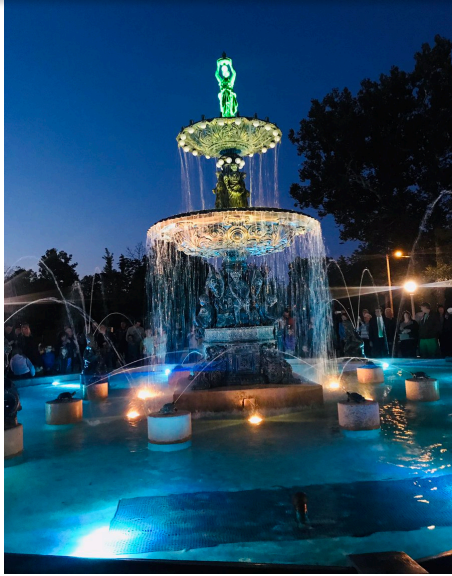
Cover the bowl or glasses with clingfilm and chill for a minimum of one hour.

To serve the Cranachan, drizzle over a little extra honey (optional) and if you fancy, a piece or two of Scottish Shortbread.

Serve and enjoy!

Tips: The dessert does not keep more than several hours. However, as you can see, this is very quick easy recipe, so no need to make too far in advance. If serving a younger crowd, feel free to leave out the whisky.

In the August 2018 issue of the Banner we featured Gina McKay Lodge of the McKay-Lodge Conservation Laboratory who was restoring the Studebaker Electric Fountain. The historic 113 year old fountain was believed to be destroyed, until a local family donated several pieces to a museum. The fountain has been



South Bend, Indiana. Stop and take a look if you're ever in the area!

The Declaration of Arbroath

2020 marks the 700th anniversary of the Declaration of Arbroath, one of Scotland's most important historical artifacts. "As long as but a hundred of us remain alive, never will we on any conditions be brought under English rule. It is in truth not for glory, nor riches, nor honours, that we are fighting, but for freedom - for that alone, which no honest man gives up but with life itself". These are the best known words in the Declaration of Arbroath, foremost among Scotland's state papers and the most famous historical record held by National Records of Scotland.

The Declaration is a letter written in 1320 by the barons and whole community of the kingdom of Scotland to the pope, asking him to recognise Scotland's independence and acknowledge Robert the Bruce as the country's lawful king. The Declaration was written in Latin and was sealed by eight earls and about forty barons. Over the centuries various copies and translations have been made, including a microscopic edition.

The Declaration was written during the long war of independence with England which started with Edward I's attempt to conquer Scotland in 1296. When the deaths of Alexander III and his granddaughter Margaret, Maid of Norway, left Scotland without a monarch, Edward used the invitation to help choose a successor as an excuse to revive English claims of overlordship. When the Scots resisted, he invaded. Edward refused to allow William Wallace's victory at Stirling Bridge in 1297 to derail his campaign. In 1306 Robert the Bruce seized the throne and began a long struggle to secure his position against internal and external threat. His success at Bannockburn in 1314, when he defeated an English

front, by 1320 Scottish relations with the papacy were in crisis after the Scots defied papal efforts to establish a truce with England. When the pope excommunicated Robert I and three of his barons, the Scots sent the Declaration of Arbroath as part of a diplomatic counter-offensive. The pope wrote to Edward II urging him to make peace, but it was not until 1328 that Scotland's independence was acknowledged. The Declaration was probably drawn up by Bernard, Abbot of Arbroath. It was authenticated by seals, as documents at that time were not signed. Only 19 seals now remain of what might have been 50 originally, and many are in poor condition.

The document in National Records of Scotland is the "file copy" of the Declaration: the only version to survive in its original form. It was kept with the rest of the national records in Edinburgh Castle until the seventeenth century. When work was being done on the castle, the Declaration was taken for safekeeping to Tynninghame, the home of the official in charge of the records. While there it suffered damage through damp and it returned to the custody of the Deputy Clerk Register (the predecessor of the Keeper of the Records of Scotland) in 1829. Conservation staff at the NRS monitor the Declaration to ensure it survives for many centuries to come. Although the Declaration was damaged during its absence from Edinburgh Castle, the full text was known from an engraving made in the early eighteenth century, which was re-engraved around



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