



# Clan Farquharson Newsletter



NUMBER THREE

SPRING 2002

## Tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother

As a mark of respect on the sad death of the Queen Mother, the Clan President asked Elizabeth Faquharson of Edinburgh if she would be able to attend The Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh to sign the condolence book on behalf of all members of the Clan Farquharson.

The entry reads as follows:-

"Elizabeth W.L. Farquharson on behalf of Clan Farquharson Fide et Fortitudine

A greatly loved lady whose life was sustained by her faith and whose fortitude was of benefit to us all."

A very fitting tribute and our thanks go to Elizabeth for carrying out this duty on behalf of us all.



Early morning in Twynholm, Dumfries and Galloway, ancestral homeland of the Caig family

Welcome to the third edition of The Clan Farquharson UK Newsletter. Since the inauguration of the Clan Society last August there has been quite a bit of activity, with members forging links with new found friends and Val Farquharson reporting that our membership is rising. The committee held a telephone conference in November 2001 and another in March 2002. You will read that we have been let down by The Invercauld Arms, not I hasten to add by the Hotel itself, but the Hotel was taken over by The Shearing Group. However as you will see our President and Sue have been busy and have been able to come up with some other arrangements so we will all be able to enjoy our gathering. When you read the articles by the members about themselves and their ancestors, it may inspire you to send in an article about your family, about its history, about recent journeys you have made, in fact anything that you have done that would interest members. A couple of years ago Connie and I made a trip around the world visiting relatives that had been unearthed during the course of ancestral research. If you haven't yet done any research into your past maybe now is the time to start, who knows you may end up going around the world. The Clan has been keeping in close touch with Clan Farquharson USA. Sharon Farley, their president has put a small item in the Newsletter. On a sad note I have to tell you that Larry Waitt, their Membership Secretary, who many of you will have met at last years gathering, passed away in early December, 2001. Our deepest condolences were sent to his wife Bev. Bev has decided to take up Larry's position and is now the Membership Secretary of Clan Farquharson USA and she is also Vice President. Both Sharon and Bev will be coming to the 2002 Gathering. Connie and I look forward to seeing many of you in August.

## Notes from The President

### The Gathering 2002

The Invercauld Arms has let us down! They are unable to host our dinner on Saturday August 17th 2002. We have, therefore, moved this dinner to the Fife Arms in Braemar. We have not reserved any accommodation at the Fife Arms because they have no accommodation available on the Friday and Sunday, but they do have rooms on the Saturday. Members must make their own arrangements for accommodation. A list of local accommodation can be obtained from Alan Caig. The dinner is £20.

We are holding a family ceilidh in the Braemar Village Hall on the Friday evening 16th August 2002 with the Kinlochard Band. Tickets are £10. We hope to provide a small buffet and there will be a licensed bar. Some tickets will be made available to the residents of Braemar. A programme of events is enclosed with the Newsletter together with an application form.

Geoffrey Farquharson will have a session on family history in the Ballroom at Invercauld House on the afternoon of Saturday August 17th 2002.

### Clan Items

Valerie Farquharson's son, who is a silversmith, has prepared some clan crests in silver at £20 and cuff links at £38. These seem remarkable value and will be available by the Gathering. They will shortly be able to be viewed on the website Orders can be taken via Val.

### Highland Games

We intend having a presence at the Braemar Gathering on Saturday September 7th 2002. We shall have a stall in the Overseas Tent throughout the day to sell clan items and encourage recruiting.

We are also looking at the same arrangements at the Aboyne Games on Saturday August 3rd 2002.

Please let Alan Caig know if you can assist if you will be attending any of these games.

### Membership

We now have 111 members. If you have not renewed your membership since the meeting at Invercauld House in August 2001, please do so immediately. We need the money! All membership subscriptions must be up to date by the 2002 gathering.

### Web Site

Andrew Farquharson of Edinburgh has done a brilliant job with our web site, the address is "Farquharson-clan.co.uk". There is to be a quick news section so look at the site frequently and leave a message in the guestbook.

### Sue Gask (nee Caig)

I was born in Bishop Auckland, Co Durham (not very long ago) and moved to Stockton-on-Tees when only a few months old. I have two older brothers Colin, Alan (our President) and a younger sister, Ann.



When I left school I joined a firm of Insurance Loss Adjusters as a Secretary but at the age of 19 I longed to travel, so I joined the WRAC (Women's Royal Army Corps) as a shorthand writer. I was extremely lucky as my first posting was to NATO Headquarters in Germany, I loved it. I eventually got married to a soldier in the Royal Signals and ultimately we left the Army and returned to Stockton where we had two sons, Andrew and David. In 1987 I rejoined Stockton Borough Council (for 3 months as a temp) but am still here after 14 years where I run a busy Word Processing and Graphics Section.

There have been lots of changes in my life in the last 10 years, I am now a single woman again and David is still at home (you just can't get rid of them, they leave home and come back again). Though Andrew is now living in Leeds.

Alan introduced me to Royal Scottish Country Dancing about 5 years ago and I now belong to two local Clubs. There are quite a few in the area so everyone knows everyone else and we all travel to each others dances. It's very sociable and a lot of fun.

I have a developing interest in holistic therapies and a friend and I have achieved a basic skill in aromatherapy, Indian head massage and reflexology. But my greatest interest is in Reiki. I passed my Level I in November last year, it was an amazing experience. I am practising as much as I can to gain enough experience to go on to Level II.

My other great love is my dog Jess, she's a 4 year old border collie who we all love to bits.

Hope to see you all in August. Sue

### From Aberdeen to Aberdeen

Four years ago I started to develop an interest in family history. The interest gradually evolved into something of an obsession. Although much has been uncovered in this time, there is still a long way to go, the ultimate aim being to discover the branch of the Farquharson clan from which my family is descended.

At the moment the story begins with Henry Farquharson who was born in 1745. His place of birth is as yet unknown, but his marriage took place at St. Cuthbert's in Edinburgh. Here in 1774 he married

Margaret Corbet (1753-1816), the daughter of John Corbet, a tailor. Henry was a carver and gilder and in 1794-7 is listed as having premises at 3 South Prince's Street in the city.

Henry had an uncle, Charles Farquharson, who lived at least for the latter years of his life in Aberdeen. Charles was an auctioneer and appears to have been rather wealthy. For some years he owned the estate of Blairton, north of Aberdeen, an area which includes the modern village of Balmedie. In Aberdeen itself, between 1786 and 1789 he acquired tenements in the Upperkirkgate and Green areas. In 1784 he purchased property in Edinburgh together with his nephew Henry. Together they bought a tract of land known as Hermits and Termits near Holyrood Park. Charles married Helen Chree in 1788 when he was probably well advanced in years. His friend, with the fine name of Theophilus Ogilvie, collector of customs at Aberdeen, was one of the witnesses to the marriage and was aged 66 at the time. Charles died in 1806 and was buried at St. Nicholas', Aberdeen. He left a will in which he left significant sums and property to his wife, his nephew Henry, another nephew, John Taggart (1754-1823) and his nephew's children. Charles and Helen appear not to have had any children, certainly none are referred to in the will.

Henry Farquharson and Margaret Corbet had several children. They were all born in Edinburgh between the years 1778 and 1787. Their names were Charles, Henry, William, Clark, Jean, James Russell and Helen. By 1807 the four elder brothers had emigrated to Jamaica where at least one of them, Charles, was a plantation owner in the parish of St. Ann's. In contrast, the younger son, James Russell, migrated to London. Henry and Margaret may have moved to Aberdeen after their sons left Edinburgh. Certainly Margaret died there in 1816 and a Henry Farquharson, carver and gilder, had a business on Castle Street, Aberdeen in 1820. Henry died in 1833, at the age of 88, in Edinburgh.

James Russell Farquharson, youngest son of Henry Farquharson, represents the start of a mystery within the family. The name Russell has been used as a middle name from 1787 to this day, my father being Frederick Russell Farquharson. But I have been unable to find out where the name came from. James Russell moved to London prior to 1807, the date of his marriage to Ann Wynn at St. Pancras Old Church. He worked as a jeweller and together with Ann had five children, all born in London between 1811 and 1819. The children were Charles Henry, Ophelia, John Bridge, James Russell and Helen.

Charles Henry (1811-1882), the eldest son, reversed the migration to London by moving to Edinburgh where he became a jeweller and where he married Janet Romanes in 1832. In 1844 his jewellery business was listed as 'Charles H.

Farquharson Jewellers' 27 Albany Street, Leith and in the census of 1861 he was recorded as employing 5 men and 3 boys in jewellery and watchmaking. Charles lived at Jessimine Cottage, West Preston Street but had a neighbouring street, Farquharson Place, named after him. Later remodelling of the city removed the street.

Charles' younger brother, James Russell number 2 (1815-1874) was baptised at St. Martins Ludgate. James remained in London and married Mary Ann Bullpit (1821-1884). His occupation is described as 'whip moulder'. James and Mary Ann had five children; Ann, James Russell, Edward Charles, Anthony Clarke and Marjorie.

James Russell, number 3, was born in 1851 and married Mary Ann Brown. This couple continued in London and had eleven children. James built up his own bootmaking business and had two boot shops in the East End of London. William Anthony Farquharson (1885-1954) was their fourth son and he married Florence Baker (1886-1961). These were my grandparents. They had three children, Frederick Russell, William and Jean.

Strangely, after four generations of my family being born in London, I myself now work in Aberdeen just a couple of hundred yards from where my 'oldest' recorded relative, Charles Farquharson, the auctioneer, lived over two hundred years ago.

Geoffrey Farquharson

---

One of the aims of the Clan Farquharson society is to promote interest in Farquharson family histories and to encourage the interchange of information between members on the subject. To this end it is hoped that the inclusion of a member's family history will become a regular feature of the newsletter. It is also proposed that a Farquharson genealogical archive be established. Members are invited to send family trees to Geoffrey Farquharson who will catalogue and store them on behalf of the society. Members having elements in common can then be put in touch. The archive will be made available for consultation at the annual gathering. Geoffrey's address is given in the list of committee members.

---

If you have sent in an article and do not see it in this issue do not think that it has been forgotten. I have had some profiles of members and will include them in later issues. Photos or slides would be most welcome, they will be returned of course. All forms of correspondence can be accepted. E-mails, if you send an e-mail it is best to write your article directly into the e-mail or if you have already got it on your computer 'copy and paste' it into your e-mail as attachments are sometimes difficult to open. I can open attachments that have been produced in 'Microsoft Word'.

Alan Clens (Editor)

## **VOICE FROM AMERICA**

**by the President of CFUSA Sharon Farley**

The Clan Tenting season in Texas begins:

### **APRIL 5 - 7**

With San Antonio this celebration is held at The Alamo. Along with honouring the Scots who had played such a big part in establishing the United States they also honour the Scots from Scotland who died at the Alamo. There were four plus a large number of men whose names were Scottish.

### **APRIL 20-21**

The Celtic Heritage Festival in Kilgore. This is put on by The Celtic Heritage Society of East Texas, here in Longview of which I am an active member. This is a small festival but we all have good time, as well as all the visitors who come out and join in the fun. We will be having some Highland Cattle and Shetland Sheep once again which was a great asset last year.

### **MAY 18-19**

The Houston Highland Games held at the Scottish Rite/Double Eagle Ranch. They were in a new location last year which turned out to be very nice with plenty of room to grow.

### **JUNE 7 - 8 - 9**

The BIG News will be happening. These are the dates for the Texas Scottish Festival and Highland Games at Arlington and will be the location for the Arlington Clan Gathering celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Clan Farquharson USA. We are hoping for a large number of members to come from all across the United states and members from the UK, Canadian and Australian Societies.

### **A trip to Girthon Cemetery**

Girthon Cemetery is very small and very old. The Church itself is in ruin. It lies just outside of Twynholm Village, Kirkcudbright in the south west of Scotland.

One weekend Connie and Alan Cleps, Alan (President) myself and my son David spent the weekend in Twynholm (home of many a happy school holiday). We wanted to visit some graveyards as Connie has been researching our family name (Caig) for many years.

As we pulled up outside of the cemetery wall we could see a sign telling us we were forbidden to enter the grounds as they were dangerous. Well what would you do? So of course we hopped over the gate and began searching the headstones. As I neared the doorway into the Church I could see some headstones inside and felt sure that one of them read Caig. I called Alan over and as the ground in front of the Church had subsided slightly I told him to watch me but that if I fell into one of these holes he had better rescue me very quickly or I would have nightmares for the rest of my life.

As I stepped into the Church I could see that the headstone was definitely the resting place of an ancestor. I shouted out to everyone to follow me in and as we were reading the headstone Alan bent down and picked something up from underneath a stone lying at the base. We were absolutely amazed to find a note inside a plastic bag from a Canadian called Tom Roughly who wished to contact any ancestors of the Caig family. We were all very excited by this find. Then to add to our amazement we realised he had only called there the day before. Well, you can imagine our excitement by now. We left a note also with contact numbers and placed it back under the stone.

Off we drove to Gatehouse of Fleet a few miles away as we thought he might have visited the Tourism Office for information. But he had not. We drove on to Anwoth cemetery in the hope of catching up with him, which is up through the woods and opens out into a beautiful clearing. Once again it is a small ruined Church inside a walled cemetery. He had also left a note under one of the headstones.

Feeling somewhat deflated we eventually retired to The Star in Twynholm for some liquid refreshment and decided that we would telephone the number on the note. We left a message for him and eventually Connie managed to speak to him on his return from Scotland.

Sue Gask

#### **President**

Alan Caig  
38 Hillside Road Norton  
Stockton-on-Tees TS20 1JG  
H 01642 558336 W 01642 555763  
alan@clarkwillis.freeserve.co.uk

#### **Vice President**

Tony Farquharson  
4 Garston Crescent  
Garston Herts WD25 0LD  
01923 679240  
tfarquharson@imation.co.uk

#### **Membership Secretary**

Valerie Farquharson  
6 Chalet Road Feering  
West Sussex BN12 5NY  
01903 502822

#### **Treasurer**

Sue Gask  
4 Weston Crescent Norton  
Stockton-on-Tees TS20 2HU  
01642 551408  
Sue.gask@stockton.gov.uk

Please send all items for publication to:

Alan Cleps  
51 Cresswell Street King's Lynn Norfolk PE30 2AP  
acleps@compuserve.com