



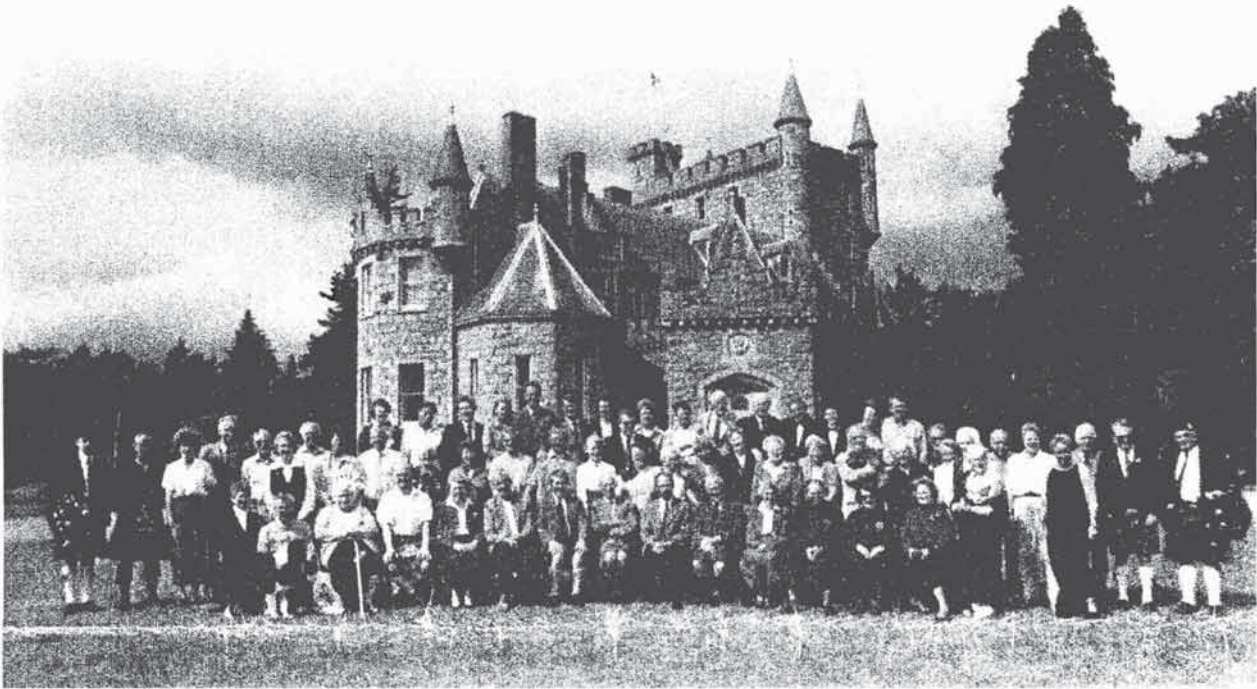
# The Lion's Face



Newsletter of Clan Farquharson U.K.

NUMBER FOUR

WINTER 2002



**Gathering at Invercauld House**

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter. I feel sure that those of you who were able to come to the August gathering in Braemar will have gone home with a warm glow at its success. Once again we were able to enjoy the hospitality of our chief Captain Alwyne Farquharson and Madame Farquharson. My thanks go to those who put in many hours to make the event go smoothly. The Ceilidh really set the scene for the weekend, we even had a German couple turn up who did not know what a Ceilidh was, when it was explained to them they said that they would like to stay and watch, I think that they got up for most of the dances. The newsletter has a new title. 'The Lion's Face', this is the name of a rockface that can be seen on the Invercauld Estate, most appropriate. We again had the pleasure of the company of Sharon Farley, President of Clan Farquharson USA and Bev Waitt, Membership Secretary. The short, moving service at the Cairn was a fitting end to the weekend as we remembered all those of the clan who have gone before us. Those who stood before the Cairn felt that they were part of the history of a great Scottish clan no matter where they had come from or how their links were formed.

**Cairn  
na  
Cuimnhe**



**CAIRN OF REMEMBRANCE  
ANCIENT RALLYING POINT  
OF  
CLAN FARQUHARSON  
ERECTED BY  
CLAN FARQUHARSON  
ASSOCIATION  
APRIL 1972**



### From the The President

On the Sunday, we met at the farm near to the Cairn na Cuimhne, the ancient gathering place for the clan on the banks of the River Dee. Martin Johnson played the pipes for us as we walked along the field to the cairn.

The Clan Chief offered a short personal tribute, which is reproduced with his permission below:-

"Although these lines were composed a long time ago at my other home on the Isle of Mull, at the time of my father's death, in fact only a few years after this memorial stone was laid, I hope that they may be found appropriate for an occasion such as this.

As we stand at this site hallowed in the history of our clan reflecting upon it the spirit of those who have gone before, surely seem to dwell amongst these stones leading us perhaps to dream of that psalm to which they have gone and which none of us can ever reach or know until our time has come.

To the ancient race of Gaels paradise seemed to lie some place beyond the turbulent seas which swept around the wild fortresses of their highland heartland – a place of peace and a place of youth.

Therefore the tribute which I offer is entitled:  
"TIR NAN OG" - "LAND OF THE YOUNG"

Tir nan Og

Promised land of the ever young  
Beyond the sunset seas  
Off have I heard the praises sung  
To harp of Hebrides

Hark to deep ocean's ceaseless roar  
Sails to the wind set trim  
That wave shall break on distant shore  
Beyond horizons

Follow the beam of guiding star  
Which lights this lonely way  
Vessel though frail and voyage far  
Helm She needs must obey

Yonder the fire of the setting sun  
Enflames the western skies  
And there where the ship points to sun  
Behold the peaks arise

Isle of my heart, my love, my dreams  
Where birch and rowan stand  
Fair are thy hills and crystal streams  
Bellowing white they stand

The mountain tarn the peaty pools  
Mirror thy changing mood  
When gale grows calm and passion cools  
Peace fills thy solitude

Youth's sanctuary timeless keep  
Whilst ever on life's tide  
How fronds from Virgin sources deep  
As tresses borne of bride

Long I'll said the watery waste  
Girdle of earthly world  
Ere harbour's arms hold ship embraced  
Her sails forever furled

Promised land of eternal youth  
Beyond the sunset seas  
Again I'll hear thy praises sung  
To harp or Hebrides

Connie & Alan had prepared a short prayer which they then lead, with all reading aloud.

Martin played Flowers of the Forest, a very apt and moving tune, and after photographs he piped us back to our cars



Martin, The Chief and Madam Farquharson at The Cairn

This was a short but very moving ceremony and all those who attended felt a special sense of comradeship.

### Braemar Gathering

The Braemar Gathering is a traditional, rather than a commercial gathering, and does not have lots of tents selling tourist knickknacks and the like, and there are no clan tents. This keeps the games as the main focus of the day's activities. So, when we were offered a table in the overseas visitors tent, we were honoured, and the only clan to be so represented.

Gordon & Jane Farquharson did most of the work in setting out the stall and preparing the membership application forms and flyers, to hand out. We set our stall with a Farquharson tartan plaid, lots of clan items and clothing with the clan crest embroidered on them which Connie had prepared.

We asked the announcer to announce our presence and Gordon had prepared a large notice to hang on the front of the tent.

We did not have a rush of Farquharsons, although Bev Waitt, the CFUSA membership secretary had sent me a list of their members she knew were coming, and they all turned up. It was a great pleasure to meet more of the USA membership. We had a number of enquiries and various overseas, and UK visitors came up and talked to us.

The Clan Chief and Madam Farquharson visited us, and the Lord Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire, Angus Farquharson and his wife Alison, also came into the tent and spent some time talking to us. It was indeed a great pleasure to have the support of these senior members of the clan.

Next year, we shall do the same. We shall be looking for volunteers to man the stall.



## Website

Andrew Farquharson of Edinburgh has done a brilliant job with our web site, the address of which is "Farquharson-clan.co.uk". Please visit it and leave a message in the guestbook.

## 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. They can be viewed on the website Orders can be taken via Val.

## Polo Shirts and Sweatshirts

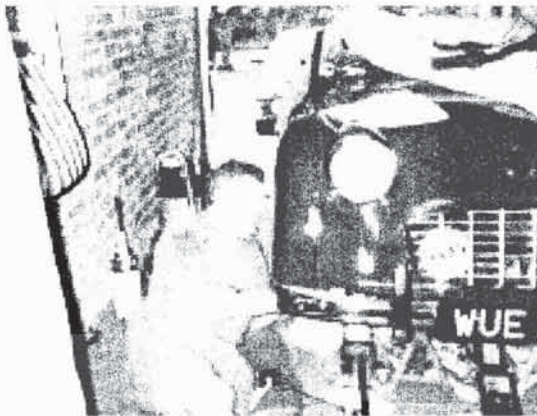
Details can be found on the clan website.

## Membership

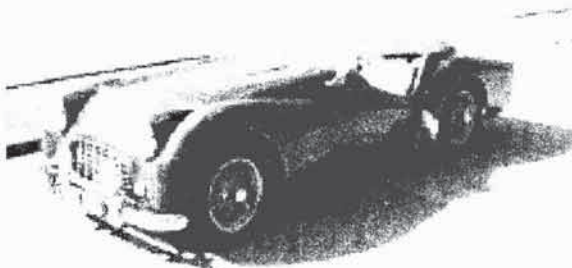
We now have 134 members. If you have not renewed your membership since the 2002 gathering please do so immediately on the enclosed form.



Gordon and Jane Farquharson and family



Servicing the Triumph TR3



A job well done

## John Farquharson

Some years ago an acquaintance asked if we had been to the Braemar Highland Gathering and was astonished to learn that not only had we not heard of the gathering, we did not even know about my Farquharson history. This was the start of many years research.

Not having any known living relatives to ask for information, I started with the marriage and death certificates of my parents. Then I went to the electoral register and then on to St. Catherine's House for details of the 1901 census. I paid my fee and was given details of my grand father who was born in Drumoak. That summer we went off to Scotland for a holiday and started with research at Register House in Edinburgh, where we were lucky enough not only to trace my grandfather's birth but also discovered my great grandfather's birth and marriage in Logie Coldstone. My gt. gt. grandfather, Charles born in 1784 at Newkirk, Logie Coldstone married Ann Farquharson in 1810, Charles' father, my gt. gt. gt. grandfather, James was born in 1752 also in Logie Coldstone, and his father, my 4th great grandfather, Charles was of 'Newkirk' Logie Coldstone when James was born, but unfortunately his wife's name was not shown. (Logie Coldstone lies between Ballater and Aboyne, off the Aberdeen road).

My great grandfather, John, born in 1816 at Galton, Logie Coldstone, was a master wright and lived in Carpenter's Croft in Drumoak The cottage is still there and until recently there was still a carpenter in residence, although he was unable to give any information on previous tenants. John's wife was Isabella Lyon and they had ten children. Their daughter, Elspeth married Alexander Carle, and they named their eldest daughter Isabella Lyon Farquharson Carle which was of course, easily traceable. Other children of Isabella and John also kept the name Lyon and, in fact, my own father's second name was Lyon. If only I had known about this I too would have continued the tradition. I am an only child and only know of my father, Francis Lyon Farquharson's brother John but have no knowledge of him or his family's whereabouts, although I think that he may have moved from London to somewhere in Yorkshire.

One little bit of human interest came to light. In 1784 Charles and his son, James appeared before the Elders of the church for being drunk and disorderly one Saturday night.

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If you have sent in an article and do not see it in this issue do not think that it has been forgotten. Photos or slides will be most welcome, they will be returned of course. All forms of correspondence can be accepted. 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.

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## Voice from America

### Tenting in New Hampshire and Texas style

I have attended two tenting events this season in the United States. It is interesting to compare the likenesses and differences.

The Southern New Hampshire Scottish Games and Celtic Music Festival was held in Greenfield, NH, on June 1. The weather was bright, crisp and windy.

The Texas Scottish Festival and Highland Games at Arlington, took place June 7-9. The weather was hot and humid with a welcome breeze to stir the air.

The Greenfield Games are located in the town park of a small town. About 35 clans set up tents, close to 5000 people attended. The Arlington Games are held in and around the football (American style) stadium at the University of Texas at Arlington (between Fort Worth and Dallas) within the city limits. There were more than 50 clans represented, well over 50,000 people came through the gates.



Sharon in front of the CFUSA tent at The Arlington Games

But no matter where Scottish games and festivals are held there is always camaraderie, where clans help each other set up and take down, and share information. These games feature athletic events, such as: tossing the caber and the sheaf; pipe band contests and individual musical competitions which include fiddle, pipes, harp and highland



Bill McWood, John Fargason, Sharon Farley, Jim McKeehan, Bev Waitt at The Arlington Games

dance. There is always an opening parade in which the participating clans march and carry their tartans. Sometimes there is a massed pipe band demonstration. If the games go into Sunday, there is a Kirking of the Tartan service. Vendors of food including haggis and everything Scottish from kilts to ...you name it are everywhere.

It is surprising how many people are seeking Scottish connections. As a Scottish friend once said, "There are two kinds of people in the world, those who are Scottish and those who wish they were."

These articles were jointly written by Bev Waitt and Sharon Farley

### Articles for the Newsletter

Articles do not have to be about the society or directly linked to Clan Farquharson, but may be about things Scottish or just general interest items regarding holidays or events that you have been involved with. Let us know about any family happenings, weddings, anniversaries, births, scottish recipes, etc. Send your contribution by any means available to you, snail mail or e-mail, photographs if posted will be returned.

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