



The Lion's Face



Newsletter of Clan Farquharson UK

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The Clan Chief and Sharon Farley, President CFUSA at Cairn na Cuinhe at the 2003 Gathering



Mr & Mrs Wagner of Clan Farquharson USA having tea with the Clan Chief following the Braemar Gathering in 2003

2004 GATHERING – Programme

Wednesday 11 August

Informal meet in the bar of the Huntly Arms in Aboyne)

Thursday 12 August

12.30 Ballater Highland Games
19.00 Games Ceilidh in Ballater

Friday 13 August

11.00 Meet at Finzean Hall, Aboyne
13.00 Buffet lunch at Finzean Hall
Tour Lochnagar Distillery
19.00 Clan Ceilidh at Huntly Arms

Saturday 14 August

10.30 AGM at Huntly Arms
12.30 Visit Braemar Castle
Cheese & Wine Buffet Lunch
19.30 Formal Dinner in Huntly Arms.

Sunday 15 August

11.00 Crathie Church Service (Royal Family attend)

14.00 Visit Cairn na Cuin
Unveiling of Clan Plaque

For more details or an application form please contact Gordon Farquharson or Sue Gask

STORIES ABOUT THE FARQUHARSONS

Donald Og (Monaltrie). Luck at Cards

Towards the end of the reign of Mary Queen of Scots, Donald of Castleton, successor to the earlier Donald of Castleton, exchanged property with the Earl of Mar. He took Monaltrie and handed over the Castleton. He married Beatrice Gordon and had five sons - Donald, James, Robert, Alexander, and David. James was an Edinburgh lawyer and bought Whitehouse estate in Cromar, so founding the Whitehouse branch of the Farquharsons. Donald, the eldest son was known as Donald Og. His wife was Margaret Gordon, the daughter of Abergeldie. For many years he was the Marquis of Huntly's representative or baillie as far as law and order was concerned.

Donald Og, in company with Lord Ogilvie, and the Lairds of Pitfoddels and Drum sailed into England in 1640. Lord Ogilvie was an inveterate gambler, usually lucky at cards. He frequented a well-known establishment and played regularly. He lost, time and again, and although he could not understand why he was being so unlucky, he went on playing. Finally he ran out of money and had to hand over a

bond for many of his lands. In a desperate state he met friends with whom he had travelled to London. Monaltrie was indignant that he had signed away his lands and demanded to be taken to the gaming house.

Donald of Monaltrie became a "guest" there and one evening agreed to play piquet. Presumably the organisers thought that here they had another Scot who would lose and end up parting with a bond for valuable lands. They retired to a private room that had been prepared by Monaltrie, leaving Ogilvie and other friends in an anti-room with orders to stay there until called.

There were three players. After the game the stake would be doubled. The Londoners made sure Donald won the first two games and were ready for the kill at the last. The leader of the group said, "You have such good luck Farquharson, I hope you won't object to matching this". He threw down Ogilvie's bond for his lands. Donald glanced at his cards and threw down his gold. Tension was mounting. The game was played in silence. Against all odds, Donald won. The opponents turned pale and demanded a recount of the cards. Donald of Monaltrie called in his friends. The recount took place again. Donald handed Ogilvie his bond. Donald took of all the gold on the table - his own and the gamblers, and it was considerable. Donald's delighted and mystified friends stood round. This was a miracle for Donald was not noted as a card sharp. "I cheated them as they cheated you" said Donald to Ogilvie in great amusement. He was about to explain how he had managed to win. Meantime one of the gamblers shouted "Look". A glitter had caught his eye. A mirror was hanging behind the chair of both the gamblers and Monaltrie had seen every card in their hands!

AN UNDRESSED SOLDIER

The Redcoat garrison Braemar Castle after the '45 determined to capture the two Donalds, Black Donald and his cousin Donald. Various unsuccessful attempts were made.

One Sergeant in particular determined to find Black Donald and frequently visited his widowed mother in Auchendryne. Coached by her son, the mother told the Sergeant that in a certain place he could meet her son, provided that he went without his gun. The Sergeant threw down his gun and set off. Donald, hiding in the box bed, jumped out and set off for the rendezvous.

They met in the appointed place. Both drew their swords. Donald disarmed the Sergeant and felled him with a blow from his sword handle. Soon he was trussed up.

Donald asked the Sergeant was he would have done with his prisoner had the positions been reversed.

"Kill him, of course" said the soldier. Donald replied "For being so honest I will spare your life, but you will remember me until your dying day". He took of every stitch of the Sergeant's clothing, tying it all in a bundle and fastened round the man's neck. Then he cut birch twigs and used them to urge the Sergeant to Auchendryne, through Castleton and onto the gates of the Braemar Castle. After that the efforts of the garrison to capture Donald were stepped up, although the Sergeant took no active part.

Many thanks to Dr Sheila Sedgwick of Ballater for allowing us to reproduce these stories from her books.



Our regular piper, Martin Johnson, playing at the Cairn na Cuihe at the 2003 Gathering