

The Lion's Face



Games Edition 2005

Newsletter of Clan Farquharson (United Kingdom)

www.farquharson-clan.co.uk





The Lion's Face

President's Prattle

I HOPE you all enjoy this Games Edition of the Lion's Face.

Our Clan Association continues to evolve and develop strongly. The last 12 months has seen two southern luncheon events, a fantastic 2004 Gathering in Aboyne and 2005 Gatherings in Ballater and Braemar for the Games.

During the year we have said goodbye to Alan Caig from the committee. Alan was responsible for the re-awakening of the Clan Farquharson Association in the UK. His leadership and energy has been a model for us all, we only hope to be able to follow in his footsteps.

Congratulations to Alan! In mid July this year (2005) Alan expects to be elected the Vice President of the Institute of Legal Executives, and in July next year would hope



to become the President. This is in addition to his day job and will be the pinnacle of his career. We wish Alan well in this exciting opportunity for him, but unfortunately he has resigned from the committee of the Clan Association for a while. The result of this is that he has stood down as the newsletter editor, and from

the committee. He hopes he might be invited back in mid 2007 if we can put up with him again. Thanks for all your hard work Alan.

I'm delighted to have been able to press-gang my daughter Hannah Farquharson into taking on the role. Hannah is a journalist on the Richmond & Twickenham Times and would love to hear from you with any stories and gossip for the Lion's Face. Hannah's contact details are on the Website and in this newsletter.

Our Website continues to collect plaudits from the many visitors. Make sure you look at the visitor's book from time to time. Andrew Farquharson does sterling work for us keeping the site updated. These days it is an essential way of keeping in contact around the world.

Finally, we are always looking for new blood on the committee. Many hands make light work and it's great fun and not too onerous being a closer part of the Clan and Sept Heritage. Please call, write or e-mail if you are interested in helping.

Best wishes to you all,

Gordon Farquharson
President of Clan

Farquharson UK, July 2005



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Chief's Chatter

GREETINGS to you all, and for those able to gather with us in Scotland, welcome to the heartland of our Clan.

I shall hope to meet as many of you as possible whilst you are with us at Ballater or Braemar, or indeed elsewhere when possible through the forthcoming year.



Pictured: The Chief and Madame Farquharson at the Clan Cairn

Truly, it is a great reward to me and an encouragement that our UK Clan Society is now well established and flourishing.

We are living in difficult times. Let us stand together in friendship and good will, our ancient clan spirit will meet and surely overcome whatever challenges we are called upon to face.

Your valued individual support is essential to our combined efforts, so please continue to give it.

A poem written by the chief and read at the Cairn last year (2004):

"White Heather"

Though fame crown thistle Scotland's
guardian king,
Fame equals crowns as consort queen her
ling.
Resplendent queen of Caledonia's heath,
To whom cool northern wind gives lively
breath,
Whose august sovereignty holds purple
reign
With undisputed sway, let none disdain
The bridal gown of white so palely chaste
Which this thy sister wears midst moorland
waste.
Sister thy purity the more confounds
Contrasted with the glory which surrounds,
But yields to him who seeks its due employ
The precious gifts of beauty, peace & joy.
One further gift thy purity bestows
For, veiled of mists and robed of virgin
snows,
Its bloom shall ever smile good fortune's
bride,
Companion on the way whate'er betide.

9th July 2005

*With my warmest best wishes to all,
Alwyne Farquharson of Invercauld*



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Gaelic for the Clan

WITH Scottish members and annual gatherings in Braemar, take a moment to learn about Gaelic, the language of the Scots.

Gaelic teacher and Clan Farquharson member **Arthur Findlay** (pictured) provides a guide for beginners to the historic language.

Gaelic uses letters of the alphabet: only 18 of the 26 we use in English. No J, K, Q, V, W, X, Y or Z. But what about Farquharson, MacKenzie and Macintyre among others?

They are of course in their English dress, and some of them are the results of happy-go-lucky spelling in English peculiar to Scotland. The origins of these names are MacFhearchair (son of *Fearchar* or Farquhar), MacCoinnech (son of *Coinneach* or Kenneth) and *Mac an t-saoir* (son of the carpenter).

Fearchar, the origin of Farquhar, becomes in the 'of' or genitive form of *Fheachair*. Yes it is pronounceable. It sounds **Err-ach-uth**, (ch as in loch, th as in the) the FH being silent. *Mac* may mean a burger to most people, but to us in the clan it means 'a son'. So Farquharson becomes MacFhearchair. *Mac* is pronounced **Machk**.

Our worthy chief, **Farquharson of Invercauld**, becomes *Mac Mhic Fhionnlaigh*, pronounced **Machk Veechk Yoon-lay** (being a descendent of Finlay Mor or *Fionnlagh Mór*, which does NOT sound like maw). The name Finlay comes from Fionn Laoch 'fair hero' and was in old Gaelic Fionnd laoch,

hence the d in Findlay, which is the older form of the name.

'Fair Land is Fionnfhonn (**Fyoo-nun**), which I guess could be the origin of Finzean. The Cairn of Remembrance is *Càrn na Cuimhne*.

The only difficult word there is the last one, pronounced **Koo-inuh**. Many of the letters with H in the middle and ends of words are silent, as English has lots of silent letters like 'right' and 'wrong'.

How are you coping so far? In fact how are you? In Gaelic *Ciamar a tha thu?* (**Kimmer a how?**) The reply would be fine, thanks: *Tha gu math, tapadh leat* (**Hagger ma, tahpper let**). HH means heavy breathing.

Three other phrases: Good Morning: *Maduimn mhath* (**Matting va**); Good evening: *Feasgar math* (**Fessker Ma**); Good night: *Oidhche mhath* (**Oich-eh va**). **Ma** as in mat. **Va** as in vat NOT mah and vah, please!



Useful phrases

Gordon Farquharson, President – *Gòrdon Ceann-suidhe* (**Kyown-sooya**).

Valerie Farquharson, Secretary – *Valarie Rùnaire* (**Roonara**). Fallain (**Falaheen**) is 'in good health' (which is what Valerie means) but I have never heard it used as a name.

Andrew the Farmer, Treasurer – *Anndra Tuathanach MacSporain* (**Owndra Tooa-hanach Machk Sporañ**).

Geoffrey Farquharson – *Goiridh* (**Gory**) *MacFhearchair*.

Arthur Findlay – *Artair MacFhionnlaigh* (**Arster Mach-kyoonlay**).

The Lion's Face – *Aodann an Leòghainn* (**aotan – for ao say oo with a smile – un lyoghhañ**).

Good health and up with Gaelic – *Slàinte mhath agus suas leis a'Ghàidhlig* (**slahn-tcher va aghus sooas lesh uh Ghahlik**).



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A war hero remembered

AS THE country celebrates the bi-centenary of the battle of Trafalgar a letter from one Farquharson believed to have played his part describes the scene.

Roland Smith, who lives in Israel but was born in Durham, England, contacted *The Lion's Face* to share the story of **James Farquharson** which was passed down through generations of his family and in the hope of finding the answers to questions it poses.



“Why does he write HMS Culloden when no such ship was involved? Was he referring to HMS Colossus?” he asks. “Maybe there is a Farquharson out there who knows of the family from Airlie and holds the key to some of his queries?”

James is known to have married Jane Christie. His letter reads :

At sea, October 27 1805 , Cape St Vincent bearing E v E1/4 E, distant 15 miles

Revered and Honoured Father,

Early this morning Lord Collingwood graciously informed me he would forward a letter for you with his Private Despatches per Swift Frigate to England. I was slightly wounded in the Battle and am doing well, Thank God, but my bosom is wrung with anguish from the loss of my dear friend The Stoube Mr Erskine by an aulward incident. The Admiral had ordered a General Thanksgiving and we had just concluded service at which my lamented friend had led the Praise on the small organ Lord Collingwood had in his cabin when the cry arose that the French Prize we were towing was on fire.

We had no boats all being knocked to pieces on the 21st but warped as close as we could to the Frenchmen whose crew together with our prizemen had to take to the water.

Several of our people sprang overboard to assist so being Mr Erskine. With great difficulty

we succeeded in saving most of the crew with lines and slings. Mr Erskine had saved three of The Frenchmen, one of our crew, and finally the Midshipman in charge of the prize crew, a very young lad. My lamented friend had just proceeded a few steps up the side ladder when one of the bow guns in the Frenchman exploded and a grape shot took him full in the breast. His loss is (irreparable unclear) with the exception of our Revered Admiral (Nelson). I

knew no man who exercised a greater power of drawing out the love and service of those he commanded. His death will deepen the gloom already hanging over the Fleet and he will be mourned in every ship of The Squadron.

When we prepared him for burial (Erskine) I took from his neck a small gold chain and locket beautifully fashioned to resemble a Highland Targe and on the reverse a monogram of four letters - I think a Lady's name "Mary" and containing a lock of beautiful black hair. The features of both his mother and sister are familiar to me from the miniatures in his berth, it could not have been a (tress unclear) of Lady Mary's.

Lord Collingwood has sealed up this memento and permits me to send it to you. May I request that on its arrival you will procure a reliable person and have it despatched at once to his family.

I must conclude as The Master of Arms waits for my letter. And now commending you to the care of Almighty God I remain Honoured Father Your true and affectionate Son, James Farquharson, Acting First Lieutenant, H.M.S 'Culloden'.

If you can help Roland in his search for information contact him email roland@enzivan.com



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Lost and Found

Can you help?

AN 86-year-old war veteran is searching for a long lost Farquharson friend.

Colin Price, who now lives in Ballarat near Melbourne, Australia is hoping to reconnect with Janet Hewitt McNichol Farquharson his lover for a time.

Janet was born around 1915 and lived with her parents at the home farm of Glamis Castle back in the 1940s and also the home farm of Coates in Alyth at some stage.

Colin, a decorated veteran, served in the Royal Australian Navy in WWII and the Korean War. He was in Darwin Harbour when the Japanese bombed it and was involved in the rescue of an American Submarine crew during WWII.

Colin and Janet met when he was sent for training to HMS Condor at Arbroath, Scotland, in 1948. They quickly became good friends and Janet followed Colin back to Australia on completion of his training in 1950.

When Colin and Janet finally parted in about 1952, Janet is believed to have ended up in the Port Shepstone area of South Africa and may have married and raised a family.

She was a nurse and practised in Scotland as well as Australia and probably in South Africa.

Colin would like help finding out what happened next to Janet and is searching for a relative or friend who may have had contact with her in more recent times.

If anyone has information they believe may help please contact Paul Henderson, Colin's friend, by emailing pjhenderson@aapt.net.ac

Member's Activities

A Clan Farquharson History A book by Geoffrey Farquharson

Review by Andrew Farquharson; July 2005.

What a lucky Clan we are! After having been the Clan that struggled to find any good books on our history, at last, we are so fortunate that a clan bible has now been published.

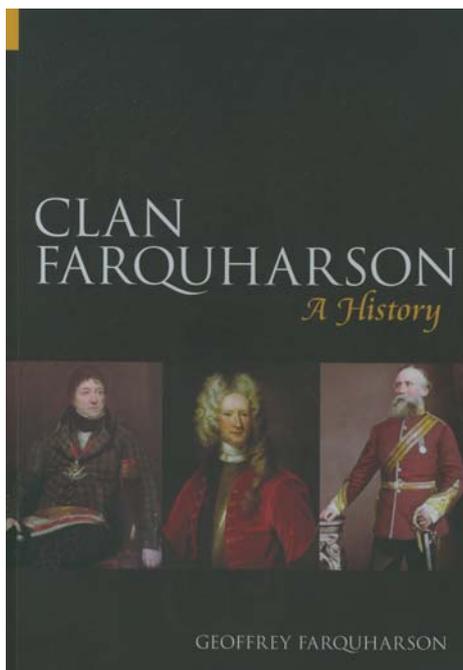
Geoffrey Farquharson, who runs with the title of Historian on the Committee of

Clan Farquharson, has been working on this masterpiece for many years. It can be no coincidence that his enthusiasm will help feed the appetite for all of us who have been frustrated for ages by our searches through Libraries and second hand bookshops.

Tirelessly researched like a true sleuth, Geoffrey has left no worthwhile stone unturned. This history of near 300 pages deals well with all areas of the Clan both clearly and in a comfortable depth. After explaining the origins of the

Clan and its names he then deals with each family or Clan branch in turn from its origin right through to the present day when possible.

There are useful maps indicating significant localities in Scotland and some good plates of photographs and paintings of ancestors. He also lists all the Farquharsons in the Jacobite uprisings of 1715 and 1745. The Broughdearg Manuscript of 1733 is also copied in full.





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Member's Activities

Book review cont...

This deals with all the known genealogy of the Clan up to the time of publication.

An interesting point for us single men to consider it that there are currently nearly 10,000 Farquharsons around the world. Now, if it had not been for Finlay Mor's offspring, Geoffrey observed, that the number could well be only close to 1,000.

This book is a 'must have' for all Farquharsons and anyone with a Clan/Sept connection as it will be a very long time before anyone grasps the thistle again.

This book will be available at this year's reunion in Ballater or anytime through Geoffrey Farquharson at £25 to Nether Anguston Croft House, Peterculter, Aberdeenshire AB14 OPN

Clan Farquharson at the Beach Hotel, Worthing, 24th April 2005



Pictured are Clan members (back row left to right): Andrew Farquharson (Findon, West Sussex), David Coates (Abingdon, Oxon), John Farquharson (Ferring, W.Sussex), Bill Oliver (Upminster, Essex), Arthur Findlay (Lee

Green, London), Stuart Farquharson-Roberts (Steep, Hants), Douglas Farquharson (Welwyn Garden City, Herts), and Gordon Farquharson (Guildford, Surrey). (Front row left to right): Elizabeth Findlay (Lee Green, London), Margaret Finlay (Biggin Hill, Kent), Jane Farquharson (Guildford), Valerie Farquharson (Ferring), Ursula Farquharson-Roberts (Steep, Hants), Sheena Oliver (Upminster, Essex) and Jeanette Farquharson (Welwyn Garden City, Herts).

Keep on the look out for notice of other regional meetings.

Val Farquharson, our Membership Secretary, arranged a Clan Farquharson luncheon at the Beach Hotel in Worthing on the 24th April 2005.

15 Clan members assembled for coffee followed by a lunch served in a private bay in the hotel restaurant. The kilts & tartan clad throng caused a bit of a stir in the hotel, they're not used to this sort of thing in Worthing.

DNA Profiling

By Andrew Farquharson

A group of Clan members with the surname Farquharson have now successfully had their DNA profiled.

Two of us, Gordon Farquharson, the Clan President and Andrew Farquharson, the Clan Treasurer appear to be linked through the high number of matching markers and now the exciting bit starts by trying to link us on our family trees.

A lot of families have quite extensive family trees but most of us have only got so far back to be stuck at going any further. It is interesting when various Farquharsons bring their family trees to the reunions but frustrating to not know whether there is a link



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Member's Activities

DNA Profiling cont...

between them. That can all change now through the Y-chromosome analysis.

Male line – This is for tracing our Paternal genetic ancestry by analysing the Y-chromosome in our DNA. This Y-chromosome is only passed down the Paternal line from father to son i.e. just through the men.

The DNA profiling will give you results on 43 'markers'. It is proven that if you find someone else with the same markers then you will be directly related. Only one male in each family need have DNA analysed as father, son and grandfather, direct male cousins should all have the same. This is good for hundreds, if not thousands, of years.

Women could have a trace done to explore their Paternal ancestry based on the Y-chromosome with a sample of DNA from their father, brother or close male relative. They cannot use their own DNA. Women can have their X chromosome mapped but this is for geographical purposes rather than for recent family trees.

Which firm? We have used a very helpful firm based in Dorset with another office in the states www.dnaheritage.com They were both interested and helpful setting up the Clan project. Another plus point with this firm is

that they have set up a free search site www.ybase.org to enable anyone with a DNA profile to search for other contributors who might be related. If you click onto www.ybase.org and type Farquharson into 'surname search' you can view the results of the group so far.

Price www.DNAHeritage.com will test 43 markers for only about £97 based on the current dollar rate \$1.89.

Clan Farquharson and Family Tree interest will grow and grow as more people contribute their DNA profile and interesting links start to evolve. This can help prove a family link thus saving time by not having to search down certain paths. It is very easy. Three cotton bud type swabs are supplied and these are rubbed on the inside of your cheeks. After placing them in the sterile envelope and posting it off, about two weeks later the results are through and the matching up can start.

Good luck.

Our code: DNA Heritage.com has set up Clan Farquharson as a group and will guide us through.

Our name code is: 542838529. This can be accessed through:

<http://www.dnaheritage.com/oracle/join.asp?GroupUnique=542838529>

