

The Lion's Face



Winter Edition

Newsletter of Clan Farquharson UK

www.farquharson-clan.co.uk

In this edition:

Reports from our 2005 Gathering, The Chief's Banner, Francis Farquharson History, and letters.



Geoffrey Farquharson, historian
extraordinaire



Annual Dinner, Ballater 2005



Clan Members receive a real History lesson from
Geoffrey Farquharson



Geoffrey Farquharson receives congratulations from the
Chief



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President's Thoughts

Welcome to the winter/spring 2006 Edition of the Lion's Face. First, I wish you all a belated Happy New Year and hope you all had a relaxing and peaceful Christmas.

Some of you will know I was ill just before Christmas and spent a while in hospital, thank you for your good wishes and kind thoughts.

Over the Christmas/New Year break I had time to ponder what Hogmanay actually means and what is the derivation of the name? Why do the Scots more than any other nation celebrate the New Year with such a passion? Why should a tall dark stranger be a welcome first foot visitor after midnight, carrying a lump of coal and a slice of black bun? So I did some research and found out the following which I hope you might find interesting:

While New Year's Eve is celebrated around the world, the Scots have a long rich heritage associated with this event - and of course have their own name for it, Hogmanay.

It may not be widely known but Christmas was not celebrated as a festival and virtually banned in Scotland for around 400 years, from the end of the 17th century to the 1950s. The reason for this has its roots in the Protestant Reformation when the Kirk portrayed Christmas as a Popish or Catholic feast and therefore had to be banned. Many Scots had to work over Christmas and their winter solstice holiday was therefore at New Year when family and friends gathered for a party and exchanged presents, especially for the children, which came to be called hogmanays.

There are traditions before midnight such as cleaning the house on 31st December (including taking out the ashes from the fire in the days when coal fires were common). There is also the superstition to clear all your debts before "the bells" at midnight.

An integral part of the Hogmanay partying, which continues very much today, is to welcome friends and strangers, with warm hospitality and of course a kiss to wish everyone a "Guid New Year". The underlying belief is to clear out the vestiges of the old year, have a clean break and welcome in a young, New Year on a happy note.

"First footing" (that is, the "first foot" in the house after midnight) is still common in Scotland. To ensure good luck for the house, the first foot should be male, dark (believed to be a throwback to the Viking days when blond strangers arriving on your doorstep meant trouble) and should bring symbolic coal, shortbread, salt, black bun and whisky. These days, however, whisky and perhaps shortbread are the only items still prevalent (and available).

"Handselling" was the custom of gift giving on the first Monday of the New Year but this has died out.

Torch and Bonfire Ceremonies. The magical Firework display and torchlight procession in Edinburgh - and throughout many cities in Scotland - is reminiscent of the ancient custom at Scottish Hogmanay pagan parties hundreds of years ago.

The traditional New Year ceremony of yesteryear would involve people dressing up in the hides of cattle and running around the village being hit by sticks. The festivities would also include the lighting of bonfires, rolling blazing tar barrels down the hill and tossing torches. Animal hide was also wrapped around sticks and ignited which produced a smoke that was believed to be very effective to ward off evil spirits. The smoking stick was also known as a Hogmanay.

So, there you are, some interesting facts.



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The Chief's Banner

I have been requested to write for this issue of The Lion's Face something about my banner, which was paraded for the first time in some seventy years at last year's Ballater Games in August 2005.

In size, it is four square feet, the Coat of Arms largely occupying this space and being hand painted onto its cream silk, the flag's border being trimmed in red silk. It is old, exactly how old I do not know. However, I do know that it is one of a pair of banners that were carried by the contingent of Farquharson men when they paraded annually at the Braemar Games in full Highland uniform, which they continued to do up until the start of the Second World War. Existing early photographs taken more than a century ago give proof of this.

The Coat of Arms displayed are those granted to my ancestor Catherine Farquharson of Invercauld who registered them in 1805 when she succeeded her father, being the only surviving child of a family of eleven.

The wildcat supporters of these arms may appear somewhat feminine in style, artistic license perhaps in deference to the succession of a Chieftainess?

In factual nature, wild cats have short bushy tails, which together with distinctive tufted ears give them a more aggressive appearance; and they are depicted in this manner in my own Coat of Arms.

These banners

when paraded used to be attached to long slender poles painted in heather colour, with small finials at their tops in the shape of thistles painted white. Alas, these poles have disappeared.

Banners such as these bearing the Chief's Arms should only be paraded in his presence.

This banner is indeed a treasured and historic heirloom, and it will therefore be understood that because of its age and fragile condition permission for it to be paraded outdoors can be given only on

occasion when the weather is sufficiently favourable.

**Alwyne Farquharson of Invercauld,
November 2005**



Alan Caig leads the Clan Farquharson parade at the Ballater Games 2005 with the Chief's Banner



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The 2005 Clan Ceilidh

Ballater in the Scottish Highlands is a beautiful place, historically linked with Clan Farquharson and much loved by Queen Victoria, so where better to hold a Ceilidh, especially during Ballater's annual 'Victoria Week'.

This event, commemorating Queen Victoria, took place during the Clan Farquharson Gathering.

The Ceilidh was held in the Victoria Hall which is just across the square from Ballater station, at which Queen Victoria would arrive en route to Balmoral.

The Ceilidh was open to all, for a modest entrance fee, making it a great event not only with Clan members, but also with the locals and tourists alike.

We brought our own drinks and snacks which was *kind on the sporran* and was a popular format. We were entertained and led through the evening by our Ceilidh band and some impromptu singing from the audience.



Andrew Farquharson (Treasurer) patrols the door and looks after the money



For those not familiar with Scottish Ceilidh dancing, the band caller first organises the formation of couples on the floor, then talks us through the moves and steps. We are then let loose to dance the night away to favourites like the 'Gay Gordon's' and the 'Dashing White Sergeant'.

The Ceilidh was enjoyed by the young, including babes in arms, and the not so young. The smiles on their faces, the laughter, the clapping of hands and the shrieks of 'Yahoo' all contributed to a memorable evening.

Well done and thank you Clan Farquharson, for a truly enjoyable Ceilidh and we look forward to many more.

A review by Jeanette Farquharson of Welwyn Garden City (Committee member Clan Farquharson UK).

This year, the Clan Farquharson family Ceilidh will be held in the Victoria Hall, Ballater, on Friday 11th August 2006, starting at 8.00 pm. See you there!





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Clan Farquharson at the 2005 Ballater Games

The Clan was honoured to be in attendance at the 131st Ballater Games held on the 11th August 2005 at Monantrie Park, Ballater, Aberdeenshire.

This is a pictorial record of the day. This year (2006), the Games will be held on 10th August, meet us there!



Alan Caig (right) proudly carries the Chief's Banner.



The Chief, Madame Farquharson and Clan member march in support (left & bottom right)

Gordon Farquharson & Alan Caig (past President) (bottom left)





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A short History of Francis Farquharson (part 1)

During the 2005 Gathering members of the Farquharson Clan enjoyed an historic tour of the Ballater area focusing on the life and times of Francis Farquharson of Monaltrie. Over the next couple of editions of *The Lion's Face* we will serialise his story as written by Geoffrey Farquharson.

MAINS OF MONALTRIE



Francis Farquharson led a colourful life being heavily involved in the Jacobite rebellion of 1745, but he is perhaps remembered locally more because of his profound influence on the development of the infrastructure of the Ballater/Balmoral area.

The Mains of Monaltrie is the starting place of his life. For those not familiar with the term Mains it simply means farm. The farmhouse was built in the 1720s only a decade or so after Francis' birth. At the time, Francis and his family were living in a large house situated on a mound amongst the trees. It was burnt to the ground by government forces after Culloden in 1746 because of Francis Farquharson's activities in the 1745 rebellion. Today the Mains of Monaltrie is owned by Mrs Drummond who is Capt Farquharson of Invercauld's step daughter by his first wife.

Francis Farquharson's father was Alexander Farquharson (1676-1745), John Farquharson

of Invercauld's younger brother. John's younger brother, Alexander, bought the estate of Monaltrie in 1702. Previously it had been in the hands of a different branch of the Farquharsons, the Farquharsons of Castleton and Tillygarmond. It had been held in the mid 17th C by the famous Donald Farquharson or Donald Og who fought notably in the Civil War. But when his son, Charles, took over the estate it was in a poor financial state probably due to the expense of the family being involved in the war. By 1702 they were forced to sell.

So when Francis Farquharson was born in 1710 the family had only been at Monaltrie for 8 years. His father was Alexander and his uncle was the Clan Chief, John Farquharson of Invercauld. His mother was Anne Farquharson, a daughter of Francis Farquharson of the Finzean family, who lived south of Banchory.

Francis Farquharson was the middle of three sons. John was his elder brother and Robert was his younger brother. In addition he had three sisters, Elizabeth, Rachel and one whose name we don't know. Monaltrie, being a small estate, with insufficient work or income to provide for several sons it is likely that the young Francis Farquharson was trained in some profession, possibly law. Certainly for the years 1738 - 1740 he was described as commissioner for his uncle, John Farquharson of Invercauld, and was later his factor on the Invercauld estate.

John, the eldest brother, died in early adulthood and when his father, Alexander died in July 1745 the estate passed to the second son, Francis Farquharson. Significantly when the 1745 Jacobite rebellion got underway it was Francis who was laird of Monaltrie.

One other thing to mention about Francis is his nickname. As Laird of Monaltrie Francis



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was often referred to as 'Baron Ban' on account of his fair hair, *ban* being Gaelic for fair-haired.

There is an interesting description of the 'Estate of Monaltry' from about this time which gives an insight into the land and the people on it, with suggestions as to what needed to be done to improve their lot:

'The Barony of Monaltry is in the County of Aberdeen and Parish of Crathie. It is of small extent being only about two miles in circumference, except three or four pieces of ground among the hills. It is upwards of 36 miles from Aberdeen, the nearest residence of a sheriff depute or substitute, and where there is the nearest prison. It lies near the parish church and parochial school. There are neither parochial nor charity Schools on any part of the Estate. The soil is gravelly and light, and produces good small oats, barley and rye, no pease, and few potatoes. There is little progress made in raising flax, no grass seeds sown and little hay made, and scarcely any enclosures. There is plenty of lime stone but seldom used. The Estate has an extensive hill pasture, and produces black cattle, sheep and goats. The black cattle sell at about forty shillings and the sheep at four shillings. They make very little butter and cheese.'

The Monaltrie estate did not consist of Monaltrie alone but also included substantial land around Ballater below to the north and the south of the Dee. Of course the Monaltrie Farquharsons weren't the only Farquharsons around here at this time. The Invercauld Farquharsons held land all about on the north side of the Dee. It was Farquharson land all the way to Braemar and far beyond. And then on the south side of the River, opposite Monaltrie were the Balmoral Farquharsons.

Long before Queen Victoria moved there the Balmoral estate rising up to grand Lochnagar, was owned by Farquharsons descended from the Inverey branch of the Clan. When Francis Farquharson was living at Monaltrie, his neighbour, a short ferry crossing away was James Farquharson of Balmoral. James was also very active in both the 1715 and 1745 Rebellion and became known for his actions as Balmoral the Brave.

CRATHIE OLD KIRKYARD



Francis Farquharson died at the age of 80 on June 22 1790 and is buried here in the Farquharson enclosure of Crathie Old Kirkyard. The memorial to him was erected by his nephew William.

Francis Farquharson's survived the fighting and its aftermath but the rebellion did have a very profound effect on his latter life.

Francis Farquharson of Monaltrie appears to have had very strong Jacobite sympathies and when his uncle refused to raise the clan in support of Prince Charles Edward in 1745, it was he who adopted the task, although in so doing he was immediately dismissed from his post as Invercauld's factor. As with most if not all clans, the rebellion split families apart. His uncle did not want any part in the 45 having been through and only narrowly survived the 1715 rebellion. Invercauld's son James, and therefore Francis's cousin joined up with the government forces. His other cousin Anne in contrast was an ardent Jacobite and raised the Macintoshes whilst



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her husband was away fighting for the Hanovarian government forces. She became dubbed Colonel Anne. We don't know exactly why Francis had such Jacobite tendencies but he did.

The ultimate responsibility for raising a Jacobite force from the men of Deeside fell to Lord Lewis Gordon. He was eventually successful in persuading a number of people to the Jacobite cause; foremost amongst these were Francis Farquharson of Monaltrie and James Moir of Stoneywood. These two gentlemen were appointed as Colonels of the Deeside battalion. Under them in lesser positions of command were Harry Farquharson of Whitehouse and James Farquharson of Balmoral. Francis Farquharson of Monaltrie set to work trying to recruit men. After a slow start the ranks began to fill with men coming settlements between Braemar and Banchory.

It was on December 17 that a detachment of some 700 men left Inverness and marched south to liberate Aberdeen and to put a stop to the raising of the clans in Aberdeenshire. The force consisted of two columns, one under the command of Macleod of Macleod from Skye and the other under Captain George Munro. Their plan was to march to Inverurie along separate routes and there unite before marching on to Aberdeen.

Lord Lewis Gordon responded by gathering his forces at Aberdeen. By this time his army had grown to 1200 men with Francis Farquharson of Monaltrie at the head of 300 Farquharsons. Lord Lewis Gordon had the advantage of being kept well informed of Macleod's movements and lay in wait for opportunity to attack. This was provided at Inverurie. Macleod, under the belief that the Jacobite force was marching south to join the main army, divided his men into several small groups. The Jacobite forces marched out from Aberdeen at 9 o'clock on the 23rd December. They had to make risky river crossing in full view of the town. This they did in moonlight

as they fell upon the 300 Macleods in Inverurie. The Macleods put up a gallant fight but were defeated by the superior force. The first military engagement of the Deeside Farquharsons had been a success. The whole force returned to Aberdeen, but soon left to join the Prince's main army which had recently returned to Scotland after its excursion into England.

The Farquharsons joined up with the main army shortly before the Battle of Falkirk. On the January 17 the armies finally drew up into battle order. At this time the Farquharsons were divided into two groups. About 150 were with Francis Farquharson of Monaltrie and formed an escort for the Jacobite artillery. Meanwhile the Jacobite and Government forces were marching at speed to try and gain the best ground for the battle that was about to follow. Francis Farquharson of Monaltrie was still with the cannon when the battle began, but on hearing the first shots he left a small party with the artillery and moved with the rest to join the main body.

Up on the hill, as the final battle lines formed up, the remainder of the Farquharsons, under the command of James Farquharson of Balmoral, found themselves centrally placed in the front line opposite the right flank of three regiments of dragoons. Having fired their muskets, the Highlanders discarded them and advanced with drawn swords, uttering their war cries. The Jacobites won the day, but the victory was not followed up, the Jacobite army returning to the siege of Stirling Castle. On February 1 the Jacobites continued their march north. During the march north, many of the Deeside men took the opportunity of visiting their homes and many were somewhat reluctant to fall back in with the army. Some Farquharsons had reached Braemar over the Cairnwell route and were naturally pleased to be back in their home glens. Some of those Farquharsons who did head north to Moray were becoming unruly and Francis Farquharson of Monaltrie appears to have had trouble keeping them in check. They played at



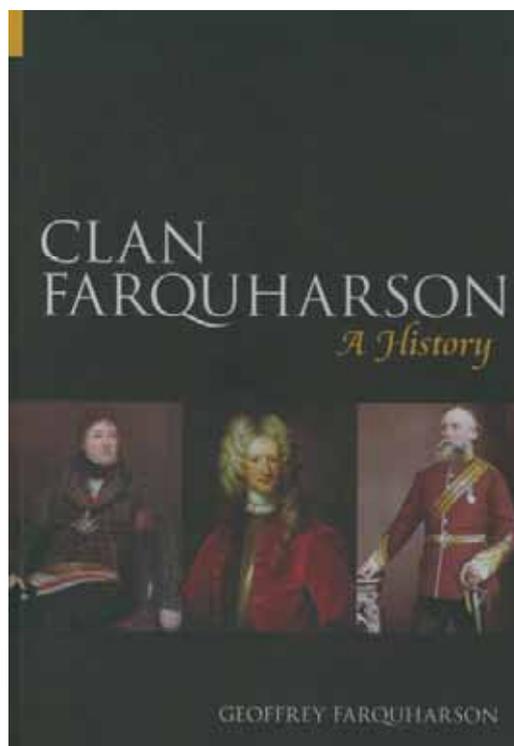
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least some part in the notorious plundering of the House of Cullen.

The marching to and fro lasted into March and April and ensured that the Highland forces were in a poor state by the time they came to take their final battle positions on Drummoisie Moor on the 16th April 1746. Some of the Farquharsons did not arrive in time; many of the Inverey men stayed at home having reached Deeside after the Battle of Falkirk. When called out they were too late, meeting up with survivors fleeing from the battlefield some five or six miles from Culloden. Those Farquharsons who were present numbered about 300 and were stationed in the right centre of the front line. They were the first of the Jacobite forces to attack the government army, but they were outnumbered, exhausted and under-fed. Francis Farquharson of Monaltrie was captured.

He was imprisoned in Inverness for a month before he was transferred to a ship in the harbour, bound for Woolwich. He was on board the ship up until the June 21 after which he was committed initially to Newgate prison and then in the New Gaol, Southwark. Francis Farquharson of Monaltrie would have anticipated very little hope of a pardon and stay of execution. He perhaps contemplated trying to escape from his captors, something a good number of rebels achieved. But Francis Farquharson was a high ranking rebel and would be watched over carefully. It would seem that his fate was sealed.

In August a bill of indictment for high treason was lodged in court against Francis Farquharson of Monaltrie. Along with him is listed a Captain in his regiment, John Farquharson; this is Francis' distant cousin, the Laird of Allargue. They were both brought to the bar on Tuesday 2nd September and pleaded 'not guilty'. The court was



adjourned. When they next appeared in court, on the 8th November 1746, this is what Francis and John pleaded guilty throwing themselves on the King's mercy, but the hoped for mercy was not forthcoming from either jury or judge and sentences of death were passed on them both.

Execution was set for the 28th November on Kensington Common.

For a fuller account of Francis' life and lots more information on the Farquharson Clan refer to A clan Farquharson History by Geoffrey Farquharson available priced £25 by writing to Geoffrey Farquharson at Nether Anguston Croft House, Peterculter, Aberdeenshire, AB14 OPN.



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Letters

Sir,

We received a copy of *The Lion's Face* in the mail.

It was most interesting. As a result I sent an e-mail to Hannah Farquharson, editor to let her know that we had received it and that I had found it to be an excellent publication.

At the same time I also informed her that the mailing address for our association as listed was incorrect. We have not been at that address for at least 15 years.

Sharon Farley had suggested that maybe we could attend the Clan Gathering in Scotland this year. On the weekend of August 18 we will be attending the Farquharson family gathering in Peterborough, Ontario.

Next year the International Gathering of the Clans will take place here in Nova Scotia, as it does every four years. I do hope that Robert Findlay requests that our Clan Chief calls this one so that we can participate as a Clan.

Anyway, between The Nova Scotia International Tattoo, the International Gathering of the Clans, the Tall Ships visit and highland games it is difficult to say at this time what will happen.

I should assure you that attending the Gathering of Clan Farquharson in Scotland is still definitely on our agenda for the future.

We did manage to get our web site up and running over this last year and will be up-dating it in March or April. Our web site at www.clanfarquharsoncanada.ca covers both our Clan Association and the Pipes and Drums of Clan Farquharson. I invite you to visit it and also click on archived items whenever you have time.

With best regards to you and all of Clan Farquharson in the UK.

David R Porter

Clan Farquharson Association of Canada.

8th February 2006

Dear Mr Farquharson

On behalf of the 136 pupils and nearly 30 staff of Ballater School, I write to thank the Clan Farquharson Association for their most generous donation to our 50th Birthday Appeal.

Ballater School, situated in the heart of Farquharson country, is in 2006 celebrating the golden jubilee of the current building – the 'New School' as it is locally known.

As head teacher of the school it gives me great pleasure to ensure this celebratory year is marked in a memorable way for everyone involved in the school past and present.

The school community is extremely fortunate to be supported by a vibrant and hard working Parent, Teacher Association. Over the years the PTA has been responsible for numerous events and occasions run for fund-raising and social reasons. The PTA will undoubtedly pool all their expertise together to support the school in our jubilee events.

The pupils, staff and parents subscribe to a shared aim of making the education of the young people in our care a stimulating and purposeful experience. A recent HME inspection highlighted in glowing terms the very positive pupil experience.

The ever growing pressures on standard school budgets, allows little for the 'frills' or 'extras' which make the school experience all the more special for the children of Ballater and those to come. However, we are fortunate in being able to call upon our friends and community for support and help. We are therefore extremely grateful for the financial support shown by organisations such as yours.

We hope you will look out for us during our celebrations (whole school walk, whole school trip and 50th school photo) and would welcome any Farquharsons along to the school in June to view our displays of photos and class work and anniversary tiles.

Once again, on behalf of all at Ballater School, we thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

LOUISE DUCKWORTH

Head Teacher

Ballater School

Monaltrie Crescent

Ballater

AB35 5RN

December 2005

Val Farquharson (Membership Secretary) wrote to The Editor, the *Lion's Face*.

I enclose details of Patricia & Bill Farquharson's Diamond Wedding anniversary.

Patricia and Bill Farquharson married on July 14 at St Luke's Church, Cambridge.

Patricia Pinney was brought up mainly in the London area and trained as a secretary. In 1942 she joined the



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Women's Auxiliary Air Force, in which her duties included plotting the position of aircrafts on charts in the operations room. In March 1944 she was working in the squadron ops room at RAF Waterbeach, when she was noticed through a window by a young pilot named Bill Farquharson. He immediately remarked to a friend: That s the girl I m going to marry . Sure enough, their wedding took place about four months later.

Bill, whose father was from Kirriemuir in the country of Angus, Scotland, had been born and brought up in the Far East on the Malay Peninsula, where his father was an officer in the Colonial Service. Bill was educated in Singapore and Australia, and come to England to train as a motor engineer with Wolseley Motors in Birmingham, sponsored by the Nuffield Organisation. During the war he joined the Royal Air Force and became a pilot in Bomber Command. He flew 63 sorties and was awarded the DFC and bar for his outstanding skill and courage. His RAF career continued until 1976, by which time he had been promoted to Group Captain. He specialised in the training of pilots, and became Deputy Director of Flying Training at the Ministry of Defence; other notable postings included Commanding Officer of RAF Episkopi, Cyprus and Defence Attache in Warsaw.

Pat, as the wife of a serving officer, led a busy life, especially when Bill was a Station Commander. Their family was complete by their three children Tina, Carol and Jonathon and they now have seven grandchildren, with another expected.

After leaving the RAF Bill worked for Singer Link Miles on international marketing of flight simulators, retiring in 1984. Pat and Bill settled in Oak Avenue, Storrington, 26 years ago and for most of that time Pat has been delivering Three Heralds magazine to a large number of homes each month. She is also a talented flower-arranger, formerly helping regularly with the flowers at St Barnabas Hospice in Worthing. Bill is president of the Royal Air Forces Association (Storrington Branch), serves on the local Royal British Legion committee, and has been national Chairman (now Vice-President) of the Bomber Command Association. Both Patricia and Bill belong to Storrington Bowling Club, and Bill is a founder-member of West Chiltington Golf Club.

Malcolm Acheson, The Royal air forces association.

11th March 2006

GREETINGS EVERYBODY!!!

The Clan Chisholm Society are once again organising on behalf of The City of Inverness Highland Games Committee a Clan Village; and cordially invite you all to have a display Table with Chairs on SATURDAY

JULY 22nd at BUGHT PARK. Format as before Tables and Chairs provided within the tented Clan Village.

Thus, we look forward to hearing from you and we hope you will be able to attend...

With our very best wishes to you all,
From Ben and Juliette. (Chisholm-Broomfield).
The Clan Chisholm Society.
jmhrcb@waitrose.com

4th February 2006
Gordon,

It is good to hear from you. And, sorry to hear about your illness, and that you caught it in the States.

Thank you for sending the information on your Gathering in Ballater, August, 2006.
And also the copy of the August issue of 'The Lion's Face'. Your daughter, Hannah is doing a wonderful job.

Do you remember us talking about trying to get more involved with the other Clan Farquharson Societies, a few years ago?

I do contact both Robert Findlay, President, Clan Farquharson Association of Canada. and David Porter, Merbership Chairman, Clan Farquharson, Canada.

They had tried to contact some of the UK members, but did not get any response.

So, I will take this chance, by sticking my nose and neck out, and try to get this back on track.

In "The Lion's Face", I see that the contact info for Robert Findlay, is incorrect.

They also send me their Newsletter, "The Cairngorm Echo". In the last issue, Summer & Autumn 2005, they have listed the contact info on their Executive Council, as follows:

I think it would be great to get everyone together, don't you?

You might decide to send both Robert and David, each copies of what you sent me.

I think they would be happy to receive word from the UK Farquharsons. And maybe they could come over for the 2006 Gathering. It can't hurt to make the offer.

I guess this is my two cents, or two pence worth.

I will talk to you later.

Take care, Sharon Farley, Clan Farquharson USA



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An announcement in

The Cairngorm Echo

The Newsletter of the Clan Farquharson
Association of Canada.

Planning is underway for:

The International Gathering of the Clans
to be held in Nova Scotia in the Summer
of 2007.

www.clanfarquharsoncanada.ca


DNA
Heritage
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.

If you want to learn more, contact Andrew
Farquharson.

andrewthefarmer@hotmail.com