

The Lion's Face

Games Edition 2006

Newsletter of Clan Farquharson UK
www.farquharson-clan.co.uk



In this edition:

- President's message;
- Report from the Worthing Gathering in May;
- Part 2 – Francis Farquharson story;
- Letters.



The Farquharson Cairn



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President's Prattle

Welcome to the 2006 Games Edition of the Lion's Face. This is my last edition as President; I have come to the end of my 3-year term of office. The last 3 years have rushed by at an unbelievable speed. I have been very proud to represent the Clan and carry the torch from Alan Caig, my predecessor. It has been a great honour to be involved with our association, marching with the Chief (Alan carrying the Banner), at the Ballater games in 2005 was the highlight. My successor will be elected during the AGM in Ballater on 12th August. I wish my successor all the best for a rewarding and enjoyable term in office.

On a personal front, Jane & I were delighted that Hannah (our daughter and Lion's Face Editor) announced her engagement to Mark Jones. I'm sure you will all join me in wishing them health and good fortune in their life together.

I'm delighted we have attracted new blood to the committee, but still more support is needed; the association relies on member's active support. Margaret Finlay and Jeanette Farquharson joined the committee and have contributed to our planning for the 2006 Gathering and are undertaking essential background tasks related to regalia and membership.



President Gordon
Farquharson

Changes to the constitution:

The current constitution of the clan association has been in place since 2001. At the 2005 AGM, members agreed in principle that the association should introduce an honorary position to recognise contribution to the Clan Association's objectives. The committee has considered this decision, and has decided to introduce the title of Honorary Vice President. The committee would nominate individuals to be Honorary Vice-Presidents; they would not have committee or member voting rights. These proposals will be brought to the membership at the AGM in Ballater in August 2006, and if ratified will immediately be implemented through a revision of the Constitution. The association looks forward very much to this mechanism for developing and maintaining important contacts and links to strengthen our activities.

- The next edition of the Lion's Face is set to appear in February 2007 and we are always on the look out for your contributions. Any Clan or family news or photographs of events would be most welcome. In addition, if you have any comments about the Lion's Face don't forget to contact the editor.

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Clan Farquharson at the Beech Hotel, Worthing, May 2006

The Clan met again in Worthing in May this year. Margaret Finlay wrote telling us that a dozen members met in the Beech Hotel, on the front at Worthing. Drinks in the bar were followed by lunch and time to chat. Some of the attendees are captured here in the lounge after lunch.

Our thanks go to Val Farquharson who organised the meeting again for us this year. Anyone else who wants to organise a local gathering is of course free to do so. Drop Val an e-mail (valerie@farquharson6.wanadoo.co.uk) if you want any tips or contact information.



Membership secretary & organiser Val Farquharson (Val's husband John can be seen back right of the picture). Thanks for all your hard work Val!



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A short History of Francis Farquharson (part 2)

In part 1 we got this far in the story:

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.

Part 2.....

MONALTRIE HOUSE



In the morning of the 28th news arrived of a reprieve for both Francis and John. Three of the five Jacobites to have been hanged that day were reprieved.

For Francis Farquharson reprieve did not mean pardon and he returned to prison. Why was he reprieved? Whilst imprisoned in London, his friends and acquaintances in Scotland had been busy getting up petitions for his pardon and release. He was obviously held in high esteem by many people including ministers of the Church of Scotland.

In the various petitions, he is particularly lauded for his good nature and his work with the church and charitable schools. One of the petitions is somewhat unusual in that it was submitted by a group of Government soldiers taken prisoner by the rebel army. In it they stress how well he treated the prisoners under his control and how he protected them against insults and aggression from the ordinary rebel soldiers. There is even a hint that he may have helped some of the prisoners escape. Francis Farquharson tried to help himself out of his predicament asking it to be known by the Government that he would help, even partially fund, the building of new roads in the Highlands.



It was presumably the combined weight of these various petitions that persuaded the authorities to reprieve Francis Farquharson of Monaltrie. However, the existence and might



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of the petitions did not prevent a more romantic reason for his reprieve developing on Deeside. The tale, as told in a footnote in the 'Records of Invercauld' explains that:

'Condemned to be executed on the 15th November, the sentence was to be carried out on the 28th. Monaltrie had made every preparation for his impending fate without the least hope of any possibility of escape. He was being led through the hall with 21 others to the when a messenger arrived and handed to the officer in charge a document containing his reprieve. Monaltrie eagerly inquired to whom he was indebted for his life; but no inquiry elicited any other information than that he owed it to a lady whose name was carefully concealed from him. But it is generally understood that having seen him in the Rebel army, she was so impressed with his handsome person and noble bearing, that she resolved, when he became a prisoner, to leave no effort untried to obtain his pardon and release, in which she ultimately succeeded.'

Francis Farquharson was initially placed under the control of a messenger, Mr Money, who was to ensure that his charge did not leave London. In 1748 Francis asked that he be allowed to leave London and the authorities said that he could live somewhere in Hertfordshire but would be restricted to a radius of 10 miles around that place.

Thus, Francis Farquharson began a life in the home counties of England. His stay in Hertfordshire lasted a total of 18 years. It appears that he spent his time profitably; learning about the agricultural methods employed in southern England in the hope that one day he would return to Deeside and

be able to improve the methods employed there.

In 1764, towards the end of his time in Hertfordshire, Francis Farquharson of Monaltrie married Miss Elizabeth Eyre, in Derbyshire. The Eyre family was a staunchly Catholic family with Jacobite sympathies. Francis Farquharson finally returned to Deeside in 1766. In a note written by Francis, he tallies up his days in confinement to 20 years, four months and one day.

Due to his active participation in the rebellion of 1745 his lands had been forfeited and laid waste. His house at Monaltrie had been burnt to the ground by troops but he built a replacement home at the foot of Craighendarroch. Initially the house was called Ballater House, although today it is known as Monaltrie House.

In 1775, he petitioned the Barons of the Exchequer, who to all intents were the holders of the properties forfeited from Jacobite leaders, for a lease of certain parts of what had been his property. His request was granted and he obtained a 41-year lease of his former estate. Nine years later, he resumed full ownership of the estate when an Act was passed allowing the forfeited estates to be returned to their former owners or heirs upon payment of a sum of money. Francis Farquharson paid £1,613 and once again became truly Francis Farquharson of Monaltrie.

When Francis Farquharson built his new home, the town of Ballater did not exist. In fact, its existence is largely due to this returning exile, who having settled back in his native valley devoted the rest of his life to improving the infrastructure and agriculture of the area.

A few years after his death an appreciation of his work in the local area was written by the



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Rev Brown, minister of the parish, in the Old Statistical Account of Scotland (1796):

'A beautiful bridge of three arches and a small one at each end, called the Bridge of Ballater, was lately built by subscription, and other contributions, under the patronage of the late Francis Farquharson, Esq. of Monaltrie, a gentleman who has left many lasting monuments of his public spirit in this country.'

PANNANICH WELLS



Mineral waters were discovered at Pannanich sometime before the 1745 rising. For many years they remained just natural wells amongst the heather and birch. It is said that an elderly woman by the name of Elspet Michie who had the 'King's Evil' (scrofula - tuberculosis of the lymph nodes) took to bathing in the water around the wells being convinced that this would help her in her illness. She continued her bathing despite her neighbours believing her to be deranged and was rewarded in her persistence by her health being restored.

News of her cure spread and when Francis Farquharson returned from exile in 1766 he took a particular interest in the restorative

properties of the Pannanich waters, which happened to lie on his land. He had the waters analysed and after positive results began to develop the springs into a spa.

One school of thought has it that Francis Farquharson of Monaltrie primarily set up Pannanich Wells to provide a congenial meeting place for Jacobites following the immediate aftermath of the rebellion. Certainly, a group of Jacobites had been frequenting the spa at Peterhead and a number of them visited Pannanich once the facilities had been built.



Those coming to Pannanich to take the waters who could not be accommodated at the wells themselves had to seek sustenance across the River at Tullich. The village thrived on its new found business but it was not long before the ferry across the River linking Tullich with the wells, became overstretched and in 1783 the first of the Ballater bridges was built. At this time, Ballater was simply a flat area of heather moorland where cattle could be rested on their way south to market. The only buildings were a small number of hovels.

It was Francis Farquharson's idea that a new town should be built here to accommodate visitors to the wells. With the construction of the bridge, the first step in Ballater's creation had been taken but the building of the town itself did not get underway until after Francis

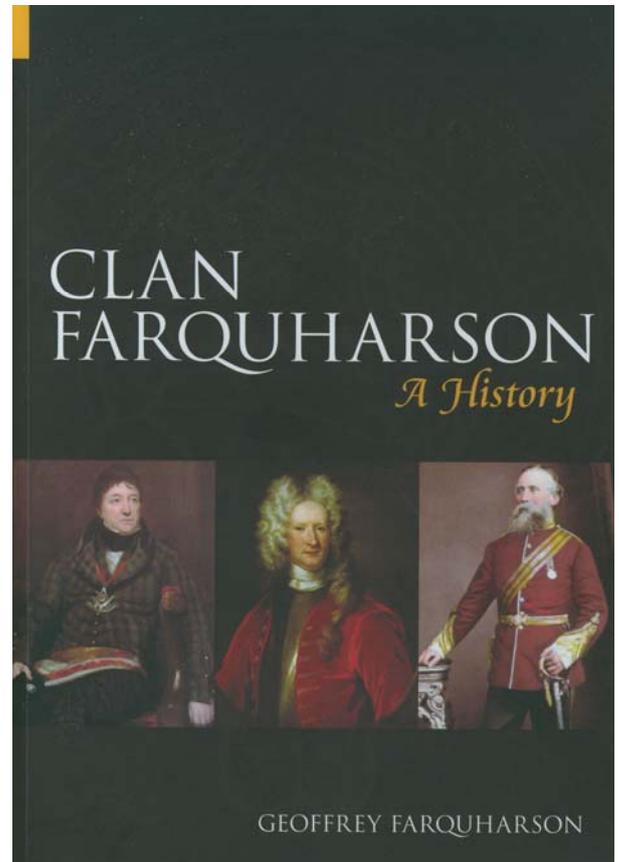


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Farquharson's death. Francis's nephew and heir, William shared his uncle's vision for the development of the area and took the concept of the new town through to completion. William was the eldest son of Francis Farquharson's younger brother, Robert.

Through the early years of the 19th century, Pannanich Wells increased steadily in popularity. The original buildings laid out by Francis Farquharson of Monaltrie rapidly became unsuitable and when the public road was re-routed from the banks of the River Dee up the hillside to the site of the wells themselves, a new lodge with greater capacity was erected close to the wells. By the middle of the 19th century, the glories of Pannanich were beginning to fade. When William died in 1828, Monaltrie and all its associated lands passed to the Invercauld Estate.

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

Greetings from overseas

April 22

Sir,

Greetings once again from Canada. Many, many thanks for sending me the latest copy of The Lion's Face. I really did enjoy reading about the activities that Clan Farquharson, UK has participated in. As well, the photographs were excellent and the articles informative.

The article, "A Short History of Francis Farquharson (part 1) by Dr. Geoffrey Farquharson was most informative and I am sure it would be of interest to Clan Farquharson members here in Canada.

I should again mention that the mailing address for Clan Farquharson Association of Canada, shown on the back page of the last edition of The Lion's Face, is still incorrect. The address:- Clan Farquharson Association of Canada, PO. Box 9101, Station 'A', Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3K 5M1, is no longer valid and is replaced by:- Clan Farquharson Association of Canada, Dartmouth S.C.R.P.O., PO. Box 23045, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada, B3A 4S9.

With best regards to all Clan Farquharson in the U.K.,
David R. Porter.

News about Braemar Castle

July 18

Sir

I am secretary for Braemar Community Ltd. We are taking on the lease of Braemar Castle from Invercauld Estate to restore the castle and open it to the public again.

Through the help of a sponsor I have been able to purchase the contents of the castle on behalf of BCL for £53,000.

We are just completing the feasibility study and fabric study of the castle to determine the work that has to be done. At the moment it looks like £1.3 million is need over the next few years.



We're going to form a charitable trust to care for the building and other associated historic structure. It would be great to involve The Clan Farquharson Society. I am meeting with Alwynne Farquharson in August.

Would the society be interested? If so I would be happy to supply you with further information.

Regards
Bill Marshall
Mountain Cottage
Chapel Brae, Braemar
Aberdeenshire, AB35 5YT
Tel 01339 741695

President's note: This is a great opportunity for active involvement in the clan heritage. Please contact the Lion's Face to let us know your feelings about this.



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Message from our website

July 2

Greetings from Australia, and congratulations on your excellent site. We have established a website to try and link Gunns [a family] in Australia, and have listed your clan's site in our kindred societies area at www.clangunnaustralia.org/kindredsocs.html

We invite you to link to our page at www.clangunnaustralia.org

Yours aye

Kind regards

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July 21

[In conversation with President Gordon Farquharson about attending this year's gathering]

It was good catching up with you as well. After having given it much consideration, unfortunately we are not going to be able to make it this year.

We would definitely like to attend next year and would be grateful if you could advise the dates and we will add them to our travel calendar for 2007.

I look forward to catching up with you at some stage soon.

Kind Regards

Scott Farquhar

(Scott and his family are Australian, resident currently in the UK. Scott works for Bovis Lend Lease.)

e-mail: Scott.Farquhar@LendLease.co.uk

July 17

My Great-Grandfather, Robert Finlay, came to the U.S. from County Down, Ireland.

Family history shows his family lived in Scotland.

Does anyone have knowledge of Finlays in Ireland?

James Finlay Snow; e-mail snowman@olp.net

June 22

I seek information on the farquhars/farquharsons from the northeast of Scotland before 1800. I have much information to share for 11 generations of my family.

Jim Farquhar; e-mail farquhar1097@rogers.com



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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.

Why not look at their website:

www.clanfarquharsoncanada.ca



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