

Membership Eligibility

You automatically become a member of Clan MacLaren by birth, marriage, or adoption. Membership in the CMSNA will enable you to fully participate in Clan activities and celebration. To become a member of the Society, simply visit our tent at one of the many Highland Games or Scottish festivals held each year across the US and Canada, write the Membership Secretary, or the web: www.clanmaclarena.org

Clan MacLaren Names

MacLaren	McLaren	MacLaurin
McLaurin	MacLauren	McLauren
MacLarin	McClarin	MacLaran
McLaran	McClaran	MacLeran
MacLaurie	McLaurie	Laurence
Lawrence	Law	Lawson
Low	Lowe	Lawrie
Laurie	Lowery	Lowry
Patterson	Paterson	Peterson
MacPater	Patrick	MacPatrick
MacRory	McRory	MacGory
MacRuari	and other spelling variations	

Membership Classes

FAMILY	Parents and all children under 18 years old. One vote per family membership. Annual dues: \$25.00
INDIVIDUAL	Individuals or organizations. One vote per individual membership. Annual dues: \$25.00
WOOD BADGE	Any scout leader awarded the wood badge. Membership is non-voting. Annual dues: \$15.00
LIFE	Lifetime membership. One vote per life membership. One time dues: \$250.00

Clan MacLaren

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Clan MacLaren Society Of North America



Clan History

Clan MacLaren has occupied the lands in Balquhider and Strathearn since the 12th Century, where, along with MacGregor, Ferguson, and MacNab, they were the predominant clan. The name derived from Labhran (Laurin) of Ardveche who was hereditary Abbot of Achthus in Balquhider in the 13th Century. The MacLarens signed the Ragman's Roll in 1296. In the 14th Century they became Crown tenants without actual ownership of the land.

The MacLarens were a warlike clan with strong ties to the Stewarts of Appin. The Clan fought at Flodden in 1513, and suffered severely at Culloden on the Prince's side in 1746. Sir Walter Scott visited Balquhider on legal business, which he describes in the introduction to "Rob Roy". In "Redgauntlet" he describes the escape of MacLaren of Invernenty after Culloden.

In 1672, after many official records were lost an Act of Parliament ordained that all nobility and gentry in Scotland register their armorial bearings with the Lord Lyon. Because of the earlier loss of the legal title to Clan lands, the then chiefly head of the Clan Labhran, and his successors, did not trouble to register his arms. The result was that the Clan became officially landless pending the chief's compliance with the Act.

Of course the Clan continued to recognize its own chiefs, and during the Jacobite rising came out as a Clan. In 1957, Donald MacLaren (father of the current Chief) finally complied with the Act by recording the ancient Arms in the Lord Lyon Register. The Chief also acquired title to a small part of the traditional Clan lands (including the ancient gathering site of Creag an Tuirc) and the stigma of “chiefless and landless” was removed.

The heartland of the Clan MacLaren lies in and around the parish of Balquhidder, and the hills that slope north from Loch Voil and Loch Doine, which are known as the famous Braes o’ Balquhidder. The parish is 18 miles long and 7 miles wide, and includes the west end of Loch Earn and most of Loch Lubnaig. The ruined Kirk of the village is dated 1631, and lies near the site of an even earlier church. The present church was built in 1855. Graves in the Kirk yard date from 1685 and include that of Rob Roy MacGregor.

The ancient rallying place of the Clan was Creag an Tuirc (The Boar’s Rock), which is on a small hill overlooking the Kirk, and can be approached by a fairly steep path. In 1987 the Clan Society erected a cairn to commemorate the founding of the Society.

Another branch of the Clan was connected with Tiree and included the distinguished mathematician Professor Colin MacLaren. This branch is now dormant.

Chief of Clan MacLaren

The current Chief of Clan Labhran is Donald MacLaren of MacLaren. Donald, who is a member of the British Foreign Service, succeeded his father as Chief in 1966. Donald and Maida have five children, and when not on foreign assignment, live at Kirkton Farm in Balquhidder.

The coat of arms of MacLaren of MacLaren and Achleskine is reserved solely for the use of the Chief. The Clan Badge is for the use of members of the Clan for brooches, cap badges, writing paper, etc. It has a crowned lion with leaves of laurel, and a buckled belt with the slogan “CREAG AN TUIRC”.

Clan MacLaren Society of North America

Donald MacLaren, father of the current chief, conceived the idea of a Clan MacLaren Society. The Clan MacLaren Society was organized in Scotland in 1962. As interest in Clan MacLaren spread, the Clan MacLaren Society USA was chartered in Texas in 1967.

The Clan MacLaren Society USA was strictly focused on genealogy, and they compiled a vast amount of information. The Society dissolved in 1979, having met the original goal of assembling a storehouse of MacLaren genealogy.

The Clan MacLaren Society of North America was chartered in GA in 1981. The CMSNA set broad goals to support of the Clan MacLaren and the Scottish community in general. The CMSNA has a multifaceted purpose: 1) to support, promote, and publicize the Clan MacLaren in the US and Canada; 2) to promote celebration of family heritage of MacLarens; 3) to inform members and others about the history, traditions, and accomplishments of Clan MacLaren; 4) to provide a vehicle for interaction and a common bond among North American MacLarens; and 5) to promote education.

Genealogy continues to be a major focus, with the original Society USA records expanded many times over. The entire MacLaren Genealogy repository can be viewed at the Ellen Odom Payne Library in Moultrie, GA.

The Scouting Connection

Gilwell Park in Essex is the principal training ground for British scout leaders. The Park was gifted by William F. de Bois MacLaren in 1919, and in his memory, a scouter who has gained his wood badge wears a patch of MacLaren tartan on his neckerchief. The CMSNA has established a special membership and any scouter who has earned the Wood Badge may join the Society.

CMSNA Structure

Officers of CMSNA consist of an elected President and Vice-President. A Corresponding Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Secretary/ Treasurer, Legal Council, and Editor are appointed. A Clan Council composed of the officers and Regional Representatives from the geographic areas of the US and Canada are responsible for governing the Society. Society business is conducted at an Annual General Meeting, or at such times as other meetings are called. Mail ballots can also be utilized. In addition, other Society activities are handled by various standing or special committees.

CMSNA also offers the opportunity for membership in the Clan MacLaren Society of Scotland. Annual or life dues for the Scottish Society may be paid through the CMSNA.

Newsletter

The CMSNA publishes a newsletter, the MacLaren Standard, four times each year for the purpose of informing the Society membership of Clan activities, as well as to feature articles on history, culture, genealogy, etc. A copy of each newsletter is provided to all members.

Highland Games

The Clan MacLaren Society of North America is a fixture at most of the major Highland Games held in the US and Canada. A list of upcoming events is published in the Standard.

The Scottish Society maintains a tent at the Lochearnhead Games in Scotland, and are always delighted to welcome clansfolk from all over world. The Games normally are held on the third Saturday of July each year. Lochearnhead has become a famous watersports center and excellent accommodations are available in the area.