

DEDICATION REMARKS BY COLIN McINNES -
MEMORIAL BENCH DEDICATED TO
DONALD MACINNES

St. John's Church, Ballachulish, Scotland May 16, 2010



DONALD MACINNES 1931-2007

On a sunny day in May in the beautiful surroundings of Ballachulish, Clan MacInnes members paid tribute to Donald MacInnes at the dedication of a granite bench in his memory.

But for Donald, we who are here today, as members of the wide MacInnes family under the banner of the Clan MacInnes International Association, would not have known each other. Donald was responsible for the setting up of the UK Association in 1997 although he had been a member of the US Association from 1993. As a result of the American Members tour to Scotland in 1997, I met Donald for the first time; and I suggested that the time had come to have a UK association. Donald took up the task of formulating the Association as we know it today.

I do not think that I can pay any greater tribute to Donald than repeat some of the words I read at his funeral service in St Columba's Church in Glasgow in January 2007.

“We all know that life forever is not possible; but if it were, Donald would deserve to remain with us indefinitely.

“Donald MacInnes was the embodiment of the Highland Spirit. He was a human archive on Highland Clan History and the final authority on all things MacInnes. He loved to search through history and find the links from past to present. No enquiry about Clan MacInnes or Scottish history was too trivial, whether it came from Scotland, Canada, Hong Kong, Australia, Brazil, or the USA. He answered them all willingly, thoughtfully, accurately. Donald served brilliantly as the International Vice President of Clan MacInnes.

“We remember him as a renaissance man. His interests were wide ranging from history to politics and religion to art. He had an insatiable curiosity, comfortable as a teacher or as a student.

“Our membership will remember his ready smile, his warm handshake, his laugh of gusto, and his amazing way of solving problems with tact and wisdom. Some referred to him as Sir Donald, with respect and admiration for his breadth of

knowledge and keen insight. Donald was a true gentleman in every sense of the word.

“Donald was our mentor, but more importantly he was our friend. Those of us who met him valued his friendship and integrity. He enriched our lives and personified our Scottish heritage in a grander than life way. We shall never see his likes again, but our wonderful memories of Donald will help us to carry on.

“He left a huge legacy to all of us in his writing, research, and organisational skills; and as a lasting memorial to him the Association has had this lovely granite bench placed here in St. John's Church, Ballachulish, in MacInnes country.”

The memorial in this chosen place will serve as a lasting tribute to Donald. It would be remiss of the Clan Association not to thank Iain McKenzie, Church Warden and the members of the Vestry for their assistance and cooperation for the memorial bench to be placed here. Our thanks also go to the Rector, Reverend A

Fallows for dedicating this special memorial on our behalf.

John Alexander then gave a reading of Psalm 121, “I will lift up mine eyes to the hills, from whence cometh my help....”

This reminded me of the day in 1997 when the inner doors at Keil Church were dedicated to the Clan MacInnes during the tour of members from the US, and we sang the hymn based on this psalm. That was the occasion when I met Donald for the very first time.

Following the reading of the psalm the Rector read a passage from the Book of John chapter 14 including the words, “In my

Father's house there are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you.... Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more, but ye see me, because I live, ye shall live also.”

A prayer and the dedication of the memorial to Donald followed.

It was agreed by those present that we had witnessed a moving tribute to an outstanding member of our Clan whose service will remain forever in our memory.



Pictured from left to right: John Alexander, Colin McInnes, and Reverend. A Fallows .

Photos on this page courtesy of Colin McInnes.