

Chieftains of the Games

Margaret Frances Boswell Elliott, 29th Chief of Clan Elliott



This will be my first visit to Grandfather Mountain and my husband, Christopher and I are really looking forward to this wonderful annual event. I am so pleased and honoured to have been invited.

I was fortunate to have inherited from my father, Sir Arthur Elliott of Stobs, a remarkably well-organized clan society which he had founded in 1972. I have been chief of the clan now for twenty-eight years and been lucky enough to attend a number of Gatherings in North America. I am delighted to be attending the world-renowned 63rd Grandfather Mountain Highland Games.

At home in Scotland we live five miles from the English border in a farmhouse which was built out of the stones of the original peel tower of the Elliots of Redheugh. This is in the heart of the ancient Elliot lands in Liddesdale and every four years we welcome Elliots from all over the world to gather together for a riotous weekend celebrating our common ancestry.

I was closely involved in organizing the Clan Convention in 2009 and the Flodden Commemoration Service in 2013 for the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs resigning from the Executive two years ago.

The history of the Scottish Borders is a fascinating one and markedly different from the Highland story. We love living in the Borders and I am very much involved in the local community as a Community Councillor and as a Deputy Lieutenant of Ettrick Roxburgh and Lauderdale.

I have a son, a married daughter and a grandson as well as a stepson, stepdaughter and six step grandchildren. A husband, Christopher Wilkins, who is accompanying me to North Carolina and a small black scruffy terrier who isn't.

THE MACTHOMAS OF FINEGAND



Andrew MacThomas of Finegand has been the 19th Chief of Clan MacThomas for forty-seven years. He grew up in Edinburgh and was educated in both Scotland and England. He is retired from his role as Public Affairs Director of Barclays plc, one of the world's leading financial services companies based in London, where he still lives with his Dutch-born wife, Anneke. They have two children, Tom and Amy.

Finegand is also President of the Clan MacThomas Society, Vice-President of the Clan Chattan Association (which includes: Davidson, Farquharson, MacBean, MacGillivray, MacIntosh, MacPhail, MacPherson, MacQueen, Shaw and MacThomas), and, since 2010, a Member of the Executive Committee of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs.

Since succeeding to the Chiefship, Finegand has dedicated a great deal of time to promoting his ancient clan and re-establishing the Clan's historic links with Glenshee. In the 1970's, the Chief arranged for the Clan's ancient Gathering Place, Clach na Choileach, which was owned by a member of his family, to be made over to the Clan Society in perpetuity. In the 1980's, Finegand successfully lobbied for the new bridge over the River Shee at the Spittal to be named "The MacThomas Bridge" in recognition of the original clansfolk, who first settled beside the river in the 15th Century. In the 1990's, Finegand purchased all the land around Clach na Choileach on behalf of his Clan Society and oversaw the complete redevelopment of the Gathering site.

To make his ancient Clan better known, Finegand was the first MacThomas Chief to visit Australia, South Africa, Canada and the USA, the latter on many occasions. His last visit to GMHG was in 1979 so, after a gap of 39 years, we are delighted to welcome him back, where he will be accompanied by his son, Tom, who has business interests in New York.