

## Clan MacLaren Society to have New Keeper of Chief's Pinsel

By Ted Severe

As of the beginning of 2007, the Chief's Pinsel of the Clan MacLaren Society of North America for the eastern United States will be transferred to a new Keeper. The Society wishes to thank Houston Lowry for his years as the Keeper and distributor of the Chief's Pinsels that have been sent all over the United States to be used at Highland events where the Clan MacLaren Society was in attendance.

The new Keeper of the Eastern Chief's Pinsel will be Ted Severe, Wood Badge Life member and also Wood Badge Co-Ordinator for the Mid-Atlantic Region of the Society. Requests for the Chief's Pinsel, after 1 January 2007 should be directed to Ted using any of the following:

Mail: Mr. Ted Severe, 3218 McElderry Street, Baltimore MD 21205-2819  
Email: severefamily@verizon.net

For convenors in the Western United States (west of the Mississippi River), please send your requests for the western Chief's Pinsel to Ms. Barbara Gard, Vice President of the Clan MacLaren Society and Keeper of the Western Chief's Pinsel, using any of the following:

Mail: Ms. Barbara Gard, 1100 N Street, #3C, Sacramento CA 95814-5636  
Email: Barbara-Gard@calpsych.org

You may be wondering just what is the "Chief's Pinsel?" A pinsel is an heraldic flag and, in Scotland, its design and use is prescribed by the Court of the Lord Lyon. The following is from the Lyon Court's website and describes the pinsel and its usage:

*"This is the flag denoting a person to whom a Clan Chief has designated authority for a particular occasion, such as a Clan Gathering when the Chief is absent, in a word, the flag is the Chief's representative. It is triangular in shape, 60 centimetres high at the hoist and 135 centimetres in width tapering to a point, with a background of the main livery colour of the Chief's arms. On it is shown the Chief's crest, within a strap of the second livery colour and buckle (gold for full Chiefs), bearing the motto, and outside the strap and buckle a gold circlet (outlined in green if the background is not a contrasting colour to gold) inscribed with the Chief's title. On top of this circlet is set the owner's coronet of rank or his baronial cap. In the fly is shown the owner's plant badge and a scroll inscribed with his slogan or motto. This flag is allotted only to Chiefs or very special Chieftain-Barons for practical use, and only upon the specific authority of the Lord Lyon King of Arms."*

[Insert a picture of the Clan MacLaren Chief's Pinsel]

The Chief's Pinsel for the eastern United States will be available on a first come-first served basis. There will be some events where the Society deems the Chief's Pinsel must be in attendance. These dates and locations will take priority over requests for other Highland events that may also be taking place on the same date. Please send in your requests as early as possible. The Pinsel will be placed in a plastic ziploc plastic bag and then placed within a tyvek envelope.

This envelope will be sealed with a piece of packing tape so that it can be re-used to send the Pinsel to its next destination or to be returned to the Keeper of the Pinsel. An addressed label will be provided in the plastic bag with the Pinsel for the next destination. The Pinsel will be sent USPS Priority Mail that has 3-4 day delivery. Please send the Pinsel on to its next destination by the same means.

You can request the Pinsel for a group of dates. Please remember that certain dates for the Society will have priority and you will be advised if one of your requested dates falls into this category. Also, in order to achieve maximum usage of the Pinsel in its large geographic coverage area, this consideration may be a factor in the availability of the Pinsel for your list of requested dates. Please send off the Pinsel as soon after your event (Monday morning) as you can so that it will be able to travel and arrive for its next use the weekend after yours.