

Volume I - Issue No. Two

Section 3

July 2007

## Granpa's Page: This time we introduce Aidan Connor Shy & Gene A. Shy

Thought it might be fun to feature each month some of the "Scottish Highland Games Movers and Shakers of the Future" - the grandchildren of our friends who work and participate in our Scottish Highland games of today.

Our first grandparent/grandchild pair are Gene A. Shy, Director of Logistics and Operations at the Glasgow Highland Games,



0002-07-1311

Inc. Gene sent along these photos of Aidan Connor Shy who was three years old on June 17.

Gene says it won't be long before Aidan will go with Grandpa as he works the games. Aidan had a big time at the Glasgow Games this year!

Please send along photos of YOUR grandsons and granddaughters so they mayb e featured here. I only need photo identification and names of the family. Just send the photos as jpeg files, please. Send to: <br/>
<br/>
bethscribble@aol.com>



Page 62 Beth's Newfangled Family Tree

## Laird Glenbarr, Angus Macalister honored with Outstanding Achievement Award on his birthday

The Board of Directors and Officers of Clan MacAlister have awarded Laird Glenbarr, Angus Macalister its highest individual award - The Outstanding Achievement Award.

Angus has been a great supporter and benefactor of Clan MacAlister.

The award was presented on the occasion of Laird Glenbarr's 70th birthday.

The award reads: "Be it resolved; That on the occasion of the 70th birthday of Laird Glernbarr, Angus MacAlister, on March 27, 2007; And in honor of his lifelong commitment to the preservation of the name, history and honor of the Glenbarr family; And that in appreciation of his extraordinary gift of Glenbarr Abbey to all MacAlister Clansmen worldwide as the Clan MacAlister Centre; And in recognition of his unwavering love of Scotland and his commitment to the preservation of Highland culture and heritage; It is hereby resolved that Clan MacAlister Society recognizes Angus Macalister, 5th Laird of Glenbarr, Representer of the Ancient and Noble House of Macalister of Glenbarr, with its highest award to an individual for service and commitment to Clan MacAlister, the "Outstanding Achievement Award."

Signed and Sealed this day, March 27, 2007. Sadly, Laird Glenbarr passed away shortly afterwards. If you'd like more information on Clan MacAlister, please visit http://www.clanmacalistersociety.org.





## Remaining 2007 Games Schedule

(Please let us know if you know of more games. Just send to bethscribble@aol.com)

July 7 -8	Monterey, CA	September 15 Charleston, SC
July 12-15	Grandfather Mountain	September 29 Dixon, CA
	Linville, NC	September 22 - 23 Bethlehem, PA
July 21-22	Flagstaff, AZ	September 30 Holmdel, NJ
July 28-29	Seattle, WA	October 6 Hartwell, GA
August 25	Old Westbury, LI, NY	October 6 Smithville, NJ
September 1, 2	Pleasanton, CA	October 12-14 Ventura, CA
September 1	McLain, Carlisle, PA	October 20 - 21 Stone Mountain, GA
September 8, 9	Celtic, Green Lane, PA	October 27 Waxhaw, NC
September 8	Ligonier, PA	October 3 Hendersonville, NC
September 15-16	Fresno, CA	November 3-4 Tucson, AZ

# Clan Graham Society sets AGM for Stone Mountain Highland Games

The Clan Graham Society announces its 2007 Annual General Meeting will be held Thursday, October 18 through Sunday, October 21, in conjunction with the Stone Mountain Highland Games near Atlanta, Georgia.

On Thursday, the 18th, there will be an officers meeting at the host hotel and also an officers luncheon.

While the officers are working, the rest of the membership will take a coach ride to and from the host hotel to attend a luncheon at the Swan Coach House and enjoy a tour of the Georgia Governor's Mansion.

On Friday, there will be an 11:30 AM luncheon and the AGM at the host hotel. At 8:00 PM the annual Mugdock Auction will be held at the hotel. (If you plan on attending, please bring an item to donate for the auction.)

Saturday, October 20 everyone will be free to enjoy the Stone Mountain Highland Games at Stone Mountain Park. In the evening, the Graham's will enjoy a Grand Banquet and Ceilidh at the host hotel.

Sunday, October 21, will be more Games at Stone Mountain Park with a Farewell Reception at the home of Kate and Richard Graham in Lilburn, GA.

If you would like more information and prices for the events, please contact Macdonald Dick at macdick@bellsouth.net or write Clan Graham Society, 109 Brandylynn Trace, Woodstock, GA 39188,

#### Clan Campbell Society invites you

The Clan Campbell Society (North America) is a society for members of Clan Campbell, including Campbells, those with Campbell Family names and Friends of the Clan.

The Clan Campbell Society has been in existence since 1974 when it was begun in the United States. Since 1992, it has been The Clan Campbell Society, NA. It is a nonprofit, nonpolitical and nonsectarian organization.

The Society publishes the Journal of the Clan



Clan Graham on parade at Estes Park, Colorado a few years ago.

Campbell Society, NA, which is the heart of communications among members. Each issue contains articles of history, activities of the Society, official business, announcements of coming events and report on past events.

A popular feature of the *Journal* is the *Kith and Kin* section in which members conducting genealogical research may seek information on their own families.

*The Journal* is published quarterly and is distributed without charge to members.

In addition to the section in the *Journal*, a genealogy program is maintained by the Society. Each member submits his or her genealogy on joining, which is kept in a database.

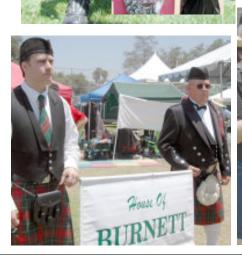
The Chief of the Society is His Grace, Torquhil Ian Campbell, MacCailein Mor, the 13th Duke of Argyll. The Duke of Argyll lives in Inveraray Castle, the hereditary home of the Campbell Chiefs since the 15th century.

If you would like complete information about joining the Clan Campbell Society, please visit http://www.ccsna.org on the Internet or write the Membership Chairman, The Clan Campbell Society, 6412 Newcastle Road, Fayetteville, NC 28303-2317.



### San Diego Scottish Highland Games & Gathering of the Clans

June 23, 24, 2007 Vista, California











Page 66 Beth's Newfangled Family Tree



Beth's Newfangled Family Tree

July 2007

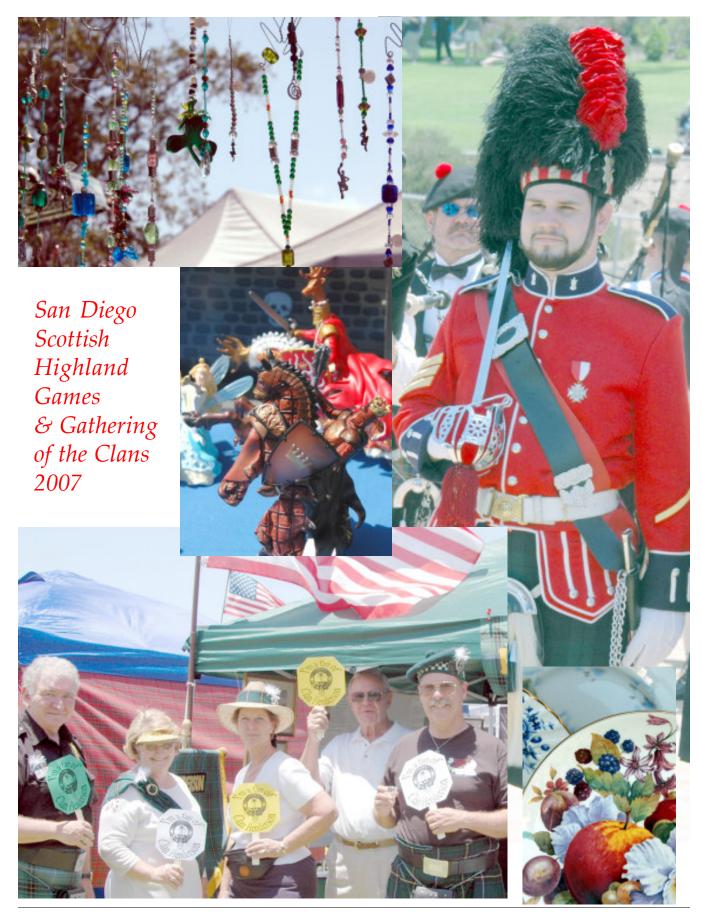


Page 68 Beth's Newfangled Family Tree





Page 70 Beth's Newfangled Family Tree



## Clan Keith sets AGM for Richmond, Virginia, this 27-28 October. Come!

The Clan Keith Society, USA, Inc. - 2007 Annual General Meeting and Annual Clan Dinner will be held in conjunction with the 13th Richmond Highland Games and Celtic Festival which is held at the Richmond Raceway Complex in Richmond, Virginia Saturday, October 27 - Sunday, October 28, 2007.

Clan Keith is the Honored Clan.

A Saturday evening Clan Dinner including a choice of entrees is planned within easy driving distance from our host hotel. Members and other interested individuals are welcomed. I

f you are an Austin(en)(on), Cate, Dick(i)son, Dix(s)on, Falconer(or), Faulkner, Harvey(ie), Hervey(ie), Hurry(ie), Hackson, Haxon, Keeth, Keath, Kite, Lumgain(e), Lumgair, MacDick(en)(in)(s), MacDickson, MacGeath, MacKeet(c)h, MacKeith, Marshall, Ur(r)ie(y) or other spelling variation, you may have an affiliation with Clan Keith!!

Meet your fellow clansmen for a brief and informative business meeting, followed by an evening of socializing. Hotel accommodations have been reserved within easy access to the games and our dinner venue. Advanced lunch and dinner reservations are required. We are pleased to return to Virginia where there has always been a large gathering of fellow clansmen.

For further information contact the President, Alice Hattenbrun at (603) 778-1177 or Email: Toldscot@rcn.com or call the Vice President, Charlie Austin at (757) 495-1621 or phone our Treasurer, Alton Cooke at (757) 479-5141. Visit our Clan Web site: www.clankeithusa.org



Page 72 Beth's Newfangled Family Tree



Jim Ellison photo

#### MacDonald/Campbell merger

Eric and Crystal Ellison at the 2007 San Diego Highland Games and Gathering of the Clans.

Eric is a Clan Donald member wearing a brand new kilt! Crystal is from Australia and is a member of the Clan Campbell.

Eric's parents, Jim and Marge Ellison of Goodyear, Arizona, say the personal merger of Donald and Campbell is working out very well!

Jim and Marge accompanied Marti Van Horne and your editor on several trips to Scotland and have become dear friends. It was wonderful to see them all at San Diego/Vista, California!

## Sporran wearers may need licence in Scotland!

Kilt owners may have to seek a licence for their sporran. Kilt wearers could face prosecution if they do not have a licence for their sporran under new legislation which has been introduced in Scotland.

The laws are designed to protect endangered species like otters, whose fur used to be favored by sporran makers.

The legislation applies to animals killed after 1994.

Applicants must prove that the animal was killed lawfully before they will be able to get a licence.

The conservation regulations were designed to close a number of loopholes and bring Scotland into line with other EU members.

The law already applied to other vulnerable animals like badgers, deer, wildcats, hedgehogs, bats, lynx, moles, seals, whales, dolphins and porpoises.

"Having a licence... will ensure they will not be prosecuted or have it taken from them under the new regulations," said a Scottish Executive spokeswoman.

The regulations require anyone who owns any part of a protected animal to obtain a licence.

The maximum penalties for breaking the law are a fine of £5,000 and six months in prison.

Hamish Husband, spokesman for the Association of Tartan Army Clubs, said the legislation could affect fans who follow their national football team.

"Are the police going to take DNA samples from the sporran of every kilted supporter who walks into Hampden?" he asked.

"If that's the case we will need to look into obtaining a licence to cover the entire Tartan Army."

The legislation is designed to protect animals like badgers. The new rules will also cover fishing flies made from animal hair.

A Scottish Executive spokeswoman said the new rules had been put in place to bring Scotland into line with existing European legislation designed to protect vulnerable species.

## The Taxtain Lady



#### T-Bar Parade Banner

Lead your clan with pride and distinction. This elegant **Tartan Parade Banner** is made using your choice of tartan lined with coordinating fabric. Each banner displays a large clan crest and name and measures approximately 26" x 34". **Price: \$275.00** 

#### Tent Banner

This magnificent **Vinyl Tent Banner** displaying your clan tartan, crest and name proclaims your presence at any event.

The 18" x 96" banner is made by printing your tartan and crest directly onto 12 oz. Colley Vinyl. Windslits prevent sailing. Grommets top and bottom.



Price: \$225.00



#### Tartan Flag

The 3' x 5' Tartan Flag is a beautiful way to display your tartan and identify your clan at events or at your home or office. It is custom made using your choice of tartan with a reinforced hem on one side to accommodate the flag pole.

Price: \$175.00

#### 3-Piece Flag Pole

The vertical portion of the **3-Piece Flag Pole** comes in 2 pieces that can be screwed together to finish at 5°. The horizontal portion measures approximately 34°. All 3 pieces are packaged in a canvas storage bag for ease in transporting and storing.



Price: \$85.00



#### Pole Carrier

Rest those weary arms! The adjustable white web pole carrier is worn around the neck and has a pouch at the bottom to support the flag pole. Machine washable. This carrier is also a novel way of displaying your game pins.

Price: \$30.00

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### The Tartan Lady

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34"x56" Unframed, Lined and Bound suitable for very large areas to be hung on decorative rod (rod not included) - \$250.00

(All prices plus applicable sales tax, shipping and handling.)



Many tartand are now available in cotton blends to prevent moth damage. However some are only available from Scottish mills and are woven in wool. Wool is not recommended for use for the large unframed hangings.

The crests are individually produced using both machine and hand stitchery matching fabric, metallic threads and silk threads to create vivid representations.



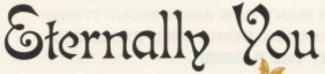
These displays emphasize the legacies of yesteryear and honor the heritage of our Celtic ancestors. They were first designed as personalized funeral accessories to be used as framed displays before the need and inserted inside the casket at the appropriate time. The large unframed hanging is suitable as a pall for closed casket services and allows for family names and birth and death dates to be added. This will become a treasured heirloom by future generations.

Personalized crematory vessels are also



Celtic symbols are uniquely digitized and panels are produced using computerized stitchery. The colors are carefully selected to accomplish these beautiful pieces. The thistle is in hues of purple and lavender with green and gold accents on a light green background. The black rampant lion is stitched on a beige background and is also available featuring a red lion on gold fabric. Other designs are also available such as Celtic knots and crosses. Colors can be customized to fit your décor.







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## Congratulations! Robert Burns Society of Miles City, Montana, celebrates their 100<sup>th</sup> birthday all year long! Hip, hip, hooray <sup>3</sup>!

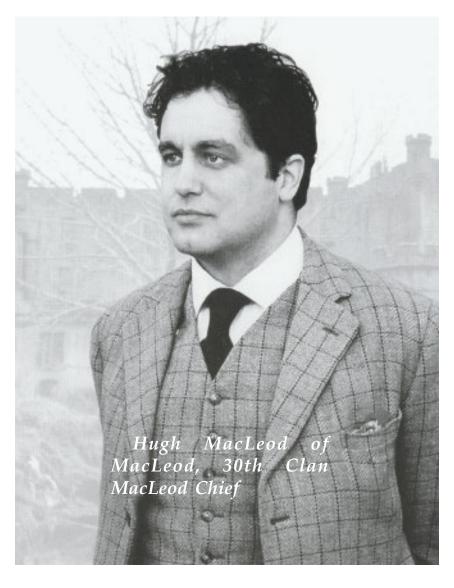
The Miles City, Montana, Robert Burns Society celebrates their 100th birthday all this year. James McMillan was one of the founders and was the first Treasurer and later, the third President. He was a great admirer of Burns' poetry and often recited Burns' works in Gaelic.

With thanks to *The Chatterbox*, the publication of the Appalachian Branch of Clan MacMillan. Contact 2023 Medhurst Drive, Greensboro, NC 27410.

### Meet Hugh MacLeod of MacLeod, 30<sup>th</sup> Clan MacLeod Chief

Born in London in 1973, Hugh MacLeod of MacLeod graduated with a BA (Hons) in Film and Modern History from the University of London and the Sorbonne in 1995.

After a brief period at Sotheby's and Freud Communications, Hugh began working in television as a researcher and was commissioned to direct and produce *Champagne and Canvas*, a documentary that was nominated



for Best Video Production in the 1998 BBC British Short Film Festival.

He gained experience in film production at the London Film School before producing *Cuisine Chinoise* starring Irene Jacob. To date, this film has been broadcast on FilmFour, Sundance Channel, HBO and has been featured in numerous international film festivals, including Edinburgh, Schermi d'Amore, Grenobe. It won Best Short Film in Dignes-les-Bains.

Since then, Hugh has been working as a freelance director and producer on a variety of television and feature film projects. His debut short film as director, *The Point*, was awarded a Certificate of Merit at TCM's classic shorts competition in association with the 2001 Regus London Film Festival.

In 2006 he established Morphe Films and optioned the film rights to the *Sunday Times* best-seller, *The Cloud Garden*, which he is currently co-adapting for the big screen. His development slate also includes the ambitious period feature, *Whom the Gods Love*, based on the book by Joan Alexander.

With thanks to *The Clan MacLeod Newsletter*. MacLeods, write PO Box 70928, West Valley City, UT 84170.





### The Ounvegan Foundation

Of the Clan MacLeod Society U.S.A., Inc.

A tax deductible method of saying I am proud to be a MacLeod

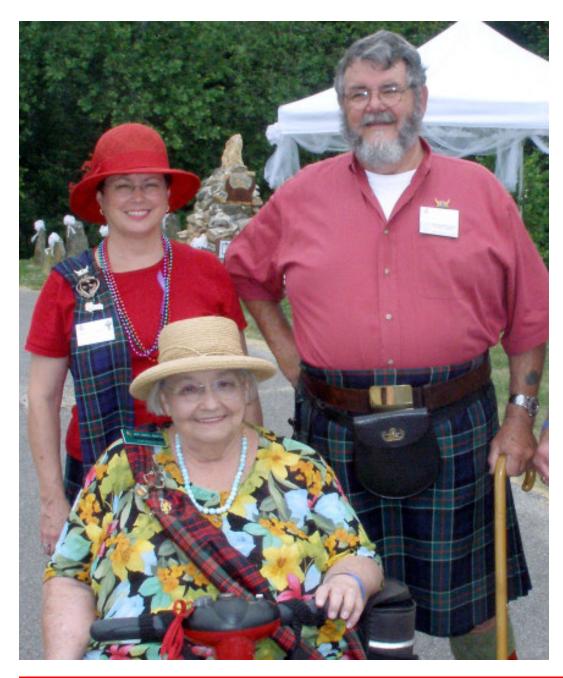
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## Glasgow Highland Games a great time this year and every year!

Becky and Jim Kilpatrick and Jeri Daniel Martin enjoying the day at Glasgow, Kentucky the first weekend in June. Beautiful, warm weather and gala events were enjoyed by all.

With thanks to Kent Atkins for his photograph.

#### Clan MacLeod sets AGM for August 9 - 12 in Englewood, CO

All MacLeods are invited to attend the MacLeod AGM in Englewood, CO August 9 - 12. There will be an optional Thursday bus rip for Georgetown.

Friday, there will be a Dunvegan Foundation Meeting and the Clan MacLeod Council Meeting with the Annual General Meeting of the Clan MacLeod Society, USA...with a silent auction.

There will be activities for the children including crafts, stories, dancing on Friday. Numerous seminars are planned for Friday afternoon. In the evening, there will be a semiformal buffet style banquet.

On Saturday, the group will attend the Colorado Scottish Festival and Rocky Mountain Highland Games in Highlands Ranch, CO. A sandwich buffet lunch will be provided in the Clan Tent.

For complete information, prices, etc., please contact Judy Wisehart: rexwisehart@earthlink.net

## Scottish Critters

Toly T. Turstin



Over the Sea to Skye A recent Scottish Snippet from Rampant Scotland solemnizes and highlights the ingenuity and agility of the cat-sized Scottish Pine Marten, a member of the weasel family. The very timid, mostly nocturnal Pine Marten usually inhabits

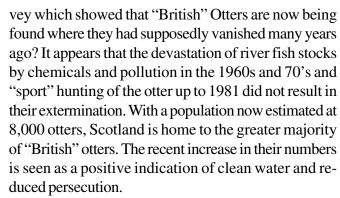
heavily-wooded areas and is a great tree climber. Their biggest predator is, yep, Man, who discriminates against them given their great affection for bird's eggs.

It seems that naturalists have recently documented that Pine Martens while on the endangered list on the mainland, have now spread to the Isle of Skye where they are doing quite well. They were unknown on the Isle of Skye until the Skye Bridge was completed in 1995 leaving us no other conclusion that the Pine Martens soon hopped across to Skye (and we suspect paying no toll). Pine Martens have now have been seen nine miles south and west of the crossing.

Local birds and small animals on Skye need keep their eyes open for the Pine Marten who may present challenges for these indigenous residents. We of the New Fangled Family Tree salute the Pine Marten. Who knows this may be the official mammal (wild) of all expatriate Scots? (

Scottish Otters Far From Extinct Appreciat-

ing the fortitude of the Scottish Pine Marten this writer could not ignore a 2007 Scottish Natural Heritage sur-



Clean water, did you say? "British" Otters did you say?

Needless to say, the detractors of Scottish Water are again foiled. We also note that this species of otter is correctly known as the Eurasian Otter (Lutra lutra) and is found in France, Scandinavia, Spain, Greece, Turkey, and Scotland. It is rarely found in England so this writer can't help but wonder OUT LOUD with a little SNP bravado where they get off on calling this species, "British". And, yes, as you suspected many of this species are found on the Isle of Skye where they are no doubt cavorting with their Scottish Pine Marten Friends.

Maybe, just maybe, a change of name for this otter subset to Scottish Otter is long overdue. Aye. (

Scottish Pheasant Mentality? Years ago this writer was a guest of the 17th Lord Lovat at his residence at Balblair House located on the Beaufort Castle estate in Beauly, Inverness-shire. Access to the castle and house was a drive through ancient and breathtaking

grounds that comprise the entrance to the almost 20,000

Continued on page 81



acre estate. The trip was interrupted on several occasions by pheasants who literally popped up from the bushes and roadway running in front of my rental car never "thinking" to dart off left or right in order to avert certain disaster. Trusting to the generosity of her visitors that, fortunately, never happened.

The upside of that entry was that an already glorious trip was made that more enjoyable while the downside was the exhibition of less than marginal intelligence on the part of these birds. They obviously didn't embrace the native intelligence of the Scottish Pine Marten and Otter. Lord Lovat later assured this writer that these birds had been raised in captivity for future sport and were not imbued with the innate intelligence of the wild, native pheasant. I think they came from England? Maybe we should call them "British" Pheasants? (

Quack Team Back On Patrol Whisky distiller Ballantine's at Dumbuck overlooking the River Clyde at Dumbarton has maintained a gaggle of up to 100 "ferocious" Chinese White and Roman geese (nicknamed the Scotch Watch - groan) which have guarded their warehouses and entertained visitors, passing motorists and their families since 1959. The security value of geese has been well known since Roman times. The best-known story of their efficiency dates from when enemy Gauls stealthily advanced towards Roman soldiers as they slept in their hilltop fortress. The first invader was almost over the ramparts when the geese, kept by Romans as sacred birds, began screeching to alert their masters to the imminent attack. It was this legend that sprang to mind when Ballantine's security arrangements were initially being drafted.

Alas, the geese (as famous as their Memphis, TN Peabody Hotel duck cousins) have not been in the public eye for the last five years though we are now assured that they had not gone to that great barnyard in the sky, rather were moved to a site at the rear of the bonded warehouses. Realizing that they had a ready made PR Team willing to work literally for corn, a spokesman for distillery owners Chivas Brothers, say that the geese are an "emblem for Ballantine's signifying the watchfulness of our craftsmen at every stage of the whisky making process." Hurrah! So we are now reinvigorated that an old tradition has been restored and the Quack Team are

back on security patrol at the front of the premises and keeping a wary eye for those pesky Gauls. Aye! (

Towser - Top Mouser In World – A Scot! The Glenturret Distillery, near Crieff in Perthshire remains the oldest working Scotch Whisky distillery (1717) in Scotland and supplier of one of the single malts that com-

prise the world-renowned Kingdome of Raknar Räknar and 78th Fraser Highlander favorite, Famous Grouse also known as the Low Flyer.

As we might imagine, tons of barley at the ready



for whisky making is a big attraction for mice, and so for many years Glenturret has kept a cat on the premises. From 1963 to 1987 (almost 24 years) the position of resident mouser was held by Towser, a long-haired tortoiseshell female, who had a remarkable mouse-catching career — so remarkable, in fact, that she is in the Guinness Book of Records as the world's best mouser! Tower's life and exploits are fondly memorialized by a bronze statue at the 'Famous Grouse Experience' visitor centre on the Glenturret site.

The inscription reads:

This writer had the great privilege of meeting and chatting with Towser who seemed the epitome of grace and dignity if not somewhat aloof. Many have wondered how Towser could have dispatched so many mice and then, who was counting?

Well, it seems that the total was extrapolated by a statistical technique and observations, by the Glenturret Staff and the Guinness Book of Record folks. It appears that Towser sent three or more mice a day to the happy hunting grounds! That impressive number doesn't even count the remarkable amounts of rabbits, birds and other critters who wandered too close to the distillery.

It appears that the secret of Towser's amazing mous-

Continued on page 82

ing prowess was the result of a 'tiny wee dram' of Glenturret added to her milk each night. Glenturret probably afraid of a visit by Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) says, "We don't have any scientific proof to back this up, and we certainly wouldn't advise it to anyone whose cat is underperforming in terms of rodent control!" (wink, nod!).

Following Towser's demise a new cat named Amber was recruited though she did not have her predecessor's skills. As far as the Staff at Glenturret

#### Towser 21 April 1963-30 March 1987

Towser, the famous cat who lived in the still house, Glenturret Distillery, for almost 24 years. She caught 28,899 mice in her lifetime. World mousing champion, Guinness Book of Records.

know Amber never caught a single mouse! Amber remained at Glenturret for seven years until she too died of old age in late 2004.

In an effort to engage the search to find a replacement for Amber, Glenturret invited Cats Protection (CP) the UK's largest cat charity to help with the search. The cat would have to be outgoing and people-friendly enough to welcome visitors from all over the world. Mousing ability was considered an advantage, but with Glenturret now fairly mouse-free, that was not regarded as an essential requirement of the job. Eventually nine 'finalists' were chosen, from Perth, Forfar, Dundee and Cardyke (Glasgow) CP rescue centres. They were all cats that for one reason or another had fallen on hard times, though each was described as a 'real character'.

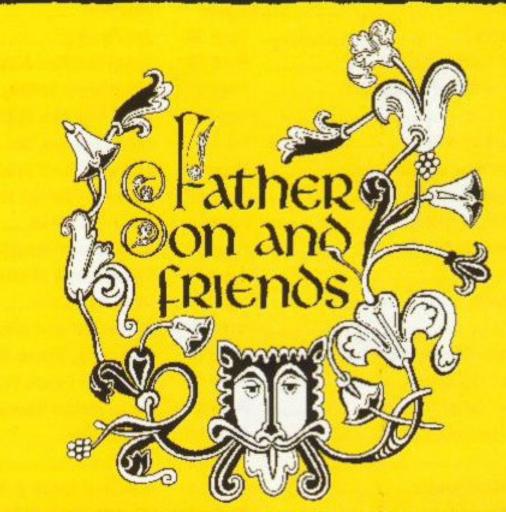
Staff at the distillery interviewed all the cats and found them all worthy. In the end, however, they were torn between Dylan, a ginger tomcat from Forfar, and Brooke, a black-and-white female from Cardyke. In the end they decided to adopt both of them. Glenturret therefore now has two worthy successors to the famous Towser.

We know that all our readers out there will find happiness and solace in that all the other finalists found new homes, either with distillery staff or as a result of the publicity that took place at the time of the search. We can all find pride that the best mouser in the world was and still is a Scottish cat named Towser. (

Scotland's Dirty Water? The organization that monitors and reports on the performance of the water companies in the United Kingdom (UK) published a 2007 report reflecting that the publicly-owned Scottish Water performed worse than all the 22 privately-owned water companies in England and Wales on almost every indicator. The UK industry watchdog says that the Scottish utility organization provides the worst, least efficient and most expensive service in Britain. Water quality was particularly bad, with sub-standard samples found ten times more frequently in Scotland than south of the border. Average bills in Scotland were £30 a year higher than in the rest of Britain. In addition, Scottish users are more likely to suffer low water pressure, sewers more likely to be overloaded and service performance worse than in England and Wales.

Scottish Water says that the report, covering 2004-5, is "out of date". We do suspect that many improvements have been made in the last three years. The good news/bad news is that the Dallas, Texas-based National Center For Policy Analysis reports that Britain, while they are the EU nation most frequently charged with waterquality infringements, has the world's fourth cleanest water. Yes, boys and girls, everything is relative. If we put everything in perspective the top three rated countries for water quality are Finland, Canada and New Zealand, with the United States 12th and Australia 20th.

The 2007 Mercer Human Resource Consulting Worldwide Quality of Living Survey takes a different tact and includes health and sanitation rankings based among other factors on waste treatment and the quality and availability of potable water. London was rated a not too impressive 63rd while Glasgow was rated 48th. In overall Quality of Life, London was rated an overall 39th place while neither Glasgow or Edinburgh (or any Scottish city) were ranked in the top fifty. We will continue to monitor Scottish Water (and welfare of the Scottish Otter) and look forward to submissions by our readers so motivated to comment on this very important issue. At any rate, this writer thinks it might be prudent to stick close to the real water of life, uisge beatha and emulate wondercat Towser, aye!



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A computer hint: When you are "sizing" pictures - hold down the "shift" key as you change the size of your photo. Some magical way, this keeps the photograph in proportion.

## GLASGOW, KY HIGHLAND GAMES 2007

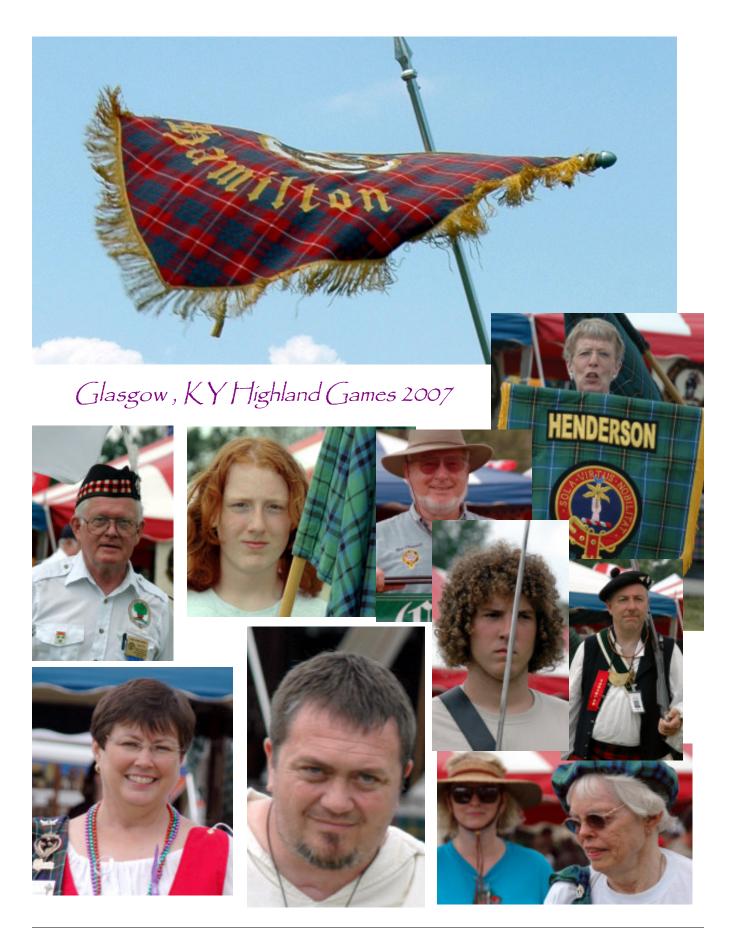


### GLASGOW, KY HIGHLAND GAMES 2007







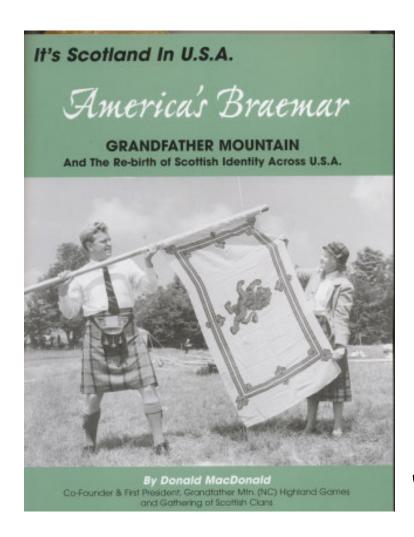


Page 88 Beth's Newfangled Family Tree





Page 90 Beth's Newfangled Family Tree



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