



Volume V Issue No. XI *Beth's Newfangled Family Tree* Section A April 2012

New York Tartan Week to Open with the Great Book of Gaelic



Planning an exhibition – Robert Currie (l) producer of Tartan Day on Ellis Island and Malcolm Mclean (r) CEO of the Gaelic Arts Agency meet on Ellis Island in January to continue preparations for the “An Leabhar Mòr” exhibition.

New York, NY - “Tartan Day on Ellis Island” – the nation’s largest Tartan Day celebration - returns for its 11 annual observance with the opening of “An Leabhar Mòr” (The Great Book of Gaelic.) The exhibition, organized and produced by Pròiseact nan Ealan, the Gaelic Arts Agency, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, Scotland, opens on Sunday, March 31 and runs through Sunday, April 8. The exhibition celebrates the art and poetry of the Gaelic-speaking people of Scotland and Ireland.

“Tartan Day on Ellis Island” is produced by the Clan Currie Society – one of the country’s leading Scottish heritage organizations. The Ellis Island event will open NY Tartan Week – a two-week

Continued on page 4

High Commissioner, Forrest Lee Piver to be Distinguished Guest at Glasgow

Clan Donald MidSouth is pleased to announce Forrest Lee Piver, the High Commissioner of Clan Donald USA, will be with us at the Glasgow Highland Games, June 1-3 as a Distinguished Guest of the games. Clan Donald MidSouth Commissioner, Carlisle Simon says, “Forrest Lee is a long time friend of the MidSouth, and has joined us at the games many times over the years. However, this will be his first official visit with us. Please make plans now to join us for the weekend.”

Clan Donald MidSouth welcomes High Commissioner Piver!



Wherever you are, celebrate
Tartan Day April 6, 2012!



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A letter from your editor....

We're still moving...and moving...and moving...and then moving some more....



Some of our friends are asking, "Are you all moved in and settled?"

The answer is NO NO NO NO.

We have been moving since February 13 when our house closed.

We think we may be able to actually sleep over at the new house in another few weeks.

We will order the new things we have to have - mainly a refrigerator and beds - plus we must have a place where Tom can take a shower. He has to have a roll-in shower and has turned a deaf ear to my suggestions which contain talk about a water hose, the veranda and then nekked laps around that porch to dry off...

Since we learned that lifts now cost an unbelievable \$19,000...we've also been discussing how Tom will get from upstairs to downstairs and back. Tom won't consider a firepole nor hot air balloons.

The best we can come up with is a black-top sidewalk and a wheelchair with an engine. We're working on both of those.

We're still making arrangements for Tom's dog-to-be...and are discussing names...I like "Larry" for this Great Dane/Weimaraner mix...and Tom is still deciding what his name will be. There's no way we can bring the dog home until we are living in our "new" house.

One thing we have discovered in the move so far...So you will understand, please know I am the one who receives family china when a relative passes away. Everyone knows how much I love pretty dishes.

So, my mother collected Willow-ware, Miz Peggie (my beloved teacher) gave me most of HER Blue Willow dishes, Mrs. Freeman (Tom's mom) collected the same pattern, I have collected some too...my sweet friend, gave me some of her Blue Willow before she passed away...and my dear friend, Hope Anderson, brought some lovely pieces when he brought our Scottish furniture the other day.

Mrs. Catherine Anderson, Hope's mother, and I, had a hilarious few hours trying to figure out how many friends we would have to have to use ALL of the Blue Willow.

We don't know enough people.

We can serve something like 48 people with Blue Willow.

This is indicative of why our move is taking so long...We have way too much "stuff."

While I don't think either of us is materialistic...I don't want to give up ANY

Continued on page 12

Ellis Island Tartan Day, *continued from page 1*
festival of all things Scottish, including a Scottish fashion show, whisky tastings, and the annual.

“An Leabhar Mòr” is the 21st-century equivalent of the Gaelic masterpiece, the “Book of Kells.” It brings together the work of more than 150 Gaelic poets, visual artists, and calligraphers. Scotland and Ireland share a mythology, a rich music tradition, languages and some very formative history. Irish Gaels, known as Scoti, invaded Scotland in the 5th century and gave it their name.

“An Leabhar Mòr” as a book is an artwork in itself which presents a major collection of Gaelic artwork. It renews and highlights the cultural con-

the Great Book of Gaelic” is based on and inspired by this extraordinary book.

According to Malcolm McLean, the exhibition’s curator and designer, “An Leabhar Mòr” is all about making connections between Ireland and Scotland, between literature and the visual arts, between poetry and song, between Irish and Scottish Gaelic, between one and a half millennia of Gaelic civilization and the English-speaking world.

There is more to the Leabhar Mòr than its aesthetic value, or its value as an introduction to Gaelic civilization. It is also a Gaelic project without a trace of either cultural cringe or of exagger-



nection between Gaelic Scotland and Ireland. At the same time it celebrates the diverse strands of contemporary Celtic culture.

It is a beautiful book featuring poetry from every century between the sixth and the twenty-first. It contains the earliest Gaelic poetry in existence. One hundred contemporary visual artists – in a variety of media – respond within its pages to one hundred works of poetry spanning the ages.

It includes work by poets Nuala Ni Dhomhnaill and Maire Mhac an tSaoi and by artists Allan Davie, Will Maclean and Rita Duffy among others. The exhibition “An Leabhar Mòr–

ated assertiveness. How wonderful that this important exhibition has found its way to Ellis Island – the Golden Door to America for so many Scottish and Irish immigrants.”

For Clan Currie Society president and Tartan Day producer Robert Currie, the visit to Ellis Island is fortuitous and inevitable, “The exhibition speaks to the heart of our Clan’s rich Gaelic history. For 700 centuries, MacMhuirich, or Currie bards trained in Ireland and composed many gems of bardic verse for their Scottish patrons. Indeed, out of the 100 poems selected for the exhibition,

Continued on page 5

Ellis Island Tartan Day, *continued from page 4*

three of them were written by members of the Clan Currie.”

The International Tour Comes to New York for Tartan Week

“An Leabhar Mòr” has moved from strength to strength since its initial publication in 2002. An international touring exhibition of 100 artworks featured in the book is still on the road a decade later. Having completed a successful tour of Ireland in 2006 -2007 the Great Book Exhibition has recently delighted audiences throughout Canada and is currently working its way round an extensive tour of North America.

In the Ellis Island venue, the exhibition “An Leabhar Mòr” will feature, alongside the poetry and artwork, a series of contextual panels of particular relevance to American audiences. Panels will explore the meaning of Gaelic identity and culture with a special emphasis given to Scots and Irish immigration to America. They will show how the Gaelic gift for poetry and language has influenced American music, ultimately giving birth to American country-western music.

The exhibition will be displayed adjacent to the Registry Room, the Great Hall on Ellis Island on the museum’s second floor. In addition to Maclean and Currie, the Ellis Island exhibition team also includes researcher/writer Marsha Lebby and Gaelic scholar Michael Newton. Plans are also underway to establish an exhibition annex at Poet’s House on Manhattan’s lower west side.

Starting on Friday, April 6 (Tartan Day) through Sunday, April 8, Ellis Island will play host to some of the finest Scottish entertainment in New York City, including the Rampant Lion Pipe Band, a Celtic harp circle led by Mia Theodoratus, the New York Metro Pipe Band and the NY Celtic

Dancers.

Support for the exhibition has been generously provided by the Gaelic Arts Agency, the Clan Currie Society and Scotland’s Islands.

Visit www.tartandayonellisland.com for additional information. Follow exhibit plans and preparations via Twitter, @ClanCurrie.

About Tartan Day on Ellis Island

Tartan Day on Ellis Island is one of the principal Scottish heritage events in the United States. Playing host to literally thousands of domestic and international visitors each day, it is the largest Tartan Day celebration in the world. Ellis Island is a fitting place to observe Tartan Day. The island and its historic buildings represent America’s “Golden Door.”

From 1892 to 1954, more than 12 million immigrants passed through Ellis Island. Although many Scots arrived during the colonial period of our history – helping to build the new nation - an additional half-million Scots came

through Ellis Island. It has been estimated that 40% of Americans today can trace at least one ancestor’s entry into the United States through Ellis Island.

Describing the program, noted Scottish journalist and author Roddy Martine reported that of all the Tartan Day events held in the United States, the Ellis Island observance has, “stood out as a beacon of what USA Tartan Day is all about: the emigrant ancestors of ordinary Americans who over three centuries crossed the Atlantic Ocean to create the world’s greatest democracy.”

Tartan Day on Ellis Island is produced by the Clan Currie Society - one of the preeminent Scottish heritage organizations in the United States. The

Continued on page 6



Ellis Island Tartan Day,

continued from page 1

Clan Currie Society began its successful collaboration with the Ellis Island Immigration Museum in 2002 in the coordination and sponsorship of their first Tartan Day celebration. That year, Clan Currie and the National Museums of Scotland joined forces to host the traveling exhibit, "Home and Away: Highland Departures and Returns."

As part of the celebrations for Tartan Day 2011, the Clan Currie Society commissioned a specially designed Ellis Island Tartan© to mark the 10th Anniversary of Tartan Day on Ellis Island. Each color in the tartan reflects upon the American immigrant experience. The blue represents the ocean that had to be crossed to reach the American shores. The copper-green is the color of the Statue of Liberty. The red depicts the bricks of the Ellis Island buildings where 12 million Americans took their first steps towards freedom. The gold is the golden door that is the United States of



America and the dawn of a new life in America.

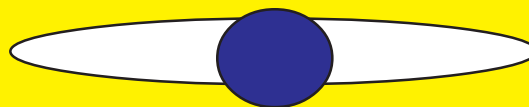
Brian Wilton, director of the Scottish Tartans Authority in Crieff, Scotland said: "As the first American footfall for millions of emigrants—including hundreds of thousands of Scots—Ellis Island plays an extremely important part in many family histories. It is entirely appropriate that all those whose American origins were born there should be able to celebrate and commemorate that momentous occasion by wearing the new Ellis Island Tartan."

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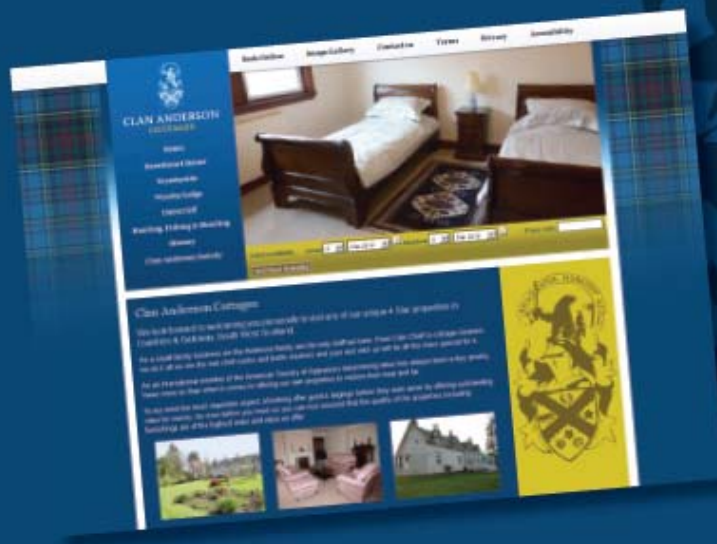
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Celebrate Tartan Day April 6



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and their Descendents
(plus we have a killer newsletter!!)

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Septs of the Clan

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McDuffee Clan Society of America **of Clan Macfie** *50th Anniversary Celebration*

to be held at Glasgow, KY Highland Games May 30 - June 3, 2012

The games are held at Barren River Park

Registration should be in no later than two week prior to the event

We will plan arrival at the Ramada Inn, Bowling Green , KY on Wed., May 30.

Registration for the 50th Anniversary Celebration

will be \$93.50 per person

This will include entrance to the games on Saturday & Sunday,
plus transportation to and from the games.

Send Registration & check made to: McDuffie(ee) Clan Society to

David N. McDuffie, 27 Aberdeen Ct., Newnan, GA 30263

Registration needs to be returned by 1 May 2012

Clan Sinclair to be the Honored Clan in Glasgow, KY in June 2012

Clan Sinclair is scheduled to be the Honored Clan at the 27th Annual Glasgow Highland Games on June 1-3, 2011. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Clan Sinclair will be held in conjunction with the games on Saturday, June 2nd. The games are being held at the Barren River/Lake State Resort Park in Lucas, Ky.

Malcolm Sinclair, Earl of Caithness, will be the Distinguished Guest for the games. Mel Sinclair, President of Clan Sinclair USA and Rory Sinclair, Past President of Clan Sinclair Canada will also be present.

The Glasgow Highland Games has been selected as a "Top Ten Festival Event" by the Kentucky Tourism Council. Our fun and games begin on Friday afternoon. Come by the Welcome Room off the lobby of the Days Inn and meet your fellow Clan Sinclair members. You can pick up information on other local tourism and dining opportunities. At 7:00 PM there will be a Rising of the Clans at the tent by the park lodge. Afterwards there is often a Ceilidh on the grounds. (Note: A list of restaurants will be available in the Welcome Room and perhaps an impromptu dinner can be arranged following the Rising of the Clans.)

On Saturday and Sunday the games fields open from 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM. The opening ceremony is Saturday at noon. Sunday at 9:00 AM is the Kirkin' of the Tartan and at 1:30 PM the Parade of Clans.

In addition to the traditional games



"Weel, I had just three fauts to his sermon: firstly, it was read; and secondly, it wasn't weel read; and, thirdly, it wasna worth readin'."

events the 2012 Glasgow Highland Games includes the North American Team Scottish Athletic Championship featuring Canada vs USA, massed bands, amateur athletic golf scramble, and numerous entertainment pavilions. For those who attended the 2011 AGM, Glasgow, KY is the home of Colin Grant Adams. Anyone wanting to expand their weekend is in for a treat. Mammoth Cave is located 27 miles northwest of Barren River. Also, the National Corvette Museum is located less than 30 miles south just off I-65.

To get full information on the 27th Annual Glasgow Highland Games go to glasgowhighlandgames.com.

The Call has been issued!

All Clans to gather for The Glasgow Highland Games 2012! Come share your Scottish pride by participating in 2012 Raising of The Clans.

Remember all Clans in attendance will receive 2 Games tickets for Saturday and Sunday! Give your best Clan war cry so Clan Hay (last year's winner) chooses your Clan as this year's winner! Let's kick off the Ceilidh with an inspiring torchlight ceremony!

I hope to see all of you there!

Peter Lapham

**Director, Raising of the Clans
Glasgow Highland Games**

Letter from your editor,

continued from page 3
of the china that has been left to me. I love each and every friend and family member who has honored me that way.

We won't even discuss how many sets of dishes we have...nope. Love them all, don't wanna get rid of any.

This just to explain why moving is taking such a long time!

I keep the strangest little things - all of which have sentimental value only. This trait is also why it is taking so long.

I have found my cowboy boots - which are size 6 1/2. I have had them so long, I now wear boots 2 sizes larger. Did I discard those old and treasured boots? Nope.

We will finish moving...maybe by Christmas next year.

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Paraskevidekatriaphobics, This is a BAD year for you!

It is a bad year for people who suffer from paraskevidekatriaphobics - the fear of Friday the 13th.

Why? We have three this year, instead of the usual two. There was only one in 2011.

For the first time since 1984, those three Friday the

13ths - January 13th, April 13 and July 13 are exactly thirteen weeks apart.

Three Friday the 13ths happen every few years. The last was in 2009 and the next is 2015. What is special about 2012 - and what won't occur again until 2040 - is that this is happening during a leap year, says Tom Fersler, a University of Delaware math professor who sometimes goes by the name of Dr. 13.

It's hard not to feel something about Friday the 13th, Dr. Fersler says, "I find that 95% of people in the world are superstitious about something, and the other 5% are liars,"

The number 13 and Friday are recurring presences in mythological, spiritual and religious tradition. In Christianity, 13 people attended the Last Supper before Judas' betrayal and Jesus' death on a Friday. A Norse myth warns of dire consequences for dining in groups of 13. Friday the 13th was the date the medieval Knights

Templar were imprisoned. Though not as historic, rapper Tupac Shakur died on Friday, September 13th, 1996, after being gunned down September 7th.

For many pagans, 13 is a lucky number, because it corresponds with the number of full moons each year, says Ivo Dominguez, Jr., owner of Bell, Book and Candle, a pagan and occult book and gift shop located in Dover, Delaware.

While Friday the 13th can feel special, it isn't. In a 400-year period, the 13th falls on a Friday more than any other day: 688 times, Fersler says.

Fersler has made it a hobby to find dates and events associated with the number 13 as well as Friday the 13th. The day has hosted some famous births, such as Fidel Castro and Butch Cassidy.

Dominguez argues Friday the 13th fears are "self-fulfilling prophecy," adding there's a "strong power in people convincing themselves something unlucky will happen."

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by Duncan MacPhail

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A Tartan Day letter from Bob Murdoch, National Chairman for Tartan Day to everyone

As Tartan Day approaches I am sure that each of you are thoroughly involved in the final plans for the celebrations in your respective states.

The date of April 6 is etched in history with the signing of the Declaration of Arbroath in 1320 and its significance in the formulation and celebration of Tartan Day.

I know that it is necessary each year to work out a schedule for your celebrations as the recognition and celebration of Easter and the six weeks of Lent must always be taken into consideration, such as this year, when April 6 falls on Good Friday.

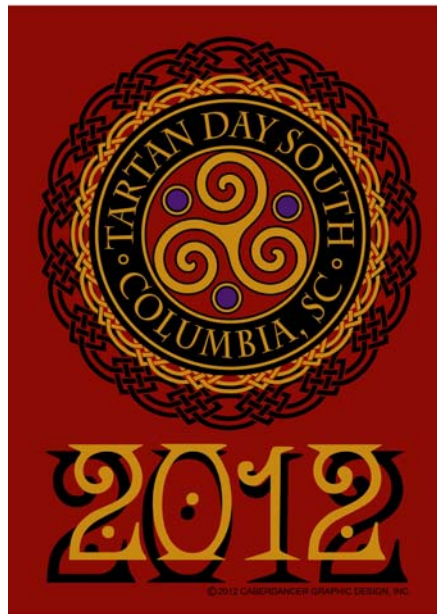
Over the years we have been looking for ways for each of you to advertise what your plans are for Tartan Day to share with other Scottish-American who may be interested taking part in helping celebrate with you.

The Internet certainly is one of the mainstays for getting word out regarding your activities.

I would like to recommend two things in that regard. First I would like each of you who use the internet to share information regarding your celebrations, to share with your fellow coordinators and myself, what websites you use for that purpose. Spreading this information will increase the ability of each of us to increase the visibility of all the Tartan Day celebrations. Interesting matters will be considered in the next few years, particularly in

regards to the question of Scottish Independence. There are many questions to be considered in that regard and I am sure we will all be watching to see what takes place in regards to that question.

T-shirt design by Tom Freeman



Tartan Day activities continue to increase annually and that is through the efforts of each of you.

I am sure there are still celebrations that take place throughout the states that may not be associated with your own organization, and I suggest that you reach out to those groups, congratulate them, take part in their activity and perhaps invite them to join with your organization.

That Spirit of Scots and Scottish-Americans, whether done in large groups or as individuals is the strength behind

Tartan Day and I thank each of you for keeping the Spirit strong.

The 2012 Annual Tartan Day Award this year will be presented to Bill Wallace of Sarasota, FL. The Award goes to an individual who has worked over the years in championing the contributions that Scots and Scottish-Americans have made over the years to our society as we know it.

Good luck on your Tartan Day celebrations.

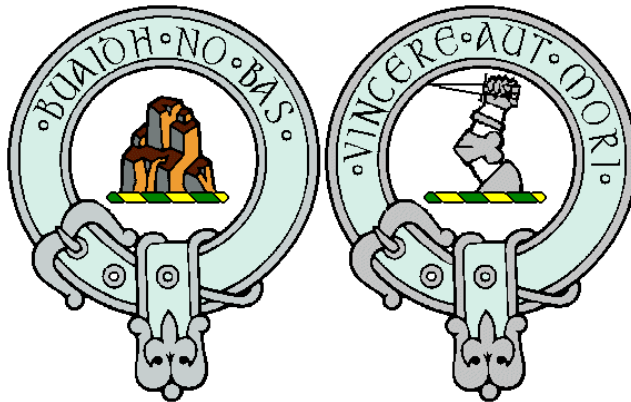
Yours Aye Bob Murdoch, FSANational Chairman for Tartan Day

Tartantenor66@yahoo.com

Bob and all the folks who work on Tartan Day: This publication is always glad to print your news about events and things planned for Tartan Day. No charge. All you have to do is send an email to bethscribble@aol.com. If you send photos - and they are welcomed - be sure and send them to me in jpeg format.

Clan Macneil Association of America

If you are a Macneil or any of the following “Sept” names, then you have found the clan that you are looking for.



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o’n D’thainig thu.”**

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whom you have come.**

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FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

Mr. Robert “Bobby” Eugene Bell, Marietta; daughter and son-in-law, Elaine age 83 of Marietta, GA died Sunday, March Brooks and Rob Steinbach of Powder Springs; sisters, Frances Newton and Stella Mae Evans and a granddaughter, Gina Bell, all of Marietta.

A Cobb County native, Mr. Bell was the owner of Bell Upholstery in Marietta.

He was a 64 year member of Mt. Zion Baptist Church and a member the Kennesaw Masonic Lodge #33.

Mr. Bell was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Ledbetter Bell. He is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, David E. and Sandra Bell of Heartfelt sympathy is extended.



Bethabara Games to host an inaugural Scottish Fiddle Competition

The Bethabara Highland Games will be hosting a Scottish Fiddle Competition for the first time (2012). It will be held in the visitors center at Historic Bethabara Park on May 12th.

The workshop will be held from 11:00 to 12:00. It is open to the public and it is free. The competitions will start at 1:00 and there will be a cost of \$15.00 in keeping with the Scottish Fire rules of membership. Payable at the registration table before competition.

Registration for competition will start at 12:00 in the visitor's center. There will be prizes and awards for each level: novice, juniors and open.

Please contact Debbie Morris, 336-248-8629 for information. Her mailing address is: 418 S Old Greensboro Rd., Thomasville, NC 27360



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The official start of spring is just a few days away,, but it's been spring here in sunny Alabama for a good little while now. The wisteria is blooming; the dogwoods are gracing us with their white beauty all through the woods; and we even have some enthusiastic (if somewhat misguided) verbenas blooming in the flower beds.

While we seem to look for any excuse to go outside in this glorious weather, we shouldn't forget our Scottish reading and research! We have some more interesting classic titles for your reading pleasure this week. Please order these directly [from Vicki](#) as either a download or a physical CD. These ebooks are \$15.00 each in CD form or \$10.00 each for instant download.

And, for those of you wondering whether or not our books will work on your iPads, the answer is "yes"! Vicki worked with a customer who wanted to read W. F. Skene's **Celtic Scotland** on her plane flight to Scotland last week, and she was having trouble getting it loaded. Together, they found an app described on YouTube which she reported worked perfectly. So, if you're in doubt, contact Vicki, and she'll get you directed to the right place.

We're just about a month away from the [Loch Norman Highland Games](#), so we're getting into high gear around here, getting new items ready for you to see there. We'll be sending out more information as the Games draw closer, and if you would like to be added to our on-paper list, be sure to let Vicki know.

In the meantime, happy reading!
Renny and Vicki McLeod

The Pictish Nation: Its People and Its Church By Archibald B. Scott Originally published 1918. 586 pages.

The era of the Pictish nation is one of extreme controversy and confusion, with many conflicting interests at play. The departure of the Romans from much of the southern part of the main island of Britain left the Celtic tribes in Caledonia to fend for themselves. By 600-800 there had emerged a confederation or consolidation of tribes into what is described as a "Pictish" state or realm. Just how large it was, how it was governed, and who ruled

it remain points of contention. The written records for this realm are meager and often contradictory. The Celtic Christian intrusion into Pictland from northern Ireland introduced a new religion into the kingdom, and with that new religion came monks who recorded "history" according to their own needs and interests. These Celtic Christian chronicles or histories and the work of transcribing

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Elliot Clan Society, USA

Membership Information 2012

The Elliot Clan Society is a worldwide organization, with active branches in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States. In accordance with Scottish Clan Law, Clan membership includes all Elliots, Elliots, Elliotts, those of whose mother or grandmother was so named and their spouses. This also applies to Elliots of known Scottish descent.

If you are a person of Scottish ancestry bearing the name Elliot, Elliott or Eliott (Including the spouse or descendant of such person) and wish to join the Elliot Clan Society, please fill out the membership form. Those forms may be found on the "Official ECS Website" at:

www.elliotclan.com

For US residents, please make sure that you send your completed ECS USA membership forms to the Membership/Treasurer. Once you join the Society, you will receive periodic newsletters from the ECS USA and our Parent Society in Scotland. The newsletters will inform you of Scottish festivals in your area and other announcements of importance to our Clan. Membership allows you to meet other Elliots with similar interests who share our Scottish heritage.

Contact Patricia Tennyson Bell

Email: dublincollen@sbcglobal.net or write

Patricia Tennyson Bell, Treasurer/Membership Chair

2288 Casa Grande Street

Pasadena, CA 91104

(Fortiter Et Recte)

Boldly and Rightly



ers within one or another of the monastic centers led to accidental — or deliberate — alteration in the copying of early manuscripts. Much of what survived, therefore, was filtered through the ideas and ideologies of these early monks. Later, more orthodox Catholic Christian monks further refined or defined this material as they copied earlier materials.

This classic work by Scott is an effort to clear away some of those distortions and additions, and to establish as accurately as possible the history of the Pictish people in Scotland before the 11th century. This, then, is a massive survey of the Picts, their church, language, and literature, and of the organization of the Pictish nation before its amalgamation with the Scots in the 9th-11th centuries. Without question, this is one of the earliest and most thorough studies of the Picts, and modern historians ignore it with difficulty. It is the starting point for a more detailed and modern study of this perplexing kingdom and its language and rulers. (#D-359)

Homes of Family Names in Great Britain
By Henry Brougham Guppy Originally published 1890. 675 pages.

This is a study of the distribution of family names over Great Britain, and I admit that I was surprised at how many names could be identified with a given region of Britain. It begins with English names, providing a listing in alphabetical order of general, common, and regional names as they occur in the country. General names occur in from 30-40 counties, and these names are ones you would expect to see everywhere over the nation. Common names are found in from 20-29 counties; and regional names in from 10-19 counties. Within those divisions, each name is presented with information on its spread and on variations on the name.

These three sections are followed by one on names particular or peculiar to a single county. There then are separate chapters providing much the same type of information on Welsh names and

on Scottish names. While the principal focus is on names found in England, the Welsh and Scottish sections are useful. For those of us most interested in Scottish names, the English portion of the book often provides information on the location of names south of the border, and thus the two parts provide a more precise definition of the origin and spread of the name. Many names extend across the English-Scottish border, and names found in Northumberland or Cumberland are also present in the Scottish border region. Other Anglo-Norman names will come into England after 1066 and then on into Scotland in the 12th and 13th centuries. Overall, this is an interesting approach to family history and a useful reference work for your computer library. (#D-867)

Ancient Emigrants: A History of the Norse Settlements of Scotland By A. W. Brogger
Originally published 1929. 244 pages.

This work is based on a series of lectures delivered in Edinburgh in 1928. Until the 1920s there had been little serious scholarship done on Norse or Scandinavian settlements and influences upon the British Isles. The so-called Vikings were seen as cruel, pagan sea raiders who destroyed Christian learning centers and hindered the spread of both the religion and of economic and technological development. The possibility that these Danish, Norwegian or Swedish folk actually came into Britain, acquired lands, and promoted urban growth at such places as York or Jarvik or Dublin was dismissed as impossible or unlikely.

These lectures, however, provided an introduction to new archaeological work undertaken by Norwegian scholars studying Norse settlements in Scotland. There first is an exploration of the nature of Viking society and the reason for the Norse settlements, first on Orkney and Shetland and later on the Scottish mainland. The period from 800 to 1100 was one of constant movement out of Scandinavia, driven primarily by the demand for land for an exploding population. Orkney, Shetland, Iceland, and Greenland attracted a flood of

Continued on page 23



clankeithusa.org
Official website of The Clan Keith Society USA, Inc



CLAN KEITH SOCIETY USA, INC.

Cordially invites membership inquiries from all descendants of the Keiths and Clan Septs: *Austin, Dickson, Falconer, Hackson, Harvey, Haxton, Hervey, Hurry, Keith, Kite, Lumgair, Mackeith, Marshall, Urie, Urry, etc. (many spelling variations)*

If you see the Clan Keith Society USA, Inc. tent at a Highland Games nywhere...be sure and come by to visit.

Alice M. Hattenbrun, Secretary
The Clan Keith Society, USA, Inc.
119 South RD., Kensington, NH 03833



www.clankeithusa.org

Clan Keith USA 2012
Annual General Meeting
April 21st at the 19th
Rural Hill Scottish Festival
and Loch Norman Highland Games
Huntersville, North Carolina
All members are encouraged to come
and form a clan voting quorum!



*David Danzmayr,
former Assistant
Conductor for the
Royal Scottish
National Orchestra.*

David Danzmayr, from Scotland, finalist for Tallahassee, FL symphony director



Unicorn Ltd., *con't from page 19*

seafarers who took to ships to reach these underpopulated islands. But others turned south from Orkney and moved into the north of Scotland, throughout the Hebrides and on to Man and Ireland. Danes and Swedes likewise turned toward eastern Scotland and settlements there. Throughout Scotland, these Norsemen interacted with the population already settled, however thinly, in Scotland.

There are lectures on the interaction of Celts and Norwegians, on the new discoveries which recent archaeological work had uncovered, on the relationship of earl and bishop in this Viking world, and finally on the interaction of Scotland and Norway as they both evolved. By 1200 the great age of the north was over. Ship technology was advancing elsewhere and the changing weather patterns were bringing increasingly cold weather to the north Atlantic. But there remained in Scotland a large body of folk who did not automatically view the world of their Norse ancestors as a land of cruel raiders. How the Celtic and Norse folk would interact in the centuries to come would define the Highland culture. This, then, is a study of these two cultures and how they came together and why. (#D-314)

The Executive Board of the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra is announcing that the 2012-2013 Concert Season will be conducted by five conductors. One conductor will be selected for the permanent post of Artistic Director and conductor of the Tallahassee Orchestra. The five conductors were carefully selected from a list of some 2500 applicants.

Among the five finalists is David Danzmayr who served for three years as the assistant conductor of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, an ensemble which ranks highly among the world's finest orchestras. Since his departure from Scotland, David has enjoyed an extensive guest conducting career throughout Europe and in Australia.

During the 2011-12 season he is busily engaged conducting throughout the U.S. In February 2011 he was the only European conductor to reach the finals of the prestigious Chicago Symphony Orchestra *Sir Georg Solti Competition*. David will conduct the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra on March 9, 2013. Audience favorites will be given careful consideration in the final decision.

Maestro Miriam Burns will pass the baton after serving as Artistic Director and Conductor for the past seven years. For more information about the new season and the five conductors who are auditioning please visit: www.tallahasseesymphony.org

Clan MacCord Society

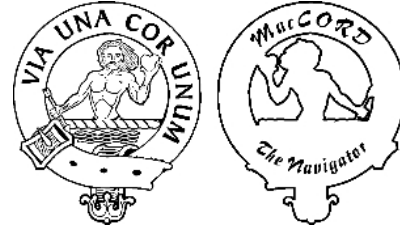
Invites for membership all spelling variations and descendants of McCord (a)(e)(y).

Also McCourt, McChord, McCoard, Cord(e), McCart, McCort, Cort(e)(s) and Flynn, McFettridge and Kane.

Contact

**Ronald John
McCord**

President/Chief
1805 Mews Drive
Wilmington, NC 28405
Ph. 919-256-3798 or
rmnccord@ec.rr.com



Clan Home Society (International)

Cordially invites membership inquiries
worldwide from all HOME, HUME & SEPTS



Information about
The Clan Home Air Force,
contact aeaton@cfl.rr.com



For information and application, write to:
Camille Simmons, President
1205 Avery Way
Kernersville, NC 27284
cbsimmons@earthlink.net

The Story of the Tay Bridge

In 1879, the Tay Rail Bridge was the longest bridge in the world, spanning two miles across the Tay estuary.

On the evening of 28th December 1879, the central part of the span - the so-called high girders - suddenly collapsed, leaving a gap of well over a half-mile.

Most disturbing was that the two-year-old-bridge collapsed while an express passenger train from Edinburgh was making its way across.

The resulting accident claimed the lives of the victims, making it the most catastrophic structural failure in Britain's history.

Surprisingly, until now, there has been no memorial or monument to the victims. The Tay Rail Bridge Disaster Memorial Group was recently established to ensure that a proper and fitting memorial to the victims of the 1879 bridge disaster is constructed.

Become a Friend of the Trust

The aim of the Trust is to raise funds to erect a monument to the Victims of the Disaster. The monument will be sited on Riverside Drive, Dundee, with a complimentary plaque on the Wormit side.

At the time of the completion of the monument, a publication on the history of the disaster, the victims and the story of the monument will be issued to the Friends of the Trust. (For Friends for Life or those with at least 2 years friends donations.)

In addition to becoming a Friend of the Trust, donations are always welcome.

Corporate donations are especially welcome.

We will keep you informed of any special events and fundraisers connected with the Trust. This will be by email only, so please ensure you give us your email address when you make a donation.

Please visit our website:

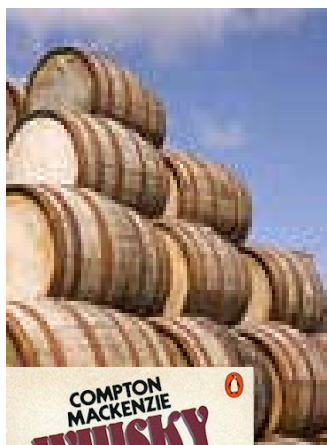
www.thetaymemorial.com

Have you any stories to tell of the disaster?

Have you any other material connected with the disaster?

Please contact johnwirvine@aol.com

We would love to hear from you.

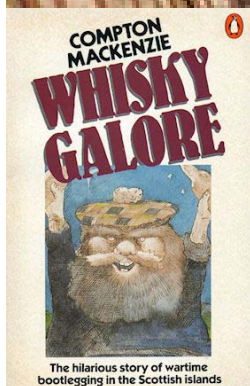


The Whisky Corner

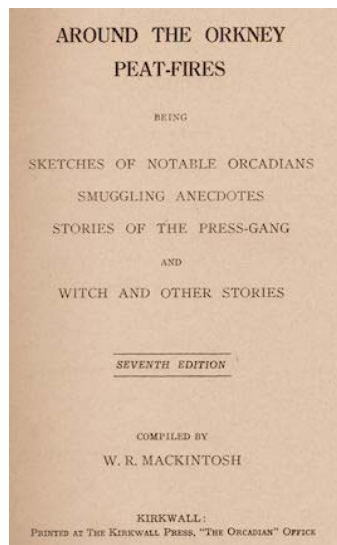
Ray Pearson, Anaheim, CA

The Whiskymeister

Whisky in Literature



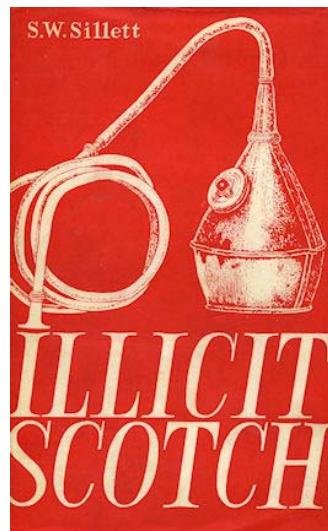
Perhaps the most well-known book with whisky at its core is Compton Mackenzie's *Whisky Galore*, © 1947, Chatto and Windus, London. This riotous account of a whisky-starved island in the Hebrides being on the receiving end of thousands of cases of whisky coming to shore from a shipwrecked freighter is based on a true event. In reality, the *S. S. Politician*, ran aground off the island of Eriskay, after leaving the island of Barra. In the book, it was the *S. S. Cabinet Minister*, and characters of the fictional islands of Big Todday and Little Todday that provided the action, humor, and charm of this snapshot of intoxicating fun.



Around the Orkney Peat-Fires, by W. R. Mackintosh, first appeared in serial form in *The Orcadian* newspaper around 1900. This 6th edition compilation © c. 1967, was published by The Kirwall Press.

Recollections of notable Orcadians, anecdotes about smuggling, stories of the press-gang (the practice “impressing seaman to man the Royal Navy”, a custom dating to the 14th Century), and tales of witches, whet the imagination. Besides the chatty – bordering on gossip – writing in this book, I love its *feel*. It has obviously been printed by the letterpress method, causing each page to have a texture, where the printing plates were pressed into the paper – a tactile feature woefully missing from today’s e-books.

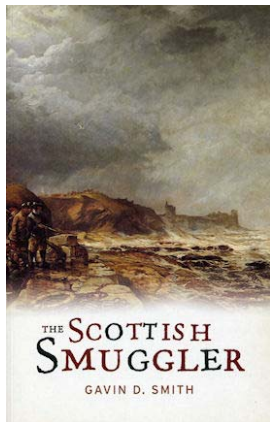
Illicit Scotch, by S. W. Sillett, © 1965, Beaver Books, Aberdeen, and *The Secret Still*, by Gavin Smith, © 2002, Berlinn Ltd, Edinburgh, are both rich with stories of clandestine settings, whisky makers, purveyors, and consumers. Sillett takes us back to the early 1500s, and



“distils the very spirit of Scotia and its people ...” We learn that in 1777, there were no fewer than 408 working stills in Edinburgh, with only eight of them licensed. And this, about Glenlivet (the region, not the brand): “From Glenlivet,

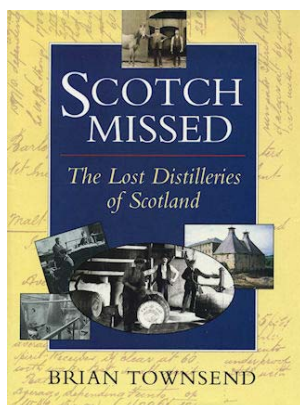
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on pg. 27*

which was unquestionably the mecca of illicit distilling, bands of anything up to 30 men trudged south, by way of the Whisky Road and Ladder Trail, to Perth and Dundee, where they were able to command a high price for their spirits.” Gavin Smith recounts the claim that Scottish author Robert Louis Stevenson based the pirates in *Treasure Island* on illicit distillers at work around Braemar in the 1880s. Long John Silver was, in fact, a miller in the town who supplied distillers with barley.

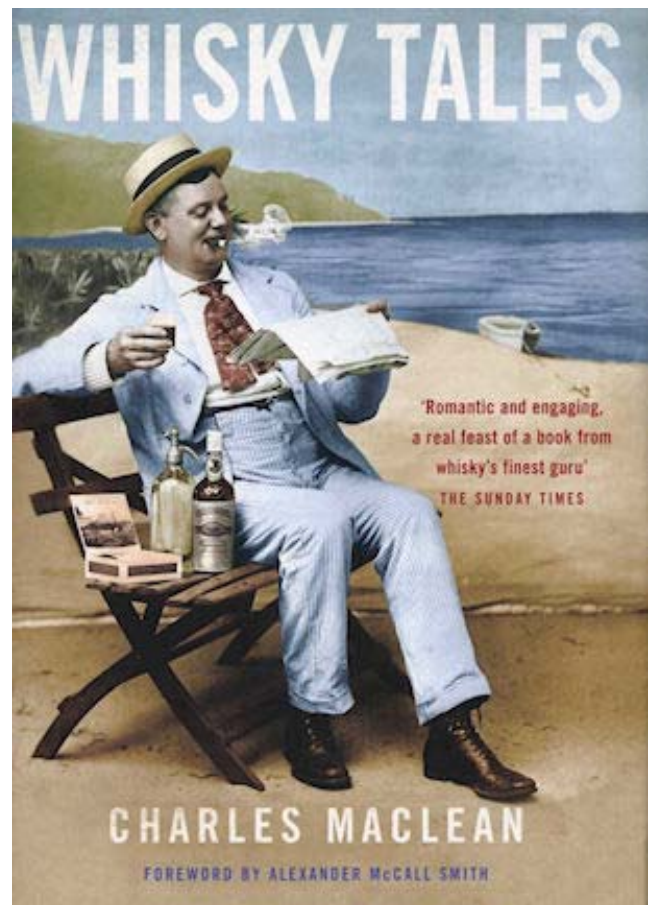


Also by Gavin Smith, *The Scottish Smuggler*, © 2003, Berliinn Ltd, Edinburgh, includes more tales from smuggling’s “Golden Age” (who knew??) of the 18th Century, to modern times. A favorite story is about Hollywood

movie star Errol Flynn. Flynn was at one time contractually banned from drinking during the making of movies, due to his alcoholic excesses. He would appear on set with a bag of oranges, and devour them during filming. What the studio did not know, of course, was that the oranges had been injected with as much vodka as they could absorb! Not a whisky story, but fun, nonetheless!



Other books of the genre include *Scotch Missed – The Lost Distilleries of Scotland* by Brian Townsend, © 1993, Neil Wilson Publishing, Glasgow, and *Whisky Tales*, by Charles Maclean, ©



2006, Little Books, London. Townsend profiles over 70 distilleries which once flourished in every region of Scotland, but are now shuttered, non-existent, or transformed into other uses. Some of St. Magdalene Distillery’s buildings, for instance, have been retrofitted into modern apartments. Maclean’s book is filled with a potpourri of lore, lists, and even lyrics to songs about whisky. Interesting tidbits include one about US President George Washington sending troops to quell opponents of the excise tax in 1794, but then establishing the George Washington Distillery in 1797. His operation was one of the largest in colonial America at the time. Master Blender, Dr. Jim Swan is quoted by Maclean: “The transformation of new spirit into mature whisky is as miraculous as the change from caterpillar to butterfly. The chrysalis is the oak cask.”

San Diego Tartan Day

There's a wee bit o' Scot in everyone!

Eighth Annual Tartan Day/San Diego Festival

Balboa Park, International Cottages

San Diego, CA

Saturday, April 7, 2012

11:00 AM – 4:00 PM Free Admission

The San Diego Tartan Day Steering Committee invites you to join a celebration of Scottish heritage – and tartans, the national fabric and symbol of Scotland.

You can find your own tartan too, at the
Scottish Clan & Tartan Information Center.

- * Explore displays by many Scottish organizations from all over Southern California, including individual Scottish clans
- * Eat traditional Scottish fare, including the world's best bangers, and mouthwatering home baked desserts, all at reasonable prices.
- * Enjoy music and dance from 11:00 – 4:00 PM featuring some of southern California's most exciting Scottish entertainers:
House of Scotland Ceilidh Band
House of Scotland Pipe Band
San Diego School of Highland Dancing

For more information, contact info@tartandaysd.com

or call (619) 425-3454

Thanks to these wonderful Scottish organizations:
House of Scotland, St. Andrew Society of San Diego, San Diego Burns Club
North County Scots, 42nd Black Watch Highland Society, Clans of the Highlands
San Diego Scottish Highland Games, Scottish Clan & Tartan Information Center
San Diego School of Highland Dance SD-Edinburgh Sister City Society

New Map of the Border or Reiver Clans Exclusively from Unicorn Limited!



We are pleased to offer you this handsome map showing the locations of the Border reiver clans and families on both sides of the English-Scottish border in the 16th century. This was the great age of the reiver families, when they were a law unto themselves, challenging even the kings of England and Scotland for power in the region.

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This striking map, commissioned by and produced exclusively for us, measures a large 24 x 24 inches, and is suitable either for framing or laminating for use at the clan tent. The map is bordered by a multi-colored Celtic knot pattern. Your copy will not have the watermark on it. It will be shipped rolled, in a sturdy tube. You can order directly from Vicki. The price is \$39.95, plus \$3.00 shipping in the US, \$8.50 out of the country. Enjoy! Renny and Vicki McLeod

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<http://www.unicornlimited.com>

Colquhoun cousins create a modern Scottish reel in Kandahar

Kandahar, the second largest city in Afghanistan, is where two Black Watch officers were serving in 2009. The officers who wrote this reel are cousins: Captain Andy Colquhoun and Lt. Rob Colquhoun. Andy writes that they wanted to write a reel that reflected their tour of duty. The dance imitates double rotor Chinook helicopters and single rotor Black Hawks. The Chinooks took the troops in and the Black Hawks often took casualties out. The dance was first performed at the Black Watch Officers Mess December 2009 to commemorate the Battalions homecoming; and secondly performed for the Duke of Rothesay (Prince Charles' title when in Scotland) when he visited to pass out campaign medals in January 2010.

Proceeds from the sale of the booklet that contains the music and dance instruction are divided between The Soldiers'



Charity (formerly The Army Benevolent Fund) and the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (RSCDS). The Soldiers' Charity "gives lifelong support to serving and retired soldiers and their families in times of need".

I asked a gentleman at the Country Dance society of the Stone Mountain Games if they could perform the Kandahar Reel and they told me it's an extremely vigorous dance that the soldiers danced in their fatigues that most of them would have a hard time keeping up with. The copy of the dance and music I ordered from the www.RSCDS.org was about \$15 and is a nice addition to my collection of Colquhoun artifacts. You can see it performed on youtube.com.



Clan Colquhoun Society Of NA, Inc.