



**Vol. XIII No. 11 Beth's Newfangled Family Tree April 2020 Section B**

## A tunnel from Scotland to N. Ireland?

Scottish Secretary Alister Jack has said he favours the building of a tunnel between Scotland and Northern Ireland - and claims the Prime Minister is "on the same page".

Speaking during an evidence session in the Scottish Parliament, Jack took a different view from that previously outlined by Boris Johnson, who had said serious consideration was being given to building a bridge between Portpatrick and Larne.

Jack said a link between the two countries would boost the economies of Northern Ireland and south-west Scotland, while also strengthening the union.

He also said a tunnel would not face the same problems posed to any potential bridge project by the Second World War munitions dump at Beaufort's Dyke in the Irish Sea.

Plans for Boris Johnson's Scotland to Northern Ireland bridge are already under way



When asked by SNP MSP Kenneth Gibson about the idea of a bridge, Jack said: "I'm very keen on it now, but it's not a bridge that I'm keen on, it's a tunnel.

"It's no different to the tunnels connecting the Faroes, it's not different to the tunnels underneath the fjords, and it deals with the problem of Beaufort's Dyke and the World War Two munitions.

"The bridge for me is a euphemism for a link, which is a tunnel."

Speaking to journalists after his appearance before Holyrood's Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Affairs Committee, Jack said it could even be the case that a crossing is made up of sections of both bridge and tunnel.

He added: "But I think the best solution if we're going to bridge Scotland with Northern Ireland is a tunnel, and I've had conversations along those lines with the Prime Minister."

Jack also said he and the Prime Minister are "on exactly the same page" when it comes to the idea of an underwater crossing.

According to the Scottish Secretary, he has been told by a number of engineers that a tunnel would cost less than a bridge.

**Well, Beth finally got her horse!\***



\* April Fool!

*Continued on page 5*



# OH, CANADA!



<https://electriccanadian.com>





ISLE OF SKYE, SCOTLAND

# The Old Man of Storr

An ancient Scottish rock formation said to be the gravesite of a giant remains ensconced in legend and intrigue.



With thanks to *Atlas Obscura*.

Subscribe for FREE.

The Old Man of Storr juts out of the undulating terrain like an igneous shard of mythological proportions. A tentpole of the rugged vistas that characterize the Isle of Skye, this point of interest in the Scottish Highlands is a site of folkloric mysticism and natural grandeur.

Situated atop Trotternish Ridge—a peninsula in the northeastern region of the Isle of Skye, created as the result of a colossal landslip—the Old Man of Storr is a 160-foot pinnacle rock formation named after its likeness to, well, an old man. The Storr, which refers to the group of looming outcrops that include and surround the Old Man, is a title derived from the Norse word for “Great Man.”

Legend has it that the Old Man of Storr was a giant who resided on the Trotternish Ridge. When he was laid to rest upon his death, his thumb—the “Old Man”—remained partially above ground.

The Old Man of Storr towers over the Sound of Rasaay at an elevation of more than 2,300 feet, and a hike up the grassy mounds toward the group of curious pinnacle rocks that surround the Old Man provides magnificent, panoramic views of the water and the surrounding mainland.

The raw, bucolic landscape of the Storr and the encompassing hiking circuit known as the Quiraing, have landed the Old Man several movie features, including *The Wicker Man* (1973), *Prometheus* (2012), and *Snow White and the Huntsman* (2012).

## Know Before You Go

The Old Man of Storr is a six-mile drive from the neighboring port village of Portree, the largest settlement on the Isle of Skye. You can walk up and down the Storr on a 2.3-mile (3.8-kilometer) route that takes roughly one hour and 15 minutes to complete.



enquiries@clancolquhoun.com +1 6197817279

Not a member of your Clan and want to attend the Event? Join Now.



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# clan colquhoun INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY



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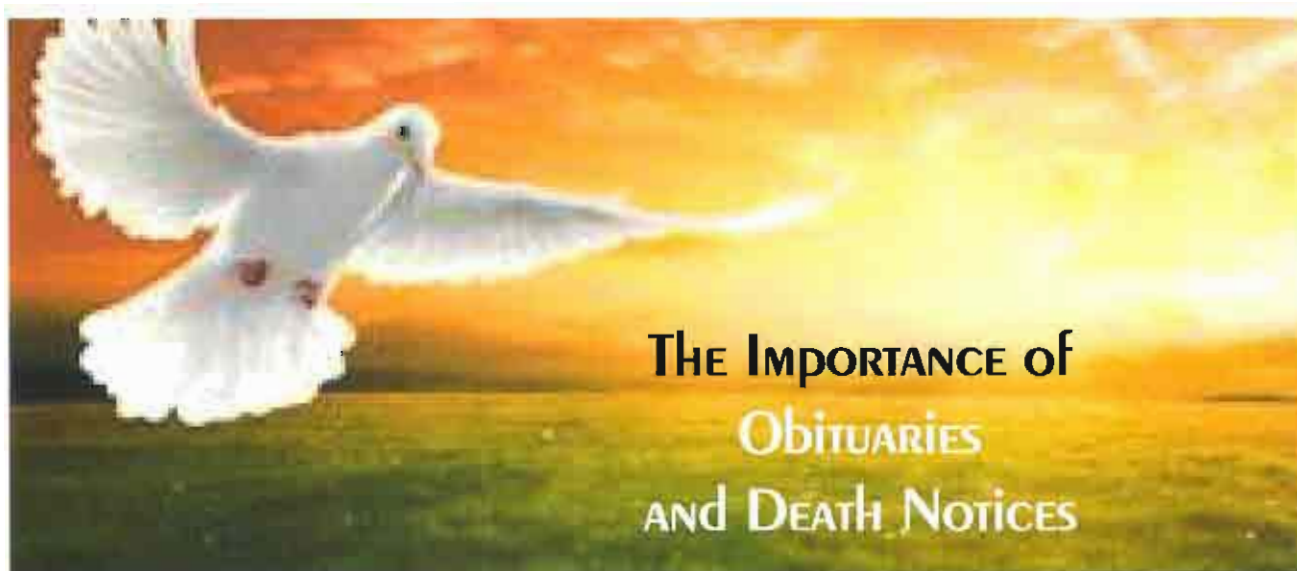
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Bryan L. Mulcahy, Reference Librarian

Obituaries and death notices play a vital role in the research process. Obituaries are public notices of a person's death that usually appear in the local newspaper. These are considered public records.

Death notices are brief announcements that appear in the local newspaper. Death notices contain the name of the decedent, name of the funeral home handling the final arrangements, information about the funeral and memorial plans, and where donations can be made in memory of the decedent if applicable. Death notices are usually located in the same section of the newspaper as obituaries.

Every obituary tells a story. Obituaries can provide significant insights into the lives of our ancestors. They often contain biographical sketches of their lives. This information can point towards other primary record sources, corroborate facts in evidence, verify names, dates, and locations, and help locate surviving family members, neighbors, and business associates. Obituaries

normally identify the name and location of the funeral home that handled final arrangements, where the funeral or memorial service was held, and the location of the cemetery if applicable. If the decedent was cremated, this is usually stated in the obituary.

Biographical information may shed light on relevant details about age, birth, marriage, death, names of parents, siblings, spouses including maiden names in some cases, names of children and grandchildren, places of residence of living relatives, and brief details about deceased relatives. Obituaries may also contain specific dates and locations pertaining to education and military service, public offices held, awards, organizational membership and religious affiliation. If the deceased was an immigrant, researchers may find information about the country and locality of origin, and details concerning when and where they arrived at upon entry to America or Canada.

From a research perspective, the most important piece of information is the name of the funeral home that handled final arrangements. Funeral homes maintain informational packets on decedents which often contain significant additional information that does not appear in obituaries or other record sources such as death or marriage certificates.

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### **Tunnel from Scotland to Ireland,**

*continued from page 1*

Jack described the plans as being in the "discussion phase", and it would be for the Prime Minister to "push the button" and move forward with a full feasibility study to test if the proposals are possible.

With thanks to Scotland's *Daily Record*.

---

Bryan L. Mulcahy, Reference Librarian, Fort Myers Regional Library - <bmulcahy@leegov.com>

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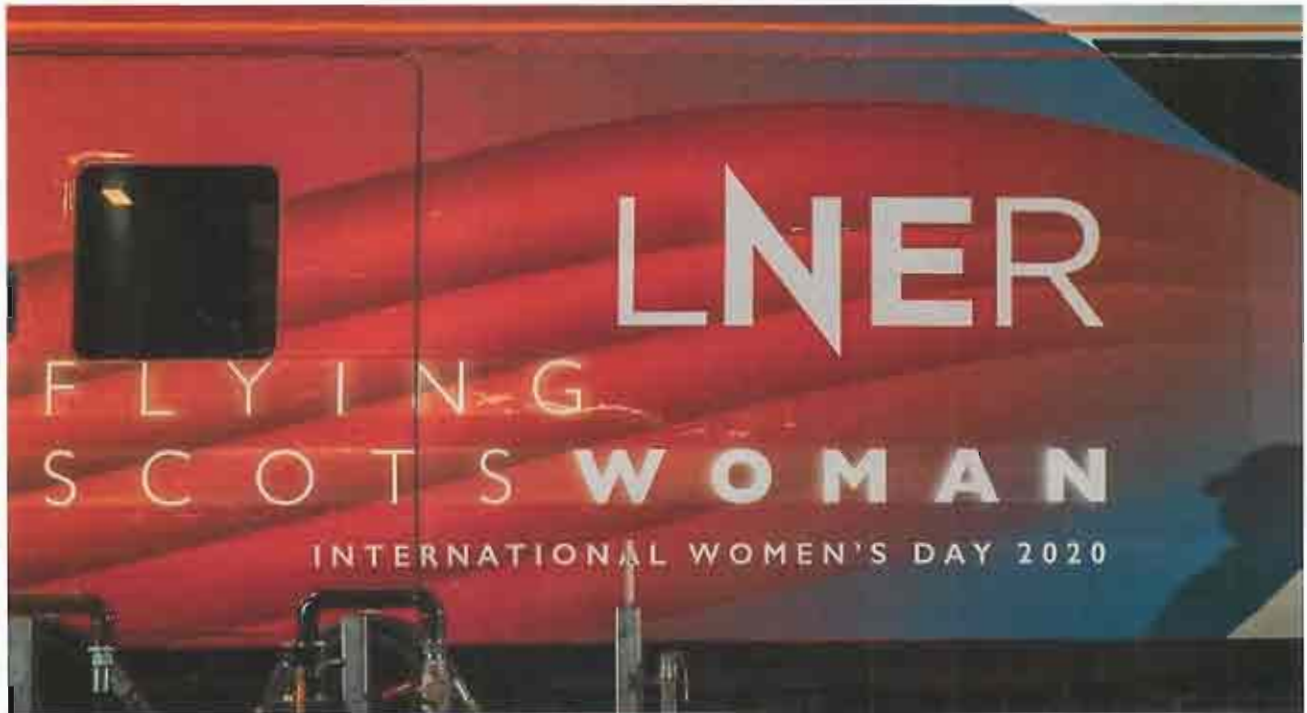
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**2020**

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## Hunting the Gowk!

The Scottish love April Fools!  
In fact, they love it so much, they  
celebrate it for two days.

In Scotland, they call it "hunt-  
ing the gowk," (the Cuckoo), and  
if you are tricked, you are an  
"April Gowk!"

# THE CLAN GREGOR SOCIETY

*'S Rioghal Mo Dhream!*

**Royal is my Race!**

Fàilte! The Clan Gregor Society is a growing organisation with membership throughout the world. It's most active objectives are to extend the links of kinship and friendship between MacGregors, wherever they may be, and to provide a focal point for all members of the Clan and interested visitors who wish to learn more of our noble past.

**Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor**

7th Baronet of Lanrick and Balquidder

**24th Chief of Clan Gregor**

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**Join Clan Gregor today! [www.clangregor.org](http://www.clangregor.org)**





# Canadian Flower of the Forest

Alan McKenzie,  
ACGB, FICB, FlinsD, FSA Scot

It is with deep sadness that I have to report that our good friend and colleague **Alan McKenzie** (1936 - 2020) died of cancer on January 2.

Alan joined the Scottish Studies Foundation in July 1986 when he was Senior Vice-President and Secretary of Barclays Bank of Canada.

Over the years in working tirelessly for the Foundation, Alan undertook the roles of Secretary, Treasurer and President and was the first editor of the Foundation's newsletter when, at Alan's recommendation, the decision was made to open the Foundation to general membership. There can be little doubt that it was thanks to Alan's fundraising efforts that the Chair in Scottish Studies was established in 2004.

Alan was extremely proud of his Scottish heritage and was an active participant in many Scots-Canadian events in Ontario and elsewhere in Canada. In 1987 Alan founded the Clan MacKenzie Society in Canada and for many years was Lieutenant to Cabarfeidh (the chief of the Clan, John Mackenzie, Earl of Cromartie).

His achievements in this role included mounting a campaign to restore the Mackenzie castle, Castle Leod, near Strathpeffer in Scotland and in making available an updated and indexed edition of *History of the Mackenzies with Genealogies of the Principal families of the Name*, by Alexander Mackenzie MJL.

Alan was also an enthusiastic amateur actor and appeared on the stage in various roles including George Bernard Shaw's *Joan of Arc*, Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband*, Terence Rattigan's *The*

*Winslow Boy* and Frank Vickery's *Trivial Pursuits*. He was also the director of Norm Foster's *Office Hours*.

Alan was born in 1936 at Chester, England, to Maj. William Alexander McKenzie and Ada Ethel May Cross and was educated at Sutton High School, Plymouth, England. In 1958 he married Jill Leach, daughter of Charles Leach and Flora B. Craig. Their four children are: Duncan Stuart, Fiona Juliet, Ian Bruce, and Catherine Alison. Sadly Jill passed away in 2006.

In 1953 Alan joined Barclay's Bank in England and emigrated to Canada in 1975 to join the Bank of Montreal in Montreal. In 1978, after a short spell as managing director of a public real estate company in Hong Kong, he rejoined Barclay's Bank in Toronto becoming a governor of the Institute of Canadian Bankers and senior vice-president, secretary and compliance officer of Barclay's Bank of Canada until his retirement in 1996.

All of us on the Scottish Studies Foundation's Board of Directors extend our deepest sympathy and condolences to Alan's wife Susan and to his children and grandchildren at this difficult time.

I have been advised that there will be a Celebration of Alan's Life at a future date and will keep you posted once details are available.

Alan will be sorely missed. He was a great human being. When will we see the likes of him again?

Sincerely,

David Hunter, President

<http://www.scottishstudies.com>



# Scottish Heritage USA, Inc.

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*A Non-profit Organization providing student scholarships for highland dance and bagpiping and making charitable donations to the National Trust for Scotland and other non-profit organizations that promote Scottish tradition, history, crafts and culture here in the United States and Scotland*

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• The Scottish Gaelic Studies Lectureship at UNC Chapel for the academic years of 2017-20	\$185,000
• Renovation of Eisenhower Suite, Culzean castle	\$50,000*
• Scholarships for dance and piping students 2010-2019	\$50,000
• The National Trust for Scotland USA 2018-20 Corporate membership	\$35,000
• Interpretation Project at Glencoe	\$25,000*
• Renovation of Charles Rennie Mackintosh's Hill House, Helensburgh	\$20,000*
• Highland Echoes "Scotland in the Class"	\$16,900
• Scottish Tartans Museum Franklin NC	\$7,700
• Grandfather Mountain Highland Games Cultural Village 2017-20	\$6,000

\* National Trust for Scotland sites



*Eisenhower Suite, Culzean Castle*



*The Hill House, Helensburgh*

## PLANNING A TRIP TO SCOTLAND ?

Before you go check out the deals you get from membership in Scottish Heritage USA

- Reciprocal membership to the National Trust for Scotland Foundation, USA
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- **The Highlander** magazine (six issues per year)
- **National Trust's** magazine (three issues per year)
- **Scottish Heritage USA** Newsletter (three issues per year)

Memberships range from \$25 to \$500 and are well worth the price! – JOIN ONLINE

Come visit us at Grandfather Mountain Games July 9 – 12 2020





## DNA testing kits What are the privacy risks?

With thanks to: comparitech

comparitech

Have you ever wondered what makes you? Mused over how you came to be, and who you share genes with? There's a new option to find answers, and all it needs is a drop of spit.

It should come as no surprise that commercial DNA tests are rising in popularity. Genealogy itself is, after all, an ancient practice: members of the royal family of the United Kingdom, for example, can trace their ancestry down to Henry VII. Now with commercial DNA testing, genealogy maps are very accessible. Your DNA is a map that holds traits of every person who came before you. With the right analysis, DNA tests can also unlock data on health problems or predispositions.

But if you're considering a test, not so fast. It turns out that knowledge comes with a price, one with potentially long-lasting consequences. Your DNA can expose secrets, even those that aren't your own, and put you at risk in ways that aren't advertised. There are huge, privacy concerns with commercial DNA testing, starting with what you agree to in the fine print.

### Who owns the data?

Your spit might belong to you, but the unraveled code, in digital form? That's different. In order to test your genes, commercial DNA services ask for the rights to your information. These details are frequently found

within the terms of service, and can be very unnerving. AncestryDNA for example, states that it "does not claim any ownership rights in the DNA submitted for testing", however:

"By submitting DNA to AncestryDNA, you grant AncestryDNA and the Ancestry Group Companies a roy-

alty-free, worldwide, sublicensable, transferable license to host, transfer, process, analyze, distribute, and communicate your Genetic Information for the purposes of providing you products and services, conducting Ancestry's research and product development, enhancing Ancestry's user experience, and making and offering personalized products and services."

Other providers include similar statements in their terms. 23andMe, for example, includes a

*Continued on page 15*



# The Clan Macneil

## Association of America

If you are a Macneil or any of the following "Sept Names" then you have found the clan you have been searching for.



"O'n D'thainig thu."

Remember the men from whom you have come.

**The Clan Macneil President: Kenneth McNeil,**  
3920 N. St. Joseph Ave., Evansville, IN 47720-1203  
<mckennypam.1203@hotmail.com>

- |              |             |             |            |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| * Macneil    | * Mcniel    | * Niell     | * McGougan |
| * MacNeil    | * McNiel    | * O'Neal    | * McGrail  |
| * Macniel    | * Mcneill   | * O'Neil    | * McGrail  |
| * MacNiel    | * McNeill   | * O'Niel    | * Mcgrail  |
| * Macneill   | * Mcneal    | * O'Neill   | * Mcgrail  |
| * MacNeill   | * McNeale   | * Oneil     | * McGugan  |
| * MacNeillie | * McNeilage | * Oneill    | * Macgugan |
| * Macneal    | * Mcneilage | * Nelson    | * McGuigan |
| * MacNeal    | * McNelly   | * Neilson   | ...and     |
| * Macneale   | * McNelly   | * Nielson   | * Mcguigan |
| * MacNeilage | * McNeally  | * MacGougan |            |
| * Macneilage | * Mcneally  | * Macgougan |            |
| * MacNelly   | * Neil      | * Macgrail  |            |
| * Macnelly   | * Neal      | * MacGugan  |            |
| * MacNeally  | * Neall     | * Macgugan  |            |
| * Macneally  | * Neale     | * MacGuigan |            |
| * Mcneil     | * Neill     | * Macguigan |            |
| * McNeil     | * Niel      | * McGougan  |            |





## DNA Privacy Risks, *continued from page 13*

‘Waiver of Property Rights’ on submitted DNA.

While companies obtain consent before using DNA for research, users may not realize they have a choice. Judy Russell, The Legal Genealogist, points out options are often unclear. Consent forms are frequent examples of bad design. As a result, users may feel giving consent to research is necessary to be tested. As Russell suggests in her blog:

“So when AncestryDNA says that many hundreds of thousands of its more than 1 million test takers have agreed to participate in the research study, I don’t believe for one minute that more than a tiny fraction knew that (a) they didn’t have to agree and (b) if they did agree, they were agreeing to disclose every last jot and tittle of their family history.”

Since DNA is health information, many users may expect the data is protected by privacy legislation. HIPAA, for example, is the well-known health privacy legislation in the United States and in Canada health privacy laws exist in most provinces. If a doctor requests genetic testing, safeguards and limitations on use are enforced by law.

However, HIPAA only applies to genetic information when under the authority of ‘health care providers’. Hospitals, individual clinics and private medical practices must uphold HIPAA privacy practices, as do insurers. Other private companies do not unless they are performing a service for a HIPAA health care entity. To give a clear example, a business that provides X-ray technology for hospitals typically complies with HIPAA. This is because their hospital clients are responsible for business associate privacy practices. HIPAA does not apply, however, if the x-ray company never works with health care providers.

Companies including AncestryDNA and 23andMe are not health care providers. So long as their labs are sequencing DNA for commercial

purpose and interest, HIPAA does not apply. As Peter Pitts, writing for Forbes, puts it, “The Portability Act was passed when genetic testing was just a distant dream on the horizon of personalized medicine.” This begs the question, now that genetic testing can be commonplace, should the legislation be expanded to include organizations or laboratories that process genetic information even if not affiliated with health care providers?

### **What about other legislation, like the GDPR?**

For individuals outside the United States, the law may offer more protection. In Canada, private companies are subject to PIPEDA, which includes limitations on collection, use and disclosure. Health information may also be under the jurisdiction of provincial health information acts. The Personal Health Information Act of Ontario, for example, includes “laboratory or a specimen collection centres” as health care custodians. This places restrictions on how data may be used without consent; notably, data may not be disclosed outside the province of Ontario without consent, or unless for the purpose of health care planning.

In Europe, the General Data Protection Regulation applies to all organizations that process personal information. Genetic information is explicitly called out in the law, under Article 9, ‘Processing of special categories of personal data’. Commercial DNA Testing companies who include processing of European genetic data are conscious of the law and may apply higher levels of safeguards to European data subjects. The website for 23andMe includes a specific page to illustrate compliance with the GDPR.

### **Unexpected consequences: when your DNA**

*Continued on page 17*



# The Clan Skene

## Association, Inc.



The Clan Skene Association, Inc., invites membership from SKENE and Septs Carison, Carney/Carnie, Curriehill, Dyas, Dyce, Dyer, Hall, Halyard/Hallyard, MacGaillard, Rennie & Skains

**Al McGalliard,**

president

273 Amy Clegg Drive  
Gray, GA 31032

<alsrx95@gmail.com>





**affects your insurance**

Are you predisposed to certain conditions? Does your DNA suggest health problems as you age? In the United States, your insurance company wants to know... and in some cases, may already have access to the information.

The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA) prevents health insurers from using DNA information to discriminate, but the law does not apply to life insurance. Fast Company's Christina Farr reports that customers face denial of coverage over DNA information, such as having a genetic predisposition to breast cancer.

There's also a question of whether users have a choice before handing data over. In 2017, the House of Representatives proposed HR 1313, the Employee Wellness Programs Act. This act would allow employers to request genetic testing from employees and families if they want to be covered by the company's health insurance. Iain Thomson of The Register writes that while testing would not be mandatory, "those who refuse could see their health costs rise by up to 50 percent... The proposed legislation would do an end-run around [GINA] protections." Fortunately as of 2019, the act appears to be withdrawn, with the status of "Died in a previous Congress" according to Govtrack.us.

**Are your parents who they say they are?**

We've all seen it before in movies and soap operas: a character discovers one of their parents isn't blood-related to them. Paternity testing isn't new; it's been used to prove parenthood for over two decades and settle disputes. Commercial DNA sequencing companies, however, do offer a new twist. With a paternity test, the relationship between parent and child is already in question. Results from commercial DNA tests, by contrast, can come as a shock. As a result of the test, families see when there's no genetic match between parent and child. Depending on the database's detail, testing may

also provide data on potential parents. If parent and child are in the same database, the match can be uncovered. As a reminder of potential consequences, 23 and me includes a warning in its Terms of Service. "Once you obtain your Genetic Information, the knowledge is irrevocable."

**Your privacy vs. the privacy of your family**

The ability for DNA to expose genetic parents raises serious ethical issues and unexpected breaches of privacy without consent. To date, adoption agencies may be bound by law not to release identifiable information at the parent's request. Adoption privacy laws are a longtime hot button issue.

Who has the stronger claim: the adoptee's right to know their parentage or the parent's right to protect their own privacy? With DNA testing, parents may not have a choice on having their information exposed. If the child takes a DNA test, once they have information on their own DNA, they can test it against differ-

ent databases to find a match. In some cases, this is advertised by genealogists, such as the blog post by Amie Tennant of FamilySearch titled "Connecting with Your Biological Family through DNA Testing."

What about the privacy of other family members? How much of your DNA tells a story about other relations? When we give up our DNA to commercial testing companies, we may be exposing family members without their consent. A study in Science Magazine titled "Identity inference of genomic data using long-range familial searches" reveals the truth: 60% of Americans of European descent can be matched to their third cousins or closer relations. Brian Resnick reporting for Vox estimates that number will rise as technology improves and more people give their data to DNA companies. What are the consequences of family



*Continued on page 19*

# The Armstrong Clan Society

Dedicated to the Armstrongs,  
Crosiers, Fairbairns, Grosiers, Nixons  
and those interested in those surnames.

The Armstrong Clan Society was organized on October 8, 1981 and is incorporated in the State of Georgia, USA. The Society is recognized as a Section 501 (c) (3) not for profit organization and exempt from the United States Federal Income Taxes.

On September 24, 1984, the Lord Lyon, King of Arms in Scotland, granted warrant to the Lyon Clerk to matriculate in the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland in the name of the Armstrong Clan Society, Inc., the Coat of Arms to the right of this paragraph. Our motto "Semper Invictus" can be translated as "Always Unconquered."



## Objectives of the Armstrong Clan Society

1. To seek friendship and unity among all Armstrongs, its septs and associated families. 2. To provide for the preservation of all armstrong artifacts unique to the family. 3. To serve as a genealogical and historical resource for the membership and the general public. 4. To provide news, Armstrong history, items of general interest and genealogy via our newsletter, *The Armstrong Chronicles*. 5. To establish worldwide geographic membership representation.

## Membership

All Armstrongs, Croziers, Fairbairns, Grosiers and Nixons (regardless of the spelling and their descendants, are eligible for full membership in the Armstrong Clan Society. In the United States and Canada, dues are \$25 per year or \$45 for two years. All memberships include two adults and all minor children. In other countries, dues are \$35 per year. All dues are payable in US funds.



For membership application, email **Janet Armstrong** at <jdumeyer@hotmail.com> or download from <<http://www.armstrong.org/membership.htm>>. Note, "spouse" on the application includes: spouse, domestic partner or any other adult living at the same address.

To contact the Armstrong Clan Society president, **Chris Armstrong** at <[chrisarmys@gmail.com](mailto:chrisarmys@gmail.com)>. Ceud Mile Failte (100,000 welcomes) to you!



connections?

Already we have one example: in California, a person's participation in a DNA testing database led to their family member's arrest.

**Using commercial DNA tests to catch a killer**

In April 2018, the FBI in California made an arrest in a case left unsolved for decades: the Golden State Killer. The news broke headlines, sensational for the arrest and how the suspect was found. To find the Golden State Killer, investigators tried a new tactic. They took earlier forensic DNA evidence and checked it against a commercial DNA platform, GEDMatch. The suspect hadn't uploaded their DNA... but a relative in Oregon had. Suddenly the authorities had a new clue. By taking the DNA match from Oregon and mapping out relatives in a family tree, they could reduce the pool of suspects, until narrowing it down enough to make an arrest.

Law enforcement using DNA to solve crimes is no new trend. The use of DNA evidence has been acceptable since 1988, the first successful case of DNA testing within a murder trial. However, calls for police access to commercial DNA databases are raising alarms. In the past, DNA evidence was the final nail in the coffin. In 1988, police confirmed a guilty defendant when the DNA of the victim matched a bloodstain on his T-shirt. With the Golden State Killer, investigators did not use DNA to confirm proof. Instead, it became a new search lead.

**More law enforcement access on the rise**

DNA Test access by law enforcement is a rising concern. How much access to DNA test results should police and investigators have? In January of 2019, public ire rose when FamilyTreeDNA allowed FBI access to its research. Writing for the Miami Herald, Monique Madan notes 23 and Me

responds to legal requests on a case-by-case basis.

Ancestry DNA also follows legitimate legal requests, including those from warrants or subpoenas. These requests are increasing.

In November of 2019, courts allowed a detective in Florida to warrant access to search GEDMatch's full servers. It set an unnerving precedent: if warrants become obtainable, other agencies are likely to use court orders to bypass DNA testing companies' privacy policies. Speaking with Science News, Erin Murphy of New York University comments the ability to get a warrant is a huge game-changer. "It's a signal that no genetic information can be safe."

Others, however, are more skeptical. Also speaking with Science News, lawyer and bioethicist Kayte Spector-Bagdady suggests it won't be so simple. Unlike companies that do an analysis of saliva, GEDMatch populates its database by allowing users to upload their raw data, free, from other services. The warrant would not apply to companies that do direct-to-consumer private consumer

analysis, and if a warrant is given for police search of databases like 23andMe, the company has the right to appeal. If companies feel user privacy is at stake, they "still have the right to challenge warrants in court."

That's assuming, however, that the company requires a warrant to begin with. Before May of 2019, profiles of GED Match were accessible to law enforcement by default, which is how police were able to use the tool to find the Golden State Killer. Soon, users may see those days returning: in December 2019, GEDMatch was bought by forensics testing firm Verogen. As Verogen specializes in assisting police, future law enforcement access is a given.

*Continued on page 25*



THE 65<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GRANDFATHER  
MOUNTAIN HIGHLAND GAMES  
WILL BE HELD JULY 9 - 12, 2020  
AT MACRAE MEADOWS  
ON GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN  
NEAR LINVILLE, NC.

**TENTATIVE EVENT SCHEDULE FOR  
THE 2020 GAMES**

**Thursday, July 9th**

\* Whisky Tasting at Best Western Mountain Lodge in Banner Elk  
from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm

\* Picnic, Torchlight Ceremony & Sheep Herding

\* 4:30 PM Picnic

Food concessions are available at MacRae Meadows or you can  
bring your own.

\* Scottish Entertainment

\* Traditional Celtic Music. Performers to be announced

\* Sheep Herding: Sheep Herding with Border Collies on the field.

\* **7 PM The Bear: Assault on Grandfather:** This five-mile footrace climbs 1,568 feet in elevation  
from the town of Linville to the summit of Grandfather mountain. Over 800 runners will start up the  
Old Yonahlossee Road from Linville at 7 PM, circle the Highland Games track around 7:15, and head  
up the Grandfather Mountain summit road.

\* More Sheep Herding \* Torchlight Ceremony: \* Opening ceremony announcing each participating  
Clan's arrival to the Games

**Friday, July 10th**

\* 9 AM MacRae Meadows Opens: Preliminary athletic competition, sheep herding, music/dancing  
exhibitions. Celtic Groves will be open and other activities will highlight the day.

\* Scottish Cultural Village, \* Opening Ceremonies, \* Highland Wrestling Clinic for children,  
\* Children's Tent and Field Activities, \* Harp Workshop, \* Sheep Herding, \* History & Genealogy  
Studies at Clan Tents, \* Highland Dancing Pre-Championship, \* Lochaber Trump Competition in the  
Harp and Fiddling Tent

For complete details,

**visit: <http://www.gmhg.org/>**





## Grandfather Mountain Scottish Highland Games Schedule

4:00 PM Day events completed, preparation begins for Celtic Rock Concert.

Grandfather Mountain Highland Games Presents: 6:30 - 11 PM **Celtic Rock Concert at MacRae Meadows.**

Grandfather Mountain Highland Games presents 8:00 PM - 12 AM **Scottish Country Dance Gala** at ASU. \$25 dancers / \$10 spectators. (Tickets sold only at the door).

### **Saturday, July 11th**

6:30 AM Mountain Marathon begins in Boone, NC. Runners will arrive at Games track around

9:30 AM. Among the most strenuous marathons in the nation.

7:30 AM MacRae Meadows Opens

Amateur Heavy Athletic Qualifying Begins

\* Competition begins for Highland Dancing Atlantic International Championship, piping, drumming, Scottish athletic events, track & field events, Scottish country dancing and Scottish harp.

\* Scottish Fiddling Competition at Marathon Tent, \* Scottish Cultural Village \* Children's Highland Wrestling Competition \* Sheep Herding \* Massed Bands on track \* Opening Ceremonies \* History & Genealogy Studies at Clan Tents \* Children's Tent Activities \* Celtic Grove Music \* Highland Wrestling \* Harp Competitions \* Pre-Premier Highland Dance Competition \* NC Provincial Gaelic Mod

4:00 Days events end. Preparation for Celtic Jam \* 6:30 - 10:30 PM Celtic Jam at MacRae Meadows. \$15 Adults / \$5 Children age 5-12

### **Sunday, July 12th**

8:00 AM MacRae Meadows Opens

\* Scottish Heavy Athletic Demonstration and Clinic \* Prelude Music for Worship Service Begins

\* Scottish Worship Service Outside main gate, bring a folding chair. Includes Kirkin 'O' the Tartans.

\* Scottish Cultural Village \* Children's Border Collie Demonstration on the main field.

\* Celtic Grove Entertainment Begins

\* Parade of Tartans Guests of Honor & Distinguished Guests are introduced as all members of the sponsoring clans are invited to march in the parade behind the massed pipe bands.

\* Scottish Fiddling Workshop at the Harp Tent followed by a Jam session for fiddle and other instruments

\* Atlantic International Highland Dance Championship Competition Competition takes place throughout the day for Scottish athletic events, sheep herding, kilted miles, children's events, Scottish country dancing, Scottish harps, Clan Tugs-of-War. Celtic Grove entertainment continues.

\* History & Genealogy Studies at Clan Tents \* Sheep Herding Demonstration

**4:00 PM Closing Ceremonies**

For complete details,

**visit: <http://www.gmhg.org/>**



# GRANDFATHER MOUNTAIN HIGHLAND GAMES 2020 ENTERTAINMENT

## Sue Richards and Robin Bullock

Website: [sue-richards-and-robin-bullock/](http://sue-richards-and-robin-bullock/)

A major new duo of two award-winning American masters of traditional Celtic music, Sue Richards and Robin Bullock blend the ancient and magical tones of the Celtic harp with the powerful resonance of the steel-string guitar, cittern and mandolin, drawing on Irish, Scottish, Welsh and Breton traditions to create something truly unique: beautiful and timeless, yet fresh and current.

Their individual achievements speak for themselves, with (among many other accomplishments) Sue being a four-time National Scottish Harp Champion and Robin being a longtime touring sideman with Lifetime Achievement Grammy Award winner Tom Paxton.



## Brothers McLeod

Brothers McLeod Brothers McLeod, David and Michael, began performing in 2014. David studied bioengineering as an undergraduate at Clemson University with research interests including upper-limb prostheses, signal analysis, and machine learning. He will begin doctoral studies at George Washington University in biomedical instrumentation in Fall 2019. Michael is a professional level solo competitive bagpiper who attends Furman University majoring in biology to pursue a career in dentistry.



Both have been members of numerous bands including Palmetto Pipes and Drums of Columbia, SC; Upstate United of Clemson, SC; and the Atlanta Pipe Band. They also perform at events such as weddings, Burns Dinners, Kirkin' o' the Tartan services, parades and veterans' services, and debutante balls. Most notably, they have performed as entertainers on the Alex Beaton Stage at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games since 2015.

## Strathspan

Traditional Scottish music creatively played on cello and fiddle by Julia Weatherford and Nora Garver.

**Visit: <http://www.gmhg.org>**





Piper Jones Band & Seven Nations, too!

## Wolf Loescher

<https://wololoco.com/>

Wolf Loescher is a singer / storyteller based in Longmont, Colorado. He sings songs and tells stories from the Old World and the New, accompanying himself on his custom 8-string bouzouki (aka "Bouzar" or "Gadzouki"), guitar, and bodhran. He is often joined by fabulous musicians from around the country in his backing band "The Growlers".

He feels at home in many places: behind a microphone, behind a drum kit, behind a computer keyboard; on a stage, on a boat, on a mountain; in a kilt, in sneakers and jeans, in a swim suit; at a house concert, at a small local music venue, at a large international music festival. And his music reflects this.



## Marybeth McQueen

Marybeth McQueen grew up in an environment filled with Scottish music, the closest source being her father Gregory McQueen, fiddle player for Clandestine. She began learning the Highland pipes at age 8, and has been attending the North American Academy of Piping and Drumming for many years. In 2014 she placed 2nd in the US Scottish Fiddle championship and in 2015 won "Best March" in the open level. Marybeth is currently a student at UNCW and is an expert at mixing traditional music with modern techniques in an upbeat and creative style.

## Chambless and Muse

Chambless and Muse Website: [www.jilchambless.com](http://www.jilchambless.com),  
[www.scootermuse.com](http://www.scootermuse.com)

For more than 25 years, Alabama natives Jil Chambless and Scooter Muse have been performing the music of Scotland, Ireland and early America with various ensembles in a wide variety of venues, from house concerts to festivals and concert halls. Jil and Scooter have been fortunate to work alongside many of the best artists in Celtic music, resulting in many spontaneous collaborations.

In 2010, Jil and Scooter began performing as a duo, playing a variety of venues from small house concerts to major Celtic festivals. Since then they have released three CDs as a duo, *The Laverock Sang*, *Passing Tales & Glories* and *The Lang Awa' Ships*. They also released a CD with Scottish fiddler John Taylor, *Live @ NTIF*.



# Clan Forrester Society

*Come - join the Forresters*

Membership is available for all spelling variations of Forrester: Forrester, Forester, Forrister, Forister, Forest, Forrest, Foster, Carstarphen.



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Membership Chairman  
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Commerce, GA 30529  
Phone: 706-335-7688  
Email: [benbf@windstream.net](mailto:benbf@windstream.net)



## FOSTER SURNAME DNA Project

Genealogy Research on Foster / Föster / Forrester / Forester /  
Forister / Forrester / Forrester / Forrester / Vorster / Voster Families



## DNA Privacy Risks, *continued from page 19*

### Why is law enforcement of DNA an issue?

As law enforcement access grows, scientists and civil rights advocates have concerns. Researchers, for example, worry fewer people will be open to sharing their DNA for health research for fear of ending up in a police database. There are significant differences between genetic data in the hands of doctors, and in the hands of legal agencies. Dr. Caitlin Curtis for the University of Queensland in Australia poses the question:

“It may be acceptable to receive a genetic health risk score from a doctor, but do we want law enforcement to be predicting the mental health of suspects, or for that information to be considered in court?”

Others, including Russel, ask if handing over DNA to police violates the Fourth Amendment, which prohibits “unreasonable searches and seizures”. Reviewing past cases of police use of DNA evidence, it becomes clear that the method isn’t fool-proof.

Matthew Sheer, writing for The Atlantic, demonstrates a number of ways in which DNA can get it right.. or get it wrong. Commenting in Sheer’s article, Erin Murph of New York University puts it plainly: “just because we’re moving forward doesn’t mean mistakes aren’t still being made.”

### DNA on the dark web: hackers want in too

Even if a company plans the very best privacy policy, will they be able to uphold it? Police aren’t the only ones who want your DNA: it’s a valuable target for hackers. Data breaches are a common bane of security teams, it’s already happening to DNA repositories. In 2018 DNA testing site MyHeritage suffered a breach of 92 million usernames and passwords. The company has since added two-factor authentication for logins to increase security, but their hack won’t be the last. A year later in November of 2019, attackers gained a

trove of data from Veritas Genetics. For those whose DNA is now out in the dark web, options are limited.

Why would hackers want your DNA? Matt Jancer with Men’s Journal delivers the cybercrime reality. Hackers can sell DNA for ransom, threatening to reveal medical conditions or family secrets to the wrong people. It’s valuable data, and any repository of valuable data is at risk. Worse, there’s a huge difference between a stolen list of passwords and a database of DNA sequences. For starters, your DNA cannot be reset or changed: once out in the dark web, it’s out for good.

### Tip of the iceberg

The sad reality is, we’re only beginning to understand what can be done with our DNA. Already, technological horrors are becoming real. Adrian Potoroaca of Techspot reveals in China scientists are combining DNA with sketching software to generate rough models of a person’s face. The technique, called DNA



phenotyping, allows scientists to visually identify individuals without photographs. More chilling is what the data is being used for. According to Mark Munsterhjelm, from the University of Windsor, Ontario, “the technology is used for hunting people.”

Other sinister practices aren’t hard to visualize. For example, could stolen DNA be applied to hack biometric security systems? It doesn’t appear to be too far fetched, with researchers like Tsutomu Matsumoto bypassing systems using 3D printing and gummy bears. When it comes to commercial DNA Testing, customers need to understand that the fun comes with risks. Once your DNA is analyzed, it can be used for much more than finding lost relatives. David Gewirtz with ZNet says it best: “Your DNA is, fundamentally, the source code to... you.”

This is an article by Victoria McIntosh, a Certified Information Privacy Technologist, as published in the CompariTech web site at <http://bit.ly/3csasuC>:

# Clan *Blair* Society

**Memberships are cordially invited  
for Blair descendants and other  
interested parties.**



**[www.clanblair.org](http://www.clanblair.org)**

President, Clan Blair Society,  
Jim Blair  
7200 S. Prince Street  
Littleton, CO 80120  
<[president@clanblair.org](mailto:president@clanblair.org)>

Membership Chairman,  
Charles Diman

3413 Synnybrook Drive, Charlotte, NC 28210-4715 [ClanMembership@clanblair.org](mailto:ClanMembership@clanblair.org)



Clan Blair





# Arbroath Embroidered Tapestry finished!

*The Arbroath Tapestry will go on display at Arbroath Abbey Visitor Centre in APRIL*



This is an intricate embroidered three-panel tapestry which has been created by Angus embroidery and textile artists to commemorate the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of Arbroath and the history and heritage of Arbroath Abbey.

The embroidered tapestry will be permanently displayed in the Arbroath Abbey visitor centre from April 2020.

Normal entry ticket to the visitor centre can be purchased on the day.

Arbroath Tapestry is an extraordinary wonderfully crafted work made by the Arbroath Tapestry Group, a group of highly skilled Angus women.

The Arbroath Tapestry has been designed by Scottish artist Andrew Crummy, designer of the

Great Tapestry of Scotland. Inspired by the Great Tapestry of Scotland, the embroidery artists aspired to create a tapestry which gave greater prominence to the Declaration and placed the history of Arbroath and its Abbey at the forefront.

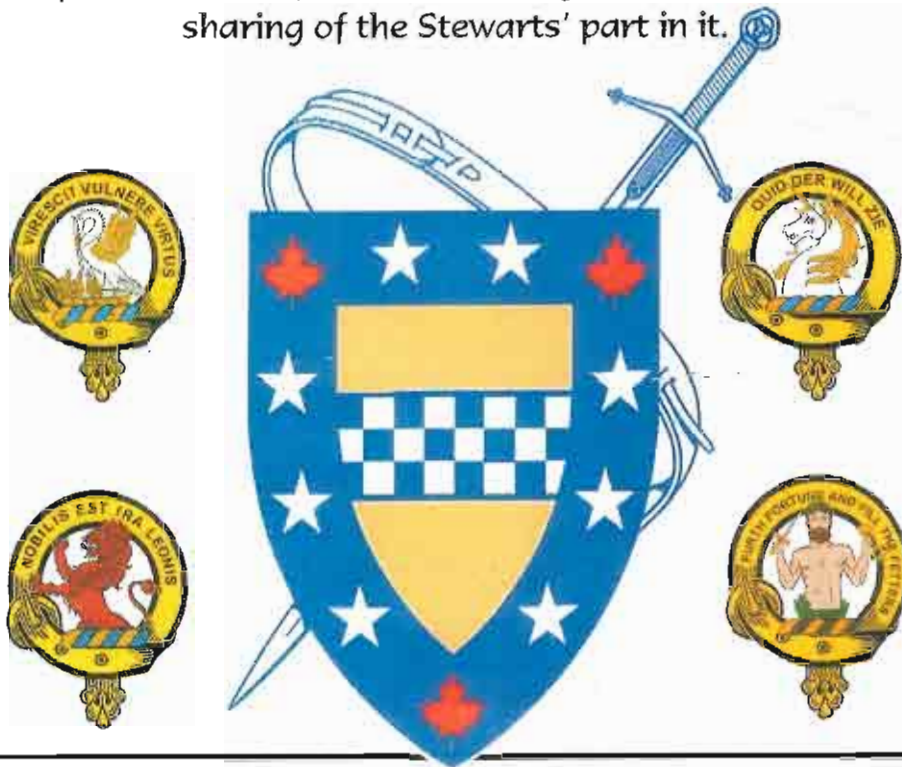
Those involved with the project have carried out in-depth research on threads and stitches in order to create a piece which reflects the materials and style of the medieval tapestries which once decorated the walls of the Abbey. Natural materials have been used as far as possible in order to reflect those used at the time.

The complex design of each panel represents a different element of the history of the Declara-

*Continued on page 29*

# Clan Stewart Society in America, Inc.

501(c)(3) Not For Profit Organization dedicated to the preservation of Scottish Heritage and History and the sharing of the Stewarts' part in it.



The Stewart dynasty descended from King Robert I's daughter and her husband, Walter the Steward. Despite early unrest and weak government caused by several Stewart kings succeeding as minors, the dynasty flourished for over three centuries.

During this time, Scotland moved forward to become a modern and prosperous nation. Stewart monarchs such as King James IV and VI were Renaissance patrons of artistic, scientific, commercial, religious and political endeavour, sponsoring figures including the poet, Robert Henryson, and humanist, George Buchanan.

Also of significance was the arrival in the mid-sixteenth century of the Reformation movement, bringing about the replacement of Catholic Mary Queen of Scots by her son King James VI.

It was through the Stewart dynasty that the two thrones of England and Scotland - and later the governments - came to be united.

The 'Marriage of the Thistle and the Rose' took place at Stirling Castle in 1503 between King James IV and Princess Margaret Tudor, daughter of King Henry VII of England.

This union of the Scottish and English Royal families eventually led in 1603 to the succession of a Stewart (now with a change of spelling) to the throne of England.

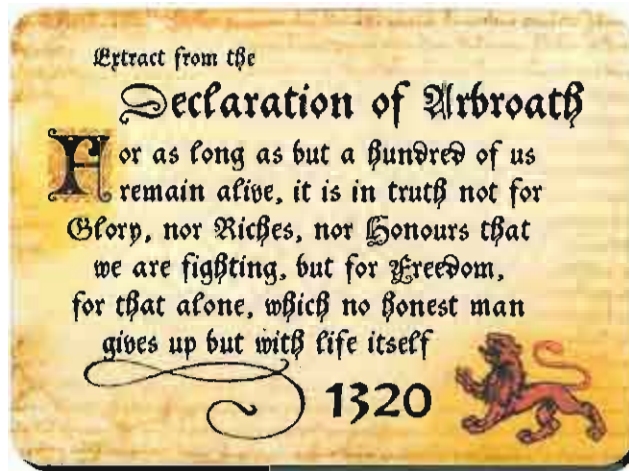
CSSA is represented at approximately 40 Scottish/Celtic events around the country each year. We are always looking for folks with our passion to volunteer to start more.

We also have a presence on the Internet with a website, <clansstewart.org> (official) and a Facebook page listed as *Clan Stewart Society in America* (unofficial).

Though we have maintained our low annual \$25 membership, we are still able to sponsor trophies for dance, drums and pipes and establish scholarships for institutions providing cultural Scottish curriculums and we also sponsor the competition of a record-holding female athlete.

For CSSA membership information: <clansstewart.org> (You may pay your dues at that site, too.)





tion and the heritage of the Abbey and surrounding town. The embroidery group have logged 1,266 hours of work on the piece over a year long period.

The central panel represents the feudal society of the 12<sup>th</sup> century in which the Abbey was built and portrays Robert the Bruce and Abbot Bernard de Linton of Arbroath writing the Declaration to be sent to Pope John XXII in Avignon.

The two smaller panels on each side of the centre represent the role and influence of the Abbey within Arbroath, with the left panel featuring its founder William I. A fisherwoman is also shown to reflect the importance of the local fishing industry to the Abbey. The right panel represents the many trades which were involved in building and maintaining the Abbey and depicts the figures of Sir Adam de Gordon and Sir Edward de Maubuisson setting sail to deliver the important manuscript to Avignon. The tapestry is decorated with the seals of the Declaration signatories and the Arbroath Oslin apples which were introduced by monks of the Abbey.

Embroiderers and Textile artists involved in the project are: Ann Marie Bray, Pat Beaton, Rena Freeburn, Janette Nairn, Christine Riley (tutor), Alice Sim, Jessy Smart, Mary Stephen, Linda Walker (group co-ordinator) and Margaret Wynne.

This project has been made possible through fund raising events and donations as well as generous support by: Thornton's Law Aberbrothock Trust Arbroath Guildery Improvement Trust.



## SCOTLAND Photography by Graham Harris Graham

Your editor's friend, Jim Nethery, wrote a little while ago telling me about the discovery he had made of a photographer who lives and works in Scotland. The photographer is Graham Harris Graham.

Jim writes that Graham lives at the famous 16<sup>th</sup> century Mercat Cross in the Royal Burgh of Culross.

Educated in Glasgow with a degree in Electrical & Electronics Engineering, he spent much of his career in North America turning around distressed companies and corporations on behalf of private equity groups.

After appearing in front of the US Senate as an expert witness to a fatal industrial disaster, he became intolerant of having to check under his car for incendiary devices before driving to work, so he chose to return to Scotland in early 2009.

Inspired by Scotland's ancient heritage & stunning landscape, he now creates archival grade, silver halide photographic prints; images produced by exposing light sensitive papers & chemically developing them in a darkroom/lab.

He owns & operates a gallery featuring much of his work inside a 17<sup>th</sup> century tax & excise office in The Town House in Culross, Fife.

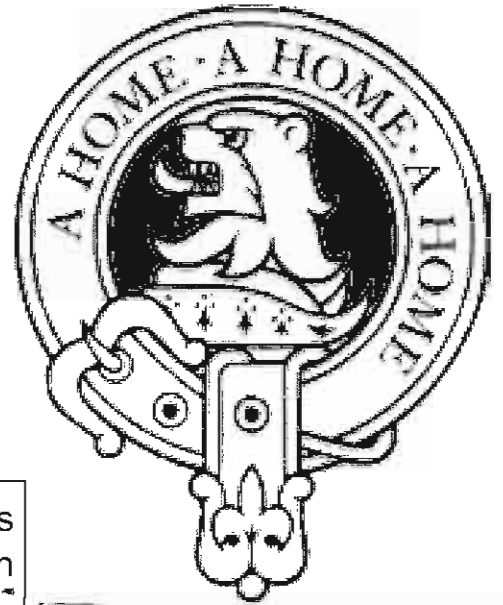
Email: [info@ghgraham.com](mailto:info@ghgraham.com) Phone: +44 (0)7494-782-295 Twitter: @GHarrisG

Mr. Graham's contact address is: The Town House, Sandhaven - Royal Burgh of Culross, Kingdom of Fife KY12 8JG Scotland.

Thanks, Jim!

# Clan Home Society, International

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## Rodney Green, president

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Moody, AL 35004  
205-368-5286



<lawnmower391@gmail.com>





## A Scottish landmark has been spotted sporting a sign 'warning' tourists about the coronavirus spreading.

The famous Greyfriars Bobby on George IV bridge was seen with a placard tied around its neck, mockingly saying, "touch my nose, help spread COVID-19" on Saturday night.

The 19<sup>th</sup> century statue has become subject to a new tradition in recent years which sees people rubbing its muzzle for good luck.

The constant touching has resulted in paint being worn and the local authority having to repair the damage.

But after Bobby was spotted with the sign tourists may feel less inclined to stroke him.

Campaigners have repeatedly demanded visi-



tors stop touching the brass dog's nose due to the damage it has caused.

The National Library of Scotland also called for visitors, and some locals, to stop encouraging the trend.

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# Clan Buchanan Flower of the Forest Hugh Peskett Written by The Lady Buchanan



It is with really sad regret that I have to inform you all that the marvellous Geneologist, **Hugh Peskett**, has died last week from pneumonia at the age of 87.

Hugh was the incredible and talented gentleman who tirelessly worked over 15 years towards gathering the huge amount of information required to re-establish the Chiefship of the Clan Buchanan after an absence of over 335 years.

He was a giant amongst geneologists and famously discovered the Irish roots for Ronald Regan. He managed to re-establish many other clan chiefships for other fortunate clans. He was also an expert on feudal baronys. Indeed there was not much about geneology he did not know.

He was also a good friend of ours and visited Cambusmore on several occasions whilst doing his research. He was always a true gentleman and had a really wicked sense of humour. We usually met him at the New Club in Edinburgh where we used to have meetings then dinner in the club house. He was always so amusing and really passionate about what he did.

We originally met him when he was recommended to us by Mrs Elizabeth Roads, the former

Lyon Clerk. Goodness me we were so lucky that she did as we would never have realised how much we would have needed his decades of experience and knowledge. Together with his extensive knowledge of all the publically available Scottish records and most private family archives in Scotland, he just had a nose for finding things which were not even cataloged. It was this sixth sense of finding hither to unknown or uncatalogued documents in a range of Scottish National Archives and those of others together with his outstanding overall knowledge of history and the practical and legal aspects of Chiefship claims which ultimately lead to the success of Mike's petition.

These things take a great deal of time to resolve but I just remember when I first heard from Sir Crispin Agnew that Mike's claim had been successful, the first person I had to tell was Hugh. Despite Mike just walking in the door from outside, Hugh was the one who needed to know first due to all the years of his life he had worked towards this goal and the passion he felt towards achieving his goal. When I told him, he was so overwhelmed he just could not speak anymore and had to immediately end the call as it meant so much to him.

He did so well despite his relatively poor health ever since we first knew him. By the time the case was being heard in the Lord Lyon court his health had deteriorated severely but he still made it up to Scotland despite having such severe issues he could hardly speak more than a couple of words at a time. Even then, once the news was out

*Continued on page 35*

# MacDuffee Clan Society of America, Inc.

of Clan Macfie

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**Genealogist: Richard Ledyard**

865-671-2555

[rledyard@tds.net](mailto:rledyard@tds.net)



MacDuffee  
Clan Society  
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The American-Scottish Foundation

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 SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 2020

*From the Isles' Northernmost Realm came the Scot, Bred with the stoutest Will, the Earnest Will,  
 and the Bravest Heart. For reasons Divine did Scots forsake him and kith and set across the face of the earth  
 to fend for themselves, and in the process, they built nations, empires, and new worlds...*

**A Scot is a Scot, even unto an  
 Hundred Generations.**

Scotland Rising.com

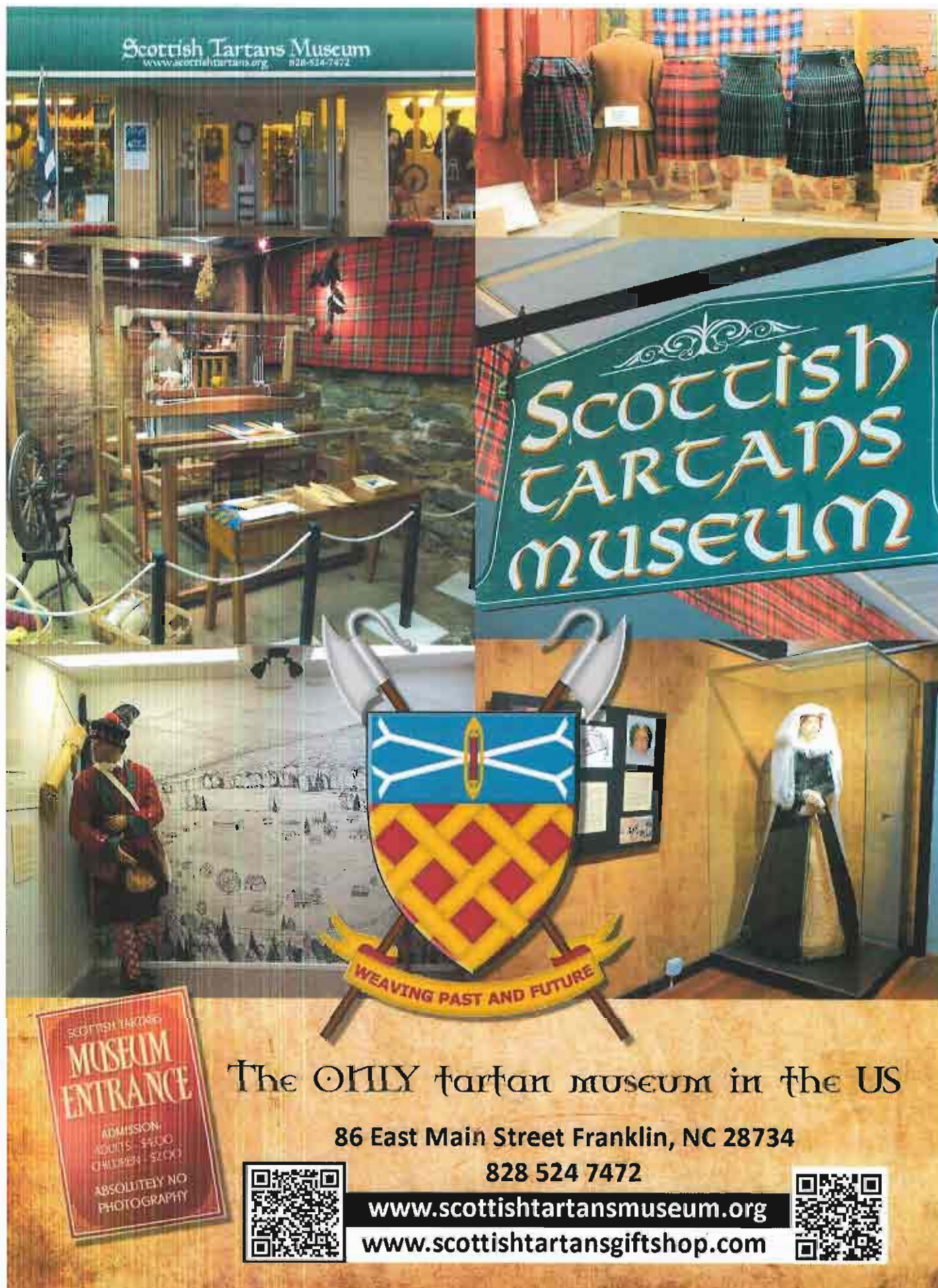
**Hugh Peskett**, *continued from page 33*

he managed to come one last time to Scotland to be interviewed about his work and success in the Buchanan Chiefship claim. I think this case kept him going as I sensed he had to carry on till it was resolved.

It was eventually worth it as the whole world, well a significant chunk of it, appeared to revell in his success in finding the rightful Buchanan clan chief. People were spellbound by his personal story in that he was driven to find the rightful heir of the last Buchanan chief as this was the lifelong dream of his Buchanan grandmother. Indeed it was the reason why he went into geneology in the first place over 50 years ago as he told us on many occasions that this is what his Buchanan grandmother, a feisty highlander, told him he had to do. His unique and compelling story resulted in the press release of the successful Buchanan chiefship claim creating a record 3.2 billion news messages world wide.

He will be sorely missed by us all but never ever forgotten. Rest in peace, Hugh.







# Scottish residents threaten to block roads as tourism reaches 'crisis point'

Villagers living in Luss are fighting to have tourists banned from driving through the streets as they warn of a "crisis point" due to visitor numbers.

The village on the banks of Loch Lomond attracts more than 750,000 visitors a year, but many of its 120 residents are now threatening to block roads unless the council imposes restrictions on traffic.

Luss, which is where Scottish soap *Take The High Road* was filmed, attracts more visitors annually than Edinburgh Zoo, Stirling Castle or the Falkirk Wheel, but residents say the congestion is impacting both tourists and local people.

Direct action has already been launched by Luss locals, who erected five eight-foot signs on Tuesday asking motorists not to drive or park in the village.

The Luss and Arden Community Council had agreed

a range of measures with the local authority to cut traffic, including banning tourists from driving in the village and forcing them to leave their vehicles at an as-yet-unbuilt car park in a nearby field.

Peter Robertson, vice convenor of Luss and Arden Community Council, said: "People are at their wits' end and have now resorted to putting up their own road signs because the council has failed to act.

"This has been on the agenda for many years. We have to question the competence of the council to handle tourism."

Council convener Dave Pretswell said: "I do not believe Argyll and Bute Council have proven competent to properly manage the escalating growth of tourism in West Loch Lomond - it's all about increasing tourist footfall and growing council revenue.

"Residents can't leave their homes on a sunny summer day, emergency services can't get in, deliver-

ies to residents can't get in and residents are frequently subject to abuse in trying to stop the worst of the parking chaos."

Luss resident Alison Walker added: "We feel the time has come to take matters into our own hands; the villagers are seriously talking about blocking roads.

"Holyrood talks endlessly about the importance of tourism to the Scottish economy and it's time ministers stepped in to take control."

The campaign has received cross-party backing

from Labour and Tory MSPs Jackie Baillie and Maurice Corry who have urged Argyll and Bute Council to work closely with local people to implement the proposed changes.

Ms Baillie said: "This whole proposal has been beset by delay after delay on the part of the council.

"The residents of Luss face yet another season without proper traffic measures in place for the village. The village will be gridlocked as a result and that's not good for local people and it's not good for tourists.

"It really is about time that the council worked much more closely with the local community to get this sorted. The council are responsible for taking forward traffic regulation orders but the community knows its own area best."

Mr Corry added: "It is appalling that the parking scenario is still ongoing after such a long time. The community along with Luss Estates have come up with a sensible proposal and the council continue to drag their heels.

"These proposals take into consideration both visitors' and residents' needs, not only to make Luss less congested but safer and more manageable for residents all year round."





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