



Tom Moore now Sir Tom Moore

Captain Sir Tom Moore was personally thanked by the Queen for raising an "amazing amount of money" for the NHS as she knighted him for his efforts.

The national hero appeared humbled following his audience with the Queen and said he was "absolutely overawed" to receive the knighthood during the unique open-air ceremony at Windsor

Continued on page 29

CLOSE CALL!

A nuclear-powered submarine and a ferry were at "serious risk of collision" after safety decisions taken on the Royal Navy vessel were based on inaccurate information, an investigation has found.

The two vessels came within 50-100 metres of each other west of the Rhins of Galloway on 6 November, 2018, a Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) report stated today.

The MAIB and the Royal Navy both refused to say whether the submarine involved was one of the four nuclear-armed Trident vessels based at Faslane.

The submarine was patrolling an area south of the ferry route when it came close to the Stena vessel, which had 215 passengers and 67 crew on board.





Send articles,
Flowers of the Forest, questions, etc.,
bethscribble@aol.com

Section B is "up" on the Internet about the 15th of each month. Section A is "up" a day or so before the first of the next month.

Celebrating August in Scotland

A letter from your editor...

Puns! What are they? Who likes them?



If you have been around Tom and me very much, you will know that we laugh and giggle quite a bit, sometimes quite loudly.

Both of us LOVE puns. BTW, the proper response to a really good pun is first a rolling of the eyes, then a groan. It happens sometimes that the recipient of the awful/good pun then goes into the next room and howls with laughter, of course, heard loud and clear by the punster.

Wandering on the Internet, I found an article that actually defines puns. We will become scholarly and read that explanation. Then, we will absolutely feast upon some atrocious/great puns.

Here is what I found. I couldn't find an author, but this is quite academic. We thank the author.

Paronomasia or pun is a word play, exploiting different meanings of the same word or a string of words, or similar-sounding words.

A type of word play wherein one word has two meanings or where similar-sounding words are exploited, is known as pun. This gives an ambiguity to the sentence, which is purposely added for a humorous or rhetorical effect. According to Ambrose Bierce, pun is "A form of wit, to which wise men stoop and fools aspire". Literary figures like Shakespeare, Wordsworth, Oscar Wilde, and George Carlin were famous for its use in their works. This so-called lowbrow humorous device works on double entendre.

Visual Pun

Using a picture to convey the pun is quite popular nowadays. Usually logos, emblems, symbols, and other graphic elements are utilized to put the message across to the reader.

Homophonic Pun

Here, the pun depends on similar-sounding

words with different meanings. Usually, the nuances of the sentence structure are ignored to bring in the humor element.

"Why is it so wet in England? Because many kings and queens have reigned there."

Homographic Pun

This type of pun involves words which have the same spelling, but different meanings.

"You can tune a guitar, but you can't tuna fish. Unless of course, you play bass." – Douglas Adams

Compound Pun

It relies on a string of words which forms another word or string of words, thereby adding the comic element.

"Why can a man never starve in the Great Desert? Because he can eat the sand which is there."

Recursive Pun

The second part of the pun depends on the understanding of the first element of the sentence.

"A Freudian slip is when you say one thing but mean your mother." (your mother refers to the Oedipus complex)

Puns for Kids

- A man's home is his castle, in a manor of speaking.
- A gossip is someone with a great sense of rumor.
- I wanted to be a stenographer, but they told me they are not shorthanded at the moment.
- Without geometry, life is pointless.
- I considered going into the ministry but I didn't have an altar ego.
- Speaking ill of the dead is a grave mis-

Continued on page 7

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AMERICAN-SCOTTISH FOUNDATION®

Virtual Scottish Highland Games are a'coming!

July 18th, 2020

Dear American-Scottish Foundation Members and Friends of the Foundation,

This week as we continue to navigate this challenging time, adjusting to the "new normal", Team ASF, working remotely, look to help our Scottish community feel closer together, sharing our love of Scotland through our new roots of communication.

Below we share news of virtual Highland Games that are planned, and learn of some Games now postponed to late Fall; of emerging plans around a Virtual Edinburgh Festival this August.

ASF this coming week brings you: - ASF #ScotsInUS Podcast - Mid Summer Burns, our next installment of the *In Conversation* with Kenneth Donnelly, Burns Society of New York, President and Alistair McCulloch, renowned fiddle player as in Word, Music and Verse we learn of their love of Robert Burns.

Our monthly *Sounds from Scotland* - which launched July 19, following our first Facebook streaming last month for the Solstice that we so enjoyed bringing to you, and was so well received.

- Our E News sharing our collaborations and news from fellow organizations and societies.
- AND Zoom events we have been partnering on ...plus.

As the "mighty" lions in front of the NY Public Library remind us - to mask up and staying safe.

Camilla G Hellman

President

HIGHLAND GAMES:

We know from recent messages from ASF Members and friends how important Highland Games are to our constituents, and are delighted that on August 1st Chicago Scots are among those in the Scottish-American community who are leading the way in providing a safe, meaningful alternative to live games in this era of COVID-19 with some form of streaming event. As the Chicago Scots so aptly put it, "On Saturday, August 1st we are bringing the fun and traditions to you-wherever you are!"

- We have also heard that NHScot are bringing the New Hampshire Highland Games to us virtually over the weekend of September 19-20

Michael Reid, ASF Board Director shares updates and news of late Summer/Fall Highland Games that are scheduled.

Last week, the organizers of Grandfather

Mountain also had a streaming concert in lieu of games.

Later in October this year, the Celtic Colors event in Nova Scotia will be a streaming festival. While a virtual event is not the same experience as a games with caber toss, sheaf toss, ImBru, ginger beer, Scotch eggs, fish & chips and ice cream, it nonetheless provides an opportunity for the community to gather and celebrate Scottish and Celtic culture and maintain an active event for annual continuity.

We at the American-Scottish Foundation know how much work these online events entail and applaud this innovative option.

In addition, we are providing the following update on Highland Games and related events through the end of August (we'll report on Sep-

Continued on page 9



OH, CANADA!



<https://electriccanadian.com>



Pun education, *continued from page 3* ———
take.

- At a pizza shop: 7 days without pizza makes one weak.
- On a scientist's door: Gone Fission.
- At the electric company: We would be delighted if you send in your bill. However, if you don't, you will be.
- A neutron walks into a bar. "I'd like a beer" he says. The bartender promptly serves up a beer. "How much will that be?" asks the neutron. "For you?" replies the bartender, "no charge".
- Two silkworms had a race. They ended up in a tie.
- I was on an elevator the other day, and the operator kept calling me "son". I said, "Why do you call me 'son'? You're not my father." He said, "I brought you up, didn't I?"
- Which president was least guilty? Lincoln. He is in a cent.
- Diet slogan: Are you going the wrong weigh?
- What did the coach say to his losing team of snakes? You can't venom all.
- An appeals court has upheld a ban on pitbulls. That's another victory in the war on terrier.
- No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
- She was only a whiskey-maker, but he loved her still.
- There was a man who entered a local paper's pun contest. He sent in ten different puns, in the hope that at least one of the puns would win. Unfortunately, no pun in ten did.

Funny Puns

- Did you hear about the optometrist who fell into a lens grinder and made a spectacle of himself?
- There were two ships. One had red paint, one had blue paint. They collided. At last report, the survivors were marooned.
- Please be quiet. We need to hear a pin drop.
- I used to be a teacher, but found I didn't have enough class.
- I went to the butchers the other day and I bet him \$50 that he couldn't reach the meat off the

**Why are
Teddy Bears
never hungry?**

**They are
always
stuffed!**



top shelf. He said, "No, the steaks are too high."

- With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.
- I used to be a Velcro salesman, but couldn't stick with it.
- An elephant's opinion carries a lot of weight.
- I fired my masseuse today. She just rubbed me the wrong way.
- Old laser physicists never die, they just become incoherent.
- This duck walks into a bar and orders a beer. "Four bucks," says the bartender. "Put it on my bill."
- Old limbo dancers never die, they just go under.
- Two peanuts walk into a bar. One was a salted.
- Conjunctivitis.com is a site for sore eyes.
- The sign at the rehab center said "Keep Off The Grass".
- I went to the cashew factory last night. It was nuts!
- Old number theorists never die, they just get past their prime.

Famous Puns

- Ask for me tomorrow and you shall find me a grave man. Act III, Scene I: Lines 97 – 98 Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet
- Immanuel doesn't pun; he Kant. – Oscar Wilde (referring to Immanuel Kant)
- Denial ain't just a river in Egypt. – Mark Twain

I'm afraid there will be some more of this next time. Heh! Heh!

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 | |



tember, October and November in later editions as so much in flux):

August Games

-Cold Spring Village Celtic Festival, NJ - August 8-9 - still on

-Amherst Scottish Festival & Highland Games - August 15-16 not confirmed

-Douglas County, OR Highland Games & Gathering - August 22 - not confirmed

August Games Cancellations:

- Monterrey Scottish Games & Celtic Festival - Cancelled

- Montreal Highland Games - Cancelled

- Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games - Cancelled

- Central New York Scottish Games & Celtic Festival - Cancelled

-Loch Norman Highland Games -Cancelled

- Maine Highland Games - Cancelled

- Bitterroot Scottish Irish Festival (MT) - Cancelled

- Long Island Scottish Festival and Highland Games - Cancelled

With so much in flux we ask that you stay in touch with the organizing committee of the games you normally attend and check status as with the ongoing challenges of Covid-19 all is subject to change.

ASF will share updates as we learn more. Keep up to date with the American Scottish Foundation News on our website and Facebook pages.

Details of Membership, both individual and corporate, are available. Membership is annual, from the date you join us.

We invite all to attend ASF Events - Visit our Events Page often where our Events are listed. Members enjoy special event ticket prices as a benefit of membership.

If you are not already receiving our newsletters you may go to: <AmericanScottishFoundation@gmail.com> and on the subject line, write, "Please add me to the ASF Mailing List." In the body, write something to the effect of, "Thank you. I look forward to receiving email updates of ASF activities."

If you have specific questions or ideas you

would like to share please call us at the ASF Office on (929) 499-9025 or email us directly at AmericanScottishFoundation@gmail.com.

Camilla G Hellman, MBE

President

**Support
The American-
Scottish Founda-
tion!**

There are many ways to support the Foundation, including: attending events; being a member; making

donations; and serving on a committee.

Our programs are varied and our Initiatives section showcases particular areas of ASF's work, enabling gifting to programs which you specifically wish to support.

Sign up to stay in touch with ASF!

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Send this information to the address just below: Email Address

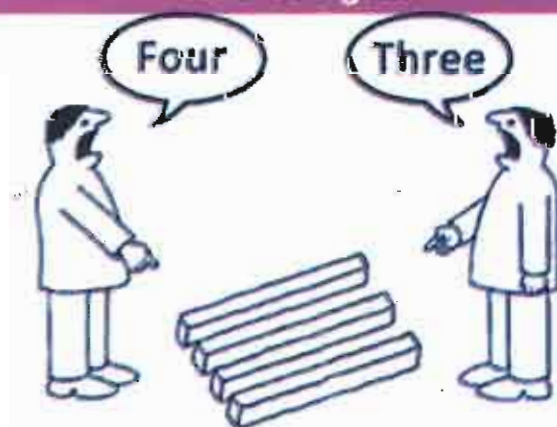
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This is really confusing!!

Who is right?





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Email us: <shusa457@gmail.com>

Some of the funding Scottish Heritage USA has provided over the years:

- | | |
|---|------------|
| • Culloden Visitor's Centre – media centre | \$300,000* |
| • 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
- **Free Admission** to all (over 70) National Trust for Scotland properties
- **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

The Year is 1920...only ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO!



Very interesting for all ages. This will boggle your mind!

♦ What a difference a century makes. Here are some statistics for the Year 1920:

♦ The average life expectancy for men was 47 years.

♦ Fuel for cars was sold in drug stores only.

♦ Only 14 percent of the homes had a bathtub.

♦ Only 8 percent of the homes had a telephone.

♦ The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph.

♦ The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower.

♦ The average US wage in 1920 was 22 cents per hour.

♦ The average US worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year.

♦ A competent accountant could expect to earn \$2,000 per year.

♦ A dentist earned \$2,500 per year.

♦ A veterinarian between \$1,500 and \$4,000 per year.

♦ And, a mechanical engineer about \$5,000 per year.

♦ More than 95 percent of all births took place at home.

♦ Ninety percent of all Doctors had NO COLLEGE EDUCATION!

Instead, they attended so-called medical schools, many of which were condemned in the press AND the government as "substandard."

♦ Sugar cost four cents a pound.

♦ Eggs were fourteen cents a dozen.

♦ Coffee was fifteen cents a pound.

♦ Most women only washed their hair once a month, And, used Borax or egg yolks for shampoo.

♦ Canada passed a law that prohibited poor people from entering into their country for any reason.

The Five leading causes of death were:

1. Pneumonia and influenza

2. Tuberculosis

3. Diarrhea

4. Heart disease

5. Stroke

♦ The American flag had 45 stars ...

♦ The population of Las Vegas, Nevada was only 30.

♦ Crossword puzzles, canned beer, and iced tea hadn't been invented yet.

♦ There was neither a Mother's Day nor a Father's Day.

♦ Two out of every 10 adults couldn't read or write.

♦ And, only 6 percent of all Americans had graduated from high school.

♦ Marijuana, heroin, and morphine were all available over the counter at local corner drug-stores.

Back then pharmacists said, "Heroin clears the complexion, gives buoyancy to the mind, regulates the stomach, bowels, and is, in fact, a perfect guardian of health!" (Shocking?)

♦ Eighteen percent of households had at least one full-time servant or domestic help...

♦ There were about 230 reported murders in the ENTIRE U.S.A.

I am now going to forward this to someone

Continued on page 13



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Wild Bison to Roam Britain for First Time in Thousands of Years

Alex Fox

SMITHSONIANMAG.COM

A small herd of four European bison will be released into a woodland in southeastern England in spring 2022

After thousands of years, a herd of wild bison will be reintroduced to a nature preserve in the United Kingdom in spring of 2022, reports Damian Carrington of the Guardian.

The reintroduction will take place in a 2,500-acre area called Blean Woods in southeast England near Canterbury, according to a release. The \$1.4 million "Wilder Blean" project, led by the Kent Wildlife Trust and the Wildwood Trust, will release a group of four European bison (*Bison bonasus*) into the woodland in hopes of restoring some of the ecosystem's lost diversity, reports BBC News.

Britain's new wild bison herd will include one male and three females, per the *Guardian*. The group, which will be brought in from the Netherlands or Poland, is expected to produce about one calf per female each year.

The hope of those behind the project is that reintroducing the grazers, which can weigh up to a ton, will result in a thriving mosaic of different



A European bison in the Netherlands, which has also sought to reintroduce the herbivores. (Evan Bowen-Jones)

habitat types. This predicted biodiversity boon is likely to occur because the bison are what ecologists call ecosystem engineers. Similar to dam-building beavers, for example, bison shape the natural environment they inhabit.

Apart from munching grass, bison can create openings in woodlands by knocking down small trees, which intersperses the habitat with open, light-flooded patches. These patches of sunlight can ultimately allow a wider array of plants and animals to flourish, per *BBC News*. Specifically, *BBC News* mentions that the openings created by bison could allow plants such as cow wheat to grow, adding that a rare butterfly called the heath fritillary depends on the plant.

"The Wilder Blean project will prove that a wilder, nature-based solution is the right one to tackling the climate and nature crisis we now face," says Paul Hadaway, the director of conservation at the Kent Wildlife Trust, in a statement. "Using missing keystone species like bison to restore natural processes to habitats is the key to creating bioabundance in our landscape."

According to the *Guardian*, an extinct bison known as the steppe bison (*Bison priscus*) roamed ancient Britain's countryside until roughly 6,000

Continued on page 15

1920, continued from page 11

else without typing it myself.

From there, it will be sent to others all over the WORLD all in a matter of seconds!

It is impossible to imagine what it may be like in another 100 years.

With many thanks to my friend, "Joonbug."

They forgot to say there were no television sets. The telephone had been invented in 1876, but there were no cell phones at all and not everyone had indoor plumbing or electricity. And, NO COMPUTERS.

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years ago. Other sources suggest the species' global extinction occurred around 10,000 to 11,000 years ago following the end of the most recent Ice Age.

Along with the American bison (*Bison bison*), the European bison is the closest living relative to those ancient beasts. However, the European bison may have never inhabited the British Isles, opening the possibility that, in a strict sense, this reintroduction is in fact an introduction.

Native or not, the project's leaders hope that establishing a new herd of European bison in England will fill a vacant ecological role while boosting the endangered ungulate's prospects for survival.

The bison set to be released into Blean Woods are all descended from a herd of just 12 that just over 100 years ago represented the last remaining vestiges of their species. After the close of World War I, the European bison had nearly been eradicated by hunting and habitat loss, but captive breeding programs have built the species back up to a still-fragile population of roughly 5,000.

Writing in the *Guardian*, Stephen Moss lists beavers, white storks, white-tailed eagles and pine marten as examples of species that have also recently been reintroduced to England. Such reintroductions seek to replenish the island's dwindling wildlife. The U.K. is one of the most nature depleted countries in the world, according to the *Guardian*. A 2019 report indicated that 41 percent of all species studied have declined since 1970, and that "priority species" declined by roughly 60 percent during the same period.

But Moss notes that this new move to add large grazers back into Britain begs the ecological question of whether the country's lost predators might one day be reintroduced as well. Wolves, lynx and brown bear once patrolled the British Isles,



European bison in Roumania.

keeping herbivore populations in check as they do in continental Europe.

The Wildlife Trusts' chief executive Craig Bennett tells the *Guardian* that his organization sees the reintroductions of species such as the bison as key parts of an ambitious plan for conservation.

"If we accept that our environment is in desperate trouble, which it is, then we must act now. Time is running out, so letting nature help us, rather than trying to reinvent the wheel, makes sense. That could mean the introduction of keystone species, apex predators, ecosystem engineers and so on," Bennett tells the *Guardian*. "Our aim is to see 30 percent of this country's land and sea dedicated to nature by 2030."



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



Pleasanton, California Games postponed

The Caledonian Club of San Francisco has postponed their Pleasanton event scheduled for Labor Day weekend (1st weekend in September). They are looking at holding the event later in the year if the Coronavirus conditions allow.

Fate of Seattle, Washington U.S. National Archives facility still in limbo



The Seattle facility of the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) remains closed because of the pandemic, but is still likely to be sold; state officials are working to keep the priceless materials held in the federal facility from leaving Washington.

It's been six months since the news services reported that the federal government, without any public input, intended to sell the Seattle facility of the National Archives and move its contents – millions of priceless maps, documents, photos and other records of Pacific Northwest history – out of state.

With only a small fraction of the materials in Seattle currently digitized, a move – perhaps to the NARA facility in Riverside, Calif. — would mean that one-of-a-kind federal records related to such things as Native American treaties, the Chinese-American Exclusion Act, and other aspects of history critical to researchers, educators, tribes and others would be far less accessible. Historians and tribal representatives were blindsided by

news of the intended sale, and expressed their displeasure at an invitation-only meeting at the facility in February.

The archives serve the Pacific Alaska Region and are located on Sand Point Way near Magnuson Park. Sitting on 10 acres along the Burke-Gilman Trail, the location is prime real estate in one of the city's nicest neighborhoods. The facility itself is housed in a World War II-era warehouse, which was converted in the early 1960s and which is operated by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). The Seattle office, and most NARA facilities, have been closed to the public since March 23 because of COVID-19.

In spite of the pandemic, multiple processes appear to still be underway to try and prevent the archival materials, if not the actual NARA facility itself, from leaving Washington.

You can read more in an article by Feliks Banel in the *NYNorthwest* web site at: <<https://mynorthwest.com/2010452/seattle-national-archives-in-limbo/>>.

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

PO Box 1404
Gray, GA 31032

<alsrx95@gmail.com>



COVID-19 Pandemic has heightened interest in underlying health risks, Ancestry® Family Health Survey shows



Dick Eastman has been writing his genealogical online publication for 24 years.

Dick Eastman From an announcement written by Ancestry.com:

“Ancestry®, the global leader in family history and consumer genomics, today released results of a survey recently commissioned to understand how consumers view their health — and in particular, their genetic health risks — during the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to the newly released *Family Health Survey*, by Ancestry, in an era when concerns about health are rising in general, almost half (47%) of all Americans and nearly 60 percent of parents said the COVID-19 pandemic has increased their specific interest in understanding their possible genetic health risks.

‘The COVID-19 pandemic has made clear to many people the importance of taking proactive actions to protect their health and their family’s health,’ said Dr. Ron Park, MD, EVP of Health and DNA, An-

cestry. ‘The survey shows that this applies to not only concerns specific to COVID-19 but also other health issues, such as genetic risks.’”

You can read the full announcement at: [<https://bit.ly/3eyeLUS>](https://bit.ly/3eyeLUS).

With thanks to Dick Eastman’s online publication.



The Flag

Robin Williams was a genius.

He was 31 when he made this video... it is over 3 minutes long, but I guarantee you will never see anything as creative as this again.

https://www.youtube.com/embed/Q_L1vLv84vs

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>. Ceud Mile Failte (100,000 welcomes) to you!

CLAN LINDSAY

FLOWER OF THE FOREST

Patty Bonn

With thanks to *The Signal*, publication of Clan Donald USA



It is with regret for the Scottish community in the Pacific Northwest. We have lost a great friend and tireless volunteer, **Patty Bonn**.

Many of you will remember her dedication and work with getting Tartan Day going with Chuck Cook and others.

She was also the Commissioner of Lindsay Clan for many years. Patty pitched in to initiate the Bitterroot Celtic Games in Hamilton Montana.

Many will remember her involvement at Enumclaw Highland Games.

Coronavirus: Face coverings now compulsory in Scotland's shops



With thanks to *Electric Scotland's Weekly Newsletter* and **Alastair McIntyre**

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has urged people to follow the new law making it compulsory to wear a face covering in shops across Scotland.

She said the step had been taken now because the easing of lockdown restrictions meant that people were going out more.

"That brings much greater risk of the virus spreading," she warned.

The new law came into effect as Scotland reported the largest rise in new coronavirus cases for

three weeks.

Ms Sturgeon said the number of people testing positive had risen by 18 to 18,333, although no new deaths had been recorded.

The first minister said the Scottish government would be "looking very closely" at the increase - which she said was a reminder that the virus had not gone away.

But she said the indications were that the new cases were spread across the country, and there did not seem to be any cluster.

Clan Forrester Society

Come - join the Forresters

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



Contact: **Ben Forrester**,
Membership Chairman
1034 Blue Heron Drive
Commerce, GA 30529
Phone: 706-335-7688
Email: benbf@windstream.net



FOSTER SURNAME DNA Project

Genealogy Research on Foster / Forster / Forrester / Forester /
Forster / Forester / Forster / Forrister / Vorster / Voster Families

New film tells the story of ancient drove roads and launches guide to off-road cycling in Highland Perthshire

Gayle Ritchie **THE COURIER**.co.uk

As a new film launches about drovers – men who moved cattle to market over long distances – Gayle Ritchie looks at the history and legacy of Scotland's ancient drove roads.

They were the 17th century cowboys who drove their cattle for miles – through the Cairngorms and Tay Valley to Crieff.

The drovers brought their beasts along pathways which traversed some of the trickiest terrain in the country as they headed to market.

Today, you're more likely to find hikers, cyclists and horse riders using these historic routes than men driving plodding herds.

But a new film from Bikepacking Scotland tells the story of the ancient drove roads and invites viewers to retrace the footsteps of the cattle drovers on their journey.

The film, titled *Drovers*, launched last night and is the brainchild of Bikepacking Scotland founder Markus Stitz.

It shows Markus, who filmed, narrated and edited it, cycling along old drove roads, setting up camp and exploring the stunning landscape.

It directs viewers to a new website – perthshiregravel.com – a guide to off-road cycling across Highland Perthshire.

"At the end of the 17th century, Crieff became

the greatest cattle market in Scotland," said Markus.

"Three centuries later, history has run its course and drovers have disappeared but their spirit remains.

"The ancient drove roads provide inspiration for new adventures. And our own adventures inspire others to explore this beautiful part of Scotland."

The film was made along a new 331km gravel bikepacking route spanning Highland Perthshire.

Markus, who has cycled round the world on a singlespeed bike, has called this new route the "Drovers' Trail".

"It tells the story of the ancient drove roads, an important part of Scottish history, which inspired Scotland's greatest writers like Robert Burns and Sir Walter Scott," he said.

The project was led by Highland Perthshire Cycling, a charity set up to promote, encourage and enable more cycling in Highland Perthshire, and delivered by Bikepacking Scotland.

The new gravel bikepacking route is one of 11 different itineraries, which are available to download for free at



The Drovers of Scotland, a bit later, came to America and became our "cowboys." They were skilled with working with cattle and knew about the hard life.

Our "Cowboy Music" is mostly from the Scottish Drovers.

Carl Peterson and I talked about researching this subject with him performing the Scottish songs that came to the American West along with the Scottish Drovers.

Maybe we'll get to it one of these days.

Continued on page 25

Clan *Blair* Society

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

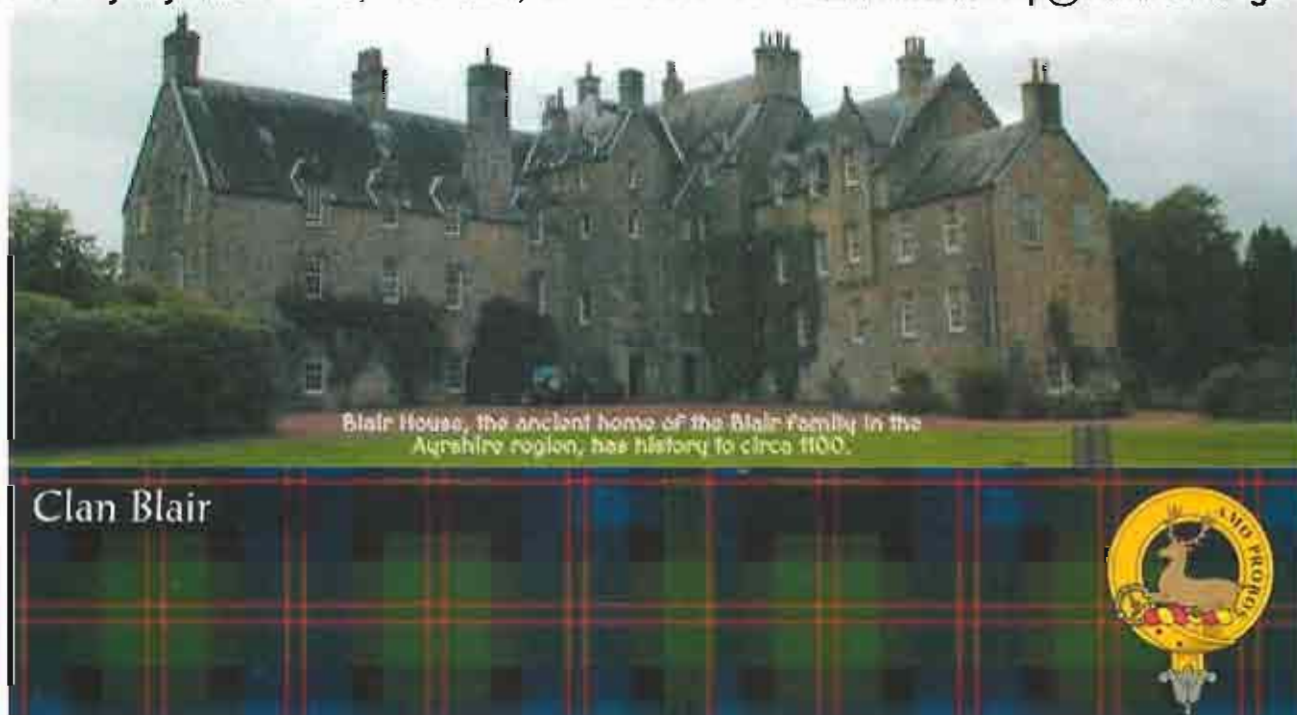


www.clanblair.org

President, Clan Blair Society,
Jim Blair
7200 S. Prince Street
Littleton, CO 80120
<president@clanblair.org>



Membership Chairman,
Charles Diman
3413 Synnybrook Drive, Charlotte, NC 28210-4715 ClanMembership@clanblair.org



perthshiregravel.com

The lengths of the individual routes range from 12km to 120km, starting in Dunkeld, Pitlochry, Blair Atholl, Aberfeldy, and Comrie, as well as remote Rannoch Station.

"Designing the various routes made me aware of not only the rich history of Highland Perthshire and the Tay Valley, but also of the huge variety of landscapes that can be found across the area," said Markus.

"I sought to use the story of the cattle drovers to draw parallels with the adventurous spirit of bikepacking nowadays, while showcasing the immense beauty of the area, not just for cyclists.

"I hope the new film and the route network will encourage more people to explore the area and will inspire locals to experience their immediate surroundings."

The different routes are designed as day journeys for different ages and abilities, but can also be combined or shortened by using quiet roads or cycle paths.

They are graded as easy, straightforward, challenging or expert.

"For me, getting people to reconnect with nature and experience Scotland's rich past is the main drive, and this network of gravel trails delivers exactly this," said Markus.

"Hopefully this project will inspire other areas in Scotland to embrace the potential that bike tourism brings, but also opportunities for local people to ride their bikes off the beaten track."

Drovers is available to watch on YouTube.

Life of a drover

From as early as the 14th century, and peaking in the 1800s, drovers brought their cattle to market.

In late spring, they would visit farms, bargaining for cattle often only one or two at a time, since many of the Highland farming tenants were very

poor.

Gradually, they would have a herd of around 100 beasts, and in some cases, it would be up to 2,000 strong.

Ahead of them lay a long and dangerous journey.

Rivers in spate might have to be crossed, and journeys had to be made over pathless mountains, often in thick mist where the way might easily be lost.

And then there were the "reivers" – armed bandits who tried to steal cattle.

To get to market in Crieff, which was the biggest cattle market in Scotland at the end of the 17th century, drovers travelled for weeks and sometimes months.

"They slept under the stars, lived on basic food and rarely spent the night

inside," said Markus.

"Their knowledge of the country had to be extensive and intimate while endurance and the ability to face great hardships were essential.

"The tracks they followed were ill-defined, with streams impassable after storms. They needed head, heart and body to survive."

October Tryst

Up until the end of the 17th century, the October Michealmas "tryst", as the market was known, was held in Crieff.

Here, dealers from the Lowlands and England came to buy the beef that was much in demand by growing urban populations.

Every year, the town swelled with the arrival of tens of thousands of cattle, drovers, dealers and a host of others, from pedlars to gamblers, singers and jugglers, all plying their different trades.

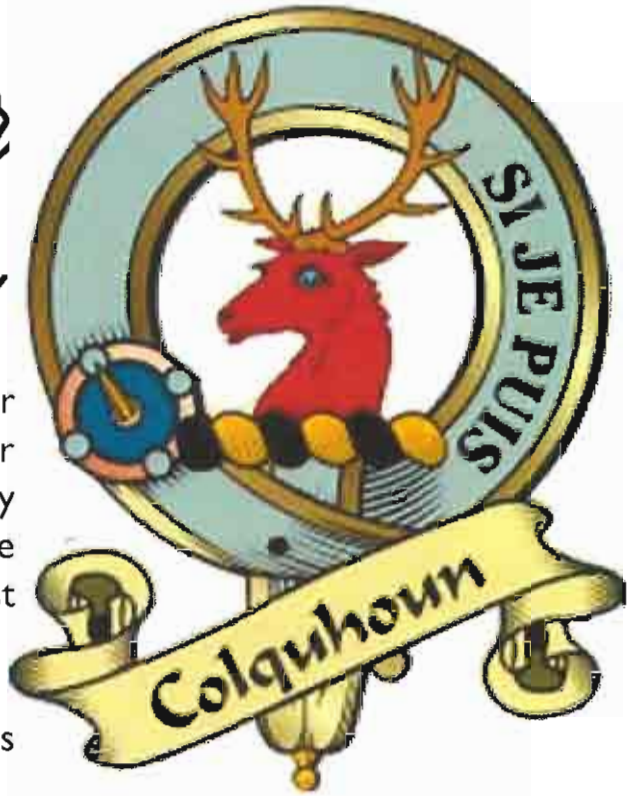
In his 1912 book, *The History of Crieff*, Alexander Porteous wrote: "All sorts of goods were for sale including boots, shoes, cloth, tin ware, pails and tubs while apple and pear carts and sweetie

Continued on page 27

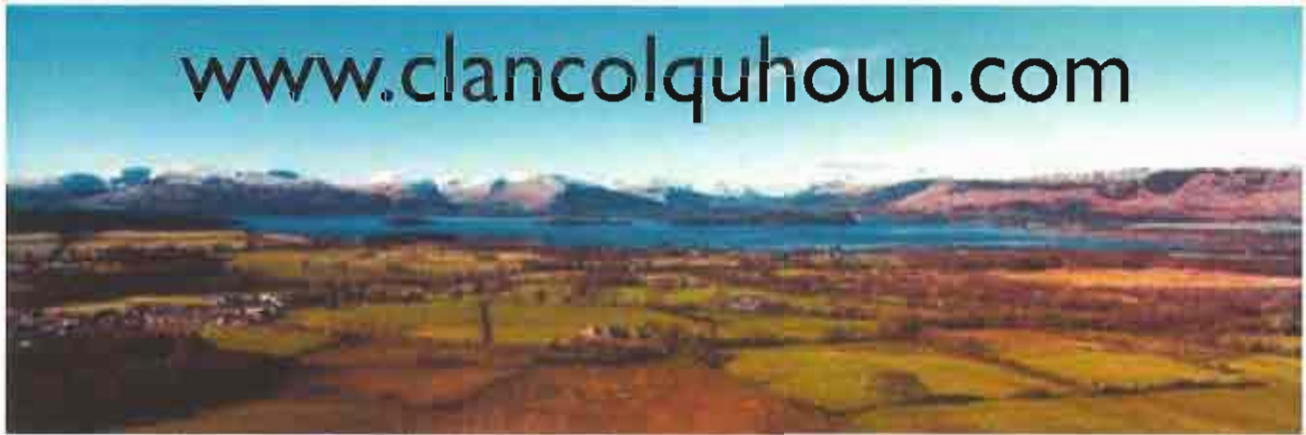


Become a member of Clan Colquhoun

Our goal is to promote, protect, and preserve our clan's history and heritage. Regardless of how our members spell their name, or from which sept they come, we are all tied to the Village of Luss on the bonnie banks of Loch Lomond – some of the most beautiful land in the world. I encourage you to join us as we continue to build an organization that brings our history into the present and safeguards our legacy for future generations.



www.clancolquhoun.com



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stands abounded.

"In addition, at this, as well as at other markets, there were shows of different kinds, exhibiting giants or dwarfs or other freaks which were usually well patronized as were also merry go rounds, jugglers and cheap jacks."

Noisy and riotous, but vital for the Perthshire economy, both the trysts and droving remained an annual feature of the local landscape until modern roads, steamships and railways meant that the English dealers could venture north to buy cattle directly.

Drovers would sell on their cattle to others who moved them to places like the grazing areas of Northumberland or the Yorkshire Dales in northern England. There they would be grazed and fattened after their long journey before being driven further south to the London markets.

All sorts of goods were for sale including boots, shoes, cloth, tin ware, pails and tubs while apple and pear carts and sweetie stands abounded."

Crieff was chosen as the venue for the yearly fair for largely geographic reasons.

The Sma' Glen was the traditional route from the north, while cattle from Aberdeenshire came down Strath Tay or from Blairgowrie and Alyth converging at Dunkeld and heading west up Strath Bran to Amulree and then down to Crieff.

The large numbers from Argyll and the islands made their way by Rannoch Moor, Glen Dochart and the lochs of Tay and Earn.

This, coupled with easy access for buyers from the south, promoted the town.

A wild west town

Some reports recall that Crieff transformed into a "wild west" town during the October Tryst, with thieves, bandits and drunken drovers in abundance.

According to the schoolmaster for Monzie in the Statistical Account of 1793, the good citizens of Crieff "went in fear of their lives from the High-

land drovers who broke into their houses, forcibly billeting themselves and often carried off part of the household goods and removed the potatoes from their fields".

However, *The Account for Crieff*, written some 20 years after the demise of the Tryst, adopted a different, rather more romantic view.

It stated: "The old people here sometimes speak with deep regret of the glorious scene displayed to view when 30,000 black cattle in different droves overspread the whole adjacent country for several miles around the town."

Much of the trade was done by means of bills and by the second quarter of the 18th century Crieff came to be regarded as one of the main financial centres of Scotland.

In 1770 the Tryst was transferred to Falkirk by the

Commissioners of the Forfeited Estates.

Strange and threatening?

Some Lowland dwellers regarded drovers strange and perhaps threatening, with one person at the time describing them as: "great stalwart hirsute men, shaggy and uncultured and wild, who look like bears as they lounge heavily along".

But they possessed a great many attributes ranging from an extensive, intimate knowledge of the country, endurance and ability to face great hardship, knowledge of cattle, enterprise, and honesty and reliability for the work entrusted to them.

They were also often skilled on the bagpipes or learned in other aspects of Gaelic culture.

A little more from your editor:

I never hear of Drovers that I don't think of the story told to me years ago by my dear Scottish friend who knows so many ancient stories.

He said there were Drovers in Glencoe at the time of the Glencoe Massacre. They fled, with their cattle, when it began.

My friend said, the night of the Glencoe Mas-

Continued on page 29



Glencoe School of Scottish Highland Dance

770-934-3016

glencoehighlanddancing@yahoo.com



Mary Wilson Recknagel

**- BATD Fellow Highland & Scottish Nationals -
SOBHD Adjudicator**

Scottish hotels are open!

The Scottish Government has now confirmed that hotels can re-open, and some have been open since the 15th of July!

Pitlochry hotel.



*Perhaps
an oven
such as
this*

Drovers, *continued from page 27* —————

sacre, there was a pregnant woman who had sought protection in one of the big ovens that were outside in their settlement.

Fright made her baby come sooner than expected. She wrapped the baby in her own warm shawl and caught the attention of one of the fleeing Drovers. She handed the newborn babe to the man, saying, "Please take him to safety."

Somewhere, there is very likely someone today who is descended from that awful night and the kindness of the Drovers..

My friend was sure to tell me the Drover could keep a baby alive from the milk from the cows in the herd.

The Queen knights Tom Moore,

continued from page 1

Castle.

In brilliant summer sunshine and with his family standing nearby, the head of state praised the Second World War veteran for collecting almost £33 million: "Thank you so much, an amazing amount of money you raised."

Reflecting on the journey that has taken him from Mr. to a Sir he said later: "When you think that about four months ago I was just Tom Moore. Now, I'm Sir Tom Moore. No one could ever have believed that, in that time, it would happen to me."

Queen Elizabeth II awards Captain Sir Thomas Moore with the insignia of Knight Bachelor at Windsor Castle (Image: UK Press via Getty Images)

"I've been really honoured that this should happen and I'm thrilled that it did happen, and thank you everyone who subscribed to the fund, I really appreciate it and thank you all very much."

Sir Tom had set out to raise £1,000 by walking 100 laps of his garden in the village of Marston Moretaine in Bedfordshire before his 100th birthday on April 30.

But his efforts struck a chord with national feeling, and praise and donations flooded in, with Prime Minister Boris Johnson saying the veteran "provided us all with a beacon of light through the fog of coronavirus" and recommended he be knighted.

Answering questions from the press after the ceremony he said: "I am absolutely overawed, this is such a high award and to get it from Her Majesty as well, what more can anyone wish for?"

"This has been an absolutely magnificent day for me."

The veteran went on to say: "To meet the Queen was more than anyone could expect, never ever did I imagine I would get so close to the Queen and have such a kind message from her, that was really outstanding, it was truly outstanding."

The Queen appeared to warm to Sir Tom, who is from the same wartime generation as the monarch, and his family, daughter Hannah Ingram-Moore, son-in-law Colin Ingram, grandson Benjie

Continued on page 39

Clan Home Society, International

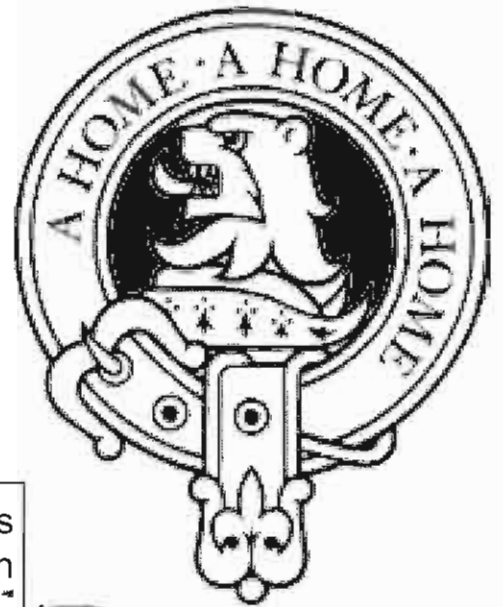
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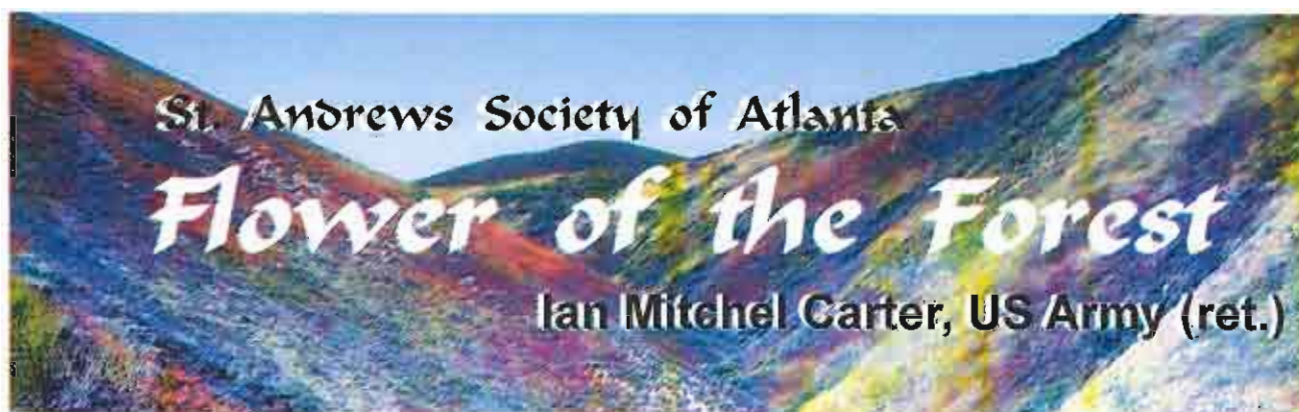
Rodney Green, president

317 Oak Ridge Drive
Moody, AL 35004
205-368-5286



<lawnmower391@gmail.com>





SFC Ian Mitchel Carter, US Army (ret.) age 54 of Decatur, Georgia passed away Sunday, July 5, 2020, in his home. Ian was born in North Kingston, Rhode Island. He had a very active military career which he ultimately retired

from. He became an EMT or Prop master on Movie sets, even doing some SAG related stunts and background work. However, the military was in his blood. Some of his accomplishments are:

Pathfinder Badge, Seabee Combat Warfare Health Care Specialist Course Phase II, Three Ribbon, Army Commendation Medal, Army Weeks, 2012, Health Care Specialist Course Achievement Medal (2nd Award), Army Good Phase III, Three Weeks, 2012, Net USR Readiness Conduct Medal, Army Reserve Component Reporting, 2013, Pathfinder Course, 2 Weeks, Achievement Medal (4th Award), National 2009, SR Gunner Training Course, 2 Weeks, Defense Service Medal, 2 Weeks, (2nd Award), Global 2011, War on Terrorism Service, Continuous Honorable Active Service: Soldier presented US Flag, Retired List Grade SFC, Individual Completed Period for which ordered to Active Duty for purpose of Post Service Benefits and Entitlements, Member has completed first full term of Service, Medal Iraq Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Campaign Star, Army Service

Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon (2nd Award), Armed Forces Reserve Medal W & M Device, Combat infantryman Badge, Parachutist Badge, USN Parachutist Insignia.

Ian was active in the community and was one of the founding members of Druid Lakes Youth Lacrosse Association, an active volunteer to Stone Mountain Highland Games, and a member of St. Andrews Society of Atlanta. He also had a big heart and always checked in on others to make sure they were ok during these trying times.

Ian is survived by his wife Robin Carter of Decatur, Georgia, and their three children Keenan Carter (26), Caddock Carter (14), and Keely Carter (12). He also leaves behind four siblings and their families, Shaughn Carter (Georgia), Shannon Carter (Rhode Island), Nancy Ray (Georgia), and Jennifer Ward (Georgia). He was predeceased by both parents, Nannie and Grayden Carter.

It was Ian's desire to be buried in Arlington National Cemetery. There is at least a seven-month wait before interment. We are arranging a memorial to celebrate his life in a couple of months, further information is to follow. A. S. Turner & Sons off N. Decatur Road are going to handle the arrangements.

In lieu of flowers please donate to St Judes Hospital. Ian really believed in all the hard work that they do for children. He really loved his kids and helping other children with his passion. <<https://www.stjude.org/donate/donate-to-st-jude.html>>

To all his battle buddies AATW.





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Ian and Mack and The Campers

Margo Fallis

It was a lovely late summer's day. The trees were filled with thick, green leaves. Acorns were growing on the oaks. Ants were busily working, gathering food for winter, as were the squirrels. They could be seen digging holes and hiding seeds and pine nuts in them, then quickly covering them up. Ian and Mac were high in their tree, looking down at the woods below. "What a lovely day, isn't it, Mac?" Ian said, taking in a deep breath of fresh highland air.

"Aye, it's grand," Mac answered. He turned his head when he heard sounds of people laughing. "What's this?" he said, looking down.

A group of six young women and two adult women dropped bags, boxes and packages at the bottom of Ian and Mac's tree. "Who are they?" Ian whispered. "What are they doing at our tree?"

"I don't know. Let's listen," Mac said.

"We'll set up our tents here," one of the women, Lindsay, ordered. "I want Megan and Moira to go and look for some firewood. Shannon and Lisa, I need you to help me with the tents and Lauren and Mary to help Helen unload boxes. All right, you heard me. Let's get this campsite set up." The girls ran about and began their jobs.

"They're camping at the bottom of our tree. Now what will we do?" Ian asked. "What's all this about a campfire?"

"I'm sure they'll be safe. They'll make one with rocks around it and the leaders will make sure it is out. Don't worry. I think as soon as we can, we need to sneak down and get some food, enough to last for a few days," Mac suggested. When all the girls were busy, the raccoons snuck down the other

side of the tree, ran into the woods, gathered nuts, berries and a few grubs, and then climbed back up the tree.

It wasn't long before the sun began to set. "What are they cooking?" Ian asked. He smelled the aroma of sizzling fish. "I smell fish and beans. I love beans. Do you think they'll have any leftovers?"

"If they do, they'll just dump them into the fire. There are no refrigerators around here," Mac said.

The girls ate the fish as the sun set and darkness filled the woods. The campfire was glowing and the wood was popping and sending little sparks up towards the two raccoons. "It's almost like a fireworks display, isn't it?" Ian laughed.

"Let's go snipe hunting,"

shouted Megan.

Giggles and cheers rang out. Helen and Lindsay grabbed the flashlights and the girls followed them.

"What's a snipe?" Ian asked.

"I don't know. Let's follow them and see," Mac said.

They climbed down the tree and caught up with the girls, staying well behind. "Girls, look behind the trees. Snipes like to hide there. You've all got your paper bags. Have them ready," Lindsay said.

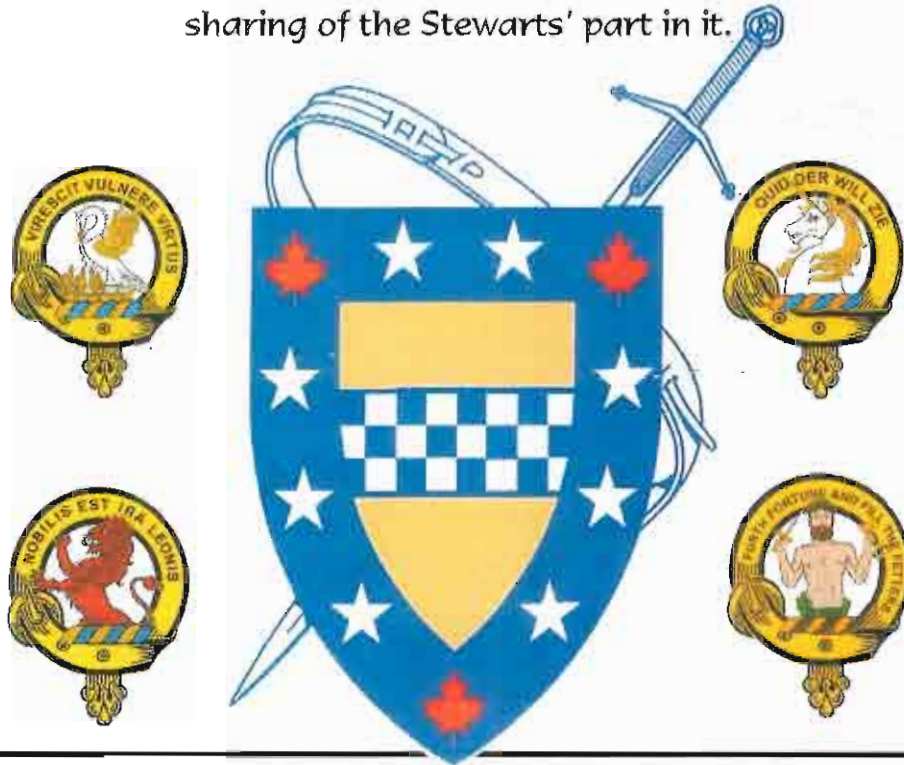
"We don't have paper bags," Ian gulped. "What do we need them for? Have you seen a snipe behind the tree before?" He was scared.

Continued on page 35



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.)

"I might have seen one the other night," Mac said, not really knowing what a snipe was.

Suddenly the girls stopped. "Shhh, girls, I just saw a snipe," Helen said, putting her arm out to stop the girls. "I saw its eyes. They were glowing, red."

The girls screamed. Ian and Mac screamed. "I don't want to catch a snipe, Mac. I don't want to see it. It's got red eyes," he gulped again, "that glow."

Helen headed for the tree. "Stay there girls and I'll see if I can catch it." She opened her paper bag and moved closer. "I see it," she whispered.

The girls were huddled together, all afraid and Ian and Mac held onto each other. "We don't have paper bags, Mac. What if it runs towards us? What should we do?" Ian was nearly crying with terror.

"If it comes, run," Mac said.

"I've got it! I've got the snipe!" Helen shouted and held up the bag. Suddenly she shook the bag and then dropped it. "Oh no! It got away. Look out!" she shouted. The girls ran screaming towards their tents. Mac and Ian ran screaming, heading for the tree.

"Yikes! The snipe's on the loose," Ian shouted.

Helen and Lindsay started laughing. "It works every time, doesn't it?" Helen said. "They really believe there's such a thing as a snipe."

Lindsay laughed, "You fooled them good this time. Did you see the look of horror on their faces?"

The leaders walked slowly back to the camp. Ian and Mac were in the tree, holding onto each other and shaking in fright. The girls were in their tents, which were zipped up and closed tightly. "Good night, girls," Lindsay said. "Sleep well."

"I'm not going to sleep tonight, not while there's a snipe running around," Ian sighed.

"I don't think snipes can climb trees," Mac said, trying to calm Ian down. "I think we're safe

for tonight. Watch your legs though. I think snipes like to eat toes," he teased. Ian pulled his feet up and tucked them underneath his body.

It was a restless night for the raccoons. While Mac wasn't nearly as frightened as Ian, he jumped up whenever he heard a sound. Finally, they dozed off. They woke up to the smell of bacon frying in a big black pan. They looked down. The girls were sitting around the campfire eating bacon and eggs. "That smells good," Ian said. "I want some bacon too," he pleaded.

The raccoons were pleased when the camp-

ers went to look for insects to make a bug collection and left a few slices of bacon in the pan. "Quick. They're gone. Let's grab that bacon," Mac said. The two ran down the tree and

took the bacon out of the pan. "Och, that's just too delicious. Let's have a wee look and see they've got to eat."



what else

They rummaged through all the girls things and found several bags of sweets, some potato crisps, a bag of nuts and some fresh apples. "Let's take these up the tree, before the girls come back," Ian said. It was difficult for them to carry the food up, but they eventually lifted the stash on their branch.

When the girls came back to camp with their bugs, Shannon shouted, "Hey, someone's been into my sweets!" The other girls started checking and most of them had missing food.

"It was probably the snipe," Mary said.

Ian and Mac laughed. "It wasn't the snipe. Not this time," Ian said.

As night fell, the girls gathered around the campfire. It was a big one, with lots of orange flames. The smell of burning wood floated into the air. "Let's tell scary stories," Lauren suggested.

"Yeah. I know a good one," Lisa said. "Do

Continued on page 37



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you want to hear it?"

The girls all shouted yes. "I don't want to," Ian whined.

"A long time ago, in a forest, just like this one, lived a wee lass and her mum. One night, after her mum tucked her into bed, the lass, Amy, started hearing noises outside. She called for her mum to come through but her mum didn't. Amy got up and searched the whole house. Her mum was not there. She called her name but she never answered," Lisa said.

"This is scary. What happened to Lisa's mum?" Ian said.

"Shhhh. Let's listen," Mac said.

"Well, Amy put on her slippers and picked up a candle from the table. She used a match and lit it and carried it outside. She called for her mum, but there was no answer. Just then she heard a noise behind her. It sounded like someone had stepped on a branch. Amy turned around. There stood a huge monster. It had ten eyes and a huge nose and four ears."

"Yikes! A monster?" Ian cried, burying his head in his lap.

"The monster had blood on its mouth and parts of Amy's mum's dress too. It moved closer and closer to Amy. She could see its eyes glowing," Lisa said.

"Were they glowing red?" Mac asked.

"They glowed green and purple. It reached out its arms to grab Amy and then.....AHHHHHHHHH!" Lisa screamed at the top of her lungs. The girls jumped and screamed and Megan nearly fainted. Ian started to fall backwards and Mac jumped so high that he hit his head on the branch above him. "I got you. I got you," Lisa laughed. She was delighted to have scared them all.

"Time for bed," Helen said. The girls went to

their tents and Lindsay put the fire out.

Ian and Mac were terrified. "Do you think the monster will come tonight?" Ian asked.

"It's not real. It was just a story. The girls have gone to bed. Let's go down to the camp. There are still some embers glowing in the fire. Maybe there's some food," Mac said.

Ian, more hungry than afraid, climbed down the tree behind Mac. They went over to the campfire. It was still warm. "What's this?" Ian asked, picking up a bag of marshmallows.

"I don't know, but the girls put them on sticks and held them over the fire. Let's give it a try," Mac whispered. They each found a stick and put a marshmallow on the end and held it over the glowing embers.

"It's turning black. I don't want my to be burned," Ian complained. He lifted his stick and slipped the marshmallow into his mouth. "That's good. I'll have another," he said, putting another

white puffy marshmallow onto his stick. Mac let his get a little burnt and then ate it.

The two raccoons ate the whole bag of marshmallows. They heard someone move in the tent. "I think there's something out there," Lindsay said. "I'm going to check." She started to unzip the tent.

"It might be a snipe," Helen laughed.

Ian and Mac darted up the tree as Lindsay came out and went toward the fire. "Something ate all our marshmallows. Looks like they roasted them," she said to Helen. "It was probably just one of the girls. Oh well. Good night," she said, climbing back into the tent.

Morning came quickly. Ian and Mac watched them pack everything up and soon they were gone. The raccoons climbed down and searched the ground for leftover food but there wasn't even a sign of the fire left. "I guess they're not coming back," Ian sighed. "I'll miss them. It was sort of

Continued on page 39



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The Queen knights Tom Moore, *continued from page 29*

and granddaughter Georgia.

In her first face-to-face royal engagement with the public since March, albeit with social distancing, she chatted to them for around five minutes taking in subjects from Princess Beatrice's wedding earlier that day to the lockdown.

"My granddaughter got married this morning, both Philip and I managed to get there - very nice," she revealed and after spending months shielding with the Duke of Edinburgh at Windsor she asked: "Have you been shut up - been isolating?"

Sir Tom took the media questions in his stride but when he was asked to reveal the personal message from the Queen he remained tight lipped.

"No. That's between the Queen and I," he said.

"I don't think I'll tell anybody what she said, it was just the Queen and I speaking privately and it was a great honour for me to be able to speak to her at all."

Sir Tom said the Queen highlighted the millions people had donated: "She did mention the money and she thought it was a magnificent sum to raise."

At the end of his press interviews Sir Tom quipped, "Is that all?" after being told he had an-

swered his last question.

And when a journalist said it was probably too hot for him in the sun, he looked down at his wartime medals and joked: "All this metalwork reflects the heat."

Sir Tom answered one last question to reveal he and the 94-year-old monarch had talked about ages.

"She did mention I'm 100 and I said to her 'well you've a long way to go yet', so she's alright," he said.

His daughter said the Queen had asked to see them as a family and she summed up the appeal of her father, adding: "I think what happened is he became a beacon of hope, of positivity at a time that was super challenging for not just us but the whole country and in fact the rest of the world."

The family later celebrated by having a traditional afternoon cream tea at a nearby hotel, following a whirlwind four months that had seen David Beckham visit the former Army officer and Sir Tom made an honorary colonel for his fundraising efforts.

Ian and Mack, *continued from page 37*



fun having them there."

"I'll miss them too, but we did learn a few things; marshmallows are good, bacon is delicious, and we'd better not come down from the tree at night or the snipe will get us," Mac said.

Ian nodded his head and they headed into the woods to look for more nuts and berries.





COCKSPUR

HERALDIC SERVICES
& GRAPHIC DESIGN

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