



Vol. IX Issue No. 7 *Beth's Newfangled Family Tree* Section B December 2014

Scottish National Party conference: Nicola Sturgeon appointed party leader

Nicola Sturgeon has taken over the leadership of the SNP from Alex Salmond, pledging to continue the fight for Scottish independence.

At the SNP conference she also set a target for her party to win the 2015 UK election for Scotland.

Ms Sturgeon, who will become Scottish first minister next week, said the SNP was a party with "the wind in its sails" but there was still much to do.

Meanwhile, MP Stewart Hosie succeeded Ms Sturgeon deputy SNP leader.

Mr Hosie beat the perceived frontrunner for the role, Transport Minister Keith Brown, in a contest also featuring Youth Employment Secretary Angela Constance.

Ms Sturgeon told the conference in Perth that leading the party she joined as a teenager was "the biggest privilege of my life".

Despite the vote against independence in September's referendum, which promoted Mr Salmond to stand down, she told delegates: "I believe today as strongly as I ever have, perhaps more strongly than I ever have, that we will be independent."

An emotional Joan Sturgeon, Nicola Sturgeon's

mother, was at the SNP conference

"But that will only happen when a majority of our citizens vote for that in a referendum. So our task

remains as it has always been - not to impose our will, not to berate those who disagree with us but to persuade - respectfully and intelligently through the strength of our arguments and the power of our actions - to persuade the majority of our fellow Scots that the best future for our country, the way to build a more prosperous more successful country and a fairer society, is for us to become a normal independent nation."

Ahead of the UK election, Ms Sturgeon added: "I want this party to leave this conference this weekend with the intention of winning the Westminster election for Scotland next May."

"I want strong SNP MPs at Westminster and I want that for one reason and one reason only - when the SNP is strong, Scotland is strong. Our voice will be heard, our interests will be protected."

Ms Sturgeon said such a result would leave "no hiding place" for the UK parties who pledged to de-



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A holiday treat!



Beth's Christmas

http://wallythekat.tripod.com/A_Pages/AA-Videos-YOU-Tube/Clydesdales.html



The Left-Handed Kerrs

Don't feel bad if you're left handed. Many famous people have shared this trait: Leonardo Da Vinci, Michelangelo Buonaroti, Henri de Toulouse Lautrec, Peter Paul Reubens, Albert Einstein, Mark Twain, Napoleon Bonapart, Julius Caesar, Neil Armstrong, Joan of Arc, Winston Churchill, Bill Gates, Steve Jobs, Steve Wozniak, Gerald Ford, Bill Clinton, Tom Cruise and Tom Cruise just to name a few. If you would like to see a more complete list, just visit: <https://theheftyleftty.wordpress.com/2012/08/13/100-most-famous-left-handed-people-of-all-time/>

This article is from Rich and Rita Shader's always interesting publication, *Celtic Seasons*. If you'd like to subscribe to their publication, just send any monetary donation to offset costs to: Rich Shader, 2593 Chapparral Drive, Melbourne, FL 32934.

I remember growing up and having a friend who was left-handed. The teachers tried their darndest to get him to write with his right hand to no avail. However, being left-handed can be in your favor as the following story tells the tale of the Kerr family in Scotland.

The Gazetteer for Scotland's overviews of the Kerr family of the Scottish border notes that: The left-handed trait became a notable characteristic of the family when the naturally left-handed Sir Andrew Kerr had found it useful at the Battle of Flodden in 1513. Several of the Kerr family homes, for example Ferniehirst Castle, only 2 miles south of Jedburgh in the Scottish Borders, are adapted for use by the left-handed family members.

ElectricScotland.com also has a note about the Left-Handed Kerrs: The expression "Kerr-handed" and "corry-fisted" both refer to the well established tradition of left-handedness within the Kerr Family.

Andrew Kerr taught his sons and armed men-servants - who, in accordance with custom, took the family name on joining the household, to wield the



sword or the Jethart Axe, which is very large, with the left hand, and they, in turn, taught their sons.

The family was thus unique - certainly in Scotland and probably in the modern world - in converting natural right-handers to left-handedness, the reverse procedure being far more usual, parents and teachers are now strongly advised against it.

If you've read Diana Gabaldon's *Outlander* series, you know that Jamie Fraser was forced to write with his right hand although he is naturally a left-hander. All through the stories, mention is made of his poor handwriting for this reason. Just for fun, do you know what Jamie cannot do that most everyone CAN do? He can't wink

with one eye. His "winks" are referred to in the stories as his "owl-eyed blink of both eyes."

The only other well known instance of deliber-

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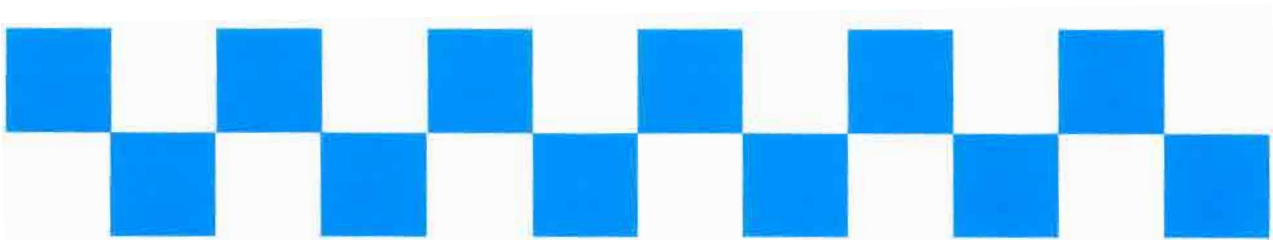
FLYING HERALDRY

Your history in living colour.

Heraldry, though wrought in many forms, is in none so stirring as when seen flying proudly on the wind, colours aflame in the sunlight. Born of necessity on the battlefields of centuries past, these brightly coloured scraps of cloth have long stood watch over both proud victory and grievous loss. Today they reach out from the past to show and nurture our connection to history. Often seen in the parades of tartan common to the modern Scottish highland games, flying heraldry calls us still to rally to our clansmen, march with them and be counted. When next you attend a highland games, give a moment's pause to witness the banners as they pass or, perhaps, join your kinsmen and take your own steps in the long tartan line.

For all your heraldic needs contact Tom Freeman at:

706-839-6612



The Left-Handed Kerrs, *continued from page 3*

ately cultivating left-handedness was the tribe of Benjamin in ancient Israel (Judges 3:12-30; Judges 20:16 and 1 Chronicles 12:2). Ironically, Benjamin means "son of (my) right-hand."

Perhaps this irony of left-handed "sons of right-handers" caused the Biblical writers to take note and simply enjoyed a bit of word play.

Turning to the Highlands of Scotland, Alasdair MacColla (Alasdair MacColla Chiotaigh MacDomhnaill ("Alasdair the son of Colla the Left-Handed Macdonald") ca 1610 - 1647, is sometimes considered the last great pan-Celtic warrior.

According to Alasdair MacColla, son of Coll, Alasdair MacColla's father, Coll Ciotach, was one of a long line of powerful Gaels in Clan Donald. A Hiberno-Scot MacDonnell on his father's side and an O'Cahan on his mother's side, he was forced into exile to the Isle of Colonsay as an infant by the political machinations of the MacDonnells of Dunluce.

Like most Gaels of the time, his second name was not a surname, but a description of lineage or some outstanding feature of appearance or character.

The Gaelic word *ciotach* (pronounced *keetoch*) in this application denoted ambidextrousness - a feature Alasdair shared with his father (particularly relating to swordsmanship). MacColla simply means son of Coll.

According to tradition, Alasdair had been invited by Sir Duncan Campbell, Lord Auchinbreck, to a banquet at Dunluce Castle in Ireland. A messenger, mistaking Alasdair for Auchinbreck, delivered a note to Alasdair intended for Auchinbreck. The note instructed Auchinbreck, on the Marquess of Argyll's order, to kill Alasdair while he was unarmed and feasting.

Knowing this, Alasdair appeared at the feast with

his men armed.

Confronting Auchinbreck, Alasdair refused to surrender his sword as was customary under the Celtic law of hospitality.

Auchinbreck asked why he would not surrender his sword.

Alasdair replied, "Because it is the strongest hand in Ireland."

Auchinbreck then asked what the next strongest hand was?

Demonstrating his family's reputation for ambidextrousness, he transferred the sword to his left hand. He then revealed his knowledge of the plot against his life and fled with his men.

Ferniehirst Castle has a unique reverse spiral staircase that served as a clever defense system. Most spiral staircases were built with the spiral in a

clockwise direction when looking up from the bottom. That was so the defending swordsman, who would either be coming down the stairs or backing up in reverse, could freely swing his sword.

Conversely, the attacking swordsman ascending the stairs, would have his swing blocked by the wall.

This, of course, assumed that both attacker and defender were right-handed, which most were. With the reverse spiral staircase, it gave left-handed defenders a free sword hand while hampering the progress of right-handed attackers.

This trait, celebrated in poetry by Scottish poet, Walter Laidlaw, wrote of the Kerrs in *The Repisal* in 1549.

*So well the Kerrs their left-hands ply,
The dead and dying round them lie,
The castle gained, the battle won,
Revenge and slaughter are begun.*

So, are you left-handed? You may be distantly related to the Kerr family!



The Clan Colquhoun Society in North America
is now...

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Contact Tom Hodges:
sijepuis@bellsouth.net

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www.clanblair.org



President Clan Blair Society: Jim Blair
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Littleton, CO 80120
Email: president@clanblair.org



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



Society of Antiquaries Anniversary Meeting set for 1 December 2014

The Anniversary Meeting of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland is planned for 1 December 2014 at the Greyfriars Kirk, 1 Greyfriars, Edinburgh EH1 2QQ, starting at 4.30pm.

There are three Motions that will be debated and determined at the Anniversary Meeting itself, including one to increase subscriptions to keep pace with inflation since 2007 and two to add a new category of Fellowship and modify the Retired Fellowship.

We hope to see many of you there to discuss and determine these important Motions for the Society.

It has come to our attention that the information accompanying Motion 3 has omitted an important agreement Council made in deciding to change the

Retired Fellowship. It is Council's intention that no current Retired Fellows would be adversely affected by this change, and that all those who are currently Retired Fellows would remain so and continue to benefit from the reduction in Fellowship subscription that this category enjoys.

Motion 4, to change the Laws of the Society, was considered so important that all Fellows should have the opportunity to vote on them even if they could not attend the meeting, hence it has been distributed as a postal vote – please ensure you return the Motion with a cross in one box only, do not sign the paper.

Please contact the Director in the first instance (director@socantscot.org) if you have any queries with regard to these important decisions for the Society.

Reunion Celebrates 90th Birthday of Family Matriarch, Eleanor Turnbull

Eleanor Holdeman was born in Dumas, Mississippi, in 1924.

She became one of the first female licensed pilots in the early 1940s.

It was Eleanor's plans to become a missionary pilot in Africa.

Before leaving for the mission field, Eleanor vis-

ited her mother in Haiti, who was serving as a missionary nurse in the mountains.

While there she met Wallace Turnbull.

The two fell in love and were married in Haiti where they continued to serve the mountain people for 57 years. Today, Eleanor helps direct a university

Article and photo continued on page 9

Clan Davidson Society USA



Davidson Clansmen dominate the Parade of Tartans at the International Gathering of Clan Davidson sponsored by the Clan Davidson Society USA. The event was held June, 2011, in conjunction with the Kansas City Highland Games.

Is your name listed here? If so, then you may be interested in membership in the **Clan Davidson Society USA!**

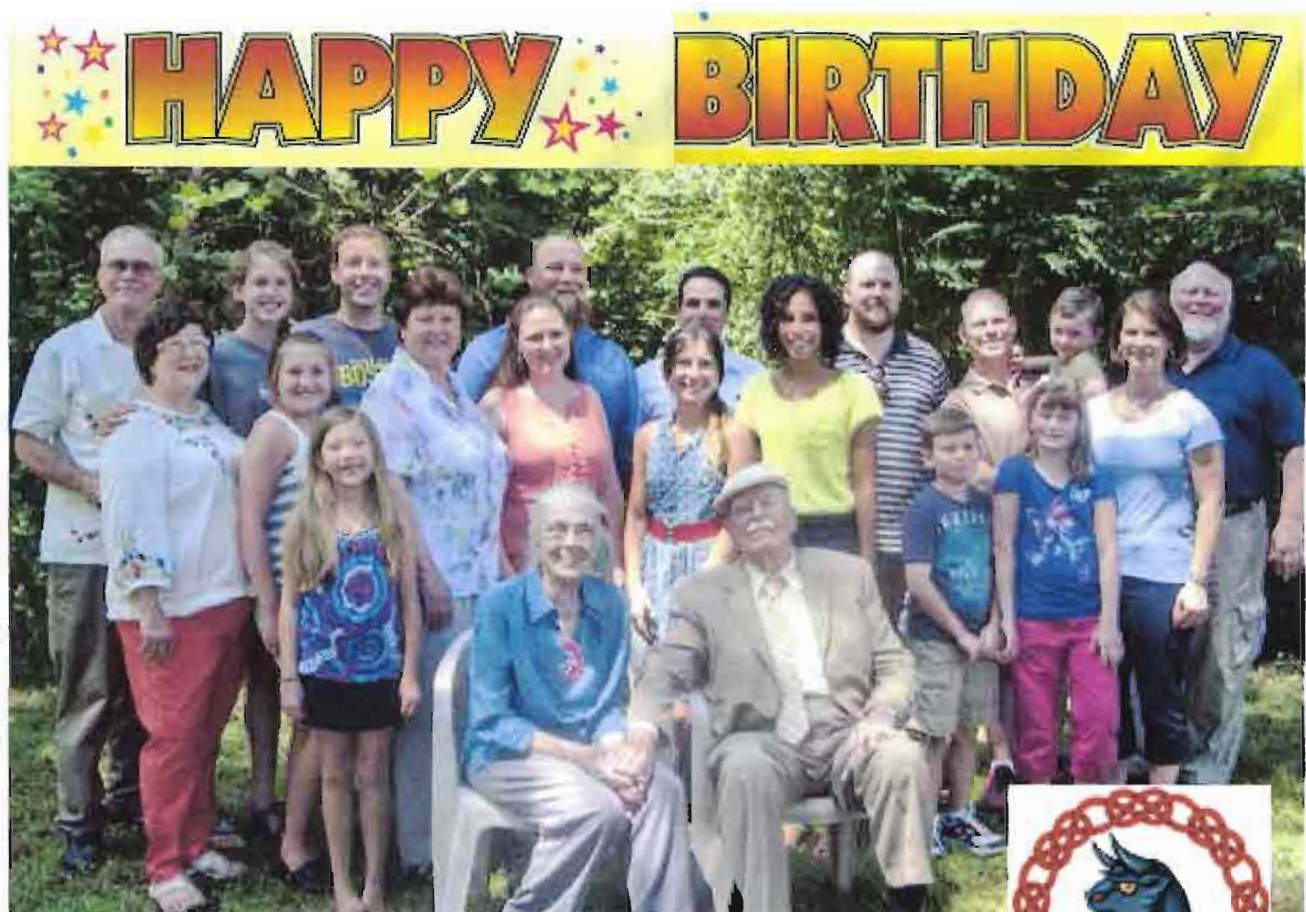
Davey	Davisson	Dea	Dee	Dhai	Keay	MacDade	MacDavid
Davie	Davy	Dean	Desson	Dow	Keys	MacDagnie	MacDavitt
Davidson	Daw	Deane	Devette	Dye	Key	MacDagny	MacDhai
Davis	Dawson	Deas	Dewis	Dyson	Keys	MacDaid	MacKay
Davison	Day	Deason	Dey	Kay	MacAdie	MacDavett	McKeddie

The Clan Davidson Society USA is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit corporation recognized by the **US IRS** as a 501 c(3) Educational and Charitable organization. We are dedicated to the preservation of our rich Scottish and Clan Heritage. CDA-USA publishes an award-winning, electronic, full color newsmagazine of 40-60 pages twice a year, packed with informative articles and photos of interest both to Davidson Clansmen as well as anyone interested in the history and culture of Scotland.

The Society's On-Staff Genealogist is the Founder of the Davidson/Davison DNA Project and is available at no charge to assist the membership with their own genealogical excavations.

For more information, check out our website at [www.elandavidsonusa.com] or contact the Society's Membership Registrar at [sennachie@earthlink.net].





90th Birthday celebrated, continued from page 7

scholarship program for young adults.

She and Wallace reside in Auburn, Alabama near one of their sons and his family.

They still return to Haiti for extended periods to be with the people they served for so many years.

On August 8, 2014 members of the Wallace and Eleanor Turnbull family gathered in Auburn, Alabama for a family reunion to celebrate Eleanor's 90th birthday.

Pictured are her children, their spouses, grandchildren and their spouses, and great-grandchildren.

The day's activity included a picnic and fireworks.



She said "YES!"

Bradley Trimble uses the backdrop of the Central Virginia Highland Games to propose to Tammy DeWitt.



Lord of the Manor of Wales!

The title "Lord of the manor of Wales" is up for sale with an asking price of 20,000 British pounds.

There really is such a title - it's in the *Domesday Book*. It was previously borne by the late Lady Diana Miller, daughter of the 5th Earl of Yarbrough.

Clan MacCord Society

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

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

Harlan D. McCord

President/Chief

4403 Vickery Ave East
Tacoma, WA 98443-2016

Email:

cmccord1234@msn.com



Clan Home Society (International)

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



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



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

Flowers of the Forest



Theo Carl Hurt, age 94 was born June 4, 1920 the son of the late Theo Claude and Mary Lee McClain Hurt. He departed this life, Saturday morning, November 8, at the Jean Waddle Hospice Care Unit in Somerset.

On December 20, 1943 he united in marriage with Bertha Walters Higginbotham Hurt who survives. To this 70 year union four children survive; Doris Kay Davis, Carl Hurt, Bobby Hurt, Vice President of the Glasgow Highland Games and Claudia Morrow.

Also surviving are 12 grandchildren, 24 great grandchildren and one great-great grandchild; his siblings: Bertha Anderson and James Hurt.

He is preceded in death by his sister: Hazel Wallace Moreland.

Theo had accepted Christ as his Savior as a young man and was a member of the Steubenville Baptist Church.

Expressions of sympathy should take the form of donations to: Steubenville Baptist Church Building Fund or Hospice of Lake Cumberland.

Jean Redpath, beloved singer who brought Scottish folk songs to such diverse venues as Greenwich Village hootenannies, "A Prairie Home Companion" and even Lincoln Center's

"Mostly Mozart," passed away last 22 August.

Born in Fife, Scotland, on 28 April 1937, she studied medieval history at the University of Edinburgh and began singing for "beer money" in Edinburgh pubs before she emigrated to the United States in 1961.

She came to New York in the first heady days of the folk music revival where a chance encounter brought her to a Greenwich Village



apartment at 1 Sheridan Square where she arrived to find Bob Dylan, Rambling Jack Elliot and the Greenbrier Boys together in an informal jam session.

A gig at the legendary Gerde's Folk City launched her

long career that stretched over 40 albums.

A mezzo-soprano who learned her music by ear, it was said that her memorized repertoire was so extensive that she could sing for a week nonstop without repeating herself.

Throughout her life, her devotion to her native Scotland and its traditions never wavered and her unfulfilled ambition was to record all 323 songs written by Robert Burns. She did record 180 of them.

For all that, she never liked being labeled a "folk" singer. She said, "I just like to sing - it's an easier form of communication to me than talking."



Clan Leslie Society International

Septs: Abernethy, Bartholomew,
Carnie, Laing, and More (Moore)
and other spelling variations

David Leslie White,
Chieftain



Send Inquiries To:

Linda Flowers, Treasurer

Clan Leslie Society International

30302 SW 3rd St.

Tuttle, OK 73089

LFLOWJINGO@SBCGLOBAL.NET

www.clanlesliesociety.org

**The Hon. Alexander Leslie,
Chief of Clan Leslie**



Locating Civil War Union Soldiers

Bryan Mulcahy, MLS

Tracing your Civil War ancestors can present many challenges. For those seeking veterans who fought on the Union side of the conflict, the 1890 Special Census of Veterans can be very useful for documentation purposes. The information contained on the surviving schedules supplies personal information for the veteran and widow when applicable, and identifies the unit and/or regiment of service.

While most of the 1890 census was destroyed, the bulk of what survived is the veteran's information. Over 75,000 of these special schedules exist for 34 states alphabetically from Kentucky (about 50%) to Wyoming, plus part of the District of Columbia and select ships and naval yards. Unfortunately, the schedules of other states were destroyed.

The returned schedules showed a count of 1,099,668 Union survivors, and 163,176 widows. While these figures for the surviving states are impressive given the circumstances surrounding what happened to the rest of the census, many veterans who should have been listed were overlooked. If your ancestor was living and was counted, the schedules should provide enough information to locate his National Archives service and pension records.

The schedules provide the following information:

1. Veterans name and name of widow if applicable
2. Rank
3. Company, regiment or vessel
4. Dates of enlistment and discharge
5. Length of service
6. Post office address
7. Nature of disability

Census takers were instructed to list the widow's name above the name of the deceased veteran and fill out the record of his service, but list her present post office. The disability question was included because many veterans claimed disability pensions under an 1862 act. The General Remarks often provide anecdotal and meaningful information.

The NARA microfilm M123 Schedules Enumerating Union Veterans and Widows of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1890, 118 rolls, contain the extant schedules. There is no comprehensive index, but indexes for most states have been published. While most of this information is available on websites, such as Ancestry.com and Library Edition, Family Search, and Fold3, additional follow-up research might include the microfiche series *Civil War Unit Histories: Regimental Histories and Personal Narratives* published by University Publications of America. Parts 2-4 specifically cover Union units.

For more information, please contact Bryan Mulcahy, MLS, Reference Librarian at the Fort Myers Regional Library located at 2450 First Street in Fort Myers, FL 33901.

Contact Bryan at bmulcahy@leegov.com or by Voice at 239-533-4626 or by Fax at 239-485-1160. Contact the library on the Internet at leelibrary.net.





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If you see your clan advertisement
in this publication - either section -
Please read it carefully. If there has been a change of
officers, or you see something that needs to be deleted
or think of something that needs
to be added or changed,
write your editor at bethscribble@aol.com

Winter Solstice Holiday Celebration: Dec. 4 - seasonal music and stories from Celtic lands & it is F R E E !

Save the date, December 4, 2014 for a brilliant FREE Celtic music concert at 7 PM, at the Fayetteville Technical Community College in Fayetteville, North Carolina.

This concert captures the beauty and atmosphere of the Scottish Highlands and Ireland during the holidays, weaving a tapestry of music, dance, and stories that hearken back to the ancient Celtic celebrations associated with the Winter Solstice and Christmas. You'll love this entertaining and thought-provoking family holiday experience.

The cast of performers represents the best and brightest of the Celtic music community in the Southeast. Jamie Laval headlines the show which features David Brown, gentle genius of Irish-style guitar from Asheville; Kelly Brzowski, Celtic harpist and winner of the U.S. National Scottish Harping Championship; and Bill Caudill, acclaimed Highland bagpiper and Director of Bagpiping Studies at St. Andrews University.

Violinist and storyteller Jamie Laval won the 2002 U.S. National Scottish Fiddle Championship and has performed for Her Majesty the Queen. Laval's recent album **Murmurs and Drones** won the popular vote for "Best World Traditional Album" in the 2012 Independent Music Awards.

The concert will begin at 7:00 p.m. featuring two 45-minute sets with a brief intermission.

Cumberland Hall Auditorium on the FTCC main campus 2201 Hull Rd Fayetteville, NC 28303.

The event is free and open to the public.

For more details you might wish to contact: Gerald Daniel by telephone at 910-678-8385 or danielg@faytechcc.edu



Above, Kelly Brzowski and below, Bill Caudill, performing December 4 at FREE concert.

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: Robert "Bob" Neill,
183 Pheasant Walk Way - Vilas, NC 28692
raneill@juno.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 | |





Scottish Independence Referendum What Now?

According to a STV News poll, of those asked by Ipsos Mori, 66% said they would support the vote taking place in the next decade regardless of circumstances. Just 31% would oppose a referendum in the next ten years.

Stewart Maxwell MSP said: "What we're seeing now is something which is really not that surprising, that the Scottish people are beginning to suspect that London Labour and indeed the Conservative party are beginning to backtrack on the promises that they offered before the referendum."

On Thursday, Oct 30, STV released figures for Scots voting intentions in a general election from the same poll. It showed Labour would poll 23% of the Scottish vote, leaving them with just four seats in Scotland.

In comparison, support for the SNP (Scottish National Party) has surged to 52%, giving them a projected 54 seats at Westminster.

The Liberal Democrats would have one and the Conservative party would be left without any Scottish MPs.

First-ever Scots Gaelic comic book superhero, Saltire!

Premiered at last summer's Edinburgh Book Festival, the first-ever Scots Gaelic comic book hero, Saltire, was proudly introduced. Saltire is no ordinary hero, but a true Gaelic-speaking patriot whose

Continued on page 23





CLAN BUCHANAN

SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL, INC.

If you have the name "Buchanan" in your family or any of the allied family/sept names below, you are invited to join your cousins and Buchanan kin. Just send an email for a membership form and/or information to

<http://www.theclanbuchanan.com/html/contact.html>



Pres.
Ken



Bohanan	Gilbert	Macgilbert
Buchanan	Gilbertson	Macgreusich
Colman	Harper	Macgubbin
Cormack	Harperson	Macinally
Cousland	Leavy	Macindeo(r)
Dewar	Lennie	Mackibb
Donleavy	Lenny	Mackibbon
Dove, Dow	Macaldonich	Mackinlay
Gibb(s)(y)	Macalman	Mackinley
Gibbon	Macandeior	Macmaster
Gibson	Macaslan	Macmaurice
	Macaslin	Macmorris
	Macauselan	Macmurchie
	Macauslan(in)	Macmurphy
	Macausland	Macnair
	Macauslane	Macnuir
	Macalman	Macquat
	Macalmon(t)	Macquattie
	Macammond	Macquattiey
	Macasland	Macquyer
	Macchruiter	MacQuinten
	Maccolman	Macwattie
	Maccolwan	Macwhirter
	Maccormac(k)	Macwhorter
	Maccommon	Masters
	Maccoubrey	Masterson
	Maccubbin	Morrice
	Maccubbing	Morris
	Maccubin	Morrison
	Macdonleavy	(of Perthshire only)
	Macgeorge	Murchie
	Macgibbon	Murchison
		Richardson



Risk
Rusk(ie)
Ruskin
Spittal
Spittle
Walter
Walters
Wason
Sasson
Waters
Watson
Watt
Watters
Weir
Wuill
Wool
Wule

The CBSI was formed in 1970 as the Clan Buchanan Society in America. It was founded at the Grandfather Mountain Games in North Carolina. The name was later changed to the Clan Buchanan Society International Inc., to reflect our society's expanded purpose and membership.



You're welcome to email the Pres.
ken.buchanan@TheClanBuchanan.com

Using Scottish recipes in American kitchens

Linda Frazier,
***The St. Andrews Cross* (from The St. Andrews Society of Tallahassee)**

Any American who has attempted to use a Scottish recipe has sometimes found it can be confusing and frustrating. The problems stem from three issues: unfamiliar terms and measuring systems or familiar terms used differently.

The UK officially began its conversion to the metric system in the 1960s, so even today, both imperial (the former system) and metric (the new system) are taught in schools and used in books there. Older cookbooks and some of the old family recipes are written using the imperial system.

As we know, the change to the metric system has not taken a foothold in this country despite the efforts of scientists to mandate the move. Few of us over 50 years of age are conversant with the system. While food packaged and sold in the UK uses the metric system, the US continues to use the avoirdupois system of pounds and ounces. Increasingly, we see both on packaging in stores today.

An even more difficult problem is when one encounters familiar terms in Scottish recipes but which are measured differently. A recipe may call for a "pint," but, an American "pint" is smaller than a British "pint." The "pint" is 16 ounces in America and 20 ounces in the UK. A British "tablespoon" holds 17.7ml while the American "tablespoon" holds 14.2ml, a 25% difference and an American "cup" is 8 fluid ounces and a British "cut" is 10 fluid ounces, or half a pint, one fifth greater than its US equivalent.

Here are a few tips to facilitate navigation and conversion between the two systems. First, it is most important to make sure which system is used in the recipe and then stick with it or convert it but remain consistent throughout the recipe from start to finish.

Second, remember that British recipes distinguish between weight and volume. They measure flour, sugar and other dry ingredients by weight and do not use such American terms as "a cup of flour."

As we all know, that same cup will measure differently for liquid and dry ingredients, depending on the weight of the ingredient so that the British system offers more precision (for example, a cup of plain flour weighs 4 ounces or 115gm while a cup of brown sugar weighs 8 ounces or 225gm.)

There are also some prevalent unfamiliar terms. I have found in the recipes, such as a "knob" and a "gill." If your recipe calls for a "knob of butter" they are requiring about 2 tablespoons of butter. A "gill" is a liquid measure for 5 ounces or 1/4 of a British pint (remember that is 20 ounces).

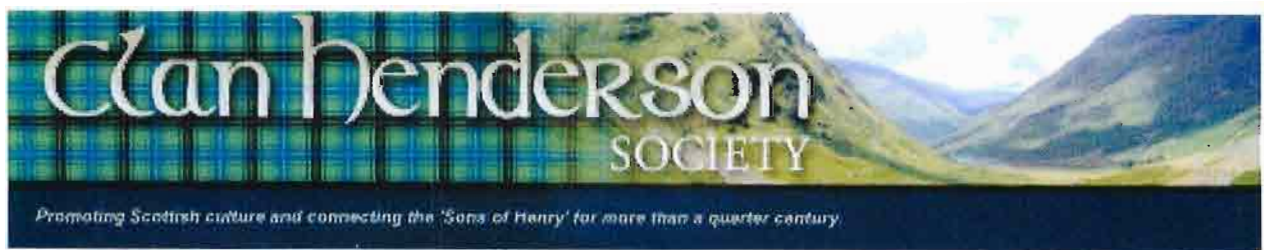
Another term you might find is a "jigger" which is 1 1/2 fluid ounces.

One of the best websites I have found on-line to assist you in converting recipes is: <www.convertme.com/en/convert/cooking/> It provides an on-line calculator to put in the ingredient and convert to whatever amount in whatever system you need.

Finally, the best advice I can offer is to revert to volume measurements using a good scale since an ounce is still an ounce, whether it is measured in Scotland or in America.

PS. When I was in Scotland, I just visited a hardware store (of all places) and bought a set of measuring cups and spoons from Scotland - which work with most of their recipes! I found a small scale that will measure the weight of things...which, added together, take most of the mystery out of the conversion process! Your ed.





ALISTAIR OF FORDELL, CHIEF OF THE NAME AND ARMS OF HENDERSON

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History of “Y’all”

Where did this strange little word come from? The answer reveals a remarkable (and unlikely) story of language dispersion.

The frequency of “Y’all” usage in the United States (Wikimedia)

Linguist Michael Montgomery claims that “y’all” goes back to the Scots-Irish phrase “ye aw,” and he offers as evidence a letter written in 1737 by an Irish immigrant in New York to a friend back home: “Now I beg of ye aw to come over here.”



As I understand Montgomery’s hypothesis, “ye aw” was Americanized into “y’all,” which is indeed a contraction of “you all” but would not have come

into being without the influence of the Scots-Irish phrase.

A quick Google search of “ye aw” brings up numerous examples of this phrase being used in contemporary Scots. (Scots is a language spoken in much of Scotland which derives from middle-English. It influences, but is separate from, contemporary Scottish English.) This language was brought to Northern Ireland by Scottish planters, and then brought to America by “Scots-Irish” immigrants.

h t t p : / /
dialectblog.com/2011/02/
15/the-remarkable-his-
tory-of-yall/

With many thanks to
Great Scots! The publication of the Scottish Heritage
Society of Southeast Georgia.

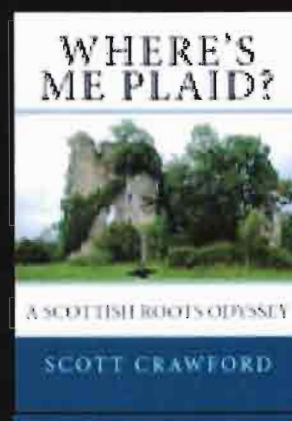


Welsh Fables and Fairies

You’re invited to Welsh Fables and Fairies, 4 January 2015 at the 12th Night Revel hosted by St. David’s Welsh Society of Nebraska, St. Matthews Episcopal Church, 2325 South 24th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska. Call 402-742-0477.

You may wish to contact either:
mcallisters@windstream.net or
www.mathiaslink.com.

Travels in Scotland from a Crawford’s perspective



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Marion Schmitz
1685 Casitas Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91103
626-398-6343
zb4ms@juno.com

To see the many names on the Clan Donald sept/allied family list, please visit:

<http://www.clan-donald-usa.org>

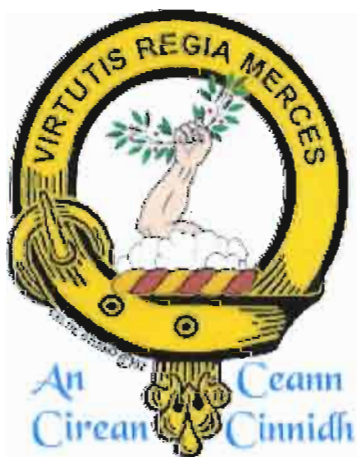


Ceud Mile Failte Danus Skene of Skene!

Clan Chief, Danus Skene of Skene, will be attending the Games at Maryville, Tennessee in May of 2015.

All Skenes are invited to attend and give him a rousing welcome!

For more information, please contact the Clan Skene president, Dorna Comp via email by using dkc1027@hotmail.com



FREE Genealogical Search Techniques on the Internet

Date: Saturday, December 13, 2014 with Speaker: Carol Weidlich, Lee County Genealogical Society – Past President and Webmaster Time: 9:30-12:15pm; South Building, 1651 Lee Street; Fort Myers, Florida. Meeting Rooms A & B.

Session One: 9:30-10:45am Search Techniques on the Internet. Session Two: 11:00am-12:15pm Searching Websites Other Than Ancestry.com and Family Search.

Saltire, continued from page 17



adventures take place at pivotal moments in Scottish history.

In the first installment in this graphic novel series, *Ionnsaigh* (Invasion), Saltire takes on Rome's fearsome IX Legion as it pushes north from Hadrian's Wall.

Notes creator, John Ferguson, "Saltire is an immortal being created thousands of years ago to protect Scotland and its people. He's big, he's blue and he's ginger."

Diamondsteel Comics will release each new graphic novel in Gaelic, followed by an English translation edition. Future editions will bring new historical adventures.

Will Saltire ride with Bonny Dundee? Bail our Bonnie Prince Charlie? Bash the English at Bannockburn?

Stay tuned to find out!

With many thanks to *Six Nations, One Soul*, The Newsletter of the Celtic League, American Branch, Samhain, 2014 issue.

For membership information, contact Celtic League American Branch, PO Box 20153, Dag Hammarskjold Center, NY, NY 10017.

Clan Bell

Clan Bell

North America.



This old West Marche Clan, one of the Border Clans since the early 1100s, were retainers of the Great House of Douglas and also allied with the best Border families through blood and friendship. Their land holdings were extensive, and to survive, they engaged in the “rieving” if the period and participated in many battles against the English.

Declared “unruly by the Scottish Parliament, many of the Clan emigrated to the Ulster Plantation after 1610.

After William Bell, called “Redcloak” and Chief of the Clan died in 1628, the chiefship became dormant. Without leadership the Bells ceased to exist as a viable clan.

Clan Bell International (CBI) in the United States represents Clan Bell world-wide with a coordinated network of 20 International Representatives, each representing the Clan in their own country.

CBI is a charitable organization of Scottish descendants and friends of Family/Clan Bell dedicated to the study of Bell genealogy and Scottish history and the perpetuation of family tradition.

CBI cordially invites membership inquiries from persons named Bell (all spellings), their descendants and friends. Quarterly newsletter is published. Tents are hosted at major Scottish festivals from coast to coast in the USA.

President:

David E. Bell

1513 Anterra Drive

Wake Forest, NC 27587

debellimd@aol.com

Visit our Website:

clanbell.org

Membership Director:

Matthew T. Bell

5911 Braden Run

Bradenton, FL 34202

cbell99999@tampabay.rr.com

David Thompson reports on the SNP Conference in Perth

For those in the USA and Austria who would have been unable to watch the SNP conference on television today, - I send this brief report.

The hall in Perth was packed with enthusiastic members, and the atmosphere from start to finish was positive and upbeat. Perth's lady provost opened the proceedings and the whole event was conducted in a thoroughly efficient and professional manner. No time-wasting or boring speeches. Nicola Sturgeon was unanimously made leader, and she responded with wisdom and grace. Her speech was excellent and delivered with conviction; - and she displayed great determination.

The whole party is enthusiastically preparing to win maximum SNP seats in the general election so Westminster will be besieged by a strong Scottish

Nicola Sturgeon, *continued from page 1*

liver more Scottish Parliament powers in the event of a referendum "No" vote.

Nicola Sturgeon says being elected as leader of the SNP is "the biggest privilege of my life"

Ms Sturgeon also promised to govern Scotland with "competence, energy, commitment, imagination and vision".

She said the SNP was now Scotland's biggest party "by a country mile", adding: "The wind is in our sails, but in politics there is no room for complacency or for self congratulation."

"We must always look forward as a party, as a movement, as a country and ensure we do our best for the people we serve."

Ms Sturgeon also paid tribute to Mr Salmond - who will address the conference later - saying: "We owe him the most enormous debt of gratitude. Lets us thank him from the bottom of our hearts."

Later the party is expected to announce changes to rules allowing non-members to stand as candidates in the general election.

The move is designed to appeal to activists who campaigned for a "Yes" vote in the independence referendum.



force of new MPs. A remarkable new policy is the decision to offer the most able of the non-SNP YES campaign workers, the chance to stand under the SNP banner in the 2015 general election.

The general expectation of pundits and observers is a major defeat for the Labour party in Scotland. SNP now has around twice as many members as the Liberal-Democrats, making SNP the third largest political party in Britain.

Among the many young speakers at Perth were former Labour party supporters who joined the SNP after the Referendum.

The most moving part of the conference was Alex Salmond's farewell speech; - but he is not leaving politics; the expectation is that he will stand for a Westminster seat so he can continue to challenge the Tory and Labour parties directly.

So - despite the negative referendum result, Scotland's cause is flourishing more than ever.

Cheers, David Thompson

With thanks to Alasdair McIntyre of electricScotland.com





CLAN GRAHAM SOCIETY



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Airth, Alirdes, Allardes,
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Bontyne, Bountene,
Buchlyrie, Buchlyry,
Bullman, Buntain, Bunten,
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Drumaguassie, Duchray,
Duchway, Dugalston,
Durchray, Esbank,
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Little known facts about WWII

You might enjoy this from Col D. G. Swinford, USMC, Ret and history buff. You would really have to dig deep to get this kind of ringside seat to history:

1. The first German serviceman killed in WWII was killed by the Japanese (China, 1937), The first American serviceman killed was killed by the Russians (Finland 1940); The highest ranking American killed was Lt Gen Lesley McNair, killed by the US Army Air Corps.

2. The youngest US serviceman was 12 year old: Calvin Graham, USN. He was wounded and given a Dishonorable Discharge for lying about his age. His benefits were later restored by act of Congress.

3. At the time of Pearl Harbor, the top US Navy command was called CINCUS (pronounced 'sink us'); The shoulder patch of the US Army's 45th Infantry division was the swastika. Hitler's private train was named 'Amerika.' All three were soon changed for PR purposes.

4. More US servicemen died in the Air Corps than the Marine Corps. While completing the required 30 missions, an airman's chance of being killed was 71%.

5. Generally speaking, there was no such thing as an average fighter pilot. You were either an ace or a target. For instance, Japanese Ace Hiroyoshi Nishizawa shot down over 80 planes. He died while a passenger on a cargo plane.

6. It was a common practice on fighter planes to load every 5th round with a tracer round to aid in aiming. This was a big mistake. Tracers had different ballistics so (at long range) if your tracers were hitting the target 80% of your rounds were missing. Worse yet tracers instantly told your enemy he was under fire

and from which direction. Worst of all was the practice of loading a string of tracers at the end of the belt to tell you that you were out of ammo. This was definitely not something you wanted to tell the enemy. Units that stopped using tracers saw their success rate nearly double and their loss rate go down.

7. When allied armies reached the Rhine, the first thing men did was pee in it. This was pretty universal from the lowest private to Winston Churchill (who made a big show of it) and Gen. Patton (who had himself photographed in the act).

8. German Me-264 bombers were capable of bombing New York City, but they decided it wasn't worth the effort.

9. German submarine U-120 was sunk by a malfunctioning toilet.

10. Among the first 'Germans' captured at Normandy were several Koreans. They had been forced to fight for the Japanese Army until they were captured by the Russians and forced to fight for

the Russian Army until they were captured by the Germans and forced to fight for the German Army until they were captured by the US Army.

11. Following a massive naval bombardment, 35,000 United States and Canadian troops stormed ashore at Kiska, in the Aleutian Islands. 21 troops were killed in the assault on the island... It could have been worse if there had actually been any Japanese on the island.

12. The last marine killed in WW2 was killed by a can of Spam. He was on the ground as a POW in Japan when rescue flights dropping food and supplies came over, the package came apart in the air and a stray can of Spam hit him and killed him.



Site Seeing: Wild December



This clip offers exceedingly beautiful footage of wildlife from the far Northern Latitudes, some of which is filmed at frame rates that I suspect to be of at least 1,000 frames per second (fps).

This gives these images the appearance of being magnificent still portraits of wild animals, which are also alive and breathing, as their every micro-movements are captured in High Definition video with excellent depth-of-field, moving ever so slightly.

It's an eerie yet eye-catching effect, offering us a glimpse of wild animals going about their business, as if through a time portal, which we'd never get to see, with-out this Phantom (or similar) HD technology.

Wild December: Phantom HD 1080p

The Titanic

http://www.komando.com/cool-sites/278733/titanic-passenger-records-manifests-and-more?utm_medium=nl&utm_source=asd&utm_content=2014-10-29-article_2_0-cta



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Saturday, January 17, 2015

Speaker:

**Bryan L. Mulcahy
Reference Librarian**

Fort Myers

Regional Library

Fort Myers, Florida

**Time: 9:30-12:15pm; South
Building, 1651 Lee Street; Meeting
Rooms A & B**

Lecture is geared towards beginners who have never tested and want to learn the basics behind why DNA testing is becoming popular and accepted supplementary tool within the research process.

The number of people participating in the testing process has continues to increase. The increased participation has opened up many new options and scenarios that may impact personal research for many genealogists.

This seminar will prepare you for the more advanced classes taught by our local DNA genealogist, Ms. Kathleen Callanan at a later date.



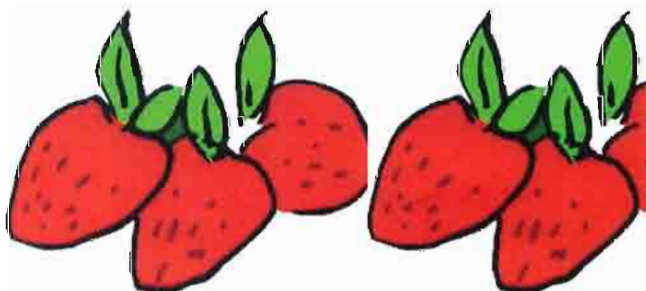
Strawberries from Brittany?

Renowned as the land of oysters and artichokes, you might not readily associate Brittany (in France) with strawberries.

Nevertheless, the common garden strawberry, *Fragaria Ananassa*, was first developed in Brittany in the 1750s.

A descendant of the Scottish Clan Frazer - whose name coincidentally was derived from the Old French word for strawberry, *frasier*, Amedee-Franswois Frezier brought over the Chilean beach strawberry *Fragaria Chiloensius* and crossed it with the North American *Fragaria Virginiana* to produce the berry we know today.

In Brittany, there was a National Strawberry Cream Pie day last 28 September!



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Chief Steven
MacTavish

Family names associated with Clan MacTavish:
*Cash, Kash, MacCamish, MacCash, MacCavish,
MacComb, MacComble, MacComich, MacComish,
MacComie, Macomie, MacCosh, MacLaws,
MacElhose, MacLehose, MacTavish, McTavish,
Mactavish, Mactavis, MTavish, MacThomas,
Stephens, Stephenson, Stevens, Stevenson, Tavish,
Tawesson, Thom, Thomas, Thomason, Thomasson,
Thompson, Thomson, Tod, and Todd, and all variant
spellings.*

We Are Clan MacTavish!



For information about joining us email: clanmactavishUSA@gmail.com