



*Vol. XIV No. 8 Beth's Newfangled Family Tree December 2020 Section A*

## Stuart Liddell of Inveraray, Scotland took home the overall prize at the 2020 Glenfiddich Piping Championship

Stuart Liddell of Inveraray, Scotland took home the overall prize at the 2020 Glenfiddich Piping Championship, held the last days of October 2020 behind closed doors in the Ballroom of Blair Castle in Perthshire, Scotland.

Inveraray & District Pipe Band's Pipe Major notched two seconds which were enough to secure him the overall title.

It is the third time that Liddell has won the Glenfiddich, regarded



*Stuart Liddell is center, the winner of the Overall Prize, flanked by Jack Lee and Roddy MacLeod, MBE, the other top winners of the 2020 Glenfiddich Piping Championships.*

by most as the pinnacle of solo piping.

Competitors are asked to submit six tunes from each genre.

Results: Ceòl Mòr

1. Jack Lee, Surrey, British Columbia, Canada – *Lament for Colin Roy MacKenzie*

*Continued on page 7*





**bethscribble@aol.com**

**Section A is “up”**  
a day or so before the  
first of the next month.

## Nollaig Chridheil



*Letter from  
your editor*

## Your favorite part of Christmastime?

It really is hard to choose a favourite part of our Christmas holidays. To make it more difficult, our favourites change over the years, I've learned.

Santa used to play a huge part in our holidays, but, alas, that has changed so that we assist that jolly fellow in red to lighten his load some.

There was a time when both Tom and I had large families. Those were such glorious times, not only at the holidays but always.

There were years we were surrounded by our old friends, who were (and are) extended families.

For the past dozen or so years, it has been just Tom and me.

Surprisingly, we still love Christmas and all the trimmings, even though this year, at Thanksgiving, we're going to a drive-through and divide one of their much advertised fried turkey sandwiches under a shade tree somewhere.

Since the pandemic, we have enjoyed picnics in all kinds of places - and enjoyed them all.

Christmas dinner will likely be similar to our Thanksgiving.

We'll get "Santa" ready for our neighbours who are so kind to us all year through.

We'll hopefully get to see our friends from Seneca, SC, who have been Tom's friends since grammar school. We have not seen them for months and months as both of us must be very careful of the virus. We'll see what happens there.

The one Christmas tradition that has stayed a constant in our lives is the love of sending and receiving Christmas cards from friends far and near.

It makes me so happy to hear from dear friends with whom we don't keep in really close touch. I'm sure you have had this happen to you...you have a wonderful friend you haven't seen or talked with



*Our living room all shined up for the holidays!*

in years and years - and suddenly you have the opportunity to be with that person for a few hours.

I haven't timed it, but within at least ten seconds, you are as if you've never been apart. That works on the telephone too! Call your friends!

Christmas cards are very close to that. When you see who has thought of you and sent you a card, memories just come flooding in and you (at least I do) have a silly grin on your face and you are laughing and feel happy for a long time.

We make our own cards. The quality of my own cards has much improved since Tom has been in my life.

I've always been an artist, although these days it is sort of all sunk into these pages which I really get a kick out of making pretty, nicely designed and interesting to read. It really is fun.

I've always made my cards...one year jumping up and down on a linoleum block upon which I had carved my greeting...and it was in colour, so I got to jump up and down half a dozen times for each card.

Tom is a wonderful artist and we have such fun inventing our yearly greetings.

So, I guess Christmas Cards are my favourite part of the holidays! Think about it: no calories, no wrapping, nothing but love jumping from those cards into my heart.

This year, I'm going to also, besides mailing most of them, send our card to the folks who have asked to be sent this publication at the same time I send it to [electricscotland.com](http://electricscotland.com) and a few other Internet friends.

Like everything else worthwhile in life, it's a bit of work, a bit of care, but oh, so worth it.

Please have a wonderful holiday.



# 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>



# Developing an Ancestral Profile

Bryan Mulcahy, MLS

For many genealogists, the most satisfying aspect of research is discovering fascinating details about their ancestors' lives. The identity of the ancestor is more than a name. It encompasses as much information as can be found concerning the individual, their relationships and their origin.

As we progress through the research process, family information appears in snippets, from different places at different times. These snippets may appear in letters, journals and/or diaries, books, periodicals, public and private documents, and other materials that may be in possession of other family members or close friends.

Because there is seldom any chronological order in how this information is located, the task of putting it all together in an understandable format may be overwhelming at first. One of the best ways to begin the process is to create a timeline of the major events in the life of whichever ancestor or family is the current subject of research.

The next step is to target your research location. Search for any document created during the time your ancestor lived. Make sure you understand the circumstances under which every document was created, continually comparing, contrasting and questioning details. One of the best sources to consult about the history and purpose of genealogical record types is *Printed Sources: A Guide to Published Records* edited by Kory L. Meyerink.

Keeping track of where any documents, family records, or information are located is essential. The best tool for keeping track of these documents is by using a Research Log. If any correspondence was sent out as part of the research process,

it should be recorded on a correspondence log. Ancestry.com offers free downloadable access to the most important genealogy forms at the following link: <<https://support.ancestry.com/s/article/Free-Charts-and-Forms>>

Taking the time to create an ancestral profile can benefit your research in a number of ways.

1. Identify and organize the information gathered during the research process.

2. Analyze the quality and accuracy of your source citations.

3. Create a timeline that lists the major events in the ancestor or family's life in chronological sequence. Timelines offer multiple research advantages:

a. Helps identify gaps in research

b. The chronological sequence makes the information easier to view and understand.

4. Read an ethnic or county history of the locality and focus on the chapters and subjects that cover the specific time period and circumstances.

5. Compile a factual profile about the individual based on the evidence uncovered. Genealogy research is not just about collecting birth, marriage and death data. Consider all aspects of the individual's life that make them unique, such as their name, education, occupation, religious and civic associations, social and financial status, precise locations of residences, personality traits and signature.

6. Place the individual in his or her family, neighborhood and cultural context.

7. Search for and identify individuals from

*Continued on page 11*







## The Pipes of Christmas **FESTIVAL OF ADVENT**

**EVERY SUNDAY  
NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 20**

Join us online Sundays during Advent  
for **original Celtic music performances** as  
we light the Advent Wreath to mark the  
countdown to Christmas.

In addition to supporting our world-renowned musicians  
and creative collaborators, this program is a special  
fundraising event to support our cultural outreach and  
scholarship fund.

We invite you to join us in lighting your own Advent  
Wreath with us as we await the coming of Christmas.

Join us on **YouTube** for a one hour concert Christmas Eve & Day

Full details at  
[pipesofchristmas.com](http://pipesofchristmas.com)



Brought to you by  
the Learned Kindred  
of Currie

## Glenfiddich Piping Championships, *continued from page 1*

2. Stuart Liddell, Inveraray, Scotland  
– *In Praise of Morag*

3. Finlay Johnston, Glasgow, Scotland  
– *Rory MacLoude's Lament*

4. Roddy MacLeod MBE,  
Moodiesburn, Scotland – *The Battle of  
Auldearn, #2*

5. Angus MacColl, Benderloch, Scot-  
land – *The Unjust Incarceration*

Judges: Jack Taylor, Iain MacFadyen  
and Willie Morrison.

Bruce Gandy competing in the Ceòl  
Mòr for judges Jack Taylor, Iain  
MacFadyen and Willie Morrison.

MSR (twice through each tune)

1. Willie MacCallum, Bearsden, Scot-  
land – *Angus Campbell's Farewell to  
Stirling, Shepherd's Crook, Bessie McIntyre*

2. Stuart Liddell – *Duke of Roxburgh's  
Farewell to the Blackmount Forest, Cat  
Lodge, Drumlithie*

3. Roddy MacLeod MBE – *The Mar-  
chioness of Tullibardine, Piper's Bonnet,  
The Grey Bob*

4. Bruce Gandy, Dartmouth, Nova  
Scotia, Canada – *Leaving Lunga, Ewe wi'  
the Crookit Horn, Stornoway Castle*

5. Iain Speirs, Edinburgh, Scotland –  
*The Royal Scottish Pipers' Society, Tulloch  
Gorm, John McKechnie*

Judges: Walter Cowan, Colin  
MacLellan and Ian McLellan BEM.

Overall

1. Stuart Liddell

2. Jack Lee

3. Roddy MacLeod MBE

Also competing but not in the prizes  
were Connor Sinclair and Callum Beaumo





# Clan *Blair* Society

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



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

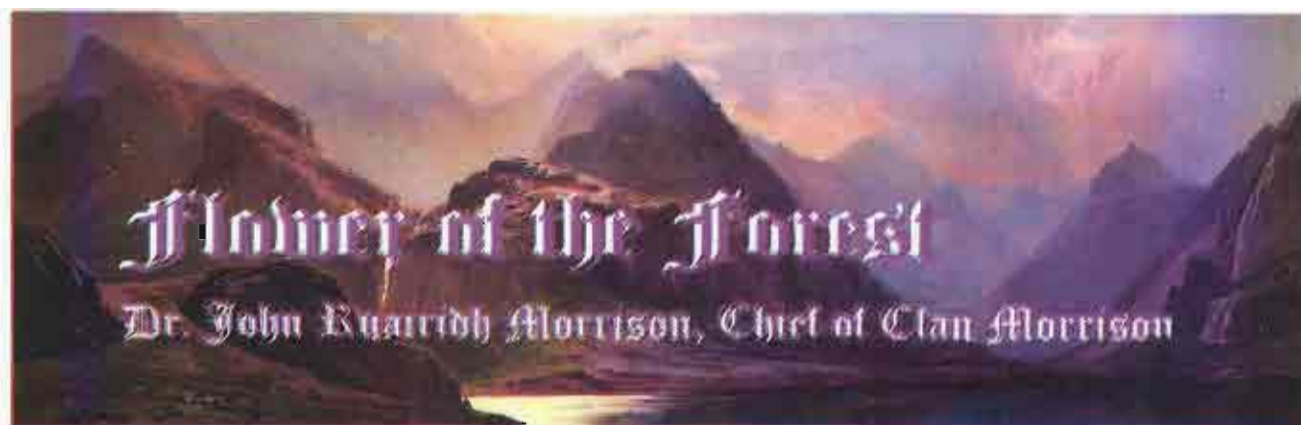
President, Clan Blair Society,  
Jim Blair  
7200 S. Prince Street  
Littleton, CO 80120  
<[president@clanblair.org](mailto:president@clanblair.org)>



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







NORTHWOOD, NH - Dr John Ruairidh Morrison, Chief of Clan Morrison, passed away peacefully on Saturday, November 7, 2020, at the age of 52 after surviving more than 13 months with brain cancer.

Originally from the United Kingdom, Ru lived his last seventeen years in Northwood, New Hampshire with his wife and children.

Ru had an infectious enthusiasm for life, for his family, for his clan, for friendship, for science and for good food and good spirits.

Ru earned his doctoral degree in oceanography from the University of Wales at Bangor and worked at the Bermuda Biological Station for Research, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and the University of New Hampshire before becoming the founding executive director of the Northeast Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems in 2009.

Quick with a smile and always with a good bottle of single malt at hand in the

evenings, Ru was an expert pizza chef, skilled craftsman and fourth-degree black belt in Isshin Ryu Karate.

Ru was beloved by all who knew him.

Ru is survived by his wife, Ann Michelle, their children Alasdair and Marin, his mother, Carley, his sisters Fiona, Catriona and

Ceitidh, his brothers, Matthew and Benjamin and many other cherished relations.

Ru's ashes will be interred at the Clachan Sands Cemetery near his ancestral home on the Island of North Uist in the Western Isles of Scotland at a future date. A seaside celebration of Ru's life is planned for 2021 in New Hampshire.

He will be missed greatly by all who knew and loved him.



EST 2002

# SCOTLANDSHOP

TAILORED TARTAN CLOTHING & INTERIORS

CLAN SKENE



Order online at [ScotlandShop.com](http://ScotlandShop.com)  
or contact us for help & advice on:  
By email [info@scotlandshop.com](mailto:info@scotlandshop.com)  
By phone: +44(0)1890 860770

**10%**  
**DISCOUNT**  
USE OFFER CODE:  
**BNFT**





**Bryan Mulcahy**, *continued from page 5* —



the same place and time who have the same name and sort out their respective identities.

8. Learn about their relationships. Relationships are proven by linking people through known interaction, proximity of where they lived, common ownership and patterns of migration, naming and so forth. Knowing these things will give you a fuller picture of the life your ancestor lived and provide ideas for sources to find additional records.

9. Determine their origin. Origin can be established from statements and documents associated with the person, as well as by identifying migration patterns of associates and family.

For more information on this topic, feel free to contact me about detailed study guides relating to timelines and important genealogical forms.

Bryan L. Mulcahy  
Reference Librarian  
Fort Myers Regional Library  
bmulcahy@leegov.com

# Gilnockie Tower

**Have you heard?  
About the Anglo-Scottish  
Border**

Many of you may already know that Gilnockie Tower was an empty ruin up until the mid to late 1970s. The shell, and that's what it was in those days, was purchased by Major Roy and Elizabeth Armstrong-Wilson. Text written by their son, Charles, tells the story of Gilnockie Tower in the mid to late 1970s.

Gilnockie Tower takes this opportunity to thank Charles Armstrong-Wilson, who sent us the following moving words:

"One half of the married duo who were responsible for rescuing the tower died recently aged 84. Elizabeth Armstrong-Wilson and her late husband Roy bought the tower as a roofless ruin in 1978 and converted it into a family home. Following a series of renovations of old properties in Cumbria, they came north of the border to fulfill Roy's lifelong dream of restoring this famous Armstrong stronghold."



"The building had been open to the sky since at least 1780 and, although much work had been done to stabilise it in the early 20th century, nature was starting to invade, endangering the historic structure."

"Following negotiations in the mid 1970s, the owners, Buccleuch Estates agreed to sell the tower,

*Continued on page 13*

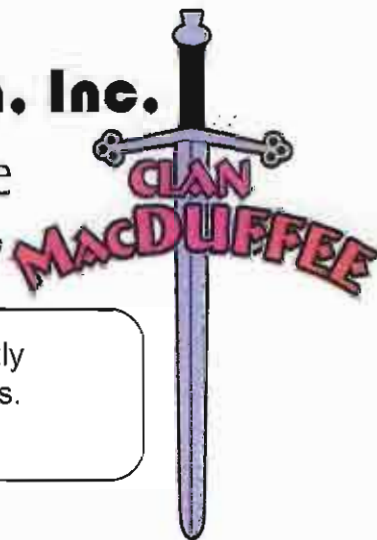
# MacDuffee Clan Society of America, Inc.

of Clan Macfie



*Ceud Mile Failte! 100,000 Welcomes!*

Annual General Meeting held each year in July  
at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games.  
You are always welcome to attend.



**President: Thomas P. McDuffee**

[tpmijm@aol.com](mailto:tpmijm@aol.com)

**Treasurer: David M. McDuffie**

[dnmcduffie@gmail.com](mailto:dnmcduffie@gmail.com)

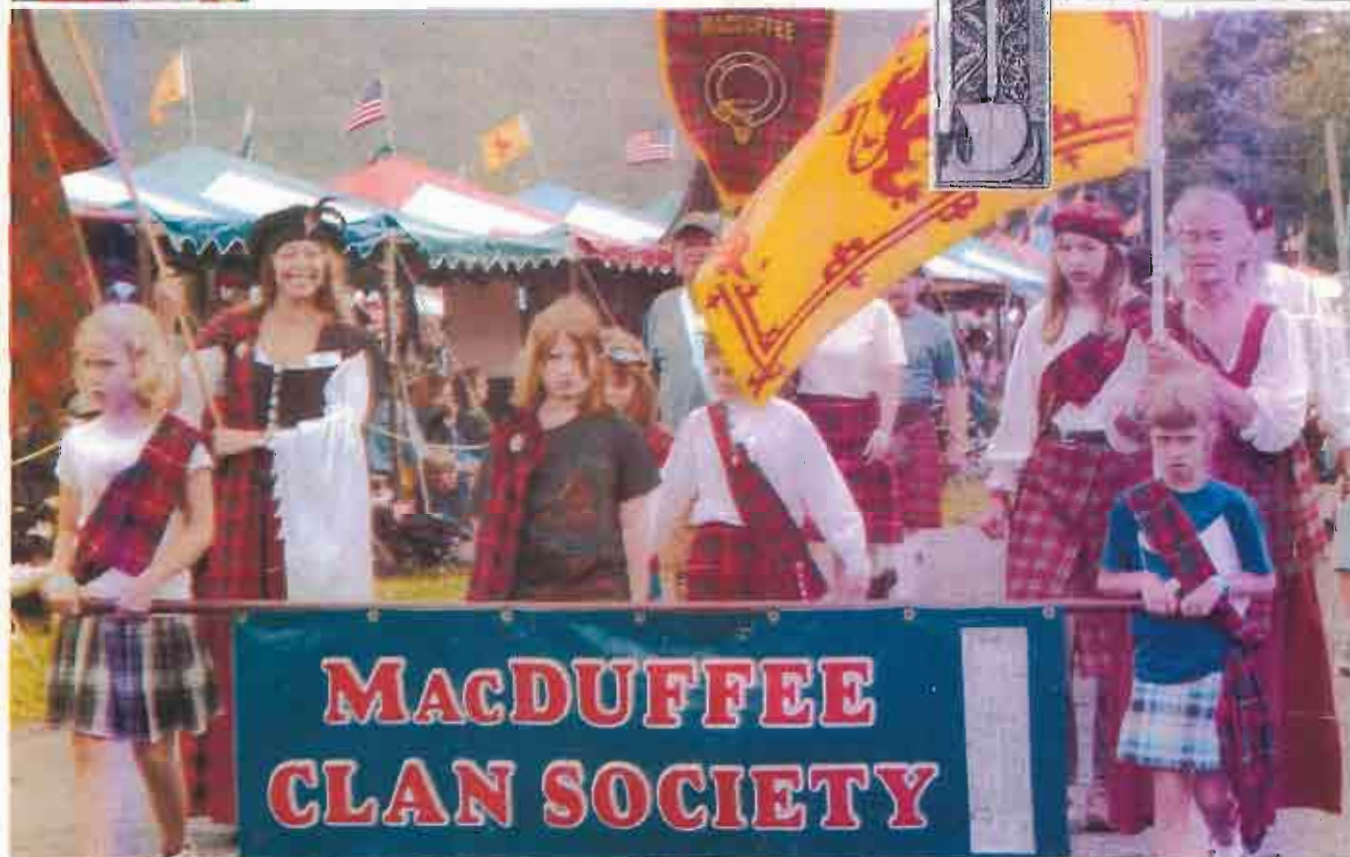
**Genealogist: Richard Ledyard**

865-671-2555

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



MacDuffee  
Clan Society  
of America







<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tk3F37A--aA>

Dick Eastman writes, “An online video about DNA, produced by Momondo, is very impressive. I would suggest every genealogist should watch it. Perhaps every human on the face of the earth should view it. I decided to encourage YOU to click on <https://youtu.be/tyaEQEmt5ls> to see what a DNA test could do for you.

“I was not familiar with Momondo so I looked it up on Wikipedia.org:

“Momondo (stylised momondo) is a travel fare aggregator and travel fare metasearch engine. Momondo also operates a travel information blog, Inspiration. The website is a white-label of the Kayak.com subsidiary of Booking Holdings.”

“So why would a “travel fare aggregator and travel fare metasearch engine” produce videos about DNA? It seems that the company asked 67 people from all over the world to take a DNA test.

“I am not going to give you the results. The video will do that.

“Check it out for yourself. Watch the DNA Journey at <https://youtu.be/tyaEQEmt5ls>.”

*Hi. This is beth. I could not make the URL addresses above work. However, I did find the site at <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tk3F37A--aA>> It's fascinating!*



**Gilnockie Tower, continued from page 11**

relieving themselves of an asset that, although historically interesting, was potentially an onerous financial responsibility. When it came to formalising the deal, deeds for the property had to be drawn up as none existed, giving an insight into how long it had been in the same ownership.”

Roy and Elizabeth used local expertise directed by an historic buildings architect and made the place habitable in just over a year. They lived at the tower for four years with their three sons before moving on but stayed close by for the remainder of their lives. In later years Elizabeth remembered the restoration as the most exciting episode of her life.

Elizabeth was born near Hull but spent much of her young life in The Lakes near Ullswater and in Cartmel. She went to art school but married and started a family before she was able to pursue it as a career. The artistic training served her well, though, in the interior design and decoration of the properties she and Roy renovated. Between them they made a good team and many visitors recall the impact of entering one of their creations.

She is survived by her sons and five grandchildren.

# April Verch Band



While April Verch is perhaps best known for playing traditional fiddle styles from her native Ottawa Valley, Canada, her performances extend into old-time American and Appalachian styles with roots in the British Isles and beyond, for a well-rounded tour-de-force of North Americana sounds. She was Canada's Grand Masters and Open Fiddle Champion. She tours with world-class musicians as a trio, featuring Cody Walters on acoustic guitar, bass and clawhammer banjo, and Korey Brodsky on mandolin and guitar in addition to April's vocals, fiddle and foot percussion. One might suspect a performer with as many talents as she would pause to take a breath, or need to somewhat compartmentalize her skills during a live performance. But on stage, April is almost superhuman, flawlessly intertwining and overlapping different performative elements. She stepdances while fiddling. She sings while stepdancing. Sometimes she sings, steps and fiddles all at once, with apparent ease and precision. April Verch is - as they say - a triple threat in performance, her live show a beautiful companion to her music: versatile, robust, and masterfully executed.

In early 2020, during months of self isolation in North Carolina, April wrote and recorded *Top of the Hill*, an album for children and the young at heart. It features seven (of ten) original songs and offers important, heartfelt messages and stories with an old-timey vibe.

**Compilation Video** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=maleuHLkMXy>

**Celtic Colours International Festival**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l3uO17VqVZc>

**Singing** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9LOrdZN30uE>

**Website** - <https://aprilverch.com/>





**Gordon H. Wilson** passed away at his home in Loganville, GA, on November 8, 2020 of an apparent heart attack. Gordon was born on March 14, 1943 to the late E. Gordon Wilson and Miriam

McKeag. He is survived by his wife Brenda B. Wilson, son Matthew Gordon Ross Wilson, Matthew's fiancé Taylor Ryan, sister in law Ann Barber, brothers Robert Neal Wilson and wife Zerah, Thomas Ross Wilson and wife Susan, sisters Eleanor Lynn Smith and husband Bruce, Judy Annette Burden and husband Tad, nieces and nephews.

Gordon had an unquenchable passion for Scottish heritage. He immersed himself, his family, and friends in all aspects of Scottish culture.

He was a long-time member of the Atlanta St. Andrews Society of Atlanta, serving as Vice President with President David Grant before serving as President in 2010-2011.

He was a member of the Scottish Country Dance Society. He became a member of the John Mohr Mackintosh Pipes and Drums Band and led the band as Drum Major for many years.

He was a founding member of the Scottish Tartans Museum in Franklin NC and served for many years on their Board of Directors.

Gordon was also a key member of the Stone Mountain Highland Games (SMHG) Grounds Committee since 1978, holding several leadership positions along the way.

Gordon touched the lives of all who knew him, worked with him, and played with him. He

always had a way of making people feel important and welcome.

We have lost a kind soul who knew how to lead with grace and humor and loved the people around him.

He was a longtime and loyal member of John Mohr Mackintosh Pipes & Drums.

His involvement in John Mohr goes back farther than most of us can remember. He began as a tenor drummer and went on to serve as Drum Major for many years, always impeccably turned out in his uniform. He was the band treasurer for decades. He also served in every other office on the Board of Directors as well as Quartermaster. Gordon was a smart, insightful, and apt leader.

At one point, when the band was at a low ebb in membership, Gordon often went to the band's rehearsal space, alone, to 1) ensure that the band could say the space was in use, and 2) in case anyone showed up wanting to join the band.

He was soft-spoken, but was a pillar of the band. He did things quietly with no fanfare and a good sense of humor. If he erred, it was on the side of kindness. He truly exemplified the band's motto: "Invictus" (Unconquerable)

Gordon was an excellent photographer, a skill he developed and enjoyed in his retirement.

There is so much more, but perhaps the words of one of his longtime friends sum it up best. Below is an excerpt of the tribute paid to him by Burt Temples, a fellow member of the Games Committee.

"One Thursday while waiting for my daughter during Tattoo practice, I wandered over the SMHG games field and met Gordon Wilson, Gary Thompson, and Bob Messner. I had worked on

*Continued on page 17*

# 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](http://www.elandavidsonusa.com)] or contact the Society's Membership Registrar at [[sennachie@earthlink.net](mailto:sennachie@earthlink.net)].





## **Flowers of the Forest**, *continued from page 15*

takedown Sunday and Highland Dance setup for a few years but never really outside the dance area. One day with these three and I was hooked.

Gary was the humor of Grounds but he was also Gordon's straw boss. What Gordon wanted done, Gary made it happen because Gordon was the brains behind it all. Not only did he know everything but he kept everything moving and made everyone feel welcome and important. Gordon told me once that his job 'was to put out the toys so everyone could play.'

Years later when I was teaching teaming concepts for a national company, I used [the SMHG] Grounds [Committee] as an example of a well-functioning organic team (no or little formal structure) that forms up around a goal, executes departments without heavy oversight, and has fun doing it. That does not happen by accident but instead is a sign of incredible leadership. I tip my hat to a master team leader, Gordon Wilson...

My prayers for comfort are with Brenda, Matthew, Ann, and all those who loved him."

I believe all of us who have been involved with the Saint Andrews Society of Atlanta echo Burt's prayers.

Details regarding arrangements will be shared when they become available.

Due to the current public health situation, the family kindly asks for no visitors at this time.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations to the Scottish Tartans Museum, 86 E Main Street - Franklin, NC, 28734. <http://www.scottishtartans.org/membership/index.html>

---

**Thomas E. MaDan**, age 61 died May 7, 2020, of Taunton, MA. He leaves behind his wife of 30 years, Mary Elizabeth, brother David R of Bridgewater and a sister Cynthia Shields of Lynchburg, VA.

He was employed as a computer analyst, was a 32<sup>nd</sup> Degree Mason in the Scottish Rite, and had a lifelong interest in genealogy. He embraced his Scottish heritage and enjoyed being a member of our organization, Clan MacDuffee.

Interment is in St. Joseph's Cemetery in Taunton.



## **AMERICAN SCOTTISH FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES GIFT OF ARCHIVAL MATERIALS**

On this the 46<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first *New York Scotland Week* organized by the American Scottish Foundation in New York during November 11 - 19 1974, the Foundation proudly announces the deeding of a sizable trove of letters, photographs, manuscripts (unpublished), books, newspaper clippings, documents relating to the work of our founders Lord Malcolm Douglas-Hamilton and his wife, Lady Natalie Douglas-Hamilton.

The donation includes several pictures and prints and two magnificent portraits of Lord Malcolm and Lady Natalie.

Lord and Lady Malcolm Douglas Hamilton had an immense impact on public life, both in the United States and United Kingdom.

ASF offers special thanks to Lady Natalie's grandchildren and her heirs, who made this possible. Decades after Lord Malcolm's death in 1964 and seven years after Lady Natalie's passing in 2013, their legacy literally lives on in the work of the American Scottish Foundation.

George Mead, the Executor of the Mead Estate, and Lady Malcolm's grandson coordinated the gift on behalf of the Estate.

"When we started, we found books on Scottish history and culture, which were clearly part of the early DNA of the Foundation.

"Then, we located additional trunks filled with correspondence, photographs and writings by Lord Malcolm and my grandmother.

"We were astounded at the amount of information which was preserved from the early days of the Foundation. It provides a great chance to

*Continued on page 19*



# COCKSPUR

HERALDIC SERVICES  
& GRAPHIC DESIGN

Tom Freeman is a heraldic artist & graphic designer living in Northeast Georgia. He has been working in the Scottish community both in the US and internationally since 1999. He can be reached using the information shown below.

**Thomas R. Freeman, Jr., FSA Scot**

Mo Leannon  
688 Camp Yonah Road  
Clarkesville, GA 30523-4008  
706-839-3881

[trf@cockspurherald.com](mailto:trf@cockspurherald.com)







# The toes of Botticelli's Venus

Melissa Banigan  
for AtlasObscura

*It's a condition called "Greek foot" or "Morton's toe"—and 15-20 percent of us have it.*

With her fleshy buttocks and small, rounded breasts, *Venus de Milo*, de Medici, and Botticelli's version—epitomizes the idealized female form found in Classical, Hellenistic, and Neoclassical Art as well as art made during the Renaissance. For 2,000 years, she has been a ubiquitous figure in the canon of Western art yet, despite art historians poring over nearly every inch of her curves, a few small parts of her body have been sorely neglected: her second toes, which stick out like sore thumbs past her shorter big toes.

If it seems ridiculous to contemplate a couple of oddly aligned long toes, it's worth wondering why so many artists in ancient Greece sculpted them to have uneven proportions in the first place. The magnificent bronze sculpture of the *Boxer at Rest* and the marble *Diana of Versailles*, which is a Roman copy of the Greek original, each has them, as does the *Barberini Faun*, a masterpiece most often recognized for the satyr's seductive pose and brazenly exposed genitalia than for his long second toes.

A couple thousand years earlier, artists in ancient Egypt sculpted toes that tapered gracefully down in size from the big toe to the pinky. Much like the Great Pyramids, where everything was measured and precise, even these small body parts appear—at least to our modern eyes—harmonious and evenly spaced.

While styles change over time, depicting a longer second toe as the ideal in Classical art might not have been a fluke, and in fact, the phenomenon may have been due to the interest of the Golden Ratio by mathematicians in ancient Greece.

*Continued on page 21*

## Archival materials, continued from page 17

see the energy, vision and dedication which was part of the early days of the organization.

"It was only natural these resources should be gifted to the Foundation as part of its legacy. I and my sister, Libby Stowell and my brother Malcolm, are delighted this came together. In challenging times like these, it is easy to lose sight of the cultural foundations that are our anchor."

Kenneth Donnelly, the American Scottish Foundation's Chairman notes: "The Board of the American Scottish Foundation, and the membership, are deeply grateful to the Mead family for the wonderful gift of artifacts and memorabilia describing the programs and contributions of the ASF dating back to the founding of the institution enhancing our archive collection.

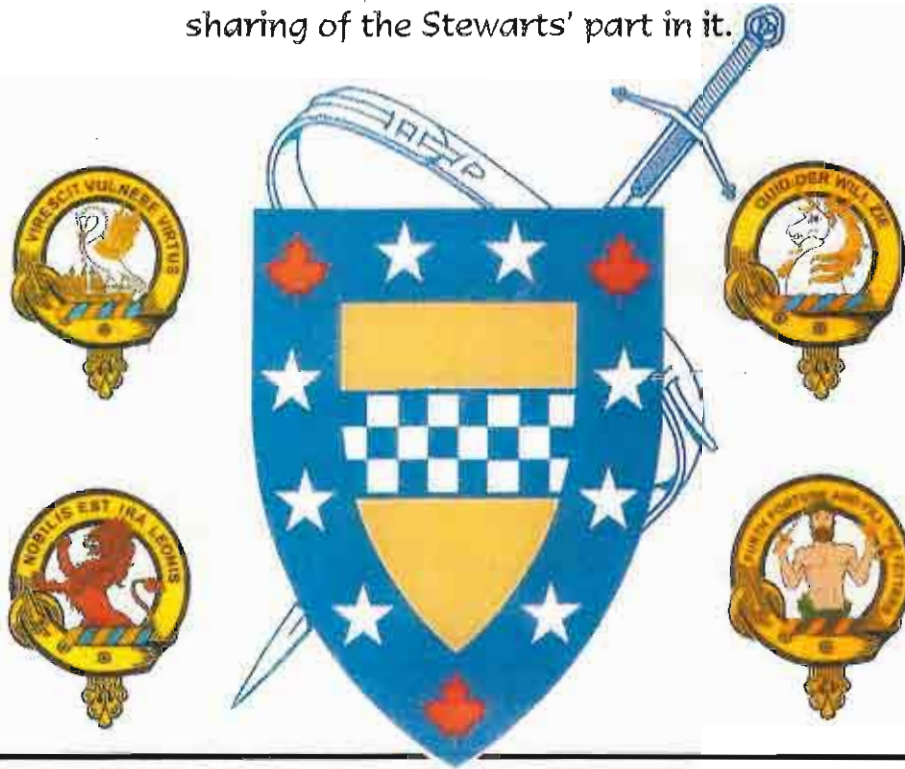
We accept this gift from Lady (Natalie) Malcolm Douglas Hamilton's grandchildren with great pride and passion and look to conserve and share the rich history in relation to Scotland and to, also, her own additional involvement in international relations.

The Foundations archive is greatly enhanced by this wonderful gift of materials which will help us in promoting the transatlantic partnership of America and Scotland."

If you would like to learn of ways to support the archive project and updates surrounding the collection, please visit our website <<https://americanscottishfoundation.com/Initiatives/ldharchive.html>> or email us at <[americanscottishfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:americanscottishfoundation@gmail.com)> or visit <[www.americanscottishfoundation.org](http://www.americanscottishfoundation.org)>

# 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](http://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](http://clansstewart.org)> (You may pay your dues at that site, too.)



The Golden Ratio, which appears in geometric patterns in nature such as some of the spirals in sea-shells and in leaves, was also used by engineers in ancient Egypt, but the first written account of it was by the Greek mathematician, Euclid, and it was during the Classical era when it gained popularity among people within many professions. Later, the proportions Euclid described, which were often considered both divine in their provenance and also aesthetically pleasing, may have inspired the Roman engineer Marcus Vitruvius Pollio to write about what he considered to be the perfect proportions of humans in his book, *The Departments of Architecture*:

Just so the parts of Temples should correspond with each other, and with the whole. The navel is naturally placed in the centre of the human body and, if in a man lying with his face upward, and his hands and feet extended, from his navel as the centre, a circle be described, it will touch his fingers and toes. It is not alone by a circle, that the human body is thus circumscribed, as may be seen by placing it within a square. For measuring from the feet to the crown of the head, and then across the arms fully extended, we find the latter measure equal to the former; so that lines at right angles to each other, enclosing the figure, will form a square.

Although Vitruvius didn't discuss which fingers and toes are the ones that would touch the circle or the square, 1,500 years later, Leonardo da Vinci drew his famous Vitruvian Man—whose long second toes align perfectly with the circle drawn around him. Some art historians believe da Vinci was inspired by the Golden Ratio, but others have demonstrated that while the numbers are very close,

the equations don't exactly match.

At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, an American orthopedic surgeon named Dudley Morton named the phenomenon of having a longer second toe "Morton's Toe." Morton believed that this toe, which he also called Metatarsus atavicus, was an atavism similar to color blindness, human tails, and supernumerary nipples, and that it recalled a trait our pre-human ancestors once expressed so that they could more easily swing from trees.

While swinging from trees might sound delightful, Morton's Toe can cause a slew of uncomfortable

orthopedic problems such as bunions and hammertoes. Some medical professionals such as John F. Kennedy's personal physician, Dr. Janet Travell, have posited that the odd long toes could also cause Myofascial (chronic)

pain due to body weight being shifted to the ball of the foot rather than directly behind the sturdy big toe.

Between 15 to 20 percent of humans have Morton's Toe. Although the name of the toe refers to the second toe of the foot, it would be more accurate to call the condition Morton's foot, as the problem is caused by the first metatarsal bone in the foot, not the toe, being shorter than its neighbor.

Today the toe—and the foot it belongs to—is often called a "Greek foot" by art historians and podiatrists. No matter what it's called, people who share the atavism can head to many museums around the world to find ancient doppelgängers with the same feet. While it set the standard for idealized feet in many periods of Western art, hopefully podiatrists recommended corrective shoes or pads to provide some relief for the models.



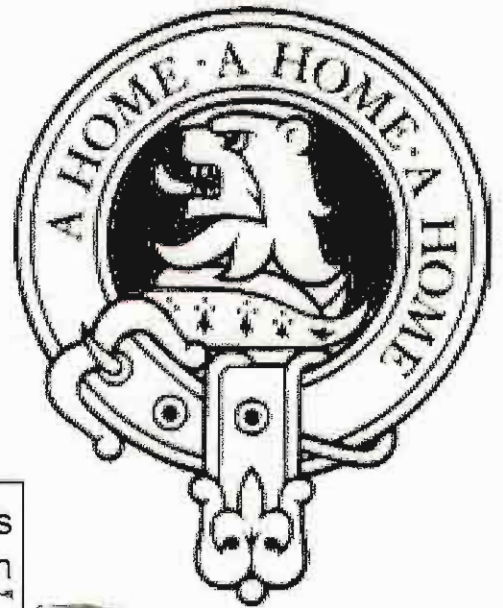
This toe is also known as the "Scottish Toe." Years ago, there was a clan (Which one, I'm sorry, I can't remember.) who asked its members to draw around their bare feet on colorful art paper— as their members had many longer second toes. The cutouts were sent to their AGM organizer, who put arrows on the toe cutouts and used them in the hotel to direct their members to AGM locations.

# Clan Home Society, International

The Clan Home Society,  
International cordially invites  
membership from all HOME  
and HUME and allied families.

All Clans: The Clan Home Air Force invites members  
from all clans. In fact, the first member from a clan  
becomes their own Squadron Commander.

The Clan Home Air Force flies squadrons of Stealth  
Sopwith Camel airplanes.  
JOIN NOW! T-Shirts with membership.  
Write the president, below, for details.



## Rodney Green, president

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



<lawnmower391@gmail.com>



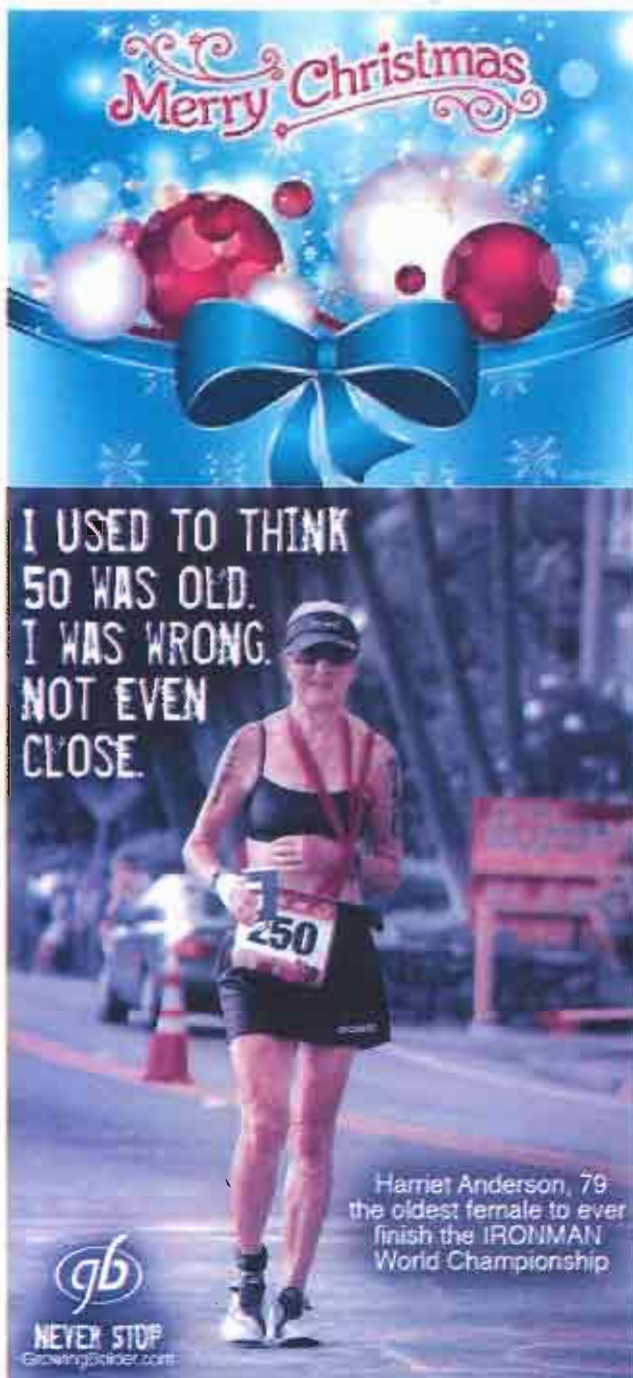


## We Pass the Buck

**WHY:** Why is shifting responsibility to someone else called 'passing the buck'?

**BECAUSE:** In card games, it was once customary to pass an item, called a buck, from player to player to indicate whose turn it was to deal. If a player did not wish to assume the responsibility of dealing, he would 'pass the buck' to the next player.

With thanks to my friend, Fraser Gordon, in Glasgow, Scotland!



## About Santa!

Santa Claus, also known as Father Christmas, Saint Nicholas, Saint Nick, Kris Kringle, or simply

Santa, is a legendary character originating in Western Christian culture who is said to bring gifts to the homes of well-behaved children on the night of Christmas Eve (24 December) or during the early morning hours of Christmas Day (25 December).

The modern character of Santa Claus was based on traditions surrounding the historical Saint Nicholas (a fourth-century Greek bishop and gift-giver of Myra), the British figure of Father Christmas, and the Dutch figure of Sinterklaas (himself also based on Saint Nicholas). Some maintain Santa Claus also absorbed elements of the Germanic deity Wodan, who was associated with the pagan midwinter event of Yule and led the Wild Hunt, a ghostly procession through the sky.

Santa Claus is generally depicted as a portly, jolly, white-bearded man—sometimes with spectacles—wearing a red coat with white fur collar and cuffs, white-fur-cuffed red trousers, red hat with white fur, and black leather belt and boots and carrying a bag full of gifts for children. This image became popular in the United States and Canada in the 19<sup>th</sup> century due to the significant influence of the 1823 poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas."

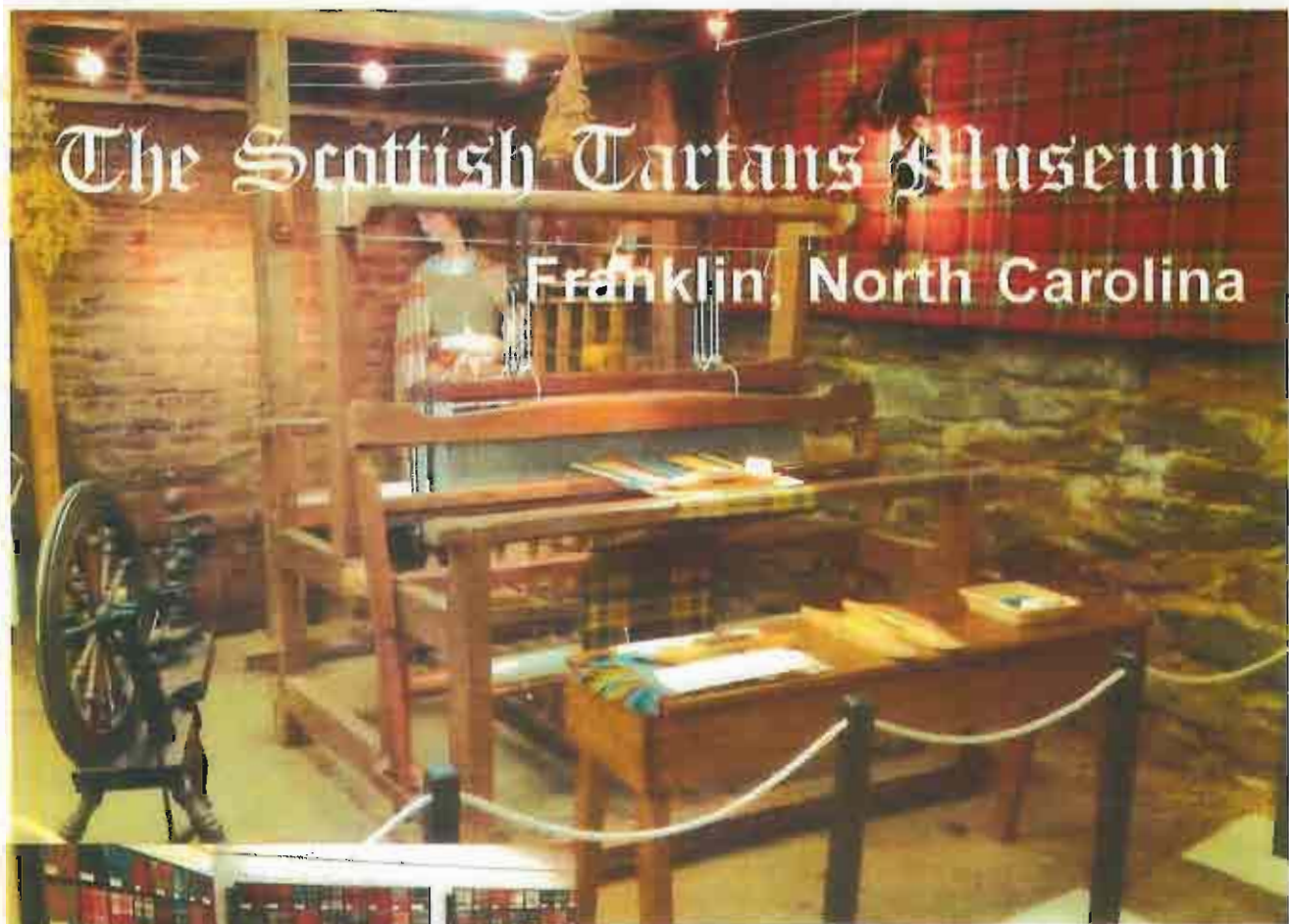
Caricaturist and political cartoonist Thomas Nast also played a role in the creation of Santa's image.

This image has been maintained and reinforced through song, radio, television, children's books, films, and advertising.

In modern folklore, Santa Claus is said to make lists of children throughout the world. He categorizes them according to their behavior. He then sets out to deliver presents, including toys and candy, to all of the well-behaved children in the

*Continued on page 27*





The Scottish Tartans Museum & Heritage Center is located in downtown Franklin, North Carolina.

This tartans museum is a non profit organization operated by a Board of Directors and the only tartan museum in the United States.

Our museum is located downstairs which shows the evolution of the kilt and the history of tartan.

Our gift shop, which supports the operation of our museum, is located upstairs and our volunteers are trained to look up surnames and provide customers with a bit of history and what tartan their family should wear.

We offer our gift shop online and brick and mortar. Here you can order custom made kilts, ladies kilted skirts, sashes, scarves, neckties, fabric by the swatch or by the yard, kilt hose and all quality accessories to accent your highland wear.

Admission is \$2.00 per adult and \$1.00 for Children 6-12.

We are open Monday through Saturday 10-5 pm (Winter hours are 11 AM until 4 PM) ) It is always a good idea to call first if you are planning a trip to our quaint wee mountain town because we might have snow and ice.

Visit our website and learn some history as well

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





# Celebrating Christmas in Scotland

One of the most unnatural and shocking truths about the Scotland Christmas celebrations is that there weren't any celebrations for a long time. Christmas celebration was banned in Scotland for almost 400 years.

Oliver Cromwell, who ruled United Kingdom till 1658 AD, passed the ban on Christmas in 1647 which lasted for almost 15 years. Although the ban was lifted in England with the fall of Cromwell, Scotland continued with it.

The Presbyterian Church in Scotland discouraged Christmas holiday and celebrations and people who went against it suffered severe punishments; this trend continued for 400 years.

And though they acknowledged Christmas in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Scots still did not accept it as a holiday and continued working on Christmas day.

The largest celebration in Scotland was the New Year celebration called Hogmanay. However, since 1980s, the influence of church has reduced and the Scots do not only see 25<sup>th</sup> December as a holiday but also celebrate Christmas with all the hoopla of the Western countries.

There are many Scottish people who engage themselves in Christmas celebrations on New Year's Day, known as Hogmanay.

For the rest of the Scots, Christmas celebration starts just before Halloween. The festival is known as Yule or Yuletide. This season sees children busy writing letters to Santa Claus and parents busy purchasing gifts and decorating houses. Scots decorate their houses with holly wreaths, candles and tinsel and the Christmas tree is decorated with baubles.

Scots believe in lighting the fires in the fireplace to prevent the elves from entering houses and causing troubles. There are many who also hang sprigs of mistletoe on ceilings and in doorways to keep the evil spirits away.

In Burghead, people set a tar barrel on fire and carry it on their head before they smash it into pieces. In Comrie, parades displaying huge torches are organized and these torches are immersed into the river. Plenty of superstitions rule Scottish as they believe that if the fire goes out on Christmas Eve, the house will suffer bad luck in the following year.

On Christmas Eve, children hang their stockings outside hoping that they would be filled with presents when they wake up in the morning. They also leave a glass of milk or Whiskey for Santa, along with mince pie and carrots for the reindeer who guide Santa's sleigh through the dark sky.

Christmas Dinner is an occasion for social get-togethers where grannies, grandpas, uncles and aunts all sing songs, dance and play games.

On Christmas day, people wake up delighted and enthusiastic, seeing the presents Santa has left for them. This is followed by attending the church services and singing of carols during the hour long service.

A conventional Christmas lunch includes Scotch broth, smoked salmon, roast turkey, roast potatoes, carrots, brussel sprouts, Christmas pudding and brandy custard. A Pudding known as Clootie dumpling is a traditional Christmas dessert in Scotland; children eat it with custard sauce while adults prefer rum or whiskey with it. Bannock cakes, made of oatmeal, are also traditionally eaten during Christmas. People also make bonfires and dance around them, playing their traditional bagpipes all the while.

In a country where Christmas was banned for 400 years, Scotland can still boast of a celebration that can give any country a run for its money. Scots have managed to bring uniqueness in the way they celebrate the great day with tremendous simplicity.



# The Armstrong Clan Society

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



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

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



## Objectives of the Armstrong Clan Society

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

## Membership

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



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

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





**About Santa,** *continued from page 23*



with pulling his sleigh. He is commonly portrayed as living at the North Pole, and laughing in a way that sounds like "ho ho ho".

world.

Misbehaving children receive coal on the night of Christmas Eve.

Santa Claus is said to accomplish this feat with the aid of his elves, who make the toys in his workshop at the North Pole. Santa Claus's flying reindeer also provide assistance

# In Nome, Alaska, Santa Is a Gravedigger Named Paul

Bailey Berg for *AtlasObscura*

ASK ANYONE IN NOME, ALASKA (population 3,841) for the name of the bearded gentleman who digs the graves and drives a city truck, and they'll tell you it's Santa Paul.

For six weeks a year Paul Kudla is a contract Santa. Over the last 12 years, he's donned the red suit and held court in sporting good stores and shopping malls across the United States.

The rest of the year, he works as a cemetery caretaker and truck driver in Nome, a town on the Bering Sea, inaccessible by road, that's known for being the far-flung finish of the Iditarod sled dog race.

When his local newspaper shared a picture of him shoveling snow on Facebook, they captioned the snapshot "Santa Paul." Naturally, when he answers his phone he says, "This is Santa Paul." If you get his answering machine, a high-pitched elfin voice will say, "Santa left me on the workbench. I'll let him know you called."

Clearly, Kudla takes being Santa seriously. And it pays off: he's in demand. Right before the 2019 Santa season kicked off, Kudla and nine other Santas from around the world toured around Japan, doing photo ops everywhere from hospitals and schools to the subway and a Toys 'R' Us. He'd been invited by a fellow Santa he met while competing at the Santa Winter Games in Norway and again at a convention in Kyrgyzstan.

"I like going to gatherings of Santas," Kudla says. "It's a fun community, we call ourselves the 'Brothers in Red,' but I'm the only one where I live."

Despite being so far from his pearly bearded

*Continued on page 29*

# 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**

Clan Gregor  
has  
Great Lakes,  
New England,  
Pacific  
Northwest,  
Western  
United States  
and  
Southeast  
Chapters



For membership,  
contact:  
120 Wicksford Glen  
Sandy Springs,  
GA 30350

Ms. Ishbel McGregor,  
Secretary  
5 Alloa Road  
CAMBUS by Alloa  
Clackmannanshire  
FK10 2NT  
Scotland

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



peers, Kudla is fairly well-known. In 2015 he won the title of America's Best Santa on the TV competition show *Santas in the Barn*, where he competed against nine other diverse Santas in contests ranging from speed present wrapping, building gingerbread houses on ice, and Christmas song knowledge (his weakest category—he doesn't care for holiday music). He ended up beating out the Surfing San Diego Santa on the final episode, broadcast on Christmas Eve. The title netted him \$100,000 in prize money and \$10,000 for *Make-A-Wish*, his charity of choice.

Though his two seasonal roles may seem like polar opposites—one spreading the holiday spirit to young boys and girls, the other spreading dirt over the final resting place of deceased locals—Kudla says they have one thing in common: they both provide comfort to others.

"Both jobs have turned out to be so rewarding," Kudla says. "They both add to better experiences."

There hadn't been a caretaker at the cemetery for over 30 years before Kudla got the job. The land, Kudla says, was completely overgrown. Grass had grown several feet long, tree limbs had buried themselves in the earth, and grave markers had gone missing. In his early days on the job, the digging of a new grave would be interrupted when it became apparent someone was already interred there.

"The cemetery has a whole new look now," Kudla says. "I really cleaned up the original part and recently the city bought another 11 acres adjacent to the old cemetery, so I've been working on leveling it out and making it look beautiful for the locals and the Great Spirit. It's become a nice place to be."

There is a limited window for burial in the Arctic—eventually the tundra gets too frozen to dig, even with an excavator. During the shoulder season between grave digging and professional ho-ho-hoing, Kudla drives trucks and operates heavy machinery for the city.

He spends his free time tinkering in his workshop, where he repairs sewing machines that are over 100 years old and crafts his extensive collection of Santa regalia. "I Santa-ize all my clothes," Kudla says. "I'm finishing a jacket I made out of muskox. I look huge in that thing. I have a golden moose hide and a pure white buffalo hide that I'm saving—those need to be for something special. I have a vision of a duster coat with fur trim and a half cape in red leather. I just made a Russian Army officers hat Santa-fied."

Kudla, who is naturally slim, wears a gel belly at gigs. "I tried the pillow thing, but kids know," he says. "It doesn't move right."

Winter 2019 is Kudla's first time staying in Alaska for the season, splitting his time between hunting-and-fishing outfitter Cabela's and a Bass Pro Shop in Anchorage, the state's most populous city. The agency that sets him up with his winter gigs, *Nationwide Santas*, knows that he likes to go somewhere warmer and with more day-

light—his hometown receives fewer than four hours on December days. In the past he's been stationed in places like Las Vegas, Nevada, and Fort Myers, Florida, but this year he's alternating shifts with a Santa buddy who has a daughter living nearby.

It's been a slow season so far, which Kudla thinks is due to online shopping. Still, he says it's his favorite part of the year and the short lines mean he gets to talk to his visitors for longer.

"There's nothing like when a kid sees you from down the hall and comes running up to give Santa a hug," Kudla says. "This job is magic in that way."

On December 26, Kudla will be back home in Nome until November, dispersing merriment and serenity in a different way: making sure snow is cleared from the city roads and that the grave sites look nice for visitors.

And if any local kids write letters to St. Nick during the off-season, they'll end up in Kudla's mailbox. The name on it reads, simply, "Santa."



# The Scottish Grocer®

The Scottish Grocer (founded 1997) is a supplier of specialty foods, beverages and candies made in Scotland. All orders are shipped from Charlotte, NC.



**SCOTLAND**  
OFFOOD & DRINK

**www.thescottishgrocer.com**

BNFT readers! You will get

**10% OFF**

**your merchandise**

from The Scottish Grocer if you will  
include "BNFT2020" with your order.



**BNFT readers! You will get 10% off your merchandise from  
The Scottish Grocer if you will include "BNFT2020" with your order.**



# Scotland's Most Enchanting Standing Stones

Kerry Wolfe for *AtlasObscura*

Seven places throughout Scotland, strange clusters of stones spike up from the earth. Unlike England's Stonehenge, you can walk right up to these megalithic marvels and stand in their shadows. Built thousands of years ago, their purpose and significance remain lost to time, transforming the stones into monuments to mystery. They may not transport you to 18<sup>th</sup>-century Scotland like the fictional *Craigh na Dun* in the *Outlander* series, but these seven sites still maintain their magic, making it easy to imagine you've slipped into the distant past.

This time we will visit the Callinish Stones (Clachan Chalanais in Gaelic).

ROWS OF MONOLITHS STRETCH OUTWARD from this stone circle, forming a sort of rudimentary cross. A chambered tomb is nestled within the circle, as if being guarded by the stones. For thousands of years, people have been drawn to the mysterious 12-foot-tall chunks of Lewisian Gneiss, which have yet to fully reveal their secrets.

Neolithic people erected the Callanish Stones about 5,000 years ago. Though the stones served as a hub for ritual activities for at least a millennium, their exact purpose has been lost to history. The most prevalent theory, based on recent archaeological excavations, holds that the megaliths acted as some sort of astronomical observatory or a celestial calendar.

As with many prehistoric creations, the Callanish Stones are rich with legends and lore. One bit of local lore says the stones are petrified giants turned into stone for refusing to convert to Christianity. Another tale tells of a magic white cow that appeared at the site to save the islanders from starvation.

They're older than Stonehenge but, unlike the world-famous megalithic construction, the



*Callinish Standing Stones, Outer Hebrides*

Callanish Stones are accessible to the public. Those who are drawn to their ancient mysteries can freely wander among the stones and even touch the towering monoliths. *Outlander* fans may be particularly interested in laying their hands upon the stones—according to the series' fandom, the TV version of the books used the Callanish Stones as inspiration for the fictional *Craigh na Dun*.

Visiting the stones is an enchanting experience regardless of the season. In the summer, they stand stoically beneath a sun that just barely sets, and in the darker months, the Northern Lights illuminate the night sky above them in a blaze of purple, green, and red hues.

## **Know Before You Go**

You can visit the stones at any time for free. The visitor center cafe is open every day but Sunday, and its hours vary depending on the season (see its website for details). The stones are just over a 10-minute drive from Dun Carloway, another one of the island's many ancient attractions.

*Beth: There are more photographs of these magical stones on page 33. I have been there. It IS a magical and wondrous place.*

*Continued on page 33*



# Scottish Heritage USA, Inc.

Founded 1965

Putting pride in your heritage to work for you  
Become a member today

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

**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*

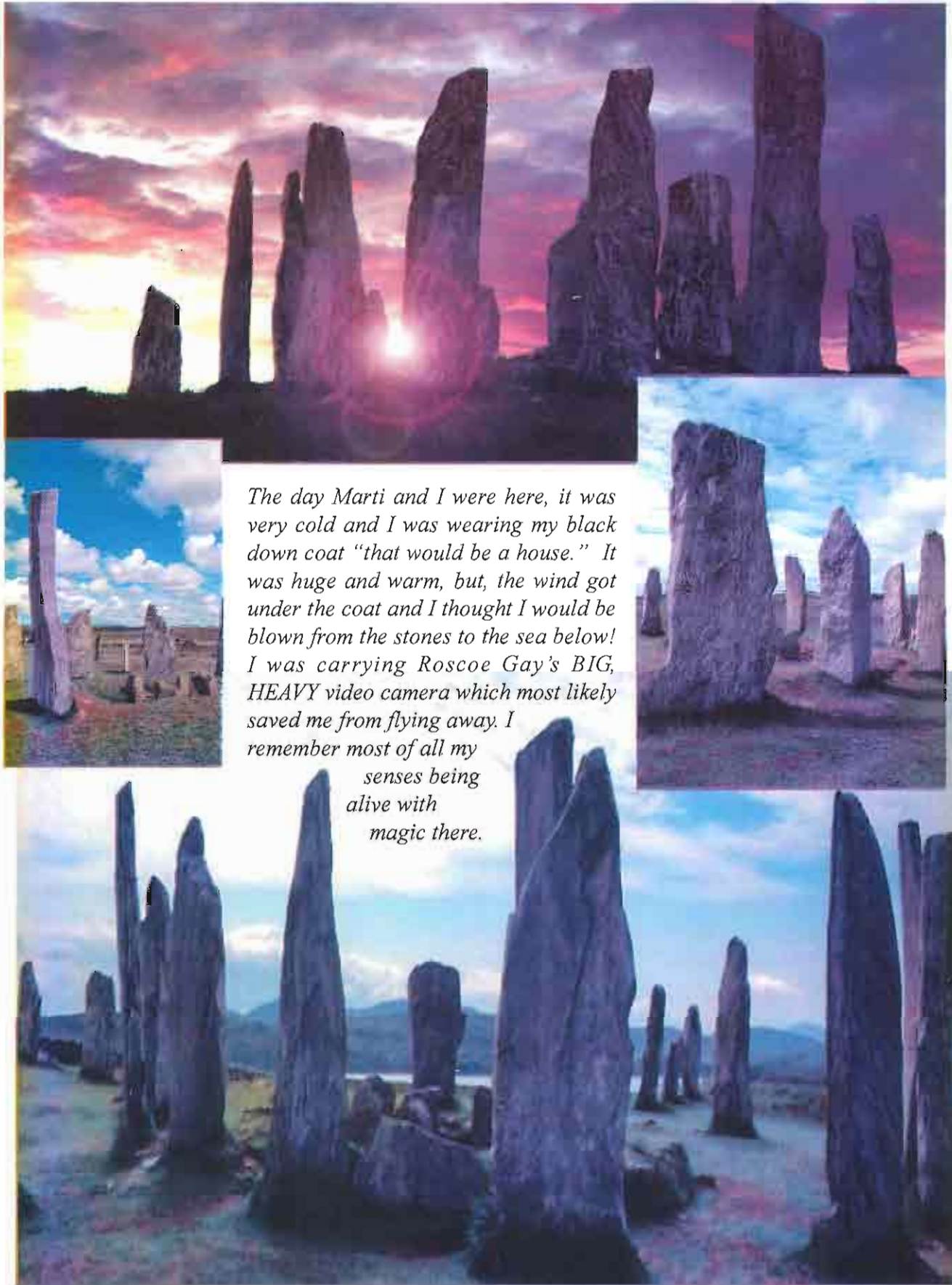
## PLANNING A TRIP TO SCOTLAND ?

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 day Marti and I were here, it was very cold and I was wearing my black down coat "that would be a house." It was huge and warm, but, the wind got under the coat and I thought I would be blown from the stones to the sea below! I was carrying Roscoe Gay's BIG, HEAVY video camera which most likely saved me from flying away. I remember most of all my senses being alive with magic there.*

# 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  |            |







Let's say Sláinte this St Andrew's Day!

Saint Andrew's celebrations may be a little different this year but COVID-19 isn't going to stop the tartan team here at ScotlandShop from celebrating our Patron Saint on the 30th November!

On Saint Andrew's Day we want you to flood our social media accounts with videos and photos showing you in all your Scottish splendor. **Post to our Facebook page or tag us @scotlandshop on Instagram and Twitter!**

Take your tartan out of the wardrobe, gather your clan, pour yourself a dram and get ready to say Sláinte!

**SEND US YOUR PHOTOS & VIDEOS**



# OH, CANADA!



<https://electriccanadian.com>





# The answer to the question, “How is Finlay, the Scottish Wildcat rescue kitten, doing!”



A letter from the Scottish Wildcat Haven team who is caring for Finlay

We wanted to update you all on Finlay, our beautiful rescue kitten.

We are pleased to say that he is doing really well and developing nicely. He no longer needs to be bottle fed and is drinking milk on his own and eating some solids.

His instincts and reactions are incredible even at this young age and he is already displaying very wild behaviour which of course bodes well.

The aim is for Finlay to live a wild life and enjoy the freedom of the forests and woods he was born into.

It is of course challenging to rear such a young cat without them becoming too imprinted on humans.

Luckily, Finlay's eyes were fully open when he was found so he would have spent time with his mother and siblings and so he clearly knows he is a cat.

However at this age as with any very young animal, he needs warmth, careful care and the opportunity to play and develop. It is therefore inevitable that he will bond to some extent with the people caring for him.

That is actually important to give him psychological security, reassurance and the confidence to explore. However we of course don't want him

to be tamed. Therefore he is only looked after by two people and has no exposure to others. This means he will of course trust the people looking after him but will be wary of other humans in general which is exactly what we want.

He is utterly mesmerising to watch and develop and is already a real handful.

All our team have extensive experience of dealing with a range of cats and we all agree that his behaviour is nothing like a domestic cat kitten.

He is already possessive over food and he plays incredibly rough and was drawing blood at only 6 weeks old !

He has a presence that you can't really explain but is fascinating to be around.

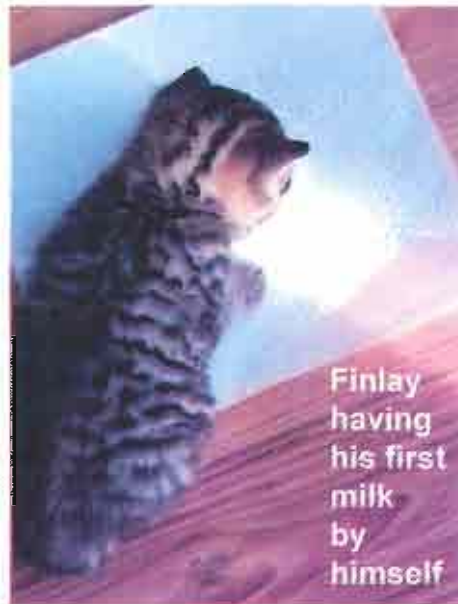
We hope you all enjoy the photo of his first drink of milk from a bowl. It is cuteness overload and you can clearly see his beautiful head and body stripes. He hasn't looked back since.

We will post more videos of him playing and developing shortly at the URL below..

If you want to support our work then you can Adopt a Wildcat as a special gift for someone this Christmas at: <<https://www.wildcathaven.com/wildcat-adoption/adopt-a-scottish-wildcat>>

Sincere thanks

The Wildcat Haven Team



To Adopt a  
Wildcat just visit:

[https://www.wildcathaven.com/wildcat-adoption/  
adopt-a-scottish-wildcat](https://www.wildcathaven.com/wildcat-adoption/adopt-a-scottish-wildcat)



# Jamie Laval



Jamie Laval is the fiddler's fiddler! Initially classically trained, Jamie found his first love to be Celtic music, so much so that he won the 2002 U.S. Scottish Fiddle Championship. He has played for rocker Dave Matthews and for Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh. His repertoire encompasses the music of the Seven Celtic Nations. What makes Jamie's concerts unique is his desire to share the background story of the music along with tales from the Celtic lands with the audience. This educational component enhances the audience's appreciation and enjoyment of the music.

For the past several years, Jamie has taken on tour an annual Celtic Christmas/Winter Solstice/Midwinter concert with an acclaimed cast of dancers, singers, bagpipers, harpists and Celtic instruments - a concert you don't want to miss!

**Solo Highlights** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=51qikOQ-2yY>

**Jamie & Megan** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9KJ3hW1tESs>

**Christmas Highlights** - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oGSF3wvgrM>

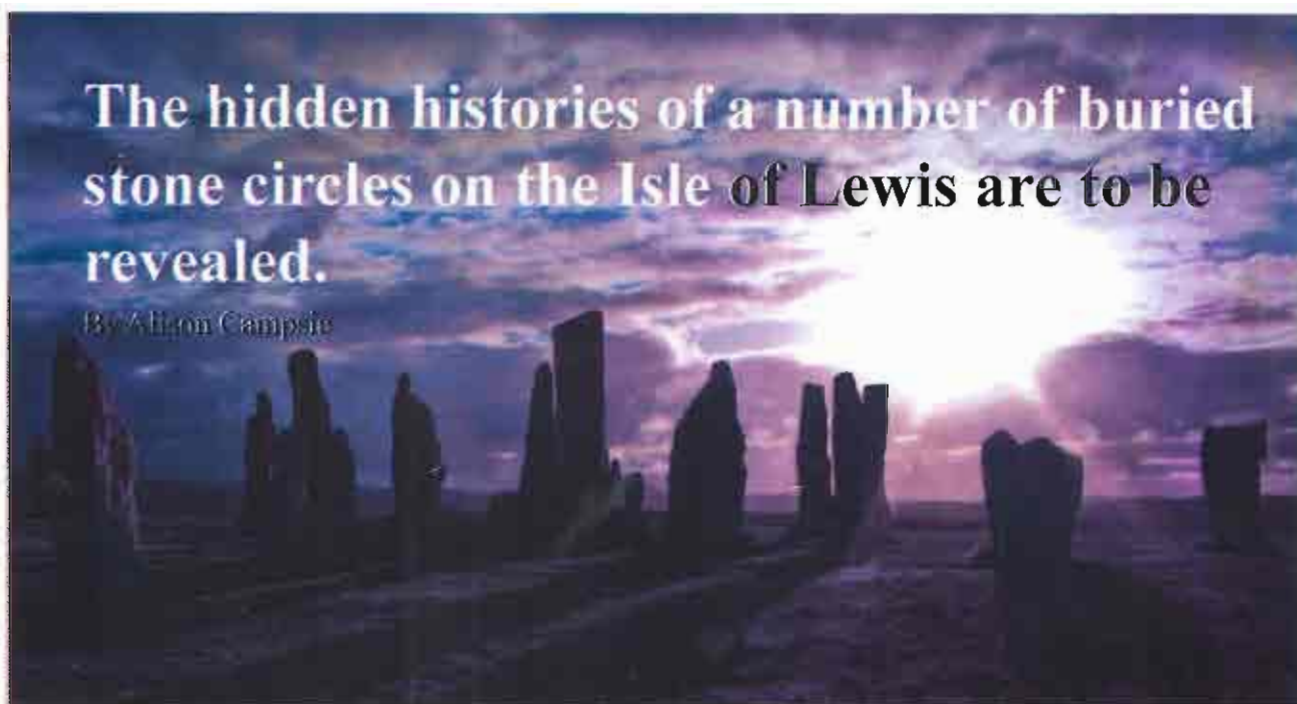
**Website** - <https://www.jamielaval.com/>

**Phone:** 206-226-5663 (Tryon, NC)



# The hidden histories of a number of buried stone circles on the Isle of Lewis are to be revealed.

By Alison Campsie



The Calanais standing stones on the Isle of Lewis. PIC: Colin Macdonald/Flickr

**THE SCOTSMAN**  
SCOTLAND'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER

Alison Campsie

New funding from Historic Environment Scotland (HES) will allow researchers at the University of St Andrews to unearth more information about the stones that lie buried in the area close to the famous Calanais circle.

It follows an earlier project where a satellite stone circle by Calanais (Callinish) was surveyed with images of the buried stones produced.

It also emerged during the research project, which was aided by community volunteers, that a major lightning strike hit the centre of the stone circle at some point in time.

The new project will allow the team, which will work with Urras nan Tursachan, a community-based trust which protects the archaeology of the Outer Hebrides, to extend the investigations to other stone sites that have become lost to the ground.

Importantly, the project will map the Neolithic landscape that has become buried beneath in the peat and submerged offshore in the nearby waters of Loch Roag.

Dr Richard Bates, of the School of Earth and

Environmental Sciences at the University of St Andrews, said: "We are extremely pleased to be working with Urras nan Tursachan (UNT) on this exciting new project. The landscape holds so many fascinating secrets that we hope can be addressed through a combination of geophysical remote sensing and boots-on-the-ground with the local community volunteers."

Urras nan Tursachan has been awarded a £19,920 from HES for the project which will train local volunteers to survey and record the coastal landscape at Calanais.

Researchers will aid the project by using geophysics and traditional survey techniques to gain new insights into the ancient landscape.

The Calanais Standing Stones are a cross-shaped setting of stones that appeared around 5,000 years ago.

They predate Stonehenge and were an important place for ritual activity for at least 2,000 years. Although it is not certain why the Calanais stones were put in place, it is widely believed they served

*Continued on page 41*



# St. Kilda Publications

## THE SCOTTISH CLAN AND FAMILY ENCYCLOPAEDIA



The must-have reference volume for anyone interested in the Scottish diaspora.

Incorporates updated research by leading academics in Scottish history.

Completely revised, updated, and expanded, to reflect the many changes that have occurred over the twenty years since the publication of the last edition.

Histories and badges for 346 clans and families with nearly 200 additional  
Crest designs and hundreds of new images.

*To buy visit [www.stkildapublications.com](http://www.stkildapublications.com)*

St. Kilda Publications  
45 Grievepark St.  
Glasgow  
G20 7H2  
Scotland



Part of the  
St. Kilda (Holdings) group

T : +44 (0) 141 333 9136  
F : +44 (0) 141 337 0620  
E : [sales@stkildapublications.com](mailto:sales@stkildapublications.com)



# One picture is worth a thousand words

Vivid-Pix [www.vivid-pix.com](http://www.vivid-pix.com) announced today at the ACPL Genealogy Center at the Allen County Public Library (free webinar: <https://acpl.libnet.info/event/4502576>) the new version of their acclaimed AI powered RESTORE photo and document restoration software that fixes virtually any image type, in just one click. Vivid-Pix is recognized by genealogy and photography hobbyist communities as the fastest, easiest, and most affordable way to improve faded photos and unreadable documents, such as letters, immigration records, newspaper clippings, postmarks, and birth, wedding, and death certificates, as well as other crucial photos and documents essential to the research and sharing of family history, the second most popular hobby in the U.S.

## **New Features of Restoration Software**

Vivid-Pix RESTORE patented AI software automatically restores faded old black and white, sepia, and color photos and documents; and provides image organization, editing, and saving. The new version now improves a wider variety of image formats; metadata tagging for research, transcription, and sharing of family stories; and Crop/Recalculate to hone in on specific areas that need fixing – details essential for genealogists and family historians.

## **Simplicity is Key to Vivid-Pix's Popularity – No Need to Learn Complex Software**

### **New funding for Calanais, *con't* from page 39**

as a form of a astronomical observatory.

In 2019, the team from St Andrews, with colleagues from Bradford University and Trinity St David, University of Wales, were studying Tursachan Calanais, the main stone circle at Calanais, when an examination of rarely-visited satellite sites revealed evidence for lost circles buried beneath the peat.

Geophysics revealed that not only was the stone originally part of a circle of standing stones, but also that there was a massive, star-shaped magnetic anomaly in the centre – either the result of a single, large lighting strike or many smaller strikes on the same spot.

Simplicity is the key to Vivid-Pix's popularity. Family historians and photo lovers no longer need to learn complex software to improve their images or spend a lot of money on subscriptions or pay someone else to improve their treasures. Users can simply purchase RESTORE once, receive free updates, and with one-click and easy controls, RESTORE their memories.

## **Features of the New version of RESTORE:**

EXIF and IPTC compliant metadata archiving: allows the user to see the history of the image, including info on the photographer or scanner, and add important information about the image and its content: people, place, historical insights, and more.

Crop/Recalculate: selects a specific area of the image to quickly focus on small important or unclear sections and improve just those areas of the image.

More image types: now fixes JPEG, TIFF, PNG, DNG, BMP, and RAW image files.

Organizes, notates, and automatically saves original and new improved images.

*Continued on page 42*



**My wife and I went to the  
store with our masks on.  
We got home and took off  
our masks..  
I had brought home the  
wrong wife!  
Pay attention people!**

**Vivid-Pix**, continued from page 41

One-click AI software: easiest to use.

**Low cost: with free 10-Fix trial.**

Vivid-Pix RESTORE Launches Today at ACPL, the Largest Genealogy Center in the U.S.

The new version of Vivid-Pix RESTORE will launch today at the ACPL Genealogy Center in the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana at 6:30 PM ET, with a simulcast free webinar online at: <https://acpl.libnet.info/event/4502576>. The largest genealogy research collection available in a public library in the U.S., the ACPL Genealogy Center incorporates records from around the world, with a staff that specializes in genealogy. "To further train genealogy librarians at our nations' libraries, today we launched free, expert-led training at: <https://vivid-pix.com/librarian>," said Rick Voight, CEO, Vivid-Pix. "Genealogy/family history is the second most popular hobby in much of the world, including the U.S. In our current environment, people are spending more time focusing on the most important things in life – family, friends, and organizing their photographs. That's why we think it's important to make our software even better and help those that help us with our family history."

#### **Vivid-Pix RESTORE Availability**

The U.S. Patent Office has awarded two patents to Vivid-Pix for its image processing techniques used to automatically correct images. The new version of Vivid-Pix RESTORE is available now for Mac and Windows for \$49.99 at: <https://vivid-pix.com/restore/buy.html> with a 10 Free-Fix Trial without a credit card required at: <https://vivid-pix.com/restore/free-trial.html>. See Vivid-Pix RESTORE in action at: <https://Vivid-Pix.com/restore>. For more information, see the website at: <https://vivid-pix.com/>

#### **About Vivid-Pix**

Vivid-Pix was founded by Rick Voight and Randy Fredlund, who have a combined 47 years of experience from Eastman Kodak Co. They brought Kodak's "You Press the Button, We Do the Rest" philosophy to the design of Vivid-Pix RESTORE AI software. For more info, see: <https://vivid-pix.com/>.



## **Only great minds can read this...**

This is weird, but interesting! fi yuo cna raed tihs, yuo hvae a sgtrane mnid too!!

Cna yuo raed tihs? Olny 55 plepoe out of 100 can. i cdnuolt blveiee taht I cluod aulaclyt uesdnatnrd waht I was rdanieg.

The phaonmneal pweor of the hmuan mnid, aoccdrnig to a rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it dseno't mtaetr in waht oedr the ltteres in a wrod are, the olny iproamtnt tihng is taht the frsit and lsat ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can sitll raed it whotuit a pboerlm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe. Azanmguhuh

yaeh and I awlyas tghuhot slpeling was ipmorantt!

