



# BUCHANAN CHIEF TO BE INAUGURATED 8 OCTOBER

The Buchanan Inauguration Committee is very pleased to announce that after 18 months of uncertainty and changed plans, that we have now set a definite date for the event.

John Michael Baillie-Hamilton Buchanan of that ilk will be inaugurated as Chief of the Name and Arms of Buchanan during a historic four-day event to take place from 7 October 2022 to 10 October 2022.

The weekend-long celebration will be centered at Cambusmore the Seat of the Clan in Callander, Stirlingshire, Scotland, and the surrounding traditional lands of the Clan.

During the four days, we will celebrate the recognition by the Lyon Court of the first Chief of our Clan in over 300 years. The format of the inauguration will follow the historic protocols of the Celtic ceremony which will maintain the traditions of former Buchanan chiefs

A website has been established with a schedule of planned events.

Reservations will also be handled on the website but are not yet fully operational. Watch this publication for notification of when the website will be live.

For more information on the history of the chiefs of the Clan Buchanan go to <<https://www.theclanbuchanan.com/chiefs>>

If you are interested in attending the event please send an email to <[thebuchananevent@gmail.com](mailto:thebuchananevent@gmail.com)>

*Continued on page 11*





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Send articles,  
Flowers of the Forest, questions, etc.,

**bethscribble@aol.com**

# ***Beth's Newfangled Family Tree is FREE.***

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XOXOXOXOXOXOXOX

Browse amongst the archives,  
read the current issue  
and others as much as you wish!

Section B is "up" on the  
Internet about the  
15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

Section A is "up"  
a day or so before the  
first of the next month.



*Ho! Ho! Ho! Beth, Tom and Alastair*





## A letter from your editor at Christmas



What are the first things you remember about Christmas in your entire life?

I think it was the Christmas lights on the tree that caught my attention as a just walking little one. I still think of and remember that with joy.

There was one light that looked like the full moon. You had to lie down with your head under the tree and near to the moon bulb, but if you contorted yourself just exactly right, you could pretend you were in a magical land filled with the most beautiful light.

I remember that my dolls all mysteriously disappeared in the weeks before Santa came.

I could not find a single baby doll!

On Christmas morning, they magically appeared wearing brand new clothes - and amazingly, my dolls had new things that looked like the garments my grandmother had sewn in the last year for all of us - my mother and even my two little brothers! She saved her scraps all year for my dolls!

I used to try and stay awake to see Santa. I'd curl up in the living room with eyes wide and almost unable to breathe as I just knew I would see Santa himself that very night!

Every single year, my eyes would close and I would go to sleep very early, only to awaken in my bed long after Santa Claus had come - and gone.

Always, the only thing I wanted for Christmas was a horse. It never varied. I just wanted a horse.

I still have a little 4-inch glass horse that used to be gold colored. Poor thing, now it is glued together so many times and shows the rather frightening signs of how much I loved him - and still do. He was a gift from

my grandmother who also loved horses all of her life.

One Christmas, I had a little black horse that had sort of fluffy fur on it. It was about 15 or 16 inches tall, which lets you know how tall was I. His little wheels got ridden off to wee nubs.

I was so proud the year I first had a real job that paid MONEY. I took the proceeds of my taking pictures of kidlets sitting on Santa's lap and bought my grandmother a new iron skillet for her Christmas gift!

She treasured it and I still have it.

Christmas since I have been grown has meant Christmas cards made by me. I remember jumping up and down on a card that was carved into a linoleum block. I will never forget I made that one with four or five colors - each with a linoleum block that had to be jumped up and down upon very carefully to make the colors come out neatly.

Since Tom has been in my life, our cards are MUCH nicer! We have such a good time inventing ideas for cards we send each year. We laugh and giggle a whole lot during that process.

My Christmas gifts are mostly not your expected ones. Tom's first two years of presents from me were in one case an entire box and in another case a complete set of medical supplies - but he used them each day. Very practical if not very romantic.

Then, there was the Valentine's Day that his gift was Piper-Bagpipes on the Hoof - a lovely spotted donkey who still is here with us and who serenades our neighborhood daily..

I remember big groups of family members at the holidays and the joy that was present. I will never, ever forget any of them.



# OH, CANADA!



<https://electriccanadian.com>





# Scottish Phrases Used In Edinburgh

With thanks to: *The Victor*

The official publication of the Grand Priory of the Scots – Grand Bailiwick of the Scots

**Banter** Thrilling conversation, witty repartee or quips and wisecracks – all in all, just good chat.

**Blether** Catching up, gossiping, and talking for extended periods of time would all fall under the umbrella of ‘having a blether.’ Best done over a cup of tea or dram of whisky.

**Braw Braw** is a classic piece of Scottish slang. In the iconic comic strip *Oor Wullie*, the titular character frequently uses it to describe all things nice, brilliant, and fantastic.

Someone may have ‘braw banter’, or the view from your hotel room may be braw.

**Dinnae** Don’t. As in: ‘Dinnae forget to pack an umbrella’.

**Fae From.** You can be fae Edinburgh, fae Glasgow, fae Aberdeen – fae anywhere, really.

**Fizzy juice** Soda, soft drink, or carbonated sugar water. Scots would tell you there is no better fizzy juice than an ice-cold can of Irn-Bru.

**Haud yer wheesht** Used to tell someone to be quiet or shut up. The hallmark of Scottish motherhood since time immemorial.

**Ken To know.** As in: ‘Aken Moira fae doon the road’. Conversely, ‘dinnae ken’ means you don’t know.

**Messages** Supermarket or grocery items. Not related to postal workers.

**Mony a mickle maks a muckle** This old

adage offers shrewd business advice, stating that small amounts of money, when properly invested, eventually grow to pretty sums. Scrooge McDuck would approve. It’s also fun to say out loud.

**Pure barry** Utterly wonderful and fantastic. Braw 2.0.

**Radge** Someone who is rambunctious or aggressive. ‘That’s well radge’ is used to describe crazy or unfair situations.

**Rank Disgusting and vile.** Not to be confused with taxi ranks, where people queue up for a ride home.

**Scran** Food, dishes, or sustenance. Classic Scottish scran includes cullen skink, mince and tatties, and the ever-popular



haggis.

**Skedaddle aff** To scurry along your merry way. It can also be used as a way to say ‘leave me alone.’

**Tidy** is The ultimate seal of approval, expressing one’s appreciation for something. As in: ‘That was some tidy scran’.

**Wur tearin’ the tartan** To be engrossed in riveting conversation. In other words, ‘having a right old blether’.

**Yer heid’s full o’ mince** It is not ideal to have a heid full o’ mince, as it implies that the words that come out of a person’s mouth are, quite frankly, nonsensical.

# 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  
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# Burned Counties and what to do

Bryan L. Mulcahy, MLS

“Burned County” is a phrase that many genealogists dread running into during their research. No matter how diligent or skilled your research skills are, eventually the challenge of dealing with problems involving the loss of records due to courthouse fires or any number of natural disasters will surface. The good news is that it is just as likely that with patience, researchers often discover numerous other sources of records.

The following five steps have a proven record for success in overcoming these obstacles:

1. Thoroughly examine surviving records for any hints or connections. Do not assume all of the records were destroyed even if you hear it from the courthouse staff. Many courthouse clerks and some officials are young and have little knowledge of historical events and situations other than the basic facts they were told. Researchers who take the time to investigate on their own discover that a surprising number of records may have been transferred to local, regional, or state organizations or repositories before the disaster occurred.

2. Examine the records generated in the post-fire/disaster period. They often refer to events that took place prior to the loss event. As part of the post-event recovery, some city or county officials required citizens to come to the courthouse or designated site to re-create important records lost in the disaster. This is especially true for revenue-generating records such as tax and land records. Some people called these record types “cash cows”.

3. Take the time to read everything, print or online, about the county and its history. Inquire at the local, regional, or state libraries and historical societies to see that nothing was overlooked.

4. Research records from surrounding counties and of the county from which your ancestor’s county was formed. Historically, records such as deeds, for example, could be recorded at the county seat easiest to reach which may or may not have been the county of residence. Remember any form of travel was far more complicated than today. Some brief examples would include:

- a. Road systems as we know them today did not exist



because of natural barriers such as rivers or mountains,

- b. Travelers faced dangers posed by Indian attacks or similar physical hazards.

5. Investigate all possible state records which pertain to the county. Among the most useful possibilities would be birth, census, death, divorce, higher appellate courts, land grants, military service and pensions, tax records.

The resources I have included below will provide additional details on this topic.

*Family Search Wiki – Burned County Research* <[https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Burned\\_Counties\\_Research](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Burned_Counties_Research)>

*Family Tree Magazine - 5 Steps to Genealogy Research in Burned Counties* <<https://www.familytreemagazine.com/records/courthouse/doing-genealogy-in-burned-counties/>>

*Legacy Tree Genealogists – Burned County Research – Mission Impossible or Possible* <<https://www.legacytree.com/blog/burned-county-research>>

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

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|---|------------|
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| • 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 ?

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# Scottish Gordon Castle Walled Garden is Historic Houses 2021 Garden of the Year



**Bryan Mulcahy**, *continued from page 7*

Lisson, Lisa – *7 Tips for Research in a Burned County* <<https://lissalisson.com/genealogy-research-in-a-burned-county/>>

Feel free to contact me with any additional questions or comments.

Contact Bryan L. Mulcahy, Reference – Genealogy Librarian Fort Myers Regional Library.

Contact: <[bmulcahy@leegov.com](mailto:bmulcahy@leegov.com)>

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## THE SCOTSMAN

The Gordon Castle Walled Garden near Fochabers in Moray has picked up the Historic Houses 2021 Garden of the Year award following a public vote.

It is the first time a garden north of the border has won the honour outright in the competition's history.

More than 3,000 votes were cast for the garden, a record for the contest.

Owners Angus and Zara Gordon Lennox described the garden as a "magical place" with the transformation of the land, from a near-abandoned grass field to an abundant producer of fruit, herbs, vegetables and cut flowers, starting seven years ago.

In a statement, the couple said "We are absolutely delighted to have won the Historic Houses Garden of the Year award and would like to say a huge thank you to all our visitors, followers and friends of the Walled Garden for their votes. For us, and our small team of gardeners and volunteers, it is the stuff that dreams are made of.

"None of this would have been possible without the extraordinary hard work of our entire team and the support of the local community.

"This award will deliver an enormous boost to the Walled Garden, the local economy and hopefully to Scottish gardens as a whole, recognising the significant benefits gardening has on well-being, health, and happiness.

"We hope visitors will be encouraged to come and visit the garden, to discover this beautiful area of Moray and Speyside and, inspired by what they find, leave with a smile on their faces."

Gordon Castle was one of the largest houses in Scotland until the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, when it was sold

*Continued on page 13*

# MacDuffee Clan Society of America, Inc.

of Clan Macfie



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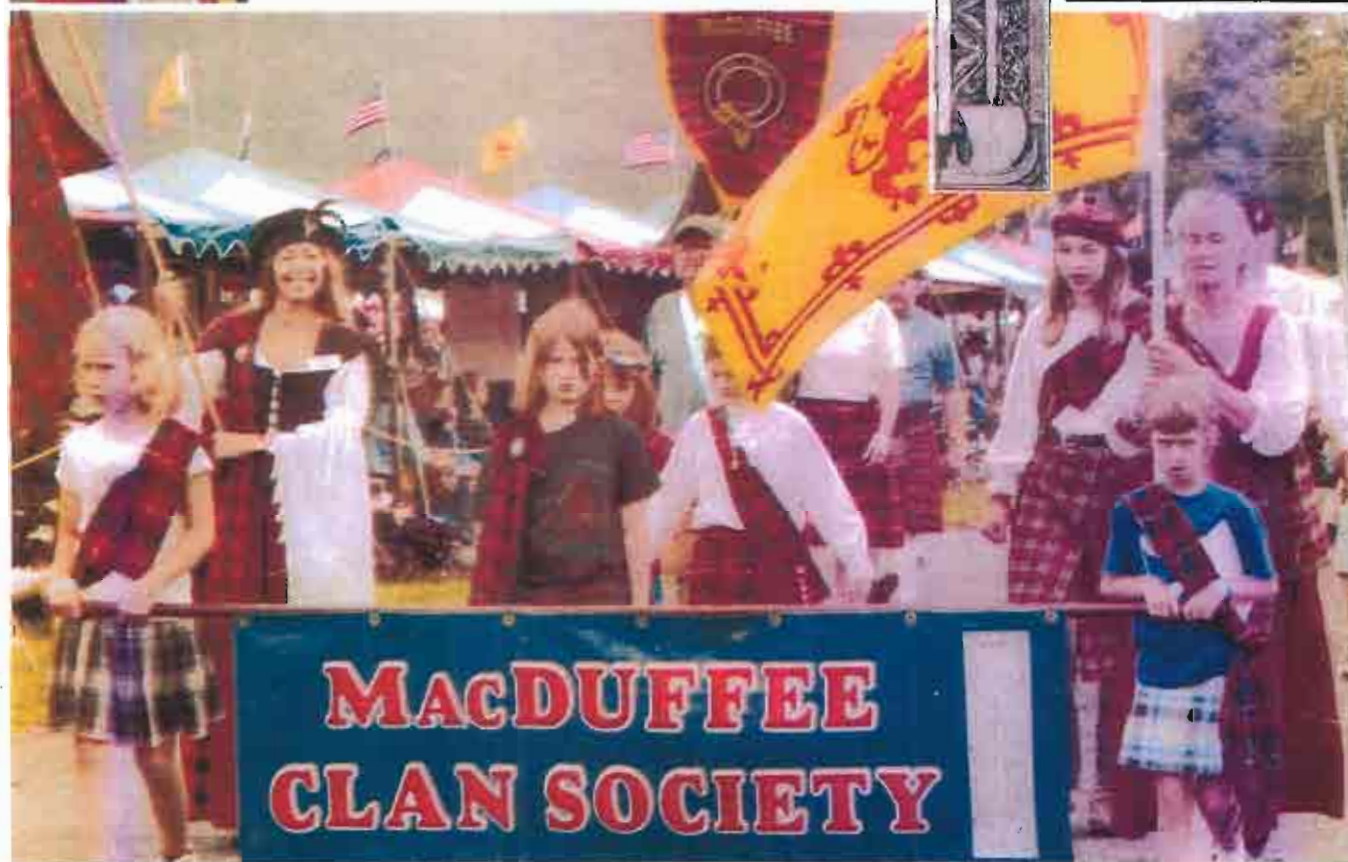
**Genealogist: Richard Ledyard**

865-671-2555

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



MacDuffee  
Clan Society  
of America





Note: If the last few years have shown us anything, it is that we all live in uncertain times. However, barring any significant issues, we will do our very best to keep to this date.

Whilst the clan societies regularly host large and impressive events, the Buchanan Clan are now hosting a significant historic event recognizing The Buchanan as the Clan Chief. 'Buchanans' or any of the Clan sept names recognized by the Clan are invited to attend. (Link to Sept names. <<https://www.theclanbuchanan.com/about>>)

The Inauguration is a significant historic event that, after more than 300 years, Lord Lyon has identified J. Michael Baillie-Hamilton Buchanan as the new Hereditary Clan Chief following on from the last Buchanan Clan Chief who died in 1682.

Due to the symbolic importance of the inauguration activities, the format will follow the historic protocols of the Celtic ceremony which will maintain the traditions of former Buchanan chiefs.

Events for the inauguration will commence on the 7th of October and continue to the 10th of October 2022.

Please note: The event activities are ticketed events and will require pre-registration and payment in advance. Ticket sales will be available through [www.trybooking.com.au](http://www.trybooking.com.au) when the costs are finalized.

**7th October**, Buchanan Castle Estates in Drymen will host a 'Buchanan Clan' social golf tournament at Buchanan Castle Golf Course in the morning. Lunch in the Buchanan Castle Golf Course clubhouse will be available for those who have booked in for the event.

**8th October**, The Clan Chief Inauguration ceremony will be conducted in the walled garden nestled in the shadows of Cambusmore Manor on the Cambusmore Estate.

There will be a procession leading the official party from the manor house to the walled garden followed

by the ceremony. A light lunch will be provided followed by talks and tours of the estate.

Later in the evening, you are invited to a traditional ceilidh at Cambusmore, where a local band and Buchanan Family callers will help you reel the night away.

This is a time to flick up your kilt, kick up your heels and enjoy the Scottish traditions of ceilidh dancing. The function will be a "bring your own" drink evening with a light supper provided as the evening draws on. -



**9th October**, There will be a solemn spiritual service with a procession from Cambusmore Chapel to the walled garden for the first Buchanan Clan Parliament for more than 300 years. This will be followed by a light lunch, talks, guided house tours, and possibly some tours of historical sites around Cambusmore estate itself.

In the evening we conclude the formal proceedings of the weekend with a dinner in the walled garden of Cambusmore. The dinner provides another opportunity to get to know other Clan members and to celebrate the inauguration. There will be presentations made by The Buchanan to members of the Buchanan Clan and some light entertainment.

**10th October** will be a day for people to have either guided tours or self-guided tours of Buchanan Clan lands which are less known but historically related to The Buchanan and his ancestors.

It will also be an opportunity to have lunch or afternoon tea at the Buchanan Castle Golf Course clubhouse and to see the ruins of the Auld House, the former home of the Buchanan Chiefs. There may be information provided during the weekend for those who wish to visit Balmaha, which has the closest vantage point to Clair Innes the Buchanan Clan's Historic Island.

Booking for these events will be available soon at <<https://www.trybooking.com>>

# *The Scottish Tartans Museum and Heritage Center, Inc.*

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*"The only Tartan  
Museum in the U.S."*





## **Gordon Castle, continued from page 11**

by Frederick Gordon Lennox, 9<sup>th</sup> Duke of Richmond, 4<sup>th</sup> Duke of Gordon, to pay for death duties, with the pile then falling into disrepair.

After the Second World War it was bought by Lieutenant General Sir George Gordon Lennox, grandson of the 7<sup>th</sup> Duke of Richmond, who demolished part of the castle and turned the remaining sections into a grand family home.

The eight-acre garden survived the reduction in the castle, with designer Arne Maynard first looking to revive the derelict site in 2013, with a view to designing a modern and productive garden "fit for the next hundred years".

The renovation was described as "epic", with an estimated one million bricks in the 15ft foot surrounding walls.

Within the walls, four cut-flower beds arranged by colour are among the finds, with at least 400 more fruit trees planted alongside 250 mature specimens. In the spring, 70,000 bulbs come into flower.

More than 200 varieties of fruit and vegetable are grown on site from asparagus to beetroot, aubergines to apricots, and peaches and melons, which are grown in the restored glasshouse.

As a result of this rich bounty, the garden's cafe is completely self sufficient from June to October.

Meanwhile, Gordon Castle's range of gin is flavoured by the garden's herbs and botanicals, with cider and ale also brewed using homegrown harvests. Essential oils distilled on site are infused in hand creams, soaps and shampoos.

Ben Howell, director general of Historic Houses UK, said: "We hope the award will mean many more garden visitors will seek out the horticultural wonders of Gordon Castle Walled Gardens."

In a Veterinarian's  
waiting room:  
"Be back in 5 minutes.  
Sit! Stay!"



## **Scotland County Highland Games, Laurinburg, October 2** **Great day for Clan Sinclair**



The Games were held on a gorgeous Saturday under a Carolina blue sky with almost no bugs. The competitive events included Scottish heavy athletics, a record number of pipe bands, solo pipers and drummers, and Highland dancers.

There were Border Collie demonstrations. Traditional celtic musicians Colin Grant-Adams and *The Sound of Sleat* were joined on the music stage by *North of Argyll* and *Sean Heely*. There were food and merchandise vendors, too. There were beer tents, and a wine tent. Children kept us busy all day, stamping their Scottish passports. Kim and Hank ClaryBernd visited the tent and joined CSA, as did Troy and Jill Nelson and their five kids. They all marched with us in the Parade of Tartans.

We had a good time and at the end of the day we packed up and headed home.

This is a great event and we're looking forward to going next year.

# THE CLAN GREGOR SOCIETY

*'S Rioghal Mo Dhream!*

**Royal is my Race!**

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

**Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor**

7th Baronet of Lanrick and Balquidder

**24th Chief of Clan Gregor**

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



# Clan Sinclair Chief, Malcolm Sinclair, announces Sinclair Commissioners of the Year Award



Last year I, with your President's agreement, instituted the Commissioner of the Year Award, for Clan Sinclair, which was won by Stacey Brown, your Texas Commissioner.

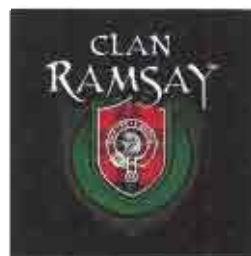
This year we have refined the award, so it is given to the Com-

missioner who recruits most members at Games. This year (to

November) there was a tie for third place between Scott Sinclair of Missouri and Keith and Susan Sinclair of Tennessee with your President and Commissioner for Colorado was second.

Out in front and this year's winner are Nancy and Allen Sinclair of North Carolina and Eastern VP. Congratulations to them.

Next year with more games taking place it will be less of a lottery and more chance for you all to show your recruiting skills.



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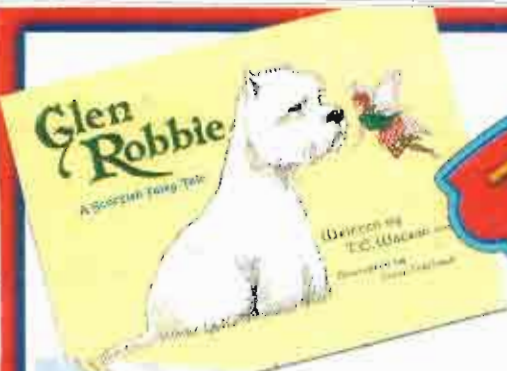



We do all the work but if you what to engage with us we can give you rights to add and make changes. Contact me and I'll answer all your questions.

**John Hendrickson, Cell/Facetime: 865-771-2012 (USA-TN) EST, Skype: ramsey.dna  
Email: jdbknoxtn@aol.com**

**It takes a lot of energy to be  
negative. You have to work at it.  
But smiling is painless. I'd rather  
spend my energy smiling.**



SCHULZ

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# Sinclair Flowers of the Forest

Major Jeffrey Bruce Sinclair,  
Sharon Blount Clark,  
Brenton David Scharbor

**Major, Jeffrey Bruce Sinclair** of Lorton, Virginia, was born June 2, 1944, in Summit, New Jersey, and passed away on August 25, 2021, at INOVA Fairfax Hospital.

He spent most of his youth in Germany and Holland where his father was stationed with the US Air Force, and attended the Quaker boarding school in The Netherlands. As an alumnus of Moses Lake High School in Washington state, Major Sinclair earned his BA from Eastern Washington University and his MS from UCLA.

He joined the US Marine Corps in 1965 as a CH-46 helicopter pilot and was rescued before capture after being shot down in Vietnam.

Major Sinclair received the Presidential Service Badge serving as senior pilot on *Marine One* under President Jimmy Carter.

In September 1978 he transported President Carter, President Sadat of Egypt, and Prime Minister Begin of Israel during the Camp David Summit, and in October 1979 he transported Pope John Paul II on the Pope's US visit.

Major Sinclair concluded his Marine career as an Acquisition Management Officer, earning an honorable discharge in 1987.

During his retirement from the Marine Corps, Major Sinclair worked in program and test management for DCS, SAIC, and Leidos.

He participated in many projects during his career as a defense contractor, most notably Hellfire and JDAM

Memberships included George Washington's Mount Vernon, Clan Sinclair (USA), the American Friends of Lafayette, and the Commemorative Air Force.

He is survived by his son Brendan Sinclair of Santa Rosa, California, and his wife Connor Harrison of Lorton, Virginia.

Interment will be at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

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**Sharon Blount Clarke**, was born on 4 December 1947 in Savannah, Georgia to Frances Ann Sessions and Judson Burl Blount and died 13 September 2021.

Growing up in Savannah, she was educated in the Public School System, graduating from Jenkins High School in 1966 and continued her education, attending the New Four-Year Armstrong State College, graduating with a BA Degree in English.

She then married Eugene Clarke (GIL) in 1971 and they had two beautiful daughters: Elisabeth and Catherine Belle Clarke.

*Continued on page 19*



St. Kilda Publications

# THE SCOTTISH CLAN AND FAMILY ENCYCLOPAEDIA



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She taught English in the Savannah Schools until her husband accepted a transfer to Fremont, Ohio.

Throughout her childhood, she was continually involved in the Girl Scout program, and she continued as a Troup Leader in Ohio, bringing up the two girls in her footsteps.

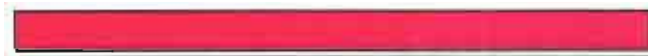
Along the way, she enjoyed collecting antiques, growing daylilies, and cultivating an interest in orchids, a hobby that lasted forty years.

Above all of this, however, she loved her family.

When the girls got married, Elisabeth gave us our first grandson, Johnathan Devin Clarke, and Katie followed with another grandson, Braeden Cuyler Hardy, and our only granddaughter, Alaina Sinclair Hardy.

In retirement, Sharon enjoyed her recreational vehicle, chasing the grandchildren from South Georgia to North Georgia, as their parents accepted jobs in Waycross and in the lower Appalachian mountains of Cleveland/Helen, Georgia.

Her marriage survived fifty years, but on Monday 13 September 2021, her Lord called and brought her to his side, opening a new and glorious chapter in her life.



**Brenton David Scharbor**, Sept. 24, 1971 - Sept. 14, 2021.

Brent grew up as an Army brat attending many different schools in several states before graduating from Giessen High School in Germany.

Brent served in the United States Air Force at Bitburg and Las Vegas and attended the University of Arkansas where he studied Biology.

Brent also studied the Viking Age and Medieval Scandinavia through the University of Zurich and studied Scottish history through the University of Glasgow.

Brent was a voracious life-long learner and worked as a chef in Phoenix, Houston, and Japan, also gave many workshops and private classes.

He met his wife, Heather, while performing

Rockabilly and Jump Swing with his band, *Powerglide 235*, and proposed to Heather on Sanibel Island in Florida.

Heather and Brent enjoyed 20 years of marriage.

Brent became a father to his beautiful daughter, Gabrielle Belle Marie Scharbor, on July 22, 2009.

Gabrielle follows in her father's footsteps in her love of music, family ancestry, and culinary arts.

Brent was the most honorable and dedicated husband, father, son, brother, and dear friend to many around the world.

Brent worked as a Build & Test Manager for Speedcast Communications in Houston, Texas, for 17 years.

Brent took a genealogic journey into his roots and discovered strong Scandinavian and Scottish heritage.

In addition to being a guitar player for 30 years, Brent also mastered the Scottish bagpipes.

Brent deeply embraced his Viking and Scottish roots and could often be seen kilted in full Scottish regalia at Highland games across Texas while serving as the Texas Commissioner for the Clan Sinclair.

If you stopped by the Clan Sinclair tent, Brent was sure to offer you a dram of the finest Scottish whiskey.

After writing a book on his family's heritage, Brent was admitted as a Fellow into the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.

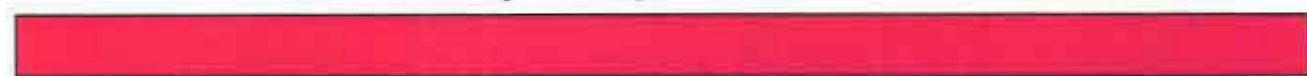
Brent was also active with the Icelandic National League of the United States and the Norwegian Society of Texas.

Brent recently gave an interview and introduction to mead making online workshop for the Icelandic Society.

Brent was also a member of Harmony Lodge No. 6 in Galveston, Texas, where he reached the degree of Master Mason and was a member of First United Methodist Church in Pearland, Texas.

Brent never met a stranger and was a dedicated servant leader in all he did.

Brent traveled the world and leaves an enduring legacy of a truly extraordinary life.



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# The Fourth Kingdom

If you have been following these newsletters since we first came to the United Kingdom of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, then you know that one of our great joys has been that our home in the Scottish Highlands has provided us with a base to explore the British Islands and Europe. Through these newsletters you will have seen much of Scotland and England, as well as bits of Wales. Finally, this autumn, we visited the fourth kingdom of the UK, Northern Island. Upon arrival, it became immediately apparent why Ireland is referred to as the Emerald Isle. There are so many amazing shades of green, probably because of all the rain. It rained on us multiple times every day, producing more rainbows in our five day stay than I would normally expect to see in a year.



We arrived by ferry from Cairnryn in southern Scotland into Larne, north of Belfast, and immediately began a trek along the Causeway Coastal Route that follows the north coast. The road is twisty and curvy and has some very unique scenes along the way.



## Dr. Pete Hylton, Ed.D.

Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy  
Fellow of the Institution of Engineering and Technology  
Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland  
Fulbright Scholar



Are those sheep or boulders along the side of the road? Definitely sheep.



There were a number of unique buildings (both new and abandoned) along the way, and also quite a few churches (both new and in ruins) that we passed.



Continued on page 23

# 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.



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Then we arrived at the number one destination in Northern Ireland: The Giant's Causeway. This amazing collection of rock columns left over from cooling volcanic lava eons ago, is one of the most visited spots in the country.



And the walking trail to get there has some incredible views as well



*Continued on page 27*

# *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!





Further along the coastal route is the ruin of Dunluce Castle, built in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.



And even further along is Downhill Demesne, the 18<sup>th</sup> century mansion and gardens of the eccentric Earl Bishop. The garden is entered through the gothic Bishop's Gate.



A hike through the garden leads to the ruins of the mansion, perched on a plain above the coast. From the front it looks like a manor house.



From the back it looks like a castle.



There are intricate stone carvings on many of the walls. The Mausoleum stands alone on a hill overlooking the mansion ruins.



The most unique structure on the estate, however, is the Mussenden Temple, built to resemble the Temple of Vesta in Italy. It once housed the bishop's extensive library, and it sits right at the edge of the cliff, overlooking the sea. A fire was kept constantly burning in the basement of the building to keep it warm enough for use at any time and to keep the moisture of the sea from affecting the books.



Our explorations then took us to the city with two names: Derry/Londonderry. Which name you use depends on which side of the Catholic/Protestant or Nationalist/Unionist debate you fall on. Visitors like us, are urged to call it by both names: Derry-Londonderry, so as not to offend anyone when we don't know their political or religious persuasion.

You probably recall that there was a time, not all that many years ago, when the two sides fought openly in the streets. That period of fighting and bloodshed, referred to in the UK as "The Troubles" only came to an end with the Good Friday Agreement signed in 1998. But there are signs that the argument still lies close beneath the surface of Northern Ireland.





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When you walk into shops in the city, you can instantly tell on which side of the argument the owners stand. Some shops have the typical tourist t-shirts proclaiming that you have been to Derry and have memorial souvenirs commemorating the officers of the Provisional Irish Government, who were executed by the English after the uprising in 1916. Other shops sell t-shirts saying that you have been to Londonderry and speak of the long historical tie of Ulster, Northern Ireland to England and the Government in London.



Derry-Londonderry was historically a walled city and the walls still stand today, making it the only walled city in Europe with the walls still completely intact. In fact, the walls, built in 1613, were never breached. They stood firm through a siege in 1649 when Royalist supporters of King Charles tried to take the city from the Parliamentary Army and again in 1689 when the army of overthrown King James II tried to take the city from supporters of the newly crowned king of England, William of Orange. The walls were again used by British troops during The Troubles in the 1970s-1990s to try to quell the violence between the two sides. The sheer thickness of the walls is one of the reasons they were never breached, in many places they are wider than the streets of the old city, as can be seen in this picture.



Commerce in and out of the old city went through a series of well fortified gates, such as the Ferryquay Gate and the Bishop's Gate.



The Castle Gate and the Magazine Gate.



The Shipquay Gate, which allowed access to the river, allowing supplies in even during siege. And the smallest of the gates, the Butcher's Gate, which was used by the city's butchers. It proved to be the weakest link in the city walls, and was very nearly blown to bits during the bombardment of the second siege, but the troops manning it still held firm.



There were eight bastions containing cannon located around the walls. And historic cannon are still stationed in those locations.



*Continued on page 29*

# IMPORTANT

**This has become known as a signal for “help me” in any situation.**



**Please alert your children  
and teach them to do this.  
Please alert everyone.**

Visit this YouTube video at:

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ozb1ty5KivE>**

*With many thanks to Steve Kelley*





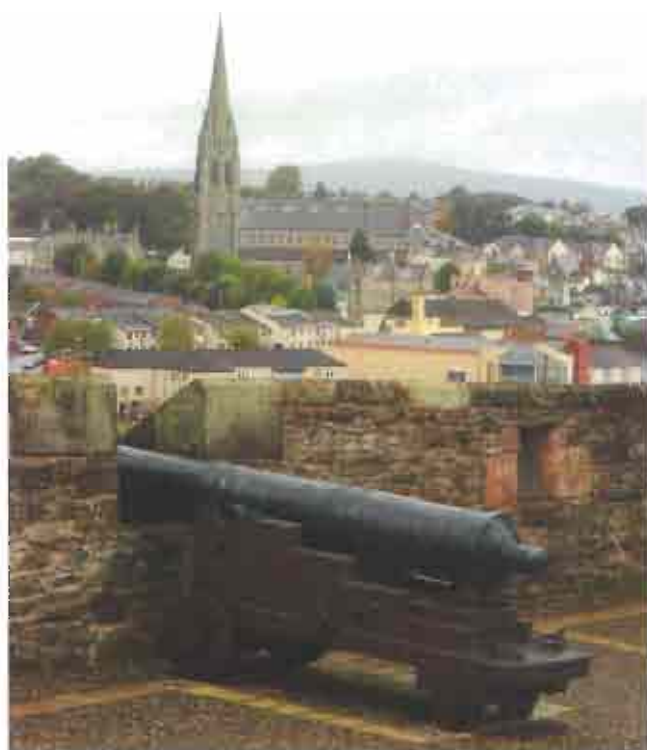
This one overlooks St Eugene's Cathedral, outside the walls



This cannon overlooks the amazing Guild Hall, just outside the walls, which is an amazingly ornate structure with wonderful stained glass.



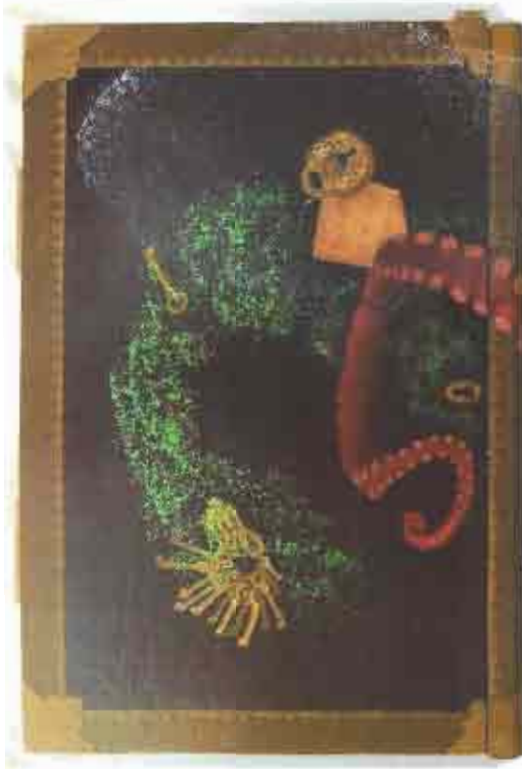
Watch Towers were located at various points along the wall. This one is attached the extra tall "Church Wall" which was added to keep cannonballs from reaching the cathedral just inside the walls.



*Continued on page 31*

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Side panel



Back



Other side panel





St. Columb's Cathedral, is named after the same saint that we in Scotland call St. Columba. The cathedral is Anglican, and was built in 1633 with funds raised in London.



Other churches within the walls are St. Augustine's which sits on the site where St. Columba built an abbey in about 543 AD, before leaving to establish yet another abbey on the island of Iona, in Scotland.



And this Presbyterian church was funded by Queen Mary of England in 1690, in recognition of how the

followers had supported her and her husband, William of Orange, in the War of the Two Kings.



Within the city walls, new and old architecture meld together to create some interesting buildings.



Two of the more interesting structures outside of the walls are the remains of the prison, where English troops kept prisoners captured during the Irish rebellions.



**Are you an Arthur, Carter,  
MacArthur, McArthur or similar  
name? If so, you can become a member  
of the Clan Arthur Association!**



Clan Arthur is worldwide with branches in UK, USA, Canada & Australia. Our leader is **Chief John MacArthur of that Ilk.**

We welcome new members who are of "Arthur" decent or those interested in our clan who are prepared to be loyal to our Chief. Membership includes a quarterly magazine which is full of stories about the Clan around the world, articles on current events, ancestry & history. Members also receive ongoing newsletters & updates on local happenings within their community.

For information & how to join, see our website [clanarthur.website/](http://clanarthur.website/)  
**Contacts:**

**UK:** Chief John & Lorraine MacArthur [arthurofthatilk@btinternet.com](mailto:arthurofthatilk@btinternet.com)

**USA:** Joann Helmich [caausamembership@gmail.com](mailto:caausamembership@gmail.com)

**Canada:** Lloyd K. McArthur [mcartld@shaw.ca](mailto:mcartld@shaw.ca)

**Australia/NZ:** Carol MacArthur Budlong [carolmcarthur18@gmail.com](mailto:carolmcarthur18@gmail.com)



**Chief John Alexander MacArthur of that Ilk**



And the Peace Bridge, built in 2011, after the signing of the Good Friday Agreement. It connects the predominantly Unionist east bank of the river with the largely Nationalist west bank.



We then visited the Ulster-American Folk Park, which follows the path of immigrant families from crofting villages in the north of Ireland to the big Irish cities, and then onto ships bound for America, landing at the big port cities on the eastern seaboard and thence to building a new life on farms in the east and mid-west. There were lots of interesting re-constructed buildings and shops. This blacksmith's shop was quite interesting, and a bit scary, since all those sparks were going on under a thatched roof that would be very susceptible to fire.



The old village shops had all kinds of interesting displays of old wares.



Continued on page 35

# *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,**  
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<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  |            |





And the printer showed how the early newspapers were produced.



The homes the immigrants built in America were a far cry from the tiny crofts they had in Ireland.



On one day we crossed the border into the Republic of Ireland and explored Donegal.



Our first stop was Grianan of Aileach, a Neolithic hill-fort dating back to about 1700 BC.



Then we traveled on up the Inishowen Peninsula to the northern most part of the island of Ireland. We stopped at Dunree Fort. This defensive position, overlooking the waters of Lough Swilly, has long been a defensive position. From here in 1798, the British defeated a French fleet bringing aid to one of the Irish rebellions. It was used in the Napoleonic Wars as a defensive post, and again in the first world war. After the Republic of Ireland gained independence, it was passed into Irish hands in 1938.

*Continued on page 37*

# Clan Davidson Society USA



**clandavidson-na.org**

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)].







A number of watching posts can be found overlooking the harbor.



We then traveled up through Mamore Gap and stopped at the shrine dedicated to St. Eignes' Holy Well. Every year there is a pilgrimage from the coast to the shrine which is quite a trek up this hill.



Then on to Glenevin Waterfall.



*Continued on page 38*

The northern most point is Malin Head. It's more recent claim to fame is that it was used as a filming site in the final Star Wars movie.



This watch tower has been used in the Napoleonic wars and both world wars as a watch post.



On our final day, on the drive back to the ferry at Larne, we went cross-country and stopped to visit the 50 foot tall Round Tower at Antrim. Irish Round Towers are early mediaeval stone towers originally used as bell towers, although some may have been used for additional purposes. The one at Antrim has an additional legend, which if I understand correctly, involved throwing suspected witches from the top of the tower. If you were a witch, you were able to fly to the nearby witch's stone and save yourself. If not, you fell to your death. But at least you weren't a witch!



Lest you think all of our explorations this fall have been in Ireland, we also went on a Highland Archeological Festival hike through the clearance village of Doll,

where we got a feel for how the crofters had to live after they were forced off of the land they had worked for generations during the clearances. They were forced to move in May of 1821 and before the harsh Highland winter set in, they had to clear fields of large stones, from which these dividing walls were built.



And then had to construct houses and plant crops in order to survive the coming winter. It was a cruel period of Highland history.



The scenery around the Brora River, however, was spectacular.



Life has returned to some semblance of normal here in the Highlands, and we are finally able to get out and see friends at various functions. Everyone seems glad to be out of their working-from-home sweat pants and into civilized clothing again. We certainly are.

