



Vol. XV No. 9 Beth's Newfangled Family Tree Section 8 February 2022

# THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF HERALDRY CELEBRATES ITS GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Executive Director, David Robert Wooten

*The American College of Heraldry 50th Anniversary Shield, center below*

FIFTY YEARS AGO, in New Orleans, Louisiana, an enterprising and enthusiastic group came together to form *The American College of Heraldry*. As one of the co-founders of the College, as well as its longtime President (until his untimely passing in 2004), Dr. David Pittman Johnson wrote in the introduction to the first volume of *The Heraldic Register of America*: "Several private heraldic societies were organized through the years in this country, but none were sufficiently strong enough to survive."

Our primary function was, and is, to aid individuals and organizations with the design and Registration of new Armorial Bearings, in order to es-

tablish a heraldic tradition for generations to come. One may become a member and also Register a coat of arms. Or, one may elect to become a member without Registering a coat of arms, or indeed without even having one. Or, one may Register a coat of arms without ever becoming a member. While the College's primary focus is naturally on the heraldry of America, nevertheless, the College's membership and interests are international in scope and the College continues to welcome the membership of persons residing abroad and to welcome the registration



*Continued on page 13*





# Scottish Heritage USA, Inc.

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

• Culloden Visitor's Centre – media centre	\$300,000*
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• 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 American College of Heraldry

Executive Director, David Robert Wooten



*A new column!*

## "MY NAME IS SMITH - WHAT IS MY FAMILY CREST?"

THE MOST COMMON QUESTION we at The American College of Heraldry receive is:

"OK, I read every last word on every page of your website, as you told me to, but I've seen a crest for my family name, and I want to know how to go about registering it..."

If I had a nickel for every time this question is asked...

In all instances where there is not a 100% certainty for proof of descent from an armigerous ancestor, via either (literally) primary sources—that is, original documents—or verified publications of same, you are 99.9% likely to NOT be entitled to a coat of arms you saw somewhere (we can deal with the fact that there is no such thing as a "family crest" at another time).

Armorial Bearings belong (and belong) to a specific individual and their descendants. Thus, an individual may have had a coat of arms granted to him, and those arms would then be inherited by his eldest son, and so on, and so on. But no one else in his generation would really be eligible for those arms, nor would anyone else simply have the same surname (this is a very GENERAL explanation, and one to which there are countless exceptions).

If indeed one of your male ancestors inherited a coat of arms from an ancestor to whom they were originally granted, then you are quite fortunate to be the recipient of such a historic tradition. However, others not directly descended from the same ancestor to whom the arms were granted have no connection whatsoever to these arms or have the right to bear

them. In fact, they may actually have another ancestor who had arms granted to them, and thus could claim the right to bear an entirely different set of arms (and don't forget, what your surname is NOW may be slightly or entirely different from what it was a few centuries ago). Unfortunately for most individuals, it is likely that none of your direct ancestors may have been granted arms by a licensed heraldic authority.

The general confusion over who does and who does not have the right to bear arms is the reason so many fly-by-nights, find-your-name-here "Heraldry" mail-order/mall kiosk/airport shop/tourist trap companies are making money - people simply assume since they have the same surname as an individual who once was granted a coat of arms, they may also claim those arms.

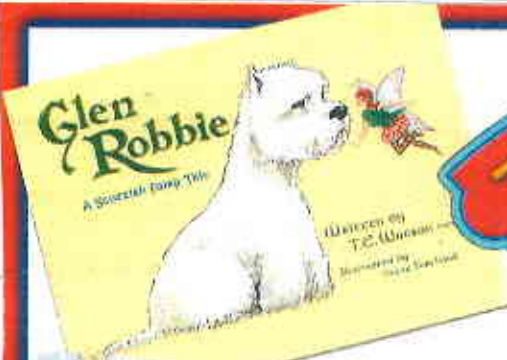
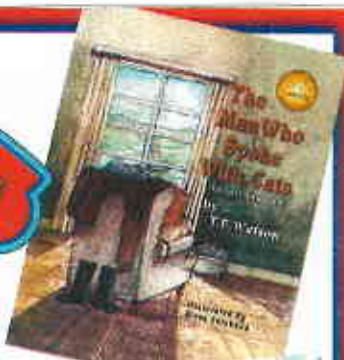


To put an even finer point on this, I quote (quite abridged) from the National Genealogical Society's website - <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/>

A variety of companies sell mass-produced items for thousands of surnames. Among these are one-page "surname histories," products showing a coat of arms, and books that feature addresses of individuals who share the same last name. These items are offered by direct mail, sold in airports and shopping malls, and advertised in magazines.

Millions of people buy these products, hoping they will learn something about their own family histories. However, people with the same last name do not necessarily belong to the same family or share ances-

*Continued on page 17*



**Author**  
**T.E. WATSON**

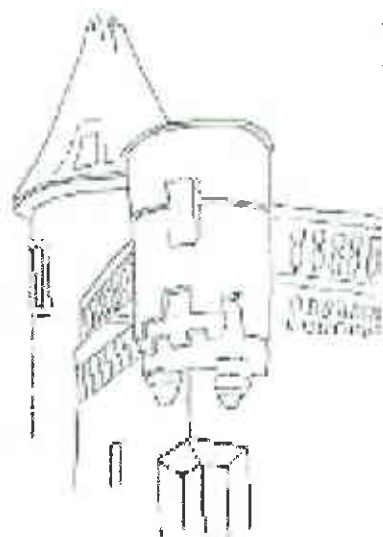
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# Genealogical Research in Libraries

Bryan L. Mulcahy, MLS

Genealogical collections exist at a variety of levels within the library community. Most main branches of public library systems offer some level of genealogical and/or local history research capability. Genealogical collections can also be found in many academic libraries. Most interlibrary loan requests are often filled from the collections held by academic libraries.

Many genealogists overlook academic/university libraries as resources. These libraries can be very useful for special collections aimed at a specific locality, region, historical period, ethnic group, or families from people who became successful on a national and/or worldwide scope. Another advantage academic/university libraries offer is remote access to their holdings. When using academic libraries, please remember that the subject of genealogy tends to be listed under the heading of social history and statistics.

The types of resources available for research will vary from one library to another. The following list is a small representation of what may be included in genealogical collections:

1. Subscription databases such as Heritage Quest, Ancestry Library Edition, Family Search, Fold3, and Ethnic-specific sites
2. Family Search Affiliate Libraries: An affiliate library cooperates with Family Search International to help patrons have access to the enhanced version of the Family Search database. A major benefit of

being an affiliate library is access to additional digital records not available outside a family history center, an affiliate library, or from home using the regular [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) site. These digital records include images and names indexes.

3. Historical editions of newspapers
4. Port of entry and/or ship passenger list indexes
5. Online indexes to local, regional, or national newspapers
6. Neighborhood, town, city, and county histories
7. Published family histories
8. Family history manuscript collections
9. Files compiled by local genealogists
10. Vertical files on local history miscellaneous items.
11. Collections from the local and surrounding genealogical societies
12. Local business information (contemporary and historical)
13. County, city, church, or business directories
14. Yearbooks for area schools including colleges, trade schools, and private schools
15. Local organizations records (both current and historical)
16. Church records or abstracts of the records
17. Lists of area residents who served in the military
18. Cemetery records and/or tombstone inscriptions



*Continued on page 17*





**Chief of the Paisley Family, Duncan W. Paisley of Westerlea.**



All Paisleys of the name or blood (and all spellings) are invited to join. Email: <dlangsto@yahoo.com>

Paisley Family Society USA Branch, FaceBook account can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/Paisley-Family-Society-USA-branch-195070730565352/>



*The Arms of Paisley of Westerlea (above)  
The guidon of the Chief (below)*



### **Paisley Family Association**

of North Carolina

president: **Don Paisley**

Email: [paisley47@aol.com](mailto:paisley47@aol.com)

**Celebrating**

**50 years of fellowship**



The Paisleys are a family of considerable antiquity, having been associated with Lochwinnoch and Paisley (parts of what later became Renfrewshire), with Cunningham and Kyle (North Ayrshire), Innerwick (East Lothian) and Roxburghshire, since the time of William I King of Scots, 1165-1214.

For the Paisley **DNA Project**, visit  
<dlangsto@yahoo.com>

Check out the  
**Clan Paisley Society** webpage at  
<[www.paisleyfamilyociety.org.uk](http://www.paisleyfamilyociety.org.uk)>  
to see what's happening with us this  
year. Contact **Diane Langston** at  
<dlangsto@yahoo.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/PaisleyFamilySociety>

# The Judean Date Palm: Extinct Tree Resurrected from Ancient Seeds



For thousands of years, the date palm was a staple crop. In the Kingdom of Judea it was a source of food, shelter, medicine and shade. The plant went extinct due to waves of conquest and intentional destruction.

Now, after 2000 years, the Judean date palm is back and the sweet ancient fruit has been harvested again.

## A symbol of Good Fortune

Thick forests of the ancient date palms towering up to 80-feet (24.38 meters) and spreading for seven miles covered the Jordan River Valley from the Sea of Galilee in the north to the shores of the Dead Sea in the south.

So valued was the tree that it became recognized as a symbol of good fortune in Judea. It is chronicled in the Bible, Quran, and ancient literature for its diverse powers. It has allegedly served as both an aphrodisiac and a contraceptive, and as a cure for a wide range of health issues including cancer, malaria, and toothache.

## The Demise of a Prized Tree

However, its value was also the source of its demise and eventual extinction. The tree so defined the local economy that it became a prime resource for the invading Roman army to destroy. Once the Roman Empire took control of the kingdom in 70 AD, the date palms were destroyed in an attempt to cripple the Jewish economy.

The Romans eventually succeeded and by 500 AD the once plentiful date palm had almost completely disappeared, driven to extinction for the sake of conquest.

During the Byzantine and Arab periods (4<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> century AD) the Judean date palms were barely holding on and the continued waves of conquest and



destruction meant “that by the 19<sup>th</sup> century, no traces of these historic plantations remained,” according to a study conducted about the trees in 2020.

## Resurrecting Methuselah

But all was not lost, because in 1963, the late archeologist Yigael Yadin began excavating Masada, a mountaintop fortress built over 2,000 years ago on the shore of the Dead Sea, where King Herod built a spectacular palace.

Masada was the last stand of a small band of Jewish rebels who held out against three Roman legions for several years before committing mass suicide in 73 AD.

Buried beneath the rubble, Yadin unearthed a small stockpile of seeds stowed in a clay jar dating back 2,000 years. For the next four decades, the an-

*Continued on page 9*



# 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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GA 30350

Ms. Ishbel McGregor,  
Secretary  
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FK10 2NT  
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**Join Clan Gregor today! [www.clangregor.org](http://www.clangregor.org)**



## Extinct Date Palm Resurrected, *cont't from page 6*

cient seeds were kept in a drawer at Tel Aviv's Bar-Ilan University. But then, in 2005, botanical researcher Elaine Solowey decided to plant one and see what, if anything, would sprout.

### **Morphology of six germinated ancient Judean date seeds before planting.**

"I assumed the food in the seed would be no good after all that time. How could it be?" said Solowey. She was soon proven wrong. After eight weeks, a small green shoot emerged from one seed, producing a sapling no one had seen in centuries and becoming the oldest known tree seed to germinate.

The plant was nicknamed "Methuselah," after the longest-lived person in the Bible.

### **The Ancient Judean Date Palm Family Grows**

The first leaves were plagued with white spots, which the researchers put down to insufficient nutrients, and it was thought that the plant would never survive. But as time progressed, the leaves began to look healthier.

### **Younger Methuselah.**

In 2011, the plant produced its first flowers and today, the living archaeological treasure continues to grow and thrive. As soon as the ancient Judean date palm had grown into a tree, Ms. Solowey used genetic testing on it to confirm if it was indeed male and thus incapable of producing fruit. Methuselah is and for a long time researchers believed that this was the only Judean date palm they would ever see.

But Dr. Sarah Sallon of the Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem began to look for more Judean date palm seeds and 30 of the ancient seeds were recovered from Qumran, the same location where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found in the desert.

Between 2011 and 2014 Ms. Solowey planted the seeds and six more have sprouted over the years. Like Methuselah, they have all been given Biblical names. These plants are called Adam, Jonah, Uriel, Boaz, Judith, and Hannah.

*Shown to the right top:*

*Germinated ancient Judean date seedlings. Ages in months at time of photograph (A to C) Adam (110 months), Jonah (63 months), and Uriel (54 months). (D to F) Boaz (54 months), Judith*



*(47 months), and Hannah (88 months).*

*The age of the seeds range from some of the oldest germinated seeds in the world – Methuselah, Hannah, and Adam – with a carbon date to the first to fourth centuries BC, to the mid-second century BC to mid-first century AD plants known as Judith and Boaz, to the youngest of the Judean date palms – Uriel and Jonah are the youngest (first to second centuries AD).*

### **Tasting the First Judean Date in 2,000 Years**

After six years of growth Hannah flowered and researchers got excited at the possibility of resurrecting the Judean date after 2,000 years. Methuselah was chosen to father the fruit and pollen from his plant was placed onto Hannah's flowers. The experiment worked. Interesting Engineering reports that "Recently, Hannah's fruit was harvested for the first time."

France's University of Montpellier conducted genetic testing on the Judean date and found that it shares some qualities with the Iraqi Zahidi date as well as other date varieties that were once grown in ancient Mesopotamia, Arabia, and Pakistan.

The Judean dates harvested from Hannah have a light brown skin, fibrous and chewy honey-colored flesh, and is less sweet than the popular Medjool date.

### **A Place for Ancient Plants as Modern Cures?**

Solowey has nurtured more than 100 rare or near-extinct species back to life as part of a 10-year

*Continued on page 11*

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

86 East Main Street Franklin, North Carolina, 28734

825-524-7472

[www.scottishtartansmuseum.org](http://www.scottishtartansmuseum.org)

## MUSEUM HOURS

10:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Monday thru Saturday

### Adult Admission

\$4.00 plus tax

### Child's Admission

\$2.00 plus tax  
Under 6 years FREE

### *Online Gift Shop*

[www.scottishtartansgiftshop.com](http://www.scottishtartansgiftshop.com)

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





## Extinct Date Palm Resurrected,

*continued from page 6*

project to study plants and herbs used as ancient cures. She has grown plants and herbs used in Tibetan, Chinese, and biblical medicine, as well as traditional folk remedies from other cultures to see whether their effectiveness can be scientifically proved.

In experiments praised by the Dalai Lama, for example, Dr. Sarah Sallon has shown that ancient Tibetan cures for cardiovascular disease really do work.

Ancient sources have suggested that the Judean date palm tree had many unique medicinal properties no longer found in today's palm varieties. "Dates were famous in antiquity for medicinal value," said Solowey. "They were widely used for different kinds of diseases—cancers, TB [tuberculosis]—all kinds of problems."

Now that the Judean date palm has been brought back to life and its fruit has even been harvested, researchers finally have the opportunity to study if the ancient medicinal claims are true.



*The Judean date palm at Ketura, Israel, nicknamed Methuselah*

There is much more information on the Internet about this miracle in our time. Just type in "Judean Date Palm." Your Editor.



## Flower of the Forest

**Ruth Beatrice, Countess of Crawford and Balcarres (nee Meyer),** died peacefully at home on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2021 aged 96.

She was greatly loved by all her family. She was the wife of Robin for 71 years, mother of Bettina, Iona, Anthony and Alexander, grandmother to thirteen and great grandmother to seven.

Her funeral was private.

Donations, if desired, to St. Andrew's Botanic Garden in Ruth's name to <[standrewsbotanic.org](http://standrewsbotanic.org)>

# 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)].





of their arms.

From its very small beginnings, College membership grew, and a regular newsletter began to be circulated – *The Armiger's News (TAN)* – still produced today and in its 44<sup>th</sup> (as of 2022) year of publication. Originally “hamstrung” by costs of printing – especially in color – it is now distributed exclusively to members in PDF format. Those coats of arms Registered by the College are also published in its aforementioned journal. These days *TAN* details not only Registrations with the College, but also articles on the subject of heraldry and interrelated disciplines – historical and contemporary, American and international – submitted by members as well as heraldic experts worldwide.

So why has our own organization succeeded for half a century when others have fallen by the wayside? Primarily, because we have held to international “standards,” and we have published all Registrations. Americans are proud of their heritage, and whether they are of German, Spanish, Hungarian, English, Irish, whatever descent, heraldry is a tie to their past, or at the very least, a nod to their origins. Most individuals who contact our organization have come to understand that the odds of their being entitled to bear historically granted arms are essentially nil. This knowledge has come through the growing wealth of solid information about heraldry available in print and online, including the online ability to find the “rarer” go-to heraldry books once only available in library reference sections, such as *Heraldry Custom, Rules and Styles* by Carl Alexander von Volborth, *A Complete Guide to Heraldry* by Arthur Charles Fox-Davies, as well as Stephen Friar’s *Basic Heraldry* and *A Dictionary of Heraldry*, among others. Thus, with a little explanation, they are pleased to be able to establish a new armorial tradition in their own family

to pass down to their descendants.

A second, and less often acknowledged reason for the popularity of heraldry in the United States is, to put it politely, ego. And that’s not necessarily a bad thing. Assumption of armorial bearings is certainly a

“noble” practice, and while there will always be those individuals who believe that assumed arms are not on par with granted arms (an argument I will not go into at this time), the mere fact that one displays armorial bearings somehow raises one’s status (at least in one’s own mind). Given the prevalence of armorial usage in personal stationery, business cards, heraldic jewelry, etc., the practice (which has no “practical” purpose) is certainly a way to show off a bit.

Do these Registrations carry the same weight as a grant? No, of course not. But most of the individuals who

contact our organization either a) don’t have sufficient genealogical proofs (positive or negative) to pass along to the College of Arms (or similar heraldic entity) for verification of entitlement to bear existing arms; or b) don’t have the often-exorbitant fees necessary to obtain a legitimate grant of arms (a grant of arms from England, Scotland, etc. can easily BEGIN at the US \$9,300 as of this writing).

Thus, they come to the American College of Heraldry, ideally with eyes wide open (we do not pretend to be anything more than a registering and publishing entity), in hopes of obtaining sound advice on “proper” heraldic usage, so that the arms they ultimately assume and are registered meet with commonly “acceptable” form.

One item of good fortune for the ACH was our early presence in the nascent days of the worldwide



You get a newsletter similar to this.

Continued on page 15

# *The* *Clan Macneil* Association of America

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



"O'n D'thainig thu."

Remember the men from whom  
you have come.

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

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





web (we created and launched the College's original, rudimentary-at-best website on January 3, 1996, so we've been on the web for 27 years!). We were able to obtain (and retain, by virtue of longevity) a higher search engine ranking without paying for ad words. With the much-touted (and often loathed) ever-shifting algorithms employed by such social media platforms as *Facebook* and *Twitter*, the College continues to slowly build its position among the hundreds(!) of heraldry groups now active on these platforms.

It goes without saying that none of the College's success would have been possible without our vibrant membership. Despite an often-revolving door of new members, who sign up for a Registration and remain as a member for a year or so (primarily to see their Registration published in *TAN*), attrition is balanced by potential armigers, both young and old, discovering us for the first time. And there is even a core group of individuals whose membership "tenure" with the College is decades in counting.

These members, as well as our generous Annual Patrons, have been the lifeblood of The American College of Heraldry and kept our virtual doors open to any and all seeking to learn more about the ever-evolving world of heraldry.

We encourage anyone interested in much more extensive information about the College, and heraldry itself, to visit our website ([www.americancollegeofheraldry.org](http://www.americancollegeofheraldry.org)), Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/americanheraldry](https://www.facebook.com/americanheraldry)), and Instagram site ([www.instagram.com/americancollegeofheraldry/](https://www.instagram.com/americancollegeofheraldry/)). The College's current Executive Director, David Robert Wooten (who has been with the College for over 33 years now) is available by email at the address below:

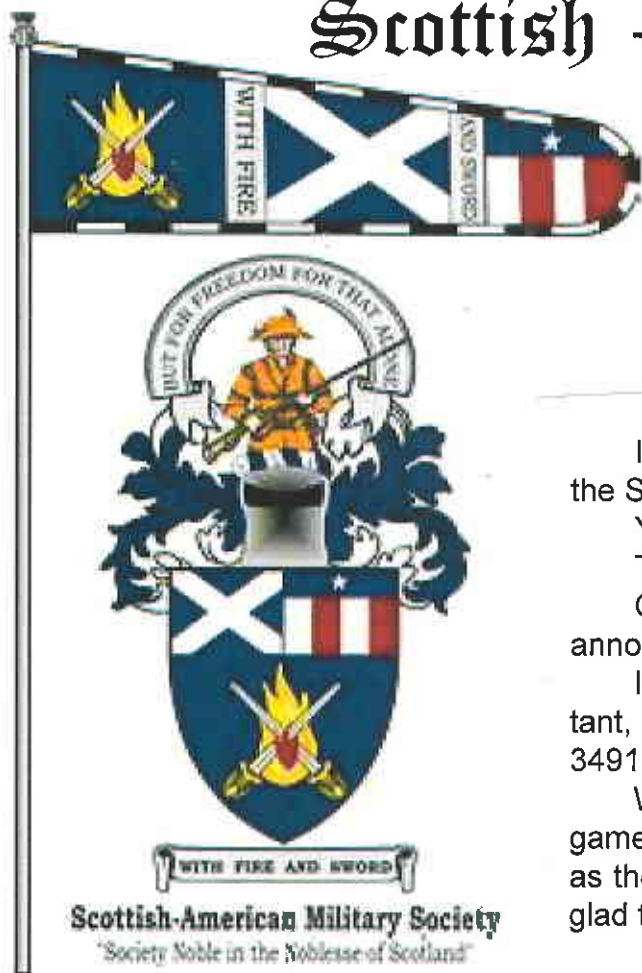


**<dwooten@americancollegeofheraldry.org>**

**50** years  **Congratulations**  
**The American College of Heraldry**

# Scottish - American Military Society

## General Elijah Clark Post #60



If you are a veteran of Celtic heritage, you can join the Scottish - American Military Society.

You can visit our webpage for more information.

The webpage is <<http://www.s-a-m-s.org/>>

Our meeting times, dates and places are to be announced as soon as it is possible.

In the meantime, please contact Rick Conn, Adjutant, General Elijah Clark Post #60. Call 1-676-873-3491 or visit his email at <[rickconn@bellsouth.net](mailto:rickconn@bellsouth.net)>

When the Scottish Games start again, visit a games and look for the SAMS unit, which usually acts as the flagbearers for the event. Any of them will be glad to talk to you.



# Scottish - American Military Society



If you would like information on joining the Scottish - American Military Society, please contact: **Rick Conn**, Adjutant, General James Jackson Post #60, 2683 Brocklin Drive, Grayson, GA 30017 -1432. Telephone **678-873-3491**. Email: <[rickconn@bellsouth.net](mailto:rickconn@bellsouth.net)> <<http://www.s-a-m-s.org/>>



**New column,  
The American College of Heraldry,  
*Continued from page 3***



*Your editor chose this illustration of Arms just because it had a horse on it and was pretty.*

tors. Those who suggest that a mass-produced item is part of a customer's individual family background are misrepresenting genealogy and family history.

**Be Alert!**

- Read the offer carefully. Then—think twice.
- Was the letter you received also sent to thousands of other people with the same last name?
- Do you know many people who can afford to print and mail thousands of letters to sell a book on their family history?
- Does the letter offer a family history, or...
- Does it merely offer a list of addresses of people who have your surname, suggesting that you write to them to learn about your ancestry?
- Does the advertisement offer a coat of arms for your last name? Coats of arms were first granted to individuals—not to surnames. Then, as now, the right to use these arms was inherited from one's father.
- How could a company that has not researched your family tree know whether you have inherited the right to display a particular coat of arms?

For more information on this and many other heraldic topics, please visit the website of The American College of Heraldry at [www.americancollegeofheraldry.org](http://www.americancollegeofheraldry.org).



The union between a Native American and a native Scotsman is frequently referred to as the "Blessed Blend" . . . frequent in the Southeast among the Choctaw, Creek, and Cherokee (Tsaligi, true name) along with a few among the Tuscarora.

*With many thanks to friend : Steve Kelley  
(kelley1310@gmail.com)*

**Genealogical Research in Libraries,**

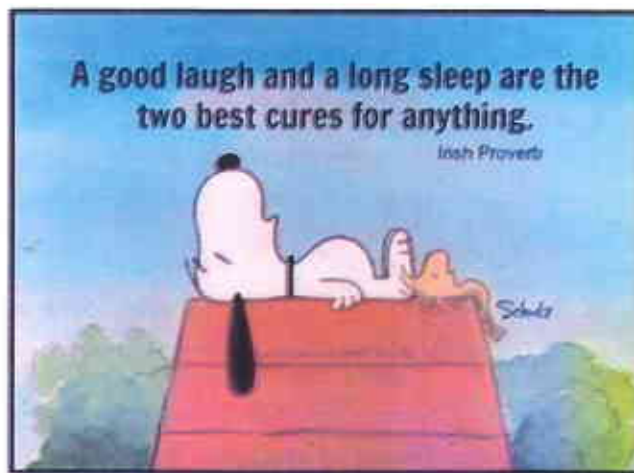
*Continued from page 5*

tions

19. Scrapbooks donated by local families
20. Maps and historical atlases
21. Historical photographs
22. Local census records and indexes online and print

For more information on this topic, feel free to contact me for a free scanned copy of my study guide *Genealogical Research in Libraries 2021*.

Bryan L. Mulcahy  
Reference/Genealogy Librarian  
Fort Myers Regional Library  
[bmulcahy@leegov.com](mailto:bmulcahy@leegov.com)



# Clan *Blair* Society

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



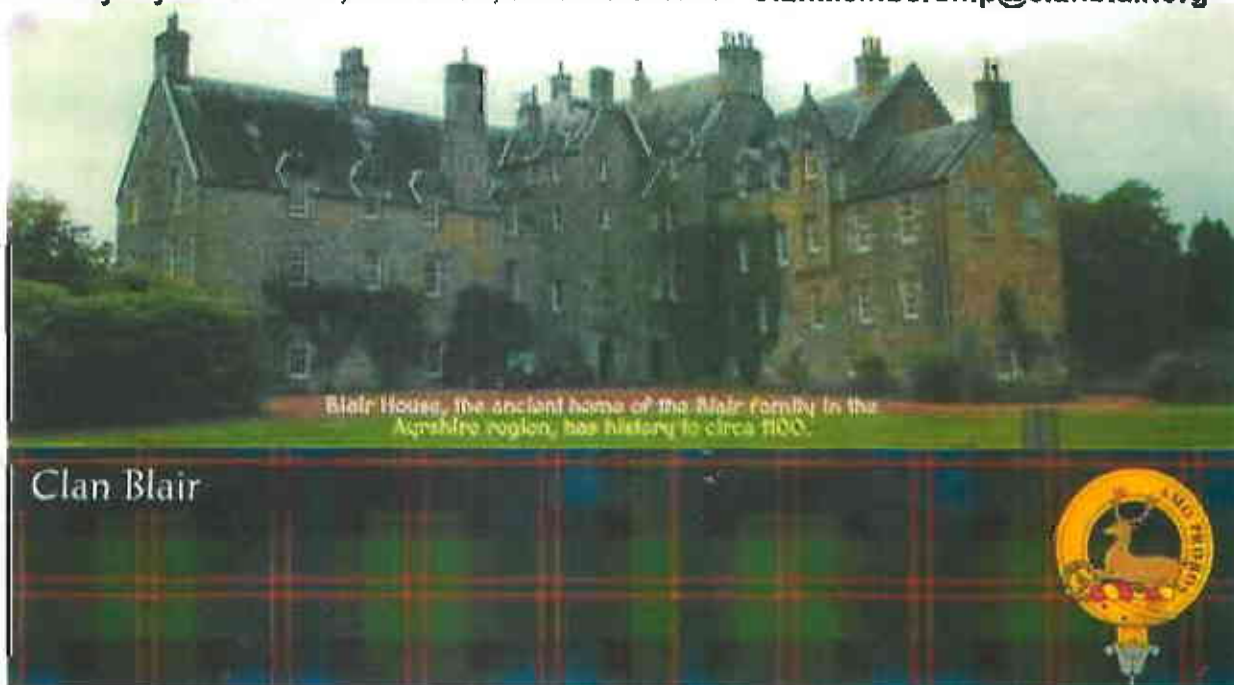
**[www.clanblair.org](http://www.clanblair.org)**

President, Clan Blair Society  
Shawn Blair  
Email: <weblaird@clanblair.org>

Vice President, Jim Blair  
Email: <viceprez@clanblair.org>

Membership Chairman,  
Charles Diman

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





# Clan MacLellan 2022 AGM has chosen the Hilton, Knoxville Airport as Host Hotel for the Smoky Mountain Scottish Games May 20-22, 2022!

The Clan MacLellan 2022 AGM has chosen the Hilton, Knoxville Airport as Host Hotel during the Smoky Mountain Scottish Games to be held May 20-22, 2022.

The Hilton Hotel is located at 2001 Alcoa Highway, Alcoa, TN 37701-3163. When you call to reserve your room/s request the Smoky Mountain Scot-

tish Games rate of \$94 per night. Call 865-970-4300 and RSVP the Clan MacLellan president at <clanmaclellan.net> so that we may share additional plans.

To learn more about the Smoky Mountain Scottish Highland Games, visit <<https://smokymountaingames.org>>



Clan MacLellan

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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 and how to join, see our website: **<<https://clanarthur.org/>>**

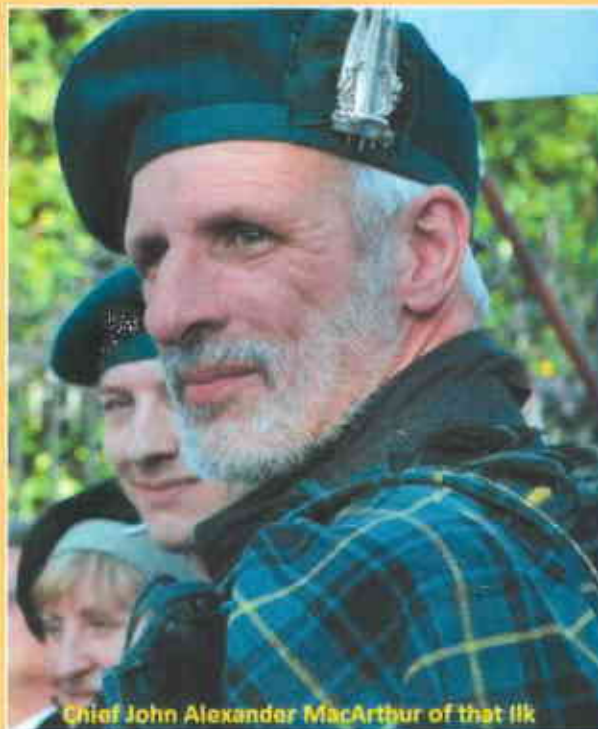
**Contacts:**

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

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



**Chief John Alexander MacArthur of that ilk**



# SAVED FOR SCOTLAND: AMERICAN DONORS ENSURE APPEAL'S SUCCESS

FOUNDATION  
**USA**



Boston, MA, December 16, 2021 – An international appeal to save a rare collection of British literature has been successful, reaching its goal of £15 million (\$20 million) with American support.

This means that the Blavatnik Honresfield Library (formerly Honresfield Library) – a treasure trove of items from the world's most beloved writers, unseen for almost a century – will no longer be sold at open auction and instead will be shared with libraries and

cultural institutions across the United Kingdom.

The library, collected and curated by an English businessman in the 1800s, comprises priceless manuscripts, rare first editions, and irreplaceable letters. These include works by Robert Burns, Sir Walter Scott, Jane Austen, and the Brontë siblings.

A UK-wide consortium led by The Friends of the National Libraries, and including the National Trust

*Continued on page 23*



## ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE YOU COME

### *Scotland Travel Update*

Please note that new entry requirements for all of the UK are now in place. All travellers aged 12 years and over must take a PCR or lateral flow test up to 48 hours prior to arrival in the UK. They must also complete a passenger locator form.

Before travelling, all international arrivals aged five and above must book and pay for a PCR test to be taken before the end of day 2.

The day you arrive is considered day 0.

You will need to enter your Covid PCR test booking reference number on your passenger locator



form and you must self-isolate until you receive your negative test result. You are permitted to travel to a Covid-19 testing site.

The requirement to prove that you've been double vaccinated remains in place for those aged 18 years and over.

There is also a legal requirement to wear a face mask in indoor public settings and on public transport.

Requirements change regularly, so please check the Scottish Government website for the most up to date information prior to travelling.

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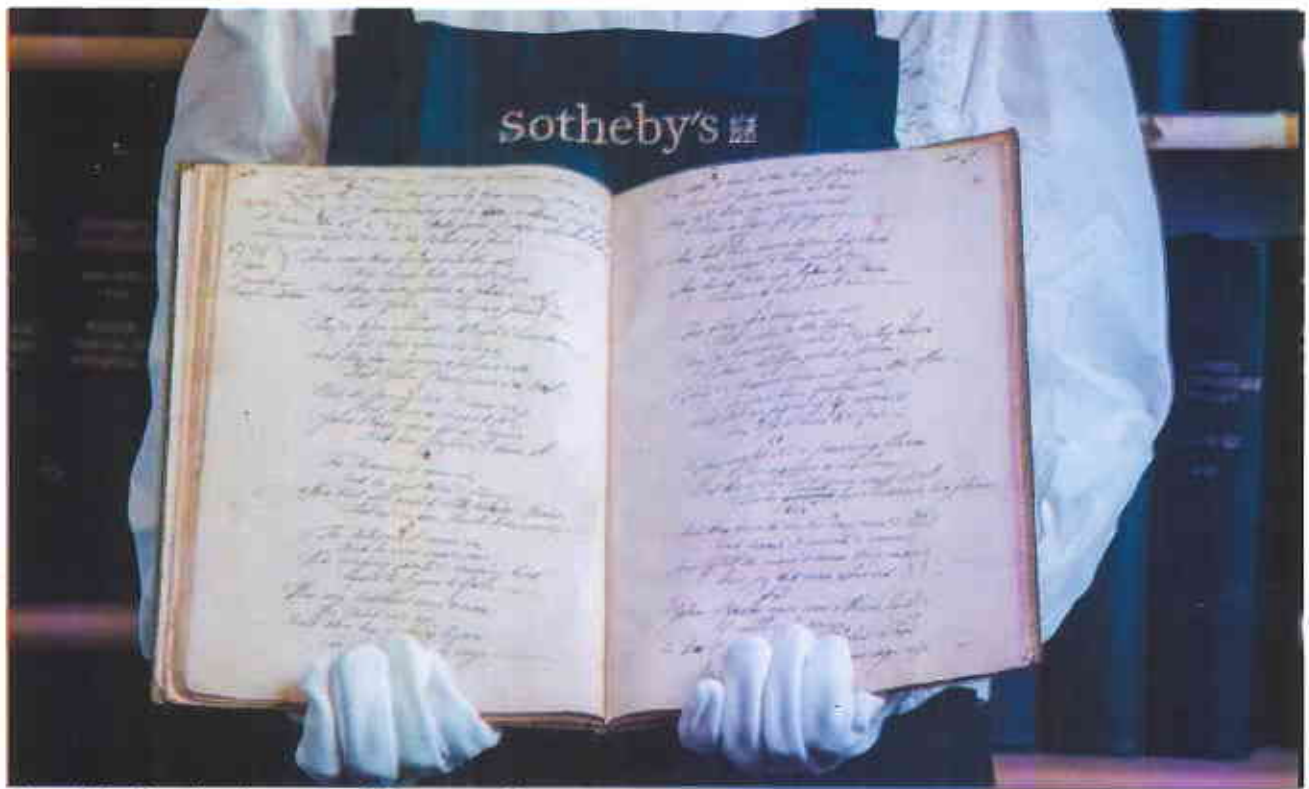
Back



Other side panel







**Saved for Scotland**, continued from page 21

for Scotland, Abbotsford, and the National Library of Scotland, was successful in raising half the funds needed from hundreds of individual donors, including dozens of generous Americans, as well as the Scottish Government and other organizations.

The balance comes from an important donation by Sir Leonard Blavatnik – the largest ever given to the UK by an individual for a literary treasure. This achievement has also been made possible by the auction house's willingness to give the consortium the time needed to launch and run the fundraising appeal, to which countless people from Scotland, the United Kingdom, and the US contributed.

Arrangements will be made in the coming months for the eight consortium members to take possession of key works from the collection, conserve them, and make them publicly accessible. In Scotland, these will include an early volume of poems by Robert Burns in his own hand – containing some of his earliest recorded literary works – known as the First Commonplace Book, as well as individual autograph poems (Cessnock Bank and the Brigs of Ayr), and some of the poet's earliest correspondence, including the only extant letter to his beloved father.

Another Scottish material of huge importance is

the complete working manuscript of Sir Walter Scott's iconic novel *Rob Roy*, part of the autographed manuscript of Scott's verse romance, *The Lay of the Last Minstrel*, his *Image: Robert Burns* handwritten *First Commonplace Book*. Credit: Sotheby's travel journal of an expedition off the Scottish coast in 1814, a copy of *Border Antiquities* with extensive manuscript revisions, and an exceptional group of Scott first editions in their original condition.

Phil Long OBE, Chief Executive of the National Trust for Scotland, said: "This is the most fantastic news. We are so grateful to everyone who contributed to the appeal for acts of such astonishing generosity, as well as to the Scottish Government for the welcome support given.

"It was a pleasure to work with the Friends of the National Libraries and the other consortium members and this is a truly collaborative achievement that will benefit generations to come.

"Those lucky enough to view the collection items have said that they express a palpable feeling of history in the making, with some of the works being part of the very foundation of our shared culture. I'm looking forward to the opportunity to display items from

*Continued on page 25*



# St. Kilda Publications

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# ANCIENT SHEEP POOP PROVES THE CELTS SETTLED THE FAROE ISLANDS BEFORE THE VIKINGS

Around 850 CE, Vikings arrived on the remote Faroe Islands (200 miles north-north-east of Scotland). But a new study published in the journal *Communications Earth & Environment* suggests they weren't the first to stake a claim there. Ancient sheep feces found at the bottom of a lake indicates that the Celts were there some 300-500 years before the Vikings!

A layer of ash from a volcanic eruption known to have occurred in Iceland in 977 helped the researchers determine the historical timeline of the islands' settlement.

Tubes were used to collect sediment cores representing 10,000 years of history from the bottom of a lake on one of the islands. Analysis of the material showed that large numbers of domestic sheep appeared suddenly between 492 and 512 CE. No signs of mammal life pre-dates the 5th century, meaning the sheep must have been brought over by settlers. And those were settlers who introduced grazing animals and arrived long before the Vikings.

The team's findings also corroborate a 2013 study of charred barley grains discovered beneath the floor



of a Viking longhouse on Sandoy, another island in the Faroes. These grains dated to between 300 and 500 years before Norse settlers and are thought to be left by the original settlers.

Other possible indications of early habitation of the islands are medieval texts suggesting that Irish monks reached far-off islands in the early 6th century, and there are undated Celtic grave markers and place names around the islands.

So, the Celts were a wide-ranging people! Article from *Smithsonian Magazine*.

With thanks to the *Scottish Heritage USA* newsletter. <[scottishheritageusa.org](http://scottishheritageusa.org)> Call 910-295-4448. Fax: 910-295-3147 and mail: PO Box 457, Pinehurst, NC 28370.

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**Saved for Scotland**, continued from page 23

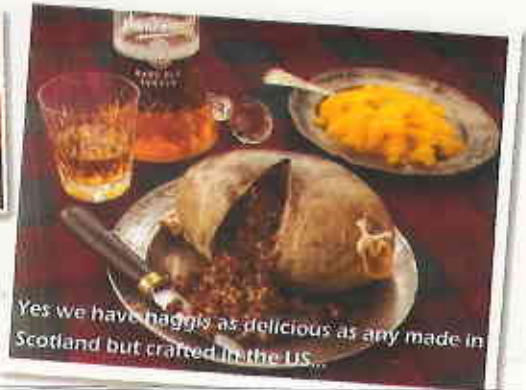
the collection in Scotland so that as many people as possible can share in that feeling."

Kirstin Bridier, executive director of The National Trust for Scotland Foundation USA, said: "This is a tremendous achievement, and we are proud to have collaborated with a dream team of libraries and heritage organizations across the UK to secure this remarkable collection for public benefit. We are deeply grateful to the many American donors who generously supported this effort, which will impact those who love Scottish and British culture no matter where they live."



# 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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# The Ancient Cairngorm

By Linda Frazier



I think one of the most elegant and beautiful components of Highland dress is the jewelry associated with it. Kilt pins, plaid brooches, buckles --- all add a touch of sparkle, interest, and personality to wearing the tartan. Often such jewelry, and even the traditional weapons, are embellished with Scottish gems including agates and cairngorms. Have you ever wondered, what is a *Cairngorm*?



Scotland's Grampian Highlands is the home to the dramatic and rugged Cairngorm Mountain range (Scots Gaelic: *Am Monadh Ruadh*). The area is home to five out of six of Britain's highest

mountains among which the most prominent peak is the *Cairn Gorm* mountain which lends the area its name. In September 2003, the Cairngorms range of mountains and surrounding hills were designated as Scotland's second national park. It is the UK's largest and most northern National Park.

The *Cairn Gorm* mountain likewise has given its name to Scotland's most famous gemstone, "Cairngorm Quartz", which has for centuries adorned traditional Highland dress. This gem is found only in the Cairngorm Mountain range where miners extract from its rocks the distinctive, smoky, amber-colored or brown-colored quartz colored by a small amount of ferric oxide in its crystals.



Quartz has had a long history of importance to the people who lived in Scotland. From prehistoric times through the medieval period onwards, quartz crystals, crudely polished and fashioned, were sought as a talisman. Ancient Celts who began colonizing the British Isles around 300 BC mined in the eastern Grampian mountains for the yellow-brown to gray-brown crystals

they called *Cairngorm* and the dark-colored smoky quartz crystals they called *Morion*.

Through the ages, many Highland families counted such stones as prized possessions believing they had magical or healing properties. Large-sized cairngorms were particularly prized and often handed down through families. Beginning in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, craftsmen of Scottish weapons began to incorporate *cairn* stones into shoulder brooches, kilt pins and dirk pommels, a trend whose popularity continued to grow with the relative wealth of the population.

Queen Victoria loved gemstones and was particularly fond of cairngorms because it was a local stone mined near Balmoral Castle. As a result of her influence, the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century saw the growth of a cottage industry in Deeside creating jewelry using the local gem which has become so synonymous with Scotland and Scottish jewelry.

"Diggers" worked the mountain granite to quarry the quartz which was then sent to the local lapidaries in Edinburgh for cutting and faceting. The faceted gems were then sent on to silversmiths in Inverness, Aberdeen, Perth, Edinburgh and Glasgow where they were set into beautiful and desirable designs with chased (engraved) metal mountings jewelry. They were often mixed with other native stones like Scottish agates and jaspers.



The colors of the quartz range from clear (crystal) through yellow (citrine), and brown from light to dark brown, but the highest esteem and most desire was for stones of a rich, brilliant orange color. One of the best, and most



unique, things about Scottish cairngorm is that they are all completely natural. Unfortunately, the popularity of Scottish cairngorms led to the local source becoming overworked and the Cairngorm area has been mined-out for over 100 years. Today, the gems you will encounter most often in Scottish jewelry are not the natural Scottish gem but heat-treated Brazilian amethysts or glass used as imitations of the Cairngorm. If you are looking for a natural Scottish cairngorm look for antique Scottish pieces that are at least 100 years old.

With many thanks to the St. Andrew Society of Tallahassee, Florida.

Contact them at: <[www.saintandrewtallahassee.org](http://www.saintandrewtallahassee.org)>

*Beth's Newfangled Family Tree* Section B February 2022 Page 27



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# GILNOCKIE TOWER



Gilnockie Tower is closed at the moment and will re-open on the 1st March 2022. However, if you find yourself in the area and the tower is on your wish list, please phone us to book a date and time on any of the numbers listed below, and we will open up for you.

During 2019 we started preparing for two rather large events that were to take place during the third quarter of that year, the 500<sup>th</sup> birthday of Gilnockie Tower and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Neil Armstrong's Moon Landing.

Ach, we ken, that's auld hat now, so what's next you may ask? Well on the 11<sup>th</sup> March 1972, Neil and his wife Janet paid Gilnockie Tower a visit and, from my foggy auld memory, what a celebration day that was. The area had a cracking day, with people from all over the world in attendance.

Yes, you have it, we are now turning our interest to the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022 to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the moon man's visit.

We will have celebrations starting on the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022 with Reiver re-enactors from the Scottish Borderland giving

us a glimpse into what the 16<sup>th</sup> century was like all those years ago.

A Medieval fayre and lang syne market, with artisans creating their crafts, at the same time bartering their wares to all and sundry. We look forward to meeting you at this truly historical event, if you are in the area, please let us know at <gt@gilnockietower.co.uk>.

**Phone: 013873 71373**

**Mobile: 07733 065587**



**I changed my iPod's name to *Titanic*. It's syncing now.**

Thanks to my friend, Martha Brown.

# *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!



# Ian & Mac Stories - *That's What Friends Are For*

*For the little ones and  
the young at heart*

**Margo Fallis**

and thank you to  
[electricScotland.com](http://electricScotland.com)



"Ian, hold this fish," Mac said, handing Ian one of the trout that he'd just caught. "Hold this one too." Soon Ian's arms were full of wriggling, slimy fish. "

One more," Mac said, flopping another on top of the pile.

"Mac, I can't see a thing. You've got me carrying so many fish. Please, don't catch anymore. You've got enough now to last us all night," Ian pleaded.

Mac stuck his paw into the water. "Just one more, Ian, and then I'll stop. I'm feeling a wee bit hungry tonight." He grabbed the fish from the stream and added it to the pile. The fish wiggled about, arching itself, and stuck its tail in Ian's mouth.

"Mac, I can't hold all these fish. They're too wiggly," Ian shouted. Just then all the fish started jumping about and Ian couldn't hold them. He fought to keep them in his arms and fell backward. "YIKES!" he shouted.

The fish went flying into the air. Some of them landed back in the stream and others in the mud. Ian landed right on his back, twisting his leg. "OUCH!"

Mac stood watching, angry that Ian had dropped the fish. "Ian! You've lost our supper. Why didn't you hold them tighter?"

"I hurt my leg, Mac. Ouch. It hurts. I can't move it," Ian cried, rubbing it carefully.

Mac bent down to have a look. "Och, it does look swollen," he sighed, feeling bad for shouting at Ian. "Here, lean on me and I'll help you get up."

"What about the fish?" Ian whined.

"We'll just have to do with berries and nuts for supper again tonight," Mac pouted. "Come on, get up and we'll go back to the tree." Ian struggled to stand

and leaned  
a g a i n s t  
Mac all the  
way back to  
the woods.

" I  
can't climb

the tree," Ian said, looking up at its height.

"We'll have to stay on the ground for a few days then until you're better. Now, you lie down and I'll prop your foot up," Mac said, pulling a pile of dried grass over. "Does that feel better?" he asked, setting Ian's swollen leg down on it.

"Yes, Mac, that's much better. What about supper?" Ian asked.

Mac took a deep breath. "I'll go and fetch us some nuts and berries. They're not as delicious as fish but will have to do. You just close your eyes and rest and I'll be back in a while." Mac ran into the woods to search for food.

Ian lay quietly, looking around.

He'd never had to stay on the ground before. "I hope there aren't any bears or wolves in this part of the woods," he shivered, feeling a bit frightened.

Mac came back a while later. "Here you go, Ian. I've got some nice, juicy raspberries for you, a few blackberries, and some hazelnuts. Eat up and then you can rest again." Mac let Ian eat first, until he was full and then finished the rest off. "It will be dark soon. Why don't you try to get to sleep?"

That night Ian tossed and turned. He cried out several times when he accidentally bumped his foot

*Continued on page 33*

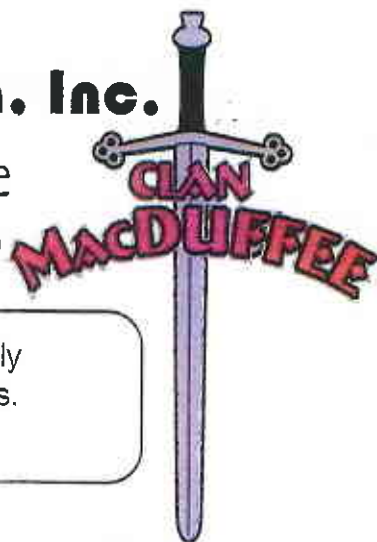


# MacDuffee Clan Society of America, Inc.

of Clan Macfie

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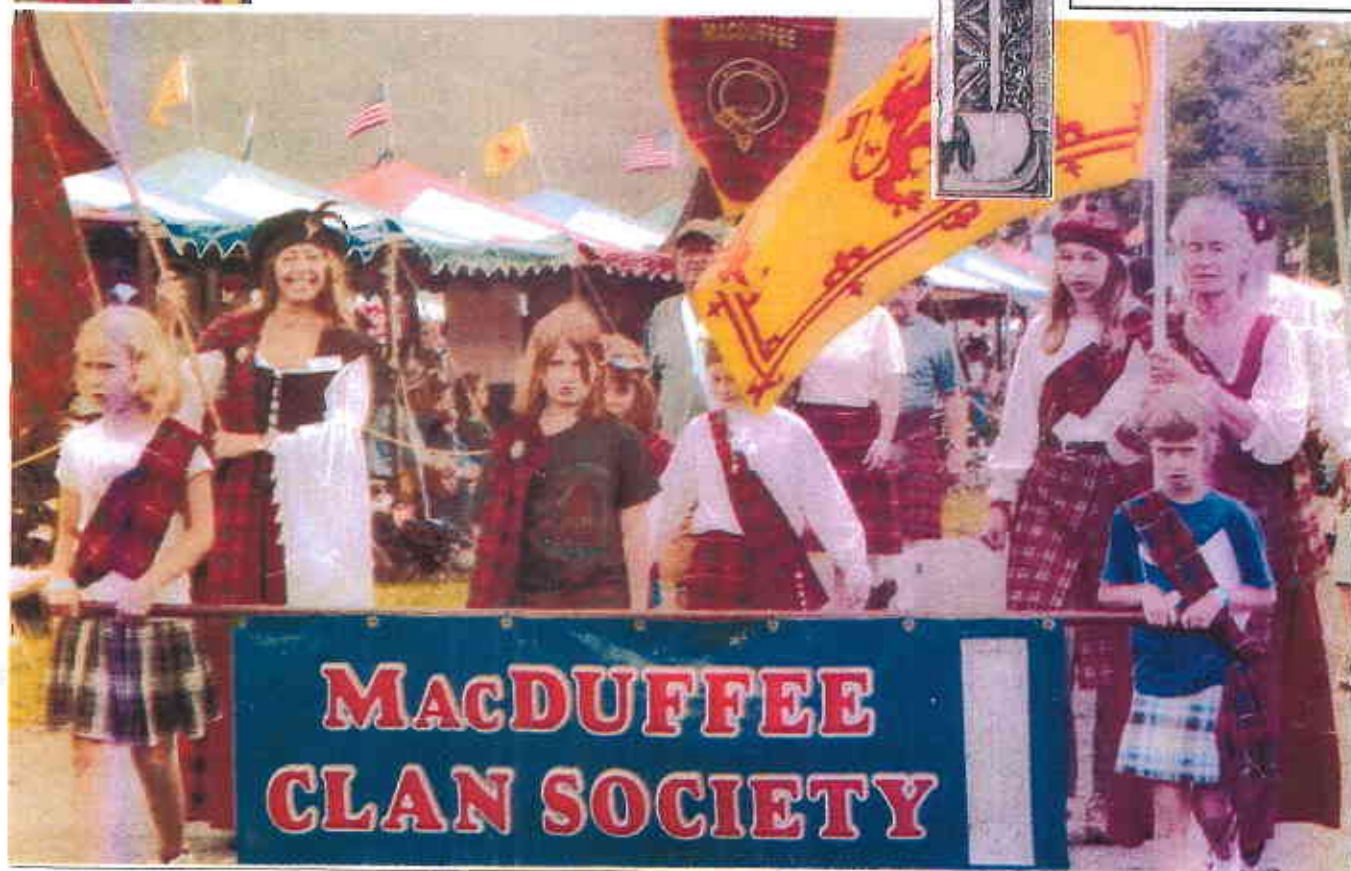
**Genealogist: Richard Ledyard**

865-671-2555

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



MacDuffee  
Clan Society  
of America





on the ground. Mac lay awake most of the night, worried about his friend. The next morning he got up bright and early and ran down to the stream. He brought back two fish. "Here you go," he said to Ian, handing him one. "I caught these this morning. Eat up."

Ian gobbled down the fish. Just when Mac was about to eat his, Ian said, "I'm still hungry, Mac. I wish you'd brought me back two fish. If only I'd not slipped, then I could have helped you catch more." He let out a loud sigh.

Mac, feeling guilty, gave Ian his fish, which he devoured without a second thought. "Are you feeling better now?" Mac asked.

"Much. I'll take a wee nap now if you don't mind," Ian smiled and dozed off. So it went all day long. Ian asked for berries, nuts, acorns, and even had Mac lift stones to find bugs to eat. Mac ran around all day catering to Ian. That night Ian tossed and turned again. By the next morning, Mac was exhausted, but still, Ian was full of demands. While Mac was off at the stream catching some more fish, Ian tried to stand up. "Well, well, well, my leg is much better," he said, putting his weight on his foot. "I can walk." He was about to take a few steps when he heard Mac coming back. Quickly he lay back down and propped his foot up. He even moaned a few times for effect.

"Your foot still bothering you?" Mac asked, handing Ian two plump fish. "These will make you feel better. Say, Ian, I'm sorry that I piled all those fish on you the other day. It was my fault that you fell. Next time we'll both carry them. Now, just lie back and take it easy. I'm going to try to take a wee nap now if you're all set."

Ian gobbled the fish down and spit out the bones. "Go ahead, Mac. I'll just lie here and enjoy listening to the bird's chirp."

Mac shut his eyes and fell asleep. Ian waited a while until Mac was sound asleep and then tried to

stand up. "I think I'll not tell Mac that I can walk. It's kind of nice having someone fetch me fish and berries and nuts." Ian took a few steps and realized his foot felt nearly perfect once again.

He was walking about when Mac opened one of his eyes and saw Ian walking about, smiling. He tried very hard not to growl. "I'll let him think I am still asleep," he whispered to himself, though he was seething with anger. A while later he pretended to wake up. Ian had sat back down by then. "That was a nice nap. Did you manage to get a wee rest?" he asked Ian.

"Och, aye, Mac. I listened to the birds sing and watched a few butterflies fluttering past. I wish my leg didn't hurt and that I could walk so I could go and get another fish. I'm feeling very pucky right now."

Mac burned with anger inside but didn't let Ian know. He put a smile on his face and said, "Poor Ian. Your leg is so sore and you're in so much pain. You just lie there and rest and I'll go down to the stream and catch you some more fish. Poor Ian."

Mac jumped up and ran off. Ian started to giggle. He thought it was pretty funny that he'd tricked Mac, though a wave of guilt ran through him for taking advantage. When he was sure Mac was out of the way, he stood up. His leg was normal once again. He climbed up the tree and came back down, running around, jumping over logs and bushes. Mac came back and hid, watching his friend. "Well, let's see what I can do about this," he whispered to himself. He broke a few twigs to alert Ian that he was coming back. "Ian! Ian! Just lie still. I've got an armful of fish for you."

Ian ran over to the bottom of the tree and propped his leg up. "Ouch. Ouch. Ouch. My poor leg," he moaned.

Mac came back carrying the fish. He walked up to Ian and stood in front of him. "Here's your fish," he said and started hitting Ian with them. "You've been

*Continued on page 35*



# IMPORTANT

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



**Please alert your children  
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Please alert everyone.**

Visit this YouTube video at:

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

*With many thanks to Steve Kelley.*



taking advantage of me, Ian." He hit him with another fish. "You let me wait on you and fuss over you and your leg feels better again. Do you know how cold the water is? I've been standing in it for hours catching fish for you and you have been able to walk and run! I never want to speak to you again!" Mac shouted. He threw all the fish at Ian and walked off into the woods.

Ian sat on the grass. A fish was on his head. Another fish was sticking out of his ear. One was on his tummy and five of them were on his legs, wriggling about. Now he'd done it! Suddenly he felt very bad. He had taken advantage of his friend. It hadn't even been Mac's fault that he'd fallen. It had just been an accident and he'd let him think it was his fault. Ian felt very sad. He started to cry. He sat near the bottom of the tree all day long sobbing. When the sun began to set, he stood up. "I'd better go and find Mac," he pouted. With head hanging low, he walked into the woods. "Mac! Mac!" he shouted. There was no answer.

He walked for hours. The moon came up and was high in the sky. Stars twinkled above him and owls hooted all around. "Mac! Mac!"

Mac heard Ian calling him but was still feel-

ing rather annoyed, so he didn't answer. A few minutes later he heard some twigs snap behind him. He turned to look. "Oh, it's you. What do you want? I'm not going to get you any more fish," he said to Ian.

Ian came and sat next to him. "I'm sorry, Mac. I did hurt my leg, but I got so used to you doing things for me and I enjoyed it. I liked not having to hunt for my own berries and nuts and fish. I'm sorry, though. Will you forgive me?"

Mac didn't answer for a while. He stared at the stars.

"Mac, I'm sorry," Ian said again.

This time Mac answered. "It's all right, Ian. I forgive you."

"Thank you, Mac," Ian laughed. "What can I do to make it up to you?"

"Nothing, Ian; nothing at all. Don't worry about it. That's what friends are for. We forgive. Now, let's just go home," Mac sighed.

Mac fell asleep quickly. When he woke up, much to his surprise, Ian was sitting on the branch holding four fish. "Here you go, my friend. These are for you," Ian said, hand-

ing Mac two of the fish. "I got up early and caught them. You're right, the water is cold."

Mac started to laugh. Ian started to laugh. Together, once again friends, they gobbled down their fish.



# *Glencoe School of Scottish Highland Dance*

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*Mary Wilson Recknagel*

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



# *Sinclair Flowers of the Forest*

**Major Jeffrey Bruce Sinclair**

**Sharon Blount Clarke**

**Brenton David Skarðaborg (Scharbor)**

**Jeffrey Bruce Sinclair**, June 2, 1944 - August 25, 2021, 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 Clan Sinclair (USA), the American Friends of Lafayette, and the Commemo-

rative 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**, December 4, 1947 - September 13, 2021 She was born on 4 December 1947 in Savannah, Georgia to Frances Ann Sessions and Judson Burl Blount.

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.

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 Troop 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. She was a long time member of the Clan Sinclair (USA).

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

*Continued on page 38*

## **Sinclair Flowers of the Forest**, *continued from page 37*

with another grandson, Braeden Cuyler Hardy, and our only Granddaughter Alaina Sinclair Hardy.

In retirement, Sharon enjoyed her RV, chasing the grandchildren from South Georgia to North Georgia, as their parents accepted jobs in Waycross, Georgia, 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.

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**Brenton David Scharbor**, FSA Scot, died on September 24, 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 went on to graduate as Class Captain from Sushi Chef Institute in Los Angeles under the tutelage of Chef Andy Matsuda.

Brent worked as a chef in Phoenix, Houston, and Japan, also giving 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, TX 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 a mead-making online workshop for the Icelandic Society.

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

Brent has 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.