



Volume III Issue No. 8 *Beth's Newfangled Family Tree* Section A

Clan Davidson Society USA announces their Hall of Fame

Our Clan Davidson Society USA is, as most know, a true all-volunteer organization. It has survived, indeed thrived, over the years due to the efforts of some very special people. Some of these folks have been recognized over the years, but many, most actually, have not. I feel we, as the current leaders of this group, have been remiss in recognizing these special and hard working people, and now's the time to rectify this shortcoming.

It is with a sense of deep appreciation that I announce the establishment of the CDS-USA **Hall of Fame**. Membership in the **Hall of Fame** comes through several vehicles: 1) from the honorees as listed on the Society's Memorial Quaiche and those who may be in a retired status who will most likely be listed on the Memorial Quaiche (a long time from now!); 2) those who have been awarded a Clan Chief's Award; and, 3) those Members who have been awarded the Society's Award of Merit. What's the Award of Merit, you ask? Ah, I forgot to mention this, didn't I?

To be eligible for nomination for receipt of an Award of Merit, the nominee must meet the requirements of a fairly stringent set of criteria (a copy of which will be provided upon request) and be approved by the Society's Board of Directors. Each Award winner will receive a handsome and colorful framed certificate.

I am absolutely delighted to announce the list of initial recipients of this special recognition. They are,



in alphabetical order: **Jennifer Bozeman** – Reg. 16 Co-Director (Active) for many years; **Willie and Frances Brown** – Various Society Offices (Ret.) for many years; **Bob & Jan Davidson** – Reg. 18 Directors (Active) for many years; **Darwin & Jackie Davidson** – Reg. 6 Directors (Ret.) for many years;

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Happy New Year! Sending wishes for a healthy, prosperous & joyous year!



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Happy New Year

from

**Tom & Beth, Alastair
and Narra The Wonder Cat!**

**Can you find Narra The Wonder Cat?
She's hiding amongst her friends below?**



A letter from your editor...

Resolutions from 1850 - still in effect now in 2K10!

If you work with genealogy, it doesn't take long for you to realize that your ancestors were just like us. They weren't perfect. They were human beings mostly doing the best they could.

In my own papers, my 3-great grandfather Cone wrote to one of his cousins, "Why in the world won't you take time to take pen in hand and write to me about your family?" He grumpily writes for several paragraphs about how his Cone relations just won't help him with the genealogy he is trying to create.

I howled with laughter when I first received my copy of his letter. I had - not 30 minutes before - written a letter pretty much like the one that was written so long ago. My letter was grumpy too.

So, in addition to my own Resolutions to "get skinny," "run everyday" and "be more mindful of keeping good records," will be (tongue in cheek) the same ones that a fella called Henry Hydenwel wrote back on New Year's Eve of 1852. With thanks to the nice folks in Prattville, Alabama and their Autauga Genealogical Society for Mr. Hydenwel's resolutions.

As I read Mr. Hydenwel's resolutions, I realized that many of my own ancestors must have made the same promises to themselves.

So, picture Henry Hydenwel in 1852, writing by candlelight. He dips his quill pen in ink and begins to write his own New Year's Resolutions:

1. No man is truly well-educated unless he learns to spell his name in at least three different ways within the same document. I resolve to give the appearance of being extremely well-educated in the coming year...writing my own name in as many ways as I can think of.

2. I resolve to see to it that all of my children will be named the same names that my ancestors have used for more than six generations in a row.

3. My age is nobody's business but my own. I hereby resolve to never list the same age or

birth year twice on any document. I resolve to get younger as time passes.

4. I resolve to have each of my children baptized in a different church - either in a different faith or in a different parish. Every third child will not be baptized at all or be baptized by an itinerant minister who keeps no records.

5. I resolve to move to a new town, new county, or new state at least once in every ten years - just before those pesky enumerators from the Census come around asking silly questions.

6. I will make every attempt to reside in counties and towns where no vital records are maintained or where the courthouse burns down every few years.

7. I resolve to join an obscure religious cult that does not believe in record keeping or in participating in military service.

8. When the tax collector comes to my door, I'll loan him my pen, which has been dipped in ink that fades away in a few weeks.

9. I resolve that if my beloved wife, Mary, should die, I will marry another lady called "Mary."

10. I resolve not to make a will. Who needs to spend money on a lawyer?

When you read this, ask yourself if your own ancestors did the same as Mr. Hydenwel. Bet some of them did!

Happy New Year! Love, beth



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The IGI *by Jeannette Holland Austin*

The International Genealogical Index is a transcription of parish registers by members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

The registers were translated and are available online. LDS.org

This work is accurate and something that the genealogist can rely on. Christening dates, however, do not reflect the actual date of birth. People had their children baptised sometimes as away from the birth date as one or two years.

You may ask why all of the parish registers in the world are not transcribed. This is because of socialism, fascism, communism and religious persecution. Some of you may wonder why we need to be creating a democracy in Iraq. The reason is that the US religious community is not welcome in countries who do not embrace freedom and are frequently kidnapped and killed while visiting overseas.

Thanks to Ronald Reagan in tearing down the Berlin wall, the church was able to film some German

records. However, this is incomplete because the Russians are still in possession of many German and Polish records. So, what is available to researchers is the records from the Free World.

Another resource of the church is the Ancestral File. Please, please use this as a guideline. Both members and non-members submit their gedcom files so that they may be computerized and indexed by volunteers. Then, the computer merges the data (everything being equal). This is why you may see children with the same given name listed

several times, but maybe a year or so apart. Assume that there is only one Mary (for example) and go from there in trying to establish a more accurate timeline.

I use the ancestral file as worksheets. For one thing, they frequently list a place of origin or birth. This helps me to know where to look next.

No genealogy is accurate without a complete documentation, so we must really dig through existing records. It is through the hard, hard work of genealogists that we have gathered, indexed and published as many records as we have. Thanks, guys!



**Contact Jeannette Holland Austin
at <jeannette@georgiapioneers.com>**

Did you know that **Bill Cosby** was good enough at football to be offered a trial with the Green Bay Packers? It's true.

Tom Cruise was an all-around sports star at school, but it was his wrestling that led to his acting career: he was on the school wrestling team and injured his knee - and turned to acting instead! That's true too.

Billy Crystal attended college on a full baseball scholarship but decided not to pursue a career in the sport. That's true as well.



The Whisky Column

Ray Pearson, Glenfiddich Ambassador
ray.pearson@wgrantusa.com

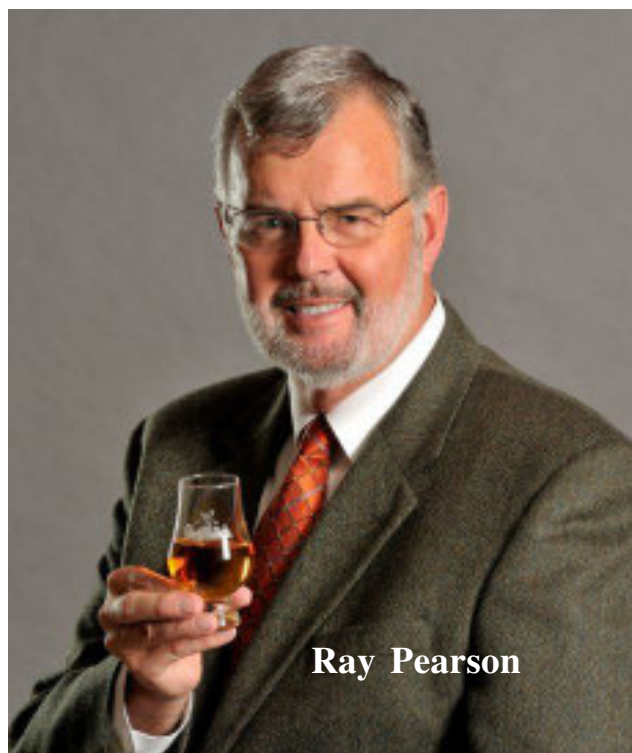
A Tour Around Scotland Through Her Distilleries

Let's start the New Year by traveling around Scotland, visiting some of the key distilleries in each of the various whisky regions of the country. Regional variations have always been a basic way of describing the primary aroma and flavor attributes of specific whiskies. For instance, a novice to the enjoyment of single malt whiskies might wish to explore the lighter, more fragrant and floral whiskies distilled in The Lowlands or Speyside, rather than begin with the powerful, peaty and smoky whiskies of Islay.

As with any tour, a map is a good place to start. Over the years, I have seen as many as eight or nine whisky distilling regions identified, but for this trip, we're going to visit four: The Lowlands, The Highlands, Speyside, and Islay (pronounced "eye – luh").

Our tour begins in Edinburgh, which is located in The Lowlands whisky region. A quick drive to the village of Pencaitland brings us to the Glenkinchie Distillery. Lowland whiskies – there are only about three currently active distilleries here – are sweet, delicate, floral and herbal in aroma and flavor – very similar to the landscape with its farms and gentle terrain. A broad swing to the southwest brings us to Bladnoch Distillery in Wigtown. Bladnoch has recently come back on line once again producing spirits after several years of dormancy. The Lowlands part of our tour ends just outside Glasgow at Dalmuir, where the Auchentoshan distillery can be seen from the busy A-9 highway.

The next leg of our tour takes us past Loch Lomond to the coast where we catch the "CalMac" (Caledonian MacBrayne) Ferry to Islay. This island is home to seven active distilleries, most known for their bold, briny, peaty, smoky aromas and flavors. Some people even detect medicinal tones to the aroma. Water sources for most of the distilleries on the island flow



Ray Pearson

through peaty aquifers, providing additional peat influences to the whisky, in addition to that which has been burned in the drying process of the barley. Islay single malts include Laphroaig, Lagavulin, Ardbeg, Bowmore, Bruichladdich ("brook loddie"), Bunnahabhain ("bun a hav inn"), and Caol Isla ("kull eela").

Back on the mainland, we are in the largest of Scotland's whisky distilling regions: The Highlands. So vast and diverse (for whisky making) is the region that it is generally broken down into sub-regions such as West Highlands, Central Highlands, etc. While on the west coast, we visit Oban Distillery, one of the very few distilleries to be located in an urban setting, right in downtown Oban! A short drive north to Fort William brings us to the Ben Nevis Distillery, located on

Continued on page 7

The Whisky Column, continued from page 6



the outskirts of the city, at the base of Scotland's tallest mountain. Driving northeast through the Scottish Highlands, we come to Dalwhinnie. At just over 1000 feet in elevation, Dalwhinnie is Scotland's highest distillery above sea level and lies in a vast valley surrounded by rugged mountains.

A short drive east from Dalwhinnie brings us to

the fabled Speyside area of The Highlands. About 80% of the world's best known and best selling single malts are from this area. Speyside is to Scotland what the Napa and Sonoma regions are to California's wine industry – a concentration of producers in a relatively small area. Driving through Speyside is driving through

Continued on page 8



a Scottish geography lesson: it seems like each river has a distillery named after it! We pass distilleries sharing their names with the rivers Devron, Dullan, Fiddich, Livet, and, of course, the Spey itself. Although vast in area, The Highlands and Speyside whiskies generally exhibit profiles of spiciness, honey, fruitiness with complexities of both aromas and flavors.

We end our tour of Scotland's distilling regions at The Glenfiddich distillery in Dufftown. One of the few distilleries to still offer a free dram at the end of a distillery tour, Glenfiddich was the first distillery to open its doors to the public – forty years ago. Here, the World's Most Awarded Single Malt Whisky is made in time honored, traditional methods. As we leave the distillery in a moderate downpour, our tour guide leaves us with a hearty "Och ... a fine day for whisky making"!!

Map taken from "The Whisky Trails", by Gordon Brown. © 1993 by Multimedia Books, Ltd.

Dick Cardell to speak at JGS January meeting

The Jacksonville Genealogical Society will hold their monthly meeting at the Webb-Wesconnett Branch Library, 6887 103rd Street, on January 23, 2010, at 1:30.

Please note this is a date change from our normal meeting time.

Our speaker will Mr. Dick Cardell, the society's historian and parliamentarian. His topic will be his latest genealogical trip to Europe. Mr. Cardell has always given our members and guests an informative and fun program.

Please plan to attend. For additional information, please contact, Jim Laird, (904) 264-0743.

Does anyone have unwanted copies of the old *Family Tree* or *BSBL* publication?

I did not end up with any copies of *The Family Tree* that I produced from 1990 until 2005. I did not end up with any copies of Clan Donald's publication, *By Sea By Land*, that I produced for almost ten years.

If anyone has any unwanted copies of either of these, I surely would appreciate it if they would mail them to me. I'll be happy to reimburse the postage.

Thanks thanks. Just mail to Beth Gay-Freeman, 102 Lakeside Drive, Walhalla, SC 29691.

Joe Dabney to speak at the Scottish Heritage Society of Southeast Georgia

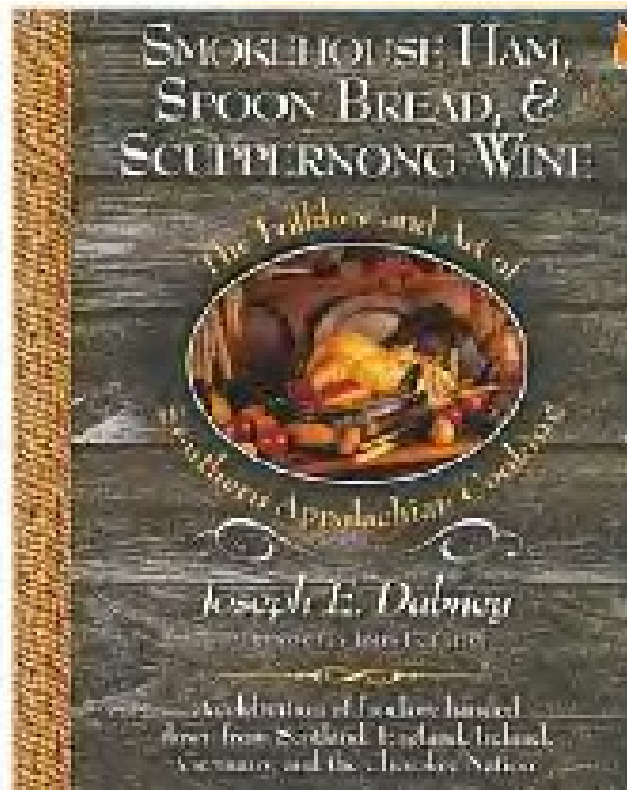
The Scottish Heritage of Southeast Georgia invites you to the Eighth Annual Robert Burns Supper to be held on Saturday, January 23, 2010 at the Trinity Episcopal Church in Statesboro, Georgia. Name tags and social half hour at 6:00 PM with the Ceremonies & Supper at 6:30 PM.

The speaker for the 2010 Burns Supper, Joseph E. (Joe) Dabney, writes and speaks about Southerners who descended from the Scots and Scots-Irish. He has received national attention for his books, *Mountain Spirits*, *More Mountain Spirits*, *HERK* and *Smokehouse Ham, Spoon Bread & Scuppernong Wine*.

Smokehouse won the prestigious James Beard Foundation's top book prize in 1999, "Cookbook of the Year," considered the "Oscar" of food world literature, and was a selection of the Book of the Month Club's Good Cooks Division.

Beard Awards Chairman Nach Waxman called it, "The best of the best, a book that makes an important, lasting contribution to food literature and culture" by Cumberland House, now an imprint of Sourcebooks, Inc. Dabney recently completed another "cultural cookbook" — *The Food, Folklore & Art of Lowcountry Cooking* — to be published by Sourcebooks in May, 2010.

TIME Magazine described Dabney's first book, *Mountain Spirits* (Scribner), as "a splendid and sometimes hilarious history" of the Southern Appalachian moonshine culture. He appeared on the *NBC Today Show*, being interviewed by Gene Shalit, and was elected a "Knight of Mark Twain" by the *Mark Twain Journal*. On the basis of his folklore books, he was awarded the 2005 Jack Daniel's Lifetime Achieve-



ment Award by the Southern Foodways Alliance at the University of Mississippi in Oxford.

After Pat Conroy, the novelist, read Joe Dabney's latest book, *Smokehouse Ham, Spoon Bread and Scuppernong Wine*, he wrote these words: "It makes my mouth water for Southern food and my heart hunger for Southern stories. Not since the *FOXFIRE* series has something from the Appalachian experience thrilled me so."

Tickets for this evening are only \$20 each (\$40 couple). The meal will be catered by RJ's Restaurant of Statesboro. Pre-registration is required. For tickets to the dinner and membership information, contact Beverly Presley, Treasurer at 912-681-3049. You may, if you wish, also email <beverlypresley@mac.com>



The editor of the Clan Blair Society Newsletter - *Blair Bruidhinn*, - Allen Rountree, is shown here wearing his dad's WWII Army uniform, while attending a Veteran's Day celebration recently honoring the "Greatest Generation."

Mr. Rountree displayed the family 1941 Chevrolet that his dad drove to his defense-job, at the Kaiser Shipyards near San Francisco, as a pipe fitter on ships going to the war in the Pacific.

When Mr. Rountree was born in 1944, his Dad was on leave from the Army and brought Allen and his mother home from the hospital in "The Chevy." The engine is all original and the paint and upholstery is fully restored including 1941 license plates and a "B" ration sticker.

Allen Rountree may be contacted at <alpha-7@att.net>, or 408.247.6544.

SAMS info if you'd like to join!

The Scottish-American Military Society (SAMS) was founded and chartered in North Carolina, April 12, 1981, as a nonprofit organization with the following purpose: To preserve and promote Scottish and American Armed forces customs, traditions and heritage, by:

- * Providing a forum for the exchange of military history and genealogical information
- * Conducting public education programs
- * Presenting military student honor awards
- * Supporting Scottish activities at Highland Games
- * Making contributions to qualified scholarship funds or institutions
- * Making appropriate charitable contributions
- * Providing a fraternal atmosphere for members

Membership is open to honorably discharged veterans, or active duty or reserve military persons



who have served with any branch of the US Armed Forces and are of Scottish ancestry. There are two posts in Georgia. Post 13 serves the Atlanta area and Post 7 serves the Savannah area. More information is available at www.s-a-m-s.org or from Chuck Rogers, National Quartermaster, (912) 369-2309 or email: c r m f r o g e r s @ c l d s . n e t.

I am following a lead of an ancestor named **ISAAC BROWN** (b. 1806 Scotland) in the United States. A family story on a website in USA is that **ISAAC BROWN** was once a “**MacDIERNIE**” of the Campbell’s of Breadalbane Clan from Scotland. He changed his name after “running away” from his work (time frame unknown). It is said he arrived in America in 1820.

In looking through the site, I can not find any match to **MacDIERNIE**. Are you familiar with that name or was it a spelling of another name? Is it possible that the spelling is incorrect or lost in translation? The closest I noticed was **MacDERMID** or **MacDIARMID**. Maybe when the story was told they guessed at the spelling? I have nothing to go on. Sorry!

Any help would be most appreciated. I look forward to hearing from you.

Lanzi Reel, 803 Trumpington Ct., Las Vegas, NV 89178 USA.

Email - lanzisunshine@hotmail.com



COLORING BOOK OF CELTIC WEE FOLK

Legends and folklore of all Celtic regions include stories about "Wee Folk". They are referred to by many names including Guaxa, El Trasgu, Banshees, Korrigans, Knockers, Meigas, Leprechauns, Merrow, Brownies, Kelpies, Selkies, Elves, Fairies, Goblins, Nymphs, Pixies, Sprites, and many other regional names.

Some illustrations are based on those found in *Faeries*, by Brian Froud and Alan Lee, © 1978 Rufus Publications, Inc. Others have been created especially for NACHS by Flagstaff artist Jack Dauben.

Presented by the Northern Arizona Celtic Heritage Society, PO Box 187, Flagstaff, AZ 86002

Please visit us at: www.nachs.info

Permission is hereby given to use the enclosed material in any educational way you feel appropriate. We ask that you acknowledge The Northern Arizona Celtic Heritage Society.

Our Kids Coloring Book with thanks to Barb Ripple and Jude MacKenzie and the Northern Arizona Celtic Heritage Society.

International Gathering of Clan Davidson set for June 2011 in KC, MO

Clan Davidson International Gathering includes plans to host an **International Gathering of Clan Davidson** for the 2nd weekend in June, 2011. Here's a New Release I sent out to the CDS-USA Regional Directors and our sister Davidson organizations around the world:

The Clan Davidson Society, USA, Inc. will be sponsoring an International Gathering of Clan Davidson on the 2nd weekend of June (June 10, 11 & 12), 2011. The event will be held in conjunction with the Kansas City Scottish Highland Games [<http://www.kcscottishgames.org/>].

The event will be held on the banks of the Missouri River at the E.H. Young Riverfront Park in the picturesque and historic village of Riverside, Missouri

[<http://www.kcscottishgames.org/>]

Riverside is a suburb of Kansas City and is located just 12 miles

south of the Kansas City International Airport. In addition to the KCSHG competitions and pageantry throughout the weekend, CDS-USA will be holding an informal "meet and greet" cocktail party on Friday evening, a formal dinner on Saturday evening and an informal "Auld Lang Syne" farewell gathering on Sunday evening.

This article concludes on page 14



The Glenrothes celebrates Malt Master John Ramsay with legacy bottle

John Ramsay has been with The Glenrothes since 1991, and if you've bought a bottle of the single malt Speyside whiskey since 1994, you'll find his name on it.

The Malt Master retired this summer, and to celebrate his tenure The Glenrothes has produced a limited edition bottle not only bearing his name, but also his blending genius.

With thanks to *Ramsay Report*, the newsletter of Clan Ramsay Association of North America. Contact Clan Ramsay by contacting their Clan Convener, Dr. Carl Bailey at d-bailey@charter.net



The story of the 100 year old kilt

Jock Scott, in Clan Davidson's *Sporran*!

My great grandmother Blanche (Caldwell) Davidson was quite a seamstress. Her ancestry was very Scottish - she was descended from the Caldwell's of Dunloe, N. Ireland. They removed to Worcester County Massachusetts in 1717.

There was in the family an older kilt from Scotland which came down through the Lennoxs of Sorn, Ayrshire [Note - about 30 miles due south of City Centre, Glasgow. *Sennachie*] and had been in the family for a long time. John's mother was Mary Lennox, the tartan was of the Stewarts and it was very colorful. My great grandfather wore this kilt previous to 1907 to all the games - but they were damaged by moths after 1905 and my great grandmother went to the famous Boston Store in Providence, RI and ordered new Davidson tartan material from Scotland. The Boston Store's motto was "if it could be found we will get it".

1907 was a big year in Rhode Island especially for emigrants as there was to be a parade in the city called "Old Home Week". The new

Clan Davidson, continued from page 13

Located in the central heartland of the US, the Kansas City area is rich in the history of the earliest days of exploration of the North American Continent in which many native Scots played a major role. There are many attractions in the Kansas City area which can be explored at <http://www.hellokansascity.com/Attractions.cfm> and numerous other similar web sites.

This will be just the second Clan Davidson International Gathering held outside of Scotland and the first in North America in recognition of the fact that the modern Clan Davidson is truly a Global Entity.

Information concerning accommodations and other details will be forthcoming in future updates.

Davidson kilt was sewn in readiness for the parade which was also connected to the Providence Caledonian Highland Games at Rocky Point grounds on the shore. At the time the Davidson Tartan was ordered, my great grandfather also ordered a silver claymore and targe from Glasgow. Thus properly accoutered, he led the parade for the Scots and subsequently won the best dressed highlander award at the games.

He received a large silver loving cup which I have in my possession. I also have his medals which he won in 1901, 1903 and 1905. He was, until his death in 1945, a member of the Providence Caledonian Society. Membership was for Scots only born in the old country - not till much later were sons allowed to join.

My grandmother, Helen, took the ancient Lennox kilt [*Stewart Tartan*] which was ruined and sewed it into a braided rug [ca 1940] which I also own and cherish. John Davidson's father was a member of the Fitchburg Caledonian

Society [*Scotland*] where he was bard.

My uncle, Robert, has the claymore sword which I surely wish was mine, alas.

Although not really part of the story regarding the kilt, my great grandfather died in 1945 - his wife Blanche lived until 1977 aged 99 years. What was left of their household goods remained with a spinster aunt for over 25 years. When that house was broken up my grandmother Helen (with a fury) looked for all the things they thought might be left. The house was torn from top to bottom for the kilt and it was not to be found. Boxes and trunks and bags were brought to my grandmother's house. It was declared that the kilt was not in existence and the one in the rug the only remaining remnant of either of them. I was 18 then and crushed that this kilt was gone; but as fate would have it was found in a garment bag with his jacket neatly folded. Eureka!

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Flowers of the Forest



First President of the Clan Davidson Association (UK), **The Hon. Lord Davidson (Charles Kemp Davidson, FRSE) 1929 – 2009** by Flora Davidson, Kirmuir.

Lord Davidson was the first President of the Clan Davidson Association (UK). Major 'Dave' Davidson, seeking the hereditary chief of the clan, had corresponded with key Davidsons around the world before the Edinburgh meeting was convened in 1991. There our present President was commissioned to ask the leading light of the Law to consider joining the group. Advocate Neil chose a good moment to ask, in a busload of lawyers already well wined and dined at Lord Mackay of Clashfern's celebratory dinner. To his surprise, Kemp jumped at the suggestion.

He was indeed a valuable acquisition. His dry sense of humor steered Dave, our Founder, away from his more impractical schemes – such as 29 Davidsons marching from Badenoch in 1996 to refight the Battle of the North Inch of Perth – into a commemoration more befitting the average age of our members.

Quiet reasonableness was his method but he went straight to the real point at issue. From the first he set an agenda of keeping accurate records, of writing up the minutes immediately and having them checked. In our wilder moments he was the voice of reason.

Kemp Davidson attended Fettes School in Edinburgh, took an MA at Oxford and an LL B at Edinburgh and seemed set for a law career. But in 1953 National Service was still in force and he was called up for military service. He served in the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders, in British Guiana and Berlin.

Back in civil life, Kemp was called to the Bar. His rise through his profession was swift: junior counsel to the Ministry of Works and Inland Revenue, which valued his outstanding clarity and conciseness in presenting cases; Queen's Counsel; Procurator to the General assembly of the Church of Scotland; Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Advocates, then Dean; Senator of the College of Justice; Chairman of the Scottish Law Commission. He had also the coveted distinction of being a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

His study of history stood him in good stead for finding legal precedents, as in the important Spey canoe case. [*Note: The valley of the Spey River is long believed to be the ancestral seat of the Clan Davidson from the 13th C. Sennachie*].

The owner of estates adjoining the Spey prohibited canoeing on the river. Kemp proved that the river had been a public thoroughfare since 1782, when great log rafts navigated to the coast. His client had therefore every right to open a sailing school. Kemp's eventual victory in the House of Lords established the public right of access to lakes and rivers that is included in the Land Reform (Scotland) Act of 2003.

He married Mary McTaggart, who gave him a son and two daughters, who in turn have provided grandchildren, the most recent a few days before his death. He was the son and grandson of ministers of the Church of Scotland and an elder of St Andrew's & St George's in Edinburgh. He and Mary have faithfully supported that church over the years. As an elder he offered invaluable legal opinions, while Mary has raised many thousands of pounds for Christian Aid. The Association will remember its founding President with affection and respect.

SCOTTISH HERITAGE

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SCOTS Editor,
Susan Cromarty

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our readers on a voyage of
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to Scotland four times a year
through the pages of SCOTS.
They have discovered the beauty
and history of Scotland and have
come to appreciate and celebrate
their own Scottish heritage.*

*I extend to you a personal
invitation to join us on our next
voyage. I promise you,
you won't be disappointed."*

SCOTTISH HERITAGE

A flag of the Orkney Islands?

Christopher J. Gervais, Executive Director
Scottish Historic & Research Society

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Celebrating our 45th year



A while ago, I became aware of the existence of a flag for the Orkneys. Both Jane, my wife, and I are members of the Clan Gunn, and the Gunns sprang from there. I do not remember where I heard of this flag, possibly in the *NAVA News* or in *The Flag Bulletin*. Anyway, I wrote to the Orkney Tourist Board who put me in touch with a supplier, Orcadian Crafts in Kirkwall. When I received the flag, I wondered about its colors, red and yellow, and queried the owner of the shop. He then sent me a description/discussion of the flag (also called St. Magnus flag)

There is a strong case for the adoption as the island flag for Orkney of a red Scandinavian-style cross on a yellow background, as originally proposed by flag experts Kenneth C. Fearer of St. Andrews University and Alan McCartney, Chairman of the National Flag Trust.

The genesis of the flag was the design put forward by Roy Gronneberet for a Shetland flag, a white Scandinavian-style cross on a blue background. This flag, now in widespread use, unmistakably conveys Shetland's twin heritage of a Norse background and

the fact of belonging to the Scottish realm for over 500 years. The flag designed for Orkney, by taking the colors of the Scottish Royal Standard but translating them into a Scandinavian format, conveys the same symbolism.

It is doubly fortunate that this bold design is not the property of any other territory and that it ties in neatly with other Orkney connections. For a start, the Norwegian coat of Arms (represented in the County and Island Council's Coat of Arms) is also yellow and red. Next, the only flags in the international flag code composed of red and yellow represent letters in the word Orkney (O.R and Y). So, it is not surprising that the Orkney flag design has found favor with a number of Orcadian skippers, who have displayed the flag on their boats. In so doing they were following the example of fisherman in both Shetland and Bornholm, where semi-official recognition of flags followed popular adoption.

Continued on page 18

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A flag of the Orkney Islands?, *con't from page 17*

A further point concerns rival designs of objections to the proposed Orkney flag. (A) The proposal to reverse the colors (yellow cross on red) can be ruled out immediately as this is the flag of Scania (Skanc) in southern Sweden. (B) One or two suggestions have been made to incorporate blue either as background or as fimbriation; i.e., side-lining of the cross. The problem with the former is that it becomes almost indistinguishable from the Icelandic flag and could be confused with the flag of the Aaland Islands. The problem with the latter is that it is heraldically incorrect and, by introducing a third color more complicated and expensive to produce. Moreover it is very similar to a pan-Frisian flag.

In any case the idea that islands have to have blue in their flags to symbolize the sea is a fallacy. Most island flags do not contain blue. (C) It has also been objected that the proposed de-



sign was in use by the Danish-Norwegian union in the fifteenth century. That medieval flag is of course long obsolete and in any case a link with Norway and Denmark is far inappropriate.

SUMMARY: The proposed Orkney flag is unique, impossible to confuse with any other flag and above all, embodies symbolism appropriate for Orkney. Perhaps the flag could be named the St. Magnus Cross.


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Mark your calendars now, so you can celebrate these Scottish days in 2010

Scottish days of celebration and remembrance are scattered throughout the year.

First Footing - This is the act of visiting friends and relatives immediately after New Year's Eve. Traditionally, visitors brought a lump of coal for the fire, oatcakes and a quantity of whisky.

The "first foot" in a house was always preferred to be "tall, dark and handsome."

Cream of the Water is the first water drawn from the well on New Year's morning. (I guess it could also be the first water drawn from your faucet on New Year's morning.)

Handsel Monday is the first Monday of the new year on which "Handsel (Gifts)" were given.

Burns Night is January 25th, the anniversary of the birth of the poet Robert Burns, in 1759, at which many a "Burns Supper" is consumed and the "Immortal Memory", a speech in praise of the Bard will be given.

Candlemas Day is February 2nd, a Scottish "Quarter Day" when rents and other payments fell due.

Whuppy Scoorie is a rambunctious celebration by the young lads of Lanark, on March 1st.

Bannock Day is Shrove Tuesday, the day before Lent begins, prior to Easter.

April Errand is not exactly a celebration, but an errand on which an April Fool is sent on April First.

Preen-tail Day or **Tallie Day** is the day following All Fool's Day when paper tails were attached to the backs of unsuspecting people as a joke.

Glen Saturday is the first or third Saturday in

April when the children of Kilmarnock went to Crawfordland Castle to pick daffodils.

Whitsunday is the seventh Sunday after Easter.


Beltane's Day is a pagan fire

festival associated with May First, another Scottish legal "Quarter Day" when rents and payments fall due.

Glasgow Fair was originally a fair on Glasgow Green, but latterly the last two weeks in July when

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Scotland's Story for Boys and Girls

Alastair McIntyre, of ElectricScotland.com, writes, "I'm doing a new book about *Scotland's Story for Boys and Girls*. Already got in an email from Donna Flood of the Ponca Indian Tribe telling me how much she is enjoying the book and she's in her 80's!"

Click here to access the story. There are 17 chapters already on the [electricscotland.com](http://www.electricscotland.com) site with more to come...

<http://www.electricscotland.com/history/story/>

Chapter II. A Fight with the Romans

WHEN the Scots first came to Albion, they found it already peopled by the Britons, and by another race called the Picts. It is not certain from where these Picts came, but they were a very wild and fierce people. It is supposed that they were called Picts, from the Latin word *pictus*, which means painted, because they painted their bodies instead of wearing clothes.

So there were three races living in Scotland, and these were divided into many tribes who often fought with each other. There were kings of Scots, kings of Picts, and kings of Britons, all ruling in Albion. Sometimes the kings and their peoples all fought against each other; sometimes the Picts and the Scots joined together against the Britons. Those were fierce and wild times, and they were all fierce and wild peoples.

They lived in caves, or in holes dug in the ground and covered over with turf and with branches of trees. They wore few clothes except those made from the skins of animals, although the Scots knew how to weave and make cloth in bright coloured checks and stripes.

A great part of the country was covered with forests. In these forests wild beasts prowled about. Bears, wolves, wild boars, bison, and a kind of tiger, were the fiercest, but there were also several kinds of deer, beavers, and many other animals which are no longer to be found in Scotland.

The people hunted these animals and killed them for food, and also for their skins, of which they made

clothes. In hunting they used bows and arrows. Bows and arrows were used too in war, as well as a long, blunt, heavy spear. And in hunting and fighting the men spent nearly all their time.

Years went on. Many kings, good and bad, lived, and ruled, and died, and at last a great and clever people called the Romans heard of the island of Britain, and came sailing over the sea to conquer it. They landed first in the south of the island and tried to conquer the people there,

and it was not until the year 80 A.D., more than a hundred years after the Romans first came to Britain, that a general called Agricola marched into Scotland against the Caledonians, as the Romans called all the

tribes who lived in the north part of the island.

Agricola took some of his soldiers into Scotland by land. Others sailed there in great galleys, as the Roman ships were called. The Caledonians did not fear the Roman soldiers. They had already fought against them many times, for they had often marched into the south of the island to help the Britons against the Romans. 'They were willing,' says an old writer, 'to help towards the delivery of the land from the bondage of the Romans, whose nestling so near their noses they were loth to see or hear of.'

But if the Caledonians did not fear the soldiers,

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Scotland's History for Boys & Girls, *continued from page 21*

the great galleys of the Romans filled them with awe and dread. Never before had they seen so many nor such great ships. 'The very ocean is given over to our enemies,' they said. 'How shall we save ourselves from these mighty conquerors who thus surround us on every side?'

But although the Caledonians were filled with dread, they fought bravely. As Agricola marched northward by the coast, his galleys followed him on the sea. Sometimes the galleys would come close to the shore, and the sailors would land and join the soldiers in the camp. There they would tell stories to each other of the battles and dangers, of the storms and adventures, through which they had passed, each trying to make the others believe that their adventures had been the most exciting, their dangers the greatest.

The Caledonians fought fiercely, but Agricola's soldiers were far better trained, and gradually he drove the islanders before him into the mountains beyond the rivers Forth and Clyde. There he built a line of forts. He knew that he had neither conquered nor subdued the fierce Caledonians. So he built this line of forts in order to cut them off from the south, and shut them, as it were, into another island.

Having built this line of forts, Agricola marched still farther north. But the Caledonians fought so fiercely that some of the Roman leaders begged Agricola to turn back. Agricola would not go back, but as the winter was near, and the roads were so bad as to be almost impassable, he encamped and waited for the spring before fighting any more.

The Caledonians spent the winter in making preparations for battle. All the various tribes forgot their quarrels and joined together under a leader called Galgacus. Sending their wives and children to a safe place, the men, young and old, from far and near, flocked to Galgacus eager to fight for their country.

When spring came and the roads were once more passable, the Romans left their camp and marched northward, seeking the Caledonians. They met, it is thought, somewhere upon the slopes of the Grampian hills, but no one is sure of the exact spot.

The Caledonians were little more than savages, yet they were ready to fight to the last for their coun-

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try. They were almost naked. They wore no armour and carried only small shields. For weapons they had bows and arrows, blunt iron swords and heavy spears. Those in the centre of the army were mounted upon rough little horses, and there too were gathered the war chariots with swords upon the wheels ready to dash among the enemy and cut them down.

Against these savage warriors came the splendid soldiers of the Roman Empire, clad in glittering coats of mail, armed with swords and spears of sharpened steel, every man among them trained to obey, to fight, and to die.

As the Caledonians stood ready for battle, Galgacus made a speech to them. 'Fight to-day,' he said, 'for the liberty of Albion. We have never been slaves, and if we would not now become the slaves of these proud Romans there is nothing left to us but to fight and die. We are at the farthest limits of land and liberty. There is no land behind us to which we may flee.

There is nothing but the waves and rocks and the Romans in their ships. These plunderers of the world having taken all the land, now claim the seas, so that even if we fly to the sea there is no safety from them. They kill and slay, and take what is not theirs, and call it Empire. They make a desert and call it Peace. Our children, our wives, and all who are dear to us, are torn from us, our lands and goods are destroyed. Let this day decide if such things we are to suffer for ever or revenge instantly. March then to battle. Think of

your children and of the freedom which was your fathers', and win it again, or die.'

When Galgacus had finished speaking, the Caledonians answered with great shouts and songs, then with their chariots and horsemen they rushed upon the Romans. Fiercely the battle began, fiercely it raged. The Caledonians fought with splendid courage, but what could half-naked savages do against the steel-clad warriors of Rome? When night fell, ten thousand Caledonians lay dead upon the field. The Romans had won the victory.

All through the night could be heard the desolate cries of sorrow and despair, as women moved over the battlefield seeking their dead, and helping the wounded. All through the night the sky was red with the light of fires. But in the morning the country far and

near was empty and silent, and the villages were smoking ruins. Not a Caledonian was to be seen. They had burned their homes and fled away to hide among the mountains.

Agricola, knowing that it would be useless to try to follow them through the dark forest and hills, turned and marched southward again beyond his line of forts. A few months later he was called back to Rome.

Agricola had been four years in Scotland, and when he left it the people were still unconquered.



Davidson Hall of Fame, *continued from page 1*

Larry & Angie Davidson – Reg. 14 Directors (Ret.) for many years; **Jerry & Betty Edmiston** – Reg. 15 Directors (Active) for many years.

Congratulations to the award winners. Their service to our Society and their Clan cannot be recognized or praised enough!

Current Hall of Fame

Honorees

Memorial Quaiche List: Duncan Hector Davidson of Davidston, Chief of the Clan 1997 - 1998; Floyd and Betty Stayner, Co-Founders CDS-USA; Andy Davis, President 1984 – 1993; President Emeritus 1996 - 2007; Mike Davidson, President 1999 - 2009.

Clan Chief's Award: Dave Chagnon, 2001.

Award of Merit: Jennifer Bozeman, 2010; Willie and Frances Brown, 2010; Bob & Jan Davidson, 2010; Darwin & Jackie Davidson, 2010; Larry & Angie Davidson, 2010; Jerry & Betty Edmiston, 2010.

With thanks to Clan Davidson USA's *Sporran* publication.

Did you know all of these celebrities studied and worked to become qualified pilots?

Lots of us know John Travolta is a pilot, but did you know that Greg Norman, Prince Charles, Kurt Russell, Kris Kristofferson, Gore Vidal (Who got his license at the age of ten!), BB King, Treat Williams, Tom Cruise, John Grisham, Harrison Ford and the late Patrick Swayze all passed everything to become pilots? It's so.

Scottish Days, *continued from page 19* —

factories and offices closed for summer holidays and Maw, Paw and the weans went "Doon the Watter" (River Clyde and the holiday resorts there).

Lammas is August first and another Scottish "Quarter Day" when rents and contracts fall due.

Bartle Day is August 24th and is St. Bartholemew's Day.

Michael Day is September 29 and Michaelmas Day.

Halloween, always October 31st, the evening of All Saints Day and the last day in the old Celtic calendar. It was always associated with witches and celebrated with bonfires and the "guising" as children dressed up and went around with "tattie bogles" or "neep lanterns" which were candles inside potatoes or turnips.

Guy Fawkes is November 5th. This recalls the attempt by Guy Fawkes to blow up the Houses of Parliament. Bonfires, fireworks and "penny for the guy" (The effigy of Guy Fawkes provides an excuse for children to plead money from passersby).

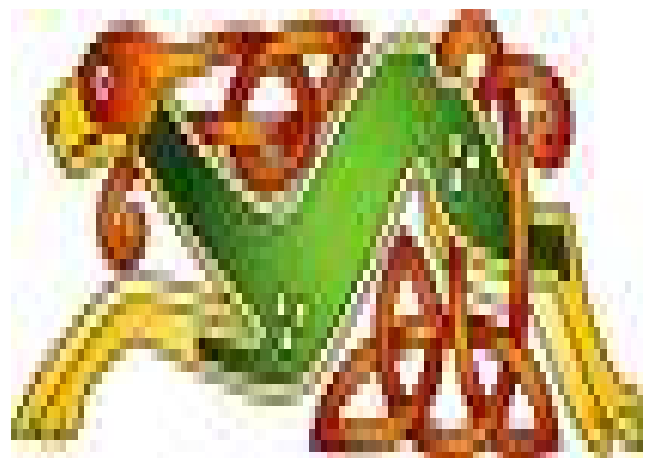
Martinmas is November 11th, another Scottish "Quarter Day" when rents and contracts fell due.

The Daft Days - the festive season of Christmas and New Year.

Sowans Nicht is Christmas Eve.

Christmas is December 25th, when presents left by Santa Claus in a sock (pillow case if you're lucky) are opened. Other presents are left beneath the Christmas tree. The same the world over.

Hogmanay is New Year's Eve, when Scotland celebrates the buildup to "the bells" chiming midnight and Burns' song, *Auld Lang Syne* is sung once again.





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Steve & Debbie and Tom & Beth Go on an Adventure to Gatlinburg, TN

Tom and Steve were roommates long ago at the University of South Carolina. They share years and years of friendship, great enthusiasm for the USC Gamecocks, many stories and a love of "adventuring." The day we went on our little trip was Steve's birthday too!

Debbie is Steve's wife...a sunny personality, a beautiful person outside and inside...and much fun to be with.

We decided to repeat a holiday custom of driving up to Gatlinburg, Tennessee, to feast at The Apple Barn and window shop in the stores and just have a day of fun...not to mention the glorious Smoky Mountain scenery on the way there!

So, in mid-December everyone figured out how to be off work on a Thursday and off we went.

Henry (My car is a Ford - so his name is "Henry Ford.") had a fresh oil change and even a vacuuming and bath and his tummy was filled with fresh gasoline. He was ready for an adventure too.

We drive up through Cashiers, NC from Walhalla

and on up to Cherokee. We stopped at the Cherokee Museum and the gift shop and all of us enjoyed seeing the wonderful Indian crafts - basketwork, wood carving...pottery, beadwork and all the beautiful and useful things they make. At the gift shop, we oooed and ahhhed over the prints and art for sale...and bought a few last minute Christmas gifts. It was getting cold. We all loved the painted bears all over town!

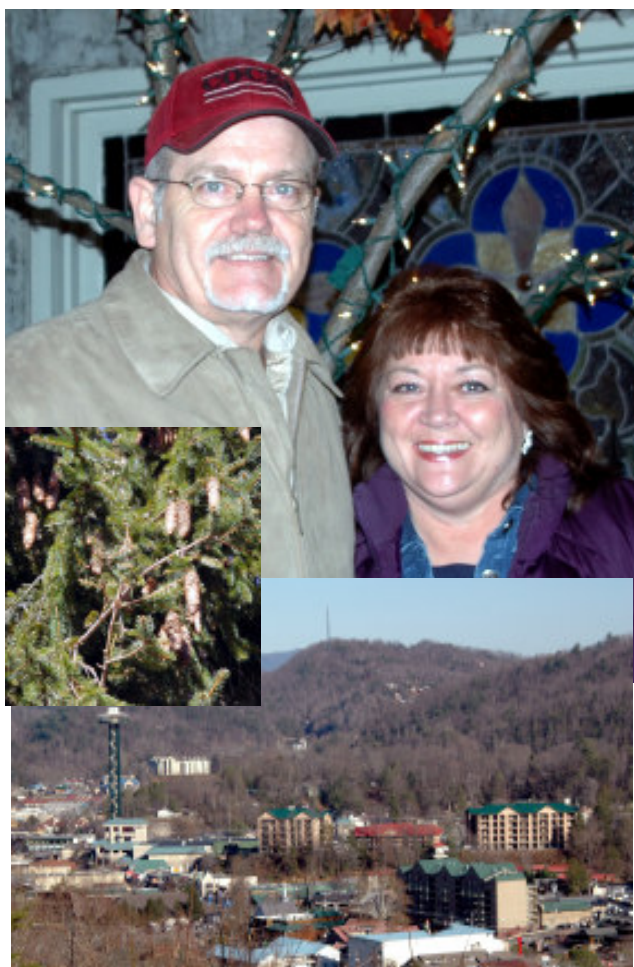
When we arrived at the Clingman's Dome area, Steve and I got out of the car to take photographs and discovered it was COLD up there...beautiful and clear, but COLD. Henry's warm interior sure did feel good when we climbed back in.

We stopped at all of the scenic turn off's and you'll see my photos of them on this page and the following two pages .

We stopped to pick some pinecones from the ground for Debbie to make into potpourri for their house.

Henry just purred right along.

Continued on page 28



Steve & Debbie and Tom & Beth Go on an Adventure to Gatlinburg, TN

Continued from page 27

The Apple Barn in Sevierville was filled with holiday decorations and yummy goodies. There is nothing so much fun as a great meal with friends! Our waiter laughed and joked with us and kept the apple fritters coming.

We made a tour of the Christmas Shop and had apple cider - I had the cold cider, everyone else had the steamy hot cider. Both were lovely.

By this time, the sun had gone down and the Christmas lights were on in Gatlinburg. It was busy even on a Thursday evening. We walked around The Village, enjoying the lights and decorations and some interesting shops...and then it was time to head for home.

Warm in the car, we all laughed and talked all the way.

A day with friends in the most beautiful scenery there is - it just doesn't get better than that.





*Steve & Debbie and Tom & Beth Go
on an Adventure to Gatlinburg, TN*





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Beth's visit to Flagstaff, Arizona was made possible by Ludlow and Nancy and AirTran Airlines.