



Vol. V Issue #8 Beth's Newfangled Family Tree Section A January 2011

Rural Hill to host free First Footin' event on New Year's Day, 1 Jan. 2011

HUNTERSVILLE, NC: Rural Hill invites everyone to join in the celebration of Hogmanay (Scottish New Year) and the tradition of walking the property borders for luck in the coming year. Rural Hill's Annual First Footin' will be held on January 1 beginning at 11 AM. The event is free and open to the public, and each guest is encouraged to bring an item for the "Stone Soup." Dogs on a leash are welcome. Full details are available online at www.ruralhill.net or by calling 704-875-3113.

Towns throughout the hillsides of Scotland continue an annual ritual of a "walk of the town borders" to restate or reclaim the boundaries of the township. This tradition has been adopted as part of the Rural Hill Hogmanay celebration to assure good crops, good health and good fortune in the coming year.

The walk at Rural Hill's First Footin' will be a 2-3 mile stroll around the farm stopping along the way to hear stories of history and folk-

lore. It is over hill and dale, and through the woods, so please wear good walking shoes and appropriate clothing for the season.

"Everyone is welcome! It is a time of friendship and fellowship," says executive director Jeff Fissel. "Not everyone goes on the walk, but there are also plenty who do. It is a time to reflect on the past year and prepare for the new one ahead."

For all who are coming to walk, please arrive between 10 and 10:45 as we officially "step off" at 11 AM. A presentation of the story "Stone Soup" will begin at 12:30. For

lunch, guests should bring a can or fresh vegetables for the "Soup," bread or a dessert. Bring the beverage of your choice too, to help you keep warm. The First Footin' event concludes at 2 PM (unless you want to stick around and discuss New Year's Resolutions)!

For complete information on Rural Hill's First Footin' or details regarding Rural Hill and Hogmanay, please visit our website at www.ruralhill.net.



Remember to write "2011" Remember to write "2011"



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*Miss Narra
 The Wonder
 Cat is all
 dressed up
 to ring in
 2011!*



A letter from your editor... **...and questions from you!**

Last time we write about newsletters and clans and clan newsletters.

Since then, several of you have written with some really good questions.

Question: Where in the world do you get the information for your publications?

Answer: It's not that hard. I keep my eyes and ears open...and if I see something on the computer that will work for one of my newsletters...maybe something clan specific for Clan Home...I simply save it into my "Clan Home" box. I use AOL and it's easy to save things to different folders.

I'm always copying or tearing out newspaper clippings and magazine articles that will work for some newsletter.

I contact the person/publication and ask permission to use the material in my publication or newsletter. Usually, this is forthcoming with no trouble or cost - only full credit to where I found it.

If you are doing a clan specific publication, notices in that publication are usually sufficient to get the members to send along bits about what is going on with them. You'll notice that after you've started using this kind of material, more will come...and more and more. You can consider yourself a success at newslettering when you get LOTS of information from your readers.

I keep a notepad and pencil near where I usually watch TV. It's sort of amazing how many tidbits you'll find there...maybe just a sentence or two...but something interesting for your readers. Give your source when you write about it.

Question: How do you get members to send you material?

Answer: See above. As soon as your members see that you use the material that is sent to you - more material will come. Sometimes, at the beginning, you might have to call a few folks and just ask them about interesting things in their lives. I sent out a questionnaire to Clan Home members and just asked for wedding anniversaries and birthdays. Then I just made a

little calendar with that information at the relevant places. It's a simple matter to look at the calendar each time and remember to wish everyone best wishes for their happy time.

Question: What about advertising?

Answer: Advertising will not arrive on your computer or on your desk without much work on the editor's part. You can have a little blurb in your publication for YEARS and nobody will respond. If you know Clansmen and Clanswomen who have their own businesses - or who are professionals in their fields - just call them and ask for advertising. Remember,

you're only going to get a few dollars for an ad in a publication that has only a few hundred (or a few) readers.

The formula for figuring out how much advertising you need is easy to do. Count your pages and then figure out how much each page costs..(Printing, mailing.) That's what a full page ad should cost...plus



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English Common Law in America

Bryan L. Mulcahy, Fort Myers, FL

During the Colonial Era, the American colonies were governed under the English Common Law system adapted from the English Crown. For researchers tracing colonial ancestors from 1620 through 1776, a basic knowledge of the terms and concepts of Common Law is necessary to understand the lives and daily actions and life decisions of their ancestors. Common Law impacted their community status, family relationships, personal rights, property, inheritance, and personal and legal relationships. Genealogical records such as deeds, marriage bonds, wills, etc., were all impacted by aspects of English Common Law.

The concept of Common Law developed out of three parallel court systems that existed in England between 1100 and 1500:

1. Ecclesiastical Courts: Operated under the jurisdiction of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and diocesan bishops. They had jurisdiction over probate matters such as wills, administration of decedent's estates, marriage, and domestic relations.

2. Court of Equity, in the High Court of Chancery: They had jurisdiction over addressing wrongs requiring corrective action other than the limited remedies available from the law courts.

3. Law or King's Courts: Awarded possession of lands or goods or monetary damages. Decisions reflected the royal judges' common understanding of personal and property rights and duties that had evolved through preceding centuries in cases where no royal decree or parliamentary enactment could guide them. Those principles assumed the character of law because judges, in an effort to keep decisions consistent, treated each as a binding precedent for future

decisions.

Laws passed by Parliament and the King in Council affected all three systems and further led to the establishment of the concept "Common Law". The term "Common Law" came from the judge's common understanding of their interpretation of the law. The decisions handed down reflected the judges' common understanding of personal and property rights and duties that had evolved through preceding centuries in cases where no royal decree or parliamentary enactment

could guide them. Those principles assumed the character of law because judges, in an effort to keep decisions consistent, treated each as a binding precedent for future decisions. However, whether you are talking about England, or the American colonies, one must be aware that the legal interpretation often varied by locality and time period.

Overlapping jurisdictions are another challenge. While in theory each court was a separate entity, there were numerous occasions where jurisdictions overlapped. This same issue with overlapping jurisdictions persisted in the colonies as well which often results in some interesting challenges. English colonists settling in America brought this hybrid common law, in various stages of further evolution, to North America, where it assumed an American character. Because the colonies functioned independently of each other, the law continued to evolve, albeit differently in each colony.

BLM 12/6/2010 Bryan L. Mulcahy, Reference Librarian, Fort Myers-Lee County Library, 2050 Central Avenue, Fort Myers, FL 33901-3917. Tel: (239) 533-4626 or Fax: (239) 485-1160. E-Mail: bmulcahy@leegov.com



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Alvie Davidson to speak at January JGS meeting. You're invited.

The Jacksonville Genealogical Society will hold their regular meeting on January 29, 2011 at 1:30 at the Webb-Wesconnett Branch Library, 6887 103rd St., Jacksonville, Fl. We are fortunate to have as our speaker Mr. Alvie Davidson. Mr. Davidson is a certified genealogist, retired U.S. Naval Reserve Intelligence Officer, Florida certified private investigator, Class A license, and an author.

His research specialty is Lineage Societies and Heir Searcher. Mr. Davidson is

from Lakeland, Fl. Mr. Davidson's presentation is "Introduction to Forensic Genealogy." A case study of forensic research. Please

note this is a meeting date change. For further information please contact Jim Laird, (904) 264-0743.



The Official Clan Macfie Facebook page is up!

Glen Cathey has recently put up
The Official Clan Macfie Facebook page
and it is ready for you to join and participate.

You can see some Youtube of the Clan Parliament at
Nethybridge. This is the link: [http://www.facebook.com/
pages/The-Official-Clan-Macfie-Page/177565770680](http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Official-Clan-Macfie-Page/177565770680)

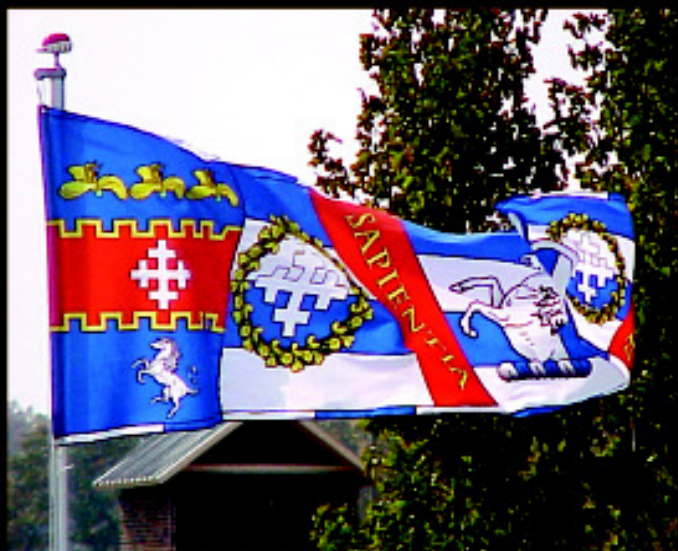
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Attention Davidson's! Don't miss the International Gathering of Clan Davidson

Excitement is really building for the International Gathering of Clan Davidson (<http://www.kcscottishgames.org/>) held in Riverfront Park, Riverside, Missouri. [<http://www.riversidemo.com/>] June 10 - 12, 2011. The event will be held in conjunction with the Kansas City Scottish Highland Games.

The Clan Davidson Sennachie made a special visit to the KCSHG in June to check out the Highland Games venue and chat with the management of the Argosy Casino Hotel & Spa [<http://www.stayargosy.com/>]. The Argosy is immediately adjacent to the Highland Games venue, perhaps a 4 minute stroll away.

Maps, applicable brochures, and event details have been finalized and can be found on the CDS-USA website [<http://www.clan davidson usa.com/clan-davidson-international-gathering-2011>].

Host Hotel Details

Get a bit tired during the Games? No problem... zip back to your cool, clean and commodious room at the Argosy and have a wee kip! Don't want to hassle with the tight parking or parking lot shuttles so typical of Highland Games? No problem... the Argosy has a gated parking lot specifically reserved for their hotel guests, and since you're only a 4 minute stroll from the HG venue, there's no need to ever move your car from the hotel's parking lot. Spill some deep purple cranberry crush beverage on your pristine white blouse? No problem... your room and spare clothing are only a 4 minute stroll away! I have never seen a Highland Games venue and a host hotel so conveniently co-located as is this venue.



breakfast buffet. This is not your typical buffet by any stretch, either! It includes 6 different buffet bars with every imaginable fruit, pastry, cereal, ham, sausages (6 different varieties!), bacon and other typical breakfast foods you can think of (even Eggs Benedict). There's a grill preparing your eggs, omelets or waffles to order as well, while wait-staff hover, ready to bring your favorite breakfast beverages, coffee, tea, or a huge selection of fresh juices - or perhaps a mimosa to get the day started with a bang?

The rooms are very large, very clean, very posh and very convenient. They are equipped with either a single king bed or a pair of queen beds, a refrigerator, and a humongous flat screen TV. The shower room is big enough to stable a pair of Clydesdale horses in and includes an overhead "rainfall" shower head with a temperature setting dial. Set your preferred water temperature once and forget about it for the remainder of your stay. The usual hotel-style bath amenities are there and all of the highest quality.

But there are reasons why the hotel is willing to give us such a special room rate \$129 a night for up to 4 adults/kids (and it is special, believe me... go on line to the Argosy Hotel and check it out for yourself. Their normal rates run from \$169 to \$229 depending on the

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Clan Davidson International Gathering, *continued from page 9*

specific date involved, with \$189 being the norm - plus taxes). We have to guaranty a certain level of room occupancy and food and beverage revenue to the hotel. At this stage, we're committed to taking a block of 60 rooms for Friday and Saturday evening, and 35 rooms for Sunday evening.

We're also committed to a \$5,000 minimum food and beverage outlay at our events held at the hotel, but with the events we have lined up, that should be quite do-able.

One special note about making room bookings at the Argosy... when you make a reservation, make sure you tell the person you speak with that you are booking a room at the special Clan Davidson room rate. Do not book a room on-line, instead call the hotel (1-800-270-7711) and speak with an agent. Reservations need to be made before May 27th, 2011, but don't wait, because once those blocked-out rooms are booked at the special rate, any additional bookings will be at whatever the going rate is at the time of booking. Also, it would help us if you could let the Clan Davidson Sennachie know that you have booked a room, and for how many nights, OK?

One other observation about the Argosy Casino and Hotel...

Having worked around casinos (the Mississippi and Louisiana venues at any rate), for many, many years, I've always noticed that, on the very few occasions I've had to actually go into one of the places, you always had to go through the gaming areas to go anywhere inside them. You want to go to that neat little restaurant on the third floor? Go ahead, but you'll have to go through a gaming area to get there. The same was true for everything inside the walls of the specific casino you might be at.

This is not the case, however, with the Argosy.

The hotel, the restaurants/meeting rooms and the gaming areas are separate and distinct entities, with the hotel being the closet part to the Riverfront Park. The casino portion of the Argosy has been on that site for over a decade, but the hotel was just built three years ago. There are also separate parking areas for the hotel and the casino, too, making parking a breeze. I never even saw a gaming area in the three days I stayed there back in June, so if you intend bringing young-

sters with you (and we hope you do, this is, after all, part of their heritage and a big reason why we do what we do), you should have no worries about them getting into places you'd just as soon not have them get into!

We also have made an agreement with the Super 8 Hotel located just across the street from the Argosy. Rates at the Super 8 are \$69.99 for a single king bed (one or two people) and \$79.99 for double queens (one or two people), plus applicable taxes. The Super 8 is a budget hotel with few amenities and a so-so continental breakfast, but it,

too, is just a 4 minute stroll from the Highland Games venue and an even easier walk to the Argosy for the events being planned there. And no motorcars needed! Reservations need to be made before May 13th to get this rate. Call 816-505-2888 to make a reservation and be sure to mention Clan Davidson. The manager's name is Mr. A. Sidd.

Planned Events

If you arrive at the Argosy on Friday, you will be greeted by a fellow Clansman or Clanswoman in the lobby who will answer any questions you may have. You will also be given directions to the hotel's Constellations Room, where the weekend will start off at a "Sign In" reception running from 0100 PM through

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Clan Davidson International Gathering, *continued from page 10*

0500 PM. Here you will receive your Clan Davidson International Gathering Name Badge, pick up your pre-ordered Davidson Crested Polo Shirt and/or your pre-ordered Clan Davidson International Edition Cookbook if you have ordered any, and have a chance to view a slide show of CDS-USA photos and chat with your fellow Clansmen while you enjoy your favorite beverage from the cash bar.

Friday evening the planned entertainment will be going on at the Games Field under the huge Clan Davidson Tent. The KCSHG always has an outstanding line-up of vocal and musical entertainment lined up with performances going on 'till midnight, and they have a beer tent where you can enjoy a "cool one" from their selection of craft brewed offerings from the Schlafly Bottleworks. Alternatively, you are welcome to bring your own cooler and/or container of your favorite beverages such as a fine single malt and park it safely in the confines of the CDS-USA tent. And did I mention that you'll only be a 4 minute stroll from your hotel, so having a tot of Uisghe Beatha or twa won't be an issue when it comes to driving a motorcar?

During the day on Saturday, the primary focus will be on enjoying the activities to be found at the KCSHG and to "hang" in the Davidson tent and continue to rub elbows and get to meet your fellow Clansmen from around the States and the world. Exchange stories, tell lies, compare genealogical notes, share a dram... this is really what the Gathering is all about! The Parade of Tartans takes place around noon on Saturday, and I would certainly hope to see hundreds of Davidsons following our braw Tartan Banners as we lead off the parade as Guest Clan of Honor.

On Saturday evening, we will have a formal sit-down dinner at the Argosy's Athens/Casablanca Banquet room. Here are the details:

The evening will start off with a cocktail reception (cash bar) at 0600 PM. Seating for dinner will begin at 0700 PM, and the cash bar will remain open for the duration of the evening. Tickets for this are \$55 per person (adult OR child). Dinner will be served buffet style.

Our Dinner Buffet will be served with the following:

Tossed Garden Salad with Assorted Toppings and Dressings; Fresh Fruit Tray; Dinner Rolls; An Assortment of Freshly Prepared Desserts; Freshly Brewed Coffee & Decaffeinated Coffee; Hot and Iced Tea

Our Entrees are:

House Mesquite Smoked Chicken, 6 oz Sirloin Steak with Mushroom Sauce, Crab Stuffed Flounder

This is also served with Chef's choice of vegetable and starch.

Each diner is welcome to enjoy any or all of the entrée items.

A word about tickets for the Formal Dinner... www.clandavidsonusa.com/products-page/international-gathering/.

all tickets MUST be ordered no later than May 1st, 2011. This is critical and there will be NO exceptions! We have to get our order to the Argosy in a timely fashion or we will not be able to have any dinner at all. Dinner tickets can be purchased by sending your check for the full amount due to the Sennachie at 7004 Barberry St., North Little Rock, AR 72118 or online.

For those who are so inclined, there is a Kirkin' O' The Tartan church service at the Games field on Sunday morning, with other field events to follow. The remainder of the day will be spent pretty much like on Saturday, with an Auld Lang Syne farewell at the tent around 0500 PM. After that, you're on your own... I expect there may well be an informal dinner get-to-

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gether somewhere nearby, or perhaps even at one of the hotel's fine restaurants where driving a motor car is not required.

Book Signing

Award winning author of a Davidson-themed trilogy (*The Wild Rose* series), Ruth Carmichael Ellinger will be on hand to sign copies of any of the books in her trilogy. Ruth is a neat lady and is deeply committed to preserving her rich Davidson heritage through her writing. For more information about Ruth's *Wild Rose Trilogy*, see the symopsys posted on the Davidson Shopping Mall "Books" Category **Clan Davidson International Gathering**, *continued from page 10y*, starting with the latest *Sword of the Wild Rose* [h t t p s : / / www.clandavidsonusa.com/products-page/books1/page/2/].

Davidson DNA Project Founder

John Lisle, founder of the Davidson DNA Project, and esteemed Genealogist for the Clan Davidson Society (USA), will be on hand to answer your questions about the Davidsons and DNA.

International Gathering Memorabilia

We have just completed the details about a CDIG high quality Davidson Crested Polo Shirt.

Completed details (colors, sizes, prices, delivery options, etc) can be found on our web site [<https://www.clandavidsonusa.com/products-page/clothing/>]

We are also publishing an International Edition of a *Clan Davidson Cookbook*, with recipes from Davidson all around the world. Details about the cookbook can be found at [<https://www.clandavidsonusa.com/products-page/books1/>]

Highland Games Venue Details

The venue and the activities associated with this Highland Games are really top notch. The Riverfront Park is level, fairly well-shaded, and is large enough to hold all the activities but small enough so that it's not an all-day trek to move from one activity to another. The food vendors are varied and have a good selection of well-prepared foods at reasonable prices. Other vendors carry a broad spectrum of goods typically found at an American Highland Games. My favorite vendor was the large and centrally located tent offering Schlafly brew-pub handcrafted beer and ale! [<http://www.schlafly.com/>]

As mentioned above, the Celtic music-related entertainment line-up was most impressive, the largest such line-up I've personally witnessed at any Highland Games. There were a total of 17 different groups playing at three different sites during the entire time the Games were open, from 9 in the morning till 11 at night. A complete group list and de-

scription can be found on the International Gathering section of the Society's website.

And of course there's bagpiping! While the KCSHG didn't boast a very large selection of pipe bands, what they did have were enthusiastic! Plus, CDS-USA is blessed in having our very own personal bagpiper, Region 14 Director Wayne Davis. It's rumored his eldest daughter, Maggie, is also a good piper, and youngest daughter, Shannon, is showing great promise. So, we'll have no problem having our fill of quality bagpiping. Perhaps we can get our new Charitable Activities Director, Matt Dawson, a former side-drummer and drum-major, to strut his stuff in coordination with Wayne...

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Flowers of the Forest

Clan Ramsay lost a long-time member this year. **Judge Robert E. Lee, Jr.**, age 87, died on May 13, 2010, in Halifax Hospital, Daytona Beach, Florida, after a brief illness. His death occurred early on the day he and his wife of 42 years, Shirley, were to leave on a train excursion in Alaska.

Judge Lee was a longtime member of the Clan Ramsey Association of North America and enjoyed that association.

He was the son of Robert E. Lee, Sr. (whose mother was a Ramsey from Georgia) and Edna Chalker Lee.

He had many interests, but travel was a major part of his and Shirley's lives for their 42 years together. They traveled to all 7 continents and to more than 100 countries.

He served in the US Army during WWII from 1942 until 1945, part of that time in the Philippines and Guam.

Several years ago they traveled to Guam by way of Truk and Guadalcanal. This was memorable experience for Robert after more than 60 years.

At Judge Lee's funeral service a long time friend and local piper, Merritt played

Amazing Grace, a Scottish sendoff that would have made Robert very pleased.

Clan Stewart Society Association Region IV life member, **Ann Watson**, passed away last October 12. She lived in the Bridgeport/Clarksburg, West Virginia area. With a passion for her Scottish heritage,

Ann bred and showed Shetland Sheepdogs. She taught piping and was the Pipe Sergeant for the Pipe Drums of St. Andrews Pipe Band.

Among her many accomplishments, Ann was the founder and

co-chairperson of the Scottish Festival and Celtic Games in Bridgeport for the last nine years.

Ann will be remembered as a very talented and gracious lady. She literally camped out in her RV the weekend of the Bridgeport Games.

Ann will be missed by Clan Stewart Region IV members, her family and the Scottish community.



There are a full range of Scottish athletics and competitions for highland dancers, pipers and drummers, and several unusual activities as well. The KCSHG holds recurring “Scot’s Heritage” demonstrations throughout the weekend. Among these are the Sons of Alba Live Steel Sword Fighting, Great Kilt (breacan an fheilidh) Demonstrations (what do they wear under there?), Traditional Wool Weaving, Black Oak Maile Guild and some Clydesdales and perhaps a Hieland Coo or two. All in all, this is a well organized, well run and well represented Scottish Highland Games, well worth the visit even if Clan Davidson wasn’t having its International Gathering there next year.

While I don’t know what the HG ticket fees for next year will be yet, this year there was a most reasonable Three Day Pass available for \$25... the musical entertainment alone is worth twice the price!

Oh, yes... this beautiful Highland Games venue is only a 4 minute stroll from the Argosy Casino and Hotel, host hotel for the 2011 Clan Davidson International Gathering!! [smile]

For the Campers

The nearest RV Park and campsite is located 18 miles due north of the HG venue. Basswood Resort [<http://www.basswoodresort.com/>] is a full service campers’ paradise with all the amenities of a really fine park... good level sites with full hookups, pull through sites, tent sites, pool, camp store, fishing, clean shower and rest room facilities.

If you might be interested in renting an RV and doing some touring while you’re in the Central USA, there’s an RV Service and Rental company a quarter of a mile from the Riverfront Park, Premier Coach [<http://www.premiercoachservices.com/>].

Maps, brochures and current rates for these places are available on the International Gathering section of the CDS-USA website.

[www.clandavidsonusa.com/clan-davidson-international-gathering-2011].

KCSHG Entertainment Line-up for 2010

While there is no guaranty that all these entertainers will be booked for the 2011 KCSHG, event organizers assure me this is a very typical line-up for their musical entertainment.

Enter The Haggis:

Over the past three albums and five years, Toronto’s Celtic rock band *Enter The Haggis* has found itself at the center of a grassroots success story ever teetering on the brink of mainstream success. From playing Celtic festivals to headlining them, and from the festival circuit to selling out multiple nights in rock venues, ETH has blazed a path with heavy and almost constant touring up and down the East Coast, to Canada, the West Coast and back again, winning over success one fan, one town, one region at a time. The band has made waves in the



musicality of the genre with its multi-influence style of Celtic rock. It’s the kind of overall sound and devotion package that has created not only die-hard fans, but “Haggis Heads” that follow the band from gig to gig. [<http://www.enterthehaggis.com/bio.cfm>]

Tartanic: Showcasing traditional and innovative Celtic music from Scotland, Ireland and Brittany with a mix of world percussion from Arabia, Africa and America, Tartanic creates a fusion of contrasting musical conventions which is nothing short of explosive. As the jigs and reels of the past are spun into the musical world of the future, Tartanic runs, leaps and races across the stage taking live performance to heart and creating a high-energy pulse at 120 beats per minute and beyond. [<http://www.tartanic.net/>]

Mother Grove: Mother Grove has become a
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Clan Davidson International Gathering, *continued from page 14*

major force on the Celtic music scene. Energetic and powerful with an on-stage chemistry that makes you feel right at home, Mother Grove seamlessly blends well crafted original songs with traditional Scottish and Irish instruments such as Highland Bagpipes, Pennywhistle, and Fiddle to create a sound defined as 'KILT ROCK'. With lyrics that can be insightful, witty, and often just plain fun, and music that ranges from soaring ballads to raucous pub tunes and 'Kilt Rock-ed' traditional songs, there is something for everyone in Mother Grove's high energy performance. [<http://muzedesigns.org/clients/MoGro2009/>]

The Shortleaf Band:

The Shortleaf Band is a Kansas City based "Celti-Billy" band with close ties to the Ozarks. Founded by fiddler Michael Fraser, they specialize in high-energy dance music rooted in Celtic and old time traditions. Haunting ballads and southern rock help round out this multi-instrumental group. [<http://www.shortleafband.com/>]

Kelly: Kelly is loaded with years of experience and talent. They believe in the strong tradition of Irish music and their ability to combine past experience and understanding of the music and bring it full circle with new ideas and twists on old traditions truly makes this a group worth listening to. The variety of instruments from fiddle, guitar, mandolin and flute to accordion, mandolin, tin whistle and viola da gamba combined with haunting and melodic vocals, bring out the true spirit of Irish music. Their songs are sung with a passion that will send a rush through anyone listening. They will also be performing for the Kirkin' of the Tartan, Sunday morning. [<http://www.kellyirishband.com/>]

Tullamore: With 13 seasons under their belt, and two well-received tours of Scotland and Ireland to boot, Tullamore is one of the Heartland's premiere

Celtic bands. Mark Clavey, Mary Hanover, and Rachel Gaither give music of Scotland and Ireland in rich, clear vocals, tight harmonies, instrumentals, and clever arrangements. The KC trio draws from diverse musical experiences and influences for their hallmark sound - contemporary American- folk body and traditional Celtic soul. [<http://tullamore.info/>]

The Glenfinnan Band: A Celtic, acoustic folk-rock, groovy stuff, & sometimes traditional Scots/Irish band based in KS. Celtic with a twist, from Edinburgh

to the Heartland. Its members are: Ian Hall, vocals, guitar, & whistles; Karla Hall, vocals, mandolin, bouzouki, & guitar; Liam Riggs, vocals, bagpipes, bass guitar, bodhran & bones, & Flint Goodrich, fiddle. [<http://www.kansasscot.com/>]

Antioch Middle

School: Stephen Pelkey, strings teacher at Clardy Elementary & Antioch Middle School, has received several awards since his arrival in K.C. including the nationally recognized Mr. Holland's Opus Award for his program at Clardy Elementary, the Dan Kahler Grant for innovative

teaching and the 2005 Teacher of the Year Award from the KC Area Music Teachers Association. He organized the Fiddling/Jazz Group which performs in Gladstone and surrounding areas. This group consists of students, grades 6-8 and focuses on Old Tyme, Celtic, Scottish, Mariachi & Jazz Music.

The Three Dollar Band: An acoustic trio that performs traditional music from Ireland and North America, along with original material composed in a similar vein. Through the recognition of cross-cultural musical influences and a desire to remain true to themselves as musicians, The Three Dollar Band aspires to present music that is both innovative and grounded in traditional. [<http://www.reverbnation.com/threedollarband>]



A Michigan Tartan at last!

Very recently State Governor Jennifer Granholm and Lt. Gov. John Cherry officially proclaimed the proposed Michigan Tartan, the official tartan to represent the State of Michigan.

The announcement was made by the St. Andrew's Society past president, Scott David, who spearheaded this project nearly five years ago, and St. Andrew's member Lt. Gov. John Cherry at the St. Andrew's Society of Detroit's annual St. Andrew's Night Supper.

Designed by Michigan weaver and long-standing Tartans Authority member Kati Meek, the tartan was originally called 'Michigan up North' referring to Upper Northern Michigan whose landscape inspired the colours.

Scottish groups have been campaigning for years for a State tartan and the process of seeking State approval and adoption was initiated in February 2007.

When Wisconsin became the latest Midwest state to adopt its own tartan, this left Michigan as the only Great Lakes State without one.

The official Michigan tartan made its first public appearance at Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian's Annual Kirking of the Tartans Scottish Sunday service on November 21, 2010.

Thanks must go to Kati Meek, John Cherry, and Scott David for all of their hard work and remarkable perseverance on this 5 year project. Now that the tartan is official, there will be rejoicing amongst very many Michiganders with Scottish blood in their veins.

You can see and read all about Kati in her fascinating blog at <http://katimeek.blogspot.com/>



With many thanks to the *Tartan Herald*, newsletter of the Scottish Tartans Authority.

Rejuvenate those chairs with tartan seats!

From columnist Kate Pruitt in the San Francisco Chronicle comes a good tip if you have - or fancy collecting - a mismatched set of chairs.

"You can whip up a set of chairs with unifying fabric. (We adore this combination of wool and tartan.) Choose chairs with similar wood tones and removable seat cushions.

Then you'll need some, non-stretch tartan, high-density foam, muslin and batting fabric (optional, as needed), fabric scissors and a staple gun and you're ready for the showdown at the Tartan Corral.

Instructions: Take off seat cushions by removing

screws on the underside of the chairs. Measure seats. Purchase enough fabric to cover the seat plus an additional 6 to 8 inches on all four sides.

Remove old upholstery; inspect foam. If it appears to be crumbling, add a new layer before recovering seats. Cover high-density foam with muslin to create seat shape; add a thin layer of batting fabric.

Using fabric scissors, cut pieces of cloth for each seat. Place fabric on flat surface, centering the seat on top with underside facing up. One side at a time, pull fabric tightly and staple it to the underside of the seat.

Give the chairs a good dusting and replace the seats.



Issue 8: December 2010

A note from Angus

I hope that you are all well. Teaghlach Wood is now fully in the grips of winter. There have been several heavy early snowfalls and the temperatures have dipped as low as minus 20!!

I hope to bring you lots of beautiful photos soon - keep your eye on our facebook page.

U.S. event falls victim to the Scottish weather

The Scottish delegation heading for Knoxville, Tennessee to launch an initiative called Trees4TwoNations, which is aimed at linking cities in the United States with those of Scotland, has been unable to travel due to the weather.

The guest of honour at the event was due to be Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment, Richard Lochhead, but he has been left stranded in Inverness. One of the originators of the concept, Angus Crabbie of Trees4Scotland, was also unable to travel due to the closure of Edinburgh Airport. "Now where did I leave my car?"

More fabulous businesses join the Trees4Scotland family!

Scotland's business community continue to engage with us and support reforestation. If you know of any businesses who wish to enhance their green credentials by supporting tree planting in Scotland then please let us know.

We ensure that we offer maximum value to our clients to ensure they get the very best out of any relationship with us.

Email Angus: gus@trees4scotland.com if you wish further information.

Here are some examples of new clients and how they engage with us:

Datec Technologies to plant 1,000 trees per year



They are one of Europe's leading IT recycling and electronics asset management companies. Datec have committed to planting 1,000 trees per year to thank their customers for their business and for their continued commitment to performing in an environmental manner. The Datec Forest is now well underway!

EAE Distribution to plant even more trees!

Multi award winning leaflet distribution company EAE have taken the decision to plant 300 trees every year with Trees4Scotland - for the next 10 years!! They wish to plant them for their staff and customers.

Lomond Foods taking responsibility for fleet vehicle emissions

One of the most difficult things to do when you are a growing player in the food delivery business is to keep your mileage to a minimum. This progressive and young company not only optimise their mileage but they are also planting trees to mitigate the carbon emissions that they do produce. (early risers will see T4S badge on their vehicles soon)...

Chivas Brothers plant another 500

Continued on page 18

Trees for Scotland, continued from page 17

Chivas continue their support and their total now comes to 1,100 trees!! This time they are planting trees for their staff this Christmas. Jennifer Brophy from Chivas Brothers comments, "This is the second year we have supported Trees4Christmas and this year we have planted another 500 trees!"

Welcome Dewars!

We were delighted to welcome the crew from Dewar's Whisky to Teaghlach Wood recently. It is great to have another whisky company on board supporting Scotland's new woodlands.



Dewar's

and their sister brand Lawson's fly a lot of staff to Scotland to attend events and we are helping them calculate the carbon footprint of these events and planting trees accordingly.

Working with us works for you too!

There is always a bit more to Trees4Scotland than meets the eye. The way we work is to try to fully support our clients and we encourage them to let their customers know what they are doing in regards to planting trees - have a look at how the Green Business Network get the message across:

We will soon introduce, The Eco Hub!

Yes the long awaited Eco Hub will shortly be launched on our website www.trees4scotland.com. This will be an area where you will be able to find all the responsible businesses who work with us. Every

month there will be interviews to camera with featured companies who will get the chance to tell us about their business and how they act in a responsibly in regards to the environment.

Expanding into England, Wales and Northern Ireland

The Big Green Woods initiative has taken longer

than anticipated to get off the ground but our project partners, Big Green Book are now starting to make some progress. Watch this space...

Facebook and Twitter

A good way to keep up to date

with what is going on in our strange world is to follow us on Facebook or Twitter - we upload lots of photos and video content to facebook and you can also click through to Trees4Scotland TV from there too!

Our woodland projects...

Teaghlach Wood

The number of names up on the onside honours board continues to grow all the time.

Is your name up there yet? Only £10 per tree.

Plant a tree: www.trees4scotland.com

The Whispering Wood

This section of woodland is becoming increasingly popular as you get your own engraved plaque next to a dedicated tree. Recently we have had memorials, birthdays and anniversaries! New Price £49.95 for tree and engraved plaque. Plant a tree: www.trees4scotland.com/whispering-wood

Ask the Experts

With many thanks to the Scottish Tartans Authority, and their "Christmas Herald."

We receive many enquiries on all aspects of weaving, tartan, Highland dress, etiquette and all subjects in between. We thought it would be of interest to readers to see some of them.

Our expert here is Peter Eslea MacDonald, our Head of Research, a long-time handloom weaver of repute and probably the world's leading consultant on the history and technical intricacies of tartan fabric and clothing through the ages.

Question.

I am building a Feileadh Mor and have found a conundrum. One source says the right side of the fabric has the twill rib going up to the left. As I look through some books from Scotland, I find the pictures show it both, neither, and mix of ways. So what is the right side of tartan fabric? Next, I have seen several photos of paintings, circa 1710-1750, which show the Feileadh Mor (Breacan feile) with the 4 edges of the fabric bound with a contrasting twill tape (likely wool tape trim). By



the time of the Victorian kilts, i.e. current issue kilts, that trim is 'out of fashion'. Thus the Question: if I put contrasting twill tape on a Feile Beag or a Feileadh Mor, will the Lord Lyon send out the Black Watch to string me up on Tyburns Tree? or will I be creating a Social Gaff of some sort, or will I, most likely, be restarting an old tradition?

Answer.

1. What is the right side of a piece of tartan? When speaking of the right side of a piece of cloth you're referring to the modern practice of finishing - pressing and rolling - the material on one side and the side in direct contact with the rollers is called the finished side. Not all weavers finish their material in the same way which is why you'll see both versions. Neither is more correct than the other and neither is historically relevant as tartan of the feileadh mor era was not finished and besides, if it

Continued on page 30

Clan Davidson Society, USA, Inc.

www.clan davidson usa.com



COME JOIN US! 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.

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Braselton, GA 30517
gahalliley@gmail.com

Dave Chagnon, Membership
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Clan Davidson Society, USA invites all Davidson's and Septs of the clan to membership:

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Martin
"Life is changed not ended."
Apr. 7, 1906 - May 24, 2004

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Upper and lower-case letters are named “upper” and “lower” because in the time when all original print had to be set in individual letters, the “upper case” letters were stored in the case on top of the case that stored the smaller “lowercase” letters.

A letter from your editor, continued from page 3

maybe 15% "profit" to the publication. If you wish to sell eighth of a page ads...divide the full page by 8: quarter page ads...divide the full page by 4...half pages, divide by 2. Pretty simple.

If you are very fortunate, you can find someone who will sell advertising for you and send you the completed ads - ready to go on your pages. If you are like I've always been, you do the selling yourself...and the ad layout and everything else. It's possible. You can do it.

A newsletter truth: Selling and producing ADVERTISING IS HARD WORK. Did I mention, it's hard work.

Question: What computer program do you use?

Answer: I use Adobe PageMaker 6.5 and 7.0. I went to a technical school to learn this difficult program (Of course, it's easy for me now - 10 years later.). The school did not have a class in PageMaker...but I had a "Classroom in a Book" book from PageMaker. I taught myself, but had the advantage of the teacher to help me when what the book was saying seemed like gobbledygook.

I've tried to learn Adobe Photoshop on my own - with no success whatsoever. So, you do need some kind of teacher available when you hit brick walls.

There are several good programs out there. In Design comes to mind...and I know several folks who swear by that one. Go to a good computer store and ask questions of the sales person - whom you HOPE knows the programs well enough to be of help. See if

you can find folks who use different programs and talk to them.

I've done some decent newsletters using the various word programs. Newsletters do not have to be fancy to be good.

Maybe have that tattooed on you somewhere: Newsletters do not have to be fancy to be good!



Captured at Methven in the debacle that all but ended the reign of Robert the Bruce, the king's nephew Thomas Randolph was forced by his captors to track his king and the Army of Bruce. His heart still yearned for Scotland to be free, and at Loudoun Plain, he calmly turned his back to the English and rode across the battlefield to rejoin the Scots and stand against Edward's army. Find out more about the epic story at....

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

Email: clanmactavishUSA@gmail.com

How does Sears treat its employees who are called up for military duty?

I do not forward many emails as I know that the most “wonderful” are a way for some unscrupulous soul to get all of our email addresses for nefarious purposes...but my cousin, Phyllis, whom I trust implicitly, sent me this...and it IS verified.

Hurrah for Sears!

Dear Beth, I know I needed this reminder, since Sears isn't always my first choice.

Amazing when you think of how long the war has lasted and they haven't withdrawn from their commitment.

Could we each buy at least one thing at Sears this year?

How does Sears treat its employees who are called up for military duty?

By law, they are required to hold their jobs open and available, but nothing more.

Usually, people take a big pay cut and lose benefits as a result of being called up.

Sears is voluntarily paying the difference in salaries and maintaining all benefits, including medical insurance and bonus programs, for all called up reservist employees for up to two years.

I submit that Sears is an exemplary corporate citizen and should be recognized for



its contribution. I suggest we all shop at Sears, and be sure to find a manager to tell them why we are there so the company gets the positive reinforcement it well deserves.

Pass it on... Decided to check this before I sent it forward. So I sent the following e-mail to the Sears Customer Service Department: I received this e-mail and I would like to know if it is true. If it is, the Internet may have just become one very good source of advertisement for your company. I know I would go out of my way to buy products from Sears instead of another store for a like item, even if it's cheaper at that store.

This is their answer to my e-mail: Dear Customer: Thank you for contacting Sears. The information is factual. We appreciate your positive feedback. Sears regards ser-

Continued on page 24

Hearth of the Kitchen

Yummy! Yummy Chocolate Toffee Delights



Shannon Koene from Blacksburg, Virginia combined her best shortbread recipe with some ingredients she had on hand and came up with these wonderful bars.

Ingredients:

1 cup butter, softened

½ cup plus 2 Tbsp sugar, divided

Sears, continued from page 23

vice to our country as one of greatest sacrifices our young men and women can make. We are happy to do our part to lessen the burden they bear at this time.

Bill Thorn Sears Customer Care
Webcenter@sears.com 1-800-349-4358 1-800-349-4358

Please pass this on to all your friends. Sears needs to be recognized for this outstanding contribution and we need to show them as Americans, we do appreciate what they are doing for our military! This is verified by Snopes.com at: <http://www.snopes.com/politics/military/sears.asp>

¾ tsp almond extract
½ tsp coconut extract
2 cups all-purpose flour
¼ tsp salt
¼ tsp baking powder
½ cup flaked coconut
½ cup sliced almonds, toasted & cooled

1 jar (12 ¼ oz) caramel ice cream topping

¾ cup dark chocolate chips

In a small bowl, cream butter and ½ cup sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in extracts. Combine the flour, salt, and baking powder, gradually add to the creamed mixture and mix well. Press into a greased 13 X 9 inch baking pan. Bake at 350° for 10 minutes. Prick crust with a fork; sprinkle with remaining sugar. Bake 15 minutes longer or until set.

Meanwhile, place coconut and almonds in a food processor; cover and process until finely chopped. Transfer to a small bowl, stir in ice cream topping. Spread over crust. Bake for 5- 10 minutes or until edges are bubbly. Cool on a wire rack.

In a microwave, melt chocolate chips; stir until smooth. Drizzle over caramel mixture. Let stand until chocolate is set. Cut into bars. Store in an airtight container. Yield: 3 dozen

With thanks to the *House of Scotland* newsletter. For information on the House of Scotland, contact cherie.mcgruer@cox.net.

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Clan Colquhoun Society Of NA

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You're invited to visit The Clan Colquhoun "Blogspot" at:

<http://clancolquhoun.blogspot.com/>



Would you like for your clan to be represented in these pages?

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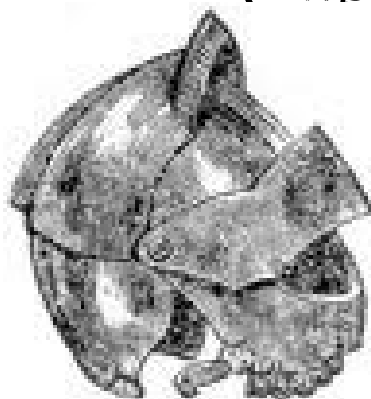
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For membership information, contact:
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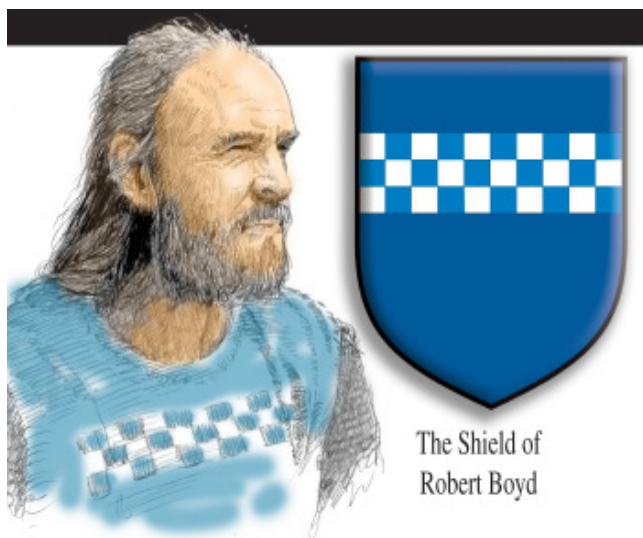
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Tartan Trends

In the *TIMES* of the Internet.com comes this welcome news. The tartan trend is super hot this season and is a must have in every winter wardrobe. Tartan is a great look to carry because its versatile, stylish and can be adapted to almost any occasion. However, most people don't realize that tartan is not a trend that's easy to carry off. In this article, you learn how to make the trend work for you.

To begin with, keep it subtle. Tartan is a bold print and immediately catches attention so don't try to make a big impact with it. Never, ever go in for a head-to-toe look and only use a single piece at a time. A tartan scarf is enough to highlight an outfit.

For a casual look you can wear a tartan shirt over a tight turtleneck and pair it with jeans. On a warmer day you can dump the turtleneck and pair the look with sneakers. If you wear a tartan dress keep the rest of the outfit very simple. Wear heels/ballerina slippers in a single block color which matches your clutch and avoid using too many accessories. For the best effect, keep your hair styled in a classic up-do.

Tartan tends to make you look bigger so don't wear it on a part of the body that you don't want to emphasize.



in any way at all, then one would have to check the cloth was the right-way-out every time before putting it on, which would be really impractical. Although modern cloth is finished it will make absolutely no difference which way you turn it and thus wear it as a feileadh mor.

2. Can you add an edging band of material and will anyone mind? You mention several early C18th paintings that show the fabric bound with a contrasting tape but I have to say that I cannot think of one and wonder if you have mistaken the selvedge mark that is clearly visible on a number of the painted plaids of that period and which could easily be mistaken for an attached band by someone unfamiliar with traditional weaving techniques. Adding such a band of a different material would be illogical and impracticable as it is not required and adding one would counteract

the movement of the material by preventing its edges moving as part of the whole.

Question.

Please accept my thanks for the very prompt reply. As to the first, you are correct as to finishing methods, but with fabric with a nap, there is a 'good side'. Your answer confirms my suspicion, that the 'tartan explosion' created some very odd customs, and thanks to you, I can stop worrying about the 'right side' of the fabric.

As to the 2nd; would you be so kind as to view the Richard Watt's portrait of the Piper, William Cumming, or Alastair Grant, on Pages 29-28 of "The Complete Book of Tartan, Zaczek & Phillips, Lorenz Books and tell me if that is a tape trim, or some odd selvedge work with which I'm not familiar. The tape trim does have a function, it takes the wear on the edges of the fabric. You see it on ladies work petticoats of the era, men's work coats and the like.. I have an Army Surplus Store pair of East German wool trousers, with the tape trim on the inside of the cuff, to take the wear of the shoes. Ditto my expensive 21st Century suit, which has tape trim on the inside of the cuffs, for the same reason.

Answer.

I wondered if you were thinking of those two portraits. It's known that the artist, Richard Waitt, pre-painted the majority of his pictures in his studio and then added the face and other details to personalise each picture in-situ. We must therefore treat his dress detail with a certain amount of caution. Allowing for artistic licence the tartan is the same in both pictures and in my opinion the portraits do not show taped edges but a selvedge mark.

It is wrong to equate the level of wear on the selvedge of a plaid and that of trousers and dresses etc. These two items of clothing were often of a finer material and the edges were in close contact with shoes, boots and the ground which is obviously not the case with a plaid. You need to remember that a plaid could literally be turned through 180 degrees every time it was put on thus reducing wear.

Finally, there is the not insignificant fact that amongst all the surviving plaids, complete or portions of, there is no example of a bound selvedge which rather conclusively settles the argument.

www.tartansauthority.com/