



Vol. V No. 8 *Beth's Newfangled Family Tree* Section B January 2012

# Start the new year at Rural Hill

HUNTERSVILLE, NC: Rural Hill invites everyone to come and start 2012 off right at its annual First Footin' event on New Year's Day. The annual hike and celebration of Hogmanay, or Scottish New Year, is free and open to the public. In addition, Rural Hill is hosting a five mile race. On January 1 First Footin' will begin at 11 AM with both the hike and the race and will then have a presentation of "Stone Soup" at 12:30, followed by a luncheon and fellowship. No reservations for the hike are necessary, just come and enjoy the fun. More information can be found at [www.ruralhill.net](http://www.ruralhill.net).

Runners from around the region are invited to participate in the Rural Hill 2012 First Footin' Five Miler, presented by McIntosh Law Firm. The course of 5 miles is relatively easy, perfect for getting back on track after the holidays. The race will start at 11 AM. Race registration is \$30 and details are available at [www.ruralhill.net/FirstFootinFive.asp](http://www.ruralhill.net/FirstFootinFive.asp).

The Scottish New Year, Hogmanay (pronounced Hog-muh-nay), is a celebration of good will and good fortune. A first-footer who arrived empty handed was seen as a terrible omen of poverty and loss in the New Year. Several towns throughout the hillsides of Scotland continue an age old annual ritual

of a walking the town limits to restate or reclaim the boundaries of the township.

These traditions have been adopted as part of the Rural Hill Hogmanay celebration, known simply as First Footin'. Traditionally, the fulfillments of Hogmanay's rituals and folklore have assured good crops, good health, and good fortune in the coming year.

For the hike, wear good walking shoes and appropriate clothing for the season. This will be a fairly vigorous hike around the farm's 5k trail network, stopping along the way to discuss history and folklore. If you do not think you are physically able to do the walk, please come anyway. It's a great time for fellowship around the farm yard,

and we're always looking for new talent to help with the reading of the parable of "Stone Soup."

The hike is FREE and open to all, but we do encourage everyone to bring something for the luncheon. (Remember, it's bad luck to show up empty handed!) Items needed include fresh or canned vegetables for the soup, bread, dessert, soft drinks, tea, or your favorite beverage, and bowls, plates, napkins, and eating utensils.

For more information on Rural Hill, First Footin', Hogmanay, or the Five Miler, please visit [www.ruralhill.net](http://www.ruralhill.net)



This publication is FREE. Just visit  
<http://www.electricscotland.com/bnft>

**The Call has been issued!**

**All Clans to gather for The Glasgow Highland Games 2012! Come share your Scottish pride by participating in 2012 Raising of The Clans.**

**Remember all Clans in attendance will receive 2 Games tickets for Saturday and Sunday! Give your best Clan war cry so Clan Hay (last year's winner) chooses your Clan as this year's winner! Let's kick off the Ceilidh with an inspiring torchlight ceremony!**

**I hope to see all of you there!**

*Peter Lapham*

**Director, Raising of the Clans  
Glasgow Highland Games**

## **Clan Blair members in the *Guinness Book of World Record!***

An American couple have set a new Guinness World Record for the most marriage vow renewals, having exchanged their vows for the 100<sup>th</sup> time recently at the Hard Rock Café in Honolulu, Hawaii.

*Lauren and David Blair, Hendersonville, Tennessee* first met in 1982. They say they were instantly smitten.

Their first date came two days later and within three months David had proposed.

The course to true love being rarely smooth, Lauren actually said no the first time.

However, it wasn't long before Lauren accepted and in the summer of 1984 the couple were married in Topanga Canyon, California.



*Continued on page 4*

## **Clan Crawford Association**

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# Philadelphia dedication of the Monument to Scottish Immigrants

John Ramsay, Clan Ramsay President

On October 8th, 2011, (my birthday) my wife Sue and I celebrated with the Duke of Argyll and some Philadelphia inlaws at the Dedication of the Monument to Scottish Immigrants. It was quite a party!

Many, if not most, of our Ramsay/Ramsey ancestors were part of the Scots and Ulster Scot immigrants that came to the American Colonies during the 18th Century. Philadelphia was the gateway where many of our ancestors landed for the first time on American soil. The Monument honors the thousands of cots who helped lay the solid foundation on which our nation was built.

## History & Symbolism

During the first hundred years of Scottish immigration to the Americas, Philadelphia was the largest city in the British colonies and the second largest city in the British Empire. As such, its booming port was a natural destination for emigrant Scots. Many of those arriving in Philadelphia were poor or sick and in need of money, work, and friends.

In 1747, a group of Scots immigrants who were already established in Philadelphia founded the St. Andrew's Society of Philadelphia to assist their indigent countrymen.

The first meetings of the Society were held at Tun Tavern, which was located near this site. The early members of the Society included prominent Scottish immigrants ó physicians, educators, engineers, and military leaders, businessmen, clergymen, farmer, and lawyers ó all of Philadelphia

Dedication of the Monument to Scottish Immigrants whom contributed their money and their skill to assist less fortunate Scots.

The Monument depicts a Scottish family, newly arrived in Philadelphia, walking up from the river ready to face the challenges of their new country with determination and courage. The group includes a young man dressed in frontier garb who has come ahead of his family to find a place for them to settle. Perhaps he has already met and received help from the members of the St. Andrew's Society; perhaps he has joined the



Society himself.

Having found a suitable location in Pennsylvania or further West, he has sent word back to his family that the land is good, and that they should follow.

His father, the patriarch of the family, retains his Celtic highland kilt, and proudly carries his

*Continued on page 4*

### **World Record**, *continued from page 2* ———

Since then Lauren and David, at 60 and 58 years old respectively, have renewed their vows a further 99 times, each ceremony taking place in a different location.

Asked why they continuously renew their vows, Lauren says: "We were both in long term relationships in the past that didn't work out. We knew we were meant for each other and wanted to continually share that vow experience. I love to look into David's eyes as he is repeating his vows. I know that this man will love me until the day I die. Of course, David will tell you that he does it for the honeymoons!"

With thanks to the *Blair Bruidhinn*.



### **Scottish Monument**, *continued from page 3* —

cromag, or shepherd's staff and is accompanied by his faithful deerhound.

The young woman is the wife of the patriarch's son, holding a baby that will grow to adulthood as an American.

The young girl, perhaps an older daughter of the son, or his younger sister, carries a book which may be the family Bible. As a result of the Scottish passion for education, even the poorest Scots were literate, an advantage not shared by many new arrivals at that time.

The goal of The Monument is to recognize the courage, skill, resourcefulness, and tenacity of Scottish immigrants as a group. Having endured hardship, war, and persecution in their own land, they crossed the stormy Atlantic to settle here as frontiersmen, farmers and traders; as mothers, teachers, and nurses; as artisan, architects, physicians, attorneys, clergy, bankers, soldiers, and statesmen.

No matter what their clan or profession, highland or lowland, all of these Scottish immigrants shared a common Celtic heritage, a common history of struggle, defeat, and victory, and a common desire to add their individual contributions to building a new and great nation.

With many thanks to Clan Ramsay's *Ramsay Report*.



An Englishman and a Scotsman are driving head on, at night, on a twisty, dark road. Both are driving too fast for the conditions and collide on a sharp bend in the road.

To the amazement of both, they are unscathed, though their cars are both destroyed. In celebration of their luck, both agree to put aside their dislike for the other from that moment on.

At this point, the Scotsman goes to the boot and fetches a 12 year old bottle of sherry. He hands the bottle to the Englishman, whom exclaims "May the Scots and the English live together forever, in peace, and harmony".

The Englishman then tips the bottle and gulps half of the bottle down.

Still flabbergasted over the whole thing, he goes to hand the bottle to the Scotsman, whom replies: "No, thanks, I'll just wait till the Police get here".

### **Those woodpeckers are going to have to go!**



With thanks to Alastair McIntyre

# Fiction versus fact - *Scottish Tartan*

**Dave Chagnon, FSA Scot, Sennachie & Membership Registrar**

Chairman, Board of Directors Clan Davidson Society (USA)

When I first dipped my toe into the wonderful and fascinating world of all things Scottish, I too was awash in the myths that pervade so many facets of Scottish history and culture - and were passed off as fact! The area that is probably the worst for this phenomenon is that of Tartan.

Fortunately, I had the privilege of becoming acquainted with two gentlemen who were instrumental in the formation of the Scottish Tartans Society (along with Capt. Stuart Davidson), Micheil MacDonald and Gordon Teal of Teallach. These fellows were serious students of Tartan, its history and its preservation. I soon learned many of the differences between the fact of tartan versus the fiction of tartan.

A few years later, I became a personal friend of Peter Eslea MacDonald, Micheil's son. Once, when Peter came to visit at my home in Arkansas, he called me from a local Greyhound bus station to announce his arrival in town. He told me he would be easy to find, since he was the only gent wearing a kilt! Aye, that he was!

Peter has subsequently spent his life as a weaver of tartan and as a researcher into all aspects of tartan - dyes, techniques, design, history and so on. Since he is the expert, and the Principal Researcher for the Scottish Registry of Tartan (the Scottish Government's official arm for all things tartan), I can't think of any better source for information on this topic.

I have included two of Peter's many articles on tartan (with permission) which shed a lot of light on this most misunderstood facet of Scotland's culture.

**A Short History of Tartan** by Peter Eslea MacDonald, Principal Researcher, Scottish Registry of Tartan

Today, books or shops dealing with tartan and Highland Dress will be mainly, if not exclusively, concerned with clan tartans. They may seek to suggest that these are the actual patterns worn by the Scottish clans throughout history up to, and including,

the Battle of Culloden in 1746. This is not the case. The majority of the pre-1850 patterns bearing clan names can only be traced back to the early 19th century and to the famous weaving firm of William Wilson & Sons of Bannockburn, near Stirling.

After the failure of the last Jacobite rising in 1746, the kilt and tartan were banned in an attempt to stamp

out the culture that was seen by the Hanoverian government as the power base of the House of Stuart. The ban, imposed by an Act of Parliament of 1746, was called the Disarming Act or "An Act for the more effectual disarming of the Highlands in Scotland and for more effectual securing of peace of the said Highlands; and for restraining the Use of the Highland Dress" (19 Geo. II c.39, in Johnston & Robertson, 1899). Under the Act, men and boys were forbidden to wear or put on Highland clothes including; the kilt, plaid and no tartan or party-coloured Plaid

or stuff was to be use for Great Coats or for Upper Coats. The Act, which came into force on August 1st 1747, did not apply to those men serving as soldiers in Highland Regiments, or to Gentry, the sons of Gentry, or women. The proscription of Highland Dress lasted for a period of 36 years be-



*Continued on page 9*



# Clan Bell International



**This old West Marche Clan, one of Border clans since the early 1100s, were retainers of the Great House of Douglas and also allied with the best border families through blood and friendship. Their land holdings were extensive, and to survive, they engaged in the “rieving” of the period and participated in many battles against the English.**

Declared òunrulyö by the Scottish Parliament, many of the Clan emigrated to the Ulster Plantation after 1610.

After William Bell, called *Redcloak* and Chief of the Clan died in 1628, the chiefship became dormant, and without leadership, the Bells ceased to exist as a viable clan.

Clan Bell International (CBI) in the United States represents Clan Bell world-wide with a coordinated network of 20 International Representatives, each representing the Clan in their own country.

CBI is a charitable organization of Scottish descendants and friends of Family/Clan Bell dedicated to the study of Bell genealogy and Scottish history and the perpetuation of family tradition.

CBI cordially invites membership inquires from persons Named Bell (all spellings), their descendants and friends. Quarterly newsletter published. Tents hosted at major Scottish festivals from coast to coast.

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**William H. Bell**

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**February 4** VA Jewelry Showcase  
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**February 17-19** PA Mid-Winter Scottish and Irish Festival  
Valley Forge Convention Center, King of Prussia, PA  
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**March 2-4** SC Craftsmen's Classic Arts & Crafts Festival  
SC State Fairgrounds, Columbia, SC  
336-282-5550 or [www.gilmoreshows.com](http://www.gilmoreshows.com)

**March 9-11** NJ Sugarloaf Crafts Festival  
Garden State Exhibit Center, Somerset, NJ  
800-210-9900 or [www.sugarloafcrafter.com](http://www.sugarloafcrafter.com)

**March 16-18** PA Sugarloaf Crafts Festival  
Greater Philadelphia Expo Center, Oaks, PA  
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How to order

### *A Historical Handbook to Scotland*

by Duncan MacPhail

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[Kevan@clancrawford.org](mailto:Kevan@clancrawford.org)**



fore being repealed in 1782, by which time much of the old lore and skills had been lost or discarded as inappropriate to the new politico-economic circumstances in which the Highlanders found themselves. However, under the Act, the ban only affected that part of North Britain called Scotland (19 Geo. II c.39, in Johnston & Robertson, 1899) and which was defined in an earlier Act following the 1715 Rising. Roughly speaking, this was the area north of a line from Dumbarton in the west to Perth in the east. Scotland at this time comprised two cultures, the Gaelic Highlands and the Scots Lowlands. The latter was seen by the Hanoverian government as civilized and generally supportive of the crown whereas the Highlands were regarded as a vestige of a wild, untamed, rebellious and Catholic past that needed to be subjugated.

William Wilson started his family business south of the Highland boundary in Bannockburn on the outskirts of Stirling where, being unaffected by the Act, he was able to flourish. He quickly cornered the growing market for tartan in southern Scotland and elsewhere, and especially for the lucrative supply of cloth to the military and the increasing number of Highland Regiments. The need for mass cloth production to meet large orders such as the military, led to a requirement for standard colours and patterns in order to maintain quality control. These standardized colours and patterns devised by Wilsons were certainly in use by them by the 1780s and their range continued to grow with the increase in the demand for tartan, a trend that continued throughout the 19th century.

By the time the first aniline dye was introduced in 1856, the use of standard colours and

colour terminology had been practiced by Wilsons for over seventy years and was firmly established. Wilsons started to name some of their patterns after towns and districts in the latter half of the 18th century. Towards the end of the century, the use of family names for tartans becomes apparent, this practice increased over the next fifty years, and in 1819, they compiled their in-house reference manual the 1819 Key Pattern Book.

In 1778, the Highland Society of London (HSL) was formed as a type of Scottish Gentry's ex-patriots club in London. In about 1815, Col. Alasdair MacDonnell of Glengarry set about urging the clan Chiefs to submit a piece of their clan tartan, authenticated with their seal, to the collection being made by the HSL. The reasoning behind this idea was to preserve what were assumed to be the original clan patterns before they were completely lost. Most of the pieces sealed and deposited with the Society at that time were pat-



terns woven and, appear in a majority of cases, to have been designed by Wilsons. This obviously means that they could not have existed prior to c.1765 when William Wilson started his business.

The chief of the Robertsons is said to have travelled around Athol asking the old men of his clan what the true clan pattern was, but no-one could agree. Eventually he sealed as the true Robertson Tartan a piece of what is now called Hunting Robertson or Robertson of Kindeace, which is thought to be the tartan used for kilts by the Loyal Clan Donnachie (Robertson) Volunteers, a sort of home guard, raised in 1803. Like all such variations of the Government tartan, this pattern cannot be dated earlier than the late 18th Century

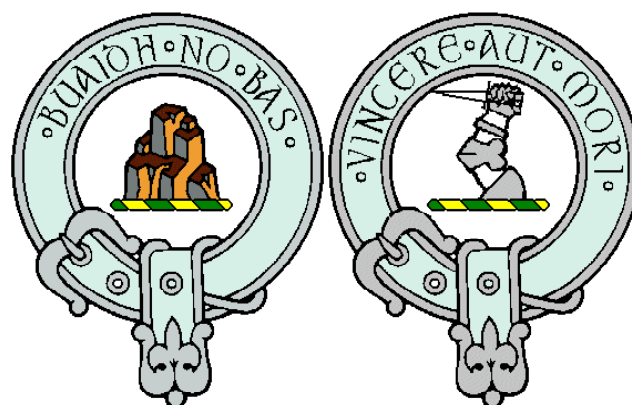
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# Clan Macneil Association of America

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| • McNeil     | • OoNeal    |
| • Mcniel     | • OoNeil    |
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**“Cuimhnich Air Na Daoine  
o’n D’thainig thu.”**

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whom you have come.**

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| • MacGougan | • Mcgrail   |
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| • MacGrail  | • McGugan   |
| • Macgrail  | • Macgugan  |
| • MacGugan  | • McGuigan  |
| • Macgugan  | ...and      |
| • MacGuigan | • Mcguigan  |

**Tartan**, *continued from page 9*

and so it cannot have been the old Robertson clan tartan. Indeed, there are other old patterns associated with the clan that would have a better claim to being the -clan tartan - had one existed in c.1815.

In another example, Duncan MacPherson, the Chief of the MacPhersons, sealed Wilsons -No.43, Kidd or Caledonia - as the MacPherson Tartan. Wilsons had previously sold No.43 or Caledonia to a man on the east coast of Scotland named Kidd and after a while it also began to be called No.43 or Kidd tartan in their records. They later sold the Kidd tartan to a Mr. MacPherson in the West Indies and his name began to be associated with this tartan. It therefore appears that Duncan MacPherson went to Wilsons to find his true tartan and they supplied No.43 as the MacPherson tartan. These examples illustrate the confusion surrounding the naming of tartans at that period and support my argument that the idea of clan tartans took off during the early 19th century.

The naming of clan and family patterns was given a huge boost in the years immediately prior to George IV's royal visit to Edinburgh in 1822. He was the first King to visit Scotland for 150 years and the event was to a large degree stage managed by Sir Walter Scott who urged the Scots to turn out -plaided and plumed - in their true tartans to meet their King. This led James Logan to complain in his 1831 book -The Scottish Gael - that this appeal had: -combined to excite much curiosity among all classes, to ascertain the particular tartans and badges they were entitled to wear. This creditable feeling undoubtedly led to a result different from what might have been expected: fanciful varieties of tartan and badges were passed off as genuine -

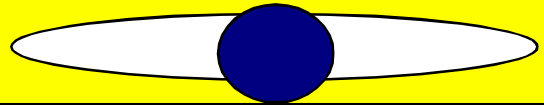
Tartan was given fresh impetus during the reign of Queen Victoria during which time many of the myths surrounding tartan and highland dress began and were codified over the next 100 years. Victoria's love of all things Scottish is well known and this led to what has been described as the cult of Balmorality named after her Highland home, Balmoral Castle. Early in her reign two brothers, John Sobieski and Charles Allan Hay, appeared on the Scottish scene. They claimed to be the illegiti-

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# Family Reunions, relatives and their impact on genealogical research

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**Bryan L. Mulcahy,**  
**Reference Librarian, Fort Myers-Lee County (FL) Library**

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Family reunions are occasions when members of an extended family gather for a celebration. Typical reunions often consist of parents, grandparents, great grand parents, siblings, and relatives. While family reunions may take place any time at any time of the year, the months of November and December present many opportunities for family gatherings. Holidays such as Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Christmas tend to be the most popular dates for these occasions. Discussing holidays past is appropriate to the current holidays. These discussions often add to other people's enjoyment of the occasion and still afford you with the opportunity to discuss family history.

These holiday gatherings often provide many opportunities to share family traditions and stories. You may find yourself in many one-on-one and group situations with relatives who possess some knowledge of family history information. Discussing family history can be entertaining. Family reunions tend to be the best time to have interactions with relatives and other distant family members. While some family members and relatives may not wish to talk, experience has shown that in most cases, most people love to discuss family history and events. Those who fall into the latter category seldom attend so that would be a moot point.

These discussions open up avenues to learn more about your heritage and dig into interesting

stories. While there are many resources available for genealogical and historical research today, one should never ignore the input of family members and relatives. Take the time to talk to them and record the information they provide so that you can do further research on your own. Older members

of your family, especially, may be able to get you information that goes back several generations. In addition, they can give you hints that will help you gather further information like where those other family members may have lived, died, or worked in addition to other accomplishments.

The recollections of family members, and the photos and documents they hold, provide a wealth of invaluable family history

information. Always consider interviewing older relatives first as they will usually know more about the earlier generations of your family. Unless their knowledge is well documented before they die or their memory fades, then that information may be lost forever. Your relative may be the only person who knows from which country and town your immigrant ancestors came, additionally, if their family name was different in earlier generations, it most likely that your eldest relatives would know the original name.

Relatives are often excellent candidates for oral history interviews. Oral history allows people

*Continued on page 14*



## **Tartan**, continued from page 11

mate grandsons of Prince Charles Edward Stuart by the Polish Countess Maria Sobieska and later became known as the Sobieski Stuarts.

They claimed that they had been left a 16th century Manuscript, the Douai Mss, giving details of many original but previously unknown clan tartans including those long lost by non-Highland families. Their whole story has now been shown

## **Bryan Mulcahy**, continued from page 13



to preserve their voices for future generations who will have the advantage of hearing a person tell their story in their own words. Oral histories can provide clues into family related matters such as where to begin searching for specific records in Europe and the British Isles, provide insights to family traditions and heirlooms, describe how major events impacted the life decisions made by ancestors, shed insight on incidents involving ancestors labeled as öblack sheepö or possible cover-ups by family members, neighbors, or associates, and provide clues and/or specific details about medical related problems or conditions.

BLM 12/20/2011 Bryan L. Mulcahy, Reference Librarian, Fort Myers-Lee County Library, 2050 Central Avenue, Fort Myers, FL 33901-3917. Tel: (239) 533-4626. Fax: (239) 485-1160. E-Mail: bmulcahy@leegov.com

to be a fabrication, as has their claimed copy of the Douai Mss that they called the Cromarty Mss. However, this did not prevent their designs from being accepted widely as genuine by a society reveling in all things Scottish. That said, their book, the Vestiarum Scoticum, was the first book to be published with tartan plates and this led to a host of other similar books during the second half of the 19th century.

Over the last fifty years or so tartan has developed into a multi-million pound industry dominated by a few large mills. Today tartan holds a unique place in the annals of textile history and has come to symbolize, along with the kilt and bagpipes, the cultural identity of the whole Scottish nation.

## **For the punsters amongst us....**

Two hydrogen atoms meet. One says, "I've lost my electron."

The other says, "Are you sure?"

The first replies, "Yes, I'm positive.ö

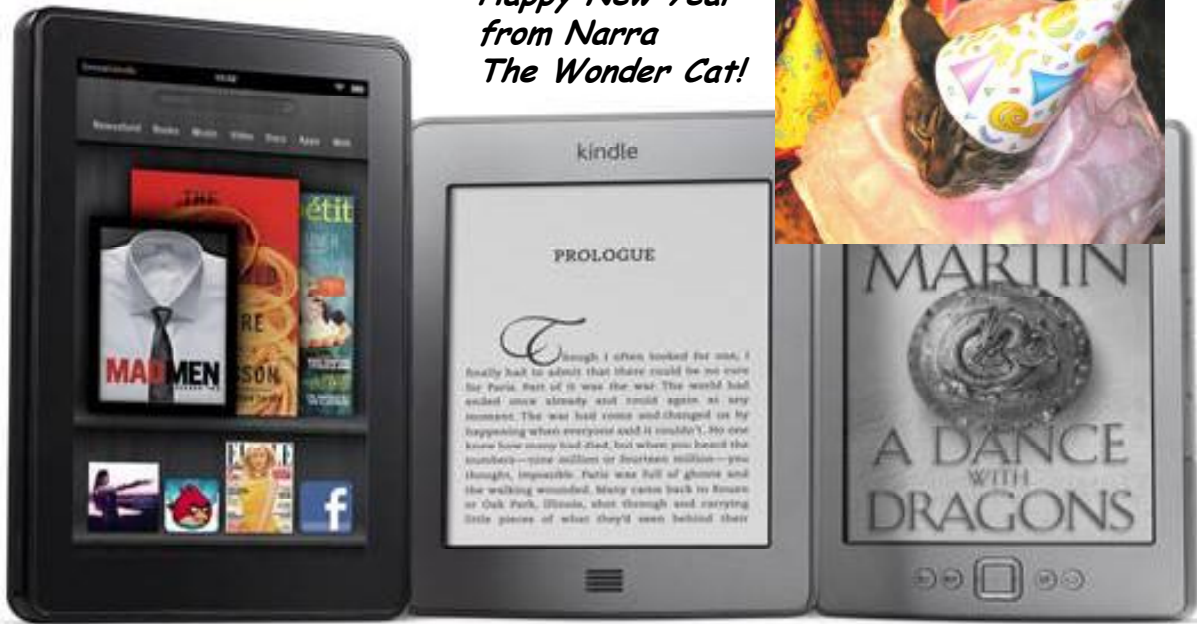
Two fish swim into a concrete wall.

One turns to the other and says, "Dam!"

*It's a fact. Only really intelligent folks love puns!*



*Happy New Year  
from Narra  
The Wonder Cat!*



# Introduction to Kindles

Monday, January 23, 2012

1pm – 3pm

Fort Myers-Lee County Public Library

2050 Central Avenue

Tel: (239) 533-4600 TTY: (239) 485-1162

This free seminar will introduce users to the world of Kindle e-book readers. Kindles utilize wireless connectivity to enable users to shop for, download, browse, and read e-books, newspapers, magazines, blogs, and other digital media.

The class will be taught by Nancy Kimble, who is a former Louisiana public school teacher, a retired Texas Certified Public Accountant (CPA), and retired Texas state employee with the state's Medicaid program. Mrs. Kimble has over 30 years of experience teaching complex tasks to adults.

All library programs are free and open to the public.

*Registration is required.*



## **McDuffee Clan Society of America** **of Clan Macfie** *50th Anniversary Celebration*

to be held at Glasgow, KY Highland Games May 30 - June 3, 2012

The games are held at Barren River Park

Registration should be in no later than two week prior to the event

We will plan arrival at the Ramada Inn, Bowling Green , KY on Wed., May 30.

**Registration for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

**will be \$93.50 per person**

This will include entrance to the games on Saturday & Sunday,  
 plus transportation to and from the games.

Send Registration & check made to: McDuffie(ee) Clan Society to

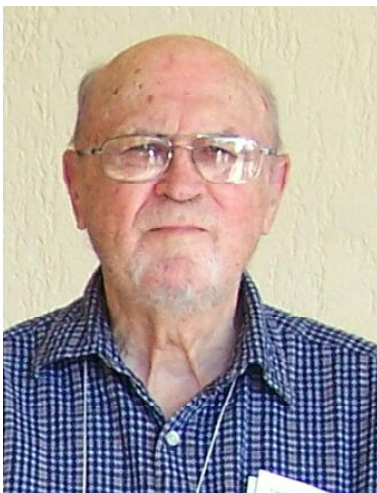
**David N. McDuffie, 27 Aberdeen Ct., Newnan, GA 30263**

***Registration needs to be returned by 1 May 2012***

# Flowers of the Forest

**Donald Livingston**, 1927-2011, Founding Father of the Clan Stewart Society in America served many leadership roles in the society. He developed and maintained CSSA throughout his years of membership. He serviced faithfully and well. He and his wife, Tassie, attended most Annual General Meetings as recently as 2010. He will be sorely missed.

**Boyt Henderson Cathey**, 84, a resident of White Oak Estates in Spartanburg, SC, passed away November 28th, 2011. Born in Charlotte, NC, he was the son of the late E. Allen Cathey and Lundy Henderson Cathey.



McDonnell Douglas in Charlotte, NC. He



Henderson Cathey.

As a resident of Jamestown, NC, Boyt retired from AT&T Technologies in Burlington, NC, and was previously employed by

was an avid genealogist, a founding member of the Cathey Reunion Society, author, and a member of the Spartanburg Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

He was predeceased by his loving wife Mary Grace Brown Cathey, son Stephen Dale Cathey, and daughter Miriam Cathey Darby. He is survived by his son Robert Cathey and his wife Kathy Wheale of Greenville, SC, sister Carlene Cathey Hovis, husband, Pascal, and niece Cathey Hovis Bassett, of Blacksburg, VA, son-in-law Rankin Darby and grandson Aaron Darby of Roanoke, VA.

A memorial service will be held at Davidson College Presbyterian Church, Congregation House, in Davidson, NC, on Saturday, January 14th at 1:00 PM. In lieu of flowers donations can be sent to The Salvation Army, Attn: Kroc Center, 417 Rutherford St., Greenville, SC 29609.

Please send news and information about your friends and loved ones who have passed away.

The Flowers of the Forest listings in this publication are FREE. No charge at all. Send to [bethscribble@aol.com](mailto:bethscribble@aol.com)





## Elliot Clan Society, USA

### Membership Information 2011

The Elliot Clan Society is a worldwide organization, with active branches in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States. In accordance with Scottish Clan Law, Clan membership includes all Elliots, Elliots, Elliotts, those of whose mother or grandmother was so named and their spouses. This also applies to Elliotts of known Scottish descent.

If you are a person of Scottish ancestry bearing the name Elliot, Elliott or Eliott (Including the spouse or descendant of such person) and wish to join the Elliot Clan Society, please fill out the membership form. Those forms may be found on the %Official ECS Website+ at:

# [www.elliotclan.com](http://www.elliotclan.com)

For US residents, please make sure that you send your completed ECS USA membership forms to the Membership/Treasurer. Once you join the Society, you will receive periodic newsletters from the ECS USA and our Parent Society in Scotland. The newsletters will inform you of Scottish festivals in your area and other announcements of importance to our Clan. Membership allows you to meet other Elliots with similar interests who share our Scottish heritage.

Contact Patricia Tennyson Bell

Email: [dublincollen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dublincollen@sbcglobal.net) or write

Patricia Tennyson Bell, Treasurer/Membership Chair

2288 Casa Grande Street

Pasadena, CA 91104

*(Fortiter Et Recte)*  
*Boldly and Rightly*



# Writing Waves

Gord Taylor



It was honoured to be asked by Beth to write an article for *Beth's Newfangled Family Tree*. It wasn't that long ago that Beth graciously worked with me to take part in a contest for her publication. So, as my relationship with *BNFT* has been totally associated to my career as a composer, Beth has asked me to write a bit about the art/science that I've come to learn as a composer. To do this, I would like to write about pipe melodies, pipe band music and pipes in rock and roll.

I'm Gord Taylor. I've had a bit of an atypical life. A normal start I can say, in pipe bands and such, but my life gained a creative, powerful, and obsessive hobby when I first gravitated to composing at a young age. I was inspired by John Gillis and our pipebands' musical relationship with Michael Grey, Bruce Gandy and John Fisher. I learned from these men that anyone could write a tune. I mean, it was just a musical sentence. Just a musical thought. It could be anything. I recall my first tune, laminated with Scotch tape, written when I was about 12. It was called 'The Boney Lad'. I didn't know how to spell 'Bonny' yet.

In 1985 I started playing the pipes with The Lord Selkirk Boys Pipe Band in Winnipeg, Canada under the instruction of Pipe Major Bob Fraser. He is an amazing man. For 53 years Bob has been teaching children from chanter lessons to full pipe band lessons. Bob and his volunteers run the boys band and plays the boys in parade and contest till they're 18. At one time, Pipe Major Fraser ran The St. Andrews Society Pipe Band of Winnipeg the resulting band produced by the desire for the

young adults to continue instruction and camaraderie with Bob.

A testament of Bob's honour, was that it was P/M Fraser's modus operandi that no boy would be refused instruction for financial reasons. Every boy paid annual dues of \$25 per year (or something cheap like that), and in return got a free set of bagpipes (loaned until they were 18), a uniform, and instruction. This included band trips (funded by the parents and fundraising committee) inter-provincially, nationally, and internationally. It was an amazing experience for 12 years of my life. When I was 16 I became the parade pipe major of the band and we took a trip overseas. We won best overseas band, best dress and deportment, and I think best bass drummer at the '96 World Championships in Glasgow.

During my young adult world we had workshops with guys like MG, BG, and JF and summer camps I remember with Colin MacLellan, Bob Worrall and Jake Watson. I'm fortunate to have had these experiences with such talented, influential people. I recently had a fear that my talents and skill with writing music are only based on my ability to copy and mimic other artists. But I think this is what we're all inspired from.

We write or use ear-catching words that we've heard or read and choose to adopt them as part of our vocabulary. It's the same with writing music. I think my musical toolbox is only made up of those

*Continued on page 28*

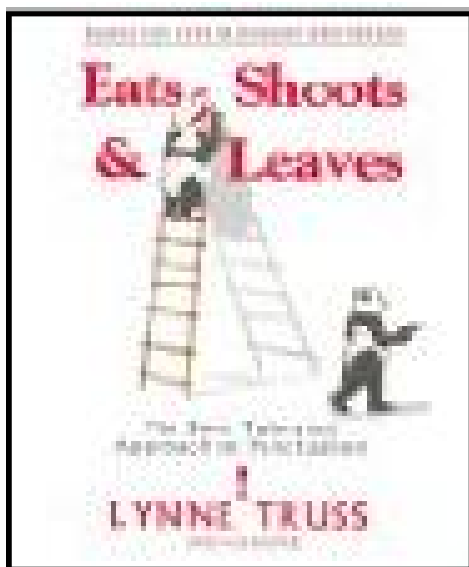


# A Highlander And His Books....

## Eats, Shoots & Leaves

Lynne Truss

*Reviewed By  
Frank R. Shaw, FSA Scot,  
Dawsonville, GA*



A panda walks into a café. He orders a sandwich, eats it, then draws a gun and fires two shots in the air.

“Why?” asks the confused waiter, as the panda makes towards the exit.

The panda produces a badly punctuated wildlife manual and tosses it over his shoulder.

“I’m a panda,” he says, at the door. “Look it up.”

The waiter turns to the relevant entry and, sure enough, finds an explanation. “Panda. Large black-and-white bear-like mammal, native to China. Eats shoots and leaves.”

Some of you may be wondering what this book has to do with our Scottishness since it is not about Scotland. Well, the book is about her people and all English-speaking people and their ability or inability to speak the Queen’s language correctly.

Anyway, welcome to the charming, entertaining, delightful, witty, brilliant, and wacky world of Lynne Truss, a stickler for the English language, passionate about her subject, and one who takes no prisoners!

[jurascot@earthlink.net](mailto:jurascot@earthlink.net)

I’m sure Mrs. Grimes and Miss White, my two high school English teachers who adopted me as a special project, deserve the highest commendations for their long struggle of trying to teach me grammar. Each would love to read this greatly informative book by a special lady who at one time or another has been writer, journalist, television critic, television presenter, novelist, sports columnist, book reviewer, and literary editor.

Even more so, my teachers would really be impressed that I read the book! They

*Continued on page 21*



would scratch their heads in wonder if they knew I enjoyed it and found it interesting, enchanting, and humorous.

“Miracles never cease,” I can hear them saying, or “What on earth has happened to Frank?”

After all, those two wonderful ladies would remember my daily struggles to grasp the correct use of apostrophes, commas, hyphens, etc., not to mention diagramming a sentence, and the many hours they worked to impart a semblance of grammar between my ears!

Have you ever been in church when you just knew the minister was talking directly to you? You and I know better, but the feeling is uncomfortable, to say the least.

Well, when it comes to grammar, I think Truss is talking directly to me when she writes, “You deserve to be struck by lightning, hacked up on the spot and buried in an unmarked grave.”

Have Mrs. Grimes and Miss White come back to haunt me in the autumn of my years? After all, they preached the same message as the author who correctly states that “punctuation marks are the traffic signals of language: they tell us to slow down, notice this, take a detour, and stop.”

If you enjoy historical anecdotes as I do, you will find many from the famous and not so famous.

Take Victor Hugo, for example. When he needed to know how *Les Misérables* was selling, he telegraphed his publisher with the simple inquiry, “?”



Equally captivating was his

publisher's reply, “!”

Then there is George Bernard Shaw, who is claimed by some Clan Shaw members (who should know better) as one of their own when there is very strong evidence to the contrary.

Shaw writes to a friend using a colon like a surgical knife: “I find fault with only three things in this story of yours: the beginning, the middle and the end.”

Lynne Truss enjoys taking the horse (or us) to the water trough, even though she cannot make the horse (or us) drink. Yet, she is very adept at rubbing salt in the horse's mouth (and ours). You come away from the book with a warm chuckle, grateful and thankful that most of us were lucky enough to have high school teachers who cared the way Mrs. Grimes and Miss White did.

Lynne Truss, a resident of Brighton, has a best seller in England with over two and a half million copies sold. This “British Book of the Year” has been #1 on the best seller's list of *The New York Times* and *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, and today hovers in the top ten of both publications after being published in America in April of this year. The book will never rival Dan Brown's record breaking 8.5 million copies of *The Da Vinci Code* that have been sold thus far. Yet, it will do something for us Brown's book failed to do - convince one and all that Truss knows her subject better than Brown knows his!

With due apologies to Mrs. Grimes, Miss White and the author, this last sentence is not a dangling participle, or a split infinitive! I hope!



clankeithusa.org  
Official website of The Clan Keith Society USA, Inc

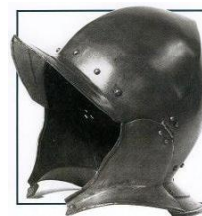


### **CLAN KEITH SOCIETY USA, INC.**

Cordially invites membership inquiries from all descendants of the Keiths and Clan Septs: *Austin, Dickson, Falconer, Hackson, Harvey, Haxton, Hervey, Hurry, Keith, Kite, Lumgair, Mackeith, Marshall, Urie, Urry, etc. (many spelling variations)*

If you see the Clan Keith Society USA, Inc. tent at a Highland Games anywhere...be sure and come by to visit

*Alice M. Hattenbrun, Secretary*  
The Clan Keith Society, USA, Inc.  
119 South RD., Kensington, NH 03833



**www.clankeithusa.org**

**Clan Keith USA 2012**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
April 21st at the 19th  
Rural Hill Scottish Festival  
and Loch Norman Highland Games  
Huntersville, North Carolina  
All members are encouraged to come  
and form a clan voting quorum!

# FREE Genealogy Programs

## Fort Myers-Lee County (Florida) library

All programs are free and open to the public. Genealogy programs begin at 9:30am and conclude by 12:30 unless noted. Registration is required. You may register for any genealogy program using any of the methods listed below:

1. Online at the library website <http://library.leegov.com>
2. Contacting Bryan Mulcahy via e-mail at [bmulcahy@leegov.com](mailto:bmulcahy@leegov.com)
3. Contacting Bryan Mulcahy via telephone at (239) 533-4626.

**Saturday, January 14, 2012**

### **Adoption and Genealogical Research**

Speaker: Bryan L. Mulcahy, Reference Librarian, Fort Myers-Lee County Library.

Adoption is a highly sensitive topic for many people. In recent decades, especially with the advent of Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs) in the 1980s, adoptees have become more aggressive in asserting their rights to complete access of their medical background records and history, as is the case with all other citizens of the United States. While researchers continue to encounter roadblocks to full access, this seminar will discuss strategies and options that are available to make the process easier. Attendees are encouraged to share their stories and experiences as well.

**Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

### **February Beginners Series**

Speaker: Ms. Gina Hamister, Western Reserve Historical Society and New England Historical and Genealogical Society.

Session One: Using Home Sources and Organizing Your Research

Session Two: Fining Your Family in the United States Census

Session Three: Using Court House Resources and Vital Records

Session Four: Using Alternative or Hidden Resources For Locating Ancestors.

**Saturday, March 26, 2012**

### **Beginners Genealogy Workshop**

Speakers: Carolyn Ford - Lee County Genealogical Society; Bryan L. Mulcahy, Reference Librarian, Fort Myers-Lee County Library.

This one day seminar will introduce the concepts of genealogical research in a concise manner. Attendees will have the opportunity to begin the process of filling out forms, charts, and how to compile family information. We will also discuss the process of learning historical details about the lives of our

*Continued on page 25*



# *Clan Home Society*

## *(International)*



Cordially invites membership inquiries  
worldwide from all HOME, HUME & SEPTS

Information about  
The Clan Home Air Force,  
contact [aeaton@cfl.rr.com](mailto:aeaton@cfl.rr.com)



For information and application, write to:  
**Camille Simmons, President**  
1205 Avery Way  
Kernersville, NC 27284  
[cbsimmons@earthlink.net](mailto:cbsimmons@earthlink.net)

# **Clan MacCord Society**

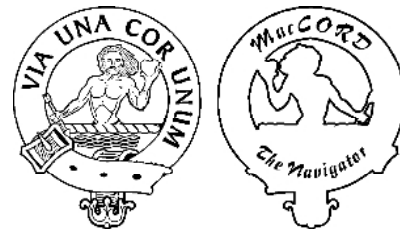
Invites for membership all spelling variations and  
descendants of McCord (a)(e)(y).

Also McCourt, McChord, McCoard, Cord(e), McCart,  
McCort, Cort(e)(s) and Flynn,  
McFettridge and Kane.

Contact

**Ronald John  
McCord**

President/Chief  
1805 Mews Drive  
Wilmington, NC 28405  
Ph. 919-256-3798 or  
[rmnccord@ec.rr.com](mailto:rmnccord@ec.rr.com)

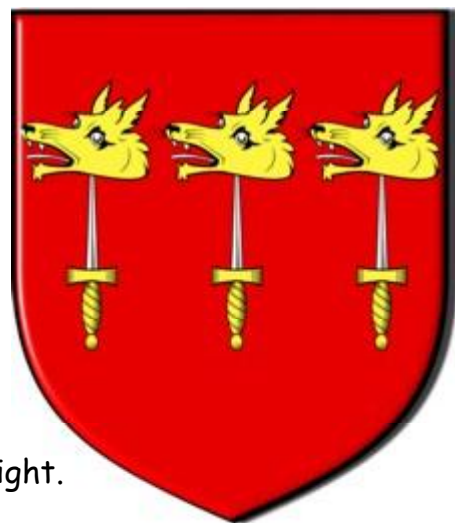




# CLAN SKENE ASSOCIATION, INC.

The Clan Skene Association, Inc.,  
invites membership from SKENE and septs CARISON,  
CARNEY/CARNIE, CURREHILL, DYAS, DYCE, DYER,  
HALL, HALYARD/HALLYARD,  
MacGAILLARD, RENNIE & SKAINS.

Dorna Comp, president  
103 Sumners Alley  
Summerville, SC 29485



Arms of  
Danus George Moncreiff Skene of Skene  
Chief of the Name and Arms of Skene to the right.

## FREE Genealogical Programs, *continued from page 23*

ancestors, Knowing the historical context often plays a key role in understanding why certain life decisions were made. We will discuss the 10 main steps involved in successful research.

**Saturday, April 21, 2012**

### German Genealogical Research Seminar

Presented in conjunction with the SW Florida Germanic Genealogy Society

Speaker: Ms. Joanne Ryder-SW Florida Germanic Genealogy Society

Program One: I Have a German Ancestor-Where Do I Begin? You've found a German ancestor in your line and you want to research in Germany. Before you begin, there are some basics you need to know to have a successful research experience. Learn what you need to know!+

Program Two: Using German Maps and Gazetteers: Maps are essential in genealogy to follow our ancestors in migration, land ownership, records keeping, etc. Gazetteers help us to find that elusive town in Germany and give us information about them. Learn where to find maps and gazetteers and their best use in your research.





# The Whisky Corner

Ray Pearson, Anaheim, CA  
The Whiskymeister



## Whisky, Water and Ice - As You Like It

I recently read a quote by Sir Winston Churchill, about why he combined water and whisky. This got me to thinking about how, today, we are still following his lead.

Said Sir Winston: "The water was not fit to drink. To make it palatable, we had to add whisky. By diligent effort, I learnt to like it."

We're glad Sir Winston found a way to enjoy his water. For a sure-fire way to start a great bar discussion, ask your fellow guests bellied up to Mahogany Ridge about *their* preferred way to enjoy Scotch.

You'd think the way the distillery craftsmen in Scotland who make, live, and nearly elevate their nectar to holiness would be the ultimate authority on "the right way" to drink it. Their near unanimous opinion: neat, with a wee bit of water. But no! Everyone seems to have their own, sometimes very vocal, opinions about how to enjoy Scotch. Most of these involve water, ice, or the absence thereof. Soapboxes ready? Let's talk about water or ice in Scotch.

Adding just a bit of water to most single malts "start with about 1/2 teaspoon of water to a standard bar pour" usually results

in an enlarged bouquet or "nose" or more aroma to be enjoyed. Many people feel that a bit of water softens the alcohol aroma and takes some of the edge and heat away from the spirit. And, some folks don't. The true danger of adding water is adding too much. The object is to add just enough to *enhance*, not dilute. The type of water to add should not be a stumbling block. Many municipalities' local water is wonderful, right from the tap; others, not so much. In this case, bottled spring water does the trick. The temperature of both the whisky and the water works best if both are at room temperature.

Ice in Scotch offers wider opportunities for experimentation. Maybe it's an American thing to chill our drinks. After all, when was the last time you sought out a nice room temperature beer? Many professionals in the whisky industry usually approach the ice issue with the politically correct "no rules" or any way you enjoy it, regardless of their personal view; and some are very vocal "NO ice. Let's face it " you paid for it, so enjoy it any way *you* want (but, please, watch the dilution.)

*Continued on page 27*

Let's assume all ice to be added to our Scotch is perfect & freshly made, no chemicals, and no aromas of lurking in the freezer. It's a fact that the more surface area of the ice in a drink, the faster it will melt and dilute the drink. So, with ice, bigger is better because there is less surface area on one large cube than on a few smaller ones. And, there is even less surface area if the shape is a sphere!

Enter retailers, and at least one distillery that promote ice spheres and the molds to make them. Some creative bartenders even hand-craft an ice sphere from a large cube, *while you watch!* This very cool procedure (pun intended) takes about four minutes, so tip accordingly! Jim Romdall, Manager of the upscale bar *Vessel* in Seattle, WA hand-crafts an ice sphere in this video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ls63xTkqMWo>

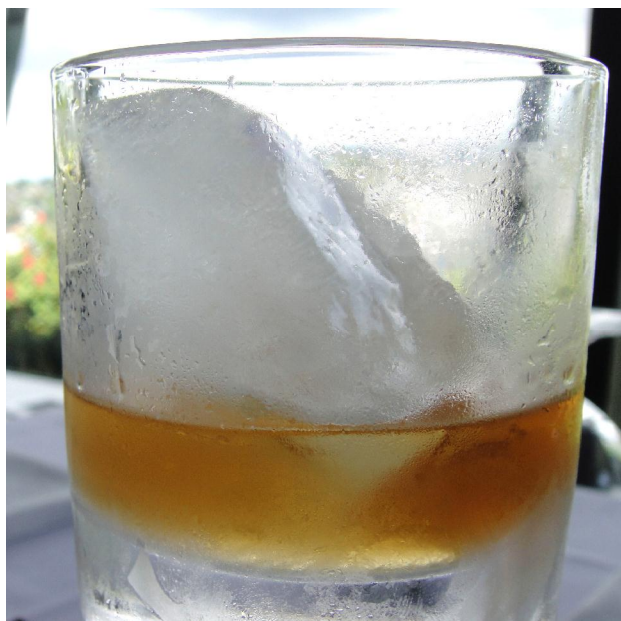
At <http://japanrendshop.com> (search for "ice ball mold") is what appears to be the gold standard of ice ball molds. The Macallan has branded its own version of a spherical mold made by Taisin, and offered it as a kit. For a wonderful demonstration, hosted by the distillery's Andy Gemmell, click on <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4dhcMJtpYF8>.

In Los Angeles, mixologist and bartender Michele Dozois of N  v   Luxury Ice Company, offers pre-made ice in a variety of plus-size shapes, all made with super premium quality water. Visit N  v   at <http://www.neveice.com>.

In San Diego's Gaslamp District, bartender Anthony Schmidt at the speakeasy called *The Nobel Experiment*, advocates

use of the large cubes, hand carved from blocks of very pure ice. He insists that perfect ice is essential in crafting the classic cocktails his bar is famous for.

Back in Seattle, James MacWilliams, head barman at the renowned *Canlis* restaurant, is also a fan of the larger, slower-to-melt pieces of ice for Scotch, but goes for a more "organic, natural shape", and uses mini-iceberg-shaped chunks that have been frozen to the inside of the glass. The result is a phenomenon not usually seen & the ice does not move while one enjoys the drink.



*Large, organic ice chunk, frozen to inside of glass at Canlis Restaurant, Seattle, WA*

So there you have it & a glimpse into a few opinions about water and ice in single malt. And now you, connoisseurs that you are, can make up your own minds about your personal way to enjoy your single malt.

of other composers whom I've been lucky enough to learn from and study. I guess we can all find inspiration in the work and art of others.

At this time a local artist and close friend Matt MacNasty and I were playing in pubs on weekends, writing new stuff and testing harmonies. Matt later went on to change the way people hear the bagpipes as a 10-year piper and contributor for The Real McKenzies.

During pipe-band-world, after publishing 2 and a half music books, I followed a musical obsession into learning Classical Guitar. I completed advanced theory classes for The Royal Conservatory of Music to help fill my brain with most of the answers I was looking for regarding how pipe music was related to the rest of the world, or at least how it could be related. I've worked as a truck driver, computer programmer, and contracted composer selling my tunes and harmonies to various people and musical organizations. But now I have a different job!

Throughout that time composing, I was about 18 or 19 when I realized what a melody needs to be. It needs to keep people not only interested but also *impressed*. Not something that's easy to distract from. In all this time studying and learning different types of music I've done a lot of thinking about how music is put together.

The late George Carlin once said something about the blues that I believe holds true to when writing any melody, sad or happy, tricky or lax, powerful or hypnotising. Mr. Carlin said:

“I’ll give you a little tip about the blues, folks: it’s not enough to know which notes to play. You need to know why they **need** to be played.”

While quick, fit embellishments were great to show off virtuosity, they could be bullet-holes in an otherwise great piece. Then again, long sustained melodies were good but only if the rhythm could keep things together. But at this time, I think I really started focusing on the musical line. This

was also due to my theory, harmony and counterpoint instruction at the Royal Conservatory. To write a pure and simple musical line that you can build a painting off is normally the basis for where a piece, either a pipe tune or a famous rock n’roll song can start. This is a lesson that Baroque titans such as Bach and Pachelbel have shown us in their respective pieces -Jesu, The Joy of a Man’s Desiring and -Canon in D.

Note the -trick used here to be sonically predictable. Bach and Pachelbel both use a scaling technique. While Bach chose to make his melody rise, Pachelbel chose to make his fall. This is just one little trick in a toolbox of many that a composer can use to make his or her piece epic.

Jesu, The Joy of a Man’s Desiring by Johann Sebastian Bach (Written in standard piping score):

Canon in D by Johann Pachelbel (Depicted here in a setting I used to arrange -Canon in Eb)

It must be good if it’s been going on since the 1650s right?

One of my tricks is to use -pedal tones. The name comes from how they were played on

organ pedals. Pedal tones are simply a constant note and a changing note. Check out -The Gaze of Victoria for an example. When the chanters come into the second part, notice in the counterpoint the *bouncing* back to the pedal note, in this case, a low A.

<http://gordtaylor.com/index.php/home/media/>

When I write melodies, I generally like to establish what I’m doing fairly quickly. There’s a time and place to leave people waiting, but it’s not something I want to abuse. This is just one of those dynamic tools to drive a piece. The softer you start, the bigger you have to expand.

But when it comes to getting those first few notes in a rhythm, this is the part that happens differently all the time. Maybe it’s a Motown song

*Continued on page 29*





## Gord Taylor, *continued from page 28*

that gets my brain moving, maybe it's a rhythmic bit off in the distance. But it doesn't have to be much. That's what inspires me. And I'm lucky, I can get it from anywhere. The radio, conversation, public transportation, street-noises, my breakfast eggs, whatever.

A piece takes form when you can wrap the melody in a steady rhythm. It adds to that idea of *growing a little* predictable. Don't get me wrong, sometimes going wild and crazy with 3+5/8 time signatures and quick-time Bb pentatonic minor kitchen-piping styles is great, but if I'm trying to make a big point, I like to use a big, agreeable melody with an oak-strong rhythm.

In my late teens and early twenties, I really enjoyed putting medleys together for bands. It was one of the jobs that I was fortunate to get hired for once in a blue moon. A medley is just a longer version of a tune. You take all the sheet music to a medley, put it back to back, lay out harmonies and repeating tags, and you've got a 5-7 minute tune. It's like a painting. Creating a good sequence of tunes, or songs is just as big an art/science as writing the scores.

I tend to arrange things in complementary keys. For example a tune like "Scotland The Brave" is in Bb Major so it would be natural to have the next tune in C minor like "Mist Covered Mountains". Once you have everything laid out that you want to play you can think of bridging tunes together. This might involve moving the slow section in the medley close to the front or right before the end. I've heard bands do both. My ultimate, favorite trick a band ever did in their medley was "Polkemmet and Grorud" in 1991. The intro'd their

medley with a 4 beat roll then a drum bridge right into the first hornpipe. I noticed it was pretty fast. They got through their slow stuff fast and just ploughed through the ending hornpipe, finally ending in a perfect bagpipe cutoff...2 beats...then a 3-beat drum riff to put a big fat period on the end of their show.

A rock n'roll song is a lot like a medley. It's shorter, but there's more content. Only in recent years with The McKenzies have I gotten an education on writing rock n'roll. The biggest new dynamic I've learned, are lyrics. Something like words can be made to be written strongly, or flow-

ery, and even pronounced, whispered or screamed. Guitar solos too can be blazing fast or melodic. Then, when writing rock n'roll I can add drum and bass virtuosity (Like a 32-bar drum solo or a spicy bass solo), as well as guitar and bagpipe unison.

This is where my life of composing has arrived and these are the tools that I now use to write. I still do a lot of solo work, writing for commissions, and friends and even for fun. But my band now drives my inspiration.

My life has settled into complete chaos as I write for and play the bagpipes and guitar in a professional, world- touring Scottish Hard Folk, Punk, and Rock Band

called The Real McKenzies. The Real McKenzies started 20 years ago as a Canadian Scottish Punk Band. One of their original bios stated "Robbie Burns mixed with AC/DC". We have sung about Scottish Soldiers, Canada's involvement in War, Traditional Scottish songs, Irish songs, Canadian Folk songs, and other covers. Paul

*Continued on page 30*



McKenzie, the lead singer once told me that in the early 90s they used to spice up old Alex Harvey, The Corries or Robbie Burns songs. Some traditional Scottish pieces like Auld Lang Syne, Wylde Mountain Thyme but when The Real McKenzies got going, they realized that they too could write great songs.

Over 10 albums the band has written in a fashion that I've always liked. With that long, sustained melody and colourful, poignant guitar-playing that people can remember. Keep things easy and elegant but with massive performing talent. Now is a good time to say, there is NOTHING like attending a Real McKenzies concert. You may get a good show, you may get a bad show, but you will certainly never forget the evening.

In March of this year (2011) my amateur skills were put to the extreme test, being commissioned to write a new demo for The Real McKenzies' new electric album called *Westwinds*. Sean Sellers, our drummer and I got together in Montreal and combined my habits with melodies and chord changes with his experience in structure and dy-

namic. It was an amazing experience where Sean and I wrote 15 cohesive, worded songs based on all kinds of creative material like old Scottish Folk Songs (The Massacre of Glencoe, The Muckin' of Geordie's Byre, and Hallowe'en by Robbie Burns) and old Canadian Folk Songs (Barrett's Privateers) and even Canadian History like stories about the piper Bill Millin in World War 2 and The Blues-nose, our famous Canadian Schooner found on our



10-cent coins. We combined these with our own compositions about rock n' roll, being irresponsible, drinking songs, and heart-warming songs. Now *Westwinds* is finished and due for release in March 2012 under the Fat Wreck Chord and Stomp record labels.

It has been a hell of a life though, starting from my boyhood and *The Boney Lad* to single line melodies, then working outward, to tunes, medleys, and songs, always analyzing, being inspired, and being creative. Trying to represent an emotion, or a sound, or a memory in a manner that allows an audience to be in that same time and space.

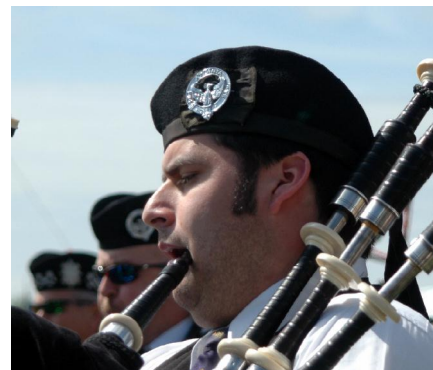
Well, I guess that's all I have to say. Rock n' Roll folks. *Gordon Taylor*

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**Marion Schmitz**  
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Pasadena, CA 91103  
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