

Vol. 10 No. 8 *Beth's Newfangled Family Tree* Section A January 2016

Historic agreement reached between Church of England & Church of Scotland

An historic agreement has been reached between the Church of England and the Church of Scotland, committing them to working closely together.

The Columba Declaration will be debated by the two churches' ruling bodies in the new year.

Their first formal working agreement will enable them to "speak and act together more effectively in the face of the missionary challenges of our generation".

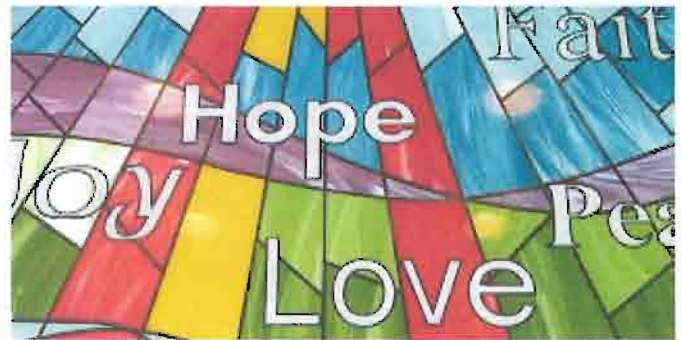
It also aims to strengthen the relationship between the two churches at a time "when it is likely to be particularly critical in the life of the United Kingdom".

The agreement will allow members and clergy to worship and exercise ministry in each other's churches, and will also offer opportunities for congregational partnership, formal and informal, where there are churches close to each other.

It was authored by Church of Scotland minister Rev John McPake and Rt Rev Peter Forster, the Bishop of Chester.

Dr McPake said: "The Columba Declaration recognises the strong partnership that already exists and will help encourage and support new initiatives.

"We believe that approval of the Columba Decla-



ration by our two churches will represent a significant step in the long history of their relationship, one that affirms the place we have come to and opens up new possibilities for the future."

The churches were formed separately during the Reformation. The Church of Scotland's governing system is Presbyterian, while the Church of England is Anglican.

The churches have already worked together on a number of issues. They established the Churches' Mutual Credit Union as a response to concerns that low-income families needed access to low-cost banking and loans earlier this year.

The Church of Scotland's Church and Society Council and the Church of England's Mission and Public Affairs Division talk regularly about "everything from poverty to refugees".

The document will go to the Church of England's Synod in February and to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in May for approval.

Read more: <http://www.scotsman.com/news/historic-agreement-pulls-churches-of-england-and-scotland-closer-1-3984030#ixzz3vKvAJOG4>

With best wishes for a joyful, healthful New Year!



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 as you desire.

Two news sections are up each month.
 Section B is up about the 15th of the month.
 Section A is up about the first of the month.

**No charge. No strings.
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The Clan Henderson Society at the December 2015 Alexandria, VA Christmas Walk!



About sixty members of the Clan Henderson Society traveled to Alexandria, Virginia for the annual Christmas Walk. Joining the group, all the way from Australia, Chief of the Name and Arms of Henderson, Alasdair Henderson with his wife, Audrey.

The group enjoyed the Christmas Walk, their Christmas Ceilidh and a journey via chartered bus to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for a ceremony unveiling their Clan Henderson Society paver at the Scottish Immigrant Memorial. Go to <hendo28@comcast.net> to join.



Letter from your editor...

Signs of hope for 2016

Recently, with all of the violence around the world, it has been hard to find hope at all. It appears sometimes that the outlook is grim.

Digging a little deeper, hope is there. Hope shines!

Where in the past will you find a place where children with cancer may go - at no charge at all - for the finest treatments in the world?

I remember very well Danny Thomas and the beginnings of St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. What hope this true place of miracles has brought to so many thousands of parents and children! There's hope.

It is difficult to find, in history, any regard for the homeless, the hungry, the sick.

The Salvation Army brings hope to all of the above...and has for years. If there is a disaster, they are there to help. More hope.

There are myriad other groups across this great and caring country of ours who work tirelessly to alleviate the suffering of others.

There are Lions Clubs everywhere working to help others with their vision. I'll bet YOU have donated your own old, but perfectly good, glasses to a Lions Club. Even more hope.

My goodness, Shriners work every day of the year for their Shriners Hospitals for Children. Unending hope.

Everyone has a friend or family member who has suffered the diagnosis of cancer. How many groups are out there who work for a cure and to help those who are suffering from this disease. Hope.

From diabetes through every disease and condition, there are groups who work so hard to help research and patients everywhere. Hope.

Hope is everywhere in our own Scottish community. Just think of all the scholarships given to deserving students from piping and dancing to scholarships for college. Ranging from a few hundred dollars to generous scholarships which allow the student to study in Scotland...scholarships are everywhere.

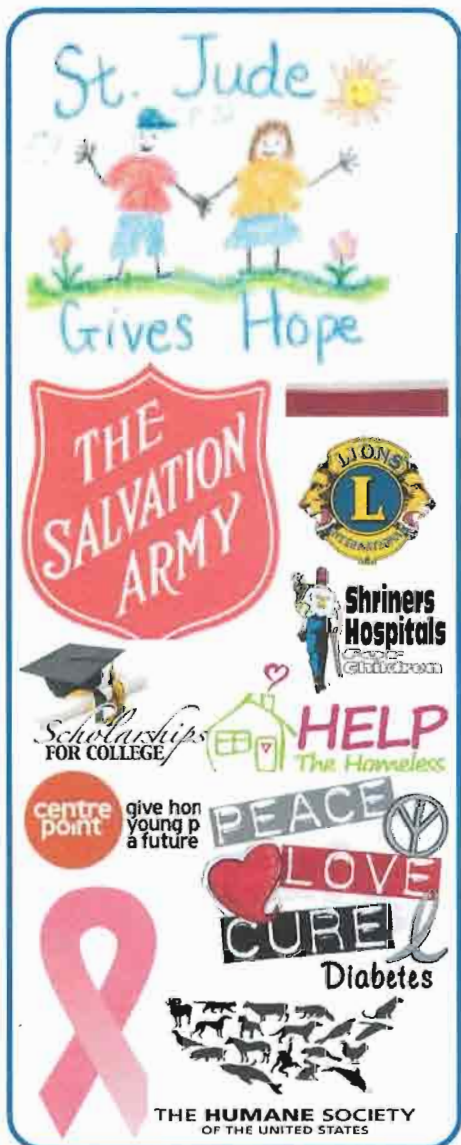
How many Scottish buildings/castles/churches have been restored or stabilized by the efforts of our Scottish Clan groups? To me, that signifies nothing but hope.

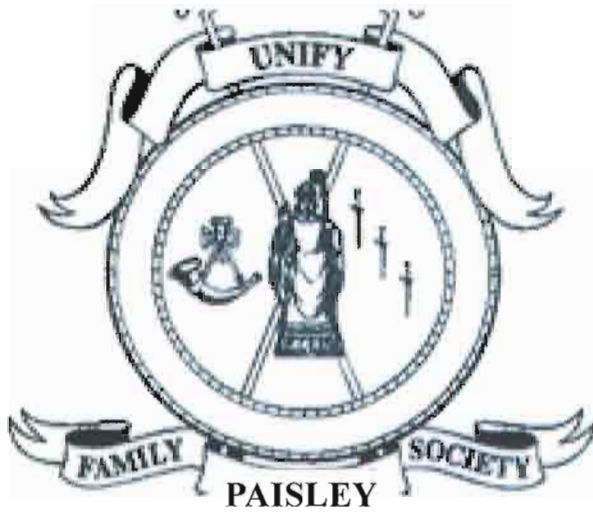
There are groups who work for animals who are abused. From dogs and cats to former race horses - to animals from the wild. People do care and do work and do their best to help. HOPE.

There simply is not room here to write about all of the kind, caring, generous and concerned in our country.

In spite of all of the frightening things we see and hear on the news, in spite of everything...we must all remember that there is hope.

In my own life, there is Tom. Hope and love personified!





The guidon of the Chieftain

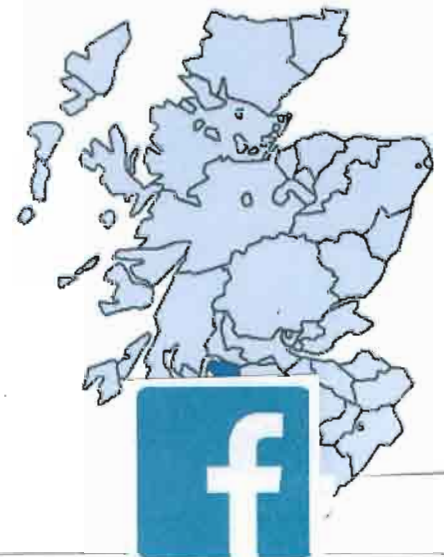


The Chiefly Arms of Paisley of Westerlea

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

William I Paisley (died ante 28 September 1171) and William II Paisley (killed in battle ante 1218) were prominent in the following of the first three hereditary stewards of Scotland, while William II Paisley is also noticed attending the itinerant court of the King of Scots during 1179 - 95.

Separate and quite distinct branches of the family had already developed at Lochwinnoch and Paisley and in the Roxburghshire barony of Hawick before the end of King David Bruce's reign in 1371 and the beginnings of others are found in records for Edinburgh and the three Lothians from 1389 onwards and at Dunrod near Borgue (Kirkcudbrightshire) in still Gaelic speaking Galloway from 1585.



Duncan W. Paisley of Westerlea, Chieftain of the Paisley Family

WOW! NC's Triad Games, MD's Fairfield, Charleston, SC and Richmond, VA! The Paisley Family Society was busy in 2015. Check our webpage <www.paisleyfamilyociety.org.uk> to see what we're up to in 2016. Contact Martha Brown at: mbrown2205@aol.com. Paisley DNA project: <dlangston@yahoo.com>



AGM & Spring Gathering 2015 at Ardtalla, Scotland

Calling all Armstrongs!

*From Fiona and Frank of the Armstrong clan Trust
With minor edits and additions - Ed*

Scientists now say the Scottish Borderland Armstrong family stems from further north – and from one man. Armstrong males are being asked to take a DNA test to confirm this exciting new research.

500 years ago the Armstrongs were the most dangerous family on the Scottish Borderland. Now, it seems, these riders and raiders came not from Southern Scotland, but from further north. Geneticists say new evidence shows that this powerful reiving clan originated in places like Angus, Moray, or Fife – and that all Borderland Armstrongs may stem from one man.

Dr Jim Wilson, 'Scotland's DNA' Chief Scientist, has discovered that the haplogroup the Armstrongs descend from originated not on the English/Scottish divide, but in ancient Pictland. Their distinctive Y chromosome rises to above 1% of all men in places like Perthshire, Fife and Tayside - and it arose perhaps 3,000 years ago.

His scientific research also points to the fact that the Armstrongs descend from one man: around a thousand years ago, this person moved to the English/Scottish border - and became the progenitor of a great reiving family.

How is it possible to be sure? Geneticists can recognize what are known as 'expansion clusters', groups of men who carry closely-related DNA markers that point to a common male ancestor. Dr Wilson has recognized just such a cluster in Armstrong men originating in the Borderlands.

We know that kings, princes and other powerful men mated with different women in the past. The original Armstrongs must have been able to access several females and were able to spread their DNA widely and have many sons, who, in turn, could repeat the process.

An example of this was in 15th century Ireland. Lord Turlough O'Donnell fathered 14 sons and had 59 male grandchildren. If the same level of enthusiasm and fertility were sustained, Lord Turlough would have had 248 great grandsons and 1,040 great, great grandsons.

In four generations, the man could have bred an army.

This is thought to be the pattern of genetic inherit-



ance that happened with the first Armstrong who came from ancient Pictland to settle in the Borders: the begetter of a great name, and also of men who shaped Scottish history. Highland clans were feared because they formed a family army and fought for each other. Borderland Armstrongs were similar. Their Heidsman could put 4,000 men in the saddle and wherever they rode, to fight, or raid, they were also feared.

Broadcaster and writer, Alastair Moffat, who is working on the DNA project with Professor Wilson says, 'the question is – who was this Highland man who sired a Borderland army? Can Armstrong genealogists help?

How many Armstrongs are descended from him? We need many more Armstrong men to come forward to have their DNA tested. This is a story only DNA can tell...'

For further information, contact Alastair Moffat at <alastair.moffat@scotlandsdna.com>. For Armstrong detail, contact Fiona Armstrong at fionarms@gmail.com

Editor: See Scotlandsdna.com for pricing and technical information on data reports provided.

For additional basic DNA information; see ACS Past President Milton Armstrong's 2006 DNA article on the ACS website www.armstrong.org/DNA.htm

With thanks to the Armstrong Chronicles. For more info, contact www.armstrong.org

THE CLAN GREGOR SOCIETY

'S Rioghal Mo Dhream!

Royal is my Race!

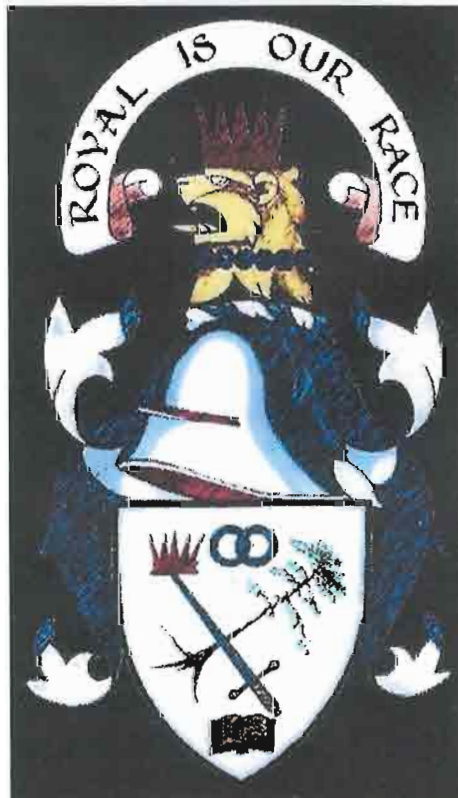
Fàilte! The Clan Gregor Society is a growing organisation with membership throughout the world. It's most active objectives are to extend the links of kinship and friendship between MacGregors, wherever they may be, and to provide a focal point for all members of the Clan and interested visitors who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

Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor

7th Baronet of Lanrick and Balquidder

24th Chief of Clan Gregor

Clan Gregor
has
Great Lakes,
New England,
Pacific
Northwest,
Western
United States
and
Southeast
Chapters



For membership,
contact:
120 Wicksford Glen
Sandy Springs,
GA 30350

Ms. Ishbel McGregor,
Secretary
5 Alloa Road
CAMBUS by Alloa
Clackmannanshire
FK10 2NT
Scotland

Join Clan Gregor today! www.clangregor.org



Save the Date.....
Saturday,
April 9, 2016
for the
Tartan Day
Celebration

...at the InterContinental Hotel in Century City, California. 6pm. Great entertainment and Celebrating our Heritage!

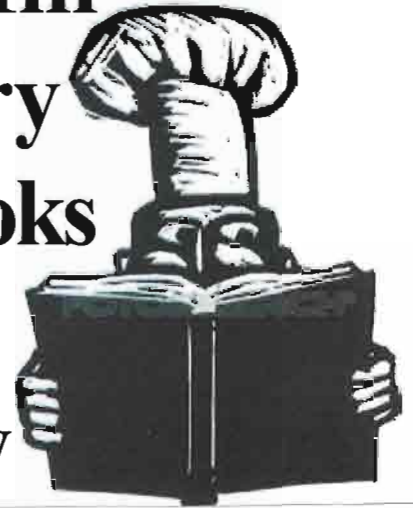


The sponsor of this event is the St Andrew's Society of Los Angeles, but the purpose is to unite all Scottish peoples of Southern California to celebrate our Tartans and Heritage.

Further information from....Nellie at LowryLines@aol.com

or Saint Andrew's Society of Los Angeles

Rural Hill Auxiliary Cookbooks for sale right now



To the many volunteers and members who so generously shared their family recipes and to the Rural Hill Auxiliary members who were determined with endless hours to make this cookbook fundraiser a reality . . . we are excited to tell you the Auxiliary has cookbooks for sale in its second printing!

You will enjoy holding this historic and beautifully bound 3-ring cookbook as you read the appreciation, acknowledgments, and 'In Memory Of' pages. Be taken back in time as you read the history of Rural Hill, about the Davidson and Bethesda school houses, and from John and Violet Davidson's Rural Retreat log cabin to their Rural Hill mansion.

The cookbook would not be complete without sharing the knowledge of colonial gardening and why there is a Cairn at Rural Hill, and from Violet Wilson Davidson in 1818 to May Davidson in 2011, the Davidson Family Burying Ground and its history.

There are nearly 700 recipes in all categories including hearth cooking. 34 color photos taken around Rural Hill and at its annual public events were chosen to be forever in print in this historic cookbook.

May we suggest this wonderful idea for your gift giving, birthday gift, thank you gift, or one for yourself!

Purchase one or more copies at \$25 each (plus \$4 per cookbook if mailed). Place your order via email to carolyn@ruralhill.net or call 704-875-3113.

This fundraiser cookbook will inform many people near and far of Historic Rural Hill and its many offerings and events. All proceeds go to projects around Rural Hill.



The Families of Clan MacTavish Welcome You to Discover Your Scottish Heritage!



Chief Steven
MacTavish

Family names associated with Clan MacTavish:
*Cash, Kash, MacCamish, MacCash, MacCavish,
MacComb, MacCombie, MacComich, MacComish,
MaComie, Macomle, MacCosh, MacLaws,
MacElhose, MacLehose, MacTavish, McTavish,
Maetavish, Mactavis, M'Tavish, MacThomas,
Stephens, Stephenson, Stevens, Stevenson, Tavlish,
Tawesson, Thom, Thomas, Thomason, Thomasson,
Thompson, Thomson, Tod, and Todd, and all variant
spellings.*

We Are Clan MacTavish!



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

Wally Turnbull Awarded Arms by the Court of the Lord Lyon

Coats of Arms date back to the 12th Century. A jacket or tabard was worn by a medieval Knight over his armour, in order to identify himself.

Opponents were able to identify each other in tournaments or battles.

Today, there is a misconception that any family or clan can have a Coat of Arms. Clan websites often indicate that a person has the right to use the family clan arms.

This is not correct.

A personal Coat of Arms belongs to only one individual and only that person is allowed to use it. It is permitted for a member of the family to use the Crest. The Crest is derived from a part of the Coat of Arms and often has a clan or family motto. Anyone can use a clan crest, however, if the person using it is not entitled to the heraldic elements within, the crest badge must be surrounded by a strap and buckle.

In 2006, the Turnbull Clan Association (TCA) was granted an association Coat of Arms by the Lord Lyon.

It is not common for an association without a current Chief with a Coat of Arms to receive such a recognition. The record of these arms are forever a part of the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings. The association may use the Coat of Arms for identification, but members are only allowed to use the Crest, as stated above.

Turnbull Clan Association President, Wally Turnbull, has been granted a personal Coat of Arms by the Lord Lyon and his Court.

To petition for Arms, according to the Lyon King of Arms Act 1672, the person must be a "virtuous and well-deserving person."

In general the petitioner would reside in Scotland. But in Wally's case, he had to provide his ancestry records showing his Scottish heritage.

In addition, he provided proof of land title giving him the Barony of Bedrule title. The pro-



The Arms of Wally Turnbull.

cess was a long one, taking several years.

Wally Turnbull is only the eighth Turnbull individual to be granted a Coat of Arms since the beginning of the creation of the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland in 1672.

His family may use the crest, but the Coat of Arms is to be used only by Wally.

It is considered a signature and can be used on official documents as such without further signing. The Arms will be inherited by his first son and then his son's first son, and so on.

The Letters Patent for the Coat of Arms is written on vellum parchment. The text is written by a scrivener. A heraldic painter uses the text to illustrate the Arms in an image.

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If you would like to advertise your business or activity,
please contact us for particulars.

Information Social Security cards & applications hold that will help genealogists!

Bryan Mulcahy, M.L.S.

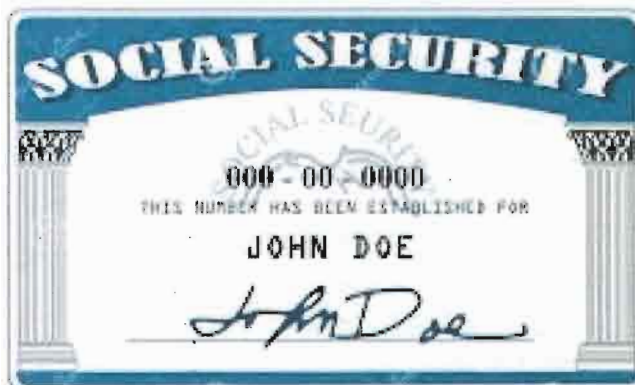
Reference Librarian at the Fort Myers, Florida, Regional Library

This article covers the composition of Social Security numbers and what type of information can be found in original Social Security applications.

First Three Digits - Area Number: Before 1972 these numbers identified the state where the applicant's card was issued. Since 1972 it indicates the mailing zip code. **Middle Two Digits - Group Number:** These range from 01 to 99 but are not necessarily issued in consecutive order. **Last Four Digits - Serial Number:** These run serially from 0001 through 9999.

Railroad employees earn their retirement benefits through the Railroad Retirement Board, but they were also issued Social Security cards. After 1963, area numbers were also assigned based on a mailing address.

The SS-5 or Application for Social Security contains the following information: Full name including a woman's maiden name, address at the time of applica-



tion, employer and employer's address (pre-1947), age at last birthday, date and place of birth, parent's full name including mother's maiden name, sex, color, and whether applicant had previously applied for Social Security or Railroad Retirement. It also includes the date of application and applicant's signature.

In the 1970s, the Social Security Administration microfilmed all SS-5 application forms and created the Social Security Death Master File database. The original applications were destroyed. The Social Security Death Master File was the forerunner to the Social Security Death Index. This database contains the following information: Social Security number, last and first name of deceased applicant, date of death, date of birth, zip code of last known residence, and zip code of lump sum payment to designated beneficiary. It may also contain a specific state or county residence code especially if the person died outside of the United States.

This database is not directly accessible from the SSA. Access is available through several subscription and free databases including Ancestry, Family Search, Mocavo, SSDI - Search.com, and My Heritage.

Bryan Mulcahy, M.L.S., Reference Librarian | Ft. Myers Regional Library, 2450 First Street, Ft. Myers, FL 33901, Email: bmulcahy@leegov.com Telephone: Voice 239-533-4626 or Fax 239-485-1160. Find the library on the Internet: leelibrary.net

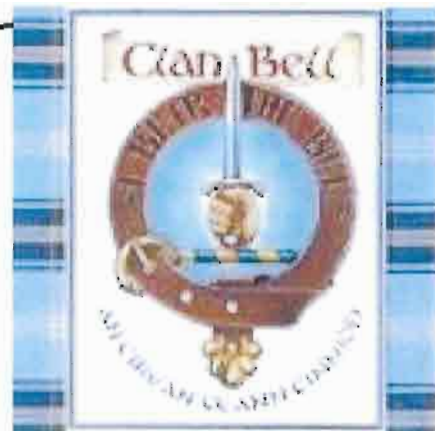
Lookie here! Scottish Clan Members!

Be sure your clan newsletter publication, either digital or print, is sent to *Beth's Newfangled Family Tree*.

Digitally, just send it to bethscribble@aol.com. Or, in print, send to Beth Gay Freeman, 688 Camp Yonah Road, Clarkesville, GA 30523.

This will insure your clan is represented on these pages with your news, Flowers of the Forest, honors, etc. There is absolutely no charge. Just be sure your newsletter gets to me.

Clan Bell North America, Inc.



This old West Marche Riding Clan, one of the Border Clans from the early 1100s, were retainers of Clan Douglas and also allied with the best Border families through blood and friendship. Their land holdings were extensive. To survive on the often invaded Borders, they engaged in the “rieving” of the period and participated in many battles against the English.



Declared “unruly” by the Scottish Parliament, many of the Clan were “encouraged” to emigrate to the Ulster Plantation in Northern Ireland after 1610.

After William Bell, called “Redcloak” and Chief of the Clan died in 1627, the chiefship became dormant. Without leadership, the Bells ceased to exist as a viable clan.

Clan Bell North America 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.

CBNA cordially invites membership inquiries from persons named Bell (all spellings), their descendants and friends. A quarterly newsletter is published. Tents are hosted at major Scottish festivals from coast to coast in the USA.

President & Membership:

David E. Bell

1513 Anterra Drive

Wake Forest, NC 27587

debellinn@reagan.com

Visit our Website:

clanbell.org





Flowers of the Forest

William K. Armstrong, Mar 29, 1924 - Oct 1, 2015. Bill Armstrong was the father of Armstrong Clan Society Past President W. Kerry Armstrong and long-time Stone Mountain, GA Games tent host.

Bill was born in Greentown, Indiana, son of Olen and Ruth Armstrong. His wife was H. Jeanette Featherstone who died in March 1985.

Bill was a WW II Army veteran and was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge and a Bronze Star. He worked for a tool and a die manufacturer for over 40 years.

Bill lived in the same house for 68 years. He loved gardening and crafts. His survivors include son W. Kerry and wife Wendy, daughter M. Jeanine Simmons and husband Mike, and six grandchildren.

One of his grandchildren, Jeremy Simmons, was the conductor on the train excursion Janet and I took in Skagway, Alaska, which followed the trail over the mountains to the Klondike gold fields in Canada.

Bill and Jeremy were "regulars" at the Armstrong Clan Society tent, hosted by his son W. Kerry Armstrong, at the Stone Mountain, GA Games.

He will be missed by all who knew him!

LTC James G. Bierwirth, US Army (Ret.), passed away unexpectedly on August 16, 2015. He was born November 22, 1954. JB (also known to some as Jim) was a dedicated professional who served as a US Army Officer for over 21 years and as a defense contractor for 16 years. He served his community as the Scoutmaster of Troop 577 in Clifton, Virginia, for five years, as a dedicated lacrosse, cross country and rugby dad for as long as his boys played, and more recently as a member of the Clifton Lions Club. He was a member of the Clan Wallace Society.

In addition to his wife, Jim is survived by sons CPT

Brian Bierwirth, USA (Artillery) and First LT Scott Bierwirth, USA (Infantry). Also father, First LT William R. Bierwirth, USA (Ret.), brothers CPT William R. Bierwirth II, USA (Ret.) and former Director of the

Clan Wallace Society, Roy C. Bierwirth, COL USA (Ret.), and 1LT Bruce W. Bierwirth USA, all veteran Army officers. Jim will be deeply missed by his family and friends. Jim "rode the perilous trail ahead".

"Forge the thunderbolt!"



Clan MacNicol of NA member, **Robert Paul "Bob" Nicholson** of Scottsdale, Arizona, passed away last June 3rd at his home.

He is survived by his wife of sixty-two years, Alice Wolf Nicholson, daughters Linda Meiner and Susan Ferrando (husband Steve) and son, Rik Nicholson (partner Jason), nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Nancy, son Bob, Jr., and three brothers, Jack, Bill and Don.

A native Bostonian, Bob served on the Boston Police Department, later as aide to Elliot L. Richardson. He continued his career with the US Department of State as a Foreign Service Officer in security. His amazing storytelling, ironclad memory and faithful love will be missed by so many.



clankeith-usa.org

Official website of The Clan Keith Society USA, Inc

If you have genealogical ties to the surname Keith (including alternate spellings such as Keeth) or any of Clan Keith's Sept family names, you were born into the Clan Keith!

Septs and spellings include: Achindachy - Astine - Aston - Austen - Austin - Cate(s) - Dick - Dickson - Dicson - Dixon - Dixson - Falconer - Faulkner - Harvey - Harvie - Hackston - Haxton - Hervie - Hervey - Hurrie - Hurry - Keath - Keech - Keeth - Keith - Keyth - Kite - Lum - Lumgair - MacAustin - MacDick - MacDicken - MacDickie - MacDeetch - MacKeeth - MacKeitch - MacKeith - Marshall - Urie - Urry

The Clan Keith Society would be delighted for you to join us as a member. For more information, please email membershipclankeith@mindspring.com or call 404-539-5222.



Dunnottar Castle, stronghold of the Keiths (near Stonehaven)

Please plan to attend your local Highland Games and, if you see our tent, please come by for a visit. The tent convener will have information about Clan Keith's fascinating history as well as membership information. Membership in the Clan is not expensive but one of the finest investments that you will every make. Hope to see you soon!

Clan Wallace Society 50th Anniversary Gathering set for next November in TX

Mark your calendars now November 11-13, 2016, and plan to attend the 2016 Clan Wallace Society 50th Anniversary Gathering in Salado, Texas.

The 50th Anniversary Gathering will be in conjunction with the Salado Scottish Clan Gathering & Highland Games, the birthplace of the Society. This is a three-day event, and Veterans may want to wear their ribbons or medals, especially on November 11th.

You can visit with representatives at Clan tents, who share information about Scottish history and genealogy, browse the vendor tents, purchase Scottish food, visit the entertainment area and listen to folk singers, watch the Scottish Heavy Athletic competition and watch competitors perform for judges in the piping, drumming and Highland dance competitions.

On Sunday, events include the “Kirkin of the Tartan” church service, in which family groups carry banners of their family plaids and ask blessings on the families. The service also includes a “Flowers of the Forest,” or memorial time to remember friends who have died in the past year. On Sunday, there will also be a dog parade, and the children can participate in children’s Highland Athletic Games.

The cost of the Salado Games is separate from the Gathering, and will be paid for by attendees. We are currently in the process of securing hotel rooms and preparing a Gathering schedule. Format and pricing will be made available in the Spring *Guardian*.

If you want to receive hotel, Gathering and other pertinent information, send your full name(s), ages if youth, address, phone number and email address, and mail to: Wayne Jones, CWS 50th Gathering Committee, 108 Jefferson Village Drive, Ranson, WV 25438.

Alternately, you may wish to email : wayneandcathy@frontiernet.net. Questions can also be addressed to these addresses.

Persons responding will be placed on a Priority List for hotel rooms. All required information for attendance will be in the 2016 Spring Newsletter, *The Guardian*, in early 2016.

Listed below are projected Games admission fees



Russ Harper, president Clan Wallace Society

based on 2015 costs (subject to change):

Weekend Pass (12-13 November), Two-Day Adult Ticket: \$20; Children up to 6 years: Free. Saturday, November 12 Adults & Children 13+: \$15. Children 6-12: \$6. Tickets include the Tattoo. Sunday, November 13 Adults & Children 13+: \$10. Children 6-12: \$6. Tickets include the Tattoo.

Commemorative Clan Wallace Coin Coming

In honor of their 50th Anniversary, the Clan Wallace Society has approved the creation of a special Commemorative Coin.

These types of coins are commonly referred to as Challenge Coins in the military.

Watch the Clan Wallace Website, www.clanwallace.org for ordering information!

The Clan Colquhoun Society in North America
is now...

The Clan Colquhoun International Society

<http://www.clancolquhoun.com>



Contact Tom Hodges:
sijepuis@bellsouth.net

Allied Families and Septs of
Clan Colquhoun are:
Colquhoun, Calhoun, Cowan,
MacClintock & MacManus

Clan Blair Society

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



www.clanblair.org

President Clan Blair Society: Jim Blair
7200 S. Prince Street
Littleton, CO 80120
Email: president@clanblair.org



Membership Chairman: Charles Diman
3413 Sunnybrook Drive, Charlotte, NC 28210-4715
Email: ClanMembership@clanblair.org

Why *Flowers of the Forest*?



www.armstrong.org **Bill Armstrong, Ed**
From YouTube and Wikipedia with minor edits

The tune *Flowers of the Forest* is a lament for the army of James IV, the flowers of Scottish manhood, slain with their king on the field of Flodden on September 1513.

Scotland invaded England to support their allies, the French, against the English. The composition of this song began with a fragment of a very old ballad. Mrs. Patrick Cockburn of Ormiston drew on this fragment to

write a full song. Then in the mid eighteenth century, Miss Jane Elliot, daughter of Sir Gilbert Elliot of Minto, Lord Chief Justice Clerk of Scotland, drew on Mrs. Cockburn's work to make this lyric a much finer piece of work.

Typically played as a pipers tune, it is well known to anyone who has attended a Remembrance Day service in Scotland, or Veterans Day in the USA. The song is heard all too often recently.

On 9 September 1513 the Scots army, under King James IV, faced the English forces of King Henry VIII under the command of Thomas Howard, Earl of Surrey. The battle was ferocious and bloody. Men were felled by artillery, arrows, pikes, bills and swords. A total of around 14,000 men, including King James IV, died at Floden.

King James IV was the last British king to die in battle.

Through the years, *Flowers of the Forrest* has become a traditional lament for Scots, and their descendants, who have recently died.

To hear the Scots Guard play *Flowers of the Forrest*, go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rfsasAlICo8>



International Festival set for February 18

Your next opportunity to represent Scotland, and the Scottish Society of Indianapolis, is on Thursday, February 18, 2016. The 12th Annual International Festival will be held from 10:30 AM to 2:30 PM at the IUPUI Campus Center, 420 University Blvd., Indianapolis, IN 46202-5147.

Parking is available in the Vermont Street Garage. Link: <http://international.iupui.edu/festival>



Say this five times, if ye' can!

TONGUE TWISTER IN SCOTS': And here we go — "Patrik peetrie fae Peterheed pllukket a pukkul petreks an pakket eih pukkul petreks entai a pukkul piles" !



Elliot Clan Society, USA Membership Information 2014

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

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

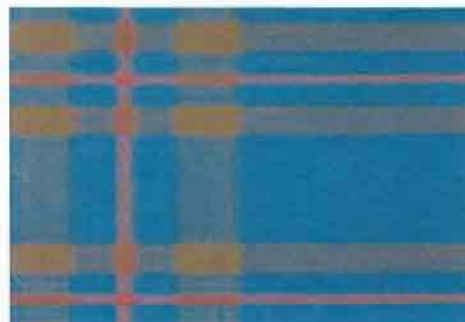
Email: dublincollen@sbcglobal.net or write

2984 Siskiyou Boulevard

Medford, OR 97504

(Fortiter Et Recte)

Boldly and Rightly



The tale of the kilt pin

Do you know the real story of Scotland's kilt pin? Before the reign of Queen Victoria, the Scottish kilt was worn without the pin now used to secure the fold over on the right hand side. As a result there were many embarrassing moments especially if you wore the kilt in a high wind. The truth was that nothing in the nature of undergarments was worn with the kilt.



One day, Queen Victoria arrived on a visit to Balmoral Castle and reviewed the *Gordon Highlanders*.

A stiff wind was blowing and one young soldier at rigid attention was unable to control the flapping of his kilt and to avoid exposure on this important occasion.

The Queen noticed his embarrassment and walked over to him. She removed a pin from her own dress and leaning over, pinned the overlap of his kilt.

And that - believe it or not - is the origin of the kilt pin, without which no kilted Scot would be properly dressed today.

With thanks to *Fesse Chequy*, newsletter of the Clan Stewart Society in America, Inc.. Contact them: president@clansstewart.org.

If you are new to wearing Scottish attire, when you affix your kilt pin, do NOT pin through both layers of the fabric (the apron and the fly)...but only through the apron (or outside fabric). If you pin it through both layers, you'll soon have rips.

Congratulations
Megan Stewart



Megan Stewart, one of the Clan Stewart's Premier dancers in Las Vegas, has expanded her horizons. Perhaps you will remember her from the last issue of the Clan Stewart newsletter, *Fesse Chequy*. She has gone from being a champion Highland dancer in Nevada, to being a Page in the US Senate in Washington, DC.

With thanks to *Fesse Chequy*, newsletter of the Clan Stewart Society in America, Inc.. Contact them: president@clansstewart.org

"When Scotland forgets Burns, then history will forget Scotland."

- Professor John Stuart Blackie (1809-1895)



Clan Forrester

Society

Come - join the Forresters

Membership is available for all spelling variations of Forrester: Forrester, Forester, Forrister, Forister, Forest, Forrest, Foster, Carstarphen.



Contact: **Ben Forrester**,
Membership Chairman
1034 Blue Heron Drive
Commerce, GA 30529
Phone: 706-335-7688
Email: benbf@windstream.net

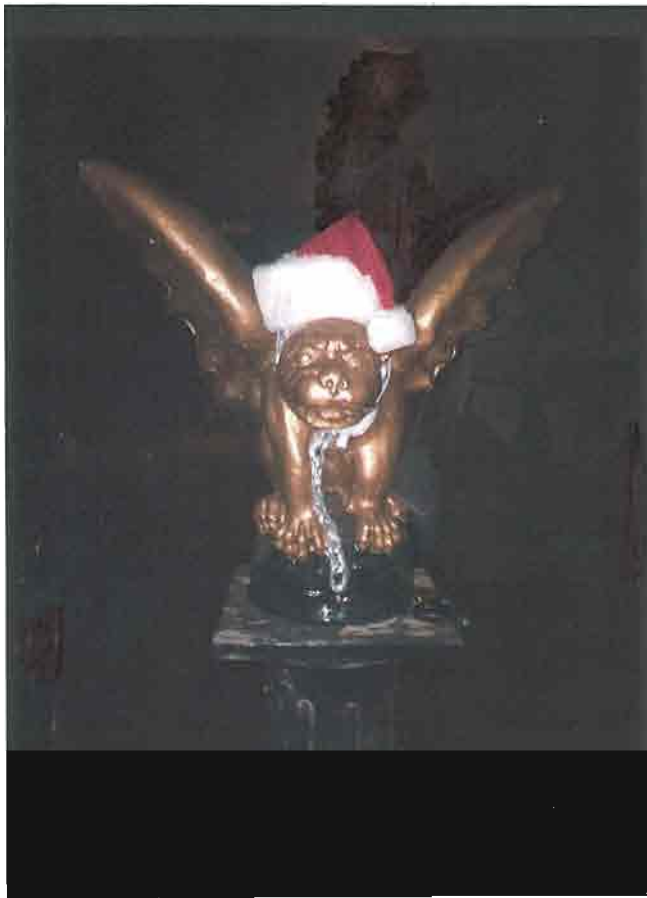


FOSTER SURNAME DNA Project

« Genealogy Research on Foster / Forster / Forrester / Forester /
Foerster / Forester / Forster / Forrister / Vorster / Voster Families



Meet Stonewall, a ^{very} old time security system!



Ancient castles, cathedrals and fortresses were protected by gargoyles for thousands and thousands of years. Carrying on that tradition, is Stonewall, the friendly (to friends) gargoyle, who lives on a pedestal on the front porch of Tom and Beth's house in northeastern Georgia.

Stephen Smith, of Seneca, South Carolina, snapped this photo of Stonewall dressed in his Christmas finery.

Stonewall changes his attire for various other seasons.



October 2016 International Clan MacNicol Gathering set for St. Augustine, Florida

Basic preparations have been completed for the 2016 International Gathering of the Clan MacNicol International Gathering set for the weekend of October (Oct. 6-9) in St. Augustine, Florida.

Clan MacNicol Web Portal Administrator Cliff Wolf and his wife, Claudia, will be the hosts.

The Clan MacNicol Chief, John MacNeacail of MacNeacail and Scorrybreac, with his wife, Jenni, will be joining the gathering from Australia. Their son, Luke and daughter-in-law, Kate, (who is originally from St. Augustine) along with their children will also be in attendance.

A good turnout of Clan MacNicol of North America is expected from all over the Southeastern United States.

There are visitors from the rest of the US, Canada, New Zealand and Scotland expected as well.

The St. Augustine Holiday Inn, Historic District, has been selected for the host hotel. Room reservations should be made directly with them. Please call the In-House-Reservations-Department at 904-494-2100. Be sure to mention Clan MacNicol Gathering 2016 for the special rate and room block.

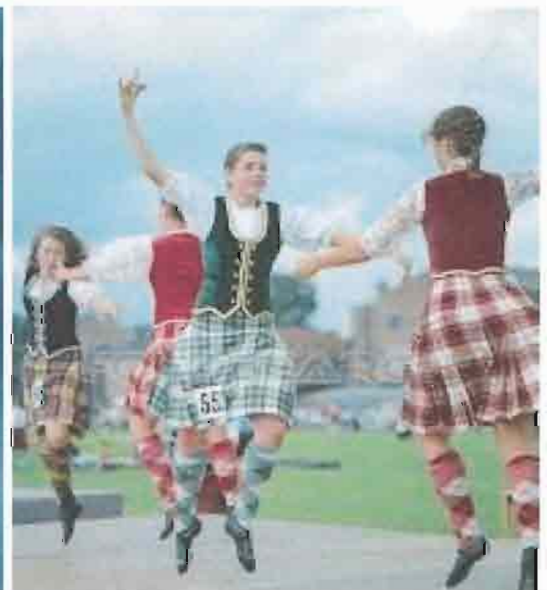
Email: <wolfc@cox.net> for more information.

Scots are a conglomerate or polyglot race. Scots are a mixture of Neolithic and earlier peoples with Picts (who may have been partly Celt), Celt, Briton (were WERE Celts like Welsh - rather than Irish, Vikings (who were mostly Norwegian) and Normans (who were Danish Vikings who had been 150 years in France), Irish Celts called "Scots" and a few wandering minstrels of various backgrounds.

As a result, the Scots have come to be one of the proudest races on earth to help us all hang together. Those who don't...they say...hang separately and many Scots have, since cattle rustling (called "lifting") was a way of proving manhood for young Highlanders into the 18th century. With many thanks to *An Biodag*, from the Clan Shaw Society. <www.clanshawsociety.org>

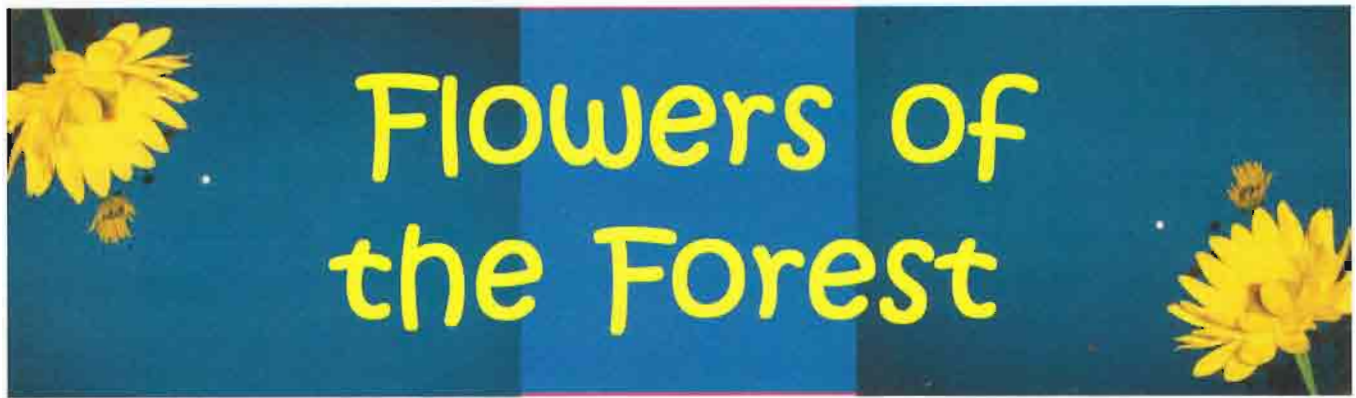
Glencoe School of Scottish Highland Dance

770-934-3016 - Atlanta, GA area
glencoehighlanddancing@yahoo.com



Mary Wilson Recknagel

BATD Fellow Highland & Scottish Nationals
SOBHD Adjudicator



William S. "Ed" Sherwood, D.D.S. 89, passed away on Monday, March 2, 2015, peacefully at his home after a short illness.

He is survived by his wife of 39 years, Lorraine, two daughters, Susan Sherwood (Scott Noland) and Christina Glenn, two step daughters, Janice Molawa and Cheryl Gallegos, a granddaughter, Taylor Noland; his sister, Margaret Reid, and 5 nieces and nephews, Tom, Joan, John, Catherine and Robert Reid Jr. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Nancy Anne Sherwood.

After serving during WWII with the US Army and as a commissioned dental officer during the Korean Conflict, Ed established a dental practice in Libertyville and was especially good with children.

He spent over 50 years as an active member of the Libertyville Lions Club, serving a term as president. He was a member and usher at the United Methodist Church in Libertyville, was an avid skier, parachute jumper, bridge player, member of Clan Sutherland and to the end was fiercely independent.

Services and interment were held privately for the family. Arrangements were by the Burnett-Dane Funeral Home in Libertyville. Info: 847-362-3009 or please sign the guest book at www.burnettdane.com.

Avis Watson passed away recently. She and her late husband, Chenoweth, were Clan MacNicol members almost from the beginning.

Avis was born in Red Granite, Wisconsin, in 1925. She was the daughter of Marquis and Janet Nicol Archambeau.

She majored in music at the University of Wisconsin. There, she met and married Chenoweth in 1947.

They were active in the Presbyterian Church for the rest of their lives.

When they first joined Clan MacNicol of North

America, Chenoweth was working for the John Milton Society for the Blind in New York.

When he retired, they travelled the country in their motor home and later settled on Cape Cod.

Avis enjoyed singing in many church choirs and choruses.

After Chenoweth died in 2009, she spent more time in Carolina Shores near her daughter, Anita.

She is survived by her four children, Anita, Marquis, Martha and Janet.

Elizabeth Ann (Betty) Nicholson died peacefully from cancer last January 19th in her Seattle, Washington home.

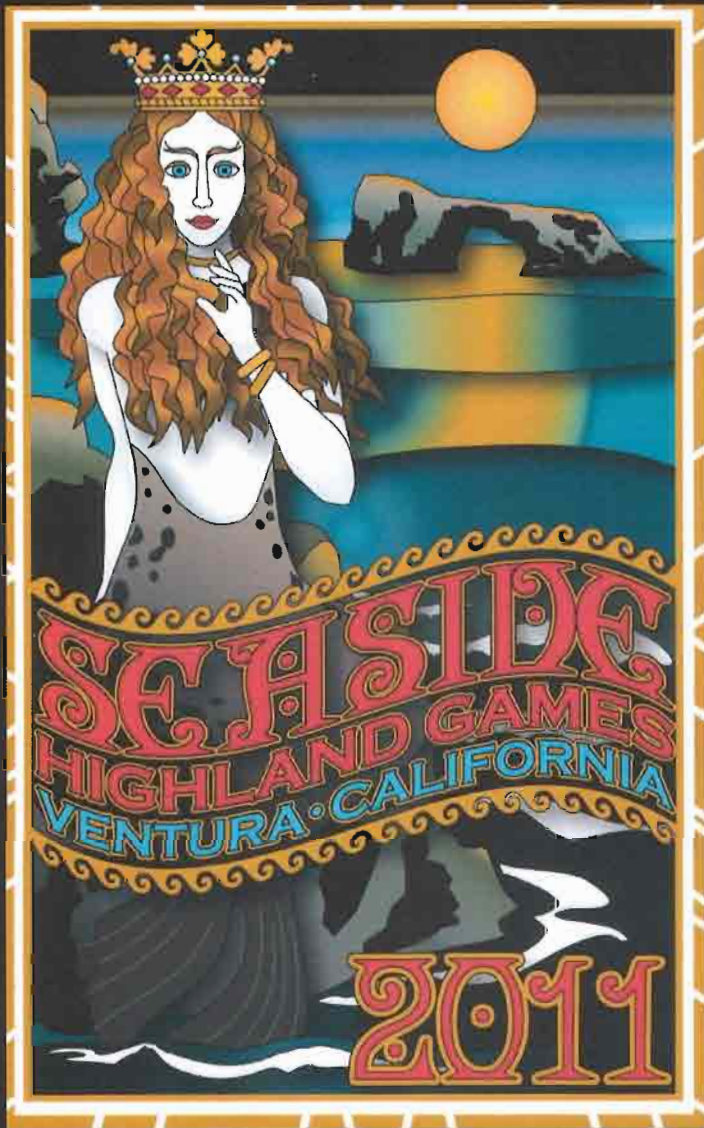
She served in the Presbyterian church and communities across the country from New York City to Lubbock, Texas to Juneau, Alaska as teacher, activist, artist, gerontologist, group leader, writer/editor, Scouter, ordained elder and deacon, ecumenical leader and renowned hostess.

She was a fourth-generation Presbyterian leader.

Born in China of minister/missionary parents and educated with a BA in History at the College of Wooster, Betty started her professional career as a Director of Christian Education at First Presbyterian Church in Little Falls, New York. Shortly after that, she was an editor for the Overseas Board of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, USA in NYC, where she met her husband, the Rev. Dr. Robert D. Nicholson. She and Bob were married 1 Septembert 1957.

Their two children, Ruth and Andrew, were born in San Francisco, California. She was a grandmother to three grandsons (Bryce, Colin and Jeremy) and a great grandmother to Logan David, born near her 81st birthday.

She was a member of the Clan MacNichol in NA.

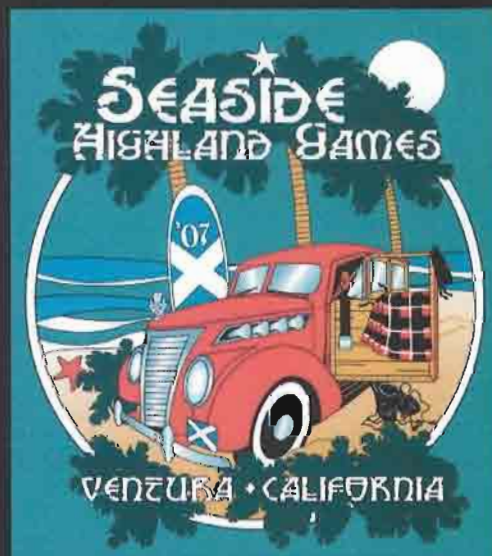
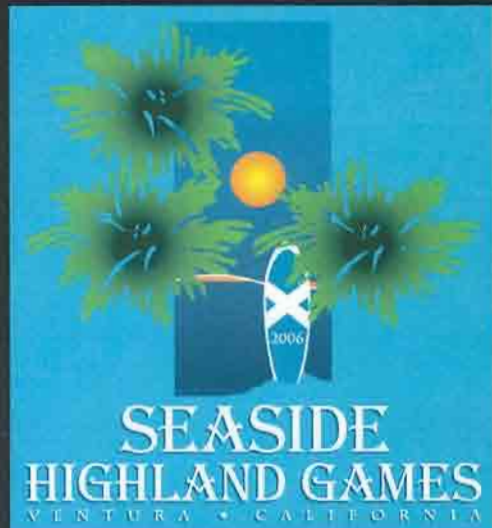


Highland Games T-Shirt Art
of Tom Freeman.

See it soon at a games near you.

Need a fresh design for your event?

Call 706-839-6612





First Footing in Scotland!

Ralph Comp, in the *Skene Scene*.
Contact: dkc1027@hotmail.com

In 1978 I was commissioned an officer in the US Navy (after 21 years enlisted service) and sent to Holy Loch, Scotland.

I had a wife and 4 children—two teens, which entitled me to 4 bedroom living quarters.

Unfortunately, only 2 units, already occupied, existed. This required a long wait for housing, leaving me and family in a Bed & Breakfast in the lovely town of Dunoon. The owners also had on the grounds, a cottage wherein their elderly parents lived.

As most of you know, Hogmanay is a major holiday in Scotland. It is the last day of the year—New Year's eve.

A tradition taking place at midnight is "First Footing".

Each household wanted to welcome the first foot across the door in the uniquely Scottish event.

The first foot has to be male and dark haired (the aversion to fair hair goes back to Viking raider days).

I was asked to be the first foot for my host's parents.

The first foot brings a lump of coal, black bun and whisky.

The coal is to insure warmth through the winter and the whisky and bun ensure food and drink throughout the year. I was welcomed with a dram and we had a

A Turnbull wedding in Scotland



Gemma "Honorary Turnbull" Barnard endeared herself to the Turnbull Clan as the person who fought for (and won) the restoration of Fatlips Castle. On Sept. 19, 2015, Gemma became Mrs. James Lubbock in a beautiful fairy-tale wedding on a perfect sunny Borders Day

merry old time welcoming the new year.

Unfortunately, it was the last Hogmanay for the old folks as they both passed away during that year.

I do have a memory of them though.

One of my host's traditions was to burn their belongings which I assisted with. When it came to placing their armoire in the fire, I asked if I could have it. Today, it sits in my guest room - a reminder of some very special people and a very special time.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, Ralph

Wanna attend the 2016 Clan Skene AGM? It's gonna be Stone Mtn. weekend after the Games at Tom & Beth's house. That's about an hour and a half north of Stone Mountain Games...Lots o' fun. dkc1027@hotmail.com

7 NIGHT WRITERS AND READERS CRUISE 08 JANUARY 2017

Join this special *Writers and Readers Cruise* sailing on Holland America's newest Pinnacle-class ship, *MS Koningsdam*. Guests will get a chance to visit with our guest authors and mingle with active readers, all the while enjoying the many adventures of cruising.



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Brian Panowich, is the author of *Bull Mountain*, a critically acclaimed debut that heralds a major new talent in fiction.



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Holland America Line 7 Night Eastern Caribbean Cruise – Sailing 08 January 2017

On Holland America's newest ship, *The MS Koningsdam*

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All rates are per person based on double occupancy, in U.S. dollars. Some categories may have limited availability

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For further cruise information and details please visit www.cruisetourandtravel.com

Payment Schedule:

Deposit with reservation - \$200.00 per person

Final payment – Balance – 15th October 2016

Mail checks payable to: Uniglobe Five Star Travel

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Attn: Writers & Readers Cruise

Charge Card Type: Visa MC Discover Am Exp. Dollar amount to charge: _____

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*additional charges apply to specialty restaurant, Canaletto's, Tamarind, & Pinnacle Grill

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Cancellation policy: Cancellation of a reservation made 76 or more days prior to sailing will be charged a \$25.00 cancellation fee. Cancellations made between 75 and 57 days prior to sailing will be charged amount equal to the deposit requirements. Cancellations made between 56 and 29 days prior to sailing will be charged 50% of gross fare. Cancellations made between 28 & 16 days prior to sailing will be charged 75% of gross fare. NO refund for cancellations made 15 days or less of sailing or "no-shows".

Passports: The U.S. Government requires a valid US passport for all US citizens. A government-issued photo ID is also required for all guests, including children 16 and over. For more information, please visit: www.travel.state.gov

Fuel supplements: Holland America reserves the right to reinstate fuel supplements if the price of light sweet crude oil, according to the NYMEX, should increase above \$70 per barrel.

Macfie Flowers of the Forest



We were very sad to hear of the passing of Macfie Society of America member, **William George (Bill) McPhee**, from Phoenix, AR, who passed away on June 22, 2014, at 81 years old. Bill was a veteran of the Korean war, serving his country in the Army. He and his wife, Nancy, attended the Gatlinburg TN International Clan Gathering in 2003.

Bill suffered a severe fall while visiting family in MN and did not survive. Our sincere condolences go out to Nancy and the rest of the family.

The Macfie Society of America member, **Richard D. Diffie**, age 72, of Cleveland, Tennessee, passed away Thursday, Sept. 25, 2014, in Chattanooga. Richard was born in Norfolk, Va., March 15, 1942, a son of the late Loyz and Annabelle Jackson Diffie.

He proudly served in the United States Navy; during the Vietnam War he served aboard the *USS Intrepid* off the Vietnamese coast.

Richard retired after a civilian life as a police officer. Richard was a proud member of the Blue Knights Motorcycle Club and the Macfie Clan Society of America..

He is survived by his wife, Gladys Diffie.

We just wanted to let you know of the passing of former **Clan Commander Alexander Carpendale (Sandy) McPhie**, recently in Australia.

His wife, Helen, said that he has been in and out of hospital four times this year and had reached a point where his quality of life was less than desirable for him.

On Friday he was quite bright and enjoyed visits from family and friends but overnight he apparently had a stroke and passed peacefully.

I know the family will appreciate your thoughts and prayers.

Jim and Ginger McAfee

Macfie Clan Society of America



Genealogical Query

We are looking for information about **GEORGE NEAL (NEIL) MCDUFFEE** who was born in North Carolina in 1788. At some point he moved to middle Tennessee and my husband would be his great, great, great grandson. We think he had a brother (**JOHN MCDUFFY** or **MCDUFFIE**) who stayed in North Carolina.

We were hoping you might know where we can find more information. We would love to know when and how the family came to the United States.

If you have any information contact: **Carlette Jackson Hardin**, e-mail: **Ed.D. HARDINC@apsu.edu** or call 931-221-7511.

In 2016
and beyond
LANG
MAY
YOUR
LUM
REEK!

Tom, Beth & Alastair



**It would be fun to
go to the
Burryman Parade
this year!**

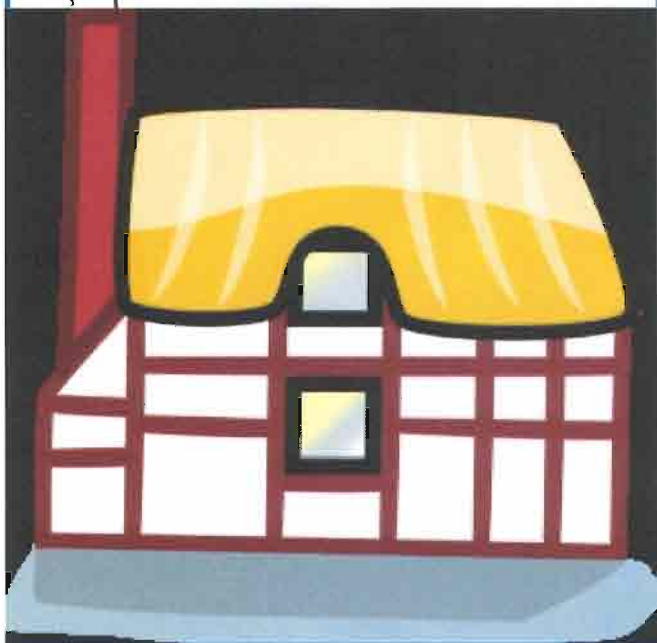
The Burryman or Burry Man is the central figure in an annual ceremony or ritual, the Burryman's Parade, that takes place in South Queensferry, (Gaelic *Cas Chaolais*) near Edinburgh, on the south bank of the Firth of Forth in Scotland, on the second Friday of August.

The custom is associated with, but separate from, the town's Ferry Fair. The meaning of this ceremony has long been forgotten, but it has been the cause of much speculation. It is sometimes said that the custom was first recorded in 1687 (when the right to hold the Ferry Fair was originally granted), but it is widely believed to be much older.

Burrs are the hooked, sticky flowerheads of various species of burdock.

According to folklorist Christina Hole, writing in 1976, the day of the Burryman ceremony (the second Friday of August) is the day before the town's Ferry Fair. but the present Ferry Fair website suggests that it comes at the end of a week-long fair.

Continued on page 30



The Burryman Parade, *continued from page 29*

On the Friday morning, a local man is covered from head to ankles in burrs (the sticky flowerheads or seedheads of two species of burdock, *Arctium lappa* and *A. minus*) that grow locally. The stickiness of his burry covering means that he has to walk awkwardly, with legs apart and arms held out sideways but he is nevertheless paraded around a seven-mile route through South Queensferry for nine hours or more. He supports his aching arms on waist-high poles decorated with flowers. Two attendants (Dressed in normal clothing guide him through the town and help him through his ordeal. They visit the town's pubs, some factories, and the provost's house, at each of which the Burryman is given a drink of whisky, but because of his sticky facial covering he can only drink through a straw. He is not allowed to speak. By the end of the day he is exhausted.[4]

Tradition holds that he will bring good luck to the town if they give him whisky and money, and that bad luck will result if the custom is discontinued.

Only men born in the village can take on the role of the Burryman. Although local residents must apply annually to the local council for the honour, the office is commonly held by the same person for a number of years. Alan Reid was the Burryman for 25 years (until 1999); his successor, John Nichol, took over till 2011. Other past holders of the position have included James "Kitter" Magan, Mr. J. Hast, Sam Corson and Arne Fredricksen. From 2012, the position has been held by Andrew Taylor.

In 2005, the Burry Man inspired an avant garde folk song by Daniel Patrick Quinn and narrated by local man Duncan Grahl.

The Burryman is meant to collect his covering of burrs for himself, as well as any ferns and flowers used to decorate his costume and the two flower-covered staves (poles) that he rests his hands on. John Nichol admits to recruiting his family to help gather the large number of burrs: approximately 11,000 are needed. They

are then meshed together into about 25 flat panels (A3 in size), like natural Velcro, which can be wrapped around his body on the morning of the ceremony. The process takes about half an hour.] He dresses in several layers of clothing to protect himself from their hooks. A balaclava covers his head and face; it too is covered with burrs, leaving only small eye and mouth holes; a flower-covered bowler hat tops off the outfit.

He wears boots (his feet are the only parts of his body to remain uncovered by burrs) and has a broad sash around his waist, currently made from a folded Royal Standard of Scotland, displaying the top half of a red lion rampant on a bright yellow background. The choice of

flag used in the outfit has varied, as a photograph from the 1970s shows the sash around the waist made from a folded Union Flag.

There are many theories about the origin of the custom, what the ceremony means, and why it continues. One idea is that the parade was intended to ward off evil spirits - it can certainly ward off children,

some of whom are terrified at the very sight of the Burryman, and avoid looking him in the eye.

It has been suggested that he carries on a tradition thousands of years old; that he is a symbol of rebirth, regeneration and fertility (similar to the Green Man) that pre-dates almost all contemporary religions; that he is a "scapegoat" and may even originally have been a sacrificial victim.

Similar ceremonies used to be held in other Scottish fishing communities, notably Buckie on the Moray Firth and Fraserburgh, to 'raise the herring' when there had been a poor fishing season. Now, only the South Queensferry ceremony remains in Scotland, though there are possible parallels with the Whittlesea Straw Bear and the Castleton Garland King (and perhaps even the Jack in the green) in England, as well as other customs elsewhere in Europe.

