



Vol. XV No. 8 *Beth's Newfangled Family Tree* Section A January 2022

AWARD FOR FORMER SNAWDOWN HERALD

Former Snawdown Herald, Elizabeth Roads, was presented with the rarely-granted Cross of Merit by the Real Asociacion de Hidalgos de Espana at an event in Madrid in recognition of her lifetime's work for Scottish and international heraldry.

President of the Asociacion, Manuel Pardo de Vera y Diaz, presented the award. Huge congratulations, Elizabeth!

Elizabeth Roads is the daughter of Lt Col. James Bruce, MC and his wife, Mary Hope Sinclair. She was born in 1951 and educated at Lansdowne House in Edinburgh, the Cambridgeshire College of Technology, the Study Centre for Fine Art in London, and Edinburgh Napier University (LLB with distinction).



The Lord Lyon Office on YouTube

From the Office of The Right Honourable The Lord Lyon, King of Arms, Dr. Joseph J Morrow, CBE QC LLd FRSE, we have received notice of the launch of the Office's official YouTube Channel.

The link to the channel is <<https://youtube.com/channel/UCIcm47GM7D7BhsOSo8CzEMw>>.

They have posted their first video - with optional subtitles - which may be visited directly at <<https://youtu.be/WOqJ9pwNtyA>>





THE HOMETOWN PUBLICATION FOR THE WORLDWIDE SCOTTISH COMMUNITY

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Beth's Newfangled Family Tree
<https://www.electricscotland.com/bnft>

Send articles,
Flowers of the Forest, questions, etc.,

bethscribble@aol.com

Beth's's Newfangled Family Tree is FREE.

Just visit:
<https://electricscotland.com/bnft>

XOXOXOXOXOXOXOXOX

Browse amongst the archives,
read the current issue
and others as much as you wish!

Section B is "up" on the
Internet about the
15th of each month.

Section A is "up"
a day or so before the
first of the next month.

TOM, BETH & ALASTAIR WISH YOU A

HAPPY NEW YEAR

*May all your wishes
come true!*

A letter from your editor

New Year's Resolutions from 1852 by my maybe several times great grandfather...

I had many requests to use this again this January. If you are doing genealogy at all, you will appreciate my grandpa!

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

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

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

So in addition to my own Resolutions to "get skinny," "be more mindful of keeping good records," "dust more often," will be the ones I found from a fella back in 1852. I don't know for sure if we are kin.

I hope we are as he must have had a vision of the frustrations all of his New Year's Resolutions would cause down through the years. I think that he had a marvelous and wicked sense of humor.

He is surely laughing at me as I try to wade through my own family who did about all he suggested for folks to do.

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

Resolution Number Two: I resolve to see to it that all my children will be named the same names that my ancestors have used for more than six generations in a row. I will rely heavily on John, James, and William for the boys and Mary, Ann, and Elizabeth for the girls.

Resolution Number Three: My age is nobody's business but my own. I hereby resolve never to list the same age or birth year twice on any document. I resolve to get younger as time passes.

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

Resolution Number Five: I resolve to move to a new town, new county, or new state at least once in every ten years - just before those pesky enumerators from the Census come around asking silly ques-



Continued on page 7



FLYING HERALDRY



Heraldic banners, standards, pennons, pinsels, gonfalons, etc., suitable for interior & exterior use. Constructed of superior materials which feature the optimum characteristics of easy flight & long term durability. Depending on the intricacy of your design, you may choose from printed or appliqueed styles. Attachment by grommets, pole sleeves with leather tabs or clip & toggle. Poles, stands & fringe to suit your needs. Rush orders available as scheduling permits. For more information:

Thomas Freeman,

FSA Scot

trf@cockspurherald.com

706-839-3881





Did your ancestors live in a major city?

Bryan L. Mulcahy, MLS

If your ancestors resided in a major city, one of the most useful tools to enhance your research options is utilizing an atlas published at or close to the time of residence. Atlases contain detailed maps showing streets, buildings, and ward boundaries. They sometimes also show landmarks such as churches, schools, and cemeteries. Some highly specialized atlases may also list the names of individual landowners.

City atlases and maps used in conjunction with city directories can help locate landmarks such as churches or synagogues and cemeteries. These landmarks can be used to locate family graves and where they attended worship services. Many early churches and synagogues conducted congregational censuses and operated schools. If they operated schools, it is very likely they took periodic or annual censuses of the students and teachers. These types of records can be beneficial for research.

Historically, before census indexing was completed for all federal censuses, city atlases were an absolute necessity for locating ancestors in census records because census schedules are often arranged by wards. City atlases usually provide listings of all the wards within the jurisdiction. Researching city wards can still be relevant for certain research situations.

City and town locator maps plot a town and often give its coordinates so that it can be plotted in an historical atlas or map to determine the county, parish,

or state in which it resided during a given year. City planning maps often help researchers with the renaming of streets, parks, neighborhoods, and other features. These maps may be in the possession of city/county regional planning council repositories or the county property appraiser's office. Many have been placed online through the city or county website.

Plat maps are normally located in the county or town offices that maintain land and property records. These maps are contained in plat books containing maps of property boundaries and land ownership within the city and county. These are usually available through the county property appraiser's office. Some may be available on

their website.

Sanborn fire insurance maps of 12,000 cities and towns yield street names and specific properties and addresses starting in 1867. Using these with city directories can help locate urban ancestors in a given year. The Library of Congress website link is a good place to check for available maps. <<https://www.loc.gov/collections/sanborn-maps>>. Family Search Wiki also has an excellent article on this topic. <https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Sanborn_Insurance_Maps>

Ward maps were the result of the growth of cit-

Continued on page 15



The Armstrong Clan Society

**Dedicated to the Armstrongs,
Crosiers, Fairbairns, Grosiers, Nixons
and those interested in those surnames.**

The Armstrong Clan Society was organized on October 8, 1981 and is incorporated in the State of Georgia, USA. The Society is recognized as a Section 501 (c) (3) not for profit organization and exempt from the United States Federal Income Taxes.

On September 24, 1984, the Lord Lyon, King of Arms in Scotland, granted warrant to the Lyon Clerk to matriculate in the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland in the name of the Armstrong Clan Society, Inc., the Coat of Arms to the right of this paragraph. Our motto "Semper Invictus" can be translated as "Always Unconquered."



Objectives of the Armstrong Clan Society

1. To seek friendship and unity among all Armstrongs, its septs and associated families. 2. To provide for the preservation of all armstrong artifacts unique to the family. 3. To serve as a genealogical and historical resource for the membership and the general public. 4. To provide news, Armstrong history, items of general interest and genealogy via our newsletter, *The Armstrong Chronicles*. 5. To establish worldwide geographic membership representation.

Membership

All Armstrongs, Croziers, Fairbairns, Grosiers and Nixons (regardless of the spelling and their descendants, are eligible for full membership in the Armstrong Clan Society. In the United States and Canada, dues are \$25 per year or \$45 for two years. All memberships include two adults and all minor children. In other countries, dues are \$35 per year. All dues are payable in US funds.



For membership application, email **Janet Armstrong** at <jdumeyer@hotmail.com> or download from <<http://www.armstrong.org/membership.htm>>. Note, "spouse" on the application includes: spouse, domestic partner or any other adult living at the same address.

To contact the Armstrong Clan Society president, **Chris Armstrong** at <chrisarmys@gmail.com>. Ceud Mile Failte (100,000 welcomes) to you!

1852 Resolutions, continued from page 3

tions.

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

Resolution Number Seven: I resolve to join an obscure religious cult that does not believe in record-keeping or in participating in military service.

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

Resolution Number Nine: I resolve that if my beloved wife, Mary, should die, I will marry another lady called "Mary." If she should die, I will continue with "Mary" so long as I live.

Resolution Number Ten: I resolve not to make a will. Who needs to spend money on a lawyer?

Now that you've read this, ask yourself if your own ancestors did the same as this? I'll bet that some of them did!

I dreamed of this fellow last night and he was laughing very hard!

If I may, I have discovered something I have searched for just about all my life. You see, I have "Indian Hair." It is very fine and each hair is flat like a piece of paper. It can be any color, but if it is flat, it is "Indian Hair."

In my mother's family, I found out just a few days ago that my 3rd great grandfather had Native American Heritage from his own mother who was Mary Allen. He was James Madison McDonald.

I've tried to find Native American in my father's family as well and think that I have found someone there, as well with Native American Heritage. My father's mother was supposedly Native American. My father was Daniel Clifton Palmer and his mother was Armiaise Clements. It is a family story that she "hid" from the Trail of Tears.

I'm having trouble finding real proof for her. My fine hair won't curl. It is straighter than any board. I am thrilled and honored to find my Native American heritage...at least part of it!



Genealogical Query about William Davidson and all

Does anyone have information to share on the arrival of WILLIAM DAVIDSON along with his wife, MARY, and seven children in 1828. They settled in Woburn, Massachusetts from Monemore, Ireland. I am trying to trace to Ireland and, hopefully, Scotland.

If you have information please visit the Clan Davidson Society FaceBook.

Something useful for nearly everybody AND it's FREE!

On the next three odd numbered pages you will have a little "booklet" that will help you to submit things to your own clan newsletter or any other publication in which you would like to have something published. It's easy. It's free. I promise, it will make the life of your own newsletter editor much nicer....and your newsletter much better!

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

How to properly submit things to most any publication

Beth Gay Freeman, <bethscribble@aol.com>

With thanks to Tom Freeman for more ideas, proofing and general fun.

In order to have an outstandingly good publication, you must have participation from members of your group so far as the input into the publication goes.

A clan publication - or any "group" publication is only as good as the information submitted by members.

In a Scottish Clan your members are likely spread out all over the world.

If you count your members at any Scottish game or event you will see that only a tiny percentage are attending games.

What do all of the other people at home get from their dues dollars?

The newsletter.

Each member, officer or not, is a "reporter" for the group publication. It is true that most officers from the highest to the lowest, have specific responsibilities each issue. Their input in the publication is so valuable!

Deadlines are important both to the newsletter editor and to the recipients. If your publication is delivered to everyone after an event has happened - no matter how well planned, spectacular and wonderful, it does no good. People cannot plan to go to anything if they don't know about it.

Just so you know, it is perfectly proper for an editor to leave out information from anyone who submits material - without prior notice - which arrives after the deadline. That is the professional way that publications are done.

If it should work out date-wise, that something is happening right at deadline time, please contact your editor and make arrangements for your information to come in as soon as you can - and that means within a day past the deadline. Any later will have to wait until the next issue.

I've given seminars to editors of newsletters. I've

done newsletters myself since before dirt.

Most folks don't know it now, but your editor was in radio for many years, achieving the Certified Radio Marketing Consultant designation issued by the Radio Advertising Bureau in New York City.

There is only one surety in radio - which translates to everything else. The surety: What happens if you do not advertise?

The answer: **NOTHING**.

Advertising is sort of what we do when we publish a newsletter. We are letting the members of our group know - advertising to them - what is happening with our group.

What happens if you do not publish a newsletter that is timely and filled with interesting things?

The answer: **NOTHING**.

The suggestions, hints and rules included here are just as true for a letter to a friend as they are for *Life* magazine.

OK, here we go....

Articles: The easiest way to send an article to me is to simply copy what you have and paste it onto an email which saves a lot of time for your editor.

When you send a news article, please include the who, when, where, why and what. If it is an upcoming event or something the reader will need to explore further, please send contact information.

I always think if I were reading the article I am working on, could I make contact with someone for more information if I needed it?

If it is an article about a Scottish Games, please send the logo (emblem) of the games to the editor via jpeg.

Continued on page 11

The Scottish Tartans Museum and Heritage Center, Inc.

86 East Main Street Franklin, North Carolina, 28734

825-524-7472

www.scottishtartansmuseum.org

MUSEUM HOURS

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

Adult Admission

\$4.00 plus tax

Child's Admission

\$2.00 plus tax
Under 6 years FREE

Online Gift Shop

www.scottishtartansgiftshop.com

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



Please check your spelling and punctuation. If you have access to Grammarly, just run what you send through that program. (I get my Grammarly free from AOL.)

If someone's name is in the article/publication more than once, be sure you spell that person's name the same each time it is used.

If the games has something unique, be sure and tell about it and have a photo. (Estes Park shoots bowling balls all day trying to "bag" a model of Nessie!)

Look over your Guest Book and let the editor know of the clan members who have signed the book and where they are from.

If you go to more than one game in a newsletter time period, just write articles seperately for each game.

Other Articles: If you've heard that Suzie's mother is ill, please contact Suzie and ask how her mother is doing - and report on that. It's nice to give where everyone may send cards and letters, too.

Wedding articles are great as are engagements and graduations.

If you don't know how to write about weddings, just look in your local papers and use the same information they use. You'll always see parents of both the bride and the groom and where they are from. You'll always see full names of both bride and groom.

Wedding photos are wonderful so try to get some professionally taken pictures for the newsletter.

Please give all the necessary information with everything.

How are you going to know about an accident, an illness, an important milestone in our scattered-all-over-the-world members' lives if it is not written in your newsletter?

You do not wish to find that friends have been through any kind of crisis without you knowing - or, had happy things happen and you did not know.

Your newsletter is the answer to keeping in touch with your friends who most clans call "your cousins."

If you have to research to find a PO Box, email address, website, physical address, etc., you just do the research and double check what you have typed.

If you don't think you can write, just write as if you were speaking to a friend.

Flowers of the Forest: When you hear of a clan member passing away, please send a copy of the obituary to your editor. If you don't have the obituary, send the city, state and date where the person died so your editor can find the notice of death.

Many people do not publish obituaries in newspapers these days because the newspapers charge such ridiculously high prices. Clan newsletters publish Flowers of the Forest FREE.

Photos: Please send photos as a jpeg file. All photos need to be in focus. Your editor will edit the pictures to fit available space.

Try to have lots of folks in your pictures. If they brought a pet or Highland Coo with them, be sure to take their pictures for their newsletter.

Pictures of empty clan tents just don't work.

Identify people who are in your photos. You may simply pass a tablet and pencil through the group and ask them to PRINT their names clearly and in the order in which they are shown.

Deadlines: All of my current publications have deadlines pretty much the same. The 15th of the month preceding the publication is the cut-off date/deadline.

You may send information to me at anytime. I keep files on the AOL Cloud so that I cannot lose these files in case of a computer disaster.

When you accept the job of editor you accept deadlines no matter what. Contributing clan members need to respect those deadlines.

I start work on a publication before the deadline since it is not possible to do a complete publication in the time after the 15th of the month.

If you have something that is happening after the deadline, please contact me and let me know how much time you need and how much space you need for me to save. I need to know when your information will be in my hands. Call me at 706-839-3881 or email: <bethscribble@aol.com>.

Please, do not send me correspondence amongst clan officers. I only need what you want me to print.

Big deal things: If you have something that is a BIG DEAL like scholarship deadlines or anything that is important and has specific dates, you need to check

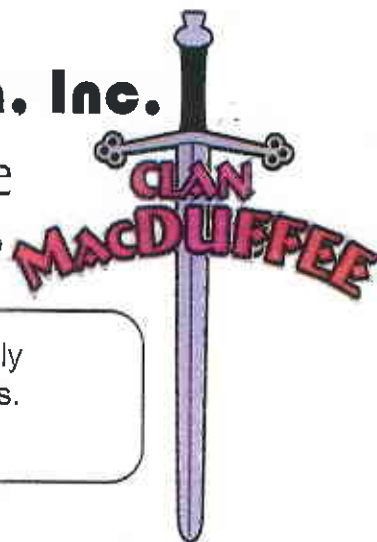
Continued on page 13

MacDuffee Clan Society of America, Inc.

of Clan Macfie

Ceud Mile Failte! 100,000 Welcomes!

Annual General Meeting held each year in July
at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games.
You are always welcome to attend.



President: Thomas P. McDuffee

tpmijm@aol.com

Treasurer: David M. McDuffie

dnmcduffie@gmail.com

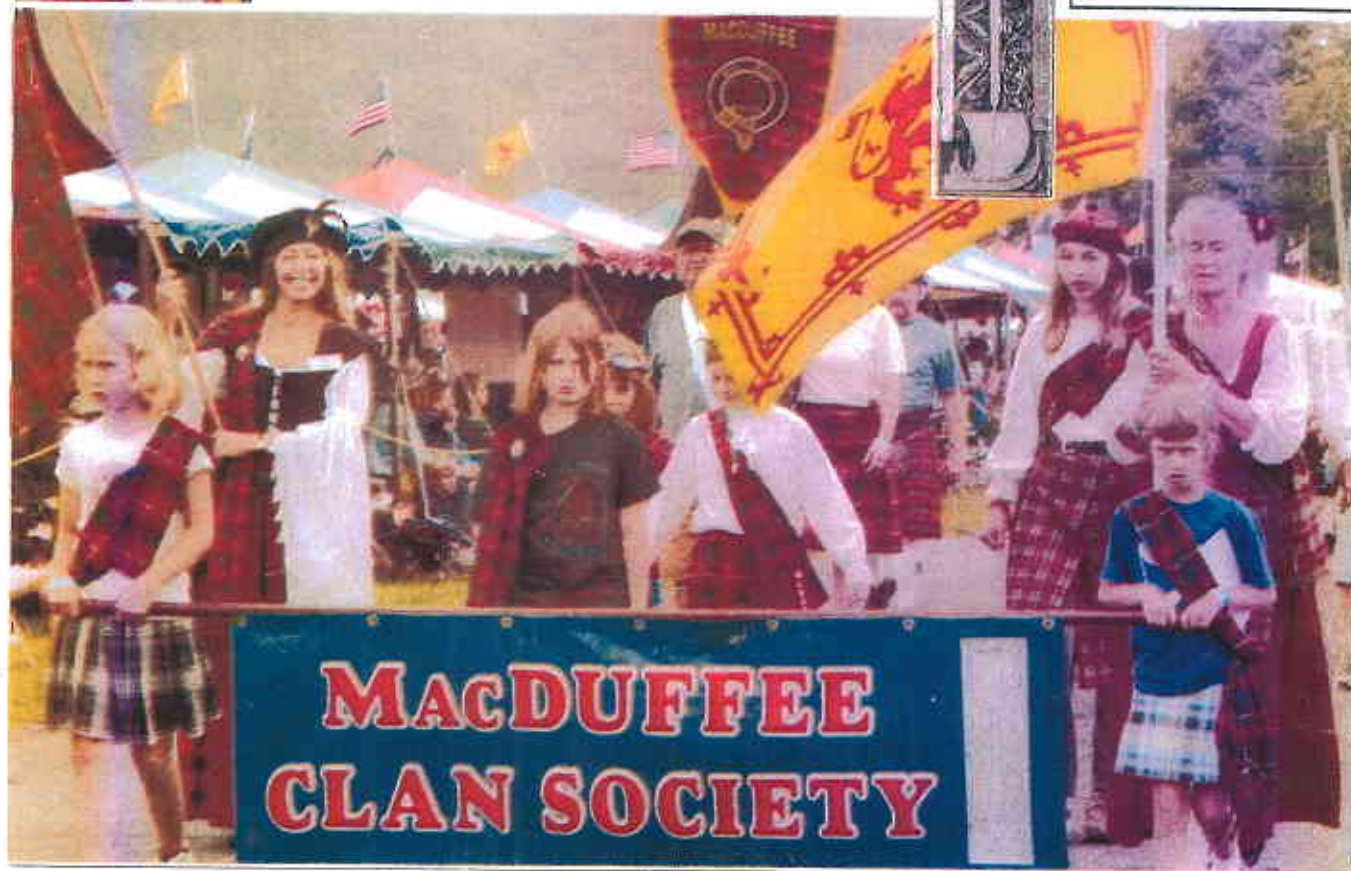
Genealogist: Richard Ledyard

865-671-2555

rledyard@tds.net



MacDuffee
Clan Society
of America



How to properly submit things to most any publication, *Continued from page 11*

when your publication is going out to members - and in most cases that is four times a year. Choose the date most convenient for your event.

Be sure you plan so that you are sure of having all of the needed information ready to go so it will come out to the members in a timely manner.

Send that information to me as soon as you can. If you can't and it's "front page news," let me know what is happening and how much space you need. Most importantly, WHEN that information, photos, etc., will be in your editor's hands.

Your responsibility: If you get an email or a phone call from your editor asking about a fact, PLEASE return that call or email asap.

Changing your mind: *Please don't.* Have your article or story complete before you submit it. Please do not change your mind about what you have already turned in.

Having to re-write submitted information after the article has been formatted and placed in the publication is exactly as if you are driving in the worst Atlanta rush hour traffic and receiving a call from your mechanic who says, "I decided not to fix your brakes as I said I would. I thought I could just fix them later. You don't need to drive your car do you?"

Egad!

Once the publication is done, you can't change much without changing everything, which results in a lot of wasted time and much chewing of table legs.

New Rules: Years are now, "1800s" with no apostrophe.

In the dark ages when I went to school, you never used a comma in "apples, oranges and pears."

I do not put a comma after "oranges" even today. My beloved Mrs. McCubbin told me "don't do that." So, I do not.

We are "G" rated: Be careful when you write for your clan publication. There have been times when I have called the president/high commissioner of a clan and said, "We can't put this in." We didn't.

Other publications: If you run across articles in other publications or hear/see something that is interesting on TV, jot down the basic information and send it in.

Note where/when you found it originally. Your editor will try to track it down, copyright notwithstanding,

we can pass on interesting information to everyone almost all of the time.

Copyright: In our situation in the Scottish community, if there is something in a clan newsletter and it says "copyright" please contact the editor of that publication and ask permission to use it. I've never had anyone say "No" to me.

Things on the Internet are pretty much fair game. It's always nice to thank whomever it is from when you use the information.

Never, never, never use anything from Disney, Coca Cola and others of their ilk.

Is fun ok? Fun is most certainly ok and very much desired. Most of us are volunteers and we all enjoy a giggle or two or a chuckle along the way.

A publication full of dry, boring information will not be read. It's as clear as that. It won't.

It is very much desired for folks to send along funnies for us to use.

Length of articles: Two pages is about as large as most newsletters have room for.

If you wish to gauge how much a page turns out to be, just set your computer to 12 point Times New Roman font and type your article.

There are exceptions to this such as Pete Hylton's wonderful photo travelogues.

From Beth: Please take all of this to heart.

It is always amazing to me what happens when folks work together. A clan publication is one of the most visible examples of this premise.

Please call me or email me if you have questions or ideas. Both of these are always welcomed.

To me, being an editor is really fun. There is something about taking a blank sheet of paper and making it into something attractive, easy to read and understand and perhaps have fun at the same time that makes me happy.

However, all of that pales in comparison when members of a group send me well-written, correct information in a recognizable form.

Being an editor is really fun and fulfilling. The very best part of the experience is getting to work with the members of the Scottish Community. I've made so many wonderful friends over the years.

Perhaps one day we'll all be able to enjoy going to a Scottish Games with hugging and laughing as we did for so long.

IMPORTANT

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



**Please alert your children
and teach them to do this.
Please alert everyone.**

Visit this YouTube video at:

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

With many thanks to Steve Kelley.

Did your ancestors live in an important city?

Continued from page 5

ies. It became necessary for administrative purposes to divide them into districts that were called wards. The boundaries of these wards were constantly changing. New wards were added during the years of largest growth. Thanks to the progress made in indexing censuses, their importance is not as significant as it once was but they can still be useful for researchers that encounter problems with incorrect or missing index entries. Prior to the advances in online census indexes, researchers looking for ancestors in the 1860-1880 censuses had to identify the specific ward and had to perform extensive page-by-page searches.

The Library of Congress has detailed ward maps of major cities. These show the census districts and political divisions of large cities. Valuable finding aids for City Ward maps are also available at the Family History Library.

Library of Congress – Ward Maps <<https://www.loc.gov/maps/?q=ward+maps>>

Ward Maps of United States Cities: Selective Checklist of Pre-1900 Maps in the Library of Congress <<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/250431?availability=Family%20History%20Library>>



For more information on this topic, I have multiple study guides that are available electronically free upon request.

Bryan L. Mulcahy
Reference – Genealogy Librarian
Fort Myers Regional Library
<mulcahy@leegov.com>



History Scotland's annual program of online Scottish family history talks, in partnership with *Family Tree*, will return in February 2022.

Booking is now open for the 2022 Scottish Family History Month, with five fantastic online talks available, covering everything from making the most of the census to exploring the lives of Scottish women.

This year's chair is genealogist Chris Paton, who will host each talk and also present a talk of his own. Each event will comprise a 50-min Zoom talk, followed by a 30 minute Q&A. Each event will be recorded and the recording made available to ticket holders until the end of March 2022.

Booking is now open for all five talks - secure your place today! A bundle price of £40 for all five talks (£35 for magazine subscribers) is available. Visit: <<https://www.historyscotland.com/virtual-events/scottish-family-history-month-2022>>

Scottish Family History Month 2022 talk programme includes...

Making sense of the Scottish census, Emma Maxwell, 1 February, 6.30 pm - BOOK NOW £10.

Civil cases in the sheriff courts, Fergus Smith, 4 February, 2 pm - BOOK NOW £10.

Using DNA for Scottish family history research, Michelle Leonard, 8 February 6.30 pm - BOOK NOW £10.

Tracing Scottish women, Kirsty Wilkinson, 17 February, 6.30 pm - BOOK NOW £10.

Scottish research resources before 1800, Chris Paton, 22 February, 6.30 pm - BOOK NOW £10.

Clan Davidson Society USA



clandavidson-na.org

Davidson Clansmen dominate the Parade of Tartans at the International Gathering of Clan Davidson sponsored by the Clan Davidson Society USA. The event was held June, 2011, in conjunction with the Kansas City Highland Games.

Is your name listed here? If so, then you may be interested in membership in the **Clan Davidson Society USA!**

| | | | | | | | |
|----------|----------|--------|---------|-------|---------|-----------|-----------|
| Davey | Davisson | Dea | Dee | Dhai | Keay | MacDade | MacDavid |
| Davie | Davy | Dean | Desson | Dow | Keys | MacDagnie | MacDavitt |
| Davidson | Daw | Deane | Devette | Dye | Key | MacDagny | MacDhai |
| Davis | Dawson | Deas | Dewis | Dyson | Keys | MacDaid | MacKay |
| Davison | Day | Deason | Dey | Kay | MacAdie | MacDavett | McKeddie |

The Clan Davidson Society USA is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit corporation recognized by the **US IRS** as a 501 c(3) Educational and Charitable organization. We are dedicated to the preservation of our rich Scottish and Clan Heritage. CDA-USA publishes an award-winning, electronic, full color newsmagazine of 40-60 pages twice a year, packed with informative articles and photos of interest both to Davidson Clansmen as well as anyone interested in the history and culture of Scotland.

The Society's On-Staff Genealogist is the Founder of the Davidson/Davison DNA Project and is available at no charge to assist the membership with their own genealogical excavations.

For more information, check out our website at [www.elandavidsonusa.com] or contact the Society's Membership Registrar at [sennachie@earthlink.net].





Turning of the Bull

tabletop replica available for donations to TCA

The Turnbull Clan Association is excited to offer a tabletop replica of the *Turning of the Bull* monument in exchange for a donation to the Turnbull Clan Association. These replicas are of artist quality bronze replica's placed on a stained wooden mount.

Donations of \$1650- will receive a 6" x 9" x 6" cast bronze artists replica.
Donations of \$2475 or more will receive a 9" x 11" x 9" cast bronze artist replica.

For complete information visit <communications@turnbullclan.com>

Congratulations

P a m T u r n b u l l
for her award as **Turnbull**
Clan Association Clan
Member of the Year!



*Your editor was looking for something else
and stumbled across this!
I thought everyone
would get a kick just out of seeing it!*

Sean Connery Goldfinger Suit

Rated 5.00 out of 5 based on 1 customerrating
\$299.00-\$155.00

LIMITED TIME OFFER

- FREE SHIPPING

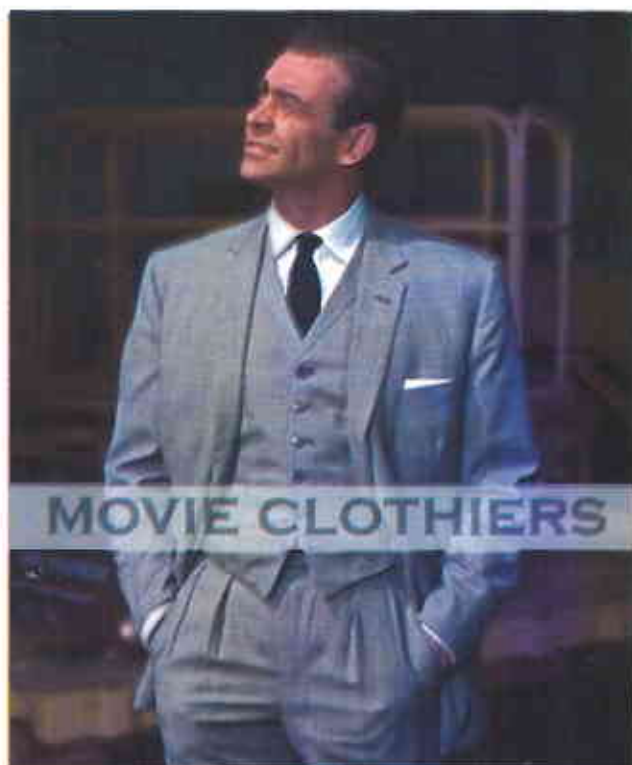
Avail Flat \$20 OFF

On All Orders Over \$100

Use Coupon Code Save 20 at Checkout

If you would like to have one just visit:

<<https://movieclothiers.com/product/sean-connery-goldfinger-suit>



The *Plan Macneil* Association of America

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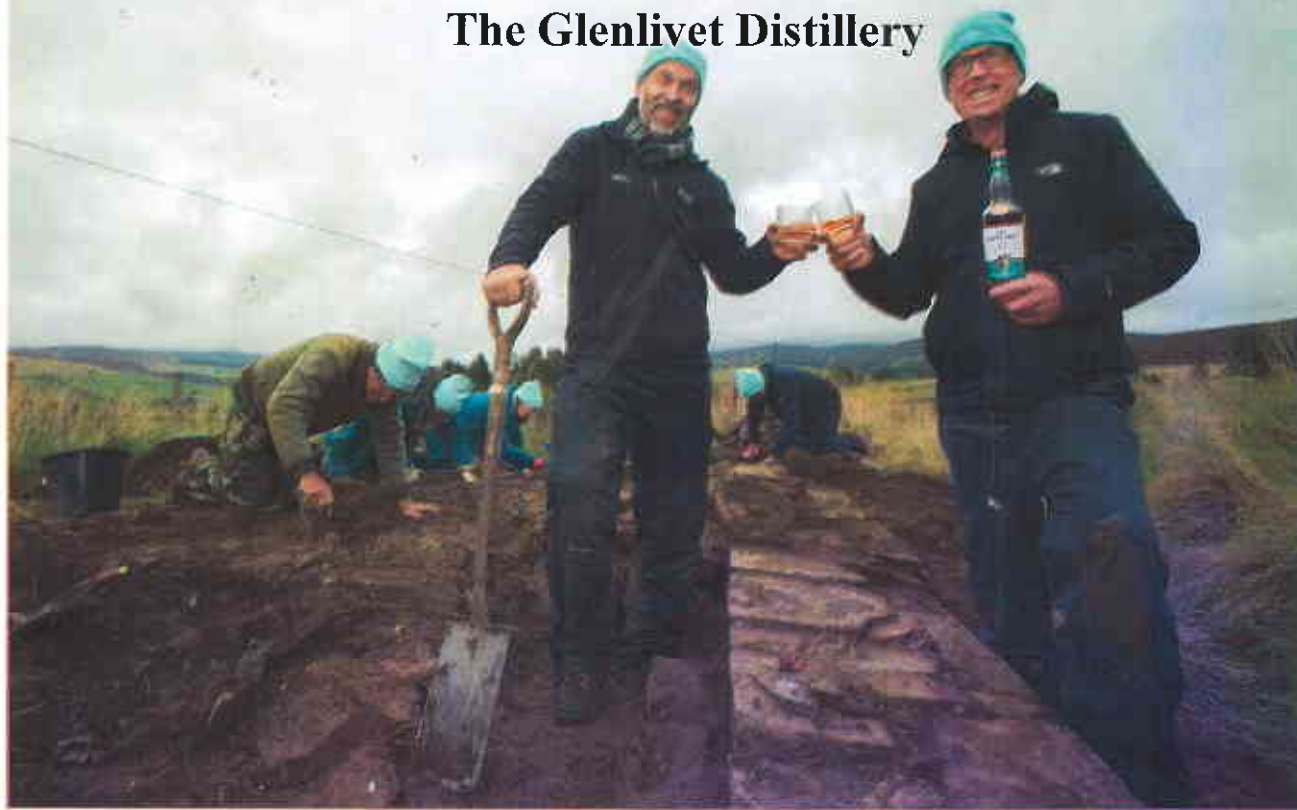
Remember the men from whom
you have come.

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

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



National Trust for Scotland archaeologists have revealed more details from their recent dig at the old site of The Glenlivet Distillery



Excavations took place in October on the original site where whisky pioneer George Smith established the first licensed whisky distillery in Speyside in 1824.

The week-long dig not only uncovered part of the footprint of the building but a whole range of artifacts and features connected to whisky-making.

National Trust for Scotland Head of Archaeology, Derek Alexander, said that the team was 'quite surprised by the level of preservation, which gave them an incredible amount of detail relating to the layout and facilities in the distillery. The distillery appears to have been a three-sided courtyard, open to the north. In the southern range, the archaeologists found the foundations of two fireboxes that probably heated the underside of the wash still and the spirit still.

A prized find

The prize find was the brass keyhole cover from a Gottlieb patent type Excise Lock, which is particu-

larly exciting as it was probably used to lock the spirit safe. These padlocks were patented in 1829 and used as the standard padlock by the Customs and Excise. They contained an insert of paper which, if broken, would indicate that the lock had been tampered with.

The excise lock

In addition, they found parts of the wall remaining at least 60 cm high, the exterior southeast corner of the courtyard complex, two fireboxes, containing lots of ash, cinders, and coal. Large pieces of iron were recovered from both the fire grating and the doors which were used to control the fire. Sections of copper pipes, the base of a wood barrel/tub with an iron hoop, a copper cup were also uncovered.

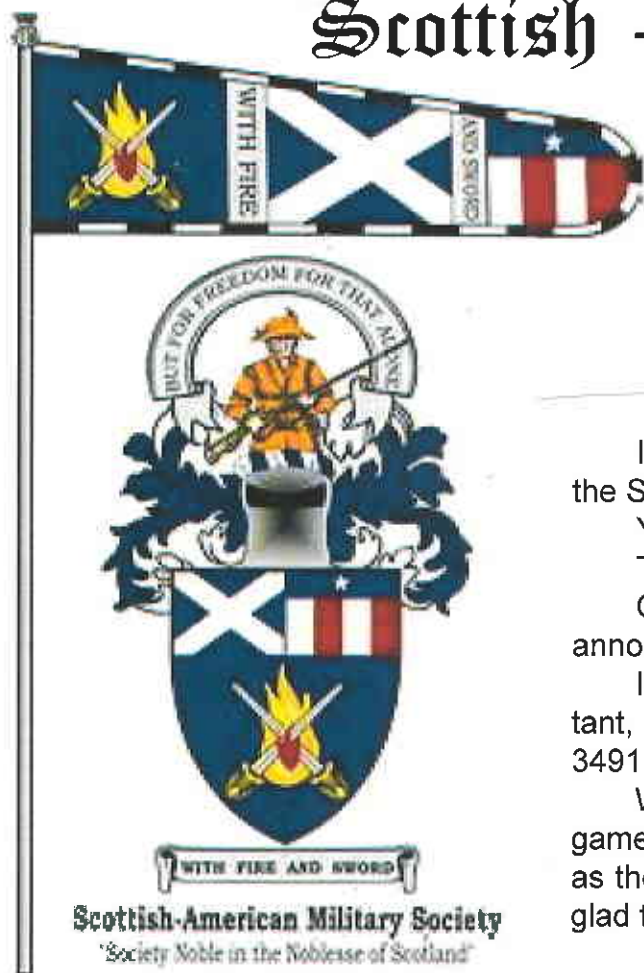
The foundation of licensed whisky-making

Derek said: "This dig has given us an even greater insight into the foundation of licensed whisky making than we'd ever hoped. As one of the first licensed

Continued on page 21

Scottish - American Military Society

General Elijah Clark Post #60



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

You can visit our webpage for more information.

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

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

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

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



Scottish - American Military Society



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

Clan Sutherland 2023 International Gathering set in Scotland

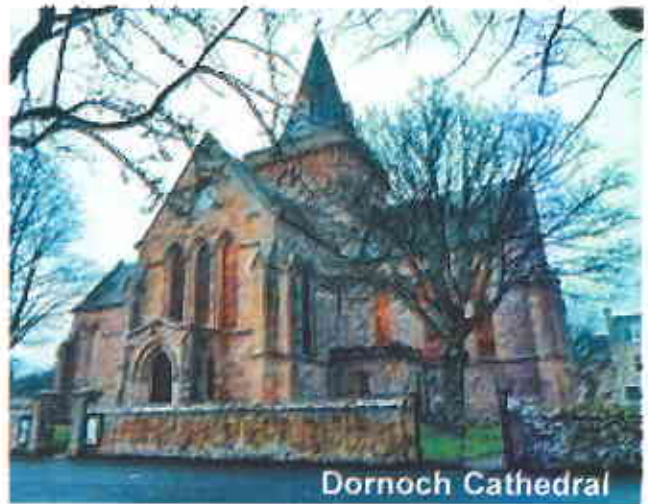
Every four to five years, the Clan Sutherland Society in Scotland (CSSS) organizes an International Gathering. The next gathering has been scheduled for June 8 - 11, 2023. The International Gathering is centered on Dunrobin Castle and nearby communities, with a full program of events currently in development.

A reception and welcome from Alistair, Earl of Sutherland and chief of Clan Sutherland, will start things off on Thursday evening June 8.

Numerous events and tours are scheduled over the next several days, including:

- * A motorcoach excursion to clan lands in northern Sutherland and Caithness.
- * A Saturday evening ceilidh and dinner.
- * Sunday morning worship at Dornoch Cathedral.

Because of the large number of visitors to the castle, there will not be a formal tour of Dunrobin, but



time will be included for attendees to tour the castle themselves and watch the fantastic falconry display in the gardens.

The current 2023 International Gathering schedule is as follows:

Thursday 8th June

PM: Registration at Dunrobin Castle with early evening: Drinks Reception and welcome from the Clan Chief at Dunrobin Castle.

Friday 9th June

10.00AM: Coach tour all day in Sutherland and north into Caithness to include lunch. The theme for the coach tour will be "the lives and places of ordinary clansfolk."

Evening: Gathering Dinner.

Saturday 10th June

AM: The CSSS Annual General Meeting followed by coffee break and then a Genealogy talk followed by lunch in Golspie.

PM: Time for Gathering attendees to informally tour Dunrobin or go on side trips.

Evening: Ceilidh and Supper.

Sunday 11th June

11.00: Attend morning worship at Dornoch Cathedral, which has been associated with Clan Sutherland and the Earls of Sutherland for more than 700 years

13.00: Farewell Lunch and then departure.

Look for more updates and schedule details in future editions of the *Dunrobin Piper* and here in *BNFT*, as the Council of the Clan Sutherland Society in Scotland and its president, Mark Sutherland, take the lead in organizing this great gathering and celebration. For more information, please contact: Mark at <info@clansutherland.org.uk>

The Glenlivet Distillery, *con't from page 19*

distilleries in Scotland the old site of The Glenlivet distillery was right at the forefront of an exciting new industry – it was kind of the tech start-up of its day. Seeing how it all started is fascinating and is a great continuation of the stories we have uncovered at National Trust for Scotland places, where we find evidence of earlier, illicit whisky activity. We can't wait to go back and see what more we can find, and this time, we hope to be able to invite more members of the public to get their hands dirty on the dig."

Alan Winchester, The Glenlivet's Master Distiller said: "It was brilliant to get stuck in on the dig last month and it amazed me just how much of the original building and its features were not only uncovered but preserved too. To discover parts like the copper pipes, the base of a barrel and even the brass keyhole cover from an Excise Lock that would have been seen by George Smith himself when creating one of Scotland's first licensed whiskies is fascinating, and I can't wait to return and see what else we can find."

Clan *Blair* Society

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



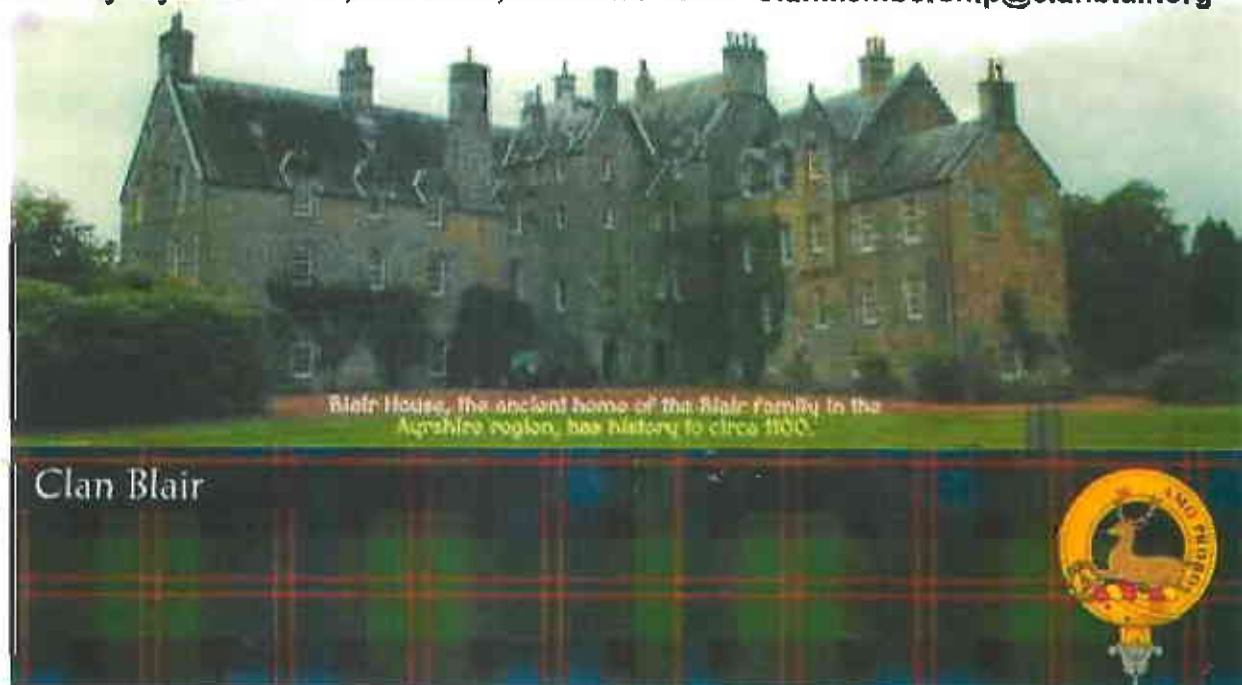
www.clanblair.org

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

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

Membership Chairman,
Charles Diman

3413 Synnybrook Drive, Charlotte, NC 28210-4715 ClanMembership@clanblair.org





Billie H. Chayne, 87, passed away July 12, 2021 at ORMC ICU, Orlando FL as a result of an accident at home on Friday, July 9.

Billie was born on July 19th, 1933 in Pond Creek, Oklahoma to Jess & Neva Hamblen.

Billie was a dedicated wife to her husband Bob, and loving mother to her daughters, Jeannine Chayne, and Lorraine Pierson, (Frederick T. Pierson) and her two grandchildren, Gardner Hart Pierson and Amanda Chayne Pierson of Cary, NC.

She is survived by her sisters Bettie Boulton and Bonnie Poindexter of Orlando FL; Sister in-law Barbara Dorfman of Clarksdale AZ.; several nieces & nephews.

Billie & Bob moved to Orlando in 1972 to open Barney's Bar-B-Q's and Barney's Steak House.

Billie was founder of the Orlando Day Nursery Foundation; Orlando Day Nursery Association (Merit)

She was an active member of the Scottish American Society, St Andrew's Society, and was a Dame Knight Templar of the SMOTJ. She was a long time member of the Clan Sutherland Society of North America.

Billie was active in bowling and golfing groups and always involved with her family and grandchildren.

Billie enjoyed all her associations, social groups, and many friends. She was a long time member of the Clan Sutherland Society,

A memorial was held last September at All Saints Episcopal in Winter Park.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be sent to The Orlando Day Nursery, 626 Lake Dot Circle, Orlando FL. 32801 "In memory of Billie

Chayne".

Please view and sign the family guestbook at <<https://baldwincremation.com/obituaries/billie-chayne/>>.

A Shared Phone Call

The following is a repeat of a delightful phone conversation between our Secretary, Debra and the late Billie Chayne:

"I spoke with Billie in January 2020 when she submitted her vote regarding adoption of CSSNA's proposed changes to the Bylaws. She was 86 at the time and related that Ken & Andrea White got her and her late husband, Bob, active in CSSNA. She expressed fond, happy memories about their years of involvement with CSSNA and the Scottish American Society. She told a delightful story about how her email address, biddyzeen@yahoo.com, came about: A young family member could not pronounce her name, Billie Jean. The pronunciation sounded like "biddy zeen" and it later became her unique email moniker."





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

| | |
|---|------------|
| • Culloden Visitor's Centre – media centre | \$300,000* |
| • The Scottish Gaelic Studies Lectureship at UNC Chapel for the academic years of 2017-20 | \$185,000 |
| • Renovation of Eisenhower Suite, Culzean castle | \$50,000* |
| • Scholarships for dance and piping students 2010-2019 | \$50,000 |
| • The National Trust for Scotland USA 2018-20 Corporate membership | \$35,000 |
| • Interpretation Project at Glencoe | \$25,000* |
| • Renovation of Charles Rennie Mackintosh's Hill House, Helensburgh | \$20,000* |
| • Highland Echoes "Scotland in the Class" | \$16,900 |
| • Scottish Tartans Museum Franklin NC | \$7,700 |
| • Grandfather Mountain Highland Games Cultural Village 2017-20 | \$6,000 |

* National Trust for Scotland sites



Eisenhower Suite, Culzean Castle



The Hill House, Helensburgh

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Come visit us at Grandfather Mountain Games July 9 – 12 2020



The Tattoo unveils *'Voices'* show theme as 2022 tickets are on sale now

Tattoo show to represent the collective power and connection of voice on its return in 2022.

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo will celebrate the power of connection with a spectacular combination of music, dance and military precision from some of the world's leading armed forces and cultural performers, as it makes its return to the Edinburgh Castle Esplanade in 2022 with a new show titled *Voices*.

Tickets for the iconic military spectacle are on sale now, with the show running from 5-27 August 2022.

The show is the first from the Tattoo's new Creative Director, Michael Braithwaite. It draws inspiration from people across the globe who, despite physical separation, continue to connect and share their voices creatively through spoken word, song, writing,

music and dance -- languages common to all.

Military acts continue to play a central role in the performance, with the Army confirmed as the lead service in 2022. Audiences will enjoy the legendary sound of the Massed Pipes and Drums that will echo

around the Esplanade as part of *Voices*, supported by Tattoo pipers and drummers, and musicians from UK Military Regiments. The Tattoo dancers and Shetland fiddlers also join the line-up, with international acts and further details about *Voices* announced in the coming months.

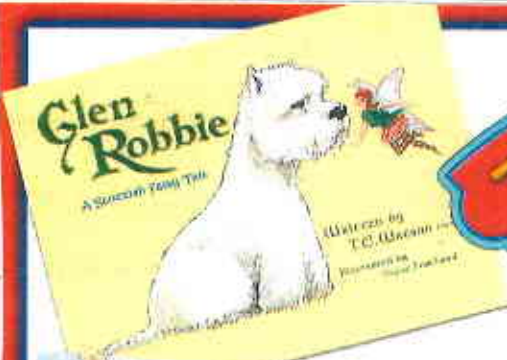



ing months.

Tattoo Creative Director, Michael Braithwaite, says: "Through the challenges and separation of the last two years, people of every culture have used their voices to remain connected. These voices can be found in many ways – the piper through music, the

Continued on page 27



THE ROYAL EDINBURGH MILITARY TATTOO

Author
T.E. WATSON

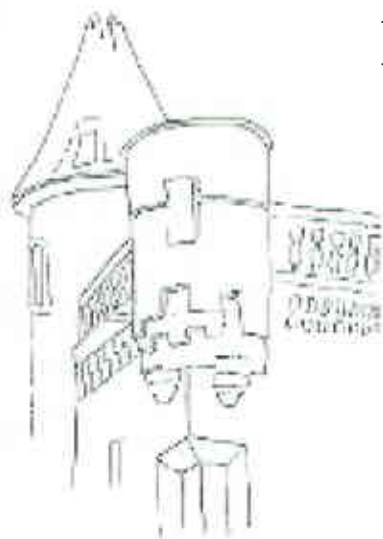
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Scotland's Rugby tournaments start in February

The Six Nations, both the men's and the women's rugby tournament, takes place every year from the first weekend in February and culminates five weeks later on Super Saturday.

The first tournament kicked off in 1883 and featured the then four home nations of the UK: England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. France and Italy joined later on in 1910 and 2000 respectively. Every nation plays each other once, resulting in a tournament with a total of 15 matches.

But rugby itself only became a sport in the UK in the 19th century. Until the 1860s, rugby and football were basically the same sport with everyone running and kicking the ball around. It's thought this original game started all the way back in Scotland and England in the Middle Ages when entire villages would play against each other. People tried to get a ball, usually made from a pig's bladder, to the opposing village's cemetery gates. It was known as a 'mock war' and wasn't uncommon for there to be injuries or even fatalities!

In 1871, a game of modern rugby was played between England and Scotland in Edinburgh (which Scotland won). This led to about 12 years of occasional friendly matches between the home nations, after which the Home International Championship, the precursor to the Six Nations, was played in 1883.

Come to Scotland and cheer your favourite team on! You're always welcome to join the supporters and lively atmosphere in one of Scotland's many bars and pubs showing the games.

If you want to see something more like the historic version of rugby in action, check out the Kirkwall Ba'. This event takes place in Orkney every year on Christmas and New Years' Day, and combines the old rules with a much more gentle play!

Edinburgh Military Tattoo,

continued from page 25

dancer with movement, the poet through words and the drummer with a beat.

"Voices is our desire to make next year's Tattoo not just a reunion, but a celebration of the connections, cultures and languages that bring us together at the unique setting of Edinburgh Castle.

"I'm hugely excited to play a part in the history and spectacle of the Tattoo, helping it return to the global stage, re-energised and invigorated for a new era."

Voices is the first show under the Tattoo's bold new brand proposition, Performance in a New Light. It embraces all the military tradition the Tattoo is known and loved for, while combining exciting new innovations in production effects, lighting and staging, along with world-class appointments to the creative team.

Tickets for next year's Tattoo can be purchased from 10:00 am now online <www.edintattoo.co.uk/tickets> or on the phone on +44 (0) 131 225 1188.



THE ROYAL
EDINBURGH
MILITARY
TATTOO



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

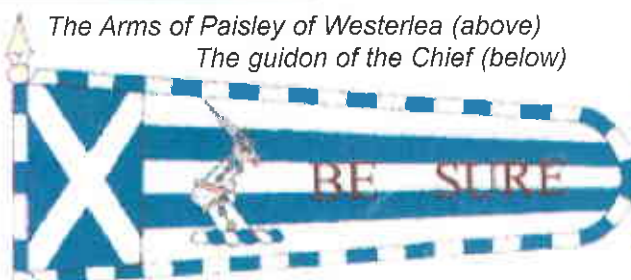


All Paisleys of the name or blood (and all spellings) are invited to join. Email: <dlangsto@yahoo.com>

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



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



Paisley Family Association

of North Carolina

president: **Don Paisley**

Email: paisley47@aol.com

Celebrating

50 years of fellowship



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

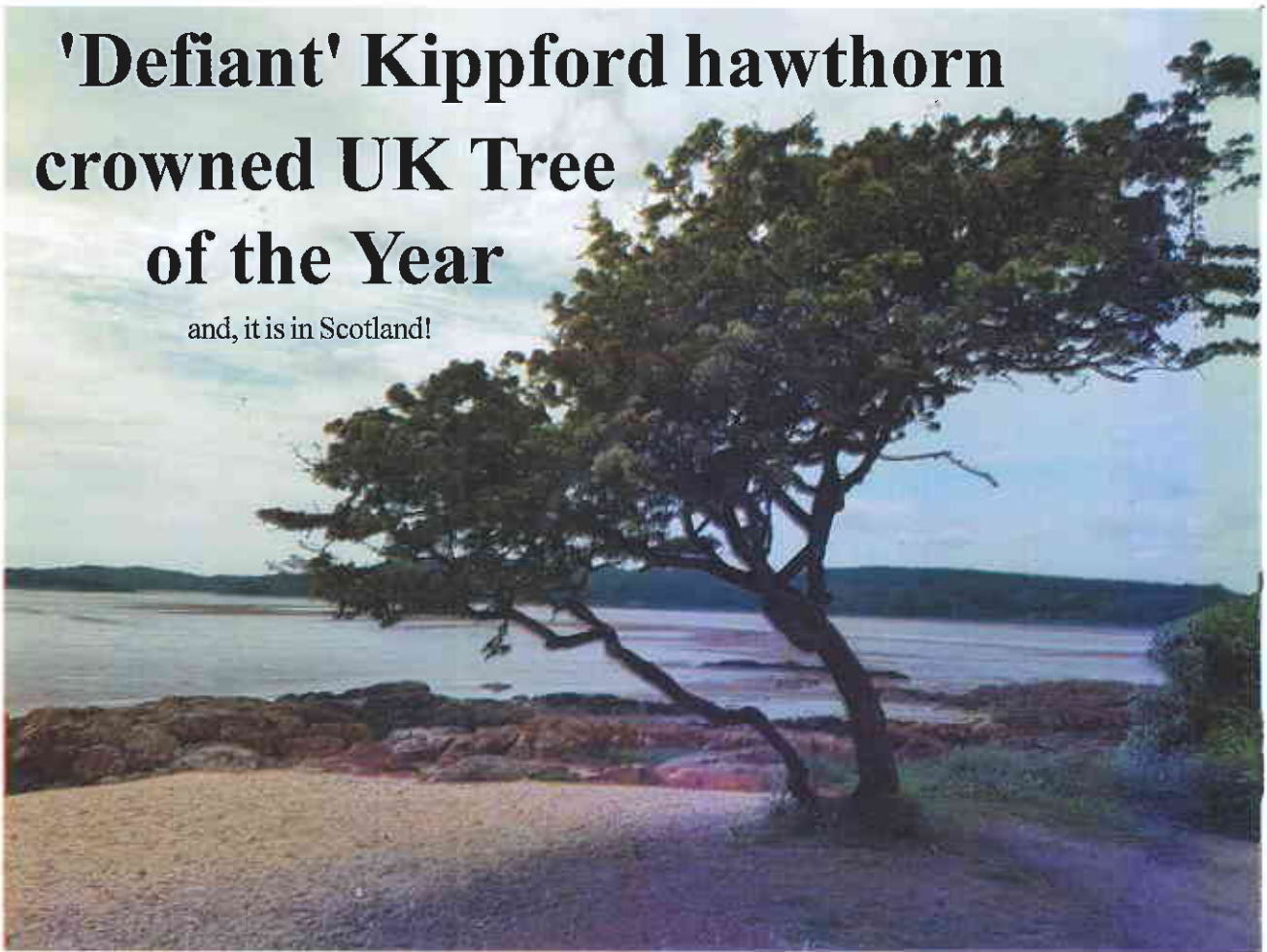
For the Paisley DNA Project, visit
<dlangsto@yahoo.com>

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

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

'Defiant' Kippford hawthorn crowned UK Tree of the Year

and, it is in Scotland!



Drew Patterson - who nominated the winning tree - said it was a "beautiful specimen".

A "defiant" lone hawthorn guarding the Scottish coastline has been crowned the *Woodland Trust's UK Tree of the Year*.

The tree at Kippford has been described as "not spectacular in size" but having a "striking presence".

It is the second year in a row the honor has gone to southern Scotland after "The Survivor" rowan in 2020.

Having seen off nine other rivals, the hawthorn will now go on to represent the UK in the *European Tree of The Year competition*.

The hawthorn took 38% of the vote which was twice the share of the second-placed Monterey cy-

press tree from Saundersfoot in Wales which was saved from felling this year after a public campaign.

Third place went to an "exceptional" parasol beech in Parkanaur Forest Park, County Tyrone, Northern Ireland.

Tree surgeon Drew Patterson, 57, who nominated the winning hawthorn, said he was thrilled to see such a "beautiful specimen" take the prize.

His father, grandfather, and great-grandfather all came from nearby Dalbeattie, so it is a tree the family knows well.

The tree from southern Scotland saw off nine other rivals for the honor

"I love this tree, it's amazing," he said.

Continued on page 31

**Are you an Arthur, Carter,
MacArthur, McArthur or similar
name? If so, you can become a member
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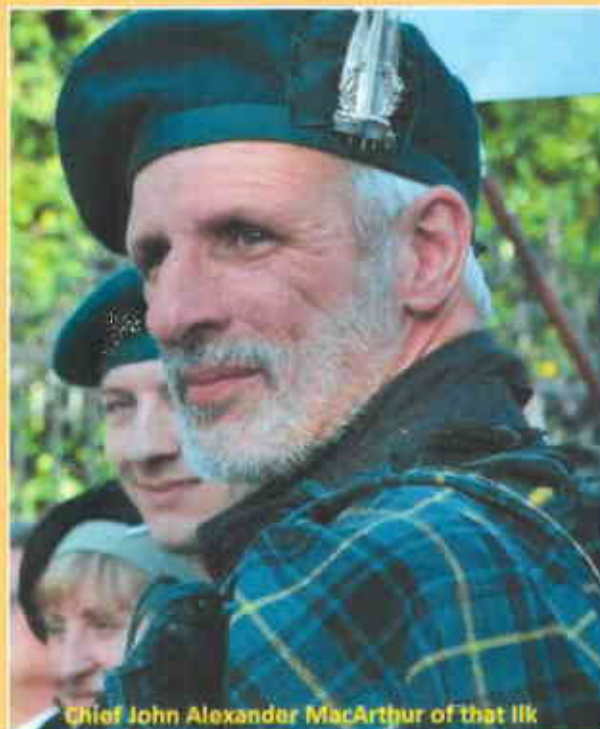
For information & how to join, see our website clanarthur.website/
Contacts:

UK: Chief John & Lorraine MacArthur arthurofthatilk@btinternet.com

USA: Joann Helmich caausamembership@gmail.com

Canada: Lloyd K. McArthur mcartld@shaw.ca

Australia/NZ: Carol MacArthur Budlong carolmcarthur18@gmail.com



Chief John Alexander MacArthur of that Ilk

UK Tree Competition, *continued from page 29*

"It is a superb hawthorn and it's incredible it has survived this well having been climbed on, battered by the winds and even bumped into by cars turning.

"It's in a wild place and has been blown over at an angle, but it is still standing strong and proud on the edge of the beach."

He said he had "fond memories" of the tree and has pictures of his grandfather and mother in front of it.

"It is at least 60 years and could be as many as 100," he said.

"Seeing the tree win this award is special."

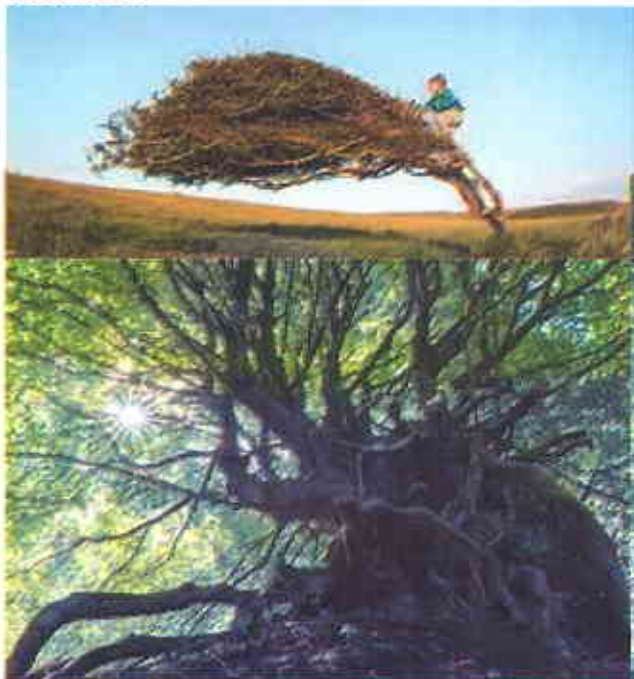
'Special tree'

Adam Cormack, head of campaigning for the Woodland Trust, said the tree - which is also known as the "Kippford Leaning Tree" - was a worthy winner.

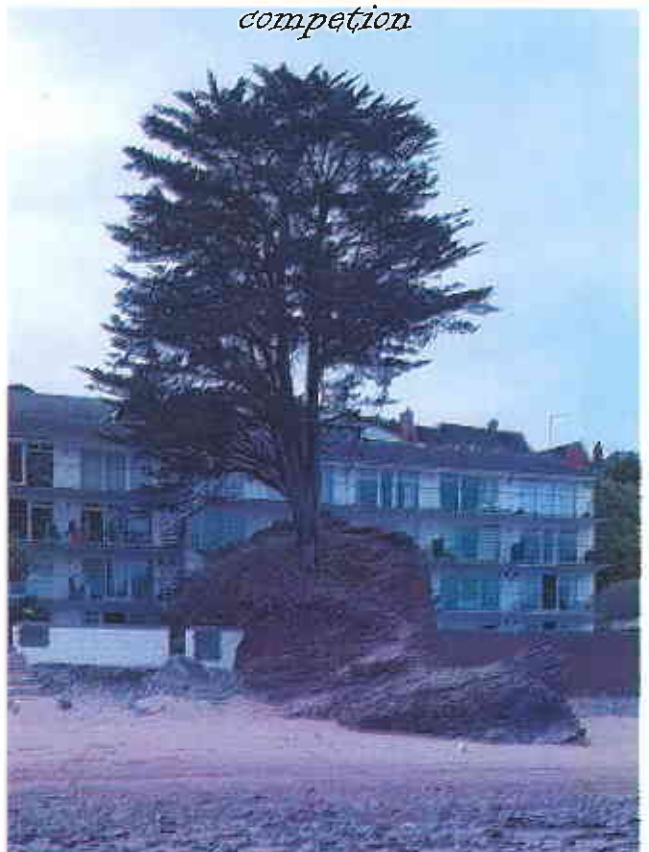
He said: "We've had winners of all shapes and sizes in previous years and this is a tree that stands out for different reasons, notably because of its striking presence in an unusual setting.

"It is also a special tree for Drew because of the family significance, which highlights the importance individual trees can have.

"Lots of trees are equally meaningful to someone, providing a connection and treasured memories."



Some of the other trees which have been in the Tree of the Year competition



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Side panel



Back



Other side panel



THE SMALL TOWN OF EILEAN IARMAIN HAS BEEN AT THE FOREFRONT OF SCOTLAND'S GAELIC REVIVAL

Sally Coffey



Since the 1970s, the town of Eilean Iarmain has been at the forefront of Scotland's Gaelic revival. Now, a new generation of locals are ready to share their culture with tourists.

The water ripples to the shoreline like a slow yawn as the little village of Eilean Iarmain on the Isle of Skye gently wakes up.

There are deliveries for the hotel and pub, dog-walkers stop to greet friends with "Madainn mhath" (good morning) by the pier, and tourists breathe in the crisp air and sea views before deciding on their day's adventure. The atmosphere is unhur-

ried and inclusive, be you a local or visitor, as is the Gaelic way.

Since wealthy businessman and Gaelic language activist Sir Iain Noble became the landowner of a large part of Skye's southerly Sleat Peninsula in the 1970s, the village of Eilean Iarmain has been at the forefront of a Gaelic revival in Scotland. The nearby college of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, founded by Noble in 1973, has grown over the past five decades from a handful of students to become the National Centre for Gaelic Language and Culture, attracting more than 1,000 students a year.

Gaelic, which had been the main language in Scotland for centuries, began to be dismantled from

the early 17th Century onwards, beginning with The Statutes of Iona of 1609, under the reign of King James VI, which labelled it "barbaric" and called upon clan chiefs to send their heirs to English-speaking schools. Mass emigrations (some forced, some voluntary) of Gaelic speakers in the 18th and 19th Centuries didn't

help, and the language was further undermined in the aftermath of the Battle of Culloden – the Jacobites' failed last stand.

Nevertheless, in rural areas, particularly in the Western Isles and other parts of the Highlands and islands,

Gaelic speaking remained strong, though increasingly by the 20th Century it was confined to the home.

Prior to Noble's arrival, a lack of jobs led young people to leave Skye and look for opportunities elsewhere, and the Gaelic language was considered old-fashioned and at odds with this need to progress. Noble's belief, however, was that the Gaelic language could be utilised to stem depopulation in Skye and actually become an economic driver in its own right.

Decades on, Noble's theory has slowly been proven. Sabhal Mòr Ostaig is now one of the biggest employers on the Isle of Skye and a third of islanders



Continued on page 35



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Eilean Iarmain, continued from page 33

speak Gaelic as either their first or second language.

The college has spawned a new generation of Gaelic speakers skilled in TV, business and other industries that have enabled them to create more jobs on the island, but now it's taking a more outward approach and thinking about how it can extend its Gaelic offering to visitors.

As a Londoner with Irish Gaelic heritage, I've long wanted to visit the village of Eilean Iarmain, and as expected it's a picturesque, though unobtrusive place. The restored Victorian whitewashed Hotel Eilean Iarmain and its adjoining pub, Am Pràban, which also forms part of the late Noble's holdings, dominate. If you arrive in daylight, you'll be drawn to the water's edge to look out across the Sound of Sleat towards the hills of Knoydart. It's like a Hollywood depiction of Scotland.

It's hard to imagine, looking at the little pier, but Eilean Iarmain (Gaelic for Isle Ornsay) was once the main port on the south of Skye. In the 19th Century, everything coming into the south of Skye came through here, from coal to the post, fresh fish to the news. People also arrived and, more significantly, departed from here, whether they were heading on short trips to Portree, Mallaig or Glasgow for work or to collect provisions, or to seek new lives abroad. In 1837, the William Nicol ship left here bound for Australia with 332 emigrants onboard. According to the Sleat Local History Society, many of those on board were forced to leave their homeland due to hardship and food shortages.

Spend more than a passing hour in Eilean Iarmain – you can also visit a stony beach, a knitwear shop, a Gaelic whisky and gin shop, an art gallery and a clutch

of houses – and Noble's name will surely come up.

Not a native Gaelic speaker, Noble was initially met with some scepticism. Nevertheless, his love for the language shone through and today he is widely seen as the instigator of the resurgence of Gaelic culture in south Skye. This resurgence was no doubt aided by the deep sense of belonging so prevalent among Gaelic communities, passed down through the generations by those who left on the ships as well as those left behind.

"Because he was looking for Gaelic speakers [to teach at the college and work in the hotel], Iain would

recruit from Skye and from the Outer Hebrides and then he would head hunt those whose families were from Skye but who, because there were no jobs, were working in Aber-

deen, in London and further afield," said Lady Lucilla, Noble's widow. "So, he was reversing the brain drain really."

Today, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig is still the only college in the world that delivers its learning programmes entirely in Gaelic. However, Eilean Iarmain is by no means the only part of Skye where Gaelic culture can be experienced: "Gaelic is strong throughout the island – and certainly in the north of Skye, there are speakers and families that have always spoken Gaelic," Lucilla said.

But she believes the college and the hotel, which both provide a real hub for the community, were catalysts for changing perceptions of Gaelic across the island, which wasn't seen as very progressive, particularly among young people.

What was amazing about the college and the

Continued on page 37



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young people going there, was that Gaelic became cool.

"What was amazing about the college and the young people going there, was that Gaelic became cool," she said. "I've seen some really cool youngsters who are very proud of their Gaelic, and they're just full of the usual spirits of young people but absolutely revelling in what they have, which is a heritage going back hundreds of years."

One of those young people is Emily Macdonald, a 15-year-old musician who has grown up around Eilean Iarmain and speaks Gaelic fluently, having attended a primary school in the Gaelic-medium.

As well as playing the bagpipes and the piano and being passionate about Gaelic song, Macdonald regularly converses with friends in Gaelic.

"At the age that we are now, I feel like we're even more wanting to speak Gaelic to each other, just to keep it alive, because it is really important," she said.

"And to have this special language that we can speak to each other in, you know, is quite special."

On my visit, I was lucky enough to see Macdonald perform a few songs at a cèilidh (a traditional social gathering with music and dancing) in the Eilean Iarmain hotel.

I feel like the whole area around me comes through in the songs.

Macdonald's singing voice is pure and melancholic, but it's the art of storytelling through song that seems to particularly drive her. "Most of the songs have been written by bards whose wives have gone away and such things, and they're singing from the place that they come from," she said. "So, I learn quite a few songs from Skye, because I feel like the whole area around me comes through in the songs."

Alistair MacKay, a freelance filmmaker, studied at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig and later returned to the island with his wife, Angela, to work at the college. They are

now raising their three children on Skye.

As a student, he recalls many a happy night in the Am Pràban bar, where sometimes it was so packed with revellers that you couldn't open the door. He also told me it was so much the place to be that he remembers a local lad who would walk home at the end of the night down the lonesome Ord Road, a journey of two hours or so that seems treacherous even in daytime.

"Having someone there that says, 'right that mountain there is Ben na Caillich, which means the mountain of the old lady, and legend has it she was a princess, the daughter of a Norwegian king, and she married a Mackinnon chief' and then suddenly you're like, 'right'. You've seen something in front of you and

now it means something," he said. "It's connecting the land, the people, the culture and the sense of place, rather than just driving through a landscape and thinking 'oh well, it's impressive but there's no context



there'."

MacKay says that though Hotel Eilean Iarmain has long had a Gaelic association and has been rooted in the community, other organisations on Skye, such as Fèisean nan Gàidheal, the Aros Centre in Portree, and SEALL – which runs events such as Fèis an Eilein (Skye Festival), a 10-day celebration of music, literature and theatre – have also long promoted Gaelic culture and encouraged people to slow down and immerse themselves in the island's rich culture.

MacKay isn't the only one to see the potential of Gaelic tourism. Earlier this year, VisitScotland began to advise tourism businesses on how to capitalise on this aspect of their culture.

"Gaelic and its rich culture are an important part of Scotland's tourism offer and strengthens the authentic experience we know means so much to visitors," said Rob Dickson, VisitScotland Director of Industry and

Continued on page 38

Eilean Iarmain, continued from page 37

Destination Development.

"We believe the language will continue to prove a valuable asset to Scotland's identity, our tourism industry and entice Scots at home to experience something new in Scotland."

Now that international travellers are finally able to return to Scotland, having a meaningful visit, particularly one that may tie-in with their own heritage, will help enrich their experiences.

For my part, I left Eilean Iarmain determined to find the time to return for a course in Gaelic song at the college and reconnect with my own Irish Gaelic heritage. I will never be as melodic as Macdonald, but I think I may just be able to find some of the enjoyment in the singing that she does, and if all else fails, it will make a good story one day.

