

# Alex Beaton is gone



My Dear Friends,

It is with heavy heart that I announce the passing of Alex Beaton on May 27<sup>th</sup>. He died peacefully here at home.

Per his request, he will be cremated and his ashes taken to Scotland. He also requested that there be no funeral or memorial service. He would like you to remember him in your own way and in your own time. Please know that he had a good life; lived it on his own terms and managed to carve out a career for himself doing something he loved.

Full obituary at [alexbeaton.com](http://alexbeaton.com)

Love,  
Linda

If your Scottish Games are canceled for 2022, please write and let us know so we can notify others. Just use [<bethscribble@aol.com>](mailto:bethscribble@aol.com)

By the same token, if your Games are coming back from a cancellation last year, please let us know that as well. [<bethscribble@aol.com>](mailto:bethscribble@aol.com)

Thank you.



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## Kentucky Clan Douglas Regents, Elizabeth and Dan Martin, Retire

After serving as CDSNA Regent for Kentucky (and at times Tennessee also) for 36 years, it is time for me to submit my resignation.

When my father (Dr. Gilbert F. Douglas, Jr.) asked me to set up a tent to represent CDSNA at the first Glasgow (KY) Highland Games in 1986, I never anticipated such a lengthy tenure!

My husband, Dan, and I have thoroughly enjoyed our involvement as Regents but realize it is time to offer this responsibility to someone else.

Forward!



**PORTLAND**  
**General Members Meeting NEWS**  
The Portland Highland Games  
(Gresham, Oregon)  
have been cancelled for 2022

**CLAN DOUGLAS SOCIETY OF N.A.**  
**<www.clandouglassociety.org>**  
**will still be having its**  
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There are 40 spaces available so sign up soon to avoid disappointment. Find out more and register before Thursday 1st of September 2022. Visit: [Events@socantscot.org](mailto:Events@socantscot.org).

# 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](mailto: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](mailto:rickconn@bellsouth.net)> <<http://www.s-a-m-s.org/>>



# The exciting life of Dick Lucas!

My long-time friend, Dick Lucas, shared this article with me and I thought you would also like to know more about dear Dick!

We've been friends since before dirt and I had no idea about his surprising and most interesting life.

The article was written by Kimberly Dishongh in the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*.

Richard Lucas came of age on a prison farm, the son of the warden. He went on to study education, receive 19 medals and ribbons for his service in the US Marine Corps and, later in life, find a niche in medieval weapons sales.

He was four years old when his father took the job at the Mississippi County Penal Farm, the temporary home to about 100 men for their convictions on misdemeanor offenses.

"There weren't any really serious armed-robber-type criminals out there," says Lucas, explaining that they served sentences ranging from 30 days to a year.

His parents weren't concerned about a criminal influence.

"In some cases, they were almost playmates," he says. "I was raised with the worst part, so I knew I didn't want to be in that place."

Luxora, the town nearest the prison, was the location of a German prisoner of war camp, Lucas says.

"As a reward to the German prisoners, they would bring them out and let them work on the farm," he says. "When I was about six years old, I

would go out where the German prisoners were and visit with them and they loved it, I guess because they missed their children at home."

Lucas got a job as a guard at the 640-acre penal farm when he was 17.

"My daddy and I would ride horses while the prisoners were chopping the corn and chopping the cotton. He and I would ride back and forth behind them, keeping an eye on them and counting," he says.

He had to chase a couple of prisoners who escaped and hid along the Mississippi River levee.

"We had the only bloodhounds in Arkansas, but in July, it's hot and dry and bad and it's so dusty the dogs trying to breathe and track things would get stopped up and they can't do it," says Lucas, who tracked those prisoners without canine assistance.

Another time, a prisoner ran during a bathroom break and Lucas followed his trail, discovering he had stolen some clothes off a woman's clothesline to replace his prison stripes and then hidden under an abandoned house.

I took out a pistol and I crawled under the house and found where he had hollowed out a spot below the ground where you couldn't see him, and we pulled him out of there," he says.

Lucas went to the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, on a football scholarship.

I was an All-State football player, played in

*Continued on page 7*



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the very first Arkansas All-Star Football Game in 1956," he says.

He transferred to Memphis State University and graduated with a degree in education. He later completed a Master's Degree at the University of Arkansas.

"I had dreams of being a coach someday and I had teaching certificates in general science and in biology" he says. The day I graduated in January of 1962, I was commissioned a second lieutenant in the US Marine Corps."

Lucas and his wife, Christine, married in February 1962 and left for Quantico, Virginia, where he went through officer's training. He spent a year in Okinawa, Japan, as an artillery officer and was sent after that to Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, North Carolina.

"I ended up being a football coach at Camp Lejeune," he says.

Lucas calls himself "real lucky" to have only received shrapnel wounds when a mortar round landed only 15 feet from him while he was serving in Vietnam. Following his tour, he was assigned to recruiting duty in San Francisco.

He was put in charge of the Marine Corps Convention in Las Vegas.

"I was a major by then, and one morning one of the sergeants hollered at me and said, "There's this senator on the phone and he wants to talk to Chuck Robb," Lucas says. "It was Senator Mike Mansfield and he had released information that Chuck Robb had been charged with atrocities in

Vietnam."

Robb, a Marine Corps veteran and son-in-law of President Lyndon B. Johnson, had served as a battalion commander in Vietnam and went on to become governor of Virginia and then US Senator.

A news conference was scheduled once Robb was located.

"The general called me over to the table and he handed me this little switch, and he says, 'You sit right here at this end of the table out of the cameras range and if Chuck Robb says something wrong, you press this button and it will kill his microphone,' Lucas says. "Fortunately, I didn't have to use the switch."

Lucas moved back to Arkansas in 1973. He retired from the Arkansas Highway Department in 1995 and started a business, selling medieval weapons like Scottish skean dubhs - knives that are tucked into socks

in traditional Scottish dress for protection and hunting as well as for cutting fruits, bread and cheese.

"I've been to Scotland twelve times to buy products that I sold. I traveled around this country to Scottish festivals and Celtic and Renaissance events selling medieval weapons," Lucas says.

It was a niche he realized from going to the Scottish festivals at Lyon College for most of the last forty years.

"Would you believe I've been to all but three of those festivals," he said.



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# The Clan Skene

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This is a photograph of El Gran Abuelo, aka the Great Grandfather Tree, which is thought to be the oldest tree in the world. Its very thick trunk is surrounded by other green trees.

## LIVE SCIENCE

The world's oldest tree may have been standing for centuries when the first boulders were erected at Stonehenge, new research suggests.

The ancient giant, an alerce (*Fitzroya cupressoides*) known as the "Gran Abuelo" (or great grandfather in Spanish) that towers over a ravine in the Chilean Andes, may be roughly 5,400 years old, a new computer model suggests. If that date can be confirmed, it would make the Gran Abuelo nearly 600 years older than the current official record holder for world's oldest tree, a Great Basin bristlecone pine (*Pinus longaeva*) in California known as "Methuselah."

However, the alerce's exact age is still somewhat contested, because confirming that requires analysis of the tree's rings — a method known as dendrochronology, and the gold standard for determining a tree's age — and that data is currently incomplete. The underlying data for the model has not yet been publicly released or submitted to a peer-reviewed journal.

Whatever its age, the tree is in peril and needs to be protected, said Jonathan Barichivich, a climate and global ecology scientist at the Climate and Environmental Sciences Laboratory in Paris, and the researcher who created the model.

"It's really in poor condition because of tourism," and the tree has also been affected by climate change, Barichivich told *Live Science*.

How old is Gran Abuelo?

The Gran Abuelo, a conifer that rises 196 feet (60 meters) above the misty forest floor in Alerce Costero National Park in Chile, was initially thought to be roughly 3,500 years old. But scientists had never analyzed its age systematically, Barichivich said.

"We wanted to tell the story of the tree with the only aim to valorize it and protect it," Barichivich said.

So in 2020, Barichivich and his colleague Antonio Lara, a forestry and natural resources pro-

*Continued on page 11*



An Círcle Ceann Cinnidh

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fessor at the Austral University of Chile, used a nondestructive technique to drill a tiny core from the tree, which captured 2,465 years' worth of tree rings. The borer, however, could not reach to the center of the tree's 13-foot (4 m) diameter, which means that many of the alerce tree's growth rings could not be counted.

To account for the remaining years of growth, the team developed a mathematical model that took into account how *F. cupressoides* grows at different rates from a sapling to a mature tree. The model also incorporated variations in growth rate based on competition and fluctuations in environment and climate.

The team then used the model to simulate the tree's growth trajectory 10,000 times, Barichivich said. Those simulations gave a range of predicted ages for the Gran Abuelo.

The model estimated the tree was most likely around 5,400 years old, Barichivich explained. The absolute oldest the tree could be was 6,000 years; there was about an 80% chance the tree was older than 5,000 years; and all of the simulated growth trajectories predicted it was at least 4,100 years old, he said.

"Even if the tree was a very fast grower, for all that size, it cannot be younger than that," he said.

"Another factor suggests that the tree is very old: a biological law known as the growth-lifespan tradeoff," Barichivich added. That tradeoff suggests that slow-growing species tend to live longer. And alerce trees grow incredibly slowly — slower even

than other long-lived species such as giant sequoias (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) or Great Basin bristlecone pines, he said.

However, some tree-dating experts told *Science Magazine* that they were wary of using modeling data to estimate a tree's age.

"The ONLY way to truly determine the age of a tree is by dendrochronologically counting the rings and that requires ALL rings being present or accounted for," Ed Cook, a founding director of the Tree Ring Laboratory at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory in New York, told *Science Magazine* in an email.

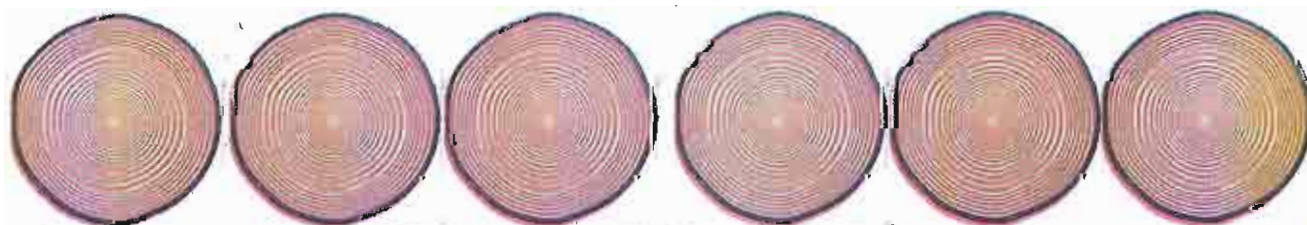
While the tree has survived for thousands of years, its future is in doubt, Barichivich said.

The ancient tree has been encircled by a narrow platform walkway that is crushing its last living roots, he said, and the myriad tourists that come to see the tree every year do further damage when they walk on it.

Climate change and the attendant 10-year drought has also damaged the majestic

alerce; a second tree growing from the top of the towering giant is now dying, he said.

To protect the Gran Abuelo from further damage, Barichivich and his colleagues have proposed placing a veil of netting 10 feet (3 m) high around the tree to prevent people from getting too close. They also recommend moving the walkway much farther away from the tree's ancient root system, he told *Live Science*.





# CLAN BUCHANAN

## SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL INC.

If you have the name "Buchanan" in your family or any of the allied family/sept names below, you are invited to join your cousins and Buchanan kin. Just send an email for a membership form and/or information to

**<info@theclanbuchanan.com>**



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Colman	Harper	Macgubbin
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Dewar	Lennie	Mackibb
Donleavy	Lenny	Mackibbon
Dove, Dow	Macaldonich	Mackinlay
Gibb(s)(y)	Macalman	Mackinley
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	Macauselan	Macmurchie
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	Macausland	Macneur
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	Macchruiter	MacQuinten
	Maccolman	Macwattie
	Maccolwan	Macwhirter
	Maccormac(k)	Macwhorter
	Maccommon	Masters
	Maccoubrey	Masterson
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Walter  
Walters  
Wason  
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Waters  
Watson  
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Wuill  
Wool  
Wule

The CBSI was formed in 1970 as the Clan Buchanan Society in America. It was founded at the Grandfather Mountain Games in North Carolina. The name was later changed to the Clan Buchanan Society International Inc., to reflect our society's expanded purpose and membership.





# Genealogy Research Tips: Libraries and Genealogy Research 2022

Bryan L. Mulcahy, MLS

Libraries are not all the same. From a genealogical research perspective, libraries have rare book collections, periodicals, local history collections, access to online databases, as well as other resources that are unique to that collection or location. This is the first of a three-part series on the topic of using libraries for genealogical research.

Another consideration when conducting research in libraries is that there are many different types of libraries that exist, and each may have different collections and policies. Your job as a researcher is to identify the various libraries that might have the information you need for your genealogy research. Most researchers tend to gravitate towards public libraries that have local history and genealogy collections. Public libraries usually have fewer access restrictions and the level of assistance is often better than what is available in other options. This is especially true when members of the local or regional genealogical or historical society serve as volunteers in the collection.

Having said this, researchers should also be aware of the bigger picture. Consider the following types of libraries for your research:

**Your Local Public Library:** Use your local library to access online subscription websites available with your library card and consult the reference librarian for books and articles you need via interlibrary loan.

**The Public Library Where Your Ancestor Lived:** Ask about local history and genealogy col-

lections as well as area historical newspapers on microfilm.

**Academic Libraries:** Academic libraries are great for subscription databases (think history and periodicals) not available to individuals or at other smaller libraries. Also, look for local history collections and social history books. When researching in academic libraries, the proper subject head-

ing for any type of genealogical materials will usually be cataloged under "Social History and Statistics".

**State Libraries:** Not every state has a state library. Sometimes they are affiliated with a state archive and/or state historical society. Regardless of what the affiliation status is, these libraries

have items pertaining to the history of the state as well as genealogy collections.

**Private Libraries:** Some private libraries are open to the public, while others are only open to members or specific researchers. Private libraries may include rare books, manuscript collections, and topical collections. Libraries of this nature may be under the jurisdiction of a private genealogical entity such as a lineage society, family association, or a subscription-based genealogical or historical society.

**Genealogy Libraries:** Genealogy libraries exist all over the United States. Most people are familiar with the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah, but others include:

*Continued on page 15*



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



Chief Steven  
MacTavish

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Thompson, Thomson, Tod, and Todd, and all variant  
spellings.*

## We Are Clan MacTavish!



For information about joining us email: [clanmactavishUSA@gmail.com](mailto:clanmactavishUSA@gmail.com)



## Using Libraries, *continued from page 13* —

a. Allen County Genealogy Center in Fort Wayne, Indiana

<https://acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy>

b. Clayton Library Genealogical Research Center in Houston, Texas <https://houstonlibrary.org/clayton>

c. Daughters of the American Revolution Library in Washington, D.C.

<https://www.dar.org/library>

**Special Note:** You don't need to be a member to use their collections and access is free. They have genealogies, ephemera, manuscripts, family histories, probate and land records, and Revolutionary War records. The DAR also oversaw a lot of transcription projects, like gravestone inscriptions, and published them. Another continuing preservation project for the DAR involves recording Bible Records of members' families.

d. Godfrey Memorial Library Genealogy Center in Middletown, Connecticut

<https://www.godfrey.org/scholar/godfrey-our-collection.html>

e. Midwest Genealogy Center/Mid-Continent Public Library in Independence, Missouri

<https://www.mymcpl.org/genealogy>

My part two installment of this series will cover preparing for your visit and developing your own personal research plan. Feel free to contact me with any additional questions.

Bryan L. Mulcahy  
Reference-Genealogy Librarian  
Fort Myers Regional Library  
[bmulcahy@leegov.com](mailto:bmulcahy@leegov.com)



## Scot Tom Stoltman retains World's Strongest Man title

The 28-year-old, 6ft 8in, 397 lb (180 kg) athlete from Invergordon won the competition at Sacramento in California.

Stoltman became the first Scot to win the title when he was crowned champion last year.

He said critics wrote off his chances of winning again because he travelled to Spain to see Rangers in the Europa League during the final days before the event.

Stoltman told *BBC Scotland* it felt unbelievable to retain the title.

He said: "I kept a cool head, was chilled out and calm and treated it like a training session."

Stoltman is only the second GB athlete to win the title twice

The football fan added: "People had written me off because I went to see Rangers.

"I use Rangers to get away from my sport. If I hadn't been in Seville I would have been in the house kicking myself and been stressed out."

He will return to his boyhood interest in foot-

*Continued on page 17*



# Gilnockie Tower

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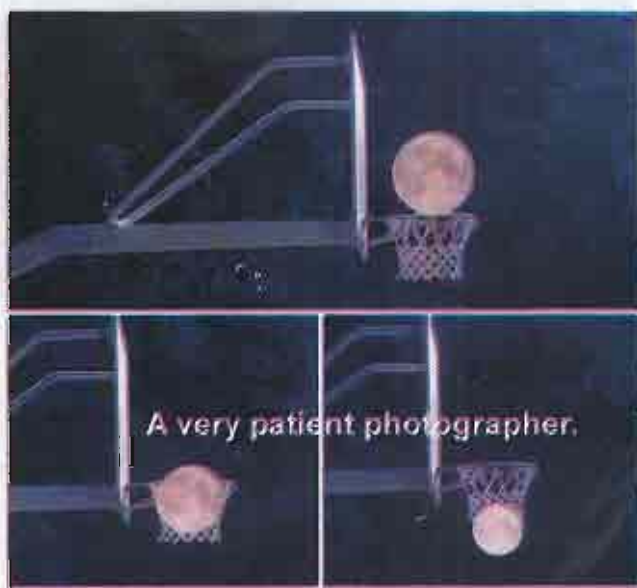
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GILNOCKIE  
TOWER







*Next Column: Haggis Hunting in Scotland;  
below that, Baked Bean and Haggis Pizza;  
and what we all know, "Haggis...no for wimps!"*



## World's Strongest Man,

*continued from page 15*

ball when he plays for the World XI FC in Soccer Aid next month. The event created by singer Robbie Williams raises money for Unicef.

The Scot is the 10<sup>th</sup> athlete to win the World Strongest Man title twice and first to achieve consecutive titles since 2016.

He is also only the second Great Britain (GB) athlete to win the title twice - the last was Geoff Capes.

The Scot won his second world title in a series of events held from 24-29 May.

Stoltman, who was competing for GB, won the title the day before his 28<sup>th</sup> birthday as he overcame leader, Oleksii Novikov, in the final two rounds of competition on Sunday.

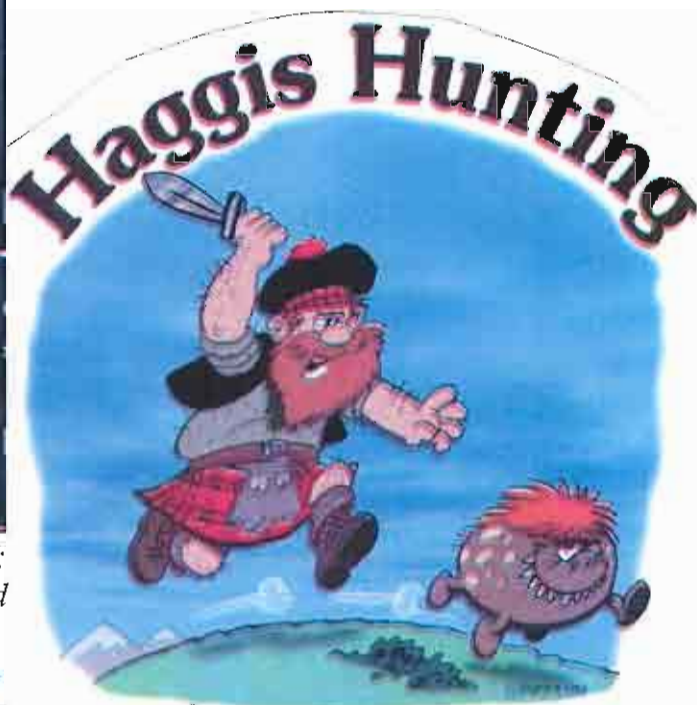
Martins Licis, of the US, took silver on a tiebreaker over the Ukrainian in Sacramento.

Novikov won three consecutive events - the deadlift, Flintstone barbell and bus pull - only for Stoltman to overtake him in the power stairs before he sealed victory after his speciality event, the Atlas Stones.

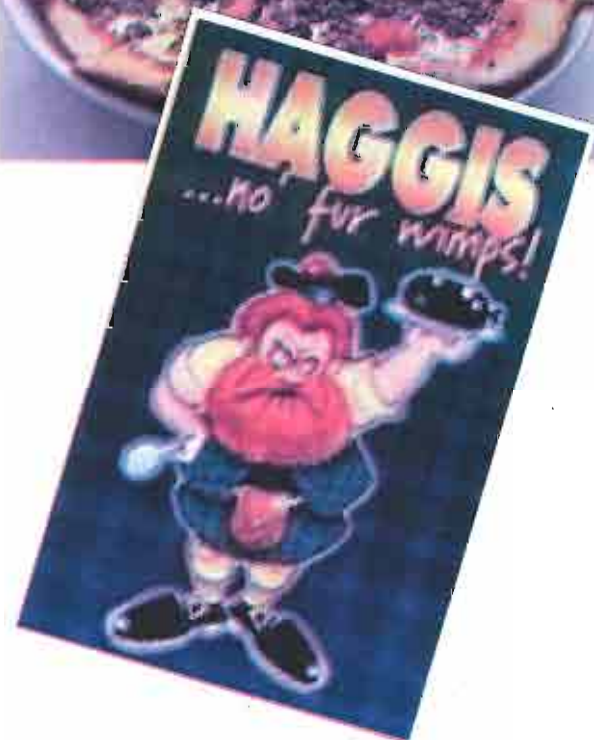
The last strongman to win consecutive titles was USA's Brian Shaw in 2016.

His older brother is five-times Scotland's Strongest Man Luke Stoltman.

They are the only brothers in history to reach the finals of the World's Strongest Man.



# SCOTLAND



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# A Magical Celtic Marriage of Albert McGalliard and Lori Quirk

Albert McGalliard

When Lori and I got engaged in March 2021, we both said that we wanted to have a ceremony different from normal weddings. We both had been previously married and wanted to do something unique. After tracing her ancestry back to Ireland and knowing that some of my ancestors were from Ireland as well, we began planning a fairy tale wedding—an elopement—in Ireland.

Photographs are precious moments captured in time. The photographer was one of the most important elements according to Lori. And she found “the one” when she discovered an amazing portfolio online. The photos stood out from all the others, the details, the lighting, the emotion. Lori contacted her late in 2021 and a date of May 11, 2022, was agreed upon. From that moment on, she was “Let the travel planning begin!”

It turns out that the photographer lives on the northern coast of County Antrim, Ireland. Lori did not know at the time, but my ancestors lived about 30 minutes from there. We found an amazing cottage with large windows overlooking the beach, harbor, and surrounding cliffs in Ballintoy, Northern Ireland. This would be the perfect place to stay for the first week of our travels.

The photographer is also an elopement planner. She made all the arrangements. On the afternoon of the wedding, she arranged for a lady to come to the cottage to do Lori’s makeup, followed by another lady to do her hair. Shortly thereafter, the photographer arrived with the wedding bou-

quet, snacks, and fun. To think it couldn’t get better would be wrong, it got better. The videographer arrived with one of our new favorites: Jameson Crested Irish Whiskey, a necessity for the ceremony as you’ll soon learn.

The stunning beauty of the cottage and location was captured immediately in our “First Look” photos. Imagine, if you will, a dashing lad dressed in full Scottish wedding attire: the Skene tartan kilt adorned with sporran and topped with the full “Prince Charlie” jacket and vest akin to a tuxedo. Fully dressed and just adjusting my tie, I made my way outside. Standing near the edge of the cliff in our courtyard, I had a spectacular view of the beach and harbor as I awaited the arrival of my bride-to-be. No peeking, the photographer instructed, she would walk out to greet me soon.

Shrouded in secret, Lori had transported her wedding dress in a black carry-on bag on our journey; I had not yet seen it. Time seemed to go so slowly and then the moment had come...she was there. Lori was behind me. As I turned around, I saw a gorgeous lady in a long red dress, the light breeze dancing through the train of the dress. I dropped to a knee in awe. Lori will recant that it was the most romantic moment of her life. And then time stood still as we both just stared at each other taking it all in.

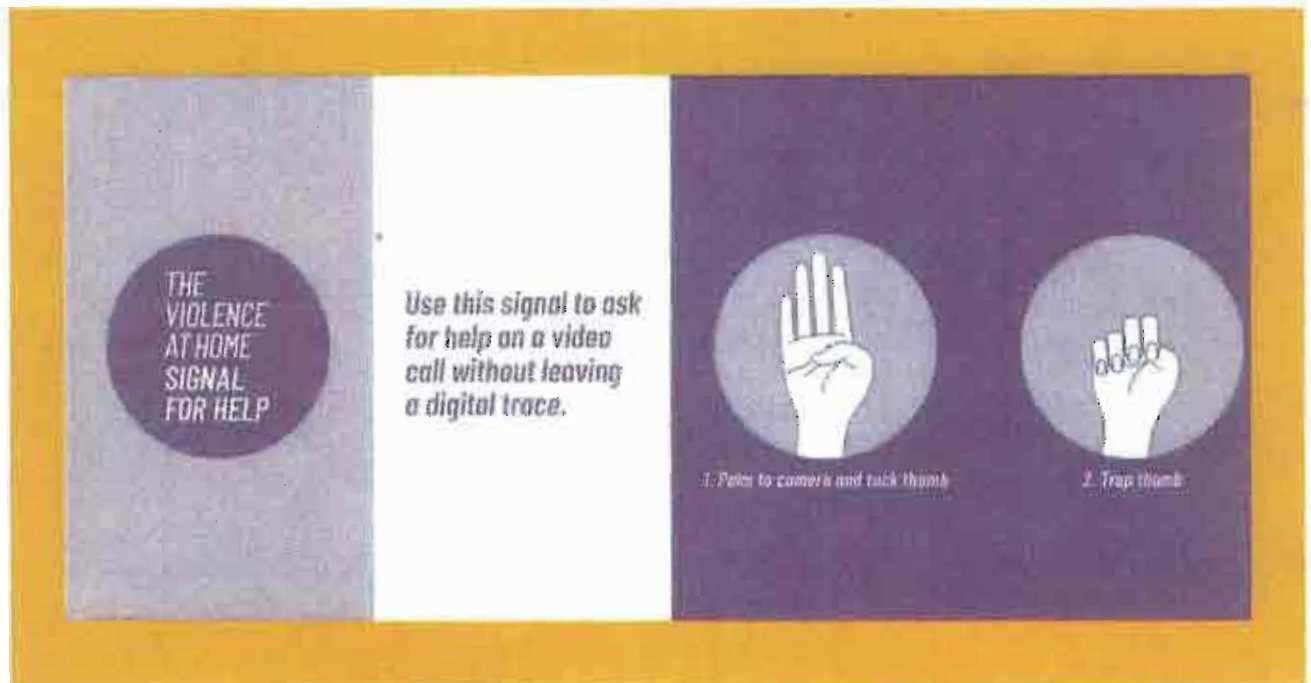
The magic of that moment carried on for the rest of the evening. After the first look photos, we

*Continued on page 21*



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*With many thanks to Steve Kelley.*



## A Magical Celtic Marriage, *continued from page 19*

ventured down to the harbor and took a lot of photos in many of the same locations where *Game of Thrones* was filmed. (Side note: we actually didn't know about the filming locations until after we were in Northern Ireland.) From there we drove to the nearby ruins of Dunseverick Castle for more photos. The red dress and the striking tartan made for stunning photos against the vibrant green grounds. The splash of blues from the ocean waters and the painted skies, was scenery unlike we've ever seen, and we were blessed with such wonderful weather for our wedding day.

Our final destination was on a cliffside overlooking the ruins of Dunluce Castle and the enchanted sea. The wedding ceremony would begin at 8:30 pm which was perfect. Although it seemed a late schedule, the sunset was not until 10:00 pm.

Aside from the seagulls gliding in the breezes of the evening, the only people within eyesight of us were the celebrant who performed the ceremony, our photographer, and the videographer.

A local sheep farmer, Sean, owns the land overlooking the castle. He takes the job of transporting his guests very seriously, but with generous humor.

He opened the door for Lori to assist her on the path to her husband-to-be. I began playing the bagpipes as she walked up to the cliffside where I was standing with the celebrant. Our love story was recanted with joy followed by the exchange of vows and rings.

Our wish was to incorporate a couple of an-

cient Scottish traditions as a part of our union, given my Scottish heritage. To our good fortune, our celebrant is a native of Scotland and was delighted to continue such rich traditions.

We had a Scottish handfasting ceremony: a ribbon of the County Antrim, Ireland tartan and a ribbon of County Tipperary, Ireland tartan.

The tartan for County Antrim represents my heritage, the place where some of my ancestors were born. Likewise, the ribbon for County

Tipperary represents Lori's ancestry. Together, we would bind both our pasts and our futures. As we held hands, the celebrant wrapped the tartans around our arms speaking words of affirmation about how our separate worlds would now be



one. Gently releasing our hands, the ribbons formed a simple knot—we “tied the knot”. The phrase is derived from this very ceremony.

The second important tradition is a toast to each other from a quaich, a small silver bowl. We each held a handle of the quaich and took a wee drink of that local Irish whiskey. (Lori might have taken an extra sip. She was catching quite the chill in the night air.) “Go, thee then! Run off into the tall grasses and warm yourselves.” The photographer and videographer joked with us, and we had a few laughs in celebration.

The night had taken to a deeper chill, and we were ready to head back to the cottage for indoor celebrations. The small cottage near the castle was aglow with a warm fire and a lovely charcuterie board and wedding cake were awaiting us. The

*Continued on page 23*



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MacAlpin, MacAlpie, MacAlpin,  
MacAlpy, MacAlpye, MacAlpyn,  
MacAlpyne, MacApline, MacCalpin,  
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M'Kalpie, MkKalpy

For more information, email:

[Earlmc Alpine@yahoo.com](mailto:Earlmc Alpine@yahoo.com)





## A Magical Celtic Marriage, continued from page 21

ambiance was divine. The saffron glow of the fireplace begged off the cold and a voice enveloped the room in song. Lori sang a beloved Celtic song from the acclaimed Riverdance Company: *Home and the Heartland*. I sat mesmerized by the woman before me. My beloved. Now my wife and life partner.

The rest of our time in Ireland was spent along the Northern Causeway Coast and then down its eastern shores towards Belfast. We hiked the cliffs to view the vastness of the sea and the beauty of ancient castles. We celebrated everywhere we went. During our travels, Lori ran a half marathon race. It was exciting to see people's reactions as she had a "Just Married" banner pinned across her torso, just like a beauty pageant contestant. In my eye, she won, but she didn't make the podium—that wasn't the goal though.

In another race of sorts, we were able to find the McGalliard's original Northern Ireland farmland; land settled by the surname in the 1700s. After stopping to ask for directions to a local cemetery, we were excited to learn that a McGalliard was indeed still in the area and only a half-mile from where we had just come.

We called on the home of Mrs. Margaret McGalliard, 85. She graciously welcomed us in and shared some ancestral information, much of which confirmed my earlier findings, and connections to Clan Skene in Scotland. She and her husband only had daughters—that's the end of the line. However, she did tell me about a young male McGalliard, a cousin, who resides farther south of the original settlement. I am still waiting to make contact with

him.

The fairytale wedding in Ireland was a most successful adventure. And I

am proud to say that Lori and I are extremely happy and look forward to many more happy days ahead of us.

Sláinte to all!



## Congratulations & Best Wishes, Lori and Al

BETH'S NEWFANGLED FAMILY TREE Section B July 2022 Page 23



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Eighth city alert! All eyes are on Scotland's newest addition which was awarded city status as part of HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. A right royal treat awaits you amongst the cobbled streets of this most ancient capital.

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once the capital of Scotland!

In May 2022, Dunfermline became Scotland's newest city as part of HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. Our eighth city is located north of Edinburgh, just across the Forth Bridge.

Dunfermline is at the heart of Scotland's history and the royal and monastic past can be seen throughout the city.





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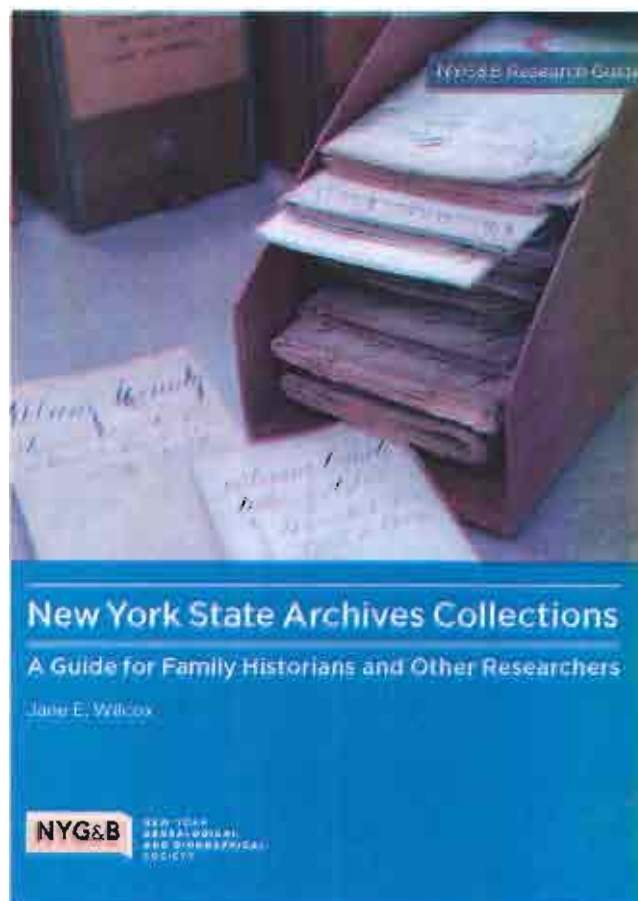
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# Who Were the Black Irish, And What Is Their Story?

reprinted from [irishcentral.com](http://irishcentral.com)



Dave Chagnon, [sennachie@earthlink.net](mailto:sennachie@earthlink.net)

Like many members of the Clan Davidson Society-NA, I have more than one strain of Celtic blood coursing through my veins... actually, according to DNA tests, I have at least 5 ancestral lines tying me to one of the modern Seven Celtic Nations: maternal line Wetherel – Wales; maternal line Davison – Scotland; maternal line Buchanan – Scotland; maternal line McKay – Ireland; and last, that French paternal surname I bear, Chagnon? It ties back to a Brythonic location in northwest France.

However, while my DNA is more like a Seven Celtic Nation road map, my heart is forever captured by the Scots and my Clan Davidson!

Our newsletters do tend to be dominated by articles relevant to the Scot, but I think it's a fine idea to branch out a bit from time to time about the other branches of the Celt to which so many of us also claim a connection. Herewith follows a brief discussion of the origins of the term Black Irish.

tion among Irish emigrants and their descendants for centuries. Yet, as a subject of historical discussion, it is almost never referred to in Ireland. There are many different claims as to the origin of the term, none of which are possible to entirely prove or disprove.

The term is commonly used to describe people of Irish origin who have dark features, black hair, a dark complexion, and dark eyes. A quick review of Irish history reveals that the island was subject to many influxes of foreign cultures.

The Celts arrived on the island about the year 500 B.C. Whether or not this was an actual invasion or rather a more gradual migration and assimilation of their culture by the native Irish is open to conjecture, but there is sufficient evidence to suggest that this latter explanation is more likely.

The next great influx came from Northern Europe, with Viking raids occurring as early as 795 A.D. The defeat of the Vikings at the Battle of



The term "Black Irish" has been in circula-

*Continued on page 31*



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## Who were the Black Irish, *continued from page 29*

Clontarf in the year 1014 by Brian Boru marked the end of the struggle with the invaders and saw the subsequent integration of the Vikings into Irish society. The migrants became 'Gaelicized' and formed septs (a kind of clan) along Gaelic lines.

The Norman invasions of 1170 and 1172 led by Strongbow saw yet another wave of immigrants settle in the country, many of whom fiercely resisted English dominance of the island in the centuries that followed. The Plantation of Ulster in the seventeenth century saw the arrival of English and Scottish colonists in Ulster after the Flight of the Earls. Each of these immigrant groups had its own physical characteristics and all, except for the Ulster Planters, assimilated to some degree into Irish society, many claiming to be "more Irish than the Irish themselves"

The Vikings were often referred to as the "dark invaders" or "black foreigners." The Gaelic word for foreigner is "gall" and for black (or dark) is "dubh." Many of the invaders' families took Gaelic names that utilized these two descriptive words.

The name Doyle is in Irish "O'Dubhghaill" which literally means "dark foreigner" which reveals their heritage as an invading force with dark intentions. The name Gallagher is "O Gallchobhair" which translates as "foreign help." The traditional image of Vikings is of pale-skinned blond-haired invaders but their description as "dark foreigners" may lead us to conclude that their memory in folklore does not necessarily reflect their physical description.

The Normans were invited into Ireland by Dermot McMurrough and were led by the famous Strongbow. The Normans originated in France, where black-haired people are not uncommon. As with the Vikings, these were viewed as a people of "dark intentions" who ultimately colonized much of the Eastern part of the country and several larger towns. Many families, however, integrated into Gaelic society and changed their Norman name to Gaelic and then Anglo equivalents: the Powers, the Fitzpatricks, Fitzgeralds, Devereuxs, Redmonds. It is possible that the term "Black Irish" may have referred to some of these immigrant groups as a way of distinguishing them from the "Gaels," the people of ultimately Celtic origin.

Another theory of the origin of the term "Black Irish" is that these people were descendants of Spanish traders who settled in Ireland and even descendants of the few Spanish sailors who were washed up on the west coast of Ireland after the disaster of the Spanish Armada of 1588.

It is claimed that the Spanish married into Irish society and created a new class of Irish who were immediately recognizable by their dark hair and complexion.

There is little evidence to support this theory and it is unlikely that any significant number of Spanish soldiers would have survived long in the war-torn place that was 16th century Ireland. It is striking, though, how this tale is very similar to the ancient Irish legend of the Milesians who settled in Ireland having traveled from Spain.

The theory that the "Black Irish" are descendants of any small foreign group that integrated with the Irish and survived is unlikely. It seems more likely that "Black Irish" is a descriptive term rather than an inherited characteristic that has been applied to various categories of Irish people over the centuries. One such example is that of the hundreds of thousands of Irish peasants who emigrated to America after the Great Famine of 1845 to 1849. 1847 was known as "black 47." The potato blight which destroyed the main source of sustenance turned the vital food black. It is possible that the arrival of large numbers of Irish after the famine into America, Canada, Australia and beyond resulted in their being labeled as "black" in that they escaped from this new kind of black death.

Immigrant groups throughout history have generally been treated poorly by the indigenous population (or by those who simply settled first). Derogatory names for immigrant groups are legion and in the case of those who left Ireland include "Shanty Irish" and almost certainly "Black Irish." It is also possible that within the various Irish cultures that became established in America that there was a pecking order, a class system that saw some of their countrymen labeled as "black."

The term "Black Irish" has also been applied to the descendants of Irish emigrants who settled in the West Indies. It was also used in Ireland by Catholics in Ulster Province as a derogatory term to describe the Protestant Planters.

While it at various stages was almost certainly used as an insult, the term "Black Irish" has emerged in recent times as a virtual badge of honor among some descendants of immigrants. It is unlikely that the exact origin of the term will ever be known, and it is also likely that it has had many different iterations, depending on the historical context. It remains, therefore, a descriptive term used for many purposes, rather than a reference to an actual class of people who may have survived the centuries.



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# John Fitzgerald Kennedy, as a boy



No more information is available. This is a collection of interesting old photographs collected by the Douglas County (of Georgia) Genealogical Society in 1996. Both this photo and pumping gas are from the same collection.

## THE ROYAL YACHT BRITANNIA

Some very familiar faces were spotted on board this regal vessel in spring when the cast of *Downton Abbey* stepped aboard to film the period drama's second movie. *Downton Abbey: A New Era* is the second film to be released following the end of the popular television series.

The film sees the Crawley family enjoying a grand adventure to the French Riviera to uncover the mystery of a villa inherited by the Dowager Countess, played by Maggie Smith.



## SCOTLAND IS AT THE HEART OF THE ACTION

Filming for some of the world's most popular movies and shows has returned, including the hugely popular *Outlander* series, the period drama *Downton Abbey*, the superhero blockbuster *The Flash*, as well as some gritty crime dramas.

## Pumping Gas ca 1925







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# Major Jacobite exhibition announced following refurbishment of Prestonpans Town Hall

**history**  
SCOTLAND

A new museum which opened April 30<sup>th</sup> at Prestonpans Town Hall following a refurbishment of the Victorian building by The Battle of Prestonpans (1745) Heritage Trust.

The exhibition, which is free to visit (with donations welcomed), focuses on the Battle of Prestonpans, a critical Jacobite conflict in 1745 which left a historical and cultural legacy that is still felt today. A programme of supporting exhibitions will address a variety of themes as well as local history topics. The exhibition texts will be available in both English and Gaelic.

## *Battle of Prestonpans Jacobite Museum*

The Battle of Prestonpans Jacobite Museum is based at the town hall building on the High Street, which has been renovated to reflect more of its original Victorian features. The centerpiece will be an eight-foot diorama of the battlefield as it looked back in 1745, setting the fighting amongst landmarks which can still be seen today. The museum will also display sections of the famous 105 metre Prestonpans Tapestry, which will be changed every 5 months to advance the story.

*Historical artefacts on display at the museum will include:*

- \* Musket-balls recovered from the battlefield
- \* Contemporary engravings and newspaper reports
- \* Original letters written by local resident Colonel James Gardiner, who was mortally wounded in the battle.
- \* A piece of the thorn-tree under which he met his fate will also be displayed.

The museum will welcome visitors of all ages, with children able to explore a camp area with tents

and a mock campfire, allowing youngsters an insight into the lives of the soldiers who took part in the battle.

Special sessions have been designed for school classes too, and groups are invited to book private visits to the museum.

A programme of events and activities will run throughout the year, starting with a chance to meet Jacobite and Redcoat re-enactors during the opening weekend.





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# SCOTLAND'S STUNNING COASTAL SPOTS WITH MYTHS & LEGENDS

Scotland is home to hundreds of magnificent coastal spots and beautiful stretches of sandy coastlines. But did you know, our shores are also home to spooky myths and ancient legends that have circled Scotland's waters and coasts for centuries. Keep reading to find out more about some of the most iconic Scottish myths and some lesser-known legends. Decide for yourself which ones could be real and which are folklore.

## THE SELKIE FOLK OF THE ORKNEY ISLES

Selkies are mythical creatures that can transform themselves from seal to human and back again. The most common tale of the selkie is that a

man once found a beautiful, female selkie sunbathing on a beach. Captivated, he stole her seal skin and kept her prisoner as a human for years. It was said she was often spotted gazing longingly out to sea. After many years she found her seal skin hidden away, so she stole it back and escaped back out to sea, never to return.

## THE KELPIE

One of the more popular legends of Scotland, kelpies are large, shape-shifting aquatic animals that are said to haunt the rivers and streams of Scotland, usually in the shape of a horse. Although they may look like gentle giants, kelpies were said to be malevolent and nasty beasts that would harm anyone and anything in their way. Much like the selkies, these water horses could also appear in human form. The sound of a kelpie's tail as it enters the water has been said to sound like thunder. So, if you are passing by a river and hear an unearthly wailing or howling, there may be a kelpie nearby!

## MORAG THE MONSTER OF LOCH MORAR

A lesser known Scottish monster, but a potential sister to Nessie, Morag is the resident mythical creature of Loch Morar, on the west coast of Scotland, not too far from Loch Ness. Like Loch Ness, it has a long history of monster sightings. The first recorded sighting of Morag was in 1887, while in 1948 nine people reported that they saw a 20ft-long creature in the loch from their boat.

The greatest excitement came in 1969 when two men claimed to have accidentally hit Morag with their boat. The poor creature is said to have disappeared after one of the men hit it with an oar while his companion opened fire with a rifle!



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