



Volume VII Issue 3 *Beth's Newfangled Family Tree* Section A June 2013

## Clan Currie Society to present their third annual MacMhuirich Symposium this July

The Clan Currie Society is delighted to report that renowned author Sheldon Currie has joined the roster of speakers for their third annual MacMhuirich Symposium to be held July 11-12 in Antigonish, Nova Scotia.

"We are absolutely delighted to have one of Nova Scotia's literary treasures joining us for our annual symposium," said Robert Currie, president of the Clan Currie Society. The author

and playwright will share stories about his Scottish ancestry, his writing career, and The four-day Clan Currie weekend will also include a day trip to the Gaelic College in St. Ann's, Nova Scotia (celebrating their 75th anniversary in 2013) and the Hector Heritage Quay in Pictou, Nova Scotia



The Clan Currie Society

on Friday, July 12. Clansfolk are also encouraged to take part in the 150th Anniversary Antigonish Highland Games, to be held on Saturday and Sunday, July 13-14, 2013.

Currie's and non-Currie's alike are invited to attend the annual symposium which will be held at the Claymore Inn and Conference Center in Antigonish, Nova Scotia. For complete information on the program, visit [www.clancurriegathering.com](http://www.clancurriegathering.com).

The Claymore Inn has set aside a block of rooms at a special conference rate, for further information contact them at (902) 863-1050 or by visiting their website at [www.claymoreinn.com](http://www.claymoreinn.com). For additional information on the Antigonish Highland Games, visit [www.antigonishhighlandgames.ca](http://www.antigonishhighlandgames.ca).



See  
FOUR FULL PAGES  
of the  
Rural Hill Scottish Festival  
and the Loch Norman  
Highland Games  
pages 30-33

To find *Beth's Newfangled Family Tree* on the Internet, go to:  
<http://www.electricscotland.com/bnft> It's free, no strings.



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*Announcing....Beth's Newfangled Family Tree is now fancy!  
We would like to announce our Technical Assistant...  
John Taggart, FSA Scot from Charlotte, NC*

I overheard a conversation the other day...

Some folks were discussing cats.

"I had a feral cat," one said. "Oh, my," said the other

"Aren't they dangerous?" she asked.

"I've heard that," said the other.

Let me set the record straight. Peggie Hairy was a poor,  
hungry feral cat all those years ago.

He has always been the sweetest cat you've ever seen.

Sylvester and Bicket were saved from the wild as well.

Cats take a little time to feel less afraid.

You can't expect them to be "tame" the first day...

and maybe the first month or two.

When they have had time to learn that nothing

hurtful will happen to them and they won't be hungry

nor cold, they will repay your kindness a million fold

with love and loyalty and fun and many surprises you'll enjoy.



Peggie Hairy



## *A letter from your editor*

### **Have you ever thought about volunteering? It's great fun!**

Someone wrote about how much more fun it is to help with a Highland Games than it is to just "go" without participating. Of course, this nice lady is correct. It IS always more fun to participate than to simply "be there."

Volunteers are a huge part of most Scottish events. Some games have almost an overflow of those who wish to help. I can think of one out in Arizona who has a wonderful party after the games for the volunteers. The organizers of those games work all year to have great prizes for the volunteers and refreshments and an atmosphere of fun. By the way, every one of those volunteers knows without a doubt that they are appreciated.

Some other games I know of hire folks to work the gates, to pick up trash, to do everything. It just is not the same. Most of the folks who work on "regular" events and who are hired to work at Scottish events don't know beans about anything Scottish.

None of the games I know of who hire people to do the work of putting on a games are flourishing.

I even know a few games who have disappeared from the calendar because they could not gather enough volunteers to do the games...and they could not afford to hire people.

That game in Arizona where the volunteers have such a good time has, over a few years, donated thousands and thousands of dollars to scholarships.

One of the larger events who hire professional "events" people (I swear this is true.) did not sell any T-shirts one year...although there were dozens of cardboard boxes filled with brand new shirts stacked at the volunteer tent.

Nobody unpacked those boxes and sold the shirts.

Worse, not anyone from the games came and instructed the people to unpack the shirts and offer them for sale.

There are a few events where the people you see - those parking the cars and who are the first games people the guests see - are so cross and unfriendly that I've

heard people say that they will never go back to "such and such game" because they were treated so rudely. Been there, done that and it's not fun.

There is always something you can find to do to help.

If you are a member of one of the clan organizations, oh my, you will find MUCH to do. It never hurts to help put up the tent and unpack all of the paraphernalia required for a tent. Then, it's wonderful if you will volunteer to help with taking it all down and helping the folks get all of their materials back into their cars/vans/trucks.

Clan tents always need help doing so many things.

One of the best ways in the world to make new friends is to work with someone a day or two or months or years.

You may contact one of the officers in your clan organizations and offer to help at the next games.

I'll bet you will have a great time when you do help at a clan tent.

Maybe you have a skill or a talent at doing something that might add to the event or to your clan tent.

I know several tents who have handmade items to sell to raise money for your clan.

I think I am right for most games: It's ok to sell things if they are not in competition with the vendors or are handmade. (Please let me know if that is NOT correct.)

Can you help sell advertising for the games program? Can you help make decorations for tables that will be used at some function of the games? Can you take tablecloths home and launder them for your group so that the next event the tablecloths will be squeaky clean.

Just watch and see what is needed.

---

John Taggart has been here again with more instruction for me on InDesign. I feel like a complete dunce, but have learned another new thing or two. John is ever patient with my struggles with the program.

Thanks, John!





## Clan Graham Society

If you are a Graham or Sept of Graham, you are cordially invited to share in a proud and noble heritage.

For application, write: **Clan Graham Society**

**Norris Graham**

**PO Box 70**

**Yucca, AZ 06438-0070**

**[www.clan-graham-society.org](http://www.clan-graham-society.org)**

**Clan Davidson Society, USA, Inc.**

[www.clandavidsonusa.com](http://www.clandavidsonusa.com)



**COME JOIN US!** The Clan Davidson Society, USA, Inc. will be sponsoring an *International Gathering of Clan Davidson* on the 2nd weekend of June (**June 10, 11 & 12**), 2011. The event will be held in conjunction with the Kansas City Scottish Highland Games.

**Richard Halliley, President**  
5650 Harmony Bend  
Braselton, GA 30517  
[gahalliley@gmail.com](mailto:gahalliley@gmail.com)

**Dave Chagnon, Membership**  
7004 Barberry St.  
North Little Rock, AR 72118  
[sennachie@earthlink.net](mailto:sennachie@earthlink.net)

**Clan Davidson Society, USA invites all Davidson's and Septs of the clan to membership:**  
*Davey, Davie, Davis, Davison, Davisson, Daw, Dawson, Day, Dea(s), Dean, Deane, Deason, Dee, Desson, Devette, Dewis, Dey, Dow, Dye, Kay, Keay, Key, Keys, MacAdie, MacDaid, MacDavid, MacDavitt, MacKay, Slora, Slorach.*

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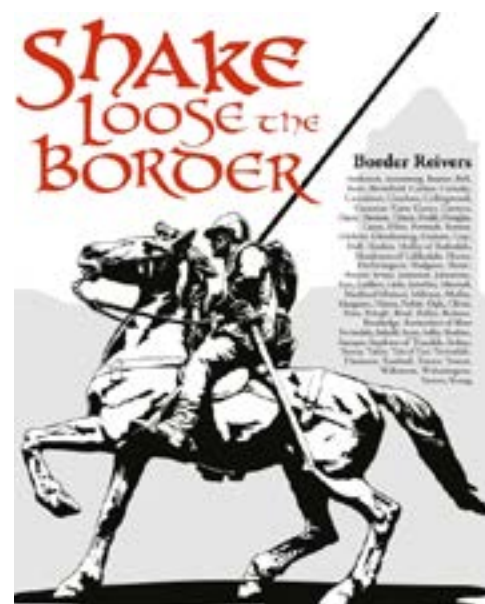
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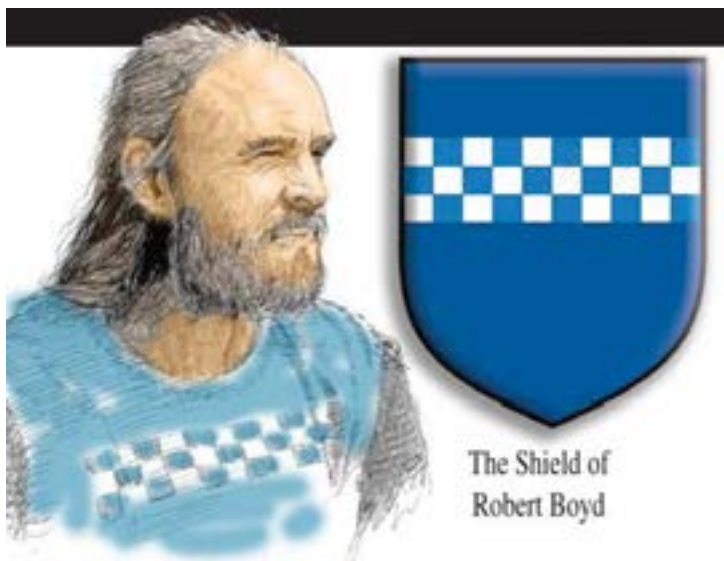
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## Campers! A note from GMHG's Larry D. Sudderth

Good Morning and greetings from the Mountains.

Just thought I would pop in and say HOWDY and give you an up-date on what's goin' on.

If you or someone you know has NOT sent in their camping registration yet I suggest you do it SOON.

Talked to Levin this mornin' before he went to work and he said things were filling up QUICKLY.

We want everyone who can to come on up and have a great time but as you know it is first come first serve.

He tries to accommodate all the folks he can but sometimes we just ain't got the room we need.

We are also in the process of trying to upgrade the electrical in the campground. Hopefully this will be started soon.

Just thought y'all might wanna know. Y'all have a great day and we'll leave the light on for ya. Hope to see ya in July.

## Clan Blair Society

Membership cordially invited from Blair descendants  
and other interested parties.

[www.clanblair.org](http://www.clanblair.org)

President: Helen L. Blair  
7516 E. Hermosa Vista Dr.  
Mesa, AZ 85207-1110

[President@clanblair.org](mailto:President@clanblair.org)



Membership Chairman: Charles Diman  
3413 Sunnybrook Drive, Charlotte, NC 28210-4715  
[ClanMembership@clanblair.org](mailto:ClanMembership@clanblair.org)



## Daisy, is a very real hero to so many!

James Crane worked on the 101st floor of Tower 1 of the World Trade Center. He is blind so he has a golden retriever named Daisy.

After the plane hit 20 stories below, James knew that he was doomed, so he let Daisy go, out of an act of love. She darted away into the darkened hallway choking on the fumes of the jet fuel and the smoke

James was just waiting to die.

About 30 minutes later, Daisy comes back along with James' boss, who Daisy just happened to pick up on floor 112.

On her first run of the building, she leads James, James' boss, and about 300 more people out of the doomed building.

But she wasn't through yet, she knew there were others who were trapped. So, highly against James' wishes she ran back in the building.

On her second run, she saved 392 lives. Again she went back in.

During this run, the building collapses. James hears about this and falls on his knees into tears.

Against all known odds, Daisy makes it out alive, but this time she is carried by a firefighter.

"She led us right to the people, before she got injured" the fireman explained.

Her final run saved another 273 lives. She suffered acute smoke inhalation, severe burns on all four paws, and a broken leg, but she saved 967 lives.

Daisy is the first civilian Canine to win the Medal of Honor of New York City.



## About Sheldon Currie

Please see Clan Currie article on page 1

Sheldon Currie grew up in Reserve Mines, a polyglot coal mining town in Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, son of Charlie Currie and Mary MacDonald. His paternal Currie and MacNeil antecedents immigrated from the Hebride-

an islands of South Uist and Barra and became farmers in rural Cape Breton before becoming miners in the industrial part of the Island. His maternal antecedents MacDonalds, McDonells settled in Inverness County of Cape Breton before moving to the industrial towns. After high school he spent some time working at a few jobs, and some time in the Canadian Air Force. He graduated with a PhD in English literature from the University of Alabama. He taught English and American Literature and Creative Writing at St. Thomas University in New Brunswick and St. Francis University and at Laval University in Quebec.

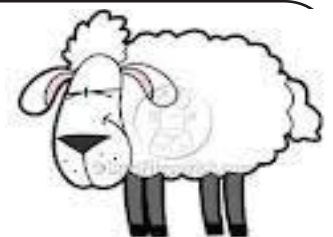
He has written two collections of short stories, literary essays for academic journals, and four novels: The Company Store; The Glace Bay Miners' Museum about a Gaelic-speaking, bagpiping coal miner who married Margaret MacNeil and together they revived her family from cultural decay; Down The Coaltown Road, a novel about the internment of Italians during WWII; and Two More Solitudes, a novel about a Gaelic scholar and baseball player and his relationship with Marie, an Acadian and Yvette, a French Canadian from Quebec City.

He has written three plays: Anna, By the Sea, about the Italian Internment, adapted from the novel, Down The Coaltown Road; Lauchie, Liza and Rory, adapted

*Continued on page 11*



## Site Seeing



Bet you will laugh when you see these:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pk7yqlTMvp8>  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WPkByAkAdZs> audi comm.

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## Taking your camera to a Highland Games?

Why not send your pictures to [bethscribble@aol.com](mailto:bethscribble@aol.com) and have them published in this magazine with your own photo credit?

Just send 30-40 or more photographs on a disc to: Beth Gay-Freeman, 688 Camp Yonah Road, Clarkesville, GA 30523.

Your photographs will be featured in the next BNFT - along with your very own photo credit.

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# Flowers of the Forest

**Ephraim A. Berry**, 91, died Tuesday, May 7, 2013, at Glasgow Health and Rehabilitation Center.

He is survived by two sons: John M. Berry and wife Connie of Glasgow, and Mark F. Berry of Glasgow; one grandson: Joshua M. Berry and wife Monica of Glasgow; one great grandson: Gabriel Berry; two nephews: James Steenbergen and Alan Steenbergen; one niece: Joyce Craven; and many great nephews and great nieces.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Elsie; one brother: William F. Berry; one sister: Elizabeth Steenbergen; and his parents: William and Laura Berry.

Born in Barren County, he graduated from Austin-Tracy High School in 1939.

He served in the Army as a pilot in the Army Air Corps, serving in both World War II and Korea. He also served as Assistant Army Attache in Vientiane, Laos in the late 1950s.

After retiring from the Army, he worked for Barren County Mental Health as plant supervisor at the Cave Lake Workshop, and continued to work part-time in semi-retirement at the Lessenberry Do-It Center.

He was an ordained Cumberland Presbyterian minister, pastoring a number of area churches from the early 1970s until stepping down from the pulpit last year.

He was also an avid bowler, still competing in two leagues a week until after his 90th birthday.

Mr. Berry was an enthusiastic Board Member with the Glasgow Highland Games for many years.

Funeral services were Friday, May 10 at 1:00 p.m. at Hatcher & Saddler Funeral Home in Glasgow, with burial at Happy Valley Memorial Gardens in Glasgow. Visitation was held Thursday from 1:00 p.m. through 8:00 p.m. at the funeral home. Alternate expressions of sympathy and support may be made in the form of donations to the American Heart Association.

**Widener, Jr., James Forrest**, 88, of Irving, Texas died on May 17, 2012. He was born on September 2, 1923 in St. Louis, Missouri to James Forrest Widener Sr. and Flora Mackay Turner.

Due to the Depression, the family moved to the Trinity Heights area of Oak Cliff in Dallas where his father

bought a Sinclair service station.

In Dallas, Jim attended Trinity Heights Grade School, Boude Story Junior High, and graduated from Sunset High School. Jim graduated from SMU in 1950, obtaining degrees in business and law.

Jim is survived by his loving wife of 40 years, Helen Ogden Widener of Irving; son James Forrest Widener III of Irving; daughter Stephanie Widener Hendrie and husband, Christopher Pennywitt Hendrie of Tujunga, California; son John Mackay Widener of Frankston, Texas; stepchildren Samuel David Browning of Frankston; Sonya Annette Jester of Irving; and 1SG Tad A. Browning and wife, Ki Steelman Browning of Georgetown, Texas.

Grandchildren include James Forrest Widener IV and Josey Curtsinger of North Richland Hills, Texas; Zachery Warren Widener of San Marcos, Texas; William Wolfgang Widener, Whitney O Widener both of Irving; Alyssa Belle Hendrie and Tessa Marie Hendrie of Dana Point, California; and step-grandchildren, Scott Christopher Hendrie of Garland, Texas; Aloria Selene Browning of Dallas, Texas; Shaun William Jester Jr., Cordia Marie Jester and Chloe Michaela Jester (who Jim personally named) all of Irving; Tad Alan Browning, Jr. of Temple, Texas; Heather Lynn Browning of Frankston; and the latest addition to the family, Jim's great grandson, James Forrest Widener V of North Richland Hills, Texas.

Funeral Services were held at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 20, 2012 in the Trinity Ballroom at the Westin DFW Hotel located at 4545 John Carpenter Freeway in Irving. Burial, with honors, were presented by the Irving Fire Department Honor Guard to follow at Bear Creek Cemetery in Euless.



# ***Clan Sinclair Association, Inc., (USA)***



7 ft. x 9 ft. tent panel created by Heraldic Artist, Tom Freeman, for the 2009 Gathering in Edinburgh.

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Membership Contact

**Alta Jean Ginn**

**12147 Holly Knoll Circle**

**Great Falls, VA 22066**

**703-430-6745**

**[aginn@cox.net](mailto:aginn@cox.net)**

**Sheldon Currie**, *Continued from page 7*

from the short story about the relationships between brothers, Gaelic-speaking Lauchie, his identical twin Rory, and Liza from the Cape Breton Italian community. It won the Merritt Award for best play. The play, *Two More Solitudes*, was adapted from the novel of that name.

The Glace Bay Miners' Museum had three incarnations, adapted as the movie Margaret's Museum starring Helena Bonham Carter; Wendy Lill wrote the stage play, which toured for ten years in Canada, New Zealand and Japan; and Goose Lane published the audio book.

Currie is a life-long student of languages and music and is fairly incompetent in Gaelic, German, Spanish, Italian and French and is a mediocre player of bagpipes, clarinet and bass guitar. He is retired from teaching English and American Poetry and Fiction and is writing full time. He is married to Dawn, the editor of his writing and his life. They have four children and seven grandchildren, three of them studying Gaelic in their local school.



## Clan Donald USA sets 2013 AGM in Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia

Don't forget that the 2013 CDUSA Annual General Meeting will be held September 26-29, 2013 in Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia.

The Clan Donald Mid-East Region is hosting the event and has arranged for the Friday evening ceilidh to be held at the Mariner's Museum in Newport News.

The host hotel is the Williamsburg Woodland Hotel and Suites, which is part of the Colonial Williamsburg Visitors' Center.

You can book your reservations at 800-447-8679 using booking code 19018 with a rate of \$124 for a double and \$154 for a suite.

The Mid-East Region is busily working and planning to make this a memorable AGM.

More details and registration information will be in the spring issue of *By Sea By Land* the national publication of Clan Donald USA.

Make your plans now to join your Clan Donald kin as we "Return to Virginia".

DAVID P ELLIOT  
COLLECTION OF SHORT STORIES  
**PIECES OF  
FATE**



### *Pieces of Fate* David P Elliot

'Pieces of Fate' is a collection of six short stories by David P Elliot which may be described as of the 'Tales of the Unexpected' genre.

Only 'Caroline' has been published before having been originally written as an entry for the BBC Short Story competition for 2010, it did not win, but was subsequently released as an e-book.

'Medusa' is a story that has its genesis in the author's previous career in the IT industry. From an original idea the author had in the 1980s before the modern computer games industry became the massive global business it currently is.

'The Cottage' is the first of two tales in this anthology which explores an investigation into a modern

*Continued on page 13*



## Would you enjoy helping at Grandfather Mountain Games? Plus, here's a note from Todd McDougal...

If you would like to help with or to be a part of the Worship Service and/or the Closing Ceremonies at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games...contact Flora MacDonald Gammon - looking for people who think it's more fun when you participate. Contact *teuchter@bellsouth.net*

like to write, our address is: Todd and Renita McDougal at 731 4TH Avenue, W., Hendersonville, NC 28739-4825 USA.

Send your notes to [bethscribble@aol.com](mailto:bethscribble@aol.com).

### A note from Todd McDougal:

An update on my condition..

First, to let you know how suddenly this all occurred: I went to bed just before Midnight, Sat 4/20. At 2:20 AM I awoke to answer "Nature's calls" (thanks, Alex) and found that I had an extreme pain in my lower back and could not walk.

By the end of the week, I was diagnosed with a spinal abcess near L3-L4. They opened it up on Friday morning, cleaned it out and thus started the long road to recovery.

I am now fighting semi-regular temp spikes and sleep has been very elusive. My immediate future includes 6-8 weeks of some VERY strong anti-biotics. My infection is NOT MRSA, something to be thankful for.

I want to thank everyone who has posted/liked various comments posted by others. They mean a lot. Being in my current situation, I have not had much time for the 'mental' side of this game.

Please stay tuned, because I will be sharing the real, honest & truthful God-directed miracle that resulted in me still living and breathing, today.

My email is: *maccaber@gmail.com* If you would



The Shield of  
Thomas Randolph  
as Earl of Moray



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

Find out more about the epic story at....

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## MacDuffee Clan Society of America, Inc. Of Clan MacFie Organized July 1962

Registrar:  
Marty Rosser  
336-275-8619  
[martyrosser50@aol.com](mailto:martyrosser50@aol.com)

Annual General Meeting each year in July  
at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games

Genealogy Chairman: Richard Ledyard  
865-671-2555 [rledyard@tds.net](mailto:rledyard@tds.net)

Treasurer: David Nathan McDuffie  
678-557-9215 [dnmcduffie@hotmail.com](mailto:dnmcduffie@hotmail.com)





This is from last fall at Stone Mountain.  
Does anyone know who this lovely lady might  
be? Just email [bethscribble@aol.com](mailto:bethscribble@aol.com)

**David Elliot**, *continued from page 11*

day alleged haunting incident. Although the name of the house has been changed The Cottage of the story is based on a local Oxfordshire property where the author once lived and was purported to be haunted.

The title of the fourth tale, 'Shark', is derived from the occupation of the main protagonist, a loan shark called Gary Bowler who preys on the weak and vulnerable.

The 'Thief in the Waiting Room' was the response to a challenge thrown out to the author to come up with a story which included 'a thief', 'a waiting room' and 'a flat tyre' in ten minutes. This was the result. Whilst the idea was established in the 10 minute time scale the actual writing took a further 60 minutes to actually put down on paper.

The final story, 'Long Alley' is also local to the author and uses real locations and an actual historical event as the backdrop for another modern day haunting. Readers may wish to read 'The Cottage' first as a prologue to this story.

Contact David P Elliot, 100 Marlborough Gardens,  
Faringdon, Oxfordshire SN7 7DN United Kingdom



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# Clan Bell International



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

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

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

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

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

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

President:

**William H. Bell**

2322 Shadow Hill Drive  
Riverside, CA 92506

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Visit our Web site:

**[clanbell.org](http://clanbell.org)**

Membership Secretary:

**Alta Jean Ginn**

12147 Holly Knoll Circle  
Great Falls, VA 22066

[aginn@cox.net](mailto:aginn@cox.net)



# Locating ancestors on the Internet

**Bryan Mulcahy**



The Internet is an excellent tool for genealogical research when used in conjunction with consulting original records, print sources, and employing proper research techniques. The benefits to genealogists are:

1. The ability to search the genealogical holdings of major repositories or libraries in areas where the ancestors resided.
2. The ability to search a repository's holdings online may facilitate planning for onsite research in anticipation of a visit to that repository.
3. The Internet usually contains significant information on local, state, national and/or ethnic historical/genealogical societies, and family associations throughout the U.S. and abroad.
4. Websites such as Ancestry, Heritage Quest, Cyndi's List, Family Search, Rootsweb, etc., offer access to message boards and other information-sharing sites where genealogists can network with other genealogists, share findings and photographs, and submit queries.

The dramatic increase in online resources has attracted many beginners to the field of genealogical research.

Experienced genealogists have benefited because of new and improved research tools and faster communication.

Sites such as Ancestry.com and Ancestry Library Edition, Fold3, Heritage Quest, and Family Search, just to name a few, have enabled researchers to locate records in a timely manner.

Researchers are also benefitting from an increased number of digitized images, thus making the information-gathering process more accurate and timely.

Many websites offer tutorials in the form of a Frequently Asked Questions section (FAQ). These pages usually provide research tips and information on formulating search strategies.

While the Internet offers many opportunities for research, there are limitations and caveats. The Internet should not be considered the main option for genealogical research. Researchers will never locate every fact about their ancestors online. There is no one website or database containing all types of genealogical records. Many record types have never appeared on any online databases, and never will. Information found online carries no guarantee whatsoever that it is accurate, thoroughly researched or properly documented.

The Internet is not a new reason that researchers sometimes collect questionable or undocumented information.

False pedigrees, family myths and research errors were a part of genealogy long before the Internet. The difference is that the undocumented information is easily located and duplicated online.

Bryan Mulcahy, M.L.S., Reference Librarian  
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# Clan Sutherland Society of North America



Septs and Associated Families:  
Cheyne, Clyne, Duffus, Federith,  
Gray, Keith, Mowat, Murray, Oliphant

For membership information, please visit our website at  
**[www.clansutherland.org](http://www.clansutherland.org)**

President  
George W. "Bill" Sutherland  
9613 Highstream Ct.  
Charlotte, NC 28269  
[mrbillm5@carolina.rr.com](mailto:mrbillm5@carolina.rr.com)



Elizabeth Sutherland, Countess of Sutherland  
Chief of Clan Sutherland



## Creek Rise?

Did you know the saying "God willing and the Creek don't rise" was in reference to the Creek Indians and not a body of water?

It was written by Benjamin Hawkins in the late 18th century. He was a politician and Indian diplomat.

While in the south, Hawkins was requested by the President of the U.S. to return to Washington.

In his response, he was said to write, "God willing and the Creek don't rise." Because he capitalized the word "Creek" it is deduced that he was referring to the Creek Indian tribe and not a body of water.

# Beginners Genealogy Seminar

*Part Two*

Saturday, June 8, 2013

### Speakers:

Carolyn Ford – Lee County Genealogical Society  
Bryan L. Mulcahy – Fort Myers-Lee County Library

Time: 9:30am – 12:30pm

This one day seminar will focus on the basics of genealogical research.

Patrons are encouraged to bring information already collected about their family history, including any family group sheets and/or pedigree charts.



## Clan Colquhoun Society Of NA

2984 Mike Drive

Marietta, GA 30064

[sijepuis@bellsouth.net](mailto:sijepuis@bellsouth.net)

Colquhoun/Calhoun, Cowan, MacClintock, MacManus. Applications available online at [http://www.geocities.com/clancolquhoun\\_na/home.html](http://www.geocities.com/clancolquhoun_na/home.html)





# Clan Macneil Association of America

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| • Macniel    | • McNeill   |             |             |
| • MacNiel    | • Mcneal    |             |             |
| • Macneill   | • McNeal    |             |             |
| • MacNeill   | • Mcneale   |             |             |
| • MacNeillie | • McNeale   | • O'Neal    | • Macgugan  |
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| • Mcneil     | • Neill     | • MacGrail  | • McGuigan  |
| • McNeil     | • Niel      | • Macgrail  | ...and      |
| • Mcniel     | • Niell     | • MacGugan  | • Mcguigan  |



The Clan Currie has just "signed" another pre-eminent Gaelic scholar to our symposium roster. Prof. Simon Innes from the Department of Celtic Languages and Literature at Harvard University will join the other distinguished scholars at the third annual MacMhuirich Symposium to be held July 11-12 in Antigonish, Nova Scotia.



## Pope Francis Papal Coat of Arms and Ring will be simple

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis is mixing his Argentine past with his Roman present to create his new papal coat of arms, while harking back to a pope associated with the Second Vatican Council for the simple ring that he received during Tuesday's installation Mass.

The Vatican on Monday released details of the symbols of Francis' pontificate, which in its inaugural days has been marked by his preference for simplicity and aversion to Holy See splendor.

# Scottish Bluebells/ Harebells are Clan Ramsay flower

The Bluebell and Harebell flowers have been around for centuries.

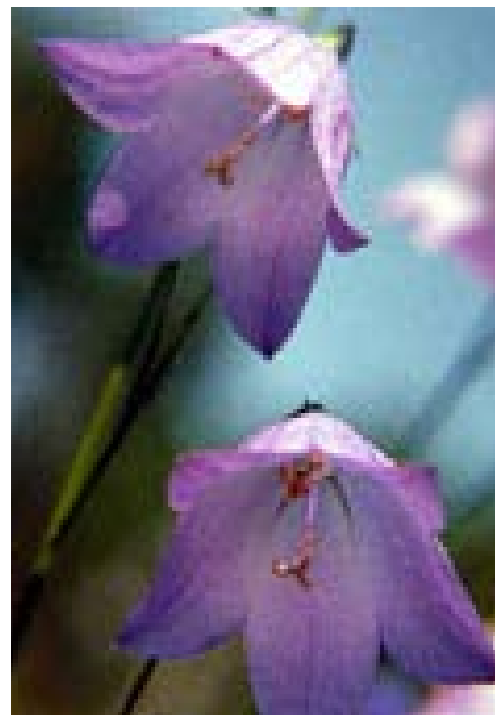
Legend has it that fairies live amongst them and humans should be wary of disturbing the fairies. Scottish Bluebells (*Campanula rotundifolia*) have been called by various names, many having one common thread which, if pulled, leads to the folklore responsible for these names.

It is widely known as Harebell. This is the name I know it as and refer to call it by. For this reason, I will refer to the Scottish Harebell.

The name, Harebell, has its roots in magic. The name came from the fact that Scottish Bluebells are found growing in meadows frequented by hares. Some would argue, the name Harebell was given this flower due to the fact that witches were known to turn themselves into hares and hide among them. Both are interesting stories, one for the non-believer and believer alike."

Back to the mists of time, The Clan Ramsay has used this lovely blossom as their own "flower."

Each Scottish clan or family group has a plant badge used as identity markers. For example, Clan Henderson claims "cotton grass" as theirs \ and Clan Donald claims the heather.



*The Scottish Bluebell, also known as the Harebell.*

# About The Clan Currie Society

*This article is a continuation of information concerning the page one article for this section.*

The Clan Currie Society, an American-based, international, non-profit cultural and educational organization, is the preeminent Scottish-American cultural society in preserving and promoting Highland heritage at Scottish Games, ethnic festivals, as well as community groups and classrooms.

The Society's signature events include The Pipes of Christmas - a musical celebration of Christmas performed on bagpipes and brass, harp and fiddle, and organ - and the annual observance of Tartan Day on Ellis Island. The Clan Currie Society is the Title Sponsor of the National Scottish Harp Championship of America.

Commissioned to mark the 10th Anniversary of Tartan Day on Ellis Island in New York in 2011, the Society launched the Ellis Island Tartan. An everlasting tribute to everyone who passed through Ellis Island on their way to a new life in the United States of America, the "potentially world-beating tartan" (Scotsman) has received wide acclaim since its launch. It was featured on the runway at the annual Dressed to Kilt fashion event on 5 April 2011, part of New York's Tartan Week celebrations.

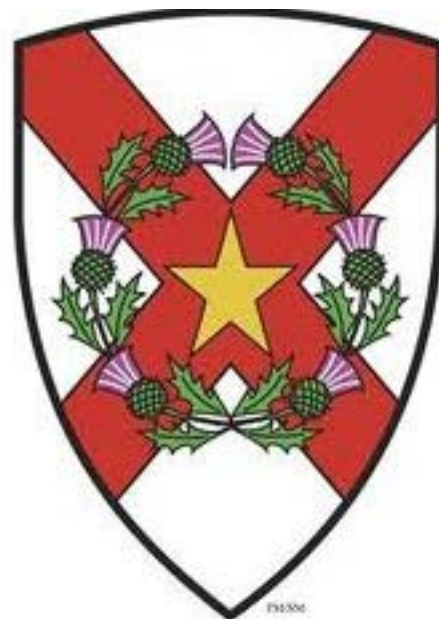
The Society's annual scholarship program includes the Alex Currie Memorial Scholarship for Bagpipe, administered by the Gaelic College of Celtic Arts in Nova Scotia; the Pipe Major Kevin Ray Blandford Memorial Scholarship, administered by the National Piping Centre in Glasgow, Scotland; the Col. William McMurdo Currie Memorial Scholarship for the Clarsach (Scottish Harp) administered by the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama and the Private Bill Millin Memorial Scholar-

ship for Bagpipe administered by Lyon College of Batesville, Arkansas.

To mark the school's 40th anniversary, the Society announced the "Duais Clann iMcMhuirich" bursary which they will give on an annual basis to Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Scotland's Gaelic college on the Isle of Skye.

The Society was originally formed in Glasgow, Scotland in 1959 to further the knowledge and appreciation of the MacMhuirich (pronounced MacVurich) bardic dynasty. Today, the organization is a respected producer of outstanding programs and events to honor Scotland's rich culture and ancestry.

The MacMhuirichs served for over 700 years as professional poets to the Lords of the Isles and later to the MacDonalds of Clanranald among other prominent Highland clans and families. The Red Book of Clanranald, one of Gaelic Scotland's literary treasures, was penned by successive generations of the MacMhuirich bards on South Uist. *Continued on page 29*



**The Clan Currie Society**



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

These ads for Scottish Clans and genealogical groups are \$5.00 each issue, never mind the size. (My way of saying "Thank You" for all the kindnesses given to me by the Scottish community over the last 20 plus years.)

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Few know that all of those magical “cowboy songs” like “Cool Cool Water” come directly from the ancient melodies heard and sung by our Celtic ancestors.

At the Rabun Arena near Clayton, Georgia the other Saturday afternoon and Sunday there was another generation of cowboys competing in the cutting horse competition.

A haunting story comes from the Massacre of Glencoe as there was a newborn baby passed from its mother, who had hidden in one of the huge outdoor ovens. She gave her baby to the escaping drovers...

Nobody knows what happened to that baby nor the name of its mother...nor even whether the babe survived.







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To see the many names on the Clan Donald sept/allied family list, please visit:

<http://www.clan-donald-usa.org>



# ***The Armstrong Clan Society***

***Dedicated to the Armstrongs, Crosiers, Fairbairns, Grosiers, Nixons and those interested in these 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 U.S. federal income tax.

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 in the upper left on this page. 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 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, Groziers 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 2 years. All memberships are family memberships which includes two adults and all minor children. In all other countries, dues are \$35 per year. All dues are payable in US funds.

For a membership application email Peter Armstrong at [peter.armstrong1.3@gmail.com](mailto:peter.armstrong1.3@gmail.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.

# *A Highlander and his books*

## **The Great Feud - The Campbells & the MacDonalds**

**by Oliver Thomson**

Reviewed by Frank R. Shaw

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

Oliver Thomson has written one of those books that when you pick it up at the store or a tent to look through it, you are not sure you want to hear another story of the auld feud between these Scottish Hatfields and McCoys. Don't put it back on the shelf or the table! You will be the loser if you do.

This is a fresh account of the deadly feud between the Campbells and the MacDonalds of too many short-lived men who died violently all too young. This was no wee feud that was over and done with in a generation or two. Beginning in 1296 with an ambush of an emissary of peace, this feud lasted more 450 years.

The victim was Big Colin Campbell, a Campbell chief, and the bushwhacker was Lame John MacDougall, head of the most powerful clan in the west of Scotland. I've always loved the choice of names our ancestors used. Here you have "Lame John" ambushing "Big Colin", and this is only the beginning of an easily readable book about which the author repeatedly refers to as "our two clans".

The book is divided into three parts: The Feudal Field, Change Ends, and The Diaspora. One thing that appealed to me was the author, Oliver Thomson. He is a businessman, and he understands what a lot of "learned" men and women never learn - he knows how to make the sell and close the deal without going on and on until he talks himself out of a sale or by using what I call dictionary words. That is, you can't read the book or article without your Scots or Gaelic dictionary by your side. Mr. Thomson is managing director of one of Scotland's largest advertising agencies. So, a tip of



the hat to the author for accomplishing what other authors should consider - writing books and articles that people can enjoy, particularly a book like this one that has to deal with so many "begats".

What happened to "Lame John" for murdering "Big Colin"? Evidently nothing since he died in Dublin in 1318 a sick and poor man. Below are some interesting items found in The Great Feud. "Good John" of the Isles did not wear a hat at his own wedding so he would not have to doff it to the King who was in attendance.

A new weapon of warfare from Germany was introduced in Scotland and played a big part in future battles for years to come - the two-handed claymore. You'll meet Donald Dhu who, after spending 40+ plus years in prison, mostly in Edinburgh, was allowed to escape and then was hailed as Lord of the Isles.

There is Lady Glamis, beauty that she was, who was burned at the stake based on false charges of murder and witchcraft. Highland "sodgers" were called "Red-shanks" because of their bare knees. As far as religion goes, the Royal Stuarts were Episcopalian, if not out right Catholic, and the Campbells were mostly Presbyterian, whereas the MacDonalds back then probably could have gone either way. There is also the Black Bitch of Dunstaffnage who marooned groups of Islay MacDonalds on small rocks to get rid of them. Thomson returns to Donald Dhu, who when less than 60 years old, had by then spent at least 50 years in prison and died from measles according to some, thus ending the last major attempt to regain the Lordship of the Isles.

*Continued on page 27*



And believe it or not, "our two clans" actually united in an effort to defeat a common foe - Cromwell, who beat up the Scots pretty good during his lifetime, and whose ultimate victory led to the first forced transportation of Scottish POWs or indentured slaves to New England, Carolina, and the dreaded, fever-infested West Indies.

Another remarkable but lesser known member of the two clans was Tunis G. Campbell, a black leader from Massachusetts who set up an independent black state on the Georgia Sea Islands at the beginning of the Civil War here in the States. Then, there was Robert Campbell who found gold in the Yukon "but did not regard it as of great interest", which makes one wonder what planet he came from.

Thomson also notes Russia's complaint in 1999 about the "McDonaldisation" of their country, but we all know that a battle of "Big Macs" and Coca-Cola versus the Campbell Soup Company goes on in most American households on a daily basis.

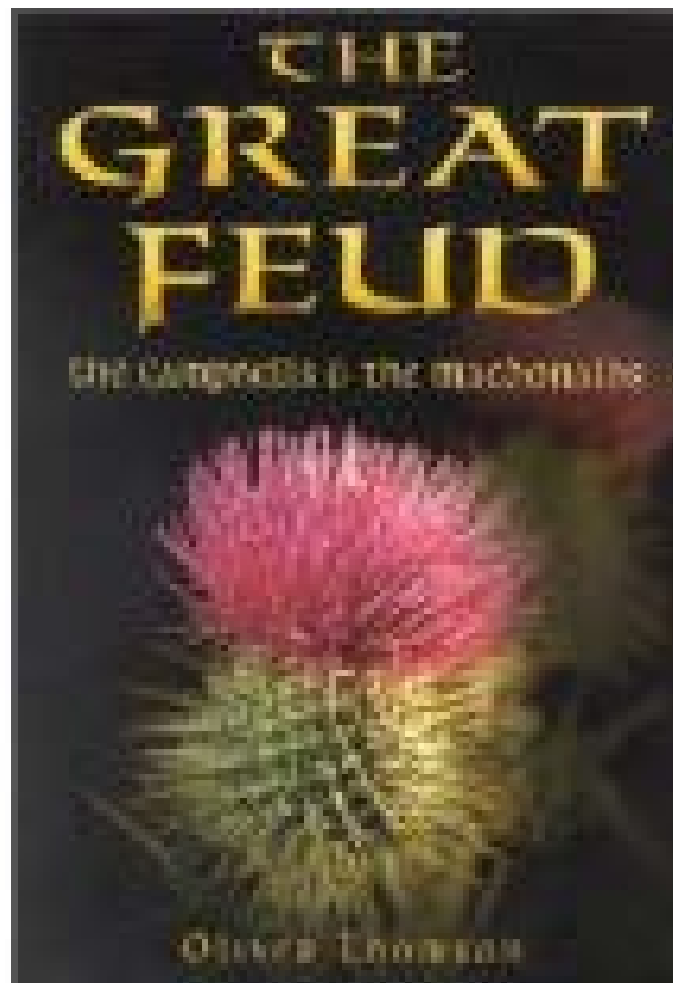
And finally for this column, we learned that a Campbell Chief sued his second wife in 1963 for divorce on grounds of adultery with 87 different men.

In The last chapter of this wonderful book is a suggested tour by car or coach for those who wish to visit the various monuments and sights surrounding the great feud. It will take you to all parts of Scotland, the Isles, England, Wales, Belgium, Germany, Italy, Spain, and France, just to name a few. MacDonalds and Campbells will find themselves wanting to make this journey after they have finished reading the book.

On a solemn note in closing, allow me to express our condolences to Clan Campbell in the passing of Chief Ian Campbell, 63, the Duke of Argyll, who died Sunday, 22 April 2001 in London during heart surgery.

The Great Feud is a Sutton Publishing Limited book copyrighted in 2000. The book is currently available on Amazon.com.

If you enjoy Mr. Shaw's columns, you might visit [electricScotland.com](http://electricScotland.com) for more.



## Cows to the Rescue?

A lost dog survived six freezing nights trapped between stacks of hay bales in Scotland - thanks to a heroic herd of cows.

When Border Collie Harley went missing from the family farm, her owners seached frantically for her. They called police and even posted a plea for her return on Facebook... to no avail.

They had nearly given up hope when Harley turned up - courtost of the cattle.

"The cows were "really restless and mooing a lot," owner Leyonee Donald said. "They wre all pointing towards the hay bales."

It looks like the dog had climbed atop a large stack of hay bales and fallen through a hole which had taken her down to the bottom of the stack, trapping her.

Harley responded to her name with a "tiny bark" and was rescued. Now, she's fine, eating and drinking like a champ.

She was given her favorite meal of roast chicken with lots of gravy.

With thanks to *Celtic Seasons*, Rich & Rita Shader, eds. Send any monetary donation to Rich Shader, 2593 Chapparral Drive, Melbourne, FL 32934.

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# The Clan Currie Society

*Inspire to Victory*

## The Rev. Dr. David A. Currie

Dr. Currie began teaching church history at the Center for Urban Ministerial Education (CUME), the Boston campus of Gordon-Conwell, in 1998 and joined the faculty full-time as Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program in 2005. To all of his work, at each Gordon-Conwell's campuses and elsewhere, Dr. Currie has brought a passion to nurture thinking Christian leaders. This passion has grown out of over a quarter century of ordained ministry in the Presbyterian Church (USA), including 15 years as the organizing pastor of a new church development.

Dr. Currie's research interests include the history of evangelicalism, particularly in Scotland, South Africa and China; pastoral theology; worship; preaching; spiritual formation, particularly for clergy; mentoring; and discipleship. He was awarded a Ph.D. in Ecclesiastical

History from the University of St. Andrews in 1991.

Dr. Currie's personal interests include Steeler football; running; tennis; theater; hunting, particularly with a bow and arrow; cooking; golf; hiking; canoeing; and Scottish games. He also remains connected to his Scottish roots as Chaplain for the Clan Currie Society.

*These are more information about The Clan Currie Society. Please look on the front page for more.*

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## Alex Currie

For some today who love the Scottish pipes, Alex Currie is an anachronism from a bygone era, but to those who know his story, he was the last of the true Scottish pipers. "As far as I'm concerned, the most important piper I ever met was Alex Currie from Cape Breton," said pipe maker Hamish Moore. "He was part of that MacMhuirich (Currie) tradition of the bards and the pipers. They were a very important clan in that respect - and very important culturally with respect to the arts. I think it's just part of the clan's heritage that's been passed along, that very high cultural awareness that exists in certain families. That is, it's been passed down from generation to generation."

"Not only did his style of playing reflect an undiluted Gaelic oral tradition dating back to 19th century South Uist, but his knowledge of tunes - some locally composed and others forgotten in Scotland - was unmatched by many of his contemporaries."

He was a living representation of one of the many different styles that existed in Cape Breton among the highland immigrants and their descendants - styles that have disappeared from the piping landscape of Cape Breton. Not long before his death, Currie was honored for his contributions to traditional piping during the Celtic Colours celebration at the Gaelic College in St. Anns, Nova Scotia.

The Clan Currie Society dedicated their first Scottish heritage scholarship in 2006 in memory of this exceptional musician and clansman.

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### About Clan Currie, *continued from page 20*

In more contemporary times, MacMhuirich poetry and short stories have been chronicled in Alexander Carmichael's *Carmina Gadelica*, Angus MacLellan's *Stories of South Uist*, Thomas Owen Clancy's *The Triumph Tree* (Scotland's Earliest Poetry 550-1350) and *An Leabhar Mor - The Great Book of Gaelic*. The ancient and historic MacMhuirich name and its anglicized equivalent Currie can be found throughout the Western Highlands and Islands of Scotland.

The Society has spearheaded the construction of two permanent clan monuments in Scotland. A MacMhuirich Memorial Cairn has been built adjacent to the ruins of Bale nam Bàrd, the medieval home of the MacMhuirichs on the Island of South Uist. A memorial stone, commemorating the bard Lachlan Mòr MacMhuirich, has been installed at Makar's Court alongside the Scottish Writers Museum in Edinburgh.





**LOCH NORMAN**

**Huntersville, NC**

**19-21 April 2013**

**HIGHLAND GAMES**







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# LOCH NORMAN

19-21 April 2013

Huntersville, NC *More on  
next page*

# HIGHLAND GAMES







**LOCH NORMAN**

**Huntersville, NC**

*That's all  
folks!*

**19-21 April 2013**

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