

SAR/DAR recruit members at 2012 Sarasota Games. What a great idea!



At the Sarasota Scottish Highland Games and Celtic Festival, Sarasota Fairground, Sarasota, Florida, Feb. 4, 2012, Barbra Ross Bartz, Southeast Regional Commissioner for the Clan Ross Society and member of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and the Revolutionary War Society, is dressed as Betsy Ross and is surrounded by DAR and SAR (Sons of the American Revolution) members.

John Dryud, in the Revolutionary Uni-

form and member of the SAR, stands next to Col. Dan Kennedy, Headmaster of the Sarasota Military Academy (wearing sunglasses). His wife, Mary Kennedy, stands beside him. In the red shirt is SAR member, Tom Thompson. On the first row is Myakka Chapter of the DAR Regent Barbara de Riemacker (in colonial dress) and wearing a hat in back is DAR member Judy Lindaur. In the middle of the picture is

Continued on page 11

**Just visit <http://www.electricscotland.com/bnft>
about the first of each month to see a new issue of BNFT - always FREE**

Next Coastal Georgia Genealogical Society Meeting Sunday March 11th, St. Simon's Island, Georgia Our speaker will be Sara Rupnik and her topic is *Writing Our Lives*.+She teaches memoir writing classes among others, and will help us describe our family members in ways that are *both vibrant and honest*.+Don't miss this outstanding talk and mini-workshop.

Clan Baird Society Worldwide

Wrex Diem, president
2200 South Osseo Road
Osseo, Michigan 49266
(517) 523-4634
alakazam@frontiernet.net



www.clanbaird.net



Clan Davidson Society USA Inc.

A 501 (c)(3) Charitable & Educational Organization

We welcome membership from all Davidsons, Septs
and their Descendents
(plus we have a killer newsletter!!)

Richard Halliley, President
5650 Harmony Bend
Braselton GA 30517
gahalliley@gmail.com

Dave Chagnon, FSA Scot.
Membership & Newsletter
7004 Barberry St
North Little Rock AR 72118
sennachie@earthlink.net

Septs of the Clan

Davey, Davie, Davis, Davison, Davisson, Davy, Daw, Dawson, Day, Dea, Dean, Deane, Deas, Deason, Dee, Desson, Devette, Dewis, Dey, Dhair, Dow, Dye, Dyson, Kay, Keay, Key, Keys, MacAdie, MacDade, MacDagnie, MacDagny, MacDaid, MacDavett, MacDavid, MacDavitt, MacDhair, MacKay (Moray), McKeddie



Come - Join the Forresters!

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



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



CLAN FORRESTER



FOSTER SURNAME DNA Project

Genealogy Research on Foster / Forster / Forrester / Forester /
 Foerster / Forestier / Fonster / Fornister / Vorster / Voster Families



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

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

The games are held at Barren River Park

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

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

Registration for the 50th Anniversary Celebration

will be \$93.50 per person

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

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

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

Registration needs to be returned by 1 May 2012

SAVE THE DATE ó April 20-22, 2012 set for 19th Annual Rural Hill Scottish Festival & Loch Norman Highland Games

HUNTERSVILLE, NC: The 19th Annual Rural Hill Scottish Festival and Loch Norman Highland Games are set for April 20-22, 2012. The Advance 2-day (Sat. & Sun.) discount ticket is \$25.00 and includes admission to the Saturday night concert. Complete information and advance ticket purchases are available online at www.ruralhillscottishfestivals.net.

Fun for the entire family, the Festival & Games weekend offers professional Scottish heavy athletic competition, amateur heavy athletics, piping and drumming, highland dancing, Scottish country dancing, children's activities, demonstrations and Rural Hill's famous historic encampment. Returning this year are the "Kids Zone" and the popular Celtic Rock Music Stage including the Saturday evening concert.

Festivities will begin with the Friday evening traditional "Call of the Clans." Friday and Saturday evenings will once again host Scottish country dancing at Hopewell Church. Saturday will offer one of the highlights of the Games - the Professional Scottish Heavy Events. *Note: Professional athletes are by invitation only.* "Class A" amateur heavy athletic competition will take place on

Saturday with the remaining amateur classes competing on Sunday. Professional demonstrations will also take place on Sunday.

For complete information on the 19th Annual Rural Hill Scottish Festival and Loch Norman Highland Games, please visit our website at www.ruralhillscottishfestivals.net. Proceeds support the preservation of Historic Rural Hill.

Celebrating 250 years in 2010-2011, Rural Hill is located at 4431 Neck Road (off Beatties Ford Road) in Huntersville, 28078. The former homestead of Major John and Violet Davidson, the 265 acre site is main-



tained and promoted by Rural Hill and features annual events such as the Rural Hill Scottish Festival and Loch Norman Highland Games, the Rural Hill Amazing Maize Maze and the Rural Hill Sheep Dog Trials. Rural Hill Inc. is a non-profit organization supported through membership and donations, and with proceeds from its events

utilized for the preservation of historic Rural Hill and its education efforts. For more information on events or for financial support accepted securely online, please visit www.ruralhill.net.

The Call has been issued!

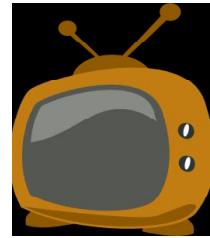
All Clans to gather for The Glasgow Highland Games 2012! Come share your Scottish pride by participating in 2012 Raising of The Clans.

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

I hope to see all of you there!

Peter Lapham

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



Who Do You Think You Are?

This popular television show has returned. Look at your NBC station at 8 PM Friday, Shows will follow the families of Blair Underwood, Reba McEntire, Rob Lowe, Helen Hunt, Rita Wilson, Edie Falco, Rashida Jones, Jerome Bettis, Jason Sudeikis and Paula Deen.

Clan Crawford Association

Incorporated to serve our members worldwide to preserve our legacy. Our Associates can assist you with surname related activities including events, DNA genealogy, heraldry, surname history and more.

Ralf Smart, Director, SE
803-425-5316 or general_ly@yahoo.com or
www.clancrawford.org



Another great idea!

Canadian Timmy Connell and his “Wednesday Afternoon Boys”



Timmy Connell



I volunteer at our Boyne Lodge Senior Home, and have a men's group every Wednesday (I figured I might as well become accustomed to the place!). Anyway, I have eight or 10 fellows, mostly in their eighties and nineties, and I get them building

doll houses with me.

I've attached a couple of photos of our accomplishments! I get the basic kits, and then we sand, paint...paint some more...assemble, put all the wee shingles on (over a thousand!), put the windows and doors in, then we raffle them off!

These are large quality dollhouses, with kits running around \$200 - \$300. They are very popular and we have no problem selling tickets.

This is something my fellows really like, because it is especially for MEN! And I get to joke and kid with them while we work away on things!

So far we have completed a "Large Barn Dollhouse", complete with stalls, loft, and sliding doors, as well as a "Country Church Dollhouse". The church is also complete with pews and an altar, and a family member of one of my men made us a perfect little bible to place on the pulpit.

Unfortunately, this gentleman passed away last week. His family sent Joan and I a very nice card; they said the building of the dollhouses was a great delight for their dad, and he would bring everyone down to the activity room to show them what projects we were working on.

He was very proud of our projects.

We are about to start on "Victoria Farmhouse", the biggest of our projects yet!

Unfortunately, at present, I have some health issues to deal with, and it has been holding us up.

Our last project, The Church, was won by,

believe it or not, out of all the hundreds of tickets, I picked one of my very own men! A very quiet, lovely man, by the name of Leo Peters.

Mr. Peters had never won anything in his life...until now! Although he doesn't have grandchildren, he is keeping the little church in his room until he can decide what he wants to



do with it.

This is the first time anyone has done a project "just for men" at this senior lodge. In most of these places, the women outnumber the men, and most activities are geared towards crafts, baking, games, and such. Here, we "MEN" get out the sandpaper, paint brushes, glue, and tools, and do wood-working!

The biggest problem I have is trying to limit

Continued on page 13

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

clanbellusa@sbcglobal.net

Visit our Web site:

clanbell.org

Membership Secretary:

Alta Jean Ginn

12147 Holly Knoll Circle
Great Falls, VA 22066

aginn@cox.net



*A message
from the GMHG
president,
Ross Morrison*



We felt great about last year's games even though we were down approximately 10% in overall attendance. The board has decided to be proactive and has done something to help our general public next year in these hard economic times.

Our general manager and assistant general manager have been meeting with hotels in Boone and Blowing Rock in hopes of working out a partnership.

We are working on coordinating a 3 day discounted hotel rate from our participating hotel partners.

I am happy to report that our first lodging partner has signed up with us. The Village Inns of Blowing Rock have offered a 17% discount on a three night stay during the weekend of the Games.

Check our website for a link to our lodging partner's page (www.gmhg.org). We hope that this is just one of many that will sign on and become a partner with the GMHG to help keep our attendance up at this wonderful event.

GMHG plans to off set the \$15 daily trip from Boone for Friday, Saturday and Sunday by reducing it to \$10 per round trip or if you have a 4-day advanced ticket the ride to and from the mountain (between the Caldwell Community & Technical College parking lot and MacRae Meadows) will be completely free and subsidized by GMHG.

We hope this will help keep our numbers up and allow families to stay for the entirety of the Games. Plus we hope that this will take care of some of our parking problems on MacRae Meadows.

Also, one of our Board Members, Royce McNeill, is having some health issues and would appreciate you remembering him in prayer.

We have just found out that the Broyhill Center has closed down and we will be forced to have the Patron/Sponsor reception at Camp Yonanoka in Linville. This is the only place locally that can host such a large event.

Since the costs are higher we need an exact count for attendees. Thus we must have you RSVP if you plan on attending. Tickets to this event will not be released until we receive your RSVP. Any additions must be approved by our ticket coordinator, Frances Fletcher. No tickets will be sold at the door.

There will not be a dance band at this year's reception due to our 2011 survey responses.

We plan on revisiting our entertainment and lengthening our current performers and putting the money saved into improving the cuisine at this event.

At this coming year's Patron/Sponsor reception we will again have world class entertainment. The Blue Ridge Brass and Montreat Scottish Pipes and Drums will perform as well as the Grandfather Mountain Highlanders Pipe Band. Other performers to be announced later.

See you in July at Grandfather Mountain Highland Games. Ross

How to order
A Historical Handbook to Scotland
by Duncan MacPhail

Every Clan Tent needs one of these!

You may order, if you'd like to use a credit
card, from <http://www.amazon.com>

or a USPS Money Order or Check \$25.00 includes s/h
from Beth Gay-Freeman,
102 Lakeside Drive, Walhalla, SC 29691

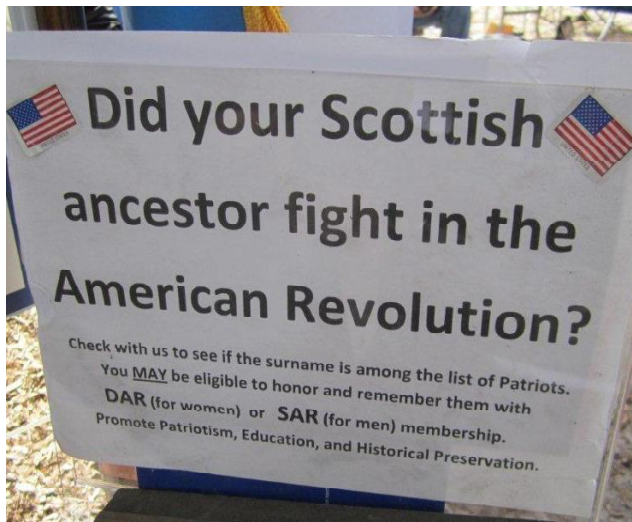
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in this publication.*

*Would YOU like to write an article?
Contact bethscribble@aol.com*

THE CRAWFORD SURNAME Y-DNA PROJECT

**You are cordially invited to participate in the
Crawford surname Y- DNA project.
Information, listing of current results,
and signing up for testing can be accessed at —
[http://www.clancrawford.org/
home.htm](http://www.clancrawford.org/home.htm)**

**To contact the project coordinator, e-mail
Kevan Crawford, Ph.D. at:
Kevan@clancrawford.org**



president of the Saramana Capter SAR, Charles Riegle. The lady next to him in the red shirt is DAR member, Alice Hornback.

The DAR and SAR members were attending the Sarasota Scottish Highland Games to recruit members of the respective organizations from the Scots attending the event.

On this day, the SAR recruited five prospective gentlemen and the DAR recruited seven ladies.



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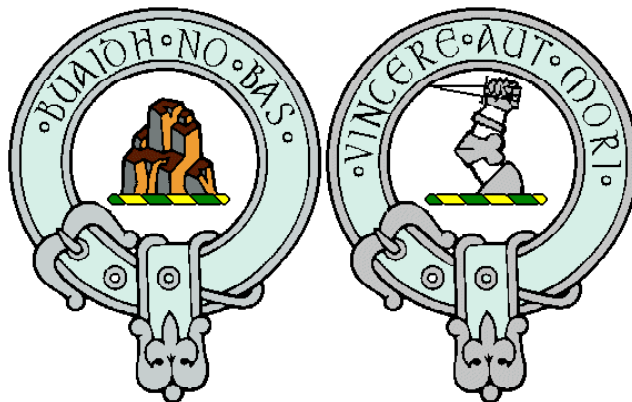
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Clan Macneil Association of America

If you are a Macneil or any of the following %Sept+names, then you have found the clan that you are looking for.



**“Cuimhnich Air Na Daoine
o’n D’thainig thu.”**

**Remember the men from
whom you have come.**

President C. McNeill Baker, Jr.
6959 Almours Drive
Jacksonville, FL 32117-2628

clanmacneilua.us

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
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Doll houses, continued from page 7 —



That's Timmy Connell on the left and one of his guys, Cliff, working on the barn house.

the size of my group! Beth, some of my fellows are blind, others have severe arthritis, some are stroke victims, but they all contribute in some way to our projects. Even if blind, they can still sand a piece of wood; I make a point then of letting them feel what we are building. If they can't do anything but watch, I'll assign them as crew boss, or engineer for the project. Of course, the best thing is I get them socializing and enjoying something.

Of course, I get as much enjoyment out of this as anyone. It's a great feeling to see someone, who has otherwise been unhappy, finally smile and take an interest.

The finished barn house.

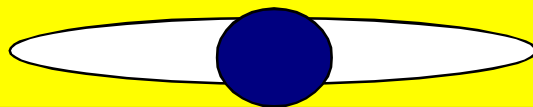


Here's Leo and Timmy Connell working on the church house.

Gotta Query?

Send it to
bethscribble@aol.com

If you'd like to be reminded
when a new issue of
*Beth's
Newfangled Family Tree*
is "up" here,
all you have to do is visit
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maillist.htm](http://www.electricscotland.com/maillist.htm)
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**We have some particularly lovely estate and antique
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1320 Declaration of Arbroath facsimile copy presented last St. Andrew's Day to US National Archives

The 1320 Declaration of Arbroath was Scotland's declaration of independence from England and is often considered to have been an inspiration for the American declaration that followed in 1776.

A rare facsimile copy of the Declaration of Arbroath was presented on St. Andrew's Day, 30 November 2011 to the US National Archives by the Scottish government's Culture and External Affairs Secretary Fiona Hyslop.



Arbroath Abbey in Angus, Scotland

Ms. Hyslop met representatives of the Congressional Friends of Scotland Caucus and crossed the Potomac to take part in Alexandria Virginia's annual Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend.

The facsimile copy of the declaration was printed in 2000 using plates engraved in 1815. The copy brought to the US National Archives is one of only 100 copies made.

With thanks to *Six Nations, One Soul*, The Newsletter of the Celtic League American Branch.



Sir William Wallace letters to go on display in Scotland in April of 2012

Two letters belonging to Sir William Wallace will go on display for the first time in Scotland in April, probably at the National Library.

One is a letter from the King of France bidding his agents in Europe to give aid to Sir William as he journeyed to Rome to place Scotland's cause before the Pope.

The other is the famous 1397 Lubeck Letter in

which Wallace and Andrew Moray announced to the merchants of the powerful Hanseatic port of Lubeck that, in effect, a liberated Scotland was open for business.

The letter bears Wallace's own seal as Guardian of Scotland.

With many thanks from *Six Nations, One Soul*, The Newsletter of the Celtic League American Branch.



Elliot Clan Society, USA

Membership Information 2012

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

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

www.elliotclan.com

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

Contact Patricia Tennyson Bell

Email: dublincolleen@sbcglobal.net or write

Patricia Tennyson Bell, Treasurer/Membership Chair

2288 Casa Grande Street

Pasadena, CA 91104

(Fortiter Et Recte)
Boldly and Rightly



Calendars and Genealogical Research

Bryan Mulcahy, Reference Librarian

Calendars provide a method of measuring time and allow people to record and calculate dates and events. Genealogists encounter problems with differences in dates caused by the changeover from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar in 1582. Individual countries, depending on their political and religious view of the Papacy and Pope Gregory, adopted this changeover at different times. Researchers must consult historical sources in Europe and the British Isles to determine which calendar was being utilized during a specific time period. Germany is an example of a country where the Protestant and Catholic regions utilized two different calendars simultaneously during this historical period.

Most of the civilized world adopted the Julian calendar (named in honor of Julius Caesar) around 45 BC. This calendar computed the solar year, the time it takes for the Earth to revolve around the sun, as 365 days and six hours. Three years each of which consisted of 365 days were followed by a fourth or leap year of 366 days. By the Julian calendar, March 25 was the first day of the year. During the Middle Ages, astronomers and mathematicians became aware of discrepancies in the Julian calendar. Dates were ahead of actual time by ten days. In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII commissioned a new calendar which became

known as the Gregorian Calendar. This new calendar changed the first day of the year to January 1 and moved the current date ahead 11 days to make up for lost time.

While the Catholic countries of Europe adopted the Gregorian calendar as soon as copies of the Papal decree reached them, Protestant countries refused initially to adopt the change. Protestant states of the Holy Roman Empire, by the order of the Diet (Parliament) at Regensburg, dropped 11 days from the 19th to the 29th of February 1700, so that February 18th immediately became March 1st. Scotland which was still considered a separate kingdom before its union with England under James VI, converted in 1603 by order of the Privy Council.

The Gregorian calendar was not fully adopted in Colonial America until the mid-1700s. Until the new Gregorian calendar was adopted and the dates adjusted accordingly, New Years Day occurred in March. The designation of the New Year in Colonial America was used for the first time in the General Court of Connecticut as the 20th day of March, 1649-1650 or 1650 by our present system of dating. This style of dating prevailed for almost 100 years. Due to an error in the Julian calendar, the dates in all months between 1600 and 1700 were car-

Continued on page 19





clankeithusa.org

Official website of The Clan Keith Society USA, Inc



CLAN KEITH SOCIETY USA, INC.

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

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

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



www.clankeithusa.org

Clan Keith USA 2012 Annual General Meeting

April 21st at the 19th
Rural Hill Scottish Festival
and Loch Norman Highland Games
Huntersville, North Carolina

All members are encouraged to come
and form a clan voting quorum!

Calendars and Genealogical Research, *continued from page 17*

ried forward eleven days. Thus, July 10 was really July 21 according to our present system of dating. In 1752, the British Parliament changed the calendar from the old style to the one used today, and changed the date on September 3, 1752 (old calendar) to September 14, 1752 (new calendar). Eleven days were thus eliminated.

Another confusing issue resulting from the switch was the practice of double dating. Double dating was used throughout the British Empire to clarify dates

occurring between 1 January and 24 March on years between 1582 and 1752. In the ecclesiastical or legal calendar, March 25th was recognized as the first day of the year and was not double dated. Researchers of Colonial American ancestors will often see double dating in older records. Double dates were normally identified with a slash

mark (/) representing the Old and New Style calendars, e.g., 1690/1691. Even before 1752 in Colonial America, some educated clerks knew of the calendar change in Europe and used double dating to distinguish between the calendars.

This was especially true in civil records, but less so in church registers. Researchers will often see this type of double dating in New England town records, court records, church records, and wills, or on colonial gravestones or cemetery transcriptions.



The system of double dating ended in 1752 in the American colonies with the adoption of the Gregorian calendar.

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



Remembering Rick Rescorla: Rick Rescorla, the Cornishman who died leading the evacuation at the World Trade Center, has a monument erected to him in his birthplace of Hayle, Cornwall.

The San Francisco Opera commissioned and performed an opera, *Heart of a Soldier*, based on his last days.

Perhaps the most touching remembrance, though, was that of the Cornish Heritage Society East, who gathered last September 11 at Canal Park in Wharton, New Jersey to commemorate Rick with a moment of silence.

With thanks to *Six Nations, One Soul*, from the Celtic League American branch.

Clan MacCord Society

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

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

Contact

**Ronald John
McCord**

President/Chief
1805 Mews Drive
Wilmington, NC 28405
Ph. 919-256-3798 or
rmnccord@ec.rr.com



Clan Home Society (International)

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



Information about
The Clan Home Air Force,
contact aeaton@cfl.rr.com



For information and application, write to:
Camille Simmons, President
1205 Avery Way
Kernersville, NC 27284
cbsimmons@earthlink.net

Athelstaneford: Birthplace of the Scottish Flag

The saltire, the oldest flag in the British Commonwealth, has its origins in a battle, which took place at Athelstaneford in East Lothian, some 20 miles east of Edinburgh. In the mid-eighth century at the site of the village, Saxon King Athelstan was at the head of a large army when he met a force of Scots/Picts led by King Angus.

Seeing he was outnumbered, Angus prayed to St. Andrew, and just before the armies clashed, a saltire appeared, created by clouds, which formed a cross against the blue sky. Angus realized this represented the cross on which St. Andrew had been crucified and took it as a sign that his forces would be victorious. With renewed heart, Angus and his forces took the battle and the day.

It was Skirving who wrote *“Hey! Johnny Cope,”* the song about another East Lothian battle – the rout of the Hanoverian Army led by Sir John Cope by Jacobites at Prestonpans on September 21, 1745.

Most Scots are familiar with the words of the chorus:

*“Hey! Johnny Cope are ye wakin’ yet?
Or are your drums a-beatin’ yet?
If ye were wakin’ I wad wait,
Tae gang tae the coals in the morning.”*

Skirving’s song subsequently became a paean to the 1745 Uprising. Sir Walter Scott later said of its popularity: “Perhaps there is no lyric which contains to this day so familiar lines as those of Skirving.”

Skirving had a caustic sense of humor, and he delighted in pricking the pomposity of others. A Lieutenant Smith, an officer in Cope’s army, took offence at one of the stanzas of another ballad on the battle entitled “Tranent Muir,” in which the poet satirically wrote that the officer “never fought when he had room to flee, man.”

When Smith sent a letter challenging him to a duel, Skirving calmly read it and said to the cou-



rier: “Gang awa back and tell Mr. Smith that I dinna ha time to come to Haddington tae give him satisfaction. If he likes to come to Garleton, I’ll tak a look at him. If I think I’m fit to fecht him, I’ll fecht him; and if no I’ll just dae as he did, I’ll run awa.”

Another example of Skirving’s wry wit occurred during a visit to Edinburgh, when he went to rent a field for his sheep while awaiting auction. The poet always dressed in homespun clothes that were almost threadbare, and when he took possession of the field, the sight of this shabby outfit caused the auctioneer to ask who was his security.

Skirving gave the auctioneer an impish look and replied, “King George the Second.” When this retort was greeted with loud laughter, Skirving rummaged in the tail of his coat and produced a stocking leg, which was bulging with gold sovereigns. The crowd fell silent as he handed these to the auctioneer and added, “There’s jingling Geordie. He’s my security.”

However Skirving’s wit was out-matched one day in Haddington when, on seeing Reverend John Brown riding by on a horse which was lame, he called out, “Mr. Brown, the legs of the lame are not equal.” The Reverend Brown completed the quotation from the book of Proverbs in his riposte: “So is a parable in the mouth of fools.”

Adam’s son, painter Archibald Skirving, was born at Athelstaneford in 1749. His father sent him

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Famous Scots at Home and Abroad

Alastair McIntyre writes: For some time I've been interested in those many famous Scots at home and abroad and have produced numerous biographies and autobiographies with the intention of seeing if there any common threads that we can learn from.

I believe I have found common threads and in this video I discuss those.



<http://www.electricscotland.org/showthread.php/2629-Education>

March was named for the Roman God "Mars"

CLAN SKENE ASSOCIATION, INC.

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

Dorna Comp, president
103 Sumners Alley
Summerville, SC 29485



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

Birthplace of the Scottish flag, *continued from page 21*

to Rome, where he studied at the atelier of David, and stayed in the Eternal City for seven years. Later he moved to London where he created chalk and crayon portraits and painted miniatures in watercolor. He returned to Scotland at the start of 19th century and remained in the capital until his death in 1819.

Archibald is most famous for his portrait of Robert Burns, created in 1801, five years after the poet's death. The portrait is thought by some to be a better likeness of Scotland's national bard than that of Alexander Nasmyth (1758 – 1840), who painted his portrait of Burns from life.

In a letter to a friend in 1816, Sir Walter Scott wrote of the importance of Skirving's portrait and expressed a desire for it to remain in Scotland. "Mr. Skirving of Edinburgh, an unrivalled artist as a painter in crayons, is going to London with the only good portrait of Burns. I think you will like to look at it, and perhaps you may be even disposed to purchase it, provided the artist's intention of selling it holds good until he gets to London. If Skirving does sell it, which appears to me very problematical, I wish this unique representation of our great poet to fall into good hands." Happily, Scott's wish was realized – the portrait is now on display at the National Galleries of Scotland in Edinburgh.

Athelstaneford has connections with poet Robert Blair and playwright John Home, who were both ministers in the village. Robert Blair (1699 – 1746), whose poems included "The Grave," ministered to the parish and is buried in the churchyard. Blair was succeeded as minister by John Home (1722 – 1808), who wrote two of the 18th century's most celebrated works, *Agis*, and *The Tragedy of Douglas*. In 1746, a year before his ordination, Home fought on the Hanoverian side at the Battle of Falkirk. He was captured by the Jacobites and imprisoned at Doune Castle, from

which he and several accomplices made a daring escape. Home cut blankets into strips and twisted them into stout ropes, then he and the others lowered themselves 70 feet and made their flight to freedom. Home was never caught and a year later he entered into the ministry of Athelstaneford.

In 1787 Home's *Douglas* was performed at the Canongate Theatre in Edinburgh where it enjoyed great success. Sir Walter Scott later said, "It had no equal

modern and scarcely a superior in ancient drama." The play was so well received that after the opening performance, an enthusiastic member of the audience called out: "Whaur's yer Willie Shakespeare noo?"

An earlier Scottish writer, poet David Lyndsay (1490

– 1555), author of the *Three Estates*, was born in Athelstaneford, as was soldier and later Field Marshal Sir John Hepburn (1598 – 1636), founder of the First Royal Scots Regiment. Until the late 18th century the village was little more than a hamlet adjoined by farming land. Athelstaneford owes its present development to Sir David Kinloch of Gilmerton, who built cottages to form its main street in a line east to west. By 1792 the village included the present church and a school. Shortly after completion, the parish minister was moved to write: "There are few places in Scotland that enjoy greater advantages than Athelstaneford, and none in which the people, in general, are more comfortable, contented or happy."

He could equally have added proudly that no other place in the land can claim to be the birthplace of the saltire – national flag of Scotland for more than a thousand years.

Written by: Robert B. McNeill

With many thanks to *The House of Scotland Newsletter*, San Diego, California.



The Story of the Tay Bridge

In 1879, the Tay Rail Bridge was the longest bridge in the world, spanning two miles across the Tay estuary.

On the evening of 28th December 1879, the central part of the span - the so-called high girders - suddenly collapsed, leaving a gap of well over a half-mile.

Most disturbing was that the two-year-old-bridge collapsed while an express passenger train from Edinburgh was making its way across.

The resulting accident claimed the lives of the victims, making it the most catastrophic structural failure in Britain's history.

Surprisingly, until now, there has been no memorial or monument to the victims. The Tay Rail Bridge Disaster Memorial Group was recently established to ensure that a proper and fitting memorial to the victims of the 1879 bridge disaster is constructed.

Become a Friend of the Trust

The aim of the Trust is to raise funds to erect a monument to the Victims of the Disaster. The monument will be sited on Riverside Drive, Dundee, with a complimentary plaque on the Wormit side.

At the time of the completion of the monument, a publication on the history of the disaster, the victims and the story of the monument will be issued to the Friends of the Trust. (For Friends for Life or those with at least 2 years friends donations.)

In addition to becoming a Friend of the Trust, donations are always welcome.

Corporate donations are especially welcome.

We will keep you informed of any special events and fundraisers connected with the Trust. This will be by email only, so please ensure you give us your email address when you make a donation.

Please visit our website:

www.thetaymemorial.com

Have you any stories to tell of the disaster?

Have you any other material connected with the disaster?

Please contact johnwirvine@aol.com

We would love to hear from you.

Between the Ochils and the Forth

A Description, Topographical and Historical of the Country between Stirling Bridge and Aberdour

David Beveridge (1888)

To read more about Mr. Beveridge's article, visit
<http://www.electricscotland.com/history/ochils/index.htm>

PREFACE IN the History of Culross and Tulliallan the author endeavoured to present a monograph of two Scottish parishes occupying a somewhat secluded situation on the northern shore of the Firth of Forth. He also sought to exhibit a picture of the domestic life of a bygone day, as elucidated from the kirk-session records of the two parishes, and the minutes of town council of the ancient burgh of Culross.

The present undertaking may be characterised as having to a considerable extent a similar object in view, though the illustration of the theme by extracts from the municipal and ecclesiastical archives has not been attempted.

A much wider field, however, is included, and at the same time a minute and careful description has been furnished as far as possible of every locality and event of interest belonging to the district

under notice.

It is a region which, though neither inaccessible nor remote, is still comparatively unknown to, and unvisited by, the majority of Scottish tourists. Yet it is connected with some of the most important events in Scottish history, and as regards natural beauty, it will in many places vie in richness with the finest specimens of English rural scenery.

Whilst the work in question aims rather at a picturesque and historical delineation of that portion of the upper shores of the Forth lying between Stirling Bridge and

Aberdour, than at the formal and business-like character of a guide-book, it is nevertheless hoped that in the latter capacity it may not be found wanting in attraction or devoid of practical utility. The distances between the different places have all been set down with spe-



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Aberdour in Scotland

cial care, as ascertained both by personal investigation and a careful comparison with the maps of the Ordnance Survey. The line and direction also of the various public roads, as well as the principal inns in the different towns and villages, have all been indicated.

The author has trodden himself almost every foot of the district, with the most of which he has been familiar from childhood, and he has, moreover, quite recently made a pilgrimage through and investigated the particular localities with great care and minuteness. He would thus fain hope that the completed work, the outcome in great measure of these wanderings, may prove interesting and useful both to travellers and general readers.

Of late years locomotion by means of bicycles and tricycles has come greatly into vogue, and one of the results has been that the old coach-roads, long deserted, have again been largely utilised. For travellers on such vehicles it is also hoped that this work may be found to contain some useful information and directions both as to the line of route and the objects of interest by the way.

Rosehill, Torryburn, May 1888.



"John, if I were a sheep, I would lie on the other side of the hill."

"Ah," said the shepherd, "but if ye was a sheep, ye wad hae mair sense."

I found a small treasure-trove of these cartoons from around 1920 in Scotland on ElectricScotland.com

Humor changes...but the delightful watercolours remain as fresh as if they were done yesterday.

Wed revisit ElectricScotland.com to find a few more of these each issue so long as the supply lasts.

The cartoons are from a book called *Thistledown* written by Robert Ford who published these books between 1913 and 1921.

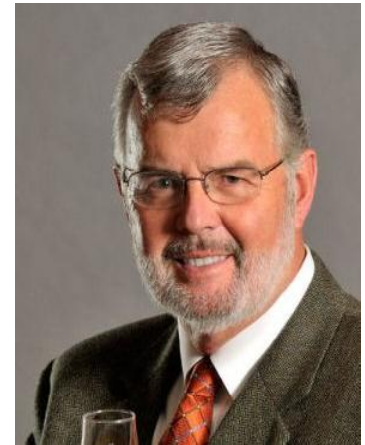
Your ed.



The Whisky Corner

Ray Pearson, Anaheim, CA
The Whiskymeister

Literary Quotes



about Whisky - Part I

Literary Quotes about Whisky – Part 1

References to whisky flow through the pages of prose and poetry, both old and new, at a delicious pace. The following article is the beginning of a short series, using others' references to wine and spirits as a springboard to learning more about The Water of Life.

Wine is bottled poetry.
- Robert Louis Stevenson

Scotland's most famous drink has long been a muse for poets. Through verse, ingredients are exalted, secrets and mysteries of its creation are admitted, descriptions of birthplaces define localities, and, above all, the soul of the spirit and country soar.

Robert Burns, no stranger to the strong drink of his native Scotland, wrote in *John Barleycorn* what is probably the most recognized homage to Scotch whisky. Here is a lesser-known work, which glorifies the love imbibers have for good old Scotch drink:

Scotch Drink
Robert Burns,
Scotland's Bard
(Selected verses, Standard English Translation)

Let other poets raise a fracas



*About vines, and wines, and drunken Bacchus,
And ill-natured names and stories torment us,
And vex our ear:
I sing the juice Scotch barley can make us,
In glass or jug.*

*O you, my Muse! Good old Scotch drink!
Whether through winding worms you frisk,
Or, richly brown, cream over the brink,
In glorious foam,
Inspire me, till I lisp and wink,
To sing your name!*

*Let husky wheat the hollows adorn,
And oats set up their bearded horn,
And peas and beans, at evening or morning,
Perfume the plain:
Blessings on you, John Barleycorn,
You king of grain!*

Moving forward about 300 years, accomplished poets continue to praise both the foibles and satisfactions associated with drinking Scotch. From its misty Gaelic beginnings, to its sensory delights, Britain's Poet Laureate describes her drams of Scotch:

Drams
Carol Ann Duffy, Poet Laureate of the United Kingdom (Selected verses)



Continued on page 28

*The love of the names, like Lagavulin,
Laphroaig,*

Loosening the tongue.

*Beautiful hollow by the broad bay, safe ha-
ven,*

Their Gaelic namings.

It was Talisker on your lips,

Peppery, sweet, I tasted, kisser.

First, the appearance

Then the aroma, mouth-feel;

Lastly, the finish.

Under the table

She drank him, my grandmother,

Irish to his Scotch.

Barley, water, peat,

Weather, landscape, history,

Malted, swallowed neat.

The perfume of place, seaweed scent on peaty air;

Heather dabbed with rain.

Liquid narrative of scots and Gaelic,

Uttered on the tasting tongue.

Places, as well as people, have always played integral roles in the history and fame of Scotch whisky. Two of today's leading brands of single malts are eulogized in verse by authors who have long since accompanied the ethereal journey of the angels' share to heaven-bound:

Anonymous, Historical Poems

Glenlivet it has castles three,

Drumin, Blairfindy and Deskie,

And also one distillery,

More famous than the castles three.

í and about Glenfiddich, founded by the Grant family:

Lord grant guid luck tae a' the Grants,

Likewise eternal bliss,

*For they should sit
among the sa'nts*

*That make a dram like
this.*

Among contemporary wordsmiths, poets, and songwriters, Robin Laing is one of the most-recognized. Robin has written three books



about whisky, and recorded eight CDs, three of them exclusively about whisky. With equal ease, Robin uses his sly wit, cutting-edge humor, and tear-jerking nostalgia to make his points about the history, fortunes, and sheer magic of Scotch. Here is a sampling:



Bruichladdich (öbroo ick laddyö) Robin Laing, Scotland's Whisky Bard
Commissioned to celebrate the reopening of the distillery

(Selected verses)

*One day as I was walking by the shores of
Loch Indaal,*

I met a man with sadness in his eyes.

*The story was as haunting as the lonely sea-
birds' call,*

*And he told me of the day he wept and walked
away,*

As he watched the fire at Bruichladdich die.

He told me of a place once would never sleep,

With hiss of steam and clang and furnace roar.

*How that sleeping beauty lies trapped in slum-
ber deep,*

*With moonbeams full of dust, and gates &
chains of rust,*

*And ghosts that wander the Bruichladdich
floor.*

*And the moon smiles kindly on the western
seas.*

Perfume tumbles on the midnight breeze,

And standing on the island of distilleries,

You can almost see the coast of heaven.

More Than Just a Dram, Robin Laing,
Scotland's Whisky Bard

(Selected verses)

Take clear water from the hill

And barley from the lowlands.

Take a master craftsman's skill

And something harder to define,

Like secrets in the shape of coppered stills

Or the slow, silent, magic work of time.

Continued on page 29

*Bring home sherry casks from Spain,
Sanlucar de Barrameda,
And fill them up again
With the spirit of the land.
Then let the wood work to the spirits' gain
In a process no one fully understands.
Oh, the spirit starts out clear,
But see the transformation
After many patient years
When at last the tale unfolds.
For the colours of the seasons will appear
From palest yellow to the deepest gold.
When you hold it in your hand
It's the pulse of one small nation
So much more than just a dram.
You can see it if you will -
The people and the weather and the land.*

The past into the present is distilled.



Poets, with their fingers on the pulse of the subject, have raised their personal paeans to Scotch whisky to glorious heights. They have blessed John Barleycorn, the king of grain, taken us to parts of Scotland where there is a perfume of place, seaweed scents on peaty air, or heather dabbled with rain, and to an island of distilleries

where you can almost see the coast of heaven.

CALLING ATHLETES for the 19th Annual Loch Norman Highland Games

HUNTERSVILLE, NC: The 19th Annual Rural Hill Scottish Festival and Loch Norman Highland Games is calling for athletes to come participate in the competition and camaraderie April 21 & 22, 2012. The traditional Scottish athletic competitions called the òHeavy Eventsö include stone throws, weight throws, hammer throws, caber toss, sheaf toss, and similar traditional feats of strength. Professional athletic competition will be Saturday and Sunday, with òClass Aö amateur heavy athletic competition on Saturday and the remaining amateur classes competing on Sunday.

Professional demonstrations will also take place on Sunday. *Note: Professional athletes are by invitation only.* For event information and registration details, visit www.ruralhillscottishfestivals.net. Highland Games are a way of celebrating Scottish and Celtic culture and heritage, especially that of the Scottish Highlands. Certain aspects of the games are so well known as to have become emblematic of Scotland, such as the bagpipes, the kilt, and the heavy events, especially the caber toss. While centered on competitions in piping and drumming, dancing, and Scottish heavy athletics, Highland Games also include entertainment and exhibits related to other aspects of Scottish culture.*

Professional athletes returning in 2012 are crowd favorites Eric Frasure and Larry Brock. Frasure holds the world records for the 56 lb Weight Toss and Sheaf Toss, and the North American record for the 22 lb Hammer Throw. Larry Brock is the 2010 IHGF World Champion and holds the American record for the 28 lb Weight for Distance.

Fun for the entire family, the Rural Hill Scottish Festival & Loch Norman Highland Games weekend offers professional Scottish heavy athletic competition, amateur heavy athletics, piping and drumming, highland dancing, Scottish country dancing, children's activities, demonstrations and Rural Hill's famous historic encampment. Returning this year are the òKids Zoneö and the popular Celtic Rock Music Stage including the Saturday evening concert. The Advance 2-day (Sat. & Sun.) discount ticket is \$25.00 and includes admission to the Saturday night concert. Complete information and advance ticket purchases are available online at www.ruralhillscottishfestivals.net. Proceeds support the preservation of Historic Rural Hill.

San Diego Tartan Day

There's a wee bit o' Scot in everyone!

Eighth Annual Tartan Day/San Diego Festival

Balboa Park, International Cottages
San Diego, CA

Saturday, April 7, 2012

11:00 AM – 4:00 PM Free Admission

The San Diego Tartan Day Steering Committee invites you to join a celebration of Scottish heritage – and tartans, the national fabric and symbol of Scotland.

You can find your own tartan too, at the Scottish Clan & Tartan Information Center.

- * Explore displays by many Scottish organizations from all over Southern California, including individual Scottish clans
- * Eat traditional Scottish fare, including the world's best bangers, and mouthwatering home baked desserts, all at reasonable prices.
- * Enjoy music and dance from 11:00 – 4:00 PM featuring some of southern California's most exciting Scottish entertainers:
 - House of Scotland Ceilidh Band
 - House of Scotland Pipe Band
 - San Diego School of Highland Dancing

For more information, contact info@tartandaysd.com

or call (619) 425-3454

Thanks to these wonderful Scottish organizations:

House of Scotland, St. Andrew Society of San Diego, San Diego Burns Club
North County Scots, 42nd Black Watch Highland Society, Clans of the Highlands
San Diego Scottish Highland Games, Scottish Clan & Tartan Information Center
San Diego School of Highland Dance SD-Edinburgh Sister City Society